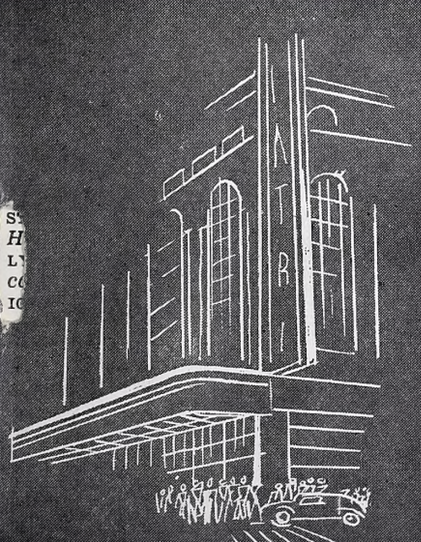
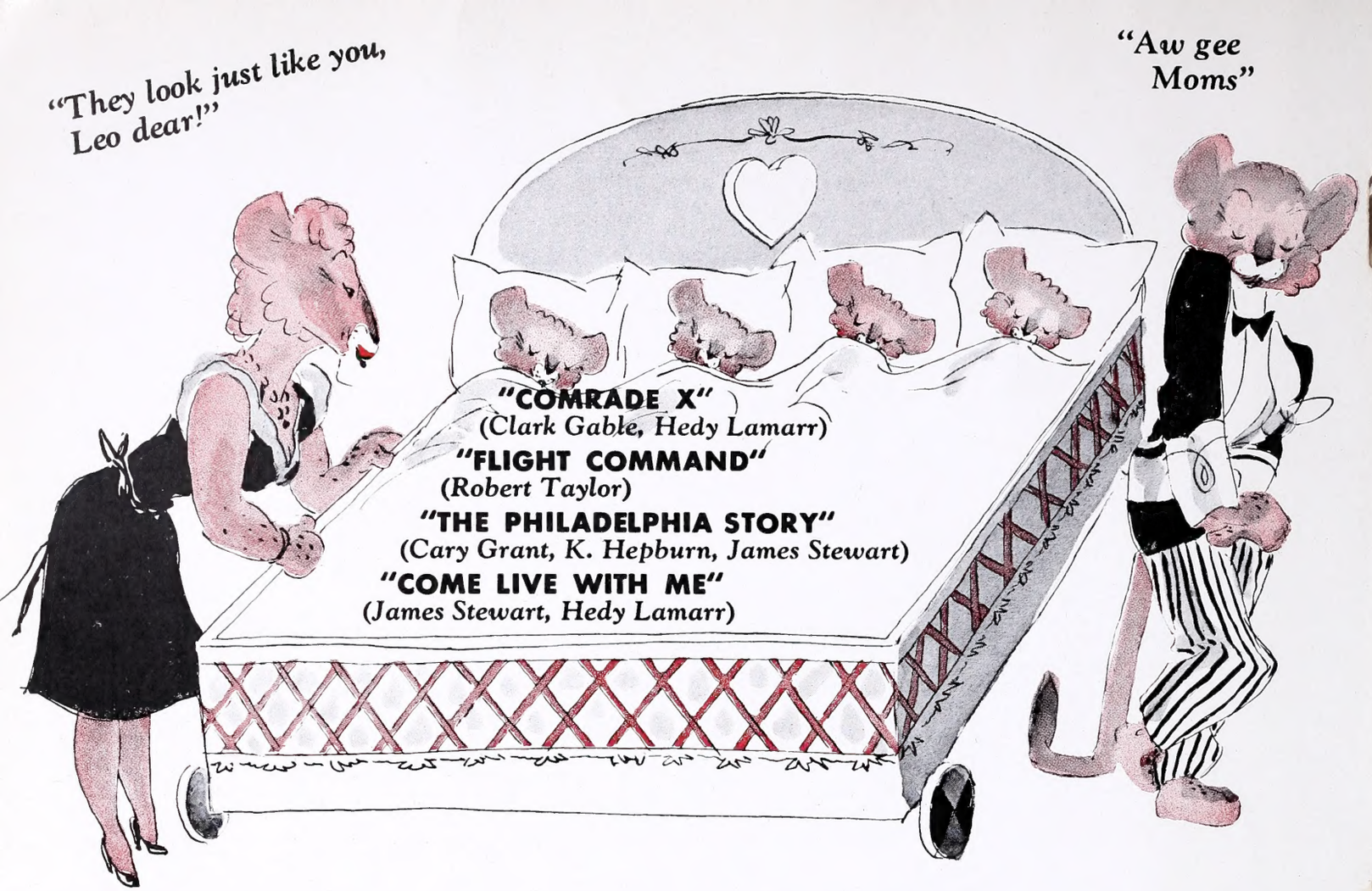
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

JANUARY 4, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION



The MODERN THEATRE



1941 COMES IN LIKE FOUR LIONS!

This is a good year to be on the safe side. Momentous changes are ahead for all of us in this industry and there's a comforting sense of calm and security when your theatre is anchored to the wise, kindly, seasoned executive-management represented by the Friendly Company.

1941 truly comes in like four lions. Imagine starting a New Year with a barrage of such big-time entertainments ("*Comrade X*", "*Flight Command*", "*The Philadelphia Story*", "*Come Live With Me*"). They will be followed by many others of equal importance.

Happy M-G-M New Year to You!

BOXOFFICE
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

They'll Remember This One

HERE we are once more bowing to the year-in custom of writing a piece about events to come with some deference, no matter how casual, to those now maneuvering their way into the covers of the twelve months which have gone.

Off to the immediate right, staring us hard in the face, is the prognostication for 1940. Written, of course, one year ago, on a rereading it turns out to be somewhat on the discouraging side. The war, then, was a few months old. Foreign markets were collapsing with dull thuds on all sides. The crying need for self-sufficiency in the domestic field, even at that time a persistent discussion on this page, slowly was engaging more serious attention.

Those were the days, too, when the government's suit hung heavily and like a pall over the industry. When individual anti-trust actions were piling up. When Hollywood was worried about the outcome and when that worry was beginning to bear fruit in the form of minus marks chalked up against the product.

Those were the days when the normal functions of making, selling and exhibiting 'em were giving ground to conferences with lawyers, the preparation of evidence, the wearing down of pencils in the endeavor to dope out what the trial, if it ever came off, would cost and who in thunder was to pay for it. It was one helluva mess.

And Now It's 1941

THE war is still raging. Predictions in that direction flourish in direct ratio to the points of view you either hear or encourage. Foreign markets are largely a fond dream of another and lush day and the need for self-sufficiency here is more alive now than then; the situation changing only in the realization the need is greater and some effort having been applied in the cause of attaining it.

The government suit, with provisos, has been dropped, of course, in favor of the consent decree and there yet remains a disposal of the action against the "Little Three." A new selling order has been determined for '41-42. Arbitration, voluntary for the exhibitor and compulsory for the five consenting distributors, stands athwart the changing scene. In New York, leading executives talk of the decree as a cleanser which will purge the industry of many of its poisons and once more sweeten the body corporate. In short, it's a new day you will find if you begin to scan the horizon.

Aware as most certainly we are of exhibitor opposition to the decree and its five-in-a-block, see-them-if-you-want-to plan, it happens to be our opinion that resting in the formula is a genuine opportunity of outstanding proportions to bring about long-needed adjustments in the functioning of this industry. Come scathing denunciation or not, it's our opinion and behind it we line up solidly.

Five at a time and only if finished, for instance, suggests the immediate need for all three arms of the business to make real attractions more attractive. This is why: Because those who make them will hold on only through merit or give way to someone who can deliver; because those who sell them will have small packages, not bales, to dispose of and will find individual merchandising, intensified as never before, part of their new routine; because those whose job it is to bang home the entertainment message directly to the ticket buyer will have to keep on hitting it if they want to stay in the parade.

A New Pattern

IT MEANS work. And work may mean less comfort. It will mean a breather for the easy chair. No doubt, less fishing and less hunting, shorter vacations at Arrowhead, Palm Springs or Florida. It means clearer and more agile thinking and harder punching from raw stock to ticket collections. It means the studio that delivers will murder its competition. And inevitably, it means that phoney values, by all the signs of this impending future, will give ground to the real thing.

And so, if a more sharply etched mark of sterling should emblazon the product and if the theatreman, for the first time in his life can see what he buys before he buys it, we believe the exhibitor is being given a free ride in the general direction of Utopia.

As the effective date of unwound selling draws closer, perhaps the shortening calendar will swing dissenting opinion around to this point of view. It is evident the business must do the best it can under, and with, the decree. That best, however, need not be negative. It can be a highly charged power line crackling with opportunity, burning the lead out of a lot of feet that have been riveted in cement and once more returning them to action.

Kann

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January 4, 1941
Volume 38 - Number 7

CLEARANCE ROWS SEEN KNOTTY PROBLEM FACING ARBITRATION

Local Problems, Variety Of Zones Expected to Complicate Cases

NEW YORK—Clearance disputes are expected to be the most complex cases facing local arbitration boards as soon as the tribunals are set up in all key cities in accordance with the decree. Some theatre men see such territories as New York, Chicago and the west coast as particularly perplexing for the arbitrators in view of the local problems and variety of zones and theatres in those areas.

Industry lawyers are not unmindful of the NRA days when clearance presented the chief source of complaint and continued to remain a disputed topic with the deathknell of the Blue Eagle.

In the NRA days, arbitration boards were composed of industry factors with one impartial man sitting in to decide in the event of a tie vote. Under the decree the practice will be changed in that an impartial AAA representative will hear each case, ask questions and decide for himself what clearance is proper.

Non-Industry Appeal Board

Where the appeals board under the NRA was made up of an equal number of exhibitor-distributor representatives, the decree provisions leave the final jurisdiction of all appealed cases to three non-industry factors. How men who are not familiar with the internal problems of the business can possibly make fair rulings on clearance is what some skeptics want to know.

It is pointed out that in numerous cases exchange managers and salesmen themselves have had to visit theatres, gauge distances and make surveys before granting requests, if such were the case, on clearance.

Whether AAA men will be inclined to do the same to satisfy their own minds before rendering opinions and decisions is not known. It is likely exhibitors making appeals for changes in protection may engage their own experts to qualify on distances, but then again, it is held, one expert's opinion is as good as another, the arbitrator being the other.

In one quarter it is felt the decree itself is not explicit in its clearance section. This inquirer, for instance, asks does an hour's difference in opening between two houses constitute clearance, or must it be in terms of days? Then, if an arbitrator decides to cut down clearance he must take into consideration, above all, the right of the distributor not to have his revenue reduced from the engagements involved.

In other words, it is held, suppose an arbitrator finds that a theatre's two-week clearance over a subsequent house is excessive. He decides to cut the protection to one week, finding this proper in his own estimation. The first theatre then

(Continued on page 17)

"Little 3" May Tie In

New York—The industry is so closely knit that, as arbitration rulings become more or less standardized on certain type trade practices all distributors, possibly including the "Little Three," may adopt them automatically.

This, in the opinion of an AAA spokesman, was the answer to the question put to him over whether an exhibitor who had, for instance, won a clearance arbitration against one of the "Big Five" had any right to ask the other four signatories to the consent decree to follow the same procedure.

Pointing out that precedents have no standing in arbitration and that each case is decided on its own merits, the spokesman, nevertheless, feels decisive trends in arbitration rulings will go a long way toward eliminating the necessity for bringing new complaints to tribunals on similar controversies. Corollary to this thought is that parties to a dispute that recognize a similarity in the basis of the complaint will settle their differences on the strength of precedents and thus relieve the tribunals of considerable work.

Another significant observation has the same source envisioning exhibitors relying on arbitration rather than going to court on disputes not arbitrable under the consent decree once "arbitration is accepted by the industry."

Mayer Top Salary Executive At M-G-M, Report Will Show

NEW YORK—Louis B. Mayer, production head of M-G-M, continued as the highest paid executive in the company and in the industry for 1940, it will be revealed shortly when SEC makes public the annual listing of salaries.

Mayer's net earnings will more than double Nicholas M. Schenck, president, who is understood to be third on the M-G-M list. Hunt Stromberg, producer, is second.

Principally responsible for the largest figure is Mayer's four-year contract as managing director of production and which expires December 31, 1942. Under the terms of the pact, he receives a weekly salary of $3,000 plus additional compensation of 6.77 per cent of the combined annual net profits, after provision for dividends, taxes and other commitments.

Stromberg, under his arrangement which expires December 5, 1944, calls for a weekly salary of $5,000 plus 1.05 per cent of the combined annual net profits, after taxes, etc. The percentage arrangement went into effect as of January 1, 1939, when a previous clause providing for a bonus of $15,000 for each picture he produces over eight in a given year was cancelled.

Schenck's total salary for the year will approximate $300,000 under his agreement for $2,500 a week plus 2.5 per cent of the profits. The five-year contract which expires December 31, 1941, is up for renewal on the same terms. Stockholders will be asked February 11 to ratify the arrangement, which also calls for stock options.

17 Drew $3,000,000

The annual Loew statement, due shortly, will show that approximately $3,000,000 was paid in 1940 to 17 officers and directors. While no individual salaries must be listed under the new SEC law, those whose compensation are embraced in the total include Schenck, David Bernstein, Arthur M. Loew jr., J. Robert Rubin, Al Lichtman, Edgar J. Mannix, Sam Katz, E. A. Schiller, Leopold Friedman, Benjaman Thau, Jesse T. Mills, Charles C. Moskowitz, Joseph R. Vogel, Charles K. Stern, Nicholas Nayfack, Len Cohen, R. Lazarus and Hattie Helborn. All with the exception of Vogel are officers.

Directors who do not receive compensation from the company are George N.

(Continued on page 17)

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is* 100 *per cent.*

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR—
- Denver 230
- New York City 170

CHRISTMAS IN JULY—
- New Orleans 200
- Kansas City 175

NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE—
- Pittsburgh 175

THIEF OF BAGDAD—
- New Orleans 150
- Los Angeles (dual) 150
- Milwaukee (dual) 135

NO, NO, NANETTE—
- New Orleans 150

FANTASIA—
- New York City 145

SECOND CHORUS—
- Los Angeles (with "Alice in Wonderland" for juvenile matinees) 140

SANTA FE TRAIL—
- New York City 135

BOXOFFICE *announces the latest improvement to its fine* REVIEWS SERVICE

PRE-TESTED

BOXOFFICE submitted its improved service plan to a "test" among its oldest subscribers and PICTURE GUIDE users. It received a virtually unanimous Exhibitor Approval.

Here are some of the comments:

"I think the new review plan is as far ahead of the old as BOXOFFICE *is ahead of all other trade papers and that really is far."*
—ROY E. CAMPBELL, Shafer Theatre, Garden City, Mich.

"It is pleasing to note that BOXOFFICE *is continually striving to improve—and succeeding."*
—J. W. FAIR, Rivoli Theatre, North Sydney, Novia Scotia.

"Much easier and more efficient method of filing reviews. Another service by BOXOFFICE *that is appreciated."*
—J. A. OWEN, Pix Theatre, Philadelphia, Miss.

"Something to crow about."
—W. J. STRAUB, Hippodrome, Gloversville, N. Y.

"Excellent. Great improvement. Time saver."
—ED C. ROWDEN, Golden State Theatre, Oakland, Calif.

"Unquestionably a decided improvement."
—HERMAN COVI, Covi Theatre, Herminie, Pa.

"Think it a splendid plan. Thanks."
—W. ROY WRIGHT, Hempstead Theatre, Hempstead, Tex.

STARTS THIS ISSUE ON PAGE 23

SINCE the introduction of the first PICTURE GUIDE, seven years ago, we have effected a number of changes, each making for greater simplicity in filing BOXOFFICE reviews in this handy, pocket-fitting, loose-leaf binder.

Now, we have perfected another change—this time eliminating:

1. **The need to cut out each review separately.**
2. **The requirement of moistening gummed strips.**
3. **The time-loss in doing those things.**

Simply fold page on the middle line—and you have four pages of reviews, already punched, ready to put into your PICTURE GUIDE.

These reviews will regularly be indexed in BOXOFFICE'S Booking Chart — by date of review and by PG page number. Then, four times a year, we will publish quarterly index, also designed to fit your PICTURE GUIDE.

That's SERVICE That *SERVES!*



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HAMILTON—20 Holton, N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON—97 Adelaide St., S., John Gore.
MONTREAL—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Walnut 5519.
REGINA—The Leader-Post. Bruce Peacock.
ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings., C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

WIDELY recognized as one of the sanest columns giving birth in Hollywood are Douglas W. Churchill's Sunday articles in the "New York Times." Reviewing the kind of a year it was there in '40 and finding himself inevitably wondering about the decree and its impact, he has this to report by way of a studio reaction:

> "While the suit and settlement are popularly believed to be an aid to the exhibitor, there is strong feeling in Hollywood that it is the producer who will benefit. He will milk the theatre man for every possible penny when he has a good picture and he will lump the bad ones into bargain package deals. Some executives envision conditions in which some films will virtually be boycotted in cities where exhibitors refuse to meet studio terms. This will be fought by selling the films to the customers first and, with a demand created to see a certain picture, it is believed that the theatres will be compelled to play it.
>
> "The system of warfare is compared with that employed by manufacturers when chain stores refuse to stock a product; advertising campaigns are launched and the patrons start demanding the wares. Along this line the studios foresee publicity and advertising campaigns in newspapers on a scale hitherto unknown."

Brother Churchill has something there.

No Catch

It is a strange approach to the decree that finds its way into a current MPTOA bulletin. There, Ed Kuykendall is saying this:

> "Talk of exhibitor cooperation 'to make it work' and 'to give it a fair trial' is more or less nonsense. There is no provision anywhere in the decree for exhibitor participation or cooperation in the administration or operations under the decree. It actually makes no particular difference whether the exhibitor is willing to cooperate or whether he isn't.
>
> "The new methods and restrictions on selling are to be undertaken entirely by the distributors. The arbitration system is placed entirely in the hands of the American Arbitration Association with any exhibitor cooperation or participation other than submitting complaints strictly forbidden."

But does it make no difference whether the exhibitor is willing to cooperate or whether he is not? It seems apparent to this watchtower that it does, and vastly so. Arbitration, insofar as the theatreman is concerned, is voluntary. But under the theory, at least, of the plan, a chance is offered to adjudicate many of the differences that have beset him for years. We maintain this is a decided advantage in that, if it furnishes nothing else, it does furnish an opportunity before impartial arbiters to get a fairer shake, provided merit is present.

In Defense

The other issue carried a reprint of a series of cracks at film advertising. "Printer's Ink" was indulging in the cracking, charging generally no attraction possibly could live up to the promises made for it in paid copy. "Sucker-bait doctrine of advertising and publicity" was the term, applied to a point where "the audience simply expects too much, so that the normal good picture disappoints and the bad one enrages."

We thought the criticism in great measure applied, but also asked for defenders. Dave Martin, manager of the Fox Granada in Inglewood, Calif., rides to the rescue. He writes:

> "Might be a fine gesture on the part of the publishers of 'Printer's Ink' to address an editorial or two about the honesty of commodity advertising to the advertising writers who subscribe to that publication.
>
> "The sad spectacle of national advertisers on the receiving end of cease and desist orders from the federal government with respect to their unethical advertising involving fraudulent claims and injurious products has never, to my knowledge, been the lot of motion picture producers.
>
> "Pick up a national magazine and glance through the ads. It won't take you long to uncover a score of half truths about the merchandise flaunted in the face of the reading public. But then, of course, 'it's fun to be fooled.'"

Next?

great

great

Great

great

GREAT



Martha SCOTT

cheers

cheers

CHEERS

Cheers

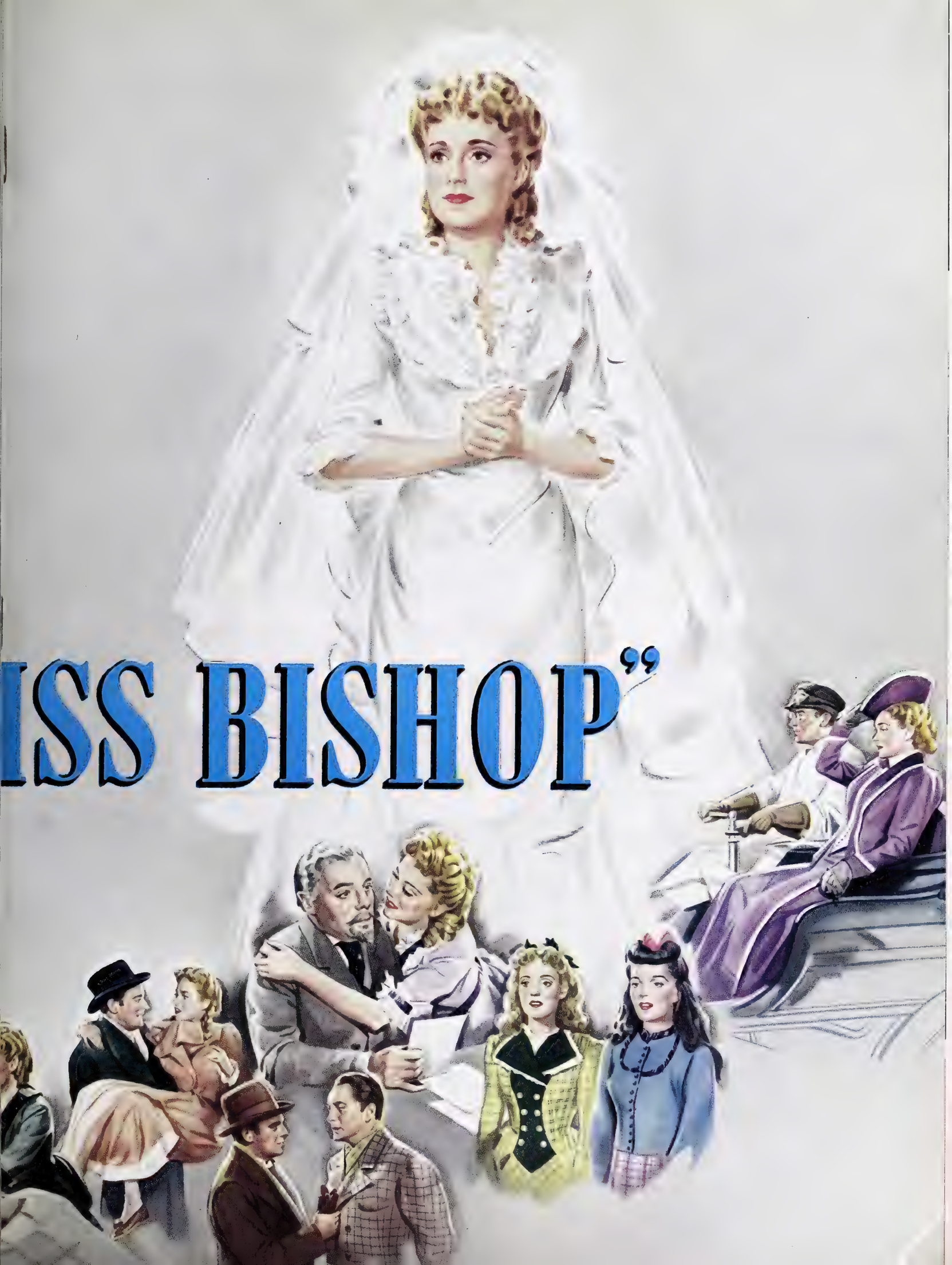
for

Richard A. Rowland's

"CHEERS for M

Released thru United Artists




ISS BISHOP"

This is one of the AUDIENCE-ENTICING ADS from United Artists sensational pressbook campaign!



THE WOMAN THEY WHISPERED ABOUT...

Occasionally there comes out of Hollywood a picture so truthful in its portrayals, so universally human in its story, that it reaches deep down into the hearts of all who see it—until it becomes, not a series of incidents flashed upon a screen, but a rich, vivid, personal experience.

Such a picture was "Stella Dallas". Such a picture was "The Old Maid". To this gallery of great films which tell earnestly and powerfully of women who love with every fibre of their being, you will add "Cheers for Miss Bishop".

For here is a story of a woman in love—deeply, overwhelmingly. And—as is ever the case with emotions like these—the world, with its narrow code of conduct, refused to understand. And yet—with gossip and malice and misunderstanding arrayed against her, Ella Bishop found the greatest happiness a woman can ever know!

As you share her struggle for the joy that belongs by right to any beautiful woman... as you help her cope with a problem in romance which only a very clever woman could hope to solve... as you thrill to the sheer intimacy of her love story... then, lost in the magic of a brilliantly conceived performance of the role by talented Martha Scott, you will become one with Ella Bishop. And you will find it one of the most enjoyable and exciting experiences you have ever known.

RICHARD A. ROWLAND *presents*

Cheers for Miss Bishop

An Unforgettable Love Story

MARTHA SCOTT · *with* · WILLIAM GARGAN

and featuring

EDMUND GWENN · SIDNEY BLACKMER · DOROTHY PETERSON
STERLING HOLLOWAY · DONALD DOUGLAS · MARSHA HUNT · LOIS RANSON
and introducing MARY ANDERSON · Directed by TAY GARNETT

From the Novel "Miss Bishop" by BESS STREETER ALDRICH
Screen adaptation by STEPHEN VINCENT BENET
Screenplay by ADELAIDE HEILBRON and SHERIDAN GIBNEY · Released thru United Artists

World Premiere—Stuart Theatre, Lincoln, Nebraska, Tuesday, January 14

Q. AND A. SERIES TRANSLATES ARBITRATION INTO EASY TERMS

Covers Practical Side Of Operation Under Decree Provisions

NEW YORK—What is arbitration all about?

What makes it tick?

How will it work?

After a study of the consent decree and its application to exhibitor problems, a BOXOFFICE reporter figured out it would be a good idea to ask the American Arbitration Ass'n some questions that either called for answer or for clarification, all in the interest of removing supposition.

And so he did.

AAA executives thought the questions "excellent," because of their simplicity. The reporter was encouraged to ask more than he originally intended or had thought about on his own. In fact, he was encouraged to invite still others from exhibitors. Not all of them necessarily will be answered because procedures, in some cases are expected to develop out of experience springing from the actual application of arbitration under the mandate of the decree.

23 Questions

At any event, 23 different questions were worked out under this prearranged plan:

BOXOFFICE asked them.

The American Arbitration Ass'n answered them. Here goes:

What is arbitration?

Arbitration is a method of settling differences between two or more persons, out of court. Decisions are rendered by one or more arbitrators who are selected by the disputants. The awards of the arbitrators are legally enforceable because the parties to the dispute have signed an agreement to abide by the decision, in accordance with arbitration law.

What kind of differences may be arbitrated?

Practically any disputes which are actionable in a civil court.

Is arbitration a new procedure?

No. It is one of the oldest methods of settling controversies known to man. It has been practiced in this country since the landing of the Pilgrims.

What advantages does arbitration offer over court procedure?

(a) It is speedy. Experience has shown that very few cases are not settled after a single arbitration hearing.

(b) It is comparatively inexpensive. The average cost of an arbitration is about one per cent of the amount involved

(c) Arbitration preserves goodwill. Because the hearings are informal, inexpensive and speedy it is customary for the disputing parties to maintain good relations. A hand shake rather than acrimony is the usual climax to an arbitration hearing.

Are lawyers necessary?

Not unless the parties retain them. The arbitration hearings are held informally and the strict rules of evidence and other court room restrictions play no part in the proceedings. Each side is allowed to tell its story without legal objections or interference.

What is the American Arbitration Ass'n?

The AAA is a non-profit making organization with nation-wide facilities for arbitrating disputes. It maintains a panel of 7,000 expert arbitrators in 1,600 cities and is supported primarily by memberships, contributions and arbitration fees.

Do many industries use arbitration to settle their disputes?

Yes, many. There are over 400 trade groups throughout the country which use this method. It now encompasses virtually the entire amusement field, including Actors Equity, Screen Actors' Guild, Dramatics' Guild and the "Big Five." Also the garment trades, the New York Stock Exchange, the silk industry and the grain, hay and feed dealers use the AAA.

Are there differences between commercial and industrial arbitration and that provided for under the consent decree for the industry?

(1) In commercial and industrial arbitration under AAA rules the arbitrators are not paid. Under the consent decree they will receive compensation for each hearing. (2) In arbitration under AAA there is no appeal from the arbitrator's award. The consent decree provides for an appeals board of three to review cases appealed from the local tribunals.

On the Cost

What will it cost the exhibitor to start an arbitration?

There are two established costs. The first is a filing fee of $10; the second is the arbitrator's fee. The arbitrator may assess his fee and the filing fee on the losing party, or he may apportion the costs among the parties. Therefore, if the exhibitor wins his case he may not have to pay anything for the arbitration.

What will the arbitrator's fee be?

The decree provides that an arbitrator shall be paid a maximum of $50 a hearing. However, that figure will be applied only in the rarest instances.

Are there any other costs?

Any other costs, such as stenographic fees, etc., are entirely optional with the parties and to be paid for by the individual demanding them.

Is there any cost for appealing a case?

There is a filing fee of $25 for cases which are appealed, but this fee is

(Continued on page 18)

And So He Got the Billing

New York—The AAA offers the following as a typical case of arbitration. The speed with which the dispute was arbitrated and a decision rendered is not especially illustrative of the speed that will otain in film cases, but rather the flexibility of the system and procedure, according to AAA.

A few months ago on the same day that a new Broadway play was scheduled to open, the leading man declared he would not go on because his name was not in lights on the marquee. He claimed that, due to the importance of his role, he was entitled to top billing. When the producer agreed to the demand the leading lady protested on the ground she deserved star billing. This all happened a few hours before the opening night curtain. The AAA was called in and stress was laid on the importance of speed. In a few hours the parties to the dispute and the arbitrators, who were hurriedly called in, met in a conference room. A decision was reached at once. The leading man won the case. When the curtain rose that evening, electricians were still busy putting his name in lights.

From Radio to Silk to Acting

New York—Ample evidence of the responsibility with which reputable persons in many walks of life regard their choice as arbitrators for the AAA is offered in the following incidents taken from the AAA files.

In one case, three of the country's most prominent attorneys spent nine days away from their practice to settle a wage dispute between the three national radio networks and its employes. This was one of the longest cases on record and the arbitrators received nothing in compensation.

In another instance three arbitrators—a prominent economist, a statistician and a business man—traveled from New York to Connecticut in order to study methods for weaving silk in order to understand the issues of a dispute between two large New England mills.

In still another case a prominent newspaper editor spent three days away from his office in order to study the testimony in an Actor's Equity dispute. His decision was hailed by both sides for its understanding and fairness. He received no pay, of course.


"HIGHEST RATING!" – N. Y. Daily News
Kate Cameron, ace critic gives th
First it was "ARISE, MY LOVE"; Then it
AND
VICT
She says about
"ONE OF THE BEST PICTUR
HEREBY RECOMMENDED
FREDRIC MARCH · BETTY FIELD
in Joseph Conrad's
"VICTORY"
AN ISLAND TALE
with
Sir Cedric Hardwicke
and Jerome Cowan
Directed by John Cromwell
Screen Play by John L. Balderston · Based on the Novel by Joseph Conrad
"Absorbing screen melodrama...full of
cinematic magic. The production is
first-rate. Terrific climax. Well worth
seeing. Striking and satisfying!"
—Herald Tribune

For the third time in six weeks
praise to a Paramount picture!
vas "NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE"!

NOW IT'S

ORY



ne picture . . .

S OF THE YEAR AND IS
VITHOUT RESERVATION!"

"Deserves a high place on any movie-goer's list!" —*Daily Mirror*

"One of the finest dramas of the year. It's excellent melodrama!" —*Journal-American*

"Fine and penetrating motion picture melodrama. Don't miss this one!"—*World-Telegram*

"Starts off on a high note of melodrama and keeps there till the final fadeout. It is exciting stuff!" —*Sun*

Paramount Pictures

FORESEE CONGRESS IN A MOVE TO TAX TICKETS FROM 10-CENTS

Usual Regulatory Crop Also Expected; State Assemblies Draw Eye

NEW YORK—There is much more than meagre evidence among Washington observers to indicate the most important, single piece of 1941 federal legislation aimed at the industry will be an attempt to start the 10 per cent tax on admissions at 10 cents instead of 21 cents.

(George J. Schaefer, RKO president, in New York a few days ago declared such a move is "essential" in order to curb the "disastrous" effect that has grown up among certain exhibitors who are cutting their normal 25-cent scales to 20 cents to avoid paying the federal levy).

Otherwise, however, there seems to be no more, no less, than the usual crop of bills that, while possibly affecting the industry indirectly, cannot be construed as designed specifically for that purpose. These now appear to be a new personal income tax, a manufacturers' sales tax and additional excise taxes. It is doubtful if a federal sales tax will be passed.

Larger State Picture

State-wise, however, the picture looms larger. Illinois may see a censorship bill introduced growing out of the present Chicago controversy on censorship.

In Maryland, the committee authorized by the legislature of 1939 to consider proposed legislative matters for 1941 have been approached by the chairman of the Maryland board to increase censorship fees from $2 to $3 per reel on originals and from $1 to $2 on duplicates. There may also be introduced a bill similar to that proposed in 1939 classifying pictures for children under 18 years of age.

Louisiana, whose 1940 legislature repealed the sales tax, effective December 31, 1940, may find it necessary to raise money and introduce new bills.

New York's money-raising problem has been largely offset from the revenue raised from pari-mutual betting on horse racing, which indicates there may not be any further need for taxation. However, there probably will be the usual run of regulatory outdoor advertising and labor bills.

New Jersey at present has no sales tax. It is difficult to predict what new revenue producing measures will be introduced when the new governor takes office on January 20. The state needs money.

In Delaware, where a committee was appointed in 1939 to investigate blue laws of the state, it is possible the findings of this committee may result in repeal of the Sunday law prohibiting exhibition of films.

In Ohio, it appears that an effort will be made to reduce censorship fees.

In Colorado, there are indications a bill permitting dog racing will be introduced.

East, West, North and South

NEW YORK—*Forty-four state legislatures, all of them after revenue, will meet in regular session this year. If the record of other years prevails, laws aimed at one phase or another of the industry will be introduced.*

California, Idaho, Montana, Ohio and Tennessee started the activity on January 2, but by the end of that month virtually all state law-making bodies will be in session. This is the schedule:

States—	Date of Meeting	Time Limit Regular (In Days)
Alabama	Jan. 10	50
Arizona	Jan. 9	60
Arkansas	Jan. 9	60
California	Jan. 2	None
Colorado	Jan. 4	None
Connecticut	Jan. 4	1st Wednesday after 1st Monday in June
Delaware	Jan. 3	60
Florida	Apr. 4	60
Georgia	Jul. 17	60
Idaho	Jan. 2	60
Illinois	Jan. 4	None
Indiana	Jan. 6	61
Iowa	Jan. 9	None
Kansas	Jan. 10	None
Kentucky		None
Louisiana		None
Maine	Jan. 4	None
Maryland	Jan. 4	90
Massachusetts	Jan. 4	None
Michigan	Jan. 4	None
Minnesota	Jan. 3	90
Mississippi		None
Missouri	Jan. 4	70
Montana	Jan. 2	60
Nebraska	Jan. 3	Not less than 60 days
Nevada	Jan. 16	60
New Hampshire	Jan. 4	None
New Jersey	Jan. 10	None
New Mexico	Jan. 10	60
New York	Jan. 4	None
North Carolina	Jan. 4	None
North Dakota	Jan. 3	60
Ohio	Jan. 2	None
Oklahoma	Jan. 3	60
Oregon	Jan. 9	40
Pennsylvania	Jan. 3	None
Rhode Island	Jan. 3	60
South Carolina	Jan. 10	40
South Dakota	Jan. 3	60
Tennessee	Jan. 2	75
Texas	Jan. 10	120
Utah	Jan. 9	60
Vermont	Jan. 4	None
Virginia		None
Washington	Jan. 9	60
West Virginia	Jan. 11	60
Wisconsin	Jan. 11	None
Wyoming	Jan. 10	40

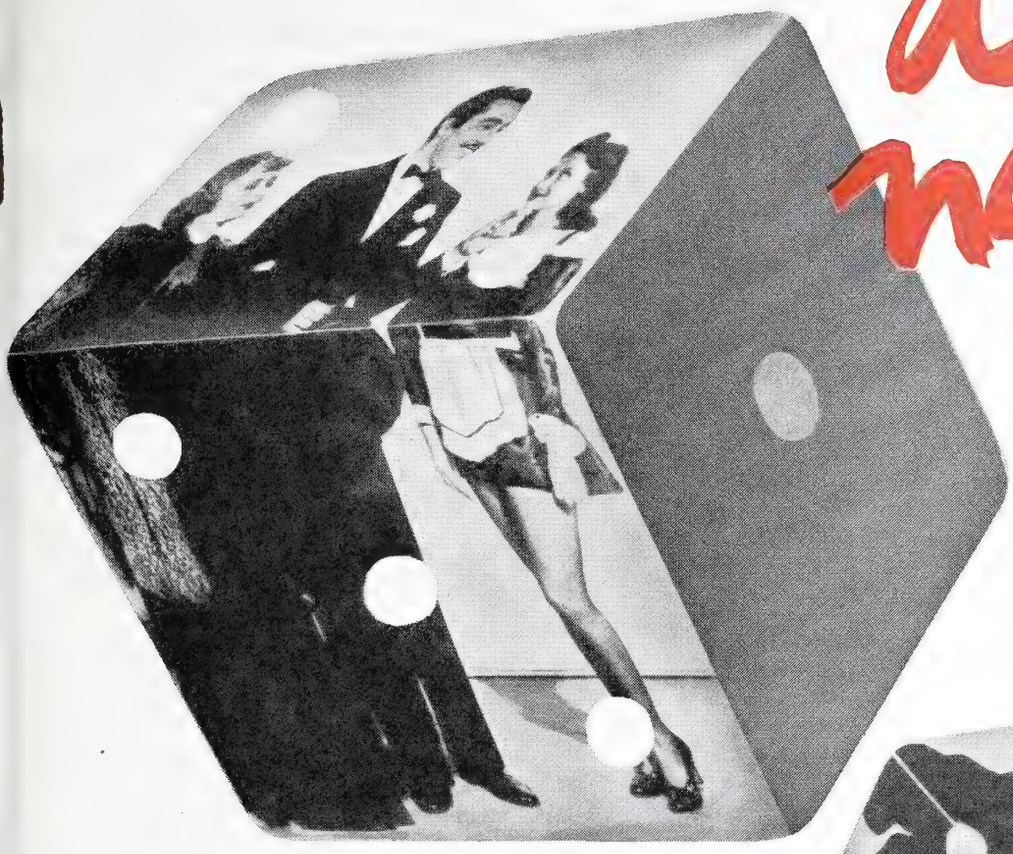
Increased Taxes New Congress Theme

WASHINGTON—Increased taxes appeared to be the most important legislation affecting the motion picture industry to come before the new Congress which convened January 3.

Aside from the possibility that a new effort may be made to secure legislation requiring distributors to sell their pictures singly, backed by exhibitors fighting the provisions of the consent decree in the all-industry suit, there appears to be little legislation directly affecting the industry planned at the present time.

Picture interests, however, will find their future course dominated more or less by the general legislation enacted during the session to carry out the Administration's defense program. This will be particularly true in the event general-industry

(Continued on page 22)



a natural!

What they want to do now is laugh— so what does 20th do? *Gives you a new fun formula!*



TALL, DARK and HANDSOME

with
CESAR ROMERO
VIRGINIA GILMORE
MILTON BERLE
Charlotte GREENWOOD
and **SHELDON LEONARD**
STANLEY CLEMENTS • FRANK JENKS • BARNETT PARKER

Directed by
H. BRUCE HUMBERSTONE
Associate Producer Fred Kohlmar
Original Screen Play by Karl Tunberg and Darrell Ware
Music and Lyrics by Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger
Dances Staged by Nicholas Castle and Geneva Sawyer

20th CENTURY FOX

loaded-

with excitement... and all hit songs:

"Hello Ma! I Done It Again!" "Did I Have Fun?" • "I'm Alive and Kickin'" • "Wishful Thinking"

FLASHES FROM THE NEWS FRONT

Cheer Balaban Policy

MINNEAPOLIS—The promise of Barney Balaban, Paramount president, that subsequent blocks of five will not be conditioned upon deals for the first block is "entirely satisfactory" to Northwest Allied. The pledge, via an open letter from Balaban to Fred Strom, secretary of the exhibitor unit, stated that if Paramount offers blocks of five pictures to an exhibitor the latter will be free to buy or not to buy, and that subsequent blocks will not be withheld until preceding blocks are sold and booked.

From a trade press interview given by Balaban, the Allied unit officials had gathered that there would be such conditioning sales and, in an open letter to the Paramount president, charged this would violate the spirit and letter of the consent decree at the start.

No Bank Night Stay

COLUMBUS—Tests of the legality of Bank Night may proceed without interference of the Ohio supreme court, that tribunal ruled in denying an injunction to the Troy Amusement Co. enjoining Troy officials from halting the giveaway at the Mayflower there. The court declined to pass on the legality of the drawing.

Waldo Hearing Continues

BOSTON—The Waldo Theatre Corp. suit against Joseph Dondis, et al., continued in federal court here with testimony on buying and booking practices of the M&P circuit, Paramount affiliate.

Prepare Decree Attack

MINNEAPOLIS — Asserting that membership reaction supports plans of Northwest Allied for state legislation to nullify "objectionable" provisions of the consent decree, the board of governors will meet soon to set a date for a convention to map such a program. One of the proposals is that the exhibitors go en masse from their convention hall to the state legislature to present their case.

Detroit Suit Delay

DETROIT—Trial of the suit of Midwest Theatres against Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan, which already has consumed a month in federal court here, has been postponed until January 7 because of the illness of A. J. Levin, defendant attorney . . . An amended bill of complaint has been filed here by Jacob Schreiber in his suit to recover ownership of five local theatres from his nephew, Raymond Schreiber, operating them as Midwest Theatres.

Miscellany

John Balaban has been named midwest director for theatre participation in the Greek war relief drive . . . B&K circuit starts community singing in State Lake in Chicago loop to introduce latest songs via the theatre. Reason is Ascap-BMI music fight . . . Joseph Bernhard paused in Chicago for conference with Warner circuit officials en route to Hollywood . . . Frank Lydon, Dorchester, Mass., is expected to be unopposed this year for re-election as president of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., Boston Allied affiliate.

Harry Talks to Katie Once More

New York—Harry Brandt, president of the ITOA of New York, knows his publicity values. He also recognizes a hit attraction when it does about $125,000 in one week at the Music Hall where paid admissions totaled 110,168 in four Christmas-New Year's week days.

Magnanimously, Brandt now determines Katharine Hepburn is no longer boxoffice "poison." She's off his deadly list. So completely off it that Howard Dietz, acting for M-G-M, is sending out long telegrams to newspapers advising of the news.

Atlas Deeper in RKO-KAO Via Buy of Meehan Stock

NEW YORK—Bolstering its position in RKO and KAO, Atlas Corp. has purchased a substantial block of M. J. Meehan's preferred shares in KAO. In addition, an option has been taken on the remainder of the Meehan interest in the theatre company.

The specific amount of shares and the investment involved have not been made public, but the indication is that, if the entire transaction is completed, approximately $4,000,000 will be involved.

Under the terms of the deal the stock purchased is subject to terms of a voting trust whereby representatives of Meehan will exercise voting rights for an extended period of time if the option is not picked up.

At the November meeting of the RKO board, the subject of purchasing Meehan's interest in KAO came up and was tabled becauses of officially ascribed unsettled conditions resulting from the war. Several deals have been on and off for the stock by RKO over the past few years. It is believed the Atlas deal, when finally consummated, will give the investment house control of both KAO and RKO. In the last Atlas financial report, the company stated it held 29,881 shares of RKO six per cent cumulative stock and 832,418 shares of RKO common and 327,811 RKO warrants for an aggregate investment of $3,695,911.06.

The deal comes fast on the heels of an $8,000,000 financing arrangement understood to have been worked out by George J. Schaefer with Boston interests. Part of the loan was to apply to the Meehan purchase and the rest to RKO requirements.

Monogram St. Louis Meet Shifted to January 11

ST. LOUIS—Monogram franchise holders have postponed for a week their scheduled two-day meeting here January 4-5. Because of the holidays, it was decided to hold the session January 11-12. The men will discuss current output as well as future plans.

It is reported George W. Weeks may increase his "Range Busters" series from 12 to 18 for the season. These westerns are understood to be popular. Edward A. Golden, former general sales manager, has become a partner with Weeks in the new unit which is to produce the additional "Range Busters" series.

Plans for some of the bigger pictures scheduled for the next few months will be outlined by President Ray Johnston.

M-G-M Striving for Pledge of 36 "A's"

PALM SPRINGS, CAL.—It is M-G-M's earnest intention to deliver its promised quota of 36 "A" films this season despite the complexities of preparing the 1941-42 schedule to comply with the decree, according to William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, who is taking a short vacation here before going on to the studios for production conferences. With him are his two sons, Thomas and William jr., who will remain until late this month and return east with Rodgers.

Declining to hazard a guess on when his company will begin selling next season's product, Rodgers is of the opinion nothing concrete will be available until late in March. His last visit to the studios about six weeks ago, he indicates, was for the purposes of advising production executives of his selling problems for 1941-42. When he confers with them again in about a week he expects to get some form of reply that will permit him to formalize plans. The company may hold a sales convention in June.

Rodgers makes it clear every effort will be made to fulfill the current program, but indicates the latter part of the season may find a few "B" productions dropped to get the new lineup under way. The company has delivered 13 of the 36 "A's" promised for 1940-41; this through December, and will have four more by the end of January. With a policy committed to 44 to 52 Rodgers foresees little difficulty in meeting it. So far three "B's" have been delivered of the 16 promised, with at least one coming up this month. If, according to Rodgers' calculations, the entire group of 36 "A's" is delivered and the company finishes at least four more "B's," which seems a certainty, the minimum of 44 promised will be attained easily.

Cannot Use Frozen Funds for Theatres

London—Commenting on the new British remittance plan, Ernest W. Fredman observes in "The Daily Film Renter":

"It will, of course, leave a terrific amount of unremittable funds in this country, and your speculation is as good as mine as to what will happen to them —though I don't think you need have any apprehension that they will be used in the buying of kinemas because I just don't think that's possible. Certainly, if my information from a very high official in the treasury is correct, it can't be done."

Clearance as Knotty Arbitration Problem

(Continued from page 4)

can claim he does not wish to pay as much in rentals, and, since the second theatre has gained a week, it is hardly likely he will be asked to pay more for his film. Hence, the distributor finds himself in the middle, but can ask the higher board to review the case.

While the indication will be to get quicker playoff under the decree's block-of-five sales plan, it is understood distributors will not waive any clearance rights where rentals may be affected. As one attorney expressed it, "The arbitrators are not gods. They will have their hands full when it comes to clearance."

A special crew of lawyers is being assigned to arbitration by home offices, the theory being that for the first year clearances will easily take first place in the number of complaints to be filed and adjudicated.

Mayer Top Metro Salary, SEC Report Will Show

(Continued from page 4)

Armsby, John R. Hazel, William A. Parker, David Warfield and Henry Rogers Winthrop.

Other officers who hold percentage contracts and who are included among the top brackets include Bernstein, Katz, Lichtman, Mannix, Rubin and Thau.

After various deductions, as provided in other employment agreements, Bernstein receives $2,000 a week plus 1.5 per cent of the net earnings; Katz, $3,000 a week, plus 1.4 per cent; Lichtman, $3,000, plus 1.05 per cent; Mannix, $2,500 salary and $500 expense, plus 1.4 per cent; Rubin, $2,000, plus 1.4 per cent; Thau, $1,750 plus 7/10 of one per cent.

Bernhard on Coast

HOLLYWOOD—Joseph Bernhard, general manager of the Warner circuit, is here from New York to confer with Harry M. and Jack L. Warner.

Awaiting Word From Hays On MPPDA Pact Renewal

NEW YORK—Twice reported on the agenda of the MPPDA directors, just so many times has the renewal of Will H. Hays' contract as president of the association failed to come up for discussion, simply because there appears nothing further to discuss.

That he will continue in the post he has held consecutively for the last 18 years is no longer subject of speculation. The heads of the companies, many weeks ago, so agreed and now it's up to Hays. The strongest indication of the final outcome, however, is seen in his voluntary offer to reduce his yearly salary from $100,000 to $80,000 and his traveling expenses, now fixed at another $100,000 annually, by $20,000. It seems pretty much on the foregone conclusion side that the MPPDA head would not advance his own proposal unless he had all intention of remaining in his post.

At the adjourned meeting of the directors last Friday, the association's budget of $750,000 for 1941 was presented by Hays and accepted by the member companies. The total matches the budget for 1940. Acceptance was voiced despite the understood fact the budget committee, composed of Joseph Hazen, Sidney R. Kent and Nicholas M. Schenck had not prepared a formal presentation. It is further understood there was mild opposition against voting the new one on a flat, one-year basis but that, when Hays pointed out any staggering plan on the basis of a three-month period, as recommended, would present difficulties in operation, the original proposal was voted unanimously.

Joseph I. Breen, production code administrator, who is spending a vacation here and in Philadelphia with members of his family, appeared before the board Friday. He is reported to have registered his difficulties in keeping studio heads and producers constantly in line. He was voted confidence by the company heads who, however, pointed out the product is made in Hollywood and that, therefore, code administration is a matter for direct handling at the scene of production.

WHAT THE STUDIOS ARE DOING

No Letup in Record Production Pace Seen

HOLLYWOOD — All dispensers of gloom anent the Hollywood scene to the contrary, actual statistics reveal there is to be no letdown in production pace during the first weeks of January and, according to schedules already set up, a fast picture-making tempo seems set to maintain through February also. The lineup for this month includes five each from Republic and Universal; four from Warner, experiencing the most intensive mid-season boom in studio history; four each from Metro and Paramount; two each from Columbia and 20th Century-Fox; three from RKO Radio; and one from Monogram for a grand total of 30. In February ten starts are slated. The breakdown finds Universal to roll two, Columbia two, 20th Century-Fox two, and Argosy, Alexander Korda, Sol Lesser and Republic one each. More than two-thirds of the January camera entries are of the big-budgeted variety.

Still Emphasize Campaigns For the Early Runs

Still turning their hand toward selling pictures in early runs, studio publicity-advertising executives announced such enterprises as: Warner is arranging a billboard campaign on "Flight From Destiny," using 1,000 boards in 32 cities. Advertising budget is boosted to $150,000 . . . Pacific Coast premiere of Walt Disney's "Fantasia" will be in Los Angeles late this month. National exploitation is being handled by Frank Braden and roadshow treatment in a dozen or more key cities will follow as Fantasound sound units are built.

Five Large-Scale Independent Productions Are Scheduled

Five large-scaled independent productions are slated to roll within the next 30 days. Included are two for RKO Radio—Herbert Wilcox's "Sunny" and William Hawks' "My Life With Caroline" . . . Universal will distribute two others, Frank Lloyd's "Lady From Cheyenne" and Lawrence Fox's "The Man Who Lost Himself" . . . Walter Wanger will add Argosy's "The Eagle Squadron" to his United Artists schedule.

Lewis Leaves Sherman; Studio Payrolls Climb

Most important personnel change in a rather quiet week concerned the resignation of Myke Lewis as sales head for Harry Sherman Productions. No successor has been named and Lewis has announced no future plans beyond a month's holiday . . . November's increased production tempo also occasioned a boost in weekly payrolls and the studio employment index. 12,428 workers earned $557,957 during the month—$8,636 more than was paid 12,295 payrollees in October. Average weekly November paycheck was $44.90.

Miscellany:

Several top assignments in the acting and directorial divisions found Merle Oberon signed for the top spot opposite Dennis Morgan in Warner's "Affectionately Yours" . . . Martha Scott has the lead opposite George Brent in "They Dare Not Love" at Columbia . . . Randolph Scott draws a topline in RKO Radio's "True to Form." David Butler produces and directs.

Q. and A. Translates Decree Arbitration

(Continued from page 11)

paid by the party which makes the appeal.

Will the exhibitor have to appear personally in an appeals case?

No, he can present his material in writing and oral arguments may be heard only upon the written agreement of all parties and if ordered by the appeals board.

Where will the appeal board sit?

In the Radio City development in New York. The exact location has not yet been selected.

How can an exhibitor start an arbitration?

He does this by making his complaint in writing to the clerk of the local tribunal. The AAA is preparing special forms for such purposes.

Where will hearings be held?

In the office having jurisdiction in the particular area. There will be 31 such offices. Each hearing will be scheduled as to time, date and place in order to avoid delay. The local clerk will set the time after conferring with the parties.

How will arbitrators be chosen?

Each party to a dispute will be given a list of available arbitrators in the area. There will be not less than 10 names. Each party will cross off the names of the arbitrators objected to and will indicate the order of preference of the names remaining on the identical lists.

May the arbitrators have any connection with the industry?

No, because the decree forbids the appointment as an arbitrator of any one connected, directly or indirectly, past or present, with the industry.

Will this in any way hamper the proceedings?

No. Experience has shown that a lawyer or intelligent business man can grasp the issue at stake even though he is not familiar with the industry. Each arbitrator selected by the AAA will be a thoroughly experienced business, professional or educational person well known for his integrity, patience, understanding and judicial competence.

Is the exhibitor's presence essential at a local hearing?

Yes, because he will be needed to offer testimony concerning the dispute. However, he may be represented by an attorney or agent.

Can a settlement be made before the parties have entered into an arbitration hearing?

Yes, this is very frequently done. Almost one-third of the cases scheduled for hearings in other tribunals of the AAA are settled after a complaint has been filed. When this occurs the only cost is the amount paid for the filing fee.

Do precedents hold in arbitration?

No. Each case is decided on its own merits and the arbitrator does not have to follow any precedent. It is possible, however, that accumulations of decisions will set standards for these practices.

Can an arbitrator be removed?

Yes, upon written application of any party prior to the date the arbitrator's award becomes final. The removal may be made by the AAA upon proof that the arbitrator has a financial interest or connection with the industry or is otherwise disqualified.

How will an exhibitor know if he has won or lost a case?

Copies of the award will be mailed by the clerk of the tribunal. The award must be made in writing and notarized.

Is there a difference between "arbitration" and "mediation?"

Yes. Arbitration is a legal procedure which results in a legally enforceable award. Mediation aims at compromise and, if it fails, no binding decision is made.

How can an exhibitor determine what arbitration district has jurisdiction over his dispute?

He can do so by writing to the AAA at 8 West 40th Street, New York, until the end of January, then to the U. S. Rubber Building, 1230 Sixth Avenue, New York.

How often will the same arbitrator be called to hear cases?

That will depend entirely on the number of disputes in a particular area. In ordinary arbitration few arbitrators are called to serve more than three times a year.

How do you account for the fact that such high calibre men are willing to give up their time to act as arbitrators for the AAA?

Acting as an arbitrator is deemed by many as a public service. Day after day, men whose names are household words in American industry spend valuable time away from their business to arbitrate a dispute. Records show the leading business men sit in judgment on cases involving as little as $5.

Scollard Is Executive Assistant to Agnew



NEW YORK—C. J. "Pat" Scollard on Monday assumes a new post at Paramount as executive assistant to Neil F. Agnew, vice-president in charge of distribution.

His chief duties, however, will continue as in the past, in charge of advertising budgets in association with Robert M. Gillham, director of advertising and publicity, who, incidentally, is in Hollywood on a short trip.

UA Field Changes Set; Masters Now in N. Y.

NEW YORK—UA field changes, headed by appointment of Haskell M. Masters as western sales manager succeeding L. Jack Schlaifer, now a special representative, are now in effect. Masters arrived from Toronto during the week.

Lipton Assumes His Post As Columbia's Ad Chief

NEW YORK—David A. Lipton on Monday launches himself as director of advertising, publicity and exploitation of Columbia Pictures. He arrived from Hollywood late last week.

Wright Heading Gov't "Little Three" Action

NEW YORK—With the departure of James V. Hayes from participation in future anti-trust actions against film companies, Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the attorney general, will have complete charge of the prosecution of the amended and supplemental bill of complaint against UA, Columbia and Universal when trial is scheduled in the local federal court sometime in the spring.

Hayes has been assigned to another industry in the department of justice investigation of monopolies. He was in town Tuesday to confer with a local federal judge on another matter.

Assisting Wright, who will also be the government's overseer on the operation of the decree entered with the "Big Five," and on the suit against the "Little Three" will be John F. Clagett, Seymour Simon, J. Stephen Doyle and J. Frank Cunningham.

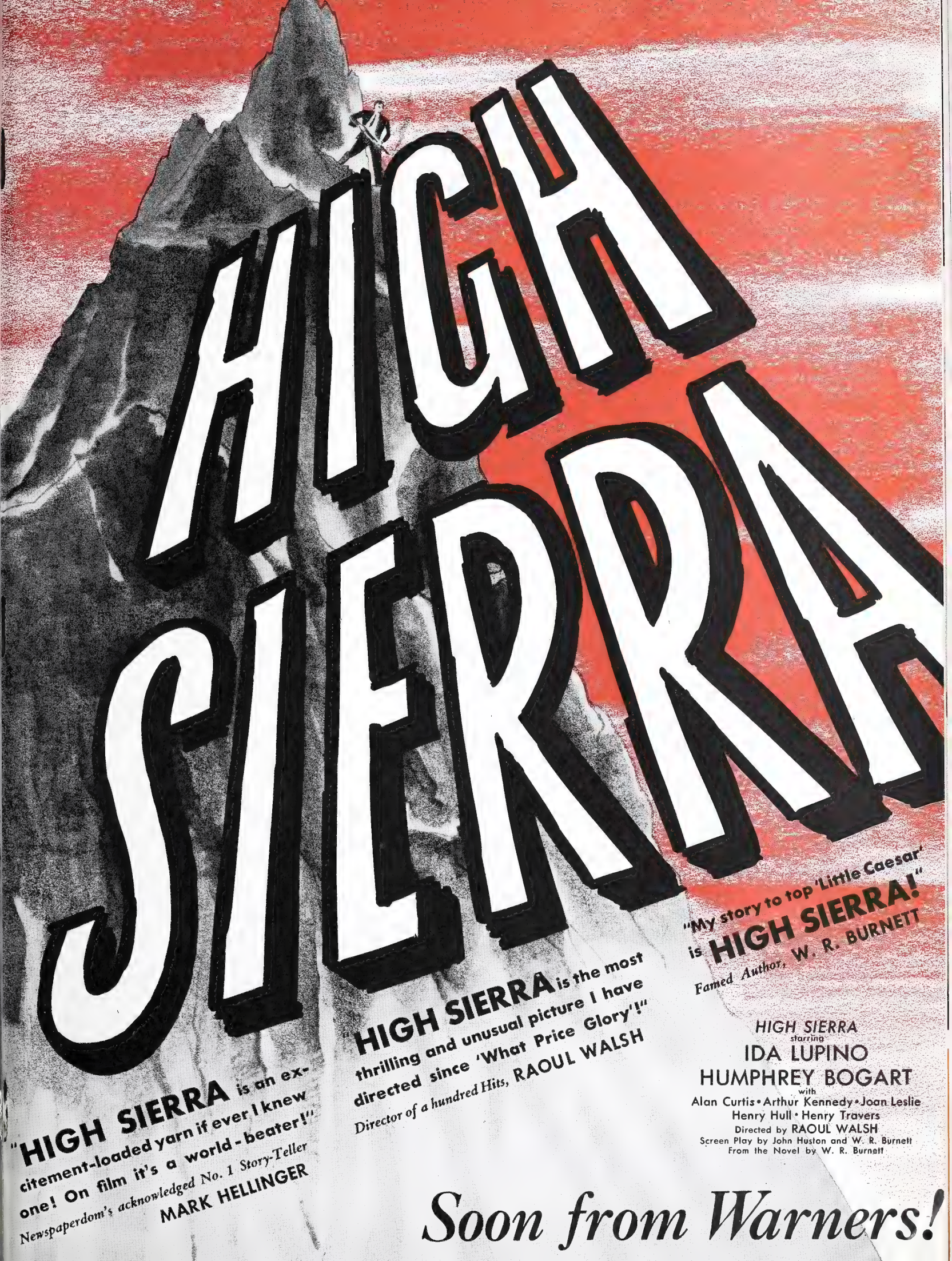
Suits and Decree Tour To Keep Phillips Busy

CHICAGO — Louis Phillips, Paramount home office attorney, arrived here over the weekend for the La Crosse Theatre anti-trust action which comes up Monday in Madison, Wis., federal court.

As soon as the action is completed, Phillips will return to Chicago for the defense in a plagiarism suit filed against Paramount on "Professor, Beware." This is slated to come up January 13.

Following the two hearings, he will begin a tour of Paramount exchanges in conjunction with Austin C. Keough, general counsel, to explain all phases of the consent decree to branch managers and their personnel.

Keough and Phillips will divide the country so that all exchanges are covered in the least possible time.



"My story to top 'Little Caesar' is HIGH SIERRA!"
Famed Author, W. R. BURNETT

"HIGH SIERRA is the most thrilling and unusual picture I have directed since 'What Price Glory'!"
Director of a hundred Hits, RAOUL WALSH

"HIGH SIERRA is an excitement-loaded yarn if ever I knew one! On film it's a world-beater!"
Newspaperdom's acknowledged No. 1 Story-Teller
MARK HELLINGER

HIGH SIERRA
starring
IDA LUPINO
HUMPHREY BOGART
with
Alan Curtis • Arthur Kennedy • Joan Leslie
Henry Hull • Henry Travers
Directed by RAOUL WALSH
Screen Play by John Huston and W. R. Burnett
From the Novel by W. R. Burnett

Soon from Warners!

86 HOUSES OPEN, 82 BUILDING, 63 PLANNED AT CLOSE OF 1940

Compares With 91 During Earlier Quarter; Texas Still Tops Field

With 41 states reporting, the greatest number in any quarter, including Canada, BOXOFFICE correspondents tallied 86 new theatres opened in the last three months of 1940. This compares with 91 new structures for the quarter ended October 1.

The latest survey also shows a total of 82 projects under various stages of construction, as compared with 64 for the previous three months. New theatres planned for the last tally showed 63 as compared with 39 for the previous quarter.

Signs of army theatres cropping up all over the country are indicated by BOXOFFICE reporters for the first time. About a half dozen have been completed or are in work.

Pennsylvania came to the fore with a total of eight newly opened structures in the final quarter. This is the same number reported for the July-September months. However, Texas took the lead with nine new houses as compared to eight for the previous quarter.

Canada has shown signs of activity again after a dull July-September with 10 theatres planned and six opened.

Alabama

Andalusia—The new Martin Theatres house, the Martin, seating 1,200 has opened.

Birmingham—A new colored house, the Carver, operated by Fred Levi, has opened.

Decatur—The new Roxy, operated by Crescent Amusements, will open early in January.

Montgomery—The Charles, a 1,000-seat subsequent run house, has opened.

Sheffield—A February opening is scheduled for the new Muscle Shoals Theatres' house now under construction.

Arizona

Tempe—Dwight Harkins has started construction on a new 500-seat house to be called the College.

Arkansas

Batesville—Bill Headstream has opened the new Melba seating 725.

Fordyce—K. Lee Williams has taken a long-term lease on a local business structure for conversion into a theatre soon.

Hughes—K. H. Kinney has opened the New Hays. It seats 500.

North Little Rock—Your Family Theatres, Inc., has opened a new theatre on Main St.

Malco Realty Co. plans to build a new 750-seat theatre in the Park Hill section.

Springdale — W. F. Sonneman has opened his new Shilo.

California

Burbank—Al Minor has opened his new Magnolia, a 700-seat house.

Casa Grande—Bill Cox has opened his new Chief, seating 450.

Where and What They Are

Theatres in work, planned and opened for the quarter beginning October 1 and ended December 29, covering 41 states, and also Canada, as correlated by BOXOFFICE correspondents. Statistically, here is a state-by-state breakdown:

State—	*In Work*	*Planned*	*Opened*
Alabama	2	....	3
Arizona	1	....	....
Arkansas	....	2	4
California	1	4	6
Colorado	....	....	3
Connecticut	2	1	2
Delaware	....	....	1
District of Columbia	....	....	2
Florida	6	6	4
Georgia	....	5	1
Illinois	3	....	1
Indiana	....	2	....
Iowa	4	....	....
Kansas	3	2	1
Kentucky	5	4	....
Louisiana	3	....	2
Maine	1	1	....
Maryland	....	3	....
Massachusetts	2	....	3
Michigan	4	2	2
Minnesota	....	....	1
Mississippi	2	....	2
Missouri	....	2	1
Nebraska	....	....	2
Nevada	1	....	....
New Jersey	1	....	....
New Mexico	2	....	1
New York	2	1	2
North Carolina	1	....	4
Ohio	5	4	2
Oklahoma	1	3	....
Pennsylvania	3	3	8
Rhode Island	1	....	1
South Carolina	4	1	2
Tennessee	2	....	3
Texas	7	4	9
Utah	2	1	1
Virginia	2	1	....
West Virginia	5	1	6
Wisconsin	1	....	....
Canada	3	10	6
Totals	82	63	86

National City—Harry Goldfarb will start construction on a new de luxe 900-seat theatre.

Pomona—Fox West Coast has opened the State. It seats 500.

Roseville—Peters & Lehman have opened their new Tower.

San Francisco—The Blumenfeld circuit has opened the new Esquire downtown.

San Leandro—Golden State Theatres has started construction on a new theatre.

San Luis Obispo—Fox West Coast, in association with Lou Rosenberg, plans a 1,000-seat theatre to cost $150,000.

Santa Barbara—Louis Kaplan plans to construct a 900-seat de luxe house.

Santa Monica—Burke and Bayliss will build a 1,000-seat house. Construction is due to start in February.

Winnemucca—Bill Cook has opened his new theatre.

Colorado

Couches Dam — Jim Thompson has opened the new Tunnell, a 400-seater.

La Junta—Fox-Intermountain has opened the new 700-seat Fox, which cost approximately $43,000.

Saguache—New 304-seat theatre, known as Ute, has been opened by Ross Labart.

Connecticut

Bridgeport—Lou Anger expects to build a new theatre here in 1941.

Bristol—Joe Faith will open his new 700-seat theatre in February.

New Haven—Connon Cannon's new house is in operation. It has 700 seats.

Westville—The new Westville, a 750-seat house, has opened.

Wethersfield — Construction on the Schulman's Wethersfield is progressing.

Delaware

Seaford—Thomas E. Ayres' new house, seating 800 and costing $75,000 is open.

District of Columbia

Washington—Fairlawn Amusement Co. has opened the new Highland in southeast Washington.

The Apex is the latest addition in the Fred Kogod circuit.

Florida

Coral Gables—Paramount Enterprises

(Continued on page 21)

In this issue

The MODERN THEATRE

Specifically devoted to "Functional Planning," with emphasis on renovation and other aspects of theatre operation and maintenance.

86 Theatres Opened In Final Quarter

(Continued from page 20)

has opened the Coral here.

Jacksonville—L. H. Holloway of Cordele, Ga., is constructing a 700-seat house to be located in the Murray Hill section. It is expected to be open soon.

E. J. Sparks is planning three theatres here.

Construction has started on a new 1,000-seat theatre by Arthur J. Seigel of New York.

Lake Wales—Sparks circuit has under construction a 600-seat house.

Miami — Paramount Enterprises has opened the new Lincoln Road at Miami Beach. The circuit is also building two other houses, the Dade and the Boulevard here.

Orlando—George Fekany has opened a new 900-seat house here.

Sparks has opened the new Cameo, seating 500.

St. Petersburg—Construction has started on a new drive-in theatre by the Sparks circuit to accommodate 500 cars.

Starke—Mina Manassa Grady, operator of the Ritz, plans a new 1,000-seat house.

Tampa—Butler E. Gore, manager of Broadway Theatres, announces plans for two theatres here.

Georgia

Atlanta—Lucas and Jenkins have opened their new Gordon.

Carrollton—The Martin chains plans to build a 400-seat house.

Dalton—Manning and Wink plan a new theatre for this community.

Fort Benning—The Ivy Construction Co. has submitted bids for the construction of two theatres on the nearby military reservation.

Lawrenceville—Owners of the Colonial here have purchased a site for the construction of an 800-seat theatre.

Illinois

Cairo—The I. W. Rogers circuit is building the new Gem here.

Chicago—The Glencoe in the suburb of the same name has been opened by Sam Meyers.

A second newsreel house to be called Today will open soon in the Loop. It will seat 600.

Decatur—Dominic Frisina has a theatre costing $125,000 under construction. It will be the 47th house in the Frisina chain.

Indiana

La Grange—Mrs. Florence Wigdon will start building a 400-seat theatre here in 1941.

South Whitley—Don LeBrun, operator of the Kent, plans to build another theatre.

Iowa

Akron—Mel Smith is building a new theatre to seat 480.

Newton—A building is being remodeled into a theatre in this town. It will open in February.

Ottumwa—A modern $35,000 theatre is being built for Elmer J. Tilton. It will seat 600.

The Ottumwa Theatre Corp. is building another theatre.

Kansas

Colby—Don Phillips is building a new theatre.

Galena—Art Pugh has opened the new Star.

Iola—A new 560-seat theatre is under construction for E. Van Hyning. It will cost $20,000.

Junction City—A new theatre is projected by H. J. Griffith near the Fort Riley army encampment.

Parsons—Ted Davis will convert a building into a 650-seat theatre.

Wichita—R. E. Conrad is building a new house in the downtown section.

J. C. Hartman is planning a film-vaudeville house in the suburbs.

Kentucky

Barbourville—Charles Mitchell is breaking ground for his second house.

Beattyville—Max Goldberg plans a new house.

63 in Planned Stage At Close of Year

Dayton—A site has been purchased by a local exhibitor for a new 800-seat house.

Ervine—J. F. Carnahan will build a new theatre.

Louisville—A new theatre, The Ohio, will open in May. It will seat 1,000. The Settos chain is building.

Wayne Kimball is pondering another theatre.

Pineville—Dona Reda has the foundations for his new house ready.

Sand Gap—J. F. Carnahan and M. C. Hughes are building a new theatre.

Winchester—The Winchester Amusement Co. is remodeling a store building into a theatre.

Louisiana

Crowley—Southern Amusement Co. is building a new theatre.

Gretna—Construction is under way on a new 1,000-seat house for Berenson Theatres, Inc.

Lake Charles—Southern Amusement Co. is building a new Paramount which will seat 1,056.

New Orleans—The new United Chain house on the west side has opened.

Maine

Bingham—A new theatre, equipped with RCA sound, is being built by Colby W. Robinson.

Woodford's Corner—A new theatre will be constructed here.

(Continued on page 22)

Good Showmen HAVE THIS TO SAY:

★ *"Reaction terrific . . . the patrons howled . . . asked for more."* F. B. Schlax, Kenosha Theatre, Kenosha, Wis.

●

★ *"Audience reaction very enthusiastic . . . should play every theatre . . ."* Lou B. Metzger, Spreckles Theatre, San Diego, Cal.

●

★ *"Audience reaction excellent . . ."* Harry Zeitz, State Theatre, New Bedford, Mass.

●

★ *" . . . fine entertainment . . . "* Chas. Bierbauer, Wilmer & Vincent's Colonial, Allentown, Pa.

●

★ **All of which means there is a great reel in BOB HAWK'S sensational CBS Coast-to-Coast network smash . . ."TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT"**

A COLUMBIA "QUIZ" REEL — *NOW BOOKING*

82 in Construction; Mideast Is Active

(Continued from page 21)

Maryland

Ellicott City—I. Taylor, a local marchant, is planning a new house.

Leonardtown—Kenneth Duke announces he will build a new theatre.

Sykesville—Local business men are reported planning a new theatre.

Massachusetts

Boston—The new M&P Circle seating 1,200 has opened.

Dorchester—F. E. Lieberman's new 1,300-seat house has opened.

Falmouth—Two new theatres are being built near Camp Edwards.

Ludlow—The new Royal, operated by Harry Lamere, has opened.

Michigan

Battle Creek—The Butterfield circuit will build an 800-seat theatre near the army training camp.

Detroit—A new 1,000-seat theatre will be built in suburban Allen Park by Max Allen.

The new Royal, operated by UDT, and W&W has opened. It seats 2,500.

The Circle-Midway Theatre Co. has begun construction on a 2,200-seat theatre.

Melvindale—Louis Schlussel is building a 2,000-seat theatre.

Kalkaska—O. W. Keelor has opened a new 300-seat theatre. It is the Kal.

Lapeer—George Smith has bought RCA sound for the new theatre he is building.

River Rouge—Bernard Brooks has begun excavating for a new theatre.

Minnesota

Crookston—C. L. and Ernotte Hillers have opened their second theatre, the 800-seat Gopher.

Mississippi

Greenwood—Frank Bishop and Ben Ward of Ellisville are building the Fran.

Bob Sigler, owner and manager of the Royal, Hattiesburg, Miss., has opened a new theatre here.

McComb—A. L. Royal's new house has opened.

Meriden—A. L. Royal has a $5,000 house in construction here.

Missouri

Lee's Summit—The new Vogue operated by Johnson, Abend & Harttmann has opened.

St. Louis—The St. Louis Amusement Co. is negotiating for a site on which to build a new 1,500-seat theatre.

Nebraska

Friend—Wally Johnson has opened the new Vogue, a 252-seater.

Lincoln—Nebraska Theatres, Inc., has opened the Kiva, seating 440, as a subsequent run.

Nevada

Ely—P. W. Hull, who operates a string of theatres in this state, is building a 775-seater here.

New Jersey

Passaic—Work is under way on the new Central, to seat 2,400, and scheduled to open in April.

Additional detail covering the final '40 quarter will appear shortly.



"Grapes" Best '40 Film To New York Critics

NEW YORK—The New York Film Critics have chosen "The Grapes of Wrath" as the best film of 1940 in their sixth annual vote and awarded scrolls for the best male and female performances of the year to Charles Chaplin in "The Great Dictator" and to Katharine Hepburn in "The Philadelphia Story."

John Ford was voted the year's best director on the basis of "The Grapes of Wrath" and "The Long Voyage Home," marking the second successive year in which he has been singled out by the critics for this honor. The critics' special award, omitted last year, was restored and assigned to Walt Disney, Leopold Stokowski and their associates for "Fantasia."

"The Baker's Wife," French film, was selected as the best foreign-language picture.

Increased Taxes New Congress' Theme Song

(Continued from page 14)

control becomes necessary to carry out the rearmament effort.

The increased taxes, which will be designed to raise revenue to defray some of the costs of defense, will call for greater contributions by individuals and corporations—probably additional admission taxes, either through a further cut or even total elimination of the exemption or by an increase in the rate—more excise taxes, and so on.

These new taxes, however, probably will not go into effect before the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1. Before consideration can be given new legislation, it is probable the treasury will want to determine the effects of the bills passed last year, which cannot be done until the 1940 returns are filed March 15.

With the administration definitely committed to a program of aiding Britain in every way short of war, which will require the United States to become one vast arms factory, the new Congress will have as its chief concern the enactment of such legislation as may be necessary to bring this about, including staggering appropriations.

As a result, it is now expected that little consideration will be given matters not connected with the defense effort, particularly those which are of a controversial nature. Accordingly, it is questioned whether any thought will be given to such matters as block booking legislation, particularly in view of the fact—which will be emphasized for all it is worth, if the question comes up—that the consent decree has not yet had a chance to show whether it will adequately reform the industry.

Make Short in East

NEW YORK—The first "Quiz Kids" short for Paramount will start at the Eastern Service Studio January 5.

Keeping Company

F — Melodrama

M-G-M (——) **87 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

This is the initialer in a new family series which Leo is projecting as a runner-up to the popular "Hardy" clan pictures. If the first one is criterion, the new family will have to do a lot of running before it can even see the dust of Andy and his tribe. Among the more naive patrons the offering will slide by as supporting fare. Impish Virginia Weidler imparts a few bright moments. She and other members of the cast are well selected but it was apparently impossible for them to appear advantageously, handicapped with sluggish lines and situations. The film concerns the courtship and early married life of a young couple, with the bride's parents, her sisters, and the husband's boss standing by to contribute counsel and guidance and generally complicating the proceedings. There is, of course, a jealousy-inspired separation and the inevitable reconciliation. In fact, there are few celluloid cliches which haven't been dragged into the overlong, snail-paced and purposeless screenplay. S. Sylvan Simon's direction does nothing to lift the ensemble from the doldrums.

John Shelton, Ann Rutherford, Frank Morgan, Virginia Weidler, Virginia Grey, Gene Lockhart, Sara Haden.

EXPLOITIPS: Concentrate the bulk of selling efforts around John Shelton and Ann Rutherford, building them up as the co-stars in a new series of films. Frank Morgan and Virginia Weidler are other selling names. Hold a "Keeping Company" night at which young couples are admitted at a two-for-one rate. Title can be tied into displays of men's and women's clothing, attesting to the popularity of the wearers of the new 1941 garments. Hold a contest to discover the local couple which has been married and "keeping company" the longest.

CATCHLINES: It's Just What the Doctor Ordered . . . As an Entertainment Prescription . . . To Give You That Youthful Feeling Again.

We Guarantee That You Haven't Seen a More Delightful Show All Season . . . And That You'll Be Asking for More.

Flight From Destiny

F — Drama

WB (520) **74 Minutes** **Rel. ————**

Is there such a thing as a "socially useful" murder? Are there circumstances which justify an ordinary citizen's taking the life of a fellow-being, no matter how richly the latter deserves to die? These are the questions posed by this highly philosophical problem picture. What's more, they are answered—and, of course, in a way that satisfies the stipulations of the production code, if not the consensus of audience opinion. Discriminating patrons will find the film engrossing and will undoubtedly be loud in their praises of its approach to an entirely different celluloid theme. Further, they will be deeply appreciative of a standardly fine performance by Thomas Mitchell. It is doubtful, however, that there will be sufficient interest on the part of the common majority to elevate the offering to the financial hit class. Directed by Vincent Sherman.

Geraldine Fitzgerald, Thomas Mitchell, Jeffrey Lynn, James Stephenson, Mona Maris, Jonathan Hale, David Bruce.

EXPLOITIPS: Thomas Mitchell and Jeffrey Lynn are the marquee names, with James Stephenson also worthy of mention in support. The story, in which a college professor discovers he has only six months to live, can be exploited along various lines. Conduct a letter-writing contest in which entrants cite the five things they would do if they found themselves in similar circumstances. Conduct a search for individuals who, pronounced "incurable," made miraculous discoveries and have them attend the showing as your guests.

CATCHLINES: An Unusual Experience in Your Entertainment Habits . . . Is This Story of a Man Who Met and Conquered His Destiny.

A Powerful Cast . . . A Story Packed With Emotion and Suspense . . . Makes the Season's Most Unusual Picture.

The Invisible Woman

F — Comedy

Universal (——) **72 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 27, '40**

Those who remember "The Invisible Man" and his return —and buy this one expecting a comparable quota of chills might be disappointed if it weren't for the fact that they have a very pleasant surprise in store for them. There isn't a shudder in its entire length. But, laughs? That's what it has nothing else but. The horror element is completely eliminated to make way for the emphasis on humor. The picture is decidedly of the "Topper" school and nothing of its kind has been better done. There are a weighty cast, a screenplay from the typewriters of craftsmen, unstinting production mountings and expert direction. They combine to make a feature which should click all along the line. John Barrymore, who dominates the acting department, is a scientist who has spent ten years perfecting a machine to make people invisible. He is financed by a rich playboy. A beautiful model, Virginia Bruce, submits to the first experiment because she wants to discipline her tyrannical employer. The playboy falls for her—invisible or not—and complications arise when mobsters steal the machine. Directed by A. Edward Sutherland.

John Barrymore, Virginia Bruce, John Howard, Charlie Ruggles, Oscar Homolka, Edward Brophy, Donald MacBride.

EXPLOITIPS: Selling names here include John Barrymore, Virginia Bruce, Charlie Ruggles and John Howard. Send out mailing pieces with a woman's head drawn in outline, but without the features. Under it carry a caption such as: "The Invisible Woman—Who Is She?" Make tieups with beauty parlors on cold creams and other preparations, along the lines: "They won't make you invisible—but we guarantee all your blemishes will vanish." Plant a magician, doing disappearing tricks, in the lobby.

CATCHLINES: He Was a Bankrupt Playboy . . . Who Fell in Love With an Invisible Woman . . . With Amazing, Amusing Results.

We Guarantee Your Troubles Will Vanish When You See a Beautiful Woman Disappear.

The Girl in the News

F — Drama

20th Century-Fox (——) **77 Minutes** **Rel. Jan. 31, '41**

Here is as compelling a study in crime and the workings of the British judiciary as has come out of England in a long while. The story has been expertly handled by Director Carol Reed; performances by a cast of worthies are given subtly, discreetly and with telling dramatic effect. Audiences should hang onto its every tense situation raptly, respond to the shadings of comedy and be properly thrilled as the turn of events indicates. Briefly, the plot: A young nurse to a neurotic invalid stands trial when her patient dies from an overdose of sleeping pills. She is acquitted by a promising young attorney. Later, by a queer turn of events, she again is in a similar predicament and faces the gallows. A courtroom ruse by her counsel uncovers the real criminals. This one should be looked into. It has definite possibilities.

Margaret Lockwood, Barry K. Barnes, Emlyn Williams, Roger Livesey, Margaretta Scott.

EXPLOITIPS: Name values for the marquee should be considered in the light of past acceptance. Miss Lockwood has successfully appeared in British product in this country and has had an appreciative audience. Williams is noted for writing "Night Must Fall" and appearances in other British films. Tie-ins with circulating libraries are indicated. The author of this one is Roy Vickers. Get up a clue display of a copy of the London "Times" with a fake want ad marked out, a vial of harmless pills, a collection of unique keys and a phoney autopsy report indicating poison in the coroner's findings. The film should do best with the more intelligent audiences.

CATCHLINES: A Lone Girl and Her Battle Against Circumstantial Evidence.

Once Acquitted, She Faces the Gallows Again for a Similar Crime.

A Study of Justice and Circumstantial Evidence Across the Sea.

Bowery Boy F

Melodrama

Republic (——) **71 Minutes** **Rel. Dec. 27, '40**

As a sociological expedition through the unsanitary abodes of the Bowery, this film just rates the label. As melodramatic entertainment, after the first few hundred feet it slips perceptibly into a routine groove. The audience gets the plight of a young doctor, an "Okie," who takes a post with a public health station and runs smack into romantic conflict with his nurse and a Park Avenue deb. To increase his consternation, there is an adolescent brat who carries the bravado of the "Dead End" type throughout the story's telling. Torn, but lightly, between reforming the boy, romancing with Park Avenue and discovering he loves the nurse, the doctor has to curb an epidemic and trap a gangster before he can really settle down to work. The story throughout twangs a familiar and none-too-interesting chord. Suitable mainly for the lower portion of run-of-the-mill duals. William Morgan directed.

Dennis O'Keefe, Louise Campbell, Jimmy Lydon, Helen Vinson, Roger Pryor.

EXPLOITIPS: The selection of names from the cast for adorning the marquee is anybody's guess. In the line of performances the troupe gives the story a merry whirl. Each characterization fits the story's bill more than adequately. Feminine interest might be aroused in Miss Vinson who is supposed to have a reputation as one of the 10 best-dressed women. Miss Campbell deserves better roles. She has real acting ability. Young Lydon's performance has become more or less stereotyped and by this time rather dull. The film's atmosphere compared with the real thing is heavily imaginative.

CATCHLINES: Algiers Has Its Kasbah . . . Paris Its Montmarte . . . And New York Its Bowery . . . Fundamentally Neighborhoods Under the Skin.

Where Life Goes on With the Strongest and Slyest Surviving.

Park Avenue Romancing in the Bowery . . . He Takes Time Out to Stop an Epidemic and Trap a Gangster.

The Man of the Hour A

Musical Comedy

Trio Films (SR) **93 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

American audiences who remember Maurice Chevalier via Hollywood and enjoyed him that way won't derive a like measure of entertainment in this French effort, but if it's just Chevalier they want they'll find reels and reels of him. He's backed up with a very substantial production, some risque situations, a topflight scenarist and Director Julien Duvivier. But for all that, the film doesn't evoke the fun it is designed for. It's sort of a three-ring circus, centering mostly about comedy, taking in a few songs and winding up on a dramatic note. Chevalier, a hospital electrician, donates some blood to a famed, but eccentric, actress and thereby rises to fame over night. Since it is her habit to convert her closest admirers to the theatre, Chevalier is put through the paces of a tragedian. But he flops, as does his fiancee who was being sponsored as a singer by the actress' husband. Photography and sound are noticeably below par.

Maurice Chevalier, Elvire Popesco, Alerme, Josette Day, Marcelle Geniat, Robert Lynen.

EXPLOITIPS: There seems to be little doubt that the best sales impression can be created through the use of the names in this film and what they stand for. Of course, Chevalier should be sold first. Then Duvivier, who, in French circles, created some memorable films such as "Carnet de Bal" and "End of A Day." Then there's scenarist Charles Spaak, who wrote these two films as well as "Grand Illusion." In building up Chevalier it would be best to link this effort with the type of musical comedy he pursued so vigorously in Hollywood. There are a few catchy songs which could either be played over the p. a. system, in French, of course, or whose English lyrics could be used for lobby eye-catchers. Full-size cutouts of Chevalier for window displays, with "Chevalier Is Back" should get attention.

CATCHLINES: Maurice Chevalier—The Man Who Introduced America to Paree.

The Saint in Palm Springs F

Mystery

RKO (——) **66 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

Followers of the crime-solving activities of Leslie Charteris' "Saint" will find his film adventure in California's desert playground measuring up to the same high standards which were to be found in the series' previous chapters. George Sanders again is cast in the title role of the debonair and slightly sinister criminologist who captures crooks and hearts with equal ease. The supporting cast is adequate, while production values and direction are of high order. The plot revolves around three extremely valuable postage stamps which were smuggled out of a foreign nation as the only means through which a fortune could be brought to America. Their custodian is murdered in New York, and the Saint accepts the commission to deliver them to their rightful owner (Wendy Barrie) in Palm Springs. From then on it is a Button-Button-Who's-Got-the-Button procedure, with a gang of crooks representing the foreign power trying everything—including two more murders—to steal the documents from whomever happens to have them at the moment. Directed by Jack Hively.

George Sanders, Wendy Barrie, Paul Guilfoyle, Jonathan Hale, Linda Hayes, Ferris Taylor, Harry Shannon.

EXPLOITIPS: Widely followed by detective story fans, the "Saint" novels by Leslie Charteris have a ready-made audience of considerable proportions. Tie up with bookstores and libraries for displays, liberally garnished with stills from the picture. George Sanders is being generally accepted in the title role, so give the marquee play to him along with Wendy Barrie. Hold a stamp collection contest, giving term passes as prizes for the largest, most valuable and neatest collections. Display the entries in the lobby, with an "armed" attendant on guard duty. Run a "Stamp Matinee" with admission a cancelled postage stamp from a point out of the city, plus a slightly-reduced fee.

CATCHLINES: The Famous Phantom of Fiction . . . Back in a Thrill-Packed Story of a Fortune in Stamps.

Breathless Action and High Adventure as the Saint Outwits a Gang of Murderers.

Among Human Wolves F

Melodrama

Film Alliance of U. S. (SR) **59 Minutes** **Rel. ——**

A melodramatic thriller from the old school. It is also very British and very much underexposed, photographically. It's spy stuff, pre-war vintage. Performances are mediocre, the story is all too familiar. When a new type cartridge is stolen, a British Intelligencer and his sister go to Berlin to get it back. There they work themselves into the home of the arch spy and through a ruse recover the cartridge, leaving a trail of baffled police, broken hearts, outsmarted counter spies. What can be favorably said for this film is that when the mad dash for the border gets under way it is satisfactorily in the best tradition. On the debit side, is the poor handling of story material that in more competent hands might have emerged as exciting and adventuresome fare. Directed by John Baxter. Nothing was spared in model work or on the process screen.

Basil Radford, Silvia St. Claire, Thorley Walters, Peter Cawthorne.

EXPLOITIPS: This one must be introduced and put over as a spy thriller with all the contributing props. It also calls for a display case which might contain a woman's suitcase the lock of which has a human hair so intertwined as to form a seal. When it is tampered with, the hair, of course, is broken. For close inspection have a magnifying glass handy. The gag is used in the scenario. Miss St. Claire is quite an English beauty. Radford has been seen before to better advantage.

CATCHLINES: International Intrigue in the Capitals of Europe . . . Spies and Counter Spies . . . One Trying to Outwit the Other.

A Thrilling Story of Kill or Be Killed . . . With the Survivor Escaping by a Hair's Breadth.

Torn Between Love and Duty . . . Against a Background of European Intrigue and Espionage.

REVIEW DIGEST

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
A										
Always a Bride (FN)		∓	∓	∓	—	—	±	—		4+ 7—
Angels Over Broadway (Col)		±	+	∓	+	∓	+	+	+	9+ 2—
Ape, The (Mono)		+	—	—	+	+	+		±	5+ 3—
Argentine Nights (Univ)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	—	7+ 3—
Arise, My Love (Para)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	15+
Arizona (Col)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓		13+
Arizona Frontier (Rep)		∓			+	—	±	±		4+ 4—
B										
Bank Dick, The (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	+	+	±	11+ 1—
Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2—
Before I Hang (Col)		+	+	+	+	+	=	±	—	6+ 3—
Behind the News (Rep)		±		±	+	∓	+	±		7+ 3—
Beyond the Sacramento (Col)								+		1+
Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		∓	+	∓	+	∓	∓	+	+	12+
Billy the Kid in Texas (PRC)				∓						1+ 1—
Blackout (UA)		+	+		+			+	+	5+
Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3—
Boom Town (M-G-M)		∓	∓		∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+
Border Legion (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	+	±		7+ 2—
Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		—		±	—	±		3+ 5—
Brigham Young—Frontiersman (20th-Fox)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+
C										
Calling All Husbands (WB)		±	∓	+	∓	—	—	±	∓	6+ 7—
Case of the Black Parrot (WB)						+	±			2+ 1—
Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2—
Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±				±			3+ 3—
Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum (20th-Fox)		+	±	—	+	+	+	+		6+ 2—
Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		∓	+	—	+	∓	±	+	±	8+ 4—
Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)								∓		2+
Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		∓	+		7+ 1—
Christmas in July (Para)		∓	+	±	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+ 1—
City for Conquest (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
Colorado (Rep)		±		—	+			±	±	4+ 4—
Comin' Round the Mountain (Para)		—	±	—	—	∓	∓	±	—	4+ 8—
Comrade X (M-G-M)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	14+
Convoy (RKO)								+		1+
D										
Dance, Girl, Dance (RKO)		+	∓	±	+	±	±	+	∓	9+ 4—
Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±		+	∓	+		6+ 3—
Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		—	±	+	±			+		4+ 3—
Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	—	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6—
Diamond Frontier (Univ)		∓	±	—	±	+	∓	—	∓	6+ 7—
Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+		+		+	+	+	+	6+
Dr. Kildare Goes Home (M-G-M)		+	∓	+		+	+	+	+	8+
Doomed Caravan (Univ)								+		1+
Down Argentine Way (20-Fox)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
Dreaming Out Loud (RKO)		±	∓	—	±	+	+	±		6+ 5—
Drums of the Desert (Mono)		±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4—
Duley (M-G-M)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2—
Durango Kid, The (Col)		±		+	+			±		4+ 2—
E										
Earl of Puddlestone (Rep)		±	±	±	+		±	±	∓	7+ 6—
East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5—
Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5—
Escape (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	∓	15+
Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+			5+
F										
Fantasia (Disney)		∓	∓	∓	∓			∓	∓	12+
Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±			+	+	+		5+ 1—
Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	—	—	3+ 9—
Fight for Life, The (Col)		+						+		2+
Five Little Peppers in Trouble (Col)		±	±	—	—	=	—	—	∓	3+ 9—
Flight Command (M-G-M)		∓		∓	∓	∓	∓	+		11+
Flight From Destiny (WB)						∓	∓			4+
Flowing Gold (WB)		±	±	±	+	±	±	±	+	8+ 6—
Foreign Correspondent (UA)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	14+
Four Mothers (WB)		∓	+			+	∓	+		7+
Four Sons (20th-Fox)		∓		+	∓	∓	+		+	9+
Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5—
Frontier Vengeance (Univ)		o		—	∓			±		2+ 3—
Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		—		±	5+ 4—
Fugitive From a Prison Camp (Col)			∓	=	±			±	±	4+ 6—
G										
Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	∓	+	±	±	9+ 3—
Gay Caballero, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	—	+	+	±	7+ 4—
Girl From Havana (Rep)		±	±	—	±		±	—	∓	5+ 7—
Girl in the News (20th-Fox)								+		1+
Girls Under 21 (Col)		—	±	±				±	±	4+ 5—
Give Us Wings (Univ)		—	±	±			+	±	—	4+ 5—
Glamour for Sale (Col)		±	±	±		=	±	—	∓	5+ 8—
Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	∓	+	∓	+	±		9+ 1—
Golden Fleecing, The (M-G-M)		+	+	±	±	∓	∓	+	+	10+ 2—
Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)								∓		2+
Great Commandment (20-Fox)								∓		2+
Great Dictator, The (UA)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	+	∓	+	12+ 1—
Great McGinty, The (Para)		∓	±	+	∓	∓	∓		+	11+ 1—
Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4—
Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	∓	+	∓	+	±	11+ 2—
H										
Haunted Honeymoon (M-G-M)		+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+ 6—
He Stayed for Breakfast (Col)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
Her First Romance (Mono)		+			+	∓	+	+		6+
Here Comes the Navy (WB)								∓		2+
Hired Wife (Univ)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+		8+ 2—
Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		—	±	+	—		±	4+ 4—
Howards of Virginia (Col)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+		∓	±	+	∓	+		7+ 2—
Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6—
I										
I Married Adventure (Col)		+	±	∓	±	±	+	+	±	8+ 5—
I Want a Divorce (Para)		+	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+
I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2—
I'm Still Alive (RKO)		∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5—
J										
Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+			+	+	+		5+
K										
Keeping Company (M-G-M)						∓	±			3+ 1—
Kit Carson (UA)		+	+	±	+	±	∓	+	±	9+ 3—
Kitty Foyle (RKO)		∓		∓	∓	∓	∓	+		11+
Knute Rockne—All American (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
L										
Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4—
Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	±	9+ 2—
Laughing at Danger (Mono)		+	±	±	+	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4—
Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+ 1—
Leather Pushers, The (Univ)		+	±	±		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4—
Let's Make Music (RKO)		+	±	∓	+	±	+	+		7+ 3—
Letter, The (FN)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	14+
Li'l Abner (RKO)		+	∓			∓	±	—		4+ 4—
Little Bit of Heaven (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+
Little Men (RKO)		—	±	=	±	∓	+	±	±	7+ 7—

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week. The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:

∓ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; — Poor; = Very Poor

In the summary ∓ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

⧺ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor — In the summary ⧺ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
Little Nellie Kelly (M-G-M)		⧺	⧺	+	±	⧺	⧺	+	±	12+ 2−
Lone Star Raiders (Rep)		+		±	∓			±		4+ 3−
Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (Col)		+	+	±		+	+	±		6+ 2−
Long Voyage Home (UA)		+	⧺		⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	13+
Love Thy Neighbor (Para)		⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	14+
Lucky Partners (RKO)		⧺	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	13+
M										
Margie (Univ)		−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
Mark of Zorro, The (20th-Fox)		⧺	+	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	12+
Meet the Missus (Rep)		±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
Meet the Wildcat (Univ)		−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
Melody Ranch (Rep)		+	+		⧺		⧺	+	∓	8+ 1−
Melody and Moonlight (Rep)		∓	±		⧺	⧺	+	±		8+ 3−
Men Against the Sky (RKO)		+	+	+		+	±	+	+	7+ 1−
Mexican Spitfire Out West (RKO)		+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
Michael Shayne, Private Detective (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+			+	±	6+ 1−
Misbehaving Husbands (PRC)		+			+	⧺	+			5+
Missing People (Mono)		∓						∓		2+ 2−
Money and the Woman (WB)		±	±	±	+	∓	±	±	±	8+ 7−
Moon Over Burma (Para)		+	+	±	+	⧺	+	+	±	9+ 2−
Mortal Storm, The (M-G-M)		+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	+	13+
Mummy's Hand, The (Univ)		+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
Murder Over New York (20th-Fox)		±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
N										
Night at Earl Carroll's (Para)		=	±	−	±	±	±	+		5+ 7−
Night Train (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+			+		5+
Nobody's Children (Col)			−	∓	±			±	±	4+ 5−
No, No, Nanette (RKO)			±	±	+	−	±	±	±	6+ 6−
No Time for Comedy (FN)		⧺	+	+	⧺	+	±	+	+	10+ 1−
North West Mounted Police (Para)		⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	16+
O										
Oklahoma Renegades (Rep)		+			+			+	±	4+ 1−
Ol' Swimmin' Hole (Mono)		+	±		+	+	±	+		6+ 2−
On the Spot (Mono)		+		−	+	+	±		∓	5+ 3−
One Million B. C. (UA)		±	±	−	+	±	∓			5+ 5−
One Night in the Tropics (Univ)		±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
P										
Passport to Alcatraz (Col)		+	−	±	+	∓	−			4+ 4−
Pastor Hall (UA)		±	⧺	±	+	⧺	+	⧺	+	11+ 2−
Phantom of Chinatown (Mono)		±	±			+	∓	±	∓	6+ 5−
Philadelphia Story (M-G-M)		⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	16+
Pier 13 (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
Play Girl (RKO)		+		±		⧺	+			5+ 1−
Pony Post (Univ)		±		−	−				±	2+ 4−
Prairie Law (RKO)		+	±	+	+		+		∓	6+ 2−
Prairie Schooners (Col)		∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
Public Deb No. 1 (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+	+	∓		∓	6+ 5−
Q										
Quarterback, The (Para)		±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
Queen of the Yukon (Mono)		+	±	∓		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4−
R										
Ragtime Cowboy Joe (Univ)		+		±	+			+	∓	5+ 2−
Ramparts We Watch (RKO)		o	∓	+	+	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	10+ 1−
Range Busters (Mono)		⧺		±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
Rangers of Fortune (Para)		+	±	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	±	+	12+ 2−
Remedy for Riches (RKO)		+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
Return of Frank James (20-Fox)		+	+	±	⧺	⧺	+	+	+	10+ 1−
Rhythm on the River (Para)		+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	13+
Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride (Rep)		+		+	+	⧺		+	∓	7+ 1−
Romance of the Rio Grande (20th-Fox)								+	∓	2+ 1−
S										
Sandy Gets Her Man (Univ)		+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
Safari (Para)		±	∓	∓	±	+	+		∓	7+ 5−
Sandy Is a Lady (Univ)		+	∓	∓	+	+	±		±	7+ 4−
San Francisco Docks (Univ)		∓	±			+	+	±	±	6+ 4−
Santa Fe Trail (FN)		⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺		+	13+
Sea Hawk, The (WB)		⧺	±	+	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	+	12+ 1−
Second Chorus (Para)		⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺		13+
Secret Seven (Col)		∓	±	±	+	−	−	±	∓	6+ 7−
Seven Sinners (Univ)		±	+	±	⧺	+	+		+	8+ 2−
She Couldn't Say No (FN)		+				∓				2+ 1−
Sky Murder (M-G-M)		±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	=	4+ 10−
Slightly Tempted (Univ)		±	±	∓	±	+	=	+	∓	8+ 6−
So You Won't Talk (Col)		−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
Son of Monte Cristo (UA)		+	±	∓	±	∓	⧺	±	±	9+ 6−
South of Suez (WB)		+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
Spring Parade (Univ)		⧺	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	14+
Stranger on the Third Floor (RKO)		+	±	∓	±	+	+	±	+	8+ 4−
Street of Memories (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
Strike Up the Band (M-G-M)		⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	14+
T										
Take Me Back to Okla. (Mono)		+			⧺	+	+	+		6+
Texas Rangers Ride Again (Para)		+	±	±		−	∓	+		5+ 4−
Texas Terrors (Rep)		+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
That Gang of Mine (Mono)		±	±		+	−	±	−	±	5+ 6−
They Knew What They Wanted (RKO)		⧺	±	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	14+ 1−
Thief of Bagdad (UA)		⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	15+
Third Finger, Left Hand (M-G-M)		⧺	+	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	12+
This Thing Called Love (Col)		+		⧺		⧺				5+
Three Men From Texas (Para)		+			+	+	+	+		5+
Thundering Frontier (Col)		−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
Tin Pan Alley (20th-Fox)		⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	14+
Too Many Girls (RKO)		+	±	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	11+ 1−
Torpedo Raider (Mono)		∓								1+ 1−
Trail Blazers (Rep)		+		+	+			+		4+
Trail of the Vigilantes (Univ)		+	±	±	∓	+	+		+	7+ 3−
Trailin' Double Trouble (Mono)		∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
Triple Justice (RKO)		+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
Tugboat Annie Sails Again (WB)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
Tulsa Kid, The (Rep)		±		∓	+	+	±	+	±	7+ 4−
U										
Under Texas Skies (Rep)		+		±	+			+	±	5+ 2−
Up in the Air (Mono)		+	±	±		+	+	+	∓	7+ 3−
V										
Victory (Para)		+	+	±	⧺	⧺	+			8+ 1−
Villain Still Pursued Her, The (RKO)		±	∓	−	±	±	∓			5+ 6−
W										
Wagon Train (RKO)		+	+			+	+	±		5+ 1−
Wagons Westward (Rep)		+	+	±	+	−	∓		±	6+ 4−
West of Pinto Basin (Mono)		±		±	+	⧺	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
Westerner, The (UA)		±	+	+	⧺	⧺	+	+	+	10+ 1−
Where Did You Get That Girl (Univ)		+				+	+			3+
Who Is Guilty? (Mono)		−	±		±			±	+	4+ 4−
Who Killed Aunt Maggie? (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
Wildcat Bus (RKO)		=	±	∓		∓	=	±		4+ 8−
Wild Horse Range (Mono)									∓	1+ 1−
World in Flames (Para)		+		⧺	⧺	+		+	+	8+
Wyoming (M-G-M)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 1−
Y										
Yesterday's Heroes (20th-Fox)		+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
Young Bill Hickok (Rep)		±		∓	+			±		4+ 3−
You'll Find Out (RKO)		⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	14+
Young People (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	⧺	+	+	+	+	9+
Youth Will Be Served (20th-Fox)		±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
Yukon Flight (Mono)		+			+					2+

New Year Is Viewed With "More Cheer"

NEW YORK—The industry is looking forward to this year "with a good deal more cheer than when it surveyed the world outlook a year ago," writes Sydney B. Self in a year-end review for the Wall Street *Journal*.

Then, he observes, Hollywood was faced with "two major ominous uncertainties one of which, the war abroad, had already cut heavily into income; the other, Thurman Arnold's anti-trust suit, held unknown terrors but threatened possible disruption of the industry."

However, the writer concludes:

"Now that both threats have taken concrete form, the industry has found itself able to cope with them a great deal better than had been hoped. Neither one had results as serious as had been feared and both may eventually prove to be blessings in disguise.

Need for More Order

"The moving picture industry, in spite of its enormous daily cash income, has been honeycombed with costly disorders of all sorts and recurring attempts to straighten things out have met with little progress until lately. The show business can never become an orderly industry. Like its product, it thrives on the unexpected. However, a great deal can be done to reduce needless and foolish uncertainties and disorderliness to a minimum.

"Already earnings of several of the leading film producers have shown a sharp recovery above the levels of those months in 1939 and 1940 when the first impact of the war was felt. Paramount, Loew's and Warner are reporting profits far ahead of what they were earning a year ago and this trend should continue.

"Budgets have been pared down, debts have been reduced and, with domestic business picking up as a result of employment gains from the defense boom, there is a good chance that boxoffice receipts will be on the upgrade for some time.

Adjusting Foreign Losses

"The industry has by now pretty well adjusted itself to the losses of a large part of its foreign revenues, even though the full effect of the war on revenues from Britain has not yet been felt. They have done this partly by cutting expenses and partly by spending less for total film product on costs; in other words, by cutting the budget. They have had time to revise their amortization tables and to set up reserves to bring the writing down of picture costs into line with current conditions.

"Film companies are writing off their films a good deal more rapidly than they used to do and it is probable that amortization scales may be speeded up still more. This will mean that damage done by unsuccessful films to profits will be more promptly reflected in income."

On the decree, Self thinks this:

"So far none of the leaders in the industry seems to feel that its terms will mean any serious damage to business or profits . . . One of the probable results flowing from this decree will be that producing companies will be obliged to tie up more money in inventories since they will be compelled to have a stock of films on their shelves to show and consequently will be obliged to defer release dates. In other words, a picture cannot be released as soon as it comes out of the studios. Time must be given for buyers to inspect it. This may mean that producers will require larger working capital, but, since most of the larger companies have big cash balances, this will not be a serious handicap.

"Heavier working capital demands, plus the smaller gross revenues coming in due to the loss of foreign markets, may also mean a sharp curtailment in the number of films produced since the money to finance current production programs will be available."

Decree Needs 12 Years to Work, Reports Kuykendall

MIAMI — Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold told him it will take 12 years to get the consent decree to work properly, E. L. Kuykendall, MPTOA president, informed a luncheon of 50 exhibitors here Tuesday. Mitchell Wolfson of Wometco Theatres was host.

"Out of seven lawyers, no two would agree on points," Kuykendall stated in declaring he still does not know what the decree means. He described it as a bugaboo and added he failed to see how the instrument could be described as a consent decree when he has found no one who has consented. Other Kuykendall fears:

1—Arbitration by outsiders, as provided in the decree.

2—That it is a fallacy to call upon the government to control the industry.

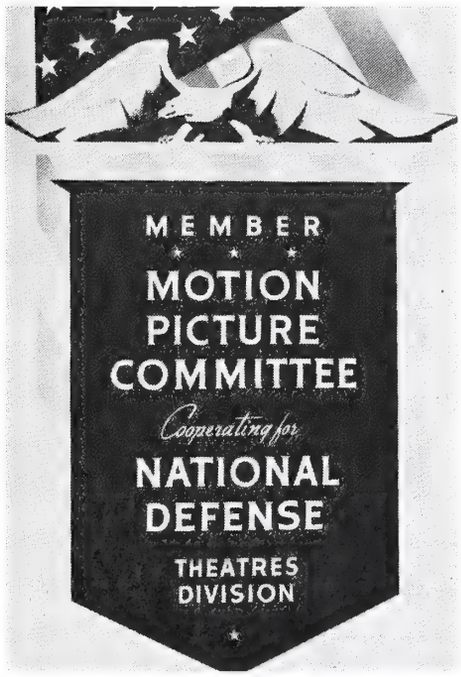
3—That the decree will affect independents who are badly needed for legislative fights and burden them with prohibitive arbitration costs.

"Sincerity is a lost word in our business," Kuykendall stated in giving one reason why he feels the industry is in its present predicament. He also hit the decree in that theatre divorcement, the original reason for the government suit, had been forgotten.

Nizer Urges Cooperation

Louis Nizer, New York attorney, urged theatremen present to cooperate with the government and gave it as his opinion the decree probably will work with revisions. He pleaded with exhibitors to aid the government in this connection and not to endeavor to sabotage the consent for that, he said, would be against the government and not the decree. If the decree fails, he continued, it would fail on its own and the government would so realize it.

Wolfson asked all present to sign a pledge to cooperate with the motion picture committee on national defense. Guests, most of them regular Florida vacationists, included Jack Cohn, Herman Robbins, Al Steffes, Herman Weingarten, P. S. Harrison, Albert Bernstein, Jack Alicoate, Maxie Rosenbloom, Thomas Brandon, SETOA secretary; C. Coushon, Gonzalo Bezanilla and Sidney Meyer, the latter Wolfson's partner.



Defense Plaques—

Into the mails soon will go these plaques for display in boxoffice windows. They are being mailed by the Theatre Division of the Motion Picture Committee cooperating for national defense, which is headed by Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner Theatres. One will be sent to each theatre that joins in the industry's defense effort.

Weshner to Exploitation Helm for United Artists

NEW YORK—Monroe Greenthal, director of advertising and publicity for United Artists, has appointed David E. Weshner as director of exploitation, effective January 13. Weshner leaves his current post as supervisor of Warner key runs in Philadelphia on January 10.

Repeat Dates for "Wind" At Advanced Prices

NEW YORK—"Gone With the Wind" is slated to play repeat engagements at advanced admission prices in 35 Loew out-of-town theatres between the period of January 16 to January 31. All bookings are for a minimum of one week on a single feature basis.

In a move designed to center important attention on the engagement, M-G-M is working closely with state and city officials to open "Land of Liberty," feature contribution of the industry to the World's Fair of 1940 and now condensed for theatre showing, in the capital cities of every state in the country on January 24.

Broadway Revels in New Year Grosses

NEW YORK—Boxoffice-wise, the New Year's Week just past fulfilled not only the fondest hopes of Broadway operators but, in some instances, substantially exceeded them. Screen-wise, the product was strong, affording the sort of competition that could be expected in this most-favored of all weeks. Weather-wise, perfect. In fact, the only wise the situation could have been more profitable would have been in the form of rubber walls.

Far and away the big noise was "The Philadelphia Story" at the 5,960-seat Music Hall. Hitting a significant $125,000, the film was exceeded only by "Top Hat" in 1935 for top honors in the money and attendance columns. Slated to go a minimum of five weeks, the film had an opening week advantage of the theatre's renowned Christmas stage show, which was held over. While this holdover reduced the "nut" and likewise attracted in itself a sizeable portion of each audience, it is seen as a deterrent to first week attendance. This is on the argument that many persons who saw the Christmas stage show with the previous attraction—"No, No, Nanette"—did not want to see it again the first week of "Philadelphia Story."

Benny-Allen in Top Brackets

Up in the very top brackets, too, was "Love Thy Neighbor," which in its second week at the Paramount chalked up about $75,000. The stage show of Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra and other acts was no little attraction to the younger set; the kids with whom Dorsey is a dancing favorite. The theatre completely revised its scale, not in money, but in hours at which admissions were altered, to bring the total up. This saw a New Year's Eve scale of $1.10 from 7 to 8 p. m., and $1.50 from then on.

The Capitol with "Comrade X" hit a very profitable $60,000, the best the theatre has had in many months. The Roxy, with "Chad Hanna" and a stage show, and the Strand, with "Santa Fe Trail" and a stage show featuring Abe Lyman and his orchestra, played to absolute capacity. "Fantasia" at the Broadway and "The Great Dictator" at the Astor, both roadshows and both holdovers, were jammed to the rafters. In fact, every Broadway house did excellently. Those few that did not book especially attractive films were more than compensated with the overflow from the de luxers.

The detail that follows is for the week preceding the holidays, with "Love Thy Neighbor" the unrivalled leader.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 11th roadshow wk. 110
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 6th roadshow wk. 145
Capitol—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M) 80
Criterion—**Hullabaloo** (M-G-M) 80
Globe—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB), 6 days.. 90
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), plus stage show 170
Radio City Music Hall—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO), plus stage show 100
Rialto—**Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col)... 85
Rivoli—**Little Men** (RKO), 2nd wk. 50
Roxy—**One Night in the Tropics** (Univ), plus stage show 85
Strand—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), plus stage show 135

'Bagdad' and 'NWMP' Tops In Philly Xmas Week

PHILADELPHIA—"Thief of Bagdad" at the Aldine with Sabu in person opening day; "North West Mounted Police" at the Stanley and "Four Mothers" at the Fox, all holdovers and "Night at Earl Carroll's" plus socko stage show in Clyde McCoy's Band plus Three Stooges in person at the Earle, copped practically all the business in sight Xmas week.

"Second Chorus" at the Boyd had tough sledding and "Gallant Sons" at the Stanton proved a weakie.

Detail for week ending December 31:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA) 95
Held over for 2nd wk.
Boyd—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 70
World Premiere "Kitty Foyle" (RKO) now.
Earle—**Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't).....100
Stage show featuring Clyde McCoy's Band and 3 Stooges in person.
Fox—**Four Mothers** (WB) 95
Held over for 2nd wk.
Karlton—**The Letter** (FN), 3 days; **No, No, Nanette** (RKO), 3 days; both 2nd run..... 70
Keith's—**Go West** (M-G-M), 2nd run 70
Stanley—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't)..110
Stanton—**Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 75

Tentative AAA Panels Set for Functions

NEW YORK—In order to assure efficient service when nation-wide tribunals begin functioning around February 1, the American Arbitration Ass'n has tentatively set up minimum panels of arbitrators in areas commensurate with the traffic expected.

All "A" offices will have 40 arbitrators to draw from; "B" offices 20, and "C" tribunals from 10 to 20. However, New York, where particularly heavy traffic is expected, will have from 50 to 60 arbitrators. The AAA expects to have the following personnel in the three classifications of tribunals: "A," one clerk and one to two assistants; "B," one clerk and one assistant, and "C," one clerk.

It is pointed out that the panels as currently conceived are only tentative, being based on the amount of work that may be required of arbitrators under the few trade practices arbitrable under the consent decree before the actual selling for 1941-42 begins. Likewise, it is said the panels may be enlarged after September 1 when a larger number of trade practices are arbitrable under the decree.

Keough Explains Decree Contents

NEW YORK—Austin C. Keough, general counsel for Paramount, met with the entire local exchange sales, booking and shipping forces Friday to explain the contents of the decree. Questions were asked by the employes on points in doubt. This is the first of the Paramount meetings to explain the decree. Several home office executives also were on hand.

Warner and M-G-M are not planning to send attorneys out to the field at this time, it is stated, and will wait for the next sales convention when a general detailed analysis will be given the sales force and bookers by home office counsel, in addition to individual meetings with exchange groups.

Wants Larger Share Of British Money

NEW YORK—Although the eight majors have accepted Great Britain's figure of $12,900,000 to be remitted for the year starting November 1, 1940, M-G-M is demanding that the percentage of allocations among the eight companies be based on available remittances rather than gross figures for the forthcoming year.

M-G-M executives are basing their demands on the method set up by the British government in allowing the $12,900,000 this year as against $17,500,000 the year before. The government, in determining the figure, did not use the gross business figures of the eight companies but amounts remittable as compared with last year.

It is figured by M-G-M that its business in England is higher than any other American company and that for the amount of gross its operating expenses are less. Hence, in view of this executives are demanding that the money to be taken out of England should be based not on the gross, but on the remittable allowances.

The matter is being turned over to arbitration. No date has been set, neither the arbitrators.

M-G-M figures that, if the system used last year is applied again, it will not benefit as greatly as under the plan it suggested. The $12,900,000 is understood to be a compromise figure and includes remittances available for Universal which last year did not work with the other seven majors.

Rose Sailing to Renew Paramount's U. K. Program

HOLLYWOOD — David E. Rose, Paramount's managing director in England, will sail for London January 25 to resume production there. He has been here several weeks lining up new properties, two being A. J. Cronin's "Hatters Castle" and James M. Barrie's "The Admirable Crichton."

The last British-made Paramount picture was "French Without Tears," although several were scheduled after that and never launched because of the war. I. J. Goldsmith, who produced "The Stars Look Down," acquired by M-G-M, will accompany Rose and act as associate producer. Laurence Olivier is being sought for the Cronin yarn.

Metro Auditors Meet in A Three-Day Session

NEW YORK—M-G-M home office and field auditors met for three days, starting Thursday, at the Astor at their annual roundup session with Alan Cummings, chief auditor at the home office.

Attending were Charles Aaron, John Ash, Parke Agnew, "Pop" Cummings, Thomas Grady, William Marsh, Robert Long, Nat Rochlin, Charles J. School, Ben Wolf and Jay Zimmerman. Sidney Schwartz, foreign department traveling auditor, also was on hand.

BROADWAY

OVER 3,000 Warner Club members, their children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters attended the club's annual Christmas Kiddie Party held at the Brooklyn Vitaphone studio. The affair was the largest in the club's history, according to Ralph Budd who handled arrangements. A group of British refugee children, spending their first Christmas in the United States, were guests of the club. A troop of Brooklyn boy scouts presented the colors to the British children, with the Midland Park, N. J., Drum and Bugle Corps supplying the music. During the rest of the afternoon's show, the Hebrew Orphan Asylum band furnished the musical background.

One of the attractions of the party was Santa Claus' work shop, featuring animated figures built in miniature. In addition, there was a complete one-ring circus starring "Jumbo," the elephant featured in Billy Rose's show; Tony, the Camel; the boxing kangaroo, clowns, trapeze artists, acrobats, trained ponies and horses. A "Santa Fe" pageant was staged with stage coaches, the Lone Ranger jr., cowboys, cowgirls and Indians. Refreshments were served after the entertainment and the children were presented with attractive gifts.

Mel Heyman of Metro home office publicity fought off three days of la grippe in order to enjoy welcoming the New Year . . . Leonard Picker, Columbia attorney, is taking his wife and himself to Florida on January 9 for about three weeks . . . Jonas Rosenfeld, copy writer and a former assistant to Paul Lazarus jr., at Warner, is well along now on a similar post with the Walt Disney organization under Hal Horne. Lazarus celebrated the New Year playing host to a new-born, his second. It's a boy, John, weight, seven pounds, point seven. Mrs. L. is at Woman's Hospital . . . Carl E. Milliken, MPPDA secretary, and Mrs. M. are due in a few days from a southern cruise aboard the *America*.

B. S. Moss, chairman of the enrollment committee of the amusement division of the New York-Brooklyn Federations, has appointed Harry Hershfield chairman of a newspapermen's committee. Among the vice-chairmen, representing different branches of the field, are Ed Sullivan, Cecelia Ager, Marvin Kirsch, Charles E. Lewis, Elias Sugarman, Martin Quigley, Sam Shain, Damon Runyon and Red Kann . . . Leonard Beier of the Warner home office publicity department is now married to Lillian Kirschner of Highland Park, N. J. . . . Lawrence Stessin, press contact for the American Arbitration Ass'n, will speak before the Columbia University School of Journalism on public relations. His subject will be in the vein of "How to Be a Press Agent and Get Away With It."

Max A. Cohen will leave January 15 for Palm Springs and Arrowhead . . . Tom Connors may go to Cuba for his vacation, providing the fishing is up to snuff . . . Joe Seider is thinking of a South American vacation this year . . . Tyree Dillard of M-G-M's legal staff returned early in the week from a holiday at Greensboro, N. C., his home town . . . Harry C. Arthur and his brother, Eddie, were in from St. Louis to spend the holidays at Shrub Oak . . . Sam Rinzler has become a grandfather for the third time. His son, Dr. Seymour Rinzler, became a father of a girl at Doctor's Hospital the day after Christmas . . . Si Fabian returned from his Bermuda vacation which meant Sidney Dennow, his chief booker, took a weekend train for Miami for a two-week rest . . . A. L. Prachett, Paramount's Central American manager, is in town on a regular visit . . . David Rose is due the middle of the month from the coast en route for England. John W. Hicks has tried to persuade Rose not to return until after the war, but it was no dice.



—Metropolitan Photos

Producer on Visit—

David Hempstead, who made "Kitty Foyle" for RKO, comes to New York on a brief vacation which includes a round of the new plays. S. Barret McCormick, RKO's director of advertising and publicity, meets him at Grand Central.

Leopold and Ruth Friedman got back over the weekend from Miami where they spent the Christmas-New Year's holiday . . . Murray Cohen, formerly of the Alpine, Bronx, has been transferred by Rosenzweig & Gulkin to the Taft, Flushing, as assistant manager . . . E. M. Saunders has left for Salt Lake. He plans to make a stopover at Denver to install John P. Byrne as district manager for the Des Moines, Omaha and Denver areas . . . Irving B. Schlosberg, assistant to Harold Cleary at Loew's, is going haywire with his new altimeter . . . Accompanying Charles Skouras were his wife and three daughters, among them Edith, wife of Jack Jungmeyer. The Jungmeyers are 20th-Fox writers and returned to the studio over the weekend after a vacation here . . . Nate J. Blumberg is not due to return from the coast until the first week in February. Bill Scully has gone to Miami for a vacation, from Hollywood . . . Eddie Rugoff is sojourning on Miami beaches . . . George J. Schaefer is looking forward to another coast trip soon.

The Lynn Farnols are in Charleston, S. C., for a few days and from there travel on to New Orleans for their first visit and an orgy in Creole cooking. Last Friday, the entire UA advertising, publicity and exploitation departments were hosts at a farewell cocktail party for the retiring chief. Company executives, starting with Murray Silverstone and Arthur W. Kelly and then variously down the line, were on hand as were producers' representatives like Eddie Peskay, Jim Mulvey and Harry Kosiner. Farnol was presented with a handsome wrist watch, properly inscribed, and glasses lifted on high in all directions . . . Mary and Dave Palfreyman celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary last Saturday . . . It's custom for Spyros Skouras to hold a Christmas party at his Mamaroneck home. This time, however, he converted it into still another appeal for relief for Greek civilians and garnered $3,000 for that cause.

Frank Donovan, Pathe News vice-president, took himself a week off and spent it at Lake Placid . . . Bob Kohn, former general manager of the 55th St. Playhouse, et al., has quit the post. Now he's with Guild and Goodman, publicity agents . . . David Hempstead, producer of "Kitty Foyle" which has RKO in a complete dither, came east over the weekend for a round of the plays . . . Groucho Marx and his family have returned to the coast . . . Tamara is back from personal appearances in Chicago. She has a featured role in "No, No, Nanette." Anna Neagle, by the way, did a series of neighborhood personal appearances following the week's run of the film at the Music Hall; now she's back in Hollywood to start work in "Sunny" . . . Wolfe Cohen, district manager for Warner in Canada, went into a huddle with Roy Haines, then returned to Toronto . . . Will Horwitz, Houston exhibitor, was around for a spell . . . Animated threesome walking west on 44th Street: Barney Balaban, Austin C. Keough and Joe Hazen.

Otto Bolle, 20th-Fox South African head, plans to leave for home about the first of February. He spent the Christmas holidays in Detroit where he saw his grandson for the first time. He is trying to take a boat leaving from the east instead of from the coast for his return journey . . . The one day Ben Goetz spent in town was to show Nicholas M. Schenck the first print of "Come Live With Me," his latest . . . While on the subject of Schenck his new 1941 license plate is NM 23, the same as last year. C. C. Moskowitz has CM 2, same as 1939 . . . Rudy Vallee will make his debut as a ventriloquist in "Picture People," a Pathe short . . . Merian C. Cooper, producing "The Eagle Squadron" for Walter Wanger, is en route to Washington and New York for additional data.

Norma Davis, secretary to John J. O'Connor, celebrated another birthday

(Continued on page 30-B)

WASHINGTON

PRESENT at the White House last Sunday evening, when President Roosevelt spoke to the nation, were Clark Gable and Carole Lombard; their capital visit being part of their itinerary to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore where Gable will favor an injured shoulder.

Following the unique screening of "Flight Command," the Loew publicity staff took another page out of the same book when it arranged the screening of "Comrade X" for the critics in a street car, on an outlying siding, to afford an atmosphere in keeping with the theme of the picture.

Variety News: Installation and dedication of the dental clinics at Providence and Children's hospitals will take place on January 15, with Beverly Rohrs, daughter of UA's Fred Rohrs, officiating in the unveiling ceremonies . . . New resident members: David Legum, Bernie Harrison, Sam Jack Kaufman, Shirley Povich, Arch Mercey, Herbert Jacoby, Max Rosenberg, S. Meyer Barnett, Sam Solomon, Dr. Sylvan Danzansky, and David Max . . . At a meeting of the board of governors, arrangements were made whereby the welfare committee will, in the future, completely furnish and dedicate a hospital room in honor and in memory of deceased members . . . The Xmas party for the kiddies turned out to be a chorus of 50 strong.

"U" Notes: Tom Murray, Universal's manager of branch operations, Jules Lapidus, district manager, visited with Branch Manager Max Cohen . . . Al Myles, home office auditor, is in for a check . . . Alice Reighly, cashier, and veteran of many years in the film colony, resigned her position to accept a similar berth with Warner Bros. Her co-workers presented her with a purse . . . Samuel Kremer joins the accounting department in her stead . . . The Universal Pep Club will hold its annual New Year's party at the Hay-Adams house, January 11 . . . Jimmie Davidson of the Big U exchange, and his sister, Vilma, paid a holiday visit to Branch Manager Max Cohen.

Charles Goldsten, publicist for the Alexandria Amusement Corp., was married to Mabel Sugnet, formerly of Ann Arbor, in Baltimore, December 22. They will reside in Alexandria . . . John Smith of Rising Sun, Md., opened his new venture, the Sun, on December 25. It is a 190-seater and will run on a six-day schedule . . . Willie Hicks of Baltimore journeyed to New York to catch "Fantasia" . . . Major Harry and Mrs. Knierin of Pittsburgh visited with NSS's Art Jacobson over the weekend . . . RKO's Branch Manager Bob Folliard and family are frolicking on the sand dunes . . . Joe Kushner, Columbia head booker, was conspicuous in absence due to a sudden illness.

Warner Theatre Items: Frank and Rick LaFalce journeyed to their home in Newark to hang their stockings, returned to their desks, and then double-featured their homecoming to Newark by returning to ring out the old and usher in the new . . . Norma Newnam's attendance record of five years blossomed a red mark when she capitulated to a mean cold . . . Ann DeMello made a matinee exit for the same reason . . . Caroline Dize journeyed to her Crisfield, Md. home to join in "Auld Lang Syne" . . . The girls of the publicity staff held their annual post-Xmas soiree and the usual resolutions were made . . . Helen Hopkins of the contract department is still reminiscing over her Xmas visit to her Vermont home and her fill of native turkey . . . Charles McGowan enjoyed a holiday visit from his parents of Newark, who then joined with his wife for a six-week Florida sojourn . . . John J. Payette weathered a siege of the sniffles . . . Bill Ewing entertained his parents from Frederick over the holiday.

Metrograms: John Allen, the newly appointed branch manager, will make his debut January 6 . . . Harry Sheeran of the Cincinnati sale staff visited the exchange during his capital holiday sojourn . . . Buddy Hall, secretary to Rudy Berger, visited the home office for a few days, and toasted the old year curfew in the interim . . . Bertha Gerfeld is resigning January 11 . . . Installation of officers of Local B-13 IATSE was held Thursday eve.

Harry Mersay of 20th-Fox exchange operations visited with Sam Wheeler . . . Lillian Blumenthal's natal day calls for the melody duet of "Happy Birthday and New Year to You" . . . Tom McCaskey of the Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Va., visited and advised that the town fathers of that historic township observed the Xmas holiday in 18th century fashion, with decorations of that era, the burning of the yule log, and illumination confined to candlelight . . . Incidentally, the Williamsburg will celebrate its eighth anniversary on January 13.

His third anniversary with M-G-M will be observed on January 10 by George Torney of the local exchange. Three days later, Mary Curtain will make it seven years with Leo.

Long Lease on Rex

NEW YORK—Berk and Krumgold, theatre real estate firm, has closed a long-term lease on the 1,000 seat Rex at East Rutherford, N. J., at an aggregate rental of $130,000. The lessee is Acme Theatres, Inc., and the lessor, Biro Theatres, Inc., which had acquired the theatre in 1930.

SPG Hearing Soon

NEW YORK—The Screen Publicists Guild expects a formal date to be set within a week by the national labor relations board on the guild's demands of major companies.

Loew Dividend

NEW YORK—Loew's, Inc., has declared a quarterly dividend of $1.62½ on the cumulative preferred, payable February 15 to stockholders of record January 31.

Astoria Clearance Is Headed for Tussle

NEW YORK—Frank Moscato, who books and buys for 17 Long Island theatres, has retained Emil K. Ellis to work out a settlement with Skouras and Loew's on an Astoria clearance situation which resulted from Skouras taking over Loew's Astoria a few weeks ago.

With the acquisition of the Astoria, and the formation of a four-way pool between Skouras and Loew's for the Astoria, Triboro, Grand and Steinway, Moscato's Ditmars in the same section has been pushed back from a second to fifth run.

All product that had been playing first run at the Triboro and Astoria ran clear of the Broadway and Grand in the Ditmars. Now, under the new setup, the Broadway and Grand follow the Triboro and Astoria and seven days later it goes into the Steinway. Seven days after the Steinway the films are played in the Crescent, also a Skouras house, before they become available to the Ditmars.

Moscato says he is prepared to take the matter to court unless the two circuits work out an arrangement with Ellis. Ellis has also contacted the circuits and discussions are under way to remedy the situation before it becomes acute, it is stated.

New York Film Critics Host at Awards Party

NEW YORK—The New York film critics ran their annual party at the Rainbow Room atop the RCA Building, Sunday—the only party at which they play host.

The guests numbered about 500, mostly from among the major distributors, many varieties of press, many, many varieties of press agentry and not a few from the theatre. The occasion was the presentation of awards to the critics' choices for "best of the year."

Bosley Crowther of the New York *Times* who is president, and Ben Grauer of NBC, shared the microphone for a half hour from 6 to 6:30 in announcing the winners. It was a Blue network affair, hooking in Hollywood and Dallas. In person for awards were Darryl F. Zanuck, who accepted the plaque for "The Grapes of Wrath," chosen the best picture of the year; and John Ford, director of the same film, selected best director for his work in the same picture and "The Long Voyage Home." Scrolls awarded to Walt Disney for "Fantasia," to Katharine Hepburn as best actress, and to Charles Chaplin for best actor, were sent to the winners directly.

Robert Hakim, representing Marcel Pagnol, accepted the scroll for "The Baker's Wife," designated the best foreign picture of the year.

During the broadcast, Henry Fonda and Jane Darwell re-enacted the farewell scene from "The Grapes of Wrath" from Hollywood. Miss Hepburn did a bit from Dallas, where she is on tour with "The Philadelphia Story." Disney and Chaplin contributed "thank you" bits from out-of-town.

Posen Sues Again; "U" Is Still Calm

NEW YORK—Samuel I. Posen, Universal director since March 15, 1938, and holder of 100 shares of common and 50 of preferred, has filed suit in the supreme court against the company seeking to enjoin Universal's purchase of its preferred. Justice Morris Eden has denied Posen's request for a temporary injunction, finding the Universal director has "a meritorious cause of action," but has failed to show sufficient cause for such drastic relief.

On December 12, Universal, in a letter to its stockholders, stated its intention was to borrow $1,000,000 for the retirement of its first preferred. Posen claims the company has 15,300 shares of first preferred at a $100 par, 20,000 shares of second preferred at $100 par and 250,000 shares of common at $1 par. According to Universal, the company had a net profit of $2,400,000 for the year ended November 2, 1940 and could afford to borrow the money. It is also claimed that, under the present management, during the past four years the company has shown a profit of $41,725. This statement, says Posen, is false, because it fails to show that Universal has $1,560,000 tied up in England for the duration of the war. If this sum is eliminated the company's profit becomes a loss of $1,514,274 over the same period and it now is in the red for upwards of $6,500,000, by Posen's calculations.

Retirement Plan "Unfair"

To retire any shares of first preferred now is unlawful because it will result in dividends to some stockholders while others will receive nothing, as $1,000,000 will only retire about half of the outstanding stock, it is charged. It is also charged that, under the retirement plan, stockholders are not protected against discrimination and to borrow $1,000,000 in the company's present financial position would be folly.

Posen filed suit against the company, its affiliates, officers and directors several months ago, charging mismanagement and asking an accounting. This action is still pending.

Universal continues unperturbed.

Suit Against Dietrich Highlights Slow Week

NEW YORK—Court news of the week was slowed up considerably due to the holidays with the action of Forrester Parant Productions, French film company, against Marlene Dietrich featuring the week. The company seeks $98,450 in damages against the actress for alleged breach of contract whereby she was to have made a film for the plaintiff in France. During the week, the plaintiff secured an order from Justice Benedict Dineen in the supreme court to examine Peyton Gibson, treasurer of Universal, before trial so that it may determine how much property and money of the actress the film company has, and attached $2,000 due the actress on a broadcast made December 12.

RKO applied to the federal court to prevent Helen Twelvetrees from attempting to continue her action against it in the supreme court. The film company switched the suit to the federal court due to diversity of citizenship. It recently lost an application to delay start of the trial past January 3 in the supreme court and had been ordered to appear to defend itself or allow an injunction to be entered against it. To gain more time, the suit was shifted. The action seeks $100,000 for alleged libel in the film "I'm Still Alive," which Miss Twelvetrees claims to be based on her life with that of her husband, Jack Woody, a Hollywood stunt man.

William Lustig, agent, filed a $525,000 supreme court suit against Gloria Jean Schoonover, Ferman and Eleanor Schoonover, parents of the Universal starlet, seeking damages for alleged breach of a 10-year managerial contract. Lustig claims to be the exclusive manager of the actress-singer and says her contract with Universal and subsequent concert and radio appearances were made without his consent or knowledge and without payment of 10 per cent to him.

Plagiarism Suit Involves Metro

Stephen Van Gluck and Joseph Eisinger filed a federal court action against M-G-M Pictures Corp., Distributing Corp., Culver Export and Loew's seeking an injunction, accounting of profits and damages against "Murder Man" which is claimed to be a plagiarism of plaintiff's play, "The Last Edition." Also named in the action are Guy Bolton and Tim Whelan, authors of the screenplay, and Edward E. Cohen, who claims five per cent of the play.

REVIEW FLASHES

BREAK THE NEWS (Trio Films)—As entertainment, this English-made film is a little better than fair. A few highly comic moments stand out in this good story idea which went astray in its handling. Maurice Chevalier, Jack Buchanan, June Knight.

CAVALCADE OF FAITH (Jeffrey Film)—Not in any sense of the word is this Catholic subject entertainment in the accepted sense for average theatre consumption. It is a compilation, and not a very good one, of scenes taken at various church functions in Rome, for the most part, and at Eucharistic Congresses in Chicago, Buenos Aires and other cities.

ROMANCE OF THE RIO GRANDE (20th-Fox)—In which the love bug nearly catches up with the Cisco Kid, and while the tender passion is engulfing that perennial caballero, audiences will be delighted to see the very marked improvement in this chapter of the established western series as compared to its predecessors. The feature is definitely above average as program material, and will be more than welcomed by Cisco's fans and cannot help but please all patrons, whether sagebrush enthusiasts or not. Sol Wurtzel produced. Herbert I. Leeds directed.

Selwyn-Veiller Suit Is Set for Feb. 3

Suit of Selwyn and Co. against Bayard Veiller was set for a federal court trial on February 3, 1941. The action seeks to recover $7,500 given the defendant by Loew's for his play, "The Miracle." The plaintiff claims to have secured all rights to the play in 1914 from the author and asserts any monies turned over by Loew's, belong to it. Veiller claims Selwyn was dissolved in 1936 before the transaction and has no rights in the play now.

Joseph H. Ream, secretary of CBS, was examined before trial in the supreme court in connection with a suit by the Epoch Producing Corp. against it. Epoch, owner of the film rights to "Birth of a Nation," claims the defendant broadcast a program with a similar title September 2. 1940, over WABC. An injunction, accounting of profits and damages are sought.

Film Alliance of the U. S. filed a pair of suits in the supreme court against Gaumont British Pictures Corp. of America and Isidor Ostrer, seeking damages of $200,000 for alleged breach of contract. The plaintiff claims its assignor, Albert P. De Courville, paid GB $2,500 for the American rights to "Things Are Looking Up" and that the defendants are refusing to deliver a print. The film stars Vivien Leigh.

Seek to Examine Kent

Unable to obtain satisfaction with an examination before trial of W. C. Michel, executive vice-president of 20th Century-Fox, Izola Forrester and Mann Page applied to the supreme court to examine Sidney R. Kent, president of 20th-Fox. The suit claims the film company lifted a story called "Joyous" in "Poor Little Rich Girl." An injunction, accounting of profits and damages are sought.

RKO applied to the federal court for permission to examine Irving K. Wolfson and Charles Haar of Brooklyn before trial in connection with a triple damage antitrust suit of the Folley Amusement Holding Corp. against it, the rest of the majors, Monogram, Republic, Randforce Amusement Holding Corp., Samuel Rinzler, and Louis Frisch. RKO wants to examine the men on January 15. The suit seeks $750,000 damages for allegedly putting the Brooklyn Folly out of business by depriving it of product.

The Lakewood Amusement Corp., operators of the Strand and Palace, Lakewood, N. J., applied to the supreme court to appoint two arbitrators and an umpire to settle a dispute it has with Barney Ferber, manager of the theatres, whom it seeks to discharge. Ferber has a five-year contract at $2,954 yearly and cannot be discharged without the consent of two men, one of whom is refusing to agree to the firing, and who has rejected all submitted arbitrators.

Assign Sidney Franklin

HOLLYWOOD—Sidney Franklin will produce "The Youngest Profession," Judy Garland's next for Metro.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 29)

Saturday . . . Mrs. O'Connor is mourning the loss of her father . . . Nat Levy, RKO district manager with headquarters in Philadelphia, and Charles Boasberg, who has Cincinnati, Cleveland and Detroit for the same company, were in town to see the new year in and the old one out . . . Harry McDonald, N. E. circuit head for RKO, was in town for home office confabs the early part of the week . . . Leon Goldberg and the missus spent the holidays at Lake Placid . . . Joe McConville, Columbia foreign head, is planning another trip to South America shortly.

Arthur Hirschman of Loew's publicity department is coming along nicely at French Hospital where he has been in an oxygen tent for the past few weeks. He continues to hold his own, which is a good sign . . . Louis Weinzimmer and Harry Egert, National Screen executives, and their families left for Miami Beach Friday for a three-week vacation . . . E. K. "Ted" O'Shea, M-G-M division manager, has had his left eye swollen for the past few days . . . Sam Rinzler has been making all local exchanges in person wishing well his friends for the New Year . . . Monty Gawthorpe returned from a southern tour of Paramount theatres in time to spend New Year's Eve with his family.

News at the UA exchange is bountiful with Harold Sugarman, upstate salesman a benedict. He married Seymour Poe's sister, Edna, and the couple is honeymooning in the south . . . Olga Haley of the contract department has announced her engagement to Paul Stoney of Manufacturer's Trust . . . Harriett Seiden of the same department also broke forth with the glad tidings of her engagement. And Alvira Hiller, same department, is leaving to take up duties as a housewife . . . The exchange employes have cooked up a welcome home luncheon party for Charles Stern on his return Monday from Miami. It will probably be held at the Lincoln. It's good to see Stern back after a recent illness.

Ben Sherman of Belle Theatres has gone to Miami for a couple of weeks . . . Spyros Skouras got back from Dayton and Columbus on Tuesday after a quick trip on the Greek War Relief drive . . . Mike Kaufman, an old hand at handling roadshows, is house manager at the Broadway for "Fantasia" . . . While on the subject of Disney, Roy has gone back to the coast where a deal is on tap to open the picture soon at the Carthay Circle . . . Grace Rosenfeld is back from a week's siesta at Lake Placid . . . Bob Benjamin is due back in a few days from the coast where he made a special trip on Pathe business . . . Harry Decker hasn't gone to Miami after all. The local Warner salesman decided, at the last minute, to postpone his vacation for another two months. When the weather is better, maybe.

F. Stein has taken over the Costello in Washington Heights. The last operator was Ed London . . . Al Suchman says the Casino, Bronx, definitely drops vaudeville on Saturdays and Sundays this week. He claims the idea was an experiment and didn't work out . . . Sol Schwartz canceled Krums Quiz New Year's Night at the Fordham, the Wednesday in question being a holiday night . . . Virginia Aaron and Lillian Silver of the M-G-M home office celebrated birthdays December 29.

Lou Johnson, head shipper at the local M-G-M exchange, celebrated his 21st year with the company Friday . . . Other New Yorkers marking anniversaries with the company include William Rickarts, 10 years; Eugene Leppert, five; Emanuel Lowe, six. On Tuesday Vincent Del Gaudio chalks up five years; on Thursday, Ruth Holtz, 13 years; on Saturday, Dorothy Kaplan, 15 years; on Sunday Frank Dick, eight years.

It's February 14, otherwise known as St. Valentine's Day, for the annual shindig of the Press Photographer's Association and the place is the Astor. The 12th annual dance is promised as a gala event with loads of entertainment supplied by headliners of radio, screen and the stage. Well known personalities, normally pictured by members of the association as part of their jobs throughout the year, are expected to be on hand, as usual and, en toto, about 3,500 guests are expected. Those who go to this annual party, usually agree it's one of the best of the year in these parts . . . An exhibition of photographs of Mexico by Jimmy Sileo, the Music Hall's official photographer, is on display in the theatre's grand lounge in connection with "Pan Americana," the stage show now current there. The exhibition includes views of government buildings and cathedrals in Mexico City, shore scenes and Marines of the bay of Acapulca and views of the mountain city of Tasco. Sileo made the album while gathering background material for the current show, produced by Florence Rogge.

Howard Dietz is on his way to Palm Springs for a vacation. He left Friday night with Arthur Schwartz, the composer . . . Al Lichtman and Bernie Hyman arrive at the M-G-M lot Monday after a week in New York visiting all the plays possible in the short time . . . Neil F. Agnew and Charles M. Reagan left Thursday for Chicago, Agnew continuing on to the coast and Reagan remaining in the Windy City for business and due back Monday or Tuesday . . . Joe Hornstein returns from a Miami vacation Monday or Tuesday . . . Joe Unger was in Boston the other day . . . Joe Phillipson, general manager of the Joe Cooper circuit in Oklahoma City, has resigned to join the Paramount home office distribution department. He is due to take his new post within the next few days.

Mort Spring is regarded as one of the best bowlers in the local film industry . . . Ben Cohen, M-G-M India head, is planning to return to his headquarters soon. He has been vacationing in New England, his home town, and hereabouts the past few weeks . . . Morey Marcus, head of Japan for the same company, will be leaving for home in another fortnight.

Booth Provision Bill Poised

Albany—The bill prescribing sweeping specifications for the construction of motion picture projection booths is said to be scheduled for reintroduction when the legislature convenes this week (January 8).

The measure was put in last March by Senator William F. Condon of Yonkers. It was reported from the committee on labor and industry and was advanced to third reading. However, the Senate did not act upon the bill before adjournment.

A New Eastman Process For Color Developing

PHILADELPHIA—Eastman Kodak has effected what it declares is a new, quicker and more effective process of developing colored motion picture films, according to Dr. C. E. K. Mees, director of research for the company.

Three separate developments currently used are supplanted by a single operation, described as resembling the production line of an automobile factory. Mees states the effect is a better quality coupled with less risk of damage to the negative. The emulsion on the film used under the new process has three super-imposed layers which take three images, one directly atop the other. The top image is taken in blue light and the top layer of the film is designed to reflect sensitivity to blue alone. The middle image is in green and the third, red. Whereas the current method provides for the printing of each color separately, the new method provides for a continuous run. Black and white images appear first but, as the film strikes a red light, that portion of the negative shot in red, prints that color. The same idea applies to the other two.

"U" Will Deliver Full List, Says Blumberg

HOLLYWOOD—Despite "almost total loss of European markets," Universal will deliver the full-season program, Nate Blumberg, president, stated over the weekend.

Of the 63 pledged, 39 are completed or finally editing. Eight more will be ready by February, leaving 16 between February 15 and August 31.

"Our production position has never been better," the Universal head said at the conclusion of studio meetings attended by J. Cheever Cowdin, board chairman; William A. Scully, general sales manager and Joseph Seidelman, foreign sales manager, from the east.

Heads New House

PHILADELPHIA—Harold Brason has been promoted to the helm of the Diamond Theatre, newly acquired by the Warner circuit. Perry Lessy succeeds Brason at the Lindley. Both houses are in Stanley Benford's district.

Depinet Drive Meet A Tour Springboard

CHICAGO—Leo Devaney, captain in the latest Ned E. Depinet drive for RKO, met here Friday with Jack Osserman, local manager; Walter Branson, midwest district manager and former captain; A. W. Smith jr., general sales manager, and Harry Gittelson, editor of *Flash*, house organ.

Following the session, Devaney, Branson and Gittelson began a tour of exchanges with L. E. Goldhammer, prairie district manager, joining the party at Omaha for a circuit of his branches. At Denver, J. H. MacIntyre, western district manager, will meet the campaigners and accompany them on his exchange area.

The first complete tour will wind up February 7 with a meeting at the New York exchange. The drive started January 25 and will conclude May 9.

Hoyts-GUT Negotiations For Merger Broken

NEW YORK — It's off again and again Finnegan for the Hoyts-GUT merger in Sydney, Australia.

After many months of negotiation following which an accord was reached, at least orally, the 20-year merger has been declared off once and for all.

Dan Michalove of the 20th-Fox home office was scheduled to sail for Sydney this month, but has canceled plans.

The merger was to have gone into effect January 1, 1941. The two circuits several years ago ended a five-year joint operating agreement, following which a fight developed over first run product. It was believed the merger would bring about a 20-year truce, but this is far from reaching the final stages now.

NSS Consolidating Home Office Departments

NEW YORK—National Screen is consolidating its various departments in the Film Center where it makes its headquarters. Chief executive offices will be maintained on the 14th floor with a number of executives to be switched to the 10th floor. The library now at the company's 43rd St. plant is being moved to the third floor as well as its advertising accessories now located in the Paramount exchange here. Some of the sales force located on the fifth floor are being moved to the third and 10th floors. The trailer, shipping and booking departments will be continued on the second.

Grant Time Extension In Clearance Action

NEW YORK—An extension of time to January 15 has been granted in the River Theatre Corp. action against Skouras involving clearance. At that time the defendants will have an opportunity to make motions in respect to the complaint or present an answer.

PHILADELPHIA

PRACTICALLY all the Philly houses had midnight shows New Year's Eve, with the last shows in the downtown spots starting around 2 a. m. and with the Victoria and the Palace joining the 24-hours-a-day Family in staying open all night . . . The S-W Earle had one of those six-hour opening shows last Friday with the belated arrival of Larry Clinton and his orchestra, the stage show headliner, the reason. House showed practically all the short subjects available and dished up an extra and rather lengthy stage show consisting of whatever acts they could gather together plus the house orchestra. The Clinton band rushed from station to stage without a moment's rest; did a few numbers, and saved the refunds with the house taking the next several hours trying to get back on regular schedule.

The latest to join what seems to be a big parade of independent poster exchanges opening up here are John Schaefer and Jack Weiss who are calling themselves the Keystone Poster Exchange at 262 N. 13th . . . Quality Premium Co. has taken over Universal's old building at 1308-12 Vine for display rooms and warehouse . . . Allied of E. Pa. have decided not to hold a dinner in conjunction with their scheduled meeting January 14. Abram F. Myers, however, is expected to address the gathering on "Arbitration" . . . Wilbur Evans, star of "Her First Romance," visited Monogram Exchange, met the gang, chatted with Branch Head Sam Rosen . . . Dave Moliver has opened his "Quiz-O" and Coulter Premium headquarters here . . . And Jules Kerns, from Premium Promotion Syndicate, New York, is handling Cash Quiz . . . Variety Club distributed 362 baskets the day before Xmas . . . Wilma Kaspar, one of the Variety Club "Miss Philadelphia" contestants, was chosen Kitty Foyle's double in contest held in conjunction with the opening of that picture at the Boyd.

Frank McNamee, former RKO manager, is business manager of the Infantile Paralysis Drive, which is culminated by the annual President's Ball. James P. Clark is chairman of the drive . . . Charlie Goldfine heads the m. p. committee of the Salvation Army . . . Plans for the testimonial dinner to those real old timers, Mike Lessy and Bill Butler, are progressing nicely . . . Mrs. S. D'Francesco opens her new Rex Theatre, Nuremberg, Pa.

Hill Theatre here was purchased last week by Edward I. Singer and will be remodeled and air-conditioned . . . Sabu, star of "Thief of Bagdad," made personal appearances at Aldine on the picture's opening day . . . David Hempstead, executive producer of "Kitty Foyle," visited Nat Levy, local RKO exchange manager.

All the S-W theatres broadcast the President's speech of last Sunday night. At one nabe house two femme patrons got into a hair-pulling argument . . . Local Musician's Union have worked out a share-the-work plan similar to that in effect among the stagehands. Doesn't cost the theatres any more; but means, in some cases, two different orchestras who play at alternate times . . . Iz Litwin, assistant to the purchasing agent of the S-W Theatres, has resigned to enter the fur business here.

Benny Harris, American Film Exchange, spoke at a meeting of governmental agencies in Pittsburgh, at which time plans for publicizing government functions were discussed . . . Installation of the newly elected officers in Film Exchange Employes' Union, Local B-7, will take place January 10 at the Broadwood Hotel . . . Upon request of 20th Century-Fox attorneys, suit of the Ellis' Towers Theatre, Camden, N. J., against 20th-Fox, was shifted into U. S. district court and is expected to be heard soon.

P. A. Bloch, long with Paramount Exchange here, has opened a premium exchange at 1235 Vine . . . "Baker's Wife" is in its 12th week at the Studio, Philly's only remaining art house . . . Showmen's Club New Year's Eve shindig sold out in advance.

ROCHESTER

EMBASSY has reopened under operation of E. M. Loew, Inc., Boston, Mass., with Harry Rodman as manager. Opening with duals, the house will have three changes of program weekly, with admission set at 10-15-20. Enamelware to women patrons is given on Wednesday and Thursday. Rodman comes here after being associated with Loew interests in Providence, R. I., 12 years.

More than 300 employes, their wives and families attended Schine's Christmas party at the Terrace Gardens. Door prizes, cash Bingo and a floor show were included . . . Lester Pollock, Loew's manager, entertained ushers and cashiers at a party at Odenbach's, distributed the annual bonus. And Bud Silverman, Schine's city manager, played host to all Schine managers at a Christmas party in the Madison offices. Managers reciprocated by giving Silverman a desk pencil set.

Bowling teams have been formed by Riviera employes. Other Schine houses are expected to follow suit. Games already have been arranged between the Riviera and State teams . . . Alden Allen, Monroe manager, paid a visit to his home in Elmira . . . Cigars were being passed out by Hy Gordon, Cameo manager. He's the father of a son born on Christmas Eve.

Sol Shafer of the Liberty is out of the hospital and back at work . . . All Schine houses played to big audiences when they staged their Christmas cartoon shows . . . Lester (Loew's) Pollock made a trip to Boston for party held for Loew's managers in the northeastern division . . . Jose Iturbi, conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic, and pianist of note, has joined Local 66 of the Musicians' Union.

Downtown Palace and Temple had stage shows New Year's Eve, along with picture program. Ozzie Nelson and Harriet Hilliard headlined the Temple bill.

Ampa Voting Rights Extended to Women

NEW YORK—Full voting privileges for women as for men are among the revisions in the Ampa constitution acted upon favorably by an overwhelming majority of members. Dues for women have been boosted from $5 to $10 per year. The organization will hold a 25th anniversary dinner-dance in the Hotel Edison, April 4, proceeds of which will be for the new Ampa welfare and relief fund. The next open meeting will be on January 9, with Barney Balaban, Paramount president, as guest speaker.

50-50 for "Dictator" in Loew's Met Circuit

NEW YORK—Loew's deal for "The Great Dictator" in its metropolitan circuit calls for 50 per cent of the gross from the first dollar. The picture will open over the circuit after the extended Astor two-a-day run at popular prices. In a number of out-of-town spots, Loew's has played the Chaplin film on a roadshow basis of $1.10 and on a policy of 70-30.

Indications are the Astor run will be continued at $2.20 top for several months yet.

More Contributions for Greek War Relief Fund

NEW YORK—Among recent contributions to the Greek War Relief Ass'n fund for civilian aid in Greece, was one for $2,000 from Altoona Publix Theatres of Altoona, Pa. Another of $100 from E. J. Churchill of Donahue & Coe, advertising agency, has helped swell the fund to close to $900,000 in the appeal for $10,000,000.

Fabian Draftees Receive Four Weeks' Salary

ALBANY—Fabian employes who join the military forces receive four weeks' salary and paid up company insurance for a year and 20 days, it was revealed when Division Manager Lou H. Golding presented checks to two Palace ushers. They were Harold Niles, who is with a local National Guard regiment at Fort McClellan, Ala., and Warren Caulfield, who is going south with a Guard anti-tank battalion.

Delphine Meyer Weds

HOLLYWOOD — Delphine Meyer is now Mrs. Raymond Shire, the ceremony having taken place at Yuma a few days ago. The former Miss Meyer is the daughter of Fred S. and Mrs. Meyer; he is 20th Century-Fox's studio executive in charge of labor relations. The bride is an attorney in her own right. The groom is an assistant federal attorney and also a deputy district attorney, the youngest in the state.

: *Incorporations* :

ALBANY—Phonovision Distributing Company, Inc., has been formed to carry on a business in motion pictures and sound recordings. Offices are in New York; capital stock is 100 shares, no par. Incorporators are Desmond Fitzgerald, Clarence E. Galtson and Andre Maximov, 40 Wall St. Attorneys: Spence, Windels, Walser, Hotchkiss and Angell, 40 Wall St.

Arsog Pictures Corporation has been formed to conduct business in New York. Capital stock is 100 shares, no par. Incorporators are Benjamin Raskin, J. Jack Brown and Myron Goldman, 2 Lafayette St. Attorney: Emanuel Strauss, 2 Lafayette St.

Dale Amusement Corporation has been formed to conduct business in New York. Capital stock is $20,000; $100 par. Incorporators are: Emil J. Dante, 117 Montgomery Ave., Tompkinsville, S. I.; Tobia Lenzo, 88 Montgomery Ave., Tompkinsville; Michael J. Galgano, 140-20 Sanford Ave., Flushing.

DeGraw Amusement Corporation, Kings County, has reduced its capital stock from $117,000 to $40,000, and Dean Amusement Company, Kings, from $43,000 to $30,000.

Metro Realignment Brings Sales Staff Transfers

NEW YORK—In a realignment of M-G-M home office sales personnel to conform with recent territorial revisions, Charles Deesen, former assistant to Thomas J. Connors, and William Madden, former student booker, have been transferred as assistants to E. K. O'Shea, newly appointed Central division manager. I. L. Hirsch and Harold Postman remain as assistants to Connors.

Ralph Pielow, newly appointed New York branch manager, has arrived from Albany to succeed O'Shea, who transfers to the home office around January 14. O'Shea will tentatively occupy the office used by Hirsch.

Rites in Brooklyn for Ed Schnitzer's Father

NEW YORK—Services were held Thursday for Max Schnitzer, father of Edward M., eastern district manager for Warner, at New Lots Temple, Brooklyn, with interment at United Hebrew Cemetery. Schnitzer's father, who was 76, had recently recovered from a heart attack.

In addition to the Warner executive, the deceased is survived by his widow, Rose, four daughters and another son, Louis, who is with the Randforce circuit.

Gets Museum Reel

NEW YORK—Columbia has contracted to distribute "Exploring Space," one-reeler produced by Ansulon, Inc., in cooperation with the American Museum of Natural History. The subject will be released on the current program.

Simplify Language For Decree Study

NEW YORK—National Theatres has completed a summary in simple layman's language of the context of the consent decree for its bookers, partners and managers.

Aubrey Schenck, home office booker with a legal background, made up the analysis which lists each section of the decree and tells in as few words as possible what is expressed therein.

An index and cross reference is attached so that a reader wishing to look for arbitration, prints, theatre acquisitions, or any other topic will find a handy reference preluding the boil downed text.

Canadian Trade Realigns Organizational Setup

TORONTO—Henceforth the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada will deal only with distributors' problems under new lines of distinction adopted between producers and exhibitors in the operation of representative organizations.

Under the arrangement, which will leave the Ontario Clearance Board to function on its own, the only common meeting place of all branches of the industry, including producers, equipment officials, exhibitors and exchange managers, will be the motion picture section of the Toronto Board of Trade which will deal with trade developments in which all are interested.

Dembow Is Recuperating At Home in Larchmont

NEW YORK—Sam Dembow jr., Paramount theatre executive who was injured recently when hit by a taxi here, is recuperating nicely at his Larchmont home. The cast in which his almost broken leg now reposes, will be removed shortly, but Dembow probably will remain indoors for another several weeks. Thereafter, he anticipates returning to his desk with the aid of crutches.

Southern New Jersey's Allied Meets Jan. 6

PHILADELPHIA — The recently created southern group of New Jersey Allied will meet at the Broadwood, January 6. The southern and northern groups meet at New York headquarters three days later for a buffet luncheon session.

Distributing "Pieges"

NEW YORK—I. E. Lopert has contracted to distribute "Pieges," French drama starring Maurice Chevalier, in this country. It will be available late in January.

Closes With Select for 10

NEW YORK—Harry Brown of Standard Film has closed with Select Attractions for 10 releases for the local territory.

The MODERN THEATRE

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION of BOXOFFICE



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Issue of JANUARY 4, 1941

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The Simplex High is a low cost arc designed especially for theatres of up to 800 seats and using screens as large as 18 feet in width. It projects twice as much light as the low intensity, a snow-white light, characteristic of the high intensity arc, which is so necessary to the projection of colored pictures. Yet the overall operating costs are only slightly higher because this arc operates at only 27 volts as compared to 55 volts in the low intensity, and each 14-inch 7 m.m. suprex positive carbon burns for at least two hours.

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The MODERN THEATRE

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The Unhappy Consequence of Cutting Specifications

"Cut that out! The customers won't know the difference, so we may as well save the cost."

Curtly, and without regard to the consequences, the theatre owner delivers his ultimation to his agent, the architect, and a well-made theatre plan starts going hay-wire.

Such things happen regularly, but the pity of it is they offer only a slight hitch to the proceedings. The good architect winces, swallows his pride, and the dangerous process of elimination starts. One such cut usually leads to others and when the house finally opens there is little left to remind the designer of his original purpose.

In preparing plans for a modern theatre **the competent theatre architect** studies the objective from every possible angle. There is a useful purpose in every line of his renderings and premeditation in every point of his specifications. The purpose is to attract patronage and create prestige for the business of his employer, within the limits of the budget allotted to him.

House Appeal is a combination of many practical things—mostly small things—that serve the main purpose. To peremptorily order the architect to cut them out on the foolish theory that prospective customers won't know or care is frequently the cause of a pitiful predicament in the end.

In a foregoing paragraph we bold faced **the competent theatre architect** to caution the selection; to emphasize his importance and proclaim him as your most capable purchasing agent. But he can't perform against your will. You must pull with him—not against him.

Toler

Toledo's Twin Theatres Take a Beauty Treatment

by **FRANK R. HAWKINS***

SCORES of compliments are being received by Howard Feigley, manager of the Rivoli and Palace theatres in Toledo, since the recent completion of a modernization program. Congratulations have come from civic organizations, newspapers and all classes of patrons. On one point all of the compliments have agreed; the remodeling has improved the appearance of the entire street and the theatres have been made a great deal more inviting.

"We know that our modernizing was a smart investment because we have been attracting bigger crowds since the work was finished," Mr. Feigley stated. "People prefer to go to a theatre which has a sparkling, colorful front and marquee just as they would rather go to a restaurant or store that has an inviting exterior. After all, they are spending money on entertainment, just as they do on groceries or handkerchiefs, and they are going to go to the place that appears to be the most progressive and uptodate."

An Investment for Patronage

The new front on the twin theatres, which are operated by Willard Theatres, Inc., and interior improvements in both houses cost approximately $45,000, according to Mr. Feigley. He and W. N. Skirball, president of the corporation, believe that every cent invested will come back through greater patronage.

Pictures here shown give a good conception of the beauty which was achieved with modern materials. The front of each theatre was faced with sparkling structural glass, which remains permanently colorful and lustrous without any maintenance beyond cleaning with a damp cloth. Ivory colored glass was used at the Rivoli over the doors and to face the panels between them. Bordering the ivory are two red bands of the same glass material, while black was used at the base. The bottom of the protruding ticket office is red. Extruded metal was utilized as trim on the project, and it gives the whole facade a finished touch that is just right.

A different color scheme was used on the Palace front, where gray squares of structural glass were installed with bands of Cadet blue. The base of the ticket booth matches the trim.

The seven pairs of doors in the two theatres carry out the modern decorative motif of the front for they are glazed vertically with a new type of fluted glass which minimizes glare and diffuses light as it enters. Customers have shown the same enthusiasm for these portals as they have for the entire job, it is reported by Mr. Feigley.

*Publicity Department, Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company.



AFTER **This daytime view of the twin theatres shows the sharp contrast in their appearance since modernization has made them the talk of Toledo.**

BEFORE **the program of improvements was started the twin theatres presented this drab sight to Toledoans. The contrast with today's sparkling appearance is striking.**



Enhanced Advertising Value

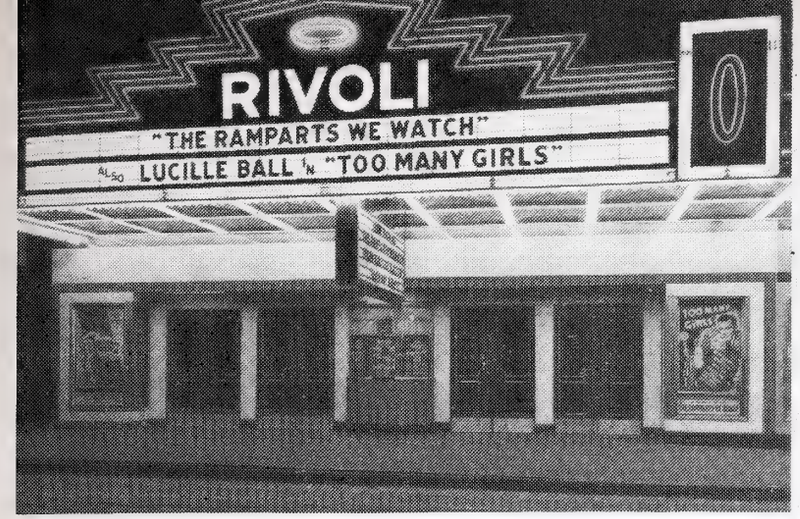
New fluorescent lighting equipment was installed behind the sign panels to give evenly-illuminated information about pictures showing. The words stand out boldly against the lighted glass background. New canopies were installed also.

The Toledoans did not stop their modernizing at the doors, but continued inside so that patrons would not feel a letdown after entering. Both theatres were re-carpeted throughout and new lighting fixtures were installed inside. Hanns R. Teichert of Chicago was in charge of redecorating the two theatres.

The complete program, which was carried out by Willard Theatres, Inc., at its two houses in Toledo, is a good example of what is being done by more and more owners of theatre properties. Throughout the nation motion picture houses are being given new fronts in the general movement to "lift the face of Main Street." Every resource of materials, lighting and equipment is being drawn upon to create a tempting invitation to the public to enter and later depart with a feeling of satisfaction.

One of the modern materials which is proving most adaptable and practical for theatre front remodeling is structural glass, such as that selected by Mr. Feigley. It is an opaque material fused at high temperature, and its colorful beauty will never diminish nor fade inasmuch as the color is made right into the glass. The back is ribbed to make application to any existing, permanent, dry background possible with mastic. The material has a minimum tensile strength of 937 pounds per square inch, and a crushing strength of 31,658 pounds per square inch, which assures long life and resistance to abrasion.

There are numerous other qualifications







OTHER VIEWS

Above—The Rivoli Theatre in Toledo presents this striking appearance at night since its modernization. Ivory colored structural glass with red bands of the same material covers the front. The bottom of the ticket office is likewise red. Fluorescent lights make the signs stand out.

Top Right—The ivory and red structural glass front of the Rivoli shows up to as much advantage in the daytime as at night.

Right—Next door to the Rivoli is the Palace Theatre which is shown here in a daytime view. Gray structural glass with Cadet blue trim and ticket office enhances this motion picture house. The popcorn shop to the left and the jewelry store on the right of the Palace were included in the "face lifting" project. The high polish of this modern front material is attested to by the way it reflects the marquee lights. — (All photos courtesy Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company).

which make these materials highly satisfactory for modern theatre fronts. They will not warp, swell, or craze; absorb liquids, grime, smoke or odors, and can be quickly and easily cleaned by wiping with a damp cloth or in extreme cases by washing with soap and water. All of these characteristics make structural glass an extremely sanitary product to fit modern requirements.

Decorative effects or letters may be secured in plain or colored sandblasted ornament, and by inlays of thin colored opaque glass or mirrors. An effective relief sign results from the cementing of letters made of glass or wood to a structural glass background.

Combination Effects

An increasing number of theatre owners are learning that tempered plate glass is a perfect companion for structural glass fronts. This new product with color fused to its back makes a sign panel a brilliant beacon for a theatre when properly illuminated. Lights correctly placed behind it make the entire panel glow with a soft, evenly-distributed, colored illumination that is the warmest kind of welcome to customers. It is practical for other areas of a theatre front besides the sign panel, of course, and any part of it can be made to radiate light and gay color.

There is almost no limit to the variety of effects which can be achieved with glass materials in a lobby or foyer of a motion picture house. Whether it covers entire walls, just the wainscoting, or is used for decorative panels, the structural glass does its part to please patrons.

Owners of theatres realize, too, that the toilets and washrooms in their buildings must be modern and sanitary. The day when unsightly and offensive restrooms were accepted by the public is past. People have become as discriminating about the comfort facilities of the theatre they attend as they are about those provided by gas stations they patronize on trips.

Many Novel Applications

There is no reason why theatre washrooms and toilets should be the loathsome, smelly places that once "got by" with patrons. With structural glass wainscoting and toilet partitions, they can be made as inviting and beautiful as the auditorium and lobby. The impervious surface of such materials will never absorb substances that cause discolorations or give off unpleasant odors. It is difficult for dirt and grime to cling to the polished surface of the material, and it resists attempts to mark or otherwise deface it. Wiping with a damp cloth keeps it spotlessly clean and ever new looking, a condition much desired in theatre washrooms. The saving in upkeep will pay for the modernizing outlay in a short time.

We have mentioned in the foregoing that a diffusing glass was used in the doors of the Rivoli and Palace theatres. Another type of door which is thoroughly modern and eye-arresting in appearance is made of extra-heavy plate glass. Doors made of this ¾-inch thick tempered glass have no frames, and so permit an unobstructed view into the interior of a building. The glass is so clear as to be almost invisible, and used for theatre doors it makes the foyer one big display space easily viewed from the outside.

Regardless of the size of the town in which a theatre is located, it will profit the owner to modernize its front. People are pretty much the same all over; they are going to spend their entertainment money where the outside beckons the brightest and where comfort, beauty and healthful conditions prevail inside.

Note—An interesting description of the decorative treatment applied in the modernization of the interiors of the Rivoli—Palace theatres will be found in the Decorating Department of this issue, on page 50.

IDENTIFICATION

(Rivoli-Palace Theatres)

ARCHITECT:: Myron T. Hill.
DECORATING: Hanns R. Teichert.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: E. H. Voss.
LIGHT FIXTURES: Mutual Metal Products Co.
MARQUEES: Gustav Hirsch Organization.
STRUCTURAL GLASS: Vitrolite, Vitrolux and Flutex, by Libbey-Owens-Ford, through Toledo Plate & Window Glass Co.

Additional particulars on the project may be secured upon request to The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.

FADISM OR FUNCTION?

Can a theatre owner afford to give much consideration to style in buying furnishings? Yes; if freakish styles are to be avoided. Here's a trouble-saving tip. There are three kinds of "fashion" in furnishings: Fads, currently fashionable styles, and classic styles. Fads "go out" within a year or two. The average fashion runs in cycles that change about every six or seven years. But certain "classic" styles, based on good taste and high standards of quality, remain in good standing for many, many years.

The Portage . . . a Progressive Modernizing Project

by **HELEN KENT**

SEVERAL years ago, the plans of an enterprising Chicago theatre architect for more action in old property modernization were presented in this publication. This "plan of action" was termed Progressive Modernization, and it was based on the premise that more and higher quality theatre modernization could be accomplished if the work were done in easy stages and permitted to pay for itself by the increase in patronage which each stage of beautification would bring.

The idea's motivating element, of course, was the original design plan, in which the entire modernization would be considered as a whole. But by dove-tailing each successive step, each part could be treated as a small bit of modernization. Thus, a front could be modernized and after a short time during which increased profits would be amassed as a result of new interest in the house, the lobby and foyer would be treated, and eventually the auditorium and other parts of the house—but each element would be an integral part of the original modernization plan.

Logic and Results

In this way, harmony would be preserved and work would progress in a systematized manner with no severe drain on the finances of the theatre owner. However, without the all-important original modernization plan, and the supervision of the architect who proposed the project, such an idea might go haywire in execution. Hence it was almost imperative that consultation with an experienced theatre architect be the first consideration of any theatre owner contemplating modernization of his property in this progressive manner.

Mark D. Kalischer, the young architect who pioneered this plan for more concerted action on the part of theatre owners whose properties were badly in need of remodeling, has been highly successful in its execution. Several theatres in and about Chicago have passed painlessly through the ofttimes hazardous throes of modernization under his direction, and he has seen the plan adopted by remodelers of theatres in other parts of the country as well. The logic of the scheme cannot be denied, and the happy ending which planned modernization implies is its ultimate and practically assured goal.

One of the latest progressive remodeling projects designed and handled by Mr. Kalischer was that undertaken at the Portage Theatre in Chicago. The Portage, a 2,000-seat house, is one of a group of seven theatres owned and operated by G. C. S. Circuit, president of which is Mort D. Goldberg, who is interviewed elsewhere in this issue. The business-like theatre operation tactics of this comparatively new circuit organization are characterized by its remodeling activity, whereby all of its theatres have been progressively modernized and made really money-making places of business which attract patronage in their own right despite neighboring competition.



M. D. KALISCHER

The Portage was an old Renaissance-type house, showing first-run pictures in its neighborhood, Chicago's northwest side. It was truly antiquated and not in the least appealing to modern-minded patronage. It was old and sombre in every respect and since neither antiquity nor soberness are particularly compatible with entertainment, it was decided to banish this element as speedily as possible in the interests of the theatre's boxoffice potentialities.

Renaissance Gives Way

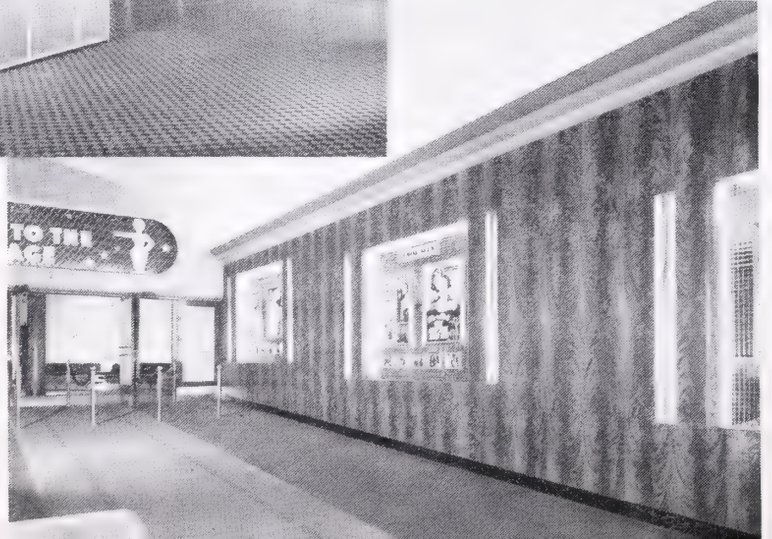
Mr. Kalischer was called in by the management who decided to do something about it, and plans and designs for complete remodeling were put under way. The Portage was to be beautified in the modern manner — but progressively — and the Renaissance was gradually to give way to a style more in keeping with modern entertainment practices.

The interior of this house was deemed most in need of a modern beauty treatment by Mr. Kalischer, and it was decided to remodel and redecorate the lobby and foyer as the first step in bringing the Portage under the influence of modern trends. New innovations in design and applied functionalism were involved in the plans for treatment throughout the house and particularly was this first-to-be-considered portion of the theatre—the lobby and foyer—to be made a stunning example, since it was confidently expected that interest in its changed appearance would help pay for those other parts of the progressive remodeling plan that would be considered in the near future.

Among the first considerations in changing the style of the Portage Theatre's lobby and foyer was a desire to remove the coldness and heaviness of atmosphere which its Renaissance decorations and furnishings gave it. This modern age de-



BEFORE modernization the Portage Theatre's lobby was heavy with Renaissance atmosphere and not in the least inducive to the mood for entertainment which such a provision should inspire. An attempt at advertising display was to be noted, but it would hardly be termed proper promotion for modern moving picture presentation.



AFTER modernization the Portage lobby has become a stunning example of functionalism in the modern manner. The light touch is here evident in simple lines, luxurious furnishings and scientific indirect lighting. Advertising display now is full of punch yet dignified and inviting to the eye.

mands lightness and informality and complete harmony in its decorative effect—and particularly is this true in the public entertainment field. Hence the Portage was to be stripped of all its forbidding interior effects, thus to bring about a renewal of its patrons' interest in the house as an institution rather than just another movie.

The cold Italian marble with which the lobby walls were lined was first to go. There was no place for this too formal and awe-inspiring material in the modern interior which was designed for the Portage. In its place, flame-crotch mahogany veneer in a four-way match was used. This modern and most decorative material gives the effect of an intricate and bizarre Rococco design. It is feathery and airy in feeling and altogether appropriate to its surroundings—rich, yet not gaudy.

Display Made Decorative

Large display cases with recessed illumination form an integral part of the design inasmuch as they are placed on both side-walls and alternated with indirect lighting units of unique design. The lighting for the display cases is indirect by fluorescent tubes on three sides to prevent glare, and the troughs are equipped with hinged covers fitted with louvre glass. This is a new type of plastic with integral louvres which mask the light rays in one direction, thus preventing glare and specular reflection. The functional stainless steel lighting troughs which flank the cases are equipped with lumiline bulbs for emergency lighting.

The ceiling of the lobby is painted cerulean blue and formed in a barrel-vault effect. A plaster cornice at the ceiling line which runs the length of the two side-walls conceals two rows of fluorescent lighting troughs. This indirect lighting treatment provides the general illumination for the lobby and casts a warm glow over the entire decorative scheme. The floor of this part of the house is now carpeted at the outer sides, but for utility rubber matting is recessed into the center portion.

The inner lobby, or foyer, which is immediately behind the doors of the newly treated outer lobby, came up for attention next. Here, dignity, elegance, spaciousness and beauty were combined, and all that formerly bespoke cold-heartedness was removed from the scene. Many startling changes were made, but all in the interest of bringing greater warmth and invitation to this most hospitable part of any theatre.



The redecorated and refurnished foyer is a thing of beauty and a joy forever to the moods of entertainment-seekers. Contour and simple modern ornamentation along with functional furnishings make this an outstanding model of modern progressive remodeling—which is designed to pay boxoffice dividends.

Novel Indirect Lighting

One of the new innovations in Mr. Kalischer's design which exerts the most influence on this part of the Portage's decorative scheme is a huge oval-domed ceiling in its frontal portion which is illuminated by peach-colored zeon tubes. Immediately below this dome, the luxurious carpet was designed by the architect to reflect exactly the oval contours of the ceiling. This is accomplished by the use of plain colored carpet in a warm salmon shade bordered by a rich Delft blue.

In this front portion of the foyer also, mirrors were used effectively to completely cover the side-walls. These are immense wheel-cut Venetian mirrors which serve as a backdrop for luxuriously styled settees, and they are flanked on either side by plaster niches that are illuminated by pale blue fluorescent lamps concealed in stainless steel troughs. The entire effect is breath-taking in beauty, yet simple withal.



In the redecorated rest-rooms of the Portage Theatre, built-in electric hand-driers styled to harmonize with tile were installed as a patron convenience. (Photo courtesy Chicago Hardware Foundry Co.)

The inner foyer with doors leading to the auditorium was completely denuded of all plaster and gilt ornament which formerly so filled this house and the walls were replastered in a streamlined effect. The walls were then painted in a warm champagne color and the ceiling was done in a complementary green-blue. Large and showy floral murals designed by the architect complete the stunning effect in vivid emerald green and orchid shades with accents of red and orange. Huge pillars between the inner and outer portions of the room and lesser ones at the entrance doors to the auditorium lend a lofty feeling to this foyer.

Special lounge furniture in the foyer forms an integral part of the new decora-

(Continued on page 48)

Cover Plate

FUNCTIONAL PLANNING is often best exemplified by the modern treatment accorded smaller theatres in neighborhood or village locations. In such places, economy will be found combined with simplicity of form to provide an attractiveness that is lasting and practical in its appeal to patronage . . . An example of the application of planned functionalism is the new Russell Theatre in Millersburg, Ohio, described in full elsewhere in this issue. Its foyer and standee area, pictured on the cover, is simple in design, depending upon contour and surface interest, luxuriousness of modern carpet which lends a feeling of spaciousness, and modernly diffused indirect lighting for attraction qualities. Economy was involved, but its usual limitations are not apparent in this instance because Functional Planning and all the savings and practicalities which it involves was the motif in the design and construction of the new Russell Theatre.

See Your Theatre as Your Patrons See It

by **ANSEL M. MOORE**

IN HIS famous ode "To a Louse," the beloved Scottish Bard, auld Bobby Burns, penned a wonderful morsel of thought for mankind when he wrote:

"Oh wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as others see us!
It wad frae monie a blunder free us,
An' foolish notion"

Stanza No. 8 of that famous poem fairly drips with logic, although it's forlorn to hope that we mortals will ever attain the accomplishment called for.

Our egos prevent it. Our innate and foolish senses of importance stand as a bar to impartial self analysis. Our personal pride prohibits our even trying to see ourselves as others see us.

So we perish the thought and go right on blundering our ways into oblivion via the route of make believe; kidding our own selves perhaps, but nobody else in particular.

That's the personal side of us, of course, and there isn't much we can do about "seeing ourselves as others see us." Probably the view would displease us greatly if we could.

The Business Angle

On the business side of it, however, there is some hope. While our business—and theatre business in particular—reflects our personalities rather sharply, nevertheless there is less opportunity for concealment in our houses than there is in our haughty minds. In other words we can't very well hide the shortcomings of our houses from those who may patronize them, try as we may to hide them from ourselves.

It is not therefore, we believe, beyond the realm of reasonable possibility to hope that every theatre owner, for still purely selfish reasons, will try to see his theatre as his patrons actually see it. Self satisfaction is the easiest accomplishment of mankind. The customer fellow's opinion is of more importance to us than our own, after all.

Volumes have been written lately about the vagaries of picture show business. There is nothing really new to be said about What's Wrong with Picture Show Business that hasn't already been expounded by experts, among themselves, so we shan't attempt a rehash here. But may we raise a small piping voice to inquire, "What About the Patrons? Maybe they know the answer!"

Now let's put ourselves aside momentarily and try to assume, insofar as our places of business are concerned, the attitude of the patrons—to see the points at issue *as they see them.*

The Patrons Perspective

Stepping into the character of the common garden variety of theatre patron, let's try to make a thorough and unbiased test of our troubles. Forgetting for the nonce our position as the owners of theatres, let's push back from the dinner table, pick up the evening paper as per custom and scan the evening's entertainment possibilities on the amusement page. Here's competition for us right off the bat—plenty of it. The family forum finally decides which and where, and we're off to see a movie.

It just happens that the one of the dual features playing at one of our own theatres this evening appeals to us, but we're still out of character and in the guise of an innocent patron we're simply on the lookout for some entertainment and relaxation—something that will compensate for the good radio program we're about to pass up.

So we pile into Plymouth and away we go! Our route leads us past a new theatre, just recently opened. Good-looking front there; plenty of illumination and color and gaiety. The attractively worded sales message on the modern marquee sort of makes us want to change our minds; but no, we're still picture-minded and besides a parking space isn't handy. But that layout sure appeals to us. Wonder what it looks like inside.

We pass another place. Not interested; because we went there once and the sound was terrible. Gosh why didn't we go over to Gimmicks and have a round of bridge? Well, we're coming to it. Just a couple of blocks down the next street. We turn the corner. Where is that damned theatre? Ought to be able to see some bright lights from here. Should be next door to that beauty parlor with the big bright sign.

The Illusion Lags

Ah, there it is, right here. Nearly missed it. The guy who runs it must be practicing up for a black-out. Hell, no place to park! Maybe we can squeeze in some place farther down. Should've stayed home. That picture *better* be good!

Hoofing it back from three blocks down we dubiously approach the ticket window and upon inquiry, a sour-puss ticket seller tells us that the picture we *want* to see follows the one we hadn't even thought about. But Hell's Bells we're here now. May as well wiggle through it. Four tickets, please!

Junior wants a drink. What, no fountain? Oh, down stairs! Where's the rest room? Apparently they don't believe in signs here. Be careful Junior it's dark down these steps. Boy is this a dump. Better wait kid, and I'll buy you a "coke" next door. This place stinks.

Mama and Sis meet us upstairs. May as well go in the auditorium and sit it out. Lounges don't look so good. Let's get it over with. Katchoo! Jeeze, what a draft in here. Let's sit over there on the side. There's four seats if we can squeeze in. Whatda they think we are—sardines! Dam it's dark in here. Maybe to hide the Gay Ninety decorations.

And so now, with all the painful preliminaries attended to we're ready to see the picture we had really wanted to see. This floppola ought to be finished in a few minutes now. Wonder how old it is? Tired. Should've stayed home where it's comfortable at least and listened to Fred Allen. He should stay out of pictures. These seats are like saw bucks. We'll try the other cheek now. Smells terrible in here, too. Maybe it's the picture. Lord, how much longer? Hope we can see and hear the next picture better. This one is probably old and scratched up. That's why they get 'em so cheap. Picture's hard on our eyes, too.

Point of Exhaustion

Ah, at last. That's all of that. Nuts! We've got to see a flock of previews now. Who in hell cares what's coming to this dump? We don't. Our bones are breaking. Believe we're catching cold in here. Ought to be a law against what dump theatres and double features do to people. Ah-h-h! Now dammit we're gettin' sleepy. Much be lack of fresh air or something.

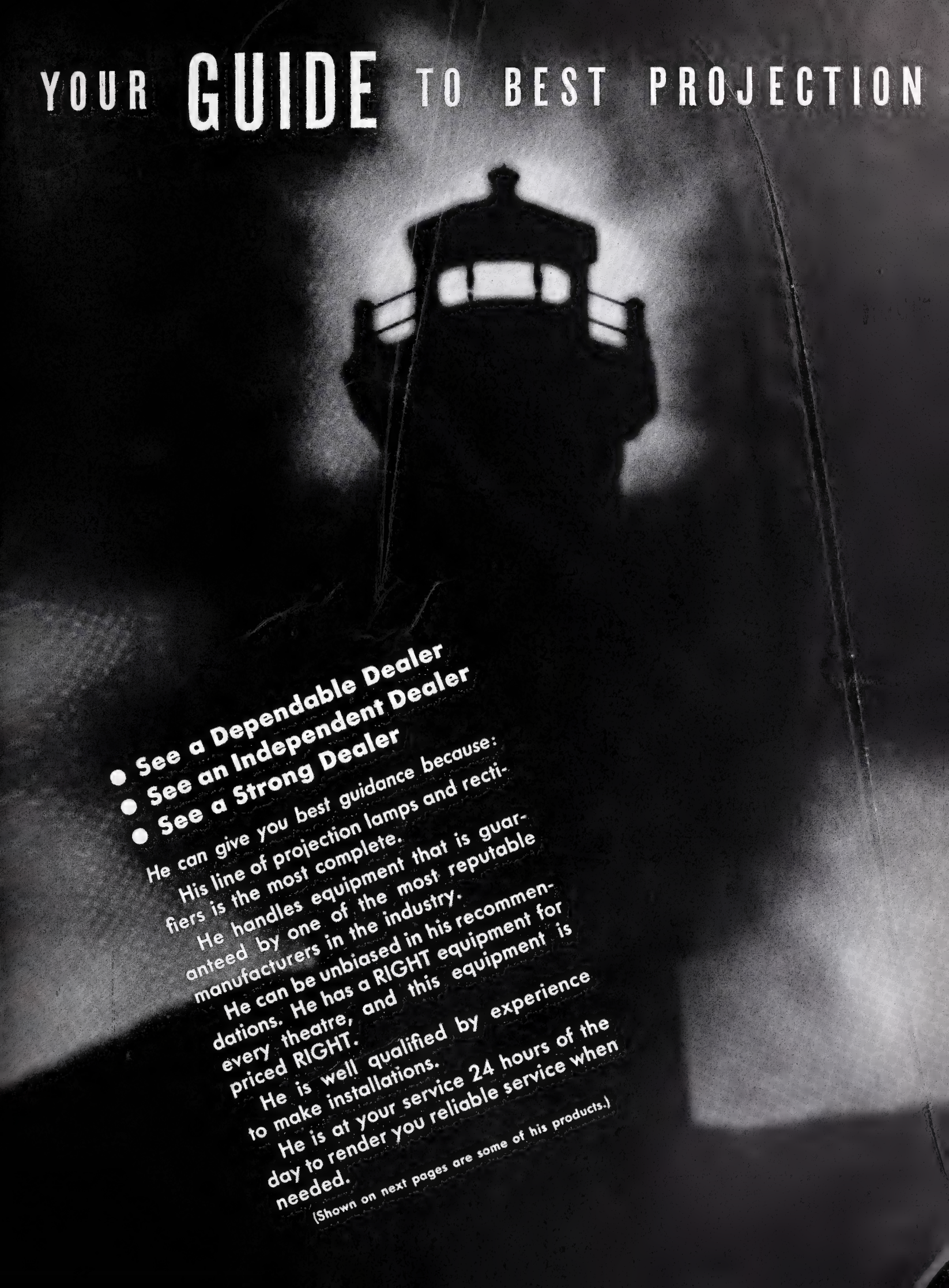
Alright, bring on that special feature. We're just in the right mood to give it the Royal Razzberry—and that goes for you and your whole gol-darned picture show business. Even if this picture's as good as your publicity experts say it is, we're in no frame of mind to enjoy it.

The foregoing somewhat rambling narrative of a theatre owner in the character of a customer calls for a bit of candid imagination, of course. It is not so very difficult to imagine what is wrong if we but try to see things as others see them. And the customers viewpoint is vital. Try sampling the food you serve—and the way you serve it.

Gentlemen, Be Seated!

The golden age of minstrelsy will be recalled by Ansel Moore in next issue, to emphasize the salient points of comfortable theatre seating: The general theme for next (February 1) issue is "Seating Service."—The Editor.

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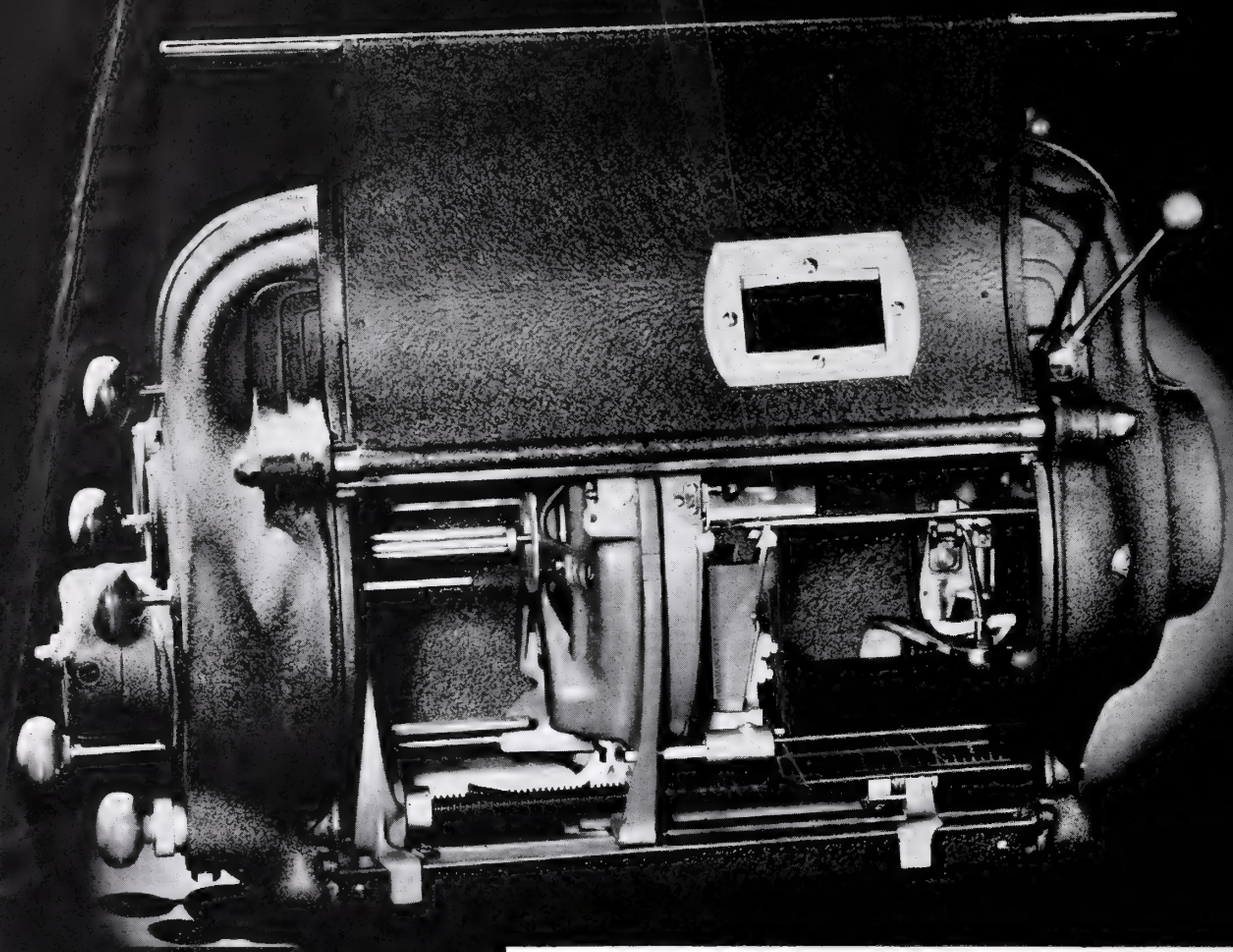
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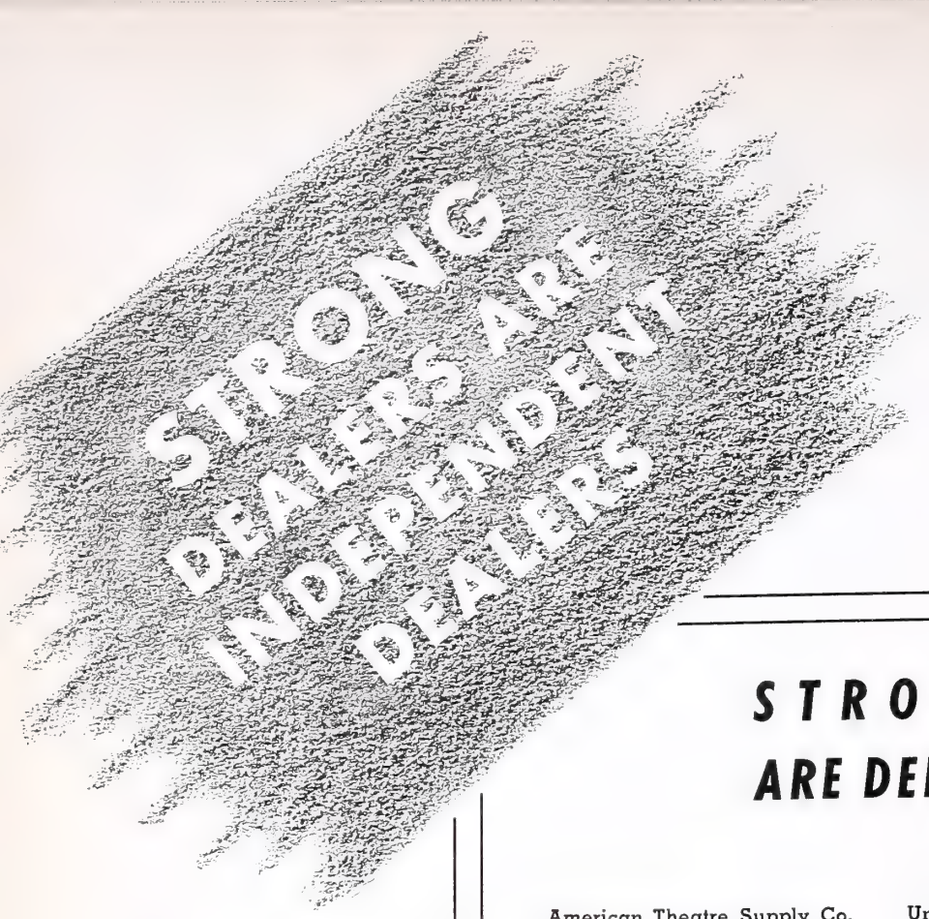
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A Lawyer-Showman Lets Us in on a Secret

WHEN recently Mark Kalischer, Chicago theatre architect, asked the editor if he'd like to have a story on one of his (Kalischer's) latest modernizing projects, the offer was accepted and your inquiring reporter got the assignment.

Early in the quiz proceedings the inevitable question regarding ownership of the Portage Theatre (more particularly described elsewhere in this issue) brought out the fact that it was the property of the G.C.S. Circuit of six nifty neighborhood movie houses all located on the northwest section of Chicago and a seventh in the city of Neenah, Wisconsin.

Further questioning disclosed that the initials "G. C. S." identified a firm of Chicago attorneys at law, namely, Goldberg, Courshon and Solomon. So an interview appointment was arranged with Mort D. Goldberg, president of the circuit, who acted as spokesman for the trio of successful lawyer-showmen.

From Mr. G., it was learned that the chain of independent theatres got its start in 1930 with the acquisition of the Drake, a costly but then emaciated 1,700-seat atmospheric theatre of the boom period which had been closed and opened intermittently, but frequently, for a period of five years prior to its final acquirement. It has stayed open continuously since then and this, mind you, right through the midst of a depression.

Then followed later additions to the chain including the 1,500-seat Admiral, the 1,900-seat Portage, the 550-seat Review; the 800-seat Fox, the 400-seat Jeff and the 800-seat Embassy, the latter at Neenah, Wisconsin.

Having long listened to the painful recitals of hazard and handicaps attending the operation of independently owned picture theatres in and around Chicago we naturally sensed a secret in this instance and forthwith proceeded to fathom it.

Here were seven second-run houses, three of them with sizeable capacities, apparently doing business profitably and permanently under the many competitive restraints that we'd often heard recited. We asked Mr. Goldberg to give us his special formula. He gave it succinctly and straight from the shoulder. Quoting Mr. Goldberg:

"As an independent theatre owner running pictures in 'repeat position' and from necessity rather than choice, I am unalterably opposed to booking systems and distributing policies that deprive my theatres of the privilege of showing fresh, first-run pictures. But the attendant evils



MR. GOLDBERG

of the business can not be overcome by merely squawking helplessly about conditions.

"We own all our theatre properties outright, representing real estate investments running into the millions. We must make them sustain the investment. To offset the disadvantages of our secondary position on play dates, we must manage our theatres and maintain them.

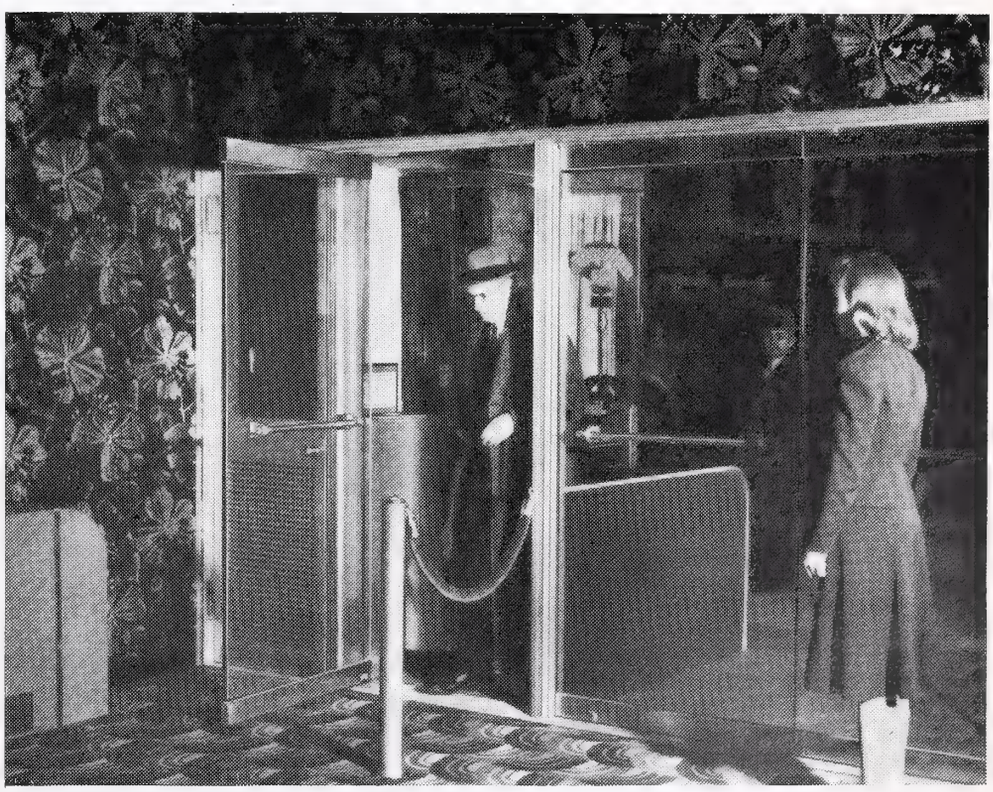
"Yes, we run double features despite the fact that we don't approve of them. Competition compels us to give quantity as well as quality in certain of our locations. Realizing that a great many persons dislike double features and knowing from our own experience that many others do like them, we try to adjust the opposition with the best means at our disposal.

"Early in our theatre operating experience came the realization that the exhibitor must offer his patrons an atmosphere of pleasantry and and comfort before he can satisfactorily entertain them. Such physical provisions create a subconscious feeling or mood that makes patrons much easier to please with what we are able to put before them.

"Since our reopening of the Drake, which has now operated continuously since 1930 we have adhered to the policy of providing the proper atmosphere for entertainment, keeping our theatres up-to-date in service and appearances and with the best possible equipment. Our most recent modernization of the Portage Theatre typifies our general policy in this respect."

Thus Mr. Goldberg told us how he manages to stay in theatre business independently against the odds.

PHANTOM DOORMAN NEW FUNCTIONAL DEVICE



A decided novelty effect for publicity but functional in the practical performance of duty is to be noted in this application of a photo-electric cell operated door opener and closer, for theatre entrances. Becoming extensively used in other classes of business, the Phantom Doorman, as the device is called, should find ready application to theatre door control. (Photo courtesy The Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.)

The Great "Good Will Mystery" Simply Exposed

by **ERNEST W. FAIR**

"I DON'T know what it's all about and you don't either so let's just inventory the business and add ten per cent for goodwill."

That statement has been repeated so often in the theatre business that the most valuable asset of the business is sometimes juggled around unmercifully. We all understand what goodwill is but converting it into dollars and cents is something else again.

Yet there should be no such mystery about goodwill; tackled along the right lines it can readily be computed. No theatre man ever knows the value of his business without knowing what dollar and cents value his intangible goodwill asset can command. Naturally it is important to know this in the sale of one's business, but it's also important to know it for transferring properties, purchasing other theatres, modernization, expansion, consolidation, reorganization, new financing, determining income tax valuations and other tax valuations, for rate purposes and for internal business adjustments.

Five Points to Follow

Estimates of the value in goodwill of a theatre enterprise should be built up through a study of earning power. The estimate may take the form of capitalization of net earning power as a whole, the estimated value of the tangible assets being deducted from the result to yield the value of intangibles.

In dealing with earning power for the purpose of measuring the value of goodwill and other intangibles five things should be borne in mind:

1. This value must depend on future, not past or present earnings.
2. In using the past as a guide to the future, take neither too long nor too short a period.
3. The odds are against current earning power remaining fixed as at present.
4. The normal earnings and normal rates must constantly be kept in mind.
5. It is wisest to use a high rate of capitalization in determining the value of the excess earnings.

We must also stop to consider whether those conditions that have built up this earning power can be transferred from one ownership to another and whether or not they are durable in themselves.

The Five-Year Plan

There is one excellent rule to remember in appraising the goodwill value of any business under consideration; goodwill is the value of differential or excess profits, without regard to form or method of financing.

Naturally since goodwill purchased or otherwise acquired today must be cashed in on tomorrow, we cannot too closely study earning power. The first step in the study of earnings is the past. The period covered should be from two to five years. It is usually either unnecessary or undesirable to go back more than five years; on the other hand one year is too short a period to afford a basis for judgment. A single year is not a sufficient period for the high or low profits of that year may be altogether due to exceptional temporary conditions. Nor should too long a period be considered lest the condition of the remoter years be so different from those prevailing at the time of valuation as to make an average of little significance.

The U. S. Treasury Department recognizes the use of a minimum of five years. Always bear in mind that the periodic deductions recognized for depreciation of equipment may have been insufficient or they may have been excessive. Consideration must also be given to the methods

THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES PICTURE PATRONS



Typical of the automatic beverage service provided by a number of motion picture theatres in various parts of the country is this installation in the Oriental Theatre in Chicago. Refrigerated coin-operated venders have given owners a means of providing this type of service without expensive outlays of money or space and at considerable profit to themselves. (Photo courtesy Coin Machine Industries, Inc.)

Coin-operated beverage venders have become increasingly popular in hundreds of the nation's picture theatres during the last several years because of their space-saving features and the economy of operation involved.

According to the Coin Machine Industries, Inc., national trade association of vending machine manufacturers, refrigerated coin-operated beverage venders have provided theatre owners with a means of making available the drinks patrons desire without expensive outlays of money or space and without the necessity of added personnel for service.

The theatre is one of the many fields served by coin-operated venders. The machines, in addition, have made beverages available in offices, factories and schools where the over-the-counter method of selling is impractical.

A representative display of coin-operated beverage venders of the latest streamlined type has been arranged for the 1941 exposition of the Coin Machine Industries, Inc., which is to be held January 13 to 16 in the Hotel Sherman, at Chicago.

In our last previous issue (which if you didn't, please see) the importance of Good Will as a business asset to theatre operation was expounded editorially under the title, "Removing the Stress from Over-Strained Public Relations." Its negotiability is further expressed by another authority in this article, which deals with methods of computation for property transfer, taxation, purchasing for maintenance and other purposes, such, for instance, as "Computing the Little Profit Who Wasn't There."—The Editor.

employed in valuing properties, particularly with respect to change in methods in the period under consideration.

Having calculated the past earnings the next step is the translation of this information into an estimate of future earnings; an element in the theatre business being sold. The trend of recent earnings is always an important point to consider. All factors which are likely to have a bearing on the profits of the next few years should be taken into consideration.

Estimating the normal earning rate in connection with goodwill evaluation has always been a ticklish proposition. The normal rate is that rate of return which will attract to and maintain in a particular field a supply of capital and ability sufficient to maintain its relative position in view of conditions of supply and demand.

When we proceed to calculate the amount of the normal earnings this normal earning rate is usually applied to the book value of the investment in tangible assets.

How Long Will It Last?

One of the most important considerations in the appraisal of goodwill is the question of the duration of the earnings which can reasonably be assured on the basis of present conditions and factors. It is unsafe to assume that these earnings can continue indefinitely. Competition tends to reduce such earnings over the years time. Depreciation of property, if allowed to persist, also has its peculiar effect. Then also it is reasonable to assume that within a short time after the purchase of a business a part of the earning power will be a result of the efforts of the new management and conditions which will arise after purchase rather than the factors and conditions present at the time of purchase.

An infallible rule to remember is that goodwill based upon personal relations and the peculiar abilities of an individual owner can be transferred only to a limited extent and can be expected to disappear shortly.

These are the basic principles that underlie the problem of estimating goodwill for any theatre enterprise; the rest of the procedure is a matter of actual figuring and adapting these principles to one's own system of operation.

Studied closely it can be observed that there is neither anything mysterious about goodwill nor difficult about its calculation for no matter what the purpose may be.

Realizing the day-in-and-day-out goodwill value of our own theatre institution is another step that will enable us to operate it more intelligently and profitably.

"...the Showplace of Salt Lake City"

UTAH THEATRE
INTERMOUNTAIN THEATRES INC.
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

October 18, 1940

Mr. E. L. Belfield,
Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Co.,
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Mr. Belfield:-

The new Alexander Smith Crestwood Carpet which was recently installed in the Utah Theatre has been meeting with unusual interest on the part of the public. In a few instances, patrons have asked from whom we purchased same, it is so outstanding.

The carpet has put a new atmosphere in the theatre which I am sure could not be secured by rebuilding or redecorating. Its richness and refinement along with its eye-appeal have made the Utah the showplace of Salt Lake City.

Very truly yours,

Charles M. Pincus, Mgr.

THE Utah Theatre, Salt Lake City, in which 1250 yards of Alexander Smith Crestwood Carpet were recently installed.

ALEXANDER SMITH
Crestwood Carpet

DECORATING

THE ARTISTIC SIDE OF ARCHITECTURE AS APPLIED TO THEATRE DECORATION

Ridding the Rivoli of a Riot of Renaissance—Our Responsibility

by **REX DAVIS***

WE HAVE written many times of the vast difference in decorating a new theatre and the redecorating of an outmoded one. In the hope that many of you will be interested in the latter type of house, let's cite an actual example and tell you briefly the way we handled our end of the contract.



MR. DAVIS

The Rivoli and Palace theatres, in Toledo, also described elsewhere in this issue, were built quite a few years ago and during the period when heavy ornamental plaster just *had* to be applied to every ceiling and wall surface. In other words, their interiors were examples of "Italian—English—French Renaissance," and meant to look just like every other theatre presenting "vaudeville-moving-picture entertainment."

We thoroughly understand the problems of the architects who designed these "palaces." In the majority of cases, they were following the wishes of owners who wanted more and grander ornamentation to impress the public, as well as their competitors. Architects, too, must live, so they did everything in their power to satisfy their clients and the public, who readily accepted and actually expected grandeur.

The Changing World

Well, times and conditions have a way of changing, and theatres, along with them, grow older and dated. The problem of preventing that out-moded appearance haunts every theatre owner in the world. An educated public likes to associate with success, likes to patronize theatres that look modern and are clean and comfortable. But—and here comes the catch—when redecoration of such a house becomes necessary, owners insist that their interiors must be made to look just like that brand-new modern theatre around the corner! That, without architectural changes, is an order for Aladdin! The budget usually makes no provision for an architect, much less any for construction work. All that has been appropriated is a modest sum for painting. And not the complete house, but just where the redecorations will create the most effect.

The main problem to be met and solved in a house of this type is this well-known heavy Renaissance plaster ornamentation previously mentioned. This, though good taste in its time, is the stamp of its age; for the mark of modernity is simplicity of architectural background and the use of large areas of reiterant and correlated colors. Therefore, since construction alterations were out of the question, it was up to the decorative scheme to achieve the effect of simple architectural backgrounds with the use of paint alone. This involved the obliteration of unwanted detail by the scientific use of mass areas of color. If not being applied over flat, modern surfaces, at least it was camouflaging them to the eye so that they *appeared* to be flat, simple and therefore modern. The entire problem here is, to state it in a few words, elimination and not addition.

The Rivoli Redecorated

This is the way we solved this same problem for the owners of the Rivoli Theatre in Toledo.

Lobby—A heavily ornamented ceiling received an overall painting in a tomato red—highlighting only a small portion of the moulding detail to give needed depth. Walls were painted in French grey to tone in with the color of dado marble. This treatment gave a conservative, tailored effect glowing with a welcoming atmosphere. A rubber mat was used on the floor in Pompeian red and bone white, designed in straight traffic lines. Doors and woodwork were enameled in a contrasting blue green to match new entrance doors.

Foyer—A quite low ceiling was painted bone white to give an illusion of height. Old wall panels of burnt orange damask were saved and a dado of grey green was painted in. New carpet echoed the ceiling, wall and dado colors. The old furniture was modernized by refinishing to show the natural beauty of wood grain and reupholstering in fabrics that recalled the general color scheme.

Men's Smoking Room—Ceiling painted parchment color, walls received a coach red to form a masculine, inviting and practical color scheme.

Ladies' Lounge—Ceiling bone white paint, walls papered in turquoise blue with bone white stripes. The original furniture was retained, reupholstered in coral and turquoise blue, which managed to make it look like new pieces. Carpeting recalls the coral tones in a conservative plume pattern.

Ladies' Powder Room—Ceiling painted coral, walls papered in vertical stripes of coral and bone white. Here again the original furniture was painted bone white and rubbed with coral. Fabrics for reupholstery are in turquoise patterns. Carpeting which is the same as that in the ladies' lounge gives an effect of unity and size. New lighting fixtures were used throughout these rooms and they were designed to give easy transition from traditional to modern.

The average patron visiting this redecorated theatre would have a difficult time recognizing it as the same house, which is the real test of a modernization job. A maximum effect of newness was achieved with a minimum expenditure, and the economical adaptation of furnishings already in use. All the public spaces, the ones coming under closest inspection by the patrons, are now completely fresh, and vibrant with color in the modern manner.

Consult an architect as the first step in planning a functional theatre. An experienced theatre architect is the man who can get the most out of any new building or remodeling appropriation.

The modern theatre is a smartly packaged unit put up by theatre men with which to intrigue the fancy of patrons who buy what is to be found within—entertainment.

*Associate of Hanns R. Teichert, Theatre Decorating Specialists, Chicago.

Advisory Service

Since modern theatre decorating is a specialized art requiring counsel, creative talent and planning ability which are not usually available at all points of the country, Mr. Teichert has agreed to serve our readers in an advisory capacity. He will be glad to correspond with any of our readers who may wish information and advice on decorating procedure. All such inquiries will be given prompt attention. Address your inquiry to The Modern Theatre, *332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. It will be immediately referred to Mr. Teichert for analysis and advice, without obligation.*

LITERATURE

The following concerns have recently filed copies of interesting descriptive literature with *The Modern Theatre Information Bureau*. Readers who may wish copies of such literature may obtain them promptly by addressing The Modern Theatre, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

American Desk Manufacturing Co., of Temple, Texas, submits a catalogue on "Public Seating," in which its line of theatre chairs is pictured in full color and specifications as to construction and design are given. Points to remember in purchasing seating are outlined and testimonials from the company's satisfied customers are included.

American Seating Company, of Grand Rapids, Mich., presents copies of its interesting little paper entitled "Theatre News," which is "published occasionally in the interest of better seating for theatres." The sheet is newsy, packed with interest and pictures, and informative in all particulars.

C. S. Ashcraft Manufacturing Co., of Long Island City, N. Y., offers its "Projectionist's Manual of Cyclex," covering installation, operation and maintenance. The 46-page handbook is profusely illustrated and very informative in every detail pertaining to this new light source and its accessories.

Eastman Kodak Company, of Rochester, N. Y., offers an attractive and profusely full-color illustrated 28-page booklet on its new product "Tenite," a thermoplastic molding material made from Eastman cellulose esters. This colorful new plastic material is highly adaptable to many uses in the theatre—as it has already found application in many other industries. Properties and uses of the product are outlined most graphically.

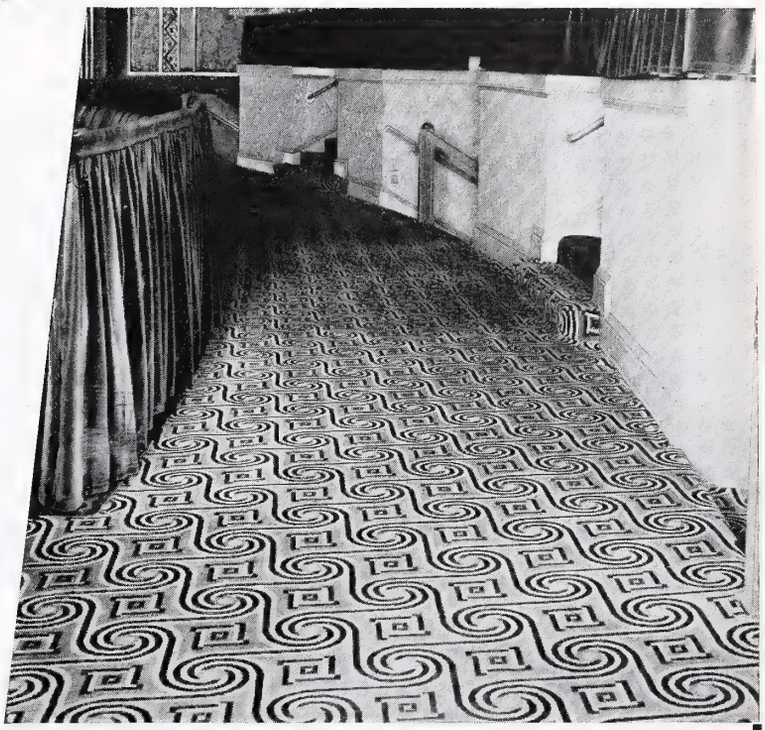
Ingram-Richardson Manufacturing Co., of Beaver Falls, Pa., files an elaborate booklet on their products entitled "The Book of Ing-Rich Porcelain Enameled Iron Signs." Descriptions of sign manufacture and the advantages of this type of advertising display are to be found, and a looseleaf section at the rear of the book gives illustrations of typical porcelain-enamel advertising signs.

Rosco Laboratories, of Brooklyn, N. Y., offers an informative pamphlet on "Time-Tested Rosco Products." Accessories for the theatre, film exchange, laboratory and studio are described and pictured, and instructions for their uses also are to be found. Prices are given in this folder also.

NOTICE: *Manufacturers of all products adapted to theatre modernization or maintenance are invited to file latest copies of their catalogues or descriptive literature with The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.*—THE EDITOR.

HOW MUCH

SHOULD THEATRE CARPET COST



The smart Paramount Theatre, Ashland, Kentucky —Distinctive to the eye—luxurious to the foot, this Cochrane Paxson carpet effectively helps to create a modern, quality atmosphere.

COCHRANE'S THEATRE CARPET ADVISORY BUREAU CAN GIVE YOU SOME PRACTICAL POINTERS

Cost is always an important question in selecting theatre carpets . . . and it is a question on which Cochrane's Theatre Carpet Advisory Bureau can offer practical suggestions.

The amount of daily traffic is of course an obvious consideration. In addition, there are such factors as whether the theatre is in a downtown or neighborhood location—how frequently it is redecorated—the relative importance of first cost compared to cost per year of service.

Cochrane's Theatre Carpet Advisory Bureau can also give you valuable assistance in selecting patterns and colors that are particularly suitable for the architecture and decorative treatment of your theatre.

You will find the Cochrane line of theatre carpets unusually complete . . . correctly styled—precision woven and noteworthy for the clearness of their colors. It is a wise move to consult Cochrane first . . . and it places you under no obligation.

Charles P. Cochrane Company, Manufacturers of High Grade Carpets and Rugs, Bridgeport, Penna.

Clear Color
COCHRANE
Carpets & Rugs

The Portage . . . a Progressive Modernizing Project

(Continued from page 37)

tive design. It is massive in proportions yet not too heavy in feeling. The flame-crotch mahogany was again used in its construction and the upholstery is in coral mohair to harmonize with the carpet used throughout the lobby and foyer.

FUNCTIONAL CHANGES

In addition to these two important parts of the house, the Portage Theatre's first stage of progressive remodeling also included modernization of the rest rooms. Especial attention was paid to sanitation and convenience for the patrons in this connection. The walls and floors are completely tiled now and partitions are of enameled steel. Built-in electric hand-driers styled to harmonize with the wall tile also were installed as a patron convenience and to replace the former messiness of towel service.

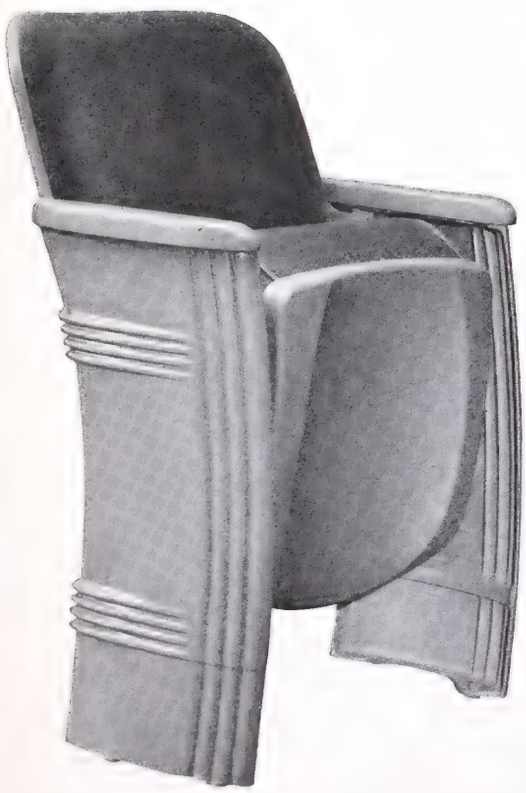
The Portage Theatre's heating system also received attention in this initial stage, since decoration so often is influenced by the position of radiators, grilles or outlets. All floor-type radiators were removed in this instance and they were replaced by flush-type heaters concealed in the walls. In the lobby alone, room to accommodate at least 25 additional persons was obtained by the removal of old-type radiators—and the circulation of conditioned air was immeasurably improved as well.

Now with this first stage of modernization of the Portage Theatre behind them, the owners are looking forward to completion of the work within a short time. The second stage will include the auditorium and other parts of the house, which were not touched at this time but which nevertheless were very much a part of the original design plan. By doing the work in two steps, it may be paid for out of income and still have the advantage of unified design throughout the entire project when completed. That is exactly what Progressive Remodeling entails and avails.

GUESS AGAIN



— or TAKE YOUR LOSS!



If you believe that your patron's comfort can be ignored, guess again!

Betting on inferior seating is worse than bucking the bookies. You haven't a chance!

You've probably noticed how Ideal is way out in front in the number of new, important installations.

Careful engineering, superior construction, modern design and utmost comfort are a few of the many reasons.

Write for literature. Shown is the Aristocrat. There's an Ideal Chair to fit every budget.

Ideal
SEATING COMPANY
Grand Rapids, Michigan

— EXPORT OFFICE —
330 W. 42nd St., New York City
Attention: J. E. Robin

Floor Coverings Demand Careful Maintenance

Representing a substantial investment, floor coverings in theatres deserve and should receive the care necessary to keep them in good condition, preserve their beauty and prolong their life.

There is just one formula which covers care—cleanliness. Dirt is their worst enemy. Kept clean and free from dirt, grit, dust, any rug or carpet will give longer wear; more lasting satisfaction.

Frequent cleaning prevents the dirt from accumulating in the surfaces of pile fabrics. Unless it is removed, fine particles of grit become buried at the base of the pile. Sharp edges of this grit, grinding against the pile as the rug or carpet is walked upon, tend to sever the wool fibres.

In a special bulletin on the Care and Maintenance of Wool Pile Floor Coverings, the Institute of Carpet Manufacturers of America has set forth the results of research by the engineers in charge of the technical staffs of the various carpet mills. Cleanliness through proper cleaning, this bulletin sets forth, is the most important factor in care.

Vallen Has a Curtain Track and Control for Any Size or Type of Stage . . . . . .

These world famous curtain tracks and controls are built with precision for smooth, noiseless operation and safety; durable and strong; accurate in detail; easily installed; foolproof and trouble-proof.

Write for literature and prices.

THE SEAL OF LEADERSHIP
Vallen
WORLD'S LEADING MAKER OF CURTAIN CONTROLS AND TRACKS
SPECIAL OPERATING DEVICES

VALLEN, INC., Akron, Ohio

ATMOSPHERIC EFFECTS THAT COLORS PRODUCE

As each color has its specific wave length, it possesses also a character or quality of its own. These qualities of luminosity, vibrance, warmth or coolness, play their roles in producing harmony, just as actors play their parts in the drama. The peculiar quality of a color may be toned down, but it cannot be wholly effaced. So a brief analysis of the characteristics of the primary and secondary colors is essential to an understanding of the effect produced by each.

Red: Most intense and warmest of all the colors, red plays a leading role in the decorative drama. It is too strong, as are all the primary colors, to use alone, but this very strength imparts life and vigor to any decorative scheme. By reason of this vigor and warmth, it is one of the indispensable carpet colors, either in hues or the plain color, or as a dominant color in figured rug or carpet. It is widely employed to give vigor and character to draperies and upholstery fabrics. As an accent color it is invaluable.

Yellow: Yellow is the color of good cheer and vivid life. Being the best reflector of light, it is a favored wall color, particularly in rooms which lack sunlight. In upholstery and drapery fabrics and in important accents, it is particularly effective in combination with darker colors. In carpets it is from mixtures of yellow with reds that the important browns and woodtones are derived.

Blue: Blue, coolest, most restful of all the colors, tends to make rooms appear larger. It is effectively used in floor coverings, both in the darker shades and in the lighter tints. In the former it supplies a restful, quiet foundation for the decorative scheme. It is effective when combined with orange, its complimentary color, and with the hues which lie toward the red, that is, the reddish violets.

Green: Nature's own color is green in its infinite variety. It is a restful color and between the yellow greens, with their warm vibrancy, and the rich coolness of the blue greens lie gradations of hue which add immeasurably to the color palette of the decorator. On walls it is a favored color, especially in the yellow-green tones which have the vibrancy of the yellows. On floors, as on the grassy slope or wooded hillside, the medium and dark greens furnish a splendid foundation for many color combinations, permitting a free use of color elsewhere in the room.

Violet: Pure violet is sparsely used in decoration. But the violet tones of raisin, mulberry, eggplant, to mention only a few, are extensively employed and lend real dignity to the room. These tones are important in the rug and carpet palette, and also in furniture upholstery and drapery fabrics. The lavendar or orchid shades of violet, favored by women, are widely employed in ladies' lounges and rest rooms.

Orange: Orange, placed between red and yellow, derives from the former its strength and vigor; from the latter its luminosity. The orange shades are popular but their use is limited because of their strength. Orange is particularly effective when used with the complimentary blues. It is the color used to give warmth to the browns and rusts which are so extensively used in carpets and rugs.

Disinfectants Look Alike But Differ in Effect

The primary purpose of a disinfectant is to kill certain germs and its ability to do this efficiently is one of the most essential tests of its value. Disinfectants, as a whole, look and smell alike, before and after dilution, but they differ materially in effectiveness.

Certain cleansers such as soap and water have little disinfecting quality and many disinfectants have no cleaning power. It is often important to choose a product that combines both qualities. Not only will labor costs be reduced, since two jobs are being done at one time, but it will tend to effect economies of materials, as one product is doing the work of two.



Pattern No. Scotia 30807

MOHAWKS - WATCHDOGS OF THE TREASURY!

No pampered pets, Mohawks have heavy work to do. They do it so well, so long, that treasurers O. K. Mohawks in press-book words! Mohawks, woven especially for theater traffic, have dogged resistance under the pound and scuffle of feet. They shrug off rain, slush, snow, mud, oil. Vacuums don't "fuss" Mohawks . . shampooings only bring them back colorful, beautiful, strong. . . . In backstage language, Mohawks are troupers all-ways!



Write for the facts on Mohawk's Rialto, Scotia and the Broadway Group. There's a wide variety in colors, designs, textures, prices. Mohawk Carpet Mills, Inc., Amsterdam, New York.

TRADEWINDS

A MONTHLY WEATHERVANE ON CURRENT EVENTS IN THIS AND OTHER INDUSTRIES AFFECTING THE INTERESTS OF THEATRE OPERATION.

Material Shortages Make a Seller's Market

Present indications are that you theatre men are going to pay much higher prices for your property improvements from now on.

If we read the omens correctly there's going to be an acute shortage of certain commodities that enter into both the construction and routine operation of theatres.

Already the rumblings of material shortage are echoing across country and exhibitors who put off in purchasing their present and anticipated requirements may have to pay some stiff penalties for their procrastinations.

Material shortages, induced by import curtailment and urgent defense demands on many of our factories who make products needed in the construction and operation of moving picture theatres, are already apparent in certain classifications.

Such conditions forecast the very early arrival of a seller's market, in which the man who wants to buy must take his turn, pay the asking price, put up with delivery delays and other contingencies that crop out in boom times when everybody goes shopping for the same things at the same time.

Wise showmen are making their equipment commitments now; taking advantage of present prices and the current possibilities of getting things done before the big rush comes.

There's no percentage in gambling against a **sure thing.** And the surest thing you can bet on is that prices won't be lower than they are right now—on anything you need now or are likely to need later on.

But aside from the higher-cost-later-on angle there's something to think about concerning delivery time and the probability of not being able to get delivery at all.

You can bet on higher prices and the odds are with the buyer who buys now—THE EDITOR.

FLASH

A new "special flashed glass" is announced by Wagner Sign Service, Inc., as an improvement for attraction board purposes. Because of the war, there has been a marked shortage of flashed glass in this country, inasmuch as all of the best flashed glass came from Europe—most of it from Germany—and it is impossible today to buy imported glass.

Therefore, Wagner has developed, for their own use exclusively, a new type of flashed glass—translucent opal glass flashed onto a clear crystal glass. All other flashed glasses have been opaque glass flashed onto crystal and this opaque glass has been about 10/1000ths of an inch thick. With a translucent glass, it is possible to flash about 40/1000th of an inch thick.

It is claimed that the new glass will revolutionize the marquee flashed glass industry since it is by almost 40 per cent the best flashed glass obtainable in this country and it is said to be 60 per cent more efficient than the best opal glass that can be obtained here. With the new glass, its owner may have the choice of either reducing the wattage consumed or having a sign which is comparatively brighter.

The Wagner policy in selling the new glass will be that it will be delivered only with new letters or to present users of the company's letters. Only a limited quantity is available at the present time and this at a very nominal price compared to other flashed glasses, according to the announcement.

When today's theatre patrons purchase a ticket at the boxoffice they expect in addition to entertainment: Comfort, convenience, relaxation and transportation to another world. Do they get these extra "features" in your house?

A New Dress for 1941

And a Happy New Year to you, too! In keeping with the spirit of modernism, which we espouse so enthusiastically in your interest, **The Modern Theatre section of BOXOFFICE** again steps out in a new style ensemble for the New Year. A new high-finish paper was selected as the material for this garment, which was then styled in the modern format. Richness of color was incorporated in the newly designed cover by the use of a recently developed glossy ink—and we will run the gamut of the rainbow in presenting a different color for each cover throughout the year. The most modern type-face was chosen for use on the cover and for headings throughout the book—for better appearance and greater readability. Banner-styled department heads will catch the eye—and for a last fillip of modern styling, we point with pride to the ensemble as a whole . . . Our idea of a well-dressed modern magazine. We hope you like it!—The Publisher.

Sanitary Hand-Drying Service at a Saving

The most vexing washroom problems are solved automatically by the installation of electric hand-driers—that most modern drying service. Theatre washrooms stay continuously cleaner, floors are clear of littered towels, and no unsightly towel-cabinets nor used-towel receptacles are necessary. Furthermore, washroom service requirements are much less and maintenance costs are greatly reduced.

The drying service of a modern electric hand-drier is constantly dependable, with no daily interruptions such as occur when towel-cabinets are empty. And the unit, which may be either semi-recessed in the wall or on its own standard, is attractively styled and suitable to the most finely fitted theatre washroom.

With this modern device, there is nothing to carry contamination from one user to another. The soothing current of warmed, sanitized air dries the hands quickly and thoroughly, aids to prevent chapping and rough skin, and promotes skin health for the patrons of a theatre so equipped.

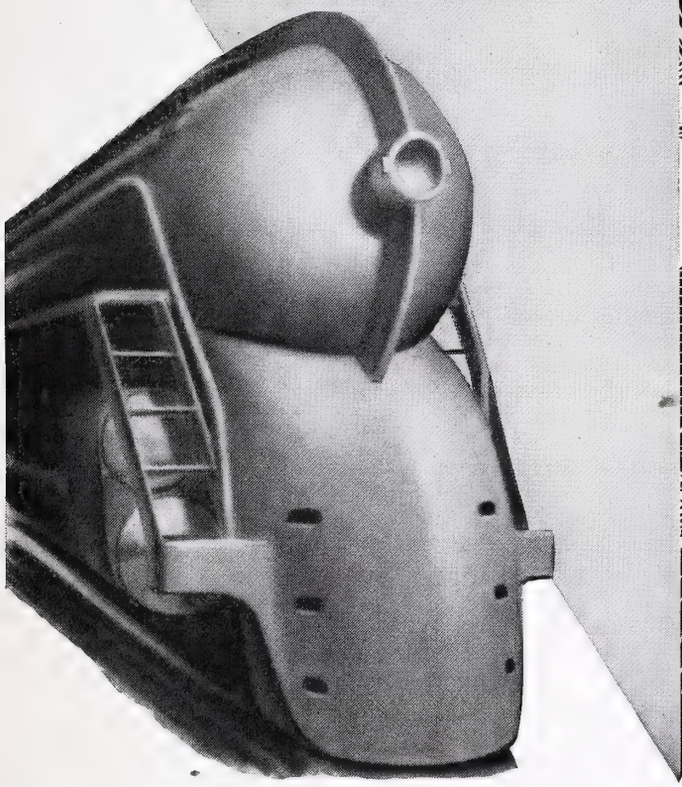
Individual Design in Theatre Floor Covering

Freedom of design is one of the big advantages of linoleum flooring for theatre lobbies and other parts of the house. If one cannot find the exact color and design in the many standard patterns, a floor can be created exclusively for the purpose. Many attractive floors owe their originality mainly to cut-out designs placed in the surface, individually designed by the architect, decorator or owner.

And since the floor is usually the largest unbroken area in a room, making it attractive is a long step toward making the rest of the room interesting. In fact, modern interior decorators usually begin their work by planning the floor, using it to set the color scheme and decorative treatment for the whole room.

The theatre architect and the theatre decorator are the two most responsible for the modern functional theatre as we now know it. They put their heads together and brought forth a new idea of the design for entertainment.

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BUT IS THIS WHAT YOU GIVE YOUR PATRONS?

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But don't take our word for it! Ask the movie makers in Hollywood how important sound is to the box-office value of any picture. Ask your patrons, too. You'll find it's *plenty* important! That's why we say: You'll boost your business when you match Hollywood's modern sound with equipment that will properly reproduce it in your theatre.

And that equipment is the RCA Photophone Magic Voice of the Screen. Styled and priced for any and all size theatres, it's the box-office tonic you've been looking for!

•

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Better sound means better box-office — RCA Tubes mean better sound

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The music you want when you want it

THEATRE EQUIPMENT

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PLANNING

INTERESTING CASE HISTORIES ON CURRENT MODERN THEATRE PROJECTS

A Case of "Mental Planning" and a Practical Dream Come True

WHEN theatre people plan "dream theatres" for years and then toil hard to make those dreams materialize, it is gratifying to the entire industry. Also, it is equally gratifying to their patrons, who often play a great part in those plans, experiencing the trials and tribulations through which they are accomplished.

Such is the case with a new house in Ohio, recently completed and unveiled as a monument to satisfied patronage. In the creation of this new theatre is a story of hardships and sacrifices on the part of both owners and patrons—and the inevitable happy ending is all too evident in its final accomplishment.

The new Russell Theatre in Millersburg, Ohio, is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Hoy L. Russell. The neat little partnership consists of Mrs. Russell, who is active in the management, buying and booking and Mr. Russell, a practicing attorney, who does the bookkeeping and exploitation.

The Russells have operated a motion picture theatre in Millersburg since early in 1925, when Mr. Russell took over a lease on the theatre portion of the city hall building owned by the municipality. This property was (and still is) a typical "Opry House" of a bygone era, much too wide and not nearly long enough for motion picture presentation. It has a large stage, inadequate heating and ventilating facilities, wood floor and a wood balcony.

"Wooden floors and the wooden stairs leading to the balcony made a perfect fire trap. Whenever we had a decent sized crowd in the house I couldn't enjoy it for worrying over those stairs and floors," Mr. Russell says today.

With the advent of sound pictures the Opera House, in keeping with all other theatres devoted to the exhibition of pictures, presented acoustical problems some of which were never solved. By dint of much work, worry and expense, the Russells managed eventually to present "fair" sound.

New Theatre Less Costly

"The worst trouble with the place," Mr. Russell says, "was that it just didn't have the possibilities for development into an attractive picture theatre, no matter how much one might spend on it, and the building had been permitted to deteriorate until had an attempt to remodel it been made, it would simply have had to be completely razed and replaced with a new building. Neither the city nor the exhibitor had money for a project of that kind and so when we announced our intention to build a new, modern theatre in Millersburg, the idea met with general approval from the citizens and city officials."

The former theatre is now used for assembly purposes and public meetings, and the city fathers plan to maintain it for such use by the public, but it will not be available for theatrical purposes.

For several years Mr. Russell operated the theatre while Mrs. Russell gave her attention to their two children, but when they reached an age where this attention was less necessary she took over management of the theatre while her husband returned to his original vocation, newswriter and editor. Meanwhile he had taken up the study of law.

The new theatre is built upon a site purchased several years ago by the Russells in anticipation of eventually building their own theatre.

"We have frequently been asked how it is possible to provide such a fine modern theatre in a town no larger than Millersburg" (pop. 2,200), Mr. Russell said, "and the answer is, by careful planning and painstaking attention to all the details.

Pride of the Patrons

"We have been complimented highly upon the beauty and convenience of our building, but the most sincere compliments have been the reactions of our Millersburg citizens, who never fail to bring their out-of-town guests around to see the new theatre. The pride of our patrons is our highest compliment.

"Perhaps the real reason back of the new theatre is that it is the materialization of a dream. Mrs. Russell and I commenced building 'mental theatres' from the first day of our experience as exhibitors. In these theatres we incorporated all of the desirable features we found in theatres we visited and that our experience indicated to be conducive to comfort, beauty or utility. When we actually began building we knew very definitely what we wanted down to the most minute detail. All the architect needed to do was to make our desires intelligent on paper, functionally practical and architecturally sound."

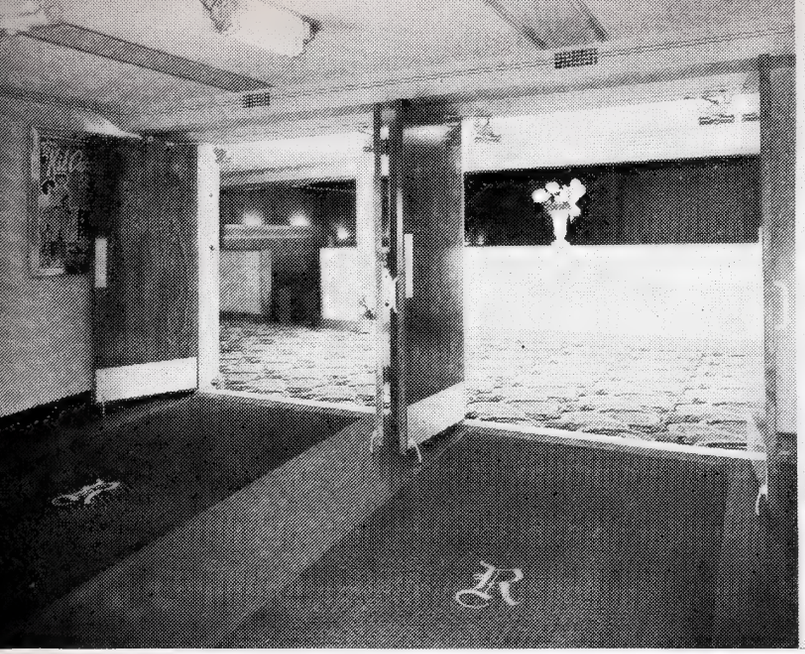


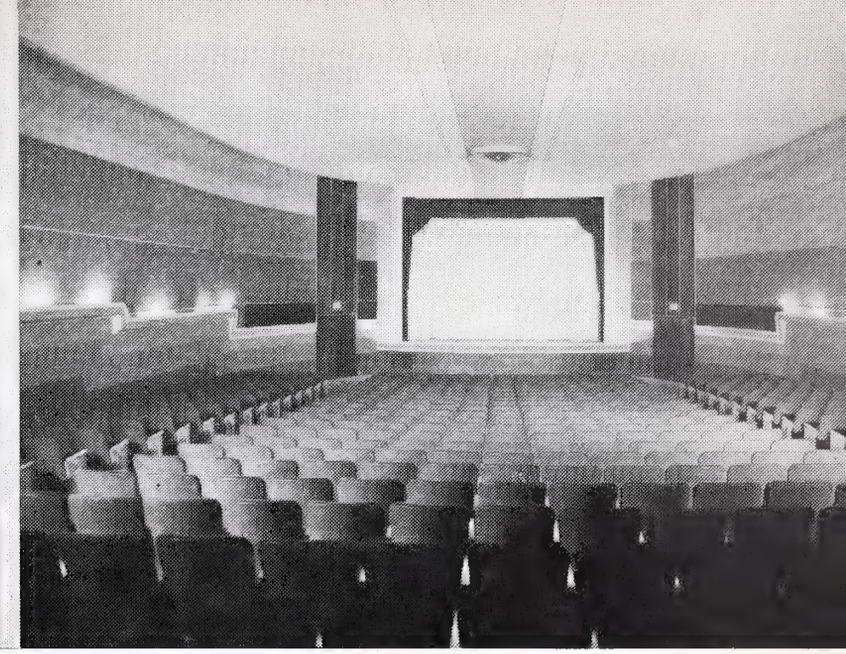
The new Russell Theatre is the "dream house" which materialized after many years of planning by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. Hoy L. Russell of Millersburg, Ohio. It is a small-town house which has all the niceties of metropolitan development and its dignified exterior gives evidence of the friendly patron-appeal to be found within its portals.

Simplicity and Dignity

Faced with the problem of creating a modern yet conservative design, the architect and builders of the new Russell Theatre have presented an excellent example of what can be done in the way of beautiful theatre construction while retaining simplicity and dignity in both architectural design and decorative motif.

In the Russell Theatre, modern streamlining in both construction and decora-





At left—A view of the standee area and foyer of the Russell Theatre, where spaciousness and a generally airy atmosphere prevail. The wide expanse of modern carpet and indirect lighting application are noteworthy. On the right, a view of the attractively decorated auditorium of the new house which seats 500 patrons, comfortably. An interesting effect is gained here by the reflection of multi-colored house lights from the plush covered walls in streamlined motive for fine acoustic considerations. Draftless air diffusion from ceiling outlets is another highly functional provision.

tion replaces the "gingerbread" of former times, yet the severity of too much of the so-called modernistic construction is avoided. A total absence of the garishness so often viewed in passing as "flash" is one of the features of its construction.

The Russell Theatre was opened in October of 1940. It is built of brick, concrete and steel construction, with built-up roof. The auditorium walls are backed with cinder block, which is furred and covered with streamlined plush for correct acoustics.

Seating 500, the theatre is 125 feet long by 47 feet wide, inside measurements. The seats are in three banks and spaced 34 inches from back to back. Six aisle lights are staggered on either side of the 4-foot aisles, while the auditorium lighting is reflected from the plush covered walls from four circuits of multi-colored lights concealed in a streamlined molding at the top of the cement wainscoting.

Front and outside walls of the building are of buff-colored brick, and the only decoration is to be noted in rows of the same brick set vertically above and below the windows. The front of the building is further ornamented by four brick pilasters above the marquee. The marquee itself is finished in ivory, orange and green. All doors are the solid slab type, walnut finished. Satin-chrome hardware is used throughout.

The boxoffice, located in the center of the lobby entrance and flanked by double doors, extends to the front line of the building and is entirely of plate glass above the counter level. The base is of glass blocks.

PATRONS' CONVENIENCE

The manager's office is to the left of the lobby, while to the right is a lobby shop and check room where an attendant sells confections and checks parcels for shoppers. The lobby itself measures 17 feet in depth and 16 feet in width. Its floor is of concrete dyed a deep maroon and recessed for dirt-catching rubber mats extending from the entrance doors to doors entering the foyer.

A commodious ladies' lounge is provided just back of the check room and available from the foyer. The men's lounge is behind the manager's office and it is also

(Continued on page 59)

IDENTIFICATION

(Russell Theatre)

AIR DIFFUSERS: Anemostat Corp. of America.
ARCHITECT: Col. Robert S. Harsh.
CARPET: Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Co.
COOLING COILS: Trane Company.
DECORATING: Queen City Scenic Studios.
EQUIPMENT CONTRACTOR: National Theatre Supply Co., of Cleveland.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: C. J. Vogel Sons Construction Co.
PROJECTION & SOUND: International Projector Corp.
SEATING: Irwin Seating Co.
STAGE CURTAINS: Queen City Scenic Studios.

Additional particulars on the project may be secured upon request to The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.

THEATRE PLANNING GUIDE

Through the cooperation of our affiliated architects, leading manufacturers, their engineers, designers, dealers, contractors and others, a majority of whom are active members of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute, we are prepared to assist the theatre-owner in selection and application of all commodities and services needed in remodeling and modernizing by placing him in touch with dependable sources of supply. As sponsor of the Institute, we strive to impartially relay each inquiry only to sources of reliable information. However, we do not guarantee all statements or claims made in connection with products offered.

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The MODERN THEATRE Planning Institute, 1-4-41
Room 334—332 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

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☐ Acoustics	☐ Decorating	☐ Screens
☐ Air Conditioning	☐ Heating Equipment	☐ Seating
☐ Amplifiers	☐ Lighting Fixtures	☐ Signs and Marquees
☐ Architectural Service	☐ Lounge Furniture	☐ Sound Equipment
☐ Carpets	☐ Plumbing Fixtures	☐ Theatre Fronts
☐ Cleaning Equipment	☐ Projectors	☐ Ticket Machines
☐ Complete Remodeling	☐ Projection Lamps	☐ Other Subjects

.....

Theatre ..... Seating Capacity .....

Address .....

City ..... State .....

Signed .....
(Owner-Manager)

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MEMBER

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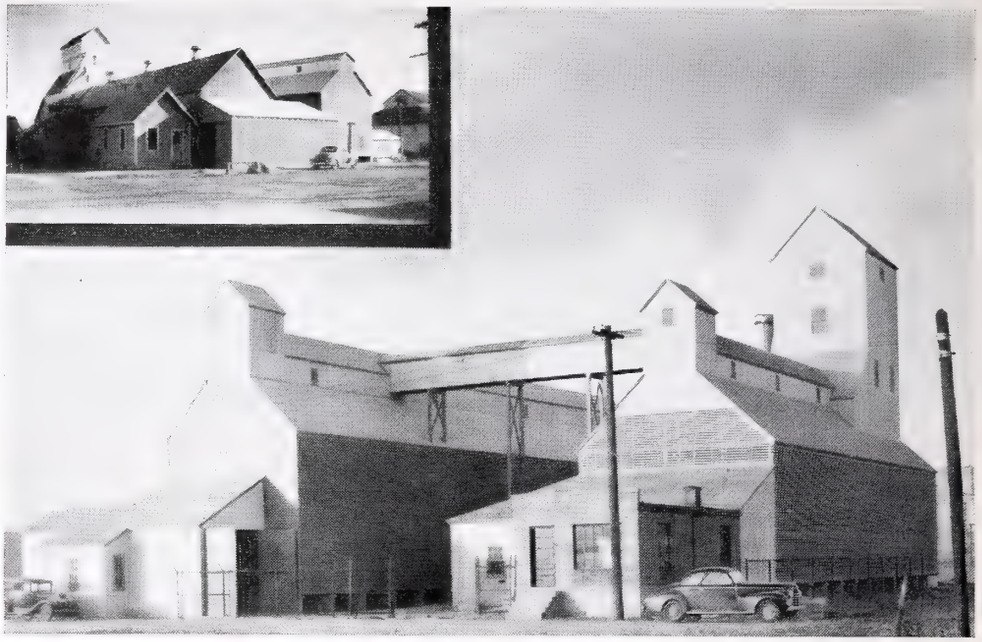
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PURPOSE TO ASSURE BETTER POPCORN SUPPLY



Popcorn elevator and processing plant of the Burch Mfg. Co., recently completed at North Kansas City, Mo., capacity three million pounds. Inset—Similar plant located at Lake View, Ia., with a capacity of seven million pounds.

For eighteen years Burch popcorn machines have been used in theatres throughout the country as providers of additional entertainment to the public in the American way (eating popcorn) and as a source of revenue. Now the management has decided to change the company name to Manley, Inc., and with the change of name new models are being advertised. The supply end of the business—popcorn, seasoning, cartons, bags, etc., will continue to be handled under the name of Burch Manufacturing Company, which has been re-incorporated to take care of this end of the business.

Charles T. Manley, president of the company, states that eleven years ago the company entered the supply end of the business to overcome the difficulty in obtaining quality popcorn and to act as a stablizing influence in the business. He points out that during a period of seven or eight years before that time, popcorn would go to 15 cents and as high as 20 cents per pound every third year.

The company has a popcorn elevator and a processing plant at Lake View, Iowa, with a capacity of seven million pounds, and a recently completed plant in North Kansas City, Missouri, with a capacity of three million pounds. Plans are now under way for the construction of a refinery with the idea of producing a better quality popping oil.

Mr. Manley explains that it was all brought about by his dissatisfaction with the quality of popcorn generally sold. Recently improvement in the standards of popcorn raised and sold has been noted and a special seasoning of vegetable oil also has been developed to replace the former types. A special popcorn salt was the next step. Standardizing quality in popcorn became such a problem it became necessary to build elevators and cribs for the purpose. In addition to the ten million pounds of popcorn processed in these plants for Burch machine owners, dealers and growers in Virginia, Indiana and Iowa are still depended upon for a large part of that company's requirements.

Popcorn, Mr. Manley explains, is a tricky grain. Today it may be the finest popcorn in the world, but in a week or a month, according to climatic conditions, it may have lost 15 to 20 per cent of its popping volume. Hot weather also incubates insect eggs, principally weevil and moths. This problem was solved by putting up popcorn in hermetically sealed 10-pound cans. An additional use for the cans was made by supplying the customers with plug lids that made it possible to fill the cans with popcorn for resale.

Only the most deliciously seasoned and flaky, crisp popcorn without hard centers, half-pops, or mushrooms, is fit to serve theatre patrons. Any owner serving anything less is not only injuring himself, but the entire business, because only the finest popcorn will build up repeat business to the proportion that it should be. One of the outstanding wonders of merchandising is that popcorn has been able to stand up under the abuse that has been given it through poor equipment, faulty, careless operation, and poor quality supplies, any one of which results in a product unfit to sell to the public.

The new Manley machines were designed by one of America's foremost designers. New lines, new beauty, and new showmanship are the basis of the patented designs. There are said to be many new features, the most outstanding being that it is almost impossible for a careless operator to serve poor popcorn.

Mr. Manley stated his belief that the theatres of the country generally, as well

as popcorn operators and owners everywhere, have not begun to touch the possibilities of profitable operation of popcorn machines. This will come only when the owners look upon the popcorn they serve the public with as critical an eye as they look upon the type of pictures they buy, and when they realize that only the finest, most delicious popcorn possible is fit to sell, giving the public their money's worth in quality and quantity.

To this end his company's new machines will be put out, not as just popcorn machines, but as merchandising propositions with a complete merchandising setup. The entire field organization of the company is being trained as merchandising experts with the idea that they can serve the owners of these machines to a far greater extent from a dollars and cents standpoint in extra profits over a relatively short period of time than the actual cost of the equipment.

"Every theatre lobby in the land" says Mr. Manley, "is a potential gold mine, with possibilities as a merchandising outlet that have barely been touched. A few years ago the United States treasury department estimated a gross of $12,500,000 from the sale of popcorn and candy in 15,000 theatres. Such merchandising could and should be conducted with the glamour and showmanship in keeping with its surroundings, but this element is not enough. The products sold should be of extra fine quality, in extra fine packages, merchandised by operators who appreciate the value of goodwill and salesmanship."

Styles of Decoration Follow Architecture

Styles of decoration develop naturally out of styles in architecture. Each important era in human history has produced an architecture which expressed its aspirations, its needs, its mode of living. Growing out of this architecture have come the styles of interior decoration.

Such styles change slowly—so slowly, in fact, that always there have been long periods during which the old mingled with the new. The best of the old always has been retained either intact or as a powerful influence exerted upon the designers and architects of the new. Good design, fine proportion, appropriate methods of decoration or ornament—these are continuing and lasting influences of profound significance.

This process of development is continuous. Architecture develops new forms, or interesting adaptations of old forms, suitable to immediate needs. A decorative period expresses definitely a mode of living. Obviously in the selection of suitable theatre furnishings, it is important to determine what that form or mode is to be—what period it is to typify.

Functional Planning of a theatre property usually implies that everything which goes into the project has some part to play in making it appealing to patronage —either as a service or as an aid to the creation of the mood for entertainment.

Further Price Reduction On Fluorescent Lamps

Another substantial reduction affecting the list prices of fluorescent Mazda lamps in the G-E line of Mazda "F" lamps, effective January 1, was announced last week at Nela Park by General Electric's lamp department.

Popular fluorescent lamps for example, in daylight or white, are reduced in price as follows: 15-watt T-8 from 95 cents to 85 cents; 20-watt T-12 from $1.25 to $1.10; 30-watt T-8 from $1.25 to $1.10; 40-watt T-12 from $1.90 to $1.60; and the recently introduced 100-watt T-7, from $3.75 to $3.50.

This price reduction is attributed to a combination of factors, namely, to the continuous development of new manufacturing economies; to the amazingly swift acceptance of this new, cooler, high-efficiency light source, and to the widespread use of Mazda F lamps in theatres, stores, offices and factories.

Also reduced in price are the colored fluorescent lamps rated at 15, 20 and 30 watts. These lamps, available respectively in 18-, 24- and 36-inch lengths, come in the following colors: Blue, green, pink, gold and red.

The reduction, officials at Nela Park said, is in accordance with the lamp department's traditional policy of sharing manufacturing economies with consumers.

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Flashing alternately a brilliantly illuminated colored letter and silhouette.

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AIR CONDITIONING

DEVOTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN THEATRES

Why Not a Spirit of More Fraternity Amongst Our Frantic Idea Men?

by GORDON H. SIMMONS*



GUESS I'm an "Idea Man." I have ideas just as a dog has fleas, and they bother me in just about the same way. I had an idea recently that I needed another draftsman to help get out plans requisitioned by you theatre men, so I hired one and while he was waiting for some theatre owner to order a set of air conditioning plans, he surreptitiously drew a picture of me.

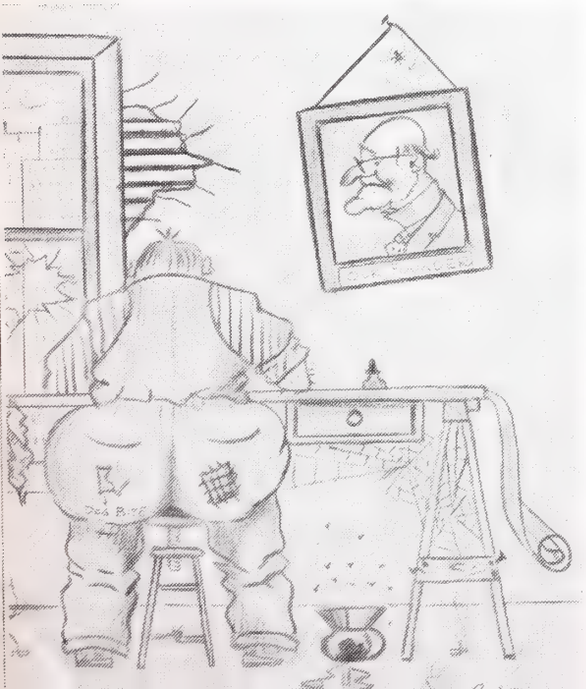
I swore when I saw it, and almost decided to fire the guy; but then I figured that wasn't such a good idea because the onery cuss sure showed drafting ability. His artwork is exhibited below. What do you think?

Frankly, I'm afraid that unless this fellow can be kept busy doing legitimate drawings, he may, during his spare time, try to immortalize me in a comic strip as "Simmons, the Idea Man." He hung that title on me and I don't like it. Nor do I like his slightly exaggerated picture of the shape I'm in. Rear views of me are most uncomplimentary.

I think the man is wasting his talent in this new job, and perhaps I should use him by organizing an "art department." Or, anyhow, have him draw for me pictures of the folks I don't like.

Oh boy, how I could lampoon this air conditioning business. With his help, of course. Sometimes I get so mad at it, I swear I'll quit and try something else. Do you know what this fellow said to me at our first meeting after he asked me what kind of engineering work I do? I told him I air condition theatres, and he said, "So you are one of those guys that make the insides of theatres so uncomfortable!"

Idea Man at Work . . . . . by Roberts



Ideas versus Things

Well, maybe this wouldn't be so if there were more idea men around to make things behave properly. A "thing" is no good except as the embodiment of an "idea." Yet everybody buys "things" with no "idea" of what they are or their purpose.

The "idea" of air conditioning has to be religiously followed out and incorporated into every thing that's part of an air conditioning system. Otherwise the idea is lost somewhere between the blower and the front door and the dear people sweat it out or complain of drafts.

Here's a letter I just received which illustrates a point:

"Dear Mr. Simmons: What kind or how much of a fee would you want to come and look over my layout? We don't seem to have sufficient circulation (hot air system), the balcony being twice as hot as the main floor and also drafty, cold floors, etc. We want you to work out a scheme whereby we can incorporate cooling in the system. You'll have to see the present system to know how bad it is. Can you come right away?—Yours very truly, K. A. J."

Now he wants me to come right away, just after I have hired a draftsman to help me do such jobs from here. Let nobody think that I have to drive 800 miles to see how bad a job is before I can fix it. An architect sees nothing but an empty lot or a plat of it before he designs a brand new building. An engineer needs only a set of plans showing "what is" to know, without making a trip, how bad the job is. He also can design a *proper job* without setting his foot inside the house. In fact, 90 per cent of all air conditioning jobs are done that way. All I ever need is architect's plans or crude drawings showing plenty of dimensions.

So I told him, since this is my "idea" of how to save him money. But evidently unless I work according to your ideas, I don't make any dough. And if I do, your dough is wasted. Because if your ideas were proper, you wouldn't be in trouble in the first place. I mean, of course, those of you who are.

In the November 9th issue I mentioned in a letter published, I could buy 4-inch rockwool in batts at $52.00 per 1,000 square feet. An old friend of mine down Texas way promptly wrote in asking me to purchase some for him at this price. Now I can buy rockwool at this price f. o. b. Milwaukee but freight has to be added depending upon the distance from here. The factory happens to be located in a suburb of Milwaukee.

Idea Swap Shop

I don't mind getting prices for theatre owners on this and that when needed. It's an idea of mine that giving service might occasionally cause me to receive other things than ideas in exchange. But I'd rather have a good usable idea than cash, because maybe I can convert it into cash. So from now on, instead of giving away ideas I propose to "swap you one for one."

As the result of my suggestion that now is the time to clean out the soot from your boilers or furnaces, how many of you have done it? Raise your hands. But please don't wire me to come down and do it for you, because I've only got an "idea" that doing it will help you. I live in an apartment house, so I don't have to be bothered with cleaning out furnaces.

As the result of my suggestion that now is the time to renovate or air condition or do whatever you have in mind to do, how many of you are heeding me? Don't bother to raise your hands. Just wire me and *I'll come to see you.*

Really and truly, fellows, prices cannot go lower before they go higher. Now is the time to go into debt if you have to do so. See the good old steely-eyed banker man and arrange up to three years terms of payment on the basis of a dollar down and a dollar when they catch you. I've bought some things on this basis and that's why I keep a Zephyr.

And by the way, that Zephyr as usual will tour the South this winter. One chap in Florida and another in California wrote me and asked me to draw their air conditioning plans and I mailed them preliminary sketches as is my usual practice. In this way I get needed information and constructive criticism of what's proposed. But I don't know just yet which state will be the terminus of my trip until I hear from them. So many of you start out with me full of enthusiasm but fall by the wayside when some local salesman or contractor makes a call.

Unbiased Opinions Best

They have "ideas," too. But the best idea is to have an unbiased engineer specify what you need instead of letting any-

* Air Conditioning Engineer, Milwaukee, Wis.

body specify for you what *he had to sell.* That's your weakness, and possibly mere words of mine won't change it.

But I am sticking to that old idea of mine in regard to my trip. I'll charge a lunch, a tank of gas and a drink if I call. And I can only call by request because otherwise you might think I was merely calling on you for a hand-out.

Frankly, these expeditions are undertaken as "all-expense" fishing trips. I am gone for a couple of months, have a swell time and it costs me very little dough because of your good fellowship. But when I announce these trips, my mail dries up. This shouldn't be. No matter where I happen to be, my mail is forwarded rapidly, and I call home every night to get a report on the incoming mail. So I do know the contents of letters written me even before they are forwarded.

Here's a letter I just received from a projectionist in Kansas: "Perhaps I did not make myself clear concerning the two-ton compressor (for cooling a theatre). I meant to run it in connection with an indirect cooling coil and allow the compressor to run long enough to build up an ice reserve big enough to take care of the peak load."

By golly, he's got an "idea" all right. And his sketches were good, too. There's nothing wrong with his theory either. Theoretically a two-ton compressor might do just what he expects. But "theory" and "practice" are two different animals and in this case there is a wide divergence.

I recommend to you, sir, that you use at least a 5 h. p. compressor. I'm taking this means of answering your letter since I need your postage stamp for another letter. Just had an "idea" how I can save three cents.

On the subject of ideas, I can stick to my subject as you see. I have an idea that theatre business is going to start to begin to improve in a big way. I hope so at any rate. It's been a long dry spell, hasn't it?

Epidemic Worries Lessened

Do any of you remember the influenza epidemic that scourged Europe and this country during the last war? In some parts of the country trenches were dug to bury the dead. Now I do not wish to be an alarmist, but it can happen again. I see by the papers that some smart medics have already predicted it. Theatres will be closed, of course. But a properly conditioned theatre supplying 100 per cent purified outside air would be one of the safest places to be in such an event. Medical testimony reveals that common colds are not transmitted in a *properly* air conditioned space, and that even the victims of it get well. The surest way to spread a cold epidemic or influenza among your patrons is to keep your fresh air dampers closed or nearly so.

Automatic control of temperature both winter and summer is something else that is conducive to good health. But here again you theatre owners are often poorly advised. I just received a long distance call from an owner in Illinois. He complained that his thermostat does not properly regulate the house temperature. Now I have been in his theatre and know how his controls are hooked up. His thermostat controls his oil burner under a steam boiler, which in turn supplies steam to a set of heating and cooling coils that I bought for him.

I told him to install a motor-operated steam valve and control this valve by his thermostat. The very instant his house was up to proper temperature, the steam valve would start cutting down on the heat. Whereas, the way he is operating now, when the thermostat shuts down his oil burner there is still a large body of steam in the boiler that continues to be fed to the coils so his house temperature keeps going up.

And the reverse cycle is also true. When the thermostat calls for heat, the oil burner starts, of course, but it has to operate quite a while before steam is generated, with the result that the house

Simmons' Q & A Corner

Taking me up on the "idea-swapping" deal the moment I spring it—that is, that you theatre men swap me one whenever you have a smart thought on air conditioning—a swell guy with a sense of humor who manages a house in Pennsylvania writes me as follows:

The Epistle: "Happy is the man who has found what he is searching for. So you should be happy, for you state in your article—Boxoffice—issue of December 7, 1940—that you are looking for a theatre owner who is willing to swap ideas—and it looks as though you have found him. I have an idea that you can install—or give or sell—advice that will result in the slickest air conditioning in any theatre this side of the Alleghenies. I surprise myself sometimes—the way I can spell.

"Here's the set-up. We are building a new theatre—brick—steel roof girders carrying a Gyp plank roof—which is used for the base of a composition roof—that should insulate it from everything but taxes. So it looks like it's insulated. The next phrase you use is automatic controls. Every time I use those words I smack my lips. Let's hope you can do it. The next is decent space in a proper location. We got plenty of that, too. And we got plenty of well water—about 54 degrees. And we got a plenty big duct from back wall—to front wall—in the roof girders. And we got a plenty big return line sunk in the floor—and across the auditorium.

"We intend heating with hot water—using a blower to push her into the building. And in the summer—the real cold 54 degree water—through coils, rather than around the coils into the building. Building is about 50 feet wide. Auditorium will be about 80 feet long—with a stadium type balcony that will extend back about 40 feet. It will seat about 600—and in the space under the balcony —will stand—sit—or recline about 200. I'm not particular how cool or warm you keep these people—for I'm afraid of loafers—and if I make it too comfortable in the lobby they may not want to go inside. And I want it automatic. I want it to handle humidity properly—for we have three months of very humid weather. And I want it to handle the most serious problem facing a theatre. Air—properly heated and distributed and conditioned—in the winter time. We have everything but the brains necessary to do this. How are you fixed? I will appreciate hearing from you. Very truly yours—C. K."

My Answer: "I tried to read your letter of December 12 with a straight face but I just couldn't do it. And it's letters such as yours that cause me to enjoy corresponding with theatre owners. If there's a sour puss in the bunch, I haven't found him yet.

"Boy, are you a good speller! Now don't go looking through this letter for misspelled words because you'll be almost sure to find them.

"If you could only insulate that roof against taxes, wouldn't that be sump'n? But since we're going to 'swap ideas,' my idea would be to put four inches of rockwool on that ceiling just the same. It will pay *big* dividends on your fuel bill, too.

"Fifty-four degree well water is fine. A superlative job of air conditioning can be done with it. And use the same coils for heating that you use for cooling, while being most careful about the selection of those coils. Or do you want me to do it for you?

"In regard to controls, me and you see 'eye to eye.' That's the heart of a system, and I can specify one for you on *one* condition: That you and everbody else will *leave it alone.* You throw the main switch when you close. But if you do anything else, it's out of order, and so are you.

"Many thanks for your remarks about my being able to give or sell advice that will result in the slickest air conditioning this side of the Alleghenies. I ain't bashful. Why not make it both sides of the Alleghenies?

"And I further believe that you can have this kind of job at no greater cost than is usually charged for a standard type of job.

"So send along a set of your architect's plans of the building which I can peruse at my leisure (or will I have any leisure?) and I'll be glad to make specific recommendations. No charge for this since you called me on my proposal to 'swap you an idea.' But if you want me to handle your job from start to finish, name the fee and send a nominal retainer. I usually charge 5 per cent for plans, with 50 bucks on the line. But all contributions gratefully received and large ones in proportion. I'll surely want to write up your job when it's finished."—G. H. S.

Why Not a Spirit of More Fraternity Amongst Our Frantic Idea Men?

(Continued from page 57)

gets too cold. I tried to explain this over the telephone but the call was "on him," so he said "Write me a letter." Well, this is it.

PANGS OF A PIONEER

Naturally all this theatre owner wanted was an "idea" of what was wrong and how to fix it. I designed his job in the first place and personally supervised its installation. I purchased a steam valve for him for the above purpose, but the oil burner man over-ruled me and installed the thermostat directly connected to the burner and the steam valve was returned. My ideas are vindicated one after another but very often too late to do me any good.

It's no fun and a very lonesome position to be ahead of the crowd. The fellow who said, "I'd rather be right than President" must have been a screw-ball. I write and write about "what's right," yet how many of you believe me? I am the screw-ball for devoting so much time to an apparently hopeless cause.

I don't have technical troubles and easily get my ideas incorporated into an intelligent set of plans. And when this is done, my job is ended regardless of whether I'm paid in money or marbles. Somebody has to pioneer if there is to be any progress, but such pioneers finally get to look like my new draftsman's picture of the "Idea Man at Work." Ah, me!

Functionally planned theatre equipment also must be considered by builders and remodelers of theatre property. That on the market today serves many purposes—and economically, too.

LOGAN LEWIS HEADS REFRIGERATING ENGINEERS

L. Logan Lewis (at left in picture), vice-president in charge of engineers, for Carrier Corporation, and one of the early pioneers in air conditioning, was elected president of the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers at the final session of the 36th Annual Convention held last month in New York City.

Lewis, who is credited with inventing the by-pass system of air conditioning which revolutionized cooling and ventilating systems in theatres throughout the country, served as vice-president of the group in 1940. He succeeds George E. Hulse as president.

During World War No. 1 Lewis performed invaluable service to the government by adapting air conditioning to the manufacture of munitions, fuses and powder. Recently, he pioneered again in introducing air conditioning into blast furnace operations, helping to increase iron and steel production during the present national defense program.

Born in Clark County, Kentucky, on April 16, 1887, Mr. Lewis received his B. M. E. degree from the University of Kentucky in 1907, and his M. E. in 1909. From 1907 to 1909, he served as an instructor in the School of Engineering at the University of Kentucky.

He resigned his post at the university in 1909 to join Carrier, at a time when only a few engineers were engaged in the early pioneering of central station air conditioning. Practically the only air conditioning applications then in use were in textile mills, where humidifying systems had been installed. He was one of the first men who envisaged air conditioning for comfort cooling as we have it today.



In 1915, he was made Chief Engineer of Carrier Corporation. Here his inventive, analytical mind was given full sway. In addition to his invention of the by-pass, many other patents dealing with the broader phases of air conditioning have been issued in his name.

Lewis was responsible for the air conditioning system installed in Grauman's Metropolitan Theatre (now Paramount), in Los Angeles. Prior to that time, air conditioning practice, in all but a very few, small theatres, had called for upward systems of air distribution, in which cold air was delivered through mushroom ventilators under seats. This resulted in "cold feet," a universal annoyance to movie patrons at that time.

Lewis' pioneering installation in Grauman's Theatre is regarded today as a milestone in the air conditioning industry, marking the beginning of public consciousness of the benefits of comfort conditioning. It was the first theatre in which the by-pass was applied and the overhead system of air distribution used.

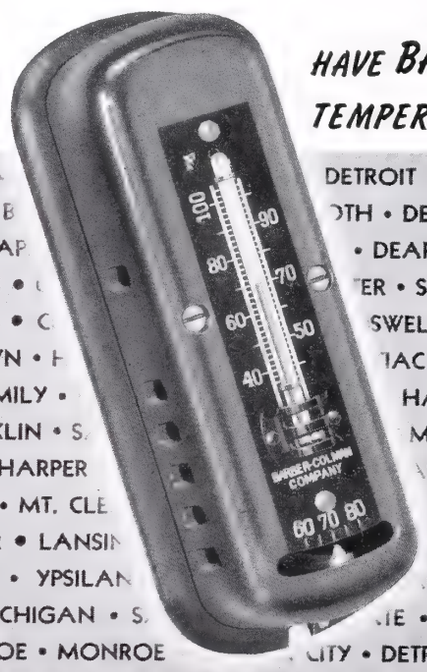
Among the many outstanding scientific papers written and presented by Mr. Lewis in recent years are "Air Conditioning in the Theatre," "Methods of Air Distribution," "Possibilities of Conditioning for Comfort," "Recirculation in Theatre Cooling," "Air Conditioning the Halls of Congress" (a joint paper with A. E. Stacey, Jr.), "Modern Air Conditioning—What It Means to the Water Utility," and "Moisture Removal from Blast Furnace Air."

Modern Water Cooler Is Smart Investment

A modern water cooler assures refreshing drinking water at the tip of a patron's finger. In a smart modern cabinet with gleaming metal fittings, such a piece of equipment will lend a new note to the theatre lobby or foyer in which it is placed.

With such a fountain, the water is automatically cooled to just the right temperature for health and comfort, and is adjustable to suit the conditions for which it is used. Since it is highly efficient, it uses very little electric current and it is built to give dependable, lasting service year in and year out.

91 THEATRES IN MICHIGAN



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BARBER-COLMAN COMPANY 1236 ROCK STREET ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

A Case of "Mental Planning" and a Practical Dream Come True

(Continued from page 53)

accessible from the foyer. A stairway at the south end of the foyer leads to a nursery or "cry room" on the second floor. This room, simply furnished in maple, is a popular retreat for mothers with small children.

Film delivery to the projection room is accomplished through use of a dumb waiter opening on an alley. The film messenger is provided with a key to the outer door. The dumb waiter also is used as an ash lift, with a shaft extending into the basement for this purpose.

Many modern developments for summer air conditioning were included in the project, such as the introduction of cold water through cooling coils, blower and draftless air diffusers. Winter air conditioning is accomplished by the use of the same distributing system, substituting hot water.

Plans for the building were executed by Col. Robert S. Harsh, architect, of Columbus, Ohio. The cost of construction and equipment for the Russell Theatre is estimated at $60,000. Millersburg has a population of only 2,203, but it now draws patronage from a large surrounding area, due in no small measure to its inviting new showplace.

Insulate Theatres for Easy Air Conditioning

The modern theatre must be adequately insulated because proper air conditioning is possible only with insulation. Heat passes readily through ordinary lath and plaster on walls and ceilings. Insulated walls and ceilings do a marvelous job of retarding this heat passage. This makes possible the prime requirement of air conditioning—the independent control of heat and humidity in isolated areas of the same building.

In new construction, insulation board is the most economical type of insulation. Exterior insulating-sheathing seals the building from heat, cold, wind and dust and replaces wood sheathing and building paper at the cost of insulation alone. A plaster base lath replaces ordinary lath and plaster also at the cost of insulation alone. Modern insulating boards build as they insulate. It is wise to consult an architect for his recommendations as to the amount of insulation required for the particular theatre and local temperature conditions.

Harry Lucas to Devote Full Time to Kozono

Harry K. Lucas, veteran southern area equipment man, henceforth will devote his full time to Kozono and allied products, states an announcement from his office in Charlotte, N. C.

Mr. Lucas has disposed of his Charlotte Theatre, one of the oldest cinemas in the Carolina area, to Tom Little and associates. His offices have been completely refurnished, new blood has been added to the sales department, and Mr. Lucas adds that his product, Kozono now will have vigorous representation throughout the country.

Kozono, billed as a "machine that purifies air electrically," has been on the market since 1933. It is used widely in theatres, hotels, department stores, smoking rooms, rest rooms, etc. The newest 1941 model is streamlined and is said to form a handsome addition to the furnishings ensemble wherever it is used.

Harry K. is a brother of Arthur Lucas, circuit theatre owner of Atlanta. He formerly was in theatre equipment business at Atlanta and Dallas. Selling out to one of the big companies, he opened the Charlotte Theatre in 1925. A few years later he put Kozono on the market and advertised it. It met with instant response.

Questions and Answers Concerning Popcorn

Q: Why is it good business for me to operate a popcorn machine in my theatre? A: Because you can utilize your present overhead to pay you an additional revenue. Popcorn will pay a good margin of profit—and "really delicious" popcorn is habit-forming among patrons.

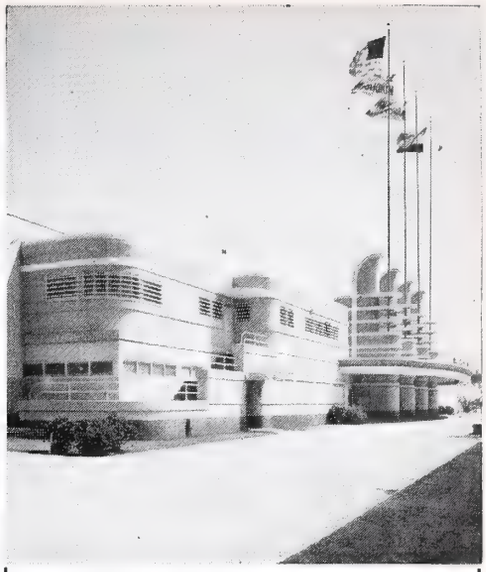
Q: Why is it that $5.00 *in popcorn sales means as much gross profits as* $12.00 *to* $15.00 *in sales of average merchandise?* A: Because popcorn pays 70 cents gross profits on every dollar; whereas average merchandise pays only 20 to 30 per cent gross profit.

Q: Will I sell popcorn mainly in 5*-cent sacks?* A: Once popcorn sold almost exclusively in 5-cent sacks, but today the larger proportion of sales is in 10-cent boxes.

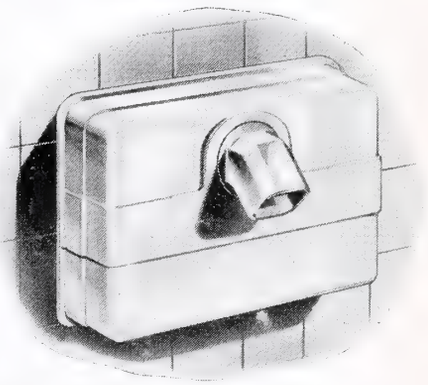
Q: How will I know if mine is a popcorn location? A: Almost every theatre can reasonably be considered a popcorn location, since the American public "goes for" this confection when it is placed at their disposal.

Q: What is my cost of producing popcorn? A: To turn out the very best popcorn possible, at the most, the corn and popping supplies will never exceed 30 cents on the dollar. It may run lower, depending on the price of corn and supplies. Under average conditions the production cost is distributed approximately as follows: Raw corn, 12 cents; salt, ½ cent; electricity, 1 cent; sacks and cartons, 4½ cents.

Q: Would I have to hire someone especially to take care of the machine? A: No, not necessarily. It requires only a few minutes' time to pop up several dollars' worth of corn. If you need someone's full time to operate your machine, that is exactly what you want as your machine would always be busy and you would be making even more money.



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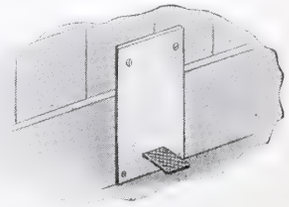
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CINE' CLINIC

PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS ON MODERN PROJECTION AND SOUND PRACTICES

The Fantasound System in Principle and Its Future Possibilities

by **FRED W. WENTKER***

PATRONS attending the Walt Disney Production "Fantasia," featuring the music of Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra, in the Broadway Theatre in New York, experience reproduction as genuinely realistic in acoustic perspective, in dynamic range, and in tone color as they would experience were they to listen to an actual concert. What has made this possible? What sort of apparatus has been used to create this triumph in symphonic reproduction? What will be the probable effect of this revolutionary event upon the motion picture industry?

Exhibitors naturally are keenly interested in knowing how this new mode of recording and presenting motion pictures may affect their theatres. But before attempting to arrive at any conclusions, it is well to consider the most important differences between the Fantasound system and any modern theatre sound reproducing system of the conventional type. When fortified with an understanding of these and the added benefits they produce, one is much better able to form opinions regarding the probable effects on all motion picture entertainment of the future.

Three Systems in One

It may be said that the Fantasound system is really three complete sound systems of a somewhat special type combined into one. For example, there actually are three complete sets of loudspeakers operating from three separate amplifier channels. These could be worked from three films and three soundheads operated in synchronism, with each soundhead supplying music or dialogue to its associated amplifier and loudspeaker channel. For the sake of simplicity, however, the Fantasound System utilizes multi-track soundheads (or film phonographs, as they are called) which scan four sound tracks placed on one film. (The pictures are projected from a separate film). Three of the tracks contain the recordings of music, dialogue, and sound effects that are reproduced over the three amplifier and loudspeaker systems. Each film phonograph, of course, operates in synchronism with a picture projector which projects pictures from the second or picture film.

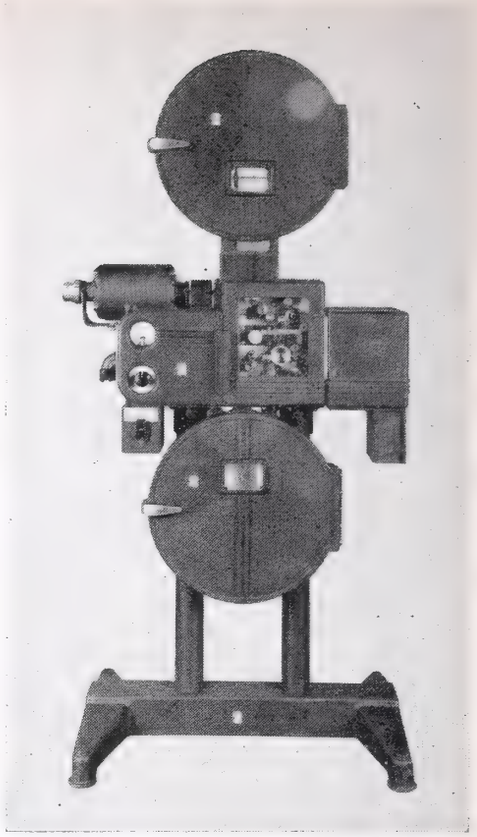
Remember we said that the system is equivalent to three systems of a somewhat special type. For what purpose then is the fourth track on the sound film which is scanned by the multi-track soundhead? This extra sound track has no music, dialogue, or sound effects recorded in it, yet it makes possible another of the very important differences between this system and a regular Photophone system. Let's see what this is.

Consider for the moment a conventional modern motion picture reproducing system. A recording of a symphony orchestra reproduced over it will lack by much the volume range of the original, simply because the volume or dynamic range had to be "compressed" when the recording was made. The reasons are simple enough.

The smallest image that it is practical to record on a sound track is determined by film or background noise. The limit is reached when the noise during reproduction becomes annoyingly perceptible. The maximum that can be recorded is represented by 100 per cent modulation, that is when the peaks of the photographed waves extend to the very edges of the track. Thus, the recording engineer must continually adjust the volume control of his recording amplifier system so that the images he photographs on the sound track fall between these two limits.

When such a "compressed" recording is played, the loudest sounds will be approximately 3,200 times as loud as the softest sounds. In the case of a full symphony orchestra, however, the loudest sounds are approximately 10,000,000 times as loud as the softest. Thus the loudness or dynamic range of a full symphony orchestra may be approximately 3,200 times greater than the range which it is practicable to record on the film. In engineering terms, this extra range of the original over the recording is referred to as 35 db. If the reproduction of such a recording is to be completely realistic, some practical means must be employed to expand the loudness or dynamic range so that it is

*Assistant Manager Photophone Division RCA Manufacturing Co.



The multiple track film phonograph used to scan the special four-track sound film of the "Fantasia" production.



A view of stage loud speakers installed at the Broadway Theatre (New York City) to present Walt Disney's "Fantasia."

more nearly equivalent to that of the original sounds.

If it were possible for a projectionist to twirl the volume control knob rapidly enough, and if he were supplied with a complete set of cues, he could continually boost or reduce the amplification by just the right amount at just the right time and thus compensate for the compression introduced during recording. However, no projectionist can be expected to handle this kind of an assignment, so some sort of automatic means must be found.

Supposing that instead of a manual volume control, we have an electronic volume control capable of split second operation, and some automatic means of directing this control so that it increases or decreases the amplification by just the right amount. This is really what we have in the new Fantasound system.

In this system we have what is called a variable gain amplifier. It is inserted in the circuit between voltage and power amplifiers and is in effect the electronic volume control we spoke of. But how does it get the information which tells it when to increase the amplification, or when to decrease it?

Supposing we record alongside the regular sound track, containing the record of the symphony music, another track on which we record only a single frequency artificial tone; for example, a 1,000-cycle tone generated by an oscillator. And suppose this extra track is scanned by a separate optical system in the reproducing soundhead. Now let's assume that we reach the loudest musical passage in the recording and that at this point the recordist had been forced to turn the volume control of the recording amplifier down drastically to prevent overshooting the regular track. Now suppose that at this same point we make the 1,000-cycle tone recording as strong as the width of the extra track will permit, so that when it is scanned in the reproducing soundhead it will send a strong signal to the variable gain amplifier telling it to open up to full gain to restore the volume range lost when the music was recorded. In the case of a musical passage which is less loud, the 1,000-cycle control tone can likewise be made less strong so it will tell the variable gain amplifier to supply less gain or amplification. Thus the fixed frequency tone in the extra track continually tells the variable gain amplifier or automatic volume control exactly how it should control the amplification to offset the compression of the volume range introduced when the music was recorded.

In the case of the Fantasound system, this is exactly what is done. However, you will not find an extra control-tone track for each of the three regular sound tracks on the special sound film because the three control tones were mixed and recorded on a single control track. Each of the three control tones, of course, differs in frequency or pitch from the other two. When the control track is scanned by the soundhead, the mixture of the three control signals is fed into filters which separate the three and directs each towards its proper variable gain amplifier.

The extra volume range of Fantasound is approximately 40 db. or about 10,000 times that of a conventional system. Its maximum range is about 6 db. above that of a symphony orchestra, which means a 100-piece orchestra can be made to sound as loud as a 400-piece orchestra.

Of course, such extra amplification would not be of much value if the output power amplifiers and loudspeakers didn't measure up to the load this calls for. The Fantasound amplifiers and loudspeakers have unusual power handling capacity and so they are able to handle the tremendous peak powers this extra amplification calls for.

Realism Requires More Than Equivalent Loudness

Having the reproduction as loud as the original is in itself not enough to give a feeling of realism, nor does it in itself make listening a pleasure. In fact, it has been proved time and again that when music is reproduced over a standard thea-

(Continued on following page)

Have You a Problem?

Conductors of the CINE' CLINIC will be glad to answer questions relating to problems of projection and sound operation and practices through these columns. State your problem clearly, detailing symptoms of trouble. Answers to questions of general interest will be published in a later issue, identified by inquirer's initials only. Should you desire private information or advice, enclose stamp for reply. Address The MODERN THEATRE, Room 334, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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The Fantasound System in Principle and Its Future Possibilities

(Continued from preceding page)

tre system, the audience is actually displeased if the music is made very much louder than it would have been without any effort to get added volume range (squeeze track recordings are an example of one means for getting extra volume range).

This, engineers tell us, is caused largely by the fact that theatre loudspeakers necessarily have marked directional characteristics. As a result they say it's impossible with an ordinary system to cause the same impression and feeling that results from listening to the original sounds even though the reproduced sounds may be emitted by the loudspeakers with exactly the same tonal balance as the original.

This does not mean that the directional characteristics of theatre loudspeakers are necessarily undesirable, for, in fact they are valuable in creating the proper illusion on dialogue, and in securing acceptable intelligibility under adverse acoustic conditions. By grouping the loudspeakers at the proper point behind the screen, the sound generally seems to be coming from the picture of the person talking, thus helping very definitely in creating a feeling of realism in dialogue reproduction.

An orchestra, however, is generally spread out over all or almost all of a stage. And many of the sound waves they generate are quite non-directional. It is not surprising, therefore, that the reproducing of such an orchestra over a single channel system with highly directional loudspeakers is not particularly pleasing.

Supposing, however, that many loudspeakers are employed and that they are spread out over the entire width of the stage (not just the width of the screen). Now we find that music reproduction takes on an entirely different character with much greater realism since the sound now comes from the whole stage, not just from one section of a sound screen. In the case of Fantasound, these and other ingenious loudspeaker arrangements are used to gain the desired ends. The three huge main groups of loudspeakers occupy a width much greater than that of the sound screen. This spreading out of the loudspeakers gives the reproduction a realistic "acoustic perspective" not possible with ordinary single channel movie systems.

But this improvement over an ordinary system does not end here. Out in the front corners of the auditorium are two special two-way corner loudspeakers, and all around the balcony, under the balcony, etc., are many smaller cabinet loudspeakers, all of which are operated at much lower volume than the main loudspeakers (in fact, the audience does not realize they are working except during the Ave Maria number). What is the function of these extra loudspeakers? What do they contribute to realism?

As pointed out, the stage loudspeakers are quite directional, hence less sound strikes the walls and ceiling of the theatre than if a live orchestra were playing. Thus if a person is listening to music from a live orchestra, quite a bit of the sound reaching his ears will have been reflected many times, whereas if he listens to sound from a reproducing system, a much higher percentage of the sound he hears will come to him direct from the loudspeakers. Obviously, the two will not create the same sort of feeling. This is where the supplemental loudspeakers of the Fantasound system come into the picture. Since they are on the walls, sound coming from them corresponds somewhat to reflections from these same walls. Combined with the spreading of the loudspeakers, they produce a feeling of realism hitherto unobtainable.

The Fantasound system is capable of producing another interesting effect. It is sometimes desirable that it be possible to move the sound source around on the stage to conform with the action depicted on the screen. For example, sound effects sometimes should come from one side of the stage rather than from the screen. Obviously, this can be done practically either by switching loudspeakers or by having a number of complete amplifier and loudspeaker channels. Since Fantasound has three separate channels, it is possible to make the sound come from the center or either side of the screen as well as from the entire stage. This also permits reproducing a complete section of an orchestra, for example the violins, over one set of loudspeakers, the brasses over another, and yet another section over the third, thus imitating the positions these same sections would occupy if actually on the stage.

However, it should be noted that grouping of musical instruments by types does not necessarily make an orchestra sound better. In other words, the music from the orchestra does not necessarily sound better because the violins are grouped in one section of the stage. It would be well nigh impossible, however, to keep the violinist in perfect harmony if they were scattered throughout the orchestra, so they usually are placed into one group. Thus, such groupings seem to be chiefly the result of practical rather than theoretical acoustic considerations. A reproducing system has no such problems, therefore it can reproduce all of the instruments over all of the loudspeakers simultaneously regardless of how greatly the loudspeakers may be separated from each other.

In "Fantasia" the variety of effects which the flexible multi-channel Fantasound system makes available have been combined and blended by Disney and Stokowski with the pictures and action on the screen to provide a maximum of entertainment. At times all the loudspeaker groups may be reproducing with equal loudness all the instruments. At other times the music swirls from side to side often in accordance with action or patterns depicted on the screen. At other times individual instruments or sections are made to reproduce over one channel only. (Examples of this latter effect are the sequences where the orchestra tunes up). Always, the effects are those which contribute most to the listener's enjoyment of the performance.

Uses Regular Reproducing Units

Contrary to opinions generally prevailing, the apparatus units are for the most part those regularly furnished with RCA Photophone systems. Specially built units were used only in those instances where no piece of commercial apparatus was available. For example, the multi-track film phonographs had to be designed and built especially for this work because no standard theatre systems utilize such a unit. This is also true of the variable gain amplifiers.

The driver and power output amplifiers, crossover networks, loudspeakers, power supplies, etc., however, are all standard theatre units. Each of the three main amplifier channels installed at the Broadway Theatre delivers 180-watts output with less than two per cent distortion when measured in accordance with Academy specifications. Peak power outputs as high

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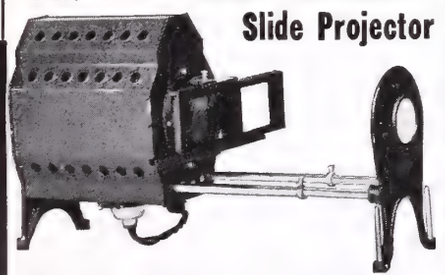
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as 700 watts total for the complete system have been measured.

Each of the three main loudspeaker groups consists of four dual-mechanism low frequency baffles (with extension baffles) using a total of eight of the regular de luxe Photophone low frequency mechanisms, and a single cellular high frequency horn equipped with four of the regular de luxe high frequency mechanisms. Thus the three main groups of loudspeakers employ a total of 12 high frequency mechanisms and 24 low frequency mechanisms. Except perhaps for some experimental setup, this unquestionably represents the most gigantic collection of loudspeaker apparatus ever assembled for theatre use.

In a previous section, some mention was made of special "corner loudspeakers." These are ingenious two-way loudspeakers which were especially designed to fit into corners. Because of their unique design, they provide a tonal range comparable to that of the biggest two-way systems, yet each occupies only a fraction of the space and is far easier to conceal through use of a decorative covering.

Each projector is also fitted with a regular Photophone soundhead. These units, however, serve no purpose other than to drive the picture mechanisms, each of which, of course, is driven in synchronism with one of the multi-track film phonographs by means of an electrically interlocked Selsyn drive system. Since the picture film carries a standard sound track, the standard soundhead can, of course, be used to reproduce this track just as any other standard theatre system would reproduce it.

The Recording System

The reproduction from any theatre system, no matter how elaborate it may be, is limited by the tonal range, quietness, and smoothness of the recording system. Naturally then, exhibitors are interested in knowing a bit about the recording system used in the making of "Fantasia."

Standard RCA Photophone variable area ultra-violet light, Class A, push-pull recorders were used throughout.

With the exception of the "Sorcerer's Apprentice," the music recordings were made at the Philadelphia Academy of Music with Leopold Stokowski directing the Philadelphia Orchestra. "Sorcerer's Apprentice" with Stokowski directing a Hollywood orchestra, was recorded at Disney's Hollywood Studio with a recording setup which in some respects was even more elaborate than that used at the Academy of Music. All the music was recorded with as many as eight synchronized recorders, with some recording some particular section of the orchestra, and others recording various types of 'mixes." This gave two very important benefits. It enabled Disney to splice these sectionalized tracks into any of the three final tracks, which gives the Fantasound system some of its unusual acoustic perspective qualities. Also, it made it possible for Disney to blend the various sections in the final re-recordings to secure whatever balance between instruments he needed for the effects he was seeking to create. Thus the flexibility far surpassed that which would have been attained had the recording system utilized only three channels as does the reproducing system.

The synchronizing of the action with the music, the final blending of the sound tracks, and the cueing of the control tracks represented a tremendous job for the Disney organization. That they have done an outstanding job is attested by the sensational success "Fantasia" with Fantasound is scoring in New York.

New Printer Required

Since there was not available a printer for printing the four final double-width tracks on a single film for use in the theatre, it was necessary to develop and manufacture a new type of optical enlarging printer to do this job. The famous magnetic drive principle, a standard feature of all RCA studio recorders, was applied in the solution of this difficult problem.

How well this new printer, as well as the recorders, re-recorders, and film phonographs have done their job is proved by the fact that, in spite of the numerous steps required to complete and present the final tracks, there is not noticeable even the

(Continued on page 65)





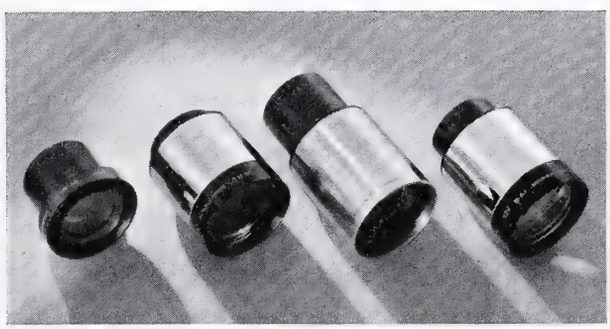
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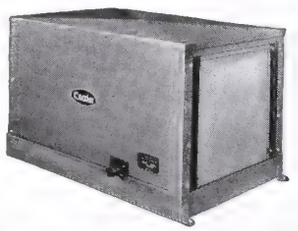
News of what's NEW in Modern Theatre Equipment

27 FULL-RECESSED SANI-DRI—An electric hand-drier suitable for installation in any wall construction that is eight inches or more in thickness. This new model is especially suitable for theatre washrooms. It conserves space and the full-recessed foot pedal protects against accidental or deliberate damage. This sanitary drying method reduces washroom maintenance costs



and supplies unusual protection against the dangerous fire hazard of towels littered about the washroom.

28 EVAPORATIVE CONDENSER—Although primarily designed for product re-



frigeration, this unit is readily adaptable to comfort cooling requirements. Because of its construction, it keeps water consumption at a minimum. The suspended type of its design conserves floor space.

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29 MAGIC SCREEN — The surface materials used guarantee against discoloration. It is less susceptible to chemical changes which usually cause yellowing or other types of discoloration and it will retain its high reflection qualities for longer periods of time. Better sound will be assured because of thinness and more clean-cut perforations. Reduced power consumption will be noted because there will be no premature aging.

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30 STERILSEAT — A new scientific weapon in the war upon infectious diseases. This new toilet seat has a germicidal action which offers protection to each user because its action is automatic and dependable. A Sterilamp is built into the Sterilseat so that its germ-killing ultra violet rays quickly and effectively sanitize the toilet seat immediately after each using.

31 PHANTOM DOORMAN—An automatic door opener-closer (for hinged doors), which is controlled by electric eye or switch. The device is a smart, up-to-date patron appeal item with great advertising value. It also saves door maintenance costs, eliminates breakage and injury, keeps out noise and protects air conditioning. This is also a smart new method of solving the problem of traffic control.

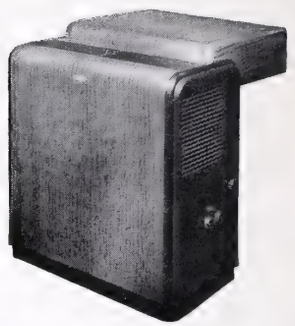
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32 BIG BEAM HAND LAMP —A portable electric hand lamp which projects a powerful ray over 2,500 feet—safe, dependable, convenient and economical for emergency use in theatres. The lamp features simplified charging, quick, easy focus and instant change



from portable to stationary position. The Big Beam is claimed an ideal emergency light in the event of central power service failure or it can serve as a trouble lamp for repair and inspection work in inaccessible places.

33 ROOM WEATHER-MAKER — A self-contained unit for complete summer air conditioning—cooling, dehumidifying, filtering and circulating of air. It is also applicable for winter circula-



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34 TOILET SEAT COVERS —Tissue covers which offer full protection to the user, an effective precaution against the spread of disease. The cost of covers is usually more than offset by the saving in towels and tissue alone. A dispenser, placed approximately 50 inches from the floor, preferably back of the toilet, conveniently dispenses one cover at a time. It may be installed without drilling either marble or tile walls.

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on any or all items mentioned on this page may be secured by addressing a postal card to **The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.** Specify the items in which you are interested by using the initial number at the beginning of each paragraph.

NOTICE: This page will appear frequently in The MODERN THEATRE section and as often as there are new product developments to report. Watch for it.

The Fantasound System in Principle and Its Future Possibilities

(Continued from page 63)

slightest trace of a "wow" in the reproduction of "Fantasia" at the Broadway Theatre.

EFFECT ON THE FUTURE

Once having experienced the thrilling realism of Fantasound, motion picture patrons will clamor for such enjoyable reproduction from all motion pictures.

But a system as big and as flexible as the Fantasound system is necessarily somewhat more expensive than a regular present-day movie system. Furthermore, the added costs for operating the multiple recording channels must necessarily add tremendously to the cost of producing the picture, thus adding to film rental costs. And, in addition, there are the extra film handling costs which result because dual films are required, that is, one film for the sound tracks, another for the picture. The added costs for the latter two extra expense items probably are the most serious obstacles in the way of the general adoption of such a system. For super-productions exhibited on a road-show basis, such as "Fantasia," the extra benefits can justify this extra expense. If, however, an attempt were made to have all pictures recorded and reproduced this way, the average cost of film entertainment would probably become too high and the industry might suffer rather than gain.

If so, what can be done about the other productions? Is it not perhaps possible to do something that will enable presenting them in a manner that will compare favorably with that used for the super-productions, yet not incur more than a very reasonable additional expense? For if this can be done, then all theatres, big and small, can benefit from these important advances in realistic reproduction.

Fortunately this is entirely possible as has already been demonstrated by an experimental system. For this simplified, much less expensive system, only a single film is required. The film is exactly like present-day films except for an extra sound track which, by means of principles already described, automatically causes extra amplifiers and loudspeakers to come into play as desired by the producer of the film. This extra control or cue track can be recorded on the film between the sprocket holes thereby utilizing only film space not now used for either picture or sound. With such a system, the extra recording and printing costs are negligible and no extra film handling costs are involved because a theatre would receive this type of print regardless of whether it is equipped to provide its patrons with the benefits available through the extra sound track. Reproducer systems not equipped with the extra attachments would reproduce exactly as they now do because the regular sound track would be identical with that of today's standard films.

The theatre reproducing apparatus for such a simplified system can be attached to a modern reproducing system. As a matter of fact, current Photophone Systems were designed with the possible adoption of such auxiliary apparatus in mind. The soundhead parts can consist of simple attachments to be installed in each soundhead. Special control amplifiers, extra power amplifiers and extra loudspeakers complete the apparatus setup. The loudspeakers can be spread over the stage, around the auditorium, etc., as in the case of the Fantasound system.

Engineers have named this simpler arrangement the "RCA Panoramic Sound System" to distinguish it from the more complex "RCA Fantasound System." An experimental model was placed at the disposal of Hollywood producers and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences some months ago, in order that they might be able to make first-hand studies of its possibilities and determine a suitable set of uniform film standards.

That producers are taking a keen interest in this new system is indicated by announcements of trial installations in associated key theatres in Hollywood and New York. In view of this, it is not unlikely that the coming months may witness the general adoption of this new method for more realistic presentations. And in that event, the year 1941 may well be marked as one in which the industry as a whole will have cooperated in sponsoring the greatest single step towards realistic reproduction since the advent of sound motion pictures.

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Values in furniture are determined by sound construction and distinction of style. The first safeguard is to purchase from a reliable dealer, as often the name of the manufacturer suggests the quality of the piece. Cheap furniture is never a bargain at any price, as it will soon have to be replaced, while good furniture may be expected to withstand the wear of theatre use for many years.

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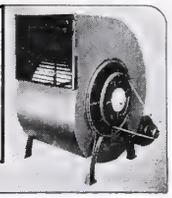
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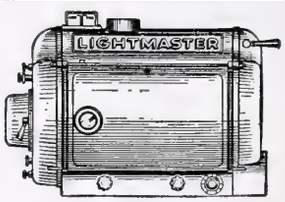
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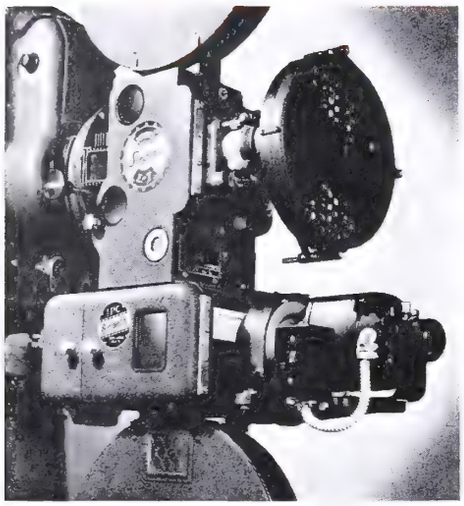
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Mutual Problems Are Aired in Pamphlet

Mutual problems of the employer and the employe, including those relating to common interest in individual earnings, safety, working conditions, quality and quantity of output, and efficient and economical operation, are thoroughly aired in an eight-page pamphlet distributed to each of Paramount's 2,750 studio workers.

The statement, first of its kind to be issued by any studio, is keynoted by a brief preface signed by Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations, in which he declares:

"In our sincere desire to further develop the harmonious relationships now existing between employes and management of Paramount Pictures, Inc., we wish in the following statement of industrial relations policies to define the company's attitude on mutual problems."

Explains Paramount's Stand

The pamphlet explains Paramount's stand on employe organizations, wages, performance, working conditions and safety measures, promotions and transfers, layoffs and discharges, employment stabilization, group health and life insurance, studio clubs, the federal credit union, work calls, acceptance of outside calls during slack periods, and the studio's industrial relations department.

"It is our conviction," asserted Freeman in issuing the pamphlet, "that all problems affecting the welfare of the company are the problems of the men and women in its employ, and that all problems affecting the welfare of its employes are the problems of the company."

Among the significant facts contained in the booklet is the company's declaration it recognizes the right to collective bargaining, in which, the studio asserts, it undertakes to maintain complete impartiality in disputes over jurisdiction.

Pamphlet was prepared by the industrial relations department under the supervision of Charles Boren, industrial relations manager.

Quiet Pervades Labor Scene As New Year Makes Bow

Unusual quiet characterized the first days of the New Year insofar as producer-labor relations were concerned. Most important event scheduled is that of the producers association for January 6, at which approval will be asked of the producer-Screen Actors Guild standing committee's report anent the extra player situation. Chief among its recommendations calls for the elimination of so-called "casual" extras in order to alleviate the present unemployment situation. Both the SAG and the extras themselves have already placed their okay on the report.

Negotiations will get under way shortly on demands filed by the motion picture costume makers for a five-day, 40-hour week with a standard minimum wage scale. Aubrey Blair, Hollywood organizer for the American Federation of Labor, will head the costumers' negotiating committee. Producers are also dickering with the studio scenic artists, an affiliate of the moving picture painters, on a closed shop contract, wage increases and other demands.

Also to be launched shortly are huddles between producers and the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors relevant to a requested 10 per cent increase in wages for certain classifications of cutters.

Leonard Janofsky has resigned his post as counsel for the Screen Writers Guild, according to an announcement from the SWG in which it was declared the organization needs a full-time attorney, which would interfere with Janofsky's private practice. He had been associated with the SWG for more than three years.

Academy to Elect New Officers January 7

Officers of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for 1941 will be elected at a meeting of the new board of governors scheduled for January 7. At the same time, it has been disclosed, detailed plans for the forthcoming annual Academy Awards banquet, including the exact date and locale of the affair, will be announced.

Just prior to the session, a run-off election to choose representatives from the technicians' branch on the board of governors will be held. In the recent balloting a tie vote resulted among technicians. Those elected among the actors, writers, directors and producers included:

Actors—Edward Arnold, Rosalind Russell, James Stewart. Writers—Howard Estabrook, Jane Murfin, Robert Riskin. Directors—Frank Capra, Frank Lloyd, Sam Wood. Producers—Y. Frank Freeman, David O. Selznick, Walter Wanger.

Nine nominees for places on the board from among the technicians are John Aalberg, Anne Bauchens, Farciot Edouart, Bernard Herzbrun, Nathan Levinson, Harold J. McCord, Thomas T. Moulton, Jack Otterson and Ray Wilkinson.

Minor revisions in Academy bylaws and articles of incorporation were approved in the voting.

Meantime a meeting of the producers association, its regular monthly session, has been called for January 6, with Y. Frank Freeman to preside. Among items of business to be discussed is the producer-Screen Actors Guild standing committee report urging elimination of all so-called "casual" extra players, as well as routine matters.

Payrolls Jump as Production Hums

Traceable to the increased production tempo in November is the corresponding boost in weekly payrolls and in the number employed on the various lots. According to figures compiled and released by the California labor statistics department, wage-earners—exclusive of executive and talent divisions—were paid a total of $557,957 during that month. This is $8.636 more than the October payrolls. Number of workers employed in November was 12,428, compared to the 12,295 on the payrolls during the preceding month. Average weekly pay check in November was $44.90, a 4.2 per cent increase over November, 1939.

Several changes have been made in the personnel of the Paramount studio publicity department following the takeover of the top spot by George Brown, replacing Cliff Lewis. Chief among them is the resignation of Bob Speers, head planter, who moves to Universal in two weeks to become assistant to John Josephs, advertising-publicity director there.

Speers' duties at Paramount have been taken over by Blake McVeigh, who came in as Brown's assistant.

Leaving Paramount also are Bert Holloway, Bill Hebert, Bob Burkhardt, Bob Blewett and Arthur Powell, all of the publicity staff. Holloway, head of the unit room, is replaced by Murphy McHenry, who left the advertising-publicity spot with Edward Small Productions to join the Paramount staff. Also joining Paramount are Hy Daab, coming out from New York, and Bernard Kamins. Brown will add others shortly.

Myke Lewis has resigned his post as sales chieftain for Harry Sherman Productions, effective immediately.

Republic, Universal Off to Fast Start

First away from the starting post in the January production spurt are Republic and Universal, each with five films to go before the cameras. They are being closely followed by Warner, Metro and Paramount, which studios each list a quartette of films to hit the sound stages before the end of the month. Virtually every other studio will contribute two or more vehicles to swell the grand total for January to 30.

Indicating the boom may extend throughout the first quarter of 1941, ten other pictures have already been slotted for February starts, one in March, with others in the offing.

Republic's entries include "Mr. District Attorney," "Sis Hopkins," "The Great Train Robbery," "You'll Never Get Rich" and "Citadel of Crime." For February it lists "Puddin' Head." Universal's lineup comprises "The Man Who Lost Himself," "The Lady From Cheyenne," "Model Wife," "Flame of New Orleans," and "Mutiny in the Arctic." The February slate includes "Stitches and Stars" and "Ready for Romance."

Warner is enjoying the most intensive mid-season boom in studio history. To get under way this month are "Sergeant York," "Affectionately Yours," "Bad Men of Missouri" and "Singapore." Paramount's quartette includes "Caught in the Draft," "Skylark," "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" and "Hold Back the Dawn." Metro will film "Blossoms in the Dust," "Mr. Co-Ed," "A Woman's Face" and "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

Columbia will gun "They Dare Not Love" and "A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street." In February it will turn cameras on "Her First Beau" and "Senate Page Boys." RKO Radio lists "Range Robbers," "Sunny" and "Before the Fact" for January; "True to Form" for March. Getting under way at Monogram this month is "Air Devils."

For United Artists the February lineup includes "The Eagle Squadron," an Argosy production which Walter Wanger will release; "New Wine" from Alexander Korda, and Sol Lesser's "Strange Victory." Twentieth Century-Fox will roll "Blood and Sand" and "The Great American Broadcast" in January, "Sun Valley" and "Miami" next month.

Picture Corp. of America Names Rogers Director

John W. Rogers, son of Producer Charles R. Rogers, has been elected vice-president and a member of the board of directors of the newly organized Picture Corp. of America, headed by William H. Pine and William C. Thomas. Rogers will be associated with Thomas, executive producer, in the making of "Power Dive," starring Richard Arlen, which rolls January 27 for Paramount release. He has been associated with 20th Century-Fox for the past five years.

Victor Milner, cinematographer, has left the Paramount contract roster after a 17-year association with the studio. Milner plans to freelance.

Hollywood to Aid Fight On Infantile Paralysis

Always in the forefront where charitable activity is involved, Hollywood is again being asked to do its part in a nationwide campaign, this time for the annual Committee for the Celebration of the President's Birthday, proceeds from which will go into a fund to fight infantile paralysis.

A statewide organizational meeting was scheduled for January 3 at the Biltmore Bowl with Keith Morgan, national chairman of the committee, presiding and Joseph M. Schenck, national vice-chairman and chairman for the state of California, as one of the chief speakers. It was indicated Schenck will employ the same procedure for the motion picture industry as in past years through the appointment of lieutenants on each lot and the creation of a committee comprising representatives from every branch of motion picture making.

Bundles for Britain, Inc., staged a national broadcast New Year's Day, airing from the Palladium Ballroom, with participants including Jack Benny, Charles Boyer, Claudette Colbert, Philip Dorn, Judy Garland, Myrna Loy, Tony Martin, Spencer Tracy, Carmen Miranda, Nazimova, Merle Oberon and Mickey Rooney. Dancing followed the broadcast and the proceeds from ticket sales and contributions were ear-marked for the purchase of supplies in America for the relief of British air-raid victims.

Permanent members of the committee to work with the motion picture permanent charities group have been named by the Southern California Broadcasters Ass'n. Chairman of the broadcasters' committee is Don Gilman, vice-president of the National Broadcasting Company.

"Virginia" Bows in Gotham January 21

World premiere of Paramount's "Virginia" has been set for January 21 at the Paramount Theatre in New York, with Stirling Hayden and Carolyn Lee, of the cast, making personal appearances. Fred MacMurray and Madeleine Carroll, who co-star, will not be able to attend, but arrangements are being made for the latter to address premiere audiences via a long-distance telephone hookup.

Negotiations are now under way whereby Los Angeles will, in all probability, be the next key city selected.

Pacific Coast premiere of Walt Disney's "Fantasia" will be held here late this month, according to Disney studio officials, with negotiations now under way for the selection of a theatre. Nationwide exploitation on the film is being handled by Frank Braden, now here to launch the local campaign. Premiere arrangements include the installation of Fantasound, specially-designed sound equipment. Following its local opening, the Disney picture will be given roadshow treatment in a dozen or more key cities throughout the country, with openings to be scheduled as fast as Fantasound units are constructed.

Martha Scott, William Gargan, Marsha Hunt and Mary Anderson have been set to attend the Lincoln, Neb., world premiere of Richard A. Rowland's "Cheers for Miss Bishop" on January 14.

Monogram's "Her First Romance" was premiered at the Hawaii Theatre here New Year's Eve. Edith Fellows, Judith Linden, Jacqueline Wells, Alan Ladd and Marion Kerby, all of whom played featured roles, made personal appearances.

Cinémarks

Producer David Hempstead of RKO Radio attended the world premiere of "Kitty Foyle," which he produced, in Philadelphia December 27, then continued on to New York for a three-week holiday . . . Edward Arnold has been bedded with influenza.

*

James Roosevelt spent the Christmas holidays here, on leave from his duties with the marine corps in San Diego. He checked on progress being made on "Pot O' Gold," his first production for United Artists.

*

Having nearly completed the editing on 20th Century-Fox's "Western Union," which he directed, Fritz Lang is planning to leave for New York in a few days . . . Bing Crosby and Bob Hope will begin a golfing tour next March, teamed with a pair of professionals, the proceeds to go to British War Relief. The foursome has already been booked in Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston. Bing and Bob will also make personal appearances in the towns where they play golf.

*

Director Busby Berkeley has returned to M-G-M after spending the Christmas holidays in Oklahoma City with relatives.

*

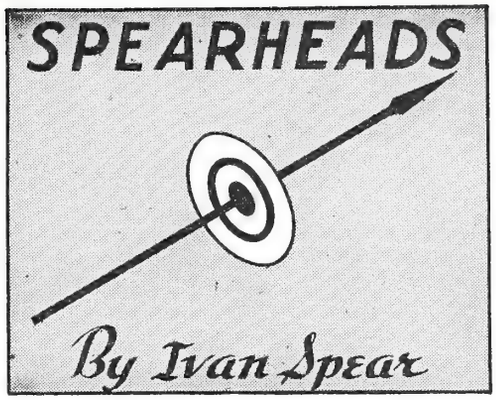
Mrs. Edward G. Robinson has checked out for New York, to be followed by her actor-husband when he has completed his current Warner assignment. They will attend the inauguration of President Roosevelt in Washington, D. C., January 20.

*

Having recuperated from a two-week bout with the flu, Director Lewis Milestone has reported back to RKO Radio to resume camera tests for "My Life With Caroline," which he will pilot for Producer William Hawks.

*

Louis Pollock, Universal's eastern advertising-publicity director, and Adolph Schimel of the New York legal department have checked in for conferences with studio executives . . . Director Mitchell Leisen planed out for Fort Worth, Tex., to spend New Year's.



IN VIEW of "Chad Hanna" and "Hudson's Bay," quite understandable is the announcement that Darryl Zanuck himself will personally supervise the preparation and making of two of 20th Century-Fox's most pretentious and expensive pictures during the coming season—namely "Swamp Water," to star Henry Fonda, and "How Green Was My Valley," one of the past year's best-selling novels.

Perhaps without the benefit of associate producers, the Wizard of Westwood can re-establish his reputation as the production genius of the decade, which was considerably weakened by "Hanna" and "Bay," both of which fell considerably short of their expected marks.

→

"Frank Capra's 'Meet John Doe' unit will return to work at Warners today, shooting added scenes for the film," is rapidly becoming a rubber-stamp item in publicity releases from Burbank. Unless they can be discarded soon, it might be appropriate to change the title to "Cost Much Doe."

→

Continuing the craze for space-grabbing debut ideas, Paramount gains the doubtful distinction of establishing the long-distance premiere record with the announcement that "Virginia" is to make its bow not only in New York, but also, and simultaneously, at Little America, the antarctic base of Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd—because, it is explained, the film was made almost entirely on location in Virginia and Byrd's family home there was caught by the cameras.

The print will be shipped via Auckland, New Zealand.

→

LOP confides to her readers that "I had myself a good laugh when they told me at Republic that they had bought a story called 'The Great Train Robbery' by Garrett Weston."

And aforesaid readers probably had themselves a good laugh when Queen Louella added that "I don't remember much about it myself"—referring to the original epic of the same title.

→

Advocates of penal reform will find something about which to become exercised in the announcement that Warner's "Santa Fe Trail" was shown to 700 convicts in the New Mexico state penitentiary.

Next: Return of the whipping post.

→

The shorter the budget, the longer the title, might do as a slogan for Producers Releasing Corporation, what with "The Lone Rider Galloping to Glory" having been chosen as the handle for the first of six westerns in which George Houston will be featured.

→

Dog Bites Man Department:

A Paramount release declares that "busiest man in Hollywood today (16) is Cecil B. DeMille, who has three pictures in preparation—all of them epics."

One of these days DeMille will announce a forthcoming picture without pre-labeling it an epic—and that will be news.

→

Indications that the new system for handling Hollywood "press previews" is not proving as popular as was expected are shown in a letter and questionnaire from Jock Lawrence, publicity generalissimo of the local Hays office. Lawrence requested the members of filmdom's 3.98th estate to record their individual preferences between afternoon and evening showings. Which idea was all right, except that it didn't go far enough. Jock should have provided space on his questionnaire for a few pet peeves, to wit:

Whether held in the afternoon or evening, in a projection room or a chartered theatre, let the preview start at the scheduled hour. Holding the start for 10, 15 or 20 minutes for the convenience of a few late arrivals, and to the discomfiture and inconvenience of the on-time majority, is decidedly unfair. Parenthetically, worst offender in the late-start category was the recent press showing of Warner's "Escape From Destiny." Announced for 2:00 o'clock, it was exactly one hour late in getting started because someone had neglected to have a print of the picture sent to the theatre.

Stop the showing of short subjects prior to the feature's being previewed, which practice is probably another protectional gesture for the few chronic late arrivers. And, if shorts must be shown, eliminate repetition. Metro's "Quicker'n a Wink," a Pete Smith Specialty, has been shown to critics no less than four times as a time-killer preceding a debuting feature. Albeit entertaining, it did border on the monotonous side about the third time. In fact, the critics are probably more familiar with the subject than Smith himself. Universal's "Syncopated Sioux," a Walter Lantz cartoon, has been shown under similar circumstances at least three times.

Fantastic, Fatuous, Flamboyant

As is customary during the more or less gay Yuletide season, Hollywood devoted more attention to festivities than previews during the holiday week. Only three pictures—and a rather trifling trio, at that—found their way to the screen for critics' reaction.

In this far-from competitive field, Universal's "The Invisible Woman" was an easy best. Fans who remember "The Invisible Man"—and his return engagement—and pay their money for this one with the expectation that it will deliver a comparable quota of chills, might be disappointed, except for the fact that a very pleasant surprise is in store for them. There isn't a shudder in its entire length, but when it comes to laughs—that's another matter. The script by Robert Lees, Fred Rinaldo and Gertrude Purcell, from the original by Joe May and Kurt Siodmak, contains nothing but chuckles and full-fledged guffaws. The five aforementioned writers completely eliminated the horror element in order to make way for the welcome emphasis on humor. Their job is definitely of the "Topper" school and nothing of its kind has ever been any better done. A. Edward Sutherland's direction is likewise expert and Burt Kelly, as the associate producer, provided every requirement with an unstinting hand. Too, there was a weighty cast with which to work, among which John Barrymore dominates. It's a feature which shouldn't miss all along the line.

* * *

Metro presented "Keeping Company" as the initial entry in a new family series, which Leo is projecting as a runner-up to the popular "Hardy" clan pictures. And if this one is criterion, the new family is going to have to do a lot of running before it can even see the dust of Andy and his tribe. The more naive patrons may accept it as supporting fare, but it is handicapped tremendously by an overlong and snail-paced script, into which have been dragged almost every time-worn celluloid cliche. Taking the rap for the screenplay are Harry Ruskin, James H. Hill and Adrian Scott, working from an original by Herman Mankiewicz. The cast, among whom impish Virginia Weidler imparts a few bright moments, is far above its material and struggles desperately but unsuccessfully, while S. Sylvan Simon's direction contributes nothing to raise the picture from mediocrity. Samuel Marx functioned as the associate producer.

* * *

Followers of Leslie Charteris' famous "Saint" and his crime-solving proclivities will find RKO Radio's "The Saint in Palm Springs," in which the debonair, slightly sinister criminologist finds adventure in California's desert playground, measuring up to the same high standards which were to be found in previous chapters in the series. George Sanders is again seen in the title role, surrounded by an entirely adequate supporting cast. Howard Benedict turned in a creditable job as the associate producer and Jack Hively's direction is of high order. Jerry Cady provided a suspenseful screenplay, incorporating no less than three murders, working from an original supplied by Charteris. As thriller fare the feature should come up to expectations.

Hollywood— —Personnelities

Barnstormers

Monogram

JOHN KING of the "Range Busters" has opened a seven-week p. a. tour in Austin, Texas, in conjunction with "Trail of the Silver Spurs," newest in the George W. Weeks westerns. **EDDIE DEAN** and **DON WESTON** are appearing with King. Itinerary includes stopovers in Arizona and Oklahoma before returning here in March.

Paramount

STIRLING HAYDEN and **CAROLYN LEE** to make appearances at world premiere of "Virginia" in New York January 21, followed by a lengthy p. a. tour during which they will visit Richmond and Charlottesville, Va., Washington, Asheville, N. C., Atlanta, Memphis, Miami, New Haven, Hartford, Providence and Worcester, Mass.

DOROTHY LAMOUR officiated at opening ceremonies at the new Golden Gate race track in Albany, Calif., December 28. She crowned the winner of a handicap named in her honor. Miss Lamour was accompanied by **MARTHA O'DRISCOLL,** another Paramount player.

RKO Radio

ANNA NEAGLE has returned from a three-day p. a. tour during which she made 16 theatre appearances in New York, Chicago and Brooklyn.

Harry Sherman

WILLIAM BOYD will pull out early in January on a two-month personal appearance tour, first in his career. A company of thirty, incuding his wife, Grace Bradley, will comprise the troupe.

Universal

GLORIA JEAN returns from two-week p. a. tour which took her to 17 key cities in conjunction with openings of "A Little Bit of Heaven."

Warner Bros.

ROSEMARY LANE opened a week's p. a.'s in Detroit Christmas Day. She'll do another week in Chicago before returning to Hollywood.

Blurbers

Metro

HOWARD STRICKLING, studio publicity director, checked out for the east, accompanying Clark Gable, who is going to Johns Hopkins for observation.

Paramount

MERVIN HOUSER has checked out for Miami for five months to handle the press campaign on Max Fleischer's forthcoming feature-length cartoon.

MURPHY McHENRY joins publicity staff, having obtained a release from his post as publicity-advertising director for Edward Small Productions. Small has shut down his production unit for an indefinite period.

Producers Association

JOCK LAWRENCE returns from a New York trip.

Pyramid

TED LOEFF, publicity chief, has left for New York to work out a promotional deal on "Scattergood Baines," being made for RKO Radio release.

Republic

BILLY LEYSER and **BILL PEIRCE** were added to the publicity staff to handle details of the formal opening of Republic's new sound stage, which was dedicated December 27 to the memory of Mabel Normand in formal and lavish ceremonies.

WILLIAM SAAL, exploitation director, checks out for Dallas on business.

Warner Bros.

BERNIE WILLIAMS, head of the publicity art department, is the father of a baby daughter, named Gretchen, born to Mrs. Williams at the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.

Briefies

Metro

PETE SMITH is personally writing exhibitors throughout the country requesting them to select the best of his Specialty short subjects made during 1940. Most popular will be entered in the Academy Awards competition.

JOHN NESBITT is preparing three new Passing Parade shorts. They include "More Trifles of Importance," "Underground News" and "Animal Psychology."

Pathe

CHARLES LAUGHTON and **ELSA LANCHESTER** posed for their first short subject when they were caught by the camera for "Picture People."

Cleffers

Metro

DAVID SNELL has completed scoring "Maisie Was a Lady;" **CONSTANTIN BAKALEINIKOFF** has completed score of "Keeping Company."

FRANZ WAXMAN scoring "The Bad Man."

"Viva LaVida," Mexican tango with music by **ORMOND B. RUTHVEN** and lyrics by **ALBERT MANNHEIMER** purchased for use as one of the themes in "Billy the Kid."

Paramount

SIGMUND KRUMGOLD scoring "The Lady Eve."

RKO Radio

ROY WEBB scoring "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob."

ANTHONY COLLINS to score "Sunny," next Herbert Wilcox production starring Anna Neagle.

20th Century-Fox

EMIL NEWMAN completes score of "Tall, Dark and Handsome."

Warner Bros.

ADOLPH DEUTSCH completes scoring "High Sierra."

Loanouts

Paramount

JOHN LODER borrowed from 20th Century-Fox for a lead in "One Night in Lisbon."

RKO Radio

JOAN FONTAINE borrowed from David O. Selznick to appear opposite Cary Grant in "Before the Fact." Alfred Hitchcock will direct.

FRED MacMURRAY borrowed from Paramount to star in "True to Form," rolling in March with David Butler producing and directing.

JOHN CARROLL borrowed from M-G-M for the male lead opposite Anna Neagle in the Herbert Wilcox production, "Sunny."

Meggers

Columbia

EVERETT RISKIN named associate producer on "Mr. Twilight," story by Sidney Harmon with a Supreme Court background.

Metro

W. S. VAN DYKE replaces **ROBERT SINCLAIR** as pilot on "Rage in Heaven," the Robert Montgomery starrer. Van Dyke has been given a 14-day leave from his duties as commander of the second battalion, 22nd Marines, in San Diego.

EDWARD CAHN piloting "Come Back, Miss Pipps," an Our Gang Comedy.

Producers Releasing Corp.

PETER STEWART to pilot "Outlaws of the Rio Grande," a Sig Neufeld production starring Tim McCoy.

20th Century-Fox

LOU OSTROW to produce "We Go Fast," from a story by Douglas Welch.

FRITZ LANG to direct "Man Hunt."

Universal

BURT KELLY named associate producer on an untitled Abbott and Costello starrer, to follow "Buck Privates."

KEN GOLDSMITH named associate producer on "Stitches and Stars," a musical.

Warner Bros.

LLOYD BACON to pilot "Affectionately Yours."

VINCENT SHERMAN to pilot "Strange Alibi," with Joan Perry and Arthur Kennedy in the leads. Leslie T. White's original was scripted by Ken Gamet and Fred Niblo jr.

Options

Columbia

MARTHA SCOTT set for the lead opposite George Brent in "They Dare Not Love." Sam Bischoff produces.

PAT O'BRIEN signs five-year ticket to star in two pictures annually.

Metro

NIGEL BRUCE draws a topline in "Free and Easy."

GUINN (BIG BOY) WILLIAMS signed for a featured role in "Billy the Kid."

ROBERT CUMMINGS set for male lead in "Free and Easy," from Ivor Novello's stage play, which Milton Bren will produce and Eddie Buzzell will direct. Ruth Hussey has the feminine topline.

Paramount

FUZZY KNIGHT given a comedy lead in "New York Town."

LLOYD NOLAN set for the male lead in "Two Bad Angels." Sol C. Siegel produces.

MARGARET HAYES, featured player, held for a new term. She was formerly known as Dana Dale.

BETTY BREWER, 13-year-old player, given new contract.

RKO Radio

SPRING BYINGTON draws a topline in "The Devil and Miss Jones."

FRANK FENTON and **LYNN ROOT,** writing team, sign one-picture deal.

RANDOLPH SCOTT booked for top male role in "True to Form," to be produced and directed by David Butler.

DOROTHY COMINGORE signs term acting ticket. She made her film debut in "Citizen Kane." Her name is to be changed to **LINDA WINTERS.**

Republic

CHARLIE BUTTERWORTH given comedy lead in "Sis Hopkins," starring Judy Canova.

Universal

RUDY VALLEE signed to star in an untitled musical which Joseph G. Sanford will produce.

HUNTZ HALL signs three-picture acting contract.

Warner Bros.

FRANK WILCOX, character player, held for another term.

Scripters

Columbia

HOWARD J. GREEN to "Chain Gang" for Producer Wallace MacDonald.

GORDON RIGBY to "Young Annapolis." Wallace MacDonald is the producer.

DALE VAN EVERY to an untitled original for Producer Everett Riskin.

Metro

MARION PARSONNET to "She Takes the Wheel," a newspaper story by L. DuRocher Macpherson with Edgar Selwyn producing.

FREDERICK KOHNER to "The Youngest Profession," Judy Garland starrer, which Sidney Franklin will produce.

RICHARD ENGLISH to an untitled musical for Producer Jack Cummings.

HAL LAW and **ROBERT McGOWAN** complete "Come Back, Miss Pipps," next in the Our Gang comedy series.

Paramount

RICHARD MAIBAUM to "Hold Back the Dawn," from the Ketti Frings story. Charles Boyer and Paulette Goddard will co-star.

WILKIE MAHONEY completes "Caught in the Draft," the Bob Hope starrer.

ERNEST PAGANO and **HARRY CLORK** complete "Las Vegas Nights."

Republic

DORRELL and **STUART McGOWAN** to "County Fair," from their own original.

20th Century-Fox

ROBERT CARSON to "Here Comes the Band" for Producer Harry Joe Brown.

JOHN LARKIN to "Man Alive." Walter Morosco and Ralph Dietrich will produce.

Warner Bros.

MILTON KRIMS to "The Dealer's Name Was George," from the Ketti Frings story.

ANTHONY COLDEWAY to "The Old Doll's House." Damon Runyon wrote the story.

LESTER COLE to "Bad Men of Missouri," which William K. Howard will direct.

PCCITO Meeting in Portland Jan. 13

PORTLAND—The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners will hold one of three scheduled mass regional meetings here on January 13.

Officials who will attend include Robert Poole, executive secretary, Los Angeles; Hugh Bruen and Jack Berman, trustees, Los Angeles; Rotus Harvey and Ben Levin, trustees, San Francisco; from Seattle, Secretary Jim Hone and Trustees Lukan and Ripley. Hosts for the affair will be the Oregon secretary, "Banjo" Miller, and Trustees Wes Johnson and Bob White.

Albert J. Law, attorney for the organization, will be the principal speaker. Law previously was connected with the attorney general's office in Washington for the past 15 years.

All theatremen, whether members of the PCCITO or not, are invited to attend the meeting which will be held at the Hotel Benson.

Exhibitor Organization's Routine Upset by Illness

LOS ANGELES—Seasonal holidays and illness have upset the routines of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners and the ITO of So. Calif. and Ariz.

Robert H. Poole, the ITO's executive director and secretary of the PCCITO, has been vacationing for the past week and was not expected to return to his desk until after the New Year. Additionally, his aide, Ida Schreiber, has been bedded with an influenza attack.

It is expected that upon Poole's return a meeting of the PCCITO trustees will be called at which the organization's new counsel, Albert J. Law, former department of justice deputy stationed here, will be formally introduced to the directorate. Law's appointment was announced shortly before Christmas, together with the assertion that among his first duties would be a thorough study and analysis of the consent decree and the effect that measure will have upon the PCCITO and its exhibitor members.

PCCITO Will Convene in Seattle January 14

SEATTLE—The Pacific Coast Conference of the Independent Theatre Owners will hold a special gathering here January 14.

The trustees will meet at breakfast, all exhibitor members will gather for luncheon and confab, following which the California delegation will get away for home.

Due to attend the meeting are Albert Law, attorney; Robert Poole, executive coast secretary; Hugh Bruen, Jack Berman, all of Los Angeles; Bob White, president of the Oregon group along with A. West Johnson, and Rotus Harvey and Ben Levin of San Francisco.

Big item of conversation will be the forthcoming consent decree.

REVIEW FLASHES

ROMANCE OF THE RIO GRANDE (20th-Fox)—In which the love bug nearly catches up with the Cisco Kid, and while the tender passion is engulfing that perennial caballero, audiences will be delighted to see the very marked improvement in this chapter of the established western series as compared to its predecessors. The feature is definitely above average as program material, and will be more than welcomed by Cisco's fans and cannot help but please all patrons, whether sagebrush enthusiasts or not. Sol Wurtzel produced. Herbert I. Leeds directed.

Montana Screen Club Will Be Led by Loy

BUTTE, MONT.—Organized here recently as a means of promoting better understanding among the various segments of the trade in the Montana territory, the Montana Screen Club has chosen Ed Loy as its first president.

Other officers named include: Bert Hensen, vice-president; Harry Swonson, secretary-treasurer, and Clyde Anderson, publicist. Members of the board of directors are Anderson, Frank Berryman, Sam Appleman, Joe Kracher, Cordell Enrooth and Frank Larsen.

Besides the officers and directors, charter members include Al Shepperd, Howard Godfrey, Jack Casey, Dan Kalen, Clare Swonson, Harold Fuller, Joe Tipple, Bill Braden, Dan Clancy, Russell Swonson, Buck Harris and Hank Young.

Regular meeting will be held at clubrooms yet to be determined.

"Reputation" Clause Is Upheld in Contract

LOS ANGELES—A superior court ruling has been handed down in favor of Dr. Peter Riccardi and Roger Rogers, co-defendants in an $18,000 damage suit filed by F. K. Ferenz, charging they unlawfully broke his lease on the Mason Opera House, which they own, and forcibly and illegally ousted him therefrom.

The defendants had the theatre padlocked October 12, interrupting a scheduled showing of German-language features booked by Ferenz, contending the films were Nazi propaganda and consequently were being shown in violation of the "reputation" clause in the lease.

The court upheld the defendants' contention and declared further projection of the films would tend to foment hatred, racial enmity and criticism. Ferenz had denied the pictures were propaganda and asserted he had never had "an adverse criticism" concerning any of them since he had been booking them, a matter of some five years.

First Runs Overcome A Pre-Holiday Lag

(Average is 100)

SAN FRANCISCO—Despite many holiday attractions, the first runs had a nice recovery from the pre-Christmas lag. The weatherman finally let up after ten consecutive days of rain and people began attending the shows again. The top spot of the week went to the Golden Gate showing "No, No, Nanette" and a stage show with no names but a local attraction in Nancy Welford, who played Nanette here for six months in 1925. Paramount ended a ten-day run of "Second Chorus" after better than average business. All houses made Tuesday changes with the exception of the Orpheum which held "Arizona" for a third week.

Detail for week ending December 30:

Fox—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 100
Golden Gate—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO), plus stage show 125
Orpheum—**Arizona** (Col); **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart** (Univ), 2nd wk. 100
Paramount—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Melody Ranch** (Rep), 10-day run 115
St. Francis—**Christmas in July** (Para't); **Go West** (M-G-M), after wk. at Fox..... 85
United Artists—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 2nd wk.. 120

Average Week Maintained By Seattle First Runs

SEATTLE—Average grosses were maintained generally by Seattle first runs during the holiday week that marked the year's end. "Thief of Bagdad" and "Arizona" each in second week stands maintained their drawing power along with all other product on theatrerow.

Detail for week ended December 28:

Blue Mouse—**Long Voyage Home** (UA); **Dancing on a Dime** (Para't) 90
Fifth Avenue—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 2nd wk..100
Liberty—**Arizona** (Col), 2nd wk. 100
Music Box—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 90
Orpheum—**Four Mothers** (WB); **A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't) 100
Palomar—**Dreaming Out Loud** (RKO); **March on Marines** (SR) 100
Paramount—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 90

'Flight Command,' 'Thief' Lead a Strong Lineup

SALT LAKE CITY—All product displayed gratifying strength at the tills of the first runs holiday week. Leaders were "Thief of Bagdad" at the Paramount and "Flight Command" at the Utah. "Tin Pan Alley" in its third week at the Studio managed to retain an above average drawing power.

Detail for week ending December 28.

Capitol—**Give Us Wings** (Univ); **Blondie Plays Cupid** (Col) 110
Centre—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 110
Paramount—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA) 125
Rialto—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO) 115
Studio—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk.....105
Utah—**Flight Command** (M-G-M) 125
Victory—**Where Did You Get That Girl?** (Univ); **Diamond Frontier** (Univ) 110

SEATTLE

ALL THEATRES got a Christmas present of extra business over the holidays. Lines were noted at most houses on Yule day. Many a theatre chair got a surprise, but with the local defense orders pouring in, these same seats will need replacing a year from now owing to constant wear. Here's hoping, and may that be my New Year wish to all theatre owners in this neck-of-the-woods. To all in the various other branches of the business may it be a Happy New Year.

The Ranch is at present featuring Edith Rogers Dahl, the gal who saved her hubby from the Franco firing squad . . . Basil Gray, secretary to the Stage Employes Union Local 15, was the highlight of the program for the annual newsboys Xmas dinner. Over 600 boys ate the turkeys and Basil presented some grand entertainment . . . Gracie Fields, England's most popular singing actress of stage and screen, will come to Seattle, January 24, to aid the cause of Britain under the combined auspices of the English-Speaking union, Friends of Britain and the British-American War Relief. Show will be held in the Music Hall.

J. T. Sheffield, president of Republic Pictures of the Northwest, held his usual open house for the holidays, but had a better reason to greet the gang. He is now a grandpa. Mr. and Mrs. Sheffield announce that their daughter, Margaret, is now the mother of an eight-pound daughter and both are doing fine. The son-in-law is Paul Bangasser, booker for the Sterling theatres.

Bill Forman, general manager for Sterling, spent his New Year's Eve in the hospital. Bill had to have his appendix removed. Visitors will find Bill in the Providence Hospital . . . Bill and Mrs. Shartin are spending their vacation with a trip to San Francisco, on to Los Angeles, and the Rose Bowl game . . . Harry Landstom in from Butte for his vacation and being entertained royally. One day Harry was entertained by the Jean and Madge Spears. Again by the Saffles then by Glenn Haviland.

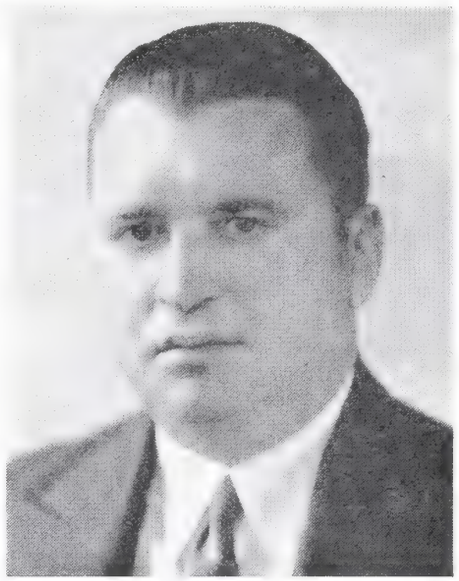
Alex "Doc" Singelow also being entertained the same way before he takes over his new duties with UA in Portland . . . Betty Condon, daughter of Maury and Mrs. Saffle, home for New Year's. Her hubby, Don, is a booker for Golden State theatres in San Francisco . . . Frank Sheffield and his wife, Billie, in for the New Year to spend a few days with their uncle T. T. Frank is salesman for Republic in Denver while Billie is secretary in the UA office in the same town.

Folks were worried for a couple of days over Art Bishell. Art suffered a heart attack and will be in the hospital for a spell but is coming along okay . . . Jimmie Ewing, former film salesman and later manager of the Orpheum in Spokane, has taken over the lease on the Granada in Auburn from Frank Graham.

L. G. McGinley, manager of Universal, celebrated his birthday on Christmas day . . . Eldon Pollock sr., of the Lincoln and Lyric theatres in Mount Vernon, is author of a book which has just been published, "Helene of the Yukon" . . . Betty Fettgather of the Hamrick-Evergreen theatres spending her holidays in Yakima, her home . . . Frank Graham planning to attend the national outboard motor show in New York early next month . . . Ned Edris of the Hamrick-Edris theatres in Tacoma still down with the flu.

Hoffman Again Leads UA Denver Exchange

DENVER—Al Hoffman, who again has been named manager of the local United Artists exchange, is one of those numerous men who, having been transferred here from other sections of the country, would rather be a salesman here than a branch manager elsewhere. When Earl Collins, salesman, was promoted to succeed Hoffman as manager, Hoffman elected to stay as a salesman under Collins rather than accept a branch managership away from Denver.



AL HOFFMAN

Recently, when Collins was made manager of the Los Angeles exchange, the company elevated Hoffman back to the manager job.

Hoffman started in the theatre business in 1911 as an usher in the Marshfield Theatre, one of the first nickelodeons in Chicago. Al was going to Chicago University at the time, and when he graduated he was made assistant manager of the Orpheum. Later he opened the Broadway Strand for Marks, Goodman & Harrison. He entered the sales end in 1920 as a salesman for Harry Weiss, an independent distributor, then went to FBO as salesman, and for a time operated a sign and giveaway business on his own. With World Wide for a time, he switched to United Artists, both times as salesman, then to Minneapolis as branch manager prior to coming to Denver as branch manager.

During Al's first term as manager, and with Earl Collins, his successor, the local exchange consistently won sales, date and collection drives.

SALT LAKE

CHRISTMAS attendance at local theatres was very good. Several theatres celebrated reopenings at the time, including the Paramount and Capitol here, and the Ada at Boise, Ida. . . . Sales by independent retail stores in Utah during November 1940, were eight per cent higher than in the same month of 1939, and sales for the first 11 months of 1940 were four per cent above the same period a year earlier, the U. S. census reported last week. Idaho retailers recorded November sales 10 per cent above those of the same month in 1939, and Wyoming stores chalked up a four per cent increase.

Norma Shearer, en route to Sun Valley, Idaho, to spend the Christmas holidays skiing with a group of Hollywood friends, including Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production for 20th Century-Fox, paused in Salt Lake for a brief stopover. She said the party would remain at Sun Valley for two weeks before returning to Hollywood, and that she hoped to keep her skiis both pointed in the same direction, "and I don't mean up," she added. Others in the party were Mrs. Zanuck and their three children; Mack Gordon, composer of screen music; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Feldman, and Archie Mayo, a director.

Exclusive films of the first annual Snow Cup race at Alta are now on the screen at the local Centre. They were filmed by Paramount's Joe Rucker, who spent two years with Byrd at the South Pole and has covered many major winter sports events . . . Laraine Day, native Utahan and film star, ordered 80 five-pound cans of Uintah basin honey from Myton, Utah, and 30 turkeys to be sent to Hollywood friends and studio workers for Christmas . . . "Tin Pan Alley" and "The Letter" have run for three consecutive weeks in Salt Lake.

A tieup here involves the Tower Theatre and the Golden Glory Milk Products Co. "Free Movies," especially selected to please the youngsters, are shown on Saturday mornings. Admission "price" is six milk bottle caps or trade marks from milk cartons used by the milk company. E. D. Smith is manager of the Tower . . . Some pictures selected for the holiday week included: "Thief of Bagdad," "No, No, Nanette," "Flight Command," "Santa Fe Trail," "Tin Pan Alley," "Give Us Wings" and "Blondie Plays Cupid."

The reopenings in Salt Lake of the Capitol and Paramount were highly successful. Managers C. Clare Woods and Norman Sprowl are in charge, respectively. The Paramount had in the lobby a small railroad engine (about as tall as a six or seven-year-old youngster) proclaiming thereupon a "trainload of fun" for the New Year's celebration here.

Newspaper Story to Selwyn

HOLLYWOOD—"She Takes a Wheel," a newspaper story, will be produced for Metro by Edgar Selwyn. Marion Parsonnet is doing the script.



Heads UA in L. A.—

Earl Collins, new manager of the United Artists branch in Los Angeles. He formerly was manager of the Denver exchange, being succeeded there by Al Hoffman.

PORTLAND

STANLEY GUSTAFSON, assistant shipper at Fox, who fell off a ladder and broke his back, is getting along nicely and hopes to be back at work before long . . . Mrs. Hudson's Colonial has blossomed forth with a new marquee.

Filmites welcomed an oldtimer back to the business when Mel Johnson took over the managerial reins of Jesse Jones' Roseway. Mel has been out of the industry for three or four years, but will be remembered as manager of the Mission in Vancouver and later of the Venetian in Hillsboro.

Visitors were scarce on the Row last week due to holiday activities . . . Archie Holt came down from Seattle for a holiday visit . . . Cal Barnes, ex-film truck man, visited old friends on a recent trip. He spends the winters in his mountain home near the Oregon coast and the summers operating a concession at one of California's beach resorts.

Wes Johnson stopped over on his way to Seattle for a vacation . . . Roy Brown went to San Francisco for a New Year vacation . . . Charlie Powers didn't go south or north for a vacation, but the story is that he had more fun than anyone else by playing with junior's electric train. At any rate, he's been very scarce around the Row lately.

Sam MacFadden spent his holiday in the dog house because he couldn't manipulate the tinker toy set his son got for Xmas . . . Jim Sheffield made sure his baby didn't get anything more complicated than a rattle.

"Draft" With Bob Hope

HOLLYWOOD — Paramount's "Caught in the Draft" will star Bob Hope. Wilkie Mahoney is doing the script.

LOS ANGELES

IN FOR BOOKINGS: Justin LaFont, Forum Theatre, Barstow; Al Kirsten of the Whittier Theatre; Murray Hawkins, general manager of the Swan circuit . . . George Carrington, vice-president of Altec Service, is in from New York for conferences with local Altec executives and is headquartering at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

Henry Sonnenshine of Premier Pictures pulled in from a business trip to San Francisco—just in time to spend New Year's at home . . . Likewise Fred Gage, salesman for United Artists, who scooted through his Arizona territory in double-quick time to make it back here for New Year's Eve . . . M. J. Wagnon has closed his Camo at Cambria, according to word reaching the Republic exchange . . . Jack Anderson, Republic's office manager in Portland, spent the holidays down here.

New Year's present for the Paramount exchange is a facelifting and remodeling job. A new, streamlined booking booth is being installed . . . Booking: Boris Posner, Arlington Theatre; Lowell Winfield, Glendora, Glendora; Jimmy Edwards of the Edwards circuit in San Gabriel Valley; Alex Mounce, operator of the Campus.

Stan Pariseau, branch manager for Altec Service, planed to San Francisco for a week's stay on business . . . John Ash, M-G-M auditor, left for New York . . . C. A. B. Emanuel and his daughter Bess of the Foreign Film Exchange spent New Year's at Boulder Dam . . . Mr. and Mrs. Barclay Ardell, in from Altec's Seattle office, vacationed here during the holidays.

Frank R. Newman, head of Evergreen Theatres in Seattle, has recovered from the illness which bedded him soon after his arrival here to spend the holidays. He has been at the home of his son-in-law, Producer Pandro S. Berman of M-G-M, and will return to Seattle shortly . . . Lou Metzger has transferred his theatrical enterprises offices from Filmrow to his own new building at La Cienega and Olympic Blvds.

Ollie Wog, branch manager for Producers Releasing Corp. in Portland, and formerly with Universal locally, spent the holiday season here . . . Ditto Jack Ericson, 20th Century-Fox salesman from San Francisco . . . Don Cameron, Altec Service engineer in Colorado Springs, has been visiting his mother here . . . The flu has bedded Ida Schreiber, secretary to Robert Poole at the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz.

Wendell Bickford of M-G-M's poster department surprised his Filmrow friends by eloping to Las Vegas and marrying Florence Lyman. She's a non-pro . . . In booking: Phil Greenbaum, operator of the Castle and Mecca theatres; A. Molina, Placentia Theatre, Placentia, and Ben Bronstein, head man at the Bronstein circuit here.

Mike Levinson, independent distributor, has booked "White Zombie" for the entire Evergreen Circuit in Portland, Oregon . . . Murray Fisher, office manager here for Producers Releasing Corp., came back in time to enjoy the exchange's Christmas party. He had been a flu sufferer for more than a week.

Harry Cohen, RKO Radio branch manager, has returned from a trip to the New York office . . . Film Alliance has moved its offices from 1912 S. Vermont to 1928 S. Vermont . . . Foster Blake, Universal salesman, spent the holidays in Portland, Ore. . . . Harold Whitman, Universal booker, has left for Sterling, Indiana, to help his parents celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Harry Taylor, sales manager for Constance Bennett Cosmetics, Inc., has returned from a trip through the midwest, during which he closed deals for more than 1,000,000 pieces with the Fox, Commonwealth and Griffith circuits of Kansas City, as well as with circuits in Iowa and Nebraska . . . Simultaneously, President George Alderman of the Bennett firm came in from a sales trip which took him northward as far as San Francisco.

Hugh Braly, Paramount district sales manager for Dallas, Memphis, and Oklahoma City, and Mrs. Braly stopped off here briefly en route to Selma, Cal., where they spent Christmas with Mrs. Braly's mother . . . M. G. Whitman, of the Universal exchange in Seattle, was another holiday-time visitor.

Elsie Schulz of the local M-G-M exchange observes her fifth anniversary with the company on Monday. Others marking anniversaries with Leo include: Agnes Leeming four years, January 9, and Doris Randle, 14 years, January 10.

Ascap Is Denied a Writ in Washington

SEATTLE—After many months of court battling involving complications with various radio stations, dance halls, cafes handling music, ballrooms, along with the theatres in the state, Jim Hone, executive secretary of the former MPTO and now the Independent Theatre Owners of Washington, finally won his point when a three judge federal district court denied the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers an injunction against a state law on the grounds that the society is an illegal combination in restraint of trade.

The decision will have far-reaching effect, for other states have been awaiting the outcome.

Hone, in the interest of the theatres he represents, has devoted most of his time to fight Ascap.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
1964 So. Vermont RO. 1145
LOS ANGELES

S' FRANCISCO

THE HOLIDAY spirit hung heavy over the Row along with a few sprigs of mistletoe and holly. Even the weatherman entered into the spirit of the thing and called off the wet weather that seemed destined to carry right through the 25th. Practically the entire personnel in the industry here got an extra half day holiday on Tuesday and while some exchanges held last minute parties, everyone else went about their belated shopping. There were plenty of bonuses scattered about.

The Tivoli Theatre opened on Xmas day as a subsequent run house operating on a 20 cent top policy. The house, under the managership of Joe Meyers, is showing double features and luring patrons with the cash giveaway game, "Hi-Lo" . . . RKO is planning a big invitational screening for "Kitty Foyle" early in January. The picture had a preview showing at the New Year's Eve Jamboree at the Golden Gate.

Newsreel Cameramen Jack McHenry, Erby Koverman and Roy Kluver have secured the services of a blimp for the innovation which will be designed to offset the effects of nationwide photo publicity stirred up by Utah's new ski lift at Alta, where 200 flares were shot off simultaneously to afford night lighting for the cameramen. At the same time, the McHenry-Koverman-Kluver deal will provide goers with their first views of the nine-mile conveyor belt between Redding and Shasta Dam which is so inaccessible it may be photographed only from the air.

Abe Romm is leaving the El Presidio where he has been manager for over a year. Abe is to go into business for himself at Woodland . . . Herman Wobber in town for a visit to the 20th Century office . . . Frank Maun is leaving Universal . . . 20th-Fox finished second in the play date drive just concluded, but so far have only the glory of their fine showing . . . The Lincoln Theatre in Alameda, owned by Berg-Plotkin, closed its doors.

Pete Markowitz, owner of the Strand in Modesto and brother of Abe Markowitz, prominent San Francisco exhibitor, died the 21st . . . Lou Marks of the Rialto in Sacramento is back in circulation after an operation. He was on the Row this week saying hello to all his friends . . . Westley Warren is the new shipper at National Theatre Supply . . . Sid Weisbaum, Republic manager, spending the holidays with his family in Denver . . . James R. Grainger planed in and out for a quick visit to the Republic exchange.

Warner has started their "30 Years for Sears" drive which will run to April 19 . . . It took more nerve for Jack McHenry to go to Del Monte the past weekend than it has taken on any one of his countless assignments during 22 years as a newsreel cameraman. This assignment was his marriage to Miss Anita Jenkins . . . Booking on the Row: Clive Church, American, Kinsburg; W. G. Allen, Sunset, Riverdale; Dan Tocchini, El Rey, Sebastopol . . . Irene Kerr observed her fourth year with M-G-M on Saturday.

Many a Hollywood celebrity forsook favorite Santa Anita to come to the Bay area for the opening of the Golden Gate Turf Club at Albany. The track was originally scheduled to open December 28 but the date was set back to January 1 because of the heavy rains. It was a gala beginning of 36 days of racing and a capacity crowd attended.

For the second time in the history of the game, the Shrine East-West Charity football contest was a sellout weeks before the afternoon of January 1. Fifty-six thousand people crowded into Kezar Stadium to see All-Americans and near All-Americans battle for a fine cause. A dry field prevailed for the first time in four years. The players and coaches left for Los Angeles where they will perform for the benefit of the British Relief Fund Sunday.

Navy Night was celebrated at the Fox Theatre Thursday. A large group of naval officers stationed at various departments in the bay area attended the evening performances with their families as guests of the theatre to view "Flight Command" . . . Charley Maestri, West Coast booker for the East Bay, absent from his desk due to illness . . . All M-G-M salesmen, Lee Hulling, Sid Schuster and Ed Mix were vacationing this week . . . Edna Schefer is leaving Warner to assume the duties of a housewife.

The Golden Gate pulled a fine exploitation stunt out of its bag of tricks this week. "No, No, Nanette" opened at the theatre on Christmas Day and on the stage, as an added attraction there was Nancy Welford who played Nanette for six solid months in this city in 1925. Miss Welford has been working at one of the fashionable women's shops here and obtained a week's leave of absence to play the week at the Gate. She still has a fine voice and was well received by the audience that packed the house all week.

Charlie Thall of Fox West Coast is serving on the Grand Jury . . . Arch Bowles was hospitalized for five days with a severe case of the flu . . . Joe Blumenfeld and his family are spending the holidays at Palm Springs . . . Jim Riley reports a big year in sales of International Seats . . . H. Muraki is contemplating taking a troupe to Japan for a tour if it can be arranged with the government. If the deal goes through, Muraki will turn over his Mission in Sacramento to his son.

Dick Powell has been packing them in during his personal appearance at the Gate. Powell opened on New Year's Eve and stayed for the remainder of a week's run . . . M-G-M is about back to normal at present writing. Eight of the office force was on the sick list at one time and the exchange was operating with a skeleton staff . . . Chan Carpenter is leaving the booking department at Universal. He will be replaced by Arthur Greenfield who comes up from Los Angeles . . . "Here Is Ireland" is in its second week at the Clay. The theatre had to install 16mm equipment for the engagement.

J. C. McCann of the T&D Jr. is reported much improved at the St. Mary's Hospital . . . The Tivoli has decided upon an evening only policy with matinees on Saturday and Sunday . . . Leon Kowalski, formerly of the Davies, is now house manager at the Tivoli.

DENVER

THE COLORADO state legislature is in session for its regular biennial meeting, and it is expected that some bills will be introduced affecting theatres. Theatres now are paying a sales tax of two per cent on all tickets, and according to a survey, the legislators are against any increase of this levy. The old age pensioners, beneficiaries of the tax, hope, however, to add the tax to gasoline, cigarets and liquors. It is thought this would enable the state to pay the full $45 a month pension to all eligibles over 60. In the last session a bill was introduced that would have forced theatres to put toilet facilities in all booths, this measure having been sponsored by the projectionists. The bill was killed after it was shown that in many spots the cost would be prohibitive. Most of the newer theatres have such facilities built in. Theatremen and especially Duke Dunbar, former secretary of the film board of trade, will be on the watch for obnoxious laws.

During the broadcast of the speech by President Roosevelt Sunday night the crowds in theatres were conspicuous by their absence, but as soon as the broadcast was over business boomed in most houses.

The employes of the Civic theatres believe in Santa Claus now—and that kindly old gent is personified to them by their bosses—A. P. Archer and Joe Dekker, for everyone of the Civic houses—the Federal, Oriental, Egyptian, Granada and Rex, was closed all day the day before Christmas so the employes could have their Christmas parties with their families and friends without having to wait until midnight.

About 75 couples attended the wild game dinner given by the Rocky Mountain Screen Club at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Rick Ricketson and Al Gould, having been unusually successful on their hunting trips to Wyoming, furnished most of the venison.

Fox Intermountain has taken over the State from L. C. Snyder, who is taking a vacation before being placed in a managerial post . . . J. B. Melton, owner of the Victory, left for Florida to spend a couple of weeks on his plantation.

Kaplan, Smith, Graham to Operate in Santa Barbara

SANTA BARBARA, CAL.—Louis Kaplan, W. W. Smith and H. R. Graham have organized Coast Theatres, Inc., which will own and operate the Rose, now under construction here. House will be a de luxe unit with 680 seats.

Sound for Aztec

DENVER—RCA sound is being installed in the Aztec at Aztec, N. M., by Harry and Russell Allen. An early reopening is planned for the house which was damaged by fire recently. Similar equipment is being installed in the theatre W. E. Cox is building at Westville, Ariz., to be known as the Cotton Boll.

IA May Be Moving In on Local B-2

By B. O. TELLER

ST. LOUIS—Is the IATSE moving in on the affairs of another of its local affiliates, Theatrical Employes Local B-2, on much the same basis that it "took over" Local 143 of projectionists several years ago?

That question is current in local union circles since B-2 decided to ask the IATSE to supervise its election of officers for 1941.

An attempt at an election was made at a meeting December 27, but when the business of counting the votes cast in the six-cornered race for the post of business agent was completed, it was discovered there were 279 ballots in all, although only 234 of the union's 600 members were on hand to vote. When this information was revealed it was decided to declare the election void and to ask the international to supervise a new election.

On the basis of the 279 votes that were counted, Howard Akers was found to have the same number as John Ambersley, incumbent. Each had 94 votes. The remaining votes were scattered among the other four candidates: Roy Becker, John McCarthy, Earl Beard and Andrew Doherty.

The position of business agent is the only office in the union that carries a salary. It pays $30 a week plus $10 for expenses.

B-2 was organized by John P. Nick several years ago. He resigned as vice-president of the international several months ago after Circuit Judge Ernest F. Oakley had ousted him and Clyde A. Weston from control of Local 143.

Community Sings to Introduce Songs

Chicago—As an outgrowth of the Ascap-BMI fight for the control of music for broadcasting, Balaban & Katz is starting community singing in their State Lake in the loop to introduce the latest songs via the theatre. If the plan is successful, it will be extended to other B&K houses equipped with organs. The plan may also be tried out by the downstate Great States circuit.

Chicago Newsreel House Marks First Birthday

CHICAGO—A special program marking the first anniversary of the Telenews Theatre was arranged by Manager Sylvan Goldfinger. In its first year, Chicago's only newsreeler entertained nearly 250,000 patrons.

Harvest for Theatres

ROCKFORD, ILL.—With 5,000 workmen building a huge training camp at Camp Grant drawing a weekly payroll of approximately $250,000, local theatres are enjoying a harvest in admissions. Soldiers are expected to augment the theatres' income later.

Holiday Party

CHICAGO—A holiday party for kiddies of members was held by the B&K Employes Club at the State Lake Theatre club rooms.

Directs "Rage in Heaven"

HOLLYWOOD—W. S. Van Dyke will direct "Rage in Heaven" for Metro.

Key Post to Balaban In Drive for Greeks

CHICAGO—John Balaban has been appointed midwest director for theatre participation in the Greek war relief drive.

Starting early this month and to continue for several weeks, special midnight shows will be put on by theatremen throughout the country in behalf of the drive.

Edwin Silverman and Sidney Spiegal both of the Essaness circuit, have contributed $150 and $100 respectively for Greek war relief, it is announced by Van Nomikos, president of Ahepa, largest Greek organization in the United States. He expresses himself as very pleased with the aid received thus far from the trade for the Greek cause.

The national campaign, which has $10,000,000 as a goal, is being handled by Spyros Skouras, National Theatres' president.

Joseph Bernhard Pauses In Chicago for Talks

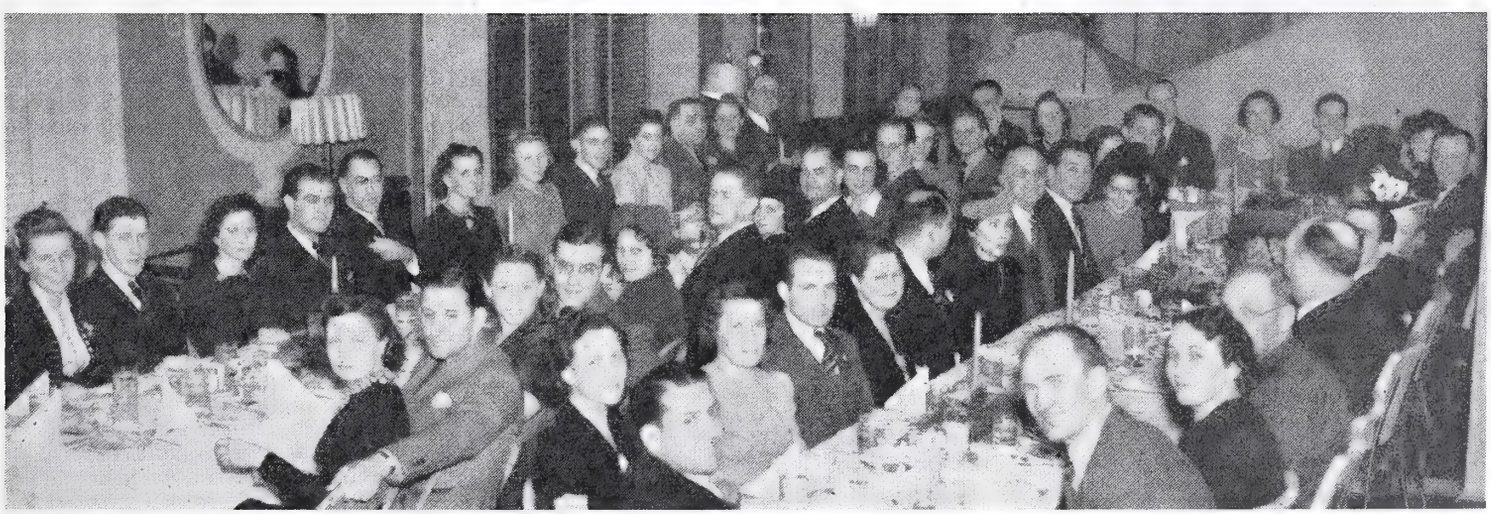
CHICAGO — Joseph Bernhard, head of Warner Theatres, was in Chicago conferring with local theatre officials. From here, he was to go to Hollywood.

Ahead of "Fantasia"

CHICAGO—Frank Braden, advance man for Walt Disney, was here this week arranging for an early presentation of "Fantasia" in Chicago.

"Affectionately" for Bacon

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has assigned Lloyd Bacon to direct "Affectionately Yours."



Metroites Celebrate in Indianapolis—

The Metro Pep Club of Indianapolis staged its annual Christmas Party at the Variety Club with a round of entertainment and festivities. Left to right, first row: Margaret Wilson and escort; Ethlynn Baker, Robert Rigsbee, Mr. and Mrs. Don MacLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Burchard Carr, Doris Rodgers with escort, Harry Markun, Mrs. Dewey Taute, Dewey Taute. Second row, from left: Mrs. Joe Sullivan, Joe Sullivan, Mr. andMrs. Ivan Heche, Betty Brown, G. N. Wallace, Katy Pyle, Roland Calbert, Klaska Johnson and escort, Darlene Willman, Harold Marshall. Third row from left: Bud Farrell, Alice Worland, Florence Jolley, Virgil Eskridge, Irene O'Brien, Allen Kling, Ruth Sipe, Joseph Byram, Bill Schwartz and wife, Joan Atlas, Jerry Adams. Fourth row from left: Harry Stevens, Mrs. Harry Stevens, Gray Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. Harding, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Kreilein, Mr. and Mrs. White Wagner. Head table, left to right: Mrs. W. W. Willman, Wade W. Willman, Mrs. Tim Cleary, Mr. Tim Cleary, Pep Club president; Mrs. Foster B. Gauker and Mr. F. B. Gauker, Pep Club treasurer.

INDIANAPOLIS

ON THE Row: Joe Schilling, Connersville; Lowell T. Moore, Orpheum, Mitchell; Mrs. Hilda Palmer Long, Hippodrome, Sheridan; Harvey Cox, successor to Frank Reimer, Quimby circuit, Fort Wayne; E. K. Crouch, Palace, Fairmont; Harry Van Noy and Ed Donahoe, Paramount, Anderson, and Lowell Brewer, Grove, Beech Grove.

Abe Kaufman, Columbia salesman, is back on the job, having recovered from the injuries he received in an automobile accident . . . Sarah Florence Newton was to be married Saturday to B. L. Shamburger in Louisville. She is employed at the local Universal exchange.

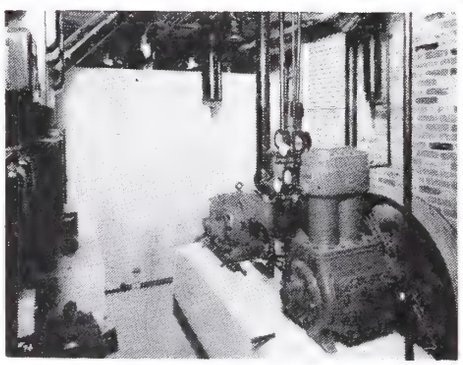
John Peterson, manager of the local Uptown, was a cousin and former manager of the late Hal Kemp . . . National Theatre Supply's offices here are being remodeled . . . Harold "Doc" Arlington has joined the Cantor circuit as manager of the local Esquire.

Charles Haessig, formerly an employe at the Lincoln here and now on active duty with the U. S. Naval Reserves, spent the holidays in Indianapolis. He is stationed at the Boston Navy Yard.

William Schwartz observed his 14th year with M-G-M January 1. Florence Jolley, also with the local exchange, marks her fourth year with Leo on January 11.

BETZ STORAGE SYSTEM OF

AIR CONDITIONING



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A REFRIGERATION SYSTEM operating at times other than on the electric peak, thus a low demand charge resulting in unusually low operating cost.

Uniform temperatures.

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15 *years specializing in theatre Air Conditioning*

Correspondence Bride For Correspondent

Chicago—The local office of BOXOFFICE is planning on starting a matrimonial bureau on the side. Only a few months ago, Gene Rich, then central editor, became a groom. On December 26, Hal Tate, Gene's successor, also became a benedict. Bride is Nikki Kaye, Baltimore radio and fiction writer. Hal met Miss Kaye when she was here in mid-November on a three-day visit. Marriage took place in Baltimore after a six-week correspondence courtship. Mrs. Tate, however, will not be able to join her husband in Chicago till mid-January since the 13-week radio show she is now writing and directing will not wind up till January 17.

BOWLING

CHICAGO—As the year ended in Chicago's Filmrow Bowling League, four teams were tied for first place. With the season now past the half-way mark, the leading scorers are: Fisher, Fox, 178; Knaffle, United Artists, 175; Ogren, Universal, 174; Jack Kirsch, Republic, 174; and Dreifuss, Republic, 174. The standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
20th Century-Fox	22	17
Metro	22	17
Paramount	22	17
United Artists	22	17
National Screen	18	21
Republic	17	22
Film Truck	17	22
Universal	16	23

CHICAGO—In the Balaban & Katz Office Division Bowling League, the Price-Waterhouse five maintained their 3½ game lead over the Television quintet by taking two out of three games from the B. F. Lindheimer team while Television won two out of three from Advertising. Leading scorers are: Carlson, 176; Pipher, 175; De Tamble, 171; Louis, 168, and Stockseth, 165. The standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Price-Waterhouse	25	11
Television	21	14
Booking	17	19
B. F. Lindheimer	17	19
Film	14	22
Advertising	13	22

The Belmont five lost their undisputed lead in the B&K Theatre Section Bowling League, when they lost two out of three to the second place Chicago No. 1 boys who as a result of the victories went into a first place tie lead. Leading scorers are: John, Northwest No. 1, 178; Hansen, Northwest No. 1, 176; Potter, Chicago No. 1, 175; Katz, Chicago No. 1, 175; and Jalas, Chicago No. 3, 173. Standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Chicago No. 1	25	11
Bemont	25	11
North Side	23	13
State-Lake No. 1	22	14
State-Lake No. 2	20	16
Chicago No. 2	16	20
West Side	14	22
Northwest No. 2	13	23
Chicago No. 3	13	23
Northwest No. 1	9	26

Pat O'Brien for Ten

HOLLYWOOD—Pat O'Brien has signed a five-year ticket to star in two pictures annually for Columbia.

MILWAUKEE

JOSEPH P. KLAUZER JR. is the new manager of Fox's Paradise in West Allis . . . George Miner, owner of the Majestic at Rice Lake, gave his annual free Christmas show for local youngsters last Monday. At Peshtigo, all children were the guests of Oswald Mylener at the Lyric, while Miss Lucille Forbes was host to local youngsters the same day at her Cosmo in Merrill; Manager John McDonald at his Majestic in Barron and L. H. Freid, manager of the O'Klare in Eau Claire, through the cooperation of the local Eagles Club.

Under sentence of an embezzlement charge, Jules I. Kaplan, former manager, cashier and agent for the Federal Theatre Project here, took a pauper's oath last week before U. S. Commissioner Floyd E. Jenkins. Kaplan at one time managed the old Columbia and Majestic here.

Standard Theatres has modernized its Strand in Green Bay with a new front, new carpeting, new fluorescent lighting and new lighting fixtures in the auditorium . . . Miner Amusement Co. has purchased an old garage building at Barron and will convert it into bowling alleys and office rooms.

A. J. Meininger has left his post at the Garrick in Chicago to become associated with his father, A. J. Meininger sr., in the operation of the Fox Hut in Fond du Lac. The elder Meininger is a former Fond du Lac theatre manager . . . Thomas J. Daly, manager of Fox's Uptown in Racine, was robbed last week by two armed bandits of about $300 in theatre receipts.

Wallace Estrup, manager of the Geneva at Lake Geneva since last September, has resigned to take an advertising post in Hammond, Ind. . . . J. P. Adler, Marshfield exhibitor, and Mrs. Adler are in Florida visiting the latter's father.

Roy McMinn, manager of the Beacon at Superior, turned over foodstuffs collected at a matinee at his house last week to the Salvation Army for distribution to the needy.

Twenty-one local houses were dark on Christmas eve, which is about on a par with closings the same night the year previous.

Fox staged pre-New Year's eve parties December 28 for youngsters at 13 of its theatres here with hats, horns and free goodies to all. Admission was 10 cents at all houses. A similar party was staged on the same day at the circuit's Beverly in Janesville and Uptown in Racine.

With the exception of the Riverside, all houses held over their December 20 shows until December 31 with new shows starting New Year's eve. Admissions were somewhat higher than the same night a year ago, ranging from 75 cents at the Riverside to 85 cents at Fox's Wisconsin, Palace and Strand.

Edward Lipson marked his 13th year with M-G-M on January 1. Emily Petersen completes her fourth year with the company on January 12.

CHICAGO

QUICKIES

By HAL TATE

MOVIES have always set the pace for their radio rivals. Now radio, it appears, will have its consent decree, too, in the Ascap-BMI musical melee.

With neighboring theatres benefiting by the overflow of crowds attending "Love Thy Neighbor," Paramount's new Benny-Allen picture seems aptly titled.

BOXOFFICE headline: "AAA Will Move to New Quarters in U. S. Rubber Building." Does that mean the consent decree might become elastic?

We see where Samuel Cummins at Eureka Productions, Inc., is exclusive distributor and sole copyright owner of "Ecstasy." Honeymooners will undoubtedly picket Mr. Cummins.

No doubt the M-G-M publicity guys are already racking their brains figuring what kind of a premiere to give GWTW in 1941. After all even FDR has had only three terms—so far.

From a film trade paper: "Mervin Houser is to handle production publicity on the forthcoming feature which the Mex Fleischer Florida studio . . ." "Mex" Fleischer, eh? Looks like he's succumbing to the South American influence.

$10,000 Fee

ST. LOUIS—A fee of $10,000 was allowed by Probate Judge Arnold to the law firms of Cox, Blair & Kooreman and Dubinsky & Duggan for their services in connection with the litigation involving the $100,000 estate of the late Charles H. Turpin, Negro theatre owner and and justice of the peace, who died five years ago. The litigation involved a will contest and the setting aside of a trustee estate through which Turpin attempted to leave the bulk of his estate to his sister and niece.

Any Rain Checks In Collection?

Chicago—This fellow is no "one-eyed Connelly." He never "crashed the gate." He's got his own ticket stubs to prove it. The guy is Al Weinberg, personnel manager of the Filmack Trailer Company, and the ticket stubs are his collection. For Al's hobby is saving ticket stubs from shows, sporting events, etc., which he has attended.

Motion pictures, legits, burlesques, operas, hockey games, prize fights, baseball games, football games, fairs, circuses, side shows, lectures, political conventions . . . he's got stubs for them all.

This unique hobby started some eight years ago as a result of an argument. A "Doubting Thomas" wouldn't believe that he had been at the Democratic convention in Chicago, and Weinberg resolved to save his stubs thereafter—no matter what the event.

TALK AROUND TOWN: Henri Elman's new 1941 calendar. Best he's ever put out. Contains names, addresses and phone numbers of everyone and everybody connected with picture business here. As usual BOXOFFICE has top billing in the trade paper listing. Henri says if by any chance any exhibitor didn't get one he'll be glad to send one out if they'll call him at CALumet 2900. Henri, who gave a terrific New Year's party at his Capitol-Monogram exchange last Tuesday, congratulated ye central ed on his srecent marriage.

Another calendar that is causing much comment is one put out by TWA. Contains beautiful original drawings by Gene Walther depicting landscapes over which the planes fly. Everybody in town is cutting up the calendar and framing the pictures . . . Bill Westlake, publicity director for TWA here for umpteen years, is leaving January 14 to do his stuff for Uncle Sam. Bill an experienced pilot, will join the 108th Observation Squad at Battle Creek, Michigan. No successor, to date, has been appointed.

Tom Gorman has moved the RKO-Theatres offices from the State-Lake Building to the Palace Theatre Building. Official address is 134 N. La Salle Street . . . Van Nomikos has returned from Dayton, Ohio, where he and Spyros Skouras addressed a meeting of Ohio Theatre Owners, in behalf of Greek War Relief Fund. Eddie Silverman and Sidney Spiegal of Essaness have personally contributed $150 and $100 to the fund.

Nate Gross, conductor of the popular "Town Tattler" column in Herald-American *devoting much space to film trade news. Says Nate: "William E. 'Doc' Banford, M-G-M branch manager, is in St. Luke's Hospital, where he has had eight transfusions . . . Sabu, star of 'Thief of Bagdad,' blew into town Monday to spend New Year's Eve with Walter Parker at the latter's party in the Panther Room . . . Dennis Scanlon, iron lung inventor and recent winner of a huge judgment against Sonja Henie, has been in town attending Sonja's show at the Stadium . . . The Madlin Theatre of W. Madison St. stole a march on the nearby Chicago Stadium. It hung out huge banners advertising 'Sonja Henie, in Happy Landings,' and some folks nearly fell for it."*

Ye Central Ed went to New York last week for first time since he was a kid. The theory of the reputed sophistication of the New York show-goer was blasted. The patrons laughed long and loud at the same brand of humor that the average Chicagoan chuckled at. Of course it is understood that Mr. Average New Yorker didn't attend the shows it being the Christmas-New Year week, and undoubtedly 99 per cent of the theatre patrons were out-of-towners.

Couple impressions of Baltimore—seen for the first time: In Chicago you can get a cab anytime of day or night. In Baltimore you apparently have to know the "right people" to get a cab . . . In Chicago you do the red-caps a favor when you give them some baggage to carry. In Baltimore, the "darkies" act as if they do you a favor for carrying your baggage. (And tipping has nothing to do with the attitudes—since they all get 10 cents per piece of baggage—plus a tip) . . . The sameness of Baltimore houses called for the usual gag: "How does a guy find his own house when he comes home drunk."

Filmrow still buzzing with talk over the $30,000 Fanny Brice collected in her suit against 20th Century-Fox. "Baby Snooks" wanted $750,000 over alleged defamation of character in "Rose of Washington Square." Fanny said the film was injurious and defamatory to her career and character. She got a 30 grand out-of-court settlement . . . Ilah Elwood of local M-G-M exchange rounded out 14 years with the company on Friday. It'll be ten years with Leo for Herman Bezart on January 12.

Brotman Installs RCA

CHICAGO—M. J. Brotman is installing RCA sound in his Rogers here. Other Central area exhibitors who have placed orders for the equipment are: H. P. Vonderschmitt, for his Strand, Crawfordsville, Ind.; Peter Paulos, for his Aida, Oglesby, Ill., and George Settos, for the Cine, Linton, Ind.

Annual Christmas Party

CHICAGO—The annual Christmas party of the Warner Employes Club was held at the group's club rooms.

Adapting "Chain Gang"

HOLLYWOOD—Howard Green is adapting "Chain Gang" for Producer Wallace MacDonald at Columbia.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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THEATRICAL PRINTING



Superior, Wis., Theatrical Union Re-elects Slate

SUPERIOR, WIS.—The Theatrical Protective Union, Local No. 457, which will observe its silver anniversary in August, 1941, has re-elected all its officers as follows:

William Flandt, president; Obert Quam, vice-president; Ralph Pink, treasurer, and Erving Austin, business manager and secretary.

Although the union has been organized since 1893, it had a joint charter from that year to 1916 with Duluth. Many notables of the theatrical world are expected to attend the anniversary celebration.

Into Defense Post

CHICAGO—Sam Todd has joined the U. S. Engineers Corps as a lieutenant colonel. He was previously in charge of the film inspection division of the Chicago Electrical Bureau.

To Studebaker Helm

CHICAGO—Milton Krantz has taken over as manager of the Studebaker Theatre here.

Continue With Ascap Tunes

CHICAGO—Warner houses in this territory will continue to use Ascap tunes, it is announced by officials of the theatre operating company.



"Bagdad" on Dualler High in Milwaukee

(*Average is* 100)

MILWAUKEE—"The Thief of Bagdad" coupled with "Hit Parade of 1941" at the Warner was the week's best money puller followed closely by "Chad Hanna" and "The Great Profile" at Fox's Wisconsin. Business in general was slow, but mild weather helped in a small measure to offset Christmas competition.

Detail for week ended December 28:

Palace—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 90
Riverside—**Melody Ranch** (Rep); Polack Bros. Circus on stage 110
Strand—**Arise, My Love** (Para't); **Cherokee Strip** (Para't) 80
Warner—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **Hit Parade of 1941** (Rep) 135
Wisconsin—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **The Great Profile** (20th-Fox) 130

Holiday Week Is Slow for Indianapolis First Runs

INDIANAPOLIS—The last week of the year maintained tradition in being a week whose entire punch as far as shows were concerned is confined to the holiday dates themselves, with the week on the weak side.

"Lady With Red Hair," bolstered by Larry Clinton's band on the stage, put the Lyric in front of the Indianapolis first runs with a percentage of 95.

Detail for week ended December 28:

Ambassador—**Triple Justice** (RKO); **Orphans of the North** (Mono) 80
Circle—**Christmas in July** (Para't), plus stage show 80
Streets of Paris on the stage.
Loew's—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M); **Angels Over Broadway** (Col) 80
Lyric—**Lady With Red Hair** (WB) 95
Larry Clinton's band on stage.

Show Goes on Despite Disruption of Power

ST. LOUIS—Officials of the Laclede Power & Light Co. announce that an investigation shows that vandalism was responsible for the disruption of electric light and power service in a wide mid-city area the night of December 25. An automobile skid chain was thrown across a main power line at the company's substation at Evans Ave. and Sarah St., causing a short-circuit that cut off service for 52 minutes commencing at 8:20 p. m.

Among places affected was Fanchon & Marco's Fox. The break came during the showing of "Chad Hanna." In the emergency, the theatre management had performers in the stage show and Will Osborne and his orchestra assemble, and as ushers from the Fox, Missouri and St. Louis theatres held flashlights, the musicians played and Osborne led the audience in singing. Temporary service was installed by running wires to a nearby building which received power from another electric company.

Support Gathers

ZION CITY, ILL.—Despite the opposition of the Zion Church, support is gathering here for a theatre.

Hold Funeral Services For Anna S. Kaimann

ST. LOUIS—Funeral services were held here for Mrs. Anna S. Kaimann, wife of Stephen A. Kaimann, founder of a chain of theatres in St. Louis.

Mrs. Kaimann died December 24 at her home. She was 69 years old.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Anna C. Ballman, and three sons, Clarence H., Francis S. and William J. Kaimann, who are interested in the Kaimann Brothers circuit, which is affiliated with the Fred Wehrenberg houses in the Greater Independent Circuit of 25 neighborhood and suburban theatres.

Deletions Bring Permits to Two Banned in Chicago

CHICAGO—Police Commissioner James P. Allman has ordered the local police censor board to lift their ban on two pictures, "After Mein Kampf," and "Goose Step." Allman also told the censor board to issue permits for showing of the two pictures providing certain portions of the films were deleted.

In "After Mein Kampf," certain caricatures including portraits of Hitler which fade into death's heads were ordered eliminated. Three scenes were ordered cut from "Goose Step." Both films are anti-Nazi pictures.

Seven Theatres Tie With Columbia Radio Station

COLUMBIA, MO.—Seven motion picture theatres in various towns adjacent to Columbia have made arrangements with Station KFRU here to run trailers to announce the station's new frequency of 1370 kilocycles. The trailers list features on the radio's programs.

Book Ray Noble

CHICAGO—Ray Noble has been booked into the Chicago Theatre for the week of January 17. The Four Ink Spots will headline the vaude bill at the theatre next week.

Open in Chicago

CHICAGO—Standard Fluorescent Corp. has opened offices here at 77 West Washington Street. Organizers of the new company are Walter P. Sampson and A. A. Bogeaus.

Bandits Still at Large

ST. LOUIS—Local police have been unable to apprehend the two young bandits who stuck up two employes of Fanchon & Marco's Fox December 25 and escaped with $1,290 in cash. The robbery took place on the mezzanine floor of the theatre.

Observe Anniversaries

ST. LOUIS—Herbert Bennin and Molly Corry observe their 13th and 11th anniversaries, respectively, with M-G-M on Monday.

BALABAN STATEMENT ON DECREE CHEERED BY NORTHWEST ALLIED

Appeal for Cooperation Is "Satisfactory" to Independent Body

MINNEAPOLIS — Northwest Allied is cheered by the statement of Barney Balaban, Paramount president, in an open letter to its executive secretary, Fred Strom, denying that Paramount will have conditioning sales under the consent decree, asserting that if his company offers blocks of five to exhibitors the latter will be free either to buy or not to buy and explaining that subsequent blocks will not be withheld until preceding blocks are sold and booked.

From a trade press interview given by Balaban, Northwest Allied had gathered there would be such conditioning sales and, in an open letter to the Paramount president, it charged that this would violate both the spirit and letter of the decree at the very outset.

The Balaban reply, stating Paramount's position under the decree and his own attitude and feelings toward it, and also calling upon all exhibitors to cooperate earnestly to produce the best results for the industry, instead of anticipating disaster, is "entirely satisfactory" to Northwest Allied, Strom said.

Pledge to Observe

"You and your associates and the exhibitors who are members of your organization need have no concern about the intentions of Paramount and its officers and employes about the consent decree," says Balaban in his open letter to Strom. "We will not violate it in letter or spirit. We intend to try to make it work for the good of all and give it a fair trial, and we hope that our customers will do likewise, regardless of what might have been their views and how may be their criticisms or fears.

"Under the consent decree, beginning with the coming season, five important companies will embark upon a new selling season. None of us has had any experience with it because, as far as I know, there is no exact parallel anywhere. Very frankly, I do not know how pictures will be handled under the new system. Problems must be met and solved as they arise and actual experience will be a better guide than any effort at planning in advance. Product must not be dissipated or sacrificed either by distributor or exhibitor in any arbitrary way, because if this happens everybody loses.

"With the huge loss of revenue from our foreign markets, it is of vital importance to every distributor to avoid and prevent dissipation of product in this country if the producer is to remain in business. The exhibitor, correspondingly, must protect himself against such waste, or he will suffer.

"This is precisely what I mean by saying that there would be no exhibitors' field day, an observation in answer to the suggestion that some exhibitors had something of the kind in mind. There cannot be a field day for either buyer or seller at the other's expense.

Orderly Method Needed

"To take care of our customers' needs and to supply the studio regularly with funds to enable it to function properly and produce entertainment of boxoffice quality, there must be an orderly method evolved for the distribution of pictures in the various territories, according to the differing conditions which may obtain in different places. Considering the fact that second runs must follow first runs and subsequent runs follow earlier runs, it must be apparent that the sale and booking of pictures must be so arranged as to avoid confusion. That will be the task and problem of our distribution department to work out in the most satisfactory and equitable way for all concerned. To attempt to accumulate product for indiscriminate offering, without recognizing the fact that some order is necessary, would not simplify or aid in the solution.

Clarifies Statement

"In my remarks to the reporter—remarks which led to this misunderstanding—I was not endeavoring nor intending to announce any definite plan or formula or hard-and-fast rule for the distribution of product. However, assuming for the purpose of the discussion that Paramount had decided on a uniform plan or policy of putting into the market only one block of five pictures at a time and of refraining from offering any other block until the first block had been completely bought and booked by its customers, I cannot see how that would violate the consent decree in letter or spirit. On the contrary, it would seem to be the one sure, safe course to follow to avoid a violation of the decree or a claim of violation.

"If Paramount should offer a block of five pictures and no others at the time, each exhibitor to whom it is offered is perfectly free to buy or not to buy, strictly upon his judgment as to its merits. And neither the distributor nor the exhibitor under any circumstances could bring any other picture or block of pictures into the equation. Under such a plan, Paramount could not say to an exhibitor, 'Here are several blocks of trade-shown pictures, but you cannot have a block of more which you want unless you take others I am offering you.' On the other hand, the exhibitor could not claim that was the requirement that Paramount imposed, which would be contrary to the decree.

"I trust that the aforegoing will relieve you and your associates of any anxiety that you may have and that exhibitors will not anticipate disaster, but will earnestly cooperate to produce the best results for the industry under the decree."

Storm Legislature With Case

Minneapolis—The board of governors of Northwest Allied will meet early in January to set a date for the convention of all the territory's exhibitors for a storming of the state legislature in a campaign for a code of trade practices which would nullify objectionable consent decree features.

Fred Strom, Northwest Allied executive secretary, asserts replies to questionnaires sent out to all of the territory's independent exhibitors were a unit in approving the convention and its purpose.

A number of state legislators already have been buttonholed by exhibitors in their districts and have pledged their support to the proposed measure which will be sponsored by Northwest Allied, Strom says.

One of the proposals is that the exhibitors go en masse from their convention hall to the state legislature to present their case. The code of fair trade practices already drawn up contains the same features relative to cancellation, restriction of chain expansion, etc., which already have been indorsed by distributor leaders, it is stated.

Urges Playdates for "Land of Liberty"

KANSAS CITY—A special appeal for cooperation was issued this week by R. R. Biechele, president of the Kansas-Missouri Theatres Ass'n, for membership support of "The Land of Liberty," patriotic film, which Metro has been requested by the industry to distribute.

Net proceeds derived from rentals are to be used for war emergency welfare work.

Metro is releasing the picture as a regular picture and is designating it according to the grosses established in tests in Memphis, Tenn.; Williamsport, Pa.; Evansville, Ind., and Portland, Ore. If the designation is too low, Metro is asking that exhibitors voluntarily increase the rental; if the designation is too high and the exhibitor loses money, Metro will redesignate it in a lower bracket.

Biechele urged the cooperation of every member of the KMTA.

Role for Randy Scott

HOLLYWOOD—Randolph Scott will play the top male role in RKO's "True to Form." David Butler will produce and direct.

1941 Is Viewed With A Favorable Eye

MINNEAPOLIS—The 1941 outlook for the trade in this territory is believed to be good. Industry leaders hereabouts are optimistic and expect a brisk upturn with the turn of the year.

It is pointed out that agriculture, the territory's mainstay, is sure to start soon to benefit from the increased purchasing power throughout the nation resulting from defense spending. This will mean higher farm prices, leaders assert, putting more money into pocketbooks to spend for entertainment in the territory.

Moreover, more and more industries hereabouts are beginning to get defense orders and that means additional employment and increased buying power, it's also pointed out.

Because it has fewer industries than many sections, this territory is slower in experiencing an upturn, but it invariably comes, even though it's late, exchange heads say. Depression is not so sharp, as a rule, hereabouts, by the same token.

The substantial improvement which has occurred since Christmas will continue and grosses will score big gains, branch managers predict. During the past 10 days, most of the loop theatres have enjoyed exceptionally good business, they say. The Orpheum, with Gene Krupa on the stage, and the State, showing "Love Thy Neighbor," were outstanding.

Comedy Lead for Fuzzy

HOLLYWOOD—Fuzzy Knight will play the comedy lead in Paramount's "New York Town."

He's Planning to Be Around for Awhile

Freeman, S. D.—For 21 years E. J. Kleinsasser has been an exhibitor in Freeman, which is quite an achievement in itself. But that he plans to be around for some time yet, is indicated by the fact he has just completed an extensive renovation program at his Met, which included installation of new cushioned seats and a screen, and the extension of the theatre's balcony to increase its capacity.

Mike Roth Takes Over Rialto at Anita, Ia.

OMAHA—Mike Roth, salesman and exploiteer for various companies on Filmrow, has taken over the Rialto Theatre at Anita, Ia., formerly operated by W. F. Budd, now deceased.

Roth told BOXOFFICE he plans some remodeling and modernization after the theatre has been under his management for a time. The house seats 230 and has been operated by Budd's widow and son.

Anita is located half-way between Omaha and Des Moines, and Roth will buy his pictures through the latter exchange, he said. His wife will assist him in the operation of the theatre.

New Seymour House

SEYMOUR, MO.—A new 400-seat house, built of native stone, is being erected here for opening early next spring by George W. Owen, veteran exhibitor of Western Missouri.

Seeks Quick Action On Prosperity Club

LINCOLN—Chafing under delays in judgment of pleadings in the state's case against the Omaha Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n, for the operation and sponsorship of "Prosperity Clubs," Attorney General Walter Johnson filed a motion with the supreme court to come to some conclusion and mete out punishment to the 26 theatres comprising OMPEA.

Johnson's contention is that the Prosperity Clubs are violating the Bank Night knockdown of June 26, 1937, and that all the giveaway elements of lottery are present in the Prosperity Club scheme just as they were in the "Bank" idea.

Nebraska recognizes three lottery elements—consideration, chance and prize. OMPEA disclaims consideration, and admits the other two ingredients. Johnson insists consideration is there, even though registrants need not buy a ticket or be present in the theatres to win. Johnson says anyone even using the muscular energy to show up at the theatre and sign his name is giving consideration, because time and effort is worth something.

The PC plan puts up $500 each Wednesday night, which, if undrawn, goes to $750, then $1,000. No more than $1,000 is available any time as the prize. There are 40,000 registered names at present, as participants in the weekly Omaha stunt.

Johnson charges the OMPEA with evasion of the ruling by ill-disguised window dressing, and says the theatres are trying, by preying on man's gambling instinct, to enrich themselves.



—University of Nebraska Photo

Discuss "Miss Bishop's" Debut—

R. W. Huffman (left), city manager of the Lincoln Theatres Corp., and Gabe York, special publicist for Richard A. Rowland, look over the situation for the premiere of "Cheers for Miss Bishop," which will be in Lincoln January 14. Martha Scott, William Gargan and other stars will attend. Yes, that's the industry's pulse on the desk.

"Abner Askit" Holds Up in Court Test

LINCOLN—City Manager R. W. Huffman and Nebraska house manager, Gene Shanahan, were freed from charges of having conducted a gift enterprise of illegal nature with their weekly Nebraska program, "Abner Askit." Judge Fisher, of muny court, said the statute under which the charges were filed, had been outlawed by supreme court.

He did hint, however, that there may be further recourse, if there is a rub with the state's lottery law, which is very strict. He excused this case because the charges do not make a lottery specification.

"Abner Askit" is played very similarly to Bingo, except that cards are handed patrons as they enter the theatre, and on each card are several answers. Questions are announced from the stage, and the first person to get four correct answers in a row across his card wins a prize—usually groceries.

County Attorney Max G. Towle brought the suit at the request of Marvin Griffith, who said he owned several games similar to "Abner Askit," and wanted to find out whether they could be legally operated in Nebraska. Immediately after the dismissal, Towle filed a new action under the state's lottery law, so the matter is still brewing.

KANSAS CITY

ZACK BEISER of the 110th Engineers (formerly office manager and head booker for Columbia is off for Camp Robinson, Ark. . . . The other evening he had a 99.9 degree temperature, one-tenth under enough to send him to the hospital.

Frank Norris, Warner Brothers booker, and Joe Lysowski of Altec Service, went to Dallas for the New Year's and the Cotton Bowl game.

George Lofink, who used to be here for Universal, and then was on the booking desk for the company at Des Moines, is entering the Navy. He is reported married quite recently.

Joe Allard has closed his Tivoli at Louisburg, Kas.

E. E. Webber jr., ex-exhibitor (that's not double talk), but now a salesman of terra firma, was on Filmrow the other day visiting his sister-in-law, Virginia Gaylord, of Universal.

Outstanding gesture of the year (and we know it was a sincere one) was that of Harry Musgrave, who has the Ritz at Minneapolis, Kas., and the Columbian at Wamego, Kas. Harry, who is well liked anyway by the bookers on Filmrow, bought each booker a Xmas present, and called them down to Screenland to get it.

Jean Fiske (who says she isn't bragging) bowled 163 the other evening for the Warnerettes . . . It just shows what you can do with practice.

Sylvan McDonald, who operates the Community, Sumner, Mo., and who doesn't get in very often, was on the Row the past week.

Howard Kinser, 20th-Fox salesman, spent the holidays hunting deer near Laredo, Tex.

Stanley Mayer, 20th-Fox manager at Des Moines, was in town for New Year's.

John Courter of the Courter, Gallatin, Mo., was through Kansas City last week en route to the Rose Bowl and two months' vacation in California.

Gus Kubitzki of 20th-Fox is in Florida on vacation . . . A card from him at St. Augustine says he took a drink from the fountain of youth, and that he now is waiting for it to take effect . . . Knowing Gus, we don't think he needs it.

Harold Harris, general manager of H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc., spent the Xmas holidays in Texas, his home state, with Mrs. Harris . . . Bill Lansburg of Paramount was home at Sioux City for the Xmas holiday . . . Bob Carnie, Paramount salesman and speaker, gave some of the Kansas boys in the National Guard, who are off to the wars, a rousing sendoff the other night.

Speaking of wars, Ernest Nelson, manager of the Ritz at Garden City, Kas., for Commonwealth Amusement, is going, and he has been succeeded by Roy Tucker, assistant manager of the Fox, Liberal, Kas. Frank Kennedy, Commonwealth assistant at Batesville, Ark., is going, along with Bill Smith, operator at the Plaza, Searcy, Ark.

Helen Pyle, formerly at RKO, is at Columbia, now, as booker's secretary . . . Christine Wilson, who used to be booker's secretary, now is head of the Columbia cashier department . . . Does Margie Zimmerman of Columbia have a new boy friend?

On the Row: F. C. Hensley, Pomona, Kas.; M. B. Presley, Globe, Savannah, Binney at Pattonsburg, and Dixie at Belton, Mo., and the Madison at Huntsville, Ark.; Charles R. Gregg, Gregg, Caney, Kas., who hasn't been in for a long time; A. E. Jarboe, Ritz, Cameron, Mo.; Harry Till, Courter, Hamilton, Mo.; E. P. Michaels, Michlo, Braymer, Mo.

Raymond Winch, who operates the Wakefield at Wakefield, Kas., is in the hospital at Fort Riley, following an accident at Camp Funston, where he was working as grade foreman. Winch was injured when a grader maintainer knocked him down and ran over him.

Porter Mendenhall is doing a lot of work on the Ritz at Caldwell, Kas. He has installed new modernistic doors, new carpet, lobby furniture, etc., and redecorated and painted.

The Orpheum at Topeka, Fox Midwest house, has reopened after a short period of darkness. Same policies will prevail as formerly, with double bills.

New lamps have been installed in the DeLuxe at Spearville, Kas., by Ernest F. Quick.

Even his staff has gotten into the habit of writing poetry, so we pass along this effort by the cashier at Tom Edwards' Ozark, Eldon, Mo.:

Anxiously I caught your eye
To read the thought behind it;
I watched your fingers flutter once,
And felt conviction growing.
Two tickets? Yes, sir, there you are.
The feature now is showing.

Our idea, based on observation of theatre ticket buyers, is that the cashier of the Ozark could have said a lot more.

Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Cowley, who operate several shows out of Siloam Springs, Ark., were on Filmrow last week, visiting with Herschel Kaufman and Jimmie Foland. They have devised a method of giveaway that is unusual, giveaways in very small towns of the type they operate being very unusual anyway. They buy a complete set of dishes, and then give away an entire unit within the set; that is, six cups and saucers, sugar and cream, etc. The giveaway is once a week, and is by drawing. The method is inexpensive, and said to be effective.

Bill Kubitzki, who is with Monogram at Des Moines, was in town for the holidays, visiting his father, Gus Kubitzki, of 20th-Fox. Bill is as tall-and-lean—as life.

Richard Salk, Monogram booker, was in Chicago for the holidays . . . Stan Gold-

(Continued on page 92)

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Peterson "Freezem" Mfg. & Sales Co.
Blowers, washers, spray nozzels, office and home units.
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C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't Wichita, Kas.
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EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
Frank Cassil, Pres. Fred Meyn, Sec.-Treas.

AIR CONDITIONING

National Air Conditioning and Engineering Corp.
VI. 3535
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Manufacturing—Engineering—Installation

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Alexander Film Company
Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
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FILM LABORATORIES

MISSOURI FILM LABORATORIES
Charles O. Siebenthaler
110 W. 18th GR 0708
Kansas City, Mo.
Complete Advertising Trailer Service

Omaha Barkers Will Inaugurate Officers

OMAHA—Members of Omaha Variety Club will inaugurate 1941 officers at the annual inaugural dinner-dance on January 19 at Hotel Fontenelle. Part of the ceremonies will be conducted in the club headquarters at the hotel with the main festivities planned for the hotel ballroom.

The affair will start at 8 p. m. and is open to all members of Variety, exhibitors, filmites and their friends. The house and entertainment committees will be in charge of arrangements.

Mendenhall Chief Barker

Albert "Ted" Mendenhall, Paramount exchange manager, will be installed as 1941 Chief Barker, succeeding Morris Cohn, exhibitor in Council Bluffs, Ia. Mendenhall has served one term as Chief Barker of Tent No. 16 previously. Walter M. Green, Fepco boss, is the newly elected first assistant and Sam Epstein, local circuit owner, is the new second assistant chief barker.

Edward Shafton, attorney connected with the industry, has served as property master since Omaha Variety was founded and starts his seventh year in that office. Meyer L. Stern of Capitol Pictures will be dough guy for 1941.

Canvassmen are Harry J. Shumow, Metro chief; Don McLucas, United Artists boss; Bob Ballantyne of Scott-Ballantyne Co.; Glenn Rogers, Film Transport; John Gillin, Radio Station WOW, and Cohn. Shafton, McLucas and Rogers comprise the Heart of Variety. Cohn and Green will be delegates to the national convention with Shafton and Epstein as alternates.

Initiation of new and transferred members also will be held. Joseph P. Smith, RKO salesman, will be the new member to ride the goat, while transfers are Harry Schiffrin, Warner salesman; Reginald Cadman, Universal salesman; William Brimmer, salesman, and C. W. Allen, RKO boss.

Overrules Motions Seeking Dismissal of Cassil Suit

KANSAS CITY—Motions filed some weeks ago by defendants in the Frank Cassil anti-trust damage suit, seeking a dismissal, have been overruled by Federal Judge Merrill Otis. Defendants in the $450,000 suit are Dubinsky Bros. and major distributors. Cassil operates the Rialto, St. Joseph, Mo.

Briefs on Film

IOWA CITY, IA.—The law library at the State University of Iowa has acquired microfilm records of the United States supreme court briefs for 1938. This makes the Iowa City law library the seventh in the country to use this method in obtaining supreme court records not available in printed form.

: Tall Corn State Story :

DES MOINES—Iowa exhibitors may want to be watching for "The Murder of the Sea Lioness." It's a Tall Corn State story from the author to the murders.

Tom Duncan of Des Moines reports that he has sold the story for film reproduction. The major character, the Sea Lioness, lives right on Des Moines' Grand Avenue. Duncan uses the title "Sea Lioness" as a bit of slang designating a "dowager."

There's a police detective in the story named Shep Millen. Duncan admits that he had Cliff Millen, Des Moines *Tribune* political writer, in mind, when he drew that character.

Three or four murders are also reported included in the tale. Two of them take place in the Edmundson Art gallery here, which has not yet been built, but which apparently is entirely completed in Author Duncan's imagination.

Artist Ben Boyd has been very startled to hear that a third murder takes place in his studio in the Wallace-Homestead building.

Duncan uses his own characteristics for one of the murder victims—an artist who plugs his telephone, refuses to answer his door, and hangs out do-not-disturb signs while he's working.

As a result Millen (the fiction character, not the *Tribune* reporter) has to climb down a skylight to find him several days dead.

But the rest of Iowa will be permitted to solve the whole story with much less effort—simply by shelling out four-bits at the boxoffice.

Diamond Opens Orlando Theatre on Xmas Day

KANSAS CITY—Gus Diamond returned this week from Florida, where, at Orlando on Xmas day, he opened his new $50,000, 700-seat Vogue Theatre in the nabe section there.

Attending from the local Row were Ben Marcus, Tom and Mrs. Baldwin, and Bill Bradfield, all of Columbia; Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Block of Warner Brothers; Mr. and Mrs. John Graham of United Artists, and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wheeler of Paramount. Gus also operates the Vogue, Salina; Howard, Arkansas City, and Roxy, Eldorado, Kas.

Compilation Starts On Directory

Omaha—Regina Molseed, RKO booker, has started compiling the 1941 Omaha trade area directory of theatres, owners and circuits. Any exhibitor who has changed locations, name or size of theatre, and new exhibitors during 1940 are urged to report these changes to Miss Molseed or the Omaha representative of BOXOFFICE.

No New Registration For DM Bank Nights

DES MOINES—G. Ralph Branton, general manager of the Tri-States Theatre Corp., issued a statement in which he said the expense of registration for Bank Night was too great for the theatres to consider re-registration of all patrons each year.

Branton's statement came in the form of a reply to a petition signed by 200 Des Moines persons and presented to the city council. The petition asked that the council pass an ordinance requiring yearly registration.

State Legislation If Necessary

The petition pointed out that many persons registered at the nine theatres operated in Des Moines by Tri-States have been registered for four years and that some are dead or have moved away. If the city council can take no action, the petition asked that the council recommend state legislation to require re-registration.

Branton, in his reply, argued that 98 per cent of all names called in the theatres have been from Des Moines or its vicinity and that whenever a dead person's name is drawn, it is learned immediately and a new name drawn.

In his discussion of the expense of Bank Night, Branton said Tri-States theatres in Des Moines have given away $12,000 in 1940, $17,000 during 1939 and $15,750 during 1938.

"We believe," said Branton, "the few people who desire a change in the present plan are unaware of the great satisfaction many people have who participate in this advertising plan, and also the great good it does many merchants and other people here."

Granting of License to Gayety Causes Unrest

MINNEAPOLIS—Granting of a license by the city council to Irving Gillman to operate the Gayety, long home of burlesque, as a dime subsequent-run double feature film house, in the face of opposition from other Gateway exhibitors, is precipitating a war in that district.

Harry Dryer, who owns the Bijou, will reopen the Lyra, adjacent to his house, in consequence of the development. As a result there will be two additional houses and 2,000 more seats within a radius of six blocks. All the houses use the same policy.

The Gayety license was opposed on the grounds that the Gateway section already was overseated, the seven houses in operation having 3,000 seats and the going being tough.

If the Palace, a 1,900-seat house with a 15 cent double feature policy, is considered a part of the Gateway, to which it is adjacent, the total seats are boosted to approximately 7,000.

Dryer bought the Lyra, next door to his Bijou, more than two years ago and has kept it closed ever since.

MINNEAPOLIS

SAM GURTZ, the Screen Game man from Chicago, here closing a few deals for his nifty new Bingo game which utilizes an electric device by way of novelty . . . Topping the list of Christmas cards received by this column was that of Ben Spewak, the Tyrol Hills showman. It consisted of a miniature Santa Claus, the torso of which was made of a pinch bottle of whiskey, with the arms and legs being bottles of other spirits. In Santa's sack was a box of double Corona cigars and cigar lighter.

Carlton Duffus, former Minnesota theatre press agent and now a M-G-M key exploitation man in Washington, D. C., vacationing for a few days in home territory . . . Tom Burke, now with Monogram in Des Moines, another home-town visitor . . . Frank Eisenberg, the energetic film salesman, off with the wife to California for a mid-winter vacation . . . Martin Kelly, former Minnesota Amusement Company exploiteer and now a promotion man in St. Paul, vacationing with the wife in Southern states.

Here's what some of the boys are wishing for the New Year: Irving Gillman, a spot in the loop for a new theatre; Sam (Mounds) Zuckman, less talk and more action about grosses; Paul (from aisle to alleys) Manns, another couple bowling alleys; Ben Friedman, a few more bets with the other Ben—Berger; John (State Theatre) Petchalanus, a new horse and a saddle to go with it; Jan (Lyric Theatre) Janssen, a better hair tonic to make his locks stay down; "Nickey" Goldhammer, another "Snow White," making the third successive year that he has made that wish; Dorothy (Welworth) Crane, another blitzkrieg season for the Golden Gopher footballers; Dick Wagner, the Sioux Falls' fireworks king, two Fourths of July; Joe L. (Majestic) Stern, more newspapers and newscasts; Sidney Volk, more parking space and fewer percentage pictures, and his brother, Bill, a trip to Hollywood.

This column asks its two coast subscribers, Ben Aber in New York and Ben Ashe in Everett, Wash., to pass along the season's greetings to the Twin City colony in those parts . . . Kay Green in town, marking time while plans are being completed to put his magic and music show, "Illusions of 1941," *on the board in the east . . . Nettie Goldie, popular booking agent, has moved her office from the Pantages building to her home. It is rumored that she plans to undergo a bit of surgical makeup . . . William "Bud" McInerney, former Welworth press agent, now operating a skating rink in Fairbault, Minn. . . . An elaborate merchants and theatre tie-up, revolving around a color book for the kiddies, is being engineered by Garner Northfuss . . . Screening audiences giving much applause to M-G-M's "Flight Command;" Columbia's "This Thing Called Love" and Warner Bros. "Four Mothers."*

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Bill Smith, Menominee, Wis.; Walt Lower, Moose Lake, Minn.; George Schraeder, Mountain Lake, Minn.; Carl Sather, Annandale, Minn.; Jack Wright, Red Wing, Minn.; "Doc" Reynolds, Princeton, Minn., and Al Ashenbrenner, Staples, Minn. . . . Gene Thorpe has resigned from the Warner Brothers' booking department to take a position in the Woolworth general offices . . . George Fosdick, Republic salesman, and the wife vacationing in Texas.

Warner's "Million Dollar Book Shelf" is a novel circulating library for local employes. The books are those which have been adapted by the company for the screen . . . Bill Scholl, RKO publicity man, in mourning because, he says, "Topsy" is dead . . . Dick Stahl, Universal salesman, on holiday jaunt to Tulsa, Kansas City, Dallas and New Orleans . . . Leo Devaney, RKO Depinet drive leader, due here for sales meeting next week and by that time "Nicky" Goldhammer, district manager, will be back from his California vacation.

Now that the Sears' celebration is under way, business is so good at Warner Bros. that they've had to employ additional office help. They've just put Dorothy Piper to work . . . Russell Egner, RKO city salesman, prizing a bowling ball that he received for a Christmas gift . . . David, son of "the little judge," Judge Meshbesher, won the door prize and assisted the magician at the Twin City Variety club's children's Christmas party . . . In town for the holidays were Mr. and Mrs. John A. Hawkins of Veblin, S. D., and Mrs. J. A. Hawkins, his mother, who also is an exhibitor at Waubay, S. D.

J. L. Stern of Majestic in North Dakota with his counsel, Sam Halpern, on business . . . Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, and the wife off to Florida and Havana pleasure-bent . . . Ben Blotcky, Paramount branch manager, building a new home at St. Louis Park . . . Everybody happy because Mrs. George Granstrom, wife of the popular St. Paul exhibitor, has recovered sufficiently from her serious automobile accident injuries to go home from the hospital.

Ask Abe Kaplan, independent circuit owner, about his New Year's wishes to Charlie Weiner, film distributor. Incidentally, Charles and his wife spent New Year's eve in Chicago as the guests of Abe Bronfman, president of Seagram's . . . Columbia employes presented "Hy" Chapman, branch manager, with a beautiful gold wrist watch for a Christmas gift . . . Jack Cohan, 20th-Fox salesman, changed his plans and will go to Florida again, instead of Mexico City, for his mid-winter vacation . . . Walter Lower, Moose Lake, Minn., exhibitor, passed through en route to New Orleans on a pleasure trip.

Norman Pyle, M-G-M exploiteer, spent a week vacationing in Chicago . . . Warner Bros. now reserves Mondays for out-of-town exhibitors here to book . . . Charles Stoflet, M-G-M salesman, has figured out a multiplication table for use in figuring group prices on shorts when figuring a deal or setting up a contract . . . Helen Paash of the M-G-M office staff spent the holidays in Duluth . . . Morrie Abrahams, veteran exploiteer and one-time actor, did a swell job as Santa Claus at the Twin City Variety Club's children's Christmas party. And how he enjoyed himself . . . Jack Kelly, M-G-M salesman, visiting his parents in North Dakota . . . Ben Landy, Columbia booker, put out of commission by a flu attack.

The mother-in-law of Mannie Sgutt, Columbia salesman, passed away here. Mrs. Ruby Sgutt, his wife, was in the film business herself for many years . . . Sammy Berg, Gayety manager, traveling in high society these days. He even was invited to one of the local 400's parties . . . Columbia's reissue of "The Lost Horizon" cutting a considerable swath in the territory . . . Universal off to a bang-up start in its Scully sales drive . . . They're saying around RKO that "Kitty Foyle" is one of the year's top-flight pictures . . . Mildred Walker marks her seventh year with M-G-M on Sunday.

Boyer and Goddard

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Boyer and Paulette Goddard will co-star in "Hold Back the Dawn" for Paramount. Richard Maibaum is adapting the Ketti Frings story.

BEST WISHES FOR NEW YEAR'S

WARNER BROTHERS-FIRST NATIONAL

BILL GRANT
MYRON ADCOCK
ERNIE HILL
EARL PERKINS
CHARLIE JACKSON
LEON DIZON

HERB BLASS

RUD LOHRENZ — District Manager

ART ANDERSON — Branch Manager

OMAHA

FILMROW here is expected to get back to normal this week after the holiday season . . . Film peddlers at most exchanges received a vacation of a week or ten days and many spent the holidays with relatives or friends in other cities . . . Exhibitors stayed home during the holidays . . . It all added up to a very quiet Davenport Street.

Slim Fraser, Joyo, Havelock, Neb., says business has been on the upswing since Christmas and he hopes it continues . . . Interest in the Filmrow ping pong tournament is expected to pick up, now that the holidays are over . . . Harry Schiffrin, Warner salesman, visited his folks in New England . . . Bruce Holdrege, Shenandoah, Ia., was one of the few visitors to Davenport Street . . . Also Frank Good, Iowana, Red Oak, Ia.

Some very pretty Christmas cards from Mr. and Mrs. D. V. McLucas, Mr. and Mrs. Walt Green, Lew and Olga Kozal and their twins. Also from the BOXOFFICE bosses, Ben Shlyen and Red Kann . . . Sid McArdle has gained 20 pounds since he became United Artists booker. When he was shipper at the same layout the exercise of swinging those films around kept his weight down. Sid had better team with Harold Neumann of Western Theatre Supply for some handball.

The Warner party was a very successful affair, due to the fine work of Harold Martin, Ruth Cogley and Peggy Bragg. Martin is entertainment committee chairman . . . Among exhibitors and filmites who attended the Rosebowl game were Bert Beams, Red Cloud, Neb.; Carl Krumrei jr., operator at the Minne Lusa Theatre, Omaha, and Fred Wickman of Tekamah, Neb. . . . Fred's mother, Mrs. Jennie Wickman, is booking the pictures while Fred is away.

A few exhibitors and filmites had the pleasure to see "The Great Dictator" the other night at the invitation of Don McLucas . . . Ted Mendenhall, Paramount boss, has been on the sick list but is recovering.

Harriett Wolsky was to have been married on New Year's Day at her home to Joe Shulkin of Council Bluffs . . . Last week was old home week for RKO folks formerly of Omaha . . . Bill Foley of Milwaukee; Danny McCarthy, Detroit; John Weinberg of the deep south; Sherm Fitch, Sioux Falls, and Charlie Snyder, Sioux Falls, all were here . . . Joe Smith, who is rivalling John Barrymore as "The Profile," flew to New York for the holidays.

Toby Stewart, Shenandoah, Ia., was in town . . . Carl Resse, Republic boss, went to the Rosebowl game and also visited Kay Stewart, his niece, in Hollywood . . . Kathleen Emerson visited her folks here on a vacation from college . . . The Tri-States annual Christmas party was a huge success. In charge were Ira Crain and Walt Hammond of the Omaha and Bill Trites and Pauline Hunt of the Orpheum . . . The Tri-States employes received a Christmas bonus, also.

Pre-Xmas Bad; Then A Pickup in K. C.

(*Average is* 100)

KANSAS CITY—Kansas Citians utilized good weather for shopping, very little for films, in the pre-Xmas week, but business boomed Xmas day and subsequently for first runs. By sandwiching two short weeks in the period the Newman managed a good gross on two programs. "Christmas in July" and Cab Calloway's band just about doubled the ordinary take for four days, which included Xmas and Thursday. A big stage show that combined the best of the city's kid talent with three professional numbers strengthened the Tower's movie offering of "Youth Will Be Served" and gave the house much better than usual.

Detail for the week ended December 26:

Esquire—**Hit Parade of 1941** (Rep.)..... 60
Played 6 days, closing before Xmas.

Midland—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M); **Escape to Glory** (Col.)..... 65
Played 5 days, closing before Xmas.

Newman—**Christmas in July** (Para't); **Cab Calloway's Band and acts**.....175
"A Night at Earl Carroll's" (Para't) and "World in Flames" (Para't) went six days. "Christmas in July" and Calloway played Xmas and Thursday.

Orpheum—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB); **Lady With Red Hair** (WB)..... 70
Played 5 days, closing before Xmas.

Tower—**Youth Will Be Served** (20th-Fox).....170
Played 7 days, with stage show.

Uptown—**Hit Parade of 1941** (Rep.)..... 65
Played 6 days, closing before Xmas.

Post-Holiday Trend an Upward One in Omaha

OMAHA—Exhibitors reported muchly improved business following the pre-Christmas slump. Christmas Day grosses were above average and indications point to possible upward trend first part of January.

"Little Nellie Kelly" and "Sandy Gets Her Man" proved the town's best at the Orpheum against two "brought-back-by-popular-demand" bills. "Here Comes the Navy," in a dual at the Brandeis, was satisfactory while two former heavy-pullers were poorish at the Omaha.

Detail for week ending December 28:

Brandeis—**Here Comes the Navy** (FN), reissue; **So You Won't Talk** (Col).....100

Omaha—**Trail of the Lonesome Pine** (Para't); **Thanks for the Memory** (Para't), reissues.... 90

Orpheum—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M); **Sandy Gets Her Man** (Univ) 115

Stage Band Lends Power To a Minny First Run

MINNEAPOLIS—Gene Krupa's band on the Orpheum stage was the only first run offering able to overcome the Christmas week slump in Minneapolis. The feature was "South of Suez." "The Letter" held up pasably in its second week at the Century.

Detail for week ended December 30:

Aster—**Dreaming Out Loud** (RKO); **Give Us Wings** (Univ) 90

Century—**The Letter** (FN), 2nd wk. 90

Esquire—**Mutiny on the Bounty** (M-G-M), reissue 85

Gopher—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M)..... 90

Orpheum—**South of Suez** (WB), plus **Gene Krupa** on stage 150

State—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 95

World—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA) 100

LINCOLN

NEW FACES: Eddie Terhune, formerly with Westland Theatres, Inc. (L. L. Dent), in Colorado, has come on here to manage the Kiva, the theatre whose opening made the town lighted 100 per cent theatrically . . . Marcia Beckman and Patricia Griswold joined the "how many" girls at the Varsity and Variety cages, respectively. They're college betty coeds.

Oddest Story: Howard Federer, general manager of Nebraska Theatres, Inc., made out two checks, December 1. One was to Rudge & Guenzel's department store for drapes and fixtures, a matter of $500. The other was in the sum of $300 to E. T. Gregg's electrical supply house. Checks were put in the wrong envelopes and mailed, yet each wrong recipient failed to notice the error, endorsed the checks, and both were cleared at the bank without a hitch. Happiest man in the whole deal was Gregg, who was $200 long of expectancy.

Substitution, Please: Mrs. Barney Oldfield is being groomed at the microphone by Ed Cooper, at KFCR, with the idea of being sponsored on her husband's old Hollywood nightly broadcast by Bob Huffman's Lincoln Theatres Corp. She is currently standing in for her spouse with his weekly film column in the Sunday *Journal* and *Star*. Said she, referring to his being called into the army as a captain: "Most women, when their husbands are called, usually start knitting, or wrapping bandages at home. Since mine is notorious for taking care of himself, taking over his radio show is a lot less morbid."

Speed Demon: Bob Livingston and Roy McGraw, one of his operators, went to Omaha the other morning to get a broken part for the Capitol projection machines. Bee-lining home, they passed through Waverly, Neb., a speed-trap, at 60 m. p. h. A safety patroller resented, and gave them a ticket—and not to the policeman's ball, either.

Novel New Year's Greeting: Howard Federer, in the midst of year-end figuring, sent out a note which read like this: "If you don't think there's a reason why this New Year can be happy for you, come and take a look at my books, and see how much better off YOU are than I am."

Guy Named Gabe: The "Cheers for Miss Bishop" publicist, Gabe Yorke, walked back and forth into the Stuart all week long, each time taking a look at the screen. "How come," he asked an usher, "that every time I walk in here I see 'Thief of Bagdad' on the screen?" The usher maybed it was because that was the only feature. Yorke was amazed, having found there was such a thing as a single feature house in Nebraska. He entered the state at Omaha, which always gives a bad impression that way.

Engagement: Paul Anderson, who has just been moved to the Lincoln, Harvey Traylor being switched to the Stuart, announced his engagement this week. The gal, a demure, coedish blonde, is Lois Nobles, and the only thing she knows about the show business is Paul.

Variety-"Star" Bowling Tourney Big Success

KANSAS CITY—In almost reaching its goal of $5,000, the annual Variety Club-Kansas City *Star* bowling tournament, December 21-22, was outstandingly successful. Also, participation was about three times as great as it has ever been in the past.

Thirteen alleys participated this year: Pla-Mor, S&S Recreation, Plaza Bowl, Clifford-Tessman, Cocked Hat, Tierney-Wheat, Bradford-Thompson, Stratton Baird and Grindel-Lembke, Kansas City, Kas.; Palace Alleys, Waldo Recreation, Oak Park, and North Kansas City Recreation.

Under the general chairmanship of Frank Hensler, the tournament was handled by Variety members and bowling alley managers. Lending special assistance at the alleys were Jay Means, Leon Abraham, R. R. Biechele, George Baker, Fred Meyn, Walt Lambader, Ward Scott, Jack Barnett, Charley Shafer, Nat Hechtman, Bev Miller, Jim Lewis, Homer Blackwell, Charley Gregory and Norris Cresswell.

Trio Installing RCA

KANSAS CITY—RCA sound will be installed by Theodore P. Davis in the new theatre he is building at Parsons, Kas. The equipment has also been purchased by Vincent M. Hoven for his H&H Theatre at Bowdle, S. D., and by E. Van Hyning for the new house he is building in Ottawa, Kas., to be known as the Tauy.

Megs "Missouri Bad Men"

HOLLYWOOD—William K. Howard will direct "Bad Men of Missouri" for Warner. Lester Cole is scripting.

DES MOINES

WE HAVE the piano tuned now, Bill Scholl, so we'll be expecting you around soon again to do that Gilbert & Sullivan stuff on-key . . . Sometime ago, a man who lived in the neighborhood of 13th and High found a belt . . . the length of the thing amazed him . . . he couldn't imagine anybody with a waistline to accommodate it . . . then one day he happened to see Stan Mayer going into the Fox exchange and he knew he'd found his man . . . the two-yard belt belonged to Stan.

Evan Jacobs undoubtedly has the cutest red-headed baby the stork ever delivered on the Row . . . Bart Lawrence began taking charge at the Jacobs residence on October 8 and already has the Filmrow ladies pressagenting for his beautiful, big brown eyes. Edna Greenland (Mrs. Harry Peter Franz) was so disappointed when the customs inspector in Canada didn't ask to see Frank's birth certificate, that she got it out and made him look at it anyhow . . . Edna wasn't going to have all that effort to get the certificate wasted.

Harry Holdsberg had a Des Moines Theatre usher get Ken Clayton on the phone for him . . . Clayton helloed and the usher asked him to wait a minute as he (the usher) handed the phone to Harry, who waited and listened, listened and waited, chewed off both thumb nails, and had reached the toe-tapping stage. Meanwhile, at the other end of the wire, Clayton had balanced the phone between one ear and one shoulder, and then gone on checking a roto layout, thumbing through picture features, and reading a column or so out of *PM*. Clayton had practically forgotten the instrument propped up on his shoulder when he was startled by the toe-tapping Harry. Harry couldn't stand it any longer and decided to beller "Hello there," whether anybody heard him or not. "Hello yourself," answered Clayton, "D'ja think I got all day to hang onto this thing while you powder your nose?" Time and tide wait for no man, but Clayton and Holdsberg—well, it's a good thing Harry's nerves gave way or those two busy fellows would probably both still be sitting in they're respective offices holding phones with each other.

Lou Patz will hunt all over the DM office of NSS-NSA-AAI (Mein gott und himmel!) and the NSA branch in Omaha for his cigarettes . . . then when he finds them, he starts all over again in search of a match to light the fags.

Sanford Schlesinger contends that there must be easier ways to break into the film biz than by being a third cousin to a Looney Tune . . . Sanford is related in just such a fashion to Leon Schlesinger, who draws Porky the Pig, Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies for Vitagraph, but when he went to California last summer to start a five-year course in cinematography (take that, you guys) at U. S. C., he found he had to spend two pre-cinematography (a law degree's easier to spell) years in college first . . . So Sanford is back at Drake biding his time.

If you don't think the entire theatre world waits with bated breath for Bank Night winners here, try calling a Tri-States theatre manager along about 9 on any Tuesday night . . . "The Bank Night drawing is on," the operator informs you sweetly. "You'll have to call back later" . . . and your nickel might as well have gone for a small glass down at Louie's.

Next time you see Bill Beckley, ask him about the time he did in Sing Sing . . . Honest—and it's nothing to be ashamed of . . . Don't let him stop until he describes the fella he saw in there with smoke coming off the top of his head. And did you know Bill used to work with G. Ralph Branton in the east . . . which has nothing to do with the time in Sing Sing.

Mel and Fan Evidon are about the most "God Blessing America" people we know . . . Mel, you'll remember, is wearing a little red-white'n-blue pin Phil Dunas sent him, and Fan was wearing the stars and bars in her suit lapel the last time we saw her . . . Mrs. Phil Dunas bought a white hat during her visit in DM, but we hope she didn't wear it in the local smog and ruin it . . . which reminds us of an old DM legend, "If the smog doesn't get it, the starlings will!"

Alpha Rayner observes his third year with M-G-M January 8.

Emil Franke is still wondering how he got in the theatre biz . . . "I took three years and two months of law at Marquette, and all of a sudden I find myself running a theatre," explains Emil, looking a little dazed.

Mabbe the film industry will start turning out more so-called "glamour art" after looking at this Sunday's DM *Register* syndicated gossip page.

.....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn— By KEN and RENE CLAYTON

IOWA FILM doesn't miss many transportation bets but Iles and McKinney are neglecting opportunity's knock if they don't try a little salesmanship on the Row when Warren Grossman of the Circle Theatre in Nevada, Ia., is booking. Grossman books in the boss' office and the day we saw the Universal staff lugging the booking equipment into Lou Levy's sanctum they looked as if they'd appreciate a little trucker assistance.

George Hake's new Dodge is making him dodge . . . The sleek, green machine is pointed to by every salesman in Iowa as evidence of the Belmond exhibitor's prosperity, but Hake's still shielding himself by insisting: "Cars don't cost so much. I use to be a dealer" . . . If the & Co. memories of his days on a stencilling crew are accurate, the Hake Motor Co. bought its tire covers from the Hinson Manufacturing Co. . . . Yes, and from & Co.'s stencilling table.

Whazzat about union stage hands in the Waterloo high schools? . . . Somebody told us to ask Leonard Kaplan.

Bob Malek tipped his hat to us, not to be polite, but just to prove that he was dark-haired and Bohemian instead of blond and German like a lot of his Gladbrook patrons.

Harry Holdsberg, Des Moines Theatre manager, says ushering is the finest training a young fellow can get, and that it has made a gentleman out of many an ordinary lug . . . "Looka me!" says Harry, "Piano! Flying lessons! Looka me!"

Doc Twedt is all swelled up, but he doesn't weigh any more . . . he's just throwing out his chest over that round table citation he received for promotion and exploitation at his Manly Lido.

For a long time we've had trouble with the first name of MacDermott, Harry Holdsberg's blushing assistant at the Des Moines in DM . . . now we can see why he's apparently been sort of keeping it under cover . . . our pick-up man informs us that it's DELMONT . . . nice, eh?

Rita Hayworth in P. A. at British Benefit Dance

DES MOINES—Rita Hayworth made a successful personal appearance at the Bundles for Britain dance in Des Moines.

From Hollywood Miss Hayworth arrived in Des Moines the afternoon of the dance and left for the coast again early the next morning.

She and her husband, Edward Judson, Texas oil operator and capitalist, were entertained at a buffet supper at the Gardiner (*Des Moines Register and Tribune*) Cowles jr., home.

The dance drew 1,000 persons at $5 for tickets bought in advance or $6 for tickets at the gate.

Hubbard Heads Union

MINNEAPOLIS—C. J. Hubbard has been re-elected president of the IATSE operators union here for a third term. The only new officers elected were W. J. Yutzy, business representative; L. T. Olson, trustee; A. W. Harris, sergeant-at-arms; G. E. Lauren and C. J. Hubbard, executive committee, and W. J. Christiansen and H. H. Babb, examining board.

Buy Film Alliance Lineup

DES MOINES—The Tri-States circuit of Iowa and Nebraska will play Film Alliance's entire lineup for 1940-41. Norman Elson, FA general sales manager, closed the deal with the circuit.

FIRST

In Style and Comfort

That's the thought that is always uppermost in the minds of those who attend you at Hotel Fontenelle. In keeping with this policy, the management is constantly adding new features for your comfort and convenience. The Amber Room Coffee Shop, the King Cole Room, and the Black Mirror-Bombay Room invite you.

HOTEL FONTENELLE



OMAHA

KANSAS CITY

(Continued from page 87)

berg spelled him on the booking desk.

Santa Claus is real! At least the lads and lasses at Film Delivery believe in him. They all got a Xmas bonus of a week's salary, thanks to Sam "Santa" Abend and Earl "Claus" Jameson.

Mrs. L. P. Davis, mother of Don Davis of RCA, died December 22 at Pawhuska, Ok.

Break open the champagne! Ruth Kelly, veteran employe at Universal, has just announced that she was married last March to Cecil Hollingsworth. She spilled the news at the Universal Xmas party last week. Congratulations!

Alex P. Bill, RCA representative out of Minneapolis, visited Filmrow over the holidays.

Fred Abelson, Universal salesman at Minneapolis, was in Kansas City for the holidays with Mrs. Abelson. Harold Johnson, Universal salesman at Minneapolis, and Mrs. Johnson, stopped over for a brief time on their way to Hot Springs, Ark.

Don Davis reports the sale of new RCA sound equipment to E. Van Hyning for the latter's Tauy, Ottawa, Kas.

A bunch of the boys from Variety Club went to see Peck Baker last Tuesday, and was he glad to see them! In the old days Peck followed for years the practice of bringing candy, etc., to Filmrow.

Captain Tommy Taylor, brother of Harry Taylor, and himself widely known along Filmrow, now is in charge of the theatre at Ft. Leavenworth, Kas. He's in charge of education and recreation at the post.

Good Luck, Joe Manfre! . . . Salesmen of the Paramount exchange here last week took Joe to a private dining room of the Pickwick hotel for a big steak dinner. There were no speeches, except one by a bellboy who presented Joe with a personal radio engraved with his own monogram. Salesmen who participated were Roy Young, Joe Stark, Harry Wheeler, Bob Carnie and George Hinton.

Joe Stark, Paramount salesman, went to California December 26 with friends for a few days' vacation . . . Harry Wheeler, salesman for the same company, drove to Florida with Mrs. Wheeler.

On the Row: M. A. Otto, Linn, Pleasanton, Kas.; H. C. Musgrave, Ritz, Minneapolis, and Columbian, Wamego, Kas.; Bob Gorham, Liberty, Horton, Kas.

A number of Filmrowers got the chance to play S. Claus and have a lot of fun Xmas week when Arthur Cole, secretary of the Variety Club, passed around the experience of taking care of the 15 families the club adopted for the holidays. Those who helped were 20th-Fox, Metro, National Screen, Paramount, Commonwealth Theatres, Republic-Midwest, Columbia, Altec Service, RCA Photophone, Rube Finkelstein, Jack Shriner, Nat Hechtman, Max Barewin and Jay Means. All took care of one, except Finkelstein, who took care of two. They were supplied with cash by the club, and members of the club and friends supplied an unusual amount of clothing, etc. Surplus clothing was given the Salvation Army.

On January 1, Irving Waterstreet of the local M-G-M exchange completed his fourth year with the company. The next day Georgia Ottaviano also made it a quartet of years with Leo. Anna Hays will run her service string to six years on January 12.

The Jayhawk at Chanute, Kas., which has been dark, is being readied for reopening in January by Ray Walsh, who has the Mainstreet there. National Theatre Supply furnished projection equipment, arc lamps and generator . . . National Theatre Supply also furnished projection, lamps, rectifiers, carpet and screen (plastic moulded) to E. Van Hyning's Tauy, Ottawa, Kas. . . . It recently sold one of the new screens to C. C. Rhodes for his Nu-Buflo, Buffalo, Mo.

On the Row: F. L. "Doc" Lowe, Sterling, Kas., who figures building a new theatre (Lebanon, Mo.) is enough to think about for a few weeks; M. S. Heath, Plaza, Liberty, Mo.; Paul Oetting, Lyric, Concordia, Mo.; Morris V. Beisner, Dream, Glasgow, Kas.; Floyd Hill, Hill, Drexel, Mo. . . . The Kansas state board of review has been having the flu: Mrs. Dwight Numbers, chairman; Hallie Tucker, Mrs. Mary Meek. Most of them now are back on the job . . . John Wangberg was in visiting the boys at RKO, and other friends along the Row . . . Rube Melcher of Poppers Supply is back from Milwaukee where he went to get his daughter Marion, who was visiting . . . Irving Waterstreet, who has been exploiteering for Metro, goes to St. Louis, his old stamping grounds, and Claud Morris, long here, returns to Kansas City to replace him.



Illness Postpones Trial Of Suit Against Co-op

Detroit—Trial of the suit of Midwest Theatres against Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, which already has consumed a month in federal court, was postponed this week because of the illness of A. J. Levin, attorney for the defendants. The case is expected to come up again January 7.

Bank Night a Gainer In an Ohio Ruling

CLEVELAND—The Supreme Court of Ohio last week held that a court has no authority in a civil action to determine whether a theatre owner who operates Bank Night is guilty of violating the state lottery statute. This decision was based on the fact that operation of a lottery is a criminal offense and that the legal status of Bank Night in Ohio can be determined only in a criminal action.

On this premise (that a criminal action was necessary for a ruling) the high court refused to grant an injunction to the Troy Amusement Co., enjoining local officials from interfering with Bank Night at the Mayflower in Troy.

In a 6 to 1 decision, the high court overruled a common pleas and a court of appeals ruling in the case of the Troy Amusement Co. of Troy, Ohio, against Andrew Attenweiler, Michael E. Morris, George Hollopeter, justice of the peace, and Frank O'Roarke, constable for Newberry county.

Jury Vindicates

In June, 1939, Attenweiler filed suit in the court of common pleas, Miami County, Ohio, against the Troy Amusement Co., operating the Mayflower Theatre, Troy, for recovery of $10.40 representing money claimed by him to have been paid to the theatre over a 52-week period during the operation of Bank Night. He also asked $100 damages, and further alleged in his petition that Bank Night is a lottery.

Troy Amusement Co. in a jury trial was vindicated of operating a lottery.

Following this, Attenweiler filed a criminal action for the arrest of Manager Christian F. Pfister, charging operation of a lottery. He also obtained a search warrant to seize the equipment used in the operation of Bank Night. Thereupon the Troy Amusement Co. won a request for an injunction restraining Attenweiler from seizing the equipment. Common Pleas Judge Richard L. Cameron of St. Marys, Ohio, then upheld a demurrer filed by Attenweiler.

At this point the Troy Amusement Co. entered an appeal and the court of appeals not only upheld the lower courts but went so far as to designate Bank Night as a lottery.

On the basis of this designation, the case was admitted to the Supreme Court and its ruling was published last Tuesday, throwing wide open the question of whether Bank Night is or is not a lottery in this state, by its ruling that the guilt or innocence of anyone operating Bank Night as a lottery must be determined in a criminal action.

Amended Bill Furthers Suit Of Schreiber vs. Schreiber

DETROIT—The suit of Jacob Schreiber, former owner of the five Woodward Avenue theatres now known as the Midwest Circuit, against Raymond Schreiber, his nephew and present operator of the houses, reached a new stage with the filing of an amended bill of complaint by the plaintiff. Earlier history of the case has been reported previously in BOXOFFICE, particularly when the original bill was filed a year and a half ago in Wayne county circuit court.

The present case does not appear to affect the suit of Midwest Theatres, with Raymond Schreiber as principal, against Co-Operative Theatres, now being tried in federal court here. Although the indeterminate state of "Schreiber vs. Schreiber" was earlier given as a reason for postponing the Co-Op suit, the defendants (Co-Op) now appear ready to go on to a decision regardless of the circuit court case.

Asks Return of Houses

In his amended bill, Jacob Schreiber, who is joined by his wife and six theatre corporations as joint plaintiffs, asks that the five theatres involved—Colonial, Blackstone No. 2, Majestic, Forest and Garden—be returned to him; that the agreement transferring operation from plaintiff to defendant be declared a trust agreement subject to cancellation by the plaintiff; that the agreement be reformed by the court to include numerous provisions covered in the bill, particularly that the defendants pay all debts of the plaintiffs, including especially income taxes, up to the date of agreement (about September, 1938); that an accounting be taken and defendant decreed to pay the plaintiff whatever sums found due; that a receiver be appointed pending determination of the case, to operate the theatres; that defendants be enjoined from disposing of or incumbering any properties involved; that defendants be stopped from making any alterations or repairs, particularly from reseating the Majestic; that defendants deliver to plaintiffs all personal property not covered by agreement.

In his 9,000-word bill of complaint, Jacob Schreiber goes at length into a presentation of the history of the situation and of his story of the agreements. Co-defendants with Raymond Schreiber are Samuel Shapero, attorney, and Sidney Foreman, accounting, and the R. S. Holding Co. and Midwest Theatres, Inc.

According to the plaintiff's bill, he was urged by physician's advice to get out of theatre operation, and originally sold his business to Jack Broder for $125,000, in October, 1937, under an agreement terminated about the next July by alleged default of Broder. Plaintiffs then negotiated with Raymond Schreiber, they state, and further:

That an agreement was reached for purchase at $25,000, payable $150 per week plus interest, with the defendant paying out of earnings all obligations of the plaintiffs; that plaintiffs would receive weekly payment, later agreed upon as $150, for their support; that upon any default, plaintiffs could immediately retake possession; that defendant was not to pay himself or any employes in excess of $125 per week till all obligations had been fulfilled; that in September, 1938, a supplemental agreement was entered into to add $4,000 to the net obligation (originally $25,000), to cover advances made by plaintiffs to defendant plus cash deposits on leases.

Details Differences

Subsequently, the plaintiffs claim, the agreement was found to be different in important respects from what they had understood it to be; "that the written agreements expressly excepted from the obligations any personal income taxes to be paid by plaintiffs;" that "if this situation is allowed to exist, the plaintiffs practically give their business to the defendant;" that defendant refuses to pay particularly certain federal income taxes of the plaintiffs, that he refuses to surrender certain desks and other personal property, that he refused to pay Metro Premiums account of $1,200, that defendant has refused or neglected to pay sundry state, county, city, social security, unemployment, and old age taxes, and that defendant is jeopardizing the Majestic property by incurring, or being about to incur, a debt of $12,000 for reseating—all allegedly contrary to agreement.

The bill goes at great length into details of how the differences alleged between plaintiffs' understanding and the final written form of the agreements arose, and finally alleges "improper" management of the theatres by Raymond Schreiber in that a debt of about $15,000 allegedly has accumulated.

In reply to the amended bill, Raymond Schreiber told BOXOFFICE: "My deal with Jake Schreiber was done honestly, truthfully and legitimately, and I have carried out all provisions of the agreement."

Massillon Police Department Sees Decision Favorable

MASSILLON, OHIO—A decision of the Ohio supreme court upheld in effect the Massillon police department's activities to stop cash award drawings at local theatres.

City Solicitor Sherlock H. Evans has announced he intends to proceed with the prosecution of I. H. Solomon, manager of the Lincoln Theatre, on a charge of selling tickets in a game of chance.

Krims Adapting "George"

HOLLYWOOD—Milton Krims is adapting "The Dealer's Name Was George" for Warner from the Ketti Frings story.

Shuffle Schedule to Put Best in for Holiday

(*Average is* 100)

CLEVELAND—The days just before Christmas are proverbially the worst show days of the year and this year was no exception. To meet the situation, first run theatre owners arranged their programs so as to offer new pictures on Tuesday—Christmas Eve—instead of on the regular change day. To accomplish this, four of the five downtown first runs played their product from three to five days, depending upon what day they change programs. The RKO Palace alone adhered to its regular policy and a seven-day run where "Christmas in July" was well received and billed over the vaudeville. "The Long Voyage Home" opened to fair business at Loew's State but built steadily during its five-day run. Warner's Hippodrome played "You'll Find Out" for five days bringing "Santa Fe Trail" as its Christmas offering. "Tin Pan Alley," after 10 days at the Hippodrome, moved to the Allen for a three-day fill in, with "You'll Find Out" taking over for the holiday week. "North West Mounted Police" held strong in its fourth week downtown of which one week was at Loew's State and the rest of the run on a move-over at the Stillman. Weather was ideal.

Detail for week ending December 27:

Allen—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox).....115
Played 3 days on a moveover following a 10-day run at the Hippodrome.
Hippodrome—**You'll Find Out** (RKO) 75
Played 5 days, making room for "Santa Fe Trail" on Xmas Eve.
Palace—**Christmas in July** (Para't) 95
Stage show featuring Gray Gordon and orchestra and Wally Brown in his third appearance here this season.
State—**Long Voyage Home** (UA), 5 days.....100
Stillman—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't) 100
Played 5 days of a 4th wk. downtown of which one wk. was at the State.

"Alley," "NWMP" Strong In Third Week in Pitt

PITTSBURGH — "Tin Pan Alley" and "North West Mounted Police" in third week engagements were leaders here. Other attractions were below par as strong programs opened for the holidays. Weather was mild.

Detail for week ending December 20:

Barry—**Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (Rep); **Phantom of Chinatown** (Mono) 110
Fulton—**Argentine Nights** (Univ); **Diamond Frontier** (Univ) 70
Penn—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M)..... 90
Ritz—**Dreaming Out Loud** (RKO); **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (RKO) 50
Senator—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk....125
Stanley—**Go West** (M-G-M) 85
Warner—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't), 3rd d. t. wk. 175

A Revival Outranks New Product in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—"Here Comes the Navy," Warner revival spotted at RKO Shubert, did a surprisingly good business in a week paralyzed by the pre-holiday lull, unduly warm weather and a northern Kentucky street car and bus strike

"The Bank Dick" tied with "Chad Hanna." Lowest gross went to "South of Suez." In the holdovers the Marxes were about 30 per cent off for the second and final week. "Tin Pan Alley," in its fourth, and "Philadelphia Story," in its third week, ran fair to middling, with about 20 per cent off.

Detail for week ended December 23:

Albee—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 90
Held over and shifted to RKO Grand.
Capitol—**Go West** (M-G-M), 2nd wk..... 70
Grand—**The Bank Dick** (Univ)..... 90
Keith's—**South of Suez** (WB)..... 70
Lyric—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox), 4th wk..... 80
Palace—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 3rd wk... 80
Shubert—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB) revival.100
To Lyric for 2nd wk.

Holiday Trade Temporarily Arrests Dip in Detroit

DETROIT—Christmas accounted for the slump in local business generally this week—plus the fact that Detroit seems to be enjoying a rearmament depression in show business. Grosses have steadily gone downward, only slightly arrested by holiday trade, and dropping again to below par on Thursday for closing. The fact appears to be that money for the arms program is not going out to the average family in enough quantity to encourage spending at first runs—despite the millions reported assigned to the big auto plants here. Christmas trade in stores was generally good, and theatres are expecting to pick up after January 1—or the first payday after January 10 when Christmas bills are paid off.

Booking schedules were all disarranged this week, with all first runs except the United Artists—which normally closes its week on Wednesday, one day early—and the Cinema, closing after five days, on Tuesday, to start new shows for Christmas, to run nine days in most instances. Three features went into surprisingly long runs of five weeks it will be noted:

Detail for week ended December 26 (adjusted for altered runs reported above):

Adams—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox), 4th wk., after 1 wk. at Fox; **Give Us Wings** (Univ), 2nd wk. 100
Cinema—**Forbidden Adventure** (SR) 75
Fox—**Escape to Glory** (Col); **One Night in the Tropics** (Univ) 80
Michigan—**The Letter** (FN); **Captain Caution** (UA), 2nd wk. 95
Palms-State—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't); **A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't), 3rd wk., after 2 wks. at Michigan..... 90
United Artists—**Long Voyage Home** (UA); **Comrade X** (M-G-M) 100

"Bagdad" and "Bank Dick" Do Standout Business

CINCINNATI — Stimulating reports on "The Thief of Bagdad" have been received by Harris Dudelson, UA branch manager.

According to word from Loew's manager in Dayton, the picture did the biggest Xmas business at this house in seven years; and in Columbus the first three days equalled the week's regular take.

Universal reports "The Bank Dick" also doing an excellent grossage in Dayton and Columbus. This feature was also well received and held over here.

Pre-Xmas Closing Is Generally Applauded

DETROIT—Reactions to the idea of closing the day before Christmas were generally favorable among the several dozen theatre owners who participated. Net figures on the books were actually about the same as they would have been had the house opened, a few confided, inasmuch as the loss in grosses was offset by saving on lights and general operating costs.

However, in some neighborhoods merchants were reported disappointed because they wanted a well lighted spot for that last minute pre-Christmas shopping rush.

A new idea that merits serious consideration for 1941 was broached by William Richmond of the Lincoln Park:

"Closing the day before Christmas is one thing—but would it not be ever so much better to stay open and give the proceeds of the evening, as estimated by a committee of course, to some worthy charity? Think of the worthy effect of such a united gesture from theatres generally—and what a favorable reaction 200 theatres making this move would get from the public at large. Each exhibitor could direct his proceeds toward his own chosen charity. The public would like it a lot better to know that the proceeds of this one evening in the year were being donated to charity, than to find their favorite theatre darkened on this night."

"Grapes of Wrath" Tops Pitt Newspaper's List

PITTSBURGH—*Post-Gazette's* 10 best pictures of the year were "The Grapes of Wrath," "Gone With the Wind," "Angels Over Broadway," "The Long Voyage Home," "Foreign Correspondent," "My Favorite Wife," "Our Town," "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," "Of Mice and Men," and "Pinocchio."

Order Photophone

PITTSBURGH — Warner's Cambria at Johnstown, Pa., is being outfitted with new Photophone sound. Also, the Kal at Kalkaska, Mich., the Ohio, Bellaire, and the new house, as yet unnamed, that Philip and Antonio La Mantia are building at Nanty Glo, Pa.

To Open Wilt

LIGONIER, PA.—The old Wilt, dark for more than a year, is being remodeled for early reopening. New operator is reported to be Leona Smith. The H. G. Wilts retired when the new Ligonier was opened by Alex Alexis.

Lyric to John Cook

GLENVILLE, W. VA.—John Cook has acquired the Lyric here. Former operator was Arthur Crissman, who is reported entering exhibition at Grantsville.

Dispute Over Employe Blocks an Opening

DETROIT—A novelty in new theatre openings was the failure of the Royal to open last Friday as scheduled. In lieu of the usual special trade preview, general trade invitations good Friday through Sunday were issued, with public opening slated for 6:00 p. m. But, despite a crowd estimated at 4,000 gathered around the 2,500-seat house, it remained dark.

Reason was said to be a demand by the IATSE union that the house employ a stagehand and the insistence of the management that there was no need for a stagehand in the house. Accordingly, the union office allegedly instructed the projectionists to walk out. The management claimed that this walkout notice was not received until 4:30 p. m., with the house scheduled to open at 6:00 p. m.

Action was doubly important because of the way the spotlight has been focused on this house—the first in the territory to be erected jointly by an affiliated circuit—United Detroit, and an independent, Wisper & Wetsman. In addition, it is the first theatre erected as a second run house in ten years in the Detroit area.

Fear a Precedent

The union contends that there is plenty of work in a 2,500-seat house for a stagehand, and specifically points to the need of a man to turn up house lights in case of fire or panic, devoting the rest of his time to house maintenance, such as checking exit doors.

Sentiment of the management appears to be that, with all equipment new and guaranteed for years by manufacturers, there is no need for a high-salaried stagehand.

Significance of the situation lies in the fact that about 50 stagehands are now employed in some 30 local theatres playing pictures exclusively. Admittedly, no serious attempt is likely to be made at this time to attack the employment of stagehands in these older houses, but the sentiment of union members appears to be that failure to put in a man in the Royal would constitute a precedent that could later be applied to any other house, especially if of smaller size.

Local 104 Holds Annual Banquet at Elmhurst

ZANESVILLE, OHIO—The annual banquet of Local 104, operators union, was held recently at Elmhurst.

Mayor and Mrs. Tom V. Moorehead were guests at the party, and Zanesville theatre managers, motion picture machine operators, stage hands and their wives were present.

Howard Winkelman, projectionist at the Weller, was toastmaster, and the committee on arrangements included Arthur Bischoff, president of the Zanesville Federation of Labor; Ed Fuller and Ed Fluke.

To Remodel in Bobtown

BOBTOWN, PA.—The Lund circuit's local unit will be closed January 12 for two weeks for complete modernization.

DETROIT

HOLIDAY ECHOES: H. Vinton Gilbert holding forth as host up in Allied Film Exchange . . . The UA gang had quite a party, too, earlier in the day . . . Eddie Jacobson of the Parkside giving out those phony "season passes" to distributors . . . Burton London of the Beacon and Max Blumenthal of Film Projection busy down on the first floor . . . Charlie Garner of Allied gladhanding . . . Irving and Lillian Belinsky counting up the day's results with Lew Arozian . . . Bill Green sent out newspapers with his greetings in headlines.

Co-op's party was the highlight of the season . . . Cully Buermele a very able and conscientious host . . . Bob Thompson, Cliff Perry, and Herb Brown proved that the M-G-M boys know how to win friends . . . Joseph Stoia of the Circle was on hand . . . Tom McGuire, Co-op publicist, was genial dispenser of holiday cheer . . . Al Rupert of the Rupert discoursing on the divan . . . Jack Flynn, former M-G-M division manager, was a caller with Manager Frank J. Downey . . . John Howard, Paramount manager, off to Boston for the holidays . . . Raymond E. Moon, manager of Mutual Theatres, returned to his old haunts . . . Earl Hudson and the UDT gang expected among the late arrivals . . . Lou Mitchell of the Beverly was busy on the front gate . . . Among those seen: Nat Haase of Metro Premium, in the corridor; Eddie Heiber, Universal manager; Harold Munz of the Century, and Frank Wetsman and Daniel J. Lewis of W&W.

Eddie Westcott, 20th-Fox salesman, decided to stay at home for his vacation. He spends most of his time out on the road . . . William Richmond, manager of Max Allen's Lincoln Park, has plenty of good ideas for theatre tieups . . . N. Dow Thompson, ex-UDT manager, is still a close follower of local theatre activities way out in Fullerton, Cal. . . . Floyd Chrysler and Bob Bernstein found their desks missing the day after Christmas. Somebody used them for a party . . . Ambrose Fitzgerald, now managing the Dox, out with Christmas cards the day after.

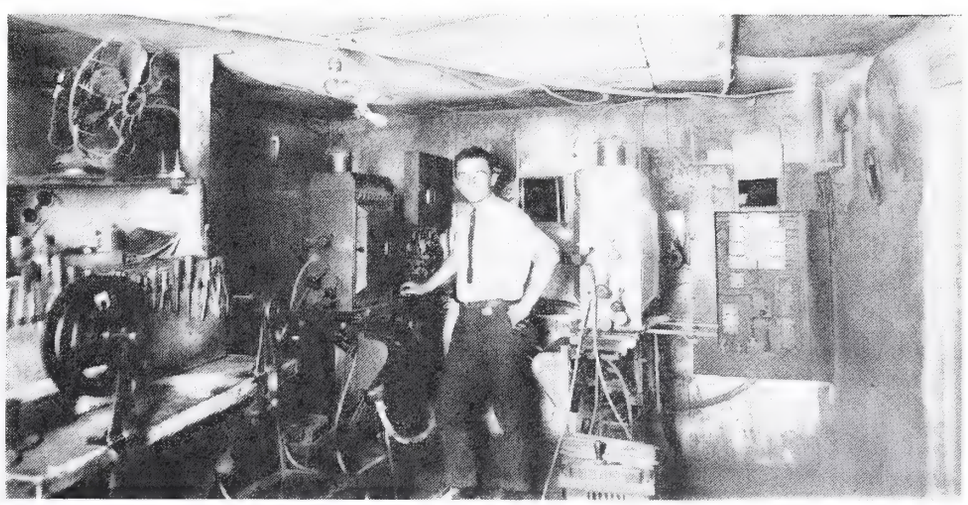
Twentieth-Fox Notes: Jess (NOA) Veldman lives up to his well-earned repute as a good collector . . . Jack Sturm seen on his rare visit upstairs . . . Billie Brown, booker, is sporting a new Plymouth . . . Mrs. Clara Kelly, elevator chauffeur for Filmrow, missed her holiday sleep . . . Nat Haase of Metro Premium celebrating his switch from brunette to blonde . . . Col. George McCoy, Columbia, vacationing in Florida, while Ray Cloud goes there in January . . . Ed Long of Long Sign Co., out of town for a few days . . . Pete Simon has started making titles for 16mm as well as his standard film service . . . John Dembeck, M-G-M booker, took a bad fall Christmas night and tore a ligament in his left leg.

Charlie Perry of the Adams in Detroit and Harris Silverberg of National Screen in Chicago are planning an extensive exploration of Beaver Island next summer. Hollis Drew, new commander of the U. S. P. S., and skipper of the Temple Theatre, East Jordan, Mich., promises them an eventful cruise aboard the "Mariho."

Craven Denies Connection With Union in Detroit

DETROIT—Vigorously denying rumors to the contrary circulating along Filmrow, Howard Craven of Exhibitors Service Co., points out in a statement to BOXOFFICE that he has no connection with the personnel or organization of Local 20465 of film inspectors, shippers and poster handlers.

Reports were current to this effect three years ago. Apparent reason is the fact that Craven's service company shares office space with the union, but, aside from the fact that his eligible employes are union members, there is no other connection whatever.



In the Booth, 27 Years Ago—

The booth of the Clay Theatre in Detroit as it appeared one evening back in 1914. The house, now operated by the William Schulte circuit, then was operated by Schulte's father-in-law. The projectionist in the picture is Tony Cici, now supervisor of the Schulte circuit.

BURTUS BISHOP jr., M-G-M's manager, who will be honored at a testimonial banquet in the William Penn Hotel, Monday evening, January 6, was presented with a radio at the company's Christmas party. The M-G-M Pep Club presented him with a fine clock at a "farewell party." He departs for Kansas City the day after the testimonial and will be greatly missed here by members of the Metro staff and by hundreds of exhibitors and trade friends . . . A combination radio and phonograph was presented to John J. Maloney, M-G-M's district manager, from the branch managers of his district and members of the local exchange. A bar was presented to Eddie Moriarty, Leo's local office manager. (Nice fellow this Santa Claus!)

Johnny Harris gifted all his Hornet hockey players with handsome jackets and members of the "Ice Follies" cast with make-up kits . . . Si Steinhauser, Press *radio editor; Republic's Sam Fineberg and this corner of* Boxoffice *were judges for the Garrick outdoor Christmas lighting contest . . . A. J. Angros, who sold the new Sylvan, Coudersport, to Charlie Fickinger shortly after he had opened it, expects to build another theatre soon, but he isn't saying where . . . Ken Blakely will erect a new house at Westfield, New York . . . Bobby Dunbar was around for the holidays . . . "Tobacco Road" returns to the Nixon stage the week of February* 3 *. . . Mrs. James H. Alexander celebrated a birthday anniversary New Year's Day . . . C. C. Kellenberg, Variety Club's new chief barker, has announced members of the various committees for* 1941 *and has things humming very early in the new year.*

Peter Dana and members of the local Universal exchange staff are out to win some of that $15,000 offered in the Bill Scully anniversary drive, which extends to May 10. The exchange quarters are elaborately bannered in exploiting the contest . . . AMPTO directors were scheduled to meet January 3 . . . Bill Brooks, Paramount booker, was back on the job this week after vacationing in Cleveland over the holidays . . . Andrew Cherry, veteran film man who is now receptionist in the county detective bureau, and his collection of Christmas cards were the subject of a newspaper story the other day.

Our sympathy to Gertrude Hungerman of Universal, whose mother died last week . . . A Christmas day announcement was made of the engagement of Marie Rost, Warner exchange contract department head, and Adrian Goldbach . . . Andrew J. Sharick, Universal studio sales contact representative, was a visitor the other day . . . M-G-M's sales representatives, Milton Brauman, Harry Fendrick and Jack Mundstuk, vacationed in New York over the holidays and Saal Gottlieb was in Miami . . . Warner is "sell-ebrating" Grad Sears' 20*th anniversary with a special drive which closes April* 19.

Chris Wagner's Paramount, Connellsville, is an addition to the AMPTO membership roll . . . Bob Jacobs, son of Sid Jacobs, Warner circuit's West Virginia district manager, has reported for active duty at Narragansett Bay where he is a second lieutenant in the army reserve corps . . . Spyros Skouras, theatre magnate, was here last week as head of the Greek War Relief Committee seeking civilian aid. Local support was promised by Harry Kalmine and Joe Feldman of Warner circuit and by John H. Harris of Harris Amusements . . . Mike Cullen, Loew's district manager, was in the city for the holidays . . . William Clark, Warner circuit short subject booker, his wife and their nine-year-old son were painfully injured in a car collision Christmas day. Mrs. Clark was treated at the Pittsburgh hospital for a fractured skull, William jr., for a cerebral concussion and the booker for cuts on his legs.

Martin Seed, manager of the Regal, Wilkinsburg, and Assistant Peter Musico, are very proud of the newly decorated theatre as are Bob Brown and Walt Thomas, manager and assistant, respectively, of the State of the same borough which likewise has been completely repainted and modernized. Recent extensive redecoration of the Rowland, Wilkinsburg's A house, under the direction of Dick Brown, served as the inspiration for the new house staffs of the State and Regal.

Frank Panoplos is president of the Clairton Greek War Relief committee which has forwarded $1,000 to the national fund . . . Allen Tolley has been elected president of the M-G-M Pep Club for 1941; Wahneta Gardner is vice-president; Gertrude Freed, secretary, and Joe Stack, treasurer. The prexy is the son of Ted Tolley, recently re-elected president of the Filmrow Employes Union . . . Our sympathy to Paul Krumenacker, Albany branch manager for Warner, whose father, Joseph L. Krumenacker, died here Christmas Day.

Ridgway's St. Leo's R. C. Church having been destroyed by fire, members of the parish are holding services in the local theatre . . . Bob Webster, WCAE announcer, has resigned to accept the post as general manager of WCED, new station in DuBois . . . Bill Rush, assistant to Mannie "The Merchant of Menace" Greenwald at the Barry, has resigned . . . Duquesne city council doubled the annual license fees on "juke boxes" as well as pinball machines . . . Marjorie Brown, Exhibitors' Service bookkeeper for a quarter of a century, reports back on the job this week, having recovered from two major operations.

The Jacob Richmans will be off for California about the time the mailman delivers this to you . . . George Rodnenok, son of the Oakmont exhib., is in Florida . . . Booth table fixtures have been installed at Cransfield's Filmrow lunch room . . . Art England hit for a dollar last Saturday, and he'll use it for a Florida vacation. The Mort Englands are now in Havana . . . Billy ZeVan plans to build a summer home at Clendenin, W. Va., and has purchased additional acreage there.

Fred J. Herrington will attend the national Allied directors meeting in Washington, D. C., January 27 *and* 28. *The Philadelphia Allied meeting, scheduled for January* 14, *has been set back and a new date will be announced later . . . Jim Madden came in from Parkers Landing to do a little booking and to see the "Ice Follies" at The Gardens . . . George Jaffe staged his annual Milkman's Matinee at* 3 *a. m., Wednesday, January* 1, *at his burlesk Casino. As usual, too, this followed immediately after a New Year's eve midnight fun jamboree show . . . Elizabeth Cunningham is back on the job at the Republic exchange after an appendectomy.*

Stanley resumes stage shows January 10 with Ted Weems and his orchestra . . . All downtown theatres staged midnight shows New Year's eve as did many neighborhood houses. Larger communities out in the territory also enjoyed such theatrical entertainments . . . Harry Seed, Warner branch manager, after holidaying in Florida, resumes duties January 6 . . . Harry Myers has completed his 12th year as manager of the Wilmerding YMCA theatre.

Earle Super completed 11 *years of service with M-G-M on Friday, while Anthony Semplice, also of the local exchange, rounded out four years with the company the following day. Hilda Alvin will have been with Leo for* 13 *years come January* 9.

Harrisburg Hopper Holds 2,000 Bills

HARRISBURG—The General Assembly will convene next Tuesday in what has been designated by political writers as a "knock-down drag-out" session which may "work" for five or six months while 2,000 bills are thrown into the hopper.

A 3 per cent state personal income tax and a retail sales tax of 2 per cent will come before the lawmakers. Among the perennial bills due for introduction are acts to legalize horse racing and establishing a pari-mutual system of betting, with a percentage taxed by the state; acts licensing pinball devices, slot machines, Bingo games, and such; two-men-in-the-booth measures; possible film tax, state amusement tax and various labor measures which would affect the motion picture industry.

A state lottery act will be introduced in various forms by several members of the legislature.

The present two-body General Assembly would be abolished and replaced by a unicameral legislature under terms of other acts which have been prepared for introduction.

More Relief Aid

PITTSBURGH—Additional contributors to the Filmrow Christmas relief fund were E. S. "Jim" Thorpe, Abe Weiner and William Scott.

Farewell Fete Given For O. E. Belles

CLEVELAND—M. B. Horwitz, general manager of the Washington circuit, and the managers of the circuit theatres tendered a testimonial dinner at the Tavern last Monday in honor of O. E. Belles who is retiring after being manager of the Haltnorth Theatres continuously for the past 18 years.

Belles has been active in the exhibition of motion pictures in Cleveland since 1915. At that time he bought the Main Theatre and operated it until 1923 when it was destroyed by fire. Soon after that he joined the Washington circuit. From 1920 to 1921 he served as president of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association.

Those attending the testimonial dinner were: M. B. Horwitz, Miss Eva Urdang, secretary to Horwitz; H. J. Mandelbaum, manager of the Plaza; H. L. Horwitz, manager of the Astor; Sanford Leavitt, booking manager; E. F. McBride, manager of the Falls Theatre, Cuyahoga Falls; Lawrence Sutphen, manager of the Alhambra, Cuyahoga Falls, and Ed Cole, who succeeds Belles as manager at the Haltnorth. Frank Belles, Republic salesman, and son of O. E. Belles, was also present.

Belles was presented with a gold watch and chain and attached pocket knife.

Charity Activities Carry Over Into the New Year

DETROIT—Holiday charity activities of show business continue to be spotlighted locally, carrying the spirit of the season right over into 1941.

On Saturday, David M. Idzal, managing director of the 6,000-seat Fox, was host to thousands of crippled and convalescent children from Detroit hospitals and clinics. "Tin Can" matinees may be a relatively new idea in Detroit, but William Richmond, manager of the Lincoln Park, in the suburb of that name, has been staging one annually for a dozen years. His latest drew 2,000 youngsters. The cans of food realized were distributed to indigents through the Goodfellows.

Don Reilly

LORAIN, OHIO—Don Reilly, 27 years old, and a Warner employe for the past eight years, was killed the day before Christmas when his automobile ran into a telephone pole as he was en route from Lorain where he had been visiting his parents, to Lima, where he is manager of Warner's State Theatre. Surviving, in addition to his parents, is a brother, George, of Elwood, Pa.

Back to Burwell

PARKERSBURG, W. VA.—The Burwell here has reverted to N. C. Burwell, owner. House had been operated under lease by R. J. "Riney" Hiehle, local exhibitor, since its opening several years ago. Burwell's new manager is Bruce Day.

CINCINNATI

GENERAL changes at the M-G-M exchange followed the promotion of John Allen, city salesman, to the Washington branch managership. Popular William Devanney steps into Allen's shoes. "Bud" Weigel, head booker, assumes office managership, succeeding Devanney. Tom Smiley becomes head booker; Mike Berger, assistant head booker; Bob Cummings, third booker, and Bob Saunders, formerly general clerk, fourth booker. Allen was presented with a handsome set of luggage by the Variety Club and a desk lamp and radio set by the Cinema Club, at their joint testimonial celebration.

Loew's branch manager, E. M. Booth, and Mrs. Booth spent Christmas in Lafayette, Ind., with Mrs. Booth's family . . . According to George Gomersall, Bob Harrell of the Avalon, Cleves, will tour Ft. Myers, Fla., in his "1929 Ford Model A," recently acquired. And all his friends hope he makes it . . . Lee Goldberg of PRC arrived in Cincinnati from the Cleveland exchange for a several days' visit with Nat Kaplan . . . Warner's Constance Owens was in charge of the Warner Club's highly successful Christmas party, held at the Metropole.

Praised in the passing parade this week on the Row, was Garland Jones, operator of the Queen Anne and Victor, Cincy suburban houses, for his long years of association in the industry. Thoroughly alive to suburban opportunities, Jones belongs to such pioneers as Herman Bley, Andy Hettisheimer, Jerome Jackson, "Doc" Kalb and A. J. Holt. He also operates a house in Frankfort, Ky. . . . "Santa Fe Trail," according to reports filtering in to the local office, will be a top grosser. Much comment is heard on the whistle-able qualities of the theme song, "Santa Fe Trail."

L. B. Wilson, Wilson Theatres, Covington, Ky., and also operator of WCKY, is expected here around January 6 from his recent holiday visit to Florida. Mrs. Wilson is delaying to make a prolonged trip through South America . . . Frank Weitzel, Kenwood, W. Va., visited the Row . . . O. B. Pearce, Opera House, Grandville, was also here . . . Ruth Rudin has been added to the Universal staff . . . Jack Mervis, former manager in Newport, Ky., and now operating four houses in and around Pittsburgh, was along the Row.

Jim Curran, Columbia head booker, was summoned to his home in Melrose, Mass., by the death of his father . . . Milt Gurian, city salesman for Monogram, and Mrs. Gurian spent the holidays in Cleveland . . . Max Goldberg, Falmouth, Ky., exhibitor, has left to join the Naval Reserves at Santiago . . . Nat Kaplan announces "The Devil Bat" booked in Cincinnati and Dayton . . . Lowell Calvert, Selznick representative from New York, was here for the local opening of "GWTW" at popular prices. The opening business was reported highly satisfactory.

Elizabeth Redmond and John Reusch observed their fifth and seventh anniversaries, respectively, with M-G-M the day after New Year's. The real veteran of the exchange, however, is Edna Ossege, who ran her years of service for Leo to 20 a day later. Esther Shedd rounds out her second year with the company on Monday.

CLEVELAND

THE Abe Kramers of Associated Circuit, including their three daughters and son-in-law, are among the first of the colony to arrive in Florida . . . Abe Schwartz of the Lexington Theatre in Cleveland and the Lake in Painesville, left last Thursday, a week later than originally planned on account of Mrs. Schwartz's illness. Their address for the rest of the winter is Miami.

Miss Eva Urdang, secretary to M. B. Horwitz of the Washington circuit, spent Christmas in New York . . . Norman and Mrs. Levin of United Artists entertained a party of friends at their home on Christmas . . . A. M. Goodman, United Artists branch manager, who has been recovering from a recent illness at Clearwater, Fla., writes home that he will be back in harness about the middle of January.

Christmas night business at downtown houses was good, it is officially reported. Christmas Eve and Christmas matinee, however, were not . . . Floyd Price, Newark Theatre owner, invited the local film folks to attend the formal opening on December 27 of his Sarasota Lido in Sarasota, Fla.

Mike Krasman of the Loew State organization, who went with the National Guards to Camp Shelby at Hattiesburg, Miss., received his corporal's stripes for a Christmas present . . . Happy to report that Lester Zucker, Columbia branch manager, is on the okey list again after a brief illness . . . Lou Walters, National Theatre Supply manager, won plenty of "thank yous" for those letter files he gave out for Christmas presents.

Variety Club starts an innovation next week. It has engaged a dancing teacher to give rhumba lessons . . . I. J. Schmertz, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, and Mrs. Schmertz and their daughter, Esty, are vacationing in Florida for two weeks.

Effie Baxter of the local M-G-M exchange observed her 21st year with the company on Saturday.

CORRECTION—National Screen Service boys have formed a basketball team—not a bowling team, as erroneously stated last week. Confident of their prowess, they are inviting contests along Filmrow.

Bill Brooks, former Paramount booker now with Paramount in Pittsburgh, and his wife and child, were in Cleveland over the Christmas holidays and warmly greeted by all on Filmrow.

Plan Two Theatres In Detroit Suburb

DETROIT—Construction of two theatres on opposite corners in the now theatreless suburb of Allen Park is planned, one, a 900-seater, by Max Allen, who owns the nearby Lincoln Park, and the other by Nicholas George, a newcomer to show business, who discloses plans for a 1,500 seat house tentatively named the Allen Park, despite the fact Allen planned to call his either the Allen or the Allen Park.

George's house would be just across the street from Allen's, and would include eight stores at a cost of $125,000. Plans are being drawn by Bennett and Straight, theatrical architects. One possible hitch in George's plans appears in the need to secure closing of an alley for the construction. A petition seeking this right is now before the town council.

General Film Laboratory Takes Over Defunct Plant

DETROIT — The recently incorporated General Film Laboratory has taken over the business of the old Detroit Film Laboratories including the building and equipment at 66 Sibley Street.

The company is specializing in development and printing work for the various commercial film studios in this area.

Edwin Busby, who was receiver for Detroit Laboratories when that firm went into receivership, is the new general manager.

Up Robert Lytle

LORAIN, OHIO—Succeeding Donald Reilly, who was killed near here in an automobile accident December 24, Robert Lytle has been named manager of the Warner Palace in Lima. For the last seven years, Lytle has been assistant manager of the theatre.

Joins Mervis Bros.

PITTSBURGH—E. W. Smith, former manager of the Melrose, this week joined the Mervis Bros. circuit as manager of the Paramount, Brighton Road.

"Enclosed find my first contribution to your 'Exhibitor Has His Say.' I read your magazine from cover to cover every Monday morn and am only glad to contribute to your new department and will eagerly await the first publication."

—R. A. MOORE,
State Theatre,
Clarence, Ia.

BOXOFFICE
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOWLING

DETROIT—Republic last week moved up to tie UA for top position in the Film Bowling League. Standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Republic	33	19
United Artists	33	19
Co-Operative	27	25
Film Drug	25	27
20th Century-Fox	23	29
Film Truck	23	29
Amusement Supply	22	30
Monogram	22	30

Despite their low standing, Amusement Supply rolled up two new season records for the league—top score of 971 for one game, and 2,499 for the set. Irving Belinsky rolled a third high for three games for the season, 579, beating his own record by one point, and one 236 game, beating his own record by two points. Irwin Pollard came into the high roller ranks with an all-season high of 247.

DETROIT—McArthur's Motiograph has moved into a tie with National Carbon for second place in the Nightingale Club Bowling League. High scores were rolled by S. J. Lambly, 573; S. Bouchey, 552; Gil Light, 543; Jack Lindenthal, 542, and W. Swistak, 538. Standings are:

Team—	Won	Lost
Lorenzen Flower Shop	37	19
McArthur's Motiograph	33	23
National Carbon	33	23
McArthur Theatre Supply	27	29
National Theatre Supply	27	29
Amusement Supply	26	30
Ernie Forbes	21	35
Brenkert Projectors	21	35

Change in Rivesville

RIVESVILLE, W. VA.—E. L. Wilson of Fairmont has leased the State here. Former operator was Frank Raspa. The new exhibitor has had experience in the portable film field.

Dismantling Ellsworth

ELLSWORTH, PA.—The Ellsworth here is being dismantled. Equipment has been sold to Matteo Faenza, Republic and Bentleyville exhibitor. The theatre was operated for a short period by H. J. Staminger and Herbert Schaefer.

Harris Houses Host Kids

PITTSBURGH—The *Press* and the Harris Amusement Co. presented free shows for kids at ten Harris theatres early Tuesday morning, the day before Christmas. All features were westerns.

Robert Colvin in Washington

CANTON, OHIO—Robert E. (Zeke) Colvin, former assistant manager of Loew's Theatre here, now is stage manager of the noted King-Smith Playhouse and School of Theatre Arts in Washington, D. C., where he is a scholarship pupil.

Get $150,000 Contract

BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO—The C. L. Knowlton Co. has been awarded the $150,000 contract for the construction of a brick and steel theatre and commercial theatre building here by the Norwalk Theatre Corp., a Schine affiliate.

Aarons Name House

CHARLESTON, W. VA.—Albert and Charles Aaron's new theatre, which will be opened soon, has been named the West.

State Closes a Theatre

NEWELL, PA.—The Newell here has been closed on orders of the state department of labor and industry.

Pittsburgh Variety's Committees for '41

PITTSBURGH—Tent No. 1 of Pittsburgh announces the following committees for 1941:

House: Al Weiblinger (chairman), M. J. Gallagher; heart: Ira H. Cohn (c), James G. Balmer; finance: Mort England (c), M. N. Shapiro; entertainment: Joe Hiller (c), Brian McDonald; membership: Harry Feinstein (c), John J. Maloney, David Kimelman, Peter Dana, Art Morrone; golf: Art England (c), Art Levy, Archie Fineman, John T. McGreevey; shut-in: Francis Guehl (c), Larry Katz, Peter Quiter; legal: I. Elmer Ecker (c), Andy Sheridan; auditing: M. N. Shapiro (c), Ben Steerman, Abe Weiner; rules: Tony Stern (c), Al Weiblinger, Jake Soltz, Al Weiss, Harry Feldman, Joe Misrach; banquet: C. J. Latta (c); treasurer: Dr. G. L. Beinhauer; advisory: C. C. Kellenberg, John H. Harris, Harry M. Kalmine, M. N. Shapiro, Al Weiblinger, C. J. Latta, Dr. Beinhauer, M. A. Rosenberg, Mark Goldman, Art Levy, Ira H. Cohn.

Members of the "new crew" include: C. C. Kellenberg, chief barker; M. N. Shapiro, assistant chief barker; Mort England, Dough Guy; A. T. Weiblinger, Property Master; Canvassmen are M. J. Gallagher, I. Elmer Ecker, M. A. Rosenberg, Brian McDonald, James G. Balmer and Tony Stern.

John H. Harris, national chief barker, has announced that new Variety Club tents will be established in New York, Hollywood, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago, bringing the total number of tents to 29.

Stroke Is Fatal

COLUMBUS—Mrs. Eliza MacDonald, mother of the late Clarence MacDonald, Columbus circuit owner, died recently at her home here following a stroke suffered the day following her son's funeral. She is survived by one son and three daughters. Services and burial were in Columbus.

Honor Catherine Lockhart

PITTSBURGH—Catherine Lockhart, secretary to John J. Maloney, M-G-M's district manager, was honored last week by members of the Leo staff on the occasion of her 20th anniversary with the company. The M-G-M Pep Club whooped it up and presented her with an honorary scroll and an anniversary cake.

Transfer John Scully Jr.

CLEVELAND—John Scully jr., Universal assistant booker, has been transferred to the Universal office in Philadelphia in a similar capacity. He is succeeded by Harold Saltz who came here from the Big U office in New York.

Adapts a Judy Garland

HOLLYWOOD—Frederick Kohner is scripting "The Youngest Profession," Judy Garland starrer, for Metro. Sidney Franklin will produce.

Shows Yield to Shops In Pre-Holiday Week

BOSTON—New records in pre-holiday shopping skidded Boston first-run theatres to low grosses with not even such draws as "Little Nellie Kelly" and "Trail of the Vigilantes" hitting even average business. Dull weather helped somewhat. Details for week ended December 24:

Fenway—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB); **Melody and Moonlight** (Rep) 50
Keith Memorial—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ); **Dreaming Out Loud** (RKO) 75
Loew's Orpheum—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M); **Escape to Glory** (Col) 85
Loew's State—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M); **Escape to Glory** (Col) 80
Metropolitan—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.. 45
Paramount—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB); **Melody and Moonlight** (Rep) 50

Pre-Holiday Pursuits Shove Back Grosses

NEW HAVEN—Heavy pre-Christmas shopping in stores kept film patrons away in droves, and the second week of "Go West" and "Gallant Sons" at the College was the only bill to approach the average line. Xmas opening of new bills cut three of the four houses downtown to a six-day week.

Detail for week ended December 25:

College—**Go West** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 85
Loew-Poli—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M); **Dulcy** (M-G-M), 6 days 50
Paramount—**A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't); **She Couldn't Say No** (FN), 6 days..... 50
Roger Sherman—**East of the River** (FN); **The Lady With Red Hair** (WB) 75

Hub Majestic Tentatively Picked for "Fantasia"

BOSTON—The Majestic, generally dark Shubert house, has been tentatively set as the roadshow site for "Fantasia," it is reported. The Repertory in Back Bay was considered but finally ruled out, word has it, because of the extended run of "Life With Father," starring Dorothy Gish and Louis Calhern.

Business Is Picking Up After Holiday Slump

HARTFORD — Business since Christmas Day has been picking up noticeably in this city. The WB's Strand, for the first week in some time, reported SRO business with "The Thief of Bagdad." The E. M. Loew's started what Manager George E. Landers hoped would be a month's run of "Arizona."

Looks Like Lydon

BOSTON—Frank Lydon, operator of the Hamilton in Dorchester who recently became Allied States Association northeastern regional vice-president, is expected to be unopposed this year for re-election as president of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., New England key Allied affiliate. The organization's annual meeting is scheduled for sometime this month, probably after the National Allied confab in Washington.

M&P Buying and Booking Practices Aired in Suit

BOSTON—Buying and booking practices of the M&P Theatres Corp., New England Paramount affiliate operating some one hundred houses, have been aired here as a part of the Waldo Theatre Corp. vs. the late Joseph Dondis et al. anti-trust case being heard in the local Federal Building before Francis P. Freeman, master appointed by U. S. District Judge John A. Peters of Maine.

Al Bevan, assistant buyer and booker to Philip Seletsky at M&P, told the court that the Mullin-Pinanski operating firm had discontinued "about four years ago" the practice of sending to distributors schedules of protection desired.

An Objection Upheld

George S. Ryan, representing the plaintiff corporation which operates the Waldo in Waldoboro, Me., asked Bevan what method the M&P Theatres Corp. had adopted in order to arrive at protection agreements. Bevan replied, "We took the schedule that we had for the previous year and set down the distributors and tried to make a new one for the coming season."

"Would the result of your conference as to protection be reduced to writing?" Bevan replied that such was the practice.

"Would it then be signed," Ryan continued, "by someone representing the M&P and someone representing the distributor?"

"They used to do it."

"How long did they do it?"

"Maybe a couple of years."

"And then did they make any change?"

"Yes."

"When would you say it was that they stopped signing these written agreements in regard to protection?"

Question on Protection

Edward F. McClennen, defense counsel, objected to this query and the court ruled it as a pretty broad and general question. The question was struck from the records.

"During the last season," questioned Ryan, "that is the season of 1940-41, did you make any agreements with any of the distributors in regard to any protection for any of the M&P theatres?"

"Yes. Some have been finished and some have not."

"Have those agreements been reduced to writing?"

"Yes."

"With what companies?"

"Metro, RKO and Fox."

"As to Paramount, has there been any written agreement?"

"With some of the theatres, but it isn't all completed yet."

"Has there been any agreement with Warner for this season's protection," queried Ryan further.

"No."

"Or United Artists?"

"Yes. It isn't finished."

"Universal?"

"In part."

"Columbia?"

"Columbia? No."

"Are you buying Columbia pictures generally this season?"

"I don't know how to answer that. We haven't up to the present time; if that is what you want to know. What we will do in the future I don't know."

"Did you buy them last season?" asked Ryan.

"No," responded Al Bevan, M&P buyer's assistant.

"Now for the 1939-40 season were written agreements made with any of the distributors in regard to protection?"

"Yes."

"With what companies?"

"All those that we did business with."

"And was it the same the previous season?"

"Yes."

"And the season before that?"

"Yes. Except . . . Just a minute. Warner Brothers haven't had a new clearance agreement for the last three or four years. They are still working on the last one we made with them."

"Was that a written agreement?"

"Yes."

"Was it signed by a representative of the distributors and a representative of the M&P?"

"Yes. I think that last year that we had it it was. Yes."

Back to 1930

"Now, since 1930 was there any method of negotiating the protection other than the method of sending out schedules and the method of signing agreements which you have described?"

An objection by McClennen followed the query but was not upheld, however Ryan found it necessary to reframe the question, to "Was there another way of arriving at protection other than sending out schedules or by getting a written agreement?"

"Yes."

"What was it?"

"Just go up to the exchanges and sit down and negotiate with them and reason with each other as to why you should or shouldn't have what you were asking for."

"And has it been the practice to have the result of your negotiations reduced to writing?"

"Yes."

"Have you made it a practice to get the agreement in regard to protection for the various theatres reduced to writing?"

"Yes."

John F. Caskey, 20th-Fox attorney, objected that Ryan was "attempting to suggest to the court that there was one period of time when there were schedules sent out, and some time later there was a period when there were negotiations which consummated in written agreements. I don't understand that there was such an agreement. My understanding is that there have always been negotiations in

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BOSTON

ARTHUR K. HOWARD, business manager of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., and Mrs. Howard spent the Christmas holidays with Warren Nichols, operator of the Gem in Peterborough, N. H. . . . Helen Zenis, married sometime ago, has resigned from the accounting department of the M&P Theatres Corp. to await a new arrival . . . Jack Eames, N. H. chain operator, and Mrs. Eames have a date with a bird.

Leonard Kraska, Fine Arts manager, and Georgia Kraska are looking over perambulators . . . Tom Foley of Loew's State and Mary Foley, formerly of the same theatre, are likewise . . . Ditto for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Foley of the State.

Lillian Cohen has been added to the accounting department of M&P to replace Lillian Anderson, who leaves . . . John Davin of National Screen Service has become a benedict . . . George Raft appeared in person on the stage of the RKO Boston . . . Phil Coolidge left to shoot the Cotton Bowl game for the newsreels . . . Victor Mature has been at the Colonial . . . Kenneth Kurson of Graphic Theatre circuit was in Florida.

Ben Rosenberg, Fenway manager, inaugurated a new policy at the Back Bay house last week when he advanced weekday opening time to 11:15 a. m., screenings beginning 15 minutes later. This coincides with openings of the competitive Loew's State . . . Dominic Toturo, operator of the Town Hall in Millbury, was in the film district.

Max Lerner, operator of the Fisher Hall in Fisherville, was in town . . . Joe Mathieu was in from Winchendon . . . Vincent Dunfey, assistant to Treasurer Vaughn O'Neill at Loew's State in Providence, planned a New Orleans holiday before concluding convalescence from pneumonia.

Melvin Morrison, manager of the Strand in Dover, is hitting for high school trade with a kid popularity contest . . . Howy Parker is pulling a similar promotion at the Capitol in Arlington . . . Alec Hurwitz is using a juvenile quiz show at the Strand in Taunton.

Marcel Mekelburg and Sam Levine of Northeastern Films got together with Al Winston of the Trans Lux in Boston and capitalized with a "Scarface" booking at the downtown house running coincidental with a p. a. of George Raft across the street at the RKO Boston.

Harry Aaronson, film Legion commander and manager of the Rialto in Scollay Square, has called a meeting of the Theatrical Post for next week . . . Don Widlund of Jam Handy was in town to go over the New England distribution of the gratis shorts . . . Steve Broidy, new Monogram sales manager, plans to leave for the West Coast the first of the year.

Jack McKenzie, formerly of the Paramount in Boston, now is handling the Square in Medford for the Frederick E. Lieberman circuit . . . Martha Heffner, daughter of the Bank Night assignee, was in Connecticut for the latter part of her vacation from Westbrook Junior College.

Herman Konnis has been in town during the holidays, doing special sales work here for Monogram . . . J. D. Kendis, roadshow producer, was in Boston . . . Bert Lytell is here . . . Miriam Hopkins and a new Theatre Guild show arrived in Boston . . . Richard McKay is managing the Gayety in Boston for E. M. Loew . . . Elmore Rhines is now managing the Methuen in Methuen for Sam Kurson.

Newell Kurson, Graphic Theatre circuit executive, has been supervising renovations at the Reading in Reading, former Morris Pouzzner house taken over by the circuit . . . Tom O'Brien of Monogram put "Chamber of Horrors" into the Trans Lux for a local showcase opening on New Year's Day . . . Jack Goodwin, Ben Rosenberg, and John Carroll of the Metropolitan, Fenway and Paramount, capitalized on New Year's Eve with a prerelease showing of "Second Chorus" on a reserved seat policy.

Richard Sears, local Universal newsreel man, formerly with RKO and Pathe, is now in Washington with the Army where he has been assigned the position of assistant chief of staff in the public relations department. Sears holds the commission of a Major.

Betty Field was in town . . . Isabelle Jewell opened here Thursday at the Plymouth in a new play, "The Hard Way," which was scheduled for a ten-day trial before its New York run . . . Warren Nichols was down from New Hampshire . . . Elliott Nugent is here . . . Allard Graves, Northern New England circuit owner, and Mrs. Graves, wintering in Florida, claim that up this way, "Old Santa Claus is just a frozen asset."

Jack Sanson, manager of the State in Manchester, N. H., has been elected president of the Chamber of Commerce there . . . George S. Jeffrey, former local film man, is president of the newly formed New York corporation, Jeffrey Pictures Corp., which has taken over distribution of "Cavalcade of Faith."

Frank Kierman is managing the Orpheum in Danvers, former Louis Boas house now operated by Graphic Theatre circuit . . . Leslie Emerson is covering the Opera House in Millinocket, Me., for Graphic . . . Harry Kirchgessner, New England manager for National Screen Service, estimates that the new NSS building at the corner of Broadway and Winchester streets should be finished by spring.

Frederick E. Lieberman, circuit owner, is pointing his new house now in construction in the Uphams Corner section of Dorchester for a spring opening . . . James Field, manager of the Paramount in Salem for Phil Bloomberg interests, has spotted Arthur Martel, former Boston perennial, in a series of organ recitals.

Edward Renick of the local Metro staff observed his fourth anniversary with the company January 1. Alicia McCarron will round out 11 years with the company January 13.

Course in Management On After Holidays

BOSTON—Classes in Motion Picture Theatre Management, suspended for two weeks during the holidays, were scheduled to resume Monday when Maurice N. Wolf, M-G-M district manager, is slated to speak on production.

Arthur L. Tuohy, originator and supervisor of the course which is being held under the auspices of the University Extension Division of the Massachusetts Department of Education, emphasizes that new enrollments will be accepted for the second half of the course, commencing Monday.

The first half of the instruction series, comprising eight lectures by various local film executives, drew an official enrollment of 35 and an average weekly attendance closer to 40. One registrant has been commuting to and from Passaic, N. J., where his family is putting up a theatre.

Theatre Managers Attend Party by "Free Press"

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The Springfield *Free Press*, edited by Michael Zandan, held its second annual "Movie Party" for local theatre managers in its offices at 104 State St. here.

In attendance were: George E. Freeman, Boyd Taylor Sparrow, Loew's-Poli; Andrew A. Sette, Tony de Caro, Warner Capitol; Bill Teague, Bijou; Edward Smith, Gilbert G. Bevan, Raymond Cronin, GB's Paramount; George W. Coleman, Arcade; F. I. Frechette, Garden; Earl W. Whitford, E. M. Loew's Court Square; Pat McGee, Loew's, Boston office; Carl Jamroga, Phillips; various city and county officials, and William Powell, division manager of the Herman Rifkin Springfield theatres.

Plans Are Submitted for A New Outdoor Theatre

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The Springfield park commission last Monday night received from Hare & Hare, landscape architects of Kansas City, a new study of an outdoor theatre site in connection with a long-range plan for improvements in the Forest Park section of this city.

The plan would utilize the slope of a hill leading to Pecousic Villa, about 500 feet off Long Hill Street, for the placing of about 4,000 seats for theatre audiences. Parking spaces for about 250 cars would be available at the top of the hill.

Import Diet Shifts

BOSTON—German and Russian films no longer figure in the film taste of Boston foreign film fans, a poll of audience tastes at the Fine Arts in Boston has revealed. With the poll in the final stage of compilation this week, English films were out in front in the popularity graph, with French second.

Last Show Starts at Eight

JEWETT CITY, CONN.—The State Theatre now has its last complete evening performance at 8 o'clock.

Divisional Managers Meet in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The Western Massachusetts Theatres circuit held a divisional managers' meeting last Monday in the Broadway Theatre building headquarters of the circuit.

Attending were: Louis Levine, Rivoli, Chicopee; C. Fredericks, Garden, Greenfield; George Labbe, Victory, and Milton Weinstein of the Strand, Holyoke; Thomas W. Chatburn, Richmond, North Adams; Francis Faille, Paramount, Northampton; David D. Perkins, Plaza, Northampton; Eddie Dowling of the Capitol, and Francis Beaupre, Strand, Pittsfield; Louis Marcks, Strand, Westfield; Norman Prager, Palace, Westfield, and Clifford Boyd, Paramount, Brattleboro, Vt.

Springfield house managers present were George W. Coleman, Arcade; Edward Smith, Paramount, and Charlie R. Smith, Broadway. Nathen E. and Samuel Goldstein presided.

A Christmas party, complete with holiday bonuses for all employes, was the order of the day.

Western Mass. Managers Receive Drive Awards

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Managers of 16 theatres of Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., were recent guests of Nathan E. Goldstein, president, at a luncheon given at the Hotel Sheraton here.

Goldstein awarded prizes in the 10-week Fifth Anniversary Drive. First prize went to Edward Smith of the Paramount, Springfield; second to Charles Smith, Broadway, Springfield; third to George Laby, Victory, Holyoke; fourth to David F. Perkins, Plaza, Northampton, and fifth to Louis Marcks, Strand, Westfield.

New Haven Neighborhood Houses Hold Late Shows

NEW HAVEN — Although several neighborhoods had announced they would omit the late show this year, policy was changed at the 11th hour and 1941 was ushered in with three downtown and seven neighborhood shows. The Paramount was the only house downtown to run vaudeville, and seats were $1.10 all through the house. The Loew-Poli and Roger Sherman charged 50-75 cents, the latter changing prices at 6 p. m. instead of midnight, and featuring the opening of "Santa Fe Trail" right through the day. The Poli brought "Flight Command" for a single midnight performance, to be returned for a regular engagement the following week.

Nabes stuck to pictures for the most part, although the Whally and Whitney featured several acts. The Dixwell booked "Reefer Madness" and "How to Take a Bath." Other nabes open late were the Strand, Pequot, Rivoli and Forest.

Premiere "First Romance"

HARTFORD—The world premiere of Monogram's "Her First Romance," starring Edith Fellows, was held at the local Harris Brothers' State last weekend.

NEW HAVEN

WITH several exchange Xmas parties staged at fashionable night clubs this year, Meadow Street lacked its usual pre-Christmas holiday aspect, and office parties were exclusive, early afternoon affairs, at United Artists, 20th-Fox, Metro, and Loew-Poli. Politeers gave the boss a gift of cash, and he distributed handsome gifts . . . National Theatre Supply had liquid refreshments and a cheery greeting for all who entered . . . Formal parties were a complete success at the Waverly Inn for Warner's; Oakdale Tavern, Metro and Paramount; Seven Gables Inn for Columbians, and Hotel Taft, Loew-Poli staff . . . Lou Brown's "radio" script, acted at the Poli party by Elliott Kronish, Mickey Mattes, Mrs. Lou Brown, and John McQuigan, was a hilarious hit with the 130 employes of the division and theatres present . . . Harry Shaw subbed at the drums, and Harry Rose at the bass fiddle . . . Lou Cohen was m. c. par excellence . . . Mrs. Morris Mendelsohn copped all the prizes . . . At Metro party, new Manager Morey Goldstein made a speech that dubbed him a "regular fellow." George Weber took beautiful closeups of honor guests. Wolf-Donaldson-Goldstein, and others proving conclusively that Frank Mullen forgot himself to the extent of doing the Conga.

Reservations have already come in from Tom Connors of New York home office of Metro; Joseph L. Stein of New York, Maurice N. Wolf of Boston, and other executives for the farewell testimonial dinner to Thomas G. Donaldson, at the Hotel Taft, January 14. A record crowd is expected to attend to wish Donaldson well on the eve of his departure for his new Boston managership . . . Harry F. Shaw and Barney Pitkin, co-chairmen, promise the event will be outstanding . . . Charlie Lazarus, Metro booker, is treasurer . . . Maurice N. Wolf will emcee.

The Lincoln closed for the duration of the Yale holiday, and manager Jean DuBarry and wife went off to New York to hit the high spots . . . Mr. and Mrs. W. J. E. Brown came in from Washington to visit with the Lou Browns for the holidays . . . Bill Reisinger, Bijou manager, recovered from the grippe just in time to surprise the folks in Dayton, Ohio, with a visit on Xmas Day.

George Weber, Metro checking super, back in New Haven after working for three weeks in the New York territory . . . Jeanette Berliner, Republic booker, is sporting a handsome new two-tone gold watch, a Xmas gift from a New York boy friend . . . Mrs. Sam Rosen is recuperating at home after an operation at New Haven Hospital . . . Jim Memery, Loew-Poli artist, took Mrs. and Jimmy to Pepperill, Mass., for the holidays . . . Dave Kaufman, Loew-Poli division artist, was official photographer at his brother's wedding in New York, Xmas Day.

Harry F. Shaw, Poli "boss," spent Xmas with his mother, Mrs. Ida Shaw, in Bridgeport . . . Mary Barone, Columbia inspectress, ill at home last week as a result of an auto accident . . . Tim O'Toole, Columbia manager, spent a week in Harrisburg, Pa. . . . William Benson, Universal salesman, dashed into Long Island to spend Xmas with his family, and back again Thursday morning . . . Mrs. Fred Quatrano of the Lido, Waterbury, was dismissed from the hospital in time to spend the holidays with her family . . . Andrew Sharick, wound up an exchange tour in New Haven, and hurried on to N. Y. for the Yule season . . . Come the New Year, I. J. Hoffman is probably looking forward to his annual winter vacation in Florida . . . Manager Barney Pitkin of RKO and Manager Lou Wechsler of United Artists are also contemplating early experiences of "Moon Over Miami."

Mortie Kressner of the Plaza, Stamford, reports 500 were turned away at the opening of "Thief of Bagdad" . . . Cash Quiz moves next into the Strand, Gloucester, and Strand, Skowhegan . . . When the present Bijou amateur contest series is finished, winner each week will be pitted against each other in groups of eight, four eliminated each week, until the grand finals are reached, with about 16 competing. No lack of talent or waning of interest evident.

Vernon Burns conducted the Xmas Eve vaude in the absence of Manager Bill Reisinger, then on sick leave . . . Bunny LeWitt of Plainville is a double for your Columbia shipper, Sid Lax . . . The Loew-Poli ushers' Xmas turkey raffle was won by Harold Rudnick, Claire Canavan, and Mary Innocenzi, and the boys are already counting the proceeds toward another dance . . . Sal Demano, former assistant at the Bijou, is married to Fay Morgan and living in Glens Falls.

The Russell-Rubin corner piece for "Flight Command" at the Poli throws fluorescent lighting to good advantage on a big suspended airplane cutout, surrounded by small revolving planes . . . New Year's Eve sound truck was used by the Poli . . . Also Russell revived the popular football heralds for the New Year's week games . . . Monk Maloney offered prizes to students at the Worcester Art Museum School for best reproductions of American painters' sets for "The Long Voyage Home" . . . Huge "Thief of Bagdad" float brought to Bridgeport for opening of the picture, made the press with art and copy.

The boys at the Bijou gave Harry Shaw a surprise when they blacked out the stage in the middle of the Amateur Show, put on the green spotlight, and produced an ape to run Boss Harry off the stage. It was all in preparation for the engagement of "The Ape."

Mike Thomasino and the boys are reminiscing rather more than usual and with unusual tenderness about the days when there was action and excitement on Meadow Street . . . Such as white-washing cars, horseplay, and a good fist fight.

January 1 marked Charles Lazarus' fifth anniversary with M-G-M. Come January 13, Edith Williams, also of the local staff, will have been with the company 11 years.

SPRINGFIELD

GEORGE W. COLEMAN, manager of the Arcade, announces that second run house will return to first run sometime this month with "The Baker's Wife," a French film. Coleman and his assistant, Hy Nozak, have already started a huge exploitation campaign . . . In New Haven last Monday to attend a Loew's-Poli divisional managers' meeting were George E. Freeman and Boyd Taylor Sparrow of the local Loew's-Poli. From Worcester were Joe Anstead, Elm Street; Bob Portle, Plaza; and H. H. Maloney, Poli . . . Maurice Radin, Peoples' Candy Co., Worcester, was in Springfield last Tuesday afternoon . . . Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Powers spent the Christmas holiday in Worcester visiting relatives and friends. Powers is the Art's assistant manager.

More Christmas visitings: Betty Wheeler, office clerk for the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., spent the holiday in her home town, Great Barrington, Mass. . Joe Jerald, assistant to Harry Smith, division manager and also director of publicity for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc, was in New York . . . Mrs Olive J. Simms, cashier at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, visited her husband at St. Catharine's, Canada . . . Carl Jamroga, manager of the Forest Park Phillips, spent the holiday with his parents down in Rockville, Conn.

Ted Holt of Loew's was in town to see the local Loew's-Poli boys . . . Pat McGee of Loew's Boston office left town the other day after checking at the E. M. Loew's Court Square here . . . New uniforms are due soon at the Art for service staff members . . . Woodmark Sign Co. has repainted the marquee and front at Al Anders' Bijou. The Capitol Theatre Supply Co., Boston, recently overhauled projection equipment in the Bijou's booth, reports Anders.

Mary Stroshine, office clerk for the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., returned to work last week, after having been ill at home for several weeks . . . Jack Agustio, former usher at GB's Paramount, is the new usher at the Broadway, succeeding Joe Cardinno, resigned . . . Dean Nelson, usher at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, has been upped to doorman, replacing Raymond Lynch, resigned . . . Service staff members at the GB's Paramount are sporting new uniforms . . . Remodeling of Manager Freddie I. Frechette's office at the Garden was completed last week.

In Boston recently was Andrew A. Sette, Warner Capitol manager. Ditto Raymond Title, manager of the Harry Arthur's Art . . . Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hurley of the Liberty last Sunday night entertained Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kessler, Suffolk, Holyoke; Mr. and Mrs. George Rabb, Jefferson, Springfield, and Richard Udler, Garden, Springfield, at their home . . . Hy Nozak, assistant manager of the Arcade, now takes his day off on Tuesday . . . Manager George W. Coleman of the Arcade tied in with WSPR for three plugs daily before and during the run of "Bitter Sweet." For "The Mark of Zorro," Coleman used a huge overhead hanging lobby sign which had "Z" marks all over it . . . Edward Levesque is the new porter at the Warner Capitol, succeeding Richard Gibbs, resigned . . . Mrs. Andrew A. Sette, wife of the Warner Capitol manager, recently returned from a trip to Far Rockaway, L. I.

Reports have it that Don Barhydt, former manager of the E. M. Loew's Court Square here, is now in the advertising business . . . Tony DeCaro of the Warner Capitol reported SRO business at that theatre with the revival of WB's "Here Comes the Navy" . . . Salvation Army lasses reportedly collected about $100 from Springfield theatre patrons last week by standing with tin plates in theatre lobbies . . . Guy Kellogg has rejoined the Paramount ushers' corps.

Christmas parties — GB's Paramount held party for its service staff last Monday night on the stage after the last show. Refreshments were served and dancing was held . . . Herman and Julian Rifkin of the Rifkin Theatres came to Springfield to participate in the circuit's first Christmas party at the Liberty Theatre headquarters of the chain. With Freddie I. Frechette, manager of the Garden, in the role of master of ceremonies, all employes of the circuit had a grand time. Frankie Shaughnessy of the Academy, Northampton; Paul Kessler, Suffolk, Holyoke, and Al Weasertels of the Majestic, Holyoke, were also invited . . . Employes of the Rifkin's Forest Park Phillips, however, held their own party last Sunday night.

Melvin M. Aronson, chief of the Paramount service staff, now takes his day off on Tuesday . . . Donald Buchanan, usher at the Paramount, spent Christmas in New York . . . Tommy Riordan of the E. M. Loew's Mohawk, North Adams, resigned to join the Navy . . . Herman Rifkin gave both male and female employes of his Springfield theatres Christmas presents, with most of the girls receiving boxes of candy . . . Paramount service staff chipped in to buy Manager Eddie Smith a pen and pencil set.

Steve MacDrake is a new usher at the E. M. Loew's Court Square . . . Ernest Bates, projectionist at the Garden, had a birthday Christmas Day . . . Frank Shaughnessy, manager of the Rifkin's Academy, Northampton, who is also an officer in the National Guard, will be leaving his theatre position sometime this month for army life . . . James J. Bloom, assistant chief of service, and Gilbert G. Bevan, assistant manager at the Paramount, spent last weekend in New York . . . "Funzafire" was presented at the Paramount New Year's Eve . . . William "Billy" Powell, division manager for Herman Rifkin's circuit, visited Walter B. Lloyd, manager of the M&P Allyn . . . Manager Carl Jamroga of the Forest Park Phillips upped prices a nickel on all adult admissions during the run of "North West Mounted Police."

Stage shows at the Holyoke, Holyoke, have been good draws, reports Bernard W. Levy, district manager of the F. E. Lieberman Theatres . . . Regards are in order for Freddie I. Frechette, manager of the Garden, who is currently observing his 31st year in this industry . . . Harold Morrow, manager of the Strand here, held a beauty contest for male patrons.

'Scarface' Reissue Submits To Several Shearings

BOSTON — Neatness doesn't count in Massachusetts, at least when it pertains to men picking up brassieres that during the course of events have fallen to the floor. The first-reel scene of such procedure has been deleted from the reissue of "Scarface" being distributed here by Northeastern Film Company. Other Bay State cuts on the feature, including banning of the entire prologue, are:

"Dialogue 'Lady's house alibi;' all scenes showing Poppy in apartment in lingerie, in part 2. Scenes showing Scarface bombing and shooting up barrooms; scenes showing Scarface shooting patients in hospital in part 3. Scenes showing man being thrown from car and body lying in gutter, in part 4. Scene showing body falling from car; all scenes showing machine gunning of cafes, in part 5. All scenes showing machine gunning of cars, trucks and people; scene showing Valentine massacre; all scenes showing dead bodies of gang on floor, in part 6. Scenes showing bowling alley murder; scenes showing Scarface tearing strap from gown and slapping sister; scenes showing machine gunning of Scarface's car, in part 7. Scene showing Tony shooting Quino in sister's apartment, in part 9."

Thirty-five other motion pictures were approved by Commissioner Eugene M. McSweeney in an accompanying list.

McLaughlin Turns Over Stoneham to Rudenstein

BOSTON—William H. McLaughlin completed transactions this week, selling the lease-secured Stoneham in Stoneham to Al Rudenstein, operator of the Capitol in Bridgewater and the Faulkner in Malden. The deal, formally closed two weeks ago gave Rudenstein the house on Jan. 1.

McLaughlin, who was one of the first dish premium dealers in New England, is at present considering several film jobs. He retired this year as commander of the Theatrical Post of American Legion and has resigned from the board of directors of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc.

Only State Finds Flesh Profitable in Hartford

HARTFORD—Vaudeville failed in its comeback attempt here in 1940, only the Harris Bros.' State finding flesh profitable. However, Maxie Rudnick brought burlesque to Bridgeport and the Loew Poli circuit used flesh, on occasion, in New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury and Meriden.

A Burlesque Series

WATERBURY, CONN.—The Jacques Theatre here has started a series of "glorified burlesque" shows on its stage. First attraction was Louise Stewart and a cast of 65 people. There will be an entire new show every Friday on a continuous policy basis.

Annual Party for Kids By Mayor of Hartford

HARTFORD — Mayor Spellacy's annual Christmas party for youngsters was held last Friday morning at the Loew's Poli, with doors opening at 8:30 a. m. and the performance beginning at 9:30 a. m.

Cooperation in arranging the party was given by Jack A. Simons, the theatre's manager, and his staff, as well as Local 486, IATSE, the WPA recreation division of the Hartford park department and others.

Besides the Mayor, other city officials attended, these including members of the amusements committee of the board of aldermen. The committee is comprised of Alderman J. J. Kenny, chairman, and Aldermen Samuel Lebon, John G. Dworak, A. H. Giller and L. L. Malley.

New Hampshire Exhibitors Hold Christmas Parties

MANCHESTER, N. H.—Exhibitors of the state did their share to make Christmas a joyous occasion for children and needy adults.

In Claremont, Peter D. Latchis, theatre chain owner, played host to 1,200 youngsters at a party. Manager Joseph Belluscio extended greetings. Latchis also sponsored a similar party in Keene.

At the Colonial in Laconia, articles of food served as the admission and Christmas baskets made up from these contributions were distributed to the city's needy by Laconia Lodge of Elks. Manager Ralph Morris donated the use of the theatre for the event.

In Exeter, more than 500 children attended a special show and received bags of candy at the Ioka Theatre.

Reopen Waterbury House For Six-a-Week Operation

WATERBURY, CONN.—Jacques Theatre, operated periodically for burlesque during the past many years, was reopened December 27, under the management of Al Smith, for six-a-week operation. Shows direct from Gayety, Boston, will open Friday afternoons. Sunday afternoon and evening will be continuous. The house had a New Year's Eve midnight show.

Report Group May Build Newsreeler in Hartford

HARTFORD—Reports are current an unidentified group is seeking funds for the purpose of building a downtown newsreel theatre. It would be the first of its kind in this territory.

Three Boys Absolved

HARTFORD—Arrested on a charge of creating a disturbance at the Proven Pictures Theatre here, three teen-aged boys were released when they were found not guilty in police court. Whether this means a new wave of strict law-enforcement in local theatres remains to be seen.

HARTFORD

FLAVIA SLOAT, that cute cashier at the M&P's Allyn, says "North West Mounted Police" is the "Gone With the Wind" of 1941 . . . Colchester Chapter of Senior and Junior Hadassah presented its fifth annual play, "Uncle Josh Perkins" at the Colchester, Colchester, recently, through the cooperation of that Markoff circuit house . . . Palace, Norwalk, brought back Columbia's "Lost Horizon" and "The Awful Truth" . . . Revival of "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" reportedly did fair business at the Strand, Winsted . . . M&P's Norwalk, Norwalk, has started the serial, "Mysterious Dr. Satan" . . . Beverly Roberts and Stepin' Fetchit of the films were to have been featured in a New Year's Eve revue at the recently-reopened Alhambra, Torrington . . . Blackstone the Magician did a p. a. at the Palace, Stamford.

"Go West" played two weeks at the Loew's Poli College, New Haven, and Loew's Poli Elm Street, Worcester . . . Edward F. Burns, usher at the WB's Lenox, has been elected president of the Weaver High School chapter of the National Honor Society . . . Mickey Daly of the Hartford Daly and Plainfield, Plainfield, was in New Haven last Tuesday on business . . . Evelyn Doyle, former usherette at Charlie Repass' Crown, and Thomas Whalen of Hartford are now Mr. and Mrs. . . . Ozzie Nelson and his orchestra, featuring Harriet Hilliard, were at the Lyric, Bridgeport . . . Kennie Faye, manager of the WB's Rialto, now has his day off every other Monday . . . Alice Ericon, WB's Strand cashier, is still ill at home, as is also Charlie Williams, porter . . . In Manchester Christmas Day from Hartford were James F. McCarthy, manager of the WB's Strand, and Henry Needles, WB's district manager.

Nathan E. Goldstein, president of the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., Springfield, was in New York recently on business . . . In Holyoke, Mass., last week was Bernard William Levy, manager of the main stem Proven Pictures, and also division manager of the Fred Lieberman Theatres in Hartford and Holyoke . . . Eleanor Simons, daughter of local Loew's Poli Manager Jack A. Simons, has been ill with a throat infection . . . Joe Bernard, chief of the WB's Strand service staff, has hopes of becoming a motion picture projectionist some day . . . Robert McGann, usher at the WB's Lenox, is quite a basketball fan . . . E. M. Loew's had Producers Releasing Corp.'s "Misbehaving Husbands."

Congratulations are in order for popular Jack Sanson, manager of the State, Manchester, who has been appointed president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce . . . Pat McMahon, manager of the State, New Britain, is planning the construction of a new home . . . Robert Hall is the new usher at the local WB's Strand, succeeding Robert Oates, resigned . . . Joe Christoph of Windsor, who with his wife (Mrs. M. Oakley Christoph, Hartford Courant *film columnist) was in Europe when war broke out, was guest speaker at a meeting of Gray-Dickinson Post, American Legion . . . Main stem Daly had an amateur contest on its stage last Thursday night . . . Yiddish film, "Motel, the Operator," is due at the Bushnell's Wednesday night, January 8 . . . Rosalind Russell, screen star, spent the Christmas holidays with her family in Waterbury . . . Katharine Hepburn spent the Christmas holidays with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Hepburn, in West Hartford.*

Vaudeville Actors' Ass'n of Connecticut held a meeting at the Allyn House last Sunday night . . . Jack A. Simons, Loew's Poli manager, spent last Friday in New York . . . A new part-time usher at the M&P's Allyn is Joseph Carjerro . . . Matt L. Saunders of the Loew's Poli, Bridgeport, received an Honor Roll Award emblem from M-G-M for "Strike Up the Band" exploitation . . . New sound has been installed at the American in Bridgeport . . . Paul Mardellio is a new usher at the E. M. Loew's succeeding Harold Schwartz, resigned . . . Norbert Aubin is the new manager of the Strand in Willimantic . . . Mrs. Joseph Samartano, wife of the Loew's Poli Palace, Meriden, manager, has been ill at home . . . WB's Regal reported good business with Republic's "Hit Parade of 1941" . . . Capitol, Bridgeport, has been reseated.

Ernest Wattrus is a new E. M. Loew's usher, replacing Freddie Kendricks, resigned . . . New Year's Eve: M&P's Allyn presented "Second Chorus," while the Loew's Poli had "Comrade X," and the WB's Strand brought in the much-heralded "Santa Fe Trail" . . . "Here Is Ireland" is due at the Bushnell's Memorial, January 11 and 12 . . . Harris Brothers' State, for its New Year's Eve presentation, had the Three Stooges, John Kirby's band, Ray Herbeck's orchestra, Maxine Sullivan and Pat Paree in a three-hour stage show . . . WB's Rialto, Norwalk, reopened Christmas Day after a period of renovating . . . F. Borelli has installed new film equipment in St. Mary's Hall, Worcester.

: NEW HAMPSHIRE :

A PERSONAL appearance by Buster West headed the vaudeville bill at the Palace in Manchester when stage shows were resumed following a pre-Christmas season suspension.

Word has been received in Newington of death of Louis L. G. deRochemont, a former resident and father of Louis de Rochemont, founder and producer of the "March of Time" films. The elder de Rochemont was a well-known Boston attorney.

Granite State theatre operators have received cheering news, to the effect that 140,000 workers listed by the state unemployment compensation division received a total payroll of $12,000,000 for the year ending December 31. This was an increase of $2,000,000 over 1939.

Bills creating a state lottery, legalizing pari-mutuel bets on greyhound racing and licensing slot machines are reported to be planned for introduction at the biennial session of the legislature. Vigorous opposition looms on all these measures.

BRIDGEPORT

NEW YEAR'S EVE shows did big business, with the advance ticket sales the largest in years . . . Al Smith, former Lyric manager, has opened the long-dark Jacques Theatre in Waterbury with burlesque . . . Manager Harry Rose of the Globe is sporting a new camel hair overcoat.

Clifford Bannerman is the new doorman at the Majestic . . . Manager Michael Carroll of the American has upped kid admissions from a dime to 15 cents on Sundays . . . Morris Rosenthal guested a group of children from the Woodruff home at his Majestic . . . Mrs. Fred Quatrano of the Lido, Waterbury, has returned to her home after being a patient at St. Vincent's Hospital here.

Fred Perry has left the Lyric to become director and publicity head for Al and Bell Dow's 11 theatres. The latest addition to the circuit is the newly reopened Alhambra in Torrington. The house will use vaudeville four days a week . . . Jane Ross, former Loew cashier here, is now in Hollywood working for Carole Lombard's brother . . . Business at the Lyric is building steadily.

Bridgeport Post *is running a serialization of "Kitty Foyle," coming to the Warner. The story was planted by Harry Reiners of the RKO Radio home office and is the first time in more than 20 years that the paper has cooperated with a motion picture to the extent of running a full-length novel . . . New England Division Manager Harry F. Shaw and his wife, Flo, were in the city for a visit with Shaw's mother and sister.*

Waldo Theatre Suit Airs M&P Buying, Booking Practices

(Continued from page 101)

every year. Separately conducted with each company."

Bevan told the court that he doesn't assist Phil Seletsky in buying production but that he was familiar with the practice M&P employs in booking their films. Ryan asked him for the details.

On Availability Sheets

"Well," said Bevan, "you have your release sheets, or availability sheets, from the exchanges. And you use your own good judgment as to where you put them into the theatres."

"Well, now, when you say 'availability sheets from the exchanges,' do you mean that the distributor will send your company a notice in writing stating that certain films specified are available for booking in certain theatres at specified dates?"

"They do that in most theatres, yes."

McClennen interrupted at this point with the question, "When you say 'on,' you mean on or after certain dates? You don't mean to imply that those sheets fix the dates. That they are available at a certain time and thereafter?"

Ryan replied, "And thereafter. Yes."

"Well, are there some of these notices of availability that don't specify any time that picture shall become available?" asked Ryan.

"No," replied Al Bevan.

"For theatres where you are permitted to book on national release date, did you get notice of availability for those theatres?"

"Sometimes they send them and sometimes they don't."

"And how did you ascertain when they became available for first run houses in the big cities?"

"From the national release sheets."

"Do you get those from the distributors?"

"Yes."

"After you get those national release sheets, or notices of availability, is it your practice to send to the distributor a written booking request of some nature?"

"Yes."

"And that gives him the dates that you would like to use the picture at a certain theatre?"

"Yes."

"And in the usual course of business does the distributor then send you a confirmation of the booking, if the date is satisfactory to the distributor?"

"Yes."

"And if the date is not satisfactory do you get some other form of notice?"

"They usually call you up."

"And ask for another date?"

"Yes. Just iron it out between yourselves as to when you will play it."

"Then you receive from the distributor a notice of the booking of the picture for a particular theatre?"

"Yes."

"Pay in a Week"

"Do invoices from distributors of the film come to you?"

"No."

"Are you familiar with the method of payment for the films?"

"Not very. No."

"Do you know whether or not M&P Theatres has any credit period?"

"Yes. Yes, they have."

"What period is it?"

"From my knowledge, the pictures we play last week we pay for this week."

"Is that the same with all companies?"

"Yes."

"Including Paramount?"

"Yes."

"Is Philip Seletsky . . . (This Philip Seletsky who is the buyer and booker) . . . was he at one time in the New York office of Paramount?"

"Yes."

"Was his business then connected with the buying and booking of films?"

"Yes."

"Is there an L. D. Netter connected with the buying and booking of Paramount?"

"Yes."

"And where is he located?"

"New York."

"What are his duties in connection with the Paramount theatres at the present time?"

An objection was raised at this point and sustained.

"At that time," questioned George S. Ryan," was not Sam Dembow jr., an assistant buyer and booker?"

"I think Sam at that time had charge of everything in connection with theatres that were operated by Publix."

"At that time was Netter operating in the capacity of an assistant to him?"

"Yes, I understand so."

"You have been in New York, haven't you?"

"Only once. And I didn't see him."

Refer to Maine Operation

"During the past four or five years have you negotiated protection for Rockland, Maine?"

"Yes."

"Did you bring any of the contracts in regard to Rockland?"

"Yes, I think we have everything except 1936-7 which are at the storehouse. They are trying to dig them out now."

Ryan, getting Bevan to outline the Rockland situation, got into the testimony the fact that M&P books and buys for two theatres in the Maine community, the Strand and Park, the former being classified as an "A" house and the latter as a "B" house.

Ryan asked if the Park has been running seven days a week.

"Not until approximately a year ago," Bevan replied.

"Was the same true with both the Strand and the Park? Not running Sundays until about a year ago?"

"No. The Strand—The Strand ran Sundays for the last three or four years."

"Did the Park Theatre run double feature bills Friday and Saturday?"

"Sometimes. Yes."

"What is the seating capacity of each of those theatres?"

"I don't know offhand, but I think the Strand is about 800 and the Park about 700."

Hearings in the litigation are scheduled to resume January 7.

To Consider Request

WEST HARTFORD, CONN.—The town council's requested appropriation of $20,000 for purchase of an entire block as a site for a proposed recreational center will be considered by the board of finance at a meeting shortly. Charles T. Treadway jr., board chairman, announces.

To Phillips Post

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—E. R. "Chief" Engel, formerly with the Springfield fire department, has succeeded Henry Rickaby as assistant manager at the Phillips.

Boston Councillor Calls For Action on Beano

BOSTON—On the eve of filing a bill for state legislation of Beano, City Councillor P. D. Chase of Boston, seeking banning of the game, declared that the Beano take in Massachusetts is approximately $10,000,000 annually. "Most of the money," Chase alleged, "is pocketed by the operators who are openly and flagrantly violating the law" which says that Beano may be played only for charity.

"The millions made from Beano," Chase contended, "are not going to charity but to professional racketeers. I believe the Commonwealth should investigate and clean up the game in the state.

"The regular law enforcement agencies have either been very lax or have deliberately closed their eyes to the situation. It is known that many of these games are operated by racketeers, and I feel certain that if an investigation is made the resulting disclosures will be shocking to the public."

Theatre boxoffices have long suffered here from Beano competition.

A Bill Filed to Empower State to Handle Beano

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—State supervision of Beano is called for in a bill filed with the state house of representatives' clerk. A license would be issued by the state racing commission and promoters would turn back over 25 per cent of the monetary handle to the municipality and 12½ per cent to the state to help reduce taxes.

Massachusetts Factory Employment in a Gain

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Contrary to the usual seasonal decline, employment increased in Massachusetts factories between mid-October and mid-November, the state department of labor and industries announced last week. Compared with November a year ago, employment was up three per cent and wages were 7.6 per cent greater.

Hold "Souls in Pawn"

BOSTON—Harry Asher of Producers Releasing Corp. signed last week with E. M. Loew for a fourth consecutive week of "Souls in Pawn" at the Gayety in downtown Boston. The continued holdover has given the roadshow the long distance record for recent weeks in local theatres.

Improve Upham's Corner

DORCHESTER, MASS.—Upham's Corner, 1,200-seater operated here by Frederick E. Lieberman, is being improved with RCA sound and new booth and screen equipment.

Ball by Local 486

HARTFORD—Local 486, IATSE, will sponsor a ball sometime in February. Details have not been arranged as yet.

: Pre-Decree Business :

BOSTON—The transaction of a motion picture theatre three decades ago wasn't the costly and weighty matter it is today. Here's the way they used to do it in 1908, reveals Walter E. Young, present operator of the Strand in Farmington, N. H., and one of the parties involved in the deal.

"Walter E. Young of Rochester, N. H., and Arthur W. Whitney of Boston, Mass., agree as follows," reads the document which is signed by both the aforementioned parties. "The said Young agrees to sell to said Whitney his one-half interest in the Moving Picture Business, known as the Kosy Theatre in the said Rochester for the sum of $39.11 and the said Whitney is to pay the sum of five dollars every week until the $39.11 is paid.

"Now it is agreed that the sum of five dollars which the said Whitney pays every week shall be considered rent for the use of said business if he shall fail to pay any or all of the payments as they shall become due. The first payment shall be due the 26th day of November, 1908. The possession of said business is in the other partner, Edwin F. Dame, until full payment. The said Whitney and Dame are hereafter liable for the debts of the partnership.

Dated this 19th day of November, 1908."

Springfield Film Council Issues Classified List

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The Springfield Motion Picture Council announced its "classified list of forthcoming films" as follows:

Suitable for adults only—"The Long Voyage Home."

Suitable for both adults and young people—"Second Chorus," "Comrade X," "Flight Command," "Love Thy Neighbor," "This Thing Called Love," "Son of Monte Cristo," "Margie," "Gallant Sons," "Melody Ranch," "Chad Hanna," "Boys of the City," "Tom Brown's School Days," "Santa Fe Trail," "Arizona" and "Thief of Bagdad."

Many Bostonians to Attend Donaldson Testimonial

BOSTON—A large Boston contingent planned to attend the Tom Donaldson testimonial dinner at the Taft in New Haven next Tuesday. The affair will mark the return here of Donaldson, former New Haven branch manager for M-G-M and new Boston branch manager. Maurice Goldstein, Boston salesman, replacing Donaldson in New Haven, will be a guest of honor at the affair.

Schulmans Pay Bonus

HARTFORD—A Christmas bonus, based on length of service in the employ of the company, has been paid to all regular employes of the Schulmans' Rivoli, Webster, and Plaza-Windsor theatres, it was announced last week by Maurice Schulman.

Send Unclaimed Articles To China and Finland

HARTFORD—All lost and unclaimed articles which have accumulated in the local Loew's Poli and Loew's Poli Palace theatres during the past six months will be given away to the needy of China and Finland, it is announced by Jack A. Simons, Loew's Poli manager.

The first shipment abroad, composed of four large cartons, will be made as soon as the theatres' employes have brought in old clothes to add to the boxes of gloves, scarfs, shoes, rubbers, and hats left in the theatres. The management, Simons said, is donating cashiers' blouses and skirts as well as blankets made out of old drapery. Other shipments are to be made at three-month intervals.

Ansonia Capitol Marks Its 20th Anniversary

ANSONIA, CONN.—Last Friday night marked the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Capitol, built by I. J. Hoffman in 1920.

The 20th anniversary year of the Warner unit has been marked by a complete renovation, including a new marquee, new electric lights, and a new lobby.

John R. Shields has been manager of the Capitol for the past 14 years.

A full page of congratulatory advertisements by local merchants, marked the anniversary.

Concord Loses a Pioneer Showman in D. J. Adams

CONCORD, N. H.—Concord has lost one of its pioneer film exhibitors in the death of David J. Adams, who, as manager of White's Opera House in this city, made it one of New Hampshire's leading theatres.

Following destruction of the Opera House by fire, Adams for several years conducted a motion picture business in the Concord City Auditorium.

He was also an expert stage carpenter, and, at various times, had served leading performers who came to Concord in "road company" days.

Daniel Schwartz Named Jefferson Assistant

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—William Powell, division manager of the Herman Rifkin Theatres here, announces the appointment of Daniel Schwartz, formerly associated with Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., at the Victory, Holyoke, to the newly created post of assistant manager at the Jefferson here.

Handling Film Alliance

BOSTON—Marcel Mekelburg of Northeastern Film Co. will release the Film Alliance lineup in the Boston trade territory, it is announced by Norman Elson, FA's general sales manager.

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

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MT163 Draperies and Curtains
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MT167 Interior Decoration
MT168 Interior Wall Finishes
MT169 Lounge Furniture
MT170 Matting, Rubber
MT171 Mirrors
MT172 Ornamental Metal Work
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MT176 Seating, Auditorium
MT177 Slip Covers
MT178 Speaking Tubes
MT179 Ticket Choppers and Boxes
MT180 Theatre Chairs
MT181 Upholstery Materials
MT182 Wall Coverings, Fabric

LIGHTING

MT190 Dimmers and Controls
MT191 Effect Lighting Devices
MT192 Elec. Measuring Instruments
MT193 Engines, Diesel
MT194 Fluorescent Lamps and Fixtures
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MT199 Cove Lighting
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MT212 Drills, Rotary
MT213 Fire Extinguishers
MT214 Fireproofing Compounds
MT215 Gum Removers
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MT228 Organs, Electric
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MT269 Rewind Tables
MT270 Rheostats
MT271 Safety Devices
MT272 Slide Projectors
MT273 Sound Projectors, 35mm
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MT318 Sound Equipment, Complete
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Texas Variety's Ball Draws 700 Guests

DALLAS—"An American Party" elaborately staged in the Grand Ball Room of the Adolphus Hotel during the waning hours of last year well into 1941 by the Variety Club of Texas under direction of its newly elected Chief Barker Paul Short, furnished New Year's entertainment for some 700 members and guests, many of whom were from other towns in the southwest.

While the affair was more than colorful a cloud arose in the program of the party in that R. J. O'Donnell, retiring chief barker, was confined at his home with flu and was not on hand to emcee and to induct all the new officers and directors for the coming year as was planned. For that reason, it was pointed out, the induction will come later, probably at the testimonial luncheon for O'Donnell next Monday noon and likewise in the Grand Ball Room.

Paul Short, however, started the party with a microphone introduction of General William McCraw. In turn McCraw introduced the luminaries at their tables which included Kate Smith, Grantland Rice, Clarence Budington Kelland, Bruce Cabot, James Craig, Jim Crowley, the Fordham coach; Homer Norton, A&M coach, the latter two figuring strongly in the Cotton Bowl encounter, and several others.

Following this brief ceremony the American dinner was served with squab being the piece de resistance. Dancing to Hyman Charninsky's hotel and theatre orchestra made for a crowded floor. Biggest in the fun was the floor show in which a dance team individually picked out exhibitors, Barkers and their ladies to perform in the professional manner in old and new dance steps.

After midnight the big name bands here headed by Henry Busse came over from their respective stands for a sort of jam music session for the Barkers.

Some left the dance at two, others at four, with the party ending only a short time before day. The Cotton Bowl game Wednesday was the next highlight for nearly all who attended.

While the out-of-towners were here in large numbers, a few whose names are recalled here for the Variety party, the Cotton Bowl, or both, were: Ray Morrow, of Malvern, Ark.; Henry Rogers, Sweetwater; Harry Hardgrave and wife of Sherman; Yuill Robb, Big Spring; Ed Rowley jr. of the University of Texas; Bruce Collins of Corpus Christi; Audry Cox and Mrs. Cox of Lamesa; W. E. Cox, Seminole; Raymond Cornes and Mrs. Cornes, Farmersville; M. D. Stewart and wife of DeLeon; J. N. Stewart and wife of Kaufman; W. J. Chesher of Littlefield; B. R. McLendon of Atlanta; Lee Smith of Knox City, all of whom are connected with the operation of theatres outside of Dallas.

Coach Jim Crowley Speaker At Monday Luncheon

DALLAS—At the Variety luncheon Monday, visiting coach Jim Crowley, of Fordham, was the principal speaker and was lauded for his talent as an orator. He impersonated Knute Rockne in one of the famous coaches between halves pep talks. Crowley played for Notre Dame under Rockne. Incidentally, he pointed out, the K in Knute is not silent.



The Best in All Texas—

This is the front Major H. S. Cole, operating the Best, Elite and American theatres in Bonham, constructed over the latter house for the holiday season. The attention-getting display was originated by Cole who directed local artists and craftsmen in its construction. Three separate paintings, arranged in three different planes, lend the appearance of heighth and distance. Indirect lighting illuminates the display which is made of canvas and cut-out work. The entire setting is 50 feet wide and 20 feet high and represents an expenditure of $300. Amplified chimes played the traditional melodies during the time the set was up.

'Christmas in July' Sets Pace in New Orleans

(*Average is* 100)

NEW ORLEANS—Weather proved a heavy competitor to the key houses, and the neighborhoods as well, there being only one clear day in the pre-Christmas week. The shopping season was the best in years with Canal Street ablaze with lights and decorated windows. The troops (about 3,000) came to town from Camp Beauregard and Camp Shelby which added to the gaiety of the scene. The midnight "girl shows," especially at the Lafayette, drew more than capacity. "Christmas in July" at the Saenger made glad the heart of Bob Blair, resident manager, while the "Thief of Bagdad" more than repaid those who braved the weather. "No, No, Nanette," at the Orpheum, pleased mightily.

Detail for week of December 23:

Center—**Seven Sinners** (Univ).....100
The film played the Orpheum in November at 200 per cent and was moved to the Liberty where it scored 95 per cent.
Globe—**Moon Over Burma** (Para't)..... 90
A run at the Saenger in October scored 150.
Liberty—**Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col).....100
Loew's—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA) 150
Orpheum—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO).....150
Saenger—**Christmas in July** (Para't).....200

Christmas Week Grosses In Dallas Up to Par

DALLAS—Christmas week grosses were well up to par on Elm Street with a good break in fine weather the last half and with Folies Bergere at the Majestic where SRO business was the rule. "Tin Pan Alley" in its third week at the Tower proved to be the sensation of recent weeks.

Detail for week ending December 28:

Capitol—**Give Us Wings** (Univ) 125
Capitol—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB) (reissue).125
Majestic—**The Bank Dick** (Univ).....180
Folies Bergere on stage boosted gross here to the near double mark.
Palace—**Go West** (M-G-M).....110
Palace—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't).....125
Opened Christmas Day for a possible 10-day run.
Rialto—**Hullabaloo** (M-G-M) 90
Played four days.
Rialto—**Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 100
Played three days. Our Gang comedy kids on stage failed to elevate the gross.
Tower—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk.....110

Back From PRC Meet

DALLAS—Jack K. Adams, of the Adams Film Exchanges, and Jack Adams jr., of the same organization, are back from New York where they sat in on a franchise owner meeting of Producers Releasing Corp. when product in the making and future releases were discussed. The Adams exchange handles the Producers films in Texas and was interested in making of the franchise deals for Oklahoma, Arkansas and other southwestern states.

Kincey Men Gather

GREENVILLE, S. C.—About 200 Kincey managers, their wives and sweethearts gathered at Hotel Poinsett here for the annual party by the organization. R. B. Talbot of Spartansburg was toastmaster.

MEMPHIS

THE bookers and office managers on the Row were hosts during the holidays at a cocktail party at the Variety Club. Approximately 200 film people enjoyed their hospitality. There were special door prizes for both the ladies and gentlemen. The committee responsible for it all consisted of Ed Doherty, Mark Sheridan, Tom Kirk and Herman Chrisman . . . B. H. Jordan, Universal salesman, and Tony Carruth, Warner's salesman, together with Mrs. Carruth, left the latter part of the week for Atlanta where Ben will visit his mother and the Carruths will be the guests of Mrs. Carruth's parents.

W. A. Rush of the Houston, Houston, Miss., has been confined to his home for the past ten days with the flu . . . M. S. McCord, secretary-treasurer of Malco Theatres in Little Rock, spent several days in Memphis conferring with M. A. Lightman . . . Bill Osborne, Monogram's branch manager, is back at his desk after a conference with John Mangham in Atlanta.

Eric Landeau, manager of the Linden Circle in Memphis, is convalescing at his home after spending three weeks in the hospital following a major operation . . . B. V. "Brooksie" McDougald, who owns and operates the Amusu and Drew theatres in Monticello, Ark., was a visitor Christmas Day.

Alton Sims, R&R booker, and his mother spent the holidays in Dallas with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sims . . . Exhibitors seen along the Row: George Hale, Globe, Drew Miss.; Guy B. Amis, Princess, Lexington, Tenn.; Jack Wilbanks, Hinz, Walnut, Miss.; W. O. Taylor, Uptown, Dresden, Tenn.; Jack Marshall, Frances, Dyersburg, Tenn.; J. E. Adams, Bruce, Bruce, Miss.; B. F. Jackson, Delta, Ruleville, Miss.; C. W. Tipton, New, Manila, Ark.; H. B. Brewer, Savoy, Clarksdale, Miss.; Jack Watson, Palace, Tunica, Miss.; Bob Martin, Bells, Bells, Tenn.

The holidays brought many familiar faces to Memphis. Among them were Bill and Marie Mattingly, who drove up from Omaha to visit Mrs. Mattingly's parents; Kate and Norman Colquohoun, from New Orleans, and Jimmy and Sarah Frances Prichard of Charlotte . . . Opal Cullum of RKO is back on the job with the aid of crutches after several weeks' absence due to a foot operation . . . The Variety Club was the scene of much laughter and gaiety Christmas Day when M. A. and Mrs. Lightman entertained with a cocktail party.

Homer and Essie Hisey of Warner Bros. spent the holidays with Mr. Hisey's mother in Nashville, Ill. . . . Al Moore, Alice and little Mike enjoyed the holiday season with their parents . . . Lew Andrews, Malco's office manager, says the burglar who entered his home the night before Christmas and took all the gifts from under the tree, plus his best suit, is the "meanest man on earth."

Other Memphis visitors during the holidays were Louis and Juanita Weber (he's Metro's salesman in Dallas), who were visiting Mrs. Weber's parents. Louis was with Metro here for several years before his transfer to Dallas . . . Merritt Davis, Republic's Arkansas salesman, spent the holidays in Charlotte with Mrs. Davis and the children.

Filmrow was saddened on learning of the death of Winfield Snelson's father, Dr. D. M. Snelson, who passed away Christmas morning at his home at Toccoa, Ga. Winfield is branch manager of the local Republic office, and his brother is connected with Al-Dunn Theatres in Toccoa . . . Charles and Mrs. Collier and daughter, Marcia, drove up to Blytheville during the holidays to visit Mrs. Collier's parents. Incidentally, Charles combined business with pleasure as he stopped off on the Row to take care of his bookings.

Gloria Jean, who made a personal appearance at the Malco in conjunction with the showing a "A Little Bit of Heaven," did a terrific juvenile business during her three-day engagement . . . Despite the fact that flu has almost reached the epidemic stage in Memphis and the surrounding territory, all theatres report excellent business.

Herb Cohn, Columbia's ace salesman, postcards season's greetings from New York where he is enjoying a winter vacation . . . The J. A. Wests of the Hollywood in Memphis have been operating their theatre under great odds during the past ten days, as both of them have been fighting the flu. Their son, Allen, who is home from school for the holidays, has been the mainstay . . . Harold Keitle, branch manager for Ross Federal in Dallas, spent the Christmas holidays as a guest of Cliff and Marguerite Wallace, who are at the helm of the local Ross Federal office.

Readying Big Affair For R. J. O'Donnell

DALLAS—Elaborate plans are humming for the big testimonial luncheon to be given by the Variety Club of Texas on Monday, January 6, in the Grand ballroom of the Adolphus Hotel honoring Robert J. O'Donnell, retiring chief barker of Tent No. 17.

Paul Short, newly elected chief barker, has written a personal letter to all barkers stressing this important date. Members are being urged to bring their families, friends and associates. There will be but one speech, that by General William McCraw, who will highlight O'Donnell's outstanding career in show business and in Variety work.

The luncheon starts at 12:15 and tickets are $1. Attendance will be limited to 700, which will include not only circuit and exchange employes, non-resident and local members, but a number of social, civic and business leaders of Dallas and other cities of Texas.

Seaton Adapting "Miami"

HOLLYWOOD—George Seaton is adapting "Miami," Betty Grable starrer for 20th-Fox. The Harry Joe Brown production will be filmed in Technicolor.

NEW ORLEANS

JOHN L. CALDWELL is building a new theatre in Ruston, La., yet unnamed, which will be opened some time in February . . . Don George of the Glenwood in Shreveport is building a suburban house in Alexandria to take care of the troops at Camp Beauregard.

A. M. Randall has taken over the house controlled by Manager Hughes in Centerville, Miss. . . . A. L. Royal and Monte Hance have sold their Queen Theatre in McComb, Miss., to local interests . . . Vinton L. Thibodeaux of the Fern Theatre, Lafayette, has opened the colored house in Crowley, formerly owned by George Guidry of Elizabeth, La.

Construction has begun on W. A. Prewitt's and Bill Cobb's theatre in Shreveport on Texas St. . . . The Olla Theatre, Olla, La., opened the first week in January . . . A. L. Royal and W. A. Prewitt open the New Royal in Meridian, Miss., January 6 . . . R. O. Sigler and W. A. Prewitt opened the Lake, Greenville, Miss., December 22.

Affiliated Producers local office was closed in observance of the death of Mrs. Martha Brannan, mother of Thomas Brannan, president of the company . . . W. H. Cobb of Exhibitors' Poster Service and family spent the Xmas holidays with his folks in Spring Hill, La. . . . A. N. Lee jr. of Exhibitors Poster Service spent the holidays with his parents in Shreveport . . . The Ritz theatres of New Orleans have purchased the Lutcher in Lutcher, La., and will continue its operation.

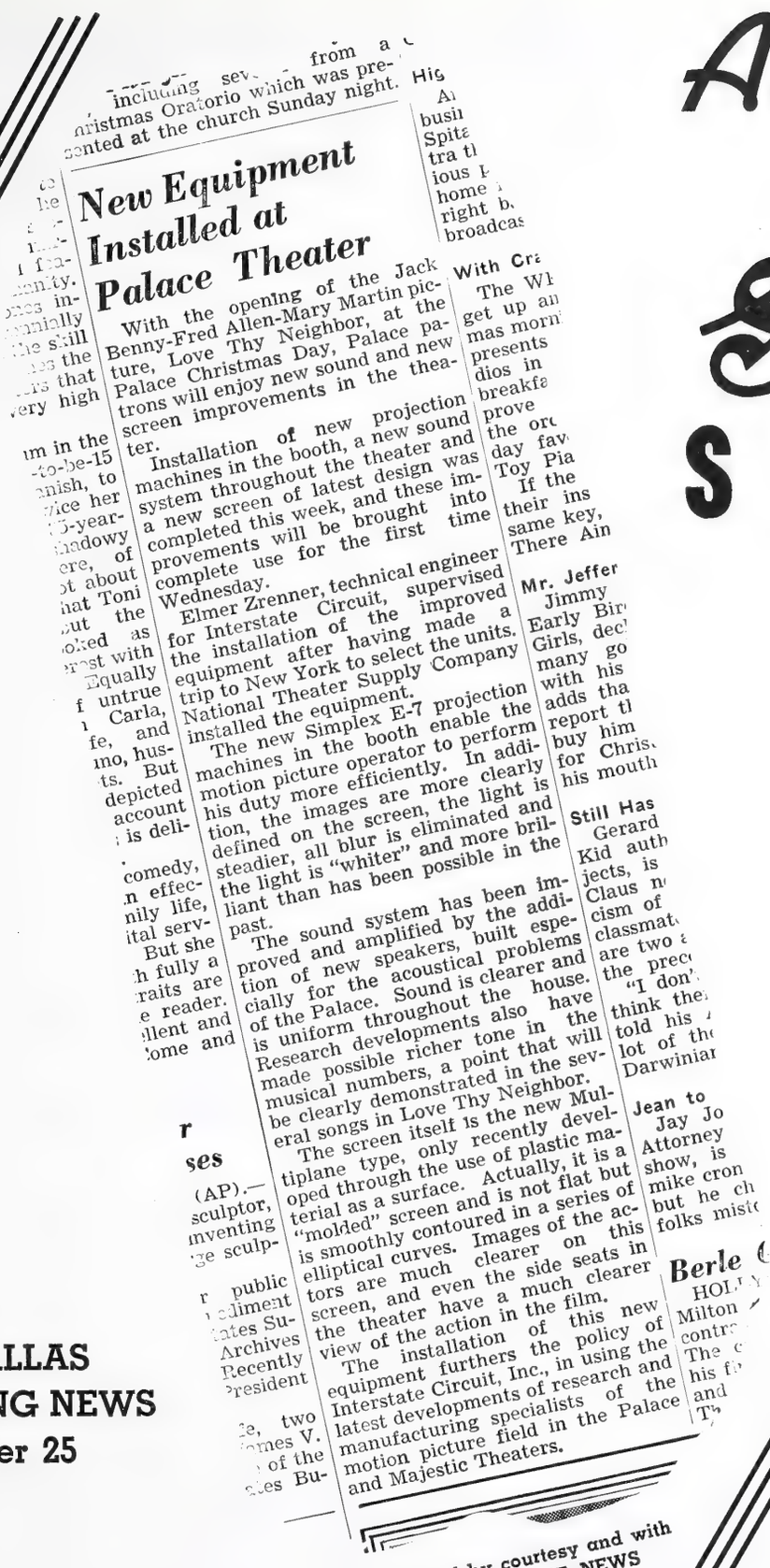
The Saengers held their annual Christmas party in the banquet rooms over the Tudor Theatre, attended by executives of the company, managers of the Saenger houses, and managers of the United Chain houses, as well as managers from out of the city.

G. Pipitone has been re-named president of the local (AFL) musicians union . . . Pete Daily, for 11 years a member of the Item editorial staff, is now in Hollywood where he will be a member of the publicity department of Columbia Pictures.

Great preparations are being made for the coming sessions of the Filmrow Hunting Club which meets early in January when the reports of the various committees and officers will be submitted to the membership. The exact date has not been announced, as the secretary says he is too busy—the treasurer is saying nothing but —well that is the way the treasury is supposed to be. It is claimed by the janitor that when the members arrive they will be greeted by a hollow expression on the faces of the dictators.

Visitors to the Row during Xmas week can be reported as nigh zero, the weather being b-a-d and the roads almost impassable owing to rain.

It's seven years with M-G-M for Gladys Villars of the local exchange, come January 13.



including sev... from a ...
nristmas Oratorio which was pre-
sented at the church Sunday night.

New Equipment Installed at Palace Theater

With the opening of the Jack Benny-Fred Allen-Mary Martin picture, Love Thy Neighbor, at the Palace Christmas Day, Palace patrons will enjoy new sound and new screen improvements in the theater.

Installation of new projection machines in the booth, a new sound system throughout the theater and a new screen of latest design was completed this week, and these improvements will be brought into complete use for the first time Wednesday.

Elmer Zrenner, technical engineer for Interstate Circuit, supervised the installation of the improved equipment after having made a trip to New York to select the units. National Theater Supply Company installed the equipment.

The new Simplex E-7 projection machines in the booth enable the motion picture operator to perform his duty more efficiently. In addition, the images are more clearly defined on the screen, the light is steadier, all blur is eliminated and the light is "whiter" and more brilliant than has been possible in the past.

The sound system has been improved and amplified by the addition of new speakers, built especially for the acoustical problems of the Palace. Sound is clearer and is uniform throughout the house. Research development also have made possible richer tone in the musical numbers, a point that will be clearly demonstrated in the several songs in Love Thy Neighbor.

The screen itself is the new Multiplane type, only recently developed through the use of plastic material as a surface. Actually, it is a "molded" screen and is not flat but is smoothly contoured in a series of elliptical curves. Images of the actors are much clearer on this screen, and even the side seats in the theater have a much clearer view of the action in the film.

The installation of this new equipment furthers the policy of Interstate Circuit, Inc., in using the latest developments of research and manufacturing specialists of the motion picture field in the Palace and Majestic Theaters.

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Re-print from **DALLAS MORNING NEWS December 25**

Another Simplex SCOOP!

The Palace——

Interstate's magnificent downtown Dallas first-run theatre takes it's place among other fine theatres with an installation of equipment which we are justly proud to have completed for them . . . . !

Simplex

4-STAR SOUND
E-7 PROJECTORS
PEERLESS HY-CANDESCENT LAMPS
WALKER PLASTIC-MOLDED MULTI-PLANE SCREEN
B. & L. F2.0 LENSES
HERTNER TRANSVERTER

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

DALLAS OKLAHOMA CITY ATLANTA MEMPHIS NEW ORLEANS CHARLOTTE



ASTOR PICTURES ..... Dallas
MONOGRAM EXCH. ..... Memphis
MONOGRAM EXCH. ..... New Orleans
MONOGRAM EXCH. ..... Atlanta
MONOGRAM EXCH. ..... Charlotte

ATLANTA

LIONEL KEENE, Kirkwood Theatre, entertained approximately 200 children from the Methodist Orphan's Home, at a matinee party, December 24.

Albert Flores is back at his desk at Sack Amusement Co., after an absence of several months . . . Herbert Martinez, Sack Amusement Co., and his family are spending a week in Chicago, visiting his parents.

Sid Reams, Theatrical Printing Co., heads the sick list this week with a very bad case of flu . . . Bob Ashmore, formerly of Atlanta's 20th Century-Fox, and now booker in Memphis, Tenn., is spending a week of the holidays here.

Mrs. Edna Kimberly has been added to the inspection department of Universal Pictures . . . The new office of R. L. McCoy, district manager for Warner, is "the talk of the town."

N. E. Savini, Savini Films, is still touring Florida, but took time off to see the football game in Miami this week . . . M. G. Weaver, of the Crickett Theatre, Collinsville, Ala., is boasting new projectors and upholstered seats.

Infrequent Visitors: C. A. Matthews, Lincoln, Florence, S. C.; Ellis Blumenthall, Theatrical Enterprises, Charlotte, N. C., and J. W. Thompson, Hollywood Theatre, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Lee Fuhrman, formerly BOXOFFICE correspondent in Atlanta, recently became the proud father of a daughter . . . Martha Frost is now modeling for John Dean, designed for one of the leading shops in New York. She is the daughter of Robert C. Frost of the Buckhead Theatre, Buckhead, Ga. Miss Frost has also modeled for the renowned Powers and her likeness has adorned the full-page ads of *Harper's Bazaar*.

Grace Abercrombie of the local M-G-M exchange rounded out eight years with the company January 1. Joseph Markowitz will have been with Leo 13 years on January 9, and Lee Gleaton will make it two January 14.

Money Prize Game Test Is Pending

SELMER, TENN.—A test of the legality of money prizes given at theatres is pending in chancery court here as a result of a bill filed against the Dixy of Adamsville, Tenn., operated by G. E. Sibley and H. W. Yancey.

The action was instituted by Leonard Ellis, an agent for a railroad at Bethel Springs. The theatre, according to the Ellis bill, operates a "Pot of Gold" drawing each week which is a lottery and, therefore, illegal. It also contends Ellis' name was drawn recently for a $345 award, but that the money was refused him because the defendant claimed he was not the Leonard Ellis whose name was drawn.

His bill asks that, if the scheme is declared legal, he be given judgment for the $345.

Sumter House Reopens

SUMTER, S. C.—January 1 was set as opening date for the newly-renovated Rex here.

MIAMI

CATCHING up with Miami in the rush of new theatre building marking the current season in south Florida, is Fort Lauderdale. The recent announcement that Warner Bros. were coming into the area with a theatre of their own, in addition to an impressive sized group of new houses all over the state, was closely followed by an announcement that the United Theatres, which have all the houses in this county at present, will erect another new Fort Lauderdale house in close proximity to the new Warner spot.

Opening well in advance of its anticipated schedule, was the new Paramount Coral in Coral Gables which threw open its doors the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day. The Coral repeats the romantic note which Paramount introduced recently at the Dade with a block of "love seats." Weed & Reeder, architects for Paramount's classic new Beach, were responsible for the design of the Coral.

Miami Beach is still talking about the parade which preceded the opening of the new Beach, with living reproductions of Fleischer cartoon characters, Jack Benny's polar bear, "Carmichael," the Beach police and fire departments and a series of floats . . . Definite proof of the existence of a very healthy sense of humor in California is brought back by Sonny Shepherd, who reports that at 20th Century-Fox studios (during his recent trip to the coast in his Monocoupe plane) a friend of his solemnly observed, "Since you've been here, the weather really is very unusual—it isn't raining!" Shepherd's major business on the coast was to make arrangements for the personal appearances of stars at the world premieres to be presented at the Lincoln this season. Most definite plans were those made at the 20th Century-Fox studios from which will come two of the planned premiere pictures: "Down to Rio" and "Miami." Also anticipated is the premiere of Deanna Durbin's "Nice Girl."

With the reopening of the enlarged and newly marqueed Parkway this week, comes one of the most dazzling facades along the entire length of Coral Way . . . Sunday, January 5, was to be a gala occasion for the Paul Robinsons. (He is city manager in Hollywood for the Sparks interests). It marks their 21st wedding anniversary and a definite improvement in the health of Mildred Robinson who has been making a sporting and tedious fight back to activity after a major operation early this summer . . . On New Year's Eve the area's 33 theatres had midnight performances.

Doll Deal Sours for Eastern Texas Chain

A merchant tieup deal for a doll giveaway over the Tri-State Theatres circuit in Texas did not pan out, according to Barton R. McLendon, general manager in Atlanta, Tex. His letter to BOXOFFICE follows:

"On October 17, 1940, one FRANK G. GULLETT solicited this office for permission to sell a certain doll giveaway deal to the merchants in the various towns where we operate theatres. He presented testimonials and letters of recommendation from various exhibitors, as well as a very strong letter of recommendation purporting to be from the INTERSTATE CIRCUIT of Dallas.

"On the strength of his credentials we also gave him a letter authorizing him to sell the deal over our circuit. This he did, collecting $10.00 in cash or check from various merchants, all of which amounted to a considerable sum, and since then none of the merchants purchasing the deal, or this office, have been able to hear from him.

"This party gave his address as 1600 Broadway, New York, New York, and his deal was called 'World's Fair-est Doll Campaign.'"

Mulkey Is Recovering Following Operation

FORT WORTH—Following a major operation in Methodist Hospital late last week, Homer Mulkey, Clarendon exhibitor, is reported to be making a satisfactory recovery. He has been in the hospital some two weeks for treatments preparatory to the operation. Mrs. Mulkey was at his side all the while. Lee Bell, his manager, came down from Clarendon to be with him. A number from the Filmrow at Dallas called by to see and chat with the patient.

Bill Elliott Completes P. A. Tour in Texas

HOLLYWOOD—Bill Elliott, Columbia western star, has returned to Hollywood after a personal appearance tour through Texas.

Elliott started his tour in Big Springs and visited successively San Angelo, Sweetwater, Colorado City, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston, Victoria, San Antonio, Waco and Corpus Christi.

John King P. A.'s

AUSTIN, TEX.—John King, "Dusty" of the Monogram Range Buster series, made a two-day personal appearance at Elmo Hegman's Ritz. On the screen was "Trail of the Silver Spurs," the latest film in the series starring King.

Turkeys as Giveaways

ROCKWOOD, TENN.—Five live turkeys were given away from the stage of the Lyric here recently. Those who paid admission and registered any time during the day, as well as those present for the night performance, were eligible for the drawing.

DALLAS

A H. PICKENS, associated with Phil Isley for a number of years, is now headquartering in Dallas as Isley's assistant. Pickens is a former newspaper man and, among other things, is looking after promotion and advertising for Isley's two theatres in Texas, the Plaza in Brownwood and the Granada in Palacios . . . That was a swell Xmas card B. E. Garner sent out from Ranger where for some years he has been the manager for Texas Consolidated. Attached to the card was a neat little calendar.

W. E. Cox of the Tower and Palace in Seminole, Tex., was here Monday to employ a projectionist. He is a brother of the well known Audrey Cox of Lamesa. Both brothers are associated in the Seminole theatres. The Palace was built about four years ago. Oil play this spring brought on the new Tower. It seats 700.

Among Yuletide visitors was Ralph A. Morrow, formerly of Dallas, who has been away from the Row for seven years. Most of this period he has been in Kansas City on sales for Universal. He met many of his old friends here, seeing most of them at one time at the Variety luncheon Monday. Mrs. Morrow and Ralph jr. were with him.

Tate Sanders, former west Texas exhibitor, was here for the Amarillo-Temple game and, we understand, he took back quite a deal from the central Texas fans . . . Hugo Plath, now living at Houston, was in town visiting . . . A. H. Truitt, owner of the Star at Amarillo, was here to see his high school trim Temple. Roy DeVinney, his assistant manager, had just returned to the Panhandle country after a Christmas visit to homefolks in Detroit, Tex., and a booking visit to the Row.

Frank Benson, manager of the Ritz at Bowie, complaining because flu closed the schools in his town . . . Officials and employes of American Desk Mfg. Co. at Temple were up in numbers last Saturday to lend moral support to their state championship contenders. In the party were Joe Bonner, president; A. P. Brashear, general manager; C. V. Griggs, assistant manager; Ray Gibson, secretary; and quite a string of the boys who actually make the seats. Forrest Dunlap, sales manager, who headquarters in the company's Dallas sales office, served a round of eggnog.

B. F. Hammon, manager of the Globe, at Bertram, went down with the flu here on his last booking trip and was detained in Dallas for a week. His young son, B. F. jr., was with him and a flu victim at the same time. Both left for Bertram Tuesday.

Alfred and Lester Sack, of the Sack Amusement Enterprises, drove over to Laurel, Miss., to spend Christmas with members of their family.

Coveted yearly calendars sent out by K. Lee Williams, Oklahoma's roadshow king and now a circuit operator in his own right, began arriving on the Row this week. The picture is a beautiful girl who takes a slightly different pose each year. Many people outside of this business have in the past made frantic efforts to gain one of Williams' calendars.

B. G. Herber, of the Herber Bros supply house stayed at home several days with what he called the "walking" flu.

W. J. (Bill) Chesher, owner of the three theatres at Littlefield, was here to take in the New Year festivities and the Cotton Bowl game. He said he plans a new front on one of the houses.

A NEW YEAR IS HERE!

Why Not See About New Equipment?

NEW PROJECTION MACHINES
NEW REFLECTOR ARC LAMPS
NEW RECTIFIERS
NEW SOUND SYSTEM
NEW SCREEN
NEW POPCORN MACHINE

Start the Year Right . . . We Have the NEW Equipment . . . COME TO SEE US!

HERBER BROTHERS

408 S. Harwood Dallas, Tex.

SANTONE

BOB McBRIDE, erstwhile lobby artist for Interstate here, is now kept busy these days selling State highway signs . . . Visitors in our midst include George Burnett, former straight man who has turned comic, and "Chick" Snyder, Roller Derby business manager, Chicago.

At Doug Largen's eggnog house-warming: Joe Heylman, Civic Opera player; Ernie DeVoy, theatrical producer, Les Ketner of BOXOFFICE *and others . . . Seen at the Roller Derby opening night: Berry Kroeger, playwright, Hollywood; Phil Alexander, radio actor, Dallas, and Bobby O'Donnell of the Drive-In.*

A San Antonio lassie, Anne Gwynne, is in Universal's new air picture, "Give Us Wings," which played a weekend engagement at the Empire . . . United Artists' "Foreign Correspondent" played a return stand at the Palace.

Recent change in service staff personnel at the Texas finds Bob May promoted to chief usher and Charles Lane, upped to assistant chief . . . Add more holiday visitors: Ralph Calderon, Azteca Films, El Paso, and Miss Jean Collins of Southern Methodist University, in for a stay at the Interstate city manager's household . . . All ten of Interstate's theatres held midnight shows New Year's Eve.

On the sick list: Dolly Wildenstein, Texas cashier . . . The Cameo played "Son of Ingagi" as a midnighter last Saturday.

Don't Let Anyone Tell You Differently—

KOZONO

KILLS ALL ODORS—
DESTROYS BACTERIA—
REVITALIZES THE AIR—

Successfully used throughout America by hundreds of progressive theatres since 1933.

A HEALTH ASSET THAT PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS AT THE BOXOFFICE

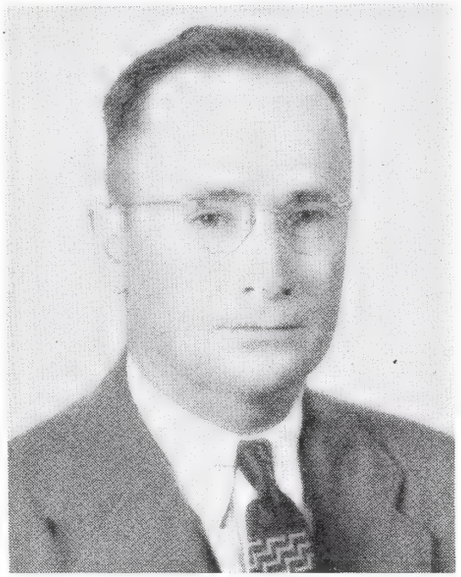
WRITE FOR PROOF

THE KOZONO CO.

Dept. B—125 W. Trade St.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Name Jack P. Barrett AAI Head in Atlanta



ATLANTA—Jack P. Barrett has been named manager of the local branch of Advertising Accessories, Inc.

Well known in local film circles, Barrett entered the theatre business in 1923 with Arthur Bromberg's Progress Pictures. He next joined Educational Films, working under Arthur Lucas. When 20th-Fox absorbed Educational in 1932, he organized Accessory Consolidated Service. He operated this company until June, 1940, when National Screen Service, parent company of AAI, took over.

AA—Robb & Rowley Deal Is in the Making

DALLAS—A deal is in the making by Robb & Rowley-United Theatres and Advertising Accessories, Inc. (National Screen Service), whereby the latter would handle all paper and accessories for the big circuit. C. V. Jones, R&R official, said the deal has not been finally made, but in event it goes through the circuit would discontinue its own poster exchange and rely solely on National.

Mrs. Ula Harrington, formerly employed in the R&R poster department, is now at work with Advertising Accessories. Ben Davis, who has been in charge of R&R paper and shipping for several years, will go over to work for National when the deal is completed, possibly by the middle of January.

This will be the first deal in the territory put through by National for the handling of circuit paper on all releases.

Air-Conditioned Rooms For Charlotte Variety

CHARLOTTE—Air-conditioned quarters for Variety soon will be established on the floor just above the mezzanine at the Hotel Charlotte. An architect, Norman Pease of Charlotte, has been engaged to do over the large space alloted to the organization. Furniture will be modernistic, with a built-in bar and other equipment.

CHARLOTTE

WALTER GRIFFITH, former theatre owner and well known along the Row, is in Memorial Hospital quite seriously ill, with a possible operation pending. With him is Mrs. Pauline Griffith, secretary of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina . . . Mrs. Sidney S. Stevenson, wife of the Henderson-Rock Hill exhibitor, is back at home after a spell in the hospital.

Miss Dorothy Caldwell now is assistant cashier at RKO, having resigned from the accounting department of National Screen . . . The Row was almost deserted, what with the aftermath of Christmas. Among the regulars, however, was Roy P. Rosser of Sanford, setting in some bookings . . . Duck-hunting is D. B. Kazziah, head of Alexander Film here. He is at Lake Mattamuskeet. A three or four-day trip . . . Independent Theatre Supply Co. is spruced up and ready for formal opening soon. Incidentally, their telephone number is reminiscent of exchange terms. It's 50-50.

John Mangham, Southern Monogram prexy, said it with cash at Christmas. That is the enthusiastic report of Jack Lamont, local manager. Everybody was remembered at the Yuletide. Jack just returned from Atlanta after a conference with Mangham and other officials. He became ill shortly after arrival here with a throat ailment, but the illness is nothing serious . . . Bill Talley, Monogram booker, was in Whiteville, N. C., for the holidays . . . M. L. Stevens, the North Carolina salesman, is in Florida for two weeks . . . J. E. McElroy, who handles South Carolina, in Atlanta for two weeks.

Tom Franklin, Filmrow photographer, using extra care, reports no lenses broken after E. E. Heller of PRC had his picture snapped in the West Fourth headquarters . . . Esta Miller, PRC secretary, off to Winston-Salem for New Year's . . . Merrit Davis, now with Republic in Arkansas, but once manager for Grand National here, back to his old haunts for a Christmas visit . . . Jay Schrader of UA chats interestingly of old-timey Texas days, bringing in Henry Hall at Beeville . . . Dave Prince, division manager for RKO, in Charlotte for a Kincey conference . . . Ellis Blumenthal exhibitor of Charlotte and other spots, back in town after a Florida visit.

On the Row were J. B. Harvey of Clover and Lewis Saunders of China Grove, Others included J. E. Simpson of Gastonia, A. O. Harrill of Cliffside and George Hughes of Albemarle . . . National Screen staged a big pre-Christmas party for 33 employes and their families . . . On January 2, Raymond Ervin of the local M-G-M exchange completed 11 years of service with the company. Other localites marking anniversaries with Leo include: Annie Williams, six years, January 7; Pearl Pettus, four, January 13, and Lattie Gilland jr., five, January 14.

Wichita Falls Theatre Party

WICHITA FALLS, TEX.—Needy children up to 15 years of age were given free tickets for pictures showing at the Majestic and Wichita theatres.

AUSTIN

THAT old comeback, "What do you want me to do, make a record of my voice?" can now be said literally in local Interstate circles. The staff gave its boss a radio-phonograph-recording combination . . . When Katharine Hepburn brings her "Philadelphia Story" story to the Paramount January 7, she will be taken quietly to one side and asked to record her voice for posterity.

The Christmas Eve midnight gift show at the Paramount brought a packed house to see "The Bank Dick" (Univ) and to try for the 42 valuable prizes . . . The New Year's Eve midnight show lineup was as follows: "Comrade X" (M-G-M) at the Paramount; "Dulcy" (M-G-M) and a stage show, "Varieties of 1941," at the Capitol . . . Opening Christmas Day, "Love Thy Neighbor" (Para't) was booked for a week's run at the State. This house ordinarily changes bills twice weekly.

Eddie Milner, recently promoted to State doorman, spent a day at home with the folks in Temple . . . Will Roddy, State, to Troup; Travis Mills, Paramount, to Marshall; Earl Ford, Queen, to Kilgore . . . Xmas Day flicker at the Texas was "Christmas Carol," but few takers because the college mob was still out on vacation . . . Ruth Murchison, daughter of Mary M., the Interstate P. B. X'er, pinch-hitting for mama during the Christmas rush. And doing a nice job, too.

Localites, hungering for the old vaudeville days, are eagerly anticipating Interstate's experiment into musical comedy stock for entertaining Uncle Sam's soldiers in Texas army camps. If the idea clicks, the shows may be introduced into other Interstate situations.

Attention Central Texas Showmen! Send your news stories and personal items for BOXOFFICE to your correspondent, Eddie Cope, University Station, Austin, Tex. There is no charge or obligation for this service . . . Here's wishing you all a very happy, boxoffice New Year!

Beck Buys House

CROSVILLE, ALA. — W. M. Beck of Ft. Payne, Ala., has purchased the Linda Theatre here from E. E. Box jr. and has taken over operation.

"Blanket Matinees" To Aid Britain

Oklahoma City—Oklahoma theatres operated by the Griffith Amusement Co. and its affiliates are holding "Blanket Matinees" to help Oklahoma reach the goal of 5,000 blankets for families made homeless by air raids in Britain.

Blankets, old or new, are being used as admission for the matinees.

Again Donates House for Benefit Show for Needy

MEMPHIS—Col. Cecil Vogel, skipper at Loew's State, for the eighth consecutive year, donated the theatre for the *Commercial Appeal*-American Legion annual Christmas Fund Frolic. Some 1,400 people, the largest crowd ever to attend this benefit affair, netted the fund over $700. The proceeds were turned over to a committee and provided food, clothing and Christmas cheer for the needy in Memphis.

Among those who gave their time and effort were Herbie Kay and his Orchestra, from the Hotel Peabody, and Nick Stuart and his Orchestra, who were holding sway at the Claridge. Also Johnny Long's popular local orchestra and Fred Heck, well known organist; Don and Sally Jennins of the Claridge Balinese Room, and Marie Fontaine and Charles Smith of the Memphis Open Air Theatre. John Cleghorn, WMC's program director, arranged the program. "Babes in Arms" was the feature attraction.

Fred Jack Recovering From Pneumonia

DALLAS—Reports from his office earlier in the week were that Fred M. Jack, southwest district manager for Warner Bros., is recovering from an attack of pneumonia. He is in Medical Arts Hospital where he went last Friday with influenza, which soon developed into pneumonia. Miss Jo Bailey, Jack's secretary, said he was responding well to a new treatment for the disease.

Many Order RCA

DALLAS — Orders for RCA sound have been placed by the following theatres in the south: Fairfax and Pearl, Jacksonville, Fla., and the Florida, Tallahassee; Melba, Batesville, Ark.; Texas, Brownwood, Tex.; Grand, Fitzgerald, Ga.; Martin, Americus, Ga.; Martin, Roanoke, Ala.; Ritz, Talladega, Ala.; Old Fort, Old Fort, N. C.; Royal, Meridian, Miss.

Plans Muleshoe House

DALLAS—C. F. Moeller, owner of the Palace at Muleshoe, Tex., is to build a new theatre there as soon as plans under way are completed. Raymond Smith, theatre architect in the Melba building here, has been retained on the deal, it is understood. The new house would seat about 550, it was said.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

An Oldtimer

HOUSTON—R. J. Cooper began exhibiting motion pictures in Kirbyville, Tex., in 1906 when projection equipment constituted the one-pin Edison, using a carbide light.

Cooper's first venture was a "store-show" which lasted three years. He next opened an airdrome, which he operated until 1912 when he built a "de luxe" house with balcony. Cooper continued this operation until 1925, at which time he purchased the property and erected a brick building to house the theatre which he now operates. This theatre he has reconditioned several times, and, in fact, Cooper plans an early remodeling.

During his career as an exhibitor, Cooper has operated houses in Jasper, Newton and Silsbee in Texas.

After reading an account of Homer Mulkey in the BOXOFFICE issue of August 31, Cooper stated: "I feel it is in order that I send you facts regarding my experience in the business without making any challenge of the record of any other exhibitor. Many things have occurred since I first entered this business in 1906. I recall some headaches but many more pleasures. At this time I am happy still to be an exhibitor in the town where I began."

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Council Chooses 10 Best; Five on List Metro's

DALLAS—The preview committee of the Motion Picture Council here, under the leadership of Mrs. Clarence Echols, announces its selection of the 10 best pictures of the 1940 season.

They are "Pride and Prejudice," M-G-M; "Young Tom Edison," M-G-M; "Boom Town," M-G-M; "Rebecca," UA; "The Mortal Storm," M-G-M; "Down Argentine Way," 20th-Fox; "Irene," RKO; "Shop Around the Corner," M-G-M; "Pinocchio," RKO; "Dr. Erhlich's Magic Bullet," WB.

Lightman Hosts Orphans

MEMPHIS—M. A. Lightman hosted orphans of Memphis at a special showing of Gene Autry's "South of the Border" at his Memphian recently. Among those attending were the wards of the St. Peter's, Leath Orphanage, Church Home, Father Lane's Gailor Hall, Convent of Good Shepherd, and children of the juvenile court.

Unique Film Reel

MEMPHIS—Webber Hall, local Movietone News cameraman, and his missus had a grand idea for a Christmas holiday feature—film shots of a style show of women's hats decorated with Xmas toys. A group of pretty girls were rounded up and the shots made on the mezzanine floor of a local millinery store. The finished film was shown on the screen at Loew's Palace.

Gala New Year Shows

DALLAS—The Palace and Majestic, Elm Street A houses, went in big for New Year's Eve celebrations with special performances for which the price was upped for all seats to 75 cents, which included the balcony. The Palace put in "This Thing Called Love," and the Majestic showed them "Flight Command."

Open in Wilmington

WILMINGTON—The Bailey Theatre, ace house for the Kincey circuit here, staged an elaborate opening. A. S. Grist, city manager, moves over from the Carolina and will manage the house. This move places Spencer Wester, formerly at Greensboro, at the helm of the Carolina.

Bows in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE—"Bagdad" had its premiere for the two Carolinas at the Imperial here December 30. Jay Schrader, UA manager, says "Dictator" goes on the market soon after January 1.

A. P. Talley is Manager

TALLAHASSEE, FLA.—A. P. Talley is manager of the city's newest theatre, the Florida, recently opened. The 1,100-seater is operated by Tallahassee Associates.

With Metro 13 Years

OKLAHOMA CITY—James Byrd of the local M-G-M exchange rounds out 13 years of service with the company on Thursday.

The Critic's Side

OKLAHOMA CITY—One of the most cussed individuals in the industry is the film critic. Seldom does he see the theatre man's side of the picture and seldom does the theatre man see his viewpoint. Here is how one critic looks at his end of the business.

"Theatre managers and the local representatives of the major film companies alternately regard me as only slightly touched or as a thorough scoundrel," says Bruce Palmer of the *Daily Oklahoman* and Oklahoma City *Times*. "Rarely, when I have gone completely overboard for a picture, they admit me to the outer fringes of what they hold to be respectability.

"The movie critic needs no great perception, except to be able to cull out the hokum and the conventional phoney business of standard plots. More necessary is a skin of elephantine thickness and a certain talent for smelling out entertainment values as distinguished from true dramatic values. The former often gets by at the boxoffice. The latter usually is better as a picture, poorer as a money-maker. When the two are merged, the result almost inevitably is a great picture from both angles.

"The movie critics can't hope to please everyone and maintain any sort of a standard by which to operate. Actually, I think practically every picture in the 'A' category is basically good; considering the technical difficulties surrounded in its making, it must have some fundamental merit. The difference lies in how much better some are than others. That's where the critic begins to get into hot water."

H. P. (Dusty) Rhodes Wed

ATLANTA—Herman P. (Dusty) Rhodes, booker for Lucas & Jenkins Theatres, was married to Jessie Mae Garrett, Dec. 31, 1940. The service was performed at the home of Riley P. Davis, before a group of friends.

Screwy Arithmetic

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The Princess had "40 Little Mothers" for 20 cents, but the Knickerbocker offered only "Four Mothers" for 44 cents. Both are members of the Crescent chain.

Food and Films In Log Cabin

Oklahoma City—Chet Humphrey's Log Cabin Theatre, which opened recently on Northwest 39th St., is the first of its kind locally.

The theatre was remodeled from an old log cabin style roadhouse. Rocking chairs, a crying room, 50 love seats "for large people or two children," a fountain-grill and food from ten-cent hamburgers to a 50-cent steak are all offered.

Many From Trade Attend Final Rites for Kemp

CHARLOTTE—Many trade figures from this and surrounding areas attended funeral services here for Hal Kemp, 36, noted orchestra leader. Kemp, a brother to T. D. Kemp jr., head of Southern Enterprises, the Kincey stage show affiliate, died in California of an ailment following an auto accident. He was a native of Charlotte. Hundreds appeared at the funeral home despite an announcement that the services would be private.

Active pallbearers were Charlie Stephenson of Raleigh, Burr Blair of Chicago, Kay Kyser of New York, Charlie Yates of Atlanta, Martin Carmichael of Haverford, Pa., Jim Schonblom of Bradford, Pa., Robert E. Buck jr. of Greenville, S. C., Paul Whitlock jr. of Charlotte, Byrd Crayton of Charlotte, Nelson Jones of Atlanta, and Saxie Dowell of New York.

The honorary pallbearers were members of Mr. Kemp's band, Skinnay Ennis of Hollywood, John Scott Trotter of Hollywood, Mel Adams of New York, George M. Ivey of Charlotte, Fred Waring and Rudy Vallee of New York, Leibert Lombardo and Sam Cheer of New York, Jimmy McNeely of Charlotte, Jules and Billy Stein of New York, Sonny Werbling of New York, Harold C. Libby of Charlotte, and John Randolph Hearst of New York.

Also Robert Carmichael of Durham, John Peterson of Indianapolis, Paul Forrester of New York, Karl M. Waters of Charlotte, William L. Chess of New York, Orson Munn of New York, Kenneth Howell of Jacksonville, Otto Roth of Chicago, John Hennesy, Clayton Cash, Eddie Kusby and Mickey Bloom of New York, Dr. Stokes Munroe jr., and Roy L. Smart of Charlotte.

Formal Garden and Crypt For Body of Will Rogers

OKLAHOMA CITY—Work is under way on a formal garden and crypt for the body of Will Rogers at the Claremore Memorial.

The plans include a formal terraced garden leading down the slope southwest from the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. At the lower end will be the marble crypt.

Rites for Niver

DALLAS — Funeral services for Henry Niver, 48, were held here last Friday. He was known as an organ expert to many exhibitors of the southwest during silent days. When sound replaced the organ in theatres, Niver continued on with organ sales and maintenance in churches and homes. He is survived by his wife.

Rules Films Evidence

JACKSON, MISS.—Motion pictures may be admitted as evidence in Mississippi courts, according to a ruling just issued by the state supreme court.

Webbo Gives Away Radio

HARRIMAN, TENN.—The Webbo gave away a 1941 model Zenith radio on Christmas Day to the holder of the lucky ticket. Matinee admissions are 5 cents and 10 cents, evening prices 10 cents and 20 cents.

Bonnie Kate Robbed

ELIZABETHTON, TENN.—A lone bandit held up Miss Mamie Cannon, cashier at the Bonnie Kate, and escaped with all the cash in the ticket booth. The armed bandit made his escape down an alley.

Industry's Prominent At Masters Banquet

TORONTO—A swanky function was the testimonial banquet which was tendered Haskell M. Masters, general manager of United Artists Corp., Ltd., by 75 business associates and friends at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, December 28, as a personal tribute on the occasion of his promotion to the post of western sales manager of the company in the United States which he took over commencing with the New Year, with headquarters at the home office in New York. Most everybody who is anybody in the film industry at Toronto and nearby points turned out in formal style to do honor to a man who had been a leader in the development of the business in the Dominion during the past 20 years and was personally known to film exchange and theatre men from coast to coast by reason of his close contact with activities in every city and town of importance.

Home Office Represented

Adding to the lustre of the occasion was the presence of a number of prominent executives from New York City including T. P. Mulrooney of United Artists' home office, Arthur Gottlieb, Ed Schmitzer, Monroe Greenthal and David Griesdorf, all of whom contributed their quota of praise and reminiscences. The special speakers were four, three of whom represented important branches of the moving picture business. Leo M. Devaney, recently appointed national captain of the Ned Depinet Sales Drive for RKO Pictures, delivered the eulogy in behalf of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada; N. L. Nathanson, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., spoke for the theatre chains and N. A. Taylor, vice-president of the Independent Theatres Ass'n, delivered the address in behalf of organized independents. Egmont L. Frankel, prominent in the community life of Toronto, was the speaker for Masters' legion of friends outside of the industry. A highlight of the farewell celebration, echoing with words of regret over the loss of the guest of honor as a member of the community and congratulations on his promotion to a higher sphere, was the presentation to Masters of a handsome memento in the form of engraved silverware. The chairman, master of ceremonies and toastmaster was J. J. Fitzgibbons, vice-president of Famous Players Canadian Corp. The formal program was relatively brief but the gathering took full advantage of the opportunity to indulge in a complete evening of social indulgences.

An Effective Committee

Responsibility for the genuine success of the gathering rested with a committee comprising Louis Rosenfeld, general manager of Columbia Pictures of Canada, Ltd.; Oscar R. Hanson, president of Empire-Universal-Films, Ltd.; Ben Geldsaler, headoffice supervisor of booking for Famous Players Canadian Corp., and E. L. Frankel.

Among those present were Claire Hague, president of the Canadian Picture Pioneers; Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the board, Motion Picture Distributors of Canada; James P. O'Loghlin, general manager of 20th Century-Fox Corp. of Canada and president of the Motion Picture Distributors; M. A. Milligan, general manager of Paramount Film Service; Henry L. Nathanson, managing director of Regal Films, Ltd.; Jules Cohen, Warner Bros.; A. W. Perry, general manager, Empire-Universal-Films, Ltd.; numerous officials of Famous Players, Bloom and Fine Theatres, Theatre Holding Corp., Hanson Theatres Corp., Associated Theatres and Independent Theatres Ass'n, and many personal admirers in the business life of Toronto apart from the film colony.

In Many Activities

Masters has been associated with many activities of the trade, always having been one of the first to be appointed to committees for special trade and philanthropic campaigns. In recent months he had served as an executive organizer of the Win the War Campaign in aid of Canada's war effort and was made a member of the general board of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee which sponsored the patriotic rodeo at Toronto. He had been elected a director of the Canadian Picture Pioneers at the November annual meeting and was a member of the Red Cross Committee of the Motion Picture Distributors which organized a whirlwind campaign in October. He took an active part, as a member of the motion picture section, Toronto board of trade, in the negotiations which led to the formation of the Ontario Provincial clearance board to work out booking reforms and has been a member of various committees of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada. Within the trade, Masters has been known as a man who gave the small independents a break, yet he was held in high esteem by chain executives.

In his private office has been standing the handsome N. L. Nathanson Trophy, emblematic of the Motion Picture Industry's Canadian golf championship which was won the last time in 1939 by the United Artists' team of which he was a playing member. But he can't take it with him. Haskell Masters has taken with him, however, the earnest wishes for continued achievement.

Sam Glazer Succeeds Haskell M. Masters

TORONTO—Sam Glazer, veteran Toronto branch manager of United Artists Corp., Ltd., has been named successor to Haskell M. Masters, who has taken a home office post at New York, as Canadian district manager, according to local information.

A. J. Jeffery, manager of the UA branch at Montreal, is being promoted to the management of the branch at Toronto which has jurisdiction over the important Ontario territory. Other promotions are under consideration in the Canadian personnel, following Masters' departure.

Borrow Joan Fontaine

HOLLYWOOD — RKO has borrowed Joan Fontaine from David O. Selznick for a role opposite Cary Grant in "Before the Fact." Alfred Hitchcock will direct.

Draw Line Between Segments of Trade

TORONTO—A distinct line has been drawn between distributors and exhibitors in Canada in the operation of representative organizations under recently adopted policies of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada and the newly formed Ontario clearance board.

The MPDC no longer has any exhibitor members, and announcement has been made that the association will deal only with distributors' problems in the future, this pronouncement having been made by President James P. O'Loghlin. When asked about the activities of the clearance board, which is made up of chain and independent theatre representatives on the basis of three men from each group, Col. J. A. Cooper told BOXOFFICE: "They have their own exhibition problems to settle and the distributors will be consulted when necessary."

Under the new setup, the only common meeting place of all branches of the industry, including producers, equipment officials and technical services as well as exhibitors and exchange managers, will be the motion picture section of the Toronto Board of Trade which will deal with trade developments in which all are interested.

With the holidays cleared away, the Ontario clearance board is holding its next meeting on January 7 when further organization will be effected. Members of this board comprise Ben Geldsaler, T. J. Bragg and M. Stein of Famous Players Canadian Corp., and Harry Alexander, Hyman Freedman and N. A. Taylor of the Independent Theatres Ass'n.

Orpheum and Circle Are Reopened in Toronto

TORONTO—The Orpheum, Queen St. West, has been reopened by N. Rittenberg after extensive alterations and is offering vaudeville as well as pictures.

The Circle, in North Toronto, has been reopened by Hyman Freedman after a remodeling of the interior, the house having been closed for two weeks for reconstruction. The Lee has been opened at Camp Borden, Ont., under the auspices of the federal government, primarily for the entertainment of troops. The Lee is fully equipped for both screen and stage shows, with films booked from Toronto exchanges on a regular basis. The theatre has been named in honor of Col. S. A. Lee, commandant of the camp until recently.

Holiday Impels Transfer Of Premium Nights

TORONTO—There has been a general shifting of giveaway nights among Toronto exhibitors during the past two weeks because the holidays fell on Wednesday when most gifts are in evidence during ordinary weeks. The majority of theatres transferred the premium offers from Wednesday to Tuesday night.

TORONTO

MANAGER CHARLIE QUERRIE of the Palace, Toronto, and his entire staff cancelled its annual staff celebration, a custom at the end of the year since he opened the house in 1921, and the proceeds of the party were handed to the Toronto *Telegram* to be forwarded to England for the relief of bombing victims. The newspaper published a picture of Querrie in the act of presenting the substantial check to the publisher. The office staff of Regal Films, Ltd., Toronto, made a combined donation of $100 to the War Victims Fund and proudly displayed the formal receipt on the wall of the exchange.

Leo M. Devaney, general manager of RKO Distributing Corp., returned to Toronto from New York where he had been arranging preliminary details for the Ned Depinet sales drive of which he had been promoted to New York in the UA organization, and Devaney fell into the duty of offering the eulogy to Masters in behalf of the distributors.

Harry S. Dahn, general manager of Consolidated Theatres, Toronto, had occasion to call at the Trenton Air Station of the Royal Canadian Air Force to arrange film bookings and was invited to lunch at the camp. Ever since, Dahn has been telling everybody about the wonderful "chow" the sky pilots are getting . . . A. C. Simpson, manager of the Toronto Hollywood and lately from Ingersoll, signaled his invasion of the big city by putting on a newspaper teaser campaign on "Who Killed Aunt Maggie?" right under the noses of a hundred local managers.

Another old-timer passed on in the death of Fred Waldo Stair, manager of theatres in Toronto and Hamilton for years. In failing health, Stair had gone to Pasadena, Calif., where he had been living with his sister during the period before his death.

Everybody around the headoffice of Famous Players Canadian Corp. was made happy at the fadeout of 1940 by the receipt of a bonus equal to two weeks' pay, just double the size of the honorarium at the close of 1939. Theatre managers of the Canadian circuit earn their extra money on the quota system and usually get their bonus during the summer.

Manager Lloyd Mills of the Ottawa Elgin skating with Sabu, the star of "The Thief of Bagdad," and got the surprise of his life when the "Elephant Boy" outskated him. The fact was that Sabu had learned the rudiments of the ice pastime while attending school in England. Sam Glazer, Toronto branch manager of United Artists, and Lou Guimond, director of promotion, went to Ottawa for the personal appearance of Sabu . . . Syd Taube, prominent in the affairs of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, sold several hundred dollars worth of Canadian War Savings Stamps to a trade executive in the United States and has suggested that officials at New York home offices generally should be circularized by the Pioneers.

Col. John R. Booth, Canadian millionaire who sponsored the production of "The King's Plate" in the Dominion some years ago, entertained 100 war refugee children from Britain in his private theatre, the program comprising "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and several Disney shorts which were provided through the courtesy of RKO Distributing Corp. Assisting in the arrangements were Frank Badgley, director of the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau, and Mrs. Badgley.

What to do with old automobile license plates has been solved by Manager Charlie Stephenson of the Century at Kitchener, who has offered a theatre pass to every juvenile who brings a pair of the 1940 markers to the theatre. The plates are to be sold for the manufacture of war munitions and the proceeds will be turned over to the Red Cross.

For four days Manager Leon Bishop of the Tivoli in downtown Toronto handled throngs of boys and girls who attended the theatre for the annual holiday treat of the Toronto *Star* for its many carriers. Manager H. Marshall of the Ottawa Rideau put on a Sunday show for the United War Services to buy equipment for the troops while Manager Lloyd Mills of the Elgin organized a special performance under the auspices of the Lion's Club to provide treats for war pilots and a Saturday morning performance to which 1,000 juveniles brought canned goods to be distributed by the Kinsmen's Club.

Manager Louis Gauthier of the Cartier in Hull had a theatre night for the Lions Club as a benefit for the poor. Manager Ingram of the Bayview at Leaside had a midnight show for the Lions when a donation of $200 was made to the War Victims' Fund. Harry Alexander, proprietor of the Toronto Lansdowne, held a midnight screen show in aid of Mount Sinai Hospital. Manager Ted Fraser of the Century, Trenton, put on a special show to help the Salvation Army in its work among the poor.

Wide Circulation for Films on Dominion

OTTAWA—A detailed report of the Canadian department of trade and commerce with respect to the work of the government motion picture bureau during the past fiscal year, shows that 6,662 prints of official motion pictures, including 1,710 new copies, were in circulation throughout the world last spring, this number being 300 more than the total of any previous year.

Thirty-one countries and dependencies are listed as territories in which Canadian government films were circulated during the 12 months, but the fate of some of the prints can be left to the imagination because they were in enemy countries before hostilities broke or in territories which subsequently were occupied.

The latest data shows that 3,496 prints were in use in the United States for both theatrical and commercial or social presentation, this being the largest total for any country. In the British Isles there were 530 prints and 279 in Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania, with 89 in a group that is listed as Central European countries. Incidentally, there were 83 in Germany, 70 in Italy, 64 in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland and 43 in Greece, Turkey and Egypt. Holland is listed as having 33 Canadian government films. Whether or not these are in the safe-keeping of United States' embassies along with other records and documents is left to conjecture. China, too, had 51 prints while Japan had been using 19 copies and Belgium had 76.

Among other territories, it is shown that 38 Canada films are in the possession of South American countries, 83 in South Africa, 39 in India, 35 in the Hawaiian Islands, 45 in Cuba and the West Indies and 33 in the Straits Settlement and East Indies. The film service will be continued to allied and free countries.

Sabu in P. A. in Toronto

TORONTO—Sabu of Mysore, India, spent Christmas in Toronto during the course of a personal appearance tour.

VANCOUVER

MAX and Ben Chechik distributed cigarettes to all the boys around the Film Building at holiday time . . . The table radio raffled by Harry Howard of Theatre Equipment was won by Willard Adamson.

Florence Copley, 23-year-old daughter of Herbert Copley, manager of the Grandview Theatre, was in a fatal accident the night of December 20 while on her way to the theatre where she is cashier.

P. G. Allan of the Orpheum at Dawson City, Y. T., attributes a current dip in business to the unseasonably mild weather his sector is experiencing . . . T. Shiels jr. closed his Olympia Theatre to permit completion of extensive renovations, including new carpeting, exits and rest rooms.

Christmas bonuses went to the staffs of Paramount Film Service, United Artists, Columbia and Regal Films . . . Empire Universal again gave their annual Christmas banquet for their employes at the Hotel Vancouver. Bonuses and an exchange of gifts were part of the festivities which were attended, among others, by Larry Bearg, Hugo Ray, Roy McLeod, John Dawson and Earl Hayter.

Mild weather brought excellent Christmas Day and Boxing Day business to Vancouver first runs . . . Oak Theatre Owner Andy Digney's son Ernie is home for the holidays from Camp Borden, Ont.

J. H. Fletcher has turned over some $1,500 to the West Vancouver Red Cross, this sum being the proceeds of several special Sunday shows Fletcher has been giving . . . Owen Bird copped the turkey at the recent Burnaby table tennis tournament.

Montreal Again Sees Allens in Operation

TORONTO—History was made when the Allen theatre interests of Toronto resumed active operations once more in the City of Montreal on January 1 when the Amherst was taken over from United Amusement Corp., Ltd., to be operated by Premier Operating Co., an Allen subsidiary under the supervision of Raymond Allen of Toronto. Rene Daigneault will continue as manager of the Amherst, it was announced by Mr. Allen.

In this move, a third generation of the Allens becomes identified with the direction of theatres in Montreal. At one time, in the somewhat distant past, the late Ben Allen with his sons, Jules, J. J. and Herb erected and operated a number of theatres in that city, chief of which were the Palace, Westmount and Amherst. Eventually these houses passed into the control of Famous Players and United Amusement companies and now this farther step in the progressive comeback of the Allens arouses wide interest.

Raymond Allen also announced that the LaSalle in Kirkland Lake, center of the Gold Mining Belt in Northern Ontario, had been taken over from Cinema Rousson-Trudeau Limited, to be operated by Theatre Holding Corp., Ltd., an Allen circuit company which has the three theatres in Kirkland Lake. The LaSalle, which is a comparatively new house, has accommodation for 716 persons. The three other theatres there are the Capitol, Strand and Uptown which have 516, 951 and 693 seats respectively.

The Allens opened the new Strand at Parry Sound, Ont., on Christmas Day but will continue to operate the Royal, formerly the one theatre in that town. The Nobel Theatre has been opened at nearby Nobel and all three theatres will be under the management of Jack Wellard.

The Allen chain now comprises approximately 40 theatres, all of which are located in the Province of Ontario with the exception of the Amherst in Montreal. From a small start in Brantford, Ont., a quarter of a century ago, the family has made theatre history in the Dominion.

Allen Names Silverthorne To Post in Tillsonburg

TORONTO—Raymond S. Allen, general supervisor of the Allen chain, has announced the appointment of Jack Silverthorne as manager of the Strand at Tillsonburg, Ont., in succession to Albert Glazer who is joining the colors January 6 as a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. He is the son of Sam Glazer, executive of Canadian United Artists. Silverthorne, who has been assistant manager of the Grand at Sudbury, a unit of the Hanson Theatres' circuit, is a brother of Chairman O. J. Silverthorne of the Ontario board of moving picture censors. Another manager to be lost to the Allen circuit is Dave Rubin of the Westdale, Hamilton, who is enlisting as a petty officer in the Royal Canadian Navy.

Allen has also announced the appointment of Miss R. Fuller as manager of the Maitland, Ingersoll, Ont., this being the first occasion on which a woman has been placed in charge of a circuit theatre in the Dominion. Miss Fuller succeeds A. C. Simpson who was promoted to manage the Hollywood, ace unit in Toronto, a few weeks ago. Simpson replaced Douglas Watt who had been transferred to the management of the Waterloo at Waterloo, Ont. Walter Helm, former manager of the Waterloo, is now manager of two theatres in Northern Ontario, the Classic at Cobalt and the Strand at Haileybury. Doug Watt is a brother of William Watt, manager of the Capitol in the nearby city of Kitchener.

MONTREAL

CHRISTMAS and New Year parties were celebrated with greater enthusiasm this year than has been the case for a few year-ends. Not that the war and the troubles of the British people have been forgotten, but there is a general feeling of optimism, and the Filmrow and the theatre world share it and are pepped up accordingly.

Not only the first run theatres but also chains and independents marked New Year's Eve with special performances, extra music, stage shows and favors. Most of the United Amusement theatres notably of the Rosemount, Papineau, Rivoli, Francais, Monkland, York, Granville, Corona, Rialto, Seville and Snowdon gave gala shows with special pictures and other entertainment, balloons, noisemakers, etc.

Mount Royal displayed the new Jewish picture, "Where is My Child?," for seven days. Hudson's Bay Company will cooperate in the publicity for the 20th-Fox film, "Hudson's Bay," which opens January 16 in western Canadian cities and January 26 in eastern Canada . . . Jack Butler, former Empire-Universal branch manager at Saint John, now manager of the Imperial, Moncton, launched a novelty in the form of a special performance in aid of the police relief fund. Receipts were split fifty-fifty.

Cartier Theatre gave a Christmas tree entertainment under the auspices of George Wakeman, manager, to 1,000 *wives and children of the members of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, now on active service. Max Ford, of the Canadian Legion War Services, was master of ceremonies . . . Aluminum Company of Canada, whose head office is in Montreal, has presented the Canadian Government Department of War Services with a check for* $10,000 *to be applied to production of a new film depicting Canada's war effort on the industrial front.*

Contributors to the Greek War Relief Fund collection in Montreal include the following: United Amusement Corp., $250; Hartney Company, Ltd., $50; Confederation Amusements, Ltd., $100; Employes of Westmount Theatre, $25, and J. Eliasoff and Sons, $25 . . . 20th-Fox will have the cooperation of the Canadian, British and United States governments in the production of "The Eagle Flies Again." Training sequences will be filmed in Canada.

Ruby Grierson, who initiated the making of the new child evacuee film just released, was responsible for the human quality in a great many British documentaries. To her personal credit she had "Cargo for Ardorssan," "Today We Live," several Zoo films, and three recently completed food films. Her five-minute Ministry of Information film, "They Also Serve," not yet released, is said to be one of the best of the series.

Thomas Archer, film critic of Montreal *Gazette*, reviewing the entertainment year, finds that the United States has acquired leadership. "Above all," he says, "the motion picture has been developed, if not perfected, on this side of the Atlantic. While many great pictures have been produced in Europe, the output there cannot be compared to Hollywood in scope or richness. Proof thereof is the fact that even though European countries attempted to foster their own industries by quotas and other artificial regulations, the Hollywood film continued to provide the staple fare for the picture houses of all the chief European capitals."

Century Theatre of Kitchener, Ont., under the inspiration of Charlie Stevenson, manager, has collected 812 *automobile license plates weighing* 450 *pounds to be sold as scrap iron for the benefit of Kitchener Red Cross. Stevenson offered a theatre ticket to every child who brought a pair of automobile license plates to the theatre. Four large boxes were filled. The markers will be transported to steel mills. They included several* 1939 *license plates. Kitchener, by the way, is the greatest bingo center in Ontario, if not in Canada. On one recent night close to* 30,000 *individual "bingo" plays were recorded. So enthusiastic are the citizens that they have formed three major leagues for Bingo, the proceeds going to the Canadian Legion.*

Aluminum Co. Contributes $10,000 to Film Making

MONTREAL—The Minister of National War Services, Hon. J. G. Gardiner, today announced the receipt of a gift of $10,000 from the Aluminum Co. of Canada, Ltd., to be applied to the production of a new film depicting the war effort of Canada on the industrial front.

In making the gift, directors of the company expressed warm approval of the government's first industrial war effort film, "Front of Steel." This was produced by the national film board on behalf of the director of public information and was released to approximately 900 Canadian theatres last July.

For a Role in "Sunny"

HOLLYWOOD—Metro's John Carroll has been borrowed by RKO for the male lead opposite Anna Neagle in the Herbert Wilcox production, "Sunny."

Pilots "Man Hunt"

HOLLYWOOD—Fritz Lang will direct "Man Hunt" for 20th-Fox.

See BMI Recognition Netting Complications

OTTAWA—The theatres of Canada are confronted with the prospect of split control of performing royalties on compositions, in addition to a complication of copyright authority, if the copyright appeal board officially recognizes the new organization, Broadcast Music of Canada, Inc., with its proposed lower schedule of fees for the use of its musical works in the Dominion, as compared with the license fees imposed by the Canadian Performing Right Society which, thus far, has enjoyed the sole attention of the government board in the regulation of annual charges. The Society, which is the Canadian counterpart of Ascap, was organized in 1925 as an agency for the licensing of the use of thousands of compositions over which it has exercised control.

The issue at the moment is of direct importance in the radio broadcasting field with the BMI of the United States building up an extensive proportion of compositions of its own for network use, which are to be made available in Canada. The belief prevails that the BMI will eventually become a factor in the theatre field, particularly if the newer radio hits creep into picture production and become recordings which would be auxiliary entertainment in theatres.

Others May Be Affected

Still another angle is the fact that at least seven major programs originating in Canada are relayed to networks in the United States as International exchange features and these are affected by the advent of BMI. It has been reported that the British National Anthem, which, in its official form, is identical with the music of the American National Anthem, will become involved in the dispute between the rival copyright-control interests, both in the States and in Canada. The Anthem is a required part of every theatre program in the Dominion.

At its meeting scheduled for February 12, the copyright appeal board will find it necessary to make a ruling that any organization, other than the Canadian Performing Right Society, is legally qualified to place a schedule of royalty fees before the board, it is stated. For some years the Society alone has imposed a seat tax on all Canadian theatres for the us of its works in any form, apart from the score charge of the film producers, and official recognition of the BMI of Canada may throw the situation wide open insofar as all music users are concerned.

Theatre Building In Sharp Rise

Montreal—According to MacLean Building Reports, Ltd., contracts for theatre building in Canada in November totaled $232,500 compared with $45,900 in the identical period last year.

WINNIPEG

A SUM of money collected by employes of Vitagraph to be used for a Christmas present for their manager, has been turned over to I. H. Allan to be contributed to the Lord Mayor of London's fund. This fine gesture will help swell the sum being collected here to aid the war stricken in Britain . . . Harold Bishop carried out an extensive campaign in publicizing his current showing of "Love Thy Neighbor." Bishop made a tieup with General Foods which netted him window and store displays throughout the city as well as 200,000 fliers plugging his playing date.

According to a communication from Mayor John Queen of this city, Grand National Films, Ltd., has undertaken to contribute 20 per cent of the gross receipts from the showings of "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" and "The Warning," to the fund in aid of London's air raid victims. Mayor Queen appealed to the residents of Manitoba to aid in this work by attending the showings of these two films. Playing dates are now being set for the entire territory.

New Year's Eve was a gala night in the city with all houses throwing midnight shows. At the Capitol, Harold Bishop had a monster celebration with a stage show in addition to his feature showing of "Tin Pan Alley." On the stage, Bishop presented a CBC orchestra, professional acts from the Cave, local dining spot, and a number of local amateur acts. At the Metropolitan, Syl Gunn had an elaborate stage presentation consisting of Herbie Brittain's popular orchestra and six vaudeville acts. The film shown was "Second Chorus."

All FP employes in the city, with the exception of house managers and projectionists, received Christmas bonuses of two weeks' pay. Western Theatres, Ltd., employes also found something extra in their socks on Christmas morning with President J. Miles playing Santa Claus to the extent of a week's pay . . . H. J. Allen, general manager of Grand National Films, with offices in Toronto, was a Winnipeg visitor.

George Frazer of 20th-Fox will arrive here next week in connection with the publicity campaign which he is to direct for "Hudson's Bay." Assistant Manager Jack Fitzgibbons will work with Frazer . . . There is a rumor to the effect that Nate Rothstein is about to acquire three more theatres in the Saskatoon district . . . "Mein Kampf," which has been described as Germany's book of doom, was screened here recently and is booked for an early showing . . . John Schuberg of Vancouver, who was in the city recently, has returned to the coast.

Long Illness Is Fatal To P. J. Greenlees

TORONTO—The death has occurred of P. J. Greenlees who devoted the last 30 years of his life to the operation of the Princess, a 413-seat theatre at Woodstock, Ont. Pat Greenlees, one of the most colorful figures in the film exhibition field in the Dominion, long professed that he had never changed the outward appearance of his theatre and it was regarded as an old stand-by, to modernize which would have meant the loss of its originality. He died after a lingering illness.

Despite a heavy fall of snow, a deputation of Toronto men motored to Woodstock for the funeral mass, including W. A. Baillie, veteran owner of the Adelphi, Sam Brint of Empire-Universal, Harry Ginsler of the Iola and Len. Hoffman of Perkins Electric.

May Show 16mm Films on War Effort to Groups

REGINA—Tentative plans have been made by the local branch of the National Film Society to include in its 1940-41 activities the free showing of 16mm films to clubs or groups who might be interested. The films, short features of an informative nature, would deal for the most part with Canada's war effort and be shown twice a week or every two weeks.

Films to Train Troops

REGINA—Visual education, fast being employed by schools throughout Canada, is now being used to train Canada's armed forces. All training camps in Canada are being equipped with projectors for showing 16mm sound films.

: SASKATCHEWAN :

JACK WILLIAMS has replaced Billy Ellison on the Met, Regina, ushering staff. Ellison is with the Navy.

Annual staff party of the Grand Theatre, Regina, put on by Famous Players Canadian Corp. and Mrs. J. Graham, owner of the theatre, was held December 21. Staff members were given bonuses of two weeks' pay.

Saskatoon is expected to have the opening of Paul Muni's latest picture, "Hudson's Bay," simultaneously with openings in other parts of Canada on January 16, according to an announcement made in Vancouver recently. First showings of the picture will be in Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Calgary, the announcement said. Arrangements are being made to have some of the stars appear at the openings.

Elks Lodge at Estevan took over the Orpheum Theatre December 23 and played host to all boys and girls of the town under 13 years of age. Free candy and peanuts went with the show.

Sabu in Montreal

MONTREAL—Sabu, boy star of "The Thief of Bagdad," was guest of honor at the meeting of the Ottawa Rotary Club in the Chateau Laurier, on December 23. Sabu was accompanied by his brother, Shaik, and Lou Guimond, Canadian representative of United Artists.

Miller and Peters Earn Metro Honor Awards

NEW YORK—M-G-M has awarded Honor Roll Buttons to Managers Frank Miller, Metropolitan Theatre, Morgantown, W. Va., and George Peters, Loew's Colonial, Reading, Pa., for their outstanding exploitation campaigns for "Bitter Sweet" and "Hullabaloo," respectively.

Highlights of Miller's "Bitter Sweet" campaign were: Electrical transcription planted with local radio station and played one day in advance of opening. Two thousand heralds distributed house-to-house. The same number of duo-tone photos set with leading department store chain. One thousand cards mailed to members of music clubs. Thirty-five hundred chocolate tabs distributed by a young lady dressed in a similar costume to that worn by Jeanette MacDonald in the picture. Inquiring Reporter stunt with best answers receiving guest tickets. Drawing contest conducted by art department of Morgantown High School from photos of Miss MacDonald, with winning entries displayed in lobby. Still displays planted with numerous stores.

Highlights of Peters' "Hullabaloo" campaign were: Treasure Hunt at Reading's busiest five-and-dime store. Newspaper contest on words assembled from letters in the title. Several thousand heralds distributed at local dances, football games, hotels, etc. Corresponding number stunt, with cards for boys and girls distributed, similar numbers teaming up and being admitted to theatre free. Opening night parade to theatre led by 60-piece cadet band. Headless man ballyhoo, with sign reading: "I laughed my head off, etc." Proclamation on part of Mayor for a Laugh Week during film's engagement. School essay contest offering prizes for best short radio script. Numerous window still displays in leading stores.

"Boom Town" Week Hypos Selling in Evansville

EVANSVILLE, IND.—With the declaration by the mayor of a "Boom Town" Week, Manager R. H. Suits of Loew's Evansville, and Harold H. Marshall, Metro exploiteer, were able to go to town in selling the feature.

Five hundred downtown poles were placarded with "Evansville celebrates 'Boom Town' Week;" merchants featured "Boom Town" sales; the press cooperated with art and stories; a hotel put on a buffet dinner opening night for oil pioneers, which civic dignitaries attended; a parade with police escort led from the hotel to the theatre; a broadcast was carried from the lobby; taxis carried bumper strips and all downtown street corners were stenciled.

Club Draws New Patrons

BOSTON—Designed to bring children from outlying districts to the Warren Theatre in Roxbury, the Honor Roll Club, devised by Manager John Buckley, is credited with hypoing boxoffice business at the suburban house. The prime purpose of the Club originally was to insure a better relationship with the children, parents, and school authorities. In the final analysis, it tended to attract a substantial percentage of juveniles who were not accustomed to patronizing the house.

John Buckley laid down the rules of the Warren Theatre Honor Roll Club as follows:

"(1) Any boy or girl in Roxbury or Dorchester attending either a public or a parochial grammar school was eligible to become a member.

"(2) To become a member a pupil must be on the honor roll in school.

"(3) A member is entitled to one month's free admission to the theatre on Saturday afternoon. In order to avoid duplication or fraud, he listed the children alphabetically by schools. This prevented children from switching report cards in order to obtain Honor Roll Club cards.

"Although we did not receive official recognition from the school authorities," Buckley said, "many teachers informed their classes about the club. This club was one of the few plans we have had over which both children and parents alike were enthusiastic."

Buckley provided a short trailer explaining the rules of the club and made regular announcements from the stage as well as giving the enterprise lobby exploitation.

Trailer copies stressed the fact that a pupil must be on the Honor Roll for two months. This angle was made particularly clear as many parochial schools in the vicinity issue a monthly report card. The two-month period for a parochial school child was made to coincide with the two-month period of the public school pupil. Membership cards were given to each Honor Roll student.

Girls "Date" Stars

MILWAUKEE—Three girls were selected from among 300 contestants to "date" Robert Preston, Lynne Overman and Preston Foster during their personal appearance here in connection with the opening of "North West Mounted Police" at Fox's Palace and Wisconsin theatres. The girls accompanied the actors to a luncheon and to the theatres.

Obtains Chain Calls

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—George Freeman of the Poli Theatre invited the press and 40 women members of the Motion Picture Council to a screening of "The Long Voyage Home." Each woman, a member of an organization represented in the Council, reported on the picture to her organization and agreed to call five other women and ask them in turn to call five more, and urge attendance at the picture.

CLIP AND SAVE

STRAND PROGRAM, NOV. 7 to DEC. 8

1300 E. WASHINGTON ST. FREE PARKING LOT LI. 6046

THURS.	FRIDAY	SAT.	SUNDAY	MON.	TUES.	WED.
Nov. 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
TYRONE POWER, "BRIGHAM YOUNG" "RANGERS OF FORTUNE"				"CAPTAIN CAUTION" 'Blondie Has Servant Trouble'		
Nov. 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
DEANNA DURBIN, "SPRING PARADE" RITZ BROS., "ARGENTINE NIGHTS"				"MUMMY'S HAND" "CHAN IN WAX MUSEUM"		
Nov. 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Matinee Thanksgiving Rooney-Garland, "STRIKE UP THE BAND" J. STEWART, "NO TIME FOR COMEDY"				"CITY FOR CONQUEST" "RIVER'S END"		
Nov. 28	29	30	Dec. 1	2	3	4
"KNUTE ROCKNE, ALL-AMERICAN" IN COLOR—"DOWN ARGENTINE WAY"				"PUBLIC DEBT NO. 1" "GAY CABALLERO"		
Dec. 5	6	7	8	20c Mon., Tues., Wed. Till 6:00; Thur., Fri. Till 5:30; Sat., Sun., Hol. Till 12:30		
MYRNA LOY, "3D FINGER, LEFT HAND" CARY GRANT, "HOWARDS OF VIRGINIA"						

CLIP AND SAVE

Redeemable for a Pass—

Above is pictured an entire month's program as printed in the newspapers by Claude Allison, manager of the Strand Theatre in Indianapolis. In the margin are instructions to the reader to clip and save the program. At the end of the month Allison chooses names from his mailing list, who, if able to present the program, receive a guest ticket. The stunt is popular with the patrons.

College Prank Made National Publicity

NEW HAVEN—When Bob Russell, manager of the Loew-Poli, attended a dinner for the Yale University Band and made a speech, he couldn't resist the temptation to put in a plug for "Go West," opening at the Loew-Poli that week, "two weeks in advance of New Year's, specially for you Yale boys," as he put it.

Little did he dream what seeds of mischief he had planted in fertile student minds, until some days later, six members of the Yale Pundit Club, among the most prominent students at Yale, had a brainstorm and started one of the biggest publicity stunts on the picture ever to be pulled on any picture—a stunt which has been given space and art in papers all over the country.

Simultaneously in various parts of the center of the college towns, six automobiles were stalled in the Christmas shopping traffic, six Grouchos alighted from the allegedly stalled cars and began busily repairing the cars, with typical Groucho antics. Appreciative crowds gathered in record time, whereupon the police took over and dispersed the crowds, and the boys went on their way. When it became evident that the stunt was all over the place, the police were considerably dazed and a good portion of New Haven Christmas shoppers were Groucho-conscious. Then the costumed hoaxers wound up their quiet day by buying tickets for "Go West" at the Loew-Poli.



In Celebration—

Local merchants donated the cake over which Rufus Shepherd, right, stands guard. The occasion was the 12th anniversary of the Fisher Theatre in Detroit, which Shepherd manages.



Which is where Nat Rubin, assistant at the Loew-Poli, came right in with a flash of genius. Immediately aware that this was great stuff, Nat summoned a photographer and got the "Marxes" to pose. Upon identification, the boys turned out to be Charles Spalding of Lake Forest, Illinois, Phi Beta Kappa president and Yale *News* columnist; Larry G. Tighe jr., of New Haven, chairman of the Junior Prom Committee and the Yale Dramatic Association; William E. Jackson, Yale *News* editor and son of the attorney general; George H. Meade jr. of Dayton, football manager at the university; John B. Madden of Brooklyn, captain of the 150-pound football team, and Charles Potter Stevenson of Buffalo, varsity hockey player.

The team of Russell and Rubin got to work on a little publicity and the pictures taken so hurriedly in the lobby made the press of the various Connecticut towns with splash stories in no time at all. Almost immediately, there were requests for pictures from *Life* and other publications; the New York *Times* had a story, as did Chicago, Washington, and other cities over the country.

The Russell-Rubin team is still trying to recover from the excitement of turning a college gag into a publicity stunt which netted thousands of dollars worth of free space for "Go West." It's the first stunt, they pride themselves, to have assumed such proportions in out-of-state press.

Jewelry Display Uses Stills

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—Manager George French of the RKO Albee obtained a window display for "They Knew What They Wanted" at a local jeweler's. Stills of Lombard wearing jewelry made the centerpiece.

Boxing Match for "Leather Pushers"

New Haven—H. W. Reisinger, manager of the Bijou Theatre, made his booking of "Leather Pushers" noteworthy by staging a three-round boxing match between local youngsters on the stage of his theatre at the evening show. New England's heavyweight champion served as referee, and various local sport gentry participated. Ads were spotted on the sport page as well as the amusement page, and space was garnered in the sports columns of the dailies. Reisinger permitted announcements from the stage during the amateur show, as to boxing matches.

Peanut Cart for "Go West"

St. Louis—Digging up an antiquated whistling peanut cart and utilizing it for the cuffo distribution of 200 pounds of peanuts on the downtown streets was the highlight of the outdoor bally conceived by Jimmy Harris, p. a. at Loew's, for "Go West." Distributors of the goobers were three pseudo Marx boys and when timid pedestrians hesitated in accepting the peanuts the lads stuffed them in pockets and dashed back to the cart. A string was affixed to the steam whistle and the boys amused pedestrians with their antics with the whistle.

The Union Pacific railroad placed 500 "Go West" cards in depots in this area and Harris and Harold "Chick" Evens, manager of the theatre, made a deal with 19 Walgreen drug stores to imprint all menu cards with "Go West" copy during the talker's run. Similar deal was made with the Thompson's chain of restaurants with 20,000 paper napkins being imprinted.



Ask 'Em to Sing—

Lobby display used by Loew's Criterion for the New York first run of Republic's "Hit Parade of 1941." A live mike carried requests for songs to a Hugh Herbert imitator, who played the recordings requested. The sign above the cutouts reads: "Step up to the microphone and ask Hugh Herbert or Mary Boland for your favorite tune from 'Hit Parade'." Then are listed several of the song titles.

Interview Star by Phone

MINNEAPOLIS—As a plug for "Spring Parade," the St. Paul Orpheum had Jules L. Steele, St. Paul *Dispatch* film editor, interview Deanna Durbin over the long distance telephone.
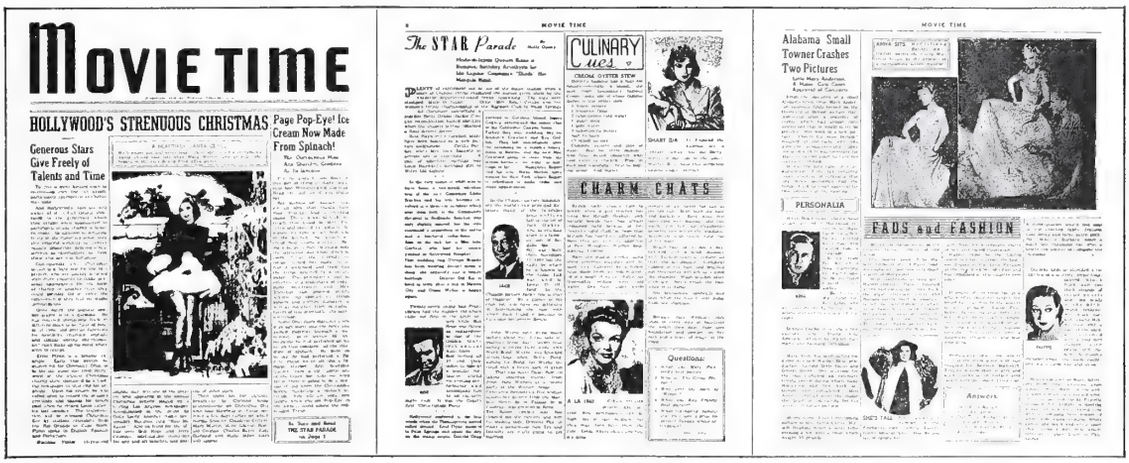

MIKADO THEATRE'S
ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE
MOVIE TIME
Fattened 50 Pounds for Role; Socks Swapped for Orchids in Hollywood--of Course
This Dog Likes Gangster Movies and "Westerns"
Actors Have Passes; Photos Censored
Scare Author and Scare Actor Meet

This Theatre Newspaper Exploits All Your Programs---a "Herald" Advertises but one!


MOVIE TIME
CHARM CHATS
W. C. Fields Requires Three Secretaries
Traveling Record for Bette Davis Scenes
The Rise of Pennsylvania's Jimmie Stewart
by Wainwright
MOVIE TIME
California Can Be Too Perfect, Believe It or Not
The STAR Parade
FADS and FASHION
CULINARY Cues

Two weekly issues of Movie Time reproduced in miniature.

The Intelligent, Aggressive Manager Now Publishes a House-Organ Weekly Newsmagazine That Gains in Value Each Week


MOVIE TIME
HOLLYWOOD'S STRENUOUS CHRISTMAS
Generous Stars Give Freely of Talents and Time
Page Pop-Eye! Ice Cream Now Made From Spinach!
MOVIE TIME
The STAR Parade
CULINARY Cues
CHARM CHATS
MOVIE TIME
Alabama Small Towner Crashes Two Pictures
PERSONALIA
FADS and FASHION

TREMENDOUS changes have taken place throughout the country in the local retailing of motion picture attractions to the regular and potential audiences in the community. Exhibitors have cleaned up and greatly improved their showmanship and their EXPLOITATION. They have found, among other things, that diminutive heralds, equally small size printed house programs and occasional circular throwaways are inadequate vehicles for intelligent promotion.

Managers and owners HAVE TURNED TO MOVIE TIME, THE THEATRE'S OWN ILLUSTRATED, REGULARLY-ISSUED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER as the perfect medium for increasing theatre goodwill and attracting greater patronage.

To create such a weekly newspaper for your theatre would be an expensive undertaking, quite beyond any average theatre's means. Magazine grade paper in small quantities is expensive. Fine screen illustrations are equally so. You have no Hollywood staff to gather gossip, news and features and you would be obliged to print stale matter rewritten from the newspapers.

MOVIE TIME—now in its eighth month of consecutive weekly publication and used by theatres throughout the country—was created to provide you a peppy, snappy, colorful, newsy and intelligent weekly house organ AT LOW COST. It has gained immense popularity. It is within reach of almost the smallest of theatres.

Based on their size our theatre clients use from 1,000 to 5,000 copies per theatre per week. We ship it to them flat and local printers imprint on Page 1 the name of the theatre and on Page 4 (a full blank page) the house programs and advertisements of local stores, shops, soda fountains, lunch rooms, dry cleaners, cocktail bars, cigarette and candy outlets to cover a large part or all of what MOVIE TIME costs them.

MOVIE TIME is offered on an exclusive basis in your zone or neighborhood. When you have it a competitor cannot get it. It is high time you got samples of it. When you have examined them we believe you will become one of the alert and progressive exhibitors using MOVIE TIME.

MOVIE TIME
9th and Van Brunt,
Kansas City, Mo.

Without obligation to me, please send me cost data about and sample copies of your motion picture weekly news-magazine and do this PRONTO.

My name is .....

My theatre is .....

Street .....

Town..... State.....

BOOKING CHART

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ◎ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
MAY 25	23 Western 920 **Texas Stagecoach** (59); R—Mar. 30 Charles Starrett Iris Meredith		23 Western 3965 **Kid From Santa Fe** (50) Jack Randall R—Sept. 28	24 Drama 3931 **Biscuit Eater, The** (80) Billy Lee R—Apr. 13	24 Western 906 **Rocky Mountain Rangers** (58) Three Mesquiteers R—June 8	24 Com. Drama 032 **You Can't Fool Your Wife** (65) Lucille Ball R—May 25	24 Drama 045 **Lillian Russell** (127) Alice Faye Henry Fonda R—June 1	24 Drama **Our Town** (90) William Holden Martha Scott R—May 18	24 Melodrama 4056 **Hot Steel** (61) Richard Arlen Andy Devine R—Aug. 17	25 Drama FN455 **Torrid Zone** (87) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—May 18	20 Drama 10 **I Take This Oath** (67) Joyce Compton R—June 1
JUNE 1	30 M'drama 1016 **Lone Wolf Meets a Lady** (71) Warren William Jean Muir R—June 8	31 Mys. Drama 40 **Phantom Raiders** (70) Walter Pidgeon R—June 1	30 Western 3966 **Riders From Nowhere** (45) Jack Randall R—Oct. 19	31 Comedy 3936 **Those Were the Days** (70) William Holden Bonita Granville R—May 25		31 Drama 025 **Bill of Divorcement** (74) Maureen O'Hara Adolphe Menjou R—Mar. 16	31 Drama 051 **Girl in 313** (58) Florence Rice Kent Taylor R—May 11		31 Musical 4029 **La Conga Nights** (61) R—May 18 31 Western 4063 **Bad Man From Red Butte** (58) R-Jne 15	1 M'drama FN472 **Murder in the Air** (55) Ronald Reagan Lya Lys R—May 11	1 Western 15 **Frontier Crusader** (63) R—June 18
JUNE 8	3 Drama 1112 **Mad Men of Europe** (73) R—June 1 Edmund Gwenn	7 Drama 39 **Susan and God** (117) Joan Crawford R—June 8		7 Western 3958 **Hidden Gold** (61) William Boyd R—May 25	6 Drama 902 **Women in War** (70) Elsie Janis R—June 1	7 Melodrama 033 **Saint Takes Over** (68) R—Apr. 27 George Sanders	7 Drama 034 **Earthbound** (67) **Warner Baxter** R—May 18		7 Drama 4036 **Love, Honor and Oh Baby** (59) R—June 8	8 Com. Dr. WB405 **Brother Orchid** (91) Edw. G. Robinson R—June 1	
JUNE 15	6 M'drama 1028 **Passport to Alcatraz** (60); **Jack Holt** R—June 22	14 Drama 41 ◎**Mortal Storm, The** (99) R—June 15 Margaret Sullavan James Stewart	11 Com. Drama 3915 **On the Spot** (62) Frankie Darro R—June 8	14 Drama 3937 **Safari** (81) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Madeleine Carroll R—June 1	19 Act'n Drama 907 **Wagons Westward** (70) R—June 29 Chester Morris Anita Louise	7 Western 084 **Prairie Law** (60) George O'Brien R—June 8	14 Drama 047 **Four Sons** (88) Don Ameche Mary Beth Hughes R—June 8		14 Com. Drama 4008 **Sandy Is a Lady** (64) R—May 25 Baby Sandy Eugene Pallette	15 M'drama FN473 **Fugitive From Justice** (53) R-June 22 Roger Pryor Lucille Fairbanks	
JUNE 22	20 Drama 1037 **Girls of the Road** (61) Ann Dvorak Lola Lane R—June 29	21 Com. Drama 42 **Captain Is a Lady** (65) R—June 29 Virginia Grey Billie Burke Charles Coburn	18 Western 3960 **Wild Horse Range** (51) Jack Randall R—June 22	21 Mys. Com. 3938 **Ghost Breakers** (85) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—June 15	25 Musical Com. 908 **Grand Ole Opry** (67) R—July 6 27 Western 955 **Carson City Kid** (57) R—July 6	21 Com. Drama 034 **Pop Always Pays** (67) Leon Errol R—June 22	21 Mystery 048 **Charlie Chan's Murder Cruise** (75) Sidney Toler Marjorie Weaver R—May 4		21 Comedy 4037 **I Can't Give You Anything But Love** (61) Broderick Crawford R—May 11	22 M'drama WB424 **Gambling on the High Seas** (56) Wayne Morris Jane Wyman R—Oct. 12	
JUNE 29	27 Western 1214 **Return of Wild Bill** Bill Elliott (57) R—July 13	28 Musical 31 **New Moon** (100) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—June 22	25 M'drama 3927 **Last Alarm** (61) Polly Ann Young Warren Hull R—July 13	28 Drama 3939 **Queen of the Mob** (61) R—June 29 Ralph Bellamy Blanche Yurka Jean Cagney	29 Western 992 **One Man's Law** (57) Don "Red" Barry Janet Waldo R—July 13	28 Drama 035 **Anne of Windy Poplars** (86) Anne Shirley R—June 22	28 Outd'r Dr. 049 **Lucky Cisco Kid** (68) Cesar Romero Mary Beth Hughes R—June 1		28 Drama 5046 **The Fugitive** (77) Ralph Richardson Diana Wynyard R—July 6		
JULY 6	30 Comedy 1021 **Out West With the Peppers** (61) Edith Fellows R—July 13	5 Comedy 43 **Andy Hardy Meets Debutante** (89) Mickey Rooney R—July 6	3 Western 3956 **The Golden Trail** (52) Tex Ritter R—July 13	5 Drama 3940 **Way of All Flesh** (86) R—June 1 Akim Tamiroff Gladys George	12 Drama 903 **Three Faces West** (81) R—June 22 John Wayne Sigrid Gurie	5 Drama 036 **Dr. Christian Meets the Women** (68) Jean Hersholt R—June 29	5 Com. Drama 052 **Sailor's Lady** (66) Nancy Kelly Jon Hall R—July 6		5 Com. Drama 4007 **Private Affairs** (74) Nancy Kelly Roland Young R—June 15	13 Drama FN467 **Man Who Talked Too Much** (75) George Brent R—July 6	8 Com. Drama 102 **Hold That Woman** (66) James Dunn R—Nov. 30
JULY 13		12 Drama 44 **Sporting Blood** (82) Robert Young Maureen O'Sullivan R—July 13		12 Western 3959 **Stagecoach War** (63) R—July 6 Bill Boyd Russell Hayden		12 Com. Drama 039 **Cross Country Romance** (68) Gene Raymond Wendy Barrie R—June 29	12 Drama 046 **Manhattan Heartbeat** (71) V. Gilmore R. Sterling R-June 8			13 Drama FN454 ◎**All This, and Heaven Too** (143) Bette Davis Charles Boyer R—June 22	
JULY 20	18 Drama 1038 **Military Academy** (66) T. Kelly R-July 13 24 Adventure 1110 **I Married Adventure** (78) R-July 20	19 Com. Drama 45 **We Who Are Young** (79) Lana Turner John Shelton R—July 20	16 Mystery 3910 **Haunted House** (70) R—Aug. 3 15 Melodrama 4020 **Boys of the City** East Side Kids (63) R—Aug. 31		20 Comedy 909 **Scatterbrain** (72) Judy Canova R—July 13 15 Western 944 **Carolina Moon** (65) G. Autry R—July 20	19 Drama 029 **Tom Brown's School Days** (82) James Lydon Fred. Bartholomew Cedric Hardwicke R—June 29	19 Drama 050 ◎**Maryland** (91) Walter Brennan Fay Bainter Brenda Joyce R—July 13	18 Melodrama **South of Pago Pago** (97) Victor McLaglen Jon Hall Francis Farmer R—July 20	19 Melodrama 4057 **Black Diamonds** (52) R—July 27 26 Western 4064 **Son of Roaring Dan** (64) R—Aug. 17 Johnny Mack Brown	20 Com. with Mu. WB407 **My Love Came Back** (85) R—July 6 Olivia de Havilland Jeffrey Lynn	20 Western 157 **Billy the Kid Outlawed** (60) Bob Steele
JULY 27	25 Comedy 1012 **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (70) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 27	26 Com. Drama 47 **Gold Rush Maisie** (82) Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	29 Melodrama 4024 **Orphans of the North** (57) R—Nov. 9 29 Western 3957 **Rainbow Over the Range** (59) T. Ritter R-Aug. 10	26 Drama 3941 ◎**Untamed** (83) Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	30 Drama 904 **Girl from God's Country** (71) R—Jul 27 Chester Morris	26 Western 085 **Stage to Chino** (59) G.O'Brien R-Aug. 24 26 Com. Drama 037 **Millionaires in Prison** (63) L. Tracy R-June 29			26 Com. Dr. 4023 **You're Not So Tough** (72) R—June 1 26 Outd'r Dr. 4006 **When Daltons Rode** (81) R—Aug. 3	27 Comedy FN474 **Ladies Must Live** (58) Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		2 Costume Com. 46 ◎**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	5 Melodrama 3908 **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	2 Melodrama 3942 **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	30 Western 956 **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R-July 27	2 Drama 061 ◎**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov.26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	2 Drama 101 **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		2 M'drama 4039 **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	3 Drama FN460 **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	3 Western 152 **Gun Code** (56) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	7 Drama 1008 **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama 50 **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama 3943 **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical 910 **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama 042 **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama 104 **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy 4003 **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram WB414 **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
17 AUG.	**The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 15 **Western 2201** **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	**Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	**Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 **Western 3958** **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	**Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	**Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	**Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	**Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		**Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama **1006** **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama **3938** **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama **3945** **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda **171** **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama **043** **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R-Aug. 24	23 Drama **106** **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. **WB412** **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama **48** **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama **3903** **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western **069** **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy **924** **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy **046** **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama **038** **Lucky Partners** (101) R.Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy **109** **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama **WB401** **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 **Mystery 103** **Marked Men** (70) Warren Hull
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy **1022** **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama **101** **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama **3920** **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. **4001** **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western **043** **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama **101** **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	6 Melodrama **110** **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (92) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. **5013** **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. **WB519** **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama **2032** **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama **1024** **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama **102** **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama **3914** **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama **017** **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept 14	13 Comedy **102** **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 **Comedy 105** **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. **5006** **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama **5051** **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 **Comedy FN554** **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama **1001** **The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 **Mus. Com. 104** **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama **4021** **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordon R—Oct. 5	20 **Drama 4002** **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western **051** **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 **Western 086** **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama **116** **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Act. Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 **Melodrama 5020** **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 Western **5061** **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 **Drama WB506** **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 **Western 153** **Arizona Gang Busters** (60)
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama **1040** **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama **1009** **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct 12	27 Comedy **103** **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 **Mystery 105** **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama **4001** **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 **Melodrama 4003** **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 **Western 062** **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama **103** **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama **107** **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama **5046** **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 **Mus. Com. 5001** **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 **Western 158** **Billy the Kid in Texas** (57) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western **2209** **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy **106** **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama **4022** **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 **Melodrama 4004** **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 **Western 072** **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 **Western 181** **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama **108** **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama **5019** **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama **WB502** **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Dr'ma **3018** **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama **107** **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 **Drama 4005** **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 **Mus. Com. 005** **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 **Burl. Com. 105** **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R-Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 **Mus. Com. 113** **Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 Melodrama **5017** **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 **Comedy FN559** **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama **2030** **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows Billy Lee		7 Com. Dr. **4010** **Of Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 **Drama 4006** **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 **Mus. Com. 001** **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 **Melodrama 107** **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama **114** **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 **Western 5062** **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. **WB511** **Dispatch from Reuters** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama **2038** **Girls Under 21** (63) R—Nov. 30 21 Western **2202** **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy **109** **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 **Drama 4007** **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 25 Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	21 **Western 052** **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 **Melodrama 104** **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 **Comedy 111** **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy **5024** **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 **Drama 5007** **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	26 Com. Dr. **FN561** **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy **2016** **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama **108** **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 **Musical 4008** **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 **Mystery 006** **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 **Comedy 109** **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 **Comedy 5036** **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 **Melodrama 5052** **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	2 **Comedy FN570** **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical **110** **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western **4051** **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 **Musical 4009** **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 **Mus. Comedy 007** **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 **Comedy 106** **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 **Melodrama 117** **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy **5021** **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 **Western 5063** **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama **FN562** **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	5 **Western 154** **Riders of Black Mountain** (60) Tim McCoy

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
NOV. 16	14 Western 2210 **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama 111 **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery 4012 **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western 4050 **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western 063 **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy 111 **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama 102 **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		16 Drama 5015 **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama WB513 **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Geraldine Fitzgerald R—Dec. 21	
NOV. 23	21 Drama 2012 **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30 23 Mystery 2021 **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30	22 Comedy 112 **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 Western **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western 041 **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 22 Western 073 **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. 108 **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy 119 **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy 5023 **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama **(Reissue)** **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama FN552 **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	28 Mystery 2024 **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 115 **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7	27 Melodrama **Gypsy Cavalier** (..) Gilbert Roland 30 Adventure **Sign of the Wolf** (..)		29 Comedy 018 **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karns R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 113 **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama 120 **Tin Pan Alley** (94) Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy 5010 **Bank Dick, The** (74) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama WB512 **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western 2203 **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy 114 **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. 4011 **Night at Earl Carroll's, A (63)** Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western 053 **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western 182 **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama 118 **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy 5026 **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy FN571 **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	6 Com. Mys. 104 **Devil Bat** (67) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 14	9 Drama 2031 **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama 113 **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		13 Western 4012 **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy 008 **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery 121 **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama 5008 **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Western 159 **Billy the Kid's Gun Justice** (..) Bob Steele
DEC. 21	20 Mystery 2033 **Phantom Submarine** (70) Anita Louise			27 Outd'r Dr. 3946 **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama 009 **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama 114 **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle	20 Comedy 122 **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama 5025 **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 Reissue **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Drama 105 **Misbehaving Husbands** (65) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	25 Outd'r Dr. 2101 **Arizona** (128) Jean Arthur R—Nov. 23 31 Western 2211 **Wildcat of Tuscon** (57) Bill Elliott	27 Comedy 116 **Keeping Company** (..) Ann Rutherford John Shelton	22 Drama 4003 **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western 4052 **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) Tex Ritter	27 Comedy 4013 **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western 064 **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 112 **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 123 **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Comedy **Invisible Woman** (..) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce	28 Adv. Dr. FN551 **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Comedy 106 **You Betcha My Life** (..) Henry Armetta
JAN. 4	2 Comedy 2205 **This Thing Called Love** (96) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama 117 **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical 4014 **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama 019 **Bowery Boy** (..) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell	3 Drama 161 **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell	3 Drama 115 **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama **Where Did You Get That Girl** (67) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama 5053 **Lucky Devils** (..)	4 M'drama WB503 **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters R—Dec. 14	3 Mystery 107 **Secret Evidence** (..) 3 Western 163 **Lone Rider No. 1** (..) George Houston
JAN. 11	9 Western 2204 **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett	10 Com. Drama 118 **Maisie Was a Lady** (..) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres	5 Melodrama **You're Out of Luck** (..) Frankie Darro	10 Western 4051 **Doomed Caravan** (..) William Boyd Russell Hayden	6 Western 074 **Wyoming Wildcat** (..) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan	10 Drama 110 **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama 124 **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western 5064 **Boss of Bullion City** (..) 10 Drama **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 Melodrama **Case of the Black Parrot** (..) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon	
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. 2029 **Face Behind the Mask** (..) Peter Lorre	17 Drama 119 **Philadelphia Story** (112) Katharine Hepburn Cary Grant		17 Drama 4015 **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western 054 **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (..) Roy Rogers Geo. "Gabby" Hayes	17 Musical 115 **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama 125 **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero Patricia Morison		17 Comedy **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** Lupe Velez Leon Errol	18 Com. Drama **Honeymoon for Three** (..) George Brent Ann Sheridan	17 Comedy 108 **Glamour Girls Never Say No** (..)
JAN. 25		24 Comedy 121 **Wild Man of Borneo** (..) Frank Morgan Billie Burke		24 Comedy 4016 **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (81) Jackie Cooper	28 Western **Riding on a Rainbow** (..) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	24 Mystery 116 **Saint in Palm Springs** (..) George Sanders Wendy Barrie	24 Drama 128 **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (..) Cesar Romero Virginia Gilmore	24 Comedy **Road Show** (..) Adolphe Menjou Carol Landis	24 Drama **Back Street** (..) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer	25 Drama **High Sierra** (..) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino	
FEB. 1	31 Drama **Legacy** (..) Warner Baxter Ingrid Bergman	31 Drama 122 **Come Live With Me** (..) James Stewart Hedy Lamarr			31 Comedy **Arkansas Judge** (..) Weaver Bros. and Elviry	31 Comedy 117 **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (..) Carole Lombard Robert Montgomery	31 Drama 127 **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood Emlyn Williams				
FEB. 8				7 Musical Com. **You're the One** (..) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker	7 Comedy **Petticoat Politics** (..) Higgins Family Roscoe Karnes	7 Western 183 **Along the Rio Grande** (..) Tim Holt			7 Comedy **Meet the Champ** (..)		
FEB. 15	13 Western 2212 **Across the Sierra** (..)			14 Mystery **Mad Doctor, The** (91) Basil Rathbone		14 Drama 118 **Citizen Kane** (..) Orson Welles			14 Drama **Dark Streets of Cairo** (59) Sigrid Gurie		

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ⧺ Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. ◐ Indicates short of the week. ◎ Indicates color photography.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

2425..	Blondes and Blunders (16)	11-29	±	12- 7
1435..	Boobs in the Woods (17)	5-31	=	7-22
2424..	Bundle of Bliss, A (18)	11- 1		....
2423..	Cold Turkey (16)	10-18		....
1438..	Fireman Save My Choo-Choo (18)	8- 9	+	8-31
1437..	His Bridal Fright (16)	7-12		....
2426..	His Ex Marks the Spot (..)	12-13		....
2421..	Pleased to Mitt You (18)	9- 6		....
1421..	Skinny the Moocher (16½)	9- 8		....
2422..	Spook Speaks, The (18)	9-20	+	10-19
1436..	Taming of the Snood (16)	6-28		....
9437..	Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18)	7-28		....

CINESCOPES

2972..	Floating Elephants (8)	10- 4	+	10-19
2971..	Hobby Lobby (11)	8-30	+	9-21
2972..	Industrial Green Island (10)	9-20		....
2973..	Nice Work If You Can Do It (9)	11- 8	+	11-23
1975..	Odd Vacations (8½)	6-16		....
2974..	Unique Industry (..)	12-19		....

COLOR RHAPSODIES
(In Technicolor)

2505..	A Helping Paw (7)	1- 7		....
1510..	Egg Hunt, The (7½)	5-31	∓	6-15
2502..	◎Mr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½)	10- 4		....
2501..	Tangled Television (7½)	8-30	+	10-19
1512..	Timid Pup, The (8)	8- 1	±	8-31
2504..	Wise Owl (7)	12- 6	∓	12- 7
1511..	Ye Olde Swap Shoppe (7½)	6-28		....

COLUMBIA TOURS

2556..	Beautiful British Columbia (..)	12-20		....
2551..	Historic Virginia (Andre de la Varre Productions) (10)	8-16		....
1558..	In the Land of Pagodas (9)	6-14		....
2554..	Islands of the West Indies (10)	10-25	⧺	11-23
2553..	Old and New Arizona (Special) (9)	9-27		....
2552..	Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10)	9-13	⧺	10-23
2555..	Sojourn in Havana (LaVarre Prod.) (9)	11-25	±	12- 7

COMMUNITY SING

1656..	No. 6 (Medley of Hits) (10)	6-28		....
2651..	No. 1..(Jolly Tunes—D. Baker (10)	10- 2		....
2652..	No. 2..(Popular Songs—D. Baker (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
2653..	No. 3..(Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)	12-13		....

FABLES CARTOONS

1754..	Barnyard Babies (7½)	6-14		....
2751..	Farmer Tom Thumb (6)	9-27	+	10-19
2752..	Mouse Meets Lion (6)	10-25	∓	12- 7
2753..	Paunch 'n' Judy (6)	12-13		....
1755..	Pooch Parade (6)	7-19		....

PHANTASIES CARTOONS

2702..	Happy Holidays (6)	10-25		....
1706..	News Oddities (6)	7-19		....
1756..	Peep in the Deep, A (6½)	8-23	+	8-31
2701..	School Boy Dreams (5)	9-24	+	10-19
2704..	Tom Thumb's Brother (..)	1-17		....
2703..	Wallflower, The (..)	11-29		....

QUIZ REELS

2601..	Take It or Leave It (9½)	11-22	o	12- 7

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS

1858..	No. 8 (19) Cowboy Jubilee.	6- 7		....
1859..	No. 9 (10) Ken Murray.	7-10		....
1860..	No. 10 (9) Jack Oakie.	8-10	±	8-31
2851..	No. 1 (10) Ken Murray.	9- 6		....
2852..	No. 2 (9) Don Wilson.	10-18	o	11-23
2853..	No. 3 (9)	11-22	±	12- 7

SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)

2441..	Puss in Boots (reissue) (40)	11-21		....

SPORT REELS

2803..	Ali the Giant Killer (..)	12-27		....
1809..	Canvas Capers (11)	7-19		....
....	Hunting Wild Deer (9)	11-22	=	12- 7
2801..	Master of Cue With Willie Hoppe (9)	9-20	+	10-19
1808..	Saving Strokes With Sam Snead (10)	6-28		....

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

2403..	Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)	11-15	±	12- 7
2401..	From Nurse to Worse (16)	8-23	+	8-31
1408..	How High Is Up (16)	7-16	=	8- 3
2402..	No Census, No Feeling (16)	10- 4		....
1407..	Nutty But Nice (18)	6-14		....

WASHINGTON PARADE
Series 2

1905..	No. 5 (The Archives) (11)	7- 4	+	8- 3
1906..	No. 6 (Our Nat'l Defense) (10)	8-30		....

Series 3

2901..	No. 1 (The Mint) (10)	10-25		....
2902..	No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (..)	11-28		....
2903..	No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (..)	12-20		....

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

P- 5..	Buyers Beware (20)	8-17	⧺	9- 7
P-201..	◐Eyes of the Navy (20)	10-26	⧺	10-26
P- 6..	Soak the Old (20)	8-24	±	9-28
P-815..	Think First (21)	9- 9		....
P- 4..	Women in Hiding (22)	6-22	±	7- 6

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS
(In Technicolor)

T-214..	Beautiful Bali (9)	11-23	∓	12-14
T-211..	Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)	9- 7	⧺	9- 7
T-212..	Cavalcade of San Francisco (9)	9-28	∓	9-28
T-213..	Old New Mexico (10)	10-26	+	11- 9
T- 62..	Suva, Pride of Fiji (9)	6- 8	∓	6- 8

MINIATURES

M-231..	Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia)	10- 9	±	12-14

M-G-M CARTOONS
(New Series)
(Technicolor)

W- 90..	Bookworm Turns, The (8)	7-20	+	8-31
W- 94..	Gallopin' Gals (8)	10-26	+	11- 9
W- 93..	Homeless Flea, The (8)	10-12	⧺	12- 7
W-241..	Lonesome Stranger (9)	11-23	⧺	12- 7
W- 89..	Milky Way, The (8)	6-22	+	7- 6
W- 92..	Papa Gets the Bird (8)	9- 7	∓	9-28
W- 91..	Romeo in Rhythm (8)	8-10	±	9- 7
W- 88..	Tom Turkey (7)	6- 8		....

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY
Released Twice Weekly

OUR GANG COMEDIES

C-293..	Goin' Fishin' (10)	10-26	±	11- 9
C-291..	Good Bad Boys (11)	9- 7	+	9- 7
C-294..	Kiddie Kure (11)	11-23	+	12-28
C-292..	Waldo's Last Stand (11)	10- 5	∓	12- 7

PASSING PARADE
(New Series)

K-281..	American Spoken Here (Sepia) (10)	11-30	⧺	12- 7
K-126..	Baron and the Rose, The (11)	9- 7	⧺	9-28
K-128..	Dreams (10)	11-16	+	12-14
K-127..	Utopia of Death (10)	10-12	+	11- 9
K-124..	Way in the Wilderness, A (10) (Sepia)	6-22	+	7- 6

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

S-110..	Cat College (9) (Sepia)	6-29		....
S-113..	Football Thrills of 1939 (10)	9-21	⧺	9-28
S-112..	Please Answer (9)	8-24	⧺	9- 7
S-261..	◐Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9)	10-12	⧺	12- 7
S-262..	Wedding Bills (10)	11-30	⧺	12- 7
S-109..	What's Your I. Q.? No. 2 (9)	6-10	±	7- 6

SPECIAL

X-151..	◐◎Flag Speaks, The (19)	6-14	⧺	5- 4

Paramount

ANIMATED ANTICS

H0-4..	Bring Himself Back Alive (7)	12-20	∓	12-21
H0-1..	Dandy Lion, The (7)	9-20	±	10- 5
H0-3..	Mommy Loves Puppy (7)	11-29	+	12- 7
H0-2..	Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7)	10-25	±	11-23

BENCHLEY COMEDIES

S0- 1..	Trouble With Husbands (11)	11- 8	⧺	12- 7

COLOR CLASSICS
(In Technicolor)

C9-5..	Snubbed by a Snob (7)	7-19	+	8-31
C9-6..	You Can't Shoe a Horsefly (7)	8-23	+	8-24

COLOR CRUISES
(New Series in Cinecolor)

K9-7..	Pacific Paradise (10)	6-21		....

FASCINATING JOURNEYS
(Technicolor)

M0- 1..	◐River Thames—Yesterday (10)	11- 8	⧺	11-23

FLEISCHER CARTOONS

FF0-1..	Raggedy Ann (19)	12-20	⧺	12-21

GABBY CARTOONS

G0- 2..	Constable, The (7)	11-15	+	11-23
G0- 1..	King for a Day (7)	10-18	+	10-26

HEADLINER

A9- 9..	Blue Barron and His Orchestra (10)	5-31	+	6-22
A0- 3..	Johnny Messner and Orch. (11)	12-13	±	12-21
A0- 2..	Listen to Larry (10)	10-25	+	10-26
A0- 1..	◐Moments of Charm of 1941 (10)	9-13	⧺	10- 5
A9-10..	Pinky Tomlin and Orch. (11)	7-19	+	8-31

PARAMOUNT NEWS
Released Twice Weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

V9- 9..	Dangerous Dollars (11)	6-28		....
V0- 1..	Nature's Nursery (10)	10-11	∓	10-26
V9-10..	Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)	9- 9	±	8-24
V0- 2..	Seeing Is Believing (11)	11-22	+	12- 7

POPEYE CARTOONS

E9-10..	Doing Impossikible Stunts (7)	8- 2	+	8-17
E0- 4..	Eugene, the Jeep (7)	12-13	±	12- 7
E9- 9..	Fightin' Pals (8)	7-12	⧺	8-17
E8-11..	It's the Natural Thing to Do (7)	7-28	±	8-26
E0- 2..	My Pop, My Pop (7)	10-18	∓	10-26
E9- 8..	Nurse Mates (7)	6-21		....
E0- 1..	Popeye Meets William Tell (7)	9-20	⧺	10- 5
E9-12..	Puttin' on the Act (7)	8-30	+	8-24
E9-11..	Wimmin' Hadn't Oughta Drive (7)	8-16	+	8-24
E0- 3..	With Poopdeck Pappy (7)	11-15	o	12- 7

POPULAR SCIENCE
(In Cinecolor)

J9-6..	(11)	6-28		....
J0-1..	(11)	9- 6	+	10- 5
J0-2..	(10)	11- 1	+	12- 7
J0-3..	(10)	1- 3	+	12-21

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

R0- 1..	Diving Demons (10)	9- 6	⧺	10- 5
R0- 5..	Feminine Fitness (10)	1-10	+	12-21
R0- 4..	Marine Roundup (10)	12- 6	+	12- 7
R0- 3..	Motorcycle Stunting (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
R9-13..	Sink or Swim (10)	7-12		....
R0- 2..	Sporting Everglades, The (10)	10- 4	⧺	11- 9

STONE AGE CARTOONS

B9- 9..	Fulla Bluff Man, The (7)	8- 9	±	8 24
B9- 3..	Granite Hotel (7)	4-26	±	5-18
B9-11..	Pedagogical Institution (7)	9-13		....
B9-10..	Springtime in the Rockage (7)	8-30		....
B9- 6..	Ugly Dino, The (7)	6-14		....
B9- 8..	Way Back When a Razzberry Was a Fruit (7)	7-26	+	8-17
B9-12..	Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)	9-27		....

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS
(In Color)

L9-5..	No. 5 (10)	5-31	+	5-18
L9-6..	No. 6 (11)	8- 2	⧺	8-17
L0-1..	No. 1 (11)	9- 7	+	10- 5
L0-2..	No. 2 (11)	11-29	+	12- 7

Republic

MEET THE STARS

....	No. 1 (10)		+	12-28

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS
(In Technicolor)

....	Big Hearted Pluto (..)	1-24		....
04,107..	Bone Trouble (9)	6-28		....
04,109..	Donald's Vacation (8)	8- 9	⧺	8-10
04,114..	Fire Chief (..)	11-22	⧺	12-14
04,113..	Goofy's Glider (8)	11- 1	+	12-14
04,106..	Mr. Duck Steps Out (8)	6- 7		....
04,112..	Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8)	11- 1	+	11-23
....	Pantry Pirate (8)	12-27		....
04,110..	Pluto's Dream House (8)	8-30	+	9-21
04,108..	Put-Put Trouble (7)	7-19		....
04,111..	Window Cleaners (8)	9-20	⧺	10-26

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

13,401..	Sunk by the Census (18)	9- 6	±	9-21
04,402..	Trailer Tragedy (17)	10-18	+	11- 9

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

03,704..	Bested by a Beard (20)	7-26		....
13,701..	He Asked for It (18)	9-27	∓	9-21
13,702..	Tattle Talevision (19)	11-29		....

MARCH OF TIME

03,111..	No. 11 (18) The U. S. Navy.	6- 7	+	6-22
03,112..	No. 12 (17) Spoils of Conquest.	8- 2	+	8-10
03,113..	◐No. 13 (20) Gateways to Panama.	8-24	⧺	8-31
13,101..	No. 1 (19) On Foreign Newfronts.	9-13	⧺	9-21
13,102..	No. 2 (18) Britain's R. A. F.	10- 4	+	10-19
13,103..	No. 3 (19) Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.	10-25	±	10-26
13,104..	No. 4 (19) Arms and the men.	11-22	+	12- 7
13,105..	No. 5 (19) Labor and Defense.		+	12-28

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

04,211..	No. 11 (10)	6-14	±	6-15

: WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS :

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Movietone News, No. 31

Workers donate bomber to Britain; New York hospital houses refugee children; army ski troops practice in Minnesota; silver fox roundup in Michigan; sailors learn the conga; shoe fashions; Halifax succeeds Lothian; award navy cross to sailor; Gene Tunney in the naval reserve; Admiral Leahy sails for Vichy diplomatic post; bathing girls in Florida.

News of the Day, No. 229

Churchill in message to Italy; Eden named foreign secretary; Leahy sails for Vichy post; workers donate plane to England; Star Spangled Ball in New York; hair fashions; opening of Tropical Park.

Paramount News, No. 34

Display anti-bomb device; playwright speaks at French rally; army hostesses; Father Flanagan at boys' club dinner; Princess Juliana ends visit here; electoral college casts official ballot; Willkie in New York; launch new liner for South America trade; foreign diplomats' children in Washington; football executives draft college stars; football.

RKO Pathe News, No. 34

Children of diplomats in Washington; Leahy sails for Vichy; girls attend gamour school; refugees arrive; Tropical Park opens; air students graduate.

Universal Newsreel, No. 939

Graduates at Kelly Field; donate bomber to England; test glass-winged plane; anti-bomb device; Greeks parade in Chicago; fur-lined troops in Pacific Northwest; shoe fashions; opening of Tropical Park; international Christmas party in Washington.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Movietone News, No. 32

Highlights of 1940 events.

News of the Day, No. 230

A fateful year. Highlights from the year's news.

Paramount News, No. 35

Norway's crown prince arrives here for holiday visit with family; refugees arrive; Leahy sails for Vichy; Connie Mack observes birthday; plane factory employes donate plane to Britain; football highlights of the year.

RKO Pathe News, No. 35

Highlights from the sporting news of the year.

Universal Newsreel, No. 940

Big News of 1940: The war in Europe and Africa; the defense program; the third term; collapse of Tacoma bridge.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
04,212	◎No. 12 (12)	7-12	++	7-13
04,213	No. 13 (11)	8- 9	+	8-10
14,201	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204	No. 4 (11)	11-29		....
	PATHE NEWS (Released Twice Weekly)			
	RADIO FLASH COMEDIES			
03,205	Goodness, a Ghost (16)	7- 5		....
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
04,312	Arrow Points (8)	7- 5	±	9-21
04,311	◎Hurdle Hoppers (9)	6- 7		....
14,302	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,301	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,304	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	++	12-14
14,303	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
04,611	Streamlined (9)	6-21		....
04,313	Trouble Shooter (9)	8- 2	+	9-21
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404	No. 4 (10)		+	12-14
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)			
13,501	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
03,504	Corralling Schoolmarm (2[illegible])	6-14	+	8-10
	REELISMS (New Series)			
04,613	Hats (9)	8-16		....
04,611	Streamlined (9)	8-10	∓	8-10
04,612	Week End (9)	7-19		....

20th Century-Fox

	ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN			
0201	Conquering the Colorado (11)	8-18	++	8-19
1201	◎Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	++	10-19
0204	Sanctuary of the Seals (9)	6- 7	+	6-22
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	++	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
0306	Action on Ice (9)	7-19		....
1303	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1301	◎Vacation Time in Florida (8)	8-10	±	8-17
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1101	Eskimo Trails (10)	8- 2	+	8-17
1103	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		....
	FASHIONS (In Technicolor)			
0603	Fashion Forecasts No. 7 (8)	6-21		....
0604	Fashion Forecasts No. 8 (8)	6-21		....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE			
0404	Cheerio My Dears (9)	7- 5		....
1401	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402	Tale of Butch the Parrot, The (..)	12- 6		....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102	◎Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
	TERRY-TOONS			
1551	◎Billy Mouse's Akwakade (7)	8- 9	∓	8-17
0559	Catnip Capers (7)	5-31	++	6-22
1501	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		....
1503	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		....
1553	How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554	Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
0517	Love in a Cottage (7)	7-28		....
1552	Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		....
1504	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12 7
1555	◎Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
0514	Professor Offkeyski (7)	6-14	+	6- 8
0515	Rover's Rescue (7)	6-28		....
0516	Rupert the Runt (7)	7-12		....
1505	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		....
1556	◎Temperamental Lion, The (7)	12-27		....
1502	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19

Universal

	LANTZ CARTUNES (Technicolor)			
5241	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		....
5243	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5242	◎Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	++	11- 9
5244	Syncopated Sioux (..)	12-30		....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
4363	No. 78 (9)	6-17		....
4364	No. 79 (9)	7-18	+	8- 3
4365	No. 80 (9½)	8-12		..
5351	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352	No. 82 (9)	10-14		....
5353	No. 83 (9)	11-11		....
5354	No. 84 (9)	12-23		....
5355	No. 85 (9)	1-20		....
5356	No. 86 (9)	2-19		....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 3
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
4383	No. 78 (9)	6-10	+	6-22
4384	No. 79 (9)	7- 8	+	7-27
4385	No. 80 (9)	8- 5	+	7-27
5371	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		....
5373	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		....
5374	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		....
5375	No. 85 (9)	1- 1		....
5376	No. 86 (9)	2- 5		....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
5225	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (..) The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.	1-22		....
5221	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		....
5223	Congamania (17) Jose Cansino Dancers, Eddie Durant & Orch.	10-16	±	12- 7
4231	Hawaiian Rhythm (17) Harry Owens and His Royal Hawaiians.	7-17	+	7-27
4233	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		....
4230	Naughty Nineties (18)	6-17	++	7- 6
5224	Tickled Pinky (..) Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.	12-25		....
5223	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
4232	Varsity Vanities (17½) Six Hits and a Miss, Martha Tilton.	8- 7	+	8- 3
	UNIVERSAL NEWS Released Twice Weekly			

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	BROADWAY BREVITIES			
6202	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6202	Ed Sullivan's Hollywood (20)	11-16		....
6201	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		....
4008	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		....
5109	◎Spills for Thrills (19)	6-15	++	8- 3
5110	Young America Flies (20)	8- 3		....
	THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)			
5410	Famous Movie Dogs (10)	7-27	+	8-17
5408	Mechanix Illustrated No. 4 (10)	6-29	+	6-15
5410	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		....
5409	Valley, The (8)	7-20	+	7- 6
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6101	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6301	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6303	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		....
5614	Chewin' Bruin, The (7)	6- 8	±	6-22
5616	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	++	8-24
5615	Porky's Baseball Broadcast (7)	7- 6	++	7- 6
6604	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6602	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		....
6605	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		....
5613	You Ought to Be in Pictures (7)	5-18	+	5-18
	MELODY MASTERS			
6503	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	11-23		....
6502	Joe Reichman & Orch. (10)	10-26		....
6501	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	++	8-24
5509	Ozzie Nelson & Orch. (10)	6-29	++	7- 6
	Skinnay Ennis & Orch (10)		+	12-28
5510	Woody Herman & Orch. (10)	7-27		....
	MERRIE MELODIES (In Technicolor)			
6706	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		....
5326	Ceiling Hero (7)	7- 6		....
5321	Circus Today (7)	6-22	+	7- 6
	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)		o	12-28
5323	Egg Collector (7)	7-20		....
5325	Ghost Wanted (7)	8-10		....
6104	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		....
6703	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11 9
5322	Little Blabbermouse (7)	7- 6	++	8-17
6701	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		....
6708	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6702	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
5320	Tom Thumb in Trouble (7)	6- 8	±	6-15
6705	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
5324	Wild Hare, A (7)	7-27		....
	SPORTS PARADE (Color)			
	California Thoroughbreds (10)		±	12-28
6403	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6401	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
5006	Cinderella's Feller (20)	6- 1	+	6-15
6001	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002	March on Marines (20)	12-14	++	12-28
5007	Pony Express Days (20)	7-13	+	7- 6
5008	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		....

Serials

	COLUMBIA			
1180	Deadwood Dick 15 Chapters. Don Douglas, Lorna Gray.	7-19	∓	7-27
1120	Green Archer, The 15 Chapters. Victor Jory,	10-25	∓	11- 9
	REPUBLIC			
973	Adventures of Red Ryder. Don "Red" Barry.	6-15	+	6- 8
081	King of the Royal Mounted 12 Chapters. Allan Lane.	9-20	++	8-24
082	Mysterious Doctor Satan 15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.	12-13	+	11-23
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	Green Hornet Strikes Again 15 Chapters. Warren Hull.	12-24	+	11- 9
5681	Junior G-Men 12 Chapters. Dead End Kids, Little Tough Guys.	9- 1	+	8- 3
5881	Sky Raiders 12 Chapters.	4- 8		....
5581	Winners of the West 13 Chapters. Dick Foran, Anne Nagel.	7- 2	∓	5 11

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TWO SIMPLEX MECHANISMS. Double bearing, rear shutter, rebuilt. B-1304, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

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THE TWO EXCLUSIVE THEATRES at Onawa, Iowa, county seat, in richest cornbelt of the nation. Population nearly 3,500. Included are one new building, one extended lease, all excellent equipment. No better proposition anywhere. Priced to sell. $20,000.00 cash required, balance easy terms. Good reason for selling. E. A. Harms, 2964 Harris, Omaha, Nebraska.

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Whatever you want — it will pay you to advertise your needs in

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• ***Dress up... look well... change your act!*** That's the watchword of this streamlined age... the watchword of modern merchandising... one of the most important avenues to increased business... Show Business too...

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• Use it... take advantage of our experienced, expert organization to sell seats for your theatre and your show.

NATIONAL Screen SERVICE • NATIONAL Screen ACCESSORIES
ADVERTISING ACCESSORIES, INC.

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

JANUARY 11, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION



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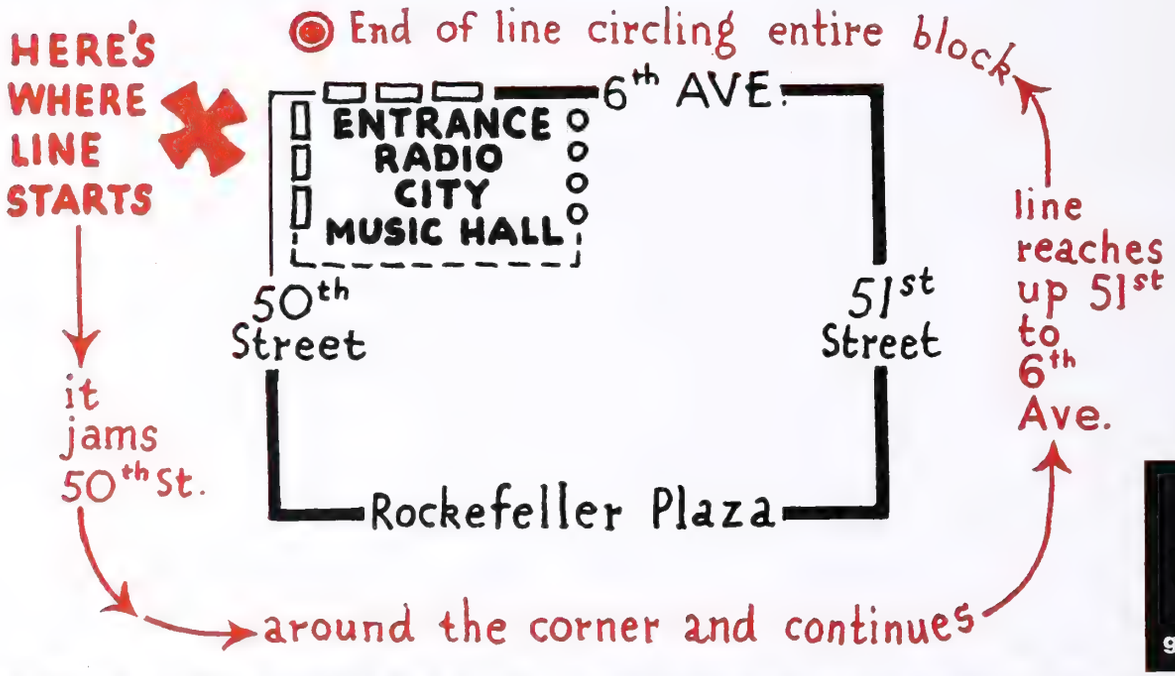
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Radio City Music Hall Sets New Record!

"PHILADELPHIA STORY" LINES REACH COMPLETELY AROUND CITY BLOCK!

Sensational M-G-M hit creates unique street spectacle!



3d WEEK! and still going strong!





Inner lobby packed! Outside line starts here and waits patiently four abreast on East 50th Street.





Turning the corner at Rockefeller Plaza and continuing around on West 51st Street.





This is West 51st Street approaching 6th Avenue where circle is completed first time in history.

BOXOFFICE *The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

Signs Along the Way

TAKE a brief stroll with us behind the scenes. We hope it will be of interest. We know it ought to be.

Here we were the other day, feet on desk, giving that favorite spot on the office ceiling another steady and unblinking stare. Ideas, some good and some—let's skip it—have come out of these goings on in the past. The theory, of course, is the harder the concentration the better the ultimate idea. And, while there is nothing written in law or legend that this always works out, frequently it has.

Anyway, here we were belatedly and slowly recouping from a New Year's Eve party, wondering and pondering somewhat over the kind of a year this will turn out to be in terms of attractions, grosses and the like. It occurred to us, as it has often in the past, that this business, strangely and forever trying to set itself apart from all others, continues to construct its present and its future along lines most pleasant to itself but with little or no regard to trends and drifts milling and swirling on the outside. It is an effort let loose very definitely on the impossible side.

The Search for Facts

FOR instance. There have been times in past years when general business was off, unemployment staggeringly higher, money tight. Other industries sought to do something about all of these factors, but not this one. Budgets stayed immutably fixed, salaries kept on skimming along the clouds and the only things which did not meet were income and outgo.

Because it has been your observer's opinion, and incidentally another of his unshakeable ones, that the picture business inevitably must reflect what goes on around the country, he directed a series of questions to Washington.

BOXOFFICE's news bureau there was asked, calmly and painstakingly and without any enthusiasms unwarranted by the facts, to comb the situation. Labor indices, national defense, a rise or a fall in the national income—what about these factors? What, exactly, is the available information and what, reasonably enough, might they mean to the men of this industry?

In this issue, you will find the answer, probably as closely as anyone can fairly reason the future. It is an interesting answer and one that ought to rekindle business hopes in a lot of hearts and minds across the nation.

For example, the conclusion is that theatre business generally will be better in 1941, the upsurge asserting itself as soon as the effects of the $5,000,000,000 expected to be actually spent on national defense this fiscal year—it ends June 30—begin to make themselves evident.

"Every section of the country will share in the beneficial results of increased national income which ran around $74,000,000,000 for 1940, is currently at $76,000,000,000 and may reach as much as $80,000,000,000 for 1941," part of the Washington report goes.

The Wheels Turn

THE ARMY uses 45,000 different items, the navy 28,000 and all of them have to be manufactured by someone somewhere in the land. Railroad freight traffic, an infallible marker, is up seven per cent over last year and is expected to increase seven to ten per cent in 1941. This, naturally, means goods of all kinds are being made and on the move.

It means more men and women are returning to work, getting pay envelopes where they have not been getting them before or getting them more regularly than before.

It means the rank and file, which are the sinews of the country, will be seeking entertainment. Not necessarily film entertainment, but all forms of entertainment and that, in their search, there is all reasonable expectancy this industry will get its proportionate share.

How much of a share? That, as usual, depends firstly on the product they are asked to patronize. But also it depends on efficient theatre operation attuned, as it always should be, to the best in service and in comforts.

If the public gets a big admission's worth, the climax of this tale will write itself. It will need no embroidery rolling out of this typewriter.

Kann

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January 11, 1941
Volume 38 - Number 8

$5,000,000,000 FOR DEFENSE SEEN AS SURE-FIRE 1941 HYPO

All Areas Expected to Share; Unemployment Forecast Is Puzzler

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—Despite conflicting views as to the actual unemployment situation throughout the country at the present time, one fact stands forth clearly—exhibitors, who in 1940 did a better business than in 1939, will do a still better business in 1941. This is the Washington view.

With federal appropriations for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30 next, at the all-time high peace level of some $17,842,000,000, of which $8,800,000,000 was for national defense although actual expenditures probably will not exceed $5,000,000,000, and with probably as much or more to be appropriated for the coming fiscal year, with defense expenditures placed at around $10,000,000,000, the conclusion is inescapable.

Every section of the country will share in the beneficial results of increased national income, which ran around $74,000,000,000 for 1940, is currently at $76,000,000,000 and may reach as much as $80,000,000,000 for 1941.

The amusement business has been on the up-grade for many months, as is demonstrated by the steadily increasing admission tax collections, even with generous allowances for the results of the reduction of the exemption which became effective last July 1.

This improvement has been a reflection of the impetus given by the defense program, even in its early stage of tooling up for the heavy production which will get under way within the next few months.

The defense program has meant increased employment. Initially spotty and confined to a relatively few centers, such as those of machine tool production, airplane manufacture and the like, the increased employment is spreading rapidly as the machines and tools are distributed among the thousands of factories which are preparing to produce military equipment for the government.

Army orders for 7,000,000 pairs of shoes, millions of uniforms and overcoats, underwear, rifles, machine guns, tremendous quantities of food; the construction of many large cantonments; orders for ships—and the army uses some 45,000 different items and the navy 28,000—are making the wheels of industry hum and giving new heart to agriculture. Railroad freight traffic is seven per cent above last year and due to increase seven to 10 per cent more during 1941.

All this means more jobs, but there is a decided difference of opinion as to the extent of the re-employment to be given by defense activity. Originally, government economists figured 6,000,000 men and women would be put back to work by next summer, but they have scaled their forecast downward. Labor organizations calculate 3,000,000 will be a generous figure.

CIO View Dark

Just what the employment situation is today will not be known until around the end of next month. Latest available figures show conditions in November and there is some controversy as to what they will be in January, federal agencies believing there will be further improvement while the CIO forecasts that unemployment will be as great as in last July because of the idleness of agricultural workers.

However, for what they may be worth, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins reported on December 27 that total non-agricultural employment in November was 36,535,000, more than 1,100,000 greater than in November, 1939, and 40,000 more than in the preceding month.

On January 2 the National Conference Board figured November employment in both agriculture and industry at 48,132,000, an increase of 1,816,000 over the same year before.

But the board figured, too, that in November total unemployment increased by 573,000 over the previous month to 7,217,000, due to a drop of 805,000 persons in agricultural employment, but the total was 1,120,000 less than in November, 1939.

The most important feature of the figures of both organizations was the fact that industrial employment increased in a month when normally it shows a seasonal decline.

Geographically, the gain in employment during the year ended with November was spread over the entire country, but the degree of expansion was dependent in each area on the type of activity predominating.

The largest increases were six per cent in the east north central and 5.1 per cent in the Pacific areas, where the manufacturing industries and building construction accounted for most of the gains. Slightly smaller increases occurred in the South Atlantic (4.9 per cent) and New England (3.9 per cent) regions, the result of higher levels of employment in manufacturing, construction and government. The east south central area showed an increase of 3.4 per cent, due mainly to increased activity in manufacturing and building construction, while gains of between two and three per cent were registered in the other regions.

While the initial impetus toward economic improvement is given by our own defense program and the British war orders, the effects will be cumulative as the workers in the armanent industries demand new suits and shoes and shirts and a multitude of other things. That demand will give employment to workers in civilian industries, whose own increased buying

(Continued on page 8)

This Is How Scene Looks Right Now

Washington—Summary of the national business situation, as seen by Earle A. Dyer, head of the Washington bureau of BOXOFFICE:

"For the moment, the economic picture is rosy. True, there are disagreeable omens in the tea leaves—portents of increased taxes, restrictions of non-essential production and the ominous question of our future after the liquidation of the preparedness effort.

"But the country lived through the 'Terrible Thirties;' it will meet new problems as they come. And the signs now all point to a healthy progress, locally and nationally, through the coming year."

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is 100 per cent.*

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR—
- Denver (dual, 2nd wk) 230
- New Haven (dual) 230
- Los Angeles 200
- Kansas City 200
- Indianapolis (dual) 200
- New York (2nd wk) 175
- Omaha (dual) 175

KITTY FOYLE—
- Washington 200
- Chicago (dual) 200
- Omaha (dual) 200

PHILADELPHIA STORY—
- Los Angeles 200
  (Featured at three theatres; two rang up 200 averages, the other 175).
- New York 180

THIEF OF BAGDAD—
- Detroit 200
- Boston (dual) 180

MANNERHEIM LINE—
- Chicago (4th wk) 200

"Time for Action"-Schenck

New York—"How do you regard business prospects for the industry in 1941," BOXOFFICE asked Nicholas M. Schenck.

The president of Loew's, who makes infrequent statements but makes them to the point when he does, replied in 18 words. Here they are:

"Nobody can make a forecast of the future. This is a time for action and not for words."

ADMITS SMOOTH DECREE ERA IS MONTHS, MAYBE YEARS, AWAY

Budgeteers Get Busy

New York — The AAA budget committee, comprising P. M. Haight, representing the AAA; Van Vechten Veeder, chairman of the appeals board, representing the court, and Joseph H. Hazen of Warner Bros., representing the industry, met Wednesday for the first time to allocate expenditures and allowances for arbitration tribunals under the decree. Because of illness, Haight, however, has resigned from the committee. Paul M. Warburg replaces him.

The principal topic was how the "Big Five" should contribute at this time toward the total of $490,000 for the first year. It was stated, following the meeting, the contributions will not be made in one lump sum, but probably quarterly payments.

AAA to List Clerks, Arbiters Soon Now

NEW YORK—The American Arbitration Ass'n in a few days will list local addresses of the 31 film tribunals expected to be in operation February 1, as well as the names of clerks selected and arbitrators who will make up local panels. This was decided upon the return over the weekend of J. Noble Braden, executive director, from a trip that took him through a number of southern cities.

Meanwhile, and in readiness for the opening gun, the AAA has appointed Elbert Morse Wood as comptroller and the firm of Kurz and Kurz as auditors of the arbitration system. Wood is a member of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, the National Association of Cost Accountants and a charter member of the Accountant's Club of America. He spent four years in the near east as district auditor for the insular government of the Philippine Islands. During the war Wood was called to Washington to assist in the formation of an accounting system for the American Red Cross.

Invite Theatre Partners To Para't Decree Talks

NEW YORK—Paramount's theatre affiliates will be invited to attend meetings being held at the distributor's exchanges where Austin C. Keough, general counsel, and Louis Phillips, his assistant, explain legal angles of the decree.

The first meeting was held January 3 at the New York exchange with Barney Balaban, president; Leon Netter, circuit executive, and Robert M. Weitman, managing director for the Paramount, in attendance with other home office executives.

About 50 exchange and home office representatives were present at the local meeting held in the projection room. J. J. Unger, eastern division head, was not there. He was in Boston at the time. Keough, Phillips and Irving Cohen of the home office legal department were on hand.

"Drive-In" Hearing Feb. 3

BOSTON—The Miami Drive-In anti-trust action against the majors goes before Special Master Arthur Black here February 3.

"Little 3" Motions to Be Heard Jan. 30

NEW YORK—Applications of Columbia to dismiss and of UA and Universal to force the government to amend its new complaint against them has been set for a hearing before Trial Judge Henry Warren Goddard in the federal court for January 30. Applications were due to be heard earlier in the month, but Edward C. Raftery, attorney for UA and Universal, had to go to California, while Louis Frohlich, attorney for Columbia, was up to his neck in the Ascap situation.

Numerous reasons are submitted for the relief sought, the most important of these being that in its new action the government has included all the charges of the old suit, including as defendants the five producer-exhibitors who signed the decree. In order to simplify the charges, the court is asked to strike out all allegations referring to the producer-exhibitors. Columbia's plea also mentions the necessity by virtue of the terms of the decree of the government securing a court ruling against the non-theatre owning defendants by June 1, 1942, which places these three companies in the guise of "guinea pigs."

Rites for Cowdin's Father

NEW YORK—Funeral services were held Thursday for John Elliott Cowdin, retired silk merchant and father of J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board of Universal. He was 83 and had been ill for some time.

5 Grapes in Bunch, Is Zanuck's View

New York—"What do you expect to happen at the studios under the decree?" a BOXOFFICE reporter asked Darryl F. Zanuck who had just accepted the New York Film Critics' award for "The Grapes of Wrath" as the best film of last year.

"I'm not sure," he replied, "but all five in each group probably will have to be as good as 'The Grapes of Wrath'."

In his broadcast acceptance, Zanuck said the film was 20th-Fox's most successful commercially last year.

Justice Dept., Though, Expects Industry to Iron Kinks Slowly

WASHINGTON—Many months, perhaps several years, will be required for all branches of the industry to reach smooth operation under the consent decree if it lasts that long, it is admitted by officials of the department of justice. But, they believe, the industry quickly will reach a point of equilibrium and that such kinks as are bound to occur will be ironed out gradually and, it is hoped, amicably.

In informed circles, reports that a decade or more will be required to get the decree working smoothly are not taken seriously. Instead, it is believed that, if the decree doesn't show results within a very limited time, it either will be quickly amended or a stiff fight made for congressional action defining finally and exactly how the industry shall operate.

Any deficiencies in the setup ordered by the decree, it is expected, will make themselves apparent within a year. If serious, they may be made the subject of further court action to correct them.

Department officials declined to speculate how long it would take to get the decree working properly. But they indicated very clearly they could not see a decade of controversy ahead over its provisions, although they predicted there will be controversies in the industry so long as it exists, just as there are in all large industries.

In an address before a group of Florida exhibitors at Miami a few days ago E. L. Kuykendall, MPTOA president, declared Thurman Arnold, assistant attorney general, had told him it will take 12 years before the decree will function properly.

Indirect Arnold Plea For More Appropriations

WASHINGTON—An indirect plea for increased appropriations is carried to the new Congress in the annual report of Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, in charge of the anti-trust division of the department of justice.

Pointing out that for many years only small funds were provided for anti-trust law enforcement, Arnold reports that "the funds now available, while neither adequate nor ample, are no longer insignificant and the consequent vigor and scope of the enforcement program has revealed for the first time the utility of the anti-trust laws.

"The lesson learned in recent years is that when the anti-trust laws are actively enforced they become an efficient weapon, usable on a broad front, in the battle to save the free competitive system from self-destruction," he says.

In the anti-trust drive now under way,

(Continued on page 16)

"NIGHT TRAIN" IS A SLEEPER!

Chosen One Of The Best 10 Pictures Of The Year By N.Y. World-Telegram, Herald-Tribune, Journal-American!

"Must be ranked among the year's best pictures!"
—Kate Cameron, N.Y. Daily News

"The picture isn't a sleeper. It's a solid train-load of sleepers!"
—Lee Mortimer, N.Y. Daily Mirror

MARGARET LOCKWOOD and REX HARRISON in "NIGHT TRAIN"
with
PAUL VON HERNREID

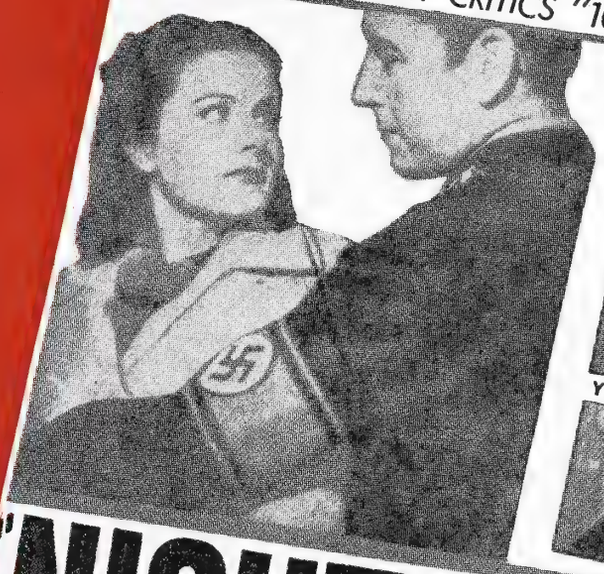
MAURICE OSTRER, In Charge of Production • Produced by EDWARD BLACK • Directed by CAROL REED • Based on an original story by Gordon Wellesley • Screen Play by Sydney Gilliat and Frank Launder • A 20th Century Production made at the G. B. Studios, London

NOW BREAKING RECORDS AT THE GLOBE ON B'WAY!

...AND THESE ARE THE THEATRE ADS THAT DID IT!

STARTS TODAY 1st N. Y. SHOWING

THIS PICTURE IS SO EXCEPTIONAL WE PREDICT YOU'LL FIND IT ON EVERY CRITICS "10 BEST PICTURES" LIST!





BETTER THAN "LADY VANISHES"



YEAR'S BEST THRILL



"NIGHT TRA

with MARGARET LOCKWOOD • REX HAR

GLOBE B'WAY 46 ST.

A LETTER TO A GREAT MOVIE STAR

MARGARET LOCKWOOD



Dear Miss Lockwood:

Thanks for your letter. I think it is the first time I ever received a letter marked "opened by the censors." Strange — a letter from a movie star, not from the centre of wood, but from the war, London. Boy!—that part where you wrote "Lon- thoroughly being

CHOSEN ONE OF THE 10 BEST PICTURES OF THE YEAR BY WORLD-TELEGRAM—HERALD TRIBUNE—JOURNAL AMERICAN

"NIGHT TRAIN"

with MARGARET LOCKWOOD REX HARRISON

1st N.Y. SHOWING

GLOBE B'WAY 46 ST.



"MUST BE RANKED AMONG THE YEAR'S BEST PICTURES" KATE CAMERON DAILY NEWS

MADE FOR THRILLS

CONTINUOUS TODAY UNTIL 4 A.M.

"NIGHT TRAIN"

with MARGARET LOCKWOOD REX HARRISON

1st N.Y. SHOWING

GLOBE B'WAY 46 ST.



This Picture Is So Exceptional We Predict You'll Find It On Every Critic's "10 Best Pictures" List!

S OPEN 8:15 A.M. NTINUOUS ORMANCES FIVE A.M.

Please be... cere when I say that I ... even better than "Arise, My Love" or "Escape"—and they were two grand pictures

So far, we've had exactly eleven previews of "Night Train" in private... rooms...

Will be on every critic's "10 BEST" list

"NIGHT TRAIN"

D-E-F-I-N-I-T-E-L-Y • GLOBE B'WAY 46 ST. • SATURDAY



...most deter- ...that the only thing ...be to show "Night ...at the Globe tw... ...reserved seat... ...his argu... ...s report... ...not o...

MADE FOR THRILLS

"NIGHT TRAIN"

D-E-F-I-N-I-T-E-L-Y • GLOBE B'way 46 St • SATURDAY

...people as ...the picture at

THIS PICTURE IS SO EXCEPTIONAL, WE PREDICT YOU'LL FIND IT ON EVERY CRITIC'S "10 BEST PICTURES" LIST

"NIGHT TRAIN"

D-E-F-I-N-I-T-E-L-Y STARTS SATURDAY AT GLOBE THEATRE

I read in the newspapers ... few days ago that a Nazi ... narrowly missed hit- ... you. Thank God for ... safety. At this time it ... sincere wish that you ... happy and safe new ... and may it be a vic- ... one. You'll hear ... again, immediately ... Train" opens at ... Saturday.

Kindest regards,

Louis Brandt

MATS OF THESE ADS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL 20TH CENTURY-FOX EXCHANGE!

20th CENTURY FOX

Sees Challenge in 1941 And Need to Re-Valuate

By MURRAY SILVERSTONE

Chief of World-Wide Operations, United Artists

NEW YORK—The year will bring to the industry the sharpest challenge in its entire history. The structure that our industry has built, predicated on the increasing popularity of American motion pictures in other countries, must be re-examined and re-evaluated. Over a period of 30 or more years our films have found an increasingly large audience throughout the world. But in this past year alone, many doors leading to this market have been closed.



We have a great industry. We have the best manpower that any industry can have. We have the ability, the materials, the spirit and the imagination to make the finest pictures Hollywood has ever produced.

The challenge that the new year brings will be the challenge to utilize that manpower, those materials, that spirit and that imagination to the end that Americans will flock to motion picture theatres in ever greater numbers.

If we meet this challenge, the doors that have been closed to us in other parts of the world will not constitute a too serious threat.

Northwest 1940 Income Highest in 11 Years

MINNEAPOLIS—The film industry here is much encouraged by figures just published by the Greater North Dakota Ass'n, in its annual report, showing that North Dakota's agricultural income for 1940 aggregating $235,000,000, was the highest in 11 years.

Defense Fund Deemed Surefire '41 Hypo

(Continued from page 4)

power will lead to further demand and further employment.

With new jobs and new money, this increasing host of workers is expected to look for recreation in picture theatres, among other places, and so exhibitors seem destined to come in for their share of the broadened national income.

In the agricultural areas where there is little or no manufacturing, improved farm income will be the basis for increased spending. The 1940 farm return was materially greater than that of 1939; the 1941 will show another increase despite the loss of many important foreign markets for cotton, tobacco and other staple products.

General Improvement

But not every exhibitor in every locality will benefit equally by the improved conditions which are developing. The extent of the individual's benefit will depend upon a number of factors—volume of employment, wage levels, living costs—in his immediate locality. No picture can be drawn and no chart drafted, only the general conclusion can be reached that the theatre business as a whole will be better this year than last.

Theatre attendance, in most areas, is better than it was a year ago. But how rapidly further improvement will develop will depend upon the speed with which defense contracts get under operation. In general, full development will be slower in the interior of the country than along the seaboard.

This is due to the fact that, for the most part, industrial activity prior to the defense program was concentrated largely along the coasts and at a few strategic inland points. Large defense contracts are to be produced in the interior, however, but in many cases it was necessary for the government to have special plants built. These plants are now going up, some of them nearing completion.

Big Plants for Midwest

The procurement plans of the government call for the decentralization of defense production, with many establishments located at interior points which will be safe from air raids in the event of an emergency. The result will be that in the near future there will be large industries in communities not now known as industrial centers.

The isolationist midwest, where 1,500 miles of land and 3,000 miles of water have been considered an adequate protection against war coming to its doors will be given many important military orders as part of the administration's program to make America defense conscious, a project long known and enthusiastically aided by exhibitors. The Northwest will get new plants, as will the south.

Meanwhile, because they had facilities available, the established industrial centers are producing the bulk of the immediate needs of the army and navy. It is in those areas, as shown by the labor department figures, that the greatest increases in employment have occurred.

Flashes From the News Front

Sustains Ascap Tax

MILWAUKEE—The 1935 state statute requiring licenses for music brokers and payment of a 25 per cent franchise tax was sustained here in a federal court ruling in the case of Leo Feist, Inc., vs. Wiley Young, a West Allis tavern keeper.

Settle Copyright Suit

CHARLOTTE—The case of LeGette Blythe against M-G-M on charges of infringement of "Marshal Ney: A Dual Life" in the production of the featurette, "The Bravest of the Brave," has been settled by stipulation in federal court here.

Airs Paramount Setup

BOSTON—George Ryan, plaintiff attorney, attempted to point up Paramount's "wide influence" in New England's exhibition field in testimony during the trial here of the Waldo Theatre vs. the late Joseph Dondis and major interests. The company's corporative setup was aired at length.

Would Legalize Beano

SPRINGFIELD—Legalization of Beano and other forms of cash games is proposed in a bill introduced in the Massachusetts legislature. Beano games are making inroads on theatre grosses over the state.

Heads Boston Club

BOSTON—Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres partner, has been named chief barker of the Variety Club.

Honor O'Donnell

DALLAS—Nearly 600 industry members and their wives turned out for the Variety Club luncheon here to R. J. O'Donnell, Interstate Circuit general manager, to signal his retirement as chief barker after five continuous terms in that post. He is succeeded by Paul Short.

PCCITO Meeting Jan. 13

PORTLAND—Albert J. Law, general counsel of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, will attend the first meeting since his appointment when the trustees confer here January 13.

Out of Crescent Suit

NASHVILLE—Dismissal of the Crescent Amusement Co. suit as it applies to the five distributors party to the consent decree has been formalized in federal court.

Ohio Tax Need Seen Less

COLUMBUS—Increased tax collections and reduced relief costs in estimates for 1941 as compared to 1940 are raising hopes that the legislature will not boost the present three per cent tax on admissions.

Would Repeal Colorado Tax

DENVER—A bill has been introduced in the legislature to repeal the Colorado service tax of two per cent on tickets over five cents.

New England Is on Definite Upgrade

BOSTON—Theatre business in New England is definitely on the up-grade, industry observers state. Marked increases, moveover, are expected to follow during the succeeding months of this year. The current business boom, which has already shot industry here 10 per cent above normal, is concretely tied in with the film spurt.

The film industry increase, however, is marked with certain definite characteristics. Patronage in many localities is being held back, it is felt, because the local citizenry is still trying to pay up deficits incurred during bleak years. Another extreme, that of potential patrons being too taxed by over time work to find time for movie relaxation, has arisen.

There is also a psychological angle, it is felt. Many potential moviegoers have been deprived of the chance so long to rub two coins together that their new found prosperity has incited temporary hoarding motives.

It is felt, and special holiday shows bore it out, that lower price houses including the numerous neighborhoods, will be skipped by the newly prosperous. The New Year midnight shows, in particular, found neighborhood houses deserted while de luxers, even though running at increased prices, had to turn them away. Swelled pocketbooks are in many cases making for fancier tastes.

Zanuck Is Brimful of Optimism for 1941

NEW YORK—Darryl F. Zanuck is brimful of optimism for 1941, he declared during a brief stay here. The 20th Century-Fox producer came to New York from the coast to accept the New York Film Critics' award of the best film of 1940 on behalf of "The Grapes of Wrath."

Zanuck attributes a business rise to a number of reasons. He feels the decree will make for better, although perhaps fewer, pictures and that the defense program will step up industry generally. "The first money a man gets he uses to pay his debts. The second is spent in stores. The third is used in luxuries and, although films come in this last class, because of their universal appeal picture people will benefit by more spending in this third group than ever before," he observed.

The producer spent Monday in Washington, then flew west.

O'Shea on First Tour As Division Manager

NEW YORK—E. K. "Ted" O'Shea, newly appointed central division manager for M-G-M, is on the first wing of exchanges under his new jurisdiction. He left late in the week for Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Memphis and Oklahoma City and plans to be back in two weeks when he will move into his new headquarters at the home office.

Omaha Territory Bullish, But Fingers Are Crossed

OMAHA—Exhibitors in this exchange area—Nebraska, western Iowa and southern South Dakota—expect improved business conditions during 1941, except in spots. But most of them have their fingers crossed until the increased grosses get here.

Indications point to a definite upswing in the metropolitan areas. However, the rural sections may not feel the effects of the upturn until later months. Exhibitors plan to play their cards close to the vest until they see what happens, what with the consent decree, competition and a few other uncertain elements in sight.

Omaha has been definitely selected as site for a $10,000,000 bomber plant to be constructed about 10 miles south. This plant may employ 25,000, and construction is expected to start in February. This situation definitely will mean increased grosses for Omaha theatres, as well as the smaller houses in towns within a radius of 25 miles.

Exhibitors are not sure just what effect national defense will have on the smaller theatres in Nebraska and Iowa towns and smaller communities. Possibly the upswing will catch on there, too.

The last part of 1940 was decidedly downward in trend, hitting a low prior to Christmas, according to circuits and independents alike, in both metropolitan and rural areas. Since then and starting in 1941, things have been brighter.

Business in the Nebraska-Iowa area will be no different in 1941 than in 1940 and the prior eight years unless the national defense boom helps. Theatres depend on the agricultural situation, usually, and outlook along this line is only fair.

Exhibitors that are not directly affected by national defense construction hope the national upward trend of business helps them.

Seventy Held Over

PITTSBURGH—Seventy features were held for extra playing time here during the past year. Seventeen Metro pictures garnered a total of 49 weeks.

What the Studios Are Doing

Goldstone Asks $1,500,000 For "Damaged Goods" Ban

HOLLYWOOD—If Hollywood's independent production gentry has its way, the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America is apparently destined to be the vortex of the next flood of litigation and dissension which seemingly must continue to be a standard prop on the industry scene.

Two broadsides were aimed at the Hays organization, one openly and in the courts of California, the other a subterranean grumbling campaign . . . Criterion Pictures, independent unit, and its head, Phil Goldstone, have filed a $1,500,000 damage suit in U. S. district court here against the MPPDA charging it, Will Hays, Joseph Breen and other members of the organization with violating the Sherman and Clayton anti-trust laws. Specifically, plaintiffs assert the MPPDA's production code administration refused a purity seal for Criterion's "Damaged Goods," feature dealing with syphilis, but later gave a seal to Warner's "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," treating of the same disease. The charge adds that the MPPDA controls almost all first-run theatres and excludes all independent producers from the first-run market.

Code Seal Fee Boost Irks Independents

The underground complaint, which may flare into a united movement in protest, came into being when a little-publicized MPPDA manifesto declared that, effective January 1, production code service fees on pictures with a negative cost of $100,000 or less would be raised to $100 from the previous $50 to $25. Independents contend the 300 per cent increase affects picture-makers who can least afford it. The MPPDA asserts the previous rate was insufficient to cover deficits in operating costs . . . In the meantime, the Hays office and the Screen Actors Guild are keeping wary eyes on a development which revived the perennial issue of local theatre censorship. The police commission and city counsel have instructed the city attorney to draft a suggested ordinance empowering police to arbitrarily close any stage or screen show which the law might deem indecent. SAG has adopted a ruling barring from membership anyone participating in such shows and, with the Hays office, is fighting the censorship move because it "threatens the American principles of freedom of expression."

Production Holds Up Despite the Turmoil

Despite threatened turmoil, production promises to progress at the pace maintained in the past several months . . . A minimum of 40 pictures have already been announced for the first quarter of 1941 . . . Universal has announced it will deliver its full 1940-41 program of 63 pictures, despite losses from abroad . . . Most popular in coming films are straight dramas, comedies and westerns, in that order . . . Warner is joining the South American bandwagon with the announcement it will make "Carnival in Rio," starring George Raft. Same studio will smash at the Nazis with "Underground," story of anti-Nazi radio hookups.

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36 "A" and 16 "B" From M-G-M for Next Season

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—M-G-M will produce 36 "A" and 16 "B" pictures for 1941-42 and the company's first block of five to be sold under the terms of the decree will be ready for trade showing in July and the second block in August, so stated Al Lichtman while in town for a week of home office conferences.

No changes in the studio setup will be necessary to conform to the decree, he added, and budget for the new season will be set on each picture as it comes up rather than a blanket spending allowance for the entire program.

Lichtman pointed out M-G-M does not operate on a set outlay for the season's program, but takes up the individual expenditures as productions are scheduled.

There is no particular type of feature to be stressed in the forthcoming program, he continued. "We will make any type that in our opinion will please the public. We have no preconceived ideas or notions of what will please the customers at the boxoffice," he added.

Already lined up for the 1941-42 season are two for Greta Garbo, one "Madame Curie," by the scientist's daughter, and the second a comedy as yet untitled.

Norma Shearer in Two

Norma Shearer will appear in two, "Tonight at 8:30," based on a series of one-act plays by Noel Coward, and the second, "The World We Make," from the Sidney Kingsley play.

Clark Gable and Lana Turner will appear in "Honky Tonk," which will be one of the big ones from the lot.

Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland will be co-starred in "Broadway Melody of 1941."

A lavish musical will be "Big Time."

The Marx Brothers are slated for "Step This Way," tentatively titled.

William Powell and Myrna Loy will be co-featured in "Married Bachelor" and another in "The Thin Man" series.

Louis Bromfield's novel, "Night in Bombay," will serve as a starring attraction for Joan Crawford.

Spencer Tracy will have the title role in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

Wallace Beery will star in "Combat Car," based on the mechanization of the cavalry.

Another Spencer Tracy starring attraction will be "The Yearling," a best seller.

Pandro Berman is now finishing "Ziegfeld Girl," his first for the company.

Present indications are that there will be no reduction in shorts. This season the company is releasing 91 reels. In this category are the "Crime Does Not Pay," the Pete Smiths, James A. FitzPatrick Traveltalks, Our Gangs and a cartoon series.

The group of pictures to be screened in July will be released in September and the block to be tradeshown in August will be released in October and so forth, Lichtman stated.

M-G-M to Release 48-49 This Season

New York—M-G-M will hold to its regular custom this year and release 48 or 49 in the program of 44-52 announced for the season, according to Al Lichtman, production executive.

Asked if the company planned another production on the scale and calibre of "Gone With the Wind," Lichtman said M-G-M would like to make a picture of that type once a month, but it is "impossible," adding "That also goes for one a year."

Loew's 1940 Earnings Slightly Under 1939

NEW YORK—Loew's earnings for the year ended August 31, 1940 were $8,908,469.74 or $933,060.87 less than the previous year, it is revealed in a consolidated profit and loss statement sent to stockholders over the weekend. Theatre receipts, rentals and sales of films and accessories for 1940 aggregated $133,375,150.96 as compared with $122,577,542.84 for the year ended August 31, 1939.

Net income before taxes is listed at $11,393,055.18 as against $12,338,751.83 for the same 1939 period. Federal income taxes were decreased from $1,958,851.13 to $1,800,855.28.

At the last regular board meeting the directors declared $1.62½ dividend on the cumulative preferred, payable February 15 to record holders of January 31.

In a special balance sheet notation various changes and items are explained for the benefit of stockholders.

"Cash in foreign countries," the statement declares, "all subject in some degree to export restrictions totaled $4,446,848.86. To the extent of such cash balances included for respective countries $1,278,983.17 has been received in the United States up to January 2, 1941. The net amount of all assets in all foreign countries (not including portion of cost of film productions allocated to foreign but retained on books in the United States) was $14,456,999.01, of which net current assets (with the same exclusion of cost of film productions) amounted to $3,223,946.64. Of the current liabilities due to foreign banks by foreign subsidiaries, Loew's has guaranteed $1,855,753.83.

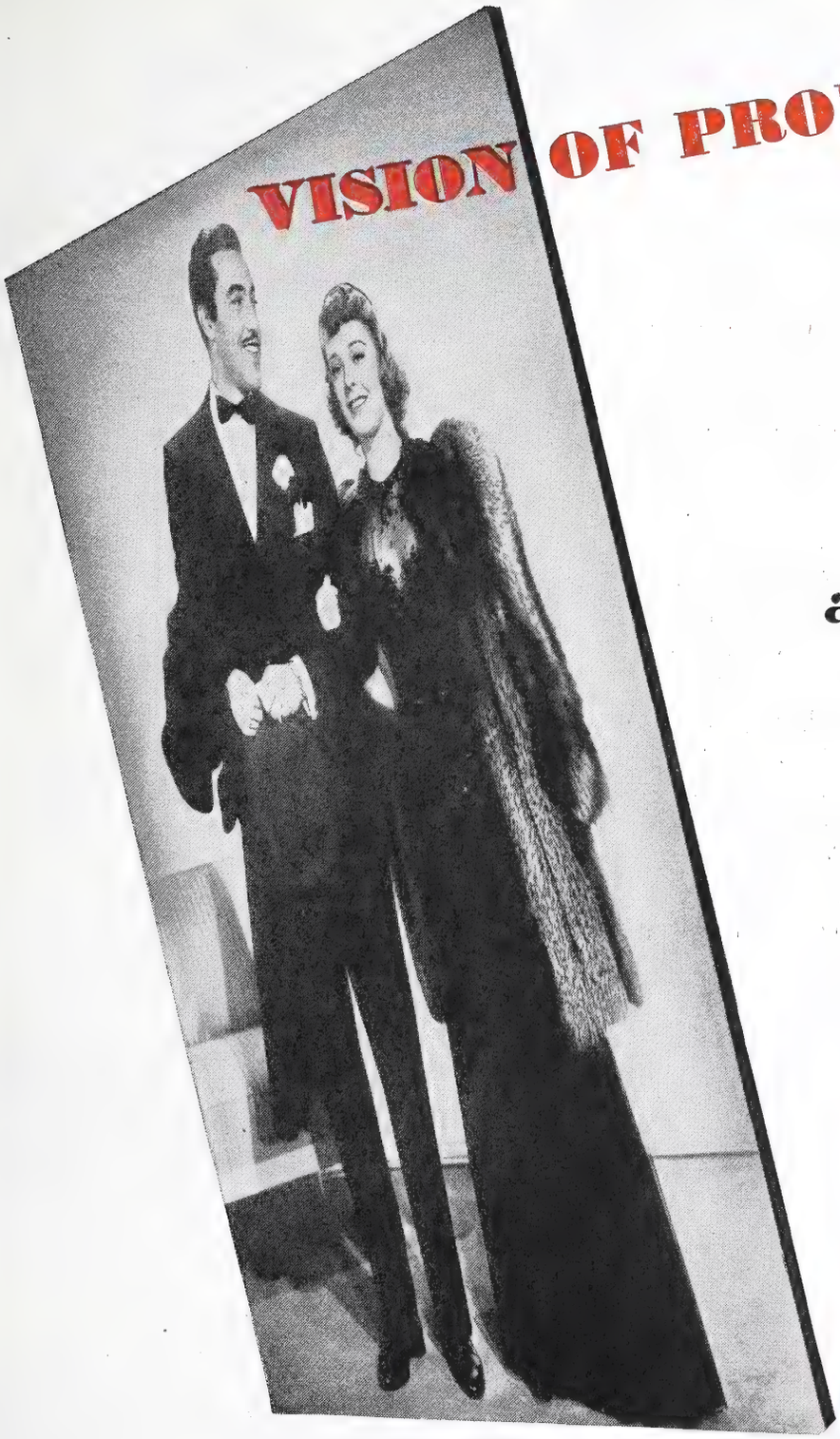
"Reserve has been accumulated since 1928 by surcharging production costs with 10 per cent of the cost of books and rights used and the net profit on sales of books and rights. It is considered that after charge-offs made in 1940 and prior years the balance of this reserve, plus the substantial value of books and rights previously used in productions and available for reissue or remake (the specific costs of which have been written off), offsets the costs of specific books and rights carried in the accounts which may not ultimately be used.

"Including appraisals made in 1925 with subsequent additions at cost. Since 1925 the equity in net undistributed profits of partly owned subsidiary and affiliated corporations has increased $1,792,671.98.

"Other investments include fixed deposits in Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., San Francisco, due 1941-42, $230,240.15; 600 shares of Loew's, Inc. $6.50 cumulative preferred stock at cost $59,937;

(Continued on page 14)

VISION OF PROFITS TO COME---



Here's a new slant on just what you're thinking about! (*Boxoffice, of course!*)



Laughter!
Excitement!
Songs!

20th CENTURY FOX

It's 1941's New Formula--Release Jan. 24

329 NEW HOUSES BUILT IN '40; 60 UNDER '39, SURVEY REVEALS

Texas Out Front Once More

This is a state-by-state record of new theatres which entered the field in 1940. The chart is based on quarterly surveys made last year and drawn from reports gathered by BOXOFFICE's nationwide corps of correspondents.

State—	*1st Quarter*	*2nd Quarter*	*3rd Quarter*	*4th Quarter*	*Totals*
Alabama	1	4	4	3	12
Arizona	1	....	1	....	2
Arkansas	4	3	....	4	11
California	6	8	4	6	24
Colorado	1	1	1	3	6
Connecticut	2	2	1	2	7
Delaware	....	....	....	1	1
District of Columbia	....	1	....	2	3
Florida	5	1	2	4	12
Georgia	3	....	6	1	10
Idaho	....	....	....	....	....
Illinois	3	5	3	1	12
Indiana	1	5	....	....	6
Iowa	....	....	....	....	....
Kansas	....	2	2	1	5
Kentucky	....	3	1	....	4
Louisiana	4	3	2	2	11
Maine	1	....	1	....	2
Maryland	1	1	....	....	2
Massachusetts	2	1	1	3	7
Michigan	4	3	4	2	13
Minnesota	2	....	3	1	6
Mississippi	1	1	2	2	6
Missouri	....	1	5	1	7
Montana	....	....	....	....	....
Nebraska	1	....	3	2	6
Nevada	1	....	....	....	1
New Hampshire	....	....	1	....	1
New Jersey	....	....	1	....	1
New Mexico	....	....	....	1	1
New York	....	4	2	2	8
North Carolina	2	3	3	4	12
North Dakota	....	....	....	....	....
Ohio	3	5	8	2	18
Oklahoma	....	3	1	....	4
Oregon	1	1	1	....	3
Pennsylvania	3	4	8	8	23
Rhode Island	....	....	....	1	1
South Carolina	1	1	1	2	5
South Dakota	....	2	....	....	2
Tennessee	1	3	3	3	10
Texas	4	4	8	9	25
Utah	....	....	1	1	2
Vermont	....	....	....	....	....
Virginia	1	....	1	....	2
Washington	1	2	2	....	5
West Virginia	4	1	2	6	13
Wisconsin	....	2	....	....	2
Canada	4	3	2	6	15
Totals	69	83	91	86	329

Paul Short's Division Top in NSS Drive

NEW YORK—Paul Short's southwestern division scored first place in the National Screen 20th anniversary testimonial drive for Herman Robbins. The drive started September 15 and concluded December 28 and marked the first time Robbins has permitted the use of his name for a sales campaign. It was also the most successful drive in the organization's history, according to George Dembow, vice-president.

The top ranking exchange was Dallas where Wallace Walthall, is manager. Second was Louis Boyer's New Orleans branch. Third was Gilbert Clark, Oklahoma City; four, Herbert Washburn, brother of Bryant, the actor, St. Louis; fifth, Arthur Manheimer, son of John, ITOA of New York secretary, Cincinnati; Bob Simral, Charlotte, was sixth.

The first 10 salesmen chalking up the best results, in the order named, were Edward Sonz, Cincinnati; "Doc" Allen, Dallas; Cecil Rudnick, Boston; Milton Smith, Washington, D. C.; Joe Stokvis, Philadelphia; Arnold Cohen, New York; L. George Ross, Cincinnati; Ben Lass, St. Louis; Herbert Cass, Seattle; Henry Reiner, New York.

South Holds Spotlight In Activity; Canada Construction Dips

New theatres entering the field in the U. S. and Canada in 1940 totaled 329, or 60 less than the number for the previous year, a BOXOFFICE survey shows. Six states did not have any new candidates in the final tally for the 1940 period, these being Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, North Dakota and Vermont. In 1939 the same total of states showed a blank for new theatres, but then they were Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon and Rhode Island.

The south again holds the spotlight in activity with such states as Alabama adding 12 new houses, Arkansas, 11; Florida, 12; Georgia, 10; Kentucky, a small state, four; Louisiana, 11; Tennessee, 10; Texas 25, and West Virginia, 13.

25 New Ones in Texas

Texas again was the leading state with a tally of 25 newly opened structures as against 32 in 1939. California, which followed on the heels of Texas the previous year with 31, again claims that honor with an aggregate of 24 new theatres in 1940.

Third leading state was Pennsylvania with 23 newly opened houses in 1940. For 1939 this state reported only 12 new projects entering the field. Ohio was fourth with 18, the same number as in 1939.

Canada showed a drop of seven in the comparative years. For 1939 there were 22 new units built, but in 1940 the total dropped to 15. This apparently is due to the war.

In a quarter-by-quarter analysis as between 1939 and 1940, the last three months of the past year were considerably disappointing as compared with the same period in 1939. For instance, in 1939 the number of new houses opened from October through December totaled 143. In 1940 for the same three months there were only 86 new theatres finished.

Nine Less Than in 1939

With a tally of 69 newly opened houses for the first quarter of 1940, this was nine less than the number for the same three months in the year prior. The second quarter of the year just ended showed 83 completed structures, as compared to 82 for the same three months in 1939. The third quarter of 1940 was the best for the year and even showed an improvement over the July-September period in 1939 when 86 new theatres began operation.

One of the surprises was the lack of theatre building in New York state, which in 1939 reported 15 new ones and in 1940 came through with only eight. New Jersey also is in the same class with one for 1940 and two for the year previous.



It was too exciting a honeymoon for only two —so

ANN SHERIDAN and GEORGE BRENT had to make it a

HONEYMOON FOR THREE

with
CHARLIE RUGGLES
OSA MASSEN
JANE WYMAN
William T. Orr • Lee Patrick

Directed by LLOYD BACON
Screen Play by Earl Baldwin • Additional Dialogue by Julius J. and Philip G. Epstein
From the Play by Allan Scott & George Haight

WHEE!

..AND KEEP YOUR EYES WIDE OPEN FOR 'HIGH SIERRA'

Next from Warners

Monogram Sets Up Annual Drive Plans

ST. LOUIS—Monogram franchise holders, meeting here over the weekend, mapped plans for the annual "March of Monogram" sales drive to be launched February 22 and continued until April 11.

Cash awards for winning districts will be made, according to W. Ray Johnston, president, who announced a division of the country into zones, each of which carries the name of a picture or a star.

The "East Side Kids" will be the territory covering New York, Boston, Albany and Buffalo; "Frankie Darro's Hell Raisers": Philadelphia, Washington and Pittsburgh; "Tex Ritter's Rhythm Rangers": Atlanta, Charlotte, Memphis and New Orleans; "Gene Stratton-Porter's Gold Diggers": Cincinnati, Cleveland and Detroit; "Keye Luke's Bombers": Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Minneapolis; "'Swimmin' Hole Gang": Des Moines, Omaha, Kansas City and St. Louis; "Range Busters": Oklahoma City, Dallas, Denver and Salt Lake, and "Jack London's Forty Niners": Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Among those attending the local sessions in addition to Johnston were Howard Stubbins, west coast franchise holder; George West, Kansas City and St. Louis; "Steve" Broidy, general sales manager, who came on from New York, en route to the studio where he will make his headquarters; John Mangham, Atlanta; Ben Welansky, Boston and Pittsburgh; Harry L. Berkson, Buffalo; Henri Elman, Chicago; Nate Schultz and William Onie, Cleveland; John Franconi and Ed Blumenthal, Dallas; Lon T. Fidler, Denver; F. E. Judd, Des Moines; William Hurlbut, Detroit; Charles W. Trampe, Milwaukee; B. L. Nathanson, Minneapolis; Carr Scott, Oklahoma City; Sol J. Francis, Omaha.

RKO Basic Formula for Meetings on Decree

NEW YORK—RKO has adopted a basic formula for meetings to be held in all branches for the purpose of explaining operations under the decree to sales personnel, according to Ned E. Depinet. Each session will consume from four to five hours.

They will be in charge of William Zimmerman of the company's legal staff, who is presently en route to all exchanges for that purpose. It is estimated he will cover 20,000 miles in five weeks. Zimmerman conducted a "laboratory tour" of five branches and reported, as a result, that the company is in possession of a "broad cross-section of all the basic problems likely to arise anywhere in the country."

To Allied Board Again

PITTSBURGH—Fred J. Herrington, Allied unit secretary, has been renamed as a director on the national board.



Loew's 1940 Earnings Slightly Under 1939

(Continued from page 10)

miscellaneous securities issued by subsidiary and affiliated companies at cost—$103,248.50.

"Sinking fund payments of $400,000 semi-annually commence January 31, 1945. In addition to certain properties which are mortgaged for payment of these bonds, inter-company mortgage indebtedness of subsidiary companies consolidated amounting to $2,449,000 (eliminated on consolidation) are also pledged as collateral.

"Of these, 48,492 shares reserved for options issued to an officer (Nicholas M. Schenck) in connection with personal service contract, and exercisable at $40 a share at the rate of 9,698 2/5 shares cumulative annually from December 31, 1937 to March 1, 1942.

"No dividend on common stock is permitted while dividends or sinking fund requirements on preferred stock are in arrears. No dividend or other distribution by Loew's is permitted if the consolidated surplus is thereby reduced below $37,000,000, or if consolidated current and working assets are thereby reduced to less than twice consolidated current liabilities, but dividends on common stock payable in common stock of Loew's may be declared if such dividends do not reduce the consolidated surplus below $5,000,000.

"Table of amortization of film costs applicable to pictures released on and after September 1, 1939 was revised by (1) allocating 75 per cent of cost to the United States and Canada and 25 per cent to foreign (previously 65 per cent and 35 per cent respectively), (2) increasing percentages of amortization in earlier weeks of release. Revised table results in amortization in earlier weeks of release. Revised table results in amortization of total cost at end of: 12 weeks, 56.5 per cent; 24 weeks, 74.3 per cent; 36 weeks, 83.7 per cent; 52 weeks (1st year), 94 per cent; 80 weeks, 98.2 per cent; 104 weeks (2nd year), 100 per cent. Through such revision, operations have been charged with approximately $3,150,000 more film amortization expense than would have resulted had the table not been changed.

"Contingent liabilities: As joint guarantors of mortgage and note of affiliated corporations—$858,000; additional federal, state and foreign taxes subject to final adjustment and also judgments and settlements which may result under pending litigation."

Although the current and working cash is listed at approximately the same as last year, the report shows a sizeable increase in government and agency securities from $3,380,651.43 in 1939 to $18,181,807.36 for 1940.

The total funded debt is lower. In 1939 it was $36,323,954.42 and the latest calculations show it at $32,832,442.35.

The consolidated earned surplus account, after deductions, is listed at $56,715,616.56 as compared with $52,339,175.57 for the year ended August 31, 1939.

Batcheller Supervising Production for PRC

NEW YORK—George Batcheller jr. has been appointed supervisor of production for Producers Releasing Corp. and now is in the new post at the company's headquarters in Hollywood. He will handle all contracts with writers and producers, according to O. Henry Briggs, president.

Batcheller was associated with his late father in Chesterfield and Invincible Pictures, later moving over to Republic as an associate producer and lately producing commercial subjects for Roland Reed in Hollywood.

On Monday, PRC headquarters in the Paramount Building will be moved to larger quarters on the 18th floor. Briggs plans to leave for the coast soon to spend about a month getting new pictures under way. Several new producers are being lined up to complete the 18 of 38 planned for the current season.

"IT MAY WELL BE THAT THIS PICTURE WILL DO FOR EDITH FELLOWS WHAT ANOTHER MONOGRAM RELEASE 'BOY OF THE STREETS' DID FOR JACKIE COOPER!"
--Hollywood Reporter

Yesterday the school ugly duckling! Then overnight . . . a new dress, a new hair-do, a bright new singing career, and HER FIRST ROMANCE!

"It looks as though Monogram will do for little Miss Fellows what Universal did for Deanna Durbin . . . Wilbur Evans is a sensation. There is hardly so fine or rich a voice on the screen."
Los Angeles Times

★

"Miss Fellows displays a fine voice . . . story moves at fast tempo . . . musical portion a delightful treat."
Variety



EDITH FELLOWS
& WILBUR EVANS
IN
"HER first ROMANCE"
A Monogram PICTURE

BASED ON THE NOVEL "HER FATHER'S DAUGHTER" by
GENE STRATTON-PORTER
with JACQUELINE WELLS · ALAN LADD
JUDITH LINDEN
Produced by I. E. CHADWICK - Directed by EDWARD DMYTRYK
Screenplay by ADELE COMANDINI

Smooth Decree Era May Be Far Away

(Continued from page 5)

in which the film industry has been one of the targets, he tells Congress "a long neglected task of great national importance is at length being undertaken." But, he adds, "the truth is that we have scarcely touched the task that needs to be done."

Defending his division against charges that its proceedings are too long drawn out, the anti-trust chief explains that the large cases require a period of three years or more for completion.

The first year, he says, is consumed with planning and various kinds of preliminary work, blocking out the possible sectors of investigation and obtaining evidence from persons affected by restraints. "Incidentally," he says in this connection, "the government does not go out and hunt situations which may be developed into anti-trust cases.

"When a legitimate complaint comes in, the anti-trust division has either to refuse relief to oppressed citizens or to institute proceedings against the guilty persons. Defendants who decry the activity of the department are not any more indignant than those oppressed citizens who complained to the department in the first instance."

"Second Year Hardest"

During the second year, an appropriation must be secured, a staff trained, studies completed and evidence gathered.

"The second year is usually the most difficult," Arnold says, "because in anti-trust enforcement it is often necessary to prove an unlawful course of conduct by evidence of a series of hidden practices which, when pieced together, constitute a pattern of prohibited conduct.

"Most of the evidence upon which an anti-trust case is built frequently must be sought in the files of the offending parties. And after 50 years of experience the seasoned violators are no longer careless about the contents of their files."

By the beginning of the third year, the government normally is ready to go to trial. The trial may last only a few months or, as in the aluminum case, it may last three years.

The need for vigorous anti-trust law enforcement is greater today than for many years past, due to the defense emergency, Arnold asserts.

"It is well known that large scale expenditures for military purposes are always accompanied by the danger of booming prices and by other dangers born of relaxed business standards and relaxed public vigilance," he declares. "In these times, when all ramparts need to be watched, it is particularly urgent that a domestic rampart such as anti-trust enforcement be kept at full strength."

To Army Reserve Post

WASHINGTON—Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production for 20th-Fox, has been appointed a lieutenant colonel in the army's signal corps reserve.



Starts UA Post—

David E. ("Skip") Weshner who on Monday assumes his new job as director of exploitation at UA under Monroe Greenthal. For years, Weshner has been a Warner Theatre executive-general zone manager in northern New Jersey, national advertising director for the chain in New York, Wisconsin zone manager, and resigned his current post as supervisor of key run theatres in Philadelphia for the UA affiliation.

Schlaifer Is Leader Of UA Kelly Drive

NEW YORK—L. Jack Schlaifer has been named sales drive leader for the Arthur W. Kelly drive which began January 6 and continues until April 19.

The country has been divided by UA into three groups and each group will act independently of each other. In Group A are Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and San Francisco. In Group B are Atlanta, Cincinnati, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Seattle, Washington, Buffalo, Dallas and eastern Canada. In the last group are Charlotte, Denver, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, New Haven, New Orleans, Omaha, Salt Lake City and western Canada.

Instead of a first and second prize, there will be three first and three second awards. A grand total of $20,000 is to be distributed and every employe in the winning exchanges will participate. There also is to be a special $1,000 prize to the district manager whose branches, collectively, show the highest percentage of efficiency in sales and playoff.

Judges will be Harry L. Gold, eastern sales manager; Haskell M. Masters, western sales head; Schlaifer, Paul Lazarus, Nat Thompson and Charles Steele.

Allied to Meet

WASHINGTON—Allied directors will hold their meeting here January 27-28. It is to be a national conclave.

No New Trade Bills As Congress Opens

WASHINGTON—Convening of the 77th Congress brought nothing in the way of proposals for new motion picture legislation, although Representative Francis D. Culkin (Rep., N. Y.) reintroduced his bill to outlaw block booking and Congressman James P. McGranery (Dem., Pa.) again submitted his measure to set up a fine arts bureau in the interior department, while in the Upper House, Senator Matthew M. Neely (Dem., W. Va.) reintroduced his bills prohibiting block booking and divorcing exhibition from other branches of the industry.

With a Congressional session dedicated to the national defense, there appears little likelihood that any great attention will be given matters of less than major importance. Neither of the two bills introduced at the opening of the session were considered in that category.

Eye Excess Profits Taxes

The first highlight of the new Congress was President Roosevelt's annual message, revealing that large new tax revenues would be asked for. However, it was indicated, the bulk of these revenues will come from excess profits taxes, rather than from additional levies on consumers, to which the administration is opposed, although reports are current that the admission tax exemption will be reduced to ten cents or, perhaps, eliminated entirely.

New taxes, said the President, are part of the personal sacrifice which the people of the nation must make for preparedness and national defense.

"No person should try, or be allowed, to get rich out of this program," he told an applauding Congress, "and the principle of tax payments in accordance with ability to pay should be constantly before our eyes to guide our legislation."

Cloakroom discussion of taxes at the Capitol centered around the raising of a billion dollars, but there were members who expressed the belief that at least twice that much should be secured.

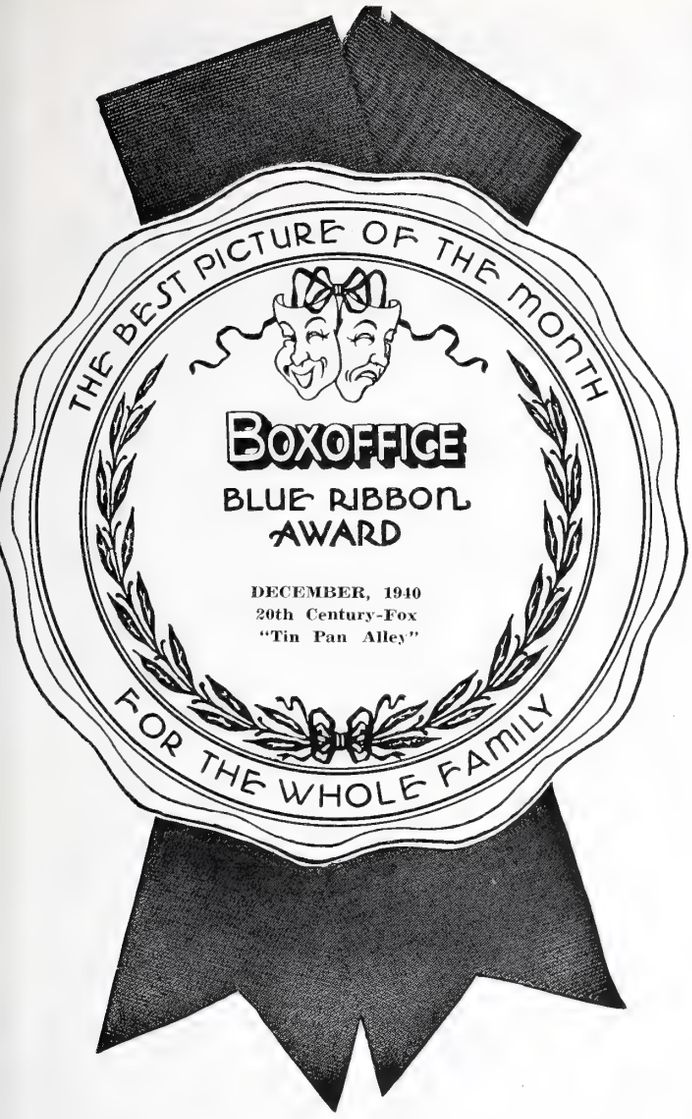
Huge Take From Admission Tax

Reduction of the admission-tax exemption on July 1, last, will increase the revenue from the federal levy to $68,900,000 for the fiscal year which then began and to $74,200,000 during the year which begins July 1, next, it was estimated in the annual budget sent to Congress by President Roosevelt January 8.

The actual collections for the fiscal year which ended June 30, last, were $21,887,916.

The President discussed the tax situation more fully in his budget message, but made no recommendations more specific than that Congress might find increased additional revenue in a scientific revision of the present tax system.

He made it clear, however, that he proposed that a greater part of the cost of national defense be paid out of current revenues, but warned against the imposition of levies which would tend to restrict consumption or business activity, a possible indication that there will be no increase in the rate of tax on admissions, although the 20-cent exemption may be further reduced so as to catch the cheap amusements of beaches, parks and the like.



This Award is given each month to the film receiving the highest number of votes by the members of the National Screen Council, whose selection is governed by outstanding merit and suitability of the film to whole-family entertainment. Members of the Council include over 200 motion picture editors of leading newspapers throughout the country, motion picture reviewing committee of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and state motion picture chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.



"Tin Pan Alley" BOXOFFICE December Blue Ribbon Film

Twentieth Century-Fox pays tribute to the street that gives the world its greatest songs, in its production of "Tin Pan Alley," which film was voted by members of the National Screen Council as the outstanding picture released in December, and winner of the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for that month.

Set in the years just prior to the World War and bringing to the screen the melodies of the times, "Tin Pan Alley" was produced under the directorial hand of Walter Lang, with Kenneth Macgowan as its associate producer. The latter has won previous BOXOFFICE Awards for, "In Old Chicago" (April, 1938), "Young Mr. Lincoln" (June, 1939), and "Stanley and Livingstone" (Aug. 1939). Darryl F. Zanuck, executive producer, has also received similar Awards for his productions of "The Country Doctor," "Wee Willie Winkie," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," "In Old Chicago," "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "Young Mr. Lincoln," "Stanley and Livingstone" and "Drums Along the Mohawk."

Alice Faye has won BOXOFFICE Award plaques for her performances in "In Old Chicago" and "Alexander's Ragtime Band." Jack Oakie received the same insignia honor in October, 1940, for his portrayal of "Napaloni" in "The Great Dictator."

Production Staff

Executive Producer ..... DARRYL F. ZANUCK
Directed by ..... WALTER LANG
Associate Producer ..... KENNETH MACGOWAN
Screenplay by ..... ROBERT ELLIS and HELEN LOGAN
Based on a story by ..... PAMELA HARRIS
Musical Direction .. ALFRED NEWMAN
Dances staged by .... SEYMOUR FELIX
Director of Photography ..... LEON SHAMROY, A.S.C
Art Direction .... RICHARD DAY and JOSEPH C. WRIGHT
Set Decorations ..... THOMAS LITTLE
Film Editor ..... WALTER THOMPSON
Costumes ..... TRAVIS BANTON
Sound ..... EUGENE GROSSMAN and ROGER HEMAN

Cast of Characters

Katie Blane ..... ALICE FAYE
Lily Blane ..... BETTY GRABLE
Harry Calhoun ..... JACK OAKIE
Skeets Harrigan ..... JOHN PAYNE
Casey ..... ALLEN JENKINS
Nora Bayes ..... ESTHER RALSTON
Dance Specialty ..... NICHOLAS BROTHERS
Boy ..... BEN CARTER
Reggie Carstair ..... JOHN LODER
Joe Codd ..... ELISHA COOK JR.
Harvey Raymond ..... FRED KEATING
Sheik ..... BILLY GILBERT
Telephone Operator ..... LILLIAN PORTER
Specialties— PRINCESS VANESSA AMMON, BRIAN SISTERS, ROBERT BROTHERS
Bert Melville ..... TYLER BROOKE
Hotel Clerk ..... HAL K. DAWSON
Hotel Manager ..... WILLIAM B. DAVIDSON
Lord Stanley ..... LIONEL PAPE
Stage Doorman ..... BILLY BEVAN
Dumb Guy ..... DEWEY ROBINSON
Manager .... ROBERT EMMETT KEANE
Announcer ..... JOHN SHEEHAN
Mike Buckner ..... GEORGE WATTS

Top Men at Loew's Paid $2,220,730

NEW YORK—Aggregate annual remuneration paid to Loew officers and directors, as a group, for the fiscal year ended August 31, 1940 amounted to $2,220,730.30, according to a proxy statement sent to stockholders over the weekend. Five of the company's directors are not employed with the parent or subsidiary firms.

In notifying stockholders of the annual meeting February 11 at the home office, the principal business on hand will be the ratification of Nicholas M. Schenck's new five-year contract as president on the same terms he now enjoys. His current arrangement ends December 31, 1941. His salary and bonuses totaled $318,881.97 in 1940.

In addition, 12 directors are slated for re-election. Their stock holdings as of December 24, 1940 are recorded as follows:

George N. Armsby, 100 shares of common; David Bernstein, 22,200 shares of common; Leopold Friedman, 612 common; John R. Hazel, 100 common; Al Lichtman, 100 common; Charles C. Moskowitz, 900 common; William A. Parker, 600 common—he is president of Incorporated Investors of Boston which owns 28,000 common—J. Robert Rubin, 25,015; Schenck, 2,817; Joseph R. Vogel, 200; David Warfield, 7,000; Henry Rogers Winthrop, 100.

Under the terms of his current deal, Schenck has the right to purchase 48,492 shares of common up to March 1, 1942 at $40 a share.

The board has already authorized the new five-year personal service contract to begin January 1, 1942, subject to stockholders' approval, with the highlights summarized as follows:

Schenck will receive $2,500 a week, (which includes an allowance for expenses, except expenses incurred while traveling) and two and one-half per cent of the combined net profits of the company, its subsidiaries and ventures. However, before he can participate in such profits there is first deducted:

(1)—$2,745,744 per annum which represents $2 per share on the presently issued and outstanding common stock other than 292,841 shares issued as a stock dividend.

(2)—$2 per annum on each share of common hereafter issued for cash or property, including shares to be issued under stock options.

(3)—Cumulative dividends on any present or future preferred stock (not exceeding seven per cent per annum) and dividends on the preferred stock of companies in which Loew's has a stock interest (to the extent that such preferred stock is held by others than the company).

(4)—All taxes except taxes arising from profits on sales or exchange of property where such profits are not included as income for the benefit of Schenck.

(5)—Interest on bonds, mortgages and moneys borrowed and amortization of discount and expenses in connection with the issuance of bonds, mortgages, preferred stock and borrowed money.

(6)—All fixed compensation but no percentage paid or payable to any employe or executive based on the combined net profits.

(7)—Depreciation on the Culver City studio and on all real and personal property, but in the case of other buildings owned in fee (that is where at least 51 per cent of the aggregate value of the land on which a building is constructed is owned in fee) only half of the depreciation value shall be taken, (which half for the fiscal year ended August 31, 1940 amounted to $578,473.60) and no depreciation shall be deducted on newly constructed theatres from the date of their opening to the end of the then current fiscal year.

Profits or losses from companies and ventures in which the company owns an interest of 25 per cent or more are included to the extent of such interest in net profits or losses, and dividends or receipts from all other companies and ventures are included only if actually earned and paid to the company.

Profits from the sale or exchange of real estate, buildings or leaseholds or stock in companies owning the same, purchased prior to September 1, 1926 are excluded in the computation, and losses on such exchanges are also excluded.

Schenck Pact Chief Business of Meet

Under the terms of the contract, Schenck is granted an extension of his existing option to purchase at the same price of $40 a share the aforementioned 48,492 shares of common (or so much thereof as to which said option may be unexercised on March 1, 1942, the date when his present contract expires) as follows:

One fifth or any part thereof on and after December 31, 1942:

One fifth or any part thereof on and after December 31 of each year thereafter to and including December 31, 1946.

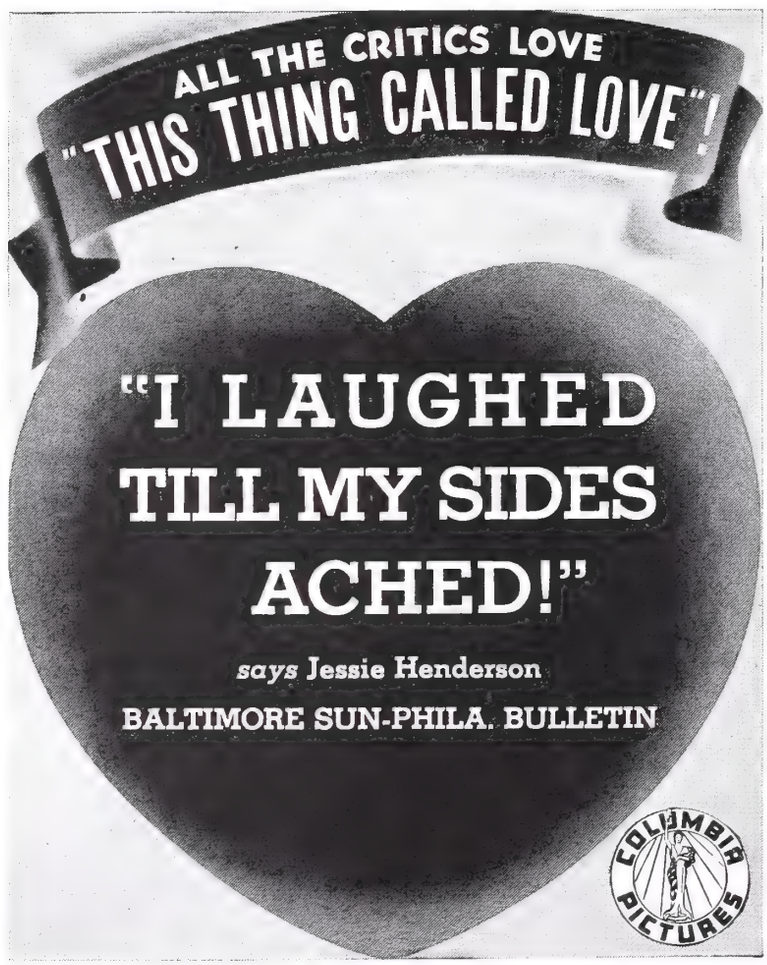
All options expire March 1, 1947.

The contract contains restrictions against the sale by Schenck prior to March 1, 1947, without the consent of the company, of any stock which may be purchased under the option, at a price less than $15 in excess of the price paid by him therefor. In the event of the termination of Schenck's employment prior to December 31, 1946 for any reason other than his voluntary default, all rights cease except that Schenck or his representatives are entitled within six months after termination of his employment:

(a) To exercise any option which he could have exercised at the time of such termination;

(b) To purchase the proportion of additional shares to which he would have had a right to exercise an option on the next succeeding date as the number of months of service prior to such termination (and subsequent to the last preceding option date) bears to 12.

The contract contains provisions designed to protect the options against dilution resulting from stock dividends or changes in the capital structure of the company and provides for the company to offer Schenck in case it issues common stock or convertible issues or warrants to the amount of the then optioned stock. The contract also requires the company to pay taxes legally imposed on the issuance of the shares, to make application for listing the shares on the New York Stock Exchange and to register them with SEC as may be required by law.



Korda Pre-Trial Quiz In Goldwyn's UA Suit

NEW YORK—Alexander Korda has been ordered to submit to an examination before trial in federal court January 15 in connection with Samuel Goldwyn's suit against UA. Judge Edward A. Conger, in so ruling, declared that if the New York examination should prove to be inconvenient to the producer he was to notify the federal court by January 10, and the examination would be shifted to the federal court in California for January 28.

Goldwyn is seeking to break his 10-year distribution contract with UA which has until August, 1945, to run, claiming the company conspired to drive him out of business. He also seeks damages of $1,000,000 for alleged interference with the distribution of "The Westerner," on which he says he had deals set up with Paramount and Warner, which were subsequently cancelled by reason of warnings on the part of UA, it is claimed.

Opinions on Current Productions, and Exploitips for Selling to the Public

FEATURE REVIEWS

No, No, Nanette

F — Musical Comedy

RKO Radio (114) — **96 Minutes** — **Rel. Dec. 20, '40**

Molded in the same light and airy vein as his earlier "Irene," Producer-Director Herbert Wilcox's second plunge into the filmization of famed American musical comedies emerges as an opulent, tuneful and diverting undertaking that will probably accomplish satisfactory results at the box-office. Particularly should this prediction hold true because of the still-existent and widespread popularity of "Tea for Two," "No, No, Nanette" and other songs from the stage production, which have become classic examples of popular-song writing. Anna Neagle fits easily into the title role and the supporting cast, mostly of the comedy variety, does its part in contributing to the film's general quality. Outstanding among them are the droll Roland Young, wise-cracking Helen Broderick and, for the love interest, Richard Carlson and Victor Mature. The plot is, as was to be expected, frothy and insignificant. It centers around Young, married to Miss Broderick but constantly becoming involved in extra-marital entanglements from which Miss Neagle, his niece, must exert all her ingenuity to extricate him. In so doing she finds herself constantly in hot water.

Anna Neagle, Roland Young, Helen Broderick, Richard Carlson, Victor Mature, ZaSu Pitts, Eve Arden, Billy Gilbert.

EXPLOITIPS: Award starring credits here to Anna Neagle, Roland Young and Richard Carlson. Plug the famous tunes via a public address system in the lobby, in sheet-music and phonograph record stores, and over the radio. String cut-out musical notes around the marquee. During the week preceding the showing, dress usherettes in ballet costumes on which are imprinted the picture's title. Conduct an amateur singing contest on the stage, in which "Tea for Two" and "No, No, Nanette" are the songs to be rendered, and award an "Anna Neagle" trophy to the winner.

CATCHLINES: She's a Little Bit Naughty . . . But Oh—So Nice . . . Is Gay, Gorgeous Anna Neagle . . . In This Hit Musical Comedy.

One of the Favorites of the American Musical Stage . . . Is Better Than Ever on the Screen.

Wyoming Wildcat

F — Western

Republic (074) — **56 Minutes** — **Rel. Jan. 6, '41**

A story that varies substantially from the routine lifts "Wyoming Wildcat" to interesting dramatic levels in addition to providing the usual quota of action elements. Don Barry has the featured role and will probably add to his following. Set in the period following the Spanish-American War, the story sets up Barry as the son of an outlaw who tries to avert the onus of his parent's activities by leading an honest life in the employ of a stagecoach company. He and a pal are fairly successful at this until the father's henchmen learn of his connection with gold shipments and frame him in proper style. Barry is jailed. He almost loses his girl. However, when the erring father learns of his son's plight he comes to the rescue and vindication losing his life in the process but saving the gold shipment. George Sherman directed.

Don Barry, Julie Duncan, Frank M. Thomas, Syd Taylor, Dick Botiller.

EXPLOITIPS: This is Don Barry's best contribution to the western scene to date. His first western vehicle was called "Wyoming Outlaw." This might be of advantage in concocting a catchline. Miss Duncan, an efficient actress, is also noted as a horsewoman having won many steeplechase contests. The film utilizes the Wells Fargo Express for much of its story content. Barry is the name for the marquee. There are a number of prepared stories about him for release to newspapers which should attract other than the regular western audience.

CATCHLINES: Branded With the Stigma of His Father's Past . . . He Battles Against Desperate Odds to Clear His Outlaw Name.

Thrilling Six-Gun Drama . . . See Your Favorite Cowboy Defy an Outlaw Ambush to Bring a Lawless Gang to Justice.

Maisie Was a Lady

F — Comedy Drama

M-G-M (118) — **80 Minutes** — **Rel. Jan. 10, '41**

Don't let the title fool you—Maisie is still the lovable hoyden-with-heart-of-gold that she has always been. Whether or not the customers think that her latest film adventure compares favorably with predecessors in the series will be dependent upon personal entertainment tastes. Many of the laughs which have highlighted earlier chapters are lacking to make room for a more serious, melodramatic and, in spots, slightly maudlin screenplay. In other departments—production, direction and supporting cast—the same highly acceptable level has been maintained. This time Maisie, again in the person of Ann Sothern, is found as the "headless woman" in a sideshow, who loses her job because of an inebriated playboy, Lew Ayres. She joins his family household as a maid, rescues his sister from the clutches of a fortune-hunter, saves her from suicide, and reforms Ayres and his wealthy clubman father. Then, still under the impression she can't live up to Ayres' conception of a lady, Maisie hits the trail once more—but he discovers her in a cheap vaudeville act and brings her home, with wedding bells in the offing. Edwin L. Marin directed.

Ann Sothern, Lew Ayres, Maureen O'Sullivan, C. Aubrey Smith, Joan Perry, Paul Cavanagh, Edward Ashley.

EXPLOITIPS: Put Lew Ayres' name on the marquee along with that of Ann Sothern, who again essays the title role. Maureen O'Sullivan might also be mentioned in support. Dress your usherettes as maid-servants, with picture billing stamped on their white aprons, and have one of them parade the streets carrying a tray. Hold a "Maid's Night Out" showing to which servant girls and their escorts are invited at special rates. Prepare throwaways as teaser post-cards, in a woman's handwriting, and signed "Maisie."

CATCHLINES: Maisie Hits High Society . . . And Outwits a Crowd of Low Brows . . . In the Funniest Picture She's Ever Made.

Here's Maisie Again . . . The Girl Who Knows All the Answers . . . And Most of the Questions.

Romance of the Rio Grande

F — Western

20th Century-Fox (125) — **73 Minutes** — **Rel. Jan. 17, '41**

In which the love bug nearly catches up with the Cisco Kid. And while the tender passion is engulfing that perennial caballero, audiences will be delighted to see the very marked improvement in this chapter of the established western series as compared to its predecessors. The feature reflects forward strides in every department—production, story, direction and supporting cast. It is definitely above average as program material, will be more than welcomed by Cisco's fans and cannot help but please all patrons, whether sagebrush enthusiasts or not. Cesar Romero again portrays the Robin Hood of the border and in this installment successfully undertakes a dual role. With his trusty henchman, jovial Chris-Pin Martin, Cisco stumbles upon a stagecoach holdup and finds one of the victims, who is nearly killed, bears a remarkable resemblance to himself. He assumes the identity of the wounded man, heir to a vast rancho, and continues the masquerade sufficiently long to save the estate for his coincidental counterpart and expose a rascally cousin. Directed by Herbert I. Leeds.

Cesar Romero, Patricia Morison, Lynne Roberts, Ricardo Cortez, Chris-Pin Martin, Aldrich Bowker, Joseph McDonald.

EXPLOITIPS: Give marquee credits to Cesar Romero, Chris-Pin Martin and Patricia Morison. The dual-role angle suggests you invite all twins and doubles to attend at special rates and give prizes to those most identical. Costume house employes in Mexican attire with serapes and sombreros. Tie in with the public library on a display of O. Henry's books, especially those dealing with the Cisco Kid. Plant stills showing Romero with a guitar in music-store windows.

CATCHLINES: Double Romance . . . Double Trouble . . . When the Cisco Kid Finds His Double.

Two Senoritas Wanted the Cisco Kid . . . And He Couldn't Tell Whose Kisses He Liked Best.

REVIEW DIGEST

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
A										
Always a Bride (FN)		≠	≠	≠	—	—	±	—		4+ 7—
Angels Over Broadway (Col)		±	+	≠	+	≠	+	+	+	9+ 2—
Ape, The (Mono)		+	—	—	+	+	+		±	5+ 3—
Argentine Nights (Univ)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	—	7+ 3—
Arise, My Love (Para)		≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	≠	15+
Arizona (Col)		≠	≠	+	≠	≠	≠	≠		13+
Arizona Frontier (Rep)		≠			+	—	±	±		4+ 4—
B										
Bank Dick, The (Univ)		≠	+	+	≠	≠	+	+	±	11+ 1—
Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2—
Before I Hang (Col)		+	+	+	+	+	=	±	—	6+ 3—
Behind the News (Rep)		±	+	±	+	≠	+	±		8+ 3—
Beyond the Sacramento (Col)							+			1+
Billy the Kid in Texas (PRC)				≠						1+ 1—
Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		≠	+	≠	+	≠	≠	+	+	12+
Blackout (UA)		+	+		+			+	+	5+
Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3—
Boom Town (M-G-M)		≠	≠		≠	≠	≠	+	+	12+
Border Legion (Rep)		+		≠	+	≠	+	±	±	8+ 3—
Bowery Boy (Rep)		≠			+					2+ 1—
Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		—		±	—	±		3+ 5—
Brigham Young—Frontiersman (20th-Fox)		≠	+	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	+	13+
Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+
C										
Calling All Husbands (WB)		±	≠	+	≠	—	—	±	≠	6+ 7—
Case of the Black Parrot (FN)			±			+	±			3+ 2—
Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2—
Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±					±		3+ 3—
Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum (20th-Fox)		+	±	—	+	+	+	+		6+ 2—
Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		≠	+	—	+	≠	±	+	±	8+ 4—
Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)								≠		2+
Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		≠	+		7+ 1—
Christmas in July (Para)		≠	+	±	≠	≠	≠	+	+	12+ 1—
City for Conquest (WB)		≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	+	14+
Colorado (Rep)		±		—	+			±	±	4+ 4—
Comin' Round the Mountain (Para)		—	±	—	—	∓	∓	±	—	4+ 8—
Comrade X (M-G-M)		≠	+	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	≠	14+
Convoy (RKO)								+		1+
D										
Dance, Girl, Dance (RKO)		+	≠	±	+	±	±	+	∓	9+ 4—
Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±		+	∓	+		6+ 3—
Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		—	±	+	±			+		4+ 3—
Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	—	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6—
Diamond Frontier (Univ)		∓	±	—	±	+	∓	—	∓	6+ 7—
Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	15+
Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
Dr. Kildare Goes Home (M-G-M)		+	≠	+		+	+	+	+	8+
Doomed Caravan (Univ)								+		1+
Down Argentine Way (20-Fox)		≠	+	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	+	13+
Dreaming Out Loud (RKO)		±	∓	—	±	+	+	±		6+ 5—
Drums of the Desert (Mono)		±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4—
Dulcy (M-G-M)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2—
Durango Kid, The (Col)		±		+	+				±	4+ 2—
E										
Earl of Puddlestone (Rep)		±	±	±	+		±	±	∓	7+ 6—
East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5—
Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5—
Escape (M-G-M)		≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	≠	≠	15+
Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+			5+
F										
Fantasia (Disney)		≠	≠	≠	≠			≠	≠	12+
Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±			+	+	+		5+ 1—
Father's Son (WB)							≠			1+ 1—
Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	—	—	3+ 9—
Fight for Life, The (Col)		+						+		2+
Five Little Peppers in Trouble (Col)		±	±	—	—	±	—	—	∓	3+ 9—
Flight Command (M-G-M)		≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	+		13+
Flight From Destiny (WB)		+			≠	≠	≠			7+
Flowing Gold (WB)		±	±	±	+	±	±	±	+	8+ 6—
Foreign Correspondent (UA)		≠	≠	+	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	14+
Four Mothers (WB)		≠	+			+	≠	+		7+
Four Sons (20th-Fox)		≠		+	≠	≠	+		+	9+
Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5—
Frontier Vengeance (Univ)		o		—	∓			±		2+ 3—
Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		—		±	5+ 4—
Fugitive From a Prison Camp (Col)			∓	=	±			±	±	4+ 6—
G										
Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	≠	+	±	±	9+ 3—
Gay Caballero, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	—	+	+	±	7+ 4—
Girl From Havana (Rep)		±	±	—	±		±	—	∓	5+ 7—
Girl in the News (20th-Fox)		+						+		2+
Girls Under 21 (Col)		—	±	±				±	±	4+ 5—
Give Us Wings (Univ)		—	±	±			+	±	—	4+ 5—
Glamour for Sale (Col)		±	±	±		=	±	—	∓	5+ 8—
Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	≠	+	≠	+	±		9+ 1—
Golden Fleecing, The (M-G-M)		+	+	±	±	≠	≠	+	+	10+ 2—
Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)								≠		2+
Great Commandment (20-Fox)								≠		2+
Great Dictator, The (UA)		≠	≠	+	≠	∓	+	≠	+	12+ 1—
Great McGinty, The (Para)		≠	±	+	≠	≠	≠		+	11+ 1—
Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4—
Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	≠	≠	+	≠	+	±	11+ 2—
H										
Haunted Honeymoon (M-G-M)		+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+ 6—
He Stayed for Breakfast (Col)		≠	≠	+	≠	≠	≠	+	+	13+
Her First Romance (Mono)		+			+	≠	+	+		6+
Here Comes the Navy (WB)								≠		2+
Hired Wife (Univ)		≠	+	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	+	13+
Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	≠	+	+	+		8+ 2—
Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		—	±	+	—		±	4+ 4—
Howards of Virginia (Col)		≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	15+
Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	±	+	≠	+		8+ 3—
Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6—
I										
I Married Adventure (Col)		+	±	∓	±	±	+	+	±	8+ 5—
I Want a Divorce (Para)		+	≠	+	≠	≠	≠	+	+	12+
I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2—
I'm Still Alive (RKO)		∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5—
Invisible Woman, The (Univ)		≠				≠	≠			6+
J										
Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+			+	+	+		5+
K										
Keeping Company (M-G-M)		—				≠	±			3+ 2—
Kit Carson (UA)		+	+	±	+	±	≠	+	±	9+ 3—
Kitty Foyle (RKO)		≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	+		13+
Knute Rockne—All American (WB)		≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	15+
L										
Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4—
Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	≠	+	+	±	9+ 2—
Laughing at Danger (Mono)		+	±	±	+	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4—
Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+ 1—
Leather Pushers, The (Univ)		+	±	±		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4—
Let's Make Music (RKO)		+	±	∓	+	±	+	+		7+ 3—
Letter, The (FN)		≠	+	≠	≠	≠	≠	+	≠	14+

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week. The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:

≠ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; — Poor; = Very Poor

In the summary ≠ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

The Living Corpse

A — Drama

Juno Films (——) 85 Minutes Rel. ——

This French version of Leo Tolstoi's original story has long been a strong dramatic piece on the stage. In films, its theme has been rewritten and presented again and again, sometimes to advantage, sometimes not. In brief, the fundamentals deal with the return of the long-thought-dead husband in time to save his wife from the gallows. She stands conviction for his murder, a point which is arrived at through a devious route. Other contributing factors include the innocent friendship between the wife and a law court associate of the husband. Told in French it is pedestrian. The performances are definitely out of date. It's an importation that might fill the bill where audiences simply must have their quota of La Cinema Francaise. English subtitles.

Victor Francen and Gaby Morlay.

EXPLOITIPS: For name values that will attract devotees of the foreign film this has Victor Francen and Gaby Morlay. Enlarged portraits of both should be tastefully framed and displayed in the lounge. The film has a Russian background. In many cases the foreign film house serves refreshments. Procure a samovar for advance promotion of this picture, dress a girl in Russian costume and have her serve tea in glasses. Also tie in with the local circulating library with a display of Tolstoi's works, pictures of the cast, scenes from the film and posters. Tie up with restaurants, and with schools that teach foreign languages. Victor Francen will be readily recognized by devotees of the foreign film. However, the exhibitor might remind his customers that he had previously appeared here in "Double Crime on the Maginot Line," "End of a Day" and "The Open Road."

CATCHLINES: Old Russia Lives Again in This Drama . . . A French Version of an Immortal Tolstoi Classic.

Emotions Run Strong and Deep in This Tale of a Man Who Came Back From the Dead to Save the Woman He Loved.

A Powerful Drama of a Burning Love.

Sensation

F — Melodrama

Film Alliance (SR) 54 Minutes Rel. ——

London's Fleet Street has a trans-Atlantic counterpart of "Front Page." This film attempts to show it but merely becomes a standard dramatic exercise for its players and also probably for its spectators. One good performance is turned in by a supporting player. The others merely go through the usual rigamarole. John Lodge plays a crime reporter with a temporary critic's post in order to chase down the murderer of a young woman in a small town. He beats his confreres in interviews, getting evidence and finally having a suspect arrested who later is revealed to be guilty, is tried and hanged. Meanwhile his sweetheart stews, but she gets her claws into him just as he is about to start another adventure.

John Lodge, Diana Churchill, Francis Lister, Margaret Vyner, Athene Seyler.

EXPLOITIPS: This is an English importation that with all its regulation treatment and stereotyped situations manages a few moments of excitement and rapid-fire dialogue delivery. Lodge is of the Boston Lodges. The girls featured are fairly good examples of English pulchritude and dramatic art. There is a cigarette bearing the same name as the film which might be looked into for possible tieups wherever they are sold. There is a fair collection of stills available for advance display in the lobby. Aim the exploitation for opening business.

CATCHLINES: Fleet Street's Demon Crime Reporter Solves Another Case and Almost Loses His Sweetheart.

When Pat Heaton Gets an Assignment to Find a Killer, All Else, Including Love, Is Forgotten.

A Reporter Goes Hawkshaw to Solve a Murder That Almost Costs Him His Skin.

Crime on the Loose . . . And Britain's "Front Page" Sleuth on the Trail.

Pepe Le Moko

A — Melodrama

Mayer-Burstyn, Inc. (——) 90 Minutes Rel. ——

There is every indication that this, the original French version of "Algiers," was the master die from which the American production was struck. Transatlantic translation did not detract from merit as a sound piece of melodramatic entertainment played against a colorful background. The original has a much more convincing air of realism. For the audience that missed "Algiers," it will prove sound entertainment. The audience that attempts comparison should be delighted in its findings, for the resemblance of one cast to another is amazing particularly in the supporting parts. Jean Gabin is featured and Mireille Balin plays the "femme fatale." The Algiers Casbah setting seems real. After all, it is a French protectorate and two days' sailing from Marseilles. The story concerns French jewel thief who lives within the protecting walls of the native quarter of Algiers surrounded by his cutthroat cronies where he is safe from the police. A native police inspector is out to get him and eventually does when a young woman finds in the crook a grand passion. So strong is the crook's romantic feeling that he leaves his quarter, but in going away overlooks the scorned woman, his native sweetheart. She betrays him to the police. Concluding, he kills himself as he watches the ship carrying his love sail away. It achieves compelling tenderness. Julien Duvivier directed.

Jean Gabin, Mireille Balin, Gabriel Gabric, Charpin, Dalio, Lucas Gridoux.

EXPLOITIPS: Jean Gabin is probably most popular through his screen appearances in this country. Charpin has a reputation as a comedian. His role is not humorous but good acting. The Casbah setting lends itself to interesting exploitation. Makeover the lobby to resemble the scenes in the film. Rig up a wall map with the Casbah district outlined.

CATCHLINES: A Hunted Man, He Sought Freedom. When It Was Within His Grasp, He Lost It.

Break the News

F — Farce Melodrama

Trio Films (SR) 70 Minutes Rel. ——

Here is another example of a good story idea gone astray in spite of a director who knows his stuff and who is regarded as a past master of satire and the smart injection of Gallic wit. As entertainment this film is a little better than fair. A few highly comic moments account in the eventual analysis. Maurice Chevalier and Jack Buchanan, a pair of hoofers, decide to reap the rewards of publicity and so dim the aura that surrounds producer-actress June Knight who happens to own a musical revue in which the boys play walkon parts. Buchanan conveniently disappears. Chevalier, with much difficulty, succeeds in convincing the world and particularly Fleet Street that he murdered him. Chevalier stands trial, is convicted and saved in time by Buchanan. They are a success. Made in England.

Maurice Chevalier, Jack Buchanan, June Knight, Marta Labarr, Wallace Douglas.

EXPLOITIPS: There are four potent names on which the exhibitor might focus his exploitation talents in this one; Chevalier, Buchanan, Cole Porter, who wrote a song for it, and Rene Clair, the latter for the students of the international film. On the basis of the Porter name, tieups are indicated with music stores and record shops. A handbill listing all the names might prove worthwhile. There should be a good collection of stills on showing business behind the scenes for the lobby cases. Get up a throwaway with the Chevalier lip and straw hat done in silhouette.

CATCHLINES: A Riotous Comedy From ■ Master . . . With Your Old Favorite Maurice Chevalier.

He Plays at Murder . . . And Almost Gets "Burned."

America's Favorite From Gay Paree . . . In a Musical Prevue of Pre-War England.

Maurice Chevalier, Jack Buchanan, Cole Porter and Rene Clair . . . A Pat Hand for ■ Merry Musical Melange.

‡ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor

In the summary ‡ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
Li'l Abner	(RKO)	+	∓			∓	±	−		4+ 4−
Little Bit of Heaven	(Univ)	‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
Little Men	(RKO)	−	±	=	±	‡	+	±	±	7+ 7−
Little Nellie Kelly	(M-G-M)	‡	‡	+	±	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 2−
Lone Star Raiders	(Rep)	+		±	∓			±		4+ 3−
Lone Wolf Keeps a Date	(Col)	+	+	±		+	+	±	∓	7+ 3−
Long Voyage Home	(UA)	+	‡		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	13+
Love Thy Neighbor	(Para)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
Lucky Partners	(RKO)	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
M										
Margie	(Univ)	−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
Mark of Zorro, The	(20th-Fox)	‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
Meet the Missus	(Rep)	±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
Meet the Wildcat	(Univ)	−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
Melody and Moonlight	(Rep)	∓	±		‡	‡	+	±		8+ 3−
Melody Ranch	(Rep)	+	+		‡		‡	+	∓	8+ 1−
Men Against the Sky	(RKO)	+	+	+		+	±	+	+	7+ 1−
Mexican Spitfire Out West	(RKO)	+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
Michael Shayne, Private Detective	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+		+	+	±	7+ 1−
Misbehaving Husbands	(PRC)	+			+	‡	+			5+
Missing People	(Mono)	∓							∓	2+ 2−
Money and the Woman	(WB)	±	±	±	+	∓	±	±	±	8+ 7−
Moon Over Burma	(Para)	+	+	±	+	‡	+	+	±	9+ 2−
Mortal Storm, The	(M-G-M)	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	+	13+
Mummy's Hand, The	(Univ)	+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
Murder Over New York	(20th-Fox)	±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
N										
Night at Earl Carroll's	(Para)	=	±	−	±	±	±	+		5+ 7−
Night Train	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+			+	‡	7+
Nobody's Children	(Col)		−	∓	±			±	±	4+ 5−
No, No, Nanette	(RKO)		±	±	+	−	±	±	±	6+ 6−
No Time for Comedy	(FN)	‡	+	+	‡	+	±	+	+	10+ 1−
North West Mounted Police	(Para)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
O										
Oklahoma Renegades	(Rep)	+			+			+	±	4+ 1−
Ol' Swimmin' Hole	(Mono)	+	±		+	+	±	+		6+ 2−
On the Spot	(Mono)	+		−	+	+	±		∓	5+ 3−
One Million B. C.	(UA)	±	±	−	+	±	∓			5+ 5−
One Night in the Tropics	(Univ)	±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
P										
Passport to Alcatraz	(Col)	+	−	±	+	∓	−			4+ 4−
Pastor Hall	(UA)	±	‡	±	+	‡	+	‡	+	11+ 2−
Phantom of Chinatown	(Mono)	±	±			+	∓	±	∓	6+ 5−
Philadelphia Story	(M-G-M)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
Pier 13	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
Play Girl	(RKO)	+		±		‡	+			5+ 1−
Pony Post	(Univ)	±		−	−				±	2+ 4−
Prairie Law	(RKO)	+	±	+	+		+		∓	6+ 2−
Prairie Schooners	(Col)	∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
Public Deb No. 1	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+	+	∓		∓	6+ 5−
Q										
Quarterback, The	(Para)	±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
Queen of the Yukon	(Mono)	+	±	∓		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4−
R										
Ragtime Cowboy Joe	(Univ)	+		±	±			+	∓	5+ 2−
Ramparts We Watch	(RKO)	o	∓	+	+	‡	+	‡	‡	10+ 1−
Range Busters	(Mono)	‡		±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
Rangers of Fortune	(Para)	+	±	‡	‡	‡	‡	±	+	12+ 2−
Remedy for Riches	(RKO)	+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
Return of Frank James	(20-Fox)	+	+	±	‡	‡	+	+	+	10+ 1−
Rhythm on the River	(Para)	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride	(Rep)	+		+	+	‡		+	∓	7+ 1−
Romance of the Rio Grande	(20th-Fox)		±		+		+	+	∓	5+ 2−
S										
Safari	(Para)	±	∓	∓	±	+	+		∓	7+ 5−
Saint in Palm Springs	(RKO)	+					+			2+
Sandy Gets Her Man	(Univ)	+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
Sandy Is a Lady	(Univ)	+	∓	∓	+	+	±		±	7+ 4−
San Francisco Docks	(Univ)	∓	±		∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
Santa Fe Trail	(FN)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡		+	13+
Sea Hawk, The	(WB)	‡	±	+	‡	‡	+	‡	+	12+ 1−
Second Chorus	(Para)	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡		13+
Secret Seven	(Col)	∓	±	±	+	−	−	±	∓	6+ 7−
Seven Sinners	(Univ)	±	+	±	‡	+	+		+	8+ 2−
She Couldn't Say No	(FN)	+	±			∓				3+ 2−
Sky Murder	(M-G-M)	±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+10−
Slightly Tempted	(Univ)	±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
So You Won't Talk	(Col)	−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
Son of Monte Cristo	(UA)	+	±	∓	±	∓	‡	±	±	9+ 6−
South of Suez	(WB)	+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
Spring Parade	(Univ)	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	14+
Stranger on the Third Floor	(RKO)	+	±	∓	±	+	+	±	+	8+ 4−
Street of Memories	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
Strike Up the Band	(M-G-M)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
T										
Take Me Back to Okla.	(Mono)	+			‡	+	+	+		6+
Texas Rangers Ride Again	(Para)	+	±	±		−	∓	+		5+ 4−
Texas Terrors	(Rep)	+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
That Gang of Mine	(Mono)	±	±		+	−	±	−	±	5+ 6−
They Knew What They Wanted	(RKO)	‡	±	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	14+ 1−
Thief of Bagdad	(UA)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
Third Finger, Left Hand	(M-G-M)	‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
This Thing Called Love	(Col)	+		‡		‡				5+
Three Men From Texas	(Para)	+			+	+	+	+		5+
Thundering Frontier	(Col)	−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
Tin Pan Alley	(20th-Fox)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
Too Many Girls	(RKO)	+	±	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	11+ 1−
Torpedo Raider	(Mono)	∓								1+ 1−
Trail Blazers	(Rep)	+		+	+			+		4+
Trail of the Vigilantes	(Univ)	+	±	±	∓	+	+		+	7+ 3−
Trailin' Double Trouble	(Mono)	∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
Triple Justice	(RKO)	+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
Tugboat Annie Sails Again	(WB)	+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
Tulsa Kid, The	(Rep)	±		∓	+	+	±	+	±	7+ 4−
U										
Under Texas Skies	(Rep)	+		±	+			+	±	5+ 2−
Up in the Air	(Mono)	+	±	±		+	+	+	∓	7+ 3−
V										
Victory	(Para)	+	+	±	‡	‡	+			8+ 1−
Villain Still Pursued Her, The	(RKO)	±	∓	−	±	±	∓			5+ 6−
W										
Wagon Train	(RKO)	+	+			+	+	±		5+ 1−
Wagons Westward	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	−	∓		±	6+ 4−
West of Pinto Basin	(Mono)	±		±	+	‡	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
Westerner, The	(UA)	±	+	+	‡	‡	+	+	+	10+ 1−
Where Did You Get That Girl	(Univ)	+				+	+			3+
Who Is Guilty?	(Mono)	−	±		±			±	+	4+ 4−
Who Killed Aunt Maggie?	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
Wildcat Bus	(RKO)	=	±	∓		∓	=	±		4+ 8−
Wild Horse Range	(Mono)								∓	1+ 1−
World in Flames	(Para)	+		‡	‡	+		+	+	8+
Wyoming	(M-G-M)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 1−
Y										
Yesterday's Heroes	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
You'll Find Out	(RKO)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
Young Bill Hickok	(Rep)	±		∓	+			±		4+ 3−
Young People	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	‡	+	+	+	+	9+
Youth Will Be Served	(20th-Fox)	±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
Yukon Flight	(Mono)	+			+					2+

Must "Sell" Industry, Balaban Tells Ampa

NEW YORK—Instead of minimizing the "grave reality" of the depletion of revenue from abroad, the industry should recognize the "alternative is to increase the take at the boxoffice so that there can be adequate liquidation of the film in order to bring in the dollars required by the producer for the continuous flow of product so necessary to the exhibitor."

And in the process, according to Barney Balaban, Paramount president, men and women in the advertising field "will be called upon to shoulder greater responsibilities," not so much, perhaps, "on selling the product" but with "more emphasis on selling the industry as an institution."

His remarks were addressed to about 325 members and guests of Ampa at a luncheon meeting at the Hotel Edison. The occasion was the signal for a record turnout for a film executive. In addition to the company's executive family, all of whom surrounded Balaban on the dais, and many upper grade employes, the Sun Room saw more outside company executives than usually come out for an average testimonial. Charles C. Pettijohn introduced Balaban. Before that, Stanton Griffis tossed out a few jocular nifties, Austin Keough, John W. Hicks jr., and Walter B. Cokell took bows, and a perfectly grand and touching gesture was tendered Adolph Zukor when the entire audience rose in tribute to the company's founder.

Decree Problems Most Urgent

Balaban started off with the observation that, with the government suit behind the industry, the major task ahead is the meeting of new problems created by the decree. No small share of this will be borne by members of Ampa, who, he said, should attempt to counter loss of prestige and public confidence engendered by the public airing of problems "which we should have settled among ourselves."

"If the public is to have a true conception of the industry," he declared, "it is you men and women who can give it to them. It is true that there have been a few incidents which have provided opportunities for misconception of the standards of our industry, but these have been the exceptions rather than the rule. We know many stories were circulated by disgruntled persons who had been unable to make the grade in Hollywood and who capitalized on their failures by writing exaggerations and, for the most part, untruths about us.

(Continued on page 26-D)

Trumpets and Fanfare for "Back Street" Premiere

HOLLYWOOD—Universal intends to open "Back Street" in Miami, February 4, to the blare of trumpets and Hollywood fanfare. It will mark the world premiere of the picture. Critics from key cities, celebrities from Hollywood and home office and studio executives will attend.

Bruce Manning, producer, will head the studio group. A twin premiere is planned in Miami Beach with arrangements now being made for an elaborate celebration.

Sights Competitive Jolt in Progress of Television

By LEONARD WEISBERG

NEW YORK—If there's a man in the house who doesn't think he, his heirs or successors aren't in for a stiff competitive jolt from television, let him step up and be converted.

A quick reader reaction to the above, if there be any reaction at all, might be: "It won't be in my day; why worry?"

Well, it's like this. Let's say that Hollywood bosomed silent films so long the films let out such a yelp that became wired for sound. Let's also say it was anywhere from five years upwards that color, and limited color at that, was added to sound.

Then consider this: It's probably no more than two years since the television industry has been attempting to get its baby into homes with a diversified program. And it hasn't even scratched the surface. But the other afternoon this reporter saw the first public showing of direct pickup television in color. And it was amazing.

True, color television is still in the laboratory. But if its fundamental problems have been surmounted, and CBS engineers claim they have been, it would seem to be no more than straightforward engineering effort before its commercial application might be anticipated. Moreover, the impression gained from the color demonstration, per se, coupled with the technical ease said to accompany it presages an earlier and faster development of television in color than in black and white.

Accomplish Color "Pickup"

Responsibility for this presaging rests entirely with CBS engineers, who told this reporter color *pickup*, as distinguished from color *films* which up to now have been the chief source for experimentation, is accomplished with a lower level of illumination than is necessary for black and white pictures. This, technically for the moment, is the result of an orthicon tube which even now is being further developed to the stage where it will require even less light than the one used in the demonstration.

About 100 persons were present at the showing held in the new CBS studio. The color pictures were picked up by a television camera in the company's laboratories about one long block distant and transmitted by coaxial cable. The pictures were reproduced on two receivers, one a regular black and white, and next to it and considerably smaller, a table model color receiver which also includes a standard broadcast radio receiver. The latter, especially designed for the occasion, is designed to illustrate that color need not add bulkiness to the television receiver. The screens on both receivers measured five and one quarter by seven and three quarter inches. As pictures were received it was possible to make easy comparison between the colored and black and white images, since both were shown simultaneously.

And the magic of color never got a better sendoff. The flat statement is made

(Continued on page 26-D)

$100,000 to Set Up Arbitration Boards

NEW YORK—Establishment of the 32 arbitration tribunals and other items incidental to setting up the boards, such as leases and traveling expenses for J. Noble Braden, executive director of the film tribunals, will cost the "Big Five" $100,000.

The budget committee which met Wednesday decided on this figure and it was agreed the five theatre owning companies immediately pay this amount to get the operations going. Insofar as salaries for clerks, secretaries and other incidental expenses are concerned, these will be paid from monthly contributions to be made by the "Big Five."

Percentages which each of the five producing-distributing-exhibition companies will meet have not been completed. This is being handled by a separate committee which will use the gross business of each company as a base.

Paul Felix Warburg has replaced P. M. Haight on the committee, the latter stepping out because of ill health. However, the other two men continue unchanged. They are Van Vechten Veeder, chairman of the appeals board, and Joseph H. Hazen, aide to Harry M. Warner and very active in the drafting of the decree.

Dismissing "Big Five" From Schine Action

NEW YORK—First move in the government's anti-trust suit against the Schine circuit will be to eliminate the "Big Five" as it has done in the Crescent and Griffith cases in Nashville and Oklahoma City. No date has been set for this, but it is believed a motion to dismiss against the "Big Five" will be entered in the Buffalo court shortly.

Following this, it is reported negotiations may be worked out for a settlement as against the circuit itself. Willard S. McKay, counsel for Schine, has been in touch with department of justice representatives in an effort to effect some arrangement precluding trial.

One hitch is said to be the government's insistence the circuit curtail its expansion generally and agree to accept a "standstill" clause in a decree similar to that recently entered into by the "Big Five."

Denies Joelson Dickers For Consolidated Chain

NEW YORK—Reports Julius Joelson is negotiating for the Consolidated circuit are emphatically denied by Laurence Bolognino, operating head. The reports have been current for the past few weeks, but Bolognino said he had not heard them. In addition, he added, they are not true.

BROADWAY

SAM ECKMAN jr., managing director for M-G-M in London, is asking donations of binoculars. These, field or opera glasses are of value to the British, he reports, not only because of their military use but because every large factory or place of business stations an unofficial observer in its roof so that those at work may continue without worrying about air raid warnings until the Messerschmidts or the Dorniers get close. The foreign department at M-G-M in New York, therefore, observes that anyone interested in helping may send the contribution in the form of binoculars, field or opera glasses to the Loew Building. They will be forwarded to Eckman.

Harry Allen of the Allen circuit in Canada has been spending a few days in town . . . Jack Partington of F&M has been on the coast the past week . . . What with his serving on so many committees, Harry Brandt will forsake his winter vacation in Miami this year. But Louis Brandt and Lionel Toll will head there the end of the week . . . Harry Furst, back from Florida, says he met a host of local exhibitors vacationing in the southern resort . . . Neil F. Agnew and Bob Gillham are back from the coast after a quick visit to the Paramount studios . . . Delight Evans, editor of Screenland *magazine, has awarded "Flight From Destiny" the honor page for the March issue . . . Jules Levey is in Hollywood preparing for his next Universal production . . . Eddie Golden, now a producer for Monogram, has been in town all week on personal business . . . Jack Adelman, manager of the Abbye Errand Service to which a number of companies subscribe, married Isabel Kerschner on Sunday.*

O. Henry Briggs, president of Producers Releasing Corp., is finding himself a winter bachelor for 10 days while his wife sojourns in the land of sun . . . Tommy Rodgers, Bill's youngest son, was laid up for three days with a sore throat in Chicago while en route to the coast for a month's vacation. Tommy, all right again, is now absorbing the sun at Palm Springs . . . Harry Berinstein, who operates a number of upstate theatres, was in town on product buys . . . Grad Sears and Charles Casanave, in a serious huddle at Nick's Hunting Room . . . Charles Stern, UA district manager, was tendered a welcome home party Tuesday night at the Lincoln by local exchange employes . . . Gene Autry in town for a quick visit with Herb Yates . . . Otto Bolle, 20th-Fox South Africa manager, has succeeded in getting reservations on the *City of New York,* which sails February 1, for his return trip. Which means he will not go to the coast by train.

HUNTING ROOM TWOSOMES: *Joe Unger and Milt Kusell . . . Ben Abner and "Ted" O'Shea . . . Mort Blumenstock and Mitchell Rawson . . . Dave Levy and Max A. Cohen . . . Red Letter Day for Sam Dembow was Friday when the medicos removed that heavy cast from that banged-up leg. The light cast transfers his movements from a wheel chair to crutches. Progress! . . . Nat Wachsberger, Film Alliance head, leaves for the coast, January 16, to set up production machinery at General Studios for his first contribution to UA. It'll be a month's stay . . . Philip Gerard and Lillian Nadel have opened publicity offices known as Gerard Associates. They are handling films, commercials and personalities . . . The Abe Schneiders of Columbia are vacationing in Florida . . . Ditto the Leonard Pickers. They drove down . . . Ditto Stanley W. Hand of Altec.*

Bill Gleicher, M-G-M expense auditor, is in Hollywood on business . . . Alan F. Cummings, the company's branch operations head, leaves here January 16 for a tour of exchanges . . . Roy Haines, Warner eastern sales manager, is back from a business trip to Washington . . . Pat Reis of Howard Dietz's staff holidayed in Lake Placid, but the nearest she or any others came to snow, was photographs on the hotel wall . . . Sylvia Chock, secretary to Neil F. Agnew, is back from York, Pa., where she visited her brother. Agnew returned from the coast Friday a bundle of raves over "I Wanted Wings." Bob Gillham, who went out with him, isn't due till Monday.

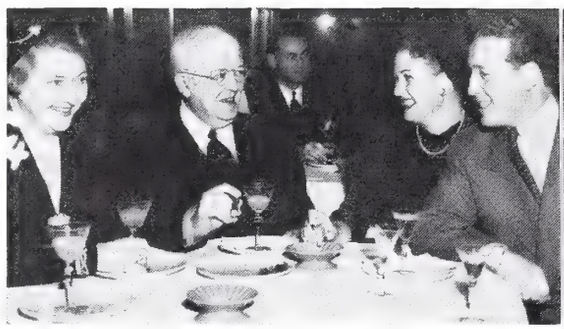
Arthur Herschman of Loew's advertising department left French Hospital the other day after five weeks of battling pneumonia . . . Caryl Dannenberg, secretary to Ernest Emerling of the same office, will be married to Herbert Anderson on January 18. Honeymoon in Washington . . . Producers Arthur Leonard and Dick Hyland of Cinemasters held a preview of the first reels they produced for the James Roosevelt-Mills "Soundies" machines at the Fox Movietone Studios . . . J. Walter Ruben and his wife, Virginia Bruce, are vacationing here from the coast . . . Ben Cohen, manager of the Metro in Calcutta, India, and formerly manager of Loew's College in New Haven, is in town for a short visit. He returns in March . . . Elias Lapinere, former director of publicity for M-G-M in Continental Europe, has opened his own art service in the city.

Charles Skouras left Friday for the coast after two weeks here, for conferences with brother Spyros. Charles' family left for Beverly Hills a week ahead of him . . . Tom Gorman, RKO circuit divisional head in Chicago, was in for meetings with J. J. O'Connor the early part of the week . . . Bob Benjamin returned from the coast the

(Continued on page 26-C)









—Photos by Cosmo-Sileo

The New York Critics Become Hosts—

Their invitational list sharply slashed this year, the New York Film Critics, nevertheless, entertained by the hundreds at the Rainbow Room when NBC broadcast their winning awards for 1940, *led off by "The Grapes of Wrath." It is Bosley Crowther, film critic of the New York* Times *who is presenting the major plaque to Darryl F. Zanuck, who cut a vacation short at Sun Valley to come east for the acceptance ceremonies. Then Crowther again, this time presenting a special award to Leopold Stokowski for his participation in "Fantasia." At the table are Mrs. Joseph I. Breen, wife of the production code administrator; W. G. Van Schmus, managing director of the Music Hall; Marion Rogers and Monroe Greenthal, newly appointed director of advertising and publicity at UA. Broadly grinning is Rodney Bush of 20th Century-Fox as he converses with David A. Lipton who, on Monday, officially took over advertising and publicity reins at Columbia.*

A message to 1,187 THEATRES —including YOURS!

THE week starting January 16th has been set as "MARCH OF DIMES" WEEK in the motion picture theatres of the New York exchange area. There are 1,187 theatres in this area—including YOURS! So far over 760 theatres have gladly, enthusiastically volunteered to cooperate. Indications are that every one of the 1,187 will join this worthy cause—including yours.

It is hoped to gather millions of dimes from moviegoers for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis! If you are at all familiar with this inspiring charity, we know you will lend your cooperation eagerly. This is one charity your patrons will be happy to help with their dimes.

Special, colorful receptacles will be supplied for all theatre lobbies by the Infantile Paralysis Foundation campaign committee at no cost to you. A special emblem, to give those who contribute, will be supplied to you at no cost. (This expense has been paid by private donations from several exhibitors.) Trailers to insert in newsreels will be sent to you gratis.

This is a grand opportunity for the motion picture exhibitors to do a great public service. Write, wire or phone your zone committee chairman that you will cooperate.

HARRY BRANDT—C. C. MOSKOWITZ
Co-chairmen for New York area

SI FABIAN
Treasurer

COMMITTEE FOR NEW JERSEY
J. J. Thompson *Harry Hecht*

COMMITTEE FOR UPSTATE N. Y.
Max Cohen

COMMITTEE FOR MANHATTAN
Martin Devine *Leo Brecher*

COMMITTEE FOR THE BRONX
Laurence Bolognino *Joe Katsh*

COMMITTEE FOR BROOKLYN
Samuel Rinzler *D. Weinstock*

COMMITTEE FOR QUEENS
Frank Moscato *Samuel Strausberg*

COMMITTEE FOR LONG ISLAND and STATEN ISLAND
Si Fabian

The committees are grateful for the immediate and whole-hearted response from the following circuits: Loew's, RKO, Brandt, Fabian, Harry Hecht, Cocalis, Randforce, Century, Consolidated, Leo Brecher, Max Cohen, Raybond and others.

PAGE DONATED BY THIS PUBLICATION

Roach Sues Loew's For $1,263,993

NEW YORK—Hal Roach Studios, Inc., has filed a $1,263,993 suit in the federal court against Loew's, Inc., and M-G-M Distributing Corp. seeking damages on numerous causes of action including overcharging on footage, improper distribution of pictures, failure to pay rebates and cancellation of contracts.

Of the total asked, $355,159 is against Loew's alone and the balance against Loew's and M-G-M Distributing. The complaint covers the 14-year period from 1926 to date of Loew's distribution of Roach's films and over 350 shorts and features.

The first cause of action is typical of the balance which covers more than 30 pages of the complaint. It is charged that in 1926 Roach signed the first of his five contracts with Loew's for distribution of his product. He says he was to receive 60 per cent of the receipts and, when his share equalled the cost of the picture plus advances, 50 per cent. Under the first contract which ran for four years, Roach claims M-G-M developed positive prints from 53,357,005 linear feet of film, but charged him in excess of the 3/10 cent per foot agreed on, making the total owed him on this transaction $142,122. It is claimed M-G-M received a rebate from the government of $51,099 which Roach wants; that after the prints became junk M-G-M sold them for their salvage value at six cents per pound and realized $17,626, which is also sought; that a rebate from New Zealand was received in the amount of $3,261 on two pictures, "Perfect Day" and "Blotto," which is asked for and that, after re-issuing these two shorts, Laurel and Hardy contracts for distribution totaling $15,622 were cancelled.

Questions Bookkeeping

Other parts of the complaint are identical in the other four contracts. The first direct charges against Loew's alone total $309,840, and attack bookkeeping on foreign exchange matters on 14 pictures released in Italy with the lira being given more value than it possessed at the time.

It is charged that in 1938 in paying its share of the Movie Quiz which cost $110,000, Loew's improperly charged Roach $7,258 against "Blockheads," and charged lesser amounts against other product of its own which cost far more.

It is also charged Loew's failed to properly distribute "Topper" in the 1937-38 season and failed to get the revenue out of it that should have been received. Roach asks $275,000 on this charge and $50,000 more for publicity spent on "Topper" and "Merrily We Live" by Loew's as being much too high and more than the company spent. The grand total sought is thus $1,328,357, but, since the defendants had advanced $64,364 to Roach on loans and other advances, he is deducting that, making the amount asked $1,263,993.

New RKO Uruguay Pact

NEW YORK—RKO's distributor in Uruguay, Cinematografica Glucksmann, S. A., Montevideo, has renewed its contract for 1941 product, according to Phil Reisman, head of the foreign department.

Foreign-Press Reviewers Select "Grapes" as Best

NEW YORK—Motion picture reviewers of leading foreign-language newspapers here have chosen "The Grapes of Wrath" as the "outstanding American picture of the year." Other selections, the result of a poll conducted by the foreign educational orientation division of the American Schools and Colleges Ass'n, are: "Hotel du Nord," best foreign film; Conrad Veidt in "Escape," best American male performance; Ginger Rogers in "The Primrose Path," best American female performance; Jean Gabin in "The Human Beast," best foreign male performance; Arletty in "Daybreak," best foreign female performance; William Wyler for "The Letter," best Hollywood director, and Marcel Carne for "Hotel du Nord," best foreign director. A special award was given to "London Can Take It."

Monroe Stein Is Aide To RKO Chain Booker

NEW YORK—Preparing to meet the new demands of the consent decree, John J. O'Connor, vice-president and general manager of the RKO circuit, has engaged Monroe Stein, until recently a partner in the Cocalis circuit, as booker under Fred Meyers, chief film buyer and booker.

Stein and his father owned a large interest in a number of Cocalis houses, but since the death of Jack Springer and Sam D. Cocalis various units have been leased or sold. The Skouras circuit and RKO recently acquired a number of Bronx houses.

McCarthy Resumes Work On 16mm Shorts Lineup

NEW YORK—Having lined up 12 franchise holders of the 52 he plans to handle his 16mm subjects on political science, Leo J. McCarthy, former head booker for Fox Midwest, left for the coast the latter part of the week to start production on three new subjects. His plans call for 16 shorts, one of which is finished and now in circulation. He produces under the name of Del Cal Theatres, Inc., of which he is president and production head.

Elson Trans-Lux Job Added to FA Duties

NEW YORK—The appointment of Norman W. Elson as general manager of Trans-Lux theatres in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington will not interfere with his present post of general sales manager of Film Alliance of the United States, the latter declares. The two companies are partners. Elson's theatre work, largely confined to buying and booking film, merely supplements his sales post.

It's Sir Randle

NEW YORK—It's now Sir Randle F. Holme for the chairman of RKO's English company. According to Phil Reisman, head of RKO's foreign department, King George VI has conferred a knighthood on Holme for distinguished service.

Many Volunteer for Drive on "Polio"

NEW YORK—Theatre managers, home office executives and district representatives met at Loew's home office Friday to outline plans for aiding the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis fund drive.

After the session it was revealed more than 800 of the 1,187 theatres in the exchange area have volunteered to cooperate in the "March of Dimes" drive, which gets under way in theatres, January 16, although the national drive begins January 13 and runs to January 30.

Circuits represented at the meeting included Loew's, RKO, Brandt, Skouras and Randforce. Their representatives went over numerous details, including a special receptacle to be placed in lobbies for the collection of funds, routines for supplying uniformed girls to preside at the dime-boxes, and the special emblem that will be given to all contributors. The committee will supply gratis two short pieces of film for insertion in newsreels, one in which Spencer Tracy appears, the other featuring Charles Chaplin.

The following sub-committee appointments have been made by Co-Chairmen Charles C. Moskowitz and Harry Brandt:

New Jersey—J. J. Thompson and Harry Hecht.

Upstate New York—Max Cohen.

Long Island and Staten Island—Si Fabian, who is acting as treasurer.

Bronx—Laurence Bolognino and Joe Katsch.

Brooklyn—Samuel Rinzler and Dave Weinstock.

Manhattan—Leo Brecher and Martin Levine.

Queens—Frank Moscato and Samuel Strausberg.

Nicholas M. Schenck is national chairman of the industry committee.

Coordinate Staff for Added Metro Duties

NEW YORK—Marvin Schenck, recently appointed talent chief in the east for M-G-M, in addition to his other duties as assistant to C. C. Moskowitz, is coordinating his staff of four which will be located on the 11th floor in the Loew Building. Al Altman and Sidney Phillips, now on the sixth floor, and Benn Jacobson and William R. Deering, now at the annex, will move up to the 11th floor as soon as the offices are ready. Schenck will continue his seventh floor office for his theatre duties and have another office on the 11th floor for talent activities.

Signs Deal With Two

HOLLYWOOD—Jack Benny has concluded a new deal with Paramount and at the same time signed a long-term deal with 20th-Fox, which is a new affiliation for him. Both studios will work out arrangements for operation of the contracts harmoniously. Each is now busy preparing scripts to fit the schedule.

A Variety of Minor Suits Mark Week

NEW YORK—Court news of the week was featured by a variety of minor suits but nothing of major importance. A minor revival of the extinct Fox Theatres estate featured the somewhat dull week, as Senior Federal Judge John C. Knox denied a request by the trustees of the estate, Kenneth P. Steinreich and Leopold Porrino, to reduce the amount of a final allowance to Attorney Archibald R. Watson from $15,000 to $10,000. Watson was trustee for the former trustees and is said to have saved the estate hundreds of thousands of dollars. Affidavits testified his services to be worth in excess of $100,000. Steinreich and Porrino had attempted to cite former Judge Martin T. Manton's opinion that Watson's services were worth only $10,000, but Judge Knox refused to listen.

Trial of Isabella Knowtter's suit against Hal Roach Studios, M-G-M Pictures, M-G-M Distributing Corp., Loew's and Culver Export has been set for June 16, 1941 in the federal court. The plaintiff is a resident of France and a citizen of the Netherlands and is unable at the moment to get out of France. She thinks she may be able to get to America in six months. The suit claims that two Roach pictures, "Swiss Miss" and "Way Out West," plagiarize her story, "Two Down and Outs." An injunction, accounting of profits, and damages are sought.

Settle WB Plagiarism Suit

Louis Klotz has filed a supreme court suit against Jacob Rabinowitz, known as Jack Robins, William Lorenz, the Willor Mfg. Corp., and the Mechanical Mfg. Corp., claiming the defendants engaged him to develop and exploit a continuous sound projector and promised him 10 per cent of the gross sales or rentals. They are now denying the existence of the agreement, Klotz claims, in seeking court aid.

A suit by M. and G. Amusements, Inc., against Warner for $150,000 damages for alleged plagiarism of plaintiff's play, "Sh, the Octopus" in the Warner film of the same name, has been settled and discontinued out of federal court. The plaintiff claimed the film company only owned silent and not sound rights to the story.

Supreme Court Justice Peter Schmuck has reserved decision after a two-day trial of Stephen Tamas' suit against 20th Century-Fox in which the plaintiff, a Hungarian author, claimed his scenario, entitled "Stowaway," was lifted by 20th-Fox in the Shirley Temple starrer of the same name. He seeks an injunction, accounting of profits, and damages.

Federal Judge Edward A. Conger has authorized the examination before trial of Radtke Patents Corp. and Leonard Day, attorney, in connection with a suit by Photometric Products Corp. against them, and Warner. The suit seeks to have a patent called "Methods for and Means of Optically Recording and Reproducing Sound" declared the property of the plaintiff.

Selwyn and Co. have filed a rebuttal to the answer of Bayard Veiller in the federal court in connection with its $7,500 suit against the author. Veiller had claimed that Selwyn was dissolved in 1936 and had no claim to the play, "The Miracle." Selwyn admits being dissolved, but claims to have obtained a certificate of annulment in 1939 cancelling the dissolution. The plaintiff received all rights to Veiller's play in 1914 and claims that in 1939 the author sold rights to Loew's for $7,500, which it now seeks.

Trial of Joseph M. Schenck and Joseph H. Moskowitz for alleged evasion of income tax returns will begin in the federal court February 10. The date was set by mutual agreement between government and defense counsel with the trial expected to last two to three months. Both defendants maintain their innocence of any wrongdoing and insist any errors are bookkeeping ones, rather than intentional attempts to evade payment.

Sues Rogers and Pickford On Pact Breach Charge

NEW YORK—Arthur T. Michaud and James V. Peppe, managers, have filed a supreme court suit against Charles (Buddy) Rogers and Mary Pickford, seeking $300,000 damages, $150,000 against each, for alleged breach of contract. They say they signed as Rodgers' managers for 10 years in May, 1939 and contract was broken in August, 1940. It is claimed Miss Pickford forced the breach by threats of divorce and promises to secure Rogers producing and acting jobs in pictures if he returned to California with her.

Suit by Robert L. Buckner against Paramount and Charles Beahan has been discontinued in federal court. The action sought an injunction, accounting of profits, and damages against the picture "Midnight," claiming it is based on Buckner's play, "Dearly Beloved."

S. O. S. Signs With Unions

NEW YORK — S. O. S. Cinema Supply Corp. has signed contracts with AFL Local 20940 of Office Employes and with the International Brotherhood of Machinists, also an AFL affiliate. The pacts cover all S. O. S. employes.

Deals in Company Stocks Are Slow

WASHINGTON—Transactions involving 1,500 shares of film company stocks are shown in the first December report of the securities and exchange commission on transactions of officers and directors in the securities of their corporations. Deals for only three companies were reported, as follows:

Consolidated Film Industries: Disposition of 100 shares of part preferred stock by E. H. Seifert, director, Fort Lee, N. J., leaving him with 100 shares:

Twentieth Century-Fox: Acquisition of 1,000 shares of common stock by Sidney R. Kent, officer, New York, giving him a total of 2,180 shares.

Universal Corp.: Acquisition of 200 common voting trust certificates by Preston Davie, director, New York, giving him a total of 2,600 held direct and 26,500 held through Standard Capital Co.

The SEC reported that Pathe Film was among the first companies to file reports under the new investment company act, showing the stock holdings of officers and directors and beneficial owners of more than 10 per cent of any class.

The report showed the holdings as of November 1, last, when the law became effective, as follows:

George J. Bonwick, officer, New York, none; Henry J. Guild, director, Adams, Mass., none; Donaldson Brown, beneficial owner, New York, none direct but 58,102 shares of common and 1,844 shares of preferred through the Broseco Corp.; T. C. Davis, director, New York, 100 shares of common; Allan P. Kirby, director, Morristown, N. J., 2,100 shares of common direct, 1,000 shares through Holding Company A, 4,000 shares through Holding Company B, and 600 shares through a trust; Kenneth M. Young, officer, New York, 400 shares of common; Robert R. Young, director, Cleveland, 20,497 shares of common; Mabel M. Malone, officer, New York, one share of preferred.



Altec Men Observe Anniversary—

Their company three years old, a bunch of the executives get together by way of celebration. The celebrants, starting left and around to the right, include Harold Wengler, Stanley Hand, Harry M. Bessey, secretary-treasurer; E. Z. Walters, G. L. Carrington, vice-president and general manager; Don L. Turner, Bert Sanford jr., F. C. Dickely, A. J. Rademacher and L. W. Conrow, president.

No Date as Yet for Remittance Parley

NEW YORK—No date has yet been set for arbitration of M-G-M's contention its share of the new British remittances should be based on the same system as set up by the British government instead of on the gross business for the eight major companies for the year ending October 31, 1940.

Commenting on the situation, Arthur Loew, head of M-G-M's foreign activities, stated, "It's a matter of principle and we will win."

20th-Fox Schedules Sales Meeting in Porto Rico

NEW YORK—Twentieth Century-Fox will hold a convention at San Juan, Porto Rico, about January 16. Walter J. Hutchinson and Irving Maas will attend from here.

Paramount, too, will hold a convention of its Carribbean area managers February 6-8 at Panama City. John W. Hicks jr. left for it via Mexico Sunday. Arthur L. Pratchett will be in charge.

Dan Greenhouse, former manager for RKO in the Philippines, has arrived in Santiago to take over representation in Chile. George Kallman, manager there, will assume Greenhouse's former post.

N. Schenck to Coast; Dietz Vacationing

HOLLYWOOD—Nicholas M. Schenck, head of Loew's and M-G-M, is due here shortly for a brief studio visit before he leaves on his annual vacation in Miami the latter part of the month.

Al Lichtman and Bernie Hyman are back from a visit to the east where they saw the new crop of Broadway shows. Howard Dietz is vacationing at Palm Springs and will most likely visit here before returning to New York.

State Department Into Brazilian Situation

WASHINGTON—The state department will step into the Brazilian situation by making presentations to that government in protest to its proposed plan of imposing an eight per cent tax on earnings transmittable to New York. It would be retroactive to 1935. The Brazilian government is threatening to block all remittances otherwise.

Four "Fantasia" Dates

NEW YORK—The first of four scheduled out-of-town, roadshow engagements for "Fantasia" is set for the Carthay Circle, Hollywood, January 23, to be followed with the Majestic, Boston, January 25; Aldine, Philadelphia, January 30, and an undisclosed Chicago house on February 10. All engagements will be of an indefinite duration, two shows a day, all seats reserved.

REVIEW FLASHES

CONVOY (RKO)—Producer Michael Balcon, with the cooperation of the Royal Navy and some highly effective model work, has concocted in "Convoy" a naval thriller based on the present war. Clive Brook, John Clements, Judy Campbell.

LARCENY STREET (Film Alliance)—An English variation on the "Thin Man" style of crime detection. Jack Buchanan produced and has the leading role. Generally quite funny and exciting, the story leans heavily on dialect comedy. Tim Whelan directed.

SIX LESSONS FROM MADAME LA ZONGA (Univ)—Again taking as a nucleus the tune and title of a popular song—this time one of more recent vintage—Universal has wound around it a fast-moving, diverting tuneful comedy which should prove to be a welcome half of any program. Lupe Velez and Leon Errol are co-featured. Joseph G. Sanford produced; John Rawlins directed.

VIRGINIA (Para't)—Way down yonder in the land of cotton they'll tear the doors down to see this one. What's more, its popularity will not stop at the Mason-Dixon line, because customers everywhere should love it for its many idyllic qualities, a sterling cast, a swell romantic story, the beauties of its Technicolor photography and, above all, a show-stopping performance by Carolyn Lee, as clever a moppet as ever donned grease paint. Edward H. Griffith produced and directed.

YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK (Mono)—With minor variations, this is cut from the same pattern as preceding Frankie Darros for this company in which he plays a juvenile detective; and, by the same token, compares favorably with them as good supporting program material. Darro, Kay Sutton, Mantan Moreland. Howard Bretherton directed.

Paramount Sales Meet For Panama City Force

NEW YORK—John W. Hicks, Paramount foreign chief, and Arthur Pratchett, Central American manager, depart the end of the week for Mexico City where they will conduct a three-day meeting of the company's sales force in Panama City, starting February 6.

While here on a short vacation, Pratchett indicated the Cuban government shortly will publish a decree which will limit the sales of pictures to groups of 10 and also provide for an arbitration system similar to that contained in the government's decree against the "Big Five."

Discuss New Year

ALBANY—A meeting of Schine district managers will be held in Gloversville, January 14. Plans for 1941 are to be discussed.

Big Pictures Swell Government Take

WASHINGTON — "Gone With the Wind" and other "big" pictures of early 1940 contributed materially to the government's revenue from the admission tax, boxoffice collections for the fiscal year ended last June 30 totaling $19,389,056.16, compared with $17,096,415.63 for the preceding fiscal year, it is shown by the annual report of Commissioner of Internal Revenue Guy T. Helvering.

The 1940 figures represent the last collections under the 40-cent exemption, for with the beginning of the current fiscal year last July 1 the 20-cent exemption became effective, indications being that collections for the present year will be almost trebled as a result of the additional taxable admissions and generally improving business as economic conditions get better.

Total admission-tax collections for the period were $21,887,916, compared with $19,470,801.85 for the 1939 fiscal year, but they included, in addition to taxes paid at the boxoffice, $612,358.20 collected on free or reduced rate admissions, compared with $667,099.52 in 1939, and nearly $1,900,000 received from leases of boxes or seats, admissions sold in excess of established prices, sales by ticket brokers and admissions to roof gardens and cabarets.

Commissioner Helvering's report indicated that theatres throughout the country generally did a better business in 1940 than in 1939. Boxoffice tax collections did decline in California, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas and Wyoming and in Hawaii, but the losses were relatively small except in the case of Georgia, which dropped $68,000 or something over 30 per cent.

On the other hand, it was shown, other states reported substantial increases, running well over $465,000 in the case of New York, indicating that the losses in the five states were due to local conditions.

Smallest revenue producer of all was North Dakota, which returned $7,453.95, approximately $2,000 less than its neighbor, South Dakota, which reported $9,443.57. These were the only states to return less than $10,000, but seven states reported between $10,000 and $20,000, and 14 states and Alaska and Hawaii reported between $20,000 and $100,000. Sixteen states and the District of Columbia reported between $100,000 and $500,000; five states reported between $500,000 and $1,000,000; three states reported between $1,000,000 and $2,000,000, and one, New York, more than $2,000,000.

Warners Invest Heavily In Company Debentures

NEW YORK—Collectively, Harry M., Albert and Jack L. Warner own $2,765,000 of Warner six per cent debentures, it is disclosed by SEC. Separately, Harry holds $750,000 worth; Albert, $1,500,000, and Jack, $515,000, all as of August 27, 1940.

The report also states James Cagney's salary for the fiscal year was $363,333, while H. B. Wallis received $265,000, and Edward G. Robinson, $255,000.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 24)

latter part of the week. He had been there on special Pathe business . . . Charles E. McCarthy left for 20th-Fox studios Friday to look at the new crop of pictures . . . Milt Kusell's new license plate reads MK-56, in case you're interested . . . Bill Brown was in from Greenwich still bemoaning the fate of the beautiful Pickwick there . . . David L. Loew and Albert Lewin are in from the coast to confer with UA home office executives on distribution plans for "So Ends Our Night."

Harry Brandt started the week in a blaze of glory. His Colony, Jackson Heights, had a fire in the booth, and the theatre had to remain closed while Paramount dug up another print of "Arise, My Love" . . . Sol Schwartz, RKO Bronx division manager, flew out to Dallas for the Fordham-Texas A&M game. The reason: He had the entire Fordham team appear in person at the Fordham Theatre Monday night, including Coach Jim Crowley . . . Bill Scully is due back from the coast Monday ere he swings south for a siesta in Miami . . . Joseph Bernhard is due from Hollywood next week . . . Clayton Bond and Leo J. McCarthy swapping old time stories about Chicago days at the Astor . . . Morris Sher of Loew's legal staff is back from a 12-day Miami vacation where he spent a lot of time putting the pill . . . Walter Hutchinson is figuring on another South American tour for 20th-Fox soon.

Dorothy Kennedy, Loew's receptionist on the seventh floor, is mourning the loss of her mother who passed away after a very short illness . . . Bill Sussman and the missus are in Miami for a month's vacation . . . Manny Reiner is doing a bang-up job on the Quiz Kids. The radio troupe arrived Saturday from Chicago and were met by Mayor LaGuardia and Dr. Dafoe. On Thursday they were the guests of Eleanor Roosevelt at the White House. Incidentally, they will make a series of shorts for Paramount, the productions to be sandwiched in between school and their Wednesday night broadcasts . . . Jack Zurich, Buffalo Warner salesman, had his Buick stolen while he was in town vacationing . . . Rose Lichtman is planning to come east as soon as she completes decorating her new home in Beverly Hills. The house, recently purchased by Husband Al, was formerly owned by Ruth Chatterton.

Leah Peterson, cashier at the local Paramount exchange, leaves January 18 for a two-week Miami stay . . . Charles M. Reagan, western division manager for Paramount, is back from a trip to Chicago . . . Joe Unger, eastern divisional head for the same company, has been visiting New England exchanges . . . Joe Philipson, formerly booker and buyer for the Joe Cooper circuit in Oklahoma City, has joined the Paramount home office distribution department. Ditto for Jack Bannon, lately with Astor Pictures and prior to that with Sam Dembow after the latter left Paramount some years ago . . . Joe Hornstein is back from another junket to Miami where he spent a couple of weeks with his family . . . Ed Lee of M-G-M's legal force managed to get to see his family in Utica over the holidays.

Morey Marcus, general manager for M-G-M in Japan, will be heading for his headquarters soon . . . Ben Cohen, former Poli manager in New England and now in charge of India for M-G-M, has gone back to his territory after a vacation in Hollywood, New York and New England . . . Stanleigh Friedman was in Lindy's the other day with his family for lunch and, as is his custom when he takes the boys along, walked out with a jar of pickles. At other times it might be herring, but it's always something to take home when the children are along . . . Among local salesmen back from Miami vacations are Joe Vergesslich, Abe Blumenstein, Moe Kurtz and Irving Rothenberg. Gus Solomon of the local Warner staff is back from Arizona where he spent his vacation . . . Ed Hatrick is now ensconced in the penthouse at the Cromwell, Miami Beach . . . Mort Spring has a reputation for being one of the best bowlers among the film crowd . . . Louis Frisch has gone to Miami for an indefinite rest. He's been holding his own lately for which many are thankful.

Harry Buxbaum jr. has joined the M-G-M exchange in Detroit as a junior salesman. Jackie Buxbaum recently became engaged to Charles Moses' step daughter, Betty Nordenhold . . . Arthur Greenblatt did a swell job as m. c. at the Bookers' Club induction of officers the other evening . . . Harry M. Goetz is on the coast in the interest of "The American Way" for RKO . . . George J. Schaefer is expected in Hollywood January 15 and plans to stay for some time. Barret McCormick is also planning his regular RKO studios visit within the very near future . . . Having visited M-G-M exchanges in Washington and Cincinnati, H. M. Richey is due in St. Louis, Monday, for a two-day stay, and from there will go to Des Moines, due there January 15-16; Omaha, 17-18, Denver, 19-20; Salt Lake City, 21-22, and then Los Angeles. However, he may be called to the coast sooner than his schedule calls for by Bill Rodgers, now there.

"Story," "Neighbor" and "Fantasia" Top B'way

NEW YORK—Broadway managers aren't complaining a whit over the first week's business of the new year.

Their enthusiasm is the more marked in light of the fact that 10 of the 11 first runs were holdovers. True, there were plenty of youngsters still around town, who hadn't yet returned to school from their holidays and not a few straggling tourists who stuck it out over the week-end, but, by and large, this business is not credited as a particular factor at the de-luxers. The theatres willing to attribute the extra pickup to the vacation trade were the two roadshows.

Most of the huzzahs came from the Music Hall, where $111,000 was rolled up in the second week of "The Philadelphia Story." Runner-up in cash turnover and staying power was the Paramount, with close to $80,000 for the second stanza. The Capitol, with "Comrade X," and the Strand, with "Santa Fe Trail," the latter winding up its third week, hit well above average takes.

Newcomers are "Hudson's Bay" at the Roxy; "Four Mothers" at the Strand, and "Kitty Foyle" at the Rivoli.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 13th roadshow wk. 110
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 8th roadshow wk. 160
Capitol—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 130
Criterion—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 110
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 115
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 3rd wk., plus stage show 160
Radio City Music Hall—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 2nd wk., plus stage show ... 165
Rialto—**Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col) 90
Rivoli—**Victory** (Para't), 2nd wk. 100
Roxy—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., plus stage show 150
Strand—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 3rd wk., plus stage show 140

Capital First Runs Are Crammed on New Year's

WASHINGTON — New Year celebrants heeded traditional siren and crammed first run shelters right through midnight showings, as four top releases made debuts. Bad weather setback following holiday, was offset by strong weekend take, to average out excellent grosses. "Kitty Foyle" at RKO Keith's in top spot, with "Flight Command" at the Capitol, "Comrade X," at the Palace, and "Santa Fe Trail" pressing for the honor. "Tin Pan Alley," in a changeover to the Columbia for second week showing, doing better than average, while "Here Comes the Navy" at the Metropolitan making excellent showing in comeback.

Detail for week ending January 7:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Flight Command** (M-G-M), plus stage show 150
Columbia—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox), move-over from Palace for 2nd wk. 120
Earle—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), plus stage show and Roxyettes 125
RKO Keith's—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 200
Metropolitan—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB), reissue 100
Palace—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 140

'Santa Fe' Big in Philly As Theatre Takes Soar

PHILADELPHIA—Post-holiday good spirits sent the boxoffice soaring at several downtown houses. "Santa Fe Trail," at the Fox, led the parade with a spectacular $26,500; close behind came the Earle, playing "Escape to Glory," but bolstered particularly by a stage show including Humphrey Bogart, Mayo Methot, Harriet Hilliard and Ozzie Nelson's orchestra. "Thief of Bagdad" was petering out in its third week at the Aldine, but "North West Mounted Police" finished strong in its third stanza at the Stanley.

Detail for the week ending January 10:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA) 90
Boyd—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 140
Second week, with a third good one in prospect.
Earle—**Escape to Glory** (Col), plus stage show 145
Fox—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 175
Karlton—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 115
Keith's—**Four Mothers** (WB) 80
Stanley—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't) 120
Stanton—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 150

Must "Sell" Industry, Balaban Tells Ampa

(Continued from page 23)

Unfortunately, the public is not concerned with their authenticity."

In addition to being "super salesmen" of goodwill, publicists have still another task in bringing about a "harmonious relationship among the various branches of production, distribution and exhibition," Balaban asserted. In this connection he is of the belief advertising, as now controlled from New York, will be "somewhat decentralized."

"It may be necessary," he said, "to properly synchronize your campaigns with release dates. There are also advantages to be gained from this—such as more freedom of thought on the part of local advertising representatives who are right on the scene, and if they are of proper calibre, can render real service."

Although Balaban said he was "against changing the old method of selling," he pledged that Paramount "will put forth every effort to make this new method work. We intend to tackle this job conclusively and without regard to the fact that there is such a thing as the escape clause in the consent decree."

Still Finds Romance In the Business

NEW YORK—Few persons in or out of the industry will challenge Barney Balaban's authority to speak on the evolution of the picture theatre.

Therefore, when he observes there is romance in the business, he undoubtedly knows whereof he speaks. And to substantiate his observation he offers the fact that the first week's receipts at his Chicago Theatre in 1908 were $88, while the second week's receipts at the Paramount on Broadway for "Love Thy Neighbor" were $80,000.

The Paramount president was speaking before the company's Pep Club. He was introduced by Claude F. Lee, who presided. Balaban declared that while the industry is the third largest in the country, it is "first in public interest." How his family has sought over the years to capitalize on this interest formed the basis of his talk. Reduced to its fundamentals, the process has been "improvement and progress," he said.

Four Transfers Follow Weshner's Resignation

PHILADELPHIA — With resignation of David E. Weshner to join UA and appointment of Maurice K. Gable to succeed him as a Warner theatre district manager, other changes follow:

Harry Tarrente, former manager of the Aldine, takes Gable's former post at the Boyd.

George Balkin, formerly an assistant manager, takes the Aldine.

Harold Seidenberg, manager of the Fox, takes the Earle.

Bill Israel, manager of the Earle, switches to the Fox.

O'Shea, Bowen, Pielow Guests at Induction

NEW YORK—E. K. "Ted" O'Shea, Jack Bowen and Ralph Pielow, M-G-M sales executives recently promoted to division manager, district head and New York branch manager, respectively, were special guests of honor at the induction of newly elected officers of the M. P. Bookers Club Monday night at the Club Loyale. Pielow came down from Albany to be on hand for the occasion although he officially does not take over his new duties until January 14.

On January 13 at the DeWitt Clinton Hotel in Albany, Pielow will be tendered a testimonial dinner by his friends. On the committee are Clayton Eastman, chairman; Arthur Newman, J. Myer and Louis W. Schine, Moe Silver and Charles Smakwitz, Si Fabian and Lou Golding, William Smalley, Mike Kallett, Joe Miller, Nate Sodikman, Jere Spandau, Paul Krumenacker, Herman Ripps and Moe Grassgreen.

Ripps, former local salesman for M-G-M handling upstate, Long Island and a few New Jersey towns, has been promoted to Albany manager succeeding Pielow. Bob Bernstein, for the past two years salesman in Detroit, has already taken over Ripps' former territory here.

Elections of bookers recently saw Harold Klein of the Cocalis circuit continued for another year as president and Leon Greenfield of the Boro Hall, Brooklyn, as vice-president.

Paul Laube Winner Of Skouras Drive

NEW YORK—Paul Laube, manager of the Manhassett, Manhassett, L. I., has been declared the winner in the latest Skouras circuit drive which ended December 14 after 15 weeks. Cash awards were distributed to a long list of winning managers at a special meeting early in the week at the Skouras home office.

Second was Fred Weiber, manager of the Tivoli, Jersey City, with the other five winners as follows, in their respective order; Tom Burns, grandson of the great heavyweight champion, Monticello, Jersey City; Emanuel Sussman, brother of William of 20th-Fox, Crescent, Astoria; Al Unger, Capitol, Jersey City; Morris Hatoff, Brook, Bound Brook, and Burt Hoffman, Fulton, Jersey City. A special award was given Harry Fuchs of the Fox, Hackensack, N. J.

George Skouras has always made it a point to give special awards for the best holiday lobby. This year the religious angle was stressed and the following were awarded prizes: Ken Henry, Capitol, Port Chester; Dick Carnegie, Roosevelt, Flushing; Fred Lichtman, Lafayette, Suffern; Sam Norman, Grand, Astoria; J. Santeiamo, Strand, Jersey City, and Joe Ghighlionie, Corona, Corona, in addition to 16 others.

Four other awards were made for best results during individual manager's week. They are Benny Friedman, Ward, Bronx; Norman Gluck, Teaneck, Teaneck; Emanuel Sussman, Crescent, Astoria, and Bob Wernicke, Granada, Corona.

"Competitive Jolt" Due From Television

(Continued from page 23)

for whatever it's worth, that the black and white images were like ash remains as contrasted to the flaming red fire that left them. Now, that's not a remark to covet admittance to the Smithsonian Institute, but it is this observer's studied opinion that perhaps nothing the film industry has in use today can match the potentialities, competitive-wise or entertainment-wise, color television offers once it is harnessed for mass consumption.

The CBS system, as demonstrated, is unequivocally declared to be capable of transmitting every natural color the naked eye can see. Whether this means New Yorkers could see the Tournament of Roses in Pasadena on their television sets—meaning is distance a factor in transmission?—is something CBS is cautious on. But they do state there that weakness of light signals as applied to transmitting images over distances is of much less concern in color television than in black and white because of the "definition" color affords. Also, it is said that, despite differences in current of power supply lines between the point of pickup and the point of reproduction, a method of synchronizing the color disk in the receiver with the color disk at the point of origin overcomes this.

Home Experiments Soon

Among the objects shown in the demonstration, especially to illustrate that colors do not "break up" if they are moving, were a map which was rapidly spun around in both directions, colored liquids poured from tumbler to bowl, loose confetti and other items.

This reporter asked a CBS engineer what he expected the next step in the development might be. He was also asked if it is possible to blow the images up to something approaching theatre screen size. This is his answer:

"We expect to put it on for home use, purely in experiment form, in a few months. From then on it's the television industry's baby; those who make the sets, and so forth. It is easier to blow up to screen size than for reproduction on home-type sets."

Moskowitz Announces Managerial Changes

NEW YORK—Charles C. Moskowitz of Loew's has effected the following promotions and transfers in the metropolitan circuit managerial personnel:

Paul Murphy, assistant manager of the State, is now manager of the Ziegfeld, replacing Gil Marbe, now managing the new American. S. Schwartz, assistant at the 83rd Street, replaces Murphy at the State.

Kenneth Towers, chief of service at the Mayfair, becomes assistant at the Apollo. Robert Spodlick, chief of service at the Sheridan, is now assistant at the Triboro. Nat Slater, assistant at the Mt. Vernon, transfers to the 83rd Street, while Edwin Lucey, chief usher at the 83rd Street, becomes assistant at the Mt. Vernon.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Details Shortly on Tribute to Capra

Definite date and locale for a tribute to Frank Capra, honoring his 20th anniversary in motion pictures, will be announced shortly by a committee representing many industry organizations, appointed to handle the affair.

Representatives include: Screen Directors Guild—Ernst Lubitsch, George Marshall, Garson Kanin, J. P. Macgowan; Screen Actors Guild—Edward Arnold, Kenneth Thomson; Screen Writers Guild—Sheridan Gibney, Ralph Block, Dore Schary; Artists Managers Guild—Bert Allenberg, Jules Stein; Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—Walter Wanger, Donald Gledhill; Producers Association—Y. Frank Freeman, Fred W. Beetson. Publicity—Bill Hebert.

"Miss Bishop" Leads Off Out-of-Hollywood Bows

The next out-of-Hollywood premiere on schedule is the debut of Richard A. Rowland's United Artists production, "Cheers for Miss Bishop," in Lincoln, Neb., January 13. In addition to Martha Scott, William Gargan, Sterling Holloway and other cast members set to make appearances, Director Tay Garnett also will attend. He is scheduled to address the student body of the University of Nebraska on the making of motion pictures. The midwestern city is the locale of much of the action contained in the film.

This event will be followed January 21 by the world premiere of Paramount's "Virginia" at the Paramount in New York. Attending from Hollywood will be Stirling Hayden and Carolyn Lee, members of the cast, while studio attaches have announced Gov. James H. Price of Virginia has accepted an invitation to be guest of honor at the event. He will be accompanied by other officials of the state.

Walt Disney has secured the Carthay Circle as the location for the Pacific Coast premiere of "Fantasia," which will open a two-a-day run in the house January 23. Specially-devised Fantasound equipment will be installed for the booking.

World premiere of Universal's "Back Street," co-starring Charles Boyer and Margaret Sullavan, has been set for February 4 in Miami, Fla. Newspaper critics from key cities will be brought there by plane and train. Producer Bruce Manning and leading members of the cast will head the contingent of attending Hollywood celebrities.

Dramatic Films Lead First-Quarter Lists

Independent Index Swinging Upward

The production index among independent units currently is taking an upward swing, with indications the increased tempo will continue for the next several weeks, at least.

Sigmund Neufeld has announced he will produce four westerns during the month for Producers Releasing Corp. They will include "The Lone Rider Crosses the Rio," with George Houston; two "Billy the Kid" sagebrushers, and Tim McCoy in "Outlaws of the Rio Grande." In February, Neufeld will roll "Alimony Jail," a feature comedy.

Harry Sherman has set a January 20 starting date on "The Sheik of Buffalo Butte," next in his Hopalong Cassidy western series for Paramount release.

Larry Darmour has gunned an untitled "Ellery Queen" detective film, starring Ralph Bellamy, for release through Columbia. At Universal, and for release by that company, Lawrence Fox has signaled a start on "The Man Who Lost Himself," co-starring Brian Aherne and Kay Francis.

Incorporation of two new independent units has been announced. John Krueger will release under the Hal Roach banner through United Artists, his first vehicle tentatively titled "Washington Correspondent." Sam Coslow, Matty Kemp and Harry E. Sokolov have filed articles of incorporation in Sacramento for Cameo Pictures. No production plans or details of release have been announced as yet. Coslow withdrew recently from Voco Productions.

Shirley Temple's Metro Contract Is Sealed

After months of negotiation, Shirley Temple's acting contract with M-G-M has been set. The juvenile star has signed a one-year ticket, effective February 15, and is tentatively set to co-star with Mickey Rooney in "Babes on Broadway" as her first assignment. Her mother, Mrs. George Temple, has been signed to a separate contract calling for her services as Shirley's tutor and coach.

Straight dramatic offerings hold the lead as to the type of film fare to be turned out by Hollywood studios during the first quarter of 1941, 16 pictures in this category already having been announced for production. Closely following are comedies and the inevitable sagebrushers, with eight and seven titles, respectively, now on the call sheets. Additionally, at least five musicals are being planned, while widespread interest in the war and national defense has caused four films treating of these topics to be announced.

Dramas

Dramas include Warner's "Woman From Singapore," "Strange Alibi" and "Danger Zone;" Paramount's "American Vagabond," "College Mystery" and "Hold Back the Dawn;" Metro's "A Woman's Face," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "Blossoms in the Dust;" "Blood and Sand" from 20th Century-Fox; "Before the Fact" and "The Devil and Daniel Webster" from RKO Radio; Republic's "Mr. District Attorney," "The Great Train Robbery" and "The Lady From New Orleans," and Columbia's "Senate Page Boys."

Comedies

Among the comedies are Paramount's "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" and "Skylark;" Universal's "Model Wife" and "Almost an Angel;" Metro's "Mr. Co-Ed;" RKO Radio's "My Life With Caroline;" Republic's "Sis Hopkins," and Columbia's "A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street."

Westerns

Westerns will include "Bad Men of Missouri," from Warner; "The Sheik of Buffalo Butte," from Harry Sherman for Paramount; "Pioneer Woman," also from Paramount; 20th Century-Fox's "The Cowboy and the Blonde;" RKO Radio's "Range Raiders;" Republic's "Call of the Canyon," and Columbia's "Texas."

Musicals

Twentieth Century-Fox will turn out two musicals, "Miami" and "The Great American Broadcast." RKO Radio lists "Sunny," Alexander Korda will make "New Wine" for United Artists, and Columbia is preparing "Betty Co-Ed."

Martial

War and national defense films include "Sergeant York," to be made by Warner; Argosy's "The Eagle Squadron," which will be released through United Artists by Walter Wanger; Republic's "You'll Never Get Rich," and 20th Century-Fox's "The Eagle Flies Again."

Resentment Mounts on Hiked Film Seal Costs

Considerable smoldering resentment—which may at any moment flare into a united movement in protest—is being felt by Hollywood's independent producers as a result of the little-publicized manifesto from the Hays office declaring that, effective January 1, the production code administration has raised the service fees on feature pictures with a negative cost of $100,000 or less from the previous $50 or $25, to a minimum of $100 each. The sum involved constitutes the charge for reviewing, approving and attaching a production code seal to each film.

For obvious protectional reasons, those independents who have voiced their dissatisfaction with the boost in cost and their opinion regarding its unfairness refuse to be quoted on their reactions. One such individual, however, told BOXOFFICE that he and many of his contemporaries are up in arms over the action and are discussing ways and means of uniting to protest the increase. "It's too much for us to pay," this producer asserted, "for the services which the producers association render." He contended also that there should be a lower service charge on pictures with negative costs of $50,000 or less, instead of attaching the blanket $100 minimum to all features costing $100,000 or less.

May Resort to Legal Action

Another who was most outspoken in his condemnation of what he termed "the Hays office's arbitrary procedure" informed BOXOFFICE that he is consulting his attorneys to ascertain whether or not there is some legal action to which he might resort to protect himself against what he termed a "ruinous increase." This producer pointed out the production code seal is a necessity on his features so that they may be booked into theatres which are in any way affiliated with the producers association; and which, because of such affiliation, have to insist upon the purity seal on all product to reach their screens.

He stressed the fact that the 300 per cent increase affects that class of motion picture-makers who, under current conditions, can least afford it, and asserted the amount of increased revenue accruing to the association as a result could not possibly total enough to be much of a factor in that organization's financial operations. This producer pointed out, further, that a more sizeable sum would result if the code administration had seen fit to attach even a small increase to the service charge on larger-budget films.

"Dependent on Fees"

The letter informing producers of the change in tariff, and signed by Joseph I. Breen, production code administrator, explained that the code administration is "dependent entirely upon fees received for servicing pictures for producers and distributors," and that since its inception in 1934 the organization's income from these services "has been insufficient to cover the actual cost of operation," which deficits, Breen declared, have been paid by the code's signatories.

"An exhaustive analysis," Breen continued, disclosed that as concerns pictures with negative costs of less than $100,000, the previously existing fees "have been entirely out of line with the work involved and the service rendered." He asserted "it is imperatively necessary to maintain the production code administration on a self-sustaining basis" and explained the boost in fees had been unanimously voted by the code's signatories. The letter further pointed out that the change in fees on lower-budgeted features was the only one made.

The new table of fees is as follows:

1. Class "A"—Feature pictures with negative costs in excess of $200,000 ..... $525.00
2. Class "B"—Feature pictures with negative costs from $100,000 to $200,000 inclusive $350.00
3. Class "C"—Feature pictures with negative costs of $100,000 or less $100.00
4. Feature-length pictures produced completely outside the United States—service charge one-half of the regular fee for Classes "A," "B," and "C."
5. Reissues — all feature-length pictures $25.00
6. Short subjects (any film of less than 3,000 feet) $25.00

An unofficial estimate discloses that from 95 to 125 or more films to be made during the season will be affected, since they will be shot on budgets of $100,000 or less. Perhaps hardest hit will be Producers Releasing Corp., which has announced a lineup of 50 features—none of which will be made on a budget of more than $100,000. With few exceptions, Monogram's product is also turned out at costs considerably under the $100,000 minimum. Should it re-enter production, Million Dollar Productions, making all-Negro features for state-right release, would also be subject to the code-seal boost, as would Forum Films, Harry S. Webb and other units currently dormant.

Even the majors who voted the increase wil not escape. RKO Radio lists five Tim Holt westerns to be made on budgets just under the $100,000 borderline. Universal plans seven Johnny Mack Brown sagebrushers and seven Richard Arlen-Andy Devine actioners, none of which will cost more than $100,000. Republic's program includes 24 westerns to be produced at an average of $75,000 each. Listed under Class "B" in the revised table, and therefore not subject to the increase, are such independents as Larry Darmour, Harry Sherman, Stephens-Lang, Pyramid Pictures and others.



Recognition Transferred—

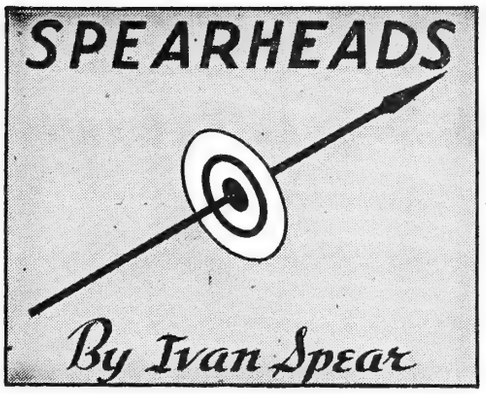
Bette Davis (right), who won the trophy in 1939, *presents* Redbook Magazine's 1940 *award, a silver cup, to Producer Sol Lesser and Star Martha Scott for "Our Town," which Lesser made for United Artists and which* Redbook *proclaimed "the most distinguished contribution to the art of the motion picture" during the year. Director Sam Wood and other members of the cast share in the laurels. Ceremonies were broadcast nationally over the Columbia Broadcasting System and, following the air presentation, most of Hollywood's notables attended a reception. The cup is inscribed "To the People of 'Our Town'."*

"Monopoly" Charge Reply Up to Hays

From Will Hays, in New York, must come any comment upon an answer to the $1,500,000 damage suit filed against the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America in U. S. district court here by Criterion Pictures, local attaches of the Hays office have declared. The suit charges the MPPDA, Hays, Joseph I. Breen and all members of the organization with constituting a monopoly in restraint of trade and with violating terms of the Sherman and Clayton anti-trust laws.

Attorney Leo Shapiro, representing Criterion and its president, Phil Goldstone, bases the complaint primarily on the contention that the MPPDA's production code administration refused in 1937 to grant a seal of approval to Criterion's "Damaged Goods," film dealing with syphilis, but that subsequently the code administration gave a seal to Warner's "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," which dealt with the same disease. The plaintiff charges that, through its purity seal administration, the MPPDA dominates and controls almost all first-run houses and excludes all independent producers from the first-run market. It is further charged that Criterion had no voice or control in connection with the preparation or enforcement of the production code, but that despite that, it was compelled to pay a service fee for each picture produced by it and approved by the code administrator.

Defendants are accused of "wrongfully, unlawfully, unfairly and unreasonably" refusing to give "Damaged Goods" a purity seal, as a result of which gross receipts estimated at $500,000 were lost. Trebled damages of $1,500,000 are asked under the Sherman anti-trust law provisions.



"TO CARRY on the ideals represented by Irving G. Thalberg is the privilege of the Academy in sponsoring this award. It shall be given each year for the most consistent high quality of production achievement by an individual producer, based on pictures he has personally produced during the preceding year. It shall be in the form of a specially designed trophy which will, each year, become the permanent possession of the producer to whom it is awarded."

That is the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' own description of the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award.

When Hollywood starts looking around for its "man of the year," the producer who is to be the recipient of the singular honor represented by the Thalberg Award, the man who in 1940 performed the greatest service for the advancement of the screen, it will do well to focus its attention upon an independent—Walter F. Wanger.

Wanger is president of the Academy and the fact that he has been responsible for bringing the organization to its greatest service and efficiency is well recognized.

Certainly few Hollywood producers have devoted as much time, intelligence and energy to the cause of better pictures and a better industry as has Wanger. The records show that there have been few years when at least one Wanger film has not been among the ten best. In 1940, for example, when he made only "Foreign Correspondent" and "The Long Voyage Home," both were listed among the ten best in 14 separate polls—including that of the impartial National Board of Review. In 1939 "Stagecoach," and those who made it, collected many honors—John Ford won the New York Critics Circle award for its direction; Thomas Mitchell, in the lead, grabbed the Academy kudos, as did those who wrote the musical score.

But Wanger didn't stop there. Confident that "Foreign Correspondent" and "The Long Voyage Home" were good pictures, he went on the road, at his own expense, to aid in the exploitation. And the trip was only secondarily on his own behalf—primarily it was to bring about a better understanding between producer, distributor and showman. To that end he traveled 32,000 miles in three months; appeared on 12 radio broadcasts, not only to plug his pictures but to boost and advance the industry; visited nine Variety Clubs to ask theatremen their problems and acquaint them with production obstacles in Hollywood; addressed advertising and women's clubs, the National Library Ass'n convention in San Francisco, and spoke on the Town Meeting of the Air broadcast as well as the University of Chicago's Round Table of the Air.

On that tour he gave editors ideas for patriotic editorials and wrote many himself. He has kept in constant touch with hundreds of international developments of interest to the industry.

His extra-curricular record in Hollywood is likewise enviable. He has been a leader in every charitable enterprise and a tireless worker for Americanization. Probably no Hollywood film executive attended more meetings, interested himself in more enterprises or worked more selflessly on behalf of his industry than Wanger.

His own words sum up Wanger's attitude and outlook concisely and clearly:

"We must view our business in the light of today, not yesterday. We must clear away cobwebs of indecision and carelessness and we must roll up our sleeves and get back to work. A good portion of our national audience has slipped away. We must get it back not by appealing to the same audience over and over again but by making pictures that appeal to new types of audiences. We must think and produce in terms of talent and enlightenment."

In view of his record—and the above only briefly touches thereon—there seems to be but one possible barrier between Wanger and the richly-deserved Oscar—his own modesty. Being president of the group that votes the Thalberg Award, and inasmuch as no previous president has been so honored, he might feel embarrassed at accepting the accolade. In the event such a syllogistical impasse presents itself, it is incumbent upon other Academy officials, and in the same spirit of fairness which controls all of their deliberations, to completely disregard it.

→

Deanna Durbin has been named to the advisory board of the Greek War Relief drive.

—From the mouths of babes . . .

→

BALLYHOODLUMS — Continuing to manifest their urge toward a zoological touch in publicity pipedreams, which the advent of George Brown as department head apparently did little to discourage, Paramount praisers hit a new high in a yarn concerning the alleged efforts of a producer to import genuine tse-tse flies from Africa for a safari sequence in a current picture. The release declared the Department of Agriculture ruled only one of the germ-bearing insects could be imported at a time. The choice morsel ends with the erudite observation, "the flies spread sleeping sickness." As do such releases . . . Henry Rogers is the only freelancer to offer a preview service to the press. Note such tidbits as "First cutting of 'Tall, Dark and Handsome' reveals Virginia Gilmore follows up promise she indicated in title role of 'Jenny'" and "William Gargan in 'Cheers for Miss Bishop' does a repeat of his top performance in 'They Knew What They Wanted.'" If you're a Rogers client you've got to be good . . . With characteristic modesty Leo's welkin-ringers take a bow for the Italian defeat in Africa with the following: "When Australian troops poured into Bardia, they were lustily singing 'We're Off to See the Wizard!' hit theme song of 'The Wizard of Oz.'" Too bad Producer Mervyn LeRoy wasn't present to lead the singing.

Sunshine, Sagebrush and Sleuths

If the preview lineup during the first week of the new year may be considered criterion, series pictures will continue to be a decidedly dominant note in Hollywood's production tune during 1941. Of six features shown to the critical fraternity, only one—and that an import from England—was not of the chapter film variety.

Pair rating first consideration was Metro's "Maisie Was a Lady" and Fox's "Romance of the Rio Grande."

Despite the title of the first-named, Maisie—in the person of Ann Sothern—remains the lovable hoiden with heart of gold. In this chapter many of the laughs which highlighted predecessors in the series are missing—probably so that Betty Reinhardt and Mary McCall jr., who scripted from an original by Miss Reinhardt and Myles Connolly, could squeeze in more serious, melodramatic and, in spots, maudlin moments. But J. Walter Ruben's production, direction by Edwin L. Marin and other technical contributions are at the same high level which characterized earlier "Maisie" adventures, and how audiences will take to it depends upon personal entertainment tastes.

Customers will be delighted to see the very marked improvement in "Romance of the Rio Grande," newest in the Cisco Kid's sagebrush sagas. It reflects forward strides in every department—production trappings by Sol Wurtzel, direction by Herbert I. Leeds and script by Harold Buchman and Samuel G. Engel, from Katherine Fullerton Gerould's novel. It is above average fare and cannot help but please all the customers.

* * *

Further in the sagebrush motif was "Doomed Caravan," newest of the Hopalong Cassidy westerns as turned out for Paramount by Harry Sherman. It contains all the ingredients which have made Hoppy's adventures top outdoor entertainment, is packed with action, thrills and scenic beauty and features workmanlike direction by Lesley Selander. Screenplay by Johnston McCulley and J. Benton Cheney is pointed for action and suspense all the way and the feature measures up in every respect to the best Sherman has ever made.

* * *

Two were of the time-honored cops and robbers theme. Monogram's "You're Out of Luck," latest in the sleuthing adventures of that perennial juvenile, Frankie Darro, is cut from the same pattern as preceding features, with only minor

(Continued on page 33)

Hollywood—
—Personnelities

Barnstormers

Paramount

PRESTON FOSTER will attend President Roosevelt's Birthday Ball in Washington, D. C., January 30.

Blurbers

Free Lance

DANIEL ULLMAN appointed office manager of Terry DeLapp's publicity-exploitation organization.

Metro

HOWARD STRICKLING, studio publicity head, has returned from Baltimore, accompanied by Clark Gable and Carole Lombard. Strickling went east with the actor, who underwent a medical checkup at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

HOWARD HERTY has resigned from the studio publicity staff to open his own exploitation offices.

ERNEST VAN PELT, exploiteer from Salt Lake territory, has returned to his headquarters after a week of conferences at the studio.

Paramount

JOHN DEL VALLE of the publicity staff will accompany Susanna Foster on her forthcoming personal appearance tour ahead of her new starring picture, "The Hard-Boiled Canary."

RKO Radio

PERRY LIEBER, studio publicity director, is vacationing for a week in San Francisco. **ELLISTON A. VINSON,** his aide, is sitting in for Lieber during the latter's absence.

Universal

VINCENT MAHONEY joins publicity staff as a unit man. He is a former newspaperman.

Warner Bros.

MARTY WEISER, exploiteer, returns from an eight-week, 3,000-mile junket through the territory. He takes the road again in two weeks to handle out-of-town campaigns on "Flight From Destiny" and "High Sierra."

Briefies

Metro

JOHN NESBITT rolls "More Trifles of Importance" as his newest Passing Parade short, with Basi Wrangell directing from a script by Sam Chain.

Next Pete Smith Specialty short will be "Memory Rhymes," to be filmed from a script being prepared by E. Maurice Adler.

Walter Lantz

Production has started on "Salt Water Daffy," a patriotic cartoon short, for Universal release.

Cleffers

Metro

FRANZ WAXMAN to score "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

DAVID SNELL scoring "Roosty."

Republic

EDDIE CHERKOSE doing music and lyrics for "Prairie Pioneers."

Loanouts

Globe

LARRY CEBALLOS borrowed from Universal to stage dance sequences for "Pot O' Gold."

Metro

INGRID BERGMAN borrowed from David O. Selznick for the feminine starring role opposite Spencer Tracy in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." It will be her last loanout, since Selznick plans to star her in one of the two productions he will make for United Artists release.

Warner Bros.

JANE DARWELL borrowed from 20th Century-Fox for the top character role in "Thirty Days Hath September."

Meggers

Columbia

J. THEODORE REED, on loan from Paramount, is preparing to pilot "Her First Beau," co-starring Jane Withers and Jackie Cooper.

Howard Hughes

HOWARD HUGHES has resumed direction on "The Outlaw" after spending a week recuperating from injuries received in an automobile accident. In his absence the directorial reins were handled by Scripter Jules Furthman and Cameraman Gregg Toland.

Metro

GEORGE SIDNEY piloting "Animal Psychology," a John Nesbitt Passing Parade short.

HAROLD S. BUCQUET piloting "Roosty," co-featuring Lionel Barrymore and Edward Arnold. Film is based on a play by Martin Berkeley.

Paramount

GREGORY RATOFF signs term ticket as a producer-director. His first will be "Tonight Is Ours," starring Loretta Young.

JOSEPH SISTROM named associate producer on "The Night of January 16," based on the play by Ayn Rand.

Options

Howard Hughes

MIMI AGUGLIA draws featured role in "The Outlaw." She is a veteran stage player.

Metro

C. AUBREY SMITH signed for a comedy character role in "Free and Easy."

DOROTHY BABB, 14-year-old dancer, signs term contract.

CHILL WILLS, comedian, held for another term.

Paramount

BRIAN DONLEVY signs new two-picture acting deal.

PHILIP TERRY, featured player, draws new term pact.

Republic

JACK MULHALL given a topline in "Captain Marvel," a serial.

JERRY COLONNA given a topline in "Sis Hopkins," next Judy Canova starrer.

RKO Radio

JACK BRIGGS, stage player, draws term ticket.

ROBERT FRANCIS SMITH signs acting contract. He is from the New York stage.

Harry Sherman

DERWIN ABRAHAMS given term contract as a director. He has just completed his first piloting assignment, "Border Vigilantes," for Paramount release, after many years as a prop man, assistant director and in other capacities.

20th Century-Fox

LAMAR TROTTI, writer, held for another term. He is scripting "Rise and Shine" for Producer Lou Edelman.

MILTON BERLE given contract extension. He will appear in two pictures during the coming season.

ROBERT CORNELL, little theatre player, draws term ticket.

LEON SHAMROY, cameraman, held for another term.

MARY JOYCE WALSH joins roster of stock players.

Universal

EVELYN ANKERS, British actress, given term contract.

CHARLES LAUGHTON signed for the topline in "Almost an Angel," to be directed by Henry Koster and rolling in March. Norman Krasna is scripting the Ladislaus Fodor original. Joe Pasternak is the producer.

BRUCE CABOT signs long-term acting ticket.

Warner Bros.

DE WOLF HOPPER JR., featured player, given new contract.

RALPH BELLAMY signed for a topline in "Affectionately Yours."

Percenteers

BILL DOZIER has resigned as head of the Berg-Allenberg agency's literary department, effective February 1. He will be replaced by Cornwell Jackson, chief of the agency's radio department.

Story Buys

Columbia

"One Way Street," by Morton Thompson and Melvyn Wald. The Irving Briskin unit will produce.

Metro

"Mrs. Miniver," by Jan Struther. Studio optioned the book some time ago and has assigned James Hilton and Arthur Wimperis to adapt it to the screen for Producer Sidney Franklin.

Paramount

"Joan of Arkansas," by David Garth. The hillbilly story will be produced by Sol C. Siegel from a script by Boyce DeGaw.

20th Century-Fox

"Manhattan Holiday," by Polan Banks.

Scripters

Columbia

KAREN DE WOLF to "Blondie Goes to the Dogs."

ROBERT ANDREWS to "Betty Co-Ed." Ozzie Nelson and his orchestra, Harriet Hilliard and Ruby Keeler will have the toplines in the Irving Briskin production.

Metro

SID KULLER, HAL FIMBERG and **RAY GOLDEN** to "Step This Way," next Marx Bros. comedy, to be produced by Louis K. Sidney.

Paramount

CHARLES BRACKETT and **BILLY WILDER** to "Hold Back the Dawn," from the Ketti Frings novel.

GEORGE BECK to "Paramount Parade." Sol C. Siegel will produce.

ROBERT LIVELY to "College Mystery" for Producer Sol C. Siegel.

BOYCE DE GAW has been handed a writing ticket, joining the Sol C. Siegel production unit.

Republic

ISABEL DAWN to an untitled original. She has completed "Citadel of Crime."

OLIVE COOPER to "The Great Train Robbery." Robert North will produce.

RKO Radio

IAN McCLELLAN HUNTER to "Followed by Indians," slated as a Leon Errol starrer.

DAN TOTHEROH to "The Devil and Daniel Webster."

20th Century-Fox

SOL and **BEN BARZMAN** to "The Boy, the Girl and the Dog," for Producer Lou Ostrow.

JACK ANDREWS teamed with **THOMAS LENNON** on "We Go Fast," from the Doug Welch original.

ROBERT ELLIS and **HELEN LOGAN** polishing "Stand Up and Cheer" for Producer Milton Sperling.

JOHN TAINTOR FOOTE to "The Black Swan" for Producer Lou Edelman.

Universal

CHARLES MARION to "Tenth Avenue Lochinvar," from his own original. It will star Billy Halop with Ken Goldsmith producing.

GEORGE WAGGNER to "Flying Cadets," from his own original.

VICKI BAUM to "Unfinished Business." Gregory LaCava will produce and direct the Irene Dunne starrer.

Warner Bros.

JERRY WALD and **RICHARD MACAULAY** to "Danger Zone," a George Raft starrer, from their own original.

ROBERT ROSSEN to "Carnival in Rio," musical comedy with a South American background, to feature George Raft, Dennis Morgan and Brenda Marshall. William Keighley will direct.

MILTON KRIMS doing added scenes for "The Sea Wolf."

Technically

Frank Lloyd

MILTON KRASNER lensing "The Lady From Cheyenne." Universal will release.

Metro

CLYDE DE VINNA is lensing "Roosty," with **BILL RYAN** named assistant director.

STANLEY ROGERS set as unit art director on "Get a Horse."

SERGIO ORTO signed to stage a dance arrangement for "Ziegfeld Girl."

WALTER STROHM named assistant director on "Blossoms in the Dust."

JACK SMITH, cameraman, and **JOHN WATERS** have been inspecting possible location sites near Sonora for snow scenes in "A Woman's Face."

JOHN DETLIE assigned as art director on "Lady Be Good."

JOSEPH RUTTENBERG lensing crowd sequences for "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary."

Paramount

CHARLES SCHOENBAUM lensing "Caught in the Draft."

RAY STONE to edit "Skylark."

EDA WARREN to edit "One Night in Lisbon."

CHARLES LANG to photograph "Skylark."

Picture Corp. of America

F. PAUL SYLOS named art director on "Power Dive," Richard Arlen starrer for Paramount release.

L. B. MERMAN signed as production manager on "Power Dive" to be made for Paramount release.

Universal

HAROLD MacARTHUR named art director on "Model Wife."

VICTOR MILNER lensing "The Man Who Lost Himself."

Warner Bros.

LES GUTHRIE named assistant director on "Thirty Days Hath September."

HARTZELL SPENCE signed as technical advisor on "One Foot in Heaven," biography which he wrote.

CLARENCE KOLSTER to edit "Miss Wheelwright Discovers America."

RUSS SAUNDERS named assistant director on "Bad Men of Missouri."

ORRY-KELLY named fashion designer on "The Bride Came C. O. D," and "Affectionately Yours."

DICK MAYBERRY set as assistant director on "Affectionately Yours."



Monogram's First Boulevard Premiere—

As "Her First Romance" bowed at the Hawaii in Hollywood, the capacity of the house was taxed. Above are some of the scenes from the event. Top row, left to right: Mrs. Joseph Lamm; Joseph Lamm, Monogram comptroller; Mrs. Louis Lifton; Louis Lifton, Monogram director of advertising and publicity; Marcella Napp, a guest; Sam Katzman and Mrs. Katzman; Ray Corrigan; Judith Linden and Gregory Stone. Lower left: Harold Couddy (left), Hawaii manager, tinkers with the lighting effects while I. E. Chadwick (right), producer, and an electrician look on. Edith Fellows (lower center), star of the film, in the lobby of the Hawaii. At the lower right, Keye Luke, star of Monogram's James Lee Wong series, at the mike, and Ray Corrigan of the Range Buster series. Corrigan was master of ceremonies.

Conferences Absorb Executives at Fox

Executive conferences anent the consent decree, production plans and budgets for the balance of the 1940-41 season are underway at 20th Century-Fox, with the return from New York of Darryl Zanuck, studio production chief. Participating, in addition to Zanuck, are Herman Wobber, sales head; President Sidney R. Kent, Joseph M. Schenck and William Goetz. Huddles are expected to continue for a week or more.

Ned Depinet, RKO Radio's sales head, has delayed his arrival here until January 15, at which time he will accompany President George Schaefer from New York. Schaefer and Depinet will probe detailed production plans for the next few months in huddles with Harry Edington, Lee Marcus and J. J. Nolan of the studio staff. Depinet will return east at the conclusion of the conferences, while Schaefer intends to remain at the studio for several months.

W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president, checked out for Kansas City to preside at a franchise-holders' meeting Jan. 11. He was accompanied by Geo. West, franchise holder in St. Louis, Kansas City and Cincinnati; and Howard Stubbins, west coast franchise holder. Meeting was called to complete arrangements for the annual "March for Monogram" drive, slated for February 22-April 11. Johnston, West and Stubbins will return here January 14.

Unexpected business matters requiring his presence in the east forced Murray Silverstone, United Artists head, to delay his proposed Hollywood arrival for another ten days. He will be accompanied here by Arthur Kelly, UA sales manager.

At the conclusion of Universal product huddles the company announced it will deliver the full 63 pictures announced for the 1940-41 season, despite revenue losses from foreign sources. Further, President Nate Blumberg announced budgets will be boosted on a number of forthcoming vehicles. J. Cheever Cowdin, board chairman, was the first to return east. He will be followed next week by William Scully, sales head, and Joseph Seidelman, foreign sales manager, with Blumberg planning to remain here.

William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, and Howard Dietz have checked in at M-G-M for conferences with studio officials on spring releases. Dietz was accompanied by Al Lichtman, studio official, who spent a week in New York meeting with homeoffice executives.

To set up detailed production and budgetary plans for the final quarter of 1940-41, Herbert J. Yates is due at Republic January 15. He will huddle with M. J. Siegel, production head. Not awaiting Yates' arrival, James R. Grainger, sales chief, checked out after a week at the studio to begin a swing around the company's exchanges.

After four days of conferences with Y. Frank Freeman, Henry Ginsberg and other studio officials, Neil Agnew, distribution head for Paramount, and Robert Gillham, advertising-publicity chief, returned to New York. David Rose, Paramount's managing director for Great Britain, will leave January 17 en route back to London. He has been here for a month, vacationing and discussing British production plans with studio executives.

Producers David Loew and Albert Lewin have gone to New York to confer with United Artists officials anent release plans for their first picture, "So Ends Our Night." They also plan to discuss their year's program, which includes "Landfall" and "Night Music." The producers will stay in the east to catch the Music Hall opening of "So Ends Our Night" early in February.

Robert Schless, Warner foreign sales manager, and Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner Theatres, have checked in at the studio. They will await the arrival next week of Gradwell Sears, sales head, at which time the visitors will launch parleys with studio executives.

Korda Drops Plans for Co-Producing "Wine"

Alexander Korda has retired from the arrangement whereby he was to have co-produced and released "New Wine" through United Artists in association with Dr. William Szekeley. Szekeley will produce the Ilona Massey starrer himself and will negotiate a release directly through UA or some other major. Reinhold Schunzel is slated to direct.

New Preview System Already Is Cracking

Less than a month old, the new preview system which went into effect December 15 and which was hailed as the logical solution to the "press" preview headache by the major studio publicity chiefs responsible for its adoption, has already during the past week given three evidences of cracking up.

So that the trade and critical press would no longer be forced to play second fiddle in the matter of seats and coverage to a host of preview gate-crashers who had nothing to do with the fourth estate, the publicity directors had decided that after the middle of December there would be no more so-called "press" previews in theatres. They would all be held in studio projection rooms, the bulk of them in the afternoon, and exclusively for the press.

But the rule was quickly broken in a mad scramble on the afternoon preceding New Year's Eve, when tired reviewers looking forward to that annual celebration were confronted with the task of covering three pictures—all announced with a bare hour's notice—and all on the same afternoon. The offenders were Warner, unfurling "Father's Son," and 20th Century-Fox, which had a dual feature, no less—"Romance of the Rio Grande" and "Michael Shayne, Private Detective."

Studio attaches hastened to explain the situation was no fault of theirs; that they had been forced to stage the screenings for the press because their respective exchanges had booked the features into various houses throughout the city as "New Year's Previews." And so the weary critics were given their option: To cover the films that afternoon or spend New Year's Eve in a theatre looking at the pictures there.

Rabbit punch number two was struck at the new "system" when Paramount, one of the studios aiding in its promulgation, chose the evening of January 9, and an unannounced theatre, to debut "Virginia" for the press. Invitations attempted to camouflage the break by dubbing it the "first sneak press preview," and by announcing the studio was keeping the theatre chosen a secret. For that reason reviewers were guests at dinner at the studio and were transported to and from the preview in chartered buses. Maintaining it was "making a genuine effort to make press previews just what the name implies" by inviting only the press, the announcement forebore any explanation of why a theatre, and not Paramount's own projection room, was utilized.

Loew-Lewin Protest

Then the reeling "system" almost went down for the count when Producers David Loew and Albert Lewin used the pretext that projection-room previews are "another ill-timed move to rob Hollywood of its color" to announce the press showing of "So Ends Our Night" would be January 21, in the evening, at Grauman's Chinese Theatre. This refusal to become a party to the agreement eliminating night previews they explained by charging it is unfair to any picture dependent upon audience reaction for its "mood" and "feeling" to show it in a small room before a small group. "Take away the previews and the premieres," they assert, "and you have robbed Hollywood of a portion of its most marketable product, glamour."



At a Sound Stage Dedication—

The past mingled with the present in Hollywood when Republic dedicated its new $250,000 sound stage to the memory of the late Mabel Normand, silent-screen comedienne. The occasion called for a party on the sound stage, to which scores of film capital notables were invited. Here the cameraman catches, left to right: Y. Frank Freeman of Paramount; William Farnum, one of the chief speakers; Gene Autry; Mrs. Freeman; Mr. and Mrs. Sol C. Siegel, and George "Gabby" Hayes. Judy Canova, Republic star, unveiled a bronze plaque dedicated to Mabel's memory, following which one of the late comedienne's greatest successes, "Mickey," was projected. Among those attending were Noah Beery, Mae Busch, Chester Conklin, Edgar Kennedy, Raymond Hatton, Charles Ray, Jack Mulhall, Charlie Murray, Louise Fazenda, M. J. Siegel, head of Republic production; Walter Abel, Wallace Reid jr., Ann Miller, Eddie Quillan, John H. Auer, Erle C. Kenton, Roy Del Ruth, Wallace MacDonald, Joseph Santley, Frank McDonald, James R. Grainger and dozens of others.

Cinémarks

On their recent personal appearance tour, Anna Neagle and Producer-Director Herbert Wilcox topped all their previous records, covering 9,000 miles, making 20 appearances and two radio guest shots all within 13 days.

*

Failing to rally as per schedule from an influenza attack, Director Les Goodwins has been removed to the Madison Hospital in Santa Monica, where attending physicians report that, while his condition is not worse, his improvement has not been as rapid as desired.

*

Gene Autry has planed out for Philadelphia to line up a rodeo appearance for next summer . . . Rene Clair, French directorial import, met the Hollywood press at a cocktail party tossed by Universal on the set of the Marlene Dietrich starrer, "Flame of New Orleans," which Clair is piloting as his first Hollywood assignment. Producer Joe Pasternak and the entire cast of the picture also attended.

*

James Roosevelt has reported back to the San Diego marine base after a ten-day leave. He spent New Year's in Hollywood checking on the progress being made in filming his first Globe production, "Pot O' Gold" . . . Producer Lou Brock of RKO Radio spent the holidays in Montana with his son.

*

Reinhold Schunzel, accompanied by a staff of writers, has gone to Palm Springs to work on the script of "New Wine," which he will direct for Producer Alexander Korda.

*

George Cukor vacationed at Lake Arrowhead over the weekend before checking in at M-G-M to begin preparations for his next directorial assignment . . . J. Walter Ruben and his wife, Virginia Bruce, are holidaying in New York for ten days, catching the new shows.

*

Paramount's studio camera club will hold its fifth grand salon, dinner and presentation of prizes January 16 at the lot's Continental Cafe . . . Ann Rutherford will leave for New York shortly for a two-week vacation.

*

Leo Devaney, Canadian division sales manager for RKO Radio, and Harry Gittelson, who edits "Flash," the company's house organ, will check in early next week for studio conferences . . . Jack Dailey has planed back to Dallas after advertising-exploitation huddles at Paramount with Robert Gillham.

*

J. Carrol Naish and his wife and daughter are back in town after an eight-day vacation at Naish's mountain home at Lake Arrowhead . . . Delphine Meyer, daughter of Fred S. Meyer of 20th Century-Fox, was married the day after Christmas to Harold Raymond Shire. Ceremony took place in Yuma.

Early Resumption Is Seen for Selznick

Pointing to an early resumption of picture-making activity, David O. Selznick Productions, Inc., has announced the following officers were elected at a special meeting of the board of directors:

David O. Selznick, president; Daniel T. O'Shea, vice-president; E. L. Scanlon, treasurer; Loyd Wright, secretary; Charles E. Millikan and Katharine Brown, assistant secretaries. Directors include Selznick, O'Shea, Scanlon, Wright and Walter S. Orr.

Under exclusive contract to the company are Ingrid Bergman, Alfred Hitchcock, Joan Fontaine and Alan Marshal. Vivien Leigh's contract is exclusive save for one picture yearly with Alexander Korda. The company also has an option on the services of Director Robert Stevenson for one picture yearly.

Further indication that Selznick is planning to re-enter production shortly is seen in the recent appointment of Victor M. Shapiro as publicity director. The company has a two-picture distribution deal with United Artists.

Start Film Soon for Use In Training Draft Army

To be launched within the next few days, as soon as a studio site is selected, is the first in a series of short subjects to be turned out by Hollywood in cooperation with the U. S. Signal Corps for use in training the nation's new draft army.

This was indicated with the return to Hollywood of Darryl Zanuck, chairman of the industry defense group's sub-committee in charge of producing the reels. Zanuck stopped in Washington en route here from New York to be sworn in as a lieutenant-colonel in the signal corps, and spent several hours in the nation's capital conferring with army officials.

Dr. Francis Abdo has become the fourth Paramount studio doctor to be ordered to active service, having been assigned to duty at Fort Winfield Scott in San Francisco.

Meantime a brief lull is hovering over the charity front. Next great effort in which Hollywood will be called upon to participate is the national infantile paralysis campaign, of which Joseph M. Schenck is national vice-chairman and chairman for the state of California. Schenck is expected to announce detailed plans for securing industry pledges within the next few days.

Paramount Story Head

William Dozier has been appointed head of Paramount's studio story and writing departments, joining the company February 3. For the past five years Dozier has been in charge of writers and story sales for the Berg-Allenberg agency. Julian Blaustein will continue at Paramount as associate story editor.

Bonus Arrangement for Holden at Paramount

William Holden and Paramount have smoked the pipe of peace and Holden has reported to Columbia for a loanout assignment in the starring spot in "Texas." Holden had been suspended by Paramount for refusing the role, the actor contending he was entitled to a wage boost which the studio refused to consider. Holden still has not gained his salary increase, but a bonus arrangement has been worked out to the mutual satisfaction of him and the studio, Paramount officials reported.

Anthony Veiller, Paramount producer for the past two years, will check off the lot upon completion of editing duties on "New York Town," his most recent assignment. Veiller has announced no plans for the future. Also departing the Paramount roster is Arthur Jacobson, an assistant director for 14 years and, more recently, in charge of the talent department.

After six months on the lot without assignment, Jules Dassin, stage and radio director imported to Hollywood by RKO Radio, has been released.

Benjamin Cohn Forms Independent Firm

Benjamin Cohn, formerly with Warner's exploitation staff in New York, has established headquarters here and announced the incorporation of an independent production company with plans to make three pictures during 1941, budgeted at $500,000 each.

A major release arrangement will be revealed by Cohn within a few days, as well as titles and other details of the pictures he plans.

Barry Trivers Chore

Warner has set Barry Trivers to script "Night Hawk," from Leonard Hoffman's original.

: SPEARHEADS :

(Continued from page 29)

changes; and compares favorably with them as supporting material. Ed Kelso's script stretches its story values as far as the law will allow, while Lindsley Parson's production and Howard Bretherton's direction reflect favorably upon their respective efforts.

Fox's "Michael Shayne, Private Detective," is a fast-moving entry which thrill-hunting audiences should find eminently satisfying. It's the initialer in a proposed series with Lloyd Nolan in the title role, directed by Eugene Forde, produced by Sol Wurtzel and scripted by Stanley Rauh and Manning O'Connor from a novel by Brett Halliday.

* * *

The exception, "Blackout," is a United Artists release of an English production, loaded with suspense, dramatic vitality, and topflight performances. It was smartly and competently directed by Michael Powell and boasts a story so cleverly handled that American theatregoers should find it highly intriguing fare.

Academy Governors Re-elect Wanger

New Board of governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has re-elected Walter Wanger president of the organization. Re-named vice-presidents were Frank Capra and Edward Arnold, with two new vice-presidents added—Darryl Zanuck and Jane Murfin. New secretary is Mervyn LeRoy, replacing Robert Riskin, while Nathan Levinson supplants John Aalberg as treasurer. New positions of assistant secretary and assistant treasurer were filled by Allan Scott and Henry Fonda respectively.

Board also discussed plans for the forthcoming annual Awards banquet, but reached no decision as to the definite date and locale for the affair, which will be held some time in February.

Previous to the yearly election of Academy officers, a special balloting was held to break a tie vote in the technicians' branch, as a result of which John Aalberg, Farciot Edouart and Thomas Moulton were named to the board of governors from the technicians' division.

Producers' Election Feb. 3

Meantime the producers association, in its regular monthly meeting with Y. Frank Freeman presiding, disclosed its annual election of officers has been scheduled for the next session, February 3. John Zinn has been appointed as the organization's representative in negotiations with the Screen Actors Guild relative to enforcing terms of the SAG-producer standing committee's recent report recommending a purge of so-called "casual" extra players to aid the bit-players' unemployment crisis.

A second meeting was held by the committee headed by Walter Wanger which is planning a testimonial dinner honoring Frank Capra for his 20 years of service in the motion picture industry. No date has yet been set for the affair. Fred Beetson has been made to head a sub-committee to select a date, while J. P. McGowan heads another group which will endeavor to secure the cooperation of the various Guilds. Attending the meeting in addition to Wanger, Beetson and McGowan, were Y. Frank Freeman, Donald Gledhill, Dore Schary, Sheridan Gibney and Kenneth Thomson.

Atwill and Dr. Frenke Form Independent Unit

Formation of a new independent production unit headed by Lionel Atwill, character actor, and Dr. Eugene Frenke has been announced, together with the disclosure they have purchased "The Dark River," by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall, as their first production. James Whale has been signed to direct and a release now being negotiated will be announced shortly. Production will start when Whale has completed his current Columbia assignment, "They Dare Not Love." Anna Sten will probably be starred in "The Dark River."

Would Empower Police to Shut Any Show in L. A.

Los Angeles—The issue of censorship of local theatres, both legitimate and motion picture, which has periodically insinuated itself upon the local political horizon, has again raised its head—and gives promise of being one of the major problems confronting Southern California showmen during 1941.

Latest step was taken when the police commission and city council instructed the city attorney to draft a suggested ordinance which would empower police to arbitrarily close any show, stage or screen, which the law might deem indecent or salacious. Such a scheme has been under discussion spasmodically by the city fathers for several years and last came into the limelight about a year ago, when action on the matter was tabled indefinitely.

The proposed ordinance, it is understood, would not be directed at motion picture theatres exhibiting films bearing the Hays office's purity seal, but would be employed principally against stage productions which, in the police commission's opinion, transcend the bounds of decency. It would also be utilized in halting the screening of salacious imported films.

A Hearing Necessary Now

A present city ordinance provides that showings of such indecent films and stage plays may be halted only after a hearing and trial at which the defendant is allowed to plead his case. The proposed amendment would empower police to issue and arbitrarily revoke licenses at their own discretion.

Considerable interest is being manifested in the proposal by at least two Hollywood groups—the Screen Actors Guild and the local branch of the Hays office. The former announced adoption of a ruling seeking to bar from Guild membership and appearance in motion pictures any person who, after notice, performs in a production termed "unfair" by any of the actors' organizations within the Associated Actors and Artists of America. This would be a blow at salacious productions in Los Angeles, since Actors Equity membership regulations also prohibit appearances of professional actors in salacious plays.

"Firm, united action against such productions is needed," the SAG declared, asserting that the ruling can "in the future maintain standards of decency on the stage."

At the same time SAG spokesmen declared they will fight vehemently against the adoption of the censorship ordinance on the grounds that "the principle of vesting power over the theatre in an administrative body has been tested in the past and has been found undesirable. Whether it affects the press, the stage, the screen or others, the wielding of censorship or similar arbitrary power by any administrative body threatens the American principles of freedom of expression and trial by jury."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Hays office attaches, who declared they would cooperate with the SAG in protesting adoption of any such ordinance.

In the Making

COLUMBIA

Texas—Glenn Ford. Director: Stuart Heisler. Producer: Sam Bischoff. **(Starting)**
(Super-scaled western).

They Dare Not Love—Martha Scott, George Brent. Director: James Whale. Producer: Sam Bischoff.
(Romantic drama with an English background).

Lone Wolf Takes a Chance, The—Warren William, Eric Blore, Henry Wilcoxon, June Storey, Walter Kingsford. Director: Sidney Salkow. Producer: Ralph Cohn. **(Completed)**

METRO

Free and Easy—Robert Cummings, Ruth Hussey, Reginald Owen, Nigel Bruce, Forrester Harvey. Director: Eddie Buzzell. Producer: Milton Bren. Original: Ivor Novello. **(Starting)**
(Sophisticated comedy of high society, based on the play, "The Truth Game.")

PARAMOUNT

Caught in the Draft—Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour, Eddie Bracken, Lynne Overman. Director: David Butler. Producer: B. G. DeSylva. Screenplay: Wilkie Mahoney. **(Starting)**
(Comedy based on national conscription).

New York Town—Mary Martin, Robert Preston, Fred MacMurray, Eric Blore, Lynne Overman, Akim Tamiroff, Dana Lee. Director: Charles Vidor. Producer: Anthony Veiller. Screenplay: Preston Sturges. **(Completed)**

20TH CENTURY-FOX

A Very Young Lady—Jane Withers, John Sutton, Nancy Kelly, Richard Clayton. Director: Harold Schuster. Producer: Robert Kane. **(Starting)**
(Comedy-drama).

Blood and Sand—Tyrone Power, Linda Darnell, John Carradine. Director: Rouben Mamoulian.
(Re-make of the silent film starring Rudolph Valentino, this finds Tyrone Power portraying a Mexican bull-fighter).

UNIVERSAL

Back Street—Margaret Sullavan, Charles Boyer, Richard Carlson, Frank Jenks, Tim Holt, Frank McHugh, Pat O'Malley. Director: Robert Stevenson. Producer: Bruce Manning. Original: Fannie Hurst. Screenplay: Bruce Manning, Felix Jackson. **(Completed)**

WARNER

Thirty Days Hath September—Eddie Albert, Joan Leslie, Alan Hale, Minna Gombell, Anthony Quinn. Director: Ray Enright. Producer: Edmund Grainger. Screenplay: Ben Markson, Charles Grayson. Original: Irving Gaumont, Jack Sobol. **(Starting)**
(Comedy).

Mi s Wheelwright Discovers America—Priscilla Lane, Ronald Reagan, May Robson, Helen Westley, Clarence Kolb, John Qualen. Director: Curtis Bernhardt.
(Comedy concerning a debutante who, denied the privilege of traveling to Europe, discovers she can broaden her education and culture just as well at home).

PRC Has Two Features Set for Early Starts

Producers Releasing Corp. has two features lined up to go before the cameras within the next few weeks. First under way will be "Outlaws of the Rio Grande," western starring Tim McCoy, with Peter Stewart directing. This will be followed in February by "Alimony Jail," from a story by George Bricker. Sherman Scott is slated as the pilot. Sigmund Neufeld is producing both.

A February 10 starting date has been set by Merian C. Cooper, head of Argosy Productions, on "The Eagle Squadron," which will be released by Walter Wanger through United Artists. Cooper is at present in the east gathering data on the script, which is being written by Hurd Barrett and Major Harold Buckley. No director or cast assignments have been made.

For Monogram release, Sam Katzman will shortly launch "Air Devils," starring the East Side Kids. Al Martin supplied the original screenplay.

Herbert Wilcox will launch "Sunny," starring Anna Neagle, early this month as the next in his series for RKO Radio release. Wilcox will both produce and direct. Universal will garner release on two other independent entries to roll this month—Frank Lloyd's "The Lady From Cheyenne" and Lawrence Fox's "The Man Who Lost Himself."

Incorporation of Oxford Pictures, with D. A. Benson as president, has been announced. The new independent unit is headquartering at International Studios, where it will embark about January 15 on a series of six films with British backgrounds. Harry Levin has been set to direct. Pictures will be given state right release.

Company Transactions Slow During December

Washington—Transactions involving 1,500 shares of film company stocks are shown in the first December report of the securities and exchange commission on transactions of officers and directors in the securities of their corporations. Deals for only three companies were reported, as follows:

Consolidated Film Industries: Disposition of 100 shares of part preferred stock by E. H. Seifert, director, Fort Lee, N. J., leaving him with 100 shares.

Twentieth Century-Fox: Acquisition of 1,000 shares of common stock by Sidney R. Kent, officer, New York, giving him a total of 2,180 shares.

Universal Corp.: Acquisition of 200 common voting trust certificates by Preston Davie, director, New York, giving him a total of 2,600 held direct and 26,500 held through Standard Capital Co.

The SEC reported that Pathe Film was among the first companies to file reports under the new investment company act, showing the stock holdings of officers and directors and beneficial owners of more than 10 per cent of any class.

The report showed the holdings as of November 1, last, when the law became effective, as follow:

George J. Bonwick, officer, New York, none; Henry J. Guild, director, Adams, Mass., none; Donaldson Brown, beneficial owner, New York, none direct but 58,102 shares of common and 1,844 shares of preferred through the Broseco Corp.; T. C. Davis, director, New York, 100 shares of common; Allan P. Kirby, director, Morristown, N. J., 2,100 shares of common direct, 1,000 shares through Holding Company A, 4,000 shares through Holding Company B, and 600 shares through a trust; Kenneth M. Young, officer, New York, 400 shares of common; Robert R. Young, director, Cleveland, 20,497 shares of common; Mabel M. Malone, officer, New York, one share of preferred.

LOS ANGELES

PRESIDENT CHARLES P. SKOURAS of Fox West Coast and his aide, Andy Krappman, will return next week from a two-week visit in New York where they huddled with National Theatres executives . . . Jack Partington, president of Fanchon & Marco, Inc., spent several days here conferring with Marco Wolf, manager of the Paramount, an F&M enterprise.

M-G-M is starting the new year right by remodeling its exchange . . . Harvey Levinson, operator of the Cozy, is installing a new marquee . . . Mike Levinson, independently distributing "White Zombie," pulled out for San Francisco on business . . . Lou Rutstein is back at his desk at Producers Releasing Corp. after a quick business trip to New York . . . Art Greenfield, Universal booker, has been transferred to San Francisco. He is replaced locally by Tommy Dunphy . . . In for bookings: Tommy Huntington, Seville Theatre, Chula Vista; Joe Sloate, operator of the Maynard.

Al O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, is touring the company's coast offices . . . Sam Milner and Lon Hoss, Universal salesmen, are back on the job after taking a few days off for the Christmas and New Year's holidays . . . The flu bug bit Chet Black, operator of the Pico Drive-In, with the result he has been in bed for the past several days . . . Leonard Adamick, assistant manager of the Union, came in to do some booking . . . California weather has gained another booster. George Carrington, Altec Service vice-president, has decided to remain here until spring, and is house hunting with his family . . . Henry Preciado of the New Rex, Madera, in booking.

Herb MacIntyre, RKO western district manager, has returned from a business trip to Salt Lake . . . Ben Mohi will open his new Picfair, an 800-seat house, January 17, with a 25-cent admission scale. Mohi formerly operated the Princess in partnership with his brother, Saul . . . Remodeling has been completed by Erwin Kanowitz on his Union Theatre. House got a face-lifting, new marquee and other improvements.

C. A. B. Emanuel and his daughter, Bess, have returned from a short vacation spent at Boulder Dam. They operate the Foreign Films exchange . . . Bill Martin came in to book for his Hemet in Hemet . . . Ditto George Nassau of the Nassau Bros. circuit . . . Foster Blake is back on the job as Universal salesman after spending the holidays in Portland, Ore. . . . Rather than see the Rose Bowl grid classic in the newsreels in the comfort of his own Roxie, Joe Blumenfeld came all the way from Oakland to catch the New Year's Day game in the flesh . . . Ida Schreiber of the ITO is back on the job after a bout with flu.

Harry Meyer Dead

BUTTE—Harry Meyer, former secretary of the Film Board of Trade and well-known in this area, is dead at 44.

Comedy Lead in a Canova

HOLLYWOOD—Charlie Butterworth will play the comedy lead in "Sis Hopkins," Judy Canova starrer for Republic.

New Year Week Rockets Los Angeles Grosses

LOS ANGELES—Special New Year's Eve performances rocketed grosses in almost every first-run house to near-record proportions, with business generally reported as holding up well after the holidays. Top hits were Paramount's "Love Thy Neighbor" at the Paramount, which was a sell-out New Year's Eve, on a reserved seat basis, coupled with a stage show, and "Philadelphia Story," which opened simultaneously at the Carthay Circle, Loew's State and Grauman's Chinese. Poorest showing was made by Warner's "Flight From Destiny," which carded less than normal in its first stanza at the Four Star.

Detail of the week ended January 2:

(Average is 100)

Carthay Circle—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M)...175
Chinese—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 200
Downtown—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 160
Four Star—**Flight From Destiny** (WB) 90
Hillstreet—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **The Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 160
Hollywood—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 150
Pantages—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 150
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), plus stage show 200
State—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 200

Detail for week ended December 26:

Chinese—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox) 125
Downtown—**Four Mothers** (WB); **South of Suez** (WB), 2nd wk. 100
Four Star—**Escape** (M-G-M), 4th wk. 60
Hillstreet—**Arizona** (Col); **Where Did You Get That Girl?** (Univ) 125
Hollywood—**Four Mothers** (WB); **South of Suez** (WB), 2nd wk. 100
Pantages—**Arizona** (Col); **Where Did You Get That Girl?** (Univ) 125
Paramount—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Alice in Wonderland** (Para't), matinees only; plus stage show 140
State—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox) 150

'Arizona' and 'Santa Fe' Set Pace in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY—Old Man Winter's icy breath ushering in the dawn of 1941, did not retard the merry-makers from holding forth at local theatres.

"Arizona" and "Santa Fe Trail" were good drawing cards at the Utah and Studio, "Santa Fe" being transferred from the Centre for the second week at the Studio. "Love Thy Neighbor" at the Centre did especially well, also.

Detail for week ended January 2:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox); **Lucky Devils** (Univ) 105
Centre—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 115
Paramount—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 100
Rialto—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 115
Studio—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd wk.....110
Utah—**Arizona** (Col) 115
Victory—**Margie** (Univ); **San Francisco Docks** (Univ) 105

"Love Thy Neighbor" Ace Denver Attraction

DENVER—"Love Thy Neighbor," in its second week, was strong at the Denham, while "Thief of Bagdad" ran to 150 per cent at the Denver.

Detail for the week ended January 1:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Hired Wife** (Univ); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col), after wk. at the Denver 120
Broadway—**Go West** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. here after a wk. at the Orpheum 100
Denham—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 2nd wk. 230
Denver—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA) 150
Orpheum—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **Hullabaloo** (M-G-M) 90
Paramount—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ); **Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ) 140
Rialto—**Seven Sinners** (Univ); **Next Time We Love** (Univ), reissue, after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin 100

Big Seattle New Year's; Cold Kills Other Nights

SEATTLE—All houses worked on an even keel this week with no theatre doing outstanding business. Big night for all was New Year's Eve, but cold nights and undecided weather left the boxoffices' flat other evenings.

Detail for week ending January 4:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 90
Fifth Avenue—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 90
Liberty—**Arizona** (Col), 3rd wk. 90
Music Box—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 90
Orpheum—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Meet the Wildcat** (Univ) 100
Palomar—**One Night in the Tropics** (Univ).... 90
Paramount—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Charter Pilot** (20th-Fox) 90

A Bill Would Repeal State Service Tax

DENVER—A bill to repeal the state service tax has been introduced in the state legislature. This law now covers the two per cent tax on theatre tickets over five cents, and, according to information from the state house, the bill faces a tough battle.

The bill was introduced by Democrats, and already Republicans are threatening to introduce a new income tax bill that would greatly reduce the exemptions. The Republicans claim the income tax boost will be necessary to replace the loss of revenue occasioned if the service tax is repealed.

A bill also has been introduced that would do away with tax tokens. If this passes and the service tax is retained, the tax would be dropped from tickets up to 15 cents, one cent on tickets from 15 to 65 cents, and two cents on tickets from 65 cents to $1.15.

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"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
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LOS ANGELES

SEATTLE

TOPIC of the day is the Ascap scrap with the networks and other fields. Newspapers feature articles telling of the battle and how it will give the music-writing youngsters a better change to get attention. Billy MacDonald and his Royal Highlanders, featured at the Trianon ballroom, were cut down to four numbers when they went on the air the opening day of the restraint. Ascap had all the rest. All local radio bands and musicians are taking good old numbers and arranging them to various tempos and rhythm, with the result many novel classics are being heard. Tommy Thomas of KIRO thinks the radio stations will have little trouble, because BMI has cleared some 400,000 tunes already and is sending out more every day. Ascap, doing a little doubletime thinking, sent permission to KTW to play any and all Ascap songs free of charge. KTW happens to be the station of the First Presbyterian Church, and Mrs. C. Foss, in charge of programs, quickly announced that KTW will play only church music and nothing popular. Some years ago, Seattle amusement centers rose up in rebellion against Ascap for collecting revenue from them for the use of various tunes. They went to federal court and Ascap was forbidden to operate here without applying for a license, which they never did.

The city council stuck the owners of pinball games a license of $25.00 per year on each game, and the owner of the establishment where they are placed must cough up $7.50. No games to be placed within a certain radius of schools, and any establishment owner caught allowing any one under 21 to play the machines, is subject to $300 fine or one year in jail or both . . . One of the local councilmen has prepared an ordinance which he will present to the license committee which would regulate "juke boxes." The measure provides for an annual fee of $15 for each mechanical music machine. Heavy penalties for reproduction of vulgarity or obscenity . . . Roy and Adelaide Cooper up from San Francisco for the New Year's and to spend some time at the hospital visiting Roy's mother, who is still in a serious condition. Mother is Mrs. Rose Bloom, wife of Al of United Artists.

Seattle epicures, who for the past few months have been sending up prolonged howls because of the closing of the famous Rippe's dining center, are now cheering. John G. von Herberg, northwest theatre owner, reopened the cafe under the name of Von's, and the opening day he played host to over 1,500 enthusiastic customers. Von will keep the eatery open 24 hours a day . . . Lloyd and Harriet Lamb, arriving back in town from Chicago and without telling a soul, not even his own brother. Good to see the couple. They will stay here for a few months . . . Frank and Billie Sheffield of the Denver Republic branch, and Harold and Emily Sheffield of the Portland branch of Republic, holding a reunion here at the home of their uncle, J. T. Sheffield, northwest president of Republic. "Sheff" himself was called away at the time of the gathering to attend a very important meeting at the Republic studios. History in the making.

Speaking of Republic, Paul McElhinney, salesman east of the mountains for the outfit, drove out with his wife and youngster for Salt Lake to visit his folks. They returned in time to holler Happy New Year here. Mrs. Paul will present papa with an addition some time in February . . . Rex Stevenson, of the booking department for Golden State Theatres in San Francisco and formerly of the Sterling booking department here, is another of those guys who creep in town at dead of night and leave without saying hello. If you don't know it, fellows, Rex was here for a few days . . . Ben Shearer announces he has transferred Ted Lay from the Los Angeles office to Seattle. Ted is on the sales force.

Paul Aust back from Los Angeles where he spent four weeks because of the death of an aunt and the serious illness of his mother . . . Jimmy Ewing has officially taken over the Granada in Auburn. He has signed a lease with Frank Graham to operate the place . . . Ned Edris up and about after two weeks home battling the flu . . . John Lee of the Marjo in Ephrata spending some time here closing deals . . . Hal Daigler is home with flu . . . Harry Landstrom back to his bailiwick in Butte . . . Merle Vaughn of the Music Box back from Lewiston, Ida., after spending Xmas with the folks . . . Ruth Lund of the same theatre ill in bed.

First Meeting for PCCITO Counsel

LOS ANGELES—The first organizational meeting of 1941 to be held by the trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners January 13 in Portland, Ore., will be especially significant because it will be the initial one attended by Albert J. Law, new general counsel for the PCCITO, since his appointment to that post recently.

While not disclosed, it is expected the topics to be covered at the meeting will include a discussion of the consent decree and a strengthening of the PCCITO's platform to solidify a united front of independent showmen along the Pacific Coast.

Attending, in addition to Law, will be: H. W. Bruen and Jack Y. Berman of Los Angeles, together with R. H. Poole, the PCCITO's executive secretary; Rotus Harvey and Ben Levin of San Francisco; Bob White and A. West Johnson of Oregon, and William Ripley and L. O. Lukan of Washington.

Poole, who doubles as executive director of the ITO of So. Calif. and Ariz., recently returned to his desk after a week's vacation spent in the mountains.

Merle Oberon to Star

HOLLYWOOD—Merle Oberon has been signed for a starring role opposite Dennis Morgan in "Affectionately Yours." Lloyd Bacon will direct the Warner feature.

Scripting "Miss Pinkerton"

HOLLYWOOD—Raymond Schrock is scripting "Miss Pinkerton," Mary Roberts Rinehart novel, for Warner Bros.

SALT LAKE

UTAH special taxes, exclusive of those for unemployment compensation, reached an all-time high in 1940, according to J. H. Bankhead, cashier of the state tax commission here. Salt Lake City bank clearings increased appreciably the past year, it was reported . . . Paramount is enjoying very good business on "Love Thy Neighbor," which opened on New Year's at the Center, Salt Lake; Paramount at Provo; Roxy, Brigham City, Utah; Orpheum, Ogden, Utah, and the Pinney, Boise, Idaho.

Both recent releases made in Intermountain towns, "Arizona" and "Santa Fe Trail" are doing good business at first runs here. "Santa Fe" is in its second run at the Studio, and the former is in its first week at the Utah . . . Salt Lake folk this year had one of their most gay and expensive New Year's Eve celebrations in a decade, reports by theatres, restaurants and hotels indicate . . . Approximately 1,200 *Salt Lake old folks attended a special showing of "The Thief of Bagdad" at the Paramount, Intermountain house managed by Norman Sprowl . . . All Intermountain Theatres' houses enjoyed big crowds at their specially arranged New Year's shows . . . Sam Gardner, branch manager for M-G-M, reports that John P. Byrne, district manager, who was intending to make his headquarters in Salt Lake, is now headquartering in Denver. He will arrive here soon, however, for a conference. Ditto Western Sales Manager E. M. Saunders, who comes on from New York.*

Lon T. Fidler, division manager for Monogram, is recovering from a prolonged illness, according to local manager, W. W. McKendrick . . . Salesman C. F. Rose of Monogram went to Los Angeles for the holidays . . . Manager Bill Seib of Columbia reports "Arizona" is doing exceptionally big in this area . . . Universal salesmen are back in their respective territories, H. W. Landstrom having returned from Seattle and Jack Allander from Spokane. James French remained in Salt Lake over the holidays . . . The Paramount Theatre announces a special performance, January 15, of the San Francisco Opera Ballet . . . RKO's "Kitty Foyle" is being well received throughout this region, after opening at the Rialto in Salt Lake.

Hollywood Paramount To Get a New Name

LOS ANGELES—When President Charles P. Skouras of Fox West Coast Theatres and his aide, Andy Krappman, return from their current New York huddles with National Theatres executives, they will bring with them a new name for the Paramount Theatre, FWC subsequent-run house in Hollywood.

Decision to change the theatre's name was reached before Skouras left for the east, chiefly because it conflicts with that of the Paramount in downtown Los Angeles, a first-run house operated by Fanchon and Marco. The FWC unit will, at the same time, be given a new and modern marquee and a redecorating job.

DENVER

RICK RICKETSON, manager of the Fox Intermountain division of National Theatres, has been named chairman of the local Greek Relief campaign, with $100,000 the quota for Denver. Downtown headquarters were established following the visit here of Spyros Skouras in the interest of the drive . . . Frank Roberts, salesman at United Artists, has resigned and accepted a post with a former employer, the J. H. Cooper Theatres, with headquarters in Oklahoma City.

Harry Huffman, city manager for Fox Theatres, has been re-elected president of the Denver convention and tourist bureau for the 12th year . . . R. J. Morrison, 20th Century-Fox exchange manager, was in the hospital with the flu, but is now recuperating at home. Several others of the exchange also experienced a siege of the flu, including Rene Buchanan, Hazel Morgan, Merle Gwinn, Helen Stone, while Hugh Rennie, salesman, is back on the road after being home ill. Christina Metzger was limping around a few days as the result of a turned ankle.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kerby of the Kerby Theatre, Worland, Wyo., passed through Denver on their way to California for a two-month vacation . . . J. J. (Jap) Morgan, manager of the National Theatre Supply branch here, left for Los Angeles for a sales meeting . . . Joe Stone of National Theatre Supply is back from a holiday visit with his mother in Cincinnati . . . Harold McCormick of the Skyline and Rex theatres at Canon City, Colo., and Miss Jean Rolfe of Denver were married here Wednesday. They will make their home in Canon City.

The Coppell Amusement Co. has moved to 828 Twenty-first Street . . . Jack Price, Premiere exchange, whose mother, Mrs. Ann Price, has been an inspectress for years, expects to leave soon for at least a year's training with the Colorado National Guard. Jack, a radio technician, will be stationed at Camp Forrest, Tenn. . . . Lester L. Savage, Columbia auditor, is here checking accounts.

A one-day pep meeting was held by the RKO exchange, presided over by Leo Devaney, Canadian division manager and captain of the Depinet sales drive. With Devaney were C. E. Smith, western division manager, and Herb MacIntyre, western district manager . . . The Christmas party of the Paramount exchange was held this week—finally. It had been postponed twice—once when Chet Bell, manager, was called to Los Angeles for a sales conference, and again when he had the flu. The affair, with 32 in attendance, was held at Hillcrest, and was replete with all the trimmings of a Christmas event.

Pauline Hall, Paramount secretary, went to the hospital for an operation for a growth on her ankle, occasioned by a fall about a year ago . . . Helen Liddeen, contract clerk at Paramount, also to hospital for an appendectomy . . . Lee Cronk, head shipper at Paramount and president of the Film Employes' Union, is home with the flu . . . Commercial Film Exchange has contracted for six Fine Arts and three Coronados—Dorothy Page westerns—formerly released through Grand National.

David, four-year-old son of Charles Klein of the Black Hills Amusement Co., is very fond of salami. His mother thinks too much of it is not good for him, but his father slips him some extra on occasion. Now David wanted to do something special for Santa Claus, so with his own hands he made a salami-rye bread sandwich and placed it on the mantle Christmas Eve. The next morning, as David was looking at the crumbs, he said to his father, "Gee, dad, I forgot to leave Santa a bottle of beer!"

Seen on the Row booking and buying supplies: Ted Kemper, U. S. Army post booker; Larry Starsmore, Westland Theatres, Colorado Springs; Marie Goodhand, American Theatre, Kimball, Neb.; R. D. Ervin, Romona, Kremmling, Colo.; Charles Klein, Black Hills Amusement Co., Deadwood, S. D.; Claude Graves, Coronado, Alburquerque, N. M.; C. G. Diller, Vita, Cripple Creek, Colo.

Assign Busby Berkeley

HOLLYWOOD—Busby Berkeley will create and stage two dance numbers for Metro's "Ziegfeld Girl."

Starts New Year With Boxoffice Marathon

San Francisco—Bucky Williams set a new record while greeting 1941. Business was so good at midnight on New Year's Eve that the manager decided not to close—sat himself at the cashier's board and started issuing tickets. Surprisingly, business was as good between 5 and 6 a. m. as an average day's matinee and so Williams kept right on going. His was a 36-hour marathon continuous run.

Pre-Opening Inspection For New Circuit Unit

SAN FRANCISCO—A pre-opening inspection party was held Friday at the Fox West-Coast San Carlos Theatre. Invitations were issued and admittance was by reservation only. Charles Skouras and other circuit executives were on hand to welcome their guests. The theatre was to be opened to the public Saturday.

SAN FRANCISCO

CHRISTMAS paid a return visit to 104 employes of the Golden State and San Francisco circuits this week when $2,500 in prizes was awarded in the holiday scrip book drive. The checks were distributed at a breakfast in the Gold Room of the Fairmont Hotel which was attended by 233 employes of the two chains. R. A. McNeil and Ray Cooper made the presentations.

Gordon Allen has checked out on a tour of the territory for Monogram . . . Abe Blanco is sending post cards from Mexico where he is evidently having a swell vacation . . . Perry Leiber, RKO publicity director, is on his first vacation in two years and is spending it in San Francisco . . . Crooner Dick Powell sang a new song this week. Powell served as recruiting officer for the Army when the mobile unit backed its truck up to the Golden Gate Theatre where Dick is appearing. Between performances he told prospective recruits the advantages of working for Uncle Sam.

The branch managers and circuit heads met at luncheon on Tuesday to map plans for the "March of Dimes" which starts on the 15th. On Wednesday, Joseph M. Schenck and Milton Berle spoke at the Civic luncheon for the same cause. The Northern California theatres hope to duplicate last year's record when they collected over half the money taken in by California theatres . . . Mike Newman in town for work on "This Thing Called Love" . . . Joe Smith was installed as president of local B-17 of the IATSE this week. Joe recently was promoted to head shipper at Paramount. Ray Kaliski was upped by Paramount from shipper to booker . . . V. Preston, Warner booker, is confined to his home as the result of burns suffered extinguishing a small fire in his home . . . The Coniglio Brothers have taken over the Rio in Rodeo from Cecil Pace.

The Golden Gate conducted a city-wide search for a girl singer in connection with the personal appearance of Bob Crosby and his orchestra. The winner was Dorothy Fretwell, student teacher at the S. F. State Teachers' College. She was given an audition with the band, plus several appearances on the stage of the Gate . . . The Golden Gate Turf Club has made a sucker of this correspondent with their continual postponements after our announcements of each scheduled start of the racing in Albany. We are trying again, as Slip Madigan, majordomo of the track, announces the 11th as the definite beginning of the 33-day season.

Redwood Circuit opens its Tower in Marysville on the 17th . . . Herman Cohen and the missus are in the south for a short vacation. They attended the Rose Bowl game . . . Booking on the Row: Gerald Hardy, Hardy Theatres, Fresno; J. Lee, Town Hall, Quincy; Arthur Fukuda, Cochran, Cochran; Herb Harris, Mandarin, Stockton; Yates Hamm, Livermore, Livermore . . . Ed Levy reports his new theatre in Dinubia will be ready soon . . . Jim Riley and his missus are absent from the office with the flu.

George and Allen Harvey, formerly of Arbuckle, have taken over the Ferndale in Ferndale and will reopen on January 18 . . . The Row was saddened by the news that Ann Cramton, wife of Charles Cramton, manager of the Walnut Creek in Walnut Creek, was seriously injured in an automobile accident. Mrs. Cramton and her mother were driving east when the accident occurred. Cramton's mother-in-law was fatally injured . . . Warner's previewed "Four Mothers" this week . . . Sid Weisbaum is back at his manager's desk at Republic after a holiday trip to Denver.

PORTLAND

JOHNNY HARVEY, Bee Gee Theatre, Battleground, had a serious accident on N. E. Union Avenue and his brother-in-law was badly hurt. Johnny escaped serious injury, but his car was wrecked . . . Warner will start remodeling the week of January 13, and Auditor E. W. O'Brien hopes to be over the flu in time to watch the new counter and other knick-knacks going in.

Al Sather kept his record clear this New Year's with a minor crack-up. For the past several New Year's Al has had the questionable distinction of having some sort of a car wreck (not punning at his Plymouth), but this year he says he was minding his own business and someone hit him anyway.

A cable off the grapevine tells of an uneventful siege of batching by Jim Beale and Lou Metzelaar. Mrs. Beale left the two to their own cooking while she visited in Cheyenne, Wyo. Reports were that neither of the boys could cook, but so far the eggs have been sunnyside up.

Mr. Jones of the Vista, Portland, had the unique experience of having a dog guard his theatre door the other night, but he wouldn't let the customers come in. The dog belonged to a boy who had left his bicycle too near the door while he was inside enjoying the show. The canine pal was guarding the bike and unintentionally guarding the door. Jones wishes he could train the dog to bring patrons to the door instead of keeping them away.

O. J. Holmes, bigwig of the Holmes Projector Co., was in recently conferring with "Mac" MacLeod of Theatres Utilities Service Co., and L. S. Brown, newly appointed division factory representative for the Holmes company. Brown came here from Salt Lake City to meet Holmes . . . The boys are telling the story on MacLeod that business was so bad the past week that he took time out to repair the family refrigerator, disproving the old theory that a carpenter won't repair his own house, etc.

Other Portland visitors: Avery Combs, Camas and Washougal; Ted Francis, Newberg; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dow, Veronia and Tigard; Mr. and Mrs. Foster Blake, Los Angeles; Heaton Randall, Seattle; Harry Lanstrum, Universal salesman in Butte; Mr. and Mrs. Curl, Jefferson; George Gessler, Sweet Home; Mendy Mendenhall, Grants Pass, all in town booking, visiting and picking up film . . . Frank W. Sheffield, from the Republic office in Denver, was in town visiting his brother, Jim. They later went to Seattle with their families for the holidays.

The Orpheum in Portland reverts to a vaudeville-pictures policy January 13. The opening attraction will be the Major Bowes' Amateur Unit and "Second Chorus," starring Fred Astaire and Paulette Goddard. Del Milne, well known orchestra leader, will be master of ceremonies and also assistant manager. Frank Newman remains as manager . . . Mildred Johns of Fox was installed as chaplain in Ameranth, an organization associated with the Eastern Star. Frances Tillman was voted associate conductoress of her chapter of Eastern Star.

Gracie Fields will head the benefit show to be given at the Public Auditorium, January 22. It is for British War Relief . . . Roy and Mildred Brown came back from a San Francisco vacation with the distinction of being the only local filmites to attend the East-West football game . . . Tom and Mrs. Shearer were in S. F. but they were visiting with the Homer Tegtmier and Rotus Harvey families.

Miss Agnes Lemmermier, head usherette at the Orpheum, is to be married early in February . . . Marian Mahoney, Orpheum cashier, is back at work after a siege of flu . . . Booker Andy Anderson, of Universal, down with the flu too . . . Don Radabaugh, Roseburg; Sam and Charlie Whitesides, Corvallis; Ken Spears, Winlock, were in town . . . Earl Baltazar, Rainier, stopped in long enough to do some booking and tell about plans for remodeling his house. Will reseat and redecorate.

Fox-Evergreen Plans Third in Bremerton

SEATTLE—A new 1,500 seater will be added to the Fox-Evergreen circuit in this territory. Bremerton is the site of the new house. Fox at present operates two theatres in the town.

The present ship-building and defense program in Bremerton is responsible for the new building.

Start in Bremerton on Second Shearer House

SEATTLE—B. F. Shearer announces work has been started on his new theatre being erected in Bremerton. It will seat 1,000 and be up-to-the-minute in every detail. Shearer also owns the Tower in the same town.

Jane Darwell to Warner's

HOLLYWOOD—Warner's has borrowed Jane Darwell from 20th-Fox for a character role in "Thirty Days Hath September."

Stays in High Gear Despite Illness

San Francisco—Charlie Schlaifer didn't let a little thing like a concussion stop him when bed-ridden as "The Thief of Bagdad" hammered at the United Artists Theatre. Against doctor's orders, Schlaifer had artists and Lloyd Cohen, his assistant, come out to his bedroom each day for exploitation mapping. Result: The biggest week for the house in seven years. Charlie is back on the job after a two-week "layoff."

Gilboy Terminal Fire Loss Is Heavy

San Francisco—The fire at the Gilboy terminal was still conversation this week. The loss to building and contents was set at approximately $50,000. The building will have to be completely rebuilt as the celluloid fire was so terrific it twisted steel girders out of shape. Gilboy expresses most of the film in this territory and local exchanges had at least two cans of film destroyed. The origin of the blaze is still undetermined, although it is believed that gasoline combustion set it off.

REVIEW FLASHES

CONVOY (RKO)—Producer Michael Balcon, with the cooperation of the Royal Navy and some highly effective model work, has concocted in "Convoy" a naval thriller based on the present war. Clive Brook, John Clements, Judy Campbell.

SIX LESSONS FROM MADAME LA ZONGA (Univ)—Again taking as a nucleus the tune and title of a popular song—this time one of more recent vintage—Universal has wound around it a fast-moving, diverting tuneful comedy which should prove to be a welcome half of any program. Lupe Velez and Leon Errol are co-featured. Joseph G. Sanford produced; John Rawlins directed.

YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK (Mono)—With minor variations, this is cut from the same pattern as preceding Frankie Darros for this company in which he plays a juvenile detective; and, by the same token, compares favorably with them as good supporting program material. Darro, Kay Sutton, Mantan Moreland. Howard Bretherton directed.

Local 150 and First Runs Will Talk New Contract

LOS ANGELES — Conferences will be launched shortly relative to the drafting of a new contract between Projectionists Local 150, IATSE, and first-run theatres in this territory. A 26-month pact expired last November and the new agreement will be made retroactive until that time.

Spokesmen for the projectionists assert the local will seek improved working conditions in certain spots but will not ask for a wage boost. Boothmen in first-run houses now receive $76.10 for a six-hour, six-day week.

Negotiating committee for the local comprises Earle Hamilton, president; Ralph MacDonald, business manager; Mort Sands, secretary, and Ed Larsson. First-run theatre representatives include Dick Dickson for Fox West Coast; Ben Wallerstein, for the Warner Theatres; Marco Wolf, Paramount; Charles Koerner, western divisional manager for RKO Theatres, and Rodney Pantages of the Pantages.

Contested Election Stymies Solons

Jefferson City, Mo.—Because the election of Forrest Donnell, Republican, as governor of Missouri is being contested by Lawrence McDaniel, his defeated Democratic opponent, it looks like there will be very little legislative activity for some weeks to come. Until the matter is disposed of, the legislative mills cannot function. Thus any film bills which might have been thrown into the hopper, will have to mark time until the point is settled.

May Loosen Ascap's Grip in Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE—In exhibitor circles it is believed that a ruling handed down by Federal Judge F. Ryan Duffy here sustaining a 1935 statute which requires licenses for music brokers and the payment of a 25 per cent franchise tax will have a considerable effect in lessening Ascap's power in Wisconsin.

The decision was handed down in the case of Leo Feist, Inc., vs. Wiley Young, West Allis tavern keeper and an official of the Tavern Music Protective Ass'n of Wisconsin.

In the action, taken under advisement last May by Duffy, Feist sued to collect a $250 copyright infringement fee, claiming that Young had permitted the playing of "The Waltz You Saved for Me" in his tavern last January 6 without permission.

Injunction Is Denied

Young filed a counterclaim, contending that neither Feist nor Ascap had complied with the 1935 law and requested an injunction to restrain them from collecting fees for the playing of copyrighted music. Although sustaining the franchise tax, Duffy refused Young an injunction, holding that "there would seem to be no such emergency, or irreparable damage situation, which calls for such action at this stage of the controversy."

Answering Feist's claim that the state law was unconstitutional, Duffy said:

"It is admitted that Feist has made no attempt to comply with Chapter 177, and the same is true with reference to Ascap.

"Chapter 177 is, in form, a revenue measure. The payments to be made thereunder are expressly stated to be a franchise tax. The motives which the legislature may have had in enacting this law are matters beyond the scope of judicial inquiry. A recent case decided by the U. S. supreme court shows the wide latitude that a state has under taxing power—the state of Wisconsin vs. J. C. Penney Co., decided Dec. 16, 1940.

"While plaintiff herein claims Chapter 177 is unconstitutional, yet it contends that the case at bar is not a proper one in which to test that issue. Certainly, the presumption must be that this state acted within its constitutional power. The motion of plaintiff to dismiss the counterclaim and to strike portions of defendant's answer must be denied.

"As to the defendant's motion for a temporary injunction, there would seem to be no such emergency, or irreparable damage situation, which calls for such action at this stage of the controversy. Furthermore, this court is informed that one or more cases are now before the U. S. supreme court in which there is at issue the validity of state legislation pertaining to the public rendition of copyrighted music. The decision of such cases may throw some light on the issue raised in the case at bar. Such decisions are expected to be rendered prior to the time that the trial of this case can be reached. The motion of the defendant for a temporary injunction is denied."

The court also held that any "threat of suit" by Ascap to force compliance with a copyright, as cited by Young, was unlawful under the Wisconsin statute and that investigators employed by Ascap to determine violations of copyright by tavern keepers would have to obtain licenses from the state.

The Wisconsin law originally set the franchise tax at five per cent, but this was increased to 25 per cent by an amendment in 1937. Under the act, violators are subject to fines of from $200 to $500 for each offense. Robert A. Hess, Wisconsin counsel for Ascap, is expected to advise an appeal in the ruling.

If the law is sustained, it is estimated that Ascap will be obliged to pay $50,000 annually on the reported $200,000 it collects in Wisconsin.

'41 Starts Off With Bang In Chicago Loop Units

CHICAGO—Business for '41 started off with a bang in Chicago's loop with "Kitty Foyle" at the Palace, "Love Thy Neighbor" at the Chicago, and "Mannerheim Line" at the Studio heading the boxoffice parade.

RKO's "Kitty," coupled with the same company's "Saint in Palm Springs," is proving the best boxoffice draw the RKO theatre has had in ages, the women especially, amply provided with hankies, making a bee-line to the Palace. Tom Gorman says it should run about three weeks.

The second week of Paramount's "Love Thy Neighbor" at the B&K flagship, the Chicago, is packing them in especially with a top-notch stage show headed by Tamara. Herb Elisburg's Studio is the meeting place for the "artier" patrons these days with Artkino's "Mannerheim Line" going into its fourth week and proving to be the best draw ever shown at the Van Buren Street house.

Detail for week ended January 2:

(Average is 100)

Apollo—**Arizona** (Col) 115
Second good week.

Chicago—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't).....150
Second week at the B&K flagship. Good reviews and favorable word-of-mouth packing in the customers. Nice stage show headed by Tamara also partly responsible for success of film.

Garrick—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox) 130
After two terrific weeks at the Chicago, the Zanuck success keeps 'em coming in at the Garrick.

Oriental—**Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col) 140
Stage show, Ted Weems' band, is pulling 'em in.

Palace—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO),; **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 200
Though "Kitty Foyle" opened on a bad day, Tuesday, it warmed up New Year's Day and has the women lined up on Randolph Street.

Roosevelt—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA) 130
Swell holiday film and bringing in adults as well as youngsters.

State-Lake—**East of the River** (WB) 130
Film and stage show cashing in on general strong loop business.

Studio—**Mannerheim Line** (Artkino) 200
Best thing that ever hit the Studio. Did 300 first week, 250 second week.

United Artists—**Bitter Sweet** (M-G-M) 120
Picture profiting from general good business.

Hiked Admissions Help to Build Milwaukee Takes

MILWAUKEE—Hiked admissions for New Year's Eve starting at 5 p. m. of 75 cents for the Riverside and 85 cents for the other first runs helped up grosses for the week together with new shows on New Year's Day at Fox's Wisconsin, Palace and Strand theatres. These latter houses played special programs for New Year's Eve only.

Detail for the week ending January 2:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't), 2nd wk.; **Arizona** (Col), New Year's Eve only 125

Riverside—**Sandy Gets Her Man** (Univ); plus stage show 145

Strand—**Arise, My Love** (Para't); **Cherokee Strip** (Para't), 2nd wk.; **Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), New Years' Eve only 115

Warner—**The Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **Hit Parade of 1941** (Rep), 2nd wk. 120

Wisconsin—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Great Profile** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.; **Flight Command** (M-G-M), New Year's Eve only 145

"Love Thy Neighbor" Is Ace in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS — "Love Thy Neighbor," Paramount's Benny-Allen attraction, gave the Circle double-average business during the holiday week. Other local top-grossers were Columbia's "Arizona" and Republic's "Melody Ranch."

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**Three Men From Texas** (Para't); **Pride of the Bowery** (Mono) 85

Ambassador—**Melody Ranch** (Rep), 1st run; **Chump at Oxford** (UA), 2nd run.....155

Circle—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Meet the Wildcat** (Univ) 200

Indiana—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't) 100

Lyric—**Behind the News** (Rep); plus Nick ..Lucas on stage 95

Loew's Palace—**Arizona** (Col); **Girls Under 21** (Col) 155

P. J. Hanson Dead

OSHKOSH, WIS.—Death last week claimed P. J. Hanson, 83, onetime operator of the old Bijou in Rhinelander and father of Harvey Hanson, operator of the Palace in Antigo. Besides his son, Hanson is survived by his wife, two brothers and a sister.

A "Different" Policy For "Tobacco Road"

By HAL TATE

CHICAGO—"Twentieth Century-Fox will release 'Tobacco Road' differently from any other film that has ever been released in this country," Darryl F. Zanuck, the company's vice-president in charge of production, told BOXOFFICE when he passed through Chicago en route to New York to accept the "Best Picture of 1940" award from the New York Film Critics for "Grapes of Wrath."

Discussing the film's distribution, Zanuck termed it "a completely revolutionary idea that's never been done before." He declined to give more information on the plan, saying he preferred waiting until details had been more completely arranged in conferences with Sidney R. Kent, president, and Herman Wobber, general manager of distribution.

Zanuck stopped off in Chicago on his way east to participate in the New York Film Critics broadcast which was heard over a coast-to-coast NBC-Blue network Sunday night. He was accompanied east by his secretary, Edward Laggewie. While in town, Zanuck conferred with Eddie Silverman of the Essaness circuit and Clyde W. Eckhardt, Chicago branch manager for 20th Century-Fox.

May Premiere in Chicago

BOXOFFICE learned from Zanuck after he had conferred with Silverman that the latter made an attractive offer for the world-premiere of "Tobacco Road" in Chicago. If 20th Century-Fox accepts, after Zanuck discusses Silverman's proposal with Kent and Wobber, the premiere will be held at the Woods in the spring—probably about the early part of March. All the leading stars of the film, including Charles Grapewin, who plays the leading role, and possibly other leading stars on the company's roster, will converge in Chicago should the premiere materialize.

Zanuck noted the similarity between "Grapes of Wrath" and "Tobacco Road." Both have themes of social significance and both have had the same technical setup: John Ford directing, Nunnally Johnson handling the scripting and Zanuck, himself, in charge of production.

Mirror American Scene

Zanuck told BOXOFFICE that the company's pictures in general will strive to portray the American scene. He said that, for the present at least, pictures of the "Four Sons" anti-Nazi type would be tabled, with comedies and musicals sharing a great deal of the camera spotlight.

Zanuck said that his firm would handle distribution of several outside pictures this year. These include two Howard Hughes productions of which one is "The Outlaw," currently in production. To date no definite plans have been formulated on the selection of Hughes' second film. He said 20th-Fox also would release pictures of the new actors "group" which includes Ronald Colman, Claudette Colbert and Charles Boyer.

Flu Epidemic Hurts

DEXTER, MO.—A flu epidemic closed schools here a week and seriously affected theatre attendance.



Critics' Award, Later—

Before boarding the New York Central's crack 20th Century for New York to accept the Film Critics' award designating "The Grapes of Wrath" the outstanding artistic film achievement of 1940, *Darryl F. Zanuck (left) took time out for the above shot at Chicago's La Salle Street station. With the 20th-Fox production head, are Hal Tate,* BOXOFFICE'S *Central editor, in the center, and Clyde W. Eckhardt, the company's branch manager in the Windy City.*

ST. LOUIS

JIMMY IRVING, manager of St. Louis Amusement Co.'s Maplewood, has received many compliments on the kind of service Virgil (Wink) Dion, doorman, accords the cash customers. It seems that Virgil, in addition to the customary work of doorman, has converted himself into a one-man information bureau, helps kiddies and elderly folk across busy thoroughfares and tells patrons where to park their automobiles with a minimum of delay.

Paul Beisman, manager of the American Theatre and the Municipal Opera, made 12 *round trips via airplanes to New York during* 1940 . . . *Nina Lee, warblist, is convalescing at her home here from injuries received in a recent automobile accident near Decatur, Ill.*

"Ice Capades of 1941" will open a six-night engagement at the Arena January 20 . . . Nick Stuart, orchestra leader who has appeared in a number of Hollywood productions, played an engagement at the Case Loma ballroom.

Missouri's ever-growing sales tax knicked the men, women and children of the state for $24,004,384 *in* 1940, *according to an announcement by the auditor's office at Jefferson City.*

"Ladies in Retirement," with Flora Robson in the top role, did only $10,000 at the American. Eight performances with a top of $2.80, except New Year's Eve, when patrons were knicked for $3.30.

Frances Dee to "Citadel"

HOLLYWOOD — Republic has ticketed Frances Dee for the lead opposite John Wayne in "Citadel of Crime."

Flock to Chicago to See Film Machines

CHICAGO — Midwestern exhibitors and representatives of production companies together with other people in the industry are expected to flock to Chicago Monday to personally inspect the new tavern film machines, several of which will be shown for the first time at the Coin Machine Industries Convention to be held here at the Sherman Hotel, January 13-16.

To date, four companies have already leased space for showing of their new dime-in-the-slot movies. They are: Mills Novelty Company, Chicago; Repeatoscope Coin Movies, Inc., New York City; Phono-Film Distributing Co., Inc., New York City, and Visograph Corp. of America, Los Angeles.

Leading midwestern exhibitors are watching the new three minute films with a leery eye, fearful that another nightmare similar to radio competition may be in the offing with the launching of the machines on a national scale.

Jack Kirsch, president of Illinois Allied, when questioned by BOXOFFICE, came out flatly against the new machines saying that he felt they may lead to the eventual showing of "stag" reels at the neighborhood taverns. Then, too, the Allied executive, said "Jimmy Roosevelt wants us to support him with his 35mm film then he turns around to produce competition for us in the 16mm film." Other leading exhibitors, when questioned by BOXOFFICE, also indicated their disapproval of the new robot movies.

The Mills Novelty Co., pioneers in what is currently considered a "step-child" of the picture business, will have two exhibitions of their "Panoram" machines. One will be at the Grey and Rose Rooms of the Hotel Sherman while the other will be at their factory on Chicago's northwest side.

All top-notch Mills executives will converge in Chicago for the showing of the machines.

"Open house" will be held by the Mills firm at their factory-showrooms on Tuesday (January 14). Top stars in show business, who will be in Chicago this week, are expected to participate.

One hundred and twenty-five manufacturers of coin machines, including Canadian and Mexican, will be represented at the convention. Already 236 space reservations have been made at the Hotel Sherman with 4,000 registrations in.

St. Louis Exhibitors to Aid Cause of Greece

ST. LOUIS—A committee of local theatremen to raise funds for Greek war relief, was organized here following a meeting addressed by Spyros Skouras, National Theatres president who is in charge of the campaign nationally. Members include: Al Rosecan, Princess; Johnny Caparal, Wellston, and Tom James of the New Comet, Douglas and Strand theatres.

Billie Burke on Loanout

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has borrowed Billie Burke from M-G-M for a topline in "One Night in Lisbon."

CHICAGO

HARRY BRANDT, president of ITOA, was to have presided at luncheon meeting of midwestern motion picture defense committee at Drake Hotel last Thursday. John Balaban, Jack Kirsch, Eddie Silverman, Jimmy Coston and others were to have attended . . . Christ Otto and his Chicago Film Carriers can take a bow for going "over top" in Chicago Community Fund. They contributed over $500 to the $30,500 which the amusement division generously donated.

Irving Schlank, whose appointment as district manager for United Artists, newly created post, was announced several weeks ago in BOXOFFICE, *will be given testimonial dinner at the Congress Hotel, Friday night. Talk is that only top-notch film executives will attend . . . Exhibitors tickled to death at Ascap-BMI battle. Seems the sameness of the tunes on air is driving air-patrons to theatres.*

Rumor department: Herb Elisburg's Studio Theatre being considered for "Fantasia." Scheduled to open here in February, no house, as this column went to press, had been definitely chosen . . . Tom Gorman going to town on ads for record-breaking "Kitty Foyle." Says Tom (in his Palace Theatre ads): "The most terrific smash hit ever screened in Chicago."

Movie-Radio Dept.: Tamara, who recently completed nice role in RKO's "No, No, Nanette," and who finished successful two weeks' engagement at the B&K Chicago Theatre, Thursday night, appeared as guest star on BOXOFFICE-*Joy Candy Shoppes weekly "That's Show Business" program over WAAF on Sunday, January 5. Broadcast is at* 1:00 *p. m. . . . Fritz Blocki, for eight years publicity director of Jones, Linick and Schaefer's Oriental Theatre, has resigned to devote full-time to radio. Jack Hess taking Fritz's place. Fritz now producing "Your Dream Has Come True" program broadcast Sunday afternoons over NBC. Prior to his radio and publicity work, Blocki was drama and critic and theatrical columnist on the Chicago* American *(now the* Herald-American) *for six years . . . Francis Trout is back on the "Scattergood Baines" radio show after appearing in the screen version of the show before the Hollywood cameras. He will appear on screen as "Pliny," same character he portrays on the air. Wrigley, sponsor of the show, really going to town on promoting picture . . . Michael Bartlett, who has leading role in "The Lilac Domino," picture which recently played at the World Playhouse, appeared as lead in WGN-Mutual presentation of "The Chocolate Soldier."*

Gleaned here and there: Mort Singer, III, is recent Chicago stork delivery. Proud papa is Mort Singer, II, associate producer at Universal. Mort Singer heads RKO-Singer circuit with headquarters here . . . Irving Berlin, here in town recently, says he's working on music for new Paramount picture. One song is called "This Is a Great Country," other one is "Everybody Knew It But Me." Berlin will withhold release of songs until Ascap-BMI fight is settled.

Warner Theatres installing Coca-Cola vending machines which dispense 300 *drinks without refilling . . . Eddie Silverman back from Wisconsin hunting trip . . . Louise Campbell and hubby, Horace MacMahon, after spending holidays in town with the "folks," have gone to New York where the pair plan on doing stage play together . . . Clyde Eckhardt reports that he sold "Night Train" to World Playhouse. Film, made in England, got nice-sendoff in Winchell's column January 7.*

Bob Snyder, in picture business for the past 20 years, and who came here from New York a year ago to head J. H. Hoffberg Productions in Chicago, is now salesman for Al Dezel Roadshows. Al has nice new office in Exhibitor's Building at 1325 S. Wabash . . . Spector's Restaurant remodeling and putting in all stainless kitchen and own bakery department. Will be ready February 1 . . . C. J. Bulliet, *News* film critic, says he notices improvement in the new season's pictures. Says: "They are directed with more intelligence and merit greater public acceptance."

Legal stuff: Schubert Theatres are starting something new in Chicago. Sponsoring spot announcements on WGN for various attractions at their houses . . . Bert Lahr, Frances Williams and Benny Baker, stars of "Du Barry Was a Lady," currently at Erlanger, starred on WGN-Mutual's "In Chicago Tonight" show last Thursday night . . . Local Chicago Repertory Group, similar to New York's Group Theatre, made hit with local critics with their recent original musical: "Not on My Life."

Will Osborne Quits

ST. LOUIS—Will Osborne, orchestra leader for the past 12 years, quit as head of the organization at the conclusion of his engagement at Fanchon & Marco's Fox last Thursday. Dick Rogers, his piano player for the past seven years, has taken over the baton. He recently was elected president when the band incorporated. Osborne will go to Hollywood where he plans to appear in short films.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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THEATRICAL PRINTING



: QUICKIES :

By HAL TATE

WE HAVEN'T seen "Cheers for Miss Bishop," but that beautiful four-page ad in BOXOFFICE last week of Martha Scott should, in our opinion, be titled "Cheers for the United Artists Advertising Dept." A very neat job.

Here's why exhibitors go crazy. Try squeezing the titles of these two forthcoming releases on your marquee: Paramount's "Aldrich Family in Life With Henry" and Producer's Releasing Corporation's "Glamour Girls Never Say No."

Say what you will, we keep punching at BOXOFFICE. For the convenience of exhibitors, even our Picture Guide-Reviews Service is punched.

Is there anyone who hasn't heard at least 4,286 versions of the Paulette Goddard Hollywood episode?

Editor "Red" Kann seems to believe in a realistic attitude even in the title of his column. He's switched from "Notes to You" to "Men and Events."

Susanna Foster to Tour

HOLLYWOOD—Susanna Foster, Paramount songstress, will make personal appearances in 20 cities plugging her current starrer, "The Hard-Boiled Canary."



INDIANAPOLIS

SEEN on Filmrow: Harold V. Neese, Beverly Theatre, Brazil; Mrs. Elsie Blessing, Royal, Danville; Harold G. Reckley, Chateau, Greencastle; Harry Van Noy, Paramount, Anderson; Mrs. Hilda Palmer Long, Hippodrome, Sheridan; Harmon E. Allison, Ritz, Mooresville; J. N. Dixon, Flora, Flora, and Maurice Reinking, Terre Haute.

Albert England has joined the Sconce circuit as manager of the State in Greenfield, succeeding Max Page . . . The Curtis Butlers have returned from Florida after spending their vacation there . . . William H. Trunick, district sales manager for RCA, advises of the installation of two new sound systems in the Circle and Indiana theatres.

Frank Nuber, formerly with Indiana Theatre Equipment Co., is now giving all of his time to editing his newspaper in Remington, Ind. . . . George Settos of the Settos circuit announces the acquisition of the Amuzu, Oakland City, Ind., from Carl Spillman . . . Sam Abrams and Joe Bohn made a trip to Cincinnati to confer with Joe Goldberg concerning local Producers Distributing Co. exchange affairs.

The Elnora at Elnora, Ind., has been reopened under William Floerke's guidance . . . Anne Martz is the new cashier at the Strand here. She succeeds Joan Foreman, resigned . . . Morris Cantor of the Cantor circuit has returned from a vacation in New York.

Herb Kenney jr., film critic for the Indianapolis *News*, selected "Grapes of Wrath" as the best picture of 1940. Second and third places went to "Rebecca" and "The Long Voyage Home," respectively . . . Charles Williams, formerly with National Theatre Supply in Chicago, and more recently with Joe Goldberg, Inc., of Chicago, is now connected with Indiana Theatre Supply Co.

Christmas Basket Parties Prove Very Successful

CHICAGO—More than 40,000 needy Chicago families were furnished Xmas feasts this year as a result of the success of the sixth annual Movie Xmas Basket Parties held at neighborhood theatres. This marks a new high in the generosity for the film patrons attending the special shows arranged and contributed by the film industry. Last year the canned goods and nonperishable food-stuffs totaled 32,000 baskets.

Encouraged by the increase of more than 8,000 baskets, the Movie Christmas Basket Parties committee, headed by Morris G. Leonard and Jack Kirsch, has already set 50,000 as next year's goal. Distribution of the food, as in previous years, was made by local relief and church societies, and the Federated Women's Clubs under the supervision of Mrs. Richard McClure.

MILWAUKEE

THOMAS J. Daly and Miss Jeanette Johnson, manager and cashier, respectively, of Fox's Uptown in Racine, failed to identify two local youths as the bandits who held up the Racine house December 22.

Truman Schroeder, formerly assistant manager of the Brin in Menasha, has been stationed at Janesville temporarily.

The Rivoli at La Crosse was host to children of St. Michaels orphanage at a showing of "Little Nellie Kelly."

Henry J. Weinberger, projectionist at the Rex in Sheboygan, was married last week to Miss Emily Kunstman.

Droll Theatre Supply Co., Chicago, has been licensed to do business in Wisconsin, with Oscar Olson listed as the Wisconsin agent for the firm.

Otto Meister, operator of the Whitehouse here, has been confined to his home with neuritis.

Latest in theatre giveaways is a new fur coat, being offered by the Crescent at Shawano.

William Exton has inaugurated a new policy of three changes each week at his Roosevelt in Kenosha and a price policy of 15 cents until 7 p. m. each evening except Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

How to operate motion picture theatres *profitably*



Here is a new book full of HOW TO DO IT information, written by a man who believes that the first objective of theatre management is to make money. In this book he covers motion picture theatre management from A to Z, giving the best results of years of experience as a guide in establishing successful policies, building profitable business, and efficiently operating any size theatre.

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"Slot" Films Have Their Troubles

Minneapolis—Dime-in-the-slot films are having plenty of trouble here, and more impends.

Following a demand by the booth operators that one standby operator be employed for every machine, the slot machine films are few and far between. It is known several establishments where they were placed had them taken out after representatives of the booth operators' union made their demands. What's more, pressure now is being brought by Northwest Allied on the city council for the enactment of legislation which would require establishments having the machines to take out theatre licenses at a cost of $100 per year.

If the aldermen balk at the $100 fee, independent exhibitors probably would be satisfied with a somewhat smaller one. However, they have indicated, they will make a hard fight for some sort of a license fee.

N. W. Allied Sets Convention Dates

MINNEAPOLIS—Tuesday and Wednesday, January 21 and 22, have been set by Northwest Allied for its mid-winter convention here to study and analyze the consent decree and to consider proposed legislation for introduction in the state legislature to abrogate and nullify the decree's five-picture buying provisions and other "undesirable" features.

The independent exhibitors also will map out plans to combat proposed adverse theatre legislation and to obtain the enactment of measures to curb 16mm film competition and new theatre construction and to knock out the Ascap tax, if possible. Among the proposals that will come before the Minnesota state legislature are a state theatre admission tax and the prohibition of theatre giveaways.

Considerable time at the convention will be devoted to the discussion of ways and means to stimulate patronage, according to Fred Strom, executive secretary. Many of the body's leaders feel an increase in theatre attendance is still a major problem and might afford the cure to many of Northwest exhibitors' ills, he says.

Attention also will be given to present film buying problems, "particularly the demands of some distributors for what Allied officers term excessive and unreasonable percentage demands," says Strom.

Abe A. Kaplan, prominent Twin City circuit operator, has been appointed by President E. L. Peaslee as convention chairman with full authority to conscript any privates whom he desires to serve on his committee.

To Warner Staff

MINNEAPOLIS—Bill Watmough, former Grand National branch manager and M-G-M booker here, has joined the Warner booking staff. Joe Behan, head booker at that exchange, has resigned.

Urge Rental Readjustment In Shift of Population

Threaten Dime Shows As Loop Units War

MINNEAPOLIS—While stage show war is going on in the loop as a result of reopening the 4,000-seat Minnesota by independent interests, neighborhood houses are threatening to lower their admission prices to a dime.

A bargain scale of 28 and 39 cents has been established by the Minnesota for its stage shows and independent feature pictures and shorts. The first show had Ken Murray and Dixie Dunbar as headliners and Lou Holtz, Arlene Judge, Wendy Barrie and Lola Lane in person are topping current bill. The big "Marcus Show" follows.

Orpheum had Gertrude Niesen, Ada Leonard and Frank Gaby among its stage array, plus "Go West" on the screen, against Minnesota's Ken Murray. At the Orpheum Cab Calloway will oppose the 'Marcus Show." Then the Orpheum brings in Joe Venuti's band, the Andrews Sisters and "The Three Stooges" on one show. It runs major "A" pictures with its stage shows, but charges 39 and 55 cents.

Independent neighborhood exhibitors claim many of their patrons are being attracted away from them to the loop by the stage magnets and entertainment bargains, and they feel their 28 cent admission scale is out of line.

Northwest Agricultural Income Upped in 1940

MINNEAPOLIS—The film industry here is much encouraged by figures just published by the Greater North Dakota Ass'n, in its annual report, showing that North Dakota's agricultural income for 1940, aggregating $235,000,000, was the highest in 11 years.

As other factors forecasting still further improvement in years ahead, the association listed establishment of new industries, new developments in irrigation and lignite coal, active prospecting for oil and natural gas, increased tourist traffic, new cash crops, better tax payments and reduced farm debts.

Increased income and boosted purchasing power mean better boxoffice returns for North Dakota theatres, exchange heads here point out. The state's 1940 farm income was 36 per cent above the $173,000,000 average for the five previous years. Moreover, number of cattle on North Dakota farms increased last year from 1,337,000 to 1,433,000 and sheep and lambs 915,000 to 960,000.

Minnesota and South Dakota, serviced by Minneapolis film exchanges, also showed as big, if not bigger gains, in 1940, and western Wisconsin, part of this territory, too, is said to be improving by leaps and bounds.

MINNEAPOLIS—Independents want major distributors to investigate the shift of population away from this territory due to the letting of defense contracts and increased employment elsewhere and government's military training program and the effect upon Northwest exhibitors.

If the distributors will do this they will realize the necessity of more equitable film rental terms for exhibitors in this territory, according to Fred Strom, Northwest Allied executive secretary.

Because of the population shift, the situation is extremely grave for Northwest theatre owners, Strom declares.

"If this situation becomes more aggravated, it will not be a matter of lower rentals on new film deals, but definitely a necessity to make downward adjustments on contracts already signed if many theatres are to continue to remain open," he avers.

Has Alternate Plan

One way, however, that distributors could prevent possible mid-winter shutdowns of theatres or wholesale contract adjustments, Strom points out, would be to extend to exhibitors "equitable terms and playing arrangements" on the bigger pictures, "thus enabling the exhibitor to recover some of the losses sustained during the showing of poor product."

It is declared that there is a veritable exodus from this section of the country.

"Thousands of men, women and children, all potential customers of our exhibitors, are leaving the non-industrial centers and rural and farming areas of the territory for sections benefiting to a much greater degree from national defense contracts, as well as sections in which army camps are being located, according to our survey," asserts Strom.

Industrial Centers Feel Effects

"Even the industrial centers of the territory, where no benefits are being derived from war contracts, are feeling the effects of the exodus of young men from civil life into the service and others treking to more likely job-hunting grounds. Distributors, fully aware of the shift in population, already are boosting rentals sky-high in areas profiting from this shift. The necessary realignment of charts on which rentals are based and adjustments of present contracts and playing terms would not reduce annual average income of distributors."

Strom calls attention to the fact that "every major film company, with one exception (20th-Fox), showed improved earnings during the past year, despite loss of much of the foreign business, while the independent exhibitors' earnings have been virtually wiped out in the same period." This "just doesn't make sense—one industry branch improving its financial position all along the line, while another branch, the independent exhibitors in the Northwest, is, for the most part, facing financial ruin," according to Strom.

Omahans Defy Weather For Sterling Film Fare

OMAHA—Despite unfavorable weather, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day business here was much above average due largely to good product well sold in advance. First days of 1941 were cold and rainy at the start of a cold wave.

Orpheum was well satisfied with $16,300 for stage-screen combination. Cab Calloway's revue on the stage and "One Night in the Tropics" on screen were good for sell-out $3,000 at New Year's Eve show at $1 per person. Rest of week prices were tilted to 55-cent top.

"Love Thy Neighbor" and "Youth Will Be Served" dual at Omaha also very good. Preview New Year's Eve at 55 cents with regular run starting next day at regular prices.

"Kitty Foyle" and "Saint in Palm Springs" were doubled at the Brandeis for exceptional week, including a New Year's Eve show at 55-cent top. Bill will be held a second week.

Details for week ending January 5:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **The Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 200
Omaha—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Youth Will Be Served** (20th-Fox) 175
Orpheum—**One Night in the Tropics** (Univ), plus Cab Calloway and his Cotton Club Revue on stage 120

"Neighbor" and "Thief" Stand Out in Kaycee

KANSAS CITY—Bad weather (rain and cold), proved no deterrent at the boxoffices of first runs here, which offered good pictures during the holidays. "Love Thy Neighbor" tipped the scales at the Newman and was held over for a second week. Other bills also were strong.

Detail for the week ended January 2:

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 110
Midland—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **Great Plane Robbery** (Col) 150
Newman—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 200
Orpheum—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **South of Suez** (WB) 135
Tower—**Melody Ranch** (Rep), plus stage show with Mona Leslie 140
Uptown—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 105

Minneapolis Loop Houses Get Off to a Good Start

MINNEAPOLIS—The New Year has started out encouragingly for loop boxoffices. In particular, "Comrade X," at the State, and the Minnesota, with "Hit Parade of 1941" and a big stage show, have been doing sensational business. "Comrade X," after running eight days and New Year's Eve at the State, moves to the Century for an extension of its downtown first-run.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**Fugitive From a Prison Camp** (Col); **Hullabaloo** (M-G-M) 95
Century—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 2nd wk.. 95
Esquire—**Bluebeard's Eighth Wife** (Para't), reissue 90
Gopher—**Here Comes the Navy** (FN), reissue.. 95
Minnesota—**Hit Parade of 1941** (Rep), plus stage show with Ken Murray..... 125
Orpheum—**Go West** (M-G-M), plus stage show with Gertrude Niesen 95
State—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 140
World—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 2nd wk..... 100

: "Smoothies" Too Rough :

DES MOINES—The Des Moines *Tribune* wants its film smoothies smoother. It thinks films should be wised up on the facts of life.

The picture villain may have shaved the handlebar mustache off his upper lip, but it still adorns his manner and carriage far too obviously, according to a recent *Tribune* editorial.

Observes the disillusioned editorial writer:

"LESS OBVIOUS VILLAINS"

"A New York movie reviewer, who used to rail a good deal against people who thought the movies should be strained down so they wouldn't hurt children, finds his attitude changed somewhat now that he has an 8-year-old daughter.

"His old 'Let them stay away' argument turns out to be impractical without 'a barred castle, surrounding by electrically charged barbed wire, and kept by a corps of trusted child specialists.'

"But he still doesn't like the standards of 'wholesomeness' that most reformers advocate.

"The conventional 'wholesome' movie has virtue triumphing over heavy odds, against villains that the dullest child in the house can spot for what they are on first appearance.

"In the real life for which the children are being prepared, black and white are more mixed, and the successful villains are plausible chaps who are not always found out until it is too late.

"Hence a REALLY 'wholesome' show would cast people like Clark Gable, Mickey Rooney, Errol Flynn and Don Ameche as the villains and let Rathbone, Karloff and Lugosi take a turn as heroes occasionally.

"How about it, Hollywood?"

Producers Releasing Corp. Is Formed in Kaycee

KANSAS CITY—Producers Releasing Corp. has been formed here, with offices at 1820 Wyandotte, by John Muchmore, W. Lee Norris, R. H. Patt and William Pincus. Muchmore and Patt have the Holmes Projector Sales Co. at the same address, and will continue with it independently. Norris has been operating the Norris Distributing Co. with independent product, and William Pincus has been operating the Royal Film Exchange. Norris and Muchmore will do the selling. The corporation has 12 pictures for release, with 38 for the year.

To Gayety Helm

MINNEAPOLIS—Sam Berg, who formerly managed the Esquire, has been named manager of the Gayety by its present operator, Irving Gillman. The house plays subsequent-run dual bills at a dime.

OMAHA

FILMITES and exhibitors are back from attending the big football game on the west coast and most of them have recovered from Nebraska's defeat. Ike Rubin, Paramount peddler, who is the number one believer that there is no place like Nebraska, probably will never get over it . . . Slim Fraser of Havelock, Neb., was seen furiously booking pictures at Warner's after his contract was approved.

Don West of Des Moines was among the long list of filmites from this territory who attended the big game . . . Arrangements for the premiere in Lincoln of "Miss Bishop" look great. Gabe Yorke has been working plenty hard on this one and even the calm, the cool, the collected Don McLucas has been getting excited about the show . . . Bill Miskell, Orpheum manager, has been home ill.

Frank Van Husan met a couple of unfriendly fellows in front of his place one night recently and the pair slugged Van, knocking him unconscious. A bystander fightened away the sluggers before they could take Van's money and watch. He spent four days in the hospital . . . Ted Emerson of Tri-States is due a big bouquet for a spread of pictures in the local press about the new dance in "Second Chorus."

Tom Kenyon of Paramount is all set to handle the details of the Filmrow ping pong tournament. He'd like to have each exchange select a representative to round up entries for the event. BOXOFFICE *hereby puts in his two cents worth by listing for Tom a good assistant at each exchange. Let's get this thing started! Check with these folks, Tom: Leon Mendelson, Warner; Jack White, Quality Theatre Supply; T. Hilton Fonda jr., Fox; Bob Johnson, Scott-Ballantyne Co.; Max Rosenblatt, National Screen; Sam Stern, Capitol; Charlie Lieb, Metro; Howard Harvey, Western Theatre Supply; Joe Smith, RKO; Glenn Rogers, Film Transport; Mary Francis, Monogram; Sid McArdle, UA; Bob Adler, Columbia; Johnny McBride, Republic; Walt Green, Fepco.*

A total of 29 filmites and their friends won turkeys during the holiday events sponsored by the Omaha Variety Club, according to Edward Shafton, secretary. Winners were: Mrs. Harry Shumow, Mrs. George Adolph, Mrs. F. A. Van Husan, Mrs. Ralph Blank, Mrs. Mike Roth, Mrs. Jack Ziegler, Eugene Blazer, Mrs. Iz Weiner, Fred Cooperman, Mrs. A. Shaw, Frank Van Husan, Mrs. Sidney Epstein, Miss Ray Wolowitz, Mrs. R. Parrott, Miss Nellie Von Dorn, Mrs. Jack Zide, Mrs. Max Rosenblatt, Mrs. Hymie Novitsky, F. E. Hollingsworth, Frank Hughes, Joe Alper, F. Goldie, R. L. McIntyre, Julie Drolick, Emelia Blurk, Harvey Hughes, Lou Anderson and Roy Dean.

Acquire "Mrs. Miniver"

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has purchased screen rights to "Mrs. Miniver," the Jan Struther novel. James Hilton and Arthur Wimperis will adapt the story for Producer Sidney Franklin.

K A Y C E E

VISITORS: Irwin Dubinsky, Dubinsky Brothers, St. Joseph, Mo.; Homer F. Strowig, Plaza, Abilene, Kas.; Mrs. E. Nolan, Ozark, Cassville, Mo.; Ernest Mosier, Neal Theatre, Lenora, Kas. (Mosier manages the house for H. N. Neal who runs stock companies in Colorado during the summer); Nick Kotsis, Holden, Holden, Mo., Oswego, Oswego, Kas.; Mrs. Abe Shafer, Shafer, Edgerton, Mo.; Tom Edwards, Ozark, Eldon, Mo.

Mrs. James Dunn (nee Jane Stanley), formerly with Metro, is now working with Producers Releasing Corp. here . . . Missouri Theatre Supply has sold carpet, screen and 750 seats to the Uptown (Frank Cassil), St. Joseph, Mo., and 150 seats to Ray Walsh for his Mainstreet, Chanute, Kas.

"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." Not a bad quip for the first week after New Year's. Credit Jimmy Winn of Warner . . . A new subscriber is Mrs. T. M. Edwards of Pocatello, Ida., mother of the pride of the Ozarks, Tom Edwards of the Ozark, Eldon, Mo.

RETROSPECT: A page from an April, 1926, Ladies Home Journal, *an advertisement by Paramount: "All Work and No Play Doesn't Suit the World Today," and plugging Harold Lloyd's "For Heaven's Sake," "Behind the Front," "The Grand Duchess and the Waiter," "Vanishing American," "The Song and Dance Man," and "Dancing Mothers." Time goes by.*

The Block (Ernie) & Borg (Russ) combination still insist on their entrance line, "'Business is good!" . . . Frances Jacobs of W. B. bowled 206 last week at Tierney-Wheat. Whew!

George Jacoby, Universal auditor, is in town . . . Monogram held a trade preview of "Her First Romance" at Edison Hall, Monday night, and had a good crowd in spite of the snowstorm.

In case you haven't noticed, take a look at the newly decorated marquee of Loew's Midland. Taken with the new marquee at the Newman, the widening of Main street downtown, and other changes, it really brightens up the stem.

Harold Harris, general manager of H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc., has had the flu, along with many another, in and out of the business . . . H. J. Griffith has just returned from Oklahoma City where he has been a couple of weeks. Griffith will reopen the Cozy, Junction City, Kas., in a few weeks.

R. E. Conrad has opened the new Roxy at Wichita, Kas. . . . Dave Dallas, Griffith manager at Parsons, Kas., has been ill with flu . . . Charles Swiercinsky's Major at Washington, Kas., is celebrating its fourth birthday.

Al Tanner, head booker at 20th-Fox, has been out with the flu . . . RKO held a special session last Sunday at the exchange. Walter Branson, district manager, Chicago, was in as was Leo Devaney, Depinet drive leader. They met with T. R. Thompson, branch manager, and the salesmen and office force. Four from National Screen Service and Advertising Accessories attended: Homer Blackwell, Charley Burns, Charles Gregory and Bud Truog.

Wayne Glover's Boost Causes Four Shifts

KANSAS CITY—When Wayne Glover, formerly assistant manager of the Grand, Topeka, Kas., for Fox Midwest Theatres, was promoted to manager of the Oakland, North Topeka, the move caused Louis Sponsler of the Oakland to be sent to Ft. Scott, Kas., and the Liberty; H. D. Carroll from Fort Scott to Atchison, Kas.; Allen Karf from Atchison to Sedalia, Mo., and J. E. Mater from Sedalia to the Brookside, Kansas City.

Metro Borrows Litel

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has borrowed John Litel from Warner's for a top role in "The Trial of Mary Dugan."

Finkelstein Closes Bandbox

FAIRFIELD, IA.—The Bandbox, a Finkelstein house here, has been closed.

Urge "Fireside Chats" For Monday Nights

MINNEAPOLIS—If President F. D. Roosevelt heeds the pleas of local independent exhibitors, he'll give his fireside radio talks on Monday nights, instead of Sundays. A petition asking for this change is now in circulation among theatre owners here.

The petition will point out that Sunday night usually is one of the week's best for theatres and the fireside talks cut heavily into patronage, thus depriving the government of considerable tax revenue.

On the other hand, too, it's stated, the President probably would reach even more listeners on Monday nights, because most people are accustomed, apparently, to remain at home on that evening. There is considerable theatre attendance and churchgoing on Sunday nights even when the President talks, the exhibitors point out.

There is no more powerful opposition, however, than the President's radio talks, according to the exhibitors.

Kathryn Scola Chore

HOLLYWOOD—Kathryn Scola is scripting "Eadie Was a Lady" for Producer Gene Markey at Columbia.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

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Metro Again Sets Percentage Deals

MINNEAPOLIS—M-G-M again is said to be the only company which is demanding and getting percentage deals from Twin City independents. Four of the pictures on the 1940-41 contract call for percentage.

Prior to the start of each selling Northwest Allied, representing the Minneapolis and St. Paul independents, take a stand against percentage and insist that no exception will be made in the case of M-G-M and just as regularly its members yield. This year, if anything, the organization was more firm than ever before in its demand that M-G-M sell flat.

In explanation of the fact that the members now have, or are, buying M-G-M on the latter's percentage terms, it is stated that the present fight wasn't started soon enough this year, but that "it will be different in 1941." In other years, too, it is explained, the effort to knock out M-G-M percentage pictures began too late.

The current Northwest Allied bulletin gives the organization's analysis of buying, based on its survey. It says:

"Early returns from our product survey indicate that RKO, Columbia and Universal are still leading in volume of contracts negotiated. The standing in volume of sales is due to the fact that these companies have made deals for less, or the same money, as the previous season in approximately 50 per cent of their deals. The sales of the four remaining major companies have bogged down considerably, due principally to exhibitor resistance against the terms which are being demanded. Monogram and Republic are making a satisfactory showing."

Selling policies of the various companies in the territory are said to have been as follows:

Paramount

"Paramount continues to sell the majority of their deals on all-flat basis. This company has a strict tendency toward insisting upon the sales of their shorts and newsreels, but where exhibitor resistance is sufficiently strong a contract can be negotiated without any, or at least a very limited, quota of shorts and newsreels.

RKO Radio

"RKO Radio is selling the majority of its accounts on a flat basis. Many deals were selective and RKO has not applied severe pressure to obtain contracts on shorts or newsreels. Its willingness to grant 10 or 20 per cent cancellation privileges and to sell at the same terms, or less, than those which obtained last season, accounts for its lead in the volume of sales obtained.

Warner Bros.

"Vitagraph, in most instances, insisted upon percentage deals until December of last year. It is deviating from that policy for 1940-41 and will negotiate all flat rental contracts. However, the flat rental terms are determined by the boxoffice figures which it obtained on percentage pictures from exhibitors last year.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

"Metro is selling a minimum of four pictures on percentage. Although some of the more ambitious sales representatives of this company are demanding, and even insisting upon, percentage for their second group of 10 pictures, the company positively is approving deals in which there are only four on percentage. In fact, our survey reveals that the majority of exhibitors are buying the second group flat.

20th Century-Fox

"Twentieth-Fox has sold mostly flat deals. It grants cancellation varying from 10 to 20 per cent. In many instances, it has sold selective contracts. Where percentage was sold, it usually was without a guarantee or preferred playing time.

Universal

"Universal generally has sold flat and given a cancellation privilege of from 10 to 20 per cent. It does not force shorts in the majority of cases.

United Artists

"United Artists has no set sales policy. It is offering 22 or more pictures with a very wide variation in the sorts of deals sold. Usually the pictures are sold flat.

Republic, Monogram

"Republic and Monogram, with the exception of competitive spots, has sold exhibitors on favorable terms. Some exhibitors have made spot-booking arrangements with these companies.

Columbia

"Columbia—As is the case with Monogram and Republic, exhibitors have bought Columbia at practically their own terms. The majority of deals have been flat. It has sold selective contracts or granted a large cancellation privilege. The nature of the very few percentage deals does not warrant comment."

FIRST

In Style and Comfort

That's the thought that is always uppermost in the minds of those who attend you at Hotel Fontenelle. In keeping with this policy, the management is constantly adding new features for your comfort and convenience. The Amber Room Coffee Shop, the King Cole Room, and the Black Mirror-Bombay Room invite you.

HOTEL FONTENELLE



OMAHA

Screenings Aplenty Seen Under Decree

KANSAS CITY—About twice a week, in the future, exhibitors can expect to be offered a full day's program of features for inspection, according to the terms of the consent decree. After sitting through one feature in the morning, two in the afternoon, and two in the evening (if he gets that far), the exhibitor will begin to realize what the average patron has been going through with double, triple and quadruple bills, one film man commented here last week.

Exhibitors are shaking their heads over the prospect. There is little talk about the arbitration feature of the decree; a good deal about the blocks-of-five. Exhibitors already are admitting that they don't believe they'll look at all the pictures. Further, they point out, under the decree the exhibitor isn't going to be any surer about the marketability of the product than he was before, because "you can't tell by looking at them."

Exhibitor: Will I have to look at all those pictures?

Distributor: No, but we'll have to screen them so you can see them if you want to.

Exhibitor: Well, I can tell you right now, I'm not going to look at them!

Distributor 2: It's going to cost $450,000 for arbitration the first year. Arbitration is supposed to be a substitute for going to court.

Exhibitor 2: You can buy an awful lot of litigation for $450,000 a year!

Which moved one observer to comment that apparently it isn't the fighting within the industry that exhibitors mind, but the cost of it.

Omaha Barkers Swing Into Active Season

OMAHA—The winter social season for Omaha Variety Club is now in full swing and indications point to a lot of "good times" at the club's layout in the Fontenelle Hotel.

The grand inaugural ball and dinner-dance will be held January 19, in the Fontenelle ballroom, starting at 8 p. m. Tickets for the dinner and dance will be $2.50 per person.

Gene Blazer, attorney connected with the film industry, will have open house at his new home in West Omaha on February 2 for all Variety Club members and their friends. The advance notices promise to tell everyone "how a bachelor lives."

An old-fashioned Valentine box social will be held February 16 in the clubrooms. Each lady will bring a box containing food for two and the boxes will be auctioned to the highest bidders. There will be a grand award for the most outstanding box.

Middleton Equips

FORSYTHE, MO.—E. E. Middleton has purchased projection and sound equipment for his new theatre here, reports John Muchmore of Holmes' Equipment Co.

MINNEAPOLIS

MEL EVIDON, Columbia branch manager from Des Moines, up for a visit with his parents and brothers . . . Al Aved, Columbia salesman, visiting his wife's parents in Blue Earth, Minn. . . . Rud Lohrenz, Warner district manager, in town . . . Al Putz, M-G-M office manager, has a hobby. It's carpentering and wood carving. Accommodatingly, he made numerous articles of furniture for the girl employes charm room in the exchange. To show their appreciation, the femmes gave him a friend chicken luncheon and presented him with a mitre box for his workshop. He was the only male present at the affair. Lucky Al.

Ernie Hill, Bill Grant and Earle Perkins of the local Warner office, fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively, nationally, the first week of the Sears 20th anniversary sales drive . . . "Shim" Chapman, Columbia salesman in Milwaukee, here after a Florida vacation to visit his brother, "Hy," head of the Columbia exchange here . . . A. Selby Carr, Paramount office manager, avers that his company's colored cartoon comedy, "Raggedy Ann," is one of the finest things of its kind that he ever has seen.

The "little judge" Ben Meshbesher, Republic salesman, driving a new car. Says he can thank Gene Autry . . . Ben Landy, Columbia booker, who has been complaining because, for a certain reason, he had to change his brand of cigars, is going great guns in the Y. M. C. A. handball tournament . . . Morgan Ames, Mort H. Singer's general manager, a visitor . . . Tom Burke, Monogram branch manager in Des Moines, here on a brief vacation, looking the home town over again.

Charlie Jackson, Warner salesman, and the wife went through the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minn., for a complete physical checkup. The clinic pronounced both of them 100 per cent sound . . . Amy Podvin and Mary Kuth of the M-G-M office staff off to Chicago for a week's vacation . . . RKO exchange flashily decorated for the Ned Depinet drive which starts January 25. Its "Kitty Foyle," highly acclaimed, goes into the State here December 17.

Bill Scholl, RKO exploiteer, claims he's "all through" romancing . . . The father-in-law of Joe Wolf, Paramount city salesman, passed away here . . . Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Mrs. George Johnson, Colfax, Wis.; W. J. Carter, Plainview, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Sheldon Grengs, Clouquet, Minn.; J. S. Johnson, Galesville, Wis., and Joe and Mrs. Schindle, Granite Falls, Minn. . . . Plenty of Hollywood celebrities in town this week, including Lou Holtz, Wendy Barrie, Lola Lane and Arline Judge. They're playing a personal appearance engagement at the Minnesota Theatre. The Orpheum has the Andrews Sisters and the "Three Stooges" on the way.

Leo Adler, United Artists home-office traveling auditor, in town . . . Plenty of Filmrow bunch in the south vacationing. They include Gilbert Nathanson, Republic branch manager; George Fosdick, Republic salesman; Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, and Jack Cohan, 20th-Fox salesman. Two who returned this week are Ben Blotcky, Paramount branch manager, from Florida, and L. E. Goldhammer, RKO district manager, from California.

: B. O. Claus Delivers :

OMAHA—Apparently the Omaha correspondent for BOXOFFICE has a direct wire to all parts of the globe (including the North Pole), or a good crystal ball or something. Recently the Omaha column was in the form of a letter to Santa Claus asking for gifts for the various exhibitors and filmites. The letter tried to make the gifts appropriate in keeping with the exhibitors' hobbies. Here's the result:

"Dear Friend Monte Davis: Just a short note to tell you that you are a mind reader, or you have a direct pull with the man that is called Santa Claus.

"Some few weeks ago I read that L. E. Burkey of the Ritz Theatre, Deshler, Neb., wanted a rod and reel as his gift from Santa Claus. I still think you have strings that can be pulled. This is to notify you that the Old Boy brought the rod and reel.

"Thanks to you and pass the good word on to old St. Nick that the gift was more than wanted and I'm more than thankful." Signed—L. E. Burkey.

Discards Role of Critic In Picking "Ten Best"

OMAHA—Keith Wilson, Omaha *World-Herald* film critic, selected his ten best pictures of 1940 "just because he liked them" and not from a critic's viewpoint, he told BOXOFFICE.

They are: "Rebecca" (UA), "Gone With the Wind" (M-G-M), "Grapes of Wrath" (20th-Fox), "I Love You Again" (M-G-M), "The Great McGinty" (Para't), "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" (RKO), "Susan and God" (M-G-M), "Our Town" (UA), "Spring Parade" (Univ), and "Angels Over Broadway" (Col).

Team Mowbray and MacBride

HOLLYWOOD—Alan Mowbray and Donald MacBride have been signed by RKO to appear as a team in four pictures yearly.



Set Final Plans for 'Miss Bishop' Debut

LINCOLN—Premiere of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" gets under way Monday, January 13, when Authoress Bess Streeter Aldrich and Director Tay Garnett lead the procession of personalities into Lincoln. Mrs. Aldrich will have a session of autographing books, and Garnett will lecture on "How to Make a Movie" at the University of Nebraska.

They will be honored at a dinner that evening at the Capitol Hotel. The next morning about 8:30 o'clock, the Hollywood train gets in with a dozen players led by William Gargan, Marsha Hunt and Mary Anderson, of the film's cast.

There will be a public reception at the University coliseum, a luncheon at the chamber of commerce, a tea at the Cornhusker Hotel, a banquet in the evening, and the premiere with personal appearances at three theatres. Gabe Yorke and Bernie Evens, publicists, have been on the job here four weeks.

Friedl and Friedman To Defense Council

MINNEAPOLIS—John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Co. president, and Ben Friedman, prominent independent circuit owner, have been appointed to represent the motion picture industry here on the national defense council.

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DES MOINES

STAN and Marguerite Mayer's flag-waving Christmas greeting which awaited us when we got back home was right in tune with our God-Bless-America-We're-Proud-to-Be-Americans' attitude now that we've seen Mexico . . . we're in the market for the biggest flag we can afford to buy . . . we faithfully promise to pledge allegiance every morning and are instructing Mitzi, who insists on saying grace at the dinner table, to include the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave in family devotions . . . in other words, we're so glad to be home.

On our way back to DM, we stopped in at the home of BOXOFFICE *in Kaycee and met Boss Ben Shlyen (blond, spry, serious-minded sort of gent with a nice twinkle in his eye, and a definite purpose in life); Editor Formby (alert, straightforward, and what was most surprising to us, not at-jay!); Moneybags Morris Schlozman (just as human as you and I, and honest he didn't say a word about finances all the time we were there!) We were introduced to the entire staff, including the nice boy who along with us probably knows more about The Hague's significance in international affairs than Haig's importance to the liquor market (he read and failed to correct our Hague & Hague to Haig & Haig—maybe we both need a lesson from Mitzi who calls the famous pinch-bottle simply, "a snort").*

Stopped up at Tri-States a minute and found Harry Holdsberg fretting about the snow . . . Hazel Dunn was doing her stenoing chores like a good girl . . . Art Stolte was dreaming about fishing days to come, and promised us again that he'd show us those color pictures he's taken of his past triumphs over the finny tribe . . . We saw one of our unmentionables in the hall . . . talked with DD long enough to find out that she and family had one fine time in the Dakotas . . . now DD is having one fine time finding room for herself in her office atop all the newspapers and tear sheets thoughtfully and lovingly saved for her by Stolte, Holdsberg and Dunn . . . G. Ralph Branton was getting ready to leave for NY . . . and this reminds us, Nancy's pic was in the Sunday *R&T* again . . . we think the sheet oughta put the young pretttiful on the payroll.

Exploitation men crossed paths in Des Moines, Monday, but not at the R&T . . . *Dapper, air-minded Jack Thoma was around to push "Arizona" a little harder for Columbia . . . Discovering & Co. was burrowing through stacks of vacation-accumulated Hollywood stills and in no mood for more, Jack concentrated, to his sorrow, on Emil Franke . . . Thoma should have known that Emil was an expert on the pin-ball machine right next door.*

Louis Hellborn took Chuck Lounsbury's word that BOXOFFICE & Co. were still south of the blizzard zone . . . Chuck discovered later in the day, when he collected the hellos sent by Friedel and Gilmour from Santa Fe, that he's given the Metro celery shipper a bum steer . . . A Sunday condensation of the Morley book in the *R&T* mag section helped Franke make a debutante out of RKO's white collar gal, "Kitty Foyle" . . . Her boxoffice ranking at the Orpheum currently is second only to "Follow the Fleet," house record-holder, and she's reported to be getting kicked out after nine days only because of the pressure of upcoming film.

More Contributions from Guest Columnists

EDDIE DUNN—skywriting: Things I never knew until I took up flying (with apologies to W. W.):

That a mile square airport looks like a postage stamp when you try to land the first time . . . That a seven or eight hundred pound plane could bounce so high . . . That after a very bad session, the plane will leer at you . . . That there must be at least 100 air traffic rules to haunt you . . . That a Civil Airway becomes very "uncivil" when a 25-mile-an-hour wind starts blowing . . . That anything could be so lonely as that first solo hop . . . That it is more convenient to eat after flying in rough weather. It saves the extra meal and the appearance of the ship . . . That you don't have to be a millionaire to fly, but it sure would help!

BILL BECKLEY, crawling with type lice, scratches: I used to be in the publishing business myself, down in St. Louis—but it was in the advertising end. Then they built the Orpheum a few blocks away from the *Post-Dispatch* and I started hanging around there. First thing I knew, I was in show business.

STAN MAYER gets around in spite of his size . . . These observations of his prove it:

Audubon, Iowa—The very beautiful and unusually attractive canopy of Floyd Thompson's Rose Theatre.

Osage—The "Burgomeister Pipe" hanging on the wall of Ed Mason's office that he so emphatically states makes his ears flap when he smokes it.

Charles City—Debonair Jack Kuech—the fashion plate of Iowa exhibitors and such a perfect host and hustling showman.

Hampton—The very attractive and comfortable "Nautical" Cottage of the Peterson's at Bead Lake—where all the film men are so anxious to put up for the night, and for good reasons. Three good reasons are Walt Peter's three "little bundles of joy," Sue, Sally and Sandra, and another showman in the family, "Charles" Rule.

Fairfield—The famous recreation room of Lou Gaines—without a doubt he is the Exhibitor Ping Pong Champion of Iowa. Anyway, I will bet my money on him.

Corning—The genial smile and pleasant visit we always enjoy with Lawrence Kuhl.

Washington—Pratt Brothers have one of the few towns that have proven conclusively that we are still in the show business and that it can be operated successfully without giveaways, premiums, banknights, cut-rate tickets, etc.

Bedford—The famous fudge that Mrs. Hahn so capably makes—for which all Filmrow is so grateful—especially around Christmas time (this is no hint).

Laurels—How we miss that big broad smile and wit of Jim Fair.

Eldora—The Home Office of "The Allied Theatre Owners of Iowa" . . . and the perfectly appointed and operated theatre of Leo Wolcott.

Maquoketa—That fireplug out in front of the theatre I always want to park in front of—hoping that Stuart Peake is still Mayor.

Iowa City—One of the few exhibitors left that really goes to town with some real old fashioned and effective showmanship that is no doubt inherited from Thomas sr., who is noted for his outstanding ability.

Muscatine—Another old-timer who can easily go back to the good old days and who maintains and operates his theatre as a sight for sore eyes.

Bloomfield—To hear the real out-door tales of a master hunter and fisherman who knows what it is all about and, incidently, does a great job of providing fine entertainment for his community.

Guthrie Center—The miracle that was brought about by a fire—with the erection of the new Garden Theatre which is certainly a source of great pride to Allen and Son and the community.

Stuart—Lee Henry and his inexhaustible supply of "first run" stories (where I get most of mine) which reminds me of the one about the traveling salesman . . .

THOSE CUTE OLSON kids, Ralph and Betty, came through breathlessly and at the last minute with a note or so, in-

: *No Idle Boast* :

DES MOINES—There oughta be a law! Yes and mebbe even a senate investigation!

Things have come to a pretty pass on Filmrow here when gal gets hugs on the job that challenge those she gets at home.

If you don't think so, ask Mr. Begley, the guy who not too long ago put a ring on the finger of Paramount's Mildred Johnson and ruled the domestic roost.

That was before Big Boy came along!

Big Boy is the 650-pound tame grizzly bear that appeared in "Untamed." He was in town recently and strolled over to the Paramount exchange to inquire into the reception of his film efforts in Iowa.

Big Boy climbed the stairs there and waddled, unattended, into Manager Ray Copeland's office. He scared Ray out of 19 years' growth here and clear down to Kansas City. You've probably read about the transfer.

Big Boy was feeling romantic and offered to demonstrate a bear hug. Mildred volunteered to cooperate but thwarted gossip-mongers by performing out in front of the exchange where all the world might watch.

So Husband Begley is boasting these days.

"It takes a good man to beat a 650-pound hug."

Teamed on Cohan Play

HOLLYWOOD—Don Ettingler and Edwin Blum are scripting "Song and Dance Man," from the George M. Cohan play, for 20th-Fox.

cluding the very latest bulletin from the bedside of the red-headed Throckmorton:

That counter Butch De Frenne is building in the basement of his new home—with assistance of Larry Hensler as advisor (whose advice he ignores) can be identified as soon as the brass rail is installed.

SY HARLAN mixes business and pleasure in unequal parts thusly: To me belongs all the credit for picking the first white woman ever employed by Iowa Film . . . Yeah, I know it's not considered good manners, and certainly it's unconventional in the film racket, but I still prefer brunettes. Sure, business is darn good . . . Iles & McKinney appreciate the Filmrower business they get at the Old Colony Service. Say, have you heard that Les Knapp is buying silverware . . . d'ya s'pose that means anything?

EMIL FRANKE thinks patrons are as entertaining as the programs they pay him to see and Emil's not slandering his own programs. Observes Emil:

Chap about 9 came ranting out of the Orpheum balcony and demanded to know whether the show was the same in the balcony as on the main floor. He had seen both features, but no Donald Duck, which was his reason for coming. Fact was, he had entered just at the conclusion of Donald Duck and couldn't wait a minute longer for the next showing.

As an elderly gentleman patron asked Bob Lester, chief of service, where the Orpheum drinking fountain was, his upper plate fell to the floor. Bob, believing in service, picked it up and handed it to the gent, who then proceeded to the fountain, carefully washed his plate, and placed it where it belonged.

William Scholl, RKO exploiteer, enjoys his beans at Thompson's, then gets tomato soup at Harkert's . . . Orpheum patron and camera fan presented theatre with a framed night shot of theatre front, all done up in color.

BOB HILDRETH signs on with an appeasement policy: You'll have to call it Filmrow (as in now) instead of Filmrow (as in go) if Nate Sandler and his gang keep on arguing about five block booking plan on street corners.

His "Oscar" Ready

MINNEAPOLIS—In his column in the *Times-Tribune*, Merle Potter, film editor, this week stated that he already has selected his candidate for the best male performance of 1941. It's Billy Gilbert for what he does in "Tin Pan Alley," says Potter.

On His Own

MINNEAPOLIS—Arnold Dobrin has resigned from the 20th-Fox accessory department to engage in business for himself. He will open a gasoline service station on Plymouth and Morgan Aves. north here. He is succeeded at 20th-Fox by "Chuck" Mercereau who comes from Columbia.

LINCOLN

WAS Gabe Yorke surprised: When out touring with chamber of commerce committeemen on ballyhooing mission for the premiere of "Cheers for Miss Bishop," he stopped in Grand Island when he was introduced to Harry Schiller. "Gad," said Gabe a little later, "when I turned to shake hands with him, I thought it was Frank Morgan."

Test Case: William Youngclaus of the Island in Grand Island, Neb., was in court again last week, but the test was not against the film bigwigs as has been his usual court missions. Seems he had a cashier, Ruby Knapp Cresswell, who quit and got married, then tried to collect unemployment benefits. Judge ruled in Youngclaus' favor, that an employe who takes such action voluntarily, is not entitled to such compensation.

Wedding Bells: That wedding of Gene Shanahan's will come about February 1, and the bride to be is Elizabeth Hanson. He's the manager of the Nebraska Theatre . . . Laugh: Everybody in Lincoln advertised exclusive and scoop pictures on the Rose Bowl game, yet everybody had them about the same time.

Somebody's missing a bet: Why don't theatre operators take advantage of this BMI-Ascap squabble. Tone of conversation about music at the present time is that it's so lousy, radios are being turned off wholesale. Showmen, who have had radio operating at their expense in the past, should not miss this opportunity to step out and tell the neighbors the place to be entertained is more than ever the theatre, because the radio has hit a new low with a jillion arrangements of "Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair." Since theatres are still doing business with Ascap, latter might help with the campaign.

Must be love: Bernie Evens, the UA exploiteer from St. Louis, was tied up here so long plugging "Cheers for Miss Bishop," he couldn't stand the loneliness. So, he called up his frau and she came up to stay out the last 10 days with him . . . Press: Lincoln, for that preem, will probably have as guest newspapermen, such gents as Merle Potter of Minneapolis; Jake Rachman and Keith Wilson, Omaha; Bob Locke, Kansas City *Journal*, and others.

Missed: Jeanne Mitchell, that girl who calls people up and warns about Metro screenings in Omaha, is still hospitalized . . . Stock excuse: Everytime Charlie Lieb wants to get away from somebody, he has a traditional excuse. He claims he just must go home and feed the baby. Charlie!

Sick man: M. E. Lofgren, in York, has been flirting with pneumonia, flu, or some other germal affliction. The doctor says nothing would revive him like a good box-office report, but he's been afraid to show him any of the daily till-tallies lately for fear of a relapse.

Bowler: Don Monroe, who went to the Tournament of Roses, did not come back the regulation route. He took a return ticket which would bring him back to Lincoln via all the California tracks. He had to recoup from the "Nebraska and seven points" bets.

Some deal: Bob Livingston tried to buy "Boom Town" second run for $400 flat, but Harry Shumow wouldn't hear. Bob took it pct., but it ran so good, he wanted to hold over. He wired Shumow: "Will pay you $600 flat, or pull the picture. Business too good."

"Motion PROmotion" Is Jerrel's New Booklet

DES MOINES—"Motion PROmotion" is the title of Burton B. Jerrel's new booklet designed to sell business firms on increased use of their own industrial sound motion pictures.

Insertion of television methods into salesmanship by the use of film is the theme. Quotes from film advertisers, newspapers, theatre men, and, yes—BOXOFFICE—praising various Jerrel productions, provide the clincher on the argument.

Beckley to Phoenix With Wife for Her Health

DES MOINES—Bill Beckley, veteran manager of the Strand, leading second run house of the Tri-States circuit here, is scheduled to leave for Phoenix, Ariz., where he plans to continue in the theatre business. Mrs. Beckley's health is responsible for the shift.

Warner's Set Bellamy

HOLLYWOOD—Warner Bros. has signed Ralph Bellamy for a top line in "Affectionately Yours."

Occasional Flesh for Two in Des Moines

DES MOINES—Two local theatres, the Paramount and the Orpheum, are opening 1941 with a return to periodic use of "live talent" to augment film programs.

The Paramount started the return to stage shows Friday with Cab Calloway and his group of entertainers on the bill. G. Ralph Branton, general manager for Tri-States Theatres Corp., left Tuesday for New York to arrange for future talent.

Emil Franke, manager of the Orpheum, expects to bring his first unit show to Des Moines, January 24. It will be "Screwballs of 1941," now being rehearsed in Chicago. After a brief tour, the show will return to Chicago to play at the State-Lake Theatre.

Both houses will increase prices 10 cents after 2 p. m. when stage shows are on the bill.

Son to Emory Scotts

CRESTON, IA.—Emory Scott, manager of the Uptown here for the Commonwealth circuit, is the father of a 9-pound, 6-ounce son born to his wife last week. The newcomer has been christened Roger Allan.

Lowe Is Building New Theatre at Lebanon

LEBANON, MO.—A new 500-seat theatre, modern from the ground up, is being constructed here by F. L. Lowe, who operates theatres at Lyons, Hays and Hoisington, Kas. With W. A. Snell, Lowe operates as the Star Theatre Co. The new theatre will be an ambitious one, and will be completed before spring.

Subs for Husband

LINCOLN—R. W. Huffman, city manager for the Lincoln Theatres Corp. (J. H. Cooper-Paramount), approved Mrs. Barney Oldfield to go on the theatre-sponsored KFOR radio broadcast, a spot formerly held by her husband, who now is in the army. The show takes off under Mrs. Oldfield, January 18. Airing is five minutes each night, 6:10-15.

Schools Eye Equipment

OMAHA—Public schools here are considering a suggestion to buy six projector and sound machines for educational purposes. Bids are to be taken by the board of education soon. Omaha has for several years used the services of a commercial operator who went to most of the 60 school buildings regularly with educational films.

Directs Loretta Young

HOLLYWOOD—Gregory Ratoff will direct "Tonight Is Ours," starring Loretta Young, for Paramount.

Hard on Fathers

MINNEAPOLIS—Don Guttmann, general manager of the Harry Dickerman circuit, was the subject of a lengthy paragraph in Cedric Adams' column in the Minneapolis *Star-Journal* recently. Said Adams, the Walter Winchell of this section:

"The Don Guttmanns were expecting a baby. Mrs. G. had been taken to Abbott Hospital to wait. Early the other morning Mr. G., unable to sleep at home, drove down to the hospital. Nothing had happened.

"The two of them sat there chatting. Don's eyelids started to droop. Suddenly he spotted a wheelchair out in the hall. An idea came.

"'Listen, honey,' he suggested to his wife. 'Don't you think it would be a good idea if you got in that wheelchair and rode around a little?'

"She agreed. Anything, you know, to help. So into the wheelchair she got and shoved herself off down the hospital corridor. That nice warm bed was too much for the drowsy Guttmann, so in he crawled. In 30 seconds he was snoring.

"Thirty minutes later Doc Lange, the attending physician, came into the room to find the wife still in the wheelchair, the husband still sound asleep in the bed. Expectancy is awfully hard on fathers."

A Musical by English

HOLLYWOOD—Richard English is preparing an untitled musical for Producer Jack Cummings at Metro.

Des Moines Up Notch; 55th Largest City

DES MOINES—Des Moines theatre business should have climbed a notch during the last 10 years. If it didn't, it isn't keeping pace with the city.

Census figures show that Des Moines, with a 12.1 per cent gain in population, now ranks 55th in size among the cities of the nation. In 1930, it was 56th.

Ted Davis Formally Opens New West in Parsons

PARSONS, KAS.—Ted Davis formally opened his new West Theatre here on Wednesday, with the event carrying over into the next day. It was an invitational affair, with a number of trade folk from Kansas City attending.

New Theatre Firm

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—The Ritz Theatre Corp. has been formed here to operate theatres and a theatrical booking agency. Stockholders and directors are Misses Dorothy Uhlinger, Arna Taylor and Gladys Christiansen, all employed as secretaries in the law office of Culver, Phillip, Kaufman and Smith. Immediate plans were not announced.

Adapts "Black Swan"

HOLLYWOOD—John Taintor Foote is adapting "The Black Swan" for Producer Lou Edelman at 20th-Fox.

ANY NEWS TODAY?

Planning a new theatre? Remodeling? Being promoted? Getting married? Got a new baby (infant)? Buying new equipment? Been elected mayor? Son or daughter graduating? Proud of a new exploitation stunt? Hired a new staff member? Solved a knotty problem?

Then Tell It To BOXOFFICE

BOXOFFICE,
4804 E. Ninth St.,
Kansas City, Mo.

NAME ..... THEATRE ..... LOCATION .....

Modify Proposal to License Operators

CLEVELAND—Widespread opposition to certain provisions of an ordinance proposal to license all motion picture operators using film 16mm or greater film has led city officials to agree to an amendment exempting users of "safety" film. The amendment, to be introduced by Councilman Ray C. Miller, author of the original measure, will virtually eliminate all but professional theatre projection machine operators from licensing provisions.

William D. Guion, commissioner of buildings, at whose request the ordinance was submitted, agreed to the amendment after Fire Chief Warden Patrick E. Barrett pointed out that most film used outside the theatre is of the safety variety, hard to set afire and slow-burning if ignited.

The amendment to eliminate licensing operators of 16mm films will directly affect all amateur photographers and all schools, churches, hospitals, etc., which use 16mm film chiefly for educational purposes.

The ordinance would increase the present scale of operators' licenses from $10 to $25, with annual renewal fees from $1 to $10. Licenses for apprentices would be $5 with $1 yearly renewal fee.

A. Milo DeHaven to Add Two Theatre Properties

DETROIT—A. Milo De Haven, who resigned several months ago as manager of the Woodward Grand and Belmont theatres in Highland Park as well as promotion manager for the Sam Brown circuit, is planning to take over two additional theatres in Ohio. DeHaven now owns the Town at Whitehouse, Ohio, and will rename the other two spots the Town also.

Enters Not Guilty Plea To a Lottery Charge

MASSILLON, OHIO—I. H. Solomon, manager of the Lincoln Theatre here, pleaded not guilty to charges of selling tickets to a lottery when arraigned before Judge Robert G. Hoffman in municipal court. The charge was made in connection with a "Prosperity Club" award at the theatre. Judge Hoffman set a tentative date for the hearing later in the month. Solomon may request a jury trial until that time.

Declares "Dictator" Will Not Be Shown at Wilson

DETROIT—Plans for a roadshow engagement for "The Great Dictator" at the Wilson are definitely off, Moe Dudelson, UA manager, discloses to BOXOFFICE.

Dudelson said the picture will go into a local house in about a month at regular first run prices.

Braden Confers on Arbitration Setup

Cleveland—J. Noble Braden, executive secretary of the American Arbitration Ass'n, was in town last week conferring with chamber of commerce officials, regarding the local film arbitration setup in accordance with the consent decree.

It was learned a meeting of a representative group of Cleveland men was held at the chamber, and that Braden will choose the arbitration board and its clerks from among those present. However, no information as to personnel will be given out until later in the month.

Herrington to Allied Nat'l Board Again

PITTSBURGH—Fred J. Herrington, secretary of the AMPTO of W. Pa., has been designated again as the local exhibitor organization's representative on the national Allied board of directors. Fred A. Beedle is AMPTO's new president.

Herrington will attend the national Allied directors' meeting in Washington, January 27 and 28. Also arranging to attend this two-day session are Beedle, William R. Wheat jr., William and Harry Walker and M. A. Rosenberg, former local Allied president, who now is chairman of the unit's directors.

New Year's Shows Are Picketed in Detroit

DETROIT—Demands of the Building Service Employes International Union have resulted in pickets being sent to a number of theatres here, the first appearing for New Year's Eve shows at downtown houses of the United Detroit and Wisper & Wetsman circuits and the Adams. Ray Carroll, International representative, said the union's demands are for a $5 a day wage scale, an 8-hour working day, and a six-day week. He said that conditions vary from house to house at present, running $12 to $20 a week for a usual seven days, with men working 9 to 10 hours daily in most cases.

Business did not appear to be hurt by the picketing, particularly at the New Year's Eve show.

Goldberg Holds a PRC Meeting in Cincinnati

CLEVELAND—Lee Goldberg, PRC franchise owner, with headquarters here, last week held a meeting of his Indianapolis and Cincinnati sales organization in Cincinnati. Those present included Sam Abrams and Joe Bohn of Indianapolis and Nat Kaplan and Don Duff of Cincinnati. Goldberg arranged to move his bookkeeping department to Cleveland on January 15 when Miss Marcelle Binstein will come here temporarily to install the system currently in use, after which she will return to Cincinnati.

Discounts Ohio Need For Ticket Tax Hike

By B. O. TELLER

COLUMBUS—Much has been written elsewhere on the possibilities of the Ohio legislature increasing the three per cent excise tax on admissions. When the new legislature convened Monday such action seemed rather unnecessary to theatrical observers. All tax collections in 1940 were ahead of 1939, the state now having on hand a substantial surplus, leaving more than a reasonable doubt as to the need of any new taxation measures. Arguments, as presented by a meeting of city officials in Cleveland, that additional taxes are necessary for relief, are made questionable by the announcement by state officials that relief costs for 1941 will not exceed $16,000,000, as compared to $24,500,000 for 1940.

The only possible immediate need for increased tax revenues can be tied in with the fact that the federal administration may boost old age pensions while reducing direct relief. However, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce holds that reallocation of monies earmarked for other uses will be the only necessary action. If, on the other hand, new or upped taxes are found to be essential, it seems quite likely that big business will suffer—in all probability a heavy corporation levy being considered first.

As for the need to impose additional theatre taxes, there are several important angles to be considered. First, other taxes:

1. The federal tax has already been increased as a defense measure, with all indications pointing to a reduction on exemptions to include everything from the first penny.

2. Suit on the three per cent sales tax on film rentals will be settled before the year is out. And if the state can collect this levy, and it seems highly probable that it can, another tax is imposed on exhibitors.

Secondly, two new sources of revenue will be pointed out to the legislature:

1. Provision for taxes on the coin-operated motion picture "juke" boxes.

2. Action to define Bingo as an amusement, thus making it possible to tax the thousands of games conducted over the state.

Rowlands and Mulligan Get Title to Columbia

COLUMBUS—County recorder files disclose that the title to the Columbia Theatre has been given to Fred W. Rowlands and Norbert J. Mulligan by the Steelton Theatre Corp. At the same time, it became known that F. W. Rowlands, H. N. Bloss and A. D. Rowlands had leased the Main Theatre to the Main Theatre Corp. for a 10-year period beginning May 1, 1938, at a monthly rental of $2,000.

Al Lostetter to Wed

PITTSBURGH — Al Lostetter and Ruth Kurtz will be married on Tuesday. The bridegroom is the cashier at the New Universal exchange.

'GWTW' Collars Big Dough In Return to Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—"Gone With the Wind" collared the big dough here last week in a return engagement at popular prices, and was held over at the RKO Capitol. All seats were 50 cents until 5 p. m. when prices ranged from 55-65 cents with 25 cents for children at all times. "No, No, Nanette" drew a little better than average and stayed a week. "Here Comes the Navy" held for six extra days at the Lyric, making way for a return of "Philadelphia Story."

Business is slowly settling back to normalcy following an orgy of last-minute Xmas spending unequalled in local department store history. The weather continues unusually mild.

Detail for week ending Christmas Day:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO) 110
Capitol—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....160
Return engagement at "pop" prices.
Grand—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 90
Second and final week.
Keith's—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M).....100
Lyric—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB).....100
Held six days second week.
Palace—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 110
Held over and shifted to Keith's.
Shubert—**Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 125
Combined with red-hot stage show; Tommy Riggs and others.

Cleveland's Downtowners Have Terrific New Year

CLEVELAND—With employment almost up to the 1929 level, business 16 per cent better than last year, and department stores taxed to the limit to meet the requirements of the buying public, holiday show business here was very gratifying. New Year's Eve crowds were terrific downtown with Loew's State reporting it played to 23,500 people in two days—Tuesday and Wednesday—chalking up the biggest New Year's business in four years. Other downtown houses duplicated this experience. Weather was ideal with temperature in the fifties.

Detail for week December 24 to 31:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**You'll Find Out** (RKO), 2nd wk.....100
Played a second week downtown on a move-over from the Hippodrome.
Hippodrome—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 140
Palace—**Bank Dick** (Univ) 145
Stage show, Revue Internationale with cast of 60 elaborately staged and dozens of specialties.
State—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 120
Stillman—**Rangers of Fortune** (Para't) 75

"Santa Fe Trail" Makes Top Showing in Pitt

PITTSBURGH—"Santa Fe Trail" made the top showing of the week here while "North West Mounted Police" and "Tin Pan Alley," in their fourth weeks, were also strong attractions. Spring weather did not harm takes.

Detail for week ending December 28:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Cat and Canary** (Para't); **Scarface** (SR), reissue 100
Fulton—**Blackout** (UA) 65
Penn—**Long Voyage Home** (UA), 5 days..... 45
Ritz—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M), 2nd d. t. wk. 105
Stanley—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 150
Warner—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't), 4th d. t. wk. 115
Senator—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox), 4th wk....110



A Dinner for Him—

Burtus Bishop jr., new district manager for Metro, recipient of a testimonial by the Pittsburgh trade on his departure from the local exchange helm to take over his new duties.

Chaotic Booking Marks Week in the Auto City

DETROIT—Chaotic booking marked the past week, with almost every house changing its opening day to match holiday schedules. Business, as a whole, was distinctly upgrade, the big reason being better pictures.

Detail for week ended January 2:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 9 days.....200
Cinema—**Forbidden Adventure** (SR); 90
Closed December 30 after 10 days.
Fox—**You'll Find Out** (RKO) 160
Stage show and New Year's Eve helped take.
Michigan—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Kit Carson** (UA) 110
Palms-State—**The Letter** ((FN), after 2 wks. at Michigan; **Cherokee Strip** (Para't).....120
United Artists—**Long Voyage Home** (UA); **Comrade X** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. for both....115

Krug's "Ten Best"

PITTSBURGH—The *Sun-Telegraph's* film critic, Karl Krug, has selected his "10 best" pictures of 1940, as follows: "Angels Over Broadway," "The Grapes of Wrath," "Of Mice and Men," "The Great McGinty," "Gone With the Wind," "The Long Voyage Home," "The Biscuit Eater," "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," "Rebecca" and "Our Town."

225 at Testimonial For Burtus Bishop

PITTSBURGH—Two hundred and twenty-five friends of Burtus Bishop jr., said "goodbye and good luck" to the newly appointed midwestern district manager for M-G-M at a testimonial banquet in his honor in the William Penn Hotel, Monday evening. C. J. Latta was toastmaster, and M. N. Shapiro general chairman.

At the speakers' table were Harry Goldstein, Paramount district manager; Edgar Moss, 20th-Fox district manager; C. C. Kellenberg, Variety's new chief barker; Harry M. Kalmine, Warner circuit zone manager; John H. Harris, Harris Amusements, and local branch managers, Abe Weiner, UA; Peter Dana, Universal; James H. Alexander, Republic; Art Levy, Columbia; Herb Greenblatt, RKO, and Fred Beedle and M. A. Rosenberg of the AMPTO of W. Pa.

Also present were Mark Goldman, Monogram; Dave Kimelman, Paramount; Lew Lefton, Producers Releasing Corp., and George Elmo, Cleveland's Paramount manager. Also, Sabu, star of "The Thief of Bagdad," who happened to be in town.

Bryan D. "Buck" Stoner, former Cleveland sales representative for M-G-M, who succeeds Bishop as local branch manager, was introduced.

Bishop was presented with three fitted traveling cases. Also an oil painting of two dog heads, the work and gift of Milton Antonoplos, youngest son of the East Pittsburgh and Turtle Creek exhibitor.

Proceeds of the dinner, more than $500, will be given to the Variety charity fund.

"GWTW" Returns to Pitt For Popular Engagement

PITTSBURGH—"Gone With the Wind," which opens its return popular-priced engagement here January 17 in Loew's Penn, will be exhibited four times daily, Marty Burnett, manager, announces. Admission is 55 cents evenings and 40 cents matinees, tax included.

Metro will deliver all prints without any scene cuts, the running time remaining three hours and 45 minutes. Loew's Penn will be open at least 16 hours daily for the display of this attraction. "GWTW" opened its roadshow engagement here in the Warner January 26 of last year and enjoyed a run of ten weeks.

Billposters Re-Install Officers for 1941

DETROIT—Billposters Union, Local 94, last week re-installed their re-elected officers for 1941 including: John Carano, president; Roy Van Geison, vice-president; Michael Noch, business agent, and William F. Hines, secretary-treasurer. This will be his 35th year in office.

Newly-elected trustees are: Turner Perry, Elmer Solomon and Albert Halley.

Distributors' division of the Local held a two-day holiday party, December 27-28, at their regular meeting hall, with James Stewart as chairman of the committee for the affair. About 350 members and friends attended.

Big New Year's for Cleveland Houses

CLEVELAND—New Year's business at downtown and neighborhood first runs was good.

Everett Steinbuck, manager of Loew's State, showing "Comrade X," reports that theatre played to 23,500 people on Tuesday and Wednesday. This was the biggest New Year's business at the State in four years.

RKO Palace was sold out for its midnight New Year's Eve show with all seats reserved. Allen, also with a special midnight show, had big crowds and the Hippodrome, showing "Santa Fe Trail," was packed.

Night clubs and restaurants also reported their best business since the depression.

Big Turnout Is Expected For Stoner Testimonial

CLEVELAND—A record attendance is expected to attend the testimonial dinner to be held in honor of Bryan D. Stoner on January 13 at the Hollenden Hotel on the occasion of his promotion as M-G-M branch manager in Pittsburgh.

Jack Sogg is chairman of the committee on arrangements which consists of Charles Raymond, Nat Holt, P. E. Essick, J. D. Kalafat, Joe Minsky and E. H. Brauer.

S&F Circuit Quarters To Pittsburgh Filmrow

PITTSBURGH—The Shapiro and Fineman circuit is opening headquarters on Filmrow at 1723 Blvd. of the Allies, for several years the offices of Don D'Carlo, theatrical booker. M. N. Shapiro and Archie Fineman state that they will book only their own theatres.

Sabu in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—Sabu, star of "Elephant Boy" and "Drums," who also plays the title role in Alexander Korda's "Thief of Bagdad," was here Monday for guest appearances around town and at a department store for a special tieup. The United Artists picture opened Friday at Loew's Penn.

Object to Theatre

YOUNGSTOWN — Vigorous objections to constructing a theatre at Belmont and Francisca Avenues, unless ample provisions are made for parking, were voiced at a public hearing in city council here. A group of local business men are planning to build a modern theatre on the site to cost $100,000.

New Year's Dinner

CLEVELAND—Charles Raymond, Loew division manager, and his theatre staff celebrated the New Year with a dinner at the Statler Hotel. The guests consisted of 20 staff members and their wives.

Raymond Will Address Women's Federation

CLEVELAND—Charles Raymond, Loew division manager, will be guest speaker before the motion picture division of the Cleveland Federation of Women's Clubs on Friday, January 17. The meeting will be held in the Rainbow Room of the Statler.

This will be Raymond's first public appearance before any local group since coming to Cleveland from London where he was in charge of Loew theatres for seven years. His subject will be: "American Films in Europe and Africa." Mrs. W. J. MacLachlan, president, will introduce Raymond.

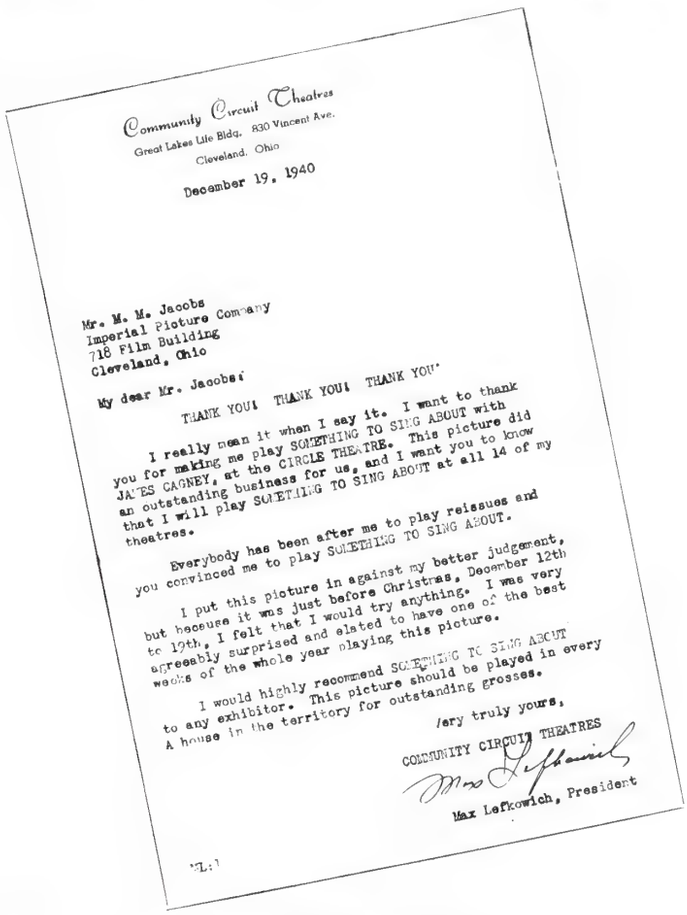
Cleveland Exhibitors' Association Elects

CLEVELAND—The annual meeting for the election of officers of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n was to be held this week in the association rooms at the Film Bldg.

Present officers are: Ernest Schwartz, president; A. E. Ptak, vice-president; G. E. Erdmann, secretary, and L. G. Baldwin, treasurer. Board members are M. S. Fine, P. E. Essick, L. G. Baldwin, F. Porozynski, J. D. Kalafat, M. Berkowitz, M. Jacobs, J. Shulman and H. Greenberger.

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

RESULTS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS



Community Circuit Theatres
Great Lakes Life Bldg. 830 Vincent Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio

December 19, 1940

Mr. M. M. Jacobs
Imperial Picture Company
718 Film Building
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Jacobs:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I really mean it when I say it. I want to thank you for making me play SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT with JAMES CAGNEY, at the CIRCLE THEATRE. This picture did an outstanding business for us, and I want you to know that I will play SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT at all 14 of my theatres.

Everybody has been after me to play reissues and you convinced me to play SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT.

I put this picture in against my better judgement, but because it was just before Christmas, December 12th to 19th, I felt that I would try anything. I was very agreeably surprised and elated to have one of the best weeks of the whole year playing this picture.

I would highly recommend SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT to any exhibitor. This picture should be played in every A house in the territory for outstanding grosses.

Very truly yours,

COMMUNITY CIRCUIT THEATRES

Max Lefkowich, President

ALL NEW PRINTS

BOOK THIS FEATURE IMMEDIATELY

from

IMPERIAL PICTURE COMPANY

718 Film Bldg.
Cleveland, O.
Tel. MAin 1846

DETROIT

JOHN DAWSON, Universal player, was a visitor for the holidays at the home of his mother, Mrs. Charles Wilson . . . Ben Cohen, circuiteer, is busy tropic-fishing down in Miami . . . Brother Lou Cohen is busy with the new front on the Hollywood . . . Ed Long, Long Sign Co., was in Toronto visiting over the weekend . . . Earl Hudson, UDT president, had several teeth extracted . . . Radio Rathbone, 25-year-old son of Basil Rathbone, is training across the river at Windsor for the Canadian Air Force.

Gene Alexander, booker for Universal, was seriously hurt January 30 while driving to Grand Rapids to service a print. Gene, who is also secretary of Film Bowling League, is recovering from four broken ribs in Sparrow Hospital at Lansing . . . Jack Susami, also Universal, was up to see him . . . Eddie Heiber was off to Chicago for the holidays.

Bill Schulte, circuiteer, stayed right at home for his New Year's Eve celebration . . . Bill Jackson, major domo of the Fox, was swamped with reservations for New Year's Eve . . . UDT's switchboard was so rushed that incoming calls began jumping right over to Hyman Bloom at the Madison . . . Julius D. London expected to open the new Midtown this week . . . Stanley Oleskowicz of the Atlas and Stanley has appointed his daughter his "office manager."

Albert Rashid is organizing the Near Eastern Film Co. here . . . John P. Neville, 59, formerly organist at the United Artists, died December 30 of pneumonia in Providence Hospital.

George McArthur, Ed Long of Long Sign Co., and Ray Moon of Mutual Theatres had planned to say "Season's Greetings" in BOXOFFICE's Greetings Issue—our compositor just left them out; many apologies . . . Sam Harris of the Stage Door Bar is heading for Miami about February 1 . . . Jackson S. Hurford of the Fox has similar southbound plans.

Jack Thompson of Paramount, Max Blumenthal of Film Projection, Louis Kirchner of the Family, and Wade Allen of the Fine Arts were among the official committee we saw at Variety Club, New Year's Eve—plus a host of filmites rarely up for the occasion . . . Such as Peggy Scott, titian-haired telephonist at the Fox . . . Lloyd Hammond, producer of Film Fumbles, is moving from his Cass Avenue Studio—which will be torn down to make a new super-service gas station—into the seventh floor of the Film Bldg.

Jess Veldman, 20th-Fox cashier, walking through the rain up to Filmrow . . . Helen Rose just about all alone at Fox for the big vacation . . . Art Robinson has Ben Cohn of the Kramer and Moule and Newman at the Oliver starting his new blue-speckled enamelware deal currently.

Jack Watkins, son of the part-owner of the Plaza, seen downtown Thursday . . . Jack Zide, former Detroit salesman, returned to Omaha, where he now sells for Columbia, after spending his vacation here . . . Chris Vaccher and Roger Kennedy sipping coffee up at Verdi's, which they operate together . . . George W. Carr, International Seating representative (minus his pipe), and Stanley Oleskowicz reminiscing after New Year's in the lobby.

Mary Lee Dunn, Chinese actress who played in "The Good Earth," is writing a play to be set in Detroit auto plants, following her personal observation here . . . Don Shields is back in charge of the Dezel roadshows office . . . Jack Stewart of Universal and Ed Weingarden of UA are much interested in late football.

Walter R. Stebbins, Film Building manager, expects to be off for New York . . . Jack Stebbins, of M-G-M, visiting up in dad's office . . . Warren and Pat Slee, M-G-M, strolling along Grand Circus Park Friday eve. . . . Paul Field, producer, met in the Book Bldg., is working on a new show . . . Mrs. Charles Hague Booth, famed Detroit golf figure who died last week, was a stage star prior to 1912, and was the woman who advised Gladys Smith to go into pictures instead of on the stage—she did, and became Mary Pickford.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Roy Shook, who owns the Shores at St. Clair Shores, is building a new and bigger "Shores" next door. The present building probably will become a store building.

Edwin C. Forrest, 78, pioneer Saginaw theatre operator, and secretary-treasurer of the Mecca Theatre Co. of Saginaw, died December 29.

Ralph Raskin, of the Robinson Premium Co., is back from ten days' hard driving, covering the State.

Howard Paul, Romeo exhibitor, and his wife, pleasantly in town New Year's Eve, visiting the Variety Club.

Associated Chain Gives A Dinner for Managers

CLEVELAND—Associated circuit officials were hosts to their managers at a dinner at the Statler December 30. Jerome Friedlander, attorney for Associated, was toastmaster. Speeches were made by Hosts John D. Kalafat, S. H. Stecker and Meyer Fine. Howard Reif and James E. Scoville, affiliated with the circuit in the Shore Theatre, and Ed Bang, sports editor of *The News*, also were present.

Don Carlos Dead

DETROIT—Charles Hall, 70, producer of "Hall's Monkey Hotel" for over 50 years, died at Wisper & Wetsman's Oakman Theatre Saturday while giving a special children's matinee. He collapsed while working through the house. His wife, Sophia Hall, carried on the routine from the stage. Hall was known professionally as Don Carlos.

Impasse Holds Over Opening of Royal

DETROIT—Negotiations over opening of the Royal here continued at an impasse this week. The new 2,500-seat theatre, built jointly by United Detroit and Wisper & Wetsman Theatres, failed to open in December when the operators were called out upon failure of the management and the IATSE to agree on employment of a stagehand.

Position of the management is that there is no work for a stagehand at the house. The union holds a contrary view.

The controversy is viewed as a test of the general principle of employing stagehands for maintenance work in film houses.

In the absence of direct negotiations, a hopeful sign of a path toward settlement appeared in the willingness of Roger M. Kennedy, international vice-president of the IA, who ordered the operators out, to discuss a compromise arrangement. Kennedy indicated a willingness to discuss an adjustment of wages and hours in an interview with BOXOFFICE.

An interesting "canard" of the week was a story published in local newspapers to the effect the management planned to dismantle the Royal under the circumstances. This was repudiated, however, in a statement to BOXOFFICE by Earl Hudson, president of UDT, who said that the only changes being made in the house involved removal of furnishings which might become soiled.

Louis Hanna Appointed Salesman for Republic

PITTSBURGH—Louis E. Hanna has been named as sales representative for Republic Pictures Corp. of Pittsburgh. Lou, previously a booker, succeeds the late George W. Collins. He will cover the northern area.

Hymie Wheeler has been assigned the main line territory. Both sales representatives will serve under Samuel A. Fineberg, associate of James H. Alexander, manager. Fineberg, Wheeler and Hanna also will cover an assigned city area, thus each will be "at home" every third week.

Joseph Daugherty, Republic's head shipper, has been promoted to booker. William Hollenbaugh, night shipper, succeeds to Daugherty's former post. Bud Thomas is the new night shipper.

Renovates Pitt House

PITTSBURGH—Steve Santa's Washington is being modernized and renovated. Face is being lifted by the Flexlume organization which is installing a new front and marquee, the latter with neon trim and three lines of silhouette letters.

Opens as Dual Second Run

WHEELING, W. VA.—The Colonial here, which folded recently after three weeks of stock burlesque, has reopened with a dual second-run film policy. Admission scales from 10 to 20 cents.

CLEVELAND

BIG NEWS of the week was the arrival on January 2 of a daughter into the family of Ed Fisher, United Artists publicity specialist. The young lady named, Carole Anne, and her mother are reported doing nicely at St. John's Hospital . . . Al Vermes expects to change from civvies into uniform almost any day now . . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Drew of M-G-M held their annual New Year's open house party at their home last Wednesday . . . Leo Devaney, who hasn't been in town since he was manager of the local Universal exchange, will be here January 29 to tell the RKO boys all about the Depinet 13-week sales drive. Devaney is drive leader and is visiting each RKO office.

Exhibitor Ortt of the Ritz, Newcomerstown, has opened the commuting season between Florida and Ohio. From now until March he will be either in Sebring, Fla., or in Newcomerstown or en route either way . . . The I. J. Schmertz family (20th-Fox) pulled out of here last Thursday for a month of Florida sunshine (they hope) . . . Robert Lytle has been named manager of the State, Lima, to succeed Don Reilly, killed recently in an automobile accident. Lytle has been promoted to the post from the assistant managership of the Palace in Lorain.

Christmas season didn't interfere with Ray Wallace's coming to town from Alliance to take care of his bookings, but out-of-towners were pretty scarce . . . Lee Goldberg, PRC chief, states that on the strength of its record business during the holiday week at the Circle, "The Devil Bat" is being booked solid throughout the territory.

Spotted here and there: George Delis and George Ellis of the Constant-Delis circuit . . . Nate Gerson has acquired the Ohio-Kentucky distribution of "The Baker's Wife," acclaimed the best foreign picture of the year. It opens January 23 at the Circle, Cleveland, for a local premiere . . . That was Marilyn Ochs, the second of Herb's three daughters, who substituted for Rose Bein as secretary to Herb and Harry Long of Pioneer Film Exchange, while the Beins Christmas-ed in New York . . . Jack Share of the Columbia sales force went to Washington and Philadelphia for his current vacation . . . And Columbia Branch Manager Lester Zucker has completely recovered from his recent indisposition.

Jack Barck and the Lyric Theatre, Delta, have parted company. Jack leased the theatre last September but decided to turn it back to the owner, K. W. Norwine. The house is reported closed . . . Maple Heights Theatre, Cleveland, is temporarily closed while renovations are going on . . . The Milt Mooneys of Cooperative Theatres of Ohio arrived back home from a West Indies cruise last Friday, stopping off in New York for a day after reaching shore.

Bill King of Mills Novelty Co. of Chincago has been in town visiting with heads of Midwest Specialties Co., distributors of Panoram. King, who is connected with the engineering department of his company, is giving Urban Anderson, president of the local distributing company, some technical instruction as to the operation of the machine . . . Charles Raymond, Loew division manager, announces that "GWTW" will open its local popular-priced run at the State, starting January 17 . . . There will be no reserved seat policy and top price will be 55 cents.



They Present a Happy Picture—

These underprivileged children present a happy picture following the Christmas party given for them by the Warner Club of Cleveland, which is led by Charles Albert. There was a complete turkey dinner on the menu, and each of the 52 guests received a bag of candy, a bag of fruit, a funny book and a matching cap and glove set.

CINCINNATI

NAT KAPLAN, chairman of the Variety Club's annual New Year Eve frolic, is being credited with the huge success of the affair which was a sell-out. Limited to 250 persons, there was, nevertheless, an overflow crowd. Bill Onie, Monogram branch manager, and chief barker, was on the reception committee, and Col. Arthur Frudenfeld had charge of the excellent floor show . . . Friends of Mrs. Will Shakespeare of the National will regret to hear of the death of her brother and sister-in-law, both occurring during Christmas week following illness. Burial was at Portsmouth, Ohio. Mrs. Shakespeare is now on the sick list.

The press has been giving much space to Rudy Bressler's new house to be erected in Dayton. Bressler also operates the Liberty . . . M-G-M broke ground this week for their new exchange, under lease, and which is across the street from their present location on Filmrow. A modern air conditioned fire-proof building is expected to be ready for occupancy in May.

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day drew the best business over a similar period in four years, according to Everett Steinbuck, manager of Loew's State. Steinbuck reports the State, showing "Comrade X," played to 23,500 people in two days. The State has 3,500 seats . . . Meet the new assistant Universal booker. He is Harold Satz. And he hails from the Big U exchange in New York. John J. Scully jr., whom he succeeds, has been transferred to the Philadelphia exchange . . . Howard Roth, Paramount booker, was feeling pretty punk last Thursday. A bad cold . . . George Roberts, 20th-Fox district manager, is among the returned Christmas travelers. He spent the holidays with his wife and daughter, Jane, in Buffalo . . . The Bryan D. Stoners were in from Pittsburgh to check in at the Frank Drews' New Year party.

Dave Miller, Universal district manager, is cruise shopping—a gift from the boys of his district, presented to him at the anni-

(Continued on page 50)

Jerry Marks, Universal's West Virginia representative, and Ross Williams are among the latest enthusiasts of the airways. They are interested in seaplanes and are using the Ohio River as a parking lot . . Universal announces "Back Street" may have its world premiere in Cincinnati where the locale of the story is laid. Hope is being expressed that the two stars, Margaret Sullavan and Charles Boyer, will be brought on for the event . . . Warner's "Santa Fe Trail," going into its second week in Cincy, is also doing big in Dayton at the Palace, according to report.

Dave Miller, Universal district manager, here for several days . . . George Myer, Frankfort and Winchester exhibitor, also here . . . Columbia's "This Thing Called Love" is set for the RKO Palace the week of the 16th . . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nalley, Nitro, W. Va., spent several days in the Queen City, coming on for New Year's Eve and staying over to complete bookings . . . Cincinnati friends are glad to hear that Lee Goldberg, former head of PRC here and now in Cleveland, is recovering nicely from an operation for infected teeth.

PRC's "The Devil Bat" is doing fine in its first run in downtown Cincinnati. It is dualled with "Boss of Bullion City" at the RKO Family . . . Maury White announces the new Davue, Dayton, Ky., is expected to be ready for opening by April 1 . . . The Ridge, Pleasant Ridge, Cincinnati, will open in the near future. Both houses are the last word in modern theatres and are in line with the present-day policy of building new houses in suburban areas.

"First Beau" for Reed

HOLLYWOOD—"Her First Beau," co-starring Jane Withers and Jackie Cooper, will be directed for Columbia by J. Theodore Reed, who handles the assignment on a loanout from Paramount.

70 Films Were Held Over Last Year in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—Seventy features were held over in the Golden Triangle theatres during 1940, and 17 M-G-M pictures played a total of 49 weeks in those houses last year.

"Gone With the Wind," an M-G-M release, played a roadshow engagement of ten weeks; 20th-Fox's "Grapes of Wrath" played five weeks, as did Paramount's "North West Mounted Police." The four-week pictures were M-G-M's "Boom Town" and "I Love You Again," 20th-Fox's "Swanee River" and "Tin Pan Alley," Columbia's "His Girl Friday" and Universal's "It's a Date."

Features which played three weeks were Warner's "Virginia City," "All This, and Heaven Too," "They Drive by Night," "The Sea Hawk," "City for Conquest" and "Strike Up the Band;" 20th-Fox's "Lillian Russell," "Down Argentine Way" and "The Mark of Zorro;" Columbia's "My Favorite Wife;" United Artists' "Of Mice and Men;" and Universal's "Hired Wife."

Forty-five pictures played fortnight engagements: M-G-M's 11 were "Judge Hardy and Son," "Northwest Passage," "Strange Cargo," "Young Tom Edison," "Edison, the Man," "Susan and God," "Mortal Storm," "New Moon," "Pride and Prejudice," "Bitter Sweet" and "Little Nellie Kelly;" "Paramount's six were "Gulliver's Travels," "Road to Singapore," "Buck Benny Rides Again," "Ghost Breakers," "Rhythm on the River" and "Arise, My Love;" United Artists' six were "Pastor Hall," "Rebecca," "My Son, My Son," "Foreign Correspondent," "The Westerner" and "The Great Dictator."

Warner's seven were "A Child Is Born," "Fighting 69th," "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," "Torrid Zone," "Saturday's Children," "Brother Orchid" and "Knute Rockne—All American;" Universal's five were "If I Had My Way," "When the Daltons Rode," "Boys From Syracuse," "Spring Parade" and "My Little Chickadee;" RKO's four were "Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Pinocchio," "Lucky Partners" and "They Knew What They Wanted;" Columbia's three "Too Many Husbands," "The Doctor Takes a Wife" and "He Stayed for Breakfast;" 20th-Fox's three "Return of Frank James," "Johnny Apollo" and "Little Old New York," and Republic's "Dark Command."

Independent Barry consumed the most film during the year, exhibiting 103 features, including 11 reissues. Harris Alvin and Senator used 20 features, including 6 reissues; Loew's Penn, 48; Stanley, 47; Fulton, 43; Warner, 41, including 1 reissue (and "moveover" pictures); Ritz, 38, including 1 reissue (and "moveover" pictures).

Additionally, the Art Cinema offered several French and Yiddish films supplemented by a number of English films and domestic reissues. "The Burning Question," a state-rights film, played 17 weeks and this was followed by "Forbidden Adventure," another such picture, which was on view for 10 weeks.

Mickey Rooney, in person at the Stanley, attracted 118,000 admissions, grossing more than $37,000. Other film names seen in person during the year were Edith Fellows, Andy Devine, Bob Crosby, Ted Lewis, Three Stooges, Cliff Edwards, Gloria Dickson, Alexander D'Arcy, Eddy Duchin, Benny Goodman, Benny Davis, Jimmie Fidler, Morton Downey, Edmund Lowe, Dixie Dunbar, Buddy Rogers, Will Osborne, Johnny Davis, Ed Sullivan, Arthur Treacher, Marjorie Weaver, Bela Lugosi, Douglas McPhail, Betty Jaynes, Helen Parrish, Horace Heidt, Phil Spitalny, Guy Lombardo, Wayne King, Tommy Riggs, Vilma and Buddy Ebsen.

Also Beverly Roberts, Glen Gray, Jan Savitt, Sammy Kaye, Orrin Tucker, Bonnie Baker, George Jessel, Rochelle Hudson, Jean Parker, Isabel Jewell, Lya Lys, Lois Andrew Jessel, Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Louella O. Parsons, Robert Cummings, Sabu, June Preisser, Binnie Barnes, William Orr, Virginia O'Brien, Mike Frankovich, Brenda Joyce. At the legit Nixon such celebrities as John Barrymore, Simone Simon, Mitzi Green, Mary Brian, John Barton, Walter Huston, Katharine Cornell, Cornelia Otis Skinner, Paul Muni, John Garfield, Harry Carey, Aline MacMahon, Katharine Hepburn, George M. Cohan, Flora Robson, Eddie Dowling, Julie Haydon, Alfred Lunt, Lynn Fontanne and Clifton Webb were seen.

PITTSBURGH

JOHN B. "POP" KANE, Pitcairn exhibitor, suffered a heart attack after visiting on Filmrow Thursday of last week. He is under an oxygen tent in Columbia Hospital . . . Harry Stahl, Sharon exhibitor, is up and around again after suffering a vertebra dislocation. He has been wearing a "dog collar" brace . . . Sympathy to Gertrude Freed of M-G-M, whose father died last Saturday . . . Sympathy also to Phil Doyle, business agent for the stagehands' union, who lost his mother.

John J. Maloney, M-G-M district manager, was "coming along" in Mercy Hospital Monday when we visited. He had suffered a relapse after a tonsil operation. The entire local sales staff of Leo was around John's bedside when we departed . . . Dave Blum of Portage is vacationing at Miami Beach and his son Sidney is looking after the Rex . . . It's nice to have Tom Connors jr. back in town again. Son of the M-G-M executive was very popular as a student here last year before he was transferred to the Denver office. He's on duty here and glad to be back.

Joseph R. Kauffman, Universal manager at Cleveland, was seriously ill with a strep infection this week and his brothers, Eli and Morris, hurried to the Ohio city . . . E. B. Morton, NTS manager, returned from Florida and was still very ill this week. A. F. Baldwin of the NTS home office has been sent here to take care of the local branch in Morton's absence . . . Jimmy DiMauro has been polishing his golf sticks, thinking thereby that he will underscore "Uncle Gus" Vaveris when the season rolls around. But the latter is not worried. (We're not taking sides—and thanks to Jimmy for the renewal subscription to BOXOFFICE).

Frank William Miller, advertising manager for the Metropolitan, Morgantown, W. Va., and Charlie Baron, M-G-M's local exploiteer, have been declared national winners in the "Bitter Sweet" exploitation campaign and have been awarded M-G-M Honor Roll Emblems . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ray Allison of Cresson have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Marcelle Reed Allison, to Simon M. (Cy) Bender, publicity director at Loretto College. Miss Allison attended Carnegie Institute of Technology and Mr. Bender is a graduate of St. Francis College, Loretto, Pa., class of 1935.

The John R. Osbornes of Wheeling are wintering in Florida . . . R. J. "Riney" Hiehle, Parkersburg exhibitor, was a Filmrow visitor the other day with Bruce Day, who is the new manager of the Burwell, of that city, which has reverted to N. C. Burwell, owner. Hiehle stated he will need fewer headache tablets in the future . . . Charlie Dortic, Warner sales representative, visited in Georgia during the holidays . . . Danny Davis has inaugurated weekly national amateur shows at the Cove, Hollidays Cove, W. Va., on Wednesdays, and at the Paramount, Connellsville, Pa., on Fridays.

Miss Dolline Cole, an actress for "the best of her 81 *years," dropped dead one evening recently in the Garden Theatre. Newspapers reported that her ambition was to die in a theatre. Posthumously, she achieved another ambition when her ashes were scattered from a soaring airplane over the Golden Triangle . . . Nixon gets "Hellzapoppin'" February* 10 *and "The Male Animal" February* 24.

Harry Grelle is assisting Gabe Rubin in distributing special roadshow pictures . . . John Oliffee, 28, north side arsonist, who escaped from Rockview Penitentiary, was captured and returned there. He is serving from three to ten years, after pleading guilty in October to setting fire to the McClure Theatre, in September . . . James

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Admits Not All Are Good Ones

Canonsburg, Pa.—"You'll probably get stuck with a bad one now and then," admits the house organ here for the Alhambra and Continental in the New Year's 'Thank You' issue which promises 'our level best to bring you the finest' in film entertainment. The weekly paper is known as "Yours for Fun," the identified signatures of Eddie and Fred Beedle, owners.

From All Corners Of the Nation--

PRINCESS THEATRE

WAUSEON, OHIO

Sept. 18, 1940

BOXOFFICE:

Relative to our recent ad in BOXOFFICE: To date, within the first week after publication, we have received 109 answers to this ad, the replies coming from Massachusetts to Washington, from Minnesota and Montana to Texas.

The response was almost unbelievable. Certainly I could think of no other medium that might return such a result.

P. R. TOUNEY

Whatever You Have to

BUY — SELL — TRADE

For Best Results Use the

Clearing House

Section of

The BOXOFFICE *Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

In Advertising There Is No Substitute For GOOD RESULTS

Sees Settlement of Louisville Strike

LOUISVILLE—Settlement of the local ushers' and doormen's strike, in effect since December 23, was expected by the end of the week by J. T. Woodward, AFL representative in Kentucky.

A jurisdictional dispute between the Building Service Employes' Union and the Theatre and Stage Employes' Union, which has been hindering negotiations, was expected to be ironed out, thus paving the way for a settlement of the strike, according to Woodward.

At a meeting last Thursday, Woodward told representatives of both unions that William Green, president of the AFL, had advised him the ushers and doormen belong in the stagehands' union and not in the building employes' organization, of which they are members.

The striking workers are employed by the Rex, Strand, Rialto, Kentucky and Mary Anderson theatres. They seek recognition of their union, seniority rights, a closed shop and wage adjustments.

Advances Proposal for One-Reel Synopses

DETROIT—A proposal for one-reel synopses of all feature films for use in trade-screening under the consent decree is advanced by Walter R. Stebbins, manager of the Film Exchange Bldg.

"Exhibitors will be faced with the problem of reviewing far more pictures than they have done in years under the decree," Stebbins asserts. "But the number of screening hours is actually limited, and the problem appears nearly insoluble from a practical standpoint—certainly, if every exhibitor were to try to see every film, well, it just couldn't be done.

"Besides, exhibitors don't like to keep on looking at pictures—it is work, after all. Many will tend to neglect to see enough films trade-screened for that reason, and for the necessary pressure of time.

"But a solution could be found in one-reel synopses, showing the essential nature of the film—such synopses would probably have to be carefully edited, and perhaps subject to approval by a board of some type, whether all-industry or otherwise, before being released, to assure their essential accuracy in summation. These could very easily be shown—and exhibitors could readily judge a picture from bits of it. After all, a jeweler does not have to tear a gem apart to know its worth—he can tell from general inspection. So, as in other industries, the exhibitor can judge the film by sampling it.

"I believe that this is entirely permissible under the consent decree, and I think that sound industry opinion should be directed toward making it possible before the industry actually goes into operation under the decree in September."

Pneumonia Fatal

LOUISVILLE—Gerald Wendover Pilcher, 41, secretary-treasurer of Henry Pilcher's Sons, Inc., pipe organ company, died last week from pneumonia. He was stricken Christmas Day.

Another Postponement in Midwest Theatres Suit

DETROIT—Trial of the suit of Midwest Theatres against Cooperative Theatres of Michigan in federal court, which was inactive over the holidays, has again been postponed two weeks, until January 21, because of the illness of A. J. Levin, attorney for Co-Operative. Levin's illness caused one week's adjournment on December 31.

Date now set for the trial, is just one week before date set in Wayne county circuit court for the trial of a suit brought by Jacob Schreiber, former owner of the houses now in the Midwest group, against Raymond Schreiber, involving title to the theatres.

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from page 48)

M. Totman of the local Warner circuit office addressed the Hill Top Mothers' Club Tuesday afternoon in the South Hills YMCA, his subject being "Social Influence of the Motion Picture in America."

Bryan D. "Buck" Stoner, M-G-M's new branch manager, has passed inspection here. He has been received with open arms by exhibitors and other members of the trade. And although he succeeds Burt Bishop jr., one of the swellest guys in the business, Stoner is already "Buck" to the boys. We knew him years ago when he was a student salesman here for Leo the Lion, and we wish him every success now that he has returned in the more responsible post with the same outfit . . . Independent Theatres, Inc., established headquarters in the William Penn Hotel for the Bishop dinner, where all were welcome to share in the hospitality of this group. The event of Monday was celebrated as a double-header by Harry Walker, whose birthday anniversary fell on that day. He was presented with a large birthday cake.

Frank Roberts of Steubenville, Ohio, was in for the Bishop shindig, and the exhibitor who traveled the greater distance to be present was Paul O. Klingler of Lewistown. Heartily welcomed were George Sallows and George P. Comuntzis of Morgantown, W. Va. The banquet brought out a number of the boys we hadn't seen in many months, and we were glad to again greet Sabu and his brother, Shaik.

Robert E. Johnson, projectionist at the Grand, Carnegie, for many years, died Sunday. He was a motion picture machine operator before the World War, in which he served, and was a veteran member of the IATSE, Local No. 171. He is survived by his widow and his mother. Only a few weeks ago he had become the father of a child. Funeral was Wednesday afternoon with many friends and IATSE members in attendance . . . Isadore J. Mittelberger, 77, of this city, well known in the trade, died Monday at Erie, Pa. . . . Henry B. Vincent, 68, founder and a director of the Erie Playhouse, at Erie, Pa., died Tuesday of a heart attack.

John H. Harris has been named as a member of the executive committee of the industry defense group.

Urge Playdates for "Land of Liberty"

PITTSBURGH—AMPTO of W. Pa. is on record approving the motion picture industry's "Land of Liberty," to be distributed by M-G-M, net proceeds for which will be donated for war emergency welfare work. The action was taken at the recent meeting of the local Allied directors on the recommendation of Abram F. Myers, national Allied counsel. All exhibitors are urged to cooperate fully with M-G-M on booking arrangements for this subject.

CLEVELAND

(Continued from page 47)

versary banquet in celebration of his 20 years with Universal . . . Manager Marvin Samuelson of Warner's Colony has resumed the regular Wednesday book review matinees, now in their second successful year . . . Mrs. Mitchell Blachschlager, whose husband is a member of the UA Cincy staff, is in Cleveland visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Goldberg of PRC . . . Urban Anderson, president of Midwest Specialties Co., distributors of Panoram, believing in "atmosphere," has set up a cocktail bar in his offices in the Film Bldg.

M. M. Jacobs, head of Imperial Pictures Co., went to New York to buy new product for distribution in Ohio and Kentucky . . . Patrons of Lorain-Fulton Theatres last Wednesday were treated to a Hollywood-type "sneak" preview of "Misbehaving Husbands," PRC picture starring Harry Langdon.

F. Arthur Simon of Lake Shore Sales Co. was in Chicago last week attending a house wares convention held at the Palmer House.

Republic salesmen are all back on the road after two weeks Christmas vacation. Nat Lefton, franchise owner of Republic, was in Cincinnati holding a general sales meeting following a meeting in Cleveland.

Two-Reelers by Shirley Are Business-Getters

CLEVELAND—Nate Schultz, Monogram franchise owner, reports that theatres are doing business on the strength of the two-reel Shirley Temple pictures which he is selling not as reissues but as "novelty subjects." Exhibitors, Schultz reports, are exploiting these short reelers to excellent advantage.

On January 15, Monogram will start releasing another novelty. It is a double-horror program. The pictures to be sold in combination are "Chamber of Horrors" and "Dead Men's Shoes." Both are Edgar Wallace stories.

Samuel Neaman Rites

PITTSBURGH—Funeral services were held Wednesday for Samuel Neaman, exhibitor at Natrona, Pa., who died Tuesday evening in Passavant Hospital here.

New Hampshire Trade Has Its Worries

Concord, N. H.—New Hampshire exhibitors are having their worries. The state legislature, incidentally the largest in the country, opened this year with before it for legalization, state lotteries, admittance of pari-mutuel dog racing, and licensing of slot machines.

Kurson Answers in Middlebury Quiz

BOSTON—Samuel Kurson, Graphic circuit kingpin, declined to answer questions regarding the operations in Middlebury, Vt., but later reversed his field and responded to queries on this subject put to him during the four days of deposition taking by George S. Ryan, plaintiff's attorney in a number of anti-trust actions in which Kurson is one of the defendants.

The Graphic circuit executive testified, during his four days on the witness stand, that any of the records of his Millinocket, Bridgton, and Middlebury houses involved in the cases had been destroyed prior to the transfer of the Graphic headquarters from Bangor to Boston.

Kurson told Ryan that he "didn't have any subpoena from you to tell me what I need and what I didn't need."

"Did you tell your bookkeeper what stuff could be destroyed and what kept?" asked Ryan.

"I told her whatever stuff we had prior to 1938 she can destroy," Kurson said. "In some cases she did, and in some cases there were some in Boston which are right here now."

"At the time you gave her the instructions that she could destroy that stuff," Ryan continued, "did you have anything in mind that there were some anti-trust actions pending against you in some other companies?"

"No, sir," said Kurson.

Lydon May Call Meeting Of Allied Unit in Hub

BOSTON—Frank Lydon, Allied eastern regional vice-president and head of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., may call a "hurry-up" meeting of the local organization prior to the national confab scheduled for January 27-28, either at the Carlton or the Mayfair in Washington, D. C. The lateness of the national date will probably move to February the time of the regular annual meeting of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., previously scheduled for sometime this month.

46 Are Passed

BOSTON — "Kitty Foyle," "Invisible Woman," "Her First Romance," and 43 other motion pictures have been passed without eliminations by the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety for Sunday showings in the Bay State. Commissioner Eugene M. McSweeney banned two vaudeville acts and modified eight others.

Paramount Setup Aired In Waldo Trust Suit

BOSTON — The Paramount corporative set-up was aired at length here during the anti-trust suit of the Waldo Theatre vs. the late Joseph Dondis, et al., now being heard at the local Federal Building before Francis Freeman, Master appointed by Judge Peters of the U. S. district court in Maine.

Asked by the court to state, for the purpose of record, the tieup between Publix Theatres Corp. and any of the defendants in the complaint, Ryan replied: "Publix Theatres Corp. was a 100 per cent owned subsidiary of Paramount Publix Corporation, which is the same corporation as Paramount Theatres, Inc. It was formed to manage and control the theatres in United States, including New England, in which Paramount had an interest or control. To a great extent, if not entirely, these theatres were companies in which Paramount either directly or indirectly had more than a 50 per cent interest.

Claims 100% Ownership

"It is our claim that the setup, so far as it affected New England, was that Paramount owned about 100 per cent of the stock in New England Theatres, Inc. Now New England Theatres, Inc., owned stock, to a great extent the controlling proportion of stock, of a number of theatres operating throughout New England.

"Paramount acquired 50 per cent and the right to control the theatres that had been operated by Netoco Theatres Corp. and as the result there was formed the defendant corporation Publix-Netoco Theatres Corp., which is 50 per cent owned, by this Paramount company in New York."

Defendant's counsel, Edward F. McClennen, added, "Publix-Netoco hadn't been organized at this time. Publix Theatres Corp. was to manage, but not to control, the theatres. I couldn't concede at the present time that the theatres in question were owned to the extent of 50 per cent of the stock, or more. I think those are the things. The statement with reference to Rockland Amusement Co., that he was about to start on, I think is not correct."

"I was wrong even before I said it," Ryan sallied. "'In fact, there seems to be an irrevocable presumption against me."

There was some controversy about how far back the motion picture field should be scrutinized insofar as evidence for the case is concerned. The Master finally told counsel that if either side would care to submit some authority on how far back "toward the dark ages" we should proceed, he would be glad to consider them.

Wit Breaks Out

Ryan submitted that, "The supreme court, in the Standard Oil case, held that it was proper to go back beyond the time of the enactment of the anti-trust laws to determine the conduct of Standard Oil Company."

Wit has been breaking out throughout the trial. At one time, a group of 20th-Fox documents were entered as exhibits and marked "K-3." McClennen explained that this designated that they had been made during the third year of Sidney Kent's connection with the company.

Quipped Ryan, "I suppose that during the year K-9 (canine) Fox will be putting out dog pictures."

At another point during the trial, when a large number of documents, stapled together, had been offered as exhibits, the Master objected, "I can't quite see how it would be possible to rule on the admissability of that batch of papers any more than it would be to rule on the admissability of the Encyclopedia Brittanica presented as a whole."

Ryan put in several papers on the interoffice communication of Paramount Publix Corp., explaining "that they tend to show that G. Ralph Branton and Al Bevan were employed in the Paramount Publix Corp. and were engaged in work relative to all theatres."

"If I write to my wife tonight," spoke up John Caskey, 20th-Fox counsel, "I don't think I had better use the Parker House stationery."

Objects to Exhibit

Caskey objected to Ryan's offering as an exhibit carbon copy comprising 40 sheets, the outside of which was entitled "Fox Film Corp. and Publix Theatres Corp., dated June 30, 1930.

"This document," said Caskey, "purports to have been executed in 1930, as it has already been stipulated before Your Honor that Publix Theatres Corp. was a subsidiary of Paramount Famous Players Lasky. That corporation went into bankruptcy the first day of February, 1933. Receivers in bankruptcy were appointed, and thereafter the same persons were elected trustees in bankruptcy.

"It is already in evidence before Your Honor that on or about the same date receivers were appointed in the State Court of Massachusetts for the theatres, or some

(Continued on page 55)

Lottery and Beano Bills Proposed

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—A batch of bills covering a wide range of subjects, some duplicates of those already offered, were filed last week in the state legislature.

A sweepstakes lottery, designed to raise $4,000,000 a year for old-age assistance, was proposed in a bill sponsored by the Massachusetts Society for Old Age Pensions. Senator-elect Charles V. Hogan of Lynn filed the measure along with another bill calling for payment of $10 a week to old-age assistance recipients.

In another measure, Rep. Adolph Johnson of Brockton proposed a 10 per cent excise tax on the gross taken nightly by Beano games. The tax would be turned into the treasury of the city or town where games are held.

'Thief' Leads Hub Parade; Plenty of Holiday Coin

BOSTON—Holiday coin was plentiful in Boston this last week of the year, particularly in the first runs.

"The Thief of Bagdad," doubled with "Blondie Plays Cupid," was the outstanding money-getter of Christmas week, drawing youngsters and adults to the tune of big business at the State and Orpheum. George Raft, doing a p. a. on the stage of the RKO Boston, was an outstanding attraction at the Hub's only first-run vaudeville house. The weather, everything but sunshine, was not much of a factor.

Detail for week ending December 31:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox), 2nd run.....145
Keith's Memorial—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox).....125
Loew's Orpheum—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **Blondie Plays Cupid** (Col) 170
Loew's State—Same as Loew's Orpheum.....180
Metropolitan—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Lady With Red Hair** (WB) 150
Paramount—Same as Fenway 140
RKO Boston—**Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ), plus **George Raft** in person 160

"Love Thy Neighbor" Tops in New Haven

NEW HAVEN—Christmas day opening business was not too good. From that time on, however, "Love Thy Neighbor" and "Youth Will Be Served" walked away with the week's downtown business, sending other totals somewhat under average.

Exhibitors missed the Yale student body, away on vacation, although attendance of local public school children was good. Weather remained favorable. "Arizona" moved to the College for a second week, dualled with "Ellery Queen, Master Detective."

(Average is 100)

College—**Escape to Glory** (Col); **So You Won't Talk** (Col) 90
Loew-Poli—**Arizona** (Col); **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (Col) 90
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Youth Will Be Served** (20th-Fox).....230
Roger Sherman—**Four Mothers** (WB); **Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ) 70

"Philadelphia Story" Top Grosser in Third Week

PROVIDENCE — Metro's "Philadelphia Story," in its third week at the Carlton, continued as the pace-setting film in Providence last week. Combined with the same company's "Gallant Sons," it rang up 50 per cent over average for the Carlton in its third seven-day stanza. Universal's "Give Us Wings," doubled with Republic's "West of Pinto Basin," also proved a strong combination here, attracting considerably over average patronage.

(Average is 100)

Albee—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **San Francisco Docks** (Univ) 110
Carlton—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 150
Favs—**Give Us Wings** (Univ); **West of Pinto Basin** (Rep) 130
Majestic—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox).....100
State—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **Nobody's Children** (Col) 110
Strand—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Three Men From Texas** (Para't) 110

Heads Film Group In Boston Drive

BOSTON—Joseph Brennan, MPTOA executive secretary in Massachusetts, will head the theatrical group in the Greater Boston Community Fund's 1941 campaign to raise $4,883,000 between January 18 and February 15. Brennan's appointment was announced by Andrew S. Seiler, general chairman of the division embracing the entertainment industry.

Edward A. Cuddy, general manager of M&P Theatres, was designated as vice-chairman at the same time.

The goal of $4,883,000 has been described by Henry R. Guild, general chairman, as the minimum necessary to carry on the work of the 200 Great Boston Community Fund agencies that will assist more than 400,000 people this coming year in Boston and its 46 surrounding cities and towns. The theatre group committee, according to Community Fund headquarters, includes:

Harry McDonald, local RKO Theatres division manager; A. J. Munro, resident head of the local Shubert holdings; Howard Burkhardt, Loew's Orpheum manager; Max Finn, general manager of the E. M. Loew circuit; Al Somerby, operator of the Howard; Frank Lydon, president of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc.; George Ramsdell, suburban circuit operator; Sam Soule, operator of several Boston houses, and Francis W. McManus, Maurice Corkery, Harry Wassermann, Edward S. Canter, and Hy Fine of the M&P Theatres Corp.

Discuss Effect of Gov't Action in Music War

NEW HAVEN—Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut met at the Hofbrau Haus Tuesday for the first regular meeting of the new year, with A. M. Schuman presiding.

A discussion was held on the effects the government-Ascap situation would have on them. Opening of the state legislature and impending bills were also discussed. as well as the current Allied membership campaign.

The group will meet again at 12:30 p. m., Tuesday, January 21, at the Hofbrau.

New Theatre Will Go Up Shortly in Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—Construction of the new theatre at Park Ave. and Pequnnock St. will be started in two weeks, according to Louis Seidman of New York. Inability to get the steel for the framework, has delayed the work for several months.

Seidman has decided to name his theatre the Wheeler in honor of the family of the late Nathaniel Wheeler which had owned the property for nearly 100 years.

Martin Mullin Heads Hub Variety Club

BOSTON—Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres Corp. partner, was elected chief barker at the local Variety Club at a meeting of the board of trustees last Friday. Al Kane, Paramount branch manager, was named first vice-president. Ted Fleisher, head booker for Interstate, was designated as second vice-president. E. Harold Stoneman, Interstate Theatres Corp. partner, was named treasurer for the coming year. William Erbb, Paramount district manager, became the new secretary.

Hand-Painted Scroll to Broidy From Variety

BOSTON—"In appreciation for efforts in organizing Tent 23," local Variety Club unit, and in recognition of his services as first chief barker, Steve Broidy has been presented with a hand-painted scroll bearing the signatures of all members of the former Boston Friars Club.

Broidy, who resigned as New England head of Monogram to become national sales chief for the distributor, was in town this week prior to leaving for the west coast. He planned to arrive in Hollywood in about three weeks, making business stopovers along the route. His wife and children expect to join him on the coast in June, after the close of the present school term.

Sanborn Conspicuous at Governor's Inaugural

CONCORD, N. H.—At the inauguration of New Hampshire's new governor, Dr. Robert O. Blood, one of the most conspicuous figures was Ansel N. Sanborn, Carroll county theatre circuit operator, who took his oath of office as a memer of the executive (governor's) council. The former speaker of the House was shown in newspaper photographs marching with other councillors behind the new governor under an archway of sabres formed by officers of the 172nd Field Artillery.

Rebook "GWTW"

BOSTON—Charles Kurtzman, Loew's divisional manager, announces "Gone With the Wind" rebookings at the first-run Loew's State and Orpheum here with "nothing cut but the price." The film, playing single-feature at the Orpheum and State, grossed over a half-million dollars in a total of some 95 playing days.

Tightening Control

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Local 186, IATSE, is making progress in its attempt to control the showing of both 16 and 35mm motion pictures in this area, Owen Holmes, member of the executive board, informs BOXOFFICE.

Annual Ball January 24

HARTFORD—Local 486, IATSE, will hold its annual ball January 24 in the ballroom of the Hotel Bond here.

"Family" Rating for All On Film Council List

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—For the first time in some months, the Springfield Motion Picture Council did not classify any of the 13 films reviewed last week on its "adults only" list.

Included on the "family" list were: "Second Chorus," "Comrade X," "Flight Command," "Love Thy Neighbor," "This Thing Called Love," "Gallant Sons," "Chad Hanna," "Boys of the City," "Arizona," "Thief of Bagdad," "Texas Rangers Ride Again," "Remedy for Riches" and "Michael Shayne, Private Detective."

PROVIDENCE

FIRST RUN and neighborhood houses alike enjoyed SRO business for New Year's Eve shows with grosses reported highest in years. Holiday saw opening of Fairlawn, new Pawtucket neighborhood 950-seat house built by Thomas K. Fisher at cost of $80,000. This is second new neighborhood theatre to be constructed in Pawtucket in past six months; other, Darlton, opened earlier in fall and is doing nice business. Fairlawn is being operated by Levenson Brothers, Boston circuit operators . . . Reports are that new house being planned for Lakewood section of Warwick may be operated by Annotti Brothers, who operate Broadway in Providence . . . Stanzler Corp. expects to reopen the State, Peace Dale, R. I., in next few weeks. House has been dark for several months.

Add to list of Christmas treats afforded Rhode Island kids by theatre managements: Stanzler Corp. gave a canned goods matinee at their Community, Wakefield. Manager A. L. Lashway and staff at Strand, Pawtucket, played host to 1,500 *at annual morning matinee sponsored jointly by Strand and Pawtucket* Times, *with Salvation Army getting the more than* 45 *bushel baskets of foodstuffs brought in by kids. New Darlton Theatre in Pawtucket, managed by Walton Harmon, cooperated with Darlington Community Ass'n at a matinee at which Santa passed out candy and fruit. Manager Arthur Ward and staff at Broadway, another Pawtucket neighborhood house, worked with Pleasant View Social Club in putting on a show in that section of city for another* 600 *kids.*

Fred Newcomb, president of Providence IATSE, is in serious condition at Rhode Island Hospital following fall from a ladder at Strand, where he has long been stage manager. Report as this is written is that pneumonia is latest complication. Newcomb only recently returned to work following long illness . . . Joseph Levy, general booking director for Loew circuit, accompanied by Northeastern Division Manager Charles Kurtzman, dropped in at Loew's State to talk over things in general with Manager Ed McBride. Also looked in at Loew's extended run house, the Carlton, saying hello to Manager Jack Toohey there before heading off to Boston . . . Union pickets began their fourth year of parading before the Hope Theatre, Providence neighborhood house, New Year's day, setting a record of its kind in the state and one equaled few places in the country.

BOSTON

ROY E. HEFFNER jr., manager of the Tower in Lowell, goes gunning for his haberdashery. Heffner budded out last week in a pair of buckskin gloves, made from a deer he shot last fall in Maine . . . Charles Wilson, manager of the Hamilton in Dorchester, has been ill with flu. The wife of Frank Lydon, operator of the house, and their two youngsters have also been laid up with grippe . . . Walter Gillis, office manager at Cameo Screen Attractions, Inc., lost his mother-in-law last week . . . Hy Rodman, formerly in Rhode Island for E. M. Loew, has been assigned by the circuit operator to the Embassy in Rochester, N. Y. . . . Eleanor Glazier, secretary to Harry Asher of Producers Releasing Corp., has appeared in several Peabody Playhouse productions.

Lawson Daniels has gone for a new dish deal at the Capitol in Pawtucket . . . Joseph Kleine of the Lancaster in Boston has signed with Sam Davidson for a new crockery handout . . . Shep Epstein, special field representative for the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., has been in Connecticut concentrating on Allied organizational membership there . . . Maurice Goldstein, newly appointed M-G-M New Haven manager, will greet Connecticut exhibitors formally at a dinner at the Hotel Taft on January 14 *in honor of Tom Donaldson, new M-G-M Boston manager who took over here this week.*

William Purcell, New Bedford independent, has clipped flesh from the Strand there . . . Ed Myerson, manager of the Davis Square in Somerville for E. M. Loew, has started a new dish deal at the suburban house . . . Fred B. Murphy, manager of the Quincy in Quincy for Max and Joseph Levenson, canvassed surrounding territory by postcard before opening a new crockery giveaway . . . Solly Levin of the M-G-M office force has been confined with a cold . . . Jack Byrne, former Boston branch manager for M-G-M, is on a New York assignment.

Ben Domingo, RKO city manager, had the tab version of George White's "Scandals" on the stage of the RKO Boston last week . . . Harry Olshan of Columbia is out of Beth Israel . . . Ray Kinery has a new Sam Davidson dish deal at the Opera House in Bellows Falls and is opening the handout this week in the Vermont theatre . . . Nathan and Sam Goldstein put a new dish premium into the Strand, Holyoke . . . Charles Brent of Brent Theatrical Enterprises, Inc., continues in Oklahoma.

Leo Young, Portland manager for Ralph Snider, has been supervising renovation of the Strand in the Maine city . . . Ralph Snider was in Portland looking over progress there on his newest house . . . Marietta Baer, who recently resigned from the M&P booking department following marriage, has been substituting at 60 Scollay Square . . . A. C. Kilpatrick of the Levenson circuit has been ill . . . Theodora Lytle, secretary to Arthur K. Howard at Independent Exhibitors, Inc., has been at her desk despite a cold . . . S. L. Loew jr. of the Theatre Candy Co. has been laid up at his uncle's home in Newton.

Jeanne Finkelstein of Specialty Pictures, Inc., is in New York for a vacation . . . Elizabeth Dervin of M-G-M has been in Florida . . . Ed Renick, local M-G-M salesman, has been hospitalized in New York . . . Ann Harrington of M-G-M was out with a cold . . . Maurice N. Wolf, M-G-M district manager, has been in bed with the grippe . . . Arthur K. Howard, local Allied business manager, was confined to his Wellesley home with the grippe the latter part of last week . . . Emmanuel Cohan of Columbia is back from the Caribbean . . . Saul Simons, Columbia salesman, has a southern tan . . . Victor Mature is in town . . . Betty Field has been here.

BRIDGEPORT

MICHAEL CARROLL, American manager, has been troubled with a sprained ankle . . . Manager Matt L. Saunders of the Loew-Poli entertained in his office with a hot roast beef buffet. Division Manager Harry F. Shaw and Lou Brown, director of publicity, were among the guests . . . John R. Franchey, press agent for Burgess Meredith, was in town . . . The city is considering summer stock for Pleasure Beach Park next summer . . . Edward Beloin of Stratford is one of the authors of "Love Thy Neighbor" while Norman Sullivan, former Loew-Poli doorman, contributed to "A Night at Earl Carroll's."

Lillian McCoy Ferron is back home from visiting her parents in Tama, Iowa . . . Rosalind Russell, at her home in Waterbury for the holidays, got a scare out of the New England earthquake . . . Charlie Katz is off for Miami to spend the winter . . . "Gone With the Wind" goes into the Loew-Poli on January 16.

Proctor Patterson Jones is looking for location here for winter stock. Only house available is the long-dark Park . . . The Groton is well pleased with the news that the Electric Boat Co. in that town is soon to add 2,500 employes. Company, working on Navy submarine orders, now employs upward to 5,000 workers.

The engagement of Miss Margery Louise Usher of Milford to Ralph G. Broderick jr. of Devon has been announced. Broderick is projectionist at the Fine Arts, Westport.

Fairfield Police Again Issue Bingo Permits

FAIRFIELD, CONN.—Local police are again issuing permits for Bingo. The game was banned here for many months because operators were unable to obtain the needed number of petition signers to obtain a permit. Pickup of work in the city is credited with the sudden demand to restore the game.

Jean Parker to "Power Dive"

HOLLYWOOD—Jean Parker has been set to play opposite Richard Arlen in "Power Dive." Paramount will release for Picture Corp. of America.

SPRINGFIELD

WILLIAM B. HAGGINS, assistant chief of the Loew's-Poli service staff, has been upped to chief of service, succeeding Elwin Bowker, who has resigned to work in a local factory. Arthur Jarvis, Loew's-Poli doorman, has also gone into local factory work . . . Milton Hale, Hollywood commentator for WMAS, spent New Year's Eve in Boston with friends . . . Orpheum, Malden, was recently renovated by George Ramsdell . . . Charlie R. Smith, manager of the Broadway, sponsored a combination Christmas-New Year's party for the theatre's service staff . . . Harry Smith, division manager and also director of publicity for the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., announces that a divisional managers' meeting will be held at the Broadway Theatre building headquarters of the circuit sometime this month . . . Doris Whittle is the new cashier at the E. M. Loew's Court, replacing Mrs. Olive J. Simms, who resigned.

William Powell, division manager of the Rifkin Theatres here, spent New Year's in Newport, R. I., with his family . . . Freddie I. Frechette, manager of the Rifkin Garden, is now driving a new Ford sedan, and Milton Hale, Hollywood commentator for WMAS, now has a 1941 *Dodge sedan . . . Herman Rifkin was in town to look over his theatres . . . Bruce Jerauld, former doorman at the Rifkin Garden, is the new doorman at the WB's Capitol . . . As combination Christmas-New Year's gifts to Manager George W. Coleman and Assistant Hy Nozak at the Arcade, the Arcade's service staff presented Coleman with a cute little desk clock, and Nozak with a handy desk file . . . Andrew A. Sette, manager of the WB's Capitol, was in New Haven on business last week.*

Manager Carl Jamroga of the Forest Park Phillips obtained tieups with some 30 Springfield stores and shops for window displays on "Bitter Sweet" . . . George E. Freeman, Loew's-Poli manager, had a tieup with WMAS for transcription via the air waves for "Flight Command" day before playdate . . . Ruth "Cookie" Hurley, usherette at the Loew's-Poli, had a cold . . . William Viau, former usher at the Arcade, is a new usher at the Harry Arthur Art . . . Little Tough Guys and Johnny Downs were to have started a three-day engagement at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, Springfield, January 9 . . . New chief of the service staff at the E. M. Loew's Court Square is Arthur Nelson Deane, who succeeds Robert Gordon, resigned.

Madeleine Shea, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shea of Springfield, and Emile Melanson of Miami, Fla., were married last month down south, it was announced last week here. Madeleine, who is a Broadway actress, has two industry-ites in her family fold—Michael, her father, is the GB's Paramount billposter, while Ray, her brother, is billposter for the Bijou . . . Manager George E. Freeman of the Loew's Poli announces that "Gone With the Wind" will start a run at that theatre, commencing Thursday, January 23.

More Rifkin Theatres ramblings—Louis Lambert, projectionist at the Garden, and a certain Springfield female are planning to walk up the aisle to the tune of "Here Comes the Bride" sometime in February . . . Carl Jamroga, manager of the Forest Park Phillips, spent the holidays visiting relatives and friends in Manchester, Conn. . . . All Rifkin theatres in town had New Year's Eve shows, except Liberty, Strand, and Jefferson. Carl Jamroga of the Phillips brought in "North West Mounted Police" at a nickel increase on all adult admissions, while Freddie I. Frechette of the Garden presented a two-feature show, at 20 cents top . . . Abe Becker, billposter for the Phillips, last week purchased three pounds of garlic (garlic being his one lifetime love) which he hopes will last him for a month at least.

Manager George E. Freeman of the Loew's-Poli had some 10,000 *heralds distributed throughout the city for "Flight Command" . . . Ruth "Cookie" Hurley, usherette at the Loew's-Poli, is now being broken in to be relief cashier at that situation . . . Lillian Cooper is the new Art candy girl, replacing Natalie Lewis . . . Chet Bascom is a new usher at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, succeeding David Pinnard, resigned . . . Ray Title, Art manager, visited the Boston film district . . . Lorraine Contour is now the new candy girl at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, in place of Theresa D'Angelo, resigned.*

Shiny, new yellow cabinet has been instituted into the booth at the Garden . . . Russell McDonald, former Arcade usher and now a student at Alabama University, visited the Arcade boys over the holidays . . . Jack Ross is a new part-time usher at the WB's Capitol . . . Edward Levesque is a new porter at the Capitol . . . Margaret McDonald, Arcade cashier, has hopes of becoming a dietician some day . . . Milton Piepul, Thompsonville, Conn., boy who captained the 1940 Notre Dame football team, was the guest of the Chicopee Kiwanis Club at its meeting last Thursday night in the Coconut Grove, where films of some Notre Dame games were shown.

Use of the Springfield Municipal Auditorium on the evening of January 16 *for an amateur benefit performance to aid the Greek War Relief fund was approved last week by the City Property Committee . . . Hampden county exhibitors were mighty glad when the Ice Capades of* 1941 *ended a week's run at the Eastern States Coliseum, West Springfield, January* 1 *. . . GB's Paramount returned to vaudeville for its New Year's offering and presented "Funzafire" on its stage.*

Springfield Billposters Re-elect Entire Slate

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—At a meeting of the Billposters' Union, Local 15, AFL, at Central Labor Union hall here, all officers were re-elected, as follows: President, Jack Marcus (Loew's-Poli); vice-president, Ray Shea (Bijou); secretary, Robert Clark of Springfield, and business agent, Michael Shea (GB's Paramount).

A meeting of the union will be held at Central Labor Union hall on Sunday, January 12.

Hire Architect to Plan New House in Fairfield

NEW HAVEN—Fishman Theatres, Inc., commissioned O. C. S. Ziroli, architect, to draw sketches for a large, modern business building to be erected on its recently-acquired 400x650 feet plot on the Post Road in Fairfield.

The building is to include a 700-seat theatre, bowling alleys, recreation hall, stores and offices. Fishman executives report building will probably begin late next spring. The firm already operates the Community in Fairfield, as well as five theatres in New Haven.

: NEW HAMPSHIRE :

WHILE Bill Elliott was on the screen at the Crown in Manchester in "The Wildcat of Tucson," Bill Elliot, "Singing Cop" of the airwaves, was headlining the vaudeville show at the State in the same city.

Junior Christmas Club members were guests of the Amoskeag Savings Bank at a free show at the Palace in Manchester. The young folks merely had to show their Christmas Club books to gain admittance.

Although the Franklin in Durham is closed during all holiday vacations of the students at the University of New Hampshire there, a night performance was held during the Christmas season and proceeds were turned over to the Durham Community Church by the proprietor, Arthur Stewart.

Lloyd Bridgham, manager of the Broadway in Dover, has been installed as immediate past president, as well as secretary of the Dover Kiwanis Club . . . Walter E. Young, owner of the Strand in Farmington, has been confined to his home with a severe attack of neuritis. His daughter, Norma, a student at Vesper George School of Art, has also been ill at home.

: NEW BRITAIN :

PETER PERAKOS, owner of the Palace and also a Thompsonville exhibitor, made a business trip to New Haven last Monday . . . The WB Bristol, Bristol, managed by Victor Morelli, had Republic's "Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride" on its bill last week . . . Mrs. Joe Bornstein, wife of the WB Embassy manager, was ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Swen Swanson are expecting the stork sometime in February. Swanson is projectionist at the WB Embassy here . . . Patrick McMahon, manager of the State, is planning a new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Perakos of the Palace announced the engagement of their daughter, Diana, to a naval officer.

Record for "Arizona"

HARTFORD—Manager George E. Landers of the E. M. Loew's here reports that last week's receipts on Columbia's "Arizona" smashed all previous gross records at that house.

Would Exempt Chain As a Defendant

(Continued from page 51)

of the theatres, theretofore operated in New England by Publix Theatres Corp., and that those receivers, together with the trustees in bankruptcy, with the approval of both courts, caused the formation of the defendant M&P Theatres Corp., and that that corporation thereafter purchased and booked motion picture films with these theatres. So it appears already in the record that this document came to an end, as to its performance, early in February, 1933.

"So we say it is wholly irrelevant to any issue in this case. I will say, also, that on the face of the document there is no evidence that any of the theatres concerning which we have been inquiring were involved.

"The plaintiff merely mentions its claim which is referred to in the pleadings of a conspiracy prior to December 10, 1935, and one of the means and methods subsequently agreed upon and adopted was the use of franchise and contracts," said Ryan, "giving the privileges and preferences which were not granted to independent exhibitors including long and unreasonable periods of protection, and in that document is the statement that Fox agrees to give the same average protection as that given by other distributors. In the memorandum on the front page there is a list of some 483 theatres.

Claims M&P Took Over

"Now in a case like this you have to show the relationship of the parties and how they are working together and you are entitled to show something of the prior history. Mr. Caskey has given some dates here as to bankruptcy proceedings. I haven't checked on the dates, but at any rate New England Theatres never went into bankruptcy, and I don't think Rockland Amusement Co. ever went into bankruptcy. We claim that M&P took over just where Publix left off."

Caskey replied, "There is already in evidence a letter from Mr. Dermody to Branton, dated August 4, 1932, which shows precisely what clearance Fox granted for the 1932-33 season. So the contract which Mr. Ryan quotes wouldn't seem to have any significance whatever."

Objects to Document

The document, as presented, was objected to by McClennen.

"Now, if Your Honor, please," said Caskey, "the relevancy of this document must, I assume, depend upon the allegations of the complaint. This could be only admissible in the first cause of action, and there is no allegation in the first cause of action of conspiracy by any subsidiary or with any subsidiary of Paramount. Somewhat different terminology has been used in the second cause of action, but the terminology in the first cause of action is that the 'defendants entered into a combination and conspiracy,' and Publix Theatres isn't a defendant, and there is no allegation in the first count that the defendants had acted by divers agents and instrumentalities at all, a flat allegation 'the defendants.'

"And one of the purposes of the conspiracy was to give unusual privileges and preferences to producer-controlled theatres. Judge Peters has already decided in a motion filed that the fact that neither of the plaintiffs is damaged by a particular set does not mean that that cannot be alleged to show conspiracy," said Ryan.

McClennen then said, "The protection referred to by Mr. Ryan appears to be 'Both as to period of protection and as to area of protection the exhibitor is entitled to and shall receive from the producer the same protection (except as otherwise specified in the annexed schedule) which the exhibitor customarily receives as average protection from time to time, from the larger distributors of feature motion pictures, including Paramount Publix Corp. Such protection period and protection area shall be defined and identified from time to time by written agreement between the producer and the exhibitor, and any dispute as to either the period or the area embraced in such protection shall be determined and settled by arbitration, and pending such settlement the period and area of protection shall be that in use and effect between the producer and exhibitor prior to the time of said dispute.'

On Dating Period

" 'As to each photoplay, every such protection period shall include, and be deemed to include, without any reference thereto being required in the aforesaid written agreements and/or determination by arbitrators, the period ending 74 days after the date fixed in a notice by the producer to the exhibitor as the date of availability of such photoplay for exhibition, (which 74 day period is hereinafter called dating period) provided, however, that if by the end of the second week after the giving of the notice positive prints of the photoplay affected shall not then be in the producer's exchanges in New York City, Los Angeles, California and Dallas, Texas, the dating period shall be further extended by the number of days intervening between the end of the second week after the giving of the notice and the date on which positive prints of the photoplay affected shall actually be on hand in said exchanges.

The Protection Period

" 'The protection period to be defined and identified, as first hereinbefore provided for, shall in each instance begin to run from the expiration of the dating period provided however that if a photoplay be actually played prior to the expiration of such 74 day period, then the protection period shall begin to run from such actual play date. Wherever any runs of photoplays are subservient to "key city" first runs, producer agrees not to sell or serve any photoplay for any such subservient runs on more favorable protection terms than those which are accorded by other major distributors, who have similar key city distributions; provided however, said dating period shall not conflict with nor nullify any protection or run period heretofore contracted for by the producer to subservient runs in any city, town, or zone covered hereunder.'

Agreement to "Avoid Expense"

"That is the complete sub-paragraph. Now, without intruding on the position of any other defendants, and contending that this is wholly immaterial, we are willing to agree for the defendants that we represent that on June 30, 1930, Fox Film Corp. and Public Theatres Corp., now non-existent, entered into an agreement which contained the clause which I have read. I do this in the hope of avoiding the considerable expense of having photostated this extensive agreement, whether it be admitted or excluded."

The court ruled, "Without attempting to pass on the weight of this particular document at this time, it may be admitted for what it is worth as to Fox Film Corporation and as to Paramount, subject to the ability of the plaintiff to show a continuity of the corporate setup."

"In this particular case would something be done to save the expense of photostating that whole document?" asked McClennen.

"I was about to ask Mr. Ryan," replied Master Freeman, "if there was anything in this document he wanted, over and above the statement which Mr. McClennen read."

Summarized Contract

"There was, Your Honor, yes." Ryan continued, "When I said 'unusual privileges and preferences, etc.' I referred to the fact that an agreement of this kind would be made with the producer-controlled theatres as distinct from the ordinary exhibition contract of the distributor with which he deals with the independent exhibitor. At one time I did summarize that contract and I think I can find a copy of my summary and maybe we could agree to use that in addition to Mr. McClennen's reading of that particular provision, which I believe is in my summary."

"Of course the document doesn't go at all toward showing these special privileges and preferences. Until Mr. Ryan has shown that the same sort of thing wasn't done with independent theatres, and he will recall the many such agreements that went in before Mr. Hendricks—," said McClennen.

"Many such what agreements?" questioned Ryan.

"The kind that you now recall. They were not listed in your list. They weren't viewed with the same degree of favor by you as these," said McClennen.

"Well, I know,—" said Ryan.

"I refer to that as a bearing on the candor of your assertion that that sort of thing was done only with the producer-controlled theatres, when you are possessed of the knowledge which you are on the subject."

"Bagdad" Scenes Make Him Pray for Allah

Boston—One of the evening performances of "Thief of Bagdad" at Loew's Orpheum here was interrupted when a Hindu in the audience ascended to the stage, knelt, and began strenuously to hail Allah. He explained the scenes of Bagdad had carried him away.

Charles Kurtzman, Howard Burkhardt and Joseph A. DiPesa, local Loew's executives, swore it was no plant.

Clearance Definition Controversial Point

New England Feels Business Boom

BOSTON—The boom of New England business is already being felt by the industry. This territory is entering "the New Year on a rising tide of business activity," according to the New England Council, which points out that November showed a 10 per cent increase above normal for the past ten years of business activity.

Increases in employment and retail buying and decreases in relief lists, are already marked here with, according to the authoritative New England Council, "every reason to believe that these conditions will be even more evident in the months ahead. The New England farmer and New England worker will find their products and services in better demand in 1941 than for several years past.

Began Last June

"Continuing the forward movement initiated last June," read the Council's statistics, "New England business activity in November, 1940, increased 2.6 per cent over the rate prevailing in the preceding month, and was 3.6 per cent higher than in November, 1939." The Council's index of the general business activity for November was 109.9 per cent of the estimated normal, as compared with 107.1 per cent in October and 106.2 per cent in November 1939.

"With the level of business activity in New England closing the year more than 19 per cent above the estimated normal, it is apparent that in 1941 industrial production in this region will probably be larger than in any year in the past decade."

At the beginning of 1940, on the basis of the New England Council's index, manufacturing output in New England had risen to 103.0 per cent of the estimated normal. This was about the highest rate of activity that could be expected without a general country-wide expansion of business.

Machine Tools Responsible

"However, a general expansion in business in the United States did not occur and, as New England manufacturers worked off their backlogs of orders, production rates in New England began to decline.

"This condition prevailed until May when the Council's index dropped to 91.1 per cent. In June, production increased four per cent and continued to expand in each successive month, so that, for the beginning of 1941, the rate of industrial activity in this region is estimated at better than 110.0 per cent of normal. This expanding industrial activity has been the machine tools manufacture."

The Council, however, suggested caution and pointed that, "Large proportions of business profits will be recaptured by the taxing authorities about as rapidly as they are earned."

Hub Downtowns Prosper; Neighborhoods Falter

BOSTON—Concrete evidence of a rising new tendency here was noted New Year's Eve when downtown midnight was crashed through with heavy coin while the neighborhoods were laying eggs.

Film men pointed to the phenomenon as proof that returning prosperity in manufacture in New England is already causing many lower-bracket theatre patrons to put on the ritz to the extent of passing up quarter houses for de luxers.

As one suburban exhibitor puts it, "A lot of my patrons who are working for the first time in months, have already begun to wash their necks and now go to the 50 cent houses."

Reminds of Flight of Fame

Manchester, N. H.—Today's topnotch film actors and actresses shouldn't be forgetting the day when their fame will diminish, in the opinion of the Manchester "Union."

An editorial, captioned "Headliner Now," read:

"Mickey Rooney, et al., are now so busy receiving plaudits that this may seem a poor time to remind them that fame is a good deal like time. Both are fleet. At this time they are among the 10 biggest money makers in the business. They are 'up there,' as the saying goes, and good luck to them.

"But maybe they will take time off from the bowing and handshaking to listen to a bit of philosophy that deserves a place among the archives in the Halls of Immortality. The lesson in question came not from Confucius, or from none of the other recognized philosophers, past and present.

"It came from a movie player whose name once loomed large in the bright lights of movie palace foyers—from specifically, Agnes Ayres, who died recently in Hollywood. Speaking not long ago of her attempted comeback in filmdom, she said: "It cost me half a million dollars to learn the value of a nickle.'

"Yes, moralizing at such a time as this, when Mickey Rooney & Co. are cashing in so handsomely, may seem inappropriate. As a matter of fact, however, there couldn't be a better time for repeating Miss Ayres' little lesson in basic economics. Once again, both time and fame are fleet."

HARTFORD

RUSSELL F. GRANT, student assistant at the Loew's Poli, returned to work last Monday morning after having been ill at home with the grippe . . . Bob Crovitz, formerly chief of the State's service staff, is now working for a delicatessen . . . Mickey Daly of Hartford and Plainfield visited New Haven film exchanges last week . . . Plaza, Waterbury, had double horror show consisting of "Torso Murder Case" and "Face at the Window" . . . Miles Miller, doorman at the Princess, and Mary Yates, chief usherette at that theatre, were married in New York last fortnight . . . Jessie Ginsburg is a new part-time usher at the Loew's Poli . . . Manager Jack A. Simons of the Loew's Poli had "Rhythm in the Saddle," "The Flag Speaks," and several cartoons as offerings for the annual Mayor Spellacy's kiddies' party at that theatre last fortnight.

Congratulations are in order for the WB's Capitol, Ansonia, which is currently observing its 20th anniversary . . . Jimmy Dorsey and his orchestra and Hartford's gift to the nation's burlesque, Ann Corio, were offered patrons of the Lyric, Bridgeport . . . Metropolitan, Providence, had Jan Savitt and his orchestra plus Patricia Ellis, screen star . . . Elihu Brooks and Merrill Rome, Loew's Poli and Loew's Poli Palace doormen, respectively, are great basketball enthusiasts . . . In Boston last Monday on business was Bernard William Levy, manager of the Proven Pictures, and also division manager of the Frederick E. Lieberman Theatres in Holyoke, Mass., and Hartford . . . Maurice Radin of the Peoples' Candy Company, Worcester, passed through town.

In and about the state: Mrs. Fannie Kullman, mother of Charles Kullman, Metropolitan Opera tenor, died last fortnight at her home in New Haven . . . Alhambra, Torrington, had Blackstone the magician on its stage . . . Both Middlesex and Capitol theatres, Middletown, double billed "The Bank Dick" and "Hit Parade of 1941" on New Year's Eve . . . Empire, New London, played Republic's "Gaucho Serenade" . . . Leroy Phelps, well-known motion picture photographer, presented his new sound film, "Wheels Over India," at the New Haven Open Forum in New Haven's First Methodist Church last Sunday night . . . Webster Theatre Company is now sponsoring a 15-minute program over Station WNBC, New Britain and Hartford, every day.

Louis J. Konoir, usher at the Loew's Poli, has resigned . . . Black Rock brought in by request "Kentucky" . . . Albert Cook, doorman at the WB's Strand, has been ill at home with a bad cold. Meanwhile, Laurence Wasilieff, relief doorman, has been filling in . . . In New Haven last Tuesday was Martin Kelleher, State St. Princess manager . . . Myra Harris, daughter of Maurice Harris, one of the State's proprietors, visited her father over the holidays. While here, she was photographed informally with members of the Hollywood-on-the-loose company.

Tom Brown, the screen star who appeared at the State last week, spent several summers as a life guard on the beaches around New London . . . "High as a Kite" was presented at the Bushnell's Memorial last Friday night by the University of Pennsylvania Mask & Wig Club . . . The play, "The Male Animal," is due at the Bushnell's Memorial next week, after which it's slated to go on to the Shubert, New Haven, for a three-day run . . . Jack Terrazzio, chief of the State's service staff, is quite a winter sports fan . . . "Love Thy Neighbor" did smash SRO business at the M&P's Allyn . . . Manager George E. Landers of the E. M. Loew's was in Boston last week on business.

Rialto, Norwalk, has been remodeled . . . Regards are in order for Ted Smalley, Garde, New London, who is the proud father of a baby boy, who has been named



They Get Ready for the Increase in Business—

New England theatres that recently have ordered new equipment and otherwise improved their plants in anticipation of an upbeat this year. Supplied by courtesy of Maynard Sickles of the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. in Boston, which firm sold the equipment mentioned herein, the photos show:

Top row: Left, the Millinocket in Millinocket, Me., which received new seats, projectors and projection lamps. Mr. LePage, the operator, plaintiff in an extant $100,000 anti-trust suit, is one of the best fishermen and hunters among New England exhibitors. A number of film men, including George S. Ryan, the lawyer, and Leon Foster and Charles Fish of Capitol Theatre Supply, were his guests on deer-hunting trips this past fall. At the top right is the York in Athol, Mass., during a snowstorm. The house is operated by Abe Garbose, who also runs another theatre in the town. Sidelines include a clothing shop and a shoe store. Capitol recently installed drapes in the house.

Lower row: Left, the Premier in Littleton, N. H. It is operated by Jack Eames, who comes very near being New Hampshire's busiest exhibitor, what with his gasoline company and real estate businesses. He recently put in a new projector. Next is the Strand at Randolph, Vt., recently acquired by John Robe jr. from Merton Carr. The Strand has been completely re-equipped. Then the Tyler at Pittsfield, Mass., operated by William Shea, formerly of the Bijou in Holyoke. New equipment includes a re-seating job. And finally the Maine at Waterville, Me., where Ulysses Ponsant did a bit of equipment modernizing. Ponsant, whose hobby is fishing, also operates the City in Belfast, Me.

David Allen Smalley . . . Martin Harris, the fellow who handles the New York end of bookings for the State, Hartford, had a birthday recently . . . Joseph Faith of Terryville, Unionville, and Collinsville, is expected to open his new 700-seat theatre in Bristol sometime next month . . . Main stem Daly had an amateur contest on its stage last Thursday night . . . Ed Fitzgerald of the Loew's Poli, Waterbury, had a large blown up head of Harpo Marx mounted on a base to serve as a lobby display for "Go West" at that theatre . . . Robert Elliano, manager of the Palace in Torrington, was ill at home for several days.

Ted Whalen is a new part-time usher at the WB's Strand . . . Lester Winick has joined the ushers' corps at the State . . . Clock on top of the boxoffice at the Loew's Poli has been removed . . . Manager James F. McCarthy of the WB's Strand reported smash SRO business with "Santa Fe Trail" . . . Charlie Barnet and his orchestra and Elaine Barrie appeared on the boards at the State last week.

HARTFORD

New Year's Resolutions—Jack A. Simons, manager Loew's Poli: "To put into effect all the resolutions I made last year, and the year before that" . . . Walter B. Lloyd, manager M&P's Allyn: Non-committal. "Because it might reveal all my bad habits" . . . James F. McCarthy, WB's Strand manager: "Not to smoke during 1941" . . . Louis Cohen, Loew's Poli Palace manager: "To hold over more big Metro pictures from the Poli" . . . Maurice Schulman of the Schulman Theatres (Webster, Rivoli, and Plaza-Windsor): "To do all in my power to make my patrons comfortable while viewing the shows at our theatres in Hartford and Windsor."

Markoff's Moodus, Moodus, is now offering enamelware to its patrons . . . In Hartford last Thursday on business were: Harry F. Shaw, Louis A. Brown, and Elliott Kronish of Loew's Poli New Haven offices. Joel A. Levy, of Loew's, New York, was also a visitor . . . A spaghetti dinner was held at Rubera's Spaghetti Palace for members of the Loew's Poli Palace service staff. Chairman for the event was Holly Sweeney, the theatre's student assistant. Gifts were presented to those in attendance . . . Hartford Friends of Boys held theatre parties at the M&P's Allyn last Friday afternoon and Saturday. "Love Thy Neighbor" and "Missing People" were shown . . . Charlie Bradshaw, assistant projectionist at the E. M. Loew's, is now a projectionist at Manager Joe Anger's Astor, East Hartford. George Goodroll is the E. M. Loew's new projectionist . . . Robert O'Donnell, doorman at the E. M. Loew's, resigned last week to join the navy.

NEW HAVEN

TOM DONALDSON'S testimonial dinner Tuesday, January 14, at the Taft, it is predicted, will have attendance record, including large representation from New York and Boston. Dinner will start off the 1941 film social calendar with a bang, and combine sendoff of Donaldson with official welcome of new Metro manager, Morey Goldstein . . . Only fair is the report of most nabes around the state *re* New Year's Eve late shows. Bridgeport had none at all, except for downtowns . . . Paramount was practically a sellout with its vaude.

Exhibitors seem to favor Warner idea of starting new show at 6 *in the evening and running through the late hours. Late Loew-Poli shows all reported better than last year . . . "Comrade X" broke all records of the Poli, Hartford, on New Year's day and continued exceptional all through the week . . . "Love Thy Neighbor" did almost two and one-half times the usual business at the Paramount during Xmas week and was brought back after the intervening New Year's week . . . Globe, Bridgeport, and Poli, Waterbury, report tremendous New Year's Eve business with their vaude . . . Proven Pictures, Hartford, told 'em "They Must Be Told" in late shows all week beginning with the New Year, with admission at* 44 *cents . . . E. M. Loew's and Palace, Hartford, both had holdovers to start the year, "Arizona" and "Chad Hanna," respectively . . . "NWMP" played the Palace, Meriden, New Year's Eve at* 55 *cents and continued regular engagement at regular prices.*

Students and faculty of Yale University back 5,000 strong January 7, and theatres glad of it . . . The Lincoln reopened its doors on the same date after a short holiday . . . Big usher turnover is problem to downtowns . . . "GWTW" back in town at 40-55 cent admission at the Poli, January 16 . . . Strand, Norwich, included novelties giveaway in its New Year's celebration . . . Bob Russell raised the sound of his airplane motors in "Flight Command" above the noise of over-boisterous celebrators.

Reply briefs were filed by attorneys in the S&S Theatre Corp. and Middlesex Theatre, Inc., "conspiracy" case against Sal Adorno et al., and it's anybody's guess when the matter will be decided . . . Harry Lavietes, sued by Ascap for non-payment of fees, is something of a local hero, now that Ascap is itself involved in a government suit . . . Colonial, Bridgeport, starts Adolph Johnson's Colonial Edgewood two-a-week deal first week in February after display which brought hearty approval . . . New Haven chamber of commerce reports retail business from five to ten per cent better than last year all though, with figures the best since 1928, *and in some cases, since* 1924. *State employment here made* 60 *per cent more private placements in December,* 1940, *than the same month,* 1939, *and* 30 *per cent more for the year.*

Bowling will be a regular film sport in 1941, says Chairman Al Parizer of Columbia, and he will attempt to arrange matches every Tuesday night, to include E. M. Loew's Hartford team, the Strand Amusement, Bridgeport; Stratford, Essex Square and other teams around the state. For this Tuesday, matches were scheduled between the Poli and Whalley, Columbia and Warner Theatres, and Paramount and Fox against an all-exhib team. All film people are urged to get in the swing.

Morey Goldstein, Metro chief, is living at the Hotel Taft temporarily while he takes over the New Haven exchange from Tom Donaldson. Meantime, Maurice Wolf holds the fort in Boston until Donaldson's full-time duties are assumed . . . Harry Shaw was in charge of all newsreel men at the governor's inauguration in Hartford . . . Charles Levine of Strand Amusement will be going to Florida this month . . . Ben Louries spent New Year's in Boston . . . Jeanette Berliner saw 1941 *in at Atlantic City . . . Fred Warner, Paramount operator, and Mrs. Warner are off on a motor trip to Florida next month . . . Sam Rosen will make his annual fishing trip and visit to his father in Miami soon . . . Lou Schaefer, Paramount Theatre manager, and Mrs. Schaefer announce the engagement of their daughter, Margaretha, to Carl Johnson of Glenbrook.*

Joel Levy of the Loew booking department in New York spent New Year's Eve with the Harry Shaws at the Taft, and stayed over to cover the Loew-Poli circuit in a tour of several days . . . Elwood Russell, attending the Connecticut "U" holiday dance, made the rotogravure pictures of the party in the Hartford *Courant* . . . Helen Dolan, Paramount cashier, has resigned in favor of teaching . . . The new candy girl at the Paramount is Ethel Jones . . . Bob Munzer, assistant at the College, which was closed New Year's Eve midnight show, celebrated for the first time in ten years . . . The Sidney Swirskys spent the holiday in South Norwalk . . . Avery Memorial will have a novel jazz opera, "Victory Against Heaven," January 17 . . . Certificate of preliminary dissolution has been filed for the Warner Realty Co., Bridgeport.

The Russell-Rubin Poli corner display background of small airplanes mounted on a revolving disk for "Flight Command," is made more effective by colored side bars of light which make the planes change color as they revolve. Russell was given the Herald *fortnight award for the Marx Bros.-Yale student publicity . . . Richard Schaefer has returned to Holy Cross after a vacation with his parents, the Lou Schaefers . . . Tom Donaldson attended the farewell testimonial dinner which Boston gave Morey Goldstein.*

See Record Turnout For Tom Donaldson

NEW HAVEN—Advance reservations received for the Thomas G. Donaldson farewell testimonial dinner January 14, at the Hotel Taft, indicate that this will be one of the best attended dinners in local film annals.

Donaldson, who assumes his duties as Boston Metro exchange manager after three and one-half years in the New Haven exchange, will be feted by many New York, Boston and Providence film friends, as well as representatives of all parts of Connecticut. Dinner will be preceded by cocktails at 6:30 p. m. at the Taft, Co-Chairmen Harry Shaw and Barney Pitkin announce. Maurice N. Wolf, Metro district manager at Boston, will be emcee and Morey Goldstein, new Metro manager here, will be given an official welcome.

The New York contingent indicated by early reservations includes William Scully, E. W. Aaron, Charles Deesen, Jack Shea, Edward Peskay and Ted O'Shea. The exodus from Boston for the event will include, among others, Maurice Wolf, Tom Bailey, Walter Higgins, Phil and Dan Seletsky, Al Bevan, Henry Wolper, Harry Rosenblatt, Harry Warden, Harry Alexander, Larry Herman, Al Kane, Arthur K. Howard, Charles Repec, M. Levenson, Tom Duane, Bert Jacocks, William Erbb, Hy Fine, Nat Furst, Lou Gordon, William Horan, Arthur Lockwood, Harry Golden, Zippy Goldman, Chester Grenier, Fred and Mort Lieberman, Frank Lydon, Charles Morse, Martin Mullin, Sam Pinanski, Morris Pouzzner, Herman Rifkin, Harry Rogovin, Phil Smith, Gus Schaefer, Ben Stein, and Bert Mackenzie.

Other out-of-towners include Ralph Pielow, Albany; Nathan Yamins, Fall River; Myer Stanzler, Wakefield; Edward Wallace, Milton; Leo Kalfin, Matapan; Ed Fay, Providence, and Dr. I. McCarthy, Chelsea.

State Theatre Corp. Is Formed by Harris Trio

HARTFORD—State Hartford Theatre, Inc., has filed certificate of incorporation, naming Theodore Harris of West Hartford, Martin D. Harris of Paterson, N. J., and Samuel E. Harris of Passaic, N. J., as incorporators. Authorized capital is $50,000. The corporation operates the 4,000-seat State.

Articles of Association

HARTFORD — The Community Theatre Building Corp. of Hartford, Inc., has filed articles of association, naming Cedric G. Thompson as agent.

On "Fantasia" Run

BOSTON—Milton Chamberlain is slated to manage the Majestic, local Shubert house, during the roadshow engagement of "Fantasia," beginning January 23. Jack Goldstein, former local RKO theatre publicist and later national United Artists exploitation manager, will handle advertising on the engagement.

Premiums by the Ton

BOSTON—Premiums by the ton are being handed out by Walter Stuart, manager of the Community in Attleboro for the M&P Theatres Corp. Stuart tied in with a local coal dealer for weekly free fuel giveaways.

Candy Company Expands

BOSTON—The Theatre Candy Co., headed by S. L. Lowe jr., has expanded into larger quarters in the same building, the Motor Mart on Stuart Street.

Q and A Routine on Federal Ticket Tax

DALLAS—At the request of members of Allied of Texas, H. A. Cole, president, queried the collector of internal revenue on questions often put by exhibitors concerning the federal tax on theatre tickets. Back came the following, in question and answer form:

QUESTION: Is anyone under the age of 12 considered a child admission as federal admission tax applies. Is anyone over the age of 12 considered an adult admission as federal admission tax applies.

ANSWER: Section 1700 of the code provides that in the case of persons (except bona fide employes, municipal officers on official business and children under 12 years of age) admitted free or at reduced rates to any place at a time when and under circumstances under which an admission charge is made to other persons an equivalent tax shall be collected, based on the price so charged to such other persons for the same or similar accommodations. Section 101.5 of Regulations 43 provides that a bona fide employe, a municipal officer on official business or a child under 12 years of age is not liable for any tax if admitted free, and if admitted at a reduced rate is liable for tax on the reduced price, provided such price is 21 cents or more.

QUESTION: Where tickets are sold in books of 19 tickets at 20 cents and are used individually, does the tax apply if such admission tickets are used where the adult admission exceeds 20 cents.

ANSWER: It is held that where a book of 19 tickets is sold at a price of 20 cents for each ticket while the regular established price of a single admission is in excess of 20 cents, the tickets are sold at reduced rates and a tax must be collected equivalent to the tax on 19 single tickets of admission at the regular established price.

QUESTION: In the case where a theatre reserves a certain section for student admissions, ages ranging 12 to 16 and the admission price is 20 cents or less, is the tax applicable provided other sections of the same floor charge an adult price in excess of 20 cents. Would the admission tax apply provided this reserved student section were not available to any admissions in the taxable class.

ANSWER: Any person 12 years of age or over admitted free or at a reduced rate is liable for tax equivalent to the tax on the regular established price of admission to other persons, that is, to adults for the same or similar accommodations. For example, if students (or other persons) from 12 to 16 years of age are admitted at a price less than the admission charge to persons over 16 years of age, the persons between the ages of 12 and 16 years are admitted at reduced rates and must pay a tax equivalent to the tax on the admission charge to persons over 16 years of age for the same or similar accommodations. The setting aside of a certain section for student admissions does not relieve the students from payment of the tax on reduced rate admissions unless the price for which the students are admitted represents the established price to all persons alike for admission to that section.

QUESTION: Where service passes are issued permitting a patron to enter for 10 cents which is a reduced admission from a price of 21 cents or over, does the tax apply.

ANSWER: Persons admitted on passes for a service charge of 10 cents at a time when the established price of admission to other persons is 21 cents or more are liable for tax based on the regular established price of admission to the other persons for the same or similar accommodations.

Crescent Suit Dismissed Against Distributors

NASHVILLE — The government's complaint against seven major film distributors, included in the anti-trust suit against the local Crescent Amusement Co., was dismissed January 3 in two orders handed down by Federal Judge Elmer Davies.

"Upon the stipulation of counsel for the plaintiff and defendant," the main order read, "Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Distributing Corp., Loew's Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., and 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., it is hereby ordered, adjudged, and decreed that the complaint be dismissed as to said defendants."

Assistant U. S. District Attorney O. W. Hughes, who represented the government, said the distributing companies had made a satisfactory settlement with the government in the main anti-trust suit against them in New York. Therefore, counsel for plaintiff and defendant stipulated that the complaint against the distributing companies included in the Crescent suit be dismissed, he said.

The second order issued by Judge Davies directed that four paragraphs be stricken from the original bill of complaint filed in federal court here August 11, 1939. The paragraphs referred to the defendant distributors and alleged methods of distributing films. Hughes said, however, that the stricken section did not remove the "body" of the main suit.

Hearings for Trio Of Damage Suits

Dallas—Film men will again be witnesses and spectators in Judge W. H. Atwell's federal court when the Jorgensen, Glass and Kirchheimer damage suits against Interstate are set for hearing Monday, January 13. The Jorgensen case is believed to be first in line for a hearing.



Homer Mulkey Dead—

Death claimed Homer Mulkey, Clarendon, Tex., exhibitor, in Fort Worth Thursday morning several days following a major operation. He was one of the most widely known of the state's showmen.

Funeral Services Held For Ainslie G. Wood

DALLAS—Funeral services for Ainslie George Wood jr., manager of the Tower and Melba on Elm Street, who died suddenly of a heart attack, were held Monday with burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

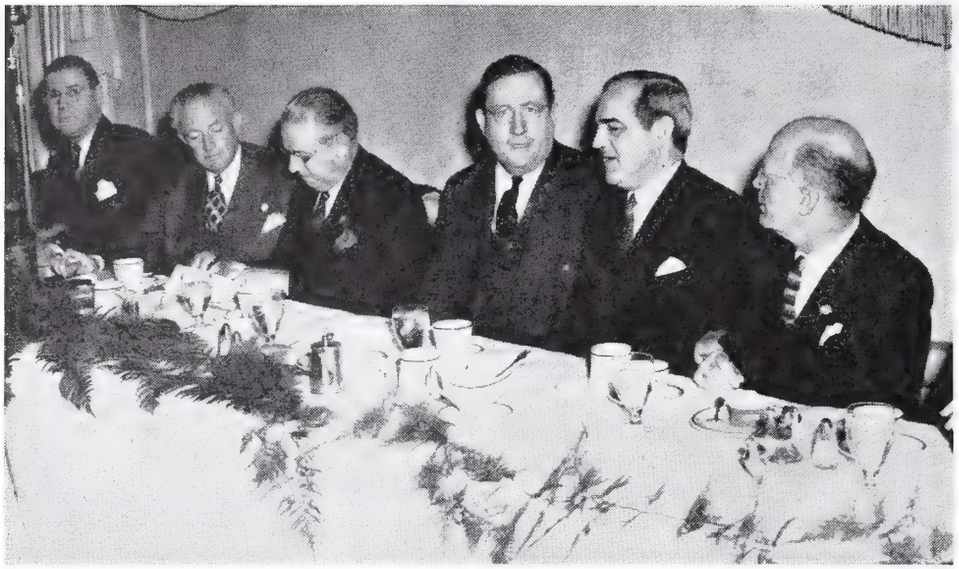
He started in show business here several years ago, with his first training being under J. E. Luckett at the White Theatre. A graduate of Texas University and a former student at Cornell, he was a lieutenant in the cavalry during the First World War. Wood was also a member in a number of social and civic clubs, including Variety. He was 43 years old.

He is survived by two brothers, both of Dallas, one being Major E. A. Wood, city planning engineer.

Meeker to Manage Tower And Melba in Dallas

DALLAS—Charles R. Meeker, assistant to J. O. Cherry, Interstate's city manager, has been elevated to manager of both the Tower and Melba theatres on Elm Street, succeeding the late Ainslie G. Wood.

Meeker has been with Interstate for five years. He handled publicity for the Palace and the Majestic and was manager of the State in Amarillo for a year. He moved back to Dallas in 1939 as Cherry's assistant.



—Landau-Meister Photo

At the O'Donnell Testimonial—

Part of the dais shows, left to right: H. B. Robb, R. J. O'Donnell, Burt King, Gen. William McCraw, Ned E. Depinet and R. E. Griffith. Also on the dais, but not shown here, were Wallace Walthall, Don C. Douglas, W. G. Underwood, Ted deBoer, Jake Lutzer, J. B. Underwood, Lynn Stocker, B. C. Gibson, Lou Bissinger, J. O. Cherry and James R. Grainger.

600 Attend Luncheon Honoring O'Donnell

DALLAS—Six hundred members of the trade and their wives turned out for the Variety Club luncheon Monday at the Adolphus Hotel in honor of R. J. "Bob" O'Donnell, who recently retired as chief barker of the local Tent after five years in that post.

In the absence of Paul Short, the new chief barker, due to illness, his assistant, Burt King, presided.

The business of the gathering got under way with the reading of the creed of the Variety clubs by Wallace Walthall.

General William McCraw, the only speaker at the affair, was introduced by King following the luncheon. He paid a fine tribute to O'Donnell for his constructive efforts in behalf of Variety and the show business generally.

Shares Credit for Success

After taking from McCraw a gold card designating him honorary chief barker of the Tent for life, O'Donnell said that no one man in Tent No. 17 was responsible for its success. He pointed out that Ed Wilson, a Dallas exhibitor, was responsible for Variety choosing as its main charity objective the Freeman Memorial Clinic. Harry Sachs, he said, furnished the idea on how to raise the money for building a new wing onto the clinic. Ben Ferguson, another exhibitor, he said, was responsible for the Turtle Derby last year which provided funds to build the Sullivan Park swimming pool.

O'Donnell then introduced the 1940 officers and directors. He also introduced Ned E. Depinet, vice-president of RKO, as the "local boy who made good in the big city," and James R. Grainger, president of Republic, both of whom were seated on the dais.

Following a custom instituted by "Dough Guy" J. B. Underwood, O'Donnell presented a gold key for the club door to the new chief barker, Paul Short. Mrs. Besa Short received the key in her husband's absence.

King then introduced the officers and directors for 1941 and read the many telegrams from over the country congratulating O'Donnell on the occasion.

The luncheon adjourned after two hours with the orchestra playing "Eyes of Texas." A long line passed in front of the dais congratulating and shaking hands with O'Donnell.

Ned Depinet Renews Dallas Friendships

DALLAS — Renewal of many life-long friendships were a part of the visit here this week of Ned E. Depinet, vice-president of RKO, who was in town primarily to attend the Variety Club luncheon honoring R. J. O'Donnell, vice-president of Interstate.

Depinet, early in his career, traveled Texas as a film salesman for many years and later became branch manager for Consolidated Film & Supply Co. (Universal). When the big promotions did start, they came rapidly, stepping him up from district manager to general sales manager in short order. Then in short order he was made RKO vice-president.

Headquartering in his suite at the Adolphus Hotel, Depinet went over distribution matters for this territory with Robert Mochrie, RKO eastern division sales manager, and Sol Sachs, branch manager here. He also conferred and visited with the various circuit heads before returning to New York.

Tribute by McCraw To 'Bob' O'Donnell

DALLAS—Below, in abbreviated form, is the tribute paid to R. J. "Bob" O'Donnell by Gen. William McCraw at the Variety Club luncheon held Monday in O'Donnell's honor at the Adolphus Hotel:

"Bob O'Donnell began in an humble way. As a lad he knew the hardships of physical toil. He carried brick and mortar up the scaffolds of a great city, and so did his part to make it greater . . . His small wage was a contribution to the family funds to help in its fight to live. The boy was then the same unselfish, generous soul that the man is today.

"Bob O'Donnell loved laughter, he joyed in seeing people happy . . . Nothing was more natural than that 'show business' should take him and grow with him.

"Bob was a treasurer at 17. As the years mounted he moved on up the ladder. His has been the advancement of proven demonstrated ability. Bob O'Donnell has never crushed another or betrayed another that he might move on . . . Indeed it has been just the opposite. The boy hod-carrier learned how to build—the man has not forgotten the lesson of his youth.

Modest in Giving

"Charity is not an event with Bob O'Donnell—it's a religion. Yet there is a modesty, a lack of assumption, that makes his giving a double blessing . . . There's a story in the Holy Writ about a man like Bob O'Donnell. It is there recorded that on an occasion, a pretender, a man who carefully measured his charity and then gave only when the photographers were on hand. There were the type of men who pray in public places; there were the type of men whose piety is but a veneer to cover hypocrisy. This man stood in a public place near the Temple and, turning his eyes toward heaven, he thanked God that he was not like other men; he thanked God that he was better than his neighbors. Bob O'Donnell is not that type.

"Later a simple man came along. He had lived. He had won. He had lost. He knew the depths to which men might fall. He knew the heights to which men could rise but, above all, he recognized how vain is the accomplishment of man. In a quiet place, he looked not towards the heavens but cast his eyes toward the ground. His prayer was a plea of humility—'God, have mercy on me a sinner.'

"One of God's Noblemen"

"I don't know what Bob's religion is, but I know that only a good tree can bring forth good fruit. My town is a better town today than it was before he came this way. His leadership and generosity will be felt long after we are gone in the lives of now crippled children who will then be sound men and women. Texas will be a better state by reason of the added strength of the underprivileged who have been given new vision and a clear perspective.

"I am not given to too fulsome praise. I've seen too many men look good and then fail. But here today we have no fears. No king need knight Bob O'Donnell, for he is one of God's Noblemen."

DALLAS

FRED M. JACK, Warner southwest district manager, a pneumonia victim, is reported "better" at Medical Arts Hospital. He was able to sit up last Tuesday. He will be confined some days yet, however . . . Doak Roberts, Warner branch manager here, was down a few days with the flu but is now back on the job.

Burt King was complimented generally on his appearance as master of ceremonies at the O'Donnell luncheon Monday. He pinch-hitted for Chief Barker Paul Short, who was sick. It was all extemporaneous with Burt, but he did a swell job. He said it was his first experience at an affair of this calibre.

A. V. Wade, who owns the Gainesville theatres, including the new and modern State, in affiliation with Griffith, was here Monday for a brief visit.

An established fact is that L. B. Brown of the Regal and Ritz in Gatesville, is expert with the rod and reel, and most always brings in a string. A second fact now uncovered, is that he is equally good, looking down the barrel of a shot gun. He went quail hunting the other day, shot three times and only killed two birds. That made the headlines. The Coryell County News *carried a three-line banner head screaming, "L. B. Brown sought by police, shot three times, killed only two quail." It was a prank by friends, of course, but evidently it's an offense when Brown misses.*

The Nathan Browns, operators of the Sunset, had with them during Christmas week their father-in-law, F. W. Kaufman, who is a business man in St. Louis. The visitor was shown around the film exchanges and supply houses.

Mrs. Mary Straker, mother of Mrs. Joe Estes, whose husband is the trailer expert at National, was here from Chicago for the holidays. She attended the Variety New Year's Eve party.

Jimmie Scott, who arrived several weeks ago for special sales work on Alexander Prevues, has been made district manager of the company with headquarters in Dallas and with charge over the Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas territories. Tom Patterson, vice-president of the Alexander company, spent a week here from his office in Colorado Springs.

Bob Hooks of Mineola altered routine by spending two days on the Row this week instead of the usual one. The reason was the new theatre he is to open soon in the new oil town of Hawkins. Bob said he was booking pictures and completing his equipment buying and that he just couldn't get through in a day.

Claude Ezell of Republic turned in with the flu for a few days.

Mrs. Morris Schulman of the Bryan Amusement Co. was here during and after the holidays taking in a number of social festivities.

Mart Cole arrived Wednesday from Rosenburg to catch up on bookings after being interned with the flu. He said all of his south Texas towns were hard hit, not only from the cash standpoint, but that his operators and cashiers were also out.

Julius Gordon, chairman of the board of Jefferson Amusement Co., was here for an after-the-holidays visit. He attended the O'Donnell luncheon Monday . . . M. K. McDaniel, owner of the Lamar at La-Marque near Galveston, was here calling on exchanges with Forrest White of Ind-Ex Booking Service, who books the house.

L. C. Baxley, who operates the new Plaza in Houston, and Roy Howell, who has three theatres at Coleman, were on the Row booking.

Herschel Crawford, owner of the Palace at Slaton; K. N. Greer, R&R partner at Cisco; J. C. Chatmas, Palace, Marlin; and Martin Lamour, who is about ready to open the new National at Graham, were in town Wednesday.

J. S. Walker of the Texas at Grand Prairie, where many of Uncle Sam's warplanes are soon to be built, was using a cane to get around the Row because of a knee injury . . . George Wiley left here Thursday for Seminole where he takes a job with W. E. Cox as projectionist and lobby man at the Palace.

See "Know Your Money"

WICHITA FALLS, TEX.—"Know Your Money" was shown free of charge at Hardin Junior College to students and townspeople.

SANTONE

IT IS estimated 15,000 persons attended the New Year's Eve midnight performances held in ten Interstate theatres . . . The Roller Derby is drawing 4,000 sport fans nightly to the Municipal Auditorium . . . Back on duty after an illness: Beulah Greene, State cashier, and Miss J. B. Powell, Majestic concession vender.

Owl show at the National featured Arturo de Cardova, film star from Mexico; Senorita Luz Maria Nunez, Jorge Reyes, and Don Alverito at the piano . . . Richard Nussel was recently appointed assistant manager of the new Drive-In. Wayne McNeil is the new chief of service . . . Leo Kuentz has been promoted from doorman to assistant chief usher at the Empire . . . Jack Ford, formerly of the Empire, is now service staff chief at the State.

Buddy Morey, formerly employed at the Drive-In, has joined the Navy and is at present stationed in San Diego . . . Lionel Stiglets, lately on the Majestic floor staff, has been transferred to the Texas as assistant chief of service . . . Interstate has taken over the old Sam Houston which will be remodeled and reopened soon.

Jack Silverthorne has been shifted from the State to manage the Prince, which Interstate acquired from L. M. Oppenheimer recently. Richard Corneilson takes Silverthorne's place as assistant skipper at the State . . . When Bert Smith's musical comedy company moves into the Texas, January 17, there will be 24 gals in line, comedians, an orchestra, feature picture, and bills will be changed weekly.

From Corsicana comes news that the Palace, a 1,250 seater, was damaged by fire last Monday. Estimated loss was $8,000 . . . Once again we ask south Texas showmen, who have any news of interest to the trade, to jot it down on the back of a postcard and mail it to Lester Ketner, 531 North St., San Antonio, Tex. Then watch BOXOFFICE for same in print.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

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How Many Patrons Regularly Compliment His Perfect Reproduction and Come Back Again and Again.

Sure It Costs More And It's Worth It.

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

Dallas, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Charlotte and Oklahoma City

Dallas Grosses Climbing; "Comrade" Stands Out

DALLAS—Grosses on Elm Street continued up New Year's week. Tops was "Comrade X" at the Palace, which came in New Year's Day following "Love Thy Neighbor," which was shifted to the Tower. Unusual for the Street was the double bill at the Capitol which stood them up. The pictures were "Girls of the Road" and "Boys of the City."

Gene Autry, because of the extra quality in "Melody Ranch," moved into the Rialto as a "promotion" from the Capitol where he plays regularly.

Detail for the week ending January 5:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Charter Pilot** (20th-Fox) 100
Played Tuesday and Wednesday.
Capitol—**Ellery Queen, Master Detective** 85
Opened Thursday and went for two days.
Capitol—**Boys of the City** (Mono); **Girls of the Road** (Col) 135
Novelty booking. Last part of week, including Saturday and Sunday.
Majestic—**Arizona** (Col) 125
Palace—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't).....125
First half.
Palace—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 135
Opened New Year's Day.
Rialto—**Too Many Girls** (RKO) 95
Played three days.
Rialto—**Melody Ranch** (Rep) 110
Played last half of week including Saturday and Sunday.
Tower—**Go West** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....100

New Year's Grosses Are Not Up to Expectancy

NEW ORLEANS—New Year's week grosses were not up to expectancy in New Orleans due to bad weather and the fact that thousands of holiday merry-makers turned to night club and hotels in which to see the old year out. However, the Rio, featuring Republic's "Melody Ranch," reported above average attendance at a slight upward price tilt, as did the Orpheum, Saenger, Loew's and Liberty for special New Year's Eve night shows.

(Average is 100)

Center—**East of the River** (WB) 95
Globe—**Down Argentine Way** (20th-Fox)..... 90
Lafayette—**Barnyard Follies** (Rep), plus stage show 125
Liberty—**South of Suez** (WB) 90
Loew's—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 150
Orpheum—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 150
Rio—**Melody Ranch** (Rep) 150
Saenger—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox) 150
Strand—**Tropic Fury** (Univ) 100
Tudor—**Hit Parade of 1941** (Rep) 100

Tough Weather Retards Holiday Week Takes

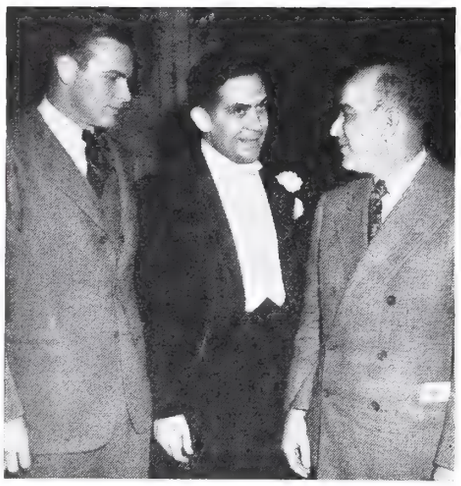
OKLAHOMA CITY—Tough weather held grosses back a little during the holiday week. New Year's Eve previews generally did good business with "Kitty Foyle" at the State, "Love Thy Neighbor" at the Criterion, and "Boom Town" at the Circle (subsequent run) getting the most play.

Only competition was January 1 staging of "Philadelphia Story" at the Shrine with Katharine Hepburn in person.

Details for the week ended December 31:

(Average is 100)

Criterion—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 110
Liberty—**Give Us Wings** (Univ); **Courageous Dr. Christian** (RKO) 105
Midwest—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 125
State—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO) 100
Tower—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox) 110
Moved from first good week at Criterion.



Cotton Bowl Interlude—

On the eve of the fifth annual Cotton Bowl game between Texas A&M and Fordham, Tent No. 17 of the Variety Club of Texas staged its most successful New Year's Eve dance and celebration at the Adolphus in Dallas. Present were some 700 members and guests, including such names as Kate Smith, Grantland Rice and Clarence Budington Kelland, in addition to nearly a score of ace eastern sports writers who came in for the grid classic. Above, during an interlude in the festivities, the camera caught, left to right: "Jarrin' Jawn" Kimbrough, A&M's two-year all-American; Paul Short, newly-elected chief barker of Tent 17, and Kimbrough's mentor, Coach Homer Norton of A&M.

Sacks Behind New House Going Up in Beaumont

DALLAS—Lester and Alfred Sack are behind a new neighborhood theatre for colored now under construction in Beaumont, it is learned.

The building, all new, was designed by Raymond Smith, Dallas architect. To be fireproof and to seat 500, it will be operated by South Texas Theatres, Inc., the incorporators being Lambert Toplitz, a Beaumont business man; Harry Jacobson and Lester and Alfred Sack.

With a minimum of weather delays, the theatre should open the last of February.

Robert Hooks to Open New Select, Hawkins

MINEOLA, TEX.—Robert Hooks, operating the Select Theatre here, is about to open the new Select at Hawkins, 16 miles east, where oil play and some production, has created no small boom. The building is well under way, picture contracts have been put through and the opening is expected in about 45 days.

AUSTIN

SHORT short story: About six months or so ago, Paramount sent Director Jimmy Hogan and a camera outfit to our town to shoot pictures of Austin, the capitol building, and Texas Ranger headquarters for "Texas Rangers Ride Again." All the city folk were excited about the event, but now word comes from Hollywood that less than 30 seconds' running time is given over to the Austin shots in the completed production.

Recent "a. k." flickers at the Texas (Manager Gerald Raines) include "Scarface," "Sky Devils," "History Is Made at Night," and "San Francisco" . . . Paramount's pack-'em-in midnight show Saturday was "This Thing Called Love" (Col) . . . Bill Hellums of the Capitol paired "The Quarterback" (Para't) and a two-reeler, "Highlights of the 1940 Southwest Conference," for nice grosses . . . "Santa Fe Trail" (FN) played the State one week, which ordinarily books two shows weekly.

Ruel McDaniel, author of the book, "Vinegaroon," upon which parts of "The Westerner" (UA) were based, seen doing research work for another book in the Texana collection of the University of Texas library . . . Put a black wig on Elmo Hegman, skipper of the Ritz, and what do you have? A dead ringer for Orson Welles . . . "The Philadelphia Story" (stage version) a sellout at the Paramount . . . "Manana Is Another Day," original comedy that premiered on the U. of T. campus recently, set for a week's run in the Pasadena Playhouse.

Betty Waite, of the theatrical Waites of Texas, to Beaumont and back . . . Mary Murchison made a quickie trip to Fort Worth . . . Dorothy Warren in town again after visiting the folks in Washington, D. C. . . . That new usher at the Queen is Harper Green . . . LaVon Buck back at the Paramount candy counter after the two-week singing engagement with Barney Rapp at the Plantation, Houston . . . Byron Speckles dashed home to Yoakum for a day . . . And Wilbur Evans to Mexia and back.

Max Terhune, long featured as one of the buddies in the "Mesquiteer" series and now playing the role of "Alibi" in the Range Buster series for Monogram, made a two-day personal appearance at the Ritz. Other recent stage appearances at this live-wire independent theatre have been made by John "Dusty" King, one of Terhune's associates in the Range Buster pictures; and Tex Ritter.

New 1,300-Seater for Oak Cliff in Dallas

DALLAS—Robb & Rowley-United Theatres will build a new 1,300 seat de luxer in Oak Cliff, it is announced.

The location is at the corner of Hampton and Colorado and takes in the Stevens Park area. Robb & Rowley also operate the Texas, Rosewin, Midway, Bison and Astor in Oak Cliff.

MEMPHIS

AMONG those who attended the Sugar Bowl Game in New Orleans were Gerene and Jimmy Rogers, who sit at the controls of the Columbia exchange; E. R. Gillette of the Bristol, who was fighting a siege of the flu, and Walter Parham of the Royal. Walter is rather unhappy these days, having picked the wrong team to win.

Ed Gibbons, manager of the Millington at Millington, Tenn., and right hand man to G. W. Haynes and the Strand Enterprises, left Monday for a year's training at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.

With the flu practically reaching the epidemic stage in Memphis all the exchanges are working short handed. Among those who have been absent are: Bob Bostick, NTS; Bill Lewis, Monogram; Berney Rappaport, Paramount; Mildred Neighbors, Republic; Irene Jones, RKO; Sally Scott, R&R office, and many others.

Harry Shaw, the manager of the Ritz at Aberdeen, Miss., made his initial booking trip to the Row since taking over his new duties . . . A most infrequent Filmrow visitor was Joe Dillard of the Dillard in Wardell, Mo. . . . Grover Lantrip has announced the opening of a new theatre in Parrish, Ala., during the early part of the year. He now operates theatres in Powhatan, Cool Valley, Phillips and Oakman, Ala. . . . R. H. Collins, with Mrs. Collins, who operate the Country Show at Maben, Miss., were recent visitors.

Lyle Richmond and John Mohrstadt, who operate a circuit of theatres in northeast Missouri, were forced to close their house in Campbell, Mo., for approximately ten days due to the flu. Incidentally, it was necessary for Lyle to leave John to finish the circuit bookings on their trip to Memphis this past week, as he had to return to his home in Senath due to a sudden attack of the flu.

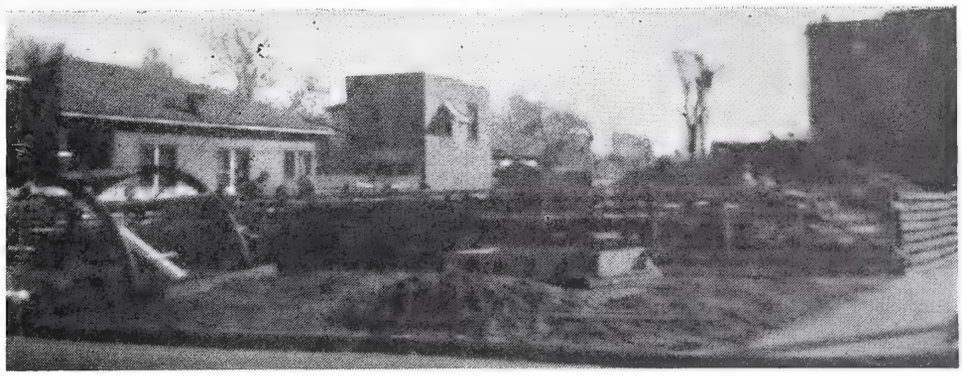
Joe Applebaum and Mrs. Applebaum combined business with pleasure on their trip to Memphis. They came up New Year's Eve to see the old year out and greet 1941 *in the Skyway at the Hotel Peabody. Joe started the new year off right by spending New Year's Day booking . . . W. F. Ruffin of the Ruffin Amusement Co., at Covington, Tenn., has been confined to his home for the past week, due to old man flu.*

Exhibitors seen along the Row: W. B. Ford, New, Hamilton, Ala.; Ned Greene, Legion, Princess, Ky.; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Noble (Mr. Noble doing the booking for the Harlem at Greenville, Miss., while Mrs. Noble booked for the Temple and Rex at Leland, Miss.); G. F. Goff, Rustic, Parsons, Tenn.; Orris Collins, Capitol, Paragould, Ark.; K. K. King, Commonwealth Amusement Co., Searcy, Ark.; G. E. Sibley, Dixy, Adamsville, Tenn.; Wilford Bonds, Dyer, Dyer, Tenn.; J. R. Adams, Bruce, Bruce, Miss.; R. J. Goodman, Rex and State, Starkville, Miss.; G. H. Brewer, Savoy, Clarksdale, Miss.

This week saw the return of the salesmen into the territory after two weeks vacation, which just about covered the entire United States . . . Ann Stevens of the RKO Exchange is recuperating at home from a major operation at the Baptist Hospital . . . Speaking of salesmen and vacations Milton Lindner, salesman for NSS, who spent his vacation in New York City, which is his home, arrived there in time to be rushed to the hospital for an emergency appendectomy. As yet "Lindy" has been unable to make the return trip . . . Dorothy Gardner, also of the local NSS office, is recuperating at home from an appendectomy.

The New Year's party given at the Variety Club was one of the best parties of the season. M. A. Lightman jr., who was in charge of all arrangements, planned and executed a very novel idea in entertainment . . . A. D. Fielder, and his booker, Gladys McCallum, of Steele and Lilbourne, Mo., were on the Row booking for the first time since the holidays . . . W. A. Rush, who owns the Houston at Houston, Miss., announces the temporary closing of his theatre until the flu epidemic subsides.

Tommy Haynes, Columbia salesman, went quail hunting the first few days of his vacation and walked so much that he spent the balance of his vacation at home, sans shoes, in an effort to ease the pain caused by his blistered feet . . . The Variety Club is boasting a new carpet in the reception rooms . . . An infrequent visitor was C. H. McCroskey, who spent a couple of days advancing his bookings for Dermott, Eudora and Lake Village . . . V. G. Williams sr., of Grenada, Miss., father of Homer J. Williams of the Grenada and Pix theatres in Grenada, Miss., died at his home in Grenada on January 5 *after a short illness. Mr. Williams was* 84 *years old. Funeral services were held Monday, January* 6.



A Health Center Will Rise Here—

In time, on this rather empty-looking site, will rise Tent No. 22's first major charity project, a community health center. Work began only recently on the project, to be situated at Hudson and Pottawatomie Avenues, near downtown Oklahoma City.

WHY DON'T YOU

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NEW REFLECTOR ARC LAMPS
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1026 SANTA FE BLDG. **BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC.** DALLAS, TEXAS

Touring Tennessee

By A. JULES BENEDIC

NASHVILLE—As we slip into Sudekumville—beg pardon!—Nashville, the impression grows that prosperity, so long 'round the corner, perhaps is here at last. At least, milling crowds riotously welcoming the New Year, and spending real money withal, give rise to that impression. Nineteen-forty-one got the noisiest welcome of any year thus far, the Nashville press reports, and the New Year, along with "Comrade X," proved an irresistible combination at Loew's here. Maybe no records were broken, but overflow crowds were the rule and, it is feared at this writing, that Manager Will Crull and Assistant B. Cranch have a hit on their hands.



BENEDIC

Linking the Laugh to Lyons

We tried to get into the midnight show, as a paid customer, (something highly unusual) but it was no go. So we joined the other 'villians at the Knickerbocker, where "No, No, Nanette" also was playing to crowded houses. Next day we confided to Hubert Lyons, RKO Atlanta manager, here on a business visit, that Anna Neagle is due for an Oscar soon. Tony Sudekum, who overheard the remark, said that if she did, she'd get it under some banner other than RKO's. Of course, Mr. Tony's sally must be accepted as just such, for he good-naturedly chaffed the Atlanta exchange manager during the latter's entire stay here.

We crowded Mr. Tony for news, and he conservatively allowed that the biggest news of the week is Hubert Lyons' visit, already chronicled, so it will have to go at that. Inadvertently, however, he let slip that the attractively-lighted map-of-the-world globe and stand near his desk was a Christmas gift from his Negro porters. Perhaps a little thing in itself, but it gives some idea of the high regard in which this stalwart Tennesseean, member of the Governor's staff for years, is held in all circles hereabouts. So it's this easy-to-get-along-with guy who's head of one of the largest theatrical empires in the country!

Needless Shifting of Shifts

Later the Crull-Cranch combination Oakleys us into "Comrade X," the M-G-M killer-diller that's slaying local 'villians. The picture's a knockout, and Hedy the same, even encased in that Soviet nightgown. Nobody except that blase Gable would complain, and request a shift to a more modern bed-garment. This shifting of shifts,* so to speak, is a needless waste of time, in our estimation, which might be better employed in that Kremlinesque hideaway. Rigidly we take the stand that Hedy as a honeymooner is high, low, Jack and the game as compared with these other Hollywood cuties. We've seen Hedy shifted, as in "Comrade X," and shiftless, as in "Ecstasy," and the gal takes not only the cake, but the whole bakery—and the proprietor's nephew.

We flit to the Fifth Avenue, where our old friend, Lee Castleberry, holds forth, or sometimes Fifth; Lee being also, in a manner of speaking, the Man Friday for the Crescent crowd. Lee pulls a hot showmanship stunt in our presence, the same being duly linotyped elsewhere near this paragraph. We're also his guest. Nashville's pretty far north, but that Tennessee hospitality is rampant.

Bijou's Banner Bristles

Over paving blocks that remind us of Poydras St. in the New Orleans of yesteryear, we bump to Bijou Amusement headquarters. We spiel with Sprott, whose first name is Evans, and also renew acquaintance with Milton Starr and meet Harry Sternheimer. These Starr boys, incidentally, have parlayed a couple of "jig joints" into a vast colored theatre empire that covers Dixie just like Bill Oldknow used to say Consolidated Film did in the old days. This slang must be pardoned, boys, for this hard-bitten reviewer sees here one pip of an operation.

Evans confides that Bijou has just taken over the Star at Meridian, Miss., from Charles R. Hatcher and closed it for repairs that will run into some $15,000. This acquisition, along with the Bailey holdings in Atlanta and the far south area, places approximately half a hundred houses under the Bijou banner.

Quick Wits— And $1,675!

Nashville—Lee Castleberry, Fifth Avenue Theatre prexy, pulled a nifty before an overflow audience on "Bank Account Night."

Out of 69,000 pellets, that of Mrs. D. E. Eddins, local matron, was drawn from Pandora's box.

The amount was $1,675, an elegant New Year's present in any language!

Mrs. Eddins, mother of a well-known local radio singer, was not present. She had signed an attendance card, however.

Lee thought he wasn't getting any run for that big dough. There were thousands present.

So he galloped to a phone. He squeezed into the booth. 'Twas a tight fit, as associates who know the Castleberry embonpoint will verify.

Mrs. Eddins waxed unintelligible at first. But she seized the thought she was wanted at the theatre immediately. Then she seized a taxi.

Lee stopped the picture.

Mrs. Eddins stopped long enough to say thanks.

The audience stopped to stamp and cheer.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Although this is probably the world's worst pun, our traveling emissary uses the word "shift" properly, at least in a grammatical sense. Our representative calls attention to the unabridged work of one N. Webster, top of column two, page 2,312. There are 30 definitions of the word. No. 5 he passes over lightly. This reads:

"A device for entertainment. Obs."

No. 7, divided into a number of sections, is more to the point:

(B) "A body garment for either sex; now, a woman's chemise. (C) Dial., A shirt."

Memphis Hopes Flu Will Flee

MEMPHIS—You've either got it, or you haven't. We refer to the flu. More than likely you have it. It's no news, therefore, to mention the filmites down on what the chiropractors work on. If we printed the names of those who have it, there'd be on room. Accordingly, next week we plan to run a much shorter list of those still trodding *terra firma*.

There's a silver lining in every cloud, of course, and this week there'll be another headache in the Kansas City counting room, for we've added a bottle of *spiritus frumenti* to the w. k. expense account, to be used, of course, purely for medicinal purposes.

This flu attack has reached epidemic proportions, but fortunately seems to be mild in form. The *Commercial-Appeal* cleverly headlines the situation on its front page:

IF YOU HAVE THE FLU
ONE OF SIX ARE YOU

That means that 50,000 persons here are more or less affected, and film exchanges are running only about 80 per cent of efficiency. M. A. Lightman, head of the Malco circuit, is down with a slight attack, as is W. G. Ruffin, of the Ruffin circuit at Covington, Tenn. Others are legion.

Weather at this writing is exceptionally cold, and getting colder, which may be a good sign, doctors opine.

Flu or no flu, it is refreshing to note, after an absence of some five years, that Filmrow greatly has changed for the better. Modern buildings have replaced the shackified structures that formerly housed the exchanges.

Mrs. Luck Seems in Luck

Speaking generally, the territory is in good shape. Double bills are mostly the rule in the neighborhood houses. Admissions are fair. New houses are springing up over the territory, due to commercial, governmental and other projects. A feeling of optimism is prevalent all over the area, although in no more pronounced degree than in other territories traversed recently. So it would seem, generally speaking, that better times are in prospect the country over.

Memphis area personal notes will follow next week, but as a finale to this diatribe we cannot help but comment on our visit to Phil Zerilla's Rialto in northern Memphis. During the late summer, Phil had a $300 cash drawing dangling. A lady won it. The lady's picture hangs in the lobby.

Her name is Mrs. I. M. Luck!

New Theatre for Gleason

GLEASON, TENN.—Duke Allen of Kenton is installing equipment for a theatre here in a building formerly occupied by a drug store. Plans are to open the house on January 10.

ATLANTA

FILMROW was quite a busy place this week. Visitors were D. R. Regan, Roxy, Selma, Ala.; John Cunningham, Edison, Miami, Fla.; A. J. Hook jr. and R. E. Hook, Aliceville, Ala.; Carl Floyd, Floyd Theatres, Haines City, Fla.; W. J. Collins, Toccoa, Ga.; J. Jarrell, Roxy, Commerce, Ga.; H. V. Manning, Gem, Etowah, Tenn.; Hugh and E. D. Martin, Martin Theatres, Columbus, Ga.; Mose Lebovitz, Grand, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Mrs. Violet Edwards, Royal, Monticello, Ga.; Mrs. Lucille Cobb, Roxy, Fayette, Ala.; James E. Waters, Fairburn, Fairburn, Ga.; "Mayor" T. K. Jones, Ritz, Dadeville, Ala.; Mary Brockett, Crescent Amusement Co., Nashville, Tenn., and R. D. "Bob" Word, Ritz, Scottsboro, Ala.

Mrs. Louis "Rosalie" Feldman, formerly secretary to R. L. McCoy at Warner's, has a red-headed baby boy that has been named Joel Martin. Rosalie and baby are both doing fine at Piedmont Hospital. Leon Clark, of the same office, is also the proud father of a boy born this past week . . . Still on the sick list is Fred Jack of Warner's; Mary Will Guest, 20th Century-Fox, and Peggy McGuire, Lucas & Jenkins.

Tom Gilliam, Warner's new branch manager, and his family have moved into their new home . . . Elsie Harvey has been added to the personnel of Georgia Theatre Service Corp. Elizabeth "Lib" Cowen of the same office, announces her marriage to "Bill" Pitts of South Carolina . . . Friends of Fred Levine, manager of Bash's Ponce de Leon Theatre, who is ill, will be glad to learn he is much improved.

Nat Williams of the Rose, Thomasville, Ga., has been made a lieutenant colonel on the staff of Governor Talmadge . . . Joe Abercrombie of the Emory, Atlanta, reports he will show the French film, "Harvest," in the near future . . . Marion Watkins, who has been connected with United Artists for a number of years, announces her engagement to Hal H. Macon, who operates the Georgia and State theatres in Statesboro, Ga. Marriage will take place at an early date.

Jack Price, formerly of New Orleans and Atlanta, has been made branch manager for Paramount. Jack Kirby has been upped to district manager . . . John Hackney, ad sales manager for 20th Century-Fox, has resigned to accept a commission with the CCC in North Georgia. Luther Rutland replaces him. Mary Carsgrove, who resigned from the same office, is replaced by Elizabeth Helmer . . . Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Savini of Savini Films celebrated their 25th anniversary this past week. They were entertained at a banquet and theatre party.

The Atlanta exchange of Producers Releasing Corp. is being remodeled . . . Ika Katz, district manager of Producers Releasing Corp., is elated over the response throughout the territory to his company's latest releases, "Devil Bat," a super-chiller with Bela Lugosi, and "Misbehaving Husbands," starring Harry Langdon . . . Don Prince of RKO whose hobby is writing books has his second "masterpiece" ready for the publishers. His first, in case you don't know, was "Tom."

Begin Charging for Entertainment

Dallas—The first instance of a local department store charging an admission for its entertainment, or "added attractions," is at Titche-Goettinger's where tickets are on sale at 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children for the Victor Puppet Opera. Five different operas are to be presented

In the past, department store auditoriums have offered book reviews, lectures, and local talent gratis to customers.

NEW ORLEANS

A TESTIMONIAL was tendered E. B. Price, manager of the Paramount exchange, who has been promoted to a similar post in Atlanta . . . A. L. Runbach, formerly manager of the Claiborn, is now in charge of United Theatres' new house, the Algy, on the west side . . . Jimmie Briant, resident manager for M-G-M, has been confined to his home the past few days with the flu, which is now prevalent in New Orleans and has put many exchange employes in bed . . . The influx of militiamen from adjoining training camps has materially increased grosses at downtown houses.

Visitors to the Row: Louisiana—A. J. Broussard, Bruce, Crowley; Morris Meltz, Arcade, Ferriday; O. A. Ott, Kentwood; A. Marrelo, Rendevois, Grand Isle; Vic Maurin, Fox, Houma; Anthony Sumpia, Raceland, Raceland; Lou Langlois, Arcade, New Roads; Gordon G. Ogden, Chimes, Baton Rouge. Mississippi—Ed Delaney, Pike, Magnolia; Stanley Taylor, Crosby, Crosby, and Frank Bishop, Varsity, Ellisville.

June Preisser, Metro player, home for the holidays, headed a drive to raise funds for Greek war relief . . . "The Philadelphia Story," with Katharine Hepburn, comes to the Municipal Auditorium stage January 13, sponsored by the Theatre Guild at a $3.30 top.

The races will be back at the Fair Grounds in less than 30 days, is a prediction in local sporting circles. A syndicate of prominent business men has purchased the equipment of the defunct Jockey Club and the track. It is also said that night racing will be permitted.

OKLA. CITY

L C. GRIFFITH, head of Griffith Amusement Co., received another honor last week. This time he was named new imperial potentate of India Shrine Temple here. He also becomes imperial representative to the imperial council.

Mrs. Myrtle Guthrie, owner and manager of the Ritz at Clinton, Okla., and Hugh Hartley, salesman for the Standard Neon Co. of Weatherford, were married at the Methodist parsonage in El Reno, Okla.

Catch up note: The 120 employes of Standard Theatres, Inc., received Christmas bonuses totaling $1,500 . . . Sam Caporals' new Bison on Northeast 23rd Street is nearing completion and should be ready for opening soon.

A lot of Oklahoma City pass hounds are grieving as T. B. Noble cut the State's annual pass list down to 25; Standard had previously applied the scissors to theirs.

Set Off Tear Gas in Unit Showing Anti-Nazi Film

TYLER, TEX.—Tear gas set off by an unidentified person drove an audience of 600 out of S. G. Fry's theatre, which was showing "The Man I Married," an anti-Nazi film.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C.

CHARLOTTE

HAL JORDAN, Warner salesman, and his wife have returned from a holiday trip to Florida. Manager John Bachman and Salesmen Dean House and Hal Keeter, celebrated at home by helping their wives . . . H. H. Everett, chief barker of the Variety Club, announces that architects have finished plans for club headquarters in the Hotel Charlotte. A special called luncheon meeting will be held at the hotel January 11, and between January 6 and January 11, there will be a meeting of the Crew to consider contractors' bids and award the contract in order that the membership may be given a full report at the luncheon meeting . . . Jack London, Republic salesman, his wife and daughter, have returned from a trip to New York where they visited relatives.

George Mobley, ad sales manager for Universal, has resigned to accept a position with the J. A. Jones Construction Co. at Fort Jackson, S. C., on a defense works project. He is replaced by Charles Morris of the shipping department. Carl Ingle of National Screen Service becomes the new shipper . . . Charles Freeman, booking manager for Paramount, has resigned, effective January 15. He goes to Knoxville, Tenn., to manage one of the Wilby houses.

Manager John Bachman and all Warner employes are highly elated over returns from "Santa Fe Trail" and "Four Mothers" . . . William "Bill" Pickert, genial Warner booker, has resigned, effective January 11, to become associated with the United States Army Motion Picture Service with headquarters in St. Louis . . . J. C. Thompson has sold his Loris, Loris, S. C., to H. J. Nelson of Chadbourn, N. C. . . . O. I. Sheeley of the Casino and Broadway theatres in Clinton, S. C., has contracted with Ben Ralston for SESCo. service, and A. I. Mason has signed renewal agreements for the Capitol and Echo theatres in Laurens, S. C. "Rosy" Rosenblatt has secured contracts from Bill Webb for SESCo. service for the Rogers and Carolina theatres in Shelby, N. C.

A. B. McCoy of the Carolina, Conway, S. C., is seriously ill . . . The mother of P. J., W. F. and C. H. Caudell is very ill in a hospital in Lumberton, N. C. The Caudells operate theatres in Fairmont, N. C., Wallace, N. C. and Marshville, N. C. . . . R. L. Simpson of Alexander Film Co. is recuperating from an attack of flu . . . C. M. Harrell, formerly of Gibsonville, N. C., has just opened his New Theatre in Haw River, N. C.

Al Burks, exploiteer for Metro, has returned from Greenville, S. C., where he inaugurated a second run campaign for "Boom Town" to be shown by Fred Curdts at his Ritz . . . Nat Fisher, office manager for National Screen Service, has resigned as of January 18, to assist J. E. Massie in the operation of his theatres in Waynesville, N. C., Sylva, N. C., Bryson City, N. C., and Gatlinburg, Tenn. Jim Massie recently purchased a cub aeroplane and plans to take instructions at an early date. His son, Frank, who manages the Sylva house, has already secured a student pilot license with more than 70 hours in the air to his credit.

Barney Ross, Metro South Carolina sales representative, has returned from a two-week vacation . . . The new home of Leo the Lion on Church Street is rapidly nearing completion and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer people expect to move in within the very near future . . . Plans are now under way for the return showing of "Gone With the Wind," which should be very good news to those who are anxious to see this picture again and others who were unable to see it on the first engagement.

Carolinians were very happy to learn that John F. Kirby was made southern district manager for Paramount. Headquarters will be in Atlanta with jurisdiction over Memphis, New Orleans, Atlanta and Charlotte. Hosts of friends will welcome his trips to Charlotte . . . Sol Frifield, Paramount salesman, has been transferred to New Orleans as branch manager . . . Visitors: E. L. Hearne of the Alameda in Albemarle, N. C.; J. C. Holland, Lyman, Lyman, S. C.; R. C. Whitehurst of the Jackson in Jackson, N. C., and the Pastime in Murfreesboro, N. C.; Pete Webb, Webb, Shelby, N. C., and H. P. Howell and R. Glenn Davis (Howell-Davis circuit) of Smithfield, N. C., and Louisburg, N. C. . . . Harry Hardy and Roy Smart, accompanied by Warren Irvin of Columbia, S. C., all connected with North Carolina Theatres, Inc. (Wilby-Kincey), have returned from Miami where they attended the Orange Bowl game.

Discover Fraud in A Cash Giveaway

SPRINGFIELD, TENN. — County officials have broken up what they believed was the nucleus of a ring to defraud theatres at Bank Night drawings.

After $600 had been paid on a ticket at a drawing in the Capitol, Manager A. L. Hancock discovered there were several thousand tickets identically numbered in the container. By some unknown means they had been substituted for the authentic numbers.

The drawings at the Capitol have been discontinued until the matter is cleared up.

"A Christmas Carol" to Over 3,000 Children

YAZOO, MISS.—More than 3,000 school children of this city and the surrounding area were guests of Manager Frank Mutz of the Dixie at special showings of "A Christmas Carol."

A special canned goods matinee also was sponsored by the theatre. Over one ton of canned goods was taken in for distribution to local needy during the Christmas holiday.

Signs With Altec

THOMASVILLE, GA.—Nat M. Williams has signed a contract with Altec covering sound and repair-replacement service for the Interstate Enterprises circuit of eight theatres in Florida and Georgia.

Jefferson and East Texas Theatres Sign With AA

DALLAS—Another circuit deal made by Advertising Accessories, Inc., at about the time the Robb & Rowley deal was announced, is that of Jefferson Amusement Co. and East Texas Theatres, which have turned over the handling of their paper to the National Screen subsidiary. Joe Thompson, who was in charge of the Jefferson poster and accessory department here, is now working in the AA office.

MIAMI

UNIVERSAL'S promotional coup, being staged in connection with the world premiere at Miami Beach's Lincoln of "Back Street" February 4, is making Manager Sonny Shepherd host to a host. It's this way—Universal is bringing down for the premiere, and for a week's vacation, 150 newspaper critics from representative papers east of the Mississippi. Sonny's assignment is arranging their entertainment schedule. First of his premieres, however, is UA's "So Ends Our Night," which is scheduled for January 24.

Speaking of exploitation, the Mars Candy Co. is sure pushing Universal as they bring their broadcast of "Dr. I. Q." into this area. Wednesday night they engaged the entire Olympia Theatre from 7 p. m. on for two demonstration programs, giving complete shows without, of course, the customary broadcasting. Beginning Monday night, and for five consecutive weeks, the regular airing of Lew Valentine's high-priced questions will be incorporated in the Olympia's program from 9 to 9:30 p. m. This will merely mean, Manager A. Weiss explains, that their entire show schedule will run one-half hour longer on these Monday evenings.

Out at the Colonnade studios in Coral Gables, work is starting on George A. Hirliman's second full-length feature to be made there. It is to be an English war picture, titled "Bomb Shelter" . . . Preparations are already being made by Edgar Pierce and his staff for the big annual benefit "Cavalcade of Stars" which the YMHA stages annually at the Plaza where the recently-opened new luncheonette is reported to be doing a neat bit of business. The big benefit show is to be an event of early February.

Recent changes in personnel at local houses have seen Tom Manning go in as manager of Paramount's Coral in Coral Gables. Manning has been manager of the Roxy and the Community since being advanced from assistant at the Olympia. With him as his assistant is William Merrill . . . When T. W. Skipper went up to work with Howard Pettingill at the Paramount, Ralph McEntyre, formerly associated with RKO at Cincinnati, was named assistant manager at the Gables . . . Also promoted from the Olympia was Billy Mount, who went from the assistant's post at Al Weiss' big Flagler Street spot, to manager of the Regent.

Still Urges Lifting Of Juvenile Bars

MONTREAL—If the Quebec government ever fully restores to the children of the province the privilege of attending motion picture shows, which has been withheld from them for a number of years, much of the credit will go to S. Morgan-Powell, editor-in-chief of Montreal *Daily Star*, and world-famed dramatic and film critic. In a holiday article, Mr. Morgan-Powell said: "At the risk of appearing to be over-insistent I want to draw attention to the fact that the children of Montreal are still the only children in any of the world's great cities who are deprived of the privilege of seeing good film entertainment. While Canadians in other parts of the Dominion are allowed to see pictures that are approved as fit for young people, our boys and girls have to wait until they are 16 before they can enter a motion picture theatre. Even on the few occasions when a point has been stretched, such, for instance, as the visit of Walt Disney's 'Snow White,' there has been a misunderstanding between the civic and provincial authorities, with the result that some theatre managers who had been under the impression that they were doing the youngsters a favor, were prosecuted for their pains."

Hope that the ban on admission of children will be removed in 1941 was expressed by many theatre managers, and Mr. Morgan-Powell stresses that this would be a good way to start the New Year "by showing that we can be as modern as other big cities, and at the same time afford our children every bit as much protection against risks of accident as any other city in the world does." He notes that the ban was imposed to protect children from the danger of fire in crowded theatres, and that the law was passed at a time "when a terrible disaster had created a widespread mood of hysteria." However justifiable then, he contends that modern theatres are, from the viewpoint of danger to children, much safer than many school basements and other buildings in which special film exhibitions for children are allowed.

John Lodge Makes P. A. At Avenue in Toronto

TORONTO—John Lodge, screen and stage actor who was in Toronto for the engagement of "Night of Love" on the stage of the Royal Alexandra, made a personal appearance at the Avenue for the Canadian premiere of "One Night in Paris" on the invitation of Manager J. L. Smith. Lodge returned to New York City for the Broadway premiere of the stage play January 7.

Receipts for the one performance at the Avenue were turned over to the British War Victims' Fund. Incidentally, Lodge saw himself in "One Night in Paris" for the first time at this show.

Carriers See "NWMP"

OSHAWA, ONT.—Carriers of the *Daily Times* saw "North West Mounted Police" at the Regent as guests of Manager Osier.

25 Years Long Time, Or Is It?

Toronto—Twenty-five years is a long time in the film business when regard is given to the type and tastes of screen fare. Or is it? A quarter of a century ago, the main attractions at Canadian theatres included Olga Petrova in "The Heart of a Painted Woman," Clara Kimball Young in "Camille," Theda Bara and Jean Sothern in "The Two Orphans," Edna Goodrich in "Armstrong's Wife," and also "The Laurel of Tears," which apparently had no "name" players. These were among the feature offerings for the holiday.

Current holiday attractions at Toronto theatres include "The Thief of Bagdad," "Comrade X," "Tin Pan Alley," "Second Chorus," "No, No, Nanette," "Charley's Aunt," "You'll Find Out," "Moon Over Burma," "One Night in Paris" and "The Bank Dick."

Twenty-five years from now, BOXOFFICE may be reporting that "Charley's Aunt" is still living!

Toronto New Year's Shows Lure Record

TORONTO—The largest New Year's celebration in history was reported by Toronto's downtown theatres. It was estimated that 78 Toronto theatres accommodated more than 65,000 patrons at the stroke of midnight, with all of the big houses more than filled to capacity.

The largest crowd of all was found at the Imperial, where Manager Tom Daly played host to 3,500 guests. Manager Fred Trebilcock had a super-capacity crowd of approximately 3,000 at the Uptown. Loew's was filled and Assistant Manager S. E. Gosnell declared he saw more people on the streets at 3:30 a. m. than he had ever seen before. Walter Graydon reported 2,730 at Shea's which meant more than capacity because the theatre seats 2,663 persons, Manager Leon Bishop had all he could handle at the Tivoli, remarking that more people were downtown than at any previous New Year's observance.

Neighborhood houses had their quota of patronage, however, many being filled to capacity, depending upon the screen attraction offered. Some theatres did not open at all because of the belief that midnight show competition was too extensive to make it profitable. It was reported by Manager Al Sedgwick of the Belsize, for example, that his house was filled, that the audience was appreciably larger than one year before and that patronage on the day after New Year's continued heavy, the usual after-holiday reaction being missing.

At the one vaudeville house, the Casino, patrons paid $1 admission and the theatre was choked with people. Regular admission prices were charged by the majority of theatres with a flat rate of 40 cents or 50 cents for any seat in the house being asked at the principal theatres. A considerable percentage of revellers was made up of men in uniform, many sailors, war pilots and soldiers being home on leave for the holiday, with a sprinkling of nursing sisters and women of the auxiliary forces. Film theatres dropped stage shows entirely this year and the flesh presentations were not missed. Audiences were given the opportunity of giving vent to their feelings in community singing and with the usual "favors."

"Holidays as Usual" Over the Dominion

TORONTO—Canadians will continue to have their usual array of holidays in 1941 whether the war is in progress throughout the year or not, and these can be marked down by exhibitors as occasions for special bookings. Two of the holidays have already been observed, these being New Year's Day and the Feast of Epiphany, on January 6. On the latter occasion, many educational institutions and business houses in various localities were closed for religious reasons but there was nothing to discourage attendance at shows, either afternoon or evening.

Next on the 1941 calendar is Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 26, when many schools and offices are again closed for religious reasons, while Good Friday will occur April 11 and Easter Monday on April 14. These two dates are statutory holidays when banks, schools and offices will be closed but most retail establishments will remain open. Thursday, May 22, is Ascension Day which is observed in various localities, to be followed by the national holiday of May 24 in observance of the anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria. There are two holidays in June, one being the formal birthday celebration for King George VI on a date to be set, and the other St. Jean Baptiste Day which is June 24.

Remember Ending First War

The Dominion as a whole will take the day off on Tuesday, July 1, for Dominion Day to mark the anniversary of the union of all Provinces, while Monday, August 4, is widely observed as Civic Holiday which is legally proclaimed by municipalities throughout the country. Labor Day falls on Monday, September 1, and the next after that will be Thanksgiving Day which is tentatively set for Monday, October 13. Tuesday, November 11, will be observed as Remembrance Day as usual in honor of the signing of the armistice to terminate the First Great War. Another November date which will be a partial holiday is Saturday, November 1, this being All Saints' Day when a number of firms will close. In December there will be two holidays, with Monday, December 8, being observed as the Feast of Conception. Christmas Day will fall on a Thursday and, as usual, December 26, will be Boxing Day when practically all wholesale and retail establishments will remain closed.

Because of the war, there is a probability that industrial plants engaged in the production of war munitions will not close down as extensively as in previous years but the off-shifts will undoubtedly have the holiday spirit nevertheless, with advantage to the theatres.

TORONTO

A NUMBER of screen stars have offered their acting services to the Canadian government, without charge, for a series of presentations to be sponsored by the "Theatre of Freedom" beginning the first week in February for which they will make special trips to the Dominion. They include Paul Muni, Douglas Fairbanks jr., Anna Neagle, George Sanders, Walter Huston, Raymond Massey, Orson Welles, Cedric Hardwicke and Charles Laughton. Stage stars who have also donated their services are Katharine Cornell and Eva La Gallienne. "Victoria the Great" is to be presented in one performance by Anna Neagle and George Sanders under the personal direction of Herbert Wilcox. The performances are to be given in Toronto and will be broadcast over the national network.

Manager Bob Eves of the swanky Eglinton, Toronto, had a surprise party the other evening when Mr. and Mrs. Fred Parfitt of Port Elgin patronized the theatre for the night's show. It was the first time, according to Eves, that either of his paying guests had ever seen a moving picture or even been inside a theatre. (There is a theatre in Port Elgin).

R. Berezin, assistant manager of the Ottawa Elgin since it opened three years ago, has been transfered to Toronto by 20th Century Theatres where he is to be appointed manager of a new house. Prior to his departure from Ottawa, where he was born, he was given a party and a gift by the Elgin employes . . . A. P. Drohan, manager of the Capitol at Chatham, is now opening his evening performances at 6:30 p. m., a half hour earlier, so that the soldiers in training in that city can see a complete show and get back to barracks before "Lights Out."

G. W. Martin of the Trent and Ted Fraser of the Century, both at Trenton, Ont., are cooperating in a Find-the-Name contest of the Sun *newspaper in which passes are provided for winning readers who find the letters scattered through advertisements which spell the name of the feature at either theatre. The Trent is a chain house while the Century is independent.*

Sam Major, proprietor of Major's St. Clair, Toronto, had an exciting few minutes when patrons started to mob a man in the audience who is said to have shouted encouragement during a scene of "Four Sons" showing German soldiers shooting Czech civilians. The disturber was rescued by the police who hustled him to the station where he was placed in custody when it was ascertained that he was a German officer in the last war by the name of Charles Baltes.

Manager Jules Bernstein and Assistant Manager S. Gosnell of Toronto Loew's are preparing for the second run of "Gone With the Wind" at popular prices, the picture having had its Canadian premiere at this theatre one year ago after which it played one week at the Bloor. It is scheduled to open January 23 . . . Four young men of the staff of the Uptown, Toronto, have joined the colors for overseas' service and more are expected to enlist to give Manager Fred Trebilcock a personnel problem.

With 1,200 out of the 2,000 population of Meaford, Ont., down with influenza, Nick Trebish, proprietor of the Capitol in that town, is finding business rather slim but is carrying on. No request has been made by the medical authorities to close the theatre . . . Three Musketeers of Hollywood have joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, following in the footsteps of Basil Rathbone jr. and Patric Knowles. The newcomers are William Deming, Michael McCoy and Monty Montgomery. Deming made India's first talking picture, "Alan Ara," back in 1930.

Mike Mahoney, colorful resident of Ottawa, Ont., and a former sourdough of the Klondike, made a trip to Hollywood for pleasure a few months ago. When "Tugboat Annie Sails Again" played the Ottawa Capitol during the holiday period, it was discovered that the principal male character bore the name of "Capt. Mike Mahoney" and the boys had Ottawa's Mike all steamed up over the idea that he appeared in the picture—and didn't know it. Mike decided to see for himself and then issued a statement to the effect that the similarity of names was merely coincidental. "Sure, I never took a drink in my life," he added, quite soberly.

Al Sedgwick, manager of the Toronto Belsize, was passing out cigars at civic election time but denied vigorously that he was running for office, declaring that he was only distributing a bit of New Year's cheer . . . Leopold Friedman, a director, presided at the annual meeting of Marcus Loew's Theatres, Ltd., Toronto, in the absence of other officers and told shareholders that business at Toronto Loew's continued excellent. Satisfaction was the keynote of the gathering, with all reports being adopted and directors re-elected without opposition.

Sprague Brothers Open New St. George House

ST. GEORGE, N. B.—L. A. and A. C. Sprague recently opened their new 400-seat Capitol here which is considered one of the finest theatres in the Maritime Provinces.

The Sprague brothers are also interested in the Gaiety, Fairville, and the Mayfair, Deer Island, and they operate the Maritime Theatre Equipment Co. in St. John.

New Year's Bonus

OTTAWA—Harry O'Regan, in charge of the Francais, provided a special "bonus" to employes of the theatre when the proceeds of the New Year's Eve show were distributed among the members of the staff.

Consider Theatre Proposal

ZEBALLOS, B. C.—Local businessmen have under consideration a proposal to provide a theatre for Zeballos. The town has been theatreless since last July when its only showhouse was destroyed by fire.

See Cooper as Successor To John Grierson

TORONTO — The resignation of John Grierson of London, England, as Canadian film commissioner of the National Film Board under the jurisdiction of the department of trade and commerce, has started gossip in Canadian film trade circles with respect to the choice of successor. The consensus is that Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the board of the Motion Pictures Distributors of Canada, is the most qualified executive official for the post and would be the logical choice in view of the declaration by Grierson that the National Film Board should be conducted by Canadians.

WINNIPEG

HELMER NELS JERNBERG, one of the best known and best liked showmen of this city, died last week. He had been an exhibitor in Winnipeg for more than 25 years. In the course of his career, he operated the Palace, then managed for the Allens the present Rio and Metropolitan houses. In later years he had run the Rio, retiring from this position about a year ago. Deepest sympathy is expressed by film circles here to Jernberg's survivors, his wife and two daughters.

J. Miles, president of Western Theatres, Ltd., entertained his many friends and associates at a New Year's party staged in the grand manner. Gifts, tokens and refreshments were the order of the day at an event thoroughly enjoyed by all . . . E. A. Zorn, popular district manager for F-P, was too busy over the holidays to participate in the festivities of the season. Zorn was kept busy running between one packed house and another. But this type of activity seemed to be just the kind he needed to make him completely contented.

Grand National announces that arrangements have been completed in all key cities of the west for the opening of "Mein Kampf," described as Hitler's book of doom . . . Packed houses in all city theatres ushered in the New Year's. The weather broke just right and holiday business topped all records . . . With lavish newspaper ads pepping up the dailies, old timers are commenting that the film business is beginning to look again the way it did in "the good old days."

Don Gauld, in addition to running his popular "sneak" previews at the Uptown, has been arranging some very fine campaigns for his houses. And they are paying off well at the boxoffice . . . "Thief of Bagdad" has been doing very well at Henry Morton's Garrick where it is being held over for a second week . . . "Laugh It Off," the British comedy hit which did well at the Tivoli recently, is being rebooked in the city.

Clair Fallis, recently of Rainy River, has taken over the Paris in St. Boniface . . . D. B. Roberts of Brandon remembered his many friends during the holiday season . . . Mrs. S. Rosenblatt, wife of Western Theatres' supervisor, is leaving for the south on a holiday and health trip.

Operators' School Opened in Ontario

TORONTO—The projectionists school was formally opened January 6 by the Ontario government under the direction of O. J. Silverthorne, director of the theatres and cinematographs branch of the treasury department, who also is chairman of the Ontario board of moving picture censors. Announcement was made that the one school would be operated in Toronto for the whole Province, no arrangement having been made for the establishment of branches in other Ontario centers. Two instructors have been appointed, these being M. Elliott and H. Gray, these having been officials of the branch for some years.

Under the new regulations, a candidate for an operator's license will be granted an apprentice card immediately upon acceptance of his registration and he will be able to work as an assistant in a booth during the 12 months of the course, upon the conclusion of which he will be given final tests which will qualify him for a license. An installment plan has been adopted for the payment of the $100 fee which is required for the course. This can be paid in quarterly amounts of $25 in advance. After the first group of candidates has been accepted, future applications must be filed with the registrar 15 days in advance of the opening of further courses, this requirement having been waived for the first school.

Opposed by Labor

The school has been opened despite the protests of organized labor on the ground that there are a sufficient number of experienced operators holding government qualifications for the theatres in operation in Ontario and that a majority of the projectionists are beyond the age of 40 years, hence are not likely to be required for army service. It has been stated that approximately 65 per cent of the operators are veterans of the First Great War.

According to W. P. Covert of the Toronto Operators' Local, a vice-president of the IATSE, the school move is classed as an attack upon the union and organized labor would continue to fight the operation of the government class. Covert argued that 26 qualified projectionists were unemployed in Toronto alone, and 15 apprentices now were ready for union cards. The government had moved to increase the number of qualified men, he contended, intensifying competition for positions, thus forcing wages down.

Of importance in the new situation is that the union's contract with Toronto theatres is scheduled to expire next August, and labor leaders say there is possibility of an excess of qualified projectionists in the coming months.

Foils Safe Crackers

TORONTO—The York was the scene of a safe-cracking attempt which was foiled when the theatre's burglar alarm was set off, the signal being sent into a nearby station. Two policemen reached the theatre just as two men raced from the rear of the building and escaped in the darkness. The thieves gained entrance to the theatre through a door in the roof.

MONTREAL

UNLIKE other Canadian provinces, Quebec, owing to its predominantly French-Canadian and Roman Catholic population, keeps up its New Year celebrations until Twelfth Night, January 6, with the result that Montreal and other centers are more or less on holiday for a fortnight from Christmas Eve. The effect on film grosses varies. So many parties are held in private French-Canadian homes that in suburban areas, at least, the theatres suffer in attendance. On St. Catherine St., where the patrons are more cosmopolitan, the size of the audience is, as at other times, a gauge of the popularity of the pictures shown.

On Filmrow there is a fixed determination to put the holiday feeling away and get back to work seriously, and there is a current of optimism around that bodes well for the coming season.

New Year's Eve performances were more numerous this year than ever before and managers report attendance records in both first run and neighborhood houses. That there is more money around than has been the case for a few years was evident by the patronage at the more expensive shows. It was observed, however, that merriment was slightly restrained, owing to the shadow of war and impending high taxation.

One of the most ambitious programs arranged by Canadian Broadcasting Corp. for release from Montreal was a highlight of the Christmas radio season. Employing a 60-piece orchestra and an equal number of choral voices, the CBC arranged for the use of Associated Screen Studio facilities in order to accommodate the large group of artists. "The Children's Crusade" was broadcast under the baton of J. J. Gagnier from the Montreal studios.

The much-traveled staff of Associated Screen News enjoyed the holiday recess, but some were not allowed even that repose. Ross Beesley, cameraman, left his family fireside Christmas Day to film the arrival of Jimmy Mattern and the Lockheed-Vega employes' Yuletide gift to the British people—a Hudson bomber which Mattern flew to St. Hubert from the California factory . . . Jack Chisholm returned to Montreal immediately after Christmas which he spent in Toronto and resumed work on a commercial production.

His Excellency, the Governor-General (The Earl of Athlone) appeared on theatre screens from the Atlantic to the Pacific to express New Year greetings to the people of the Dominion. As recorded by Associated Screen News in an exclusive interview, His Excellency said: "We live in times of great stress and anxiety. The dark tunnel of war stretches far ahead, and the end is not yet in sight. But by sacrifice freely given, and by the exercise of unshakeable determination we shall win through to the light of peace and security. Whatever the New Year may hold in store for us, I feel sure that the people of Canada will face it with unflinching courage, and I am confident that, strong in the faith of our fathers, we shall rid the world of this foul fiend that menaces us, and bequeath to our children that freedom of thought and action on which our great Empire has been built."

VANCOUVER

DUE TO extremely mild weather, all local theatres enjoyed capacity business over the New Year holidays, particularly on their special New Year's Eve shows . . . Alex Gough of Hedley was in Vancouver for the holidays as well as for some dental work.

Stan Kennedy of Esquimalt was in town arranging bookings for his Cadet Theatre . . . C. A. Towriss of the Capitol, Princeton, is closing his theatre for a month while he enjoys a much needed rest . . . Herb Jorgenson of Rock Bay was around the Film Building visiting his many friends.

Smiling Ruth Wynn busily arranging for a short holiday in Victoria . . . Charlie Mitchell, formerly secretary of the Community Club at Bralorne Mines, was involved in a minor automobile accident while vacationing in the Bridge River Valley.

Myron C. McLeod of Powell River makone of his flying visits to the city . . . While Len Plottel of Columbia is away on his one month's training period, Jack Droy will take over his duties.

Ottawa Regent Observes Its 25th Anniversary

OTTAWA—The Regent, located on the main intersection of Ottawa, is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its opening, having been opened by Ken Finlay as manager. Later managers included James Moxley, Oral Cloakey who delighted to play the xylophone and finally went west to sell oil stock; Ray Tubman and, recently, Angelo Stevens.

The Regent was built as a local independent house, then became a unit of the Allen chain and eventually passed to the control of Famous Players Canadian Corp. For years it featured a talented orchestra for the silent films but the orchestra never fitted its music to the screen theme and played piece after piece in their entirety regardless of the type of picture. Way back in the past, this writer once asked the manager why he did not have the orchestra follow the cue sheet for the atmospheric music but the manager did not know what a cue sheet was.

Star to Frank Shepherd

ARMSTRONG, B. C.—The local Star has been purchased by Frank Shepherd, who also operates the Majestic at Biggar, Sask. His son, Joseph Shepherd, will be in charge of the Biggar house.

Welfare Council Finds Current Film Worthy

OTTAWA—The Canadian Welfare Council has issued its official list of recommendations, with comment, on current features and shorts for December for the guidance of educational, women's, patriotic and community organizations throughout the Dominion, as follows:

"A Little Bit of Heaven"—Excellent! This is a continuation of the story of "The Underpup" with Gloria Jean as "Midge." Lovely songs, hilarious comedy and a pleasant romance. The family.

"Nobody's Children"—This story is based on a regular broadcast series conducted on behalf of the Children's Home Finding Society of Los Angeles. For juveniles.

"Down Argentine Way"—A good musical romance, filmed in Technicolor. The story really serves as a framework for the musical numbers. The music and dancing are of the rhumba and conga type, now so popular. The family.

"Arise, My Love"—A really charming picture from every point of view. The acting is excellent and there is a touch of originality in the foreign correspondent theme and the love story. The family.

"Third Finger, Left Hand"—A gay, sparkling comedy, lavishly produced. Although the outcome is obvious, it does not detract from one's enjoyment of the picture. The family.

"The Great Dictator"—With Charlie Chaplin in the stellar role, this picture will meet with varying opinions because, although in part a comedy, it is rather more dramatic in tone. It is a propaganda picture, depicting the cruel treatment that the Jews are receiving in Germany. Adolescents and adults.

"A Dispatch From Reuter's"—This story depicts the establishment of the Reuters News Service System. There is a romance and some slight comedy but the picture will not probably appeal to all classes. The family.

"Escape"—Very good entertainment, adapted from the best seller by Ethel Vance. Although sombre in tone, it is gripping and is definitely anti-Nazi. Mature.

"Thief of Bagdad"—The highest pitch yet attained as a combination of the gorgeous imagination of Arabian Nights and magnificence of color. "The Thief" belongs in that unforgetable class. A picture everyone should see.

"Blackout"—A very good espionage meledrama, with the British naval blockade as part of the action and with a port where foreign ships are examined as part of the background. Most of the action unfolds in London during a blackout. The family.

"The Long Voyage Home"—A powerful picture, directed with skill and artistry. There is no romance and no women in the cast but it should appeal to class audiences. The photography is exceptional. The plot was adapted from one-act plays by Eugene O'Neill. Adolescents and adults.

"Little Nellie Kelly"—A very good romantic comedy, with considerable human interest and fist action. Judy Garland sings several Irish sons and the fine baritone voice of Douglas McPhail, who sang in "Babes in Arms," is also heard. The family.

"The World in Flames"—An excellent film reviewing world events for the past 10 years—depression, the invasion of Manchuria and of Ethiopia, rise of the Nazi war machine, the fall of Norway and the Low Countries, the thrilling withdrawal from Dunkirk and the present Battle of Britain. Photographed and narrated by correspondents who saw it happen, ending in a powerful plea for American preparedness. Recommended for schools and libraries.

"Britain's R. A. F."—No story of legend can outmatch the daily messages that come to us of the heroism, the swift-working intelligence and indomitable courage that flies over England day and night to equal and finally overwhelm the forces that would enslave her greatest treasure—freedom. The family.

"The Eyes of the Navy"—A thrilling picturization of the kind of men and the huge industry going into the making of American aviators. The U. S. Navy lent its aid at Pensacola and San Diego, so the picture is not only dramatic but true to fact. The family.

"Landing of the Pilgrims"—An amusing color cartoon treating the voyage of the Mayflower and the landing of its passengers in burlesque fashion. The family.

They're Worse Than The Peanut Eaters

Regina—Latest headache for theatre managers and patrons are college girls who wear bells on their shoes. At the Capitol they are asked to either remove the bells or tuck them down into their ankle sox before entering the theatre. Noise of the bells during shows is reported to be worse than that made by peanut eaters.

Upholds Ban on Pinball Machines in Ontario

OTTAWA—The Ontario appeal court has handed down a judgment of far-reaching effect in confirming the by-law of the City of Ottawa which bans the operation of pinball machines or other gambling devices in business premises for which civic licenses are issued for routine business purposes. One penalty for the presence of a gambling machine in a store or restaurant will be the cancellation of the business license while the machine itself will be confiscated.

Ottawa police have issued a warning that a drive will be launched immediately to rid the city of all machines and the suggestion has been thrown out that the players can seek other forms of amusement. The decision can be made applicable to all other municipalities in Ontario, provided a similar by-law is enacted by the local council.

Now for the Nazis

TORONTO—Ken Tyler, the "crash" pilot of the films, has enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force with the object of taking a crack at the Nazis to round out a busy career during which he has cracked up 142 planes for pictures in production in Hollywood, fought with the Loyalist air force in Spain and later flew for the Chinese against the Jap invaders.

Gets Projection Equipment

OTTAWA—The Rialto of Ottawa, neighborhood house of 550 seats, has been provided with new projection lighting equipment, according to A. Levinson, proprietor.

SASK'WAN

OUTSTANDING development in 1940 insofar as Saskatoon theatremen are concerned, was the opening there of the No. 4 Service Flying Training School in September. It has a personnel of 800 and is slowly expanding. The contracts for the buildings totaled approximately $1,000,000. Payroll of the school, plus that of approximately 300 troops quartered at the Fair Grounds, is largely spent in the city, with theatres getting a good share of the coin. Saskatoon also draws a large volume of business from Dundurn Camp, with its establishment of approximately 2,000 troops.

Regina payrolls, all services included, showed an average increase of five per cent in 1940 *as compared to* 1939, *according to a statistical survey on increased buying power in Regina. Total industrial volume here is up eight per cent. Compared to an* 18 *and a half million dollar payroll in* 1939, *Regina workers pocketed approximately* $20,000,000 *in* 1940, *the survey shows. This excludes the incomes derived from military activity, figured at* $125,000 *a month at the present time. There were approximately* 200 *more people employed in the city in* 1940 *than in* 1939, *a total of* 2,300 *in industrial production.*

William Popham donated his Roxy at Saskatoon and his staff its services, for a midnight showing of "You Can't Fool Your Wife" on a recent Sunday evening, proceeds going to the Lord Mayor of London's fund for distressed air raid victims. Receipts totaled $128 . . . Capitol in Saskatoon is boasting a newly painted front . . . Families on relief work were guests of the management of the Strand, Prince Albert, at two special shows.

A Sunday concert at the Roxy, Yorkton, aided the Enterprise Empty Stocking Fund to the tune of $27.25 . . . *Courtesy of the management of the Capitol, Saskatoon, enabled children of army and air force men overseas to attend theatre parties on two days recently as guests of the Officers' Wives Auxiliary and the Rotary Club . . . Bill Ellison, former usher at the Met, Regina, was guest of honor at the staff's Christmas party prior to leaving Regina with the navy. He was presented with a traveling set.*

H. A. Bercovich, manager of the Rex, Regina, played host to his staff at its annual Christmas party and, in turn, was presented with a humidor and two pipes . . . Children of Quill Lake and district were guests of businessmen of the town at a free picture show . . . George Fraser, New York, who was in Regina to publicize the world premiere of "North West Mounted Police," is back in Canada again, this time at Winnipeg where he's working with Jack Fitzgibbons jr. on publicity for 20th-Fox's "Hudson's Bay" . . . Frank Sheppard, manager of the Majestic, Biggar, has moved to Armstrong, B. C., where he is managing the Star.

Many Schools Using Films

SASKATOON—Motion pictures are now being used extensively for instructional work in local public schools. All have projectors and the school board owns several thousand dollars worth of film.

'Band' Campaign Wins Gallagher an Award

NEW YORK—M-G-M has awarded an Honor Roll Button to E. French Gallagher, manager of the Fox Illinois Theatre, Centralia, Ill., for his outstanding campaign for "Strike Up the Band."

Highlights of the campaign follow:

Street parade two days prior to opening, using local high school band, with two large banners selling the picture prominently displayed. The same band paraded between halves of a football game day before opening. Dog awarded to holder of lucky number among several thousand cards which were distributed. Every merchant in downtown section carried special window display on the film. There was also a display on the City Hall lawn, floodlighted at night. Ten days in advance a 24-sheet panel was posted on all main highways leading to the city. Also, 100 block 2-sheets and 100 jumbo cards. Thirty-five hundred exchange heralds were distributed.

Careful Drivers' Award Profitable Repeater

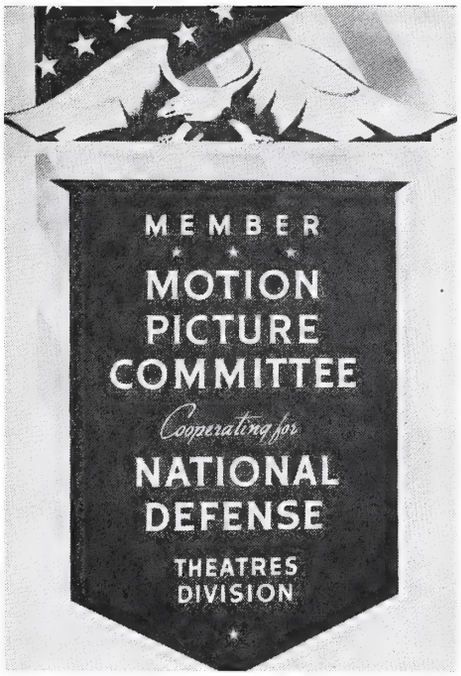
ALBANY, N. Y.—In a tieup with the local daily, Jules Curley, Strand manager, awarded passes to see "Four Mothers" to motorists picked as safe drivers by a reporter stationed by the paper downtown. The passes were awarded in the name of the Lane Sisters, and the drivers who earned them were listed in the paper.

Mail to the Irish

COLUMBUS, OHIO—John Hardgrove, assistant manager of the Ohio, persuaded the K. of C. Council to recommend "Little Nellie Kelly" on their regular mailing cards. A green ink mimeographed sheet, with a drawing of Judy Garland centered in a shamrock and carrying picture copy, was sent to 750 members of Irish organizations.

Hoge Goes "Verboten" On Anti-Nazi Film

"Notice to all Nazi sympathizers. I hereby strictly forbid all my followers to see the film 'Pastor Hall' to be shown at the Dickinson, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 26, 27, 28. Signed, Adolf Hitler." The foregoing notice, inserted as a 2x2 inch boxed ad in the Olathe, Kansas newspaper, "caused more comment and brought more cash in than anything in a long time," reports Charles Hoge, manager of the Dickinson Theatre.



For the Boxoffice—

From headquarters at 321 W. 44th St., New York, the Theatre Division of the Motion Picture Committee cooperating for national defense is mailing out these plaques for theatre display. Joseph Bernhard, Warner Theatres general manager, is chairman of the division. A plaque will be sent to each theatre that joins in the industry's defense effort.

"Road Show" Humor Test Stunt Detailed by UA

NEW YORK—The success achieved in selling "Road Show" to Pittsburgh via the "Get Measured for Pleasure" angle, involving the taking of tests by the public to determine the type of humor their personality was keyed to, has led UA to issue a supplementary to their press sheet on "Road Show."

This supplement details the campaign as put on in Pittsburgh, the ads used, the truck ballyhoo and the store tieup. The UA exploitation department rents the Psychometer, the instrument which gauges one's sense of humor, and reports that in Pittsburgh over 18,000 prospective patrons were analyzed.

Tieups for "Kitty Foyle"

NEW YORK—The use of the "Kitty Foyle" serialization by the *Daily Mirror* netted further exploitation for the Rivoli when the paper bannered its trucks calling attention to the serial. A lobby poster in the theatre referred to the paper's use of the story, and a front page box reciprocated.

Your Candy Counter; How to Make It Pay

BOSTON—A few ideas for the lobby or foyer candy counter, as outlined by S. L. Loew jr., head of the Theatre Candy Company locally:

"Have your candy display in a location close to the line of traffic, clearly visible and accessible.

"Try to carry a full variety of candy and avoid duplications of the same type of candy where possible.

"Because of space limitations, the items selected for sale should, in addition to being of varying types, be fast sellers. Determine what items your patrons request.

"The items should be full-weight, nationally or locally known.

"The stand should be as attractively arranged as possible with particular attention to cleanliness. Remove bars from box where possible and arrange them symmetrically with names clearly readable.

Lauds Open Displays

"Open displays encourage added sales. Personal selection of items by your patrons saves attendant time as against getting out the bars from a closed case.

"An attendant at the stand increases sales. If an usher makes the candy sales, be sure he is near the stand. Patrons do not buy so readily when they have to look for someone to pay for their purchase.

"Full displays increase sales. A partly full case has a bad appearance and conveys the impression of old, left-over candy.

"Advertise your candy display. The judicious and continual use of trailers will stimulate candy sales. Such trailers should feature the idea of 'delicious, nationally famous candy as an added convenience and source of enjoyment while watching the show'."

Candy to Patrons

LINCOLN, NEB.—Leading restaurants and hotels distributed bitter sweet chocolate tabs to all patrons as part of the "Bitter Sweet" campaign put over by R. R. Huffman, Lincoln Theatre.



NUGGETS

ON Postal Telegraph blanks, Earl Podolnick imprinted in style of type resembling that on telegrams, a message addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. Theatre Patrons, State Theatre, Austin, Texas." The message: "We wish to advise a 'Dispatch From Reuter's' playing at the State Theatre, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Starring Edward G. Robinson—The story behind the man of a million headlines—Warner Brothers Studio, Hollywood, Calif." This was passed out as a handbill.

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Manager Dave Edwards of the Rialto, Salt Lake City, promoted the use of 20 *portable radios, which* 20 *pretty girls carried to choice locations downtown and tuned in on the pre-arranged* 15*-minute broadcast for "No, No, Nanette." The stunt was done the afternoon before Christmas Eve. The girls wore banners.*

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It may amount to nothing more than two-for-one admissions, but the novelty of advertising a free admission to anyone who would sit through "The House of Seven Gables" made the Palace Theatre's ad in a Lubbock, Texas, newspaper, at the least, unusual. The ad offered a Certificate of Bravery entitling to a free admission any one who would sit through the entire performance. The program was made part of a "Jinx Prevue" with the show starting at 11:13 p. m.

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The Lindsey Theatre, Lubbock, Texas, put a new twist into a "Go West" newspaper advertisement with this copy: "We're Just Guessing . . . but we believe that the average American family—Papa, Mama, Brother and Sister—are wanting to see a movie with some real old-fashioned (pardon the expression) Belly-Laughs!"

•

Eddie Moore of the Strand at York, Pa., put his cashiers on the telephone to call various male clubs with the startling message that "there are 'Too Many Girls' at 48 N. George Street." (The theatre's address). The cashiers also called drug stores, hotel clerks, offices, and whenever a man answered the phone, they said, "If you have a gentleman friend, there are 'Too Many Girls' at 48 N. George Street."

Bally in Character For a Horror Duo

ALBANY, N. Y.—A lobby and front crammed with displays and accessories, and a thorough advance campaign, made a special horror duo booking of "The Mummy's Hand" and "Before I Hang," a success for Edward Selette, manager of the Albany Theatre.

Preceding the booking, stage announcements were made three weeks in advance, and two 22x28s were spotted at the entrance, by the doorman, two weeks in advance.

One week before the duo opened two 40x60s were put up in the lobby; a combination trailer was used on the screen; a slide on the wall; an operating table with a wrapped dummy inside the entrance; and a first aid case with false teeth, hair dye and special copy adorned the lobby. Two one sheets on an A-board were put on the sidewalk three days in advance.

During the run of the pictures the entire front under the marquee was all in green lights. A special front was lighted by bunch light and green spots. Light paper skeletons hung under the marquee, illuminated skeleton masks were strung along the entrance with flashers, and a similar mask grinned from the boxoffice window. The dummy on the operating table was moved from the lobby to the sidewalk and two headless dummies stood at each side of the boxoffice. Green flares lit the curb at night and all the staff was dressed in nurses and internes' uniforms.

Store Treasure Hunt Put On for "Hullabaloo"

READING, PA.—One segment of a highly comprehensive campaign put on for "Hullabaloo" at Loew's Colonial here by Manager George Peters and Paul Kamey, Metro exploiteer, consisted of a "Store Treasure Hunt" conducted at the W. T. Grant store.

Twenty stills from previous Frank Morgan films were mounted on heavy cardboard and placed in prominent spots above 20 different counters in the store. Each still carried copy plugging the picture, theatre and playdate, and bore a number at the top and bottom.

Salesgirls distributed entry blanks to customers. The idea was for customers to identify the pictures from which the stills were taken and write the names in the spaces provided on the entry blanks. Guest tickets went for the nearest correct solutions. A large receptacle carrying theatre copy was placed at the front of the store for customers to file their entries.

Wall paper heralds, which had not been used for a long time in Reading, were imprinted: "They're tearing the wall paper off the walls laughing at Frank Morgan's imitations at the Colonial."

Wedding for "Nanette"

PHILADELPHIA—A wedding on board a plane was arranged by Maurice Gable for "No, No, Nanette." The wedding, held on the 13th, similar to a scene in the picture, was broadcast by a Philadelphia station.

Screening in Street Car

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Metro Publicist Dan Terrell screened "Comrade X" for the Washington critics in a street car, preceding its run at the Loew's Theatre.

A Unique Coop Herald For "Four Mothers"

UTICA, N. Y.—A unique cooperative herald was distributed by Arnold Stoltz of the Avon Theatre for his New Year's Eve booking of "Four Mothers."

A flat, rectangular piece of cotton was wrapped in red tissue paper and attached to the back of an ordinary envelope. On the front of the envelope was tied a diminutive baby's milk bottle, made of celluloid.

Two holes punched in the envelope permitted the string through that tied the bottle. The envelope itself was imprinted: "For mothers . . . don't give baby a late bottle Tuesday! See reasons inside."

Inside the envelope was the herald, a 4½x10 inch strip folded to fit. Above a scene cut from the picture, it read: "Baby will be too excited after its Christmas week . . . so put the little darling to bed and take dad down to the Avon to see, etc."

The lower part of the herald carried a message from the cooperating merchant, a dealer in infants' wear—which may account for the strip of cotton.

Crying Rooms, Please Note

Richland, Iowa—This works in a big way for the Glen Nordykes who operate the Strand Theatre: The Nordykes keep on hand a fresh stock of Graham crackers at the theatre, and at the first outburst made by a squalling infant the nourishment is rushed to the offender's quarters. The mother is grateful, and the baby, "nine out of ten times," is effectively silenced.

A Special Spook Show Makes Record Matinee

PHILADELPHIA—Record Sunday matinee business was garnered by Manager Roland Haynes of the Keystone with a special "Spooks-a-Poppin' Show." Haynes, in addition to "Ghost Breakers," booked an older thriller and two spook cartoons and labeled it the spook show.

Publicizing the event was a special trailer with chiller effects from the stage; teaser cards throughout the theatre, lobby display a week in advance; 3,000 heralds distributed the day before opening; and announcements from the stage on the Saturday Kiddies matinee.

Wisconsin Financial Firm Ties In on 'Boom Town' Ad

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—A financial house here, handling the stock of a refining company, recently advertised the run of "Boom Town" at the local Majestic Theatre, tying in its own copy in the three-column, seven-inch ad. Copy in part, read:

"Don't miss 'Boom Town' a superb human interest story of the oil industry." Then followed theatre and playdate, and the name of the refinery and the brokerage firm. A footnote declared the ad not an offer to sell or a solicitation, and referred interested readers to the company's prospectus.

THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY

An open forum for exhibitor comment. Please address communications and requests for report blanks to THE EXHIBITOR HAS HIS SAY, BOXOFFICE, *4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.*

Columbia

Blondie Has Servant Trouble

Poorest draw of any Blondie picture. Up to the high average of past Blondies, but too many other attractions in town when I played this. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-15. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 333.—Arthur E. Phifield, Park, So. Berwick, Me.

Lone Wolf Meets a Lady

About as good a program picture as you'll ever get. Excellent work by Warren William and Eric Blore. Plenty of mystery and comedy that sparkles. Lobby remarks of patrons indicated 100 per cent approval. Very good at the B. O. Sat., Sun. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allen Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

Nobody's Children

A lukewarm tear-jerker with Edith Fellows. Just fairish. One of those south ends of double bills. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allan Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

Too Many Husbands

Good show, played a little old. Jean Arthur plenty good. I can't understand why Columbia doesn't make more shows with her. Everyone enjoyed the comedy in this one. It seemed to me there was too much about one thing. Otherwise, plenty good. Business good, play it. Sun., Mon. Weather: O. K. Admission: 22-10. Rural-town patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 408.—Jack Story, Mary Agnes, Jamestown, Ky.

Paramount

Typhoon

Above average Sunday-Monday business and pleased all. Story weak, but action in final scenes of tropical typhoon and drawing power of Dorothy Lamour, puts picture over to good business. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-15. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 333.—Arthur E. Phifield, Park, So. Berwick, Me.

Untamed

Good picture, good draw with several favorable comments. Play on your best dates. Sun., Mon. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-15. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 333.—Arthur E. Phifield, Park, So. Berwick, Me.

World in Flames

Interesting review of the war to date and events leading up to it. Action shots taken from newsreels. Very interesting to the thinking class of people. Played to better than average business. Wed., Thurs. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allan Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

Republic

Colorado

Roy Rogers and Gabby Hayes do their bit in this mildly interesting western. Audience reaction not so good. One tot said, "It's just like the others." That hits it. Just another western. Business good due to other feature on the program. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allan Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

Hit Parade of 1941

A good enough show but for some reason Republic pictures do not hold up on Sunday runs. Quite a little below average. Nevertheless, a picture of the good-to-excellent class for general trade. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allan Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

Melody and Moonlight

Extremely light. Played to slightly below average business. Pleased the majority. Billy Gilbert and Vera Vague are in a class by themselves. Not good enough for your best dates. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allan Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride

Autry, Burnette and that cute little trick, Mary Lee, do a real job in this picture. Audience reaction dandy, boxoffice simply lovely. What a divine feeling! I'd like to have it oftener. Played on a double bill, but I'm afraid nobody noticed the other picture. Fri., Sat. Weather: Snow. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allan Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

RKO Radio

Villain Still Pursued Her, The

A good share of my crowd didn't catch on. They just thought it was poor acting. A few of them got a tremendous kick out of the picture. Played on a double bill. Boxoffice average. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allan Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

20th Century-Fox

Maryland

Average Sunday-Monday draw. Seemed to please patrons. Personally thought it a bit draggy in places. It has plenty of action in last reel which sends them out satisfied. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-15. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 333.—Arthur E. Phifield, Park, So. Berwick, Me.

Return of Frank James

No extra draw here on Friday-Saturday date. Picture is fine and pleases all. A bit too heavy for the smaller children. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-15. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 333.—Arthur E. Phifield, Park, So. Berwick, Me.

Universal

Bad Man From Red Butte

Another good western from Universal. It seems all my western fans enjoy Fuzzy Knight. In one respect it is "just another western," but they always gross out big at the boxoffice and that's what counts. If you use westerns, don't pass it up. Fri., Sat. Weather: Warm, dry. Admission: 22-10. Rural-town patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 408.—Jack Story, Mary Agnes, Jamestown, Ky.

Big Guy

Played this late. Poor business and no comments from patrons. Just another prison picture. Fri., Sat. Weather: Fair. Admission: 20-15. General patronage. Population: 2,600. Capacity: 333.—Arthur E. Phifield, Park, So. Berwick, Me.

Give Us Wings

The fastest, funniest and entertaining-est picture the "Dead End Kids" have ever made. It's rather light for the class trade, but the family trade will go for it hook, line and sinker. Played Sunday run to good business in bad weather. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allan Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

Spring Parade

Well, the critics said wonderful. I don't, definitely. A young girl falls in a hay rack on the ground, that becomes a load of hay. When she awakens, she has ridden 58 miles. The European horses must really travel or else she was awfully tired and slept a couple of days. I can't imagine a girl disappearing without a search being made for her either. The prize boner was the composition of a waltz with words, written on a scrap of paper by Robt. Cummings. It took him just a few minutes, after which the orchestra played it beautifully, Deanna sang it and the orchestra obligingly changed key for her. And why the European setting? I say nuts to this stuff. Lousy at the B. O. Sun., Mon., Tues. Weather: Fair. Admission: 30-10. Rural patronage. Population: 1,200. Capacity: 300.—Allan Banks, Vogue, Remsen, Ia.

Warner Bros.

All This, and Heaven Too

This one surprised me very much. I was expecting to lose money. Everyone enjoyed it. I heard some say it was too long and didn't end just right. It ran Thursday night in competition to the Hallowe'en parties which didn't hurt me. It is not exactly a small town show; however, it made me money. Weather: Cool, rainy. Admission: 22-10. Rural-town patronage. Population: 650. Capacity: 408. —Jack Story, Mary Agnes, Jamestown, Ky.

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ✪ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ◎ indicates color photography.

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JUNE 1	[30] M'drama **1016** **Lone Wolf Meets a Lady** (71) Warren William Jean Muir R—June 8	[31] Mys. Drama **40** **Phantom Raiders** (70) Walter Pidgeon R—June 1	[30] Western **3966** **Riders From Nowhere** (45) Jack Randall R—Oct. 19	[31] Comedy **3936** **Those Were the Days** (70) William Holden Bonita Granville R—May 25		[31] Drama **025** **Bill of Divorcement** (74) Maureen O'Hara Adolphe Menjou R—Mar. 16	[31] Drama **051** **Girl in 313** (58) Florence Rice Kent Taylor R—May 11		[31] Musical **4029** **La Conga Nights** (61) R—May 18 [31] Western **4063** **Bad Man From Red Butte** (58) R-Jne 15	[1] M'drama **FN472** **Murder in the Air** (55) Ronald Reagan Lya Lys R—May 11	[1] Western **151** **Frontier Crusader** (63) R—June 15
JUNE 8	[3] Drama **1112** **Mad Men of Europe** (73) R—June 1 Edmund Gwenn	[7] Drama **39** **Susan and God** (117) Joan Crawford R—June 8		[7] Western **3958** **Hidden Gold** (61) William Boyd R—May 25	[6] Drama **902** **Women in War** (70) Elsie Janis R—June 1	[7] Melodrama **033** **Saint Takes Over** (68) R—Apr. 27 George Sanders	[7] Drama **034** **Earthbound** (67) Warner Baxter R—May 18		[7] Drama **4036** **Love, Honor and Oh Baby** (59) R—June 8	[8] Com. Dr. **WB405** **Brother Orchid** (91) Edw. G. Robinson R—June 1	
JUNE 15	[6] M'drama **1028** **Passport to Alcatraz** (60); **Jack Holt** R—June 22	[14] Drama **41** ✪**Mortal Storm, The** (99) R—June 15 Margaret Sullavan James Stewart	[11] Com. Drama **3915** **On the Spot** (62) Frankie Darro R—June 8	[14] Drama **3937** **Safari** (81) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Madeleine Carroll R—June 1	[19] Act'n Drama **907** **Wagons Westward** (70) R—June 29 Chester Morris Anita Louise	[7] Western **084** **Prairie Law** (60) George O'Brien R—June 8	[14] Drama **047** **Four Sons** (88) Don Ameche Mary Beth Hughes R—June 8		[14] Com. Drama **4008** **Sandy Is a Lady** (64) R—May 25 Baby Sandy Eugene Pallette	[15] M'drama **FN473** **Fugitive From Justice** (53) R-June 22 Roger Pryor Lucille Fairbanks	
JUNE 22	[20] Drama **1037** **Girls of the Road** (61) Ann Dvorak Lola Lane R—June 29	[21] Com. Drama **42** **Captain Is a Lady** (65) R—June 29 Virginia Grey Billie Burke Charles Coburn	[18] Western **3960** **Wild Horse Range** (51) Jack Randall R—June 22	[21] Mys. Com. **3938** **Ghost Breakers** (85) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—June 15	[25] Musical Com. **908** **Grand Ole Opry** (67) R—July 6 [27] Western **955** **Carson City Kid** (57) R—July 6	[21] Com. Drama **034** **Pop Always Pays** (67) Leon Errol R—June 22	[21] Mystery **048** **Charlie Chan's Murder Cruise** (75) Sidney Toler Marjorie Weaver R—May 4		[21] Comedy **4037** **I Can't Give You Anything But Love** (61) Broderick Crawford R—May 11	[22] M'drama **WB424** **Gambling on the High Seas** (56) Wayne Morris Jane Wyman R—Oct. 12	
JUNE 29	[27] Western **1214** **Return of Wild Bill** Bill Elliott (57) R—July 13	[28] Musical **31** **New Moon** (100) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—June 22	[25] M'drama **3927** **Last Alarm** (61) Polly Ann Young Warren Hull R—July 13	[28] Drama **3939** **Queen of the Mob** (61) R—June 29 Ralph Bellamy Blanche Yurka Jean Cagney	[29] Western **992** **One Man's Law** (57) Don "Red" Barry Janet Waldo R—July 13	[28] Drama **035** **Anne of Windy Poplars** (86) Anne Shirley R—June 22	[28] Outd'r Dr. **049** **Lucky Cisco Kid** (68) Cesar Romero Mary Beth Hughes R—June 1		[28] Drama **5046** **The Fugitive** (77) Ralph Richardson Diana Wynyard R—July 6		
JULY 6	[30] Comedy **1021** **Out West With the Peppers** (61) Edith Fellows R—July 13	[5] Comedy **43** **Andy Hardy Meets Debutante** (89) Mickey Rooney R—July 6	[3] Western **3956** **The Golden Trail** (52) Tex Ritter R—July 13	[5] Drama **3940** **Way of All Flesh** (86) R—June 1 Akim **Tamiroff** Gladys **George**	[12] Drama **903** **Three Faces West** (81) R—June 22 John Wayne Sigrid Gurie	[5] Drama **036** **Dr. Christian Meets the Women** (68) Jean Hersholt R—June 29	[5] Com. Drama **052** **Sailor's Lady** (66) Nancy Kelly Jon Hall R—July 6		[5] Com. Drama **4007** **Private Affairs** (74) Nancy Kelly Roland Young R—June 15	[13] Drama **FN467** **Man Who Talked Too Much** (75) George Brent R—July 6	[8] Com. Drama **102** **Hold That Woman** (66) James Dunn R—Nov. 30
JULY 13		[12] Drama **44** **Sporting Blood** (82) Robert **Young** Maureen **O'Sullivan** R—July 13		[12] Western **3959** **Stagecoach War** (63) R—July 6 Bill Boyd Russell Hayden		[12] Com. Drama **039** **Cross Country Romance** (68) Gene Raymond Wendy Barrie R—June 29	[12] Drama **046** **Manhattan Heartbeat** (71) V. Gilmore R. Sterling R-June 8			[13] Drama **FN454** ✪**All This, and Heaven Too** (143) Bette Davis Charles Boyer R—June 22	
JULY 20	[18] Drama **1038** **Military Academy** (66) T. Kelly R-July 13 [24] Adventure **1110** **I Married Adventure** (78) R-July 20	[19] Com. Drama **45** **We Who Are Young** (79) Lana Turner John Shelton R—July 20	[16] Mystery **3910** **Haunted House** (70) R—Aug. 3 [15] Melodrama **4020** **Boys of the City** East Side Kids (63) R—Aug. 31		[20] Comedy **909** **Scatterbrain** (72) Judy Canova R—July 13 [15] Western **944** **Carolina Moon** (65) G. Autry R—July 20	[19] Drama **029** **Tom Brown's School Days** (82) James Lydon Fred. Bartholomew Cedric Hardwicke R—June 29	[19] Drama **050** ✪**Maryland** (91) Walter Brennan Fay Bainter Brenda Joyce R—July 13	[18] Melodrama **South of Pago Pago** (97) Victor McLaglen Jon Hall Francis Farmer R—July 20	[19] Melodrama **4057** **Black Diamonds** (52) R—July 27 [26] Western **4064** **Son of Roaring Dan** (64) R—Aug. 17 Johnny Mack Brown	[20] Com. with Mu. **WB407** **My Love Came Back** (85) R—July 6 Olivia de Havilland Jeffrey Lynn	[20] Western **157** **Billy the Kid Outlawed** (60) Bob Steele
JULY 27	[25] Comedy **1012** **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (70) Penny Singleton Arthur **Lake** R—July 27	[26] Com. Drama **47** **Gold Rush Maisie** (82) Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	[29] Melodrama **4024** **Orphans of the North** (57) R—Nov. 9 [29] Western **3957** **Rainbow Over the Range** (59) T. Ritter R-Aug. 10	[26] Drama **3941** ✪**Untamed** (83) Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	[30] Drama **904** **Girl from God's Country** (71) R—Jul 27 Chester Morris	[26] Western **085** **Stage to Chino** (59) G.O'Brien R-Aug. 24 [26] Com. Drama **037** **Millionaires in Prison** (63) L. Tracy R-June 29			[26] Com. Dr. **4023** **You're Not So Tough** (72) R—June 1 [26] Outd'r Dr. **4006** **When Daltons Rode** (81) R—Aug. 3	[27] Comedy **FN474** **Ladies Must Live** (58) Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		[2] Costume Com. **46** ✪**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	[5] Melodrama **3908** **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	[2] Melodrama **3942** **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	[30] Western **956** **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R-July 27	[2] Drama **061** ✪**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov.26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	[2] Drama **101** **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		[2] M'drama **4039** **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	[3] Drama **FN460** **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	[3] Western **152** **Gun Code** (56) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	[7] Drama **1008** **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian **Aherne** Rita **Hayworth** R—Aug. 10	[9] Com. Drama **50** **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		[9] Melodrama **3943** **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	[10] Musical **910** **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	[9] Melodrama **042** **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	[9] Com. Drama **104** **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	[9] Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	[9] Comedy **4003** **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	[10] Ac. Dram **WB414** **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	[15] Melodrama **1039** **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 [15] Western **2201** **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	[16] Comedy **49** **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	[12] Mys. Drama **3913** **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 [19] Western **3958** **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Nov. 9	[16] Comery **3944** **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	[16] Western **071** **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	[16] Drama **041** **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	[16] Melodrama **103** ✪**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	[16] Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		[17] Drama **WB417** **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	

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24	Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		22 Western **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		23 Drama 043 **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R-Aug. 24	Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama 48 **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama 3903 **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western 069 **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy 046 **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners** (101) R.Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy 109 **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama WB401 **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 Mystery 103 **Marked Men** (70) Warren Hull
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy 1022 **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama 101 **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama 3920 **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. 4001 **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western 043 **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama 101 **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	6 Melodrama 110 **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (92) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. 5013 **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. WB519 **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama 2032 **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama 1024 **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama 017 **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept 14	13 Comedy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 Comedy 105 **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. 5006 **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama 5051 **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 Comedy FN554 **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 **The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 Mus. Com. 104 **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama 4021 **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordon R—Oct. 5	20 Drama 4002 **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western 086 **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Act. Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama 5020 **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 Western 5061 **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 Drama WB506 **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 Western 153 **Arizona Gang Busters** (60)
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 1040 **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery 105 **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama 4003 **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western 062 **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. 5001 **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 Western 158 **Billy the Kid in Texas** (57) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama 4004 **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 Western 072 **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western 181 **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama 5019 **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama WB502 **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	8 Com. Dr'ma 2018 **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 Drama 4005 **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 Mus. Com. 005 **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 Burl. Com. 105 **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R-Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 Mus. Com. 113 **Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 Melodrama 5017 **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 Comedy FN559 **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama 2030 **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows Billy Lee		7 Com. Dr. 4010 **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 Drama 4006 **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 Mus. Com. 001 **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 Melodrama 107 **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama 114 **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 Western 5062 **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. WB511 **Dispatch from Reuters** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama 2038 **Girls Under 21** (63) R—Nov. 30 21 Western 2202 **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy 109 **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 Drama 4007 **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 25 Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	21 Western 052 **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 Melodrama 104 **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 Comedy 111 **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy 5024 **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 Drama 5007 **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	26 Com. Dr. FN561 **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy 2016 **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama 108 **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 Musical 4008 **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 Mystery 006 **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 Comedy 109 **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 Comedy 5036 **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 Melodrama 5052 **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	2 Comedy FN570 **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical 110 **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western 4051 **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 Musical 4009 **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 Mus. Comedy 007 **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 Comedy 106 **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 Melodrama 117 **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy 5021 **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 Western 5063 **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama FN562 **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	5 Western 154 **Riders of Black Mountain** (60) Tim McCoy
NOV. 16	14 Western 2210 **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama 111 **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery 4012 **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western 4050 **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western 063 **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy 111 **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama 102 **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		16 Drama 5015 **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama WB513 **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Geraldine Fitzgerald R—Dec. 21	

BOOKING CHART

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NOV. 23	21 Drama **2012** **Escape to Glory (74)** R—Nov. 30 23 Mystery **2021** **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30	22 Comedy **112** **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 **Western** **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western **041** **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 22 Western **073** **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. **108** **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy **119** **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy **5023** **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama **(Reissue)** **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama **FN552** **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	28 Mystery **2024** **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **115** **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 Comedy **018** **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karns R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **113** **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama **120** **Tin Pan Alley** (94) Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy **5010** **Bank Dick, The** (74) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama **WB512** **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western **2203** **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy **114** **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. **4011** **Night at Earl Carroll's, A (63)** Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western **053** **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western **182** **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama **118** **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy **5026** **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy **FN571** **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	6 Com. Mys. **104** **Devil Bat** (67) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 14	9 Drama **2031** **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama **113** **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		13 Western **4012** **Texas Rangers Ride Again (68)** John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy **008** **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery **121** **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama **5008** **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 **Western 159** **Billy the Kid's Gun Justice** (..) Bob Steele
DEC. 21	20 Mystery **2033** **Phantom Submarine** (70) Anita Louise			27 Outd'r Dr. **3946** **©North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama **009** **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama **114** **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson	20 Comedy **122** **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama **5025** **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 **Reissue** **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 **Com. Drama 105** **Misbehaving Husbands** (65) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	25 Outd'r Dr. **2101** **Arizona** (128) Jean Arthur R—Nov. 23 31 Western **2211** **Wildcat of Tuscon** (57) Bill Elliott	27 Comedy **116** **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 Drama **4003** **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western **4052** **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) Tex Ritter	27 Comedy **4013** **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western **064** **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama **112** **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	27 Drama **123** **©Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy **©Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Comedy **Invisible Woman** (72) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan 4—PG-1	28 Adv. Dr. **FN551** **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 **Comedy 106** **You Betcha My Life** (..) Henry Armetta
JAN. 4	2 Comedy **2205** **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama **117** **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical **4014** **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama **019** **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 Drama **161** **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell	3 Drama **115** **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. **Drama** **Where Did You Get That Girl** (67) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama **5053** **Lucky Devils** (64)	4 M'drama **WB503** **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	3 Mystery **107** **Secret Evidence** (..) 3 Western **163** **Lone Rider No. 1** (..) George Houston
JAN. 11	9 Western **2204** **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett	10 Com. Drama **118** **Maisie Was a Lady** (80) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11	5 **Melodrama** **You're Out of Luck** (..) Frankie Darro	10 Western **4051** **Doomed Caravan** (..) William Boyd Russell Hayden	6 Western **074** **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11	10 Drama **110** **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama **124** **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western **5064** **Boss of Bullion City** (..) 10 Drama **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama **FN572** **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon	
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. **2029** **Face Behind the Mask** (..) Peter Lorre	17 Drama **119** **Philadelphia Story** (112) Katharine Hepburn Cary Grant		17 Drama **4015** **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western **054** **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers Geo. "Gabby" Hayes	17 Musical **115** **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama **125** **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11		17 **Comedy** **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** Lupe Velez Leon Errol	18 Com. Drama **Honeymoon for Three** (77) George Brent Ann Sheridan	17 **Comedy 108** **Glamour Girls Never Say No** (..)
JAN. 25		24 Comedy **121** **Wild Man of Borneo** (..) 24 Documentary **Land of Liberty**		24 Comedy **4016** **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (81) Jackie Cooper	24 Western **Riding on a Rainbow** (..) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	24 Mystery **116** **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama **128** **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (..) Cesar Romero Virginia Gilmore	24 Comedy **Road Show** (..) Adolphe Menjou Carol Landis		25 Drama **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino	
FEB. 1		31 Drama **122** **Come Live With Me** (..) James Stewart Hedy Lamarr			31 Comedy **Arkansas Judge** (..) Weaver Bros. and Elviry	31 Comedy **117** **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (..) Carole Lombard Robert Montgomery	31 Drama **127** **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Drama **Back Street** (..) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer		
FEB. 8	3 Melodrama **The Devil Commands** (..) Boris Karloff			7 Musical Com. **You're the One** (..) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker	7 Comedy **Petticoat Politics** (..) Higgins Family Roscoe Karnes	7 Western **183** **Along the Rio Grande** (..) Tim Holt	7 Comedy **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (..) Eugene Pallette Rita Quigley		7 Comedy **Buck Private** (..) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello		
FEB. 15	13 Drama **Adam Had Four Sons** (..) 13 Western **2212** **Across the Sierra**			14 Mystery **Mad Doctor, The** (91) Basil Rathbone		14 Drama **118** **Citizen Kane** (..) Orson Welles	14 Com. Drama **Golden Hoofs** (..) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers		14 Comedy **Meet the Chump** (..) Hugh Herbert Lewis Howard		
FEB.	20 Drama **Return of Boston**			21 Drama **©Virginia** (..)		21 Comedy **119** **Show Business** (..)	21 Drama **Western Union** (..)		21 Mus. Comedy **Love at Last** (..)		

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ‡ Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. ◐ Indicates short of the week. ◎ Indicates color photography.

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

2425..Blondes and Blunders (16)..11-29 ± 12- 7
2424..Bundle of Bliss, A (18)..11- 1 ....
2423..Cold Turkey (16).....10-18 ....
1438..Fireman Save My Choo-Choo (18) ..... 8- 9 + 8-31
1437..His Bridal Fright (16)... 7-12 ....
2426..His Ex Marks the Spot (..) .....12-13 ....
2421..Pleased to Mitt You (18).. 9- 6 ....
1421..Skinny the Moocher (16½) 9- 8 ....
2422..Spook Speaks, The (18)... 9-20 + 10-19
1436..Taming of the Snood (16). 6-28 ....
9437..Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18) ..... 7-28 ....

CINESCOPES

2972..Floating Elephants (8)...10- 4 + 10-19
2971..Hobby Lobby (11)..... 8-30 + 9-21
2972..Industrial Green Island (10) ..... 9-20 ....
2973..Nice Work If You Can Do It (9) .....11- 8 + 11-23
1975..Odd Vacations (8½)..... 6-16 ....
2974..Unique Industry (..).....12-19 ....

COLOR RHAPSODIES (In Technicolor)

2505..A Helping Paw (7)..... 1- 7 ....
2502..◎Mr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½) .....10- 4 ....
2501..Tangled Television (7½).. 8-30 + 10-19
1512..Timid Pup, The (8)..... 8- 1 ± 8-31
2504..Wise Owl (7).....12- 6 ∓ 12- 7
1511..Ye Olde Swap Shoppe (7½) 6-28 ....

COLUMBIA TOURS

2556..Beautiful British Columbia (..) .....12-20 ....
2551..Historic Virginia (Andre de la Varre Productions) (10) ..... 8-16 ....
1558..In the Land of Pagodas (9) ..... 6-14 ....
2554..Islands of the West Indies (10) .....10-25 ‡ 11-23
2553..Old and New Arizona (Special) (9) ..... 9-27 ....
2552..Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10). 9-13 ‡ 10-23
2555..Sojourn in Havana (LaVarre Prod.) (9)....11-25 ± 12- 7

COMMUNITY SING

1656..No. 6 (Medley of Hits) (10) ..... 6-28 ....
2651..No. 1..(Jolly Tunes—D. Baker (10) .....10- 2 ....
2652..No. 2..(Popular Songs—D. Baker (10) .....11- 8 + 11-23
2653..No. 3..(Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)....12-13 ....

FABLES CARTOONS

1754..Barnyard Babies (7½)..... 6-14 ....
2751..Farmer Tom Thumb (6).. 9-27 + 10-19
2752..Mouse Meets Lion (6)....10-25 ∓ 12- 7
2753..Paunch 'n' Judy (6)..... 12-13 ....
1755..Pooch Parade (6)..... 7-19 ....

PHANTASIES CARTOONS

2702..Happy Holidays (6).....10-25 ....
1706..News Oddities (6)..... 7-19 ....
1756..Peep in the Deep, A (6½) 8-23 + 8-31
2701..School Boy Dreams (5)... 9-24 + 10-19
2704..Tom Thumb's Brother (..) ..... 1-17 ....
2703..Wallflower, The (..).....11-29 ....

QUIZ REELS

2601..Take It or Leave It (9½)..11-22 o 12- 7

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS

1858..No. 8 (10)..... 6- 7 ....
Cowboy Jubilee.
1859..No. 9 (10)..... 7-10 ....
Ken Murray.
1860..No. 10 (9)..... 8-10 ± 8-31
Jack Oakie.
2851..No. 1 (10)..... 9- 6 ....
Ken Murray.
2852..No. 2 (9).....10-18 o 11-23
Don Wilson.
2853..No. 3 (9).....11-22 ± 12- 7

SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)

2441..Puss in Boots (reissue) (40) .....11-21 ....

SPORT REELS

2803..Ali the Giant Killer (..)..12-27 ....
1809..Canvas Capers (11)..... 7-19 ....
2802..Hunting Wild Deer (9)...11-22 = 12- 7
2801..Master of Cue With Willie Hoppe (9) ..... 9-20 + 10-19
1808..Saving Strokes With Sam Snead (10) ..... 6-28 ....

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

2404..Boobs in Arms (18).....12-27 ....
2403..Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)....11-15 ± 12- 7
2401..From Nurse to Worse (16) 8-23 + 8-31
1408..How High Is Up (16)..... 7-16 = 8- 3
2402..No Census, No Feeling (16) 10- 4 ....
1407..Nutty But Nice (18)..... 6-14 ....

WASHINGTON PARADE
Series 2

1905..No. 5 (The Archives) (11). 7- 4 + 8- 3
1906..No. 6 (Our Nat'l Defense) (10) ..... 8-30 ....

Series 3

2901..No. 1 (The Mint) (10)....10-25 ....
2902..No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (..)....11-28 ....
2903..No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (..).....12-20 ....

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

P- 5..Buyers Beware (20)..... 8-17 ‡ 9- 7
P-201..◐Eyes of the Navy (20).10-26 ‡ 10-26
P- 6..Soak the Old (20)..... 8-24 ± 9-28
P-815..Think First (21)..... 9- 9 ....
P- 4..Women In Hiding (22).... 6-22 ± 7- 6

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS (In Technicolor)

T-214..Beautiful Bali (9).....11-23 ∓ 12-14
T-211..Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)..... 9- 7 ‡ 9- 7
T-212..Cavalcade of San Francisco (9) ..... 9-28 ∓ 9-28
T-213..Old New Mexico (10).....10-26 + 11- 9
T- 62..Suva, Pride of Fiji (9).... 6- 8 ∓ 6- 8

MINIATURES

M-231..Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia) 10- 9 ± 12-14

M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series) (Technicolor)

W- 90..Bookworm Turns, The (8) ..... 7-20 + 8-31
W- 94..Gallopin' Gals (8).....10-26 + 11- 9
W- 93..Homeless Flea, The (8)...10-12 ‡ 12- 7
W-241..Lonesome Stranger (9)....11-23 ‡ 12- 7
W- 89..Milky Way, The (8)..... 6-22 + 7- 6
W- 92..Papa Gets the Bird (8)... 9- 7 ∓ 9-28
W- 91..Romeo in Rhythm (8).... 8-10 ± 9- 7
W- 88..Tom Turkey (7)..... 6- 8 ....

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY
Released Twice Weekly

OUR GANG COMEDIES

C-293..Goin' Fishin' (10).....10-26 ± 11- 9
C-291..Good Bad Boys (11)..... 9- 7 + 9- 7
C-294..Kiddie Kure (11).....11-23 + 12-28
C-292..Waldo's Last Stand (11)..10- 5 ∓ 12- 7

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

K-281..American Spoken Here (Sepia) (10) .....11-30 ‡ 12- 7
K-126..Baron and the Rose, The (11) ..... 9- 7 ‡ 9-28
K-128..Dreams (10) .....11-16 + 12-14
K-127..Utopia of Death (10).....10-12 + 11- 9
K-124..Way in the Wilderness, A (10) (Sepia)..... 6-22 + 7- 6

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

S-110..Cat College (9) (Sepia).. 6-29 ....
S-113..Football Thrills of 1939 (10) 9-21 ‡ 9-28
S-112..Please Answer (9)..... 8-24 ‡ 9- 7
S-261..◐Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9) .....10-12 ‡ 12- 7
S-262..Wedding Bills (10).....11-30 ‡ 12- 7
S-109..What's Your I. Q.? No. 2 (9) ..... 6-10 ± 7- 6

SPECIAL

X-151..◐◎Flag Speaks, The (19) 6-14 ‡ 5- 4

Paramount

ANIMATED ANTICS

H0-4..Bring Himself Back Alive (7) .....12-20 ∓ 12-21
H0-1..Dandy Lion, The (7)..... 9-20 ± 10- 5
H0-3..Mommy Loves Puppy (7).11-29 + 12- 7
H0-2..Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7) 10-25 ± 11-23

BENCHLEY COMEDIES

S0- 1..Trouble With Husbands (11) .....11- 8 ‡ 12- 7

COLOR CLASSICS (In Technicolor)

C9-5..Snubbed by a Snob (7)... 7-19 + 8-31
C9-6..You Can't Shoe a Horsefly (7) ..... 8-23 + 8-24

COLOR CRUISES (New Series in Cinecolor)

K9-7..Pacific Paradise (10)..... 6-21 ....

FASCINATING JOURNEYS (Technicolor)

M0- 1..◐River Thames—Yesterday (10) .....11- 8 ‡ 11-23

FLEISCHER CARTOONS

FF0-1..Raggedy Ann (19).....12-20 ‡ 12-21

GABBY CARTOONS

G0- 2..Constable, The (7).....11-15 + 11-23
G0- 1..King for a Day (7).....10-18 + 10-26

HEADLINER

A0- 3..Johnny Messner and Orch. (11) .....12-13 ± 12-21
A0- 2..Listen to Larry (10).....10-25 + 10-26
A0- 1..◐Moments of Charm of 1941 (10) ..... 9-13 ‡ 10- 5
A9-10..Pinky Tomlin and Orch. (11) ..... 7-19 + 8-31

PARAMOUNT NEWS
Released Twice Weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

V9- 9..Dangerous Dollars (11)... 6-28 ....
V0- 1..Nature's Nursery (10)....10-11 ∓ 10-26
V9-10..Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)..... 9- 9 ± 8-24
V0- 2..Seeing Is Believing (11)..11-22 + 12- 7

POPEYE CARTOONS

E9-10..Doing Impossikible Stunts (7) ..... 8- 2 + 8-17
E0- 4..Eugene, the Jeep (7).....12-13 ± 12- 7
E9- 9..Fightin' Pals (8)..... 7-12 ‡ 8-17
E8-11..It's the Natural Thing to Do (7) ..... 7-28 ± 8-26
E0- 2..My Pop, My Pop (7).....10-18 ∓ 10-26
E9- 8..Nurse Mates (7) ..... 6-21 ....
E0- 1..Popeye Meets William Tell (7) ..... 9-20 ‡ 10- 5
E9-12..Puttin' on the Act (7)... 8-30 + 8-24
E9-11..Wimmin' Hadn't Oughta Drive (7) ..... 8-16 + 8-24
E0- 3..With Poopdeck Pappy (7) 11-15 o 12- 7

POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)

J9-6..(11) ..... 6-28 ....
J0-1..(11) ..... 9- 6 + 10- 5
J0-2..(10) .....11- 1 + 12- 7
J0-3..(10) ..... 1- 3 + 12-21

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

R0- 1..Diving Demons (10)..... 9- 6 ‡ 10- 5
R0- 5..Feminine Fitness (10).... 1-10 + 12-21
R0- 4..Marine Roundup (10).....12- 6 + 12- 7
R0- 3..Motorcycle Stunting (10).11- 8 + 11-23
R9-13..Sink or Swim (10)..... 7-12 ....
R0- 2..Sporting Everglades, The (10) .....10- 4 ‡ 11- 9

STONE AGE CARTOONS

B9- 9..Fulla Bluff Man, The (7). 8- 9 ± 8-24
B9-11..Pedagogical Institution (7) 9-13 ....
B9-10..Springtime in the Rockage (7) ..... 8-30 ....
B9- 6..Ugly Dino, The (7)..... 6-14 ....
B9- 8..Way Back When a Razzberry Was a Fruit (7).. 7-26 + 8-17
B9-12..Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)... 9-27 ....

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)

L9-6..No. 6 (11) ..... 8- 2 ‡ 8-17
L0-1..No. 1 (11)..... 9- 7 + 10- 5
L0-2..No. 2 (11).....11-29 + 12- 7

Republic

MEET THE STARS

028-1..No. 1 (10).....12-24 + 12-28

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS (In Technicolor)

.....Big Hearted Pluto (..)... 1-24 ....
04,107..Bone Trouble (9)..... 6-28 ....
04,109..Donald's Vacation (8)... 8- 9 ‡ 8-10
04,114..Fire Chief (..).....11-22 ‡ 12-14
04,113..Goofy's Glider (8).....11- 1 + 12-14
04,106..Mr. Duck Steps Out (8).. 6- 7 ....
04,112..Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8) .....11- 1 + 11-23
.....Pantry Pirate (8).....12-27 ....
04,110..Pluto's Dream House (8). 8-30 + 9-21
04,108..Put-Put Trouble (7)..... 7-19 ....
04,111..Window Cleaners (8)..... 9-20 ‡ 10-26

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

.....Drafted in the Depot (19).12-20 ....
13,401..Sunk by the Census (18). 9- 6 ± 9-21
13,402..Trailer Tragedy (17).... 10-18 + 11- 9

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

03,704..Bested by a Beard (20)... 7-26 ....
13,701..He Asked for It (18)..... 9-27 ∓ 9-21
13,702..Tattle Talevision (19).....11-29 ....

MARCH OF TIME

03,111..No. 11 (18)..... 6- 7 + 6-22
The U. S. Navy.
03,112..No. 12 (17)..... 8- 2 + 8-10
Spoils of Conquest.
03,113..◐No. 13 (20)..... 8-24 ‡ 8-31
Gateways to Panama.
13,101..No. 1 (19)..... 9-13 ‡ 9-21
On Foreign Newfronts.
13,102..No. 2 (18).....10- 4 + 10-19
Britain's R. A. F.
13,103..No. 3 (19).....10-25 ± 10-26
Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.
13,104..No. 4 (19).....11-22 + 12- 7
Arms and the men.
13,105..No. 5 (19).....12-20 + 12-28
Labor and Defense.

PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE

04,211..No. 11 (10)..... 6-14 ± 6-15
04,212..◐No. 12 (12)..... 7-12 ‡ 7-13

: WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS :

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Movietone News, No. 33

Roosevelt speech; British destroyer, disabled, is towed to port; King George visits pilots; Londoners in subway shelters; sporting highlights of 1940; Santa Anita racing.

News of the Day, No. 231

Roosevelt speech; disabled destroyer towed to British port; Londoners in subway shelters; glamour girls on parade; Florida swimming meet; Santa Anita racing.

Paramount News, No. 36

Italian prisoners in Egypt; Anne Lindbergh on relief for Europe; torpedoed British destroyer towed to port; beach fashions; refugee children in radio talks to parents in England; Roosevelt speech.

RKO Pathe News, No. 36

Roosevelt fireside chat; crippled British destroyer towed to port; Cuban tornado; Jews honor Justice Hughes; swim meet in Florida; basketball.

Universal Newsreel, No. 941

Roosevelt talk; disabled British destroyer towed to port; Cuban tornado; Jews honor Justice Hughes; Florida swim meet; basketball; racing.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

Movietone News, No. 34

Chief Justice Hughes honored; launch submarine tender on coast; coal train wreck; Crown Prince of Norway in Washington; artillery emplacements on British coast; Duke of Kent tours southwest England; rhumba fashions; New Year's Day football.

News of the Day, No. 232

Tacoma bridge collapse (by request); night life in London; King visits RAF; Hailie Selassie in Africa; Justice Hughes honored in Washington; New Year's Day football.

Paramount News, No. 37

Four "Bowl" football games.

RKO Pathe News, No. 37

"1941 a Year of War," written and narrated by Raymond Gram Swing.

Universal Newsreel, No. 942

Resume of the sporting events of the year; New Year's Day football games.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd
04.213..	No. 13 (11)	8- 9	±	8-10
14,201..	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202..	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203..	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204..	No. 4 (11)	11-29		....
14,205..	No. 5 (11)	12-27		....
	PATHE NEWS (Released Twice Weekly)			
	RADIO FLASH COMEDIES			
03,205..	Goodness, a Ghost (16)	7- 5		....
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
04,312..	Arrow Points (8)	7- 5	±	9-21
04,311..	©Hurdle Hoppers (9)	6- 7		....
14,302..	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,301..	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,305..	Snow Eagles (9)	12-20		....
14,304..	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	‡	12-14
14,303..	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
04,611..	Streamlined (9)	6-21		....
04,313..	Trouble Shooter (9)	8- 2	+	9-21
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401..	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402..	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403..	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404..	No. 4 (10)	12- 6	+	12-14
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)			
13,501..	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
03,504..	Corralling a Schoolmarm (20)	6-14	+	8-10
	REELISMS (New Series)			
04,613..	Hats (9)	8-16		....
04,611..	Streamlined (9)	8-10	∓	8-10
04,612..	Week End (9)	7-19		....

20th Century-Fox

	ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN			
0201..	Conquering the Colorado (11)	8-18	‡	8-19
1201..	©Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	‡	10-19
0204..	Sanctuary of the Seals (9)	6- 7	+	6-22
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601..	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	‡	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
0306..	Action on Ice (9)	7-19		....
1303..	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302..	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1301..	©Vacation Time in Florida (8)	8-10	±	8-17
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1101..	Eskimo Trails (10)	8- 2	+	8-17
1103..	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		....
	FASHIONS (In Technicolor)			
0603..	Fashion Forecasts No. 7 (8)	6-21		....
0604..	Fashion Forecasts No. 8 (8)	6-21		....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE			
0404..	Cheerio My Dears (9)	7- 5		....
1401..	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402..	Tale of Butch the Parrot, The (..)	12- 6		....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102..	©Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104..	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
	TERRY-TOONS			
1551..	©Billy Mouse's Akwakade (7)	8- 9	∓	8-17
1501..	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		....
1503..	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		....
1553..	How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554..	Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
0517..	Love in a Cottage (7)	7-28		....
1552..	Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		....
1504..	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12 7
1555..	©Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
0514..	Professor Offkeyski (7)	6-14	±	6- 8
0515..	Rover's Rescue (7)	6-28		....
0516..	Rupert the Runt (7)	7-12		....
1505..	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		....
1556..	©Temperamental Lion, The (7)	12-27		....
1502..	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19

Universal

	LANTZ CARTUNES (Technicolor)			
5241..	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		....
5243..	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5242..	©Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	‡	11- 9
5244..	Syncopated Sioux (..)	12-30		....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
4363..	No. 78 (9)	6-17		....
4364..	No. 79 (9)	7-18	+	8- 3
4365..	No. 80 (9½)	8-12		....
5351..	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352..	No. 82 (9)	10-14		....
5353..	No. 83 (9)	11-11		....
5354..	No. 84 (9)	12-23		....
5355..	No. 85 (9)	1-20		....
5356..	No. 86 (9)	2-19		....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110..	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 8
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
4383..	No. 78 (9)	6-10	+	6-22
4384..	No. 79 (9)	7- 8	+	7-27
4385..	No. 80 (9)	8- 5	+	7-27
5371..	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372..	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		....
5373..	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		....
5374..	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		....
5375..	No. 85 (9)	1- 1		....
5376..	No. 86 (9)	2- 5		....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
5225..	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (..) The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.	1-22		....
5221..	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		....
5223..	Congamania (17) Jose Cansino Dancers, Eddie Durant & Orch.	10-16	±	12- 7
4231..	Hawaiian Rhythm (17) Harry Owens and His Royal Hawaiians.	7-17	+	7-27
4233..	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110..	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		....
4230..	Naughty Nineties (18)	6-17	‡	7- 6
5224..	Tickled Pinky (18) Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.	12-25		....
5223..	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
4232..	Varsity Vanities (17½) Six Hits and a Miss, Martha Tilton.	8- 7	+	8- 3
	UNIVERSAL NEWS Released Twice Weekly			

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd

Vitaphone

	BROADWAY BREVITIES			
6202..	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6202	Ed Sullivan's Hollywood (20)	11-16		....
6201..	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		....
4008..	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		....
5109..	©Spills for Thrills (19)	6-15	‡	8- 3
5110..	Young America Flies (20)	8- 3		....
	THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)			
5410..	Famous Movie Dogs (10)	7-27	+	8-17
5408..	Mechanix Illustrated No. 4 (10)	6-29	+	6-15
5410..	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		....
5409..	Valley, The (8)	7-20	+	7- 6
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6101..	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6301..	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6303..	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302..	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601..	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		....
5614..	Chewin' Bruin, The (7)	6- 8	±	6-22
5616..	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	‡	8-24
5615..	Porky's Baseball Broadcast (7)	7- 6	‡	7- 6
6604..	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6602..	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603..	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		....
6605..	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		....
5613..	You Ought to Be in Pictures (7)	5-18	+	5-18
	MELODY MASTERS			
6503..	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	11-23		....
6502..	Joe Reichman & Orch. (10)	10-26		....
6501..	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	‡	8-24
5509..	Ozzie Nelson & Orch. (10)	6-29	‡	7- 6
6504..	Skinnay Ennis & Orch (10)	1- 4	+	12-28
5510..	Woody Herman & Orch. (10)	7-27		....
	MERRIE MELODIES (In Technicolor)			
6706..	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		....
5326..	Ceiling Hero (7)	7- 6		....
5321..	Circus Today (7)	6-22	+	7- 6
6709..	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)	1- 4	o	12-28
5323..	Egg Collector (7)	7-20		....
5325..	Ghost Wanted (7)	8-10		....
6104..	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		....
6703..	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11 9
5322..	Little Blabbermouse (7)	7- 6	‡	8-17
6701..	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707..	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		....
6708..	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6702..	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
5320..	Tom Thumb in Trouble (7)	6- 8	±	6-15
6705..	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
5324..	Wild Hare, A (7)	7-27		....
	SPORTS PARADE (Color)			
6404..	California Thoroughbreds (10)	1-11	±	12-28
6403..	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402..	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6401..	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
5006..	Cinderella's Feller (20)	6- 1	+	6-15
6001..	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002..	March on Marines (20)	12-14	‡	12-28
5007..	Pony Express Days (20)	7-13	+	7- 6
5008..	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706..	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		....

Serials

	COLUMBIA			
1180	..Deadwood Dick 15 Chapters. Don Douglas, Lorna Gray.	7-19	∓	7-27
1120	..Green Archer, The 15 Chapters. Victor Jory,	10-25	∓	11- 9
	REPUBLIC			
973	..Adventures of Red Ryder. Don "Red" Barry.	6-15	+	6- 8
061	..King of the Royal Mounted 12 Chapters. Allan Lane.	9-20	‡	8-24
082	..Mysterious Doctor Satan 15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.	12-13	+	11-23
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	..Green Hornet Strikes Again 15 Chapters. Warren Hull.	12-24	+	11- 9
5681	..Junior G-Men 12 Chapters. Dead End Kids, Little Tough Guys.	9- 1	+	8- 3
5881	..Sky Raiders 12 Chapters.	4- 8		....
5581	..Winners of the West 13 Chapters. Dick Foran, Anne Nagel.	7- 2	∓	5 11

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The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

JANUARY 18, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION

"THOSE UNTAPPED MILLIONS," EDITORIAL ON POTENTIAL AUDIENCES . . . "BIG 5" WON'T START NEW SELLING UNTIL JULY AND MAYBE LATER . . . INDUSTRY LEADERS, PREDICTING BOOM THIS YEAR, EXPLAIN WHY . . . WHAT DO EXHIBITORS THINK OF THE PROSPECT? THEY, TOO, TELL . . . STREAMLINED REVIEWS . . . REVIEW DIGEST . . . SHORTS REVIEWS . . . SELLING SEATS . . . AND THE "BOOKING CHART"



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With the Gratefully Acknowledged Cooperation of the United States Navy, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer presents ROBERT TAYLOR in "FLIGHT COMMAND" with Ruth Hussey, Walter Pidgeon, Paul Kelly, Shepperd Strudwick, Nat Pendleton, Red Skelton. A Frank Borzage Production. Screen Play by Wells Root and Commander Harvey Haislip. Directed by Frank Borzage. Produced by J. Walter Ruben
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BOXOFFICE *The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

Those Untapped Millions

THAT old friend, the fellow who stays away from the picture show or goes only sparingly, is still around, we see by the papers. They've been talking about him in longing, but vague, terms again. They want to throw their arms around him by way of getting permanently clubby, but it's all in terms of hope, not action.

The case of Ed Kuykendall, for instance. Via the MPTOA bulletin route, he is determining that "the one thing that is really wrong with our business is that too many people stay away from the movie theatres." There are those who can think up some other things, too, which are wrong, but that would be putting another face on the same horse. An any time procedure.

"It presents a definite, standing challenge to theatre owners and the industry to find out why these people have no interest . . . and what keeps them away from the theatres. Every exhibitor and theatre manager can study his own community and neighborhood to find the answer to the problem," he observes. He is right about the challenge. He may be on the answer.

At any rate, this is an exhibitor approach. Now a producer-distributor, as well as a theatre, viewpoint as Barney Balaban put it before the AMPA the other day. "We do know there is a potential audience of from twenty to thirty millions in the United States who are not now attending the movies. It is this group we must reach. And it is more important today than ever that we do so because of our increasing dependence upon domestic revenues. I doubt whether these people can be brought to the theatre merely by using bigger adjectives or by sensationalism, but you [advertising] men and women must apply yourselves to finding means of arousing their interest."

Where to Begin

VERY good. Indeed, very good. But it has to start elsewhere. It seems rather obvious that a first step in the direction of tapping an untapped market is to get out the sounding line, throw it overboard, see how much of it gets wet and what barnacles it may attract. Then you draw conclusions, some wrong and some correct, but, at least, you have something on which to base calculations. There's a fancier name for this sort of goings on in other industries where they call it market research.

It can be undertaken by one company as RKO did with George Gallup recently. Or it can be taken on for an entire industry on behalf of that industry for all participants to benefit proportionately. So far, films have been notoriously shy.

But while this business is shy on scientific business application, it has ever been generous in other directions. On a throw of mental dice, fortunes are poured into someone's pet production idea, Hollywood sets out to spend the money, and does, and the sales department, setting up the formulas in New York, catches the hell and the brimstone as any sales manager will testify, if only he would.

It ought to be made clear along about here that you will find nothing now or ever, if this department can remember that long, to suggest the gamble or the dice can be fully liquidated out of this business. The structure has been functioning too long on a set foundation to believe the underpinning can be changed without collapse.

Some Pages Turn Back

BUT about eighteen months ago and again a year ago, it was suggested here that probably the guesswork can be reduced, not eliminated, by employing available industry machinery or engaging outside machinery equipped for such purposes in a widespread and wholly serious endeavor to get at the facts.

What facts? For example, what is the untapped audience in approximate numbers, and where located? What deductions for the extreme young, the extreme old, the defectives, the shut-ins, the criminals? Of the possibilities, what sort of earning power do they enjoy or do not enjoy; in other words, can they go in the event they want to go and at what price? What kind of attractions do they want and, if those attractions are not being made, would it be commercially expedient to make them?

In short, a genuine effort to find out what the gap represents and, how, if at all, it can be closed?

It will cost money, of course, but the mint is still active and nobody in the business is exactly on the breadline. Besides, if the industry survived the dubious investment of a million, cool or hot, to float the quiz contest of another day, the far less required for a bang-up research job certainly ought to be in the cards.

Kann

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January 18, 1941
Volume 38 - Number 9

"BIG 5" WON'T START SELLING BEFORE JULY; MIGHT BE LATER

Will Await Completion Of First Block by All Companies

NEW YORK—Selling for 1941-42 by the "Big Five" will not get under way until July, or later, when the first block of five pictures of each of the theatre-owning distributors will be ready for trade showing, according to present indications.

The pictures to be trade shown in the summer will not be ready for release until the first week in September when current contracts expire. The second blocks will be available for screenings in local key areas in August and scheduled for release in October under plans now being discussed.

Whether sales meetings of the "Big Five" will be held early this year is a moot question at present with sales managers now studying the possibility of holding regional conventions about May. At these meetings plans for the forthcoming season will be divulged, in addition to a thorough going over of the decree by company home office lawyers.

Watch by "Little Three"

One of the main features of each convention inevitably will be the stressing of the decree and the obligation of every booker, salesman and branch manager to observe to the letter its provisions.

Meanwhile, the "Little Three" are taking a watchful waiting attitude before making known their plans for next season. The general attitude among the non-consenting companies is first to see what the "Big Five" are planning before making commitments.

A. Montague, general sales manager for Columbia, informs BOXOFFICE his plans are not set. "We are just sitting on the sidelines watching how we may be affected by the decree," he says.

Columbia May Shift Policy

Columbia may have to shift its sales policy to meet the new condition, Montague intimates, but in what way this change may take place is too early to forecast, he adds. Production conferences between home office and studio executives may get under way next month. Studio executives may come east for the sessions, but this is not yet set. Above all, however, caution is the watchword for this company.

At RKO, sales executives are now working on a plan to simplify selling under the decree. Some ideas have been discussed, but will not be revealed until the convention, it is stated. Meanwhile, William Zimmerman, home office attorney, is making a tour of exchanges explaining the decree in the simplest terms possible.

Louis Phillips, Paramount home office attorney, is now making a tour of branches and will be joined by Austin C. Keough, general counsel. Theatre affiliates are being called in where possible.

Felix Jenkins and two of his aides at 20th-Fox have delayed their tour of exchanges until a manual, now in final preparation, is completed for the sales force.

Warner and M-G-M attorneys may not visit the field, the present intention being to inform salesmen, bookers and branch managers of decree operations at convention. Warner has already gotten out a 13-page analysis of the decree. Tyree Dillard jr. of M-G-M's home office legal staff has already spoken to branch and district managers at a recent Chicago session. At that time William F. Rodgers, general

(Continued on page 15)

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is* 100 *per cent.*

KITTY FOYLE—
- Kansas City (dual) 290
- Chicago (dual, 2nd wk) 200
- Omaha (dual) 175
- Boston (dual) 170

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR—
- Denver (2nd wk) 230
- Cleveland (10 days) 200
- Los Angeles 175
- Seattle (dual) 175
- New York (3rd wk) 160

COMRADE X—
- Indianapolis (10 days) 230
- Cleveland (10 days) 200
- Denver (dual) 190
- Milwaukee (dual) 160

SECOND CHORUS—
- New Haven (dual) 185
- Detroit 155

HUDSON'S BAY—
- Detroit (dual) 175

PHILADELPHIA STORY—
- New York (2nd wk) 165

FANTASIA—
- New York (8th roadshow wk) 160

Warner Pow-wow on Next Season Near

NEW YORK—Gradwell L. Sears will head a group of Warner executives on a trek to the coast in about three weeks where production plans and decree operations will be further developed for the 1941-42 season. Sam Schneider will precede the group by approximately one week.

The contingent will embrace Ben Kalmenson, western sales manager; Roy Haines, eastern sales manager; Norman H. Moray, short subject sales manager; Mort Blumenstock, eastern advertising manager, and I. Howard Levinson, assistant to Robert W. Perkins, head of the legal staff:

Robert Riskin, Frank Capra's partner, is due in New York with a print of "Meet John Doe." Warner thus far has not divulged its selling plans or the season in which the film is to be released. This explains Riskin's trip east.

No "U" Revamping Because of Decree

NEW YORK—Universal will not alter its 1941-42 production or distribution system in light of the decree among the competitive "Big Five," is the informal opinion of William A. Scully, general sales manager, upon his return from a coast production conference. Similarly, for instance, he does not envision next season selling getting under way earlier than is customary.

Asked if he discussed plans for next season, Scully replied some ground work has been gone over but that it is too early to go into the program until further ideas are realized. His concern this trip was the balance of the current schedule, all of which the company will deliver, he declared. This takes in 42 features, plus three from Frank Lloyd and seven Richard Arlen-Andy Devine action films.

In answer to a direct question, and one that has been prominent in "Little Three" circles since the consent decree was signed, Scully put thumbs down on suggestions Universal is either soliciting or accepting long term franchises.

All told, the company has 22 features to deliver on the current schedule. Of these, Scully singles out the following, in addition to "Back Street" and "Buck Privates," as worthy of special attention: Deanna Durbin's "Nice Girl," "Model Wife," with Joan Blondell and Dick Powell; the Frank Lloyd production of "Lady From Cheyenne," with Loretta Young and Robert Preston; "Man-Made Monster," with Lon Chaney jr.; Rene Clair's production of "Flame of New Orleans," starring Marlene Dietrich; "The Man Who Lost Himself," with Brian Aherne; "Old Charlie," with Abbott and Costello; "I, James Lewis," a Frank Lloyd film; "Butch Minds the Baby" and "Tight Shoes," both by Damon Runyon, and "Unfinished Business," starring Irene Dunne.

Sees Decree as Making It Tough on "Little Fellow"

LAMPASAS, TEX.—The decree will affect the "little fellow" in at least three ways, declares Roy L. Walker, president of the Theatre Owners Protective Ass'n in a bulletin placing responsibility for the document at the doorstep of "Allied and others, who, during the past 10 years, have hammered at the doors of congress and the department of justice asking that they take over the distribution and exhibition of pictures and lay down rules and regulations for our operation."

Walker enumerates his three points as follows: The decree will (1) increase the cost of buying at least double; (2) cause the small operator to run product six to 12 months behind key cities and (3) force the small theatre to join some kind of buying organization.

LEADERS PREDICT IT'LL BOOM; CREDIT DEFENSE FOR UPSURGE

Optimism, However, Is Limited to Domestic Industry Market

Industry leaders, with some cautions and some reservations, are confident the new year will be a significant one at the boxoffice. Their statements on this page give the reasons for their conclusions.

Predicts Upswing in 1941

By GEORGE J. SCHAEFER
President, RKO Corporation



New York—In my opinion, the motion picture industry will only begin to realize the benefits in 1941 of the government expenditures and business improvements and expansion.

There has been a considerable lag in boxoffice response since the period when business took an upturn, but we will shortly begin to feel the benefits in our industry. The lag has been due to many variables.

With business on the upswing, 1941 should be a good year for our industry.

Sees Bright Frame To Gloomy Picture

By NATE J. BLUMBERG
President, Universal Pictures Co., Inc.

HOLLYWOOD—This new year, in terms of the international picture, may be, and probably will be, a dark and foreboding one. But for the film industry, I can see it only in terms of prosperity. More so than has prevailed in a number of years, in my opinion.



Newspaper headlines are re-directing your average person in this country to the fountain heads of entertainment. All kinds of entertainment. Your average person will want more and more relief from the realities of the age. That does not mean he wants his intelligence slighted and it does

(Continued on page 8)

Cohn Is Encouraged Over 1941 Prospects

By JACK COHN
Executive Vice-President
Columbia Pictures

NEW YORK—There are several factors which make the outlook for 1941 loom up as decidedly encouraging. The constant decrease in unemployment due to the pressing need of manpower in industries directly or indirectly connected with the war, is one of them. The increased spending power of the masses to whom motion pictures have always represented the favorite form of entertainment, is another; and the third is the fact that, pressure groups to the contrary, motion pictures have steadily improved in quality and will continue to



(Continued on page 8)

Another Encouraging Sign

By BARNEY BALABAN
President, Paramount Pictures, Inc.

New York—It appears to me that, barring always the uncertainty of what may happen to the foreign market, particularly England, we have every reason to be hopeful and encouraged over the outlook for 1941. The general improvement in industrial recovery has not, as yet, been felt to any extent by the motion picture business. If this improvement continues, and I think it will, it should go a long way towards offsetting any losses the companies have suffered because of loss of foreign revenue, or which may result from adjustments which will be necessary due to the consent decree.



One of Greatest Booms Predicted by Warner

By HARRY M. WARNER
President, Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc.

HOLLYWOOD—Unless all signs fail, this year will see one of the greatest business and industrial booms in American history. Millions of unemployed will be back at work. The tremendous sums being spent not only for our own national defense, but also by Great Britain, will bring back prosperity in every town, hamlet and city in the United States.



The farmer and the laborer, the manufacturer and the industrialist, the mines, the mills will all be going full blast. With more people working, with more spending money available, it is only natural that more people than ever will turn toward motion pictures for entertainment.

It is up to our industry to make certain that the best possible pictures are made available for the millions of new potential theatre customers who are going to be hungry for entertainment to take their minds off the troubles now besetting the world.

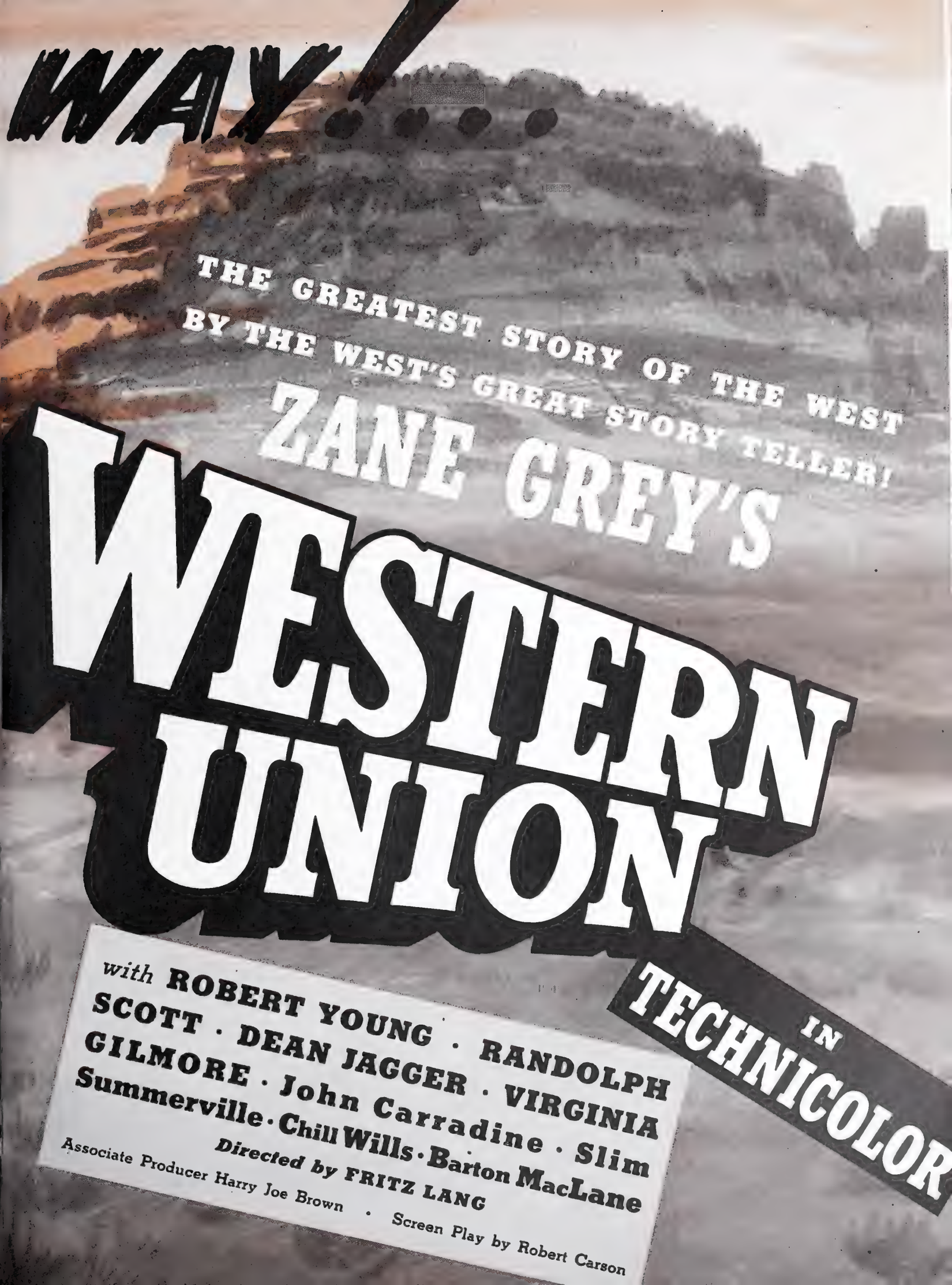
Decade-High Industrial Activity Cheers Providence

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—With payrolls in industrial plants throughout Rhode Island at the highest point in a decade, and the government's defense program just getting under way; with Uncle Sam spending millions here in enlargement of existing military establishments and creating new army and navy bases at Quonset Point, Pt. Judith and elsewhere; with theatre business generally up and New Year's Eve spending best in years; with two new neighborhood theatres opened within the past six months and at least one more new one at present in the planning stage, 1941 looks to be a profitable period for exhibitors throughout this state.

The new legislature, which convenes Tuesday, is not expected to introduce any

(Continued on page 9)


ON ITS
E.C. Comics
20th CENTURY FOX


WAY!
THE GREATEST STORY OF THE WEST
BY THE WEST'S GREAT STORY TELLER!
ZANE GREY'S
WESTERN UNION
IN TECHNICOLOR
with ROBERT YOUNG · RANDOLPH SCOTT · DEAN JAGGER · VIRGINIA GILMORE · John Carradine · Slim Summerville · Chill Wills · Barton MacLane
Directed by FRITZ LANG
Associate Producer Harry Joe Brown · Screen Play by Robert Carson

Defense Money Seen Certain Phila. Hypo

PHILADELPHIA—Defense spending, heavily concentrated in this area, is looked to by exhibitors as a sure stimulant in 1941 to a previously anemic boxoffice.

As to the effect of the decree on business, exhibitors are inclined to be more cautious and to wait and see how the sections, titles and paragraphs work out in practice.

More than $2,000,000,000 in defense contracts have been distributed to shipbuilding and ordnance plants in Philadelphia and neighboring industrial cities, including Camden, N. J. and Wilmington, Del. And $1,500,000,000 more in contracts is expected during the next two or three years, according to members of the National Defense Advisory Commission. Number of employes in the metal trades alone is expected to go from the present 70,000 to double that number.

The re-employment boom isn't expected to begin until about Easter, when the plants will be re-tooled for armament production. But already one curious sign of increasing employment has been noted, reports David Milgram, head of the Affiliated Circuit, which has 16 subsequent run houses.

Afternoons Decline

"Our matinees are falling off, and our evening houses are picking up," he says. "That means people no longer have free afternoons—they're going back to work."

As to the outlook for '41, he says: "I hate to predict, but I'm kind of looking forward to a pretty good year. The government spending should have a noticeable effect. The consent decree? Well, we'll know better when we see how it works."

Harry Fried, operator of a chain in the "blue-blood" suburban section, says, "Business ought to be much better in 1941. I'm enthusiastic about the outlook. I think the consent decree will have a good effect, provided it is properly put into operation. The effect will be beneficial for both the independents and the big chains, because any industry that maintains peace is bound to profit by it."

Sees a Bright Frame To a Gloomy Picture

(Continued from page 5)

not mean that he necessarily wants only the fluff.

I believe he will be seeking interesting entertainment, expertly turnd out and on a variety of subject material. Therefore, a pitfall for the industry to avoid more diligently than ever is its product rolling out of a standardized mould. This will not be easy, but it will be essential.

In the search for diversion, there is nothing fixed about our own business. The public will gravitate toward that form of entertainment which offers it the most, but the degree to which any upsurge may take place in the picture industry depends very largely on the industry itself—the kind of attractions it turns out, the personalities appearing in them, the ingenuity evidenced in their making.

Back to Work in Empire State

Albany—More than 140,000 workers are estimated to have gone back into New York state industry since April 1, Industrial Commissioner Frieda S. Miller reports.

"Many more will follow them to produce the goods for which over a billion dollars' worth of defense contracts have already been let in the Empire State," she adds.

Miss Miller said that "in November, for the first time, New York factory employment topped 1929 levels."

Cohn Is Encouraged Over 1941 Prospects

(Continued from page 5)

improve with resultant beneficial effects at the boxoffice.

There is no denying, however, the seriousness of the problems which confront the industry. So much space has been given them in both the trade papers and newspapers during recent months as to make it a sheer waste of time to dwell upon them here. Nevertheless, the manner in which this industry has always survived the crises which have confronted it over the years offers definite encouragement for the present and the future. Clear-headed thinking, plus the determination to produce pictures as fine as human ingenuity can devise, are all that are needed.

Of one thing I am sure, the days of wishful thinking as regards grosses are a thing of the past. In planning for the future, this industry will have to cut its garment according to the cloth. "Prestige pictures," so-called because they certainly yielded nothing else, will no longer reach the screen if producers have the welfare of their respective companies in mind. The dwindling of the foreign market almost to the vanishing point makes it imperative for every picture to bring back its cost, plus, in this country alone. No organization can henceforth afford the dubious luxury of gambling huge sums on product which serves no other purpose than that of gratifying some individual's ego. On the contrary, each picture will have to be aimed straight at the boxoffices of the United States so that whatever sums its production and marketing entail will come home accompanied by the profit encountered within our own borders.

High Cost No Guarantee

While it is my belief that the contraction of the foreign market will necessitate lowered production budgets, this will not mean a decrease in the quality of films. High production costs have never yet insured a picture against being a flop at the boxoffice. On the other hand, the industry has repeatedly witnessed the emergence of "sleepers" produced at comparatively modest cost which, nevertheless, achieved phenomenal popularity, thus proving that the mere squandering of money has never yet been a successful substitute for showmanship.

One thing is certain, the inevitable taxation necessitated by our national defense efforts will raise the cost of theatre admissions. It is not too soon for the industry to institute a campaign to educate the public to the idea that even with raised admission prices the picture theatre offers more for the money than any other medium of entertainment. As I see it, such a campaign would tend to eliminate any thought that the industry is attempting to profiteer.

No Division Here on New-Season Outlook

LOS ANGELES—Showmen in this sector whose opinions on any subject have heretofore been as varied as the colors in the rainbow have set a precedent by agreeing —with virtual unanimity—that 1941 will be a banner year from the standpoint of showmanship, boxoffice returns and general prosperity in the Southern California sector.

The opinions come from diverse sources, including Fox West Coast, largest circuit in the area, and ranging downward to the most modest of subsequent run houses. And the reasoning is based on two factors:

1. The national defense program, which is putting the jobless back to work and putting money in many pockets—a percentage of which will find its way to the boxoffice.

2. The decree, which most exhibitors think will result in better product.

FWC spokesmen, in the absence of Charles P. Skouras, have little other comment to make beyond pointing to the circuit's recently announced $250,000 rehabilitation and modernization program as an outstanding example of its optimism anent 1941.

Predicts Better Product

"A very good year" is the prediction voiced by Robert H. Poole, executive director of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., which represents some 400 non-circuit theatre owners in this sector. Poole maintains the boom in aircraft manufacturing hereabouts will reflect favorably at the theatres and thinks, also, that because of the consent decree the studios are going to spend more time and money on their product.

The preparedness campaign and a better lineup of attractions are going to turn the trick, asserts Millroy Anderson, manager of RKO's de luxe first run in the downtown area, the Hillstreet. Anderson declares he expects an outstanding array of features to carry through the spring and summer months.

Here are some other cross-sectional opinions:

Jack Goldberg, booker for the Ben Bronstein circuit: "A very good year in prospect because of the national trend toward prosperity."

Morris Barsky of the Capitol, a 20-cent house: "The best year ever. More people will be working."

Cobe Wartman, operator of the 15-cent Deluxe: "A good year. There will be a certain amount of prosperity, and prosperity never hurt any business."

Ben Peskay, owner of the Banner, a local house, and the Palms in Palms: "Much better than last year. Theatre owners realize this and are, therefore, devoting more time to their houses instead of running off to the racetracks."

"Gold Mine Waiting If We Can Get It"

ST. LOUIS—"There's a gold mine awaiting the industry in 1941, if we can only reach out and get it," thinks Harry C. Arthur jr. of F&M and operators of more than 30 theatres here. The unprecedented daily gain in employment figures, the shortage of skilled labor, and the distinct industrial upsurge in activity and product, have placed money in the pockets of working men and their families, many of whom have not had that money in more than 10 years, he states.

"Net results," he says, "will depend entirely upon the efficiency of Hollywood during the coming year, and upon whether or not it can recapture the knack of turning out boxoffice attractions. If the film capital continues to remain dazed at the loss of the foreign market and fails to make the most of its improved domestic market, business will be no better, despite all this activity.

"The decree should result in a definitely better grade of film product, which, in turn, can only result in higher grosses. Whether or not the decree is to be the solution of our industry's ailing receipts, is questionable, but if quality films should ensue, increased boxoffice 'take' should follow, as a natural course.

Must Meet Competition

"Film entertainment in 1941 must be made comparable to those many other entertainments which have lured away those who formerly constituted the picture theatres' most ardent patrons. Bowling, baseball, basketball, radio and Bingo are only a few of the numerous diversions which have made tremendous inroads.

"Until Hollywood awakens to the fact this competition does exist and strong enough to wipe us out entirely if steps aren't taken to match it, there isn't a ghost of a chance to better ourselves this year, regardless of how much pocket money is available for entertainment purposes.

"Hollywood producers have proven time and again their ability to turn out boxoffice films.

"Let Hollywood take a hitch in its breeches and dig in for some hard work and we'll have more of surefire boxoffice hits which, with or without high-powered exploitation, publicity or advertising, will lure them back to our fold."

Decade-High Industrial Activity Is Cheering

(Continued from page 5)

regulatory acts or added amusement taxes.

Higher prices, introduced for several "super" productions in Providence theatres through fall and winter brought no squawks at the boxoffice and swelled grosses, to the advantage of both producers and exhibitors. Dual features continue as a regular diet in Providence and the smaller towns and no likelihood of this policy being changed during this year exists, even key house managements being resigned to dual showings.

What the Studios Are Doing

Hollywood Avoiding Hearst "Kane" Involvement

HOLLYWOOD—Film colony is studiously refraining from exhibiting any reaction to the battle launched by William Randolph Hearst against RKO, precipitated when the publisher demanded that "Citizen Kane," made by Orson Welles for RKO release, be shelved because, Hearst contends, it parallels his own career. He has ordered all RKO news and publicity banned from his newspapers and may resort to legal action in an attempt to secure an injunction restraining RKO from releasing the film. Spokesmen here contend "Citizen Kane" is not a Hearst biography, but a composite picture of a newspaper publisher, fictional throughout; assert the ban against RKO is unfair because the company did not even make the picture, and indicate, nevertheless, that the studio is not greatly concerned over being barred from the Hearst press. As to shelving the picture, attaches say comment on that must come from President George Schaefer in New York.

20th-Fox First With Studio Decree Huddles

First company to plunge into serious executive huddles anent the consent decree's probable effect on production and distribution is 20th Century-Fox, where President Sidney R. Kent, Sales Chief Herman Wobber and Charles McCarthy, advertising-publicity head, are huddling with Darryl Zanuck, Joseph M. Schenck and William Goetz. Wobber predicts a boxoffice upsurge will offset operational restrictions as a result of the decree and declares a determined drive will be made through increased sales efforts to raise cash for financing 1941-42 product in packages of five. At least two films, "The Outlaw" and "Tobacco Road," may be roadshowed, he said. Executives are also setting budgets for English production and McCarthy is outlining plans to organize a field exploitation staff, in addition to more closely coordinating the east-west publicity organizations.

Indications Are Production Tempo Will Be Continued

All signposts point to a continuation of the rapid film-making tempo to which the studios have been geared in recent weeks. With 19 to roll during the balance of January, another 16 pictures are already scheduled to hit the cameras during February and March. Of them, at least 22 will be in the top-budget brackets.

Jules Levey, president of Mayfair, has checked in from New York to launch preparations on three films he will produce this season for Universal, including "Hellzapoppin" . . . 20th Century-Fox paid a reported $50,000 for "Benjamin Blake," new novel by Edison Marshall . . . Metro has picked up its option on Jan Struther's best-seller, "Mrs. Miniver," to be produced by Sidney Franklin . . . Alexander Korda's "Lady Hamilton" goes into release as "That Hamilton Woman!" . . . Ass'n of American Colleges, in its 27th annual convention, was welcomed here jointly by the producers association and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, in ceremonies at M-G-M.

Non-Profit Training Reels For Government Recognized

Industry plans to produce non-profit military training reels for the government were officially recognized when Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, sent a letter of appreciation to Y. Frank Freeman, producers ass'n president.

Mixed Detroit Outlook; Key Deemed Quality of Product

DETROIT—A mixed outlook on business is typical of the attitude of both circuits and independents here. Typically, Earl Hudson, president of United Detroit Theatres which operates most of Detroit's first runs, comments:

"Business is going to depend entirely on the boxoffice draw of the product we receive and upon the general economic situation. People are not going to spend for pictures, even if the town becomes flooded with money from national defense work unless product is good enough to demand it."

A checkup on upstate conditions with typical Michigan exhibitors met along Filmrow, most of whom preferred not to be quoted, reveals this, in cross-section:

"Defense spending is going to affect the smaller cities in the near future, but, from present evidence, theatres are not going to have too large a share. Watch the people line up at the bank on pay day—they are putting their earnings in the bank, once more saving up for the years ahead and are not spending recklessly as was done in the last war. A marked increase in payrolls may make a difference when the money is distributed more widely to people who are less used to it and when it has been coming in for long enough to seem reasonably secure for a while. But that will be months away."

The viewpoint of the average independent exhibitor is expressed by Edgar E. Kirchner of the Family, Detroit, and secretary-treasurer of Allied Theatres of Michigan:

"Business in 1941 has started off well and I think it should continue. Increase has been moderate, of course, and is largely dependent in this territory upon the money which we expect to have spent upon production of munitions and national defense spending in various forms. One dubious sign has appeared already, however. There are more men lined up before unemployment agencies than there have been in a long time."

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HAMILTON—20 Holton, N., Hugh Millar.
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REGINA—The Leader-Post. Bruce Peacock.
ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings., C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

DONALD HAYES is the editor of a house organ published by the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company. The K. Lee Williams Theatres, Oklahoma City, noticing an approach of newsreels, sent it along and now you, and the newsreels, are about to get it. The Public Feels Its Own Pulse, this might be called:

"The readers of this paper, who have undoubtedly been preoccupied these past few months with the Russian ballet, Information Please and Dorothy Thompson, may not have noticed the last line of letters on the electric signs of local theatres: 'and all the newsreels.' The sign is supposed to indicate an added attraction inside. Having read his newspaper, listened to his radio bulletins, the customer escapes to the theatre and is asked to sit through 20 minutes of misery, interspersed with views of football games, girls in bathing suits and sweepstakes winners, before Myrna Loy comes on.

"There is really little news in newsreels. For instance, those girls. They and their suits doggedly follow the seasons the year round, from Miami to Sun Valley, from Mt. Rainier to Atlantic City. Year after year the reels follow an unchanging pattern. You can count on seeing at least one congressman on the Capitol steps; one mayor unveiling something; an oil well fire; an airplane over Boulder Dam; graduation at Annapolis, featuring hats tossed in the air; a parade at West Point; a baby contest; monkeys; election night in Times Square; the Mummers Parade in Philadelphia; a rodeo; Coney Island beach in August; somebody's wife breaking a bottle of champagne over a new ship; a flood; cherry blossoms; ski jumps; a long distance swimmer covered with grease; the Kentucky Derby.

"One of the conventions of the reel is used whenever the army is shown. As an introduction, the mouth of a huge coast defense gun looms larger and larger until it fills the screen. It seems to some moviegoers whose memories go back to the days of John Bunny and Flora Finch, or even the 'The Great Train Robbery,' that they have never been without that scene.

"And that's why we escapists cry, 'uncle,' and ask the theatre managers to leave the newsreels in the newsreel theatres where their own audiences can find them. How about a good rousing installment of the 'Perils of Pauline,' boys?"

Well, how about it, boys? The truth is in Hayes' and his amusing, but also biting, comment. Everyone knows, but everyone may not go around bothering to talk about it, that the average newsreel is dull stuff and, insofar as journalism on celluloid is concerned, about as exciting and actually newsworthy as the woman's page in the daily newspaper.

Further. The opposition can have its chance. If it lines up at all, it lines up on the right.

"Land of Liberty"

DOWN to ninety-eight minutes after its run at the New York World's Fair, "Land of Liberty" is now in general distribution, its profits accruing to whatever war emergency relief the industry may take on.

The film is unique. It is an edited job, extremely well handled by Cecil B. DeMille, of straight entertainment films made in Hollywood over the last twenty-five years. In combination, it tells a running, highlight story of the rise of America and ends on a note of optimism for the future without unduly gilding the lily and making it clear there remains much to be done.

Everyone had a hand in this. All companies are represented and the cast is enough to knock anyone's both eyes out. A partial list starts with Don Ameche and George Arliss and goes through the alphabet to Henry B. Walthall and Loretta Young. Main stops include Claudette Colbert, Bette Davis, Irene Dunne, Jack Holt, Fredric March, George Raft, Spencer Tracy; the way stations, practically everybody any time in sight.

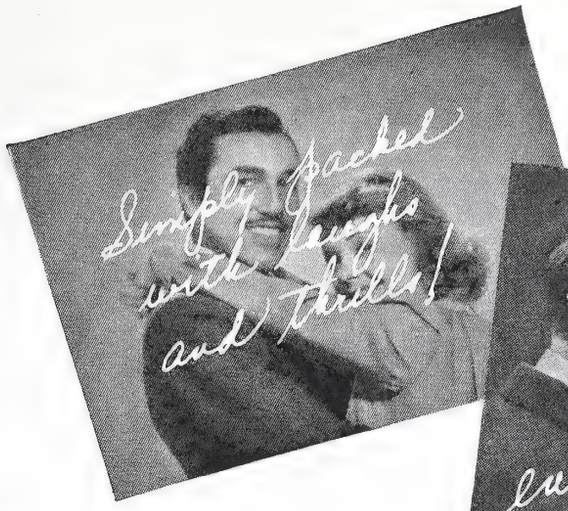
Certainly far more interesting than most second features, "Land of Liberty" is easily as good as many firsts. And why not? It took Hollywood a quarter of a century to turn it out.

He Follows Up

QUENTIN REYNOLDS, war correspondent for "Collier's," was responsible for "London Can Take It." It may be recalled this column had something to say about it as gripping drama, on the epic side, of a metropolis under attack from the air. Now Reynolds has returned to America with a sequel which he calls "They Spent Christmas Under Fire." Again on London, the title, of course, tells the content.

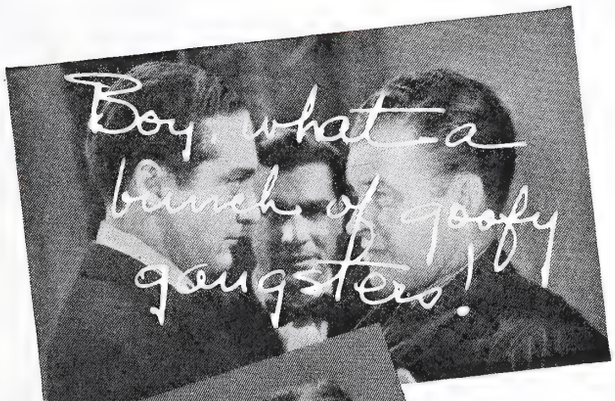
Like its predecessor, here is a ten-minute subject of power made vibrant and genuine because it deals with common people facing conditions unprecedented in world history. Once more, the narration is simple and emotionally underplayed. And again Warner is releasing, the profits above costs, which are geared low deliberately, going to British war relief.

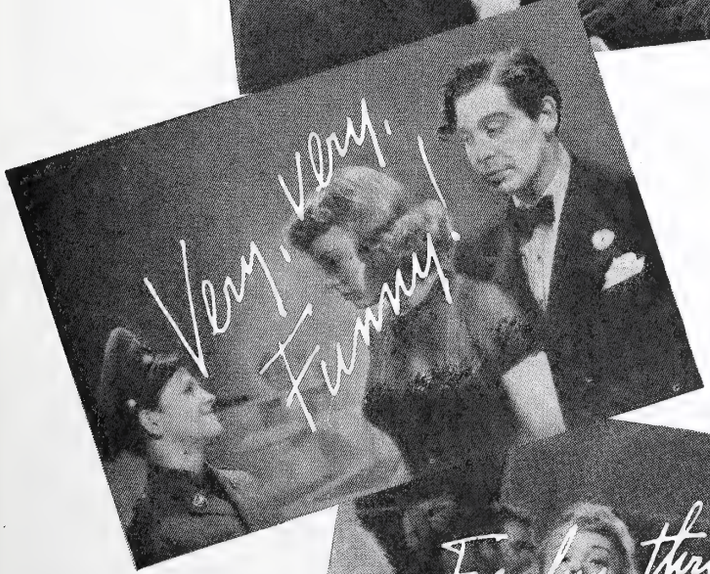
TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME

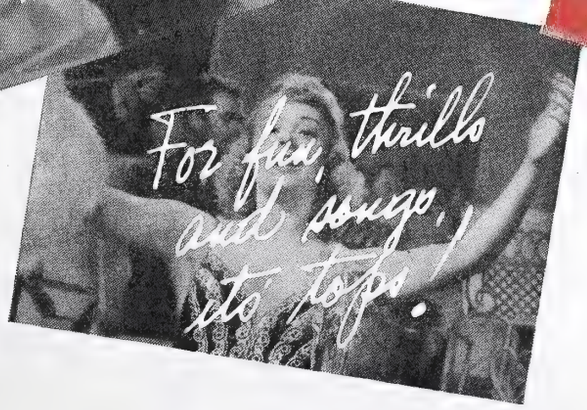




rates "A" on the preview cards!









Opens Roxy, N. Y., Jan. 23

$10 Daily Maximum Fee for Arbitrators

NEW YORK—As exclusively reported in BOXOFFICE on December 21, the American Arbitration Ass'n has pegged the fees of arbitrators. A flat $10 per day is the rate.

The decision to offset varied criticisms leveled at the $50 daily maximum fee set up in the arbitration rules under the decree came from the AAA's administrative committee, of which Paul Felix Warburg is chairman. Additionally, the committee has formally declared that the $10 fee may be waived or reduced, if, in its discretion, it appears the fee would work a hardship on a particular exhibitor.

The $10 fee is for one full day's services of an arbitrator, or any part of a day. The fee may be split between disputing parties to an arbitration or assessed on the losing party, the discretion being with the arbitrator. Thus, no matter how large, small, trivial or important a dispute arises before a film tribunal anywhere in the country, the fee for an arbitrator cannot exceed $10 per day. This officially supersedes the maximum $50 daily stipulation in the decree.

Warburg has this to say: "The association has followed its own principle that arbitration should be simple and inexpensive. From its own experience it has discovered that the best men in the country are obtainable as arbitrators upon a basis of an honorarium.

"We feel that the $10 fee and the provision for waiver or reduction will work to the good of the exhibitor. We do not want any exhibitor to lose his right to arbitrate because of the prohibitive cost of arbitrators' fees."

AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION

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January 10, 1941

Mr. Maurice Kann, Editor
Boxoffice
Rockefeller Center
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kann:

May I congratulate you and your staff on the excellent educational feature in the form of Questions and Answers on arbitration which appeared in your January 4th issue.

It is a concise, clear and complete story and I am sure that all the exhibitors in the country will want to read it and study it as a helpful preliminary towards using the motion picture arbitration facilities when they begin to function after February 1st.

It is most heartening to the officers and staff of the American Arbitration Association that BOXOFFICE considers arbitration important enough to warrant the space that you have given it.

Most sincerely yours

Lucius R. Eastman

Lucius R. Eastman
Chairman of the Board

LRE:b

Suit Cost Gov't $200,000 Thus Far

New York—Film sources estimate the government has spent approximately $200,000 on the all-industry suit which, to date, has resulted in a consent decree with Loew's, Paramount, Warner, 20th-Fox and RKO.

Will Seek Dismissal From Griffith Suit

OKLAHOMA CITY—On the theory "no triable issue is involved," counsel for the "Little Three" on January 31 will seek dismissal of the government's anti-trust action against the Griffith circuit and major distributors before U. S. District Court Judge Vaught. The "Big Five" have been eliminated as defendants as a result of the decree in the New York equity action. Arguments before Judge Vaught for UA, Columbia and Universal will be conducted by Edward C. Raftery of New York and Malcolm McKenzie of this city.

New York Hearing Is Off Until February

NEW YORK—Arguments in the motion of counsel for the "Little Three" to dismiss the government's supplemental complaint against them, growing out of the decree, have been set back to early February from January 30, originally agreed to by Judge Henry W. Goddard. The switch in dates is occasioned by the fact that Edward C. Raftery, UA attorney, is due in Oklahoma City, January 31, to argue dismissal for his client in the Crescent anti-trust case.

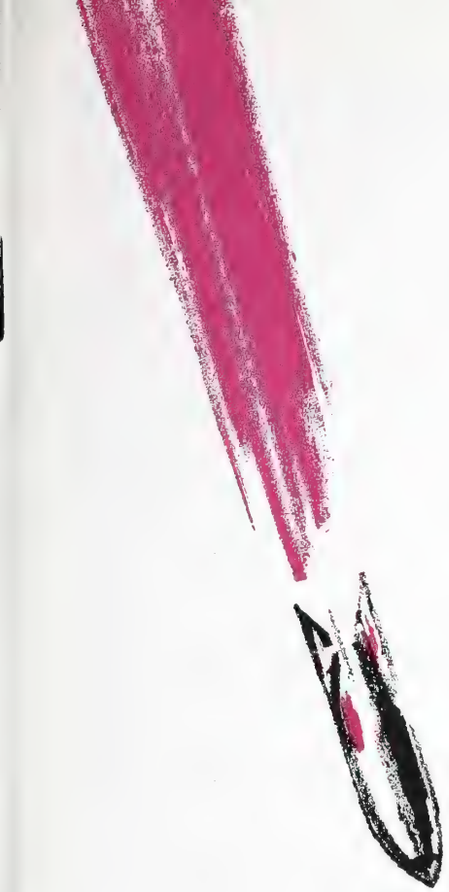
Depositions Next Step In Cassil-Dubinsky Case

NEW YORK—The next step in the Cassil Amusement Co.'s anti-trust action against the Dubinsky circuit and major distributors will be the taking of depositions of the latter's branch managers in Kansas City by plaintiff's counsel on January 27. Depositions of Eugenia D. and Frank H. Cassil were completed last week in St. Joseph, Mo., by Edward C. Raftery, majors' attorney.

Paramount Conferences On Decree Continue

NEW YORK—Conferences between the home office legal staff and Paramount exchange forces are being continued at a rapid pace. Austin C. Keough, general counsel, and J. J. Unger, eastern sales manager, spent Monday in Boston and Friday in Philadelphia explaining the legal interpretations of the decree. The Quaker City session marks the third for Keough and Unger.

Louis Phillips during the week held similar sessions in Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Louis. Both he and Keough attended the meeting held two weeks ago at the New York exchange which marked the opening gun.



Sequel to
"LONDON CAN TAKE IT!"

"X MAS UNDER FIRE"

Reel . . **Filmed Under Fire, and Narrated Under Fire in London by the Famed War Correspondent of Collier's Magazine**

Quentin Reynolds

ANOTHER WARNER WAR SCOOP!

Forecasts Theatre Jolt Due From Television

The following reaction of a staff reporter to Columbia Broadcasting System's latest experiment in television in color is reprinted from last week's eastern edition of BOXOFFICE:

By LEONARD WEISBERG

NEW YORK—If there's a man in the house who doesn't think he, his heirs or successors aren't in for a stiff competitive jolt from television, let him step up and be converted.

A quick reader reaction to the above, if there be any reaction at all, might be: "It won't be in my day; why worry?"

Well, it's like this. Let's say that Hollywood bosomed silent films so long the films let out such a yelp that became wired for sound. Let's also say it was anywhere from five years upwards that color, and limited color at that, was added to sound.

Then consider this: It's probably no more than two years since the television industry has been attempting to get its baby into homes with a diversified program. And it hasn't even scratched the surface. But the other afternoon this reporter saw the first public showing of direct pickup television in color. And it was amazing.

True, color television is still in the laboratory. But if its fundamental problems have been surmounted, and CBS engineers claim they have been, it would seem to be no more than straightforward engineering effort before its commercial application might be anticipated. Moreover, the impression gained from the color demonstration, per se, coupled with the technical ease said to accompany it presages an earlier and faster development of television in color than in black and white.

Accomplish Color "Pickup"

Responsibility for this presaging rests entirely with CBS engineers, who told this reporter color *pickup,* as distinguished from color *films* which up to now have been the chief source for experimentation, is accomplished with a lower level of illumination than is necessary for black and white pictures. This, technically for the moment, is the result of an orthicon tube which even now is being further developed to the stage where it will require even less light than the one used in the demonstration.

About 100 persons were present at the showing held in the new CBS studio. The color pictures were picked up by a television camera in the company's laboratories about one long block distant and transmitted by coaxial cable. The pictures were reproduced on two receivers, one a regular black and white, and next to it and considerably smaller, a table model color receiver which also includes a standard broadcast radio receiver. The latter, especially designed for the occasion, is designed to illustrate that color need not add bulkiness to the television receiver. The screens on both receivers measured five and one quarter by seven and three quarter inches. As pictures were received it was possible to make easy comparison between the colored and black and white images, since both were shown simultaneously.

And the magic of color never got a better sendoff. The flat statement is made for whatever it's worth, that the black and white images were like ash remains as contrasted to the flaming red fire that left them. Now, that's not a remark to covet admittance to the Smithsonian Institute, but it is this observer's studied opinion that perhaps nothing the film industry has in use today can match the potentialities, competitive-wise or entertainment-wise, color television offers once it is harnessed for mass consumption.

Cautious on Distance

The CBS system, as demonstrated, is unequivocally declared to be capable of transmitting every natural color the naked eye can see. Whether this means New Yorkers could see the Tournament of Roses in Pasadena on their television sets—meaning is distance a factor in transmission?—is something CBS is cautious on. But they do state there that weakness of light signals as applied to transmitting images over distances is of much less concern in color television than in black and white because of the "definition" color affords. Also, it is said that, despite differences in current of power supply lines between the point of pickup and the point of reproduction, a method of synchronizing the color disk in the receiver with the color disk at the point of origin overcomes this.

Home Experiments Soon

Among the objects shown in the demonstration, especially to illustrate that colors do not "break up" if they are moving, were a map which was rapidly spun around in both directions, colored liquids poured from tumbler to bowl, loose confetti and other items.

This reporter asked a CBS engineer what he expected the next step in the development might be. He was also asked if it is possible to blow the images up to something approaching theatre screen size. This is his answer:

"We expect to put it on for home use, purely in experiment form, in a few months. From then on it's the television industry's baby; those who make the sets, and so forth. It is easier to blow up to screen size than for reproduction on home-type sets."

Flashes From the News Front

Grateful, But Alert

MADISON, WIS. — The promise of Gov. Julius P. Heil that no new taxes will be needed to finance the state for the biennium is greeted by exhibitors with gratitude, but with alert interest. A fight is expected in a proposal to divert highway funds to the general purse and, if diversion opponents win, pressure is expected for new forms of taxation.

Foresee Illinois Ascap Rein

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Legislation to seek theatre relief from Ascap license fees may be introduced in the Illinois legislature this session, it is learned. Several legislators have been approached by theatre men with suggestions that anti-Ascap bills be introduced.

To Eighth Term

CLEVELAND—Ernest Schwartz has been re-elected to his eighth term as president of the Cleveland Motion Picture Theatre Owners. Others re-named: A. E. Ptak, vice-president; L. G. Baldwin, treasurer, and G. W. Erdmann, secretary.

Flu Takes Ohio Toll

COLUMBUS—Substantial drop in grosses is reported by exhibitors in the wave of influenza attacks. The state health department, however, believes the disease has reached its peak.

La Crosse Hearing Delay

MADISON, WIS.—Hearing in the $1,472,000 damage suit by the La Crosse Theatre Co. against major interests has been postponed to February 17.

Cashes In on Music Row

LINCOLN — Bob Livingston, who once guaranteed patrons he would match the amount offered by the "Pot O' Gold" radio program if they were in his theatre when their name was called, has developed another idea aimed at radio as a result of the Ascap-BMI scrap. Whenever the picture permits, his newspaper advertisements will be slanted along the line: "You must be tired of listening for a good tune on your radio, so come down to the Capitol, see ....., and listen to music that is music." First film to get this treatment will be "Tin Pan Alley." He's seeking Ascap financial support for his idea.

"Decree Protests Futile"

CHICAGO—Arguing that "further protests against or denunciations of the consent decree are futile" and that no changes or modifications are likely by court action or otherwise until after the decree is in actual operation, Edward G. Zorn, president of the UTO of Illinois, advises his membership that compliance with the document is up to the distributors. He asserts that impending state legislation is more immediately important to the association.

Await "Chat" Switch Reply

MINNEAPOLIS—Northwest Allied is awaiting a reply to its request of President Roosevelt that he schedule future "fireside chats" for Monday night. Fred Strom, secretary, wrote the President that his talks cut into grosses on the heaviest day of the week.

Hanson Wins Metro Top Prize Money

NEW YORK—M-G-M's most successful exploitation campaign is over, and thereby hangs $10,000 worth of prize money. First prize of $2,500 goes to Roy E. Hanson of the Jefferson, Goshen, Ind., for his campaign on "Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President." Hanson is in the first run classification. First prize of another $2,500 in the subsequent run group was won by Percy Friedman of the Yeadon, Yeadon, Pa., who submitted a campaign on "The Women."

Approximately 2,000 campaign books from this country and Canada were received in the contest among independent exhibitors. The $10,000 is the most generous prize awards ever given by the company. Checks have gone to M-G-M branch managers, who will contact the winning exhibitors in their territories, and together with exploiteers will make arrangements for appropriate presentation.

In the first run theatre classification, besides Hanson, the other winners are as follows:

Second prize, $750—Rex Williams, Elco, Elkhart, Ind., with a campaign on "Judge Hardy and Son."

Third prize, $500—George Limerick, Aztec, Enid, Okla., with a campaign on "Another Thin Man."

Five others were chosen for special $100 awards. They are: Tom E. Roberts, Colonial, Elmira, N. Y., "Wizard of Oz;" Emery M. Austin, Orpheum, Tulsa, Okla., "Boom Town;" Leo T. Jones, Star, Upper Sandusky, Ohio, "Wizard of Oz;" Jerome Engel, Family, Glen Lyon, Pa., "The Secret of Dr. Kildare," and Matt H. Whitham, Tift, Tifton, Ga., "Young Tom Edison."

Although $100 awards were not announced at the start, the judges regarded the campaigns sent in by the five special winners to be of such high calibre it was decided to add these supplementary awards.

The final winners in the subsequent run division are, besides Friedman:

Second prize, $750—Morrie Parfrey, Voge, East Chicago, Ind., with a campaign on "Northwest Passage."

Third prize, $500—Jack Albertson, Indiana, Indiana Harbor, Ind., with a campaign on "Young Tom Edison."

Winners of the five special $100 awards among the subsequent runs are: L. A. Wallis, New Isis, Fort Worth, Tex., "Babes in Arms;" Sid Holland, Sheepshead, Brooklyn, N. Y., "Boom Town;" Robert P. Beamer, Pulaski, Pulaski, Va., "The Women;" Jack Harris, Mayfair, Philadelphia, "Fast and Furious," and Chick Tompkins, Hoosier, Whiting, Ind., "Waterloo Bridge."

The following exhibitors, not listed on the basis of merit or in alphabetical order, will each receive $25. Their entries also represented outstanding exploitation campaigns. They are:

William Freise, Rivoli, LaCrosse, Wis.; John G. Osborne, Court, Wheeling, W. Va.; Robert S. Taylor, Harris DuBois, DuBois, Pa.; Miss F. E. Rose, Criterion, Bridgeton, N. J.; W. J. Collins, Ritz, Toccoa, Ga.; Robert G. Stouch, Maryland, Cumberland, Md.; Marvin Merrill, Howard, Monon, Ind.; Bernard Palmer, Lory, Highland, Ill.; Richard Williamson, Cliftona, Circleville, Ohio; Frank V. King, Midland, Newark, Ohio; Max Matz, Colonial, Bluefield, W. Va.; Richard Schacht, Badger, Merrill, Wis.

Frank W. Miller, Metropolitan, Morgantown, W. Va.; B. C. Bordonaro, Palace, Olean, N. Y.; William M. Tallman, Ceramic, East Liverpool, Ohio; W. H. Giles, Maska, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Can.; Richard Watson, Regent, Battle Creek, Mich.; Paul T. Stonum, Uptown, Carrollton, Mo.; G. R. Layton, Palace, Childress, Tex.; M. Christiansen, Michigan, Muskegon, Mich.; H. J. Arnold, Indiana, Terre Haute, Ind.; H. W. McCracken, Karyl, Milan, Mo.; Alvin Sloan, Court Square, Newton, N. J.; E. L. Carter, Playhouse, Statesville, N. C.; C. E. Kenner, Albany, Albany, Ga.; Frank E. Lucido, Enean, Pittsburg, Calif.; Elaine Furlong, Star, Heppner, Ga.

Eddie Clark, Massac, Metropolis, Ill.; Larry Cowen, Grand, Albany, N. Y.; Frank R. Mutz, Dixie, Yazoo City, Miss.; Edward Benjii, Capitol, Madison, Wis.; Sam Hammond, Carolina, Kinston, N. C.; Emory Scott, Dickinson, Lawrence, Kas.; Harry Brown, Vogue, Chicago, Ill.; Steve Rodnok jr., Oaks, Oakmont, Pa.; Oscar Brotman, Avaloe, Chicago, Ill.; E. J. Jackson, Lee, Bluefield, Va.; P. K. Mulheirn, Liberty, Mercer, Pa.; John Naughton, Vic, Chicago, Ill.; John W. Matty, Ritz, Huron, Ohio; Wade Pearson, State, Falls Church, Va.; Ted Morris, West End, Chicago, Ill.; Isadore Schwartz, Segall's Apollo, Philadelphia, Pa.; Joseph B. Koppel, New Ritz, Berwyn, Ill.; Dave Jones, Senate, Springfield, Ill.; M. E. Lofgren, Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.

J. N. Fendley, Strand, Uniontown, Ala.; Robert Busch, Midwest, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Edward Bertrand, Buckingham, Chicago, Ill.; Harry C. Lahr, Whittier, Whittier, Calif.; Al Kopulos, Appleton, Appleton, Wis.; Roy Zermain, Mode, Chicago, Ill.; John E. Manuel, Strand, Delaware, Ohio; Bert Stern, Criterion, Oklahoma City, Okla.; David Murphy, State, Altoona, Pa.; James C. Platt, Vernon, Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Lou S. Hart, Schine's Glove, Gloversville, N. Y.; M. W. Korach, Tri-Theatres, Alliance, Ohio; Paul Klingler, Rialto, Lewistown, Pa.

Awards Induce New Dates for "Grapes"

New York—Repeat bookings on "The Grapes of Wrath" are rolling up on the trail of nation-wide publicity accorded the picture via various critical awards, according to 20th Century-Fox.

Starting with a repeat run at the Filmarte, Los Angeles, approximately 37 additional dates, chiefly in key cities, will be played off by mid-March.

"Big Five" to Delay Selling Until July

(Continued from page 4)

sales manager, then told the men the decree was their problem and that it was up to them and their forces to live up to every provision in the fullest degree.

He will again appear before the local sales groups at regional meetings when they are called. Both he and Dillard will repeat the importance of observing the new mandate under which the company is to operate.

With the arbitration tribunals scheduled to start functioning the first week in February, sales managers readily admit the big problem is to educate the outside arbitrators to the workings of the industry. The sales heads are reminded of the NRA when impartial arbitrators appointed by the government sat in and how long it took them to realize, in only some degree, what made the industry tick.

It is estimated in some quarters it will take arbitrators at least a year to know what the business is all about. Another factor which does not appeal to the sales heads is the possibility some arbitrators, after sitting on one case, may never handle another. Hence, the workings of the industry and an explanation of its different terms and expressions would have to be gone over every time a new man is delegated to a case.

Inquiries have already started by exhibitors as to when the arbitration tribunals will get going. In the local area, a number of complaints are understood ready for filing and hearing. New York, Chicago and the west coast are expected to be flooded with arbitration requests the first few months the tribunals are in operation. These territories, it is stated, cover those where clearance disputes have been a constant bone of contention and dissatisfaction among theatre interests.

Monogram Plans 42 For 1941-42 Season

ST. LOUIS—First indication of Monogram's 1941-42 production plans was revealed here at the two-day franchise holders' palavers by W. Ray Johnston, president, when he announced a program of 42 features. In the schedule will be six top pictures, "to cost far in excess of any previous production budgets," 20 features to be made at an increase of 25 per cent in outlay and 16 westerns.

In addition, plans were gone over the $1,000,000 collection drive under the title of "March for Monogram." The drive begins February 22 and will wind up April 11. A weekly quota of $150,000 a week has been set up.

Talks on Sales Under Decree

Steve Broidy, newly appointed sales manager succeeding Edward A. Golden, addressed the meeting on sales operation under the decree. While Monogram is not affected by the block of five selling plan, various points of interest were brought to light by Broidy.

Trem Carr, a member of the board, talked on production plans. John Mangham, board member and Atlanta franchise holder, talked about sales prizes and competition during the drive.

Illness prevented B. L. Nathanson of Minneapolis and Lon T. Fidler of Denver from being present.

George W. Weeks, who is producing the "Range Busters" series is reported increasing the group from 12 to 16. Golden, who is a partner of Weeks in the new series, was in New York on personal business at the time the local sessions were held.

7,871 Houses Participated In Red Cross Campaign

NEW YORK—A record number of theatres participated in the annual Roll Call of the American Red Cross, which reports the drive, terminated last November 30, netted 8,265,418 paid members at $1 to $25 each, as compared with 7,139,263 memberships the previous year.

It is revealed 7,871 theatres cooperated in the campaign, but final reports will not be available until 66 other cities, where membership drives are not yet completed, have tabulated results.

"Rebecca" Heads Trade Paper "Best 10" List

NEW YORK—"Rebecca" heads the *Film Daily's* 10 best poll for 1940 in which 546 critics and reviewers voted on 440 eligible features. It captured 391 votes.

Others in the first ten are these: "The Grapes of Wrath," 367 votes; "Ninotchka," 269; "Foreign Correspondent," 247; "All This, and Heaven Too," 230; "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," 221; "Boom Town," 215; "Northwest Passage," 198; "Our Town," 198, and "The Mortal Storm," 172.



YOUR PATRONS LISTENED!

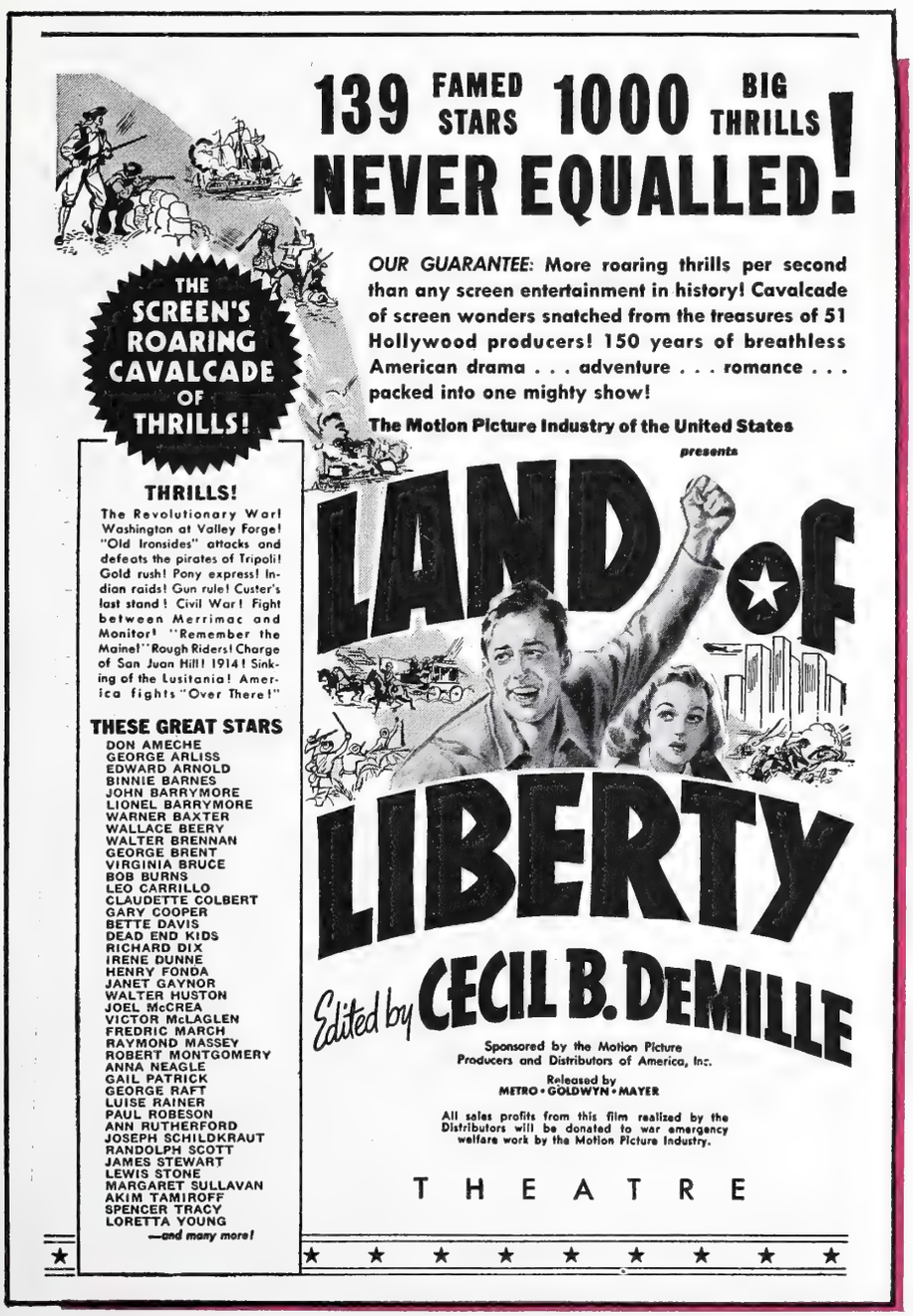
"Things worth fighting for" said President Roosevelt! Read every word of it!

"As men do not live by bread alone, they do not fight by armaments alone. Those who man our defenses and those behind them who build our defenses must have the stamina and the courage which come from unshakeable belief in the manner of life which they are defending. The mighty action that we are calling for cannot be based on a disregard of all the things worth fighting for. The nation takes great satisfaction and much strength from the things which have been done to make its people conscious of their individual stake in the preservation of democratic life in America . . ."

Here's how *you* as part of the motion picture industry may help in the united effort to make all our people "conscious of their individual stake in the preservation of democratic life in America." *(continued above)*

THE SCREEN REPLIES!

While the President's words still echo throughout the land, how fortunate that our industry stands ready to fill the public's demand for a thrilling American motion picture entertainment! Here it is for *you* to see its wonders for yourself! It has been successfully pre-tested and complete showmanship campaigns are available to make it easy for you to score at the box-office and in the esteem of your community!



(**Above:** *One of the showmanship ads from the successful Williamsport test run.*)



REMEMBER!

The entire cost of making "Land of Liberty" was donated by the organized industry!

(1) Every producer joined in making it.

(2) All sales profits realized are being donated to war emergency work.

(3) All the services of distribution are given free.

(4) Exhibitors are asked for rental only. Exceptional opportunities are yours through live-wire showmanship!

(5) M-G-M is handling distribution on behalf of the industry. Communicate with your M-G-M Branch.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

Tall, Dark and Handsome F

Comedy-Melodrama

20th Century-Fox (128) 78 Minutes Rel. Jan. 24, '41

A story of Chicago gangdom in its heyday, this vacillates between comedy and melodrama, with an occasional musical moment thrown in to further confuse its accurate designation. It is unadulterated hokum, but those who are not too critical of plot consistencies will vote it a first-rate job of picture-making and everyone should find it highly acceptable entertainment. The cast is particularly good. Cesar Romero, as a soft-hearted lord of the underworld, and Virginia Gilmore, the object of his affections, are the romantic interest, while Charlotte Greenwood, Milton Berle, complete with his new nose, and a number of lesser lights supply the comedy. Romero has established a reputation of being the toughest killer in the Windy City, but he has never spilled a drop of blood. Instead, he has made prisoners in his basement of all of the rival mobsters with whose death he has been credited. The boss of the rival gang discovers the hoax and, no longer fearing Romero, takes him for the well-known ride, from which he miraculously escapes with his life to see that justice is done, after which he marries the gal and departs for South America to make a fresh start in life. H. Bruce Humberstone directed.

Cesar Romero, Virginia Gilmore, Charlotte Greenwood, Milton Berle, Sheldon Leonard, Stanley Clements, Frank Jenks.

EXPLOITIPS: Title suggests you conduct a "talk, dark and handsome" photo contest for both men and women, the winning entrants' pictures being placed in the lobby. Plug the four songs in the film via local radio stations and dance bands. Put a "machine gun" in the lobby with a card reading: "Loaded With Laughs." Give Cesar Romero and Virginia Gilmore the marquee and advertising credits.

CATCHLINES: Gayest, Goofiest of all Chicago Gangland Comedies . . . It's a Merry Mixup of Murders That Never Came Off.

The Laugh of Your Life . . . Is This Surprise Comedy Sensation of 1941.

The Cisco Kid Goes Gangster . . . In the Season's Goofiest Funfest.

Arkansas Judge F

Rural Melodrama

Republic (——) 72 Minutes Rel. Jan. 28, '41

Among the products that come from 'way down in Arkansas are hillbilly music and corn. This has a little of the former but bushels of the latter—possibly as large a load as has ever been dumped onto celluloid. But it is probably the kind of corn which small-city audiences like and will buy, although urban and sophisticated patrons will continue to prefer theirs on the cob. The Weaver Brothers and Elviry are starred, Leon Weaver being cast in a Will Rogers type of role which he handles satisfactorily. Rural melodrama is based on a novel, "False Witness." Everything is peace, tranquillity and brotherly love in Peaceful Valley until somebody lifts the Widow Smithers' fifty dollars, which precipitates dissension, lawsuits, slander, romance and sundry other situations. In fact, the story develops more twists than there are hogs in the Ozarks, with peace ultimately being restored when the guilty party confesses. Frank McDonald's direction is commendable.

Leon Weaver, Frank Weaver, June Weaver, Roy Rogers, Spring Byington, Pauline Moore, Frank M. Thomas.

EXPLOITIPS: In street ballyhoo and general exploitation give attention to the rural atmosphere. Arrange a hillbilly band contest for amateurs. Costume your attendants in mountaineer fashion. Have a few "hillbillies" walking around the streets smoking corn-cob pipes and carrying earthenware jugs of "corn likker." Stage a "country store" night at which patrons are admitted upon presentation of various kinds of tinned and dried foods and donate the proceeds to a local charity. Such a stunt should net favorable publicity mention. A "Barn Dance" night might also be worked out, patrons to come in costume, with prizes awarded the best dancers, etc., and refreshments including cider, pumpkin pie and other rural repasts.

CATCHLINES: You'll Have the Gayest Time of Your Life. Your Favorite Kind of Rural Rhythm and Wholesome Fun.

Land of Liberty F

Historical

M-G-M (120) 98 Minutes Rel. Jan. 28, '41

This feature is described as a "cavalcade of American history composed of sequences from entertainment films produced for the theatre during the past quarter century." The capsule fits precisely. Through the astute and highly competent editing of Cecil B. DeMille, aided by historical consultation furnished by Professor James T. Shotwell, the result is a completely engrossing, always interest-holding panorama of the rise of the nation from pre-revolutionary times through the industrial and machine age and ending with the present day. The effect, therefore, is like the unfolding of the pages of American history adding up to a sum total of thrills, drama and excitement which no single feature could have encompassed. Exactly as it took Hollywood 25 years to make "Land of Liberty" possible, so could it have been only a consolidated enterprise like this one to assemble the cast which figures in it. They're all there—the great figures of the early days and the great ones who predominantly stalk the screen today, interspersed with the outstanding figures of contemporary history as recorded in the newsreels. This is a thoroughly worthwhile job. It is far better than the vast majority of double features and easily out front and ahead of many of the so-called "A's." Any exhibitor ought to be glad to run it and his audiences more so to get it.

EXPLOITIPS: The most practical and successful campaign to date on "Land of Liberty" was staged at Williamsport, Pa. where the Rialto had a profitable run. The detail, in all of its various phases, appears in the Selling Seats department of this edition of BOXOFFICE and to it, exhibitors are unreservedly recommended. Star power is enormous and without precedent. There is also much to be done by interesting the audience in picking out players as various sequences hit the screen. The angles are varied and well nigh without limit.

CATCHLINES: See America in the Making . . . Never a More Thrilling Saga.

"Land of Liberty," the Screen's Roaring Cavalcade of Thrills . . . It Took Hollywood 25 Years to Make This One Film. Don't Miss It.

Pride of the Bowery F

Comedy Drama

Monogram (——) 63 Minutes Rel. ——

By filming this in a government CCC camp which furnished authentic backgrounds, atmosphere and extra personnel, Producer Sam Katzman endowed the feature with production values which greatly transcend its budget classification. The film is easily the best of the series—of which, incidentally, it is the third—in which are featured the "East Side Kids," with Leo Gorcey and Bobby Jordan toplined. The story deals with the mental redemption of a tough youngster who wants to be a prizefighter and is inducted into the CCC service through subterfuge when his friends tell him he is entering his own private training camp. The picture will serve admirably in the subsequent market. Joseph Lewis directed.

Leo Gorcey, Bobby Jordan, Donald Haines, Sunshine Sammy, David Gorcey, Eugene Francis, Carlton Young.

EXPLOITIPS: The "East Side Kids" are the most saleable fodder here for the marquee, advertising and exploitation efforts. It might be worthy of pointing out that two of them—Bobby Jordan and Leo Gorcey—are members of the original "Dead End" gang. The CCC atmosphere suggests you stage a special showing for the boys in nearby CCC camps, and possibly that you secure the cooperation and sponsorship of CCC officials in the selling campaign. Conduct an essay contest among local youths on "Why the CCC is an Outstanding Factor in Building Morale Among American Youth." Print up mailing pieces containing definitions of New York slang as practiced by the "East Side Kids." Damon Runyon or some other authority can supply the required information. Decorate the lobby and foyer in keeping with the picture's title.

CATCHLINES: They Came From the Bowery . . . Killers' Kindergarten . . . And Learned How to Fight the Right Way . . . With Uncle Sam as Their Teacher.

Here's the Inside on the CCC . . . And How It Makes Men Out of Boys From the Wrong Side of Town.

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

REVIEW DIGEST AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		A										
16		Aldrich Family in Life With Henry	(Para)	+				+	+	+		4+
		Always a Bride	(FN)	±	±	±	−	−	±	−		4+ 7−
		Angels Over Broadway	(Col)	±	+	±	+	‡	+	+	+	9+ 2−
		Ape, The	(Mono)	+	−	−	+	+	+		±	5+ 3−
		Argentine Nights	(Univ)	±	±	+	+	+	+	+	−	7+ 3−
		Arise, My Love	(Para)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	15+
		Arizona	(Col)	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡		13+
14		Arkansas Judge	(Rep)	±								1+ 1−
		B										
		Bank Dick, The	(Univ)	‡	+	+	‡	‡	+	+	±	11+ 1−
		Barnyard Follies	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2−
		Before I Hang	(Col)	+	+	+	+	+	=	±	−	6+ 3−
		Behind the News	(Rep)	±	+	±	+	‡	+	±	±	9+ 4−
		Beyond the Sacramento	(Col)							+		1+
		Billy the Kid in Texas	(PRC)			‡						1+ 1−
		Bitter Sweet	(M-G-M)	‡	+	‡	+	‡	‡	+	+	12+
		Blackout	(UA)	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+
		Blondie Plays Cupid	(Col)	+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3−
		Boom Town	(M-G-M)	‡	‡		‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
		Border Legion	(Rep)	+		±	+	‡	+	±	±	8+ 3−
		Boss of Bullion City	(Univ)							±		1+ 1−
2		Bowery Boy	(Rep)	∓	±	−	+					3+ 3−
		Bride Wore Crutches	(20th-Fox)	±		−		±	−	±		3+ 5−
		Brigham Young—Frontiersman	(20th-Fox)	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
		Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie	(Univ)							+		1+
		C										
		Calling All Husbands	(WB)	±	∓	+	∓	−	−	±	∓	6+ 7−
		Case of the Black Parrot	(FN)		±	±	+	+	±		±	6+ 4−
		Chad Hanna	(20th-Fox)	±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2−
		Chamber of Horrors	(Mono)	±	±				±			3+ 3−
		Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum	(20th-Fox)	+	±	−	+	+	+	+		6+ 2−
		Charter Pilot	(20th-Fox)	∓	+	−	+	‡	±	+	±	8+ 4−
9		Cheers for Miss Bishop	(UA)	‡		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡		12+
		Cherokee Strip	(Para)	+	+	±	+		‡	+		7+ 1−
		Christmas in July	(Para)	‡	+	±	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+ 1−
		City for Conquest	(WB)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Colorado	(Rep)	±		−	+			±	±	4+ 4−
		Comrade X	(M-G-M)	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	14+
11		Convoy	(RKO)	+	+		+			+	±	5+ 1−
		D										
		Dance, Girl, Dance	(RKO)	+	‡	±	+	±	±	+	∓	9+ 4−
		Dancing on a Dime	(Para)	±	+	±		+	∓	+		6+ 3−
		Dark Streets of Cairo	(Univ)	−	±	+	±			+		4+ 3−
		Devil Bat, The	(PRC)								±	1+ 1−
		Devil's Pipeline	(Univ)	∓	±	−	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
		Diamond Frontier	(Univ)	∓	±	−	±	+	∓	−	∓	6+ 7−
		Dispatch From Reuter's	(WB)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
		Dr. Kildare's Crisis	(M-G-M)	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
		Dr. Kildare Goes Home	(M-G-M)	+	‡	+		+	+	+	+	8+
9		Doomed Caravan	(Para)	‡		+	‡	‡	‡	+		10+
		Down Argentine Way	(20-Fox)	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
		Dreaming Out Loud	(RKO)	±	∓	−	±	+	+	±		6+ 5−
		Drums of the Desert	(Mono)	±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4−
		Dulcy	(M-G-M)	+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2−
		E										
		Earl of Puddlestone	(Rep)	±	±	±	+		±	±	∓	7+ 6−
		East of the River	(FN)	±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5−
		Ellery Queen, Master Detective	(Col)	+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5−
		Escape	(M-G-M)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	15+
		Escape to Glory	(Col)	+	±	+		+	+			5+

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		F										
		Fantasia	(Disney)	‡	‡	‡	‡			‡	‡	12+
		Fargo Kid	(RKO)	+	±			+	+	+		5+ 1−
		Father's Son	(WB)					−	∓			1+ 2−
		Father Is a Prince	(FN)	±	±	±		=	=	−	−	3+ 9−
		Fight for Life, The	(Col)	+						+		2+
		Five Little Peppers in Trouble	(Col)	±	±	~	−	=	−	−	∓	3+ 9−
		Flight Command	(M-G-M)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
4		Flight From Destiny	(WB)	+	+	±	‡	‡	‡			9+ 1−
		Flowing Gold	(WB)	±	±	±	+	±	±	±	+	8+ 6−
		Four Mothers	(WB)	‡	+	±		+	‡	+	+	9+ 1−
		Four Sons	(20th-Fox)	‡		+	‡	‡	+		+	9+
		Friendly Neighbors	(Rep)	±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5−
		Frontier Vengeance	(Univ)	o		−	∓			±		2+ 3−
		Fugitive From Justice	(WB)	±	∓	+	+		−		±	5+ 4−
		Fugitive From a Prison Camp	(Col)		∓	=	±			±	±	4+ 6−
		G										
		Gallant Sons	(M-G-M)	+	+	+	±	‡	+	±	±	9+ 3−
		Gay Caballero, The	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	~	+	+	±	7+ 4−
		Girl From Havana	(Rep)	±	±	−	±		±	−	∓	5+ 7−
1		Girl in the News	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+			+		5+
		Girls Under 21	(Col)	−	±	±				±	±	4+ 5−
		Give Us Wings	(Univ)	−	±	±			+	±	−	4+ 5−
		Glamour for Sale	(Col)	±	±	±		=	±	−	∓	5+ 8−
		Go West	(M-G-M)	+	+	‡	+	‡	+	±		9+ 1−
		Gone With the Wind	(M-G-M)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
		Great Commandment	(20-Fox)							‡		2+
		Great Dictator, The	(UA)	‡	‡	+	‡	∓	+	‡	+	12+ 1−
		Great McGinty, The	(Para)	‡	±	+	‡	‡	‡		+	11+ 1−
		Great Plane Robbery	(Col)	+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4−
		Great Profile, The	(20th-Fox)	+	±	‡	‡	+	‡	+	±	11+ 2−
		H										
		Haunted Honeymoon	(M-G-M)	+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+ 6−
		He Stayed for Breakfast	(Col)	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
		Her First Romance	(Mono)	+			+	‡	+	+		6+
		Here Comes the Navy	(WB)							‡		2+
16		High Sierra	(WB)	‡								2+
		Hired Wife	(Univ)	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
		Hit Parade of 1941	(Rep)	+	±	±	‡	+	+	+		8+ 2−
		Hold That Woman	(PRC)	+		−	±	+	−		±	4+ 4−
13		Honeymoon for Three	(WB)	±				±	‡			4+ 2−
		Howards of Virginia	(Col)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
		Hudson's Bay	(20th-Fox)	+	±	∓	±	+	‡	+	+	9+ 3−
		Hullabaloo	(M-G-M)	+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6−
		I										
		I Married Adventure	(Col)	+	±	∓	±	±	+	+	±	8+ 5−
		I Want a Divorce	(Para)	+	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
		I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now	(Univ)	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2−
		I'm Still Alive	(RKO)	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5−
1		Invisible Woman, The	(Univ)	‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡		±	11+ 1−
		J										
		Jennie	(20th-Fox)	+	+			+	+	+		5+
		K										
4		Keeping Company	(M-G-M)	−	±	−	‡	‡	±			6+ 4−
		Kit Carson	(UA)	+	+	±	+	±	‡	+	±	9+ 3−
		Kitty Foyle	(RKO)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Knute Rockne—All American	(WB)	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
		L										
		Laddie	(RKO)	∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4−
		Lady With Red Hair	(WB)	+	±	+	+	‡	+	+	±	9+ 2−
15		Land of Liberty	(M-G-M)	‡	±	+				‡		6+ 1−
		Law and Order	(Univ)	±		+	+					3+ 1−
		Leather Pushers, The	(Univ)	+	±	±		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4−

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or distavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week. The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:

‡ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor

In the summary ‡ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number).

ǂ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor — In the summary ǂ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
1	Li'l Abner	(RKO)	+	∓			∓	±	−		4+ 4−
	Little Bit of Heaven	(Univ)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	Little Men	(RKO)	−	±	=	±	ǂ	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Little Nellie Kelly	(M-G-M)	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 2−
	Lone Star Raiders	(Rep)	+		±	∓			±		4+ 3−
	Lone Wolf Keeps a Date	(Col)	+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
	Long Voyage Home	(UA)	+	ǂ		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	13+
	Love Thy Neighbor	(Para)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Lucky Partners	(RKO)	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	13+
	M										
5	Maisie Was a Lady	(M-G-M)	+				ǂ	ǂ			5+
	Margie	(Univ)	−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
	Mark of Zorro, The	(20th-Fox)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	Meet the Missus	(Rep)	±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
	Meet the Wildcat	(Univ)	−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
	Melody and Moonlight	(Rep)	∓	±		ǂ	ǂ	+	±		8+ 3−
	Melody Ranch	(Rep)	+	+	+	ǂ		ǂ	+	∓	9+ 1−
	Men Against the Sky	(RKO)	+	+	+		+	±	+	+	7+ 1−
	Mexican Spitfire Out West	(RKO)	+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
	Michael Shayne, Private Detective	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
	Misbehaving Husbands	(PRC)	+			+	ǂ	+		∓	6+ 1−
	Missing People	(Mono)	∓							∓	2+ 2−
	Moon Over Burma	(Para)	+	+	±	+	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 2−
	Mortal Storm, The	(M-G-M)	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	13+
	Mummy's Hand, The	(Univ)	+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
	Murder Over New York	(20th-Fox)	±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
	N										
	Night at Earl Carroll's	(Para)	=	±	−	±	±	±	+		5+ 7−
	Night Train	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+			+	ǂ	7+
	Nobody's Children	(Col)		−	∓	±			±	±	4+ 5−
8	No, No, Nanette	(RKO)	ǂ	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	No Time for Comedy	(FN)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	+	±	+	+	10+ 1−
	North West Mounted Police	(Para)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
	O										
	Oklahoma Renegades	(Rep)	+			+			+	±	4+ 1−
	Ol' Swimmin' Hole	(Mono)	+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
	On the Spot	(Mono)	+		−	+	+	±		∓	5+ 3−
	One Million B. C.	(UA)	±	±	−	+	±	∓			5+ 5−
	One Night in the Tropics	(Univ)	±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
	P										
	Passport to Alcatraz	(Col)	+	−	±	+	∓	−			4+ 4−
	Pastor Hall	(UA)	±	ǂ	±	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	11+ 2−
	Phantom of Chinatown	(Mono)	±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
	Philadelphia Story	(M-G-M)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
	Pier 13	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
	Play Girl	(RKO)	+		±	±	ǂ	+	+		7+ 2−
	Pony Post	(Univ)	±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
	Prairie Law	(RKO)	+	±	+	+		+		∓	6+ 2−
	Prairie Schooners	(Col)	∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
	Public Deb No. 1	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+	+	∓		∓	6+ 5−
	Q										
	Quarterback, The	(Para)	±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	Queen of the Yukon	(Mono)	+	±	∓		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4−
	R										
	Ragtime Cowboy Joe	(Univ)	+		±	+			+	∓	5+ 2−
	Ramparts We Watch	(RKO)	o	∓	+	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	10+ 1−
	Range Busters	(Mono)	ǂ		±	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2−
	Rangers of Fortune	(Para)	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	±	+	12+ 2−
	Remedy for Riches	(RKO)	+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
	Rhythm on the River	(Para)	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	13+
	Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride	(Rep)	+		+	+	ǂ		+	∓	7+ 1−
10	Robin Hood of the Pecos	(Rep)	+			+					2+
5	Romance of the Rio Grande	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	S										
	Safari	(Para)	±	∓	∓	±	+	+		∓	7+ 5−
3	Saint in Palm Springs	(RKO)	+		=	∓	=	+			3+ 5−
	Sandy Gets Her Man	(Univ)	+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	Sandy Is a Lady	(Univ)	+	∓	∓	+	+	±		±	7+ 4−
	San Francisco Docks	(Univ)	∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
	Santa Fe Trail	(FN)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		+	13+
	Sea Hawk, The	(WB)	ǂ	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	12+ 1−
	Second Chorus	(Para)	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		13+
	Seven Sinners	(Univ)	±	+	±	ǂ	+	+		+	8+ 2−
	She Couldn't Say No	(FN)	+	±			∓				3+ 2−
12	Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga	(Univ)	+				∓	+			3+ 1−
	Sky Murder	(M-G-M)	±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+ 10−
	Slightly Tempted	(Univ)	±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
	So You Won't Talk	(Col)	−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
	Son of Monte Cristo	(UA)	+	±	∓	±	∓	ǂ	±	±	9+ 6−
	South of Suez	(WB)	+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
	Spring Parade	(Univ)	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
	Street of Memories	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
	Strike Up the Band	(M-G-M)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	T										
	Take Me Back to Okla.	(Mono)	+			ǂ	+	+	+		6+
	Texas Rangers Ride Again	(Para)	+	±	±	±	−	∓	+		6+ 5−
	Texas Terrors	(Rep)	+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
	That Gang of Mine	(Mono)	±	±	=	+	−	±	−	±	5+ 8−
	They Knew What They Wanted	(RKO)	ǂ	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	14+ 1−
	Thief of Bagdad	(UA)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
	Third Finger, Left Hand	(M-G-M)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	This Thing Called Love	(Col)	+		ǂ		ǂ				5+
	Three Men From Texas	(Para)	+			+	+	+	+		5+
	Thundering Frontier	(Col)	−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
	Tin Pan Alley	(20th-Fox)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Too Many Girls	(RKO)	+	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	11+ 1−
	Torpedo Raider	(Mono)	∓								1+ 1−
	Trail Blazers	(Rep)	+		+	+			+		4+
	Trail of the Vigilantes	(Univ)	+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
	Traillin' Double Trouble	(Mono)	∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
	Triple Justice	(RKO)	+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
	Tugboat Annie Sails Again	(WB)	+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
	U										
	Under Texas Skies	(Rep)	+		±	+			+	±	5+ 2−
	Up in the Air	(Mono)	+	±	±		+	+	+	∓	7+ 3−
	V										
	Victory	(Para)	+	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	+		9+ 1−
	Villain Still Pursued Her, The	(RKO)	±	∓	−	±	±	∓			5+ 6−
12	Virginia	(Para)	ǂ				ǂ	ǂ			6+
	W										
	Wagon Train	(RKO)	+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
	Wagons Westward	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	−	∓		±	6+ 4−
	West of Pinto Basin	(Mono)	±		±	+	ǂ	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
	Westerner, The	(UA)	±	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	+	10+ 1−
	Where Did You Get That Girl	(Univ)	+			±	+	+			4+ 1−
	Who Is Guilty?	(Mono)	−	±		±			±	+	4+ 4−
	Who Killed Aunt Maggie?	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
	Wildcat Bus	(RKO)	=	±	∓		∓	=	±		4+ 8−
	Wild Horse Range	(Mono)								∓	1+ 1−
	World in Flames	(Para)	+		ǂ	ǂ	+		+	+	8+
	Wyoming	(M-G-M)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 1−
8	Wyoming Wildcat	(Rep)	+			+					2+
	Y										
	Yesterday's Heroes	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
	You'll Find Out	(RKO)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Young Bill Hickok	(Rep)	±		∓	+			±		4+ 3−
	Young People	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	ǂ	+	+	+	+	9+
11	You're Out of Luck	(Mono)	±	•			∓	±			3+ 3−
	Youth Will Be Served	(20th-Fox)	±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Yukon Flight	(Mono)	+			+					2+

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE READIES NEW UNIT TO ENFORCE DECREES

Government Is Wary of Theatre Acquisitions Concluded Recently

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—Enforcement of the consent decrees entered in the federal courts at Los Angeles on November 27 and Chicago on December 10, as well as the New York decree of November 20, last, will be handled by the new unit set up by the anti-trust division of the department of justice, under Robert L. Wright.

This is disclosed by the department in a statement explaining the scope of the new unit's activities.

The announcement reveals that since the entry of the New York decree, theatre acquisitions have been undertaken "which are apparently intended to eliminate the possibility of the independent theatres' securing relief that the decree was intended to provide," together with a warning that while action on acquisitions is limited by the decree the department is prepared to proceed under the Sherman act to enjoin or divest acquisitions which are undertaken with the purpose and effect of suppressing or eliminating competition.

Into Claims as They Arise

It is also made clear that the department prefers to investigate complaints as they arise and will not favor having them "cleared" through exhibitor organizations, coming to Washington in bunches.

But it gives to exhibitors assurance that they will be protected against reprisals in cases where they filed arbitration complaints rather than accept settlements negotiated without resort to the decree machinery. Contempt actions face any person who attempts to prevent an exhibitor from exercising any of his rights under the decree, it is made clear.

Exhibitors Must Cooperate

To effectuate the purposes of the government's suit and the decree, it is stressed, exhibitors must give their "wholehearted support." Otherwise, when the three-year trial period expires in November, 1943, the department will be without adequate data as to the working of the decree on which to base its policy for the future.

Explaining that enforcement of the decree, in the first instance, rests largely in the hands of independent exhibitors, the department points out that Wright's unit will be available to them for advice with respect to the remedies available to them under the decree.

"It cannot, of course, undertake to initiate or prosecute an arbitration proceeding but after a final arbitration award is made, the unit will undertake to see that compliance occurs," it is stated. "Where an appeal is taken from an award which involves an important question of construction of the decree, counsel in the unit may ask the appeals board for leave to participate in the appeal as a friend of the court."

The unit also will undertake to ascertain the competitive effect of each theatre acquisition reported by the consenting defendants pursuant to Section XI of the decree and recommend such action with respect thereto as may be warranted under the decree and the Sherman Act.

"Since the entry of the decree, certain acquisitions of competing independent theatres have been completed or contemplated which are apparently intended to eliminate the possibility of the independent theatres' securing relief that the decree was intended to provide," the department says. "While action under Section XI (5) of the decree is limited to acquisitions which are a part of a general program of expansion, the department is free to proceed under the act itself to enjoin or divest acquisitions which are attempted or made with the purpose and effect of suppressing or eliminating competition, whether made by the consenting defendants or others."

Some Plaints Not Arbitrable

Certain types of exhibitor complaints against the consenting defendants are not subject to arbitration under the decree but nevertheless may involve a violation of the Sherman act, it is pointed out. The decree unit will investigate such complaints and recommended such appropriate action as is not inconsistent with the decree, and also will investigate complaints which involve Sherman act violations by distributors and exhibitors who are not parties to the decree.

At the same time, the department will continue its practice of referring meritorious complaints which do not involve sufficient public interest to warrant federal litigation to the parties complained against for voluntary adjustment.

"No exhibitor's complaint will be referred or disclosed to any distributor or other person complained against, except in the course of legal proceedings, without the express authorization of the complaining exhibitor," it is emphasized.

The department requests that all complaints be forwarded to the anti-trust division as they arise. "It has no objection to the simultaneous clearing of exhibitor complaints through any exhibitor organization," it is explained, "but it prefers to make its own prompt and independent investigation of each complaint as it arises, instead of attempting to investigate them at a later date in larger groups."

Must Give Full Picture

Exhibitors are instructed that, in forwarding complaints, a complete picture of their theatre situation must be given; that is, a description of the seating capacity, age, condition and operating policy, including admission prices, run and clearance of the theatre and the houses competing against it, together with a description of the manner in which major product has been divided among them during the current and immediately preceding seasons.

To Study Effect of Decree

"The unit will attempt to observe and evaluate the effect of the decree on the industry as a whole by a study of the following factors, among others," it is explained:

> "The extent to which arbitration under the decree succeeds in fairly adjusting the specific exhibitor complaints of which the department has knowledge;
>
> "The general effect of the decree, and particularly the new method of selling, on competition between independent theatres, unaffiliated circuits and affiliated circuits;
>
> "The effect of the decree, and particularly the new method of selling, on competition in producing and distributing films."

The data on which the unit principally will rely in making such studies will come from its own files, supplied by complaining exhibitors, the consenting defendants and other members of the industry; the records of the consenting defendants which are accessible to it under the terms of the decree; and the records of the arbitration proceedings and their disposition under the decree kept by the American Arbitration Ass'n and the appeals board.

"At the end of the three-year trial

(Continued on page 26-A)

Into Ramifications Of Consent Decree

PHILADELPHIA—Abram F. Myers, chairman of the board and counsel of Allied States Ass'n, surveyed the ramifications of the consent decree at the third annual meeting of Allied Independent Theatre Owners of Eastern Pennsylvania. Fifty-four members were present, representing more than 100 theatres.

His address followed an analysis of past year's developments and a discussion of the organization's future plans by Sidney Samuelson, business manager. Secretary E. B. Gregory and Treasurer Ben Fertel made their annual reports.

Elected to the board of governors for three years were David E. Milgram, Thomas Lazarick and Columbus Stamper, Philadelphia; George J. Riester, Shamokin, and Henry Sork, Schuylkill Haven. Elected as alternate governors for one year were David Brodstein, Reading; Melvin Koff, Darby; William Spiegel, Philadelphia, and Harry Fried, Ardmore.

The new board was scheduled to meet Friday afternoon to elect secretary, treasurer and business manager.

Will Suppress Any Move Tending to Suffocate The Independents

Lower Profit on Greater Volume by Seven in '39

WASHINGTON — Seven film companies whose securities are registered with the securities and exchange commission did a slightly greater volume of business in their 1939 fiscal year than in 1938 ($411,000,000 against $410,000,000) but had a lower operating profit ($25,000,000, or 6.2 per cent of sales, against $28,000,000, or 6.7 per cent).

The net profit of the seven companies, according to a survey made by the SEC, after all charges (including non-operating gains and losses, prior claims, interest and income taxes) was $20,000,000, or 4.8 per cent of sales in the 1939 year against $21,000,000, or 5.1 per cent in 1938.

Companies covered by the survey were Columbia, Loew's, Inc., Monogram, Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, Universal and Warner Bros.

Drop in Dividends

Dividends paid out by these companies dropped nearly 25 per cent between 1938 and 1939, it was shown. The 1939 dividends, totaling $9,900,000, included $3,700,000 on preferred and $6,200,000 on common stock, all in cash; in 1938, the total of $12,900,000, included $3,700,000 on preferred and $9,100,000 on common, in cash, and $100,000 on common in stock dividends.

Balance sheet assets of the companies dropped $2,000,000 during the year, from $531,000,000 to $529,000,000, due to a decline of land, buildings and equipment, at their book value, from $288,000,000 to $276,000,000, and a decline in related reserves from $119,000,000 to $118,000,000, partially offset by an increase in current assets from $174,000,000 to $184,000,000.

The commission reported that Columbia, for the year ended June 29, 1940, had sales of $22,174,000 at a cost of $14,074,000, the gross profit of $8,100,000 being reduced to $512,000 after all charges, and paid $206,000 in dividends. The highest paid officials received $206,250, $199,000 and $170,000, respectively, and all officers and directors received $524,048.

Loew's, Inc., Sales

Loew's, Inc., had sales of $112,490,000 at a cost of $77,802,000, giving a gross profit of $34,688,000 which turned into a net of $9,538,000 for the year ended Aug. 31, 1939, and paid $4,986,000 in dividends. The highest salaries were $688,369, $355,000 and $328,817, and all officers and directors received $2,106,856.

Monogram, for the year ended June 29, 1940, had sales of $1,946,000 at a cost of $1,578,000, giving a gross profit of $368,000, but after all charges, had a deficit of $180,000, and paid no dividends. Highest salaries were $25,000, $20,400 and $20,000, and total remuneration of officers and directors was $77,694.

Paramount had sales for the year ended December 30, 1939, of $96,183,000 at a cost of $47,498,000, leaving a gross profit of $48,685,000, but a net profit of only $2,758,000 on which dividends of $1,578,000 were paid. Top officials received $250,000, $240,333 and $236,635, respectively, and officers and directors divided $849,998.

Twentieth Century-Fox reported sales of $53,752,000 for the year ended December 30, 1939, at a cost of $36,127,000, which left a gross of $17,625,000. The net profit was $4,240,000, and dividends paid were $3,138,000. The highest salaries reported were $255,000, $249,166 and $235,000, and officers and directors split $853,943.

Universal Corp. reported sales of $22,148,000 for its fiscal year ended October 28, 1939, at a cost of $12,998,000, leaving a gross profit of $9,151,000 which dwindled to a net of $999,000 and no dividends were paid. Top salaries were $68,355, $53,000 and $41,373, and the remuneration of all officers and directors was $214,645.

Universal Pictures, for the same period, had sales of $22,187,000 at a cost of $12,995,000, leaving a gross profit of $9,192,000; the net profit was $1,153,000, but no dividends were paid. Top salaries were $196,000, $174,916 and $150,000, and total to officers and directors was $450,957, including $91,000 paid to Standard Capital Company for the services of the chairman of the board.

Warner Bros., with sales of $102,083,000 at a cost of $29,204,000, had a gross profit for the year ended August 26, 1939, of $72,879,000, but a net of only $1,741,000, and paid no dividends. The highest salaries reported were $260,000, $243,000 and $181,333, and the total to all officers and directors was $1,016,073.

F. W. Pershing Succeeds Haight on AAA Group

NEW YORK—F. W. Pershing, the general's son, has been named to succeed P. M. Haight on the AAA administrative committee for film tribunals.

Undetermined on "U" Preferred

NEW YORK—The total amount of preferred stock Universal will purchase, for which it recently obtained a $1,000,000 loan from the First National Bank of Boston, will not be known until the management verifies the tenders that have been accepted, according to a spokesman. In the interim he would not hazard an estimate on the amount the company intends to retire.

However, the company is not committed to use the entire $1,000,000 for this purpose, he adds. If a smaller amount is consumed, discretion as to what the balance will be used for rests with the board. The company's total indebtedness to the Boston bank is now said to be $2,354,000, as of Dec. 24, 1940. This includes an original loan, as of last August 1, of $1,500,000, which has been reduced to $1,354,000. The sum was split up to pay $1,000,000 to refund the studio mortgage, while $500,000 went toward working capital.

Jersey Allied Units to Meet on January 21

TRENTON—First joint meeting of southern and northern New Jersey Allied units will be held here January 21 at the Stacey Trent to coordinate ideas of importance affecting independent exhibitors.

On the agenda will be a hearing on appeals by members for a revision of dues schedule. Election of new Allied of New Jersey officers also will be held in addition to the naming of regional officers.

Other discussions will take up 16mm films, legislation and possibly the consent decree. Several invited guests are also scheduled to talk.



Buys First Premiere Ticket—

Dr. Allan Roy Defoe (center) buys the first ticket to the premiere at the Paramount Theatre January 28 of Paramount's "Virginia" from Dr. M. Goggin of the Maple Leaf Fund chapter in New York. Margaret Bannerman watches the deal with interest. The entire proceeds will be devoted to the relief of evacuees of bombed districts and to members of the new Canadian navy.

BROADWAY

A LOT of those small round tables at Dinty Moore's were thrown together Monday for an informal luncheon thrown by UA by way of greeting David E. "Skip" Weshner to his new post as director of exploitation. Monroe Greenthal acted as host with the guests including a representative trade paper contingent and from UA itself these: Murray Silverstone, Arthur W. Kelly, Harry D. Buckley and Al Margolies . . . Dave Snaper, New Jersey operator, expects to be confined to St. Peters Hospital in New Brunswick for about three more weeks. It's arthritis, and it has kept him there a month now . . . John Lewis, former press contact of the Motion Picture Producers Ass'n, is now at 20th Century-Fox, working on syndicates and press associations . . . Bert Stearn, UA district manager, was in town for home office conferences . . . Leon Netter, Paramount circuit executive, is due to return Tuesday from a trip to Atlanta and Miami, wherein there are conferences scheduled with Messrs. Lucas and Jenkins and F. A. Lynch.

The Eugene Pickers and the Herman Gluckmans sail for California on the America, *January* 29 *for a few weeks of that vacation stuff . . . Another of the Picker tribe—Arnold Melville, assistant to Joseph A. McConville, Columbia foreign head—has established a* $100 *a year scholarship at CCNY as a memorial to his father, the late David V. Picker. Incidentally, Leonard, still another Picker and attorney for Schwartz and Frohlich, has also established a similar memorial at Syracuse University . . . Charles Stern, UA district manager, was in Boston and New Haven the past week. He recently returned from a Miami vacation and got the thrill of his life, he says, when the local UA exchange staff tendered him and his wife a homecoming dinner at the Hotel Lincoln . . . John Manheimer has gone to Florida to join Rudy Sanders. He's not due back until March* 15 *. . . Lou and "Bingo" Brandt, plus Lionel Toll, are due in Miami on the 19th for a couple of weeks . . . Thomas and William Rodgers jr., are back at school after a holiday with their dad at Palm Springs . . . Sammy Cohen of the UA foreign publicity department Cohens has completed his first Florida vacation . . . Al Margolies was in Washington to arrange for the appearance of Charles Chaplin at the President's birthday ball there Monday evening.*

Bernie Kranze, Albany RKO manager; Moe Grassgreen, 20th-Fox Albany manager, and Neil Hellman of the Hellman circuit in Albany and Troy left the early part of the week for Miami for a couple of weeks. Kranze is spending his vacation at McFadden's Deauville spot while Grassgreen is stopping at Maurice Fleischman's Essex House . . . I. Schmertz, 20th-Fox Cleveland head, is Miami-ing as is Jack Sichelman of the same company's home office . . . A. Montague says he can be quoted on the fact "This Thing Called Love" is definitely "the greatest picture ever" . . . B. S. Moss plans a second theatre in Long Island. It is to be built in Forest Hills. He recently announced a new house for Jackson Heights, both to be part of new developments . . . Louis Goidel, Brooklyn exhibitor, is all het up over the new Allied unit being formed in the local area. The organization will have no truck with Max A. Cohen's Allied of New York, he says, and about 500 theatres, mostly upstate, have already signified their intention of joining.

Harold Rinzler is now basking in the Miami sun. He went south with Louis and Mrs. Frisch, his father staying on until the Frisches get back in about a month or so . . . Eddie Schnitzer has recuperated from a bad cold which kept him abed several days . . . Joseph Bernhard returned from the coast over the weekend after two weeks at the Warner studios for conferences . . . Phil Hodes, daughter, Naomi (Nicky), not yet 19 *is reputed to be one of the leading dress designers . . . Bernard Lewis Weinberg, son of John of the local 20th-Fox exchange, has been called to Camp Dix for training . . . Ludvig (Laudy) Lawrence of M-G-M is due soon from Europe where he has been cleaning up his personal and M-G-M affairs. He's been away about* 10 *weeks on the mission.*



—Metropolitan Photos

Producer Hits Town—

Albert Lewin, partner with David Loew, comes east on business and pleasure. Here, he is shown arriving, accompanied by his wife.

Mike Kallett, who operates about 20 upstate houses independently, was in town early in the week on product buys . . . William A. Finney, southern Loew division manager, was in from Atlanta for conferences with Joseph R. Vogel during the week . . . Sidney Schwartz, foreign department traveling auditor for M-G-M, is making reservations for his return to the Far East . . . David Loew plans to remain in the east about a month, he says . . . E. M. Saunders, western M-G-M division manager, is due to return from a swing of his exchanges in the next few days . . . Max A. Cohen has called off his planned vacation at Palm Springs indefinitely. He says he can't get away from his business cares now and will have to let it go for the nonce . . . Rube Jackter intends to spend his Miami vacation the latter part of next month or early March.

Moss Hart's new play, "Lady in the Dark" which bows in soon, has a lot of partners behind it. Paramount is understood to hold a 30 *per cent interest. Sam H. Harris, the producer, is believed in control but participants reportedly include Max Gordon and Harry M. Goetz, Howard Cullman and Jules E. Brulatour . . . Lynn Farnol and Mrs. F. are due back from Charleston and New Orleans, Monday . . . Sam Dembow is getting along, but reports it is anything but easy to get accustomed to those crutches . . . Leonard Goldenson is working actively with George Skouras on Greek war relief . . . Lucinda Reichenbach, widow of Harry, returns to active publicity as an idea woman and account executive with the publicity firm of Leo Guild and Ezra Goodman.*

Arthur Israel jr., president of the Cinema Lodge, has set up his committees for 1941, following a meeting of the executive council when plans were advanced for installation of new officers. These ceremonies, with proper fanfare, will be held in the Sun Room of the Hotel Edison, January 21, when Dr. Abraham Sacher of the University of Illinois and national director of the Hillel Foundation will make the featured address. About 500 are expected, including Barney Balaban and Jack Cohn and groups representing various distributors. Bob Weitman, chairman of the membership committee, and David Weinstock, chairman of the arrangements committee for the second annual ball, made reports. Attendance included A. Mike Vogel, Ralph Steinberg, Jack Meyers, J. M. Collins, Al Schwalberg, Abel Vigard, Moe Streimer, Leon Goldberg and Irving Greenfield.

E. C. Grainger is due back the latter part of the week from a two-week tour of Ohio, Pennsylvania and upstate New York towns where Feiber & Shea operate . . . Clarence Eiseman, local UA branch manager, was the guest of Freddie Schwartz over the weekend at Lake Placid . . . Laurence Bolognino has recovered from a slight cold. Despite his recent denial, reports persist a deal is on with Julius Joelson to take over the Consolidated Circuit . . . Jack Goetz was in Chicago for one day the middle of the week . . . Arthur Hirsch, Canadian exhibitor, was in town on one of his regular visits . . . Jack Shea was in Boston for a few days and returned Friday . . . Ed Robinson got in from the coast Sunday. Ona Munson, Leith Stevens and Crane Wilbur, who are associated with the star in his radio broadcasts, also are due.

The boys working up the Press Photographers' Ball, slated for the Astor, February 14, already have lined up four masters - of - ceremonies. They are Henny Youngman, Ole Olsen, Chic Johnson and Ed Sullivan, who also writes a newspaper column. Lucille Manners will sing the national anthem as the festivities open and, while other arrangements apparently are yet to be made, the word is they will be.

"Story" Seems Assured Of 5 Weeks on B'way

NEW YORK—It's still "The Philadelphia Story" at the Music Hall that has the Broadway managers on edge. The rest of the deluxers, tenanting three newcomers, two roadshows and two last stage holdovers, aren't exactly gleeful over receipts, but the grosses aren't below what is normally to be expected after the flush of the new year has disappeared.

"Story" wound up its third week with slightly under $95,000, which took it to a fourth stanza and virtually assures a fifth. "Kitty Foyle," well received by the critics largely on the basis of Ginger Rogers' personal efforts, is doing above average at the Rivoli. "Four Mothers" at the Strand, plus Sammy Kaye's orchestra, is a letdown compared with the previous "Santa Fe Trail," but it isn't too disappointing. "Hudson's Bay" is getting a full share of business at the Roxy. Everyone at the Capitol is pleased with the run of "Comrade X," which wound up its third week Wednesday with about $23,000.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 14th wk. roadshow 100
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 9th wk. roadshow 150
Capitol—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 120
Criterion—**Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 100
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk.....110
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 4th wk., plus stage show 150
Radio City Music Hall—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 3rd wk., plus stage show 150
Rialto—**Invisible Woman** (Univ) 100
Rivoli—**Victory** (Para't), 3rd wk. 85
Roxy—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 120
Strand—**Four Mothers** (WB), plus stage show.110

"Neighbor" Tops Show Menu in Washington

WASHINGTON—"Love Thy Neighbor" at the Earle, with Ray Kinney's orchestra heading the stage show, topped last week's local show menu. "Go West," with dancing Johnnie Downs on the stage at the Capitol, did better than average. "Kitty Foyle" at RKO Keith's came through for a nice second week, entitled to a third no doubt. "Comrade X" at the Palace did a comfortable second week. "Santa Fe" at the Metropolitan, on a moveover from the Earle, held its ground.

Detail for week ending January 16:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Go West** (M-G-M), Johnnie Downs stage show 110
Columbia—**Land of Liberty** (M-G-M)..... 90
Earle—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), plus Ray Kinney band 140
Metropolitan—**"Santa Fe Trail** (FN), Moveover from Earle 150
Palace—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), 2nd wk.....100
RKO Keith's—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd wk.....125

Philly Holds Own Despite Cold Weather and Flu

PHILADELPHIA—Downtown business generally held its own last week in spite of cold weather and a spreading flu epidemic that is making people leery of crowded places. A lineup of good first-runs was the explanation.

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA) 100
Boyd—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 100
Swell third week, but exiting to make way for "Philadelphia Story."
Earle—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M).....115
Bolstered by Phil Spitalny's orchestra on stage.
Fox—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd wk.....115
Karlton—**You'll Find Out** (RKO), 2nd run.... 60
Keith's—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 2nd run..... 75
Stanley—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 135
Stanton—**Blackout** (UA) 75

Launch Polio Drive On "Dimes Square"

NEW YORK—Charles C. Moskowitz and Harry Brandt, co-chairmen in the "March of Dimes" drive for the film industry, each contributed $50 to the total of $200 collected at the inaugural ceremonies held in Times Square Wednesday noon.

With Ed Sullivan as master of ceremonies, the name of the square was changed to "Dimes Square." Stars of radio, stage and screen who participated in the festivities included Benny Fields, who sang "Brother Can You Spare a Dime;" Bill Robinson, who did one of his famous cake walk dances; Don Albert and his WHN orchestra, Victor Moore and William Gaxton, Alan Dinehart, Lyle Talbot, Horace McMann, Johnny "Scat" Davis, and Dolly Dawn. Many of them contributed $10 each. Eugene Picker, Marvin Schenck and Bingo Brandt also gave sizeable sums.

Begins With a Parade

Preceded by a parade in which all important circuits were represented by ushers and bands, the ceremonies were slightly delayed due to Mayor LaGuardia's failure to appear. Milton Berle had also been scheduled to m. c. the affair and he likewise did not show up. However, in all sense of fairness the opening gun went off with a bang and the results were declared very favorable.

In appreciation of the work done, Nicholas M. Schenck, national chairman of the Motion Picture Committee, expressed his thanks thusly:

"On the eve of launching the infantile paralysis fund drive in the New York-New Jersey area, may I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to the exhibitors who have so heartily joined with the Motion Picture Theatres' Committee in this fine enterprise.

Majority Pledge Support

"The response has been exceptional. The great majority of the 1,187 theatres in the area have pledged their whole-hearted support.

"Those who have neglected to do so up to now, still have time to join the 'March of Dimes.' A phone call to committee headquarters will bring all the necessary material.

"The success of this drive for so worthy a cause will again show the world what an important part in community life the motion picture theatre can play."

Joseph M. Schenck, as in the past, again heads the west coast division of the drive.

It is hoped to raise close to 3,000,000 dimes for the infantile paralysis fight.

Seeking Harmony in Moscato Situation

NEW YORK—Efforts are being made by both sides to work out a harmonious arrangement for the booking of pictures in Frank Moscato's Ditmars, Astoria. As a result of recent conferences, the Ditmars is now getting some pictures clear of Skouras' Grand, in the same town.

Although Emil K. Ellis, local attorney, was recently retained by Moscato to institute legal action in the event nothing could be done, it appears now the possibility of a suit is remote and the working agreement will be continued indefinitely.

Both sides apparently seem satisfied with the granting waivers to the Ditmars. Talk of the matter going to arbitration also is said to have been abandoned.

"Back Street" Premiere Will Be a 5-Day Affair

NEW YORK—Universal's most pretentious out-of-town soiree appears, from the blue prints, to be ready to make up for a lot of junkets the company could have arranged, but didn't.

It's going to be a five-day affair in Miami and it's for "Back Street." It is designed to climax with the world premiere at the Lincoln at Miami Beach the evening of February 4. It will affect about 150 film critics, trade paper representatives, home office and studio officials.

Parades, parties and banquets will be the order of the occasion. The party will live at the Miami Biltmore Hotel and will have a choice of, or all of the following: A gala banquet on the night of the premiere, a trip to Hialeah, an evening at the dog races in Hollywood (Fla.), a dinner party at the Beachcomber and another at Ben Marden's club, a deep sea fishing trip and a few more surprise divertissments.

Sidney Meyers and Sonny Shepherd, Wometco officials, have completed all details with Louis Pollock, Universal's eastern advertising head. It includes the appearance at the premiere of Deanna Durbin, Producer Bruce Manning and other studio personalities.

Heart Attack Is Fatal To Boris W. Silver

NEW YORK—Boris W. Silver of Colonial Pictures, Canadian distributors for Alliance Films, succumbed to a heart attack. At the time, he was with Budd Rogers, American representative for Alliance Films, and Harry J. Allen of the Allen circuit in Canada in the Radio City garage. Silver was 49 and is survived by a sister in Canada.

Open With Benefit for British War Relief

NEW YORK—Shaftel & Berger on Tuesday night opened the new Squire, Great Neck, with a special benefit performance for British relief. The former is interested in the Pacific Newsreel Theatres which has newsreel units in various sections of the country.

A Film Program to Weld Republics

WASHINGTON—A wide scale program for the use of films as a medium for promotion of closer relations and better understanding among the American Republics, is announced here by Nelson A. Rockefeller, coordinator of commercial and cultural relations between the American Republics.

The first step is the formation of Hollywood committees representative of producers, stars, writers and directors to cooperate in carrying out the program of features, shorts and newsreels. As a result of conferences with John Hay Whitney, director of the motion picture division of the coordinator's office, several features involving Central and South American themes are now in production or preparation.

Remake "Blood and Sand"

Among these are M-G-M's "The Life of Simon Bolivar," two from 20th Century-Fox—"The Road to Rio" and "Blood and Sand;" RKO's "They Met in Argentina," and "Rurales," from Paramount. A special committee is said to be investigating production facilities in Central and South America for the purpose of possibly photographing subsequent films there.

Whitney is said to have been assured by the MPPDA that it will appoint an expert on the "ways of life in the other American Republics" to serve in the office of the code administrator in Hollywood. He will cooperate with all producers to insure authenticity in films involving Latin American languages and historical problems.

Intensification of the "closer relations" idea will be through the personal appearances of Hollywood stars at premieres in those countries. Alice Faye and Dorothy Lamour may be among the first.

Norman Alley of News of the Day is en route to South America to arrange for increased newsreel coverage as part of the program, while other crews are expected to leave shortly. In this respect Pathe is now editing a series of shorts on South America, first of which will be "Eyes on Brazil."

Several Committees Formed

The Hollywood committee that will cooperate with Whitney is headed by Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount production head. Others on the committee are Edward Arnold, Sam Briskin, Frank Capra, Sheridan Gibney, Samuel Goldwyn, Louis B. Mayer, George J. Schaefer, David O. Selznick, Walter Wanger, Cliff Work and Harry M. Warner.

Personnel of cooperating committees are as follows:

Committee on visits to South America—Joseph Schenck, chairman; Arnold, Kenneth Thomson and Benjamin Thau.

Committee on South American film facilities—Briskin, chairman; E. J. Mannix, Sol Wurtzel, Major Nathan Levinson, Keith Glennan, Sol Lesser, J. D. McDonough and William Koenig.

Committee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—Wanger, chairman; Capra, Levinson, James Stewart and Robert Riskin.

Short subjects committee—Gunther Lessing, chairman; Jack Chertok, Gordon Hollingshead and Hugh McCollum.

Art direction committee—Cedric Gibbons, chairman; Richard Day, William Cameron Menzies and Jack Otterson.

Committee on story material—Gibney, chairman; Kenneth Mackenna, Milton Krims and Kenneth McGowan.

Justice Department Unit Will Enforce Decrees

(Continued from page 23)

period," the statement continues, "the unit will attempt to answer the following questions and make specific recommendations based upon the answers to these questions:

"1. Has the three-year trial of the consent decree demonstrated that the competition required by the Sherman act can be achieved in the motion picture industry without securing the divorcement of production and distribution from exhibition?

"2. If it has, must the decree be modified in other respects in order to achieve such competition in the industry?

"3. If it must be so modified, what are the specific modifications which will achieve that end?

"The above outline of the proposed activities of the decree unit is necessarily tentative and subject to modification in the light of experience," the department declares in a plea for cooperation. "Suggestions for any modifications of this policy which will increase the effectiveness of the decree and the work of the unit are hereby invited and will receive careful consideration.

Must Cooperate to Work Well

"All exhibitors and their organizations must know that without their wholehearted support, neither the decree nor the decree unit can function properly. While the department is heartily in favor of the settlement of individual differences without resort to arbitration by voluntary agreement between the parties involved wherever the agreement is a fair one, it should be borne in mind that the decree was intended to relieve small exhibitors from the pressure which large circuits and distributors have been able to exert in the past with respect to the terms of such informal settlements. Unless free use of the arbitration machinery established by the decree is made by all exhibitors, this purpose will not have been fulfilled.

"It has been suggested that small exhibitors who insist on filing arbitration complaints rather than accepting settlements negotiated without resort to the decree machinery, may be subjected to reprisals in connection with future negotiations with the consenting defendants. The department believes that these fears are unfounded, but is prepared to prosecute for contempt any person who attempts to prevent an exhibitor from exercising any of his rights under the decree, by economic coercion or otherwise.

Would Punish for Reprisals

"The suggestion also has been made that exhibitors fear that complaints which are made to the department and referred to distributors will bring reprisals from them. The department believes that these fears are not well founded, but is also prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to punish such conduct. It can obviously do nothing about the cases of those exhibitors who may let such fears prevent them from making complaints to it.

"The questions which will be up for decision on November 20, 1943, must inevitably be largely determined by the data collected by the department during the preceding three-year period. Unless exhibitors make full use of the arbitration procedure set up by the decree and supply full information with respect to the effect of the decree on their business to the decree unit, that data will be woefully incomplete. Without such exhibitor cooperation on a substantial scale, these questions are certain to be erroneously decided, to the detriment of exhibitors and the industry as a whole."

Paramount Abandons Southern Division

NEW YORK—Paramount is abandoning its southern division. Oscar Morgan, manager of that area, is to be named short subject manager at the forthcoming Chicago meeting. Earle Sweigert, current Philadelphia manager, gets a new district embracing Philadelphia, Washington, and Pittsburgh. Neil F. Agnew, sales manager, is planning a separate division covering newsreels and shorts under Morgan's supervision.

Home Office Executives To MPA Induction

NEW YORK—Leading sales managers and home office executives will be invited to attend the induction of new officers of M. P. Associates at the Astor Tuesday. The event will be in the form of a luncheon with Jack Ellis retiring as president after three years. Joe Lee, who has held that post before him, now succeeds Ellis. Lee won over Nat Beier of UA by a tally of 64 and 48, after both men put on a spirited campaign.

Ellis declined to run again after three consecutive terms. James Frank of National Theatre Supply was unopposed for the first vice-presidency; Matty Cahan was elected second vice-president; Saul Trauner of Columbia was unopposed for treasurer; Charles Penser was continued as financial secretary. Moe Fraum of Columbia was named recording secretary and the two trustees who won out were Ben Abner of M-G-M and Seymour Schussel of Columbia. Louis Kutinsky of RKO bested Anthony Ricci for sergeant-at-arms.

Busy Court Week; Korda Heard in Goldwyn Suit

NEW YORK—An extremely busy week for the industry in the courts was headed by an examination before trial of Alexander Korda who arrived here from the coast just in time to be served with a subpoena in Samuel Goldwyn's suit against UA. The producer's examination could have been held in either New York or California but, since he elected to come here, it was held in the federal court pursuant to Judge Edward A. Conger's order. Goldwyn, at the same time, was ordered to reframe his second cause of action against the company, this cause asking $1,000,000 damages for alleged interference with the distribution of "The Westerner." The court ruled the producer's attorneys had included much redundant material in this cause of action. UA intends to file affirmative defenses to Goldwyn's charges, according to Edward C. Raftery, attorney for the film company.

Drop Part of Columbia Suit

Five consolidated stockholders who are suing Columbia, Jack and Harry Cohn, and 12 officers and directors for approximately $2,000,000 for alleged waste and mismanagement in a supreme court stockholder action, have dropped that part of their suit which sought damages prior to 1933. The statute of limitations applies to that material.

Stephen A. Lynch, former Paramount director, has petitioned the supreme court to bar David Stoneman, Boston attorney, from giving evidence at the trial of Stoneman's $250,000 suit against him for alleged failure to serve a bill of particulars. Stoneman seeks the money for services to Lynch during the Paramount reorganization from February, 1933 to July, 1936.

Supreme Court Justice Charles B. McLaughlin has amended his decision allowing the examination before trial of numerous Universal executives in Samuel I. Posen's stockholder suit against the company, and now is allowing questions which in his previous examination he had deemed unnecessary. Posen, a director of the company, claims waste and mismanagement and seeks an accounting.

Sidney Kent Examined

Sidney R. Kent, president of 20th Century-Fox, was examined before trial in supreme court in connection with Izola Forrester's and Mann Page's suit against 20th-Fox. Suit charged the plagiarism of plaintiffs' play "Joyous" in "The Poor Little Rich Girl." An injunction, accounting of profits and damages is sought.

Suit of Louis Klotz against Jack Robins, known as Jacob Rabinowitz, William Lorenz, Willor Mfg. Corp., and Mechanical Mfg. Corp., was dismissed by Supreme Court Justice Louis A. Valente. Action sought 10 per cent of the sales and rentals of a "continuous motion picture sound projector," which plaintiff claimed to have helped develop.

Suit of Mabel Wayne and Neville Fleeson against M-G-M has been settled and discontinued out of the supreme court. Action sought $50,000 damages for alleged plagiarism of plaintiffs' song "Betwixt and Between" in an unnamed Judy Garland picture for the M-G-M song, "In Between."

Suit of Katherine Moog against Warner Bros. for $75,000 damages for alleged libel in "Confessions of a Nazi Spy," will be tried in the federal court January 31. Suit claims the part played by Lya Lys in the picture is meant to represent the plaintiff.

Mitchel Parish and Hoagy Carmichael have filed a supreme court action against 20th Century-Fox seeking $50,000 damages for alleged failure to give them screen credit for writing the song "Star Dust" in the 20th-Fox film of the same name. Plaintiffs claim Mack Gordon, 20th-Fox songwriter, received the only screen credit for two subordinate songs. The film company, as a defense, claims that when the song was purchased from the plaintiffs' publishers, Mills Music, Inc., nothing was said about screen credit.

Drop "Midnight" Case

Suit of Robert L. Buckner against Paramount and Charles Beahan has been discontinued in the federal court. Action sought an injunction, accounting of profits and damages for the alleged plagiarism of plaintiff's play written in conjunction with Beahan called "Dearly Beloved" in the Paramount picture "Midnight." Beahan was named as a defendant because he refused to join the action as a plaintiff.

Joseph B. Basson, as president of Local 306 of the IATSE, has appealed to the supreme court to confirm an award of $7,500, plus $1,146 arbitration costs, against the Adenos Amusement Corp., Emmons Theatre Corp., Maurice Brown and the Sheldon Theatre, Brooklyn, made by the board of arbitration, Dec. 28, 1940. The board found the defendants, all connected with the operation of the Sheldon, had failed to live up to their ITOA contract of which they are members and to hire only 306 projectionists. They must do so in the future, besides paying the fine.

Suit of Frederick E. Weidhaas against Loew's, Inc., has started trial in the federal court before Judge Robert Nevins. Action seeks an injunction, accounting of profits and damages for allegedly plagiarizing a patent device for a theatre curtain.

The Polish-American Film Corp. has filed a federal court suit against Aurelio Battistoni and John Milo doing business as the Roma Film Co., charging the defendants with having stuck together newsreel clips, titled the feature thus produced "Poland Is Not Yet Lost," and notified the trade it was produced by the Pol. Film Corp. Plaintiffs claim to have completed a picture with the exact title at a cost of $20,000 and with the cooperation of the Polish government, and were planning release of it in the near future. Damages of $10,000 plus an injunction are asked.

Pickford-Rogers Action

Arthur T. Michaud and James V. Peepe, band managers, filed a $300,000 suit in the supreme court against Charles Buddy Rogers and Mary Pickford, charging the band leader with breach of a 10-year managerial agreement, and the former actress with forcing the breach. Plaintiffs claim that Rogers' wife threatened him with divorce and also promised that should he return to California, she would secure him producing and acting jobs. Contract made in May, 1939, was allegedly breached in August, 1940.

Selwyn and Co. won an award of $2,700 and the American Play Co., $604, in the supreme court in connection with their suits against Hollywood Plays. Justice Isidor Wasservogel also dismissed the defendants counter-claim for $2,500. Plaintiff claimed to own 50 per cent of the film rights to the play, "Fair and Warmer," rights to which were sold by the defendant to a German film company in 1936 for $6,500. Defense denied the charges and made the same 50 per cent claim on the play, "Our Little Wife," which had been sold to Goldwyn Pictures Corp. between 1919-1922 for $2,500.

Belgium and France Are Returning to Normalcy

NEW YORK—Theatre business in Belgium and France is rapidly returning to normalcy, states Fred Hotchkiss, manager of Societe de Materel Acoustique, distributors of Western Electric equipment in those countries and now in town on a leave of absence.

Of the 330 houses equipped with Erpi sound, 275 are doing business in those countries, he states. Approximately 50 are closed temporarily, most of these being in the occupied zone. About 10 were destroyed or suffered damage to varying degrees during the blitzkrieg, three in Mezieres-Charleville, two in Valenciennes and one each in Le Havre, Maubeuge, Dunquerque, Ostend and Sedan.

Three Arbitrators on British Remittances

NEW YORK—The three arbitrators who will decide how the $12,900,000 British remittances for the current year are to be allocated among the eight major distributors have not yet been set. Under the plan, M-G-M, which is seeking to have the allocations distributed according to the formula set up by the British government, will appoint a man, the other seven majors will name a second and these two will elect a third.

No date has been set for the arguments. M-G-M is understood to have considerable correspondence from abroad to bear out its contention that the percentage of distribution should be based on the net earnings of each company rather than the total gross of the eight distributors.

The allocations agreement was the sole topic of discussion at an "informal meeting of a few members" of the MPPDA board, according to a spokesman. In any event, another meeting was called Friday before Will Hays departs for the coast, in a few days.

Wheeler Strikes at Film 'Propaganda'

WASHINGTON—Sharply assailing the motion picture industry for its participation in what he called an administration-instigated "propaganda for war," Sen. Burton H. Wheeler of Montana, chairman of the Senate interstate commerce committee, this week threatened that unless the industry took what he considered a "more impartial" position, legislation would be sought regulating its activities.

The senator's dissatisfaction with the industry's preparedness propaganda was voiced in a letter to Will H. Hays, MPPDA president.

Strongly opposed to anything which might get the United States into the war, he charged that the industry is propagandizing for war with the encouragement of the administration, and told Hays that it has reached a point where he believes legislation may have to be enacted regulating conduct in this respect unless voluntary reforms are adopted.

Blame on Administration

Senator Wheeler referred to the many preparedness pictures which are being shown throughout the country in news reels and shorts and said it was his understanding the administration had urged the industry to produce propaganda pictures.

Wheeler actually wrote Paramount News at Washington and sent Hays a copy of that letter. In it, he said:

"Will you kindly inform me when, if at all, you intend to carry my answer to the President's most recent fireside chat. And what, if anything, are you going to do about carrying both sides of the controversy on pending legislation which directly involves the question of war or peace?

"This question is so important that I believe the people should insist not only on equal radio coverage for both sides of this highly controversial question, but that newspapers and the motion pictures should do the same.

Would Enact Legislation

"The propaganda for war that is being waged by the motion picture companies of this country is reaching a point at which I believe legislation will have to be enacted regulating the industry in this respect unless the industry itself displays a more impartial nature.

"Many complaints are coming to me and to other members of congress to the effect that the motion picture industry is carrying on a violent propaganda campaign intending to incite the American people to the point where they will become involved in this war. As you well know, the motion picture and the newsreel is one of the great agencies for molding public opinion of this country and, if we are going to preserve this nation as a democratic republic, it is highly essential that both sides of each question be presented.

"I sincerely hope that you will call this to the attention of your people as I am fast coming to the conclusion that legislation should be enacted to remedy the present situation."

In a letter to Wheeler, A. J. Richard, editor of Paramount News, denies the accusation, declaring he is "unaware of the existence of any such propaganda on the part of the motion picture industry and am confident that no such purpose exists."

"Facts Utterly Deny Accusations"

New York—"The facts utterly deny the accusations of deliberate propaganda to incite war," Will H. Hays has advised Sen. Burton K. Wheeler in response to the Montana solon's letter. Hays has supplied Wheeler with a breakdown of last year's product to prove his contention.

RKO Will Proceed as Planned With "Kane"

NEW YORK—Officially, RKO has nothing to say. Authoritatively, however, it is the company's intention to proceed as planned with the release of "Citizen Kane," the widely discussed Orson Welles film which representatives of William Randolph Hearst are endeavoring to suppress. The newspaper publisher claims the film essentially is his biography. Welles, on the other hand, maintains it is a composite picture of an era of the American scene and is based on no one individual's life.

Meanwhile, it is understood Hearst editors have been instructed to bar all mention of RKO and its product.

"GWTW" Is Slated for Capitol on January 30

NEW YORK—"Gone With the Wind" is slated to open at the Capitol for its repeat first run engagement on January 30, following "Flight Command." The date is conditioned on the latter, which opened Thursday, running two weeks.

SPG Board Hearings Starting January 23

NEW YORK—The national labor relations board will start hearings January 23 in the SPG-producers' case in which the publicists are seeking recognition of their union.

"Fantasia" Dates Set

NEW YORK—"Fantasia" opens on January 29 at the Carthay Circle, Los Angeles. The preceding day it bows in at the Majestic, Boston, while on February 12 it opens at the Aldine, Philadelphia.

Korda, Pallos Westward

NEW YORK—Alexander Korda and Stephen Pallos left here Saturday for the coast. Korda was examined in Sam Goldwyn's suit against UA on this trip here.

Roxy Reports Loss

NEW YORK—Roxy Theatre, Inc., reports a loss of $42,289 for the year ended August 29 against a profit of $40,686 for the preceding year.

Film Board to Install

NEW YORK—The local Film Board will install new officers January 22.

Scophony Television Contains a Threat

NEW YORK—If one discards a few important ifs, ands and buts, the first American demonstration of Scophony's theatre-size television stacks up as something exhibitors will have to reckon with if they don't have a competing television system in their theatres.

A number of factors, none particularly encouraging, prevent Scophony executives from committing themselves on how strenuously they expect to wage a campaign on theatre installations. Firstly, the National Television Systems Committee will not make a report on its activities to the FCC until the end of the month. Rumors have it the report will recommend that all commercial and experimental television be curtailed for the duration of the present emergency.

Secondly, and assuming for the moment the FCC gives the television industry the go ahead signal, Scophony spokesmen are not clear on whether they have the finances to build their receivers in sufficient quantities to assure the purchaser a price that would justify an installation with the limited television programs, or even spot news, that would be available.

Next, and by no means least, the quality of reproduction as gleaned from the demonstration is wanting in more than a few respects. By comparison with intensity of light on present-day theatre screen, the Scophony presentation was well below standard. There was quite a bit of halation around the sides of the screen, as well as the center, except when extreme close-ups were shown. The screen was nine feet by 12 feet. Yet no more than two persons could get into the camera range comfortably.

There were explanations for all of these criticisms by Scophony spokesmen. In fact, not only did they apologize for utilizing equipment that did not show to the best advantage, but they declared newer equipment of their own design which is not now in this country, would insure even better results than have been achieved by other systems. Scophony, for the uninitiated, is an English concern, headed by Solomon Sagall, founder and managing director.

For Scophony, however, it must be said its receiving equipment is so condensed that it occupies but a few square feet of space. It projects from the rear of the screen. Receivers that were installed in London theatres, when manufactured at 100-unit orders, were available for about $5,000 for the 9x12 foot screen, and about $1,600 for the 4x3 foot receiver.

Exclusive patents are claimed for the system that permits ease of operation, a minimum of overhead and unusual reception qualities. The receivers are designed to pick up any standard line television broadcast emanating from either NBC or CBS. Definition is claimed not to be impaired in the reproduction of pickup up to 50 miles.

Columbia Quarterly Dividend

NEW YORK—Columbia has declared a quarterly dividend of 68¾ cents on convertible preferred payable February 15.

REVIEW FLASHES

ALDRICH FAMILY IN LIFE WITH HENRY, THE (Para)—There is no readily-discernible reason why this, the second chapter in Henry Aldrich's screen career, shouldn't prove comparably acceptable to everyone who enjoys clean, human and down-to-earth entertainment. Jackie Cooper, Leila Ernst, Eddie Bracken, Jay Theodore Reed ably produced and directed.

HONEYMOON FOR THREE (WB)—Farce comedy about a novel-writing casanova, it strains rather hard in some of its sequences for laughs but pans out sufficient humorous lines and situations to satisfy generally, although audiences cannot be expected to consider it uproariously. Ann Sheridan and George Brent are co-featured. Henry Blanke produced; Lloyd Bacon directed.

MR. AND MRS. SMITH (RKO)—Britain's Alfred Hitchcock, who demonstrated to Hollywood and audiences everywhere his ability as a dramatic director in "Rebecca" and as a pilot of suspense and action in "Foreign Correspondent," displays an equal flair for humor in this, his first American comedy. As entertainment in the lighter vein, it is virtually flawless and, with Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery to grace the marquee, it should quickly attain the hit class.

TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME (20th-Fox)—A story of Chicago gangdom in its heyday, this vacillates between comedy and melodrama, with an occasional musical moment thrown in to further confuse its accurate designation. It is unadulterated hokum, but those who are not too critical of plot inconsistencies, will vote it a first-rate job of picture-making and everyone should find it highly acceptable entertainment. Produced by Fred Kohlmar; directed by H. Bruce Humberstone.

MPPDA Works With Metro In Behalf of "Liberty"

NEW YORK—The Hays organization, which sponsors "Land of Liberty," is cooperating with M-G-M field men in an effort to further arouse community interest in the film. For that purpose, four men have been assigned different sections of the country. Mark Larkin is now active in New England, Joe Shea in the south, Gabe S. Yorke in the west, and I. E. Deer in the middle west, out of Chicago.

See $2.85 on Common

NEW YORK—Financial circles estimate that Paramount's earnings for last year will total $2.85 for each common share.

Rowland In for Two Months

NEW YORK—Richard A. Rowland, UA producer, is in town for a couple of months.

Will Ponder Feasibility Of Roadshowing "Wings"

CHICAGO—Paramount executives will ponder the feasibility of roadshowing "I Wanted Wings" at a three-day meeting at the Edgewater Beach Hotel starting Tuesday, when Neil F. Agnew, general sales manager, will announce a number of sales shifts. Adolph Zukor and Barney Balaban will attend as will Charles Reagan, J. J. Unger, Oscar Morgan, Robert M. Gillham, C. J. Scollard and George Brown.

The Astor Will Roadshow "Wings" After "Dictator"

NEW YORK—Paramount's "I Wanted Wings" is slated for a two-a-day roadshow engagement at the Astor following the "Great Dictator" run. The deal, however, is contingent upon the renewal of Loew's lease on the theatre which, insiders believe, will be an automatic procedure.

Robert Wolff President New York Film Board

NEW YORK—Robert Wolff of RKO has been elected president of the New York Film Board succeeding Jack Bowen, eastern district manager for M-G-M. Joseph Lee of 20th-Fox has been named first vice-president replacing Nat Beier of UA. Both Ben Abner of M-G-M and Dave Levy of Universal were re-elected second vice-president and treasurer, respectively. Robert Fannon of Republic is the new secretary in place of Myron Sattler of Paramount. Ed Bell of Paramount is sergeant-at-arms succeeding Joe Felder of Universal. Inductions are slated for January 22 with a theatre party to follow the same night.

Reynolds at Strand With "Christmas Under Fire"

NEW YORK—Quentin Reynolds, war correspondent for *Collier's* and just returned from London, opens at the Strand, January 24, for two weeks in connection with "They Spent Christmas Under Fire," follow-up of his "London Can Take It" short on wartime London.

The feature will be "High Sierra" and the stage band, Henry Busse and his orchestra.

20th-Fox Signs Renoir

NEW YORK—Jean Renoir, French producer who is probably best known for "Grand Illusion," has been signed to a long-term contract by 20th Century-Fox. His first American film has not been announced.

Joseph Due East

NEW YORK—John Joseph, Universal's director of advertising and publicity, is expected from the coast momentarily.

Depinet Back

NEW YORK—Ned E. Depinet, RKO vice-president, is back from a trip to Dallas.

Garnett in New York

NEW YORK—Tay Garnett, the director, is here from Hollywood. Mrs. Garnett accompanies.

"Business as Usual," London Sign Reads

NEW YORK—"Business as usual," reads the sign over London.

Record business, in fact, for 20th Century-Fox, whose billings for the calendar year just ended is the highest in the company's history since it established offices in Great Britain in 1916.

Francis L. Harley, managing director there, is authority for the statement. He is here for a combination business and pleasure visit until the end of February, dividing his time between New York and Hollywood.

He gives two reasons for the record billings, which, on the face of five months of blitzkrieg, would seem not to be on talking terms with legitimacy. The first is that the shifting of populations from the east coast, London and some of the midlands to the provinces has caused theatre business to swell to "colossal" proportions; the second is that the English people are seeking more entertainment during the war than they would under normal circumstances.

Furthermore, as the days get longer so will theatre receipts, he declares. This is accounted for by the particularly large daytime attendance, Harley observes. The only factor that might disturb this optimistic outlook is an overabundance of grim, melancholy films, which, he believes, is not likely. He estimates that about 400 theatres throughout England have been put out of operation by raids, with approximately 3,800 others still going. However, the public is so film-minded that closings and openings are difficult to keep track of. He cited Coventry, where there were 21 theatres in operation before the Nazis virtually levelled the city. The raid left but four houses in operation. Within a very short period, he added, six theatres that were hit were reopened.

Production-wise, 20th-Fox "has never been busier," he declared. The year just closed saw the completion of eight features, which he asserts is "absolute maximum" on the basis of six weeks for each film. Despite "indiscribable difficulties," the company has finished "Kips," by H. G. Wells and featuring Diana Wynward and Michael Redgrave, while "Once a Crook," "Spitfire," "Pitt, the Younger," and "Paddy the Next Best Thing," in that order, are next on the schedule.

Deanna to Ball

HOLLYWOOD—Deanna Durbin leaves here next Friday for visits in Chicago and Washington. Her capital visit will coincide with the President's Birthday Ball. From there, she will go to Miami for the premiere of Universal's "Back Street" on February 4.

West on New Season

HOLLYWOOD — Maurice Silverstone, in charge of world-wide operations for UA, and Arthur W. Kelly, general sales manager, are due here Monday from New York for conferences on plans for the new season.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Spurt by Monogram Independent Units

Independents producing for Monogram release have launched a picture-making spurt.

Ed Finney has rolled "Ridin' the Cherokee Trail," a Tex Ritter western. Sam Katzman's "Air Devils," an East Side Kids feature, is also in work. Paul Malvern has pegged a January 20 start on "Sign of the Wolf," to roll on location at Mount Shasta. George Weeks' next Range Busters western will be "Guns-A-Roarin'," from an Earle Snell original.

Producers Corp. of America has re-elected Sid Schlager president and Henry Herzbrun secretary, with Charles E. Ford, originally signed on a one-picture commitment, given a three-year contract as general manager. First picture is to be "Kingdom Come," starring John Charles Thomas.

Jules Levey, president of Mayfair Productions, is in from New York to prepare "Butch Minds the Baby," "Tight Shoes" and "Hellzapoppin" as his next three independent ventures for release through Universal.

Ben Cohn, head of a recently-formed independent unit, has appointed Margaret McKay story editor to seek three properties for production this season. Cohn has checked out for New York to negotiate a release.

Now pegged by Al Rosen for a late February start is "Gangsters in Uniform," formerly "The Mad Dog of Europe," an anti-Nazi feature which he will make for Columbia release.

Here to survey the local field with a view to setting up an Anglo-French production unit is Joseph Luca, French producer, president of Imperial Films. His last French-made film, starring Annabella, opened recently in New York.

Capra and Riskin Will Tour S. A. With "Doe"

Immediately after the Academy Awards dinner in February, Frank Capra and Robert Riskin will check out on a tour of South America, carrying with them a print of their first production for Warner, "Meet Joe Doe." Plan is to visit the principal Warner exchanges on the continent, their first stop to be Rio de Janeiro. Selling policy on the picture will be discussed with the various exchange managers.

Fox May Map Program To Fit Block Plan

Indications that the studio's 1941-42 program may be mapped out in blocks of five to conform to changes in sales policy because of the consent decree, plus the possibility that further independent production-distribution deals may be set up to augment its own picture-making program, were reported by 20th Century-Fox attaches as the company's annual production huddles got under way at the studio.

Charles E. McCarthy, advertising-publicity director, came out from New York to join President Sidney R. Kent and Herman Wobber, sales head, in the conferences with Darryl Zanuck, William Goetz and Joseph M. Schenck. Sessions will probably continue for another week, during which story properties and budgets will be tentatively set for the coming season.

Other Huddles

President Nate Blumberg of Universal and J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board, will spend several days more at the studio, although production conferences started last week have been concluded. Joseph H. Seidelman, foreign sales head, and William Scully, general sales manager, have returned to New York. Blumberg and Cowdin are discussing other studio matters with Cliff Work and Matty Fox.

Gradwell Sears, Warner general sales head, has arrived from New York to view the Frank Capra-Robert Riskin production, "Meet John Doe," and to discuss the sales campaign for the film.

A Republic visitor is Herbert J. Yates, board chairman, in one of his periodic look-ins at the studio, during which he will check over production schedules in conferences with M. J. Siegel, studio head, and map plans for the second quarter.

Alexander Korda, United Artists producer, was expected in before the end of the week after a quick trip to New York to confer with UA homeoffice executives on sales and distribution plans for his newest production, "That Hamilton Woman." Korda also huddled with his attorneys concerning his forthcoming appearance in U. S. District Court in connection with the Samuel Goldwyn suit against UA.

O. Henry Briggs, new president of Producers Releasing Corp., is due here January 27 on his first visit since he became company head. George Batcheller, new PRC production supervisor, and Eddy Graneman, publicity director, head a committee planning a formal welcome for their new chief, which will take the form of a "red apple" reception—in which every PRC employe will present Briggs with hand-polished apples, to be distributed to the Hollywood Orphans Home.

The franchise meeting in Kansas City concluded, President W. Ray Johnston of Monogram has returned to Hollywood, accompanied by Trem Carr and Howard Stubbins, Pacific coast franchise holder.

See No Letdown in Production Pace

All signposts point to a continuation during the next two months of the rapid picture-making pace to which Hollywood's studios have been geared during recent weeks.

To roll during the balance of January are:

Columbia—"A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street" and "Senate Page Boys." M-G-M—"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "Love Crazy" and "A Woman's Face." Paramount—"Skylark" and "Kiss the Boys Goodbye." Republic—"Mr. District Attorney," "The Great Train Robbery" and "Sis Hopkins." Monogram—"Sign of the Wolf." Universal—"Oh, Charlie." 20th Century-Fox—"Blood and Sand" and "The Great American Broadcast." RKO Radio—"Robbers of the Range," "Hang Out the Moon" and "Tom, Dick and Harry." Warner—"Sergeant York" and "Bad Men of Missouri."

In February Columbia will gun "Her First Beau." Paramount lists "Hold Back the Dawn," "Pioneer Woman" and "Aloma of the South Seas." Republic will launch "County Fair." "Private Nurse" and "Miami" are on schedule at 20th Century-Fox. Universal has "Mutiny in the Arctic." For United Artists, Argosy will launch "The Eagle Squadron." RKO Radio's entry is "Before the Fact."

March cameras will grind on M-G-M's "Bombay Nights," Paramount's "Dildo Cay," Universal's "Almost an Angel," Warner's "Highway 99" and RKO Radio's "True to Form" and "Water Gypsies."

Cement Relationship of Films and Education

A solid step toward cementing the relationship between motion pictures and education was taken when, under the joint auspices of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the producers' association, the Association of American Colleges' 27th annual convention was welcomed to Hollywood in ceremonies at M-G-M.

Keynote of the affair was struck by Dr. Robert Clarkson Clothier, president of Rutgers, who described the educational importance of films in guiding the sentiments of the younger generation. "Education," he asserted, "is indeed grateful that the makers of motion pictures realize their great opportunities and are carrying on the work of educating the young of America."

Welcome by Wanger

Address of welcome was delivered by Walter Wanger, Academy president, who stressed the ever-increasing community of interests between education and the screen. He explained the Academy's work in developing an all-industry cultural forum and hailed the screen as one of the three great communication media. "With its visual force," he said, "it is the front line for protection of the American way of living." He declared universities can greatly aid in directing films toward the fullest measure of utility. He branded the so-called "fifth column" in America as "largely apathy" and the popular idea of "getting way from it" instead of facing realities. To awaken Americans, he asserted, it is a great duty which the screen is well equipped to accomplish.

In behalf of the industry in general, Louis B. Mayer pledged it to greater activity and usefulness in the struggle to preserve democracy, tracing filmdom's growth and importance as an educational factor. "The torch of democratic enlightenment," he declared, "shall remain flaming" as long as schools, churches, newspapers, motion pictures and radio continue to function in America.

Entertain Visitors

Visitors were greeted by stars and other industry notables and were entertained by Nelson Eddy, Judy Garland, Allan Jones, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy. Attending, in addition to 165 college presidents, Wanger and Mayer, were Y. Frank Freeman, Sheridan Gibney, James Roosevelt, Merle Oberon, Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin, Joan Bennett, Jack Warner, Spencer Tracy, Greer Garson, Mary Pickford, Samuel Goldwyn and Darryl Zanuck.

Official recognition of the industry's non-profit participation in the national defense program through the production of visual education shorts for the various branches of military service has been received by Y. Frank Freeman, chairman of the motion picture production defense committee, in the form of a letter from Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war. Stimson expressed the war department's appreciation for the industry's cooperation, since 1930, in training signal corps officers in motion picture methods through the Academy's research council, and termed the council "the ideal group through which the resources of the industry may best be utilized."

Production of the training films on a non-profit basis, he added, "is very much appreciated."

Meantime the army has announced formation of the U. S. Chief Signal Officers Photographic Advisory Council, to comprise Col. Nathan Levinson, Lieut.-Col. Darryl Zanuck, and Major John Aalberg. It will meet periodically with Major General Mauborgne, chief signal corps officer, to advise him on progress being made in defense film activities.

Meantime Joseph I. Breen, production code administrator for the MPPDA, has returned from a quick trip to New York to confer with Will Hays, MPPDA president, and other organization officials. Next producers association meeting, to be held February 3, will be devoted to the annual election of officers.

Engages Schlesinger

Paramount has engaged Leon Schlesinger, cartoon producer, to prepare the animated main titles for "The Lady Eve." Schlesinger concocted animated titles for the same studio's "Love Thy Neighbor."

REVIEW FLASHES

ALDRICH FAMILY IN LIFE WITH HENRY, THE (Para)—There is no readily-discernible reason why this, the second chapter in Henry Aldrich's screen career, shouldn't prove comparably acceptable to everyone who enjoys clean, human and down-to-earth entertainment. Jackie Cooper, Leila Ernst, Eddie Bracken, Jay Theodore Reed ably produced and directed.

HONEYMOON FOR THREE (WB)—Farce comedy about a novel-writing casanova, it strains rather hard in some of its sequences for laughs but pans out sufficient humorous lines and situations to satisfy generally, although audiences cannot be expected to consider it uproariously. Ann Sheridan and George Brent are co-featured. Henry Blanke produced; Lloyd Bacon directed.

MR. AND MRS. SMITH (RKO)—Britain's Alfred Hitchcock, who demonstrated to Hollywood and audiences everywhere his ability as a dramatic director in "Rebecca" and as a pilot of suspense and action in "Foreign Correspondent," displays an equal flair for humor in this, his first American comedy. As entertainment in the lighter vein, it is virtually flawless and, with Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery to grace the marquee, it should quickly attain the hit class.

Avoid Involvement In Hearst Setto

Hollywood is studiously, and probably diplomatically, assuming a hands-off policy in its reaction—or lack of it—to the embroglio launched late last week and involving William Randolph Hearst, his chain of newspapers, and RKO Radio over the Orson Welles production, "Citizen Kane," made for release through that company.

On the contention the feature and its leading character closely parallel many phases of his own career, the publisher has demanded that it be permanently shelved—and has issued orders to the editors of the various newspapers in his chain to ban all publicity and news emanating from RKO Radio and concerning that studio's sundry activities.

Threatens Legal Action

The double-barreled blast at RKO Radio—which may be followed by legal action in an attempt to secure an injunction restraining the studio from releasing the film—came after Hearst's Hollywood representative, Louella O. Parsons, requested and was given a screening of "Citizen Kane" in rough-cut form at the studio, attended not only by herself but by two of Hearst's legal representatives. Following the showing Miss Parsons communicated via long-distance telephone with George Schaefer, RKO Radio president, in New York, at which time it is believed she relayed her employer's demand that the Welles feature be scrapped.

Shortly thereafter Miss Parsons informed studio executives that legal action might be impending, although it was not learned what reaction she gained in her conversation with Schaefer.

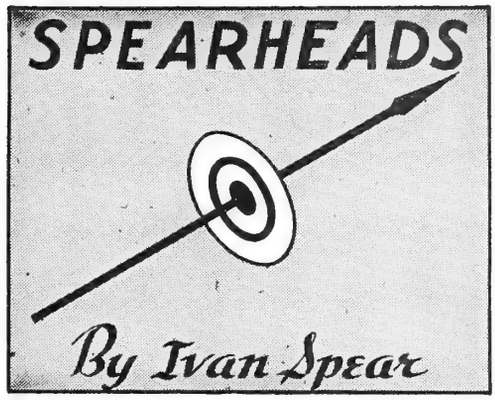
Look to Schaefer

Studio attaches pointed out any official answer must come directly from Schaefer, in the east. However, one authoritative local company spokesman told BOXOFFICE that "Citizen Kane" definitely is not, and was not intended to be, a biography of Hearst; but that it constitutes a composite picture of a newspaper publisher, drawn from the careers of several of the nation's leading press tycoons and planned throughout to be fictional.

This spokesman, while shrugging off the Hearst edict banning RKO Radio from mention in the chain's newspapers, contended, however, that the ban is unfair in that "Citizen Kane" technically is not even RKO Radio's picture, pointing out it was made by a completely independent unit, and that the bulk of the publicity and exploitation arranged for it was not handled by the RKO Radio studio department, but by Welles' own staff. The sole connection between Welles and RKO Radio, he asserted, is through the releasing arrangement.

He indicated the studio is not greatly concerned about being banned from the Hearst press with a succinct:

"It's nothing new to be barred—other companies have been before and no doubt will be again."



AN ALL-TIME high in the he-can-dish-it-out-but-he-can't-take-it attitude is reflected in the heavy guns of suppression which Publisher William Randolph Hearst is levelling at George Schaefer and his RKO Radio organization.

It seems that Mr. Hearst has been entertaining a hunch that "Citizen Kane," the long-delayed feature which four-way Orson Welles has produced, directed, written and enacted for RKO, is based on his own life. Consequently, the Septuagenariam Sultan of San Simeon assigned his cinematic girl Friday, Louella O. Parsons, to do a bit of checking. At her regal command, RKO publicists showed a rought cut of the film to LOP and a member of the Hearstian legal battery. Whereupon the blitzing started. The picture would be shelved—or else. Just like that. Junk a negative costing well over a million dollars because its subject matter might step on the royal toes—which, parenthetically, should be well calloused by now. The "or else," for the time being, at least, is apparently limited to an edict from the "chief" that no publicity, or even news, concerning any RKO product shall appear in the columns of his journals. And there have been dire hints of other and more serious action—lawsuits, injunctions, et al.

Spokesmen for RKO and Welles refuse to admit that the screenplay for "Citizen Kane" parallels the colorful story of W. R. True, they admit, it has to do with a newspaper publisher, but is a composite story of several brass hats of the fourth estate and "the characters and incidents portrayed, and the names used herein, are fictitious, and any similarity to the name, character or history of any person is entirely accidental and unintentional."

And what if the film proves to be reminiscent of Hearst's career—either through design or coincidence? Certainly, he is the last man in the world who is entitled to a squawk. For approximately 50 years, the Pharaoh of Printers' Ink and his once powerful string of publications have been riding roughshod over the private, professional and political lives of any and all whom he might decide subject to his baleful editorial consideration. And that's fair enough. The Bill of Rights has a clause—one very close to Hearst's heart—about the freedom of the press.

By any logic or reasoning, the screen is deserving of the same protection and independence. Had it been established in its present honorable estate as a medium of expression at the time when the press was assured its freedom, the motion picture would probably have been given comparable consideration by those farseeing Americans who formulated our constitution.

Thus, the issue so arbitrarily projected by Hearst, alleged champion of a free press, involves more than the one company at which it is aimed—it concerns the entire industry and every person connected therewith. It is not sufficient that other producing and distributing organizations extend their sympathies and moral support to RKO in the uninvited and unavoidable controversy in which it has been plunged; assuming, of course, that they do.

It's high time that the industry as a whole—and that obviously indicates action by the Hays organization—does something to fight back against the constant pushing-around of which the current Hearst demand is typical.

Interesting it would be to note what might happen to the publisher's anticipatory ire if all producing companies and all exhibitors withheld all of their advertising from all of the Hearst newspapers until such a time as the Jehovah of Journalism decides that freedom of the press was not created for his special and exclusive benefits.

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On the "ill wind, etc." theory, Little Orson Annie will be the beneficiary in the situation, inasmuch as Hearst's allegations that the picture maligns him will certainly whet the public's appetite to see it. Maybe the favorite nickname for the boy genius should now be changed to "Lucky Orson Annie."

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News headline:
"BOMB LONDON'S RADIO CITY; SEVEN BROADCASTERS KILLED."
Looks as though they played "Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair" once too often. There are apparently no limits to the dangerous ramifications of the radio-Ascap war.

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BALLYHOODLUMS: As his first gesture extraordinary since becoming head of Paramount's studio publicity corps, George Brown "conceived a clever idea" (he admits it) and decided to ignore the new mutual agreement about press previews, for which ill-advised and badly-managed venture he is still taking bows in Paramount copy. With many a printed and verbal "Sh-h-h!" the press was invited to what was heralded as "Hollywood's first sneak press preview." The reviewers were invited to dinner in the Paramount commissary, after which they were transported in buses to the mysterious destination—the Alexander Theatre in Glendale, festooned, as in days of yore, with "Major Studio Feature Preview Tonight" banners. Mr. Brown may be interested in learning that his was not the "first" stunt of its kind. Twentieth Century-Fox's Harry Brand did exactly the same thing approximately two years ago when "Hollywood Cavalcade" was shown to the critical fraternity. The Brand undertaking was much more successful and enjoyable inasmuch as the newsmen were not stampeded into the theatre more than an hour before the preview showing, to sit through the last half of a regular and previously-seen feature, assorted shorts and, above all, 20 minutes of harrowing Bank Night. Mr. Brown Goes to Glendale . . . Freelancer Russell Birdwell is to be the next preview impresario to ignore the new system. But he, at least, is not attempting to camouflage his aims and purposes in showing the United Artists-Loew-Lewin feature, "So Ends Our Night," in a theatre and before a regular audience instead of in a projection room. In effect his announcement of rebellion says "Nuts to it" . . . And why, with nearly a dozen UA publicists working in Hollywood, was it necessary to entrust the debut of Richard Rowland's "Cheers for Miss Bishop," undoubtedly the company's best picture in months, to the mismanagement of two freelance blurbers—Fred Stanley and Dick Hunt?

Delightful, Dixie, Desultory

Little hesitancy was necessary on the part of Hollywood's picture reviewers to agree the Richard A. Rowland-United Artists production, "Cheers for Miss Bishop," was the outstanding best of the preview week. Only one other offering came close to giving it some competition for top honor consideration, Paramount's Technicolor feature, "Virginia."

As regards the first-named, showmen can be sure of one thing—the cheers do not end with the title. Rousing hosannahs are the just dues of Rowland for delivering to UA, in his comeback venture, that company's most potentially promising revenue feature since "Rebecca." Martha Scott, too, richly deserves three of the most rousing variety for a performance that boosts her several steps up the ladder toward rating as one of the screen's finest dramatic actresses. The remaining praise—and there is enough to go around—must be allotted to Director Tay Garnett; to Stephen Vincent Benet, who adapted the Bess Streeter Aldrich novel, and Adelaide Heilbron and Sheridan Gibney, who wrote the script; to the supporting cast and the sundry other individual elements which were marshalled to make a magnificent ensemble. Story similarities will inevitably lead to comparisons with "Goodbye, Mr. Chips"—and Rowland's effort will not suffer one whit thereby.

Down yonder in the land of cotton they'll tear the doors down to see "Virginia"—and its popularity won't stop at the Mason-Dixon line, for customers everywhere should love it for its myriad sterling qualities. Producer-Director Edward H. Griffith endowed the film with a rare combination of idyllic ingredients, working with a cast whose performances generally are beyond criticism. Much of the feature's charm is attributable to Technicolor photography, through which medium many beautiful backgrounds of the state after which the film was named are captured on the screen. Virginia Van Upp contributed a well-written screenplay, from a story by herself and Griffith.

* * *

On the comedy front was a trio of varying worth.

(Continued on page 32)

Hollywood— —Personnelities

Barnstormers

Columbia

BILL ELLIOTT, western star, has checked out for a three-week p. a. tour through Tennessee, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Metro

NELSON EDDY has checked out for Washington, D. C., to be special star soloist at the inauguration ceremonies for President Roosevelt.

JEANETTE MacDONALD checks out on the second lap of her concert tour, opening in Memphis and closing February 16 in New Orleans.

Paramount

DOLLY LOEHR, 14-year-old pianist, set to accompany Susanna Foster on a one-month p. a. tour of 20 key cities. Dolly had a featured role in Susanna's first starring film, "The Hard-Boiled Canary."

Republic

SMILEY BURNETTE opened a p. a. tour at the Denver Theatre in Denver, January 8. He also attended the National Western Livestock show there.

Blurbers

Universal

BOB SPEERS, formerly head planter at Paramount, has checked in to begin his new duties as aide to John Joseph, department head.

Briefies

Paramount

"Dipsy Gypsy," second in the series of George Pal Puppettoons, is in work, with Andre Kostelanetz supplying the music.

Soundies Corp.

SAM COSLOW to produce eight musical subjects for the Panoram dime-in-slot projectors. Matty Kemp and Herman Webber, of Coslow's new Cameo Productions, will assist. First subject gets under way January 20.

Warner Bros.

"The Cavalry at Ft. Sill" will be the next in the series of Technicolor preparedness shorts. It will be made at Ft. Sill, Kas., with Gordon Hollingshead supervising.

Cleffers

Metro

BRONISLAU KAPER to score "Rage in Heaven."

HERBERT STOTHART doing musical score for "Smilin' Through."

Republic

WALTER SCHARF doing orchestration for "Sis Hopkins."

Hal Roach

WERNER R. HEYMANN to score "Topper Returns."

20th Century-Fox

LEO ROBIN and **RALPH RAINGER** doing music and lyrics for "Miami."

Warner Bros.

HEINZ ROEMHELD scoring "Strawberry Blonde."

Loanouts

Republic

SUSAN HAYWARD borrowed from Paramount for a featured supporting role in the Judy Canova starrer, "Sis Hopkins."

20th Century-Fox

ROBERT CUMMINGS borrowed from Universal for one of the leads in "Miami."

Universal

LEE BOWMAN borrowed from Metro for one of the leads in "Model Wife."

Meggers

Metro

DAVID MILLER assumes directorship of "Billy the Kid," with **FRANK BORZAGE,** previous pilot, beginning preparations on "Bombay Nights," his next assignment.

EDWARD CAHN directing "Ye Old Minstrels," an Our Gang one-reeler.

JACK CONWAY to pilot "Love Crazy," co-starring William Powell and Myrna Loy, which Pandro Berman will produce. David Hertz and William Ludwig did the original.

20th Century-Fox

DAVID BURTON to pilot "Private Nurse," Sol Wurtzel production starring Brenda Joyce. Burton and Sam Engel are doing the script.

Universal

JOHN RAWLINS to "Mr. Dynamite," a Marshall Grant production to feature Lloyd Nolan, Irene Hervey and Elisabeth Risdon.

Warner Bros.

WILLIAM McGANN to direct "No Hard Feelings."

Options

Columbia

PAUL LUKAS given featured role in "They Dare Not Love," the Martha Scott-George Brent starrer.

Metro

IAN HUNTER draws contract extension and a role in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

EMMA DUNN signed for a featured character role in "Roosty."

DAVID HERTZ given new writing contract.

Monogram

THE TENNESSEE RAMBLERS, hillbilly orchestra, signed to appear in "Riding the Cherokee Trail," next Tex Ritter western to be produced by Ed Finney.

Paramount

PHYLLIS RUTH, night-club singer, cast in a featured role in "Caught in the Draft."

Picture Corp. of America

MARSHA HUNT signed for a featured spot in "Power Dive."

Republic

DON BARRY, cowboy star, held for another year.

RKO Radio

ROBERT CUMMINGS draws the male lead opposite Jean Arthur in "The Devil and Miss Jones," being produced by Frank Ross and Norman Krasna.

William Szekeley

BINNIE BARNES signed for a topline in "New Wine."

JACK BENNY signs three-year deal to appear in one picture annually. He has just been ticketed to a similar contract by Paramount also.

Universal

MIKE FRANKOVICH draw a featured role in "Buck Privates."

LEO CARRILLO draws term acting deal.

LON CHANEY jr. signs term acting ticket, reporting when he completes his role in "Billy the Kid" at M-G-M.

J. CARROL NAISH ticketed for a topline in "Mr. Dynamite."

Warner Bros.

SHIRLEY ROSS signs long-term acting ticket.

JACK OAKIE given featured lead in "Navy Blues," to star Eddie Albert.

MARGARET CHAPMAN signs term acting ticket.

CHICK CHANDLER grabs a featured comedy spot in "The Bride Came C. O. D."

Percenteers

BEN F. HOLZMAN, new associate in the William Morris Agency, has arrived from New York to begin work in the radio division.

Scripters

Columbia

GEORGE BECK teamed with **BORIS INGSTER** on "Amateur Angel," for Producer Charles R. Rogers.

SY BARTLETT and **RICHARD CARROLL** to "Trinidad," for production by Sam Bischoff.

SETON I. MILLER to "Heaven Can Wait."

Metro

DONALD OGDEN STEWART to "A Woman's Face," the Joan Crawford starrer which George Cukor will direct.

E. MAURICE ADLER to "Memory Rhymes," next Pete Smith Specialty short.

Paramount

HARRY TUGEND to "Birth of the Blues," Bing Crosby starrer, which B. G. DeSylva will produce.

LOUIS KAYE writing comedy dialogue for "Caught in the Draft."

Producers Corp. of America

CHARLES AMBROSE, novelist, joins **JOHN NATTEFORD** and **LUCI WARD** on the company's writing staff. PCA has acquired three of Ambrose's story properties.

Republic

EVE GREENE to "Mr. District Attorney."

RKO Radio

JERRY CADY to "An Obliging Young Lady," from a story by Arthur T. Horman, to star eight-year-old Joan Carroll. Howard Benedict will produce.

William Szekeley

HOWARD ESTABROOK polishing "New Wine."

NICHOLAS GYORY to "New Wine," with Reinhold Schunzel directing.

20th Century-Fox

MAURICE RAPF to an untitled original for Producer Lou Edelman.

Warner Bros.

KEN GAMET to "Highway 99," from a Leon Abrams original, to feature Jane Wyman.

CASEY ROBINSON to "King's Row," from Henry Bellaman's novel.

Story Buys

Columbia

"Not With the Beat of Drums," by Harold Shumate.

Monogram

"Navy Bound," by Talbert Josselyn. Lindsley Parsons will produce.

"Guns A-Roarin'," by Earle Snell, bought by George W. Weeks for use as one of his "Range Busters" westerns.

20th Century-Fox

"The Gift of the Magi," by O. Henry. Jo Swerling will script for Producer Robert T. Kane.

Warner Bros.

"Nine Lives Are Not Enough," by Jerome Odlum. It is a mystery yarn.

"The Damned Don't Cry," by Harry Hervey, as an Ida Lupino starrer.

Technically

Metro

RALPH WINTERS to edit "Roosty."

DR. RYLAND MADISON named technical advisor on "Animal Psychology," new John Nesbitt Passing Parade one-reeler.

JERRY BRESLER set as unit manager on "Love Crazy."

RED GOLDEN named assistant director on "Love Crazy."

Paramount

TED TETZLAFF to lens "Kiss the Boys Goodbye."

Republic

VICTOR MACKAY set as art director on "Sis Hopkins."

RKO Radio

LEON LEONIDOFF to create dance numbers for "Sunny."

20th Century-Fox

ALBERT HOGSETT named art director on "The Great American Broadcast."

JOSEPH WRIGHT set as art director on "Blood and Sand."

Warner Bros.

FRANK MAGEE to edit "Strange Alibi."

CLARENCE KOLSTER to edit "Thirty Days Hath September."

EVERETT DODD to edit "Singapore Woman."

CARL JULES WEYL named art director on "Mr. Skeffington."

CHUCK HANSEN named assistant director on "Miss Wheelwright Discovers America."

JACK SULLIVAN named assistant director on "Sergeant York."

LEE KATZ named assistant director on "Strange Alibi."

LOUIS P. VINCENOT signed as technical advisor on "Singapore Woman."

First Broadcast in Behalf of Greece

First broadcast to be staged under the sanction of the recently formed radio-film charities committees will be an international affair, to be undertaken early in February for the benefit of the Greek War Relief Fund, and emanating from Hollywood, London and Athens.

Samuel Goldwyn, chairman of the motion picture permanent charities committee, has announced that volunteers for the program already include Jack Benny and Bob Hope, to be co-masters of ceremonies; Fanny Brice, Hanley Stafford, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Ronald Colman, Alice Faye, Clark Gable, the "Hardy Family," Carole Lombard, Tony Martin and Eddie (Rochester) Anderson. Louis K. Sidney, M-G-M producer, is in charge of preparations for the broadcast and Rufus LeMaire is chairman of the committee seeking talent.

Forward on Defense

Meantime Hollywood's participation in the national defense program has taken another step forward with the incorporation of a signal corps photographic laboratory under the auspices of the Academy Research Council. Ten officers have been commissioned in the signal corps reserve, including S. J. Briskin, major, in charge of the motion picture department; Gordon S. Mitchell, Robert Lord and W. W. Lindsay, captains; Lloyd Goldsmith, D. B. Graybill, Ray Fernstrom, Arthur Ramsay, J. E. Grainger and Winton C. Hoch, first lieutenants; and Milton Sperling and Jules Buck, second lieutenants.

Paramount has announced that employes who are drafted or who enlist under the selective training and service act are to be guaranteed a continuation of their group insurance policies at studio expense, re-employment upon their return with their term of service figured as continuous time at the studio, and six weeks' added pay—not in excess of $600—when inducted into military service. The statement, issued by Y. Frank Freeman, emphasized that men who enlist will be given the same privileges and consideration as those who are drafted.

To Active Duty

Lieut.-Comm. A. J. Bolton, U. S. Navy retired, aide to Col. Jason Joy at 20th Century-Fox, has been ordered to active service as navy liaison officer for defense projects embracing the motion picture industry.

Warner has donated 22 prints of "Teddy, the Rough Rider," short starring Sidney Blackmer, to the U. S. War Department. The film will be used for recruiting, cantonment entertainment and as a morale builder by the army.

In recognition of his efforts on behalf of Americanism via his "Big Town" radio broadcasts, Edward G. Robinson was given a citation of honor by the American Legion at the January 15 broadcast. Nearly 200 Legionnaires attended the ceremonies.

The Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies sponsored a cocktail party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Bruce Pine January 11, all proceeds going to the Aid-the-Allies fund. Patrons and patronesses from the film colony included Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Fairbanks jr., Constance Bennett, Melvyn Douglas, the Ralph Blocks, the Mervyn LeRoys and Hal Wallis.

Role in "Lady Be Good" For Lionel Barrymore

Lionel Barrymore draws one of his most important roles in recent years in "Lady Be Good," musical adapted from the George Gershwin stage show. He joins a cast including Ann Sothern, Eleanor Powell and Tony Martoin. Picture rolls in February with Busby Berkeley directing and Arthur Freed producing.

Technicolor Treatment For 4 by Paramount

Four of Paramount's big pictures during the next six months will be filmed in Technicolor—greatest number of color films to be released by the studio in any one season. They include "Virginia," "Shepherd of the Hills," "Reap the Wild Wind" and "Aloma of the South Seas."





Officially Inducted—

Rene Clair can now consider himself officially a part of Hollywood. The famed director, piloting Universal's "Flame of New Orleans" as his first assignment in America, was formally introduced to the press by the studio at a cocktail party on the set of the Marlene Dietrich picture. At the top the cameraman catches Clair (left) with President Nate Blumberg and Joe Pasternak. Below are Cliff Work, studio chief (left) with Miss Dietrich and President Blumberg.

Terms Films as America's "Ambassadors Abroad"

U. S. Motion pictures are "America's ambassadors abroad" and a vital force in molding national and world relationships.

This is the assertion of Dr. J. Eugene Harley, University of Southern California professor, in a new book, "World Wide Influence of the Cinema," a study of official censorship and the international cultural aspects of motion pictures. Harley is chairman of the Committee on International Relations of the American Institute of Cinematography.

His new book outlines films' influence upon the rest of the world and contains a detailed account of various censorship activities.

Film Editors Consider Benefit Fund Formation

Under consideration by the board of the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors is the establishment of a benefit fund.

The Society has added four new directors. Harold McGhan represents the Walt Disney studio; B. Weldon Hancock, Columbia; James Graham, RKO, and Eda Warren, Paramount.

400 Engaged in Making James Roosevelt Film

Employment index at James Roosevelt's Globe Productions has hit an all-time high, with 400 persons currently on the payroll engaged in the making of "Pot O' Gold" for United Artists. Among them are 100 musicians, comprising two orchestras doing the scoring and recording, as well as some 300 extras, bit players and specialty entertainers.

Rumors of Changes at UA Precede Silverstone

Probably no impending visit of a home-office executive has had more advance billing and has been subject to more conjecturing on the part of Hollywood's ever-present railbirds than the forthcoming arrival in the film capital of Murray Silverstone, chief of United Artists' world-wide operations, due here next week.

In fact, 24-sheets would be necessary if an attempt were made to list all of the rumors and surmises as to what is going to happen to the UA setup, its future production plans and the outlook for the corporation generally in 1941, when the number one man arrives.

Discontent on Distribution

Thorough investigation of these myriad reports and separation of the wheat from the chaff leads inevitably to the conclusion that virtually every one of the conjectures can be catalogued as pure gossip and that nothing can be taken as a certainty until Silverstone's arrival. Traces of smoke arising from various quarters, however, indicate the validity of at least one item—that there is a certain amount of discontent, stemming from insistence on a better distribution deal, brewing among those UA producers who are not partners in the corporation.

Other reports circulated during the past few months hold that:

1. To encourage worthwhile independents to enter the UA fold, Silverstone may offer, through his corporation, to finance their product up to 50 per cent of its negative cost.
2. UA may abandon its present individualized, picture-by-picture production method and go in for quantity production of cheaper films as a means of coping with lost foreign markets, whence, in ordinary times, a large share of the company's revenue came.
3. On the other hand, UA may, through its various production units, concentrate on fewer and more expensive pictures of higher quality and reshape its distribution setup to extract the utmost in revenue therefrom.
4. Silverstone may negotiate unit production deals with such individuals as Rowland V. Lee, Douglas Fairbanks jr. and Ben Hecht, and Gene Towne and Graham Baker.
5. He may endeavor to persuade Mary Pickford to return to active production. She, a member-owner of UA, has not been active for four years or more.
6. Despite several recent shifts and realignment in UA's sales and distribution organizations, Silverstone may, after conferences here, again order a re-vamp.

Chief purpose of his pending visit, say authoritative students of the situation, will be an attempt to overcome the present discouraging status insofar as UA production is concerned. As matters hold now, with only one picture in production, the company is faced with a serious shortage of releases during April, May and June, the last months of the peak selling season. At present the situation is something like this, unit by unit:

Walter Wanger—Will not get into action until April, possibly later.

Samuel Goldwyn—A member-owner, he is involved in a lawsuit against the company and has repeatedly insisted he will produce no pictures until the litigation has been disposed of—which may be a year or more.

David O. Selznick—Has two to make under terms of an old contract and is marshalling his forces to launch production shortly. No definite date has been set, however.

Edward Small—Has completed his 1940-41 quota and is shut down completely, not to reopen until September.

Hal Roach—Is now completing his final picture for the year with a summer shutdown then impending.

Loew-Lewin—Have completed their first, with no announcements as to what their second, if any, will be.

Alexander Korda—Has completed his year's quota and will shut down for several months.

Lubitsch-Lesser—Have one ready for release, the next not to start until August or September.

Additionally, UA has a one-picture deal with Dr. William Szekeley for "New Wine," now in work.

Bitter Over "Disorganization"

Reasons for the so-called "production blockade" point chiefly toward the fact that UA producers all are demanding a better break as regards distribution costs and handling. They are bitter, railbirds say, over the allegation that the UA sales department has been largely disorganized during the peak of the season. Additionally, they feel that to meet world conditions today, they must put everything they have into their pictures, making important and high-quality product.

: SPEARHEADS :

(Continued from page 29)

A Warner farce, "Honeymoon for Three," is retarded by writing and directional weaknesses and strains overly-hard for laughs in many sequences, but manages to pan out enough humorous lines and situations to please generally, though not uproariously. Henry Blanke gave it unstinting production trappings. Earl Baldwin did the script, with additional dialogue from Julius J. and Philip G. Epstein, from a play by Alan Scott and George Haight. Lloyd Bacon was the director.

Again using a popular song as its title and story nucleus, Universal has contributed a fast-moving, diverting and tuneful entry in "Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga." Under Joseph G. Sanford's production guidance John Rawlins turned in a well-paced directorial effort, utilizing a script by Stanley Rubin, Marion Orth, Larry Rhine and Ben Chapman. Rhine and Chapman also authored the original. The result should be a welcome half on any program.

There is no readily-discernible reason why Paramount's "The Aldrich Family in Life With Henry" should not prove as acceptable to those seeking clean, down-to-earth entertainment as does the radio program from which it was adapted. Second in the Aldrich Family series, it reflects considerable of an improvement over the initialer. The original and screenplay by Clifford Goldsmith and Don Hartman comes closer to ensnaring the atmosphere of the airshow in characterizations, dialogue and situations and Jay Theodore Reed ably handled his twin chores as producer and director.

* * *

Monogram's "Pride of the Bowery," third in the "East Side Kids" series, is easily the best yet to be made in the group by Producer Sam Katzman. He endowed it with production values greatly transcending its budget through the simple expedient of filming it in a government C. C. C. camp which furnished authentic backgrounds, atmosphere and extra personnel. Joseph Lewis turned in a standard directorial job.

Cinémarks

William LeBaron of Paramount is bedded with influenza . . . Having completed a picture assignment at Universal, Charles Boyer is checking out for New York to vacation and for a radio appearance.

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Anna Neagle, RKO Radio star, has been made an honorary colonel in the Canadian Legion at installation ceremonies at the Hollywood American Legion Hall. The award is in recognition of her work in Canadian war relief activities

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Edmund Grainger, Warner producer, has been elected president of the local Fordham University Club . . . Producer Lou Brock of RKO Radio is planning a trip to Havana when his current picture is completed.

Producer David Hempstead has returned to RKO Radio after a three-week vacation in the east, during which he attended the Philadelphia and New York premieres of his production, "Kitty Foyle" . . . Sol C. Siegel, Paramount producer, is back at his desk after a brief Arizona holiday.

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Joseph Engel, associate producer with Harry Sherman, will check out next week for a month's holiday in New York.

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Prints of Jack Benny's feet and violin have been encased in concrete and installed in the forecourt of Grauman's Chinese Theatre.

"Thing Called Love" Sets a Fast Pace

New York—Columbia's "This Thing Called Love," co-starring Melvyn Douglas and Rosalind Russell, got off to a sensational start when it broke the opening day records at both the Orpheum in San Francisco and the Denver, Denver, company officials report.

Despite the fact that it had a special New Year's Eve performance at the Denver, where it reached a new high in holiday grosses, the Alexander Hall comedy opened for its regular run a week later to set another record by topping the high-water mark reached by "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," they add.

PCCITO Trustees Wind Up in Seattle, S. F.

LOS ANGELES—First 1941 meeting of the trustees of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, held in Portland, Ore., January 13, developed into a series of sessions. Following that conclave R. H. Poole, executive secretary, and Albert J. Law, new PCCITO general counsel, trekked to Seattle for a meeting there, and conducted still a third get-together in San Francisco January 15.

Attending the Portland session, in addition to Poole and Law, were Hugh Bruen and Jack Y. Berman of Los Angeles, and Bob White and A. West Johnston of Oregon. Poole, Law, Bruen and Berman met with William Ripley and L. O. Lukan in Seattle, and with Rotus Harvey and Ben Levin in San Francisco.

Topics covered at the meetings included discussions of the consent decree and means of strengthening the PCCITO's platform to solidify a united front of independent showmen along the Pacific Coast.

Poole, Law, Bruen and Berman will return here about January 20.

Remodeling Completed On Grauman's Chinese

LOS ANGELES—Remodeling and modernization of Grauman's Chinese, Fox West Coast de luxe first-run house in Hollywood, has been completed. Job included installation of air-foam seats, first to be placed in any theatre in the nation; a new screen; sound-proofing of the floor and other alterations.

Spyros Cardos, house manager, has initiated a new system whereby floral decorations in the lobby and forecourt are changed with every screen attraction. For "Chad Hanna" flowers were shaped into a circus atmosphere while for "Hudson's Bay," current attraction, floral decorations are in the snow-and-ice motif.

As advance ballyhoo for "Hudson's Bay," George Watters' exploitation staff arranged a fashion show in which 30 models participated.

Gibraltar Board Meets

DENVER—The consent decree and the effect its operation will have upon established policies of the Gibraltar Enterprises chain will be the chief topic of a board meeting here Sunday.

"Story" and "Neighbor" Shine in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—Top hits in an otherwise average week were "The Philadelphia Story," playing Grauman's Chinese, Loew's State and the Carthay Circle simultaneously, and "Love Thy Neighbor," booked at the Paramount in conjunction with a Fanchon & Marco stage show.

"Flight From Destiny" held for a second week at the Four Star, although drawing under average, and will stay for a third stanza. "Santa Fe Trail" drew normal business in its second week at Warner's Hollywood and Downtown.

Detail for the week ending January 7:

(Average is 100)

Carthay Circle—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M)..150
Chinese—Same as Carthay Circle.....150
Downtown—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd wk.....100
Four Star—**Flight From Destiny** (WB), 2nd wk. 75
Hillstreet—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO).....110
Hollywood—Same as Downtown.....100
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet.....100
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), plus stage show 175
State—Same as Chinese 140

Salt Lake Has Normal Week at Boxoffices

SALT LAKE CITY—Some moderate sunshiny weather last week didn't prevent normally good picture business. "Arizona," in its second week here, is doing notably well, as is "Comrade X" at the Centre. "Kitty Foyle" also pleased at the Rialto.

Detail for the week ending January 9:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Hullabaloo** (M-G-M); **Before I Hang** (Col) 105
Centre—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 115
Rialto—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 110
Studio—**Arizona** (Col), 2nd wk.....115
Utah—**Lady With Red Hair** (WB); **East of the River** (WB) 85
Victory—**Convicted Women** (Col); **Five Little Peppers at Home** (Col) 90

Seattle Feels Effects Of Defense Program

SEATTLE—Show-shops here are beginning to feel the effects of extra spending due to defense activities. Folks are beginning to loosen their purse strings and are getting the entertainment habit once more. The radio feud between Fred Allen and Jack Benny helped the Paramount to garner top grosses this week with the showing of "Love Thy Neighbor." All other houses fared reasonably good.

Detail for week ending January 11:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M), 4th wk. 90
Fifth Avenue—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox).....100
Liberty—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (Col) 100
Music Box—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 90
Orpheum—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Meet the Wildcat** (Univ), 2nd wk. 90
Palomar—**San Francisco Docks** (Univ); **Barnyard Follies** (Rep), plus stage show 90
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Jennie** (20th-Fox) 175

$10,500 for Greeks By FWCoasters

LOS ANGELES—Fox West Coasters Club, comprising more than 3,000 FWC circuit employes in California and Arizona, has contributed $10,500 in cash and signed commitments to the Greek War Relief Fund, of which Charles P. Skouras, FWC president, is Southern California president.

That amount was awaiting Skouras when he returned January 12 from a tour of the east.

Dick Powell Proves Big Draw in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—Dick Powell proved a terrific draw at the Golden Gate, nearly doubling the theatre's average take in spite of a poor screen attraction. The Benny-Allen feud is making the Paramount a popular place these days where "Love Thy Neighbor" is the current product. The Paul Muni fans kept the Warfield boxoffice above average, while "Bagdad" and "Arizona," both in their third week, held their own.

Detail for week ending January 8:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Come On, Marines** (Rep), 10 days.....100
Golden Gate—**Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO); **Dick Powell** on stage.....180
Orpheum—**Arizona** (Col); **Nobody's Sweetheart** (Univ), 3rd wk.....100
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox), 10 days..150
St. Francis—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M), 2nd wk., moveover from Fox. 100
United Artists—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 3rd wk..110
Warfield—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox).....120

"Comrade" Draws Most Business in Denver

DENVER—"Comrade X" and "Saint in Palm Springs" at the Orpheum, did the most money here last week, while "Love Thy Neighbor" at the Denham was a close second in its second local week. It is staying for a third.

Detail for the week ending January 9:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA).....150
After a big week at the Denver.
Broadway—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **Hullabaloo** (M-G-M). 100
After a fair week at the Orpheum.
Denham—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 2nd wk. . . .230
Denver—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN).....130
Orpheum—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 190
Paramount—**Bank Dick** (Univ); **San Francisco Docks** (Univ) 150
Rialto—**Hired Wife** (Univ); **Phantom of China Town** (Mono) 130
"Hired Wife" after a week at each the Denver and Aladdin.

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LOS ANGELES

SALT LAKE

SALT LAKE CITY'S 1940 real estate sales were highest in the city's history, it is announced by the Real Estate Board. Department store sales rose to their highest level since the middle of 1930 last November, it is also disclosed. The motion picture industry in this region is sitting tight with no guesses ventured as to what the new year will bring forth. Forty sales people of the Utah Power and Light Co.'s Salt Lake division were told that 1941 will mean bigger sales in the electrical industry because of the bigger payrolls incident to the national defense program. Increased volume of sales of Utah-manufactured products during the past year is mirrored in sales tax collection figures reported by the state tax commission.

John P. Byrne was a visitor at the Salt Lake M-G-M offices. Accompanying Bryne, was E. M. Saunders, western division manager. Bryne recently was made district supervisor for the company with offices in Denver . . . Manager Bill Seib of Columbia reports "Arizona" moved over to the local Studio after a successful run at the Centre, and that it is doing a big business throughout the territory also . . . Manager G. S. Pinnell spent the holidays on the coast and is now back busy in his Utah territory for Sheffield-Republic . . . H. B. Jorgensen, Rigby, Ida., exhibitor, was in town signing with Republic for some product.

Intermountain Theatres, Inc., held a drive during December and several cash prizes were awarded as well as trips to the Chicago meeting January 22 honoring the fifth anniversary of Barney Balaban as president of Paramount. The drive, which was held from Thanksgiving until Christmas, allotted two trips to local contestants. The trips were won by "Chet" Price of the Victory and Bill Glasmann of the Paramount, Ogden. Jack Braunagle of the Capitol, Logan, won a cash prize, as did Breck Fagin, Orpheum, Idaho Falls, Ida.; next in line were Nevin McCord of the Granada, Boise, and Harold Chesler of the Marlo, Salt Lake. Price and Glasmann will accompany General Manager Harry David to the Chicago banquet.

RKO held a meeting here in connection with their Depinet drive, according to Manager H. C. Fuller. Attending were Herb MacIntyre, district manager, and Drive Captain Leo Devaney, from Canada . . . One of the oldest of the oldtimers in the show business, Bert Orr, of Grace, Ida., paid a visit to Salt Lake on a booking trip. Orr recently celebrated his 25th anniversary as operator of the Opera House at Grace, and February 2, he celebrates his 60th birthday . . . Manager Tony Hartford is traveling the territory currently for UA.

The Motion Picture Club of Salt Lake elected new officers as follows: "Buck" Wade, Universal manager, president, replacing Harold Chesler of Intermountain Theatres; vice-president, Terry Smoot of 20th Century-Fox, replacing Clyde Blasius of the same company; secretary, Ralph Pizza of Vitagraph, replacing Dan Driscoll of Fox West Coast; treasurer, E. S. Winward of RKO, replacing Joe Madsen of United Artists . . . Manager F. H. Smith of Paramount is back from a trip into Idaho . . . Branch Manager W. W. McKendrick has gone into southern Utah with his Monogram product . . . G. L. Cloward of Ross Federal is back from a vacation in Los Angeles and San Francisco. He heads for Butte, Mont., this week.

Lola Lane stopped over briefly while en route to Minneapolis to begin a 10-week personal appearance tour . . . "Dear Brutus" was presented by a local group . . . "Go West" was screened last week for the trade . . . The Joseph I. Lawrence Theatre Co. reports that the new theatre at Provo, Utah, to be called the Academy, is nearing completion and should open by February 10. The 800-seat house is ultra-modern in both exterior and interior design. The structure is of brick and concrete, completely fireproof, and called for an outlay of over $50,000.

A Party and Dance by Montana Screen Club

BUTTE, MONT. — The Montana Screen Club held their first annual party and dance in the Masonic ballroom recently. Refreshments and a buffet lunch were served. One hundred and twenty members and guests were present. The club president, Ed Loy, was in charge.

Immediately following the party, Loy and his wife left for Denver to spend a week on business and carry greetings to the Rocky Mountain Screen Club at their New Year's Eve party.

DENVER

FRED KNILL, booker for Gibraltar Enterprises, has taken a six-month leave of absence because of ill health. Ted Thompson, manager of the Rialto at Loveland, Colo., has taken over the booking job in addition to his present post . . . J. S. Church has sold his interest in the Palace, Denver, to his partner, H. J. Gottschalk, who will improve the house, with his first move being to install new seats . . . Joe Lucas has closed the State in Idaho Springs, Colo.

Henry LeClair, formerly with Gibraltar Enterprises, has accepted a post in Cheyenne, Wyo., where he will be assistant to Fred Glass, city manager for Fox . . . Alva Lawter has been named manager of the Alpine, succeeding Joe Gundy. Dave Cockrill owns the house. Lawter began his theatre work as assistant manager under Cockrill at the Princess, Newcastle, Ind.

One of the really busy men in Denver is the artist at the Denver, Larry Blair. Besides originating the lobby displays, posters, etc., he takes piano lessons, is an expert photographer, builds furniture for three small Blairs, and is now assembling a scrapbook of his artistic ventures.

Various legislators are threatening to introduce an amusement tax bill in the Colorado legislature. They claim this would be necessary to replace the revenue that would be lost in case the service tax is repealed, or if the income tax exemptions are raised. Plans also call for rescinding of sales tax on milk and foods carried from store.

PORTLAND

JOHNNY COLLINS, long a member of the Filmrow family, severed his connections with the Star Theatre recently for a job in the shipyards . . . Universal employes are all back on the job after sessions with the flu bug. The salesmen, Cecil Farnes and Jim Hommel, and "Slats" Wilson, branch manager, are back from New Year's vacations and ready to do or die in their big sales drive. They announce a new member of the office force, Miss Louise Luick, late of Paramount. Congratulations to Universal and Miss Luick.

Republic had visitors in the persons of J. T. Sheffield and Eddie Walton from Seattle. Mabel Walsh, stenographer, left for a two week vacation to California . . . Verna and Edgar Mercy are being congratulated on the birth of a new Mercy jr. His name was not divulged, but cigars were passed out via Tom Shearer . . . Metro advises that Mrs. Theo Hasbrook has been on the flu list since the first of the year . . . Ruth Hawkins drove to Seattle for a visit with friends recently . . . Lou Amacher played host to the Roy Browns at his beach hotel.

RKO held a screening for the trade of "Kitty Foyle," and later held open house so everyone could inspect the extensive remodeling of their office, including the newly installed telephone switchboard. Leo Devaney, RKO district manager in Canada and newly-appointed drive leader in their current sales drive; Harry Gittelson, editor of their house organ, *Flash,* and Herb MacIntyre, western district sales manager, held a pep meeting with the local office force January 11 . . . Stanley Gustafson is improving rapidly after spending several weeks in bed with a broken back. He expects to be back at work soon.

Visitors were numerous on the Row this week. Johnny Harvey is back in circulation, much improved, after his car smash-up. Al Adolph, Salem; Harry Gamble, North Bonneville; Ray Henderson, Albany, Don Watrous, Forest Grove; and Bob Veness, Mill City, were among those in town . . . Harry Kline had a bad siege with the flu and then a setback which almost developed into pneumonia. He is able to sit up now and take nourishment.

V. G. Faulkner is the new manager of the Rivoli Theatre in Portland. George Berliner will be the new assistant manager at the Paramount . . . Much interest is centered on the independent theatre owners' meeting and there has been a great deal of discussion—pro and con—on the subjects taken up at the meeting.

Jimmy Sheffield has been down with an attack of appendicitis but is much improved now . . . Edythe Schuhmann's fellow Columbia workers are getting discouraged in their efforts to make a westerner out of her. The gal hails from New Yoik and her pals are coaching her on pronounciation . . . she leaves out her R's. They don't get very far with her because when the going gets tough, little Edythe gives 'em the boid.

"U" Termer for Carrillo

HOLLYWOOD—Leo Carrillo has signed a termer at Universal.

SEATTLE

THE defense program is certainly helping financially in various parts of this territory. Seattle is feeling the joy of spending from the increase of employment at the Boeing plant. Bremerton, with its enlarged navy yards, has caused the building of two new theatres. Tacoma and Olympia are feeling the spending from the large army base at Fort Lewis and Camp McCord . . . Maybe the radio is a help at times. The Benny-Allen feud can be classed as one big exploitation gag for "Love Thy Neighbor." The result here is a grand business at the Paramount . . . The world loves a fellow who always remembers that his Mom and Dad brought him up, and that he can repay by devoting some time to their happiness after he is on the road of fame. Joe Penner was just such a boy, and we have lost one grand guy with his passing . . . The theatre owners situated in Washington apple growing area have been suffering from a glutted market. Here is good news boys. The Washington state apple commission has already started plans for spending $1,000 per day for advertising in an effort to move the Winesap apples. Here's hoping the ads bear fruit.

Planned to raise money to help entertain delegates and visitors to the national convention of the American Federation of Musicians in Seattle this summer, the Musicians' Ass'n has announced a series of dances. O. R. McLain, president of the society, said that a different well-known orchestra will conduct each dance and a prize will be awarded the band attracting the most attendance. The national convention will be held here June 9 and will attract some 1,200 delegates from the important centers of the United States and Canada . . . Negotiations have opened between Theatre Employes union, Local B-22, and theatre owners in Seattle. About 300 workers will be affected by the agreement. The contract asks improved working conditions and seeks a clause protecting the union members if called for draft service. Both Hamrick-Evergreen and Sterling Theatres have already gone on record for employes called under the Selective Service Act, having made announcements at the time the act went in force.

The Ascap-BMI music war has brought out many of the local song writers. O. B. Clow, owner of waffle shops all through the northwest, has been a song writer for years and his hobby has been to make recordings of all his numbers. Clow flew to New York and visited with BMI and is now back with a contract. Alice Nadine Morrison is still receiving royalties from her song "Love's Ship" written some years ago. Now she is busy batting out tunes for BMI. More than a dozen local writers have received contracts . . . John Hamrick has donated the use of his Music Hall, seating 2,200, for a benefit performance being sponsored by the Friends of Britain, Inc. Feature of the show will be the personal appearance of Gracie Fields, the highest paid actress in England . . . Cecilia Schultz, Seattle's only female theatre operator, is back from New York where she was successful in signing up Lawrence Tibbett, Yehudi Menuhin, Jose Iturbi, Helen Traubel, and many other noted concert artists. All will appear at various intervals at the Moore Theatre.

The local office of RKO is fixed up with a series of electrical flasher gags calling attention to the Ned Depinet drive. Under the supervision of Eddie Lamb, branch manager; Floyd Henninger and Bill Engel devoted their Saturday afternoon to fixing up the office and it is one grand job and should be worthy of mention among the RKO notes. The drive opened in Seattle with the appearance of Leo Devaney, drive captain; Harry Gittelson, editor of Flash, *and Herb MacIntyre, western division sales manager . . . Cigars were passed around in various branches of the Mercy family this past week. Edgar and Verne Mercy of Yakima celebrated the arrival of a son. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sweet of Seattle were the proud parents of a daughter. Mrs. Sweet is the sister of Mrs. Fred Mercy jr. . . . Harriett Atkinson has been transferred from the Music Box to the Coliseum and will take charge of all usherettes in that house.*

Jack Rosenberg in Providence Hospital recovering from a head injury sustained in a skiing accident . . . L. A. McCracken, advance agent, in from Los Angeles ahead of "White Zombie" . . . Hal and Ethel Daigler out for California and a three-month vacation in Palm Springs . . . Ralph Ravenscroft back to the Paramount studios after campaigning "Love Thy Neighbor"

He Finished With "Old Black Joe"

Seattle—The Ascap-BMI war is becoming a gag in this neck-of-the-woods.

The police radio station, KGPA, was working on test calls. Radio Operator Hadley Clarke whistled a few bars of "Down Argentine Way." Another officer ran into the room and shouted, "You can't do that. We haven't got any contract with Ascap."

Hadley finished his testing with "Old Black Joe."

. . . L. J. McGinley addressing the convention of Electrical Products at the Rainier Club. Mac gave them the old one-two about "Showmanship in Selling" . . . J. T. Sheffield and Eddie Walton of the Republic office out for Portland for a few days . . . Arch and Mrs. Bartholet and son, Bob, here from Yakima for a few days. Arch is city manager for the Mercy houses there . . . Bill and Mrs. Evans of the Post Street, Spokane, spending some time here . . . Eddie Miller of RCA being held back from his Portland trip by fog. He finally made it . . . Hugh Bruen in from Whittier, Cal., for a meeting with his theatre partners, Ben Shearer and Art St. John.

Charley and Mrs. Gilkey and son, Dick, at the "Hudson's Bay" preview along with Mr. and Mrs. Williams and Keith McCormack . . . Bill Forman, general manager of Sterling Theatres, back at his desk after the appendectomy . . . Charley Laidlaw in from Dayton . . . Ollie Wog, branch manager for Producers Releasing Corp. of Portland, will also be in charge of the Seattle branch with the resignation of Joe Merrick . . . Bill McCurdy, manager of the J. J. Parkers Broadway in Portland, and Bill Parker, the Northwest exploiteer for Metro, both wearing honor pins presented by Metro for outstanding campaign on "Land of Liberty" . . . Frank Newman sr. back from Los Angeles . . . Frank Graham, who recently leased his theatre in Auburn, has left for New York to attend the motor boat show in Madison Square Garden. His boat will be ready and launched in March . . . Eldon Pollock sr. is in the hospital recovering from a severe flu attack . . . Zella Lamb getting a thrill out of attending a preview. Zella has been abed since October with her leg in a cast, broken in two places. She made the preview on crutches and a nurse in attendance.

Betty Condon here from San Francisco visiting with her Pa and Ma, Maury and Lucille Saffle, and being greeted by her many friends not only on the Row but in town . . . Word from Chicago tells that Izzy Schlank, formerly of Seattle, has been appointed district manager for United Artists in the Chicago, Milwaukee and Minneapolis field . . . Bob Poole, executive secretary for the Independent Theatre Owners of the Pacific Coast, and Albert Law, general counsel for ITO, here to attend a special meeting of the conference . . . Dick Hays, drama editor of the *Times*, getting a special invite to attend Universal's "Back Street" premiere in Miami. Dick and his wife, Bess, have just returned from a three-week vacation in the middle west . . . Wayne Christy, northwest manager for W. C. Automatic Candy Co., to Portland for a five-day stay . . . B. F. Shearer announces that Ted Lay, former manager for National Theatre Supply in Los Angeles, has joined the local Shearer staff. He replaces Gordon Morris, who resigned to handle theatres.

Vic Gauntlett back at his desk after the flu attack . . . Bill and Fredi Shartin back from the California vacation . . . Bill Kostenbader recovered from his week in bed with the same old thing—flu . . . Mrs. Les Theuerkauf and her son Les jr. to San Francisco for a visit. They were accompanied by Mrs. Theuerkauf's sister, Mrs. Bert Pollard, who was returning to her home after visiting the Theuerkaufs here . . . M. G. Whitman of the Universal sales staff cutting short his vacation and hurrying back from California to keep an appointment with an exhibitor . . . Bud Benson on the Row from Anacortes after two weeks in bed battling flu . . . Roy Irvine of the Ritz in Ritzville in town on a booking tour . . . Ward Pennington here from San Francisco to take up his new spot with Paramount as salesman in eastern Washington. He succeeds Glen Haviland, who has taken over the sales for the Seattle territory, replacing Dwight Spracher who moved to Paramount's San Francisco office.

Archie Holt, salesman for Fox east of the mountains, in town for a few days . . . Fred Girtanner of the Procter Street in Tacoma busy with his booking book and saying hello to friends . . . Jim Root, assistant to Joe Cooper at the Northwest Film Club, announces that the doctor has informed him that he will be a "pop" sometime in April . . . Fred Girtanner of the Procter Street in Tacoma in booking.

LOS ANGELES

IN FOR BOOKINGS: Harry Nace and Junior Nace, of the Nace-Publix circuit in Phoenix, Ariz.; Wade Loudermilk, Nace's partner in Buckeye and Glendale, Ariz.; Fred Seigal, Palomar and Margo theatres, Oceanside; Slim Bevans, LaMont Theatre, LaMont . . . Mrs. Jerome Safron, wife of Columbia's western district manager, is recuperating from an appendectomy which she underwent at the Cedars Lebanon Hospital.

Mike Newman, Columbia exploiteer, has returned from San Francisco, where he plugged the opening of "This Thing Called Love" at the Orpheum . . . The Flu bug has downed Tom Soriero, manager of Fox West Coast's United Artists Theatre downtown . . . M. J. E. McCarthy, Monogram salesman, off on a tour of the San Diego territory.

A rare visitor was Bert Fink, one-time exhibitor, who hails from Winslow, Ariz., and at one time was connected with William Nagel in the operation of theatres in New Mexico . . . E. M. Saunders, western sales manager for M-G-M, came in from the New York office.

Joseph Bernhard, general manager for the Warner Theatres, has returned to New York after studio conferences, during which he caught a sneak preview of "Meet John Doe," the new Frank Capra production.

To be with his mother, who suffered a stroke recently, Don Goshay has secured leave of absence for a few days from his post as engineer at Altec Service . . . Ruth Whitney of the accounting department at M-G-M had a relapse and had to go back to bed with the flu after working one day.

Booking: Al Rice, operator of the Admiral in Hollywood; Jay Sutton, partner with Al Galston in the Hawaii and Marcal theatres, also in Hollywood . . . William A. Scully, Universal's general sales manager, dropped in at the local exchange during his recent visit to the studio . . . Bert Lentz, Columbia salesman, has checked out for a jaunt around his territory.

Astor Pictures has added 19 features to its lineup, according to Lou Goldstein. New films include "Something to Sing About," starring James Cagney; six Tex Ritter westerns and two Ken Maynard sagebrushers . . . Al O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, in from San Francisco . . . Clair Bruce is back at her job as switchboard operator at Columbia after time out to nurse the flu.

Barclay Ardell, Altec's branch manager in Seattle, has returned there after spending the holidays here. He stopped off in Salt Lake City en route home.

Preparations for the annual Ned Depinet Drive at RKO Radio now under way. It starts January 25 and ends May 9 . . . Cobe Wartman of the DeLuxe Theatre has installed the new "Eighty Spot" game in his house . . . S. M. Pariseau, Altec branch manager, returned from a brief trip to San Francisco.

Utilizes Local Angle in Tieup With Bowes

GLENDALE, CAL. — Learning in advance that Major Bowes was going to present a Glendale winner over his "Salute to Cities" program, Manager Ed Harris of the Glendale successfully beat the "stay-at-home" competition by arranging to rebroadcast the show to his theatre audience by a hookup over the sound system.

As a prelude to the broadcast, Harris presented the parents of the winning Bowes contestant along with the mayor and president of the chamber of commerce. Prior to the re-broadcast he presented the six best contestants in a local amateur show in a stage revue.

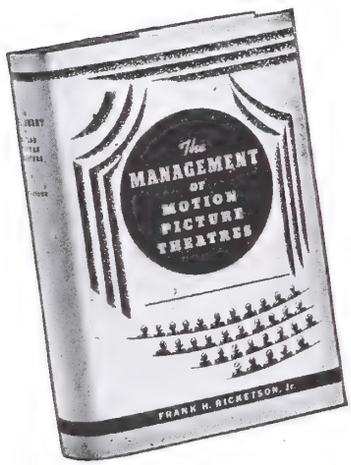
GN Will Release PRC Lineup in Canada

LOS ANGELES—The former Grand National Films, Ltd., will distribute Producers Releasing Corp. product in Canada and the Maritime provinces, it has been announced following completion of negotiations by Leon Fromkess, PRC export manager. The Canadian outlet will be reincorporated, with branches in St. Johns, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

"Miss Bishop" at Four Star

LOS ANGELES—"Cheers for Miss Bishop" has opened at the Four Star for an extended run.

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La Crosse Hearing Again Delayed

Madison, Wis.—Hearing in the $1,472,000 damage suit of the La Crosse Theatre Co., La Crosse, against Paramount, United Artists, 20th Century-Fox, Welworth Theatre Co. and the Minnesota Amusement Co., scheduled to be held in federal court here January 6, was postponed to February 17 by Judge Patrick T. Stone.

The action was opened in October, but postponed due to the sudden illness of Atty. Robert A. Hess, Milwaukee, counsel for the La Crosse company. The postponements have been vigorously contested by counsel for the defendant companies.

Committees Form to Aid Greek Cause

INDIANAPOLIS—Spyros Skouras, National Theatres' head and national chairman of the Greek War Relief Ass'n, has appointed the following regional committees to represent the industry in the drive for Greek war relief funds:

Don R. Rossiter, executive secretary of Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, chairman; Alex Manta, president of Indiana-Illinois Theatres, Chicago; Marc J. Wolf, general manager of Theatrical Managers, Inc., Indianapolis; Sam Switow, Switow Theatrical Enterprises, Louisville, Ky.; S. J. Gregory, general manager of Alliance Theatre Corp., Chicago; Fred Greenberg, manager of Warner Bros. Film Exchange, Indianapolis; Joe Cantor of Co-operative Theatres, Indianapolis; Pete Mallers, general manager of Mallers Bros., Fort Wayne, Ind.; Trueman Rembusch, president of Syndicate Theatres, Franklin, Ind.; P. H. Dickson, president of Affiliated Theatres, Inc., Indianapolis.

George Landis, branch manager of 20th Century-Fox Film Exchange, Indianapolis; Abe Kaufman, operator of the Fountain Theatre, Terre Haute, Ind.; A. H. Borkenstein, operator of Wells Theatre, Fort Wayne, Ind.; H. L. Krieghbaum, operator of Char Belle Theatre, Rochester, Ind.; J. M. Dixon, operator of Flora Theatre, Flora, Ind.; Dick Vlastos, operator of Fowler Theatre, Fowler, Ind.; Dick Frank, branch manager of United Artists, Indianapolis; John Servaas, Exhibitors Exchange, Indianapolis; George Settos, Settos Theatres, Indianapolis; H. P. Vonderschmitt, Vonderschmitt Amusement Enterprises, Bloomington, Ind.; James Bikos, Bikos Bros., Gary, Ind.; Guy Craig, branch manager of Columbia Pictures Corp., Indianapolis; Fred Dolle, president of Fourth Avenue Amusement Corp., Louisville, Ky.; and Charles M. Olson, Olson Theatre Enterprises, Indianapolis.

At the first meeting of the committee, $735 was pledged by the committee members. This will form the nucleus for the drive which is expected to get under way immediately. S. J. Gregory addressed the meeting.

Declares Denunciations Of Decree Are Futile

CHICAGO—"The consent decree is now final. Further protests or denunciations are futile and no changes or modifications are likely by court action or otherwise until after the decree is put into actual operation."

Edward G. Zorn, president of the United Theatre Owners of Illinois, speaking to his membership in a special bulletin. Pointing out that his organization, "together with virtually all other exhibitor organizations, has protested against the imposition of many of the provisions," Zorn declares that compliance with the decree is up to the distributor, and adds:

"There is no provision anywhere in the decree calling for exhibitor participation or cooperation in its administrations or operations. Compliance is imposed upon the five distributors and their affiliated exhibitors, and not upon the exhibitor; consequently, its operation is not predicated upon what you, as an exhibitor, do but rather upon what the distributors do.

Prepare for Starting Date

"The decree goes into effect Sept. 1, 1941. Thus the exhibitor has six to eight months in which to prepare himself by studying its provisions. We may as well reconcile ourselves to the fact that we have no choice but compliance. The two most important provisions of the decree are the block-of-five restriction and the arbitration system.

"The block-of-five restrictions apply only to pictures released after September, 1941. The five distributors who are parties to the consent decree, are restrained by law from offering for rental to exhibitors pictures in blocks of over five. The distributor cannot sell more than five pictures in a block at one time, and these five pictures must be made and have had a trade showing.

"The arbitration system is placed entirely in the hands of the American Arbitration Ass'n. Any cooperation or participation by the exhibitor other than submitting complaints is strictly forbidden. Its provisions are set forth in strange and tricky clauses. Lawyers will be arguing about their meaning and interpretation for years to come. The lack of clarity in the maze of legal verbiage means that ultimately the arbitrators, themselves, will decide just how most of the decree will be interpreted and applied."

Warns of Discriminatory Legislation in Illinois

CHICAGO—Urging members of the United Theatre Owners of Illinois against concerning themselves entirely with the consent decree, Edward G. Zorn, president, warns in his current bulletin of impending state legislation and calls for "effective resistance" against unfair and discriminatory taxation and regulation.

"We are quite willing and fully expect to pay our share of the taxes needed, but we must be prepared to fight against having the movies singled out for special taxes that will impose a burden in excess of that carried by other industries," he says, and continues:

"Taxes are not the only legislation that cost the theatres money. You will be faced with all sorts of proposed requirements, restrictions and regulations especially designed for your business—two operators in a booth laws, censorship bills, licensing requirements, etc., etc. You need only to look back to the last session of the legislature to find an avalanche of bills detrimental to your business.

"Exhibitors who want their business interests fairly and effectively protected should lend their support and join forces with their fellow exhibitors at once for their own good. You can't organize effectively at the last minute to deal with emergencies."

"Too Many Fights," Says UTOI Chief

Chicago—"Too much time and money is being spent on legal theories and controversies," President Edward G. Zorn declares in his special bulletin to UTOI members. He argues that "It's a disease that grows worse every year and keeps our business in an unhealthy state.

"We spend too much time telling the world about what is wrong with the movies, the abuses and injustices and incompetence in the business, and neglect to advance a good, clear understanding of how it operates and why it operates that way even within the industry.

"The movie theatres are doing a good job of giving fine entertainment and relaxation at an average cost, to the patron, of seven or eight cents an hour, but you would never know it from the people in the business. Let's get together to protect ourselves and, incidentally, blow our own horns."

Dispute in Chicago Over the Oriental

CHICAGO—The Oriental, 3,217-seat house located in the heart of Chicago's "White Way," is currently the center of a dispute between Jones, Linick & Schaefer, present operators, and the Metropolis Corporation, New York City, lessor of the 32 W. Randolph Street Corp. The latter corporation at present is leasing the Oriental to Jones, Linick & Schaefer.

The Metropolis Corp., apparently dissatisfied with the operation of the Oriental by JL&S, has asked Balaban & Katz to take the lease on the theatre.

A Second Big Week for "Kitty" in the Loop

CHICAGO—With a terrific picture as a solid foundation and a smash exploitation campaign handled by Tom Gorman and Bob Haley, the RKO Palace, with "Kitty Foyle," continues the business pace-maker in the loop. Doubled with another RKO film, "Saint in Palm Springs," "Kitty" finished as big a second week as the 200 per cent initial stanza.

M-G-M is in No. 2 spot in town with "Bitter Sweet" placing at the Garrick with 150 per cent and "Comrade X" taking show money at 130 per cent at the United Artists.

Detail for the week ending January 9:

(Average is 100)

Apollo—**Arizona** (Col) 115
Third good week.

Chicago—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 120
Second week finished January 9 instead of January 2 as reported in this column last week. Well-balanced stage show headed by Tamara helped keep cashiers busy.

Garrick—**Bitter Sweet** (M-G-M) 150
Women flocked to see the Eddy-MacDonald team after two highly successful weeks at the United Artists.

Oriental—**One Night in the Tropics** (Univ), plus stage show 120
Profited by general good business in loop.

Palace—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 200
Top money-maker in loop. Second week as big as first.

Roosevelt—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA) 90
Finished three weeks at Roosevelt. One of best grossers this B&K house has had in long time.

State-Lake—**Sky Murder** (M-G-M), plus stage show 115

Studio—**Mannerheim Line** (Artkino) 110
Finished four big weeks at Herb Elisburg's house. Best grosser Studio ever had.

United Artists—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 130

Milwaukee First Runs Do Better Than Par

MILWAUKEE — Seasonable temperatures and some first-class hits made this a first-rate week for local first runs. Leader was "Comrade X" and "Hullabaloo" at Fox's Wisconsin, with all other houses doing better than par.

Detail for week ending January 9:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox) 135

Riverside—**Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col), plus **Ted Weems** on stage 150

Strand—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 120

Warner—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **South of Suez** (WB) 140

Wisconsin—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Hullabaloo** (M-G-M) 160

"Comrade" Big Noise In Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS—A smash 230 per cent, or better than double average business, was hung up by "Comrade X," coupled with "Golden Fleecing," in a 10-day run at the Palace. "Love Thy Neighbor" managed to do average in its second week at the Circle, while "Santa Fe Trail," in a 10-day engagement at the Indiana, turned in a comfortable 120 per cent.

(Average is 100)

Circle—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Meet the Wildcat** (Univ), 2nd wk. 100

Indiana—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 10 days.....120

Lyric—**Jennie** (20th-Fox), plus Marcus stage show 95

Palace—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Golden Fleecing** (M-G-M), 10 days 230

: SPRINGFIELD :

SAM BONANSINGA, stage manager at the Orpheum, reported to police the theft of two stage spot lights valued at $100. M. E. Berman, manager of the Orpheum, has invited state and city officials and other dignitaries to a preview of "Land of Liberty."

Edmond Metzger, manager of the Strand, popularized "The Green Archer" serial by placing a target in the center of the outside display and allowing boys to shoot at it with bow and arrows having rubber cup points. Those scoring bullseyes were admitted free.

Sam Bonansinga, business agent of the local stage employes' union, is expecting no opposition when he runs for re-election as president of the Springfield Federation of Labor in the January 28 election. When the March of Time's "Labor and Defense" shows at the Orpheum, he will give several labor speeches in its behalf.

Max Tschauder, manager of the Roxy, was all smiles when "Santa Fe Trail" did big business during a two-week run at his theatre . . . The Ballet Russe De Monte Carlo played an engagement at the Orpheum.

Max Tschauder, manager of the Roxy, and M. E. Berman, manager of the Orpheum, attended the inauguration of Governor Dwight Green. Berman was one of the chosen few who sat on the stage . . . Many of the boys from the Kerasotes office kicked up their heels at the governor's inaugural ball.

M. E. Berman, of the Orpheum, went to the airport to welcome Lieut.-Com. K. C. Huffman, with the U. S. Navy at St. Louis, who spoke at the Mid-Day Luncheon Club and put in several good "plugs" for "Flight Command" which opened at the Orpheum a few days later.

Edward G. Zorn, president of the United Theatre Owners of Illinois, and Mrs. Zorn left for Hollywood Tuesday via the Santa Fe Chief. Zorn will visit the film studios while in Hollywood and look over some of the new pictures in the making. He will be gone three weeks.

Dozens of Illinois exhibitors have been answering a questionnaire sent out by UTOI Executive Secretary Bill Crouch which outlines the many services offered by this new statewide association. Questionnaires were sent to all downstate exhibitors.

Gene Rich, M-G-M representative, has been promoting assistance from the naval air force with the result that flying exhibitions are daily occurrences in southern Illinois. "Flight Command" is the picture getting the plugs.

Mort Berman of the Orpheum is looking forward to the Barney Balaban Drive dinner in Chicago this month. Mort's record for the drive period was very good and he hopes to be among the top money winners.

One of the cleverest advertisements seen locally for some time was the one Dave Jones, Senate manager, cooked up for "This Thing Called Love." Jones had an expert statistician "clock" the laughs in the picture, and the 504 laughs recorded show the way the film is going over here. The advertisement extolled the results of the checking.

Dominic Giachetto received a bowling ball for Christmas. Bowling records now list Dominic as one of the best keglers in the city . . . Bill Crouch, UTOI official, has practically recovered from an auto crash two weeks ago. He suffered a broken nose and a cracked knuckle. He was on a business trip in the northern part of the state.

Russell Armentrout is the latest Illinois exhibitor to join the ranks of the UTOI. Armentrout and his father operate theatres in Barry, Pittsfield and several Missouri towns . . . C. D. Redford of Auburn has installed new sound in his American there.

Springfield theatremen turned out en masse for the inauguration of Gov. Dwight Green, who took over the reins on January 13. Green was strongly supported by Illinois exhibitors during the campaign and is said to have a good understanding of theatre problems . . . Fred Bartow, new Paramount exploiteer, is due here in a few days to offer plans for exploiting some of the new Paramount product.

Police Hold Suspect In Stench Bombing

KIRKWOOD, MO.—Local police are holding a man seized by Theodore Lending, proprietor of the Kirkwood Theatre, after a bottle containing a stench fluid had been broken on the floor of the theatre. The Kirkwood has been the scene of four stench bombings since last September 1, when the theatre hired a non-union projectionist after refusing to renew its old contract with Local 143, operators' affiliate of the IATSE, which requires the employment of two projectionists on each shift.

Lending told police he was ushering when the man, accompanied by a woman, asked to be seated down front. Since ordinarily these seats are the most undesirable from which to view the pictures, Lending became suspicious. So he gave a youth free admission to sit directly behind the man and keep a careful watch on him.

When the youth reported to Lending that the man had thrown something into the aisle, Lending rushed down front and, with the aid of several patrons, he seized and held him. In the commotion the woman fled.

The suspect denied he had thrown the bottle of stench fluid to the floor. He said he was 37 years old and employed by the city of St. Louis in a street paving gang. Later, the police arrested a young woman who refused to make a statement.

RACINE

BOOKED for stage appearances at Warner's Venetian Wednesday, Jan. 29, are Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra . . . Mrs. E. J. Berdinner has been named motion picture chairman of the Racine chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and is offering members rating information as contained in the DAR national magazine.

The Better Films League, now in the most active year in its history, is issuing weekly rating sheets to PTA groups, schools, the libraries, and has available rating information for the public.

Conducted by Stan Lambert, manager of Warner's Rialto, twice-weekly radio programs on motion picture subjects are broadcast by WRJN whose organist, Ray Gruis, plays for weekly community sing programs each Saturday night at the Venetian.

Bobby Jordan, one of the "Dead End Kids," added nothing to his popularity in Racine when he failed to make a scheduled appearance at the Fox-Midwesco Uptown.

In Racine recently for just an hour between trains was Sabu, whose latest film assignment was the title role in "The Thief of Bagdad."

Ken Mayer, who has been serving as assistant manager at the Venetian, has returned to his former post as treasurer at the Warner in Milwaukee. He is succeeded in Racine by Edward Friedwald, who has been associated with Warner theatres for nine years and who came to Racine from an assistant managership at the Jeffrey in Chicago.

"Wind" Returns

ST. LOUIS—"Gone With the Wind" has been booked for a popular engagement at Loew's commencing January 24. The schedule of prices has been announced as follows: Adults, 40 cents for matinees and 50 cents at night, and 25 cents for children at matinees. The doors will open daily at 9 a. m.

Awards Contract

WAYNESVILLE, MO.—J. F. Ghosen of the Uptown, Sedalia, Mo., has awarded the general contract for his new theatre here to John Ethland of Versailles, Mo. The new house was designed by Robert O. Boller, architect, Kansas City, Mo. Construction starts at once.

Preston to Open

SALEM, MO.—The Preston, new 500-seat house of May and Kenneth Preston, was to open this week.

Remodeling Helps

MEXICO MO.—The Liberty, recently remodeled, has been doing nice business since it was reopened by the Frisina circuit.

Grateful, But Wary Over "No-New-Taxes" Pledge

INDIANAPOLIS

VISITORS: Don LeBrun, Kent Theatre, South Whitley; Mrs. William Luckett, Scottsburg; Harry Vonderschmitt, Bloomington; Gail Lancaster, Huntington; H. L. Kreighbaum, Rochester; Walter F. Easley, Tree, Greensburg; William T. Studebaker, Logan, Logansport; Percy H. Dickson, Eagles, Wabash; A. B. Thompson, Park, North Vernon; Joseph Schilling, Auditorium, Connersville; Abe Kaufman, Fountain, Terre Haute; A. H. Borkenstein, Wells, Fort Wayne.

Also, Pete Mallers, Family, Fort Wayne; Leonard S. Sowar, Rivoli, Muncie; Wayne Gorman, Ritz, North Manchester; J. M. Dixon, Flora, Flora; Trueman Rembusch, Syndicate Theatres, Franklin; Roy E. Harrold, Princess, Rushville; James and S. J. Gregory, Alliance Theatre Corp., Chicago; Sam Neall, Kokomo; J. B. Sconce, Playhouse, Edinburg; Alex Manta, Indiana-Illinois Theatres, Chicago; Sam Switow, Louisville, and Jack Van Borssum, Savoy, Terre Haute.

Frank Reimer, formerly with the Quimby circuit, Fort Wayne, is now connected with Universal, covering the northern territory. He assumes the duties of Wilbur Grant, who has been transferred to the Philadelphia branch . . . Thomas W. McKean, Warner Bros. confirmation clerk and son of Claude McKean, Warner office manager, leaves this month to join the U. S. Army for training.

Charles Doads, manager of the Irving, Indianapolis, announces his forthcoming marriage to Marian Rowe. The ceremony takes place February 1 . . . Al Blocker, booker for Theatrical Managers, Inc., reports his son has recovered from pneumonia.

Booth Tarkington, Indianapolis resident and well-known author, announces that he will not attend the trial of his $100,000 damage suit against Warner Bros. The suit is based on the rights to his novel "Penrod and Sam," and was filed several years ago.

Vote on Daylight Saving

URBANA, ILL.—Citizens of this university town next April will vote on the question of whether daylight saving time shall prevail here next summer.

May Build in Decatur

DECATUR, ILL.—It is reported that Gus Constant plans to erect a new theatre on the lot he is said to have purchased here some weeks ago.

Building at Rolla, Mo.

ROLLA, MO.—Mildred R. Karsch and associates are building a 900-seat second-run theatre here.

MADISON, WIS.—While exhibitor leaders received with considerable satisfaction the opening statement of Gov. Julius P. Heil before the state legislature here last week that no new taxes would be required to meet the budget for the biennium, they construe the fact that the state is expected to collect in revenues during the next two years only $65,536,064 to meet this $74,469,148 budget, to indicate some kind of additional tax legislation.

Heil told the legislature that "due to improved business conditions, it might reasonably be expected that increased income taxes and surtaxes, together with strict economy in administration, will make it possible to operate the state government without any new taxes."

Those familiar with the situation here say that by diverting highway funds in the coming biennium, the administration will be able to pick up the $8,933,084 needed to balance the budget. With this procedure, exhibitor leaders have in the past had no objection.

The governor warned the legislature that he would personally oppose any attempts to add to his budget and stated that in view of national defense and the necessity for increased taxation by the federal government, legislators should be careful of making appropriations.

It is believed a fight is certain to develop in the legislature against highway diversion, and opponents of diversion probably will introduce tax bills to make up the deficit.

Governor Heil told the legislature that in his budget he has made allowance for a session of only 120 days and for each day the legislature stayed in session beyond that time, it would have to come to the emergency board for funds.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

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THEATRICAL PRINTING



Meet in Tribute to Barney Balaban

CHICAGO—Paramount executives meet at the Drake Hotel, Thursday to pay tribute to Barney Balaban on his fifth anniversary as president of the company.

At the same time, winning theatre managers of the Barney Balaban drive, held between Thanksgiving and Christmas (in some cases the drive concluded New Year's Day) will attend the dinner to participate in the testimonial and receive awards. The contest was held for theatre managers of houses either owned by Paramount or affiliated with the company. All told, nearly 400 persons, including all Chicago B&K theatre managers, will attend the party.

The agenda for the party includes a dinner, speeches by several Paramount executives and heads of circuits affiliated with the parent company, the awarding of prizes to the theatre managers, and an entertainment program.

List of Speakers

A. H. Blank, head of the Tri-States circuit, Des Moines, who is national chairman of the Barney Balaban drive and chairman of the committee on arrangements, is expected to be one of the principal speakers. Others expected to address the group include Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board of Paramount; John Balaban, president of Balaban & Katz, Chicago; N. L. Nathanson, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., Ltd., Toronto, who will discuss the international situation; E. V. Richards of Paramount-Richards Theatres, Inc., New Orleans; Neil Agnew, vice-president in charge of distribution for Paramount and Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of production for Paramount. Scheduled for the toastmaster's role, in addition to a speaking part, is A. M. Bottsford, associate producer for Paramount.

In From New York

In addition to those mentioned above, others from the homeoffice expected to attend include: Stanton Griffis, chairman of the Paramount executive committee; Austin C. Keough, vice-president and Paramount counsel, and Edwin L. Weisl, vice-president.

Largest delegation to the Barney Balaban testimonial will, of course, come from Chicago and the midwest. Dave Balaban of B&K, Chicago, will round out the Barney, John & Dave Balaban trio at the meeting. Others expected to attend are: J. J. Rubens, together with all executives of the Publix-Great States circuit, plus all city managers; Dave Wallerstein, B&K district manager, together with all his city managers.

Included among the others expected to be present at the affair are: John Nolan, Publix-Comerford Theatres, Inc., Scranton, Pa.; Harry David, president of Intermountain Theatres; R. J. O'Donnell, Interstate circuit; Julius M. Gordon, Jefferson Amusement Theatres, Texas; Karl Hoblitzelle, owner of the Interstate circuit of Texas; Bob O'Donnell, general manager of Interstate circuit; Tracy Barham, North Iowa Theatres; Martin Mullin and Sam Pinanski, M&P Theatres, Boston; M. A. Lightman, Malco Theatres, Tennessee; John J. Friedl, president Minnesota Amusement Co.; George C. Hoover, Paramount Enterprises, Inc., Miami; C. R. Banford, Publix-Banford Theatres, Asheville, North Carolina; Harry L. Nace, Publix-Rickards-Nace, Phoenix, Arizona, and Ralph G. Branton, general manager, Tri-States Theatres.

Influenza Epidemic Sweeps Columbia

Columbia, Mo.—The influenza epidemic that is sweeping the country has hit this university and college town. As a result, attendance at local theatres has been somewhat curtailed. At the University of Missouri officials have converted a section of the students' activities building into a temporary hospital because influenza sufferers have crowded the regular university hospital beyond capacity.

CHICAGO

PARAMOUNT will hold a one-day meeting at the Edgewater Beach Hotel Thursday. Neil Agnew, vice-president in charge of distribution, is scheduled to preside. The distributors will participate in the Barney Balaban testimonial affair following their meeting . . . Essaness Woods had the Chicago premiere of "Let George Do It" over the weekend. Henri Elman distributing picture . . . Latest report has "Fantasia" opening at the Shubert's "Grand Opera House," February 10 . . . Ethel Goldberg will marry Seymour L. Gale, Chicago boy, on Thursday. Miss G., who has been working with her father, head of Joe Goldberg, Inc., the past three years, is well known among local exhibitors.

Everybody sorry to see Duke Hickey, one of the most popular men on Filmrow, leave for New York. Duke has been transferred to the New York office of National Screen. Successor here is Phil Rouda, theatrical manager for Filmack Trailer Co. here for the past two and one-half years. Phil's handling special trailers at National Screen . . . Though Jack Hess did do special exploitation for Oriental during the holiday season, we erred when we said he succeeded Fritz Blocki as the theatre's publicity director. Harry Miller, of the Louis G. Cowan firm, has the job. Harry's first job is working on Rosemary Lane publicity, Ironically, Rosemary and her sister are currently competing with one another. While Rosemary's at the Oriental, sister Lola is at the State-Lake.

Allan Waldman has been upped to assistant managership at the Chicago . . . "This Thing Called Love," previewed at the B&K flagship January 9, had the audience rolling in the aisles . . . Johnny Jones in Florida . . . Dorothy Deere says Stirling Hayden, new Paramount find, is a star-in-the-making . . . Nate Platt, stage production manager for B&K and in charge of entertainment for the big Barney Balaban party this Thursday, is lining up an "all-star" show.

Against Changing Censorship Setup

CHICAGO — Exhibitors and producers joined forces here when they protested against any changes in the present censorship setup in Chicago at the fourth and final public hearing held at the city council chambers.

C. C. Pettijohn, general counsel for the Motion Picture Distributors of America, told the council he was against censorship in any form, but that if Chicago must have censorship it would be best to leave the system as it exists now. Jack Kirsch, president of the Allied Theatre Owners of Illinois, and Morris G. Leonard of Balaban & Katz agreed whole-heartedly with Pettijohn's views.

The proposed change in the censorship setup would involve setting up a new board to be appointed at periodic intervals by the mayor. The present board is composed of civil service employes who have held their posts from 12 to 20 years.

Another change in the proposed amendment would call for the automatic approval of all films that would be shown to adults. The proposed board would function only as a "clearing house" in deciding which films would be suited for all theatre patrons and which films should not be shown to youngsters under 21.

The proposed changes will be taken up at the executive session of the committee on judiciary and state legislation of which Alderman H. L. Brody is chairman. A decision by the committee is expected within the next few weeks.

Included among film men present at the hearing, in addition to those already mentioned, were: C. W. Eckhardt, branch manager, 20th Century-Fox; Phil R. Dunas, branch manager, Columbia Pictures, and Abe Teitel, foreign film distributor.

MILWAUKEE

TO COUNTERACT Fox's policy of weekend stage shows at various of its neighborhood units here, the Hollywood and Colonial, independent houses, last Sunday presented the "Revels of 1941" with Al Buettner's orchestra on their stages.

For the second time in the last six months, Fox's Wisconsin is currently offering a stage attraction, "Streets of Paris."

Wyman Calkins, producer of the Dr. Silkini shows which have played a number of local and state houses, was married recently to Miss Irene Brannum.

Add to unusual giveaways—a pair of skiis presented at a Saturday kid matinee by the Badger in Merrill.

The Wisconsin in La Crosse conducted a radio jamboree for the benefit of the Greek relief fund. All talent and facilities were donated for the affair.

The Barron city council has passed an ordinance providing for an annual $35 license for theatres.

"Downtown Night" Continues in Kaycee

KANSAS CITY—Theatres here view with lukewarm interest the return to the Thursday night "open store" policy that proved fairly successful before the holidays.

The policy, launched as part of a general business movement to revivify the downtown area, is generally regarded a slight boon to downtown houses and as a moderate competitive threat to neighborhood grosses.

Most of the mercantile establishments that usually close earlier remain open on that night until 9:00 o'clock.

Construction Started On New 700-Seater

DES MOINES—Construction work on a new $25,000 theatre was started here Monday. The new house is being built by the East Des Moines Theatre Corp., a partnership composed of the Tri-States Theatre Corp. and Roy and Lewis L. Lepovitz.

The Lepovitzes have operated the Iowa here for 10 years. Last April they entered into the partnership agreement with Tri-States, at which time they first announced plans for the new house now being built.

The new theatre will be 107 by 52 feet and will seat 700 persons. A. H. Blank, president of Tri-States, said the house will be air conditioned with acoustical walls, and in the same class as the Uptown, Ingersoll and Hiland—all newer suburban houses. It is expected to be opened in May. A name has not yet been chosen.

A Big Press-Preview for "Philadelphia Story"

OMAHA—Tri-States' Omaha Theatre has been selected as the site of a press-preview of "Philadelphia Story" the night of January 21. All seats will be reserved with a limited number available to the public. Admission will be 75 cents.

Three hundred newspaper publishers and members of the press from Nebraska and western Iowa are being invited, as well as state and city officials. The affair is an innovation in the middle west, says District Manager Evert R. Cummings.

Charles Coryell Takes Kozy at Bassett, Neb.

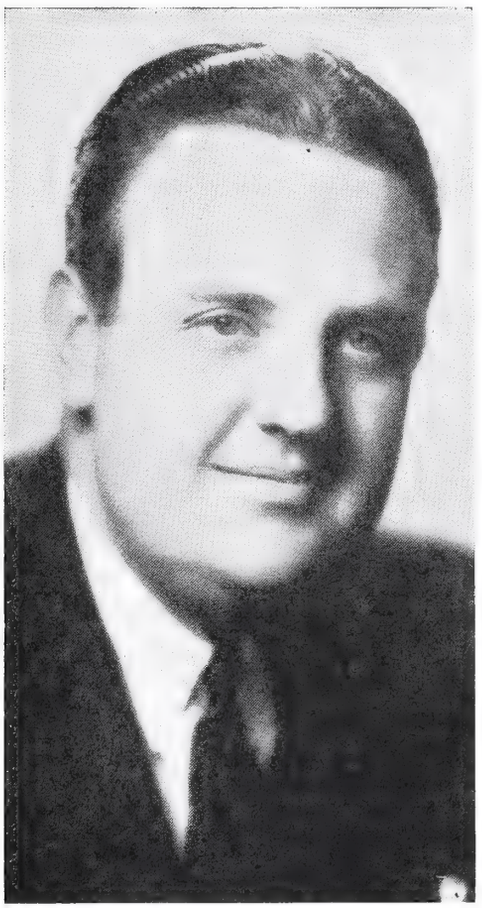
OMAHA—Charles Coryell has taken over the Kozy at Bassett, Neb., from Mrs. Zula Carlson. The house will be operated mostly by Coryell's daughter.

Coryell formerly owned the telephone exchange at Bassett. He still owns and operates the exchange at Johnstown, Neb.

Behan Joins RKO

MINNEAPOLIS — Joe Behan, long head booker at Warner Bros. here, has resigned to become head booker for RKO in Des Moines. Appointment was announced by L. E. Goldhammer, RKO district manager.

Will Draw Battle Lines Against the Decree



KANSAS CITY—Burtus Bishop jr., new district manager for Metro, took over here January 13. Formerly branch manager for three years at Pittsburgh, Pa., Bishop succeeds H. P. Wolfberg, who goes to St. Louis as district manager.

Bishop joined Metro in 1925 at Charlotte, N. C., as a salesman; he later became branch manager there, and remained in that post until he went to Pittsburgh as branch manager.

Bishop, who is young enough for draft registration, is married and has a four-year-old son. He'll have charge of Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Memphis from his headquarters here.

Bishop Pittsburgh Dinner Proceeds to Charity Fund

PITTSBURGH—Before he left for Kansas City headquarters of his new Metro district, Burtus Bishop jr. was the honor guest at a testimonial banquet attended by more than 200 trade members. Proceeds of the party, approximately $500, were turned over to the charity fund of the Pittsburgh Variety Club at Bishop's request.

Cummings in "Miami"

HOLLYWOOD—Universal has loaned out Robert Cummings to 20th-Fox for a leading role in "Miami," Betty Grable starrer to be made in Technicolor.

MINNEAPOLIS—Battle lines against the consent decree will be drawn here next Tuesday and Wednesday when Northwest Allied will hold what its leaders have proclaimed "the most important convention ever held in the motion picture industry."

Initial steps will be taken to nullify the five-block purchase plan and to provide for 20 per cent cancellation along with the elimination of forced buying of shorts and pictures deemed offensive on moral, religious or racial grounds.

Provisions designed to accomplish these purposes have been incorporated into a fair trade practices law. The groundwork will be laid at the convention to obtain passage of such a measure by the various state legislatures in this territory.

The independents also will map out campaigns to obtain enactment of state laws to curb 16mm film competition, additional theatre construction and the Ascap theatre fees and to defeat proposed measures to levy a state admission tax and to outlaw theatre gift nights.

Other matters scheduled for discussion include the reduced student admission price on which the government is insisting a tax be paid, the expected government action to tax lower admissions and arbitration under the decree.

Abe Kaplan, prominent Twin City independent exhibitor, is chairman of the convention committee. Advance indications point to an exceptionally large attendance.

United in Effort to Win Back Patrons

MINNEAPOLIS—In line with a drive to bring the public "back" to the theatre, independent neighborhood exhibitors here have launched an institutional newspaper advertising campaign of their own. All contribute jointly to defray the cost of a double column two-inch box over the individual theatres' ads.

Part of the copy in the box is changed frequently, but the main head, "Visit Your Friendly Neighborhood Theatre," always is retained.

One of the ads read: "Always a big entertainment value! Your share of happiness awaits you here. Perfect relaxation with every modern convenience. An entire evening's pleasure at very low prices. Free lighted parking. Save time and money — attend your neighborhood theatre!"

Another of the ads reads: "A well balanced program for your enjoyment, every day. The big Hollywood features plus outstanding short subjects on every program. No cheap B to Z double feature shows."

Richey a Speaker

DES MOINES—H. M. Richey of Metro was here Wednesday to address the better films committee of the Parent-Teachers Ass'n, the Federated Women's Clubs and the Junior Federation at the 20th Century-Fox screening room.

"Kitty" Smash in Kaycee; Almost Triples Average

KANSAS CITY—The surprise package of the New Year came early.

"Kitty Foyle" proved a winner from the opening hour at the Orpheum, and in its first week a good deal more than doubled grosses. It was far and away the best among a lot of good bills in Kansas City, and looked like a three-timer at least as it went into its second week. It was expected to set a new Orpheum record.

"Chad Hanna," playing the two Fox first runs—Esquire and Uptown—made a good showing. Weather was bad.

Detail for week ended January 9:

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox).....130
Played 10 days to get to Friday opening.
Midland—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col) 125
Played 10 days.
Newman—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), hold-over 140
Good for a five-day third week.
Orpheum—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 290
Going about as strong in its second as in its first week.
Tower—**Cherokee Strip** (Para't), plus stage show 100
Uptown—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 130
Played 10 days.

"Alley" and Lou Holtz Draw in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—Two houses, the Minnesota and State, cornered most of the business this week. Lou Holtz, Wendy Barrie, Lola Lane and Arlene Judge on the stage, brought them into the former, while "Tin Pan Alley" proved an ace attraction for the State and will continue a second week. "Comrade X" and "Thief of Bagdad" are holdovers.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**Blondie Plays Cupid** (Col); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col) 100
Century—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 90
Esquire—**Missing People** (Mono); **Chamber of Horrors** (Mono) 100
Gopher—**Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't)..... 90
Minnesota—**Margie** (Univ), plus stage show, **Lou Holtz** Hollywood unit 150
Orpheum—**Arizona** (Col), 10 days 85
State—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox) 140
World—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 3rd wk..... 90

"Kitty" and "Neighbor" Are Magnets in Omaha

OMAHA—Brandeis and Omaha theatres started 1941 with a bang, both getting boxoffice winners for the New Year's first week. The pace was too strong for the Orpheum.

"Kitty Foyle" and "Saint in Palm Springs" were held a second stanza at the Brandeis after hold-out business. "Love Thy Neighbor" and "Youth Will Be Served" were very good at the Omaha, a larger house. "Chad Hanna" and "Charter Pilot," at the Orpheum, suffered badly from the competition.

Business is being helped by clear, mild weather, exceptional in these parts in January.

Detail for the week ending January 11:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 175
Omaha—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Youth Will Be Served** (20th-Fox) 150
Orpheum—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Charter Pilot** (20th-Fox) 100



—Pictorial Press Photo

Again Variety Chief—

Jerry Zigmond, manager of the Newman, who last week was elected chief barker of the Kansas City Variety Club by directors of the organization, following the resignation of Jay Means, Oak Park and Bagdad, who withdrew due to the press of personal business. Means was chief barker last year, and recently was re-elected to the post. Robert F. Withers, branch manager for Republic-Midwest, was elected second assistant chief barker to succeed Ward Scott, district manager of 20th-Fox, who moves up to the post of first assistant, vacated by Zigmond.

Names New Committees For Kaycee Variety

KANSAS CITY — Committees have been named by Jerry Zigmond, who assumed the presidency of the Variety Club upon the withdrawal of Jay Means because of the pressure of personal business.

Rube Melcher is chairman of the house committee, comprised additionally of Ward Scott, R. R. Biechele, O. K. Mason, Reube Finkelstein, Beverly Miller and J. H. States. Chairmen of the other committees are as follows:

Ways and means, H. J. Griffith; membership, O. K. Mason; entertainment, Leland Allen; "Kings for a Day," R. F. Withers; publicity, Bill Lansburg; bowling and bowling tournament, Frank Hensler; welfare, Arthur Cole; "Days of '49," Charles Gregory; charity ball, Earl Jameson; special charities, Jay Means; special events, Finton Jones; golf, T. R. Thompson.

Bowers Adds One

BEATRICE, NEB.—Harold G. Bowers, who just formed a new corporation, the Rialto Building Co. here, bought the Rialto Theatre from Dean Randall of Eugene, Ore.

Gateway Situation Creates Problem

MINNEAPOLIS—Neighborhood exhibitors here are worried over the situation in the Gateway, or lower loop, where a bitter war is in the process of making, and the matter has been a topic of discussion at several meetings.

It's all the result of the licensing of the Gayety, former home of burlesque, for operation by Irving Gillman as a dime subsequent-run double-feature house.

Claiming the district is overseated, other exhibitors in the district had fought the license. Now Harry Dryer is readying still another house, the 600-seat Lyra, next to his Bijou, for reopening. He bought the house more than three years ago, closed it immediately and has kept it dark to relieve the overseating condition.

Moreover, Dryer and the others propose to use cash giveaways and other "rackets" along with the double features for a dime. Another proposal is to "blast" away with large newspaper ads, calling the public's attention to the dime shows and asking "Why pay more?"

Hitherto, there has been an unwritten agreement among the Gateway exhibitors not to advertise the double features and dime admission scale in the newspapers. However, Gillman has been advertising his dual bills and 10-cent admission.

McIntyre and Jackson Again Head Local 343

OMAHA—All officers of Local 343, IATSE, were re-elected for 1941 at the annual election. R. L. McIntyre, Orpheum, starts his second term as president and Howard Jackson, Omaha, business agent, is retained in that post.

Other officers are: Alvin "Boots" Kostlan, Brandeis, first vice-president; Shep Owens, Benson, second vice-president; Glenn Jordan, Muller, financial secretary; Baird Loomis, Brandeis, treasurer. Clyde Cooley, operator at the Fox screen room, was retained as recording and corresponding secretary.

Trustees are Bob Murray, Orpheum; Vic Morterson, Muse; William Werner, Omaha. Delegates to the Omaha Central Labor Union are Kostlan and Jackson; to the Council Bluffs labor group, Jackson and J. Gordon Beck, State.

Reissue Combination Runs for 15 Days

Kansas City—That "Scarface"-"Sky Devils" combination, reissues released by Astor Pictures, at the Apollo, looks like a good one. The pair ran 15 days at the Fox suburban house here and did a nice job. It has done well in the St. Louis area also. It is reminiscent of another reissue combination that was quite successful for a time last year—"Awful Truth" and "Lost Horizon."

KAYCEE

BEVERLY MILLER has just returned from a three-week business-pleasure trip that included St. Louis, Memphis, New Orleans, Beaumont, Houston, and Dallas. He saw the old year out in New Orleans and took in the Sugar Bowl game. He also sold his encyclopedia deal to the United circuit there. In Dallas, he renewed friendships with a number of ex-Kansas Citians, namely, Doug Desch, John Wangsberg, John Franconi and "Dutch" Olsmith. In the same town, Miller also ran into J. Erwin Dodson, who expects to connect soon with a coin-operated music machine company through Earl Reynolds, who is also an ex-Kansas City film man.

R. T. "Bob" Mann, who used to be at the Mainstreet, at the Ashland and then at the Roanoke here, now is managing the Missouri at Carrollton, Mo. . . . The Ritz, Topeka, Kas., is being remodeled by the owner, B. Kross, at a cost of $1,000. *The job will include a new front and a refurbished interior.*

Fire recently damaged the old Sedalia, Sedalia, Mo. . . . Jimmy Muir, assistant manager at the Waldo, has gone to the Brookside here in the same position. Charles Weinstein goes from the Rockhill to the Granada. Muir replaces Wayne Sisson.

That intra-mural feud at Universal has gotten so bad they're calling each other Citizen Kane and Comrade Daynosky now . . . Eddie Green says he's looking for a hospital, a painless one in which to cut off his left leg. He doesn't need it any more. The Metro salesman just bought a new hydromatic Olds. Yipeee! . . . Harold LaMarr is now managing the Giles, Kansas City, replacing Jerry Rush.

On the Row: C. C. Rhodes, Warsaw and Buffalo, Mo.; Louis Griefe, Windsor, Windsor, Mo.; Sam Meyers, Roxy, Rockville, Mo.; Frank Weary, Farris and Vogue, Richmond, Mo. . . . G. C. Diamond Enterprises held its board of directors and managers meeting here January 13. Attending were Gus Diamond, Ben Adams of the Roxy, Eldorado, Kas.; T. W. Dickson, Roxy, Crystal City, Mo.; Elmer Dillon, Howard, Arkansas City, Kas.; Paul Dixon, Vogue, Salina, Kas.

When F. L. "Doc" Lowe opens the Star at Lebanon, Mo., Ted Irwin, manager of the Star at Lyons, Kas., will take over part of "Doc's" duties with the houses at Hays and Hoisington, Kas. . . . Max Van Buren, formerly manager of the Fox Brookside, Kansas City, has returned to Newton, Kas., as manager of the Fox Regent. W. R. Rowell has taken a leave of absence.

The Kansas-Missouri Theatres Ass'n, R. R. Biechele, Baker Enterprises and George Blackwell, posters, faced the tough job of moving out of 221 West 18th Street this week on short notice. A brake concern has leased the offices for immediate occupancy.

The Dreamland, Commonwealth house at Herington, Kas., has upped its admission on Tuesday bargain nights to 15 *cents, according to Glen Deeter, manager . . . The Fox Brookside, Kansas City, has gone to* 30 *cents from* 25. *The higher price includes all taxes.*

One of the finest vacations about which we've heard is that just completed by Ruth Turgeon, secretary to the branch manager at Paramount. This was the itinerary: To Brownsville, Tex., by train; to Mexico City by plane, with a stopoff at Tampico; to the capital of Yucatan, Merida, by way of Vera Cruz; a visit to the ruins at Chichen Itza; back home over the same route.

Ed Bellew, UA exploiteer out of Detroit, was here last week . . . Carl Shalit, district manager for Columbia, also out of Detroit, was in for a meeting with salesmen at the Ben Marcus exchange.

Betty Caruso is the new biller at Republic-Midwest, replacing Frances Bradford.

Bill Bradfield, Columbia salesman, is beginning to save fishskins. He caught a 7½*-pound big mouth bass on Lake Harris, Fla., recently, and as proof, is having it mounted for his office wall. You can see it after February* 15. *John Graham, UA salesman, was in the boat at the time, so maybe it's true.*

The Cinema Club, that organization of Filmrow young blood, held a sneak preview party January 15. After the preview at Paramount the members adjourned to Variety Club with their dates. Charley Siebenthaler of Missouri Film Lab is chairman of the social committee which was in

(Continued on page 42-B)

Lease Offices for Arbitration Board

Kansas City—Indications are that an arbitration board for the industry will be set up here by February 1. While membership of the panel of 30 or 40 non-industry arbitrators has not been named and the secretary of the board still has to be appointed, the American Arbitration Ass'n this week leased a suite of offices in the Waltower Building, Ninth and Walnut Streets, for occupancy February 1.

Reaction to the non-industry character of the arbitration setup is fairly favorable. Observers here feel that while laymen may require longer to grasp factors fundamental in the industry, at the same time divorcement of personnel and location from the industry itself, should make for impartiality.



TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

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Peterson "Freezem" Mfg. & Sales Co.
Blowers, washers, spray nozzels, office and home units.
Special Offer—Priced to Sell.
Why Pay More?
G. A. Peterson
VIctor 4075 316 Southwest Blvd.
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A. A. Electric Machinery Co.
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Holmes Projector Sales Co.
Projectors and Sound for the Largest and Smallest Theatre. John A. Muchmore and R. H. Patt.
1820 Wyandotte St. Kansas City, Mo. HA. 7472

Missouri Theatre Supply Co.
Distributors for
RCA, Brenkert, U. S. Air, Heywood-Wakefield
115 West 18th St. GR 2864 Kansas City, Mo.
708 West Grand Ave. Oklahoma City, Okla.

Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.
1804 Wyandotte St.
C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't
Wichita, Kas.
C. D. Peck, Mgr. Phone 2-2153

EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
Frank Cassil, Pres. Fred Meyn, Sec.-Treas.

AIR CONDITIONING

National Air Conditioning and Engineering Corp.
VI. 3535
213 West 19th St.—Kansas City, Mo.
Manufacturing—Engineering—Installation

SCREEN PUBLICITY

Alexander Film Company
Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: HIland 2694

FILM LABORATORIES

MISSOURI FILM LABORATORIES
Charles O. Siebenthaler
110 W. 18th GR 0708
Kansas City, Mo.
Complete Advertising Trailer Service

MINNEAPOLIS

THE glamor salesman, Mannie Goodman, in Minneapolis hot from a Miami vacation and draping Northwest theatres again with flags and banners . . . Dorothy (Sarong) Crane, the attractive Welworth gal, back on the job after a siege at the hospital, battling the flu . . . We're eager to see that new car which Billy Evidon, Columbia office manager, has had "on order" all winter . . . Ray Barber, the "ol" paymaster of the Pantages' "Lucky Star" game, insists that his swollen jawbone is not the result of fisticuffs, but purely a three-point landing on a skating rink.

Joe Floyd, the P. T. Barnum of Sioux Falls, S. D., and manager of the Hollywood Theatre there, "Chicagoing" for a few days . . . The Pantages ushering staff, locally regarded as the best-looking crew along Hennepin Avenue, lost one of its top Casanovas when Rudy Iverson transferred his allegiance to the Minnesota Theatre. That leaves John "Texas" Foley, the lad from Abilene, as top man, his pretty drawl putting him one up on Bob "Nelson Eddy" Holcomb.

That was a nifty front Reno Wilk created for his double horror show at the Esquire. Newton Green, the sign artist, collaborated on it . . . Ted Bolnick, the La-Crosse, Wis., showman, in town the other day, accompanied by Johnny Sullivan, the WKBH radio man . . . Stanley Neal, National Screen homeoffice representative, here long enough to reveal the newest "baby" of that enterprising firm—a department which will release national film ads . . . Abe Gill reports exhibitors are taking to his line of low-cost window cards like hot cakes.

Warner exchange visited by Lola Lane, making personal appearance at Minnesota Theatre. A trio of other Hollywood luminaries in the same show, Lou Holtz, Wendy Barrie and Arlene Judge, had screen fans excited. Holtz put in several appearances at the Twin City Variety Club. All four received telegrams from Ben Blotcky, chief barker, inviting them to use the clubrooms during their Minneapolis stay . . . The mystery surrounding the presence of so many dogs around the Warner building has been solved. Herb Blass, office manager, keeps his cocker spaniel in the basement. The spaniel was a recent gift.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included: George Westerman, Milaca, Minn.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; R. Pettingill, Superior, Wis.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Carl Sather, Annandale, Minn., and Ed Malone, Alma, Wis. . . . Florence Grafft resigning from Warner Bros. to devote herself to domestic duties . . . M-G-M doing fine job getting distribution on "Land of Liberty," the war emergency relief film.

Back from a visit with Tommy Charack, former Warner salesman here and now Los Angeles city salesman, Harold Lyons, 20th-Fox salesman, reports that, even in the film capital with its numerous handsome men, Tommy has the fair sex fighting for his attentions. Lyons ran into Bill Shartin in Hollywood. The former local Warner salesman, now branch manager in Seattle, was visiting California with the frau . . . Lou Adler, United Artists homeoffice representative, a visitor.

Even though he missed the Rose Bowl game because he wouldn't fall for speculators' prices, Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn. exhibitor, in town this week, said he had the time of his life during his California vacation . . . "Nickey" Goldhammer, RKO district manager, back from his California trip, says he visited his company's studio and looked at some of the forthcoming releases. You don't have to be told his opinion of them—terrific . . . Bill Evidon, Columbia office manager, went to Des Moines to help his brother, Mel, Columbia branch manager there, celebrate the latter's wedding anniversary.

What with Moe Levy, district manager, and Jack and Lou Cohan, salesmen, back from their vacations in the southland, 20th-Fox looks normal again . . . Ben Blotcky, Paramount branch manager and Twin City Variety Club chief barker, is another vacationist who has returned to his desk. He visited Florida . . . Nat Roehlin, M-G-M homeoffice auditor, in town . . . Le Roy J. Miller, Universal branch manager, visited northern Minnesota accounts . . . Bill Lansberg, Paramount district publicity and exploitation man, here, working on "Second Chorus" which goes into the Orpheum.

Universal here seventh nationally and moving upward in the Bill Scully sales drive . . . John J. Friedl and C. B. Stiff, Minnesota Amusement Co. executives, in Chicago on business trip . . . Harry Greenstein, Universal assistant booker, wedded to Rosabel Frestman . . . Joe Paster, Chicago independent exhibitor, in town . . . Morgan Ames, general manager for Mort H. Singer, dropped in on the Orpheum.

He Has an Extra Word for Hope

Minneapolis—While playing a personal appearance engagement at the Minnesota here, Lou Holtz rated Bob Hope, Fred Allen and Jack Benny as the nation's three best comics on screen and radio. He asserted that, of all the comedians, Hope is the only good looking one and the only one that can make love in the films without seeming ludicrous.

Closer Checking Is in Prospect

MINNEAPOLIS—More checking on percentage pictures and more efficient checking generally are in prospect for this territory in consequence of some recent happenings.

One of the major exchanges was considerably irked when an out-of-town exhibitor, playing one of its releases on percentage and unchecked, reported $400 gross on Sunday, $260 on Monday and only $8 on Tuesday, the last day of the run.

In another instance, an exhibitor, in still another fair-sized out-of-town situation, also playing a percentage picture and unchecked, reported a gross of but $25 for all of New Year's day and evening.

All exchanges, too, are eliminating checking by their own employes who, in a number of instances, have been assigned to the task as an additional duty. In too many cases, it is reported, such checking has been unsatisfactory.

Quints' Suit Set

LIBERTY, Mo.—March 10 has been set for trial of a $3,673 suit by E. E. Beach, Maple Park, Mo., against the Dionne quintuplets, their guardians and business manager and several business firms. Beach alleges he secured advertising contracts using the quintuplets for them with the firms, and that the $3,673 is owed him as commission.

Paul S. Bliss

MINNEAPOLIS—Paul Southworth Bliss, a one-time dramatic and film editor of the old Minneapolis *Journal*, passed away at the age of 52 in Kansas City. He left newspapering for social service work and his most recent job was regional social security director in Kansas City. His mother here survives.

Featured Role for Lukas

HOLLYWOOD—Paul Lukas has been signed for a featured role in Columbia's "They Dare Not Love," Martha Scott-George Brent starrer.

Waiting on F. D. R.

Minneapolis—Northwest Allied is awaiting a reply from President Roosevelt to the letter sent to him by Fred Strom, its executive secretary, asking the nation's chief executive to schedule his future fireside "chats" on Mondays, instead of Sundays, in order to lessen boxoffice damage and cause less loss to the government in admission tax revenue.

"Sunday is usually a day which brings the motion picture industry, and particularly the exhibitor, the greatest amount of revenue," Strom said in his letter. "The theatre owner, in fact, usually regards his Sunday as three-sevenths of a week.

"Last Sunday (January 4) Northwest theatres were practically empty in the evening, and lest this request be interpreted as purely a selfish one for business reasons, may I also point out that the government lost millions of dollars in taxes which ordinarily would have been collected on Sunday evening admissions."

Choose Comic, Mystery And Adventure Shows

Omaha—Comic, adventure and mystery shows rate highest with Omaha high school girls, according to a survey just completed by a University of Omaha graduate student. Romantic pictures were rated below the other three classifications.

A total of 2,587 girls were polled in three major high schools.

Sees Gross Booster In Radio Tune Row

LINCOLN—Radio's Ascap-BMI scrap has given Bob Livingston, owner of the Capitol, an idea which he hopes to translate into a profit. His first move has been to back up the playing of "Tin Pan Alley" until a little later, before bringing it to town for its subsequent run.

When it does come in, the newspaper ads will run something like this:

"You must be tired of listening for a good tune on your radio, so come down to the Capitol, see 'Tin Pan Alley,' and listen to music that is music."

This isn't the first time Livingston attempted a wrestle with radio. A little more than a year ago, he was betting even money with the "Pot O' Gold" show, guaranteeing to pay just as much as the pot if the listener, who won, was in his theatre, and not at home to answer the phone call. It helped business at first, but wound up without having much effect over the long haul.

Livingston said this week he intended to go into a huddle with Gene Blazer, the Nebraska Ascap representative, and various film men, on a proposal to gain cooperative financial aid from Ascap, the combined bankroll of film and music money to go for an extensive drive to take people into the theatres, away from the radio.

"Radio," Livingston contends, "has been busy for years taking from the exhibitor. First, unable to develop enough personalities for its own consumption, it went after picture names for its programs. Second, it went after film scripts, took the meat out of them and threw it to the dialers free. Third, most of the national publicity fostered by networks in the guise of film commentary was detrimental to the film industry. And now, having done about everything possible to the film exhibitor and the industry, it's trying to promote some other phase of the entertainment business for nothing. Showmen have been paying Ascap for many years, have gotten money by marketing music, and, all things considered, should be given a leg up in a drive for theatre attendance by Ascap now."

Basketball on Celluloid

IOWA CITY, IA.—Lee Cochran of the visual education department at the University of Iowa will make the first attempt to record Iowa basketball on motion picture film at the Northwestern-Iowa game here January 20.

OMAHA

FLOYD WOLFE, Lynch, Neb., celebrates his 40th wedding anniversary this week . . . Sol Francis is back from the Monogram meeting in St. Louis. Several of the company's officers and franchise holders were there, Sol said, including Benny Benjamin of Kansas City, well-known to exhibitors in the Omaha area . . . It's a birthday for Rosalie Boughn, Sun, Walthill, Neb.

Herman Fields, Clarinda, Ia., went to the Rose Bowl game. While in California he sent a box of dates to exchanges on Omaha Filmrow. Herman explained that exchanges "are always asking for dates. So I send them plenty of dates!" . . . Murrel Simpson, Palace, Clearwater, Neb., and Estel Tompkins, Winfield, Ia., have birthdays this week . . . Frank Good, Iowana, Red Oak, Ia., a Monday visitor as usual.

A. Burrus, Crete, Neb., and Sam Stern of Capitol Pictures are among those who will leave soon for a vacation in Florida . . . Max Rosenblatt of National Screen reports the new exhibitor at Pender, Neb., hopes for more fair weather so that he can get a lot of work accomplished on his new theatre . . . Lew Kozal, Tri-States, celebrated his ninth wedding anniversary.

It's birthday time at Warner's. Now celebrating are Alice Neal, Frank Hannon and Leon Mendelson . . . C. A. Craig, Pierce, Neb., and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Blackburn, Fremont, Neb., among visitors this week . . . Louis Patz, National Screen manager at Des Moines, was here to see Iz Sokolof . . . Sid McArdle, United Artists booker, has a wedding anniversary just past and Leo Doty, UA office manager, a birthday.

Joe Rosenberg, former film peddler on Davenport Street, is back in Omaha to set up his headquarters covering five states for a cosmetic firm. He has been in California with the same organization . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jack Logan, Osceola, Neb., and Herman Thomas, Kingsley, Ia., were on Davenport Street . . . Carl Weeks, Paramount peddler, is celebrating his sixth wedding anniversary.

Mons Thompson, St. Paul, Neb., is back from the big football game on the west coast, a sadder but wiser man. Ike Rubin has played the game over not less than 100 times since he returned . . . J. Morgan Reynolds, exhibitor at Elwood and Bertrand, Neb., was in town on business . . . Paul Connet, RCA service man, broke his rib while playing ping-pong. He slipped on the floor and fell against the table.

Will Singer, Brandeis manager, plans to go to Chicago any day now to see his mother . . . Lola Andersen of Warner's celebrates her 20th wedding anniversary this week, while Ruth Cogley of the same layout is celebrating her 15th w. a. . . . Haskell Masters, new western division manager for United Artists, was here and in Lincoln in connection with the "Miss Bishop" premiere . . . It's a birthday for Ruth Meyers of United Artists . . . By the time this column hits your desk all officers of Omaha Variety Club for 1941 will have been inaugurated.

Fran Williams, secretary to Joe Scott, Fox branch manager, has resigned and will go to California to live. She leaves January 24. Dorothy Nelson, who has been the hello girl and bookers' steno, will take Fran's job. A newcomer to Filmrow, Golda Handley of Kansas, has been employed to take Dorothy's desk. Fran plans to "be a housewife," she says . . . The Fox exchange is the only one on Davenport Street that has a private office for the manager's secretary.

Gabe Yorke a Traveling Emissary for "Liberty"

LINCOLN—Gabe Yorke, who came here a month ago to handle the premiere drive for Richard A. Rowland's "Cheers for Miss Bishop," has been signed up by the Hays office to become a traveling emissary with the Metro-booked film, "Land of Liberty."

He went from the premiere here Tuesday to Chicago.

Three-Year Columbia Deal With Circuit

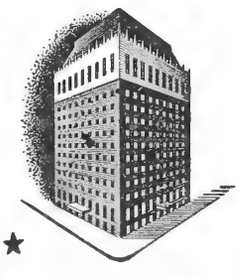
MINNEAPOLIS—Columbia here has closed a three-year franchise deal with the Minnesota Amusement Co. It is a hundred per center and covers the entire circuit.

FIRST

In Style and Comfort

That's the thought that is always uppermost in the minds of those who attend you at Hotel Fontenelle. In keeping with this policy, the management is constantly adding new features for your comfort and convenience. The Amber Room Coffee Shop, the King Cole Room, and the Black Mirror-Bombay Room invite you.

HOTEL FONTENELLE



OMAHA

LINCOLN

ALL This, and a Premiere, too: Lincoln was host to Richard A. Rowland, his wife; William Gargan, his wife; Tay Garnett, his wife; Bess Streeter Aldrich, Sabu, Wayne Morris, Marsha Hunt, William Farnum, Neil Hamilton, Irvin S. Cobb, Martha O'Driscoll, Mary Anderson, Broderick Crawford, Albert Dekker, Sterling Holloway and Barbara Pepper, for the premiere of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" . . . Bernie Evens and Gabe Yorke got a good night's sleep for the first time in almost a month of promotion . . . Garnett lectured at the University on how to make a picture . . . Then went on a three-station hookup in Nebraska with Mrs. Aldrich, and Capt. Barney Oldfield, in a leadoff airer the day before the affair.

Boom Town news: Oscar Johnson, the exhibitor in Falls City, where oil was recently struck, is opening his new theatre, which he calls the Oil City, with 40 sets of love-seats. Available, he says, to very passionate couples, or very fat singles . . . Tip to Harry Shumow, Charlie Lieb et (Metro) al: Write a letter to the studio and tell 'em to start pushing Ann Sothern and Ann Rutherford away from the calories, or it won't be long until they'll be also-rAnns at the boxoffice.

Sad story: Bob Livingston wondered why he didn't hear from his wife, Barbara, who went out to California for the express purpose of seeing the Rose Bowl game before settling for the winter in Tucson, Ariz. When he finally heard, a week later, it was news that she had been taken off the train in Los Angeles, whisked by ambulance direct to the hospital, and down with a severe attack of pneumonia. She never even got to hear the game by radio, but is much better now. Nobody was to tell him, she told hospital authorities, because she didn't want to worry him.

Telephone call: Sat by the 'phone the other night listening to Dick Barrie, orchestra leader, turn down his wife's (Anita Boyer, girl singer with Artie Shaw) plea for them to call off their divorce action, just filed, and try again. Barrie, in a 15-minute session, held out for a "no." Anita was never married to Shaw, as Lana Turner was, but she wanted to part company with him . . . Correction: Involved clauses in a recent item telling of Paul Anderson's being engaged to Lois Nobles, got Harvey Traylor mixed up in it. Harvey wants it understood he was not in the engagement, and Anderson wants it understood, too.

Good news: The local theatres, sponsoring the 10 best poll with the *Sunday Journal* and *Star*, after four years, finally got a winner of the free trip, all expenses paid, to Hollywood (the top prize), right in Lincoln. All the others had lived outstate. It was a woman. In fact, women made 6 to 1 more entries than men. Must have been that the guys were thinking more in terms of conscription than the cinema.

Wire from Bill Saal, Republic special rep: "Lois Ranson, one of the 13 baby stars this year, is coming in as a guest of Richard A. Rowland for the premiere. Would appreciate you seeing that she has a fine time on her first trip to the midwest." Stag line formed on the right . . . Journal's *apt description of Mary Beth Hughes (Attention, Joe Scott): "She is one of those girls, so constructed, that although sitting across the table, can still be next to you."*

Barrett Heads KMTA Legislative Group

Kansas City—Rex Barrett, manager of the Uptown and Boone in Columbia, is the new chairman of the Missouri legislative committee of the Kansas-Missouri Theatres Ass'n. Also named to the committee last week by President R. R. Biechele are Frank Cassil of St. Joseph and Tom Edwards of Eldon.

A. H. Blank Speaker At Balaban Fete

CHICAGO—A. H. Blank of Des Moines, head of the Tri-States circuit, is expected to be one of the speakers at the meeting of Paramount executives here Thursday to pay tribute to Barney Balaban, Paramount president. Blank is national chairman of the Barney Balaban drive and chairman of the committee on arrangements.

Others expected to address the group include Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board of Paramount; John Balaban, president of Balaban & Katz, Chicago; N. L. Nathanson, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., Ltd., Toronto, who will discuss the international situation; E. V. Richards of Paramount-Richards Theatres, Inc., New Orleans; Neil Agnew, vice-president in charge of distribution for Paramount, and Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of production for Paramount. Scheduled for the toastmaster's role, in addition to a speaking part, is A. M. Bottsford, associate producer for Paramount.

Others from the home office expected to attend include Stanton Griffis, chairman of the Paramount executive committee; Austin C. Keough, vice-president and Paramount counsel, and Edwin L. Weisl, vice-president.

Bowling Tourney Nets $3,734

Kansas City—A total of $3,734 was netted for charity by the two-day annual Xmas bowling tournament held December 21-22 by Variety Club and the Kansas City "Star." Of this amount, $632 will go to Kansas City, Kas. public schools, with a dairy furnishing a like amount of milk to double the total, and the remainder goes to Kansas City, Mo. public schools. The Kansas City Bowling Proprietors' Ass'n cooperated in this year's venture, the most successful yet.

KAYCEE

(Continued from page 41)

charge of the party, with Martin Stone of Screenland aiding.

Pop Stanford of the 20th-Fox screening room lost his sister, Mrs. Brooks, last week . . . Evelyn Wells of the same exchange lost her aunt, Miss Mabel Gindera.

On the Row: Raymond McKittrick, Perkins, Harrisonville, Mo.; Bob Shelton, Commonwealth Theatres, Warrensburg, Mo.; Warren Weber, Pic, St. John, Kas.; W. B. Cook, Ideal, Halstead, Kas.; Louis Sosna, Sosna at Moberly and Sosna at Mexico, Mo., driving a new Hudson car.

Premiums crack Kansas City first runs on January 20 when the Uptown and Esquire launch the Constance Bennett cosmetics plan. The Plaza, Fox Midwest first run in the suburban area, will start the giveaway in February, as will the Granada in Kansas City, Kas.

Ray Copeland, big, good-looking Iowan, arrived in Kansas City Tuesday to assume the managership of the Paramount branch here . . . In town were O. F. Sullivan, Civic, Wichita, Kas.; Nick Kotsis, Holden, Holden, Mo., and Oswego, Oswego, Kansas . . . Spencer Hays, Vogue manager at Lee's Summit, Mo., has gone into service. He is succeeded as manager by Parker Melluish. Melluish once was with the Newman here, and served a spell with Dickinson at Olathe, Kas.

Bud Wolfberg, who used to have the Strand and Giles here, is in the New York publicity department of Warner Bros. He is also doing a lot of writing on the side . . . Glen W. Dickinson has taken over the two colored houses in Topeka, Kas., the Best and Ritz, and is remodeling them. Glen has the Dickinson in Mission Hill Acres near Kansas City, in Olathe, Kansas, and at Macon, Mo.

The "Ice Capades," ice carnival that is knocking them cold (figuratively and literally) at the Pla-Mor this week, is presidented by John H. Harris, national chief barker of the Variety Club and well known to this area.

Donald Ogden Stewart Chore

HOLLYWOOD—Donald Ogden Stewart is scripting Metro's "A Woman's Face." Joan Crawford will star and George Cukor will direct.

Take Your Choice Of Answers

Kansas City—On the record: Kansas City still is regarded as a low-price town, very unresponsive to shows. Every now and then some observer takes a crack at explaining why this should be so in an immediate area of more than 600,000 people. Whatever the cause, no one seems to be able to remedy it. One phase is use of triples, doubles, dishes, etc., which may be both cause and effect, the majority opinion tending toward the belief it is more effect.

DES MOINES

GOD BLESS AMERICA! We're proud to be Americans! Probably the only place in the world where 1,700 people will sit unapplaudingly while the head of the most wonderful country in the world recites from the Bill of Rights those privileges which make it so, and then go wild with moronic enthusiasm when Cab Calloway croans (and I do mean "croans," Mr. Hague), "Hi-De-Ho!" (We're burned up because we had to cheer FDR singlehanded at the Paramount Monday) . . . Ah, but Eddie Dunn did a rushing business on Minnie the Moocher's b. f. . . . Yeah, all we who go past the ducat-taker thumb at nose rushed to hear Cab jive . . . G. Ralph Branton went in just ahead of Lou Lepovitz with the non-profitable Claytons sandwiched in between.

Smitty highhatted BOXOFFICE *downtown Saturday afternoon, so we're threatening to cut off his publicity . . . Smitty is retaliating by refusing to dig us up our annual calendar . . . And speaking of calendars, you must see the lovelies Ed Mason has passed out to everybody but us . . . Just to give you an idea, Bert Thomas says sadly, "Sure she's a honey, but a fella wouldn't dare take it home."*

Dallas Day, Lou Elman's veteran booker at RKO, took to the hospital about January 5 . . . Joe Behan, we believe, from Warner's in Minneapolis, is here doing Dallas' chores for him temporarily. Bill Evidon, Columbia office manager in Minneapolis, was here with his charmin' bride of eight months helping the Mel Evidons celebrate their 15th anniversary . . . Brother Mel says the visitors billed and cooed all over the place. BOXOFFICE & Co. celebrated their first anniversary January 13 (writing BOXOFFICE copy).

Francis Kappler is known to West Enders as "Little Brown Eyes," and we offer the following jig-saw pieces for you to puzzle together for yourselves: Dick Kappler, Bert Thomas, Jean Post, Sy Harlan, one stranger, one cop, one taxi, pie-eyed female, "Little Brown Eyes," driving east-west-north-south, "You Irish (censored)," loss: One taxi fare, and a listing of the above names (not in the Blue Book).

Joan Baxter is the new face replacing Dorothy Hahn at Columbia . . . Joe Jacobs came to DM, January 13, to confab with Tri and Central States on Columbia product. You'll find 600 Paramount Building occupied once again, and by Pioneer . . . Max Facter reopened the Pioneer offices in DM, January 13 . . . Max and his pretty new bride have been combing the town for an apartment . . . they say they can't make Grand Avenue and still keep their four-month-old cocker spaniel . . . so they're not going to make Grand Avenue, and they told the apartment owners what they could do with their old apartments, too.

We sat in the new chairs the Iowa Film boys gave Iles & McKinney for Christmas and found them very comfortable . . . we saw the back of the new Iowa Film Steno's head but got no further because that new red job of McKinney's sidetracked our attention. Georgia Bricker's husband, Mr. Bricker, is a member of the National Amateur Magician's Ass'n, so the Brickers had the Great Lester out to their house one evening while he was playing the Paramount so that they could watch him make the groceries disappear.

BOXOFFICE & Co. didn't have their bags unpacked from the Mexico trip, before a wire arrived from Universal trying to convince them they should desert the home fires again on January 31 for a week in Miami, Fla., to see "Back Street" premiered . . . it's no dice . . . this may be a dirty, smoky little midwestern town to some people, but it's home sweet home to us and we intend to spend a little of our time here. Bernie Evens and Gabe Yorke did some telephoning and wiring about the Lincoln premiere of UA's "Cheers for Miss Bishop," even going so far as to think we might charter Andy's Stinson for the trip . . . but BOXOFFICE & Co. decided working was still enough of a novelty to be fun and didn't fall for it. If Hollywood wants to give the press a shot in the arm, somebody's going to have to think up something besides a premiere with hard liquor and peroxide blondes to prod the pens of the glutted newsmen.

Tinkle, tinkle and a pair of old shoes ("It'll be bong-bong before long," quips & Co. with near-poetic cynicism): George Lofink, Chuck Elder's one-time booker pal at Lou Levy's Universal hangout, married Charlene Ruble Clark on December 14 and the news was just announced t'other day . . . Guess that clips Samson's curly locks for sure . . . Adam J. Marchack, one of the pitch-playing Morrie Smith's boys over at Film Transportation, was given a life sentence by Mary Nichols of Knoxville, Iowa, January 12 . . . and they say Adam took it like a little man.

Milt and Louella Goodman spent part of the holiday season with Louella's folks in Fairfield and the rest of the time in New Orleans . . . Milt met with a terrible catastrophe, though . . . he went to the famous Antoines for dinner and then lost his appetite . . . the 7-buck ante put Milt's stomach on the same skids it slipped under his purse. There was stomach trouble in the Bing Miller family, too . . . Bing drove to and from St. Louis with the maid while Mrs. Bing flew with the Bingo . . . Mrs. Bing was air sick three times going and coming but still insisted she enjoyed every minute of it.

*We stopped in at Republic the other day to find Bud Moran on the sick list . . . Maybe Bob Newman will be sorry he told on the rest of the boys when he hears that the rest of the boys have told on him . . . they say Bob's real name is "Axel." And that little item leads right into the fact that a *&&%$★" so-and-so skidded into Cliff Nolte the other icy morning and busted the axle of his car.*

Clyde and Ann Pratt are Gramp and Granny now. They were just whizzing off for New Orleans when they heard the good word . . . Emil Franke is wife hunting, we hear. He lost Vi somewhere between the Goodmans, the Evidons, the Orpheum and home the other night. The last we heard he expected to catch up with the phantom female any minute.

Bill to Tax "Slot" Films in Iowa

Des Moines—Republican State Representative Lee Hoegh of Chariton, Ia., has already revealed plans to introduce a bill in the current legislature to tax dime-in-the-slot motion pictures.

Hoegh would tax the slot machine film devices between $100 and $300 a year. He says initial income from the machines indicates that such a levy would not be out of line.

Cheers Over Lincoln For "Miss Bishop"

LINCOLN—The "cheers" in the film, "Cheers for Miss Bishop," rang throughout Lincoln, Tuesday, when Richard A. Rowland, the producer, brought on 12 players from Hollywood with the film for world premiere here.

He was trailed by wire across half the United States with quotes gleaned from the Hollywood reviews, all of which voted heavily for the film in its press prevue on the coast. The reception in Lincoln, locale of the film and home of the book's author, Bess Streeter Aldrich, was no less cordial.

Three people from the picture's cast were on hand—William Gargan, Lois Ranson and Mary Anderson. In addition, there was Irvin S. Cobb, and Neil Hamilton, who traded off in the job as master of ceremonies. Other players were Wayne Morris, Martha O'Driscoll, Barbara Pepper, Albert Dekker, Mr. and Mrs. William Farnum, and the director, Tay Garnett. Garnett was bedded by flu immediately upon arrival, and aside from appearing on a broadcast with Mrs. Aldrich and Barney Oldfield, former *Journal* columnist, the night before, he was too weak to make the rest of the festivities.

Premieres are usually taken to territory which is well sunned, but this one came to Lincoln in what is generally figured to be the dead of winter. The troupe got off the train in sleet and ice, with a heavy fog hanging over everything, but it didn't stop the civic dads who had prepared for such an occasion. Everything was roofed.

About 2,500 people were stuffed in the interior of the Union Station, 8,000 yowled at appearances in the University coliseum, 500 were packed in the chamber of commerce dining room for the luncheon, 1,000 at the informal tea, 400 at the banquet, and two theatres full, a total of more than 3,000 seats.

Gabe Yorke, sent in by Richard A. Rowland to handle the local promotion for the show, did a good job. He was assisted by Bernie Evens of the St. Louis UA office. Fred Stanley had charge of arrangements on the coast.

Picture began its regular run at the Stuart on Wednesday.

Gets "King's Row"

HOLLYWOOD—Casey Robinson will adapt "King's Row," from Henry Bellaman's novel, for Warner.

Boom Looks Like Real McCoy to Cleveland

CLEVELAND—That boom for which exhibitors have been straining their eyes for the past five years, looks like it's just around the corner if last week's attendance at local first runs portend a trend.

Glen Gray with his orchestra and a top-notch vaudeville bill with "Chad Hanna" on the screen, brought big crowds to the RKO Palace, while "Comrade X," which opened New Year's Eve at Loew's State to the biggest business in four years, piled up a pretty gross in a 10-day run. Two hold-overs, "Santa Fe Trail" and "Love Thy Neighbor," gave good accounts of themselves and "Here Comes the Navy" was moderately successful at the Allen. Weather was spotty.

Detail for the week ending January 10:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB), reissue.... 90
Hippodrome—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 90
Held a second week.
RKO Palace—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 135
Stage show with Glen Gray and his orchestra, plus a strong vaudeville bill.
State—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 200
Played 10 days, including New Year's Eve.
Stillman—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 200
Played 10 days in its second week downtown. Move over from the State.

An Upward Trend Is Felt in Auto City

DETROIT—Local first runs have settled back to normal week bookings following the holiday break in schedules. The trend of business last week was generally upward, although figures were below totals of the previous week, which included New Year's Eve. Weather was mixed, with several days of slight snow and considerable frost and sleet that hurt evening business. Principal opposition was from the Sonja Henie show at the Olympia, which started off well Tuesday night for an eight-day stand.

Detail for week ending January 9:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 16 days; **Sandy Gets Her Man** (Univ) 150
Fox—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col) 175
"Hudson's Bay" moved to Adams.
Michigan—**Second Chorus** (Para't), plus stage show headed by **Rosemary Lane** 155
Closed January 7 after seven days. "Chorus" moved to Palms-State.
Palms-State—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), after wk. at the Michigan; **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 110
United Artists—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Long Voyage Home** (UA) 120
Third week for both; "Comrade X" moved to Palms-State.

More Normal Trends Apparent in Cincy

CINCINNATI—Business assumed more normal trends last week, and while grosses at various downtown spots remained at a fairly even keel, all first-runs maintained a good average. The weather held clear and cold.

"Love Thy Neighbor" and "Comrade X" tied for top honors at 120 per cent. Both were held over. "Santa Fe Trail," in its second week here, did average business, and "Philadelphia Story," in its fourth, ran 90 per cent.

At the RKO Shubert, Lupe Velez in "The Mexican Spitfire," dualled with a stage show, "Streets of Paris," featuring Sid Marion and Cliff Hall, ran 115. Outstanding business of the week went to the legit, John Barton in "Tobacco Road," which was a sell-out for the opening performance.

Detail for week ending January 9:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 120
Held over, shifted to Keith's.
Capitol—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....110
Second week at "pop" prices. Held for third and final week.
Grand—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA) 115
Held over, shifted to Lyric.
Keith's—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd wk.....100
Lyric—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 4th wk.... 90
Palace—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 120
Held over, shifted to Grand.
Shubert—**Mexican Spitfire Out West** (RKO)...115
Also stage show.

"Arizona" Pittsburgh Ace; "Melody Ranch" Big

PITTSBURGH—"Arizona" registered 50 per cent above average in its first week at the Senator, and "North West Mounted Police" finished high in its fifth and final week at the Ritz. Penn's "Love Thy Neighbor" was an average grosser and Gene Autry's "Melody Ranch," at the Barry, brought the "folks" to Penn Avenue.

Detail for week ending January 1:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Melody Ranch** (Rep) 130
Fulton—**Bank Dick** (Univ) 60
Penn—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 100
Ritz—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't), 5th d. t. wk. 115
Senator—**Arizona** (Col) 150
Stanley—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd wk., 5 days. 90
Warner—**Christmas in July** (Para't); **Here Comes the Navy** (WB), reissue 110

Into Barboursville

PITTSBURGH—Arthur Crissman, who has transferred the Lyric, Glenville, W. Va., to John Cook, is entering exhibition at Barboursville, W. Va., around February 1.

Foreign Films Grow Scarce in Detroit

Detroit—Foreign pictures have been dropping out of the local scene more and more as the war progresses.

The Cinema, once a foreign-language house, now occasionally shows a French or other type of foreign film. Russian pictures have been out here for some time now.

The Europa shows nothing but German films, and has managed a regular weekly change of bill.

Polish pictures, once an important factor here, have been disappearing gradually. Typical is the situation at the Chopin, run by the Chargot circuit. A year ago this neighborhood house ran almost entirely on Polish bills. Now, however, such films are hardly available, and in consequence, the management is booking in a few revivals, but only for Saturday midnight shows.

DETROIT

E C. BEATTY, Butterfield president, was host to a meeting of circuit managers at the office Tuesday . . . Irene Chargot, M. J.'s daughter, busy selling encyclopedias out at the Esquire . . . Edgar E. Kirchner of the Family was busy with his annual reports and the auditor . . . Mrs. Kirchner is able to sit up for the first time after her recent illness . . . Sam Goldberg has taken over sole ownership of the Savoy, in which he was formerly a partner.

Fred Schader has been handling British War Relief publicity from a special office in the Statler Hotel . . . Joseph B. Mitchell, who recently sold the Rec to I. J. London, has gone to California . . . Bill Carlson is newly-appointed entertainment chairman of the Caravan Shrine Club (that was six other clubs you heard about before).

Joe La Rose, manager of the Roosevelt, off to New York to see about a new musical film production . . . Jane Firman, late cashier at the Madison, has turned blonde and moved to Healy's . . . Walter Mayor, her up-and-coming boy friend at the Adams, wants to see his family more . . . F. A. Schneider of the Stratford in a ten-gallon sombrero astride Old Dobbin. We just saw his picture when he was sheriff up in Otsego county . . . Joe Mellon, the premium-exhibitor, scaring up news . . . Tony Cici of the Schulte circuit tried to buy up those pictures of him in the old booth.

Sam Ackerman of the East Side has taken back the Alvin (formerly the Loyal) from Dave Flayer of the Amo, and closed it; he plans to sell . . . H. Eddie Stuckey of Paramount has one of that kind of first names too. It's "Hilland" . . . Charlie Snyder, film censor, dropped his office down two floors, next door to Walter Stebbins'.

Twentieth-Fox Notes: A. Krikorian of the Holly, Holly, in to see the boys . . . Jim Olson, distinguished aviator from Clare, on the stairway . . . Jack Sturm almost in hiding . . . Manager Lester Sturm on his way out in no hurry . . . Helen Rose wondering how to fill up her column in Fox news . . . Leo Sanshie, booker, a victim of the flu.

Elton Samuels doubling as manager of both the Chopin and the Imperial for M. J. Chargot . . . M. C. Callahan, who has had realty control of several of Detroit's downtown theatres for years, has been named to the new five-man Detroit board of zoning appeals.

Latta General Chairman Of Tent No. 1 Banquet

PITTSBURGH—C. J. Latta, Warner circuit executive and recently retired Variety chief barker, will serve as general chairman of the 1941 banquet of the No. 1 tent, succeeding John H. Harris, national Variety president, who has always served in this capacity in the past. The latter requested to step aside due to business demands.

Sign Lon Chaney jr.

HOLLYWOOD—Universal has signed Lon Chaney jr. to a term pact.

CLEVELAND

EVERETT STEINBUCK, manager of Loew's State Theatre, departed these shores last Sunday for a ten-week stay at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., having been granted a leave of absence to take care of some personal affairs, including the sale of a home there. During his absence, his place will be taken by Maurice Druker, assistant manager of Poli's in Worcester, Mass. . . . "GWTW," which opened its popular engagement at Loew's State on January 17, is offering four shows daily, with an adult price scale of 40 cents for matinees and 55 cents for evenings. First show starts at 9 a. m.; last show at 9 p. m.

H. L. Tracy of the Temple, Willard, is back from a session at Hot Springs, Ark., and not so happy. Says he still is bothered with arthritis . . . S. P. Gorrell, Republic branch manager, was out in the territory adding that personal touch to the sales situation . . . Travelers: M. B. Horwitz is in Miami Beach for one week, but he is planning a longer sojourn there later in the season. Paul Gusdanovic of the La-Salle, Avalon and Regent theatres, and Mrs. Gusdanovic are leaving on January 20 . . . Shandor Klinger, associated with Morris Berkowitz and Oscar Stotter in theatre interests, is in Florida with his daughter and her family.

Republic's "Melody Ranch" opens at the Alhambra, January 23, to the accompaniment of a big publicity campaign now in the making, plus a bombardment of spot announcements over WGAR, as arranged by Republic's Al Gregg . . . Sam Schultz, Monogram office manager, went to St. Louis to attend the company get-together . . . For thrills, we refer you to the local Monogram exchange where Bela Lugosi in person (almost) is on hand to welcome all comers.

Ernest Schwartz, president of the Cleveland M. P. Exhibitors Ass'n; G. W. Erdmann, secretary, and L. B. Baldwin, treasurer, were named delegates to attend the chamber of commerce legislative dinner in Columbus last Tuesday. It was a goodwill tour, to establish friendly relations between the legislators and the Cleveland exhibitors . . . "Miss L," secretary to CMPEA's secretary, George Erdmann, whose real name is Rickie Labowitch, underwent an operation at Mt. Sinai Hospital . . . Pete Wood, ITO secretary, was on hand for the annual meeting of the CMPEA Ass'n last Thursday and exchanged the usual compliments with President Ernie Schwartz.

PRC's Hollywood sneak premiere of "Misbehaving Husbands" at the Lorain Fulton, kept a lot of people out way past their bedtime. The show was flashed at the conclusion of the regular program without previous warning, and not only did everybody stay, but some came in for the new picture which kept 'em laughing until the final flash. Reaction cards were distributed to the guests and now PRC is waiting for the verdict . . . George Lefko, RKO branch manager, has no hesitancy in telling you that "Kitty Foyle" had the biggest opening at the Palace, Canton, of any preceding RKO picture.

Welcome home to Matt Goodman, United Artists branch manager, who has been away from his desk too long. Goodman, who was taken ill about ten weeks ago, is just back from Florida where the sunshine put the finishing touches to his convalescence. He looks fine . . . Joe Leavitt, who has been in the picture field for 36 years and as one of the charter members of the local operators' union has seen a lot of pictures, says he has watched the unfolding of "Bitter Sweet" at every performance shown at the Colony where he is now in charge of the booth. "In all of my long experience," says Joe, "this is the best picture of its kind I have ever seen." And praise from a projectionist, is praise indeed.

M. M. Jacobs of Imperial Pictures was picture-shopping in New York last week . . . Warner's Colony has introduced a new type of business-builder and, believe it or not, it is a picture and not a game. Every Thursday, the Colony is featuring a Newsreel Hour in addition to its regular program. It consists of three newsreels and is devoted, largely, to world affairs . . . Evalyn Friedl, secretary to Warner's zone manager, Nat Wolf, is vacationing in New York . . . Variety Legion Post held a new membership card party at the Variety Club at which every old member brought a new member. Arrangements were in the hands of Aaron Wayne, head of the entertainment committee.

"Long Voyage Home," the Walter Wanger production released through UA, won No. 1 spot on Plain Dealer *Critic W. Ward Marsh's list of "ten best." Although exhibitors are afraid the masses won't go for this artistic production, Loew officials report that during its run at the State, business built up daily . . . L. G. Baldwin, CMPEA treasurer, and Mrs. Baldwin are leaving next week for California . . . Bert Stearn, UA district manager and current chief barker of the Variety Club, has inaugurated a series of weekly Saturday night entertainments with a dancing teacher on hand to conduct classes in La Conga and La Rhumba. Proceeds from the program will go to buy an iron lung.*

Prosperity Seemingly Hurts Small Towns

DETROIT—Reports coming in from upstate show generally poor pickup after New Year's in the smaller towns. With some signs of revival in industrial cities, reason for the continued depression in smaller places remains a bit obscure, but a checkup with individual exhibitors, oddly enough, shows that poor business may be a sign of prosperity.

Typical of answers on this problem is that reported by A. Krikorian of the Holly Theatre at Holly. As he has analyzed the situation, small town patrons, and especially farmers, have a little bit more to spend—and want to spend it on somewhat more expensive amusements than their own small town theatre at 20 or 25 cents. So, they go out to beer gardens in some cases, and in others drive perhaps 25 miles or more to the nearest city to see a first run show. At Holly, for instance, Krikorian finds that his regular patrons are in some cases going over to Pontiac to see a show and, perhaps, to spend otherwise in the big city.

This condition, generally confirming reactions of other small independents, explains one source of improved business in the larger Michigan cities, although it is not true for the upper part of the state where there are no larger cities. In any case, small town exhibitors continue to report poor business.

Ben Voorheis

PORTSMOUTH, OHIO—Ben H. Voorheis, for many years identified with Portsmouth theatres, died recently in Columbus after a lingering illness. His wife survives.

Adapts "District Attorney"

HOLLYWOOD—Eve Greene is adapting "Mr. District Attorney" for Republic.

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37 Opened, Building in Three Mideast States

NEW YORK—Thirty-seven new theatres were either opened or in various stages of building in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia during the last quarter of 1940, it is revealed in a survey made by BOXOFFICE correspondents in key centers of those states.

The details, by states, follow:

Ohio

Cincinnati—Harold Bernstein will build a new theatre on Montgomery Pike.

Cleveland — A newsreel theatre has opened here.

Columbus—The new Boulevard, operated by the MacDonald circuit and seating 900, has opened.

Dayton—A new 900-seat theatre is expected to be built by Nick Schaeffer and Mauri White.

Norwalk—Norwalk Theatre Corp. has let a contract for a new theatre costing $150,000.

Stanford—Lincoln Theatre Co. has begun construction on a new 675-seat theatre.

Toledo—The new Esquire, 900 seats, will open in January.

Toledo—A new 1,800-seat theatre is reported for this city.

New Philadelphia—Shea Theatres' new house will be called the Quaker. It costs $100,000 and seats 800.

Youngstown—Warner officials are planning a 1,000 seater.

Winchester—Colonel Lee is constructing a new house.

Pennsylvania

Beaver Falls—Hanauer Enterprises have opened the new State. It seats 536.

East McKeesport — N. A. Malanos' Alpha, equipped with RCA sound, has opened.

Madera—Howard J. Thompson's new Madera has been opened.

Marienville—Harry Batastini will build a 300-seat theatre.

Millroy—Theodore Shiffer will shortly open his new theatre. It will seat 400.

Nanty Glo—Philip LaMantia will shortly open a new 500-seat theatre.

New Freedom—F. S. and C. F. Secrist are building a new 491-seater.

Pittsburgh—The New Park has opened.

The new Penn in Mount Pleasant also has opened.

John E. Stahl has opened his new house at Homestead Park.

Warners have opened the new Whitehall in the Brentwood district.

Stoneboro — Mid-State Theatres have opened the Stone.

Uniontown—The Monessen Amusement Co. will build a 1,178-seat theatre.

Wilkes Barre—The Comerford circuit is considering plans for a 1,000 seater.

West Virginia

Boomer—Archie Clemens is building a new theatre.

Cedar Grove—B. H. Palmer plans to open his new theatre shortly.

Charleston—John B. Gardner's new Village, seating 500, has opened.

Dr. Newboldt, circuit operator, has purchased a theatre site here.

The Aarons have opened their new Sunseat, 450 seats.

Kenawha City—John Gardner is building a new theatre.

Midkif—Lon Spurlock has opened his new house.

Cedar Grove—Archie Clemens will add another theatre to his Black Diamond circuit when he builds one here.

Oceania—James Roberts has a new theatre in construction.

Pine Grove—James Work's new house seating 480 has opened.

The new Pine, operated by Walter B. Urling, has opened.

South Charleston—The new LaBelle of the Southern Alpine circuit has opened.

At Least, It's Not A Larceny Charge

Detroit—Sneaking into a theatre without paying the admission charge is not larceny, according to Recorder's Court Judge W. McKay Skillman, but His Honor was unable to say just what kind of an offense it was.

One Henry Gentry was apprehended at the Fox, and charged with petty larceny for allegedly entering without paying admission, but the court held there was no theft, and hence no larceny.

At last report, legal authorities were trying to find some other charge on which to prosecute.

Zanesville Promotions Announced by Hiehle

ZANESVILLE, OHIO—E. J. Hiehle, city manager for Shea, has completed a shift in personnel at the company's five local houses. Hiehle said that in each instance the transfer means a promotion for the men involved.

Richard Watkins, formerly house manager of the Imperial, has been named assistant to John Woodward, manager of the Weller, replacing Sanford Rowlands, who recently was transferred to Bradford, Pa.

Winston Drake, house manager of the Grand since the theatre reopened several years ago, moves to the Imperial in the same capacity.

Robert Polland, who advanced from an usher at the Quimby to house manager, has been promoted to house manager of the Grand. Ted Hooper, formerly head of service at the Weller, becomes manager of the Quimby.

Robert "Buddy" Wright, employed by the late Caldwell Brown, has been given new responsibilities under the new setup. He will serve as house supervisor at the Liberty.

Oliver Willett on Flying "Vacation" to Miami

ELKTON, MICH.—Oliver Willett, who manages the Star-Elkton here for William Schulte and who has the Strand at North Branch, is on a two-week flying tour to Miami, Fla., sponsored by Gulf Oil, in a cub plane he purchased recently. The oil company provides the gas and oil for the entire trip. It is Willett's first "vacation" since he entered the theatre business six years ago.

CINCINNATI

PLANS are going ahead for the Cinema Club's annual dinner, election of officers and drawing, to increase the Mutual Benefit Fund. The party is to be held in February at the Variety Club . . . J. J. Grady, 20th-Fox, has cause for rejoicing in the company's two latest releases, "The Girl in the News," and "Tall, Dark and Handsome," both exceptional in entertainment value . . . L. B. Wilson, Wilson Theatres, Covington, Ky., just returned from Florida where he was on business, is leaving again to remain in the southland until May. Wilson recently purchased a South American thoroughbred, which he expects to enter in the 1942 Kentucky Derby . . . Mr. and Mrs. Maury White and Mr. and Mrs. Nick Shaefer are in New York on a combined business and pleasure trip.

Guy Greathouse of the Elliott-Ward circuit was in booking . . . R. H. Dunbar, Warner branch manager, threw a housewarming for the salesmen and their wives at his new apartment . . . Jim Shanklin, a director of the West Virginia Exhibitors Ass'n, has been elected a delegate to the house of representatives in his home state . . . Mrs. Babe Shanklin and Mrs. Dorothy McQueen spent several days at the Chicago furniture mart where Mrs. Shanklin bought new items for her home, one of the most attractive in Roncevert . . . L. O. Davis, Hazard, Ky., is recuperating from flu which confined him to bed following his return from Florida. The epidemic proved serious throughout the territory. One thousand cases were reported in Hazard, and schools in Harland were ordered closed due to the disease . . . M-G-M's new exchange is under construction, while Universal's new building is on the up and up.

Charles Behlen is remodeling his Lincoln at Stanford, Ky. . . . Francis White, Roxy, Lockland, returned from a three-week stay in Florida . . . Allan Moritz jr., son of Allan Moritz of Columbia, has left for Fort Benning, Ga. He is a first lieutenant in the medical corps . . . Eddie Novak, Midwest Theatre Supply, has also been ordered to report for duty . . . W. R. Shafer will open his new theatre at Olive Hill, February 15 . . . The Midkiff Theatre, between Huntington and Logan, W. Va., will be opened by Mrs. Garnet Spurlock, whose husband formerly operated a subsequent run in Chicago.

Nat Kaplan of PRC announces they have taken on distribution of "The Marines Are Coming," reissue, for the mideast territory. PRC reports exceptional business on "Misbehaving Husbands" at the RKO Family the week of the 9th . . . Visitors included Mrs. Fon Sexton and son of Columbus and F. J. Murray, Universal home office . . . Pride of the force is Universal's drive board, ornamenting the foyer of the office and showing the local boys fourth in the Bill Scully drive at the present time.

Book Ted Weems

COLUMBUS—Ted Weems' orchestra is booked for the week of January 31 at the Loew's Broad.

PITTSBURGH

THE new Vitagraph exchange is now under construction on Filmrow at the corner of the Boulevard of the Allies and Miltenberger St., across from the Paramount Bldg. Steam shovel excavating has been completed and the contractor is working on the foundation. The new two-story building will be a modern film exchange, with general booking and executive offices on the second floor, and film vaults, storage and shipping departments on the street floor . . . Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Warner of Bridgeport, W. Va., among the finest of the younger folks in exhibition, were in the city for several days booking for their portable circuit. They are adding several new spots.

Bill Probst of the Universal exchange is the father of a son born Tuesday-a-week-ago in St. John's Hospital. It's the Probsts' first child . . . Dorothy Goldstein of Paramount is vacationing in Florida . . . Fred Meyers, former local Paramount sales representative and until recently a New York state field man for this company, will make his future home in California . . . Warner neighborhood theatres have a tieup with a coffee company whereby two evenings each week a mobile recording unit rolls up to one of the houses and stages a quiz show. KDKA broadcasts these programs and individual records are then sent to the participants. Schedule includes stops at the Plaza, January 21; *Rowland, January* 23; *Etna, January* 28; *South Hills, January* 30.

Death of two exhibitors saddened Filmrow last week. Sam Neaman of the Roxy, Natrona, died January 7, at the Passavant Hospital here, nearby where he was born. A former concessionaire, he had entered exhibition eight years ago in Natrona. Sam was "one of the boys" in film and theatre circles and he will be missed. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Anna Neaman, and brothers Morris, Abe H. and Benjamin R. Neaman, and sisters Mrs. Bessie Lipman and Mrs. Pauline Granovitz. Lou Padolf, former local RKO salesman and now an exhibitor in Parkersburg, W. Va., is a brother-in-law. Funeral was from the Blank Bros. Home January 8 and interment was in Gates of Wisdom Cemetery that afternoon . . . John B. "Pop" Kane, Pitcairn exhibitor for 18 years, passed away Wednesday evening, January 8, in Columbia Hospital. He had suffered a stroke a week before. "Pop" was admired and loved by all who knew him and he will be sadly missed on Filmrow, where he was a regular visitor several times weekly.

When the general assembly convened in regular session last week, the list of principal appointees, subject to senate action, included the name of John H. Harris, local theatre executive, reappointed by Gov. Arthur H. James as a member of the board of Western Penitentiary . . . Wallace Held, formerly of the Fulton house service staff, is the new assistant manager at the Barry . . . Lieut. Jerry M. Roth, son of the Penn Ave. exhibitor, now at Schuylkill Arsenal, Philadelphia, will go to Camp Lee in March . . . Charles (Little Chuck) Stein, 19-year-old, four-foot, 56-pound receptionist in the Harris Amusements' office, is the official mascot of the Hornet hockey outfit. He wears a Hornet uniform with the numeral "½" on the back, and is a camera fiend.



Smoky City Visitor—

Sabu, star of "The Thief of Bagdad," a visitor in Pittsburgh in connection with the opening of this production at Loew's Penn, is pictured here with Abe Weiner, United Artists branch manager.

Mark Goldman has some special recordings of Edith Fellows' songs from her Monogram hit, "Her First Romance." This company will distribute a Technicolored documentary subject, "Cavalcade of Texas," which was exhibited at the New York and San Francisco World's Fairs . . . Both the Dennis King and the Joe Penner shows canceled local Nixon bookings . . . A purse containing money and valuable articles was snatched from Miss Sadie Kelly, RKO cashier, when she departed from the exchange after working hours one evening last week. The two young thieves got away with the loot although she put up a fight.

A flu wave has closed many West Virginia schools and has cut into theatre business in the Mountain State . . . James G. Balmer, Harris circuit executive, has been in St. Francis Hospital for an extensive checkup . . . Nathan M. Katz, AMPTO counsel, was chairman of this week's conference of Western Pennsylvania Council of B'nai B'rith . . . Mrs. Sarah Schu, who died last Thursday, was the mother of Helen Schu of 20th-Fox, Marie and Esther, of Vitagraph, and Louise, until recently employed by Republic. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon and interment was in Zimmerman's cemetery.

Ira H. Cohn, 20th-Fox manager, has returned from a vacation at Miami Beach . . . A new crop of Lilliputians—and two elephants (so they say)—are being featured on the Stanley stage this week. Those elephants would have interested Sabu, who was here last week in advance of the opening of "The Thief of Bagdad." Singer's Midgets was one of the standard acts for years and the new company should find large audiences awaiting their appearance . . . Ken Dawson's Victoria, Gallitzen; Joe Shapiro's Shapiro, Mount Union, and Harry Rachiele's Gem, Derry, are sporting new Artkraft marquees. W. R. Stich and E. A. Hill of Artkraft were in for the Burtus Bishop jr., testimonial banquet.

Archie Fineman and Michael N. Shapiro were "kings" at the Variety dinner January 13 . . . *Harry Seed's suntan isn't quite the "honey" it was last winter for the reason that the season "isn't so hot" in Florida and additionally, he was there for a shorter period this time . . . A* Sun-Telegraph *editorial the other day reiterated this statement: "The Golden Triangle has deteriorated in recent years. One hundred thousand fewer people come downtown daily than* 10 *years ago."*



At the Bishop Testimonial Banquet—

A scene at the dinner given by members of the local trade for Burtus Bishop jr., former Metro manager in Pittsburgh, on his departure for Kansas City to assume his new role as a district manager. Left to right: C. J. Latta, Warner circuit executive; Bishop; C. C. Kellenberg, Variety Club chief barker, and Bryan D. "Buck" Stoner, new Metro Pittsburgh manager.

LOUISVILLE

JOHNSON MUSSELMAN is back at the Rialto after a serious illness. He was in the hospital for 11 days with pneumonia, and his friends are sure glad to see him back on the job. A. B. McCoy pinch hitted for him during his absence . . . Ira B. Dyer, who formerly owned the Uptown at Tompkinsville, Ky., is back in the theatre business again, having purchased the Ritz at Burksville from Haskell Nivens. The new Sparks at Tompkinsville, Ky., built by M. H. Sparks and owned by the Mid-State Theatre Co., is scheduled to open next week. R. A. Jones is handling the Ritz at Burksville for Dyer.

Due to illness, W. C. Durham has sold his Majestic at Beaver Dam, Ky., to Andy Anderson who also owns theatres at Hopkinsville, Hodgenville, and Hartford. Durham has moved to New Jersey for his health, and his many friends throughout the territory will miss him.

W. R. Shafer, who operates theatres at Morehead and Grayson, Ky., has opened the New Theatre at Olive Hill, Ky. This is a new house built by Shafer. The new Bell at Pineville, owned by Dr. J. B. Cornn and W. H. Gaddie, is scheduled to open within the next week. The building is a modern theatre and includes the latest equipment available.

Visitors to the city included Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wiethe of the Kentucky, Latonia; Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Miles, Eminence, Eminence, Ky.; C. D. Arnold and Walter Cisco of the Crystal, Bardstown, Ky.; Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Shafer of Morehead, Ky.; B. J. Curry, Strand, Horse Cave; M. H. Sparks, Sparks, Tompkinsville.

Business at local theatres got back to normal again after the holidays. The openings had been moved to Tuesday for the holiday business and now they are back to their regular Friday openings . . . Business has been on the increase all over the city due to the expansion and erection of many new defense plants . . . The ushers' strike, which had been on for two weeks, has been settled.

Robert Holtrey has reopened the Lyric at Waterloo, Ind. . . . Bruce Aspley is improving his projection at both his Plaza and Trigg theatres in Glasgow, Ky. . . . The Four Star Dixie in Fort Mitchell, Ky., has been opened by John Loofborow, J. M. Luhn and J. E. Crawford. They also operate theatres in Cheviot, Ohio . . . Don LeBrun is reported building a new 400-seater in South Whitley, Ind.

The Columbia Hall Theatre, which has been operating off and on for several months with pictures and roadshows, is being considered as a site for a recreation center for soldiers stationed at Fort Knox. The building houses, besides the theatre, a ballroom, bowling alleys and a billiard parlor.

New RCA sound has been installed by the Settos circuit in their Cine at Linton, Ind., and Ritz, Boonville, Ind. . . . Claude L. Flater has installed new lamphouses in his Tivoli at Spencer, Ind. . . . Bill Floreke has reopened the Elnora, Elnora, Ind., after some remodeling. The house has been closed for some time.

Act to Regulate Film Vending Machines

Cincinnati—Saul M. Greenberg, attorney, has presented to the city council a petition signed by 50 theatre managers, including RKO Theatres, asking that it regulate, license and tax new motion picture vending machines. The petition cites the investment in theatres and urges the city to aid in maintaining the high standards as offered by motion picture exhibitors here.

The petition has been referred to the law committee, and is expected to be returned to the council within the week for further action, according to Greenberg.

Differ in Cleveland On '10 Best' Films

CLEVELAND—Choice of the 10 best pictures of the year always reveals that unknown quality—the personal equation. So we have decided differences of opinion by the local motion picture critics. You may agree with W. Ward Marsh of the *Plain Dealer*, or with Arthur Spaeth of the *News*, or with neither of them. At any rate, here they are:

W. Ward Marsh, *The Plain Dealer:*

1. The Long Voyage Home.
2. Grapes of Wrath.
3. The Great Dictator.
4. Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet.
5. The Great McGinty.
6. Mortal Storm.
7. Foreign Correspondent.
8. Rebecca.
9. I Love You Again.
10. Howards of Virginia.

Arthur Spaeth, reporting city-wide poll in *The News:*

1. Grapes of Wrath.
2. Rebecca.
3. Foreign Correspondent.
4. Mortal Storm.
5. Boom Town.
6. All This, and Heaven Too.
7. Our Town.
8. Abe Lincoln in Illinois.
9. Knute Rockne—All-American.
10. My Son, My Son.

It is interesting to note that Spaeth's list is the result of a city-wide poll and reflects an audience choice. Marsh's list, on the other hand, was chosen deliberately as to types. Marsh departed from the usual manner of selection by giving signal honor to the best picture of each type of production.

Toledo Local Retains Its Official Slate

TOLEDO—IATSE Local 228 has re-elected all officers. Edward Boza is serving his fourth term as president; Thomas Irvins his fifth as business agent.

Others re-elected:

Leslie Moorhead, vice-president; Joseph Seligman, financial secretary; Carl Koch, recording secretary; V. E. Hostetter, corresponding secretary, and William Leutz, treasurer. A. L. Minter was named sergeant-at-arms.

Cohens Gave Penner His First Break

Detroit—The death of Joe Penner brought back memories to many Detroit filmites. Joe was a Detroit boy, as the obituaries made very plain, and remembered that fact in his last personal appearance here a few years back.

He started his stage career in local amateur shows, and gave Ben Cohen, now sojourning in Miami, and his brother, Lou, credit for his first real break in show business at the old Coliseum, now slated to be demolished for a housing project.

Detroit Subsequent Runs Give Product Extra Time

DETROIT—With stronger pictures hitting the second and subsequent runs, circuit operators are tending to hold them for additional playing time, continuing the phenomenon that marked first run bookings for the past two months when three pictures went five weeks simultaneously among the five first run houses.

Typically, this week United Detroit circuit held over "Hit Parade of 1941" for two extra days at both the Regent and Annex, while "North West Mounted Police," out at the Birmingham, operated by the same circuit in a special zone following first runs because of its distance from Detroit, was held over for three extra days.

Preparing Wilson for "Fantasia" Showing

DETROIT—"Fantasia" is slated to open here early in February at the Wilson, which has been dark since the Shuberts gave up their musical comedy season last fall. House will remain under the management of Fred Schader, formerly of the Fox.

"Fantasia" engineers have been in town for the past week working on installation of special sound and other equipment required, and definite opening date was dependent upon when this work was completed.

New Albion Blatt Unit; Will Close Old House

ALBION, PA.—The new theatre under construction here for the Blatt Bros., will be ready for opening the first week in February. The house has been named the Perry in honor of Admiral Perry, who was a native of the community. William Gould of the Blatt circuit has been named house manager. When the Perry is opened, the Blatt's Albion here will be closed and dismantled.

Cleve and Beechwold Are Taken Over by Wiethe

COLUMBUS—Local theatrical circles were informed Monday that Louis J. Wiethe, young Cincinnati exhibitor, had taken over operations of the Cleve and Beechwold, both neighborhood houses formerly units in the MacDonald circuit. Former is a three-year-old 700-seater, latter an 800-seat house scheduled to open in about three weeks.

Wiethe owns and operates in the Queen City area the Derby, Roselawn, Kentucky, Bond and Westwood theatres.

For the time being, buying and booking for the two houses will be handled by Mrs. C. A. MacDonald and Bill Queen of the MacDonald circuit.

Special Production for "Protective" Society

PITTSBURGH—Monarch Pictures, Inc., under the direction of Danny Davis and J. A. Logan, will make a special three-reel production for the First Aid Ambulance Corps, a women's organization for protection of U. S. citizens in case of aggression. An all-local cast will be selected, according to Mrs. Ellen A. Webb, organizer of the corps which now claims more than 2,000 members. Davis and Logan also will produce a newsreel of activities of the corps.

Lena Stillwell Announces 1,000-Seater in Bedford

BEDFORD, OHIO—Mrs. Lena B. Stillwell, owner of the Bedford, plans to build a new 1,000-seat theatre here this spring. The new building will have two stores in addition to the auditorium. Plans have been prepared by Paul Matzinger, Cleveland architect. The project will cost approximately $65,000. It is Mrs. Stillwell's plan, at present, to operate both houses, confining the old house to a weekend policy.

A Tieup With 4-H Clubs For Republic Picture

CLEVELAND—Al Gregg, publicity director here for Republic, has worked up a successful publicity campaign for exhibitors playing Republic's "Barn Yard Follies."

Gregg has effected a tieup with the 4-H Clubs of Ohio of which there are 40 with a membership of 1,200 in Cuyahoga county alone. In "Barn Yard Follies," 4-H Clubs are publicized for the first time.

"Santa Fe" Sets Mark in Canton

Canton—"Santa Fe Trail," originally booked into Warner's Ohio here for a week opening New Year's Eve, was held over through January 13, to establish a new house record for the past 10 years. Dick Wright, Warner district manager, informs Bill Harwell, manager of the Ohio.

: "Letter" Under Fire :

PITTSBURGH — Following complaints of several exhibitors, James H. Alexander, Republic manager here, issued the following statement regarding a merchant tieup reportedly approved by him on certain Republic stars:

"A Mr. Arthur Levin, who supposedly represents the Metro Publicity Co. of New York and also the National Flag Institute of New York, has in his possession a letter apparently signed by me recommending his 'Lone Ranger' and 'Gene Autry' suits to the exhibitors of this territory. I am now advised by several responsible exhibitors, and am told other ones signed up for these deals, that the merchants were solicited, paid out money, the checks were cashed, the date for the deal arrived—but no deal.

"If anyone solicits you using any letter signed by me, please first call me on the telephone for confirmation."

Banyen Realty Building North Dayton Theatre

DAYTON—Erection of a 1,100-seat neighborhood theatre in North Dayton is announced by the Banyen Realty Co. The theatre is a part of a $150,000 business section to be constructed near the 600-family low-rent federal housing project on a portion of old McCook field. Construction of the business block will begin immediately. Razing of a 14-room residence now on the estate is scheduled to begin this week. The theatre is expected to be ready for occupancy about June 1, the approximate date of the completion of work on the low-rent housing project.

Cleveland First Run For "Melody Ranch"

CLEVELAND—The first run date for "Melody Ranch" has been set for January 23 at the Alhambra. Nat Lefton, Republic manager, said that newspaper announcements of Autry's first place in the BOXOFFICE BAROMETER poll on western actors had prompted many requests for availabilities on the picture.

Anas Improves State

WEIRTON, W. VA.—The State here is being newly decorated and draped and new stage curtains are being installed for N. G. Anas. A marquee was recently installed at the State and the Anas, which was formerly known as the Manas. Decorating job was directed by William Naidenoff.

Gets Autry Painting

PITTSBURGH—A striking oil painting of Gene Autry and Champ, his horse, has been presented to James H. Alexander, Republic Pittsburgh manager, by the local artist, Al Corbett. The portrait is displayed at the Republic office. Corbett is a former employe.

Heart Attack Fatal to John B. "Pop" Kane

PITTSBURGH—John B. Kane, veteran exhibitor at Pitcairn, died last Wednesday at Columbia Hospital, Wilkinsburg, as the result of a heart attack. He was in his 65th year.

"Pop" Kane, as he was known in the trade, had visited Filmrow the day he was stricken. Until that time, he had never been seriously ill, members of the family said. He had operated the Nemo, Pitcairn, for 18 years.

Surviving are Mrs. Ellen Kane, widow, and son William E. Kane, and daughters Mrs. Betty Snyder and Mrs. Jessie Morris. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon.

Not a Single Bowler Hits a 200 Score

DETROIT—For the first time in recent seasons, the Film Bowling League went through a session without a single roller hitting the 200 mark. UA went ahead last week to grab off first place from Republic in the only real upset.

Standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
United Artists	37	23
Republic	34	26
Cooperative	34	26
Film Drug	31	29
Film Truck	27	33
Monogram	27	33
Amusement Supply	26	34
20th-Fox	24	36

Donates Two Projectors To Variety of Detroit

DETROIT—Walter R. Stebbins, owner-manager of the Film Exchange Building, has donated two new Simplex projectors to Detroit Variety Club to be used for the club's mobile equipment. This replaces older equipment which is taken out for an average of three shows weekly for shutins.

The gift was made by Stebbins in memory of his son, Richard, who passed away last year.

Burlesquer Quits Quickly

CANTON—After two and a half weeks of burlesque, the Grand here has been shuttered with no immediate prospect of reopening. Jimmy Walters was producer.

Markson on "Smiling Ghost"

HOLLYWOOD—Ben Markson will script "Smiling Ghost," from the Stuart Palmer original, for Warner's.

Bishop Party Swells Club Charity Fund

Pittsburgh—Approximately $500, proceeds from the testimonial banquet to Burtus Bishop jr., has been turned over to the local Variety Club charity fund at Bishop's request. The former Metro manager has been promoted to district manager in Kansas City.

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

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Would Ease Strict Vaude Regulations

Boston—Slackening of Sunday vaudeville regulation in the Bay state would go into effect under the terms of a proposed law filed in the state legislature by Thomas J. Lane of Lawrence.

Sunday stage shows in the Bay state are at present stringently restricted by bluenose laws, many of them coming into existence about the same time as the once-enforced regulation that made it a criminal offense for a man to kiss his own wife on the Sabbath.

Vaudevillians may not dance on Sundays here, although dancing is legal in churches. No blackface may be used, not even by Negroes.

Welansky, Broidy at Monogram Meeting

BOSTON—Plans for the annual "March for Monogram" sales drive to be officially launched February 22, were discussed in St. Louis last Saturday where Ben Welansky, local franchise owner, and Steve Broidy, newly-installed national sales manager, were among those laying out the schedule. Broidy previously won several of these competitions. The drive will run for seven weeks, terminating April 11.

Haggle Over Admissible Evidence in Waldo Suit

BOSTON—Disputes as to the extent of evidence admissible in the plaintiff's attempts to prove alleged conspiracy in the anti-trust suit brought by the Waldo Theatre Corp. against the late Joseph Dondis et al., broke out afresh as hearings in the litigation continued before a master in the Federal Bldg.

"Apparently it is the view of the defendants," George S. Ryan, plaintiff's attorney, summed the matter, "that if a conspiracy is alleged relating to a particular situation or a particular group of states, that evidence to show that conspiracy cannot be admitted unless that evidence, at that particular time, refers to the specific situation or group of states.

"I have no doubt that under the new rules a pleading alleging a conspiracy which did damage to this plaintiff, without any of these allegations that have been put into the complaint as to the scope of the conspiracy, would state a good cause of action under the anti-trust laws in accordance with the new rules. I do not conceive that if a plaintiff made such an allegation that he would be limited in his proof to things that directly affected him.

"As Judge Peters has ruled, the plaintiff is entitled to show conspiracy as a whole, even though he may be damaged by only one part of it. Now, in showing the conspiracy as a whole we are entitled to show the history of this industry and the relations of these parties. And the evidence can't be so strictly limited as the defendants would like to have it, particularly when we say that, for example, in this document, the provision in regard to protection is very closely similar, if not identical, with the provision in regard to protection which was read by Mr. McClennen last Friday, I think. We say that these distributors and producers have their main offices in New York. The exhibitors have their main offices in New York.

"They deal with each other, and have for many years been in the custom of dealing with each other in units. Like Fox dealing with Paramount, or Metro or Loew's dealing with another corporation. And it is our contention that evidence to show the relations of the parties to each other, and the existence of a general conspiracy to restrain trade is admissible to show the existence of a conspiracy by which the plaintiff was injured. That is, the plaintiff being injured by a certain part or portion of that conspiracy.

Counter by McClennen

"Conspiracy as a crime doesn't defer from any other crime so far as the rule of evidence is concerned, that you can't show the crime in question before the court by showing the commission of other crimes," Edward F. McClennen, Paramount counsel, countered, adding "Of course, there is no civil case here unless such a crime is shown.

"It is true that if a particular conspiracy is shown, that a person may have suffered damage from only one branch of that conspiracy which didn't directly touch the plaintiff, may be shown. But that is not any conspiracy except the conspiracy alleged. The distinction is well brought out by what Mr. Caskey has pointed to. If there was a conspiracy between these distributors and these exhibitors named in the suit, which was as wide as New England, it would be something that would be material in determining whether the plaintiff was damaged by that conspiracy; and something that tended to show that conspiracy—if it didn't directly affect the plaintiff—might be shown.

"But it cannot be shown, in order to lead to the conclusion that there was a conspiracy as to New England with these other defendants, that some of those defendants entered into a conspiracy in restraint of trade in California, or outside of New England. That is, such evidence is not admissible to you as an analogy for the purpose of showing an adulterous disposition.

"It is admissible only where the particular thing has some indication of being

(Continued on page 53)

Offers Letters as Exhibits

BOSTON—*Two letters directly involving theatres operated by the Waldo Theatre Corp. were offered by George S. Ryan, plaintiff's attorney, as exhibits at hearings last week in connection with the anti-trust suit brought by the theatre corporation against the late Joseph Dondis, et al. One, dated Jan. 16, 1937, was from William P. Kelly, at present a Universal salesman and then branch manager here for the company, to Phil Seletsky, M&P Theatres Corp. booker. The other was Seletsky's reply. They appear below:*

Kelly to Seletsky

"At the time we made the deal with you for this year's product for your various towns, the question came up relative to protection, and our agreement was whatever towns we had sold prior to making the deal with you and which conflict with your protection setup, particularly in the Maine territory, the protection on such towns would stand as originally sold.

"Your Mr. Govan called us on the 'phone and said that it was his understanding that Rockland was to have protection over Waldoboro. Now, we sold Waldoboro much earlier than we sold you in Rockland, and that was one of the towns where the protection was to stand as originally sold as opposed to your protection in Rockland which you receive from national distributors. Mr. Govan wants definite protection over Waldoboro which we cannot give him this season.

"Will you kindly correct Mr. Govan's attitude in this situation as he has notified us that unless we give him protection in Rockland over Waldoboro, he will not play any of our pictures. I told him that it would be agreeable to us to have Rockland play day and date with Waldoboro, as that is the agreement we made with Waldoboro previous to closing the deal for Rockland.

"Many thanks for your kind cooperation in this matter."

Seletsky to Kelly

"Excuse my delay in replying to your letter of the 16th regarding the matter of our protection at Rockland over Waldoboro.

"Although I would indeed desire to cooperate with you in the matter, our partner, Mr. Dondis, at Rockland absolutely refuses to play any pictures in Rockland which may play Waldoboro day and date or ahead of him. I am sure you realize, Bill, that Waldoboro is direct opposition to Rockland.

"If this specific matter was brought up when we set the deal, I would have advised you along the above lines. If you could not get them in at Rockland ahead of Waldoboro, I would not have been able to sign the contract. I am wondering if you can arrange to play your pictures at Waldoboro after Rockland as all other distributors are doing at the present time. I am sure the exhibitor in question should not hold your exchange as the one exception regarding the availability of his product at Waldoboro.

"If you cannot do anything in this matter, I am afraid we will not be able to use your product at Rockland, considering the instructions that we have received from our partner, I would appreciate your checking into this matter further and see what can be accomplished."

"Kitty" and "Comrade" Are Strong in Hub

BOSTON—Good show weather plus name attractions made it a strong first-run week here despite legions of absentees because of a wave of colds and grippe which has closed numerous schools and which, according to the superintendent of schools' figures, had 15 per cent of the entire Boston enrollment out last week. "Kitty Foyle" held over and "Comrade X" went an additional four days.

Detail for the week ending January 9:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Lady With Red Hair** (WB), 2nd run.....110
Keith Memorial—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), held over.....170
Loew's Orpheum—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M).....135
Loew's State—Same as Orpheum.....115
Metropolitan—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't).....150
Paramount—Same as Fenway.....105

"Second Chorus" Leads New Haven First Runs

NEW HAVEN—New Year's Eve shows were good-to-excellent, but only the Roger Sherman is computed in the week's take, other local first runs playing single performances on the occasion. New Year's Day saw crowds exceeding last year. Ideal weather was a contributing factor to the increase in business.

Detail for week ending January 8:

(Average is 100)

College—**Arizona** (Col); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col), 8 days, 2nd wk.....110
Loew-Poli—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Jennie** (20th-Fox), 8 days.....130
Paramount—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox), 8 days.....185
Roger Sherman—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **She Couldnt' Say No** (FN).....155
Eight days, plus midnight show.

Barrows Again Named Local 182 President

BOSTON—The re-election of Thad C. Barrows to the presidency of operators' Local 182, marked the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences member's 24th year of organization leadership and his 30th year as an official of the local IATSE affiliate.

Bernard McGaffigan was elected vice-president, as all regular officers were swept in. Joseph Rosen became treasurer for 1941; Albert R. Moulton, financial secretary; and James Burke, business representative. Sergeant-at-arms is James O'Brien. The executive committee, in which there were no changes, is again comprised of Louis Pirovano, John Diehl and Joseph Nuzollo.

Beal Will Expound on "How to Be a Critic"

BOSTON—"How to Be a Critic" is the theme of a university extension course here supervised by George Britton Beal, motion picture editor of the Boston *Post*. Beal, handling a series of 15 lectures which was to have begun Friday, plans to cover the following subjects: "The Rules and Purposes of Criticism," "The Difference Between Objective and Suggestive Criticism," and "Acting for Screen and Stage."

: NEW HAMPSHIRE :

ROBERT J. SHARBY, 21-year-old Groveton theatre manager, is one of the latest volunteers for military service from the Draft Board No. 1 district . . . The Strand, Manchester, is giving star photos to children at Saturday afternoon shows. When the full set of 10 is assembled, a free show ticket is awarded.

Walter Young, owner of Farmington's Strand, who has been laid up with neuritis, is reported to be improving . . . Forty persons participated in a big amateur show staged at the Palace in Manchester, January 8, with Danny Sullivan, professional master of ceremonies from Boston, officiating. Cash prizes were awarded.

The Strand in Dover sponsored a contest to determine the two most popular students at Dover High School. Michael Mone, 1940 football captain, and Marilyn Clark copped the honors.

Mel Morrison, manager of the Strand in Dover, has retired as president of the Dover Retail Merchants' Ass'n, but was named as secretary of the organization.

Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Sanborn were in Gov. Robert O. Blood's party at the third inauguration of President Roosevelt. Sanborn, who operates Carroll county film theatres, is a member of the governor's executive council.

Edward L. Moody of Tamworth, who took films for Paramount while with the second Byrd Antarctic Expedition, is one of the latest selectees to be inducted into military service in this state. With his dog team, he mapped out locations for the advance bases established by the expedition.

Only One of 42 Gets Censorial Scissors

BOSTON—Only one motion picture out of 42 presented got the censorial scissors last week in the Bay State. Marcel Mekelburg's and Sam Levine's "Sensation" was removed of "damn" in several places in the fifth and sixth reels. Among films okayed were Harry Asher's "Misbehaving Husbands," Warner's "Honeymoon for Three," and the Universal brevity, "Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar."

Eugene M. McSweeney, commissioner of public safety, made "Invitation to a Murder" official for Sunday showings in Massachusetts under the revised title "Flight From Destiny."

George Raft and 20 other vaudeville acts were accorded Sunday permits. Six other routines were ordered to comply with recommended modifications, while Billy and Edith Hervey were refused an okay.

BRIDGEPORT

THEATRE folks around town were surprised by the news that Ruth Snelter, Park City cashier, and William Nielsen, Hippodrome doorman, were secretly married last August . . . Earl Robichaud has succeeded George Downs as usher at the Globe . . . Sympathy to Dan Ritchelli, Colonial manager, whose father-in-law was killed by an automobile in New Haven . . . Kay Oleynick, Hippodrome cashier, and John Musante, projectionist at the same theatre, have announced their engagement . . . Michael Jacobson, Strand-Palace manager, is back on the job after an illness . . . Manager Samuel Haddleman of the Capitol hopes to be off for Miami by the first of February.

Harry F. Shaw and Lou Brown were in from New Haven to attend a chamber of commerce luncheon . . . Two weeks notices were given at the Lyric, but later recalled . . . New seats have been installed at Sam Haddleman's Capitol . . . Mrs. Al Schuman is back from a trip to Hartford . . . American Manager Michael Carroll and his wife, Marjorie, were guests at a house party in Stratford . . . Agnes Connolly, Majestic relief cashier, is back on the job after an illness . . . Harry Rose of the Globe guested the Post-Telegram *newsboys for "Behind the News" . . . "Santa Fe Trail" did extraordinary business here at the Warner.*

Lew Harmon, press agent recently in Guilford, has joined the Sam Harris publicity staff in New York . . . Al Smith, manager of Jacques in Waterbury, was a visitor and announced he has opened a second theatre in Rochester, N. Y. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Al Schuman of the Black Rock entertained at their home. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Germaine of 20th Century-Fox . . . Athan Prakas, Rivoli owner, spends most of his time these days with his ear glued to the radio to get the latest news from the Greek war front . . . Manager Morris Rosenthal of the Majestic screened "Land of Liberty" for civic and patriotic groups . . . Ruth Sidney, Ann Carney and Dorothy Peddle were in New Haven.

Max Rudnick and Jay J. Hornick were in the city for a Lyric checkup . . . Jimmy Dorsey paid a $50 reward to the finder of a case of music which he lost while playing a personal appearance at the Lyric . . . Mary Zrelack, American cashier who has been ill with a heavy cold, has recovered . . . William Amidon of the Majestic service staff, also serves as assistant swimming coach at Central High School . . . Pat McMann, owner of the State, New Britain, is back from a trip to Miami . . . Manager Ernie Gracula of the State, Torrington, was in the city to visit his parents.

Loew-Poli Projectionist James Leverone and his wife, Jen, are back from Florida. Mrs. Leverone is much improved in health and hopes soon to be able to return to her position as Loew-Poli cashier where she is veteran of Loew cashiers here . . . Morris Rosenthal has decided to forego this usual trip to Florida this winter and hopes to get to Missouri in the early spring to visit his brother.

Trade Friends Honor Thomas Donaldson

NEW HAVEN—Trade friends from New York, Boston and Providence, as well as from New Haven, attended the testimonial dinner here Tuesday at the Hotel Taft for Thomas G. Donaldson, who is leaving the local M-G-M exchange after three and one-half years to become exchange head in Boston for the company.

Maurice N. Wolf, Metro district manager in Boston, was toastmaster, and speakers included Walter Higgins, Herman Rifkin, Ben Simon, Harry Shaw, Hy Fine, Joseph Stein and Morey Goldstein, who succeeds Donaldson as New Haven manager for Metro.

Dr. Jacob Fishman presented the honored guest with a scroll and radio-Victrola, and during the evening a number of congratulatory telegrams to Donaldson were read, including one from the governor of New Hampshire.

A round of cocktails preceded the dinner.

Donaldson Attends Fete For Morey Goldstein

NEW HAVEN—Thomas J. Donaldson, New Haven branch manager for Metro, recently promoted to Boston; Milton Hyams and Morton Katz, Metro salesmen, and George Weber, checking supervisor, attended the farewell testimonial dinner in Boston, Tuesday in honor of Morey Goldstein, Boston salesman who is taking over in New Haven as Metro branch head.

Theatre Accident Suit Involved Paint Firm

NEW HAVEN—Ashton LeGates asks $10,000 from A. L. Schneider Co., a local paint firm, in a new type of theatre accident suit which is being prepared for the January term of superior court.

LeGates charges the defendant sold some paint to the Connecticut Theatrical Corp., which owns and operates the Roger Sherman here. The theatre company applied the paint to the sidewalk and curbing in front of the theatre which, LeGates claims, caused the walk and curb to become slippery and dangerous and caused him to fall and suffer serious injuries.

The paint company is charged with negligence in that it "sold the paint to the theatre company and warranted it would dry in four hours not warning that it might actually take longer so that precautions might have been taken."

Educational Counsellor For Ascap in Address

NEW HAVEN—Prof. S. Stephenson Smith, educational counsellor for Ascap, author and theatre critic, spoke at Albertus Magnus College here on "Broadway Tackles Politics." The lecture was one of a series Professor Smith is giving throughout the country before school and club audiences while he makes for Ascap a first-hand inquiry into regional and campus activities in the creative and interpretative arts.

Admissibility of Evidence Waldo Hearing Snag

(Continued from page 51)

a part, however distant, of the conspiracy alleged. Now there is nothing whatever in this paper that is offered that has the remotest tendency to show any part, however remote, of the conspiracy which is alleged."

John Caskey, 20th-Fox attorney, objected to the admission of an agreement between Warner Bros. Pictures and Skouras' Theatre Corp. for licensing of films for 23 seasons beginning with 1929-30. Caskey took exception to the proved exhibit as being, in his ranking, "an isolated instance, occurring 12 years ago, relating to the exhibition of first-run pictures in what was then the fourth largest city in the United States. All of this is predicated upon Mr. Ryan's repeated assertion, but not yet substantiated by any proof, that the provisions he refers to are unusual preferences. I think argument can be made that they are unusual obligations. There is no suggestion in this case that plaintiff had attempted to license pictures from any of the distributors on any terms as to which there was a dispute, other than the dispute as to when he should get the pictures.

"It is not suggested that the plaintiff has brought us into court because of not granting him the right to reject westerns or to reject foreign pictures. It isn't said that there is any complaint here at all about those things. There is no complaint on the part of the distributors that the plaintiff had agreed that if he erects a new first-run theatre in Waldoboro he will give us the same general representation as he now gives us in the Waldo Theatre. The charge is 'unusual,' and that charge of 'unusual' will require proof as to what was usual, and what is usual has to be judged in the light of circumstances.

"Moreover, there is no evidence in this record that pictures have been licensed to Rockland Amusement Co. or to M&P Theatres Corp., other than by this same form of contact which Mr. Ryan designates as the ordinary form.

"This case is supposed to involve a conspiracy among the distributors with the defendant exhibitor to grant Rockland 14 days preference or priority over Waldoboro, and we think it inappropriate to move out to St. Louis and find out why it was that before Skouras Bros. were willing to erect the new Missouri Theatre they wanted to be assured of certain product under the then competitive conditions."

About a Duck Luncheon

McClennen, defendant's counsel, then spoke up. "In December, 1915 in St. Louis a very delicious wild duck luncheon was held through the courtesy of a brother of the St. Louis bar, which was preferential to the many other lawyers of the city. It is quite as revelant to anything we are trying here as is this exhibit."

"I think," said Francis P. Freeman, Master appointed by U. S. district court to sit on the hearings, "I understand the point that counsel for defense have been making since the case started. The authorities seem to hold that a conspiracy, if one exists, is seldom, if ever, proved by direct evidence. I think in one case they say that conspirators work in the dark, that they are sinister, secretive, and its hide-away-by-night individual; and, of course, there is the question of how large the compass, of how far into the dark ages we should delve.

"Close to a Record"

"I think at the present time, Mr. McClennen with his duck dinner in 1915 comes close to establishing a record, if not absolutely holding the blue ribbon. I think there are some cases cited by Mr. Ryan's brief which hold that evidence of a conspiracy by one defendant, with other conspirators who are not a party to the suit, is admissible as showing the tendency on the part of that particular defendant to enter into a conspiracy, although the evidence offered may not bear on conspiracy alleged in the complaint.

"Now, in spite of many complaints, which Mr. McClennen has made to Mr. Ryan, I am not yet convinced that Mr. Ryan would intentionally misquote the language of the court in these various decisions. I did feel, when this case started, that the day would eventually come when we would receive some evidence on Rockland and Waldoboro. I still have some faith, and I think perhaps we will have to go along a little while longer and see whether I have hoped in vain.

"Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," quipped the defense lawyer.

"Your Honor," Ryan said, "We will get plenty of evidence before you get through."

: NEW BRITAIN :

NICK SHEA, usher at the WB Strand, has been upped to doorman, succeeding Steve Wallack, who has resigned to work in a local factory . . . Eleanor Bovriak, assistant cashier at the Arch Street, has joined the cashier's staff at the WB Embassy . . . John S. P. Glackin of the Arch Street was in New Haven on business last Tuesday.

Mother of Warren Kingsbury, WB Embassy usher, has been ill at home . . . Peter Perakos, owner of the Palace, who is treasurer of the local Greek Relief Ass'n reports receipts for Greek relief thus far very encouraging . . . In New Britain last fortnight to visit Philip Demas of the Roxy was S. Fuzzerio, foreign pictures booker of New York.

Richard Crowley is a new usher at the WB Strand . . . Arch Street has finished its two-year Universal pottery deal . . . More Arch Street doings: John S. P. Glackin ill with the grippe, but continuing with his theatre duties . . . The theatre held a free show for New Britain *Herald* newsboys recently, at which time "Boys of the City" and "South of Suez" were shown.

HARTFORD

EDDIE BOGGS, usher at the E. M. Loew's, has been named chief of service staff . . . Louis A. Cohen, Loew's Poli Palace manager, obtained a co-op ad for "Chad Hanna" with the Butterfly Hat Shops, Hartford . . . Weekend business in Hartford has been picking up . . . Strand, Stamford, played Republic's "Trail Blazers" . . . Julian B. Tuthill, motion picture editor of the Hartford *Times*, spoke on "Behind the Scenes in Hollywood" at the monthly meeting of Young Israels . . . Jack Terazzio, chief of the State's service staff, has resigned . . . Johnny Downs p. a.'s at the Plymouth, Worcester . . . In town were Harry F. Shaw and Louis A. Brown of Loew's Poli, New Haven office, to see Manager Jack A. Simons of the local Loew's Poli . . . E. M. Loew's, managed by George E. Landers, is approaching its 11th anniversary.

In Hartford on business was Maurice Radin of the Peoples' Candy Co., Worcester . . . Manuel Wendrow, doorman at the Proven Pictures, has resigned . . . Lester Winick, State usher, had a cold . . . Valerie Rudek, formerly with the Loew's Oriental, Brooklyn, N. Y., has been added to the cashier's staff at the local Loew's Poli . . . Regards are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Lewis J. Blanco of Hartford, who are now the proud parents of a girl. Blanco was formerly student assistant at the Loew's Poli Palace . . . Sammie Rennert, projectionist at the Astor, East Hartford, has resigned to work for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. Charlie Bradshaw, assistant projectionist at the E. M. Loew's, Hartford, has taken over Rennert's former duties. George Goodroll has been added to the E. M. Loew's projectionists' staff . . . In town recently to visit the local Loew's Poli boys, was Joel A. Levy of Loew's New York offices . . . Robert Huges, usher at the WB's Lenox, is back on the job again after recuperating at home from an infected foot. Edward Burns filled in . . . Tommy Vaughan, Loew's Poli house policeman, is quite a bowler.

Charlie Repass of the Crown was in New Haven last Tuesday . . . Plans for a house bowling team at the Loew's Poli have been cast aside in favor of those for a basketball team . . . "Gone With the Wind" was to have opened at the Loew's Poli Thursday on a continuous performance-popular price policy . . . Elliot Kronish of Loew's Poli, New Haven offices, was in town . . . "Ice Follies of 1941" is due at the Arena, New Haven, February 3, for a week's engagement . . . Maurice Sarashon, box-office head at the Arena, New Haven, was in Hartford on business . . . Blue Barron and his orchestra played at the State . . . "Love Thy Neighbor" did fine business at the M&P's Allyn during its two weeks at that house . . . Proven Pictures held over sex film, "They Must Be Told."

Bernard William Levy, manager of the Proven Pictures and also division manager of the Frederick Lieberman Theatres, had a cold . . . Prof. S. Stephenson Smith, educational counsellor for Ascap and prominent educator and theatre critic, spoke at St. Joseph College, West Hartford, on "The Stage in Wartime" . . . Laurence Wasilieff, doorman at the WB's Strand, has resigned to work in a local factory . . . While Mrs. Alice Erickson, WB's Strand cashier, was ill with the grippe, Teresa Kenny filled in . . . "Thief of Bagdad" played three weeks at the WB's Regal . . . WB's Strand held "Santa Fe Trail" for a second week . . . Frankie Ramsey, assistant manager at WB's Strand, is reported contemplating marriage . . . Joe Bernard, chief usher at WB's Strand, is also an amateur projectionist . . . Walls surrounding the candy stand at E. M. Loew's have been repainted.

In Manchester to visit Manager Jack Sanson of the State were Henry Needles, WB district manager, and James F. McCarthy, manager of the WB's Strand, Hartford . . . "Arizona" went into a third week at the E. M. Loew's . . . Jack Boyd, M&P's Allyn service staff member, was in Boston visiting friends . . . Norman Lang is a new cashier at E. M. Loew's . . . Harold Rosenberg, projectionist at E. M. Loew's, is now in Uncle Sam's army . . . Tom Quinn is a new usher at the M&P's Allyn . . . Michael Daly, owner of the Hartford Daly and Plainfield, Plainfield, has had new sound equipment installed in the booth at the Daly . . . Joseph Fontanna, coach of the Lewis High School, Southington, awarded letters at an assembly held at the Colonial Theatre in that town, to members of the 1940 football squad . . . A film depicting the activities of the "three first ladies" of China, the Soong sisters, was shown in Mackenzie Hall by the Hartford Committee for Chinese Relief . . . New seats are due at the E. M. Loew's soon, reports Hillmer D. Robinson, assistant manager . . . Bertha Jedidian is the new candy girl at the E. M. Loew's.

Governor and Mrs. Hurley, plus a party of friends, attended the Loew's Poli, Hartford, last Friday to see M-G-M newsreel pictures of His Excellency's inaugural ceremony and ball . . . Manager Walter B. Lloyd of the M&P's Allyn reported fine business with "Second Chorus." Walter, incidentally, reports that "Texas Rangers Ride Again" and "A Night at Earl Carroll's" are due at that theatre soon . . . Rudy Frank, director of publicity for the State, announces that George Raft is due for a p. a. at that theatre January 18 . . . Republic's "Pride of the Bowery" played the State.

Two Holdovers in Boston Give Bookers Headaches

BOSTON — Two holdovers in first-run Boston last week gave additional headaches to the bookers who have to figure their availabilities from the local deluxers.

Ben Domingo kept "Kitty Foyle" a second week. The Ben Rogers vehicle was combined with "Saint in Palm Springs." At the State and Orpheum, Loew's divisional manager, Charles E. Kurtzman, held over "Comrade X" and "Gallant Sons" for an additional four days.

Shift Max Nevetsky

WORCESTER, MASS.—Max Nevetsky, assistant manager of the Loew's-Poli Elm Street, last week was named assistant manager of the Loew's-Poli Palace here, replacing Morris Druker, who is now manager of Loew's State, Cleveland.

Upbeat Reflected in Portsmouth Survey

MANCHESTER, N. H.—The extent of the industrial boom which is gladdening the hearts of theatre operators in Portsmouth and environs, is shown in a report on a survey made by Portsmouth Navy Yard officials, who find that 2,000 additional homes are needed in that section to accommodate the tremendous influx of navy men and workers at the big national defense base.

It is estimated approximately half that number of dwellings in the low and medium-priced range already are under construction in various programs including one federal housing project.

Elsewhere in the state, too, film men are hearing reports which reflect the greatly increased income of Granite Staters.

For instance, during the past year, automobile registration was the heaviest in history, according to a report just issued by the state motor vehicle department. Officials could give no explanation other than a boost in incomes. And in Manchester, the past year saw the greatest home building activity in 15 years.

These encouraging signs are, of course, in addition to the many reports of long-idle textile plants reopening to rush out orders for cloth for Uncle Sam's service men.

Carl Jamroga to Manage Northampton Academy

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Carl A. Jamroga of the Phillips here has been transferred by the Rifkin circuit to manager of the Academy, Northampton, Mass. He succeeds Frankie Shaughnessy, who has joined the National Guard as a lieutenant. Jamroga is replaced at the Phillips by George Rabb, previously at Rifkin's Jefferson. Albert Moreau, formerly of Springfield, becomes Rabb's assistant, as a result of the series of shifts announced by William Powell, the circuit's division manager.

Agreements Signed With Operators in Boston

BOSTON—Working agreements between local exhibitors and operators' local 182 have been established for an additional year on the same terms as existed in contracts which expired last August 31, after having been in effect for two years previous.

ATO Meets Tuesday

NEW HAVEN—Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut will meet Tuesday afternoon at the Hofbrau Haus. A. M. Schuman will preside.

John F. Dempsey

BOSTON — John F. Dempsey, stagehand for the past 30 years and a veteran employe of local M&P Fenway, died last week at the age of 61, following collapse while at work in the Boston house.

Settlement Effected in Kirschheimer Suit

Dallas—A settlement out of court was reached Thursday in the damage suit of Sam Kirschheimer against the Interstate circuit. It was to have gone to trial on that day. Kirschheimer is a Houston exhibitor.

R. Z. Glass' suit against the circuit is scheduled for Monday before Federal Judge Atwell. It was filed some time ago by Glass when he operated the Fair, Knox and Lawn theatres here.

Confers in Memphis On Film Tribunal

MEMPHIS—First steps toward the establishment here of an arbitration board to settle disputes between exhibitors and distributors as provided by the consent decree, were taken last week during the visit of J. Noble Braden, executive secretary of the American Arbitration Ass'n.

At a luncheon for him, Braden conferred on the matter with a number of business and educational leaders including Phil Pidgeon, president of the chamber of commerce; Dean S. Walter Jones of the Memphis University Law School; J. Seddon Allen, president of the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Ass'n; Carl B. Wellborn, chairman of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants; Noland Fontaine, district manager of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and J. M. Cour, manager for Dun & Bradstreet.

Two Projectionists Are Held in Stench-Bombing

TYLER, TEX.—Two motion picture operators are being held by local police in connection with the stench-bombing of S. G. Fry's Joy Theatre here a fortnight ago. Police said one of the men was seized by a "spotter" in the theatre on the evening it was stench-bombed, and that the other was picked up following questioning of the man seized by the "spotter."

Fry does not employ union operators, but he says all his men are stockholders in the theatre.

Gene Coleman Acquires The Key in Midlothian

DALLAS—Gene Coleman, manager of the Texas at Seagoville for his brother R. Q. Coleman, has purchased the Key in Midlothian in his own right from J. O. (Buddy) Harris. Midlothian is about 24 miles southwest of Dallas.

Harris still owns the Ritz in Celina, but devotes practically all of his time to operating the Buddy Harris Poster Exchange here.

Ross Federal Manager

OKLAHOMA CITY—Ernest A. MacKenna has been appointed Manager of the Oklahoma branch of Ross Federal Service, Inc.

Award Jorgensen $5,000 In Interstate Action

DALLAS—In his suit against Interstate which ended Wednesday, Holger Jorgensen, owner of the East Grand Theatre here, was awarded $4,500 for damages and $500 for attorneys fees by a jury in Judge W. H. Atwell's federal court. The jury did not say whether the verdict covered one or both charges involved in the action, but it was considered here to have included both.

Jorgensen claimed damages of over $50,000 in his suit, which was divided into two parts. For the years 1935-36-37, he claimed specific damages because of the 25-cent minimum restrictions imposed by Interstate on certain pictures which forced the East Grand to raise admission prices from 20 to 25 cents. Availability was the second part, with Jorgensen asking damages, claiming that an agreement existed between Interstate and the film companies to hold the East Grand 15 days behind the White Theatre, owned by Interstate, which Jorgensen claimed was a similar operation to his charging a like admission price.

Interstate argued that Jorgensen was not hurt by the 25-cent restrictions, that he made more money during the three years it was in effect than before, and produced Jorgensen's income tax records in proof. The defense showed that Jorgensen voluntarily raised his prices on "B" pictures not covered in the restrictions and that he voluntarily charged 20 cents for his matinees when competitive theatres in the area charged 15 cents for matinees.

As to the availability charge, Interstate claimed the White was more modern and larger than the East Grand, that it paid more film rental and furnished a greater service to the public and the distributors, and that the clearance existing between the two theatres was reasonable.

In his charge to the jury, Judge Atwell said that a conspiracy or violation of law must be found before any consideration could be given to damages, which, if they existed, must be weighed in dollars and cents. He held that a conspiracy between Interstate and the film companies to hold the East Grand back of the White, if it existed, would be an unlawful act. To this part of the charge, Interstate took an exception.

H. A. Daniels, former film man, and W. S. Miller of 20th Century-Fox, were put on the stand by Interstate. Both said Jorgensen had told them he benefited by the forced increased admission. J. E. Luckett testified for the defense that new equipment and progressive methods employed by competitive theatres to the East Grand, had more to do with claimed losses by the plaintiff than price or availability.

Depositions were read from Harry Gold of United Artists, Cresson E. Smith of RKO, Joe Unger of Paramount, Tom Connors of M-G-M, Abe Montague of Columbia, C. E. McCarthy of Universal, and Carl Leserman of Warner Bros. All pointed out the advisability of giving preference in clearance to better houses in a community.

While Interstate denied an agreement existed as to availability, Jorgensen produced a document which he said was prepared by Interstate showing clearance schedules between various theatres and which he claimed was handed to the various film companies by Interstate.

Interstate characterized this as a booking memorandum, saying no agreement had been reached with any of the film companies.

Bank Night Setup May Be Probed

SPRINGFIELD, TENN.—After hearing the evidence against two defendants charged with obtaining a $600 Bank Night payment from the local Capitol Theatre through fraudulent substitution of tickets, General Sessions Judge Earl Swann has threatened a general investigation of the theatre Bank Night setup.

He stated: "I don't think a thing of this kind should be operated where such a fraud could be committed. The episode shows criminal negligence on the part of the officials of the theatre and the drawing judges, and others connected with the drawing are also guilty of criminal negligence."

A. L. Hancock is manager of the Capitol which is owned by the Crescent circuit. The whole matter is being turned over to the grand jury and any investigation would follow action by the jury.

Manager Hancock discovered, after giving away a $600 prize, that a large number of tickets bearing the register number identical to the winner's had been substituted for regular tickets in the drawing basket. He is cancelling all Bank Night drawings until the matter is cleared up.

Variety Idea Yields $5,000 for Britain

DALLAS—Final check of receipts of hotel dances put on here by theatre men for the benefit of British War Relief, disclosed that $5,000 was turned over to the cause. The committee in charge was composed of I. B. Adelman, chairman; W. G. Underwood, J. B. Underwood, Paul Short, Besa Short, Frank Starz, R. I. Payne, Herman Biersdorf, James O. Cherry, Jo Jack, Mike Rice, Paul Scott, R. E. Griffith, Lloyd Rust and Don Douglas.

Variety Club of Texas sponsored the movement.

Euler Back to Dallas as Booker for R. N. Smith

DALLAS—Bob Euler, who once was booker for the R. N. Smith theatres in the Valley, will return to Dallas soon to resume those duties. The job here includes booking for Tri-State Theatres, owned by B. R. McLendon of Atlanta.

New Orleans Grosses Are Tolled by Flu

NEW ORLEANS—While opposition of the strongest type developed here last week in the form of flu, "Kitty Foyle" packed her belongings and moved from the Orpheum to the Liberty. "Tin Pan Alley" made sufficient noise at the Saenger, and "Comrade X" drew well at Loew's State, topping the week's grosses.

Detail for week ending January 9:

(Average is 100)

Center—**Charter Pilot** (20th-Fox)..... 85
Globe—**Down Argentine Way** (20th-Fox), 2nd run. 90
Liberty—**South of Suez** (WB), 2nd run..... 85
Loew's—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 150
Orpheum—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 130
Saenger—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox).....140
Tudor—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't)..100

No Standouts in Dallas; "Comrade" Mild Leader

DALLAS—There were no standouts on Elm Street for the week ending January 11. However, "Comrade X" was the leader at somewhat above average and winning a holdover at the Tower. "Flight Command" caused lot of talk and interest but its gross was little more than average. The Capitol came back with another double bill after unusual success the previous weekend with a similar bill of ware.

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col)..... 90
Played Wednesday through Friday.
Capitol—**Doomed Caravan** (Para't); **Barnyard Follies** (Rep) 115
Opened Saturday for play through the weekend.
Majestic—**Flight Command** (M-G-M) 110
Opened midweek following none too successful run of "Arizona" for seven days.
Palace—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 120
Played nine days, going to Tower for holdover.
Rialto—**Christmas in July** (Para't)..... 90
Played three days.
Rialto—**Dreaming Out Loud** (RKO).....100
Opened Friday for play through the weekend.
Tower—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't).....100
Second week following first at the Palace.

O. C. Business Shows Signs of Perking Up

OKLAHOMA CITY—Ideal weather conditions, better attractions and lessening of the holiday buying "bottleneck," perked up business here last week. Indications are the next week may be even better.

(Average is 100)

Criterion—**Four Mothers** (WB).....120
Midwest—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA).....100
State—**Arizona** (Col), 2nd wk.....110
Tower—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't).....120
Moved from previous good week at Criterion.

AFM Keeping "Hands Off" Of Ascap-BMI Dispute

NASHVILLE, TENN.—At the southern regional division convention of the American Federation of Musicians, an official spokesman said the group is "keeping its hands off" of the Ascap-BMI controversy. The same official predicts the fight between song writers, publishers and the broadcasters will be all over "within the next two or three weeks." The convention was attended by 40 delegates from 12 southern states.



He Plans Three—

O. C. Lam, head of the Lam Amusement Co., Rome, Ga., whose firm is pushing ahead on three of the largest Georgia theatre projects in recent years. The above photo was taken at the MPTOA convention in Oklahoma City last winter.

Lam and Associates Plan 3 New Ones

By HELEN HARDY

ATLANTA—Three new theatre projects for Georgia are announced by O. C. Lam and associates with the observation that "business prospects for 1941 are bright."

Lam says plans have been drawn for his new house in Rome and that negotiations for a building site are progressing. This will be the fourth for Lam in Rome. The new house will seat 800, and an expenditure of $75,000 is planned.

In Cedartown, where the firm already has one theatre, a second is under construction and will be completed early in May. In connection with this theatre, application has been made for the operation of a broadcasting station in the same building. It will be named the "West," after the oldest settler in Cedartown, and $100,000 will be expended on the project.

In affiliation with Wendell Welch of Dallas, Ga., and Cooper Welch of Atlanta, Ga., a brother, Lam will build in Grove Park a new theatre to seat 750. This project will cost $40,000.

Changes by Lam

ROME, GA.—Officials of Lam Amusement Co. announce that Ross Arnold has been made manager of the Alamo, Newnan, Ga., replacing Ecta Hutchison, resigned, who has joined Wilby-Kincey Theatres in Burlington, N. C. Milford Smith, formerly assistant manager of the LaGrange, LaGrange, Ga., is now manager of the Rockmart, Rockmart, Ga.

Santone May Get Mexican Industry

By LES KETNER

SAN ANTONIO—The million-dollar Mexican film industry may move here if Mayor Maury Maverick offers the right inducements, it is said by Jose U. Calderon, owner of the Azteca Films Distributing Co. of Mexico City, who was in the city briefly to confer with the mayor and also with J. J. Jimenez sr., manager of the Latin-American Film Exchange.

Calderon explained that labor trouble in Mexico has reached a crisis, with the 11 picture companies of the capital ready to move elsewhere. They are considering Tia Juana, but Calderon believes that he has every chance to persuade them to come to the Alamo City.

"I want to see how the mayor of your city feels about it, and what the city has to offer. And then I want to be sure our Mexican artists could come and go across the border unhindered. The San Antonio climate is even more ideal than California, and we would not use only Mexican artists, but local talent and laborers as well," he said.

The Mexican companies seeking the change are Groves, Raul de Anda, Raphael Sevilla, Iracheta y Elvira, Miguel Contreres Torres, Alfonso Sanchez Tello, Vicente Saiso Piquer, Juan Pezet and Producciones Soria. These companies, Calderon said, produce 50 pictures a year, which he buys and distributes to Mexico, Central and South America, Spain and the United States. At present no money can be drawn from Spain, although there are pictures that have cleared over half a million pesetas there.

A single picture in Mexico costs an average of 150,000 pesos to produce; in San Antonio it would mean the outlay of $40,000 a picture.

Following his conference with Mayor Maverick and Jimenez, Senor Calderon left immediately to put the matter directly before the motion picture companies of Mexico City.

Ruffin Will Build New Theatre in Humboldt

HUMBOLDT, TENN.—W. F. Ruffin, president of the Chickasaw Amusement Co., announces plans for the erection of a new theatre here. Plans are for a house, modern in every detail and in equipment, to seat 1,000. Humboldt is only a short distance from the site of the proposed $14,000,000 shell-loading plant near Milan.

Will Ask Probe of Ascap in Texas

Austin, Tex.—Rep. Joe Skiles of Denton, Tex., will propose an investigation into the control of Ascap over music in Texas when the state legislature convenes this week. Attorney General Gerald C. Mann will be asked to inquire into possible Ascap violation of state anti-trust laws.

DALLAS

DELANEY SEXTON, once a booker here for Robb & Rowley, drove through Dallas with Mrs. Sexton from their home in Los Angeles. For the past two years, Sexton has been living on the coast. He says he is a design engineer for a camera company which is now using two of his patents. It will be remembered Sexton was quite a camera bug while here.

Reports here are that Mrs. Marthe McSpadden, the Electra showwoman, is ill at her home with the flu . . . Eddie Fadal, manager and one of the new owners of the Ritz at Valley Mills, was here booking and placing the transportation of his films with one of the film motor lines. Incidentally, he became a subscriber to BOXOFFICE *and picked up a number of back copies.*

Johnny Long and his booker and general manager, Theo Routt, were up from their Bay City headquarters . . . H. A. Daniels, owner of theatres at Seguin, was here for the first time in months, primarily as a witness for Interstate in the Jorgensen trial. Daniels was a salesman for W. G. Underwood and United Artists for many years. His Seguin theatres are booked through Jefferson Amusement Co.

B. G. Herber of Herber Bros., equipment dealers, is having a time of it with the flu which set in before the New Year and is holding on . . . Ned E. Depinet, RKO's vice-president, on leaving here after a visit for New York, said he was very happy to have been here again and to have seen so many of his old friends. He commented also on the growth of Dallas since his days here . . . Paul Short, National Screen's district manager and chief barker of the Variety Club of Texas, is back at his desk after recovering from influenza.

Lew Groves, who opened the new Villa, a neighborhood, about a year ago in Oklahoma City, was on the Row after a visit with his brother, Jack, owner of the Queen in Houston . . . R. N. Smith, Valley circuit operator of Mission, was here en route home after attending the funeral of Homer Mulkey in Clarendon. Col. H. A. Cole, Allied president, remained in Clarendon an extra day to assist Mrs. Mulkey in whatever way he could.

Claude Adkinson, booker for 20th Century-Fox, has been called to the colors. He will go in training at one of the camps in San Antonio . . . G. A. Cole, who opened the new Cole at New Braunfels late last year, was here Wednesday and reported an upturn in business since the holidays . . . Another visiting exhibitor was Carl Allday, owner of the Eloia in Calvert.

John D. Jones, R&R city manager and partner in San Angelo; H. E. Hardgrave, city manager in Sherman, and A. E. McClain, R&R manager and president of the chamber of commerce in Colorado City, were in town Wednesday as visitors to the circuit's home office. Earl Schultz, the circuit's manager in Crockett, was here earlier in the week . . . J. Don Alexander, president of Alexander Film Co., was here to conduct a sales meeting with company salesmen over the territory.

Things looked much brighter when Old Sol came out in full blast Wednesday morning. For the past few weeks, exhibitors have taken a licking on their Saturdays and Sundays, because of the rain. Last Sunday was their first break in several weeks, but that was short-lived, as it rained again Monday . . . R. Z. Glass, owner of the new Stude in Houston, here for his damage suit against Interstate to be heard in Judge Atwell's federal court Monday, said he has passed all requirements as a second lieutenant in the U. S. Air Corps Reserves and is awaiting his commission from Washington.

Lee Scarborough was on the Row from his new Van Theatre at Van. He said nearly everybody in his territory has had the flu, including himself, and to make it worse there were many pneumonia cases . . . Lee Threet, former exhibitor and now engaged in the distribution of radios, was here Wednesday from Lufkin.

New Waters House in Birmingham Suburb

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—N. H. Waters, president of Waters Theatre Co., which operates 12 neighborhood houses here, announces his company is rebuilding a new theatre in Homewood, a suburb, at a cost of $27,500. He said he expects to have the building finished and ready for occupancy by March 15.

Borrow Lee Bowman

HOLLYWOOD — Universal has borrowed Lee Bowman from Metro for one of the leads in "Model Wife."



As Warner Outlet—

Gus Diamond, Kansas City showman, who recently opened the Vogue in Orlando, Fla. It has tied up Warner product that now is being sold away from the Sparks circuit. "Four Mothers" was the opener. Homer Ellison is manager of the new deluxer.

Popcorn Office Opened By Warner in Dallas

DALLAS—Bob Warner, who has sold popcorn machines in Texas for the past eight years, has opened a sales and display office at 302½ S. Harwood Street. Ralph Warner, formerly with Jefferson Amusement Co. and Interstate, and not related to Bob, will be his assistant.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

It is fitting and proper to be DEFENSE MINDED---!

• • •

Yeah! And it is good business to be DEFENSE MINDED in the matter of increased patronage. SIMPLEX 4 STAR SOUND, SIMPLEX E-7 PROJECTORS and SIMPLEX HIGH INTENSITY LAMPS make better defense insurance against box office blitzkriegs..!

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

Dallas, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Charlotte and Oklahoma City

Walker Says Decree Will Hamstring "Little Man"

LAMPASAS, TEX.—The adoption of the consent decree and trailing protests from independent exhibitors that it will be of little help to them come as no surprise to Judge Roy L. Walker, president of the Theatre Owners Protective Ass'n here. He says as much, and clearly, in the following bulletin:

"In 1931 and continuously since said time, I have entered my protest against the attempt of Allied and others to place our business in the hands of the government or the department of justice, at all times sounding the alarm that we could expect no help for the little fellow through such agencies. The consent decree proves this. Allied and others, during the past ten years, have hammered at the doors of Congress and the department of justice asking that they take over the distribution and exhibition of pictures and lay down rules and regulations for our operation. After all these years they have brought to life the consent decree, and as we may always expect, the little fellows received no relief but were tied more securely to the will and desire of the distributors. Of course, Allied protested against the final consent decree but it is their child and what they should have expected.

Made Appeal in Washington

"I went to Washington and made an appeal to the department of justice to not force this decree upon us, but they had already made up their minds and nothing could be done. I also went to New York and made an argument against the entry of the decree before the court, but, with both the department of justice and the distributors hand in hand asking for the decree, we little fellows had no chance.

"The decree means this:

"1. You can buy no picture until it is trade shown in Dallas.

"2. Pictures must be bought in blocks of 5 or less.

"The balance of the decree in reference to arbitration, clearance and overbuying really means nothing to we small exhibitors.

"In my opinion, the consent decree will affect us at least in three ways, as follows:

"1. It will increase the cost of buying and the cost of pictures to us at least double.

"2. It will cause the small theatre to run pictures, instead of from three weeks to three or four months back of the key cities, to six to twelve months back of them.

"3. In my opinion, it will necessarily force the small theatre to join in some kind of buying organization or join up with chains already doing buying with offices in Dallas.

"I hope that I am wrong in just what this means to the small exhibitor but I have given it careful study and believe that I am right. However, we have the decree and we must make the best of it. It is up to us to give it a fair trial and see how it will work out. All this talk about injunction and legislation against the decree is foolishness. The independent theatres were not parties to the suit and have no rights thereunder, as on its face it does not affect them, and any attempt at congressional legislation would make a bad matter worse, as we cannot expect to get relief through agencies that know nothing of our business. This is the whole trouble and what has caused this decree; certain interests trying to stir up strife and contention and getting the worst of it.

Advice to Small Exhibitor

"The decree takes effect on the question of buying of pictures on September 1, 1941, and my only suggestion to the small exhibitor is to try and have sufficient pictures bought before that time so that he will be able to keep his playing time open for several months in order to meet the new buying conditions. Keeping in mind that no picture can be sold or offered for sale or lease until it is trade shown in Dallas and that each company must trade show five pictures before you can buy a block of five. It is not necessary for me to go into detail as to what this is going to mean to you.

"We are in no position to take any action and will not be until we can prove what the decree is doing to us, and for this reason I am asking every independent theatre owner, as soon as the new buying starts, to advise me personally of his trouble in trying to comply with the decree. I want to get this information from every exhibitor in order that I may be prepared to present concrete examples of what it is doing to the small exhibitor. In this way it may be that we can get some relief. Agitators have gotten us into this situation and we are only going to get out of it by an organized effort on our part."

Felix Robertson Dies in Lisbon

Dallas—Judge Felix D. Robertson, the first collection attorney here for Ascap and who represented that company up until a few years ago in Texas and Arkansas, died last week in the Veterans' Hospital at Lisbon. He also represented several film companies and had a wide acquaintance among exhibitors.

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Men From the South to Convention of NTS

DALLAS—National Theatre Supply will hold its annual sales convention February 10 to 15, in New York, J. I. Roberts, branch manager here, reports. Managers from all over the country will attend. From the south will go Jake Watkins of Oklahoma City, R. L. Bostick of Memphis, Al Hodges of New Orleans, J. C. Brown of Atlanta, Howard Marx of Charlotte and Roberts.

A Bride for the Son Of C. J. Musselman

DALLAS—News has been received here that John Musselman, son of the well-known Paris exhibitor, C. J. Musselman, was married in Albany, Tex., last week to Miss Mary Anna Green.

The groom receives his B. A. degree this year at Texas University where his wife is a junior.

Rites in Clarendon For Homer Mulkey

CLARENDON, TEX.—Funeral services were held here last Sunday for Homer Mulkey, veteran Texas exhibitor who died Thursday in a Fort Worth hospital following an operation. Exhibitors from all over west Texas were here for the rites for the 64-year-old showman who had been a Texas exhibitor for 31 years.

The auditorium and basement of the First Christian Church, in which he was an elder, was filled to capacity and hundreds stood out in the streets. The six preachers in Clarendon all took part in the services and all spoke of Mulkey's exemplary life.

"The rich and the poor, white and black, the underprivileged and fortunate, all will miss him and what else can I say?" one of the ministers said of him.

Mulkey is survived by his wife and a brother in California, who, with Lee Bell, assistant manager of the Pastime and Cozy theatres in Clarendon, were with him when he died.

A partial list from over the state who attended the services includes: Col. H. A. Cole and J. M. Reynolds of Allied; Henry Sorenson, Burt King, Ted Lewis, T. R. Barber, Hiram Parks, all of Dallas; Lonnie Legg of Denison; P. V. Williams of Munday; H. S. Leon of Haskell; R. N. Smith of Mission; W. J. Wooten of Canyon; Rufus Layton, Childress; H. B. Skelton of Panhandle; J. C. Parker, Dalhart; Jack Hurst, Abernathy; Griffith men from Pampa and Lubbock, and many others.

The Variety Club of Texas, of which Mulkey was a member, sent a message to the Clarendon Christian Church on Mulkey's passing.

Mulkey was a member and active worker in independent theatre owner organizations, and for the last several years was a director of Allied of Texas. He was also a member of the Lions Club and was identified with a number of civic and charitable movements.

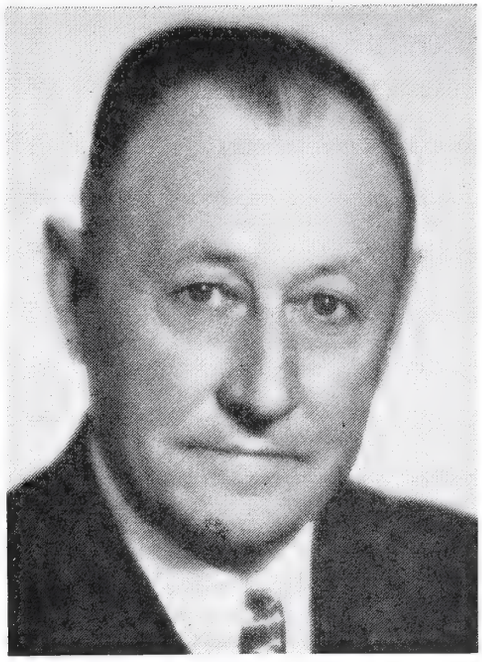
To Open Plaza

WEATHERFORD, TEX.—C. H. Jones will soon open his new Plaza here in a building now being remodeled. He has purchased equipment for the venture. It will give the town three theatres. Kindel & Sadler have operated the Palace and Princess here for many years.

Fourth for Corsicana

CORSICANA, TEX. — Construction of a fourth house has been started here, according to Terry McCary, city manager for Texas Consolidated Theatres, Inc.

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Most Recent Photo—

A more recent picture of Homer Mulkey than the one published last week, this shows the Clarendon exhibitor as he is remembered best in this territory.

Bill Elliott on Tour Of Southern Area

LITTLE ROCK—Bill Elliott, film cowboy, will arrive January 19 for a personal appearance tour which will take him to Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Oklahoma.

He will open his tour in Memphis next Saturday and will visit Jackson, Tenn., Fulton, Ky., Jonesboro and Hot Springs, Ark., before coming to Little Rock.

NEW ORLEANS

FLU IS prevalent in New Orleans and throughout Louisiana. As far as can be learned from exchanges, only one town, Crowley, has been closed by authorities . . . Katharine Hepburn, in "Philadelphia Story," packed the Municipal Auditorium at $2.50 top . . . The Drive-In on the lake front has closed for the season and will reopen in April.

Flash Delivery Co. has secured an exclusive contract from the Saengers for the delivery and pickup of films in Louisiana . . . There is a new face in the office of the Louisiana Motion Picture Equipment Co. She is Miss "Bobbie" Adams, stenographer . . . "GWTW" comes back to Loew's January 24 . . . Helen Vinson, British actress, has been made honorary vice-chairman of the local British-American Ambulance Corps.

Miss Berryl Tarrant is now employed as an assistant to W. A. Prewitt of the American Desk Mfg. Co. . . . The Paramount, in Lake Charles, recently destroyed by fire, has been rebuilt and is now open for business . . . Visitors to the Row this week were scarce.

It is reported that the Old Dauphine will be reopened as a newreeler at a 10-cent top . . . Jake Miller, who recently retired from the theatre business, is now devoting his time to insurance.

Is Headstream Aide

BATESVILLE, ARK. — Rex Barrett jr., of Columbia, Mo., has assumed his duties at the Melba as assistant to Manager Bill Headstream. Rex is the son of Rex Barrett, Columbia mayor and manager of the Uptown and Boone theatres there.

Scripting for Crosby

HOLLYWOOD—Harry Tugend will script "Birth of the Blues," Bing Crosby starrer, for Paramount.

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SANTONE

INTERSTATE CITY MANAGER EDWARD E. COLLINS is mighty proud of that shot gun his fellow managers gave him for Christmas . . . Mrs. Virginia Mills, 45, wife of Herbert Mills, local projectionist, passed away here recently . . . Hal Norfleet, the Drive-In manager, says his business is increasing nicely and looks forward to the new season with enthusiasm . . . Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan has returned to Los Angeles after visiting his wife's relatives here.

Lawrence L. Bernard, former assistant skipper of the State, is now acting in a similar capacity out at the Harlandale . . . Bob May, chief of service at the Texas, is expecting to become a bridegroom early next month . . . Walter Tinney, the operator, made another trip to the hospital for a complete checkup and has returned to work.

Jack Clements has been shifted from the Palace to the Empire service staff . . . Two special events each week are attracting plenty of attention at the Texas. They include "Buzzo" on Wednesday night and the Owl Midnight Jamboree on the stage every Saturday.

Recovering From Flu

OSCEOLA, ARK.—The condition of Miss Emma Cox, owner of the Gem, is reported to be improved, although the attack of flu still confines her to her home.

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Just Try Some!

Recruit Problem Solved by Stern

Oklahoma City—There was quite a to-do locally concerning what the boys brought in from over the state to be inducted into the Army were to do during a four or five-hour wait for transportation to Fort Sill, so Bert Stern, Criterion manager, stepped forward with an idea.

The result (and some nice publicity with pictures and all in the local press) was that the boys are now brought to the Criterion in charge of a sergeant and admitted to see the theatre's regular picture without cost. Time is matinee period and a special section is roped off.

Variety Entertainment Entrusted to Hisey

MEMPHIS—Homer Hisey was elected chairman of the entertainment committee for the monthly luncheons to be held by Variety this year at the inaugural luncheon Monday. M. A. Lightman was "King for the Day," and in conjunction with Harry Martin of the *Commercial Appeal* he arranged the program.

The guest list included Ethel Taylor of the Memphis Open Air Theatre; Bill Elliott, who was making a personal appearance at the Strand; Nick Lucas, who is appearing at the Hotel Claridge, and Charlie Wagner, manager of Jeanette MacDonald, who was here for a concert appearance.

It was "Malco Theatres Day," and these Malco managers were in for the occasion: J. R. McEachron, city manager, Jackson, Tenn.; Burgess Waldron, Princess, Columbus, Miss.; Paul Jones, city manager, Pine Bluff; Clayton Tunstill, city manager, Owensboro, Ky., and W. Clyde Smith, city manager, Hot Springs, Ark. M. S. McCord, secretary-treasurer of Malco Theatres in North Little Rock, was also on hand.

Addresses Variety

DALLAS—Joe P. Harris, superintendent of Dallas county schools, was guest speaker at the Variety Club weekly luncheon Monday. New members were added to the club's roster, including C. E. Holmes and Charles Meeker, both of Interstate circuit and former honorary members, and Charles R. Rader, a captain on the police department.

Isley to Build Third House in Abilene

DALLAS—Phil R. Isley will open his third theatre in Texas soon. He is now remodeling a building in Abilene for that purpose, and has purchased equipment for the house to seat around 500. Isley, in his expansion, is following the influx of soldiers into towns where army camps are located. He now operates the Granada in Palacios and the Plaza in Brownwood.

New Athens Makes Bow

ATHENS, TENN.—The opening of the new Athens was staged with "Barnyard Follies" as the initial offering.

ATLANTA

FILMROW was saddened by the death of Mrs. E. P. Clay of McDonough, Ga., last week. Mrs. Clay had been in the theatre business for many years and was a frequent visitor . . . The father of Charlie Karr, booker for Martin Theatres, passed away this week . . . Homer Knowles, organist at the Fox for the past five years, will report at Camp Jackson, S. C., for military service, January 26. He is succeeded by Jimmy Beers.

Marjorie Amendola, Capitol City Supply Co., has resigned to become head bookkeeper in the comptroller's office at the capital . . . Visitors: E. J. Hunter, Colquitt, Colquitt, Ga.; R. H. Dunn, Camilla, Camilla, Ga.; M. C. Moore, Riverside, Jacksonville, Fla.; R. D. Page, Maury, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.; Ed Beach, Silvertown, Thomaston, Ga.; J. S. Tankersley jr., Ellijay, Ellijay, Ga.; and Mrs. N. W. Kimbro, Liberty and Pickens, S. C. . . . Flu list: Roy Avery, Metro; J. U. McCormick, Amity Pictures, and J. E. Estes, 20th Century-Fox.

Johnny McCarthy, manager of the Plaza, leaves this weekend for Washington, D. C., on a belated vacation . . . Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rosenbaum, Muscles Shoals Theatres, Florence, Ala., stopped over on their way to Miami for a short vacation . . . Howard Wallace, Sack Amusement Co., is in Birmingham on business . . . Ralph Marchmont has been added to the shipping department of 20th Century-Fox.

Doug Avey, who goes with Uncle Sam the first of February, will take over at the Techwood as manager until that time. Jack H. Hodges has been moved to the Roxy as manager . . . Al Rook, with Republic for the past five years, has handed in his resignation and will join his brother, Charles, at Montgomery, Ala., where he operates the Charles Theatre . . . Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilby, Wilby-Kincey Theatres, are in Miami Beach until March 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus King of the Capitol City Supply Co. have left on a combination business-pleasure tour through Florida. They will visit Palm Beach, Tampa, and wind up at Miami, where Mrs. King will spend several weeks . . . W. C. Sampler, booker for Columbia, has resigned to accept a post with Monogram Southern Exchange, New Orleans, as office manager and booker, effective January 20 . . . Leonard Seligman, manager of the Empire, has purchased the Friendly, Decatur, Ga., from Crenshaw Bonner. The theatre is being remodeled, and the name will be changed to the Wilson.

Bessie Loyless Buys Abbey in Abbeville

ABBEYVILLE, ALA.—The Abbey, owned by L. T. Sheffield of Headland, has been sold to Mrs. Bessie Loyless and her son, Archie M. Walker of Fort Gaines, Ga.

Mrs. Loyless owns and operates the theatre at Fort Gaines, and her family owns and operates a chain of ten houses in Georgia and Alabama.

CHARLOTTE

VISITORS: Mrs. H. T. Green, Hollywood Theatre, Manning, S. C.; Harry C. Cook of Mount Olive and Warsaw, N. C.; J. C. Peed of Creedmore, N. C.; Dick Easton, Imperial, Lancaster, S. C.; A. C. Phillips, Strand, Walhalla, S. C.; E. L. Swinson, Paramount, LaGrange, N. C.; Charles Tucker, Pembroke, Pembroke, N. C.; J. A. Reynolds, State, Shelby, N. C.; Lyle M. Wilson, General Amusements Co., Roanoke Rapids and Warrenton, N. C.; Cary Caudell, Wanoca, Wallace, N. C.; Kit McGowan of the Spring Hope, N. C., theatre; W. P. Friedell, Moncks Corner and St. Stephens, S. C., and H. P. Herring of the Carolina in Conway, S. C.

Junior Jackson, son of Ralph Jackson of the Carolina Delivery Service, is ill with flu . . . P. J. Caudell, owner of the Wanoca Theatre in Wallace, N. C., is recuperating from an attack of flu . . . Harry K. Lucas, former owner of the Charlotte in Charlotte, and now head of the Kozona Co., is a patient at the Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte. He went there several days ago for treatment . . . Jay Schrader, UA branch manager, is recuperating from an attack of flu . . . A new theatre is being planned by the Durham Recreation Department, Durham, N. C. It will be operated during the summer months in one of the parks.

J. R. Holcombe of Columbia, S. C., was awarded the contract to build the new Palmetto in Spartanburg, S. C. Palmetto Amusement Co. (Wilby-Kincey) will operate the house, which is supposed to be completed by May 1 . . . Harry Epting, head of the engineering department of National Theatre Supply for the southeast with headquarters in Atlanta, visited the Charlotte office . . . Benn Rosenwald, Metro branch manager, has returned to his office after spending several days in Asheville, N. C., conferring with Carl Bamford of Publix-Bamford Theatres.

Harold Jonasson, connected with Paramount for several years, has been transferred to the booking department of the Charlotte branch . . . North Carolina has a flying senator-exhibitor. Roy Rowe, who operates theatres in Burgaw, Elizabethtown and Bethel, is now known as the "Flying Senator." For some time past, Senator Rowe has been taking instructions at the Wilmington, N. C. airport and he recently flew from Wilmington to Raleigh for the opening of the North Carolina legislature to which he was recently elected. The senator expects to receive his private pilot's license before the assembly adjourns. He has his order in for a plane to be delivered at an early date. His theatres require him to commute frequently between them and Charlotte. He states that it is his wish to save "time." Senator Rowe is also a vice-president of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina.

W. J. Allen of the Allen (formerly the New Orpheum), North Wilkesboro, N. C., has purchased high intensity lamps from Bryant Theatre Supply . . . E. R. Medd is now connected with L. S. Sipe and H. H. Everett (Spindale Amusement Co.) in the capacity of manager of the Carolina in Spindale, N. C. Medd was formerly connected with Dr. R. S. Beam, who operated the Carolina in Lumberton, N. C., prior to it being taken over by North Carolina Theatres, Inc. Later he was associated with the Bailey Theatres in Wilmington, N. C., and only recently he returned to this territory from the Sudekum circuit in Nashville.

R. C. Speece, formerly city manager of the Lyric and Temple theatres in Gastonia, N. C. (Wilby-Kincey), has been promoted to the home office in Charlotte where he will be in the booking department . . . Bill Sharpe, for many years connected with Paramount in the ad sales department and recently with National Screen Accessories, has resigned to return to Paramount as a salesman . . . George W. Parr of Lancaster, S. C., announces the opening of his new de luxe Parr Theatre on January 21. He states the opening attraction will be "No, No, Nanette" . . . James Q. Wray, who once operated a theatre in York, S. C., died recently at the age of 73.

The many friends of J. A. Reynolds, who operates the State in Shelby, N. C., were saddened to learn of the sudden death of his mother, Mrs. Ada I. Reynolds . . . The mother of P. J., W. F. and C. H. Caudell, who operate theatres in Fairmont, Wallace, and Marshville, N. C., died recently . . . Carl Bamford (always par golfer), president of the Publix-Bamford Theatres in Asheville, N. C., has been elected to the board of directors of the local chamber of commerce . . . United Artists employes are very much on their toes. They hope to win the Arthur Kelly playdate and sales drive which ends April 19. The prize—two weeks' salary for every employe.

W. H. "Cotton" Eubanks, who operates the Wall Estate theatres in Rockingham, N. C., has acquired a son-in-law. His daughter, Maitha, was recently wed to Carlton Dunn, also of Rockingham. "Cotton" is known not only for his managerial ability, fishing (?), but also for his extreme thoughtfulness in procuring every comic book published and each month sending them to the Orthopedic Hospital in Gastonia, N. C., for the entertainment of the confined children . . . J. Francis White jr., with headquarters in Asheboro, N. C., was on the Row accompanied by his managers, Ben Allen of the Uptown, Durham, N. C.; Dick Lassiter, State, Greensboro, N. C., and R. L. Croom, Wake, Raleigh, N. C.

Carolyn Pitts Shuman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam W. Craver (Craver Theatres), was married recently to William H. Welch, also of Charlotte . . . Theatregoers of the Carolinas are highly elated over the announced appearance of Katharine Hepburn at the Carolina in Charlotte, January 28, in "The Philadelphia Story." She also appears in Durham, N. C., January 29 and Raleigh, January 30. Miss Hepburn's motion picture, "The Philadelphia Story," is underlined for early Carolina showings . . . Jeanette MacDonald appears in a concert presented by the Asheville junior chamber of commerce at the City Auditorium in Asheville, N. C., January 28.

Ten years ago this week the following pictures were playing in the Carolinas: Will Rogers in "Lightnin," Richard Barthelmess and Mary Astor in "The Lash," Jackie and Jean Arthur in "The Gangbusters," Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell in "The Man Who Came Back."

Two Governors See "Land of Liberty"

Charlotte—The opening of "Land of Liberty" at the Palmetto, Columbia, S. C., last Sunday was attended by Governor Maybank and other high state officials. Four days later, the film had its opening in North Carolina at the Ambassador in Raleigh, with Governor Broughton and educational and civic leaders in attendance.

The Metro film, depicting the development of America, was to open here Sunday at the Carolina.

Remodeling the Ritz

BRUCETON, TENN. — Remodeling of the Ritz now is in progress. The front is of structural glass with a new marquee and ticket booth.

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Concerning the Southeast

By A. JULES BENEDIC

MEMPHIS—With the flu bugaboo finally on the wane, the Memphis area faces the future with confidence, interviews with local exhibitors and exchange men disclose. There is a fine spirit prevailing and the goose undoubtedly hangs high.



BENEDIC

We wend our way to West Memphis, which, by the way, is in Arkansas, and chat with J. J. Rhodes, satrap of the Crittenden Theatre. "J. J." was most enthusiastic in his description of the theatre, which has many points of merit. For one thing, the Crittenden, built entirely of steel, enjoys the lowest fire rate of any house in Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi. All wires are in steel conduits, and steel is used for the backs of chairs. In a town of 4,000, this is a most creditable operation. In addition, Mr. Rhodes has 24,000 more persons in the county, so this excellent cinema has what is termed a big "draw." Folks come here even from Memphis, the owner reports.

Handy Square Happenings

Back in Memphis, we call upon Zerilla and Maceri, who control the colored situations on world-famous Beale Street. Two shows are operating at present, the Daisy and Palace. The old Grand has been razed, and on the grounds is being erected a fine new modern show for colored folks. This operation will be completed, Mr. Zerilla says, between March 15 and April 1.

We idle out to the Idlewild, an independent suburban operation in the hands of Nate Evans and the Cullens brothers. This set-up also controls the Savoy, a suburban house devoted to Negro patronage. The Idlewild is the last word in modernity, and a credit to the city.

We run out to the Royal in Memphis, a house more than a quarter of a century old. Walter Parham has been here as owner-manager since '26 . . . We meander to the Madison and ballyhoo about with Bellas, whose first name is Tom . . . Memphis meals are on a high par. A sign reads "only 11½ hours to New Orleans by bus" and maybe it's that rather close proximity that causes this cuisine . . . On the Main Stem we visit both Loew houses, and also Warner's. Down at Malco's, M. A. Lightman is not available, so we meander away from this hospitable southern city, and head for Atlanta.

Old Home Week on The Row

En route, we stop at Bolivar, Tenn., where the tidy Luez Theatre, we ascertain, was named for its owner, Miss Louise Mask, who wanted a name with only four letters. The townspeople joined in a contest, and the contraction of this pleasant lady's first name resulted . . . We pull into Pulaski, a Cumberland stronghold, and jaw with E. R. Jackson, who manages the Sam Davis for this important circuit. He tells us that the Best Theatre, closed for two years, now is receiving finishing touches and will reopen approximately February 1.

We ramble into Rome, Ga., and go to the offices of O. C. Lam, in order to see his secretary. O. C. Lam, according to that usually authentic publication, BOXOFFICE, is in Honolulu, but imagine our surprise when Oscar himself shows up after our request to see the guy in charge. It seems that Mr. Lam's planned trip to southern waters and Hawaii has been postponed for the time being. We renew our acquaintance with Oscar, whose three new theatre projects are detailed elsewhere by our Atlanta correspondent.

Another "old home week" on The Row. In a hurry, we don't catch many notes, but, meeting Ike Katz on the street, we ascertain that PRC's staff has been enlarged with the addition of Miss Bernice Ball to the office force.

Fire in Bristol

BRISTOL, TENN.—The New Norton was recently destroyed by fire with a loss of $50,000 to $60,000. The fire also destroyed 10 apartments above the theatre.

OKLA. CITY

THE remodeled Folly is getting set for reopening. Standard has begun teaser ads to call attention to the house, but has indicated no policy or pictures as yet. Best guess is first-run thrillers. Word has it that Dee Fuller, Circle manager, will be named manager of the Folly . . . Gordon Derrick, house manager of the Warner and former assistant manager of the Circle, has resigned to go into the oil business in Texas.

Work is going ahead nicely on the Variety Club's new building in southtown. It will be used as a health center. Walls are up and the roof is being put on as this opus is being written. It is expected the club's $45,000 *charitable project will be completed and ready for use sooner than was originally expected.*

National Theatre Supply gave out some nifty leather do-dads which can be used as a brief case or letter container on one's desk. Made a hit with the trade . . . Those were good photos of Dee Fuller and his lady that Dee had taken at Christmas time. Could be!

Assign Frankovich

HOLLYWOOD—Mike Frankovich has a featured role in Universal's "Buck Privates."

MEMPHIS

EXHIBITORS seen along the Row: Earl Vandiver, Kennett, Kennett, Mo.; Henley Smith, Imperial, Pocahontas, Ark.; John Crabtree, Merlu, Clarendon, Ark.; C. W. Tipton, New, Manila, Ark.; P. H. Pierce, Von, Booneville, Miss.; Claude Gentry, Lyric, Baldwyn, Miss.; G. H. Goff, Rustic, Parsons, Tenn.; Norman Fair, Fair, Somerville, Tenn.; Orris Collins, Capitol, Paragould, Ark.; Louie jr. and Henry Haven, Imperial Theatres, Inc., Forrest City, Ark.; John Shannon, Shannon, Portageville, Mo.; W. F. Hammer, Town, Collierville, Tenn.; Jack Watson, Palace, Tunica, Miss.; Mrs. H. G. Brewer, Savoy, Clarksdale, Miss.; Miss Louise Mask, Luez, Bolivar, Tenn.; W. O. Taylor, Uptown, Dresden, Tenn.; George Hale and C. H. Collier, Globe, Drew, Miss.; Charles Collier, Globe, Shaw, Miss., and B. F. Jackson, Delta, Ruleville, Miss.

Bill Bugie, Paramount's local manager, reports his crew is again intact. During the flu epidemic, he had eight employes off at one time . . . B. V. McDougald of Monticello has closed the Amusu there. He will continue to operate the Drew . . . Jack Revill, Paramount salesman, and the family are back after a visit to South Carolina . . . Juanita Scruggs, cashier at Vitagraph, is back on the job after a fight with flu . . . Mary Ripley Shattuck, booker's secretary at Vitagraph, is recuperating from an appendectomy at Methodist Hospital . . . Frank Neel, Paramount booker, has returned from Jacksonville, Fla., where he visited his parents.

Bill Osborne, branch manager for Monogram, is back after a trip by plane to Jacksonville, Fla., where he went to be with his brother who was in an airplane crash. Bill reports his brother was badly bruised and shaken up, but that he will soon be okay again . . . M. B. Hasty of the Joy, Dardanelle, Ark., paid the Row his regular monthly booking visit. He is just up from ten days in bed with the flu . . . Clayton Tunstill, Malco city manager in Owensboro, Ky., reports good advance ticket sales on "Little Men" for a show being sponsored by the Federation of Women's Clubs there. The Federation will use their percentage to furnish a room in the city hospital . . . Tommy Baldridge is the new availability clerk at Vitagraph.

Lee Gentry is the new accessory salesman at Republic. He replaces Seed Wortsmith, who has been called for a year's military training. Lee, incidentally, is the brother of Claude Gentry of Baldwyn, Miss. . . . Horace Stanley of the Radio at Beebe, Ark., another visitor . . . Marjeanne Baer, Jimmy Rogers' secretary at Columbia, and Billy Crouch were married January 4. The couple honeymooned in New Orleans and Florida. He will leave the latter part of January for a year's training at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. . . . E. W. Gibson, who for 20 years operated the Tutrovansum in Tutwiler, Miss., died recently at his home after several months illness. Mrs. Gibson, at present, is operating the theatre.

C. C. Mundo and E. C. Pickthorne of Central Theatres, Inc., Little Rock, who just opened the Liberty in North Little Rock, were Filmrow visitors . . . Al and Mrs. Wilson of the Bay at Red Bay, Ala., were in for the monthly luncheon by the Variety Club. Wilson recently became a full-fledged member of the club, and this was his first trip since becoming one of the boys.

Regent in Sudbury To Taylor Chain

TORONTO—The Regent at Sudbury, Ont., reconstructed a year ago at considerable cost, has been taken over by 20th Century Theatres, headed by Nat Taylor who is the chairman of the Motion Picture Section of the Toronto Board of Trade, from R. T. Stevens of Sudbury, owner of four other theatres in northern Ontario. It was acquired on a 10-year lease at a reported rental of $30,000 per year and will be under the management of Jack Alexander, brother of Harry Alexander, proprietor of the Lansdowne, Toronto, who is also widely known as the president of the Independent Theatres Association of Ontario. The Regent is the second largest of four theatres in Sudbury, with 1,161 seats.

Reconstruction of the Madison, Toronto, which had been taken over December 1 by 20th Century Theatres from the estate of John Brady, has been considerably delayed because of a holdup of delivery of structural steel and other building materials due to war demands and the theatre may not be opened for some time yet, although it had been announced that the Madison would reopen at the end of 1940. With the exception of the side and rear walls, the theatre is being rebuilt throughout along modern lines.

Incidentally, there has been an intimation that Famous Players Canadian Corp. has decided not to rebuild the Alhambra which is opposition to the Madison.

The Belmont, a neighborhood house in the Toronto West End seating 320 persons which had been idle for two years, has been reopened by Paul Naslen who has leased the theatre for five years from the owner of the property which includes an apartment building.

The Mayfair, Jane Street, Toronto, which has been operated by Abe Polakoff for years, has been taken over by Sam Firestone, prominent member of the Independent Theatres Ass'n, who owns the Aster and Esquire, Toronto, and the Esquire, Brantford, Ont.

Twentieth Century Theatres is proceeding with the erection of a new theatre in Chatham, Ont., which already has two houses, the Capitol of the Famous Players' chain and the Granada, a unit of Hanson Theatres Corp.

Building Last Quarter Centered in Ontario

TORONTO—Theatre construction activity in the Dominion in the last quarter of 1940 was centered mainly in the province of Ontario, a survey by BOXOFFICE correspondents in key centers of Canada reveals. Below is a break-down by provinces of announced new theatre building.

Alberta

Edmonton—The new 780-seat Garneau has been opened by Suburban Theatres, Ltd. It cost $100,000.

Lethbridge—C. F. Doughty has acquired a site for a new theatre.

British Columbia

Courtenay—E. W. Bickle has opened his new E. W. Theatre.

Vancouver—It is reported a theatre will rise on the site of present excavations on Cambie Street.

He'll Have Time to Think What He Said

Toronto—Charles Baltes, an officer in the German army in the last war, was fined $300 and sentenced to serve six months in jail, after which he will be interned for the duration of the war when he was tried in Toronto police court on a charge of creating a disturbance in Major's St. Clair Theatre during a performance of "Four Sons." According to witnesses, Baltes shouted, "That's right, shoot the dirty ———," when German soldiers were depicted machine-gunning Czech civilians.

Baltes was roughly handled by patrons until rescued by police who had been called by Sam Major, proprietor of the theatre. In court, Baltes claimed he had said, "That's right, they shot my brother," but his story was denied by witnesses.

Victoria—George Waring is manager of the new York.

Victoria—Famous Players Canadian announces a $200,000 theatre project.

Ontario

Cornwall—A 700-seat theatre is contemplated for this locality.

Fort William—Famous Players will lease a building here for conversion into a theatre.

Hamilton—A 750-seat theatre is planned here.

Nobel—The Allen chain has opened a theatre here.

Owen Sound—L. D. Kniffen will convert a building here into a theatre.

Parry Sound—The Allens are now operating a new theatre here.

Pembroke—Sam and Ben Ulster have started construction of a new theatre downtown. It will seat 500.

Sarnia—A third house, seating between 700 and 800, is in prospect for this town. Famous Players will build.

Tilbury—Twentieth Century Theatres is operating the new 700-seat Plaza. Harland Rankin is manager.

Welland—Famous Players is erecting a new theatre which will seat 800.

Quebec

Montreal—A. Woolf is erecting a new theatre to seat 800 on Sherbrooke St.

A new house is rumored for the north side.

A new theatre is in prospect for the west end.

Thirty Candidates Take Gov't Projection Course

TORONTO—Thirty candidates for operators' certificates are taking the newly-organized projectionists' 12 months' course of the Ontario government under the direction of O. J. Silverthorne, which had been authorized by Premier Hepburn to standardize instruction of apprentices, the fee being $100. It has been announced that radio principles have been added to the curriculum as a subject so that the students might become wireless experts for the army if necessary.

Among those taking the course are projection apprentices, electricians, munition workers on night shift and theatre and exchange employes. At the conclusion of the course, successful students will be awarded a diploma of qualification which will entitle them to take charge of theatre projection.

Says Grierson Will Continue in Job

MONTREAL—John Grierson will remain in Canada and serve as national film commissioner, despite his announced resignation, according to the *Financial Post*. The publication suggested that he should be put to work at once on a documentary film to boost war savings certificate sales.

The producer paused in Montreal, en route from New York to Ottawa, long enough to inspect the new picture, "The Peoples of Canada," produced at Associated Screen News plant by Gordon Sparling.

Grierson Discusses Relation Of Films to War Effort

OTTAWA—John Grierson of London, England, who is stepping out of the office of Dominion Film Commissioner which was created under the National Film Board Act of 1939 by the Canadian Parliament, has made two public appearances in both of which he discussed the relation of films to war effort, one discussion being heard on the network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

Grierson delivered one address before the Ottawa Women's Forum at the YMCA when he delved into the psychology of motion picture entertainment and gave an analytical outline of the principles which underlie wartime propaganda, tracing the organization and effects of various methods of disseminating information. During the course of his learned discourse, Grierson described at length the special characteristics of the Nazi method of frightfulness by using the screen for a strategy of terror before striking a blow at a country.

Tea was served following the address by Grierson.

Death Closes Colorful Career of B. W. Silver

TORONTO—Death closed the colorful career of Boris W. Silver, president and general manager of Colonial Pictures, Ltd., when he expired suddenly in New York City where he had gone to negotiate for several independent features for the Dominion.

Three years ago Silver came to Toronto practically a stranger to establish an independent exchange and took a suite of offices in the Film Exchange Building, gradually expanding largely through his own personality. Only recently he had returned from Montreal with his salesman, James Davidson, after dealing with a move to establish a branch in that city to be added to those in Winnipeg and Vancouver. He had not been in the best of health for some time but maintained a dapper figure, which had become familiar as he mingled with exhibitors on Filmrow. At New Year's he donated the rental for the premiere of "One Night in Paris" at the Avenue to the British War Victims' fund and went to New York a few days later where he dropped dead while talking to two film men at Rockefeller Center.

MONTREAL

GRADUALLY creeping back to normal after the holidays, business in the theatres is found encouraging by managers, most of whom consider that 1941 is likely to be at least on a par with 1940 and may be better.

United Amusement Corp. theatre managers presented Frank Warnicker, invalided veteran manager, associated for nearly a lifetime with the Strand, with a New Year's gift of a radio receiving set . . . Don Cameron, assistant manager of the Snowdon, is recovering from a severe attack of the grippe which confined him to his home for several days.

Lucienne Boyer, Parisian film star and comedienne, whose visits to Montreal have been red letter events for the students of the French-Canadian university, has been arrested in Paris on a charge of speculating in foodstuffs. She is the wife of the comedian Pills, of Pills et Tabett, also well known on this continent and in Parisian cinema circles, prior to the German occupation . . . "In Spite of Hitler We Re-open Next Week" read a poster outside a wrecked cinema in Coventry. It had been placed there after a raid which damaged the theatre previous to the holocaust which wiped out the city.

Theatre doormen often have reason to feel bellicose, and this may account for the fact that two of them, Alex Taylor of the Rialto and Eric Byrd of the Monkland, are now with the Canadian Active Service Force. Taylor is in Newfoundland, and Byrd has already arrived in England.

Harvey Cassett of ASN still department spent the New Year's holiday at the Seigniory Club, Montebello, Que., covering activities of the festive season there. Charlie Wilkinson of the same department spent several days at Quebec City on stills for tourist publicity . . . J. W. Campbell, newsreel editor of ASN, was a visitor to Ottawa . . . Colin Munro, formerly of the sales department of Associated Screen News, who is with an artillery unit, is one of the latest Canadian stalwarts to reach England.

The efforts put forth by the Nazis to prevent the showing of Charlie Chaplin's powerful propaganda picture, "The Great Dictator," caused S. Morgan-Powell, editor-in-chief of Montreal Star, *to reflect that "it is a curious commentary upon the limits of German psychology that it should think it possible by protesting against these pungent caricatures, to prevent their propaganda value from achieving its object. The Nazis tacitly admit their value and importance by asking various countries to refuse to permit their presentation."*

All news reporting agencies are on the alert to assist their country in time of war, and newsreels are no exception. Last week an Associated Screen News crew proceeded to Ottawa and interviewed Hon. Colin Gibson, minister of national revenue. Roy Tash, cameraman and Dick Harrison, sound technician, covered a story on a new plan offered by the Dominion government for installment payments of this year's higher income taxes.

From theatre usher to army officer is the right-about-face from civilian to military life achieved by Peter Tessier, head usher of the Snowdon, who is now Lieutenant Tessier of the Canadian Active Service Force . . . Randolph Walsh, another of the Snowdon's ushers, is back from a month's military training . . . Miss Rita Ireland, cashier at the Snowdon, has secured a position in the office of No. 1 Wireless School.

"The Thief of Bagdad" is in its third week at the Orpheum. Another color film, "North West Mounted Police," drew capacity audiences to the Imperial . . . "Bitter Sweet," musical comedy film, is held over at Loew's . . . "The Ramparts We Watch," March of Time feature, was at the York. Fred Astaire and Paulette Goddard in "Second Chorus" was light and bright fare at the Capitol.

VANCOUVER

HARRY GLEAVES of the Orpheum, Dawson City, made the trip to this city by plane in exactly two days time. He plans an extended stay . . . Chuck Wilkins of Bralorne has bought a new car and advises that he is very well pleased with it . . . Sam Nagler of UA returned from a trip to Vancouver Island reporting that theatre business was exceptionally good.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Murray of Lillooet down to Victoria. Mr. Murray is member of parliament for the Lillooet district and, consequently, makes many trips to the coast . . . Fred Stone, EU salesman just returned from a trip to the Bridge River Valley, reports very cold weather, with some snow there.

Ivan Ackery of the Orpheum was arranging for an elaborate "world premiere" on Thursday of "Hudson's Bay." The premiere will be simultaneous with openings in Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Victoria, all cities whose early history is bound up with that of the great company, the origin of which is portrayed in the picture. Streets will be illuminated here for blocks on all sides, and a Hollywood orchestra will be in attendance. It is probable that one or more stars of the picture will be present. The entire ceremonial will be filmed for Fox Movietone News, and will be broadcast over a local station.

Jim Stewart of Pioneer misses his favorite sport, that of skiing, but doctor's orders will not allow him such strenuous relaxation.

Members of the local office of Empire Universal Films are engaged in a business-getting drive which is the largest that the company has ever put on.

Many Dominion Filmgoers

TORONTO — In 1939, Canadian theatres were patronized by 138,497,043 persons, who paid a total of $34,010,115 for general admission, exclusive of amusement taxes.

Hilarity Abounds at Affair for Jeffery

By ROY CARMICHAEL

MONTREAL—Motion picture distributors, managers, owners, producers and members of allied industries mingled together in the Stanley Grill, January 9, in one of the most hilarious parties of the winter. The occasion was a send off to A. J. Jeffery, retiring Montreal district manager of United Artists, who has been appointed Toronto district manager.

Jeffery was the recipient of several presentations, some valuable and serious, others rather comical. He had to acknowledge a couple of suitcases, a bag of flour, an old bowling club trophy cup, a live goat, a live rooster, and a couple of steins of beer—not to drink but as a bath, the contents being solemnly poured over him as a quaint means of wishing him godspeed and good luck.

Arthur Hirsch of Consolidated Theatres, Ltd., presided and showered encomiums on the guest. Tom Dowbiggin of Paramount, assisted by John Ganetakos, of United Amusement Corp., was master of ceremonies. Three general managers from Toronto graced the scene with their presence. They were Sam Glazer, United Artists; Dave Coplan, Columbia, and Morris Milligan, Paramount.

Among those noted at the head-table and elsewhere in the hall were: George Rotsky, Consolidated Theatres; J. Chauvin, United Amusement; W. Lester, United Amusement; W. J. Singleton, Associated Screen News; Lloyd C. Pearson, Dominion Sound Equipments; N. Lawand, Confederation Amusement; Charles Chaplin, new Montreal manager of United Artists; Ed English, 20th-Fox; M. Isman, Empire-Universal; Phil Sherman, Warner-Vitagraph; H. Taylor, RKO; M. Brown, Paramount; John Levitt, Regent; W. Cass, Regal; W. Elman, Columbia, and a host of independent theatre proprietors and managers from theatres all over the city.

A floor show added to the delights of a "well-spent evening."

UA Transferees Report For Their New Duties

MONTREAL—C. S. Chaplin, former United Artists manager at Saint John, has arrived here to succeed A. J. Jeffery, Montreal district manager, who has been named manager of the Toronto branch. Jeffery succeeds Sam Glazer, who was promoted to Canadian general manager on the ascension of Haskell Masters to the post of UA western division manager for the United States and Canada. George Feiber becomes manager of the Saint John exchange.

Double Celebration

SUDBURY, ONT.—Marking the Capitol's 10th anniversary and the opening of "North West Mounted Police" at the theatre, was a party held at the Hotel Coulson by Manager Sid Scott and his wife. Guests of honor were members of the Mounted Police and the Ontario Provincial Police.

TORONTO

N L. NATHANSON, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has gone to Florida to spend the winter on the advice of his family physician, having required medical attention in recent months because of increased business responsibilities and the taking on of added duties in connection with national war work, both in theatre cooperation and broadcasting details.

Isser Singerman, manager of the Imperial, Ottawa, received a visit from his entire house staff immediately after the close of a recent evening performance when he was presented with an address and the gift of a traveling bag as a token of esteem. In accepting the token of good will, Singerman referred to the happy relations which had been maintained between the personnel and himself throughout the past year.

President O. R. Hanson, Vice-President Paul Nathanson and General Manager A. W. Perry of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., Toronto, are making a tour of inspection of western branches of the company to the Pacific coast and for a study of wartime conditions in the prairie provinces.

Sam Glazer has become established in the office of Canadian district manager of United Artists in succession to Haskell Masters and is busily engaged in the organization of details, including the installation of branch officials in new posts, the latest appointment being the selection of George Heiber as manager at St. John, N. B., in succession to Charles Chaplin who has been promoted to the Montreal office, following A. J. Jeffery who has taken over the Toronto branch.

Leslie Jefferies of the Patricia, London, Ont., has been appointed assistant manager of the Grand, Sudbury, in succession to J. M. Silverthorne, who resigned to become manager of the Strand, an Allen house at Tillsonburg. Roy Miller, who has been residing in the United States until recently, has been appointed assistant manager to Tom McKnight at the London Patricia in succession to Fred Thompson who has been made manager of the Rex at London. These changes have been announced by H. C. D. Main, supervisor of Hanson Theatres Corp. Incidentally, Main has intimated that a convention of Hanson chain managers will be held in Toronto in the spring to replace the usual get-together in December which was cancelled because of other important business details in connection with war cooperation work.

The Ottawa franchise in the Canadian-American Baseball League has been finally transferred officially to Schenectady, N. Y., and the Canadian capital will have to do without baseball for the duration of the war because of military use of the ball park. Don Stapleton, manager of the Center, Ottawa, was president of the Ottawa Baseball Club for several years.

Miss Norma Reney, 19-year-old invalid of Toronto, has received a number of personal gifts from Pat O'Brien, film star, including a gold wrist watch, silk nightgown and a woolen sweater. Some years ago, O'Brien received a letter of encouragement from the Toronto girl "at a time when I needed inspiration." Last November when the star and Mrs. O'Brien were on a holiday tour, they made a special trip to Toronto to visit Miss Reney.

Two visitors to Toronto via the air were Hollywood personalities who were "ferrying" war planes from California for delivery to the Royal Air Force. They were John Trent, actor, and Lewis Bateman, private pilot of Wallace Beery, who were in a party of ten airmen who landed planes at the Toronto Island airport after a stormy ride.

William Forward, sound engineer of Dominion Sound Equipments, Ltd., has been appointed an instructor of the Ontario government's school of projectionists which has been opened at Toronto for its first 12 months' term with 30 pupils. The two other instructors are government employes, Hilliard Gray, theatre inspector, and Milton Elliott, chief operator who has been in the provincial office for 32 years.

Henry Marshall, manager of the Rideau, Ottawa, is now the happy husband of Miss Audrey Boehmer of that city, according to recent announcement. Gordon Beavis, manager of the Royal, North Bay, has taken unto himself a wife in the person of Miss Dodds of Peterboro, Ont., where Gordon formerly resided. Mr. and Mrs. Wanie Tyers of St. Thomas, Ont., have announced the arrival of a daughter, Gail. Tyers is manager of the Granada in that city.

Nick Dotsch, proprietor of the Hillcrest, Toronto, and Mrs. Dotsch celebrated the first anniversary of their marriage by taking a trip to Chicago after which Mrs. Dotsch proceeded to Florida for a four-week rest while he returned to the management of the theatre.

Al Sanderson, treasurer of Hanson Theatres Corp., experienced a holiday at the Toronto City Hall, having been called up for jury duty . . . Personal gifts donated by various Hollywood stars as prizes for the War Savings Stamp Campaign of Toronto but which were not used because of re-arranged plans are being held by the War Services Committee. They will be offered shortly in a stunt to aid Canada's war effort.

Ed Wells, for many years national secretary of the Canadian Film Boards of Trade, has been named secretary-treasurer of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada under the reorganized setup. He continues as secretary of the boards and his office is in conjunction with the distributors' association.

James Melton is making a personal appearance in Toronto on January 22 under the auspices of the Royal Regiment of Canada in aid of Canadian war charities. He plans on making a visit to the troops at Camp Borden where he sang for the soldiers on a Canadian trip last summer.

Charles P. Wright, born a Scotsman and a resident of Winnipeg for a long period, has been named as a member of the production staff of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. For a time he was in Hollywood where he worked in pictures but most of his experience has been as a theatre employe in the Dominion and on the stage in dramatic stock companies . . . Pete Bardessino and Dan Mascioli of the Goldfields Theatres interests were in Toronto on a business trip from Timmins, northern Ontario.

Grant Garrette, manager of the Geneva, Orillia, pulled a good stunt for "Two Girls on Broadway" by using a life-size cutout of George Murphy and two girls for a street ballyhoo, the head of Murphy having been removed from the set. Male pedestrians were invited to have their picture taken with their faces occupying the vacant head space. The photographic prints were exhibited in the window of the camera shop and the first 15 men who identified themselves in a picture, standing between the two lovelies, received passes to the show.

Manager Don Doberer of the Granada, Dunnville, Ont., has adopted the plan of calling up three persons to ask them what the current attraction is at the theatre and the correct answer brings the award of a pass to the theatre. He doesn't just know what to make of the situation, however, because, over a period of time, he did not have to send out a complimentary.

O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario censor board, has recovered from an attack of influenza and is again operating full time.

VICTORIA

THROUGH the courtesy of Ralph Calladine, proprietor of the Plaza, the Rotary Club is sponsoring a drive to aid the Lord Mayor of London's fund, at the theatre. Each night before the showing of "Pastor Hall," a speaker announces the plan from the stage and members of the club sell tickets on the aisles.

"Jock" Robertson, manager of the Capitol, arranged a plug for the premiere of "Hudson's Bay" on January 16 in the form of a half page illustrated article on the film in the magazine section of a local newspaper. Victoria was one of the most westernly outposts of the company of adventurers, which today operates a department store, fur and land departments here.

The city council is looking with favor upon efforts to establish an ice arena at the Willows Horse Shoe Building in the Exhibition Grounds, which the city owns, but wants to see a definite plan before endorsing the proposal.

Joe Neagler of United Artists Vancouver office, a visitor to the city last week, is expecting "The Thief of Bagdad" to have a record opening at the Plaza.

Team Cummings and Arthur

HOLLYWOOD — Robert Cummings will have the lead opposite Jean Arthur in "The Devil and Miss Jones." Frank Ross and Norman Krasna produce for RKO.

Metro Renews Hertz

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has renewed the writing contract of David Hertz.

EDMONTON

DESPITE decreases in business reported by all managers here, New Year's Eve frolics were more successful than usual. All downtown houses were sold out two days previous to the showings, while neighborhood theatres were well filled. Prizes valued at $1,500 were given away at the Capitol while the Rialto offered similar prizes. Several hundreds of dollars in prizes were given away at the smaller houses. Despite higher admissions, these frolics, which were first originated at the Capitol under Walter Wilson, gain in popularity every year and are unique in Alberta. Calgary has followed the example set in Edmonton during the past two years.

Frank H. Kershall, district manager for Famous Players' western division, was a recent visitor from Calgary. While here he conferred with several managers . . . Fred Tickell, formerly assistant manager of the Capitol in Calgary, has arrived here to take over the management of the Princess, neighborhood theatre of the Entwisle chain.

A quiz program for the holders of thrift tickets is being sponsored by the Capitol under the management of Walter Wilson. The program is given from the studio of a local broadcasting station and includes questions of topical interest as well as geographical and theatrical. Contestants may choose the subject of their questions and may double their money on subsequent questions.

"The Great Dictator" is expected to show at the Rialto late next month or early in February, according to Jay Lieberman, manager. One of the most popular pictures shown recently at the Rialto proved to be "The Thief of Bagdad," said Lieberman, who stated that heavy bookings prevented a holdover.

Patrick J. Nolan Dies After Lengthy Illness

OTTAWA—The death has occurred in a local hospital of Patrick J. Nolan, independent theatre owner for many years, after a lengthy illness thus bringing to a close an eventful career as an exhibitor and politician.

"Paddy," as he was known, was born here 59 years ago and early became the proprietor of a drug store, entering the theatre business more than 25 years ago. He opened the Rex in the West End, added what is now known as the Nola and eventually opened the handsome atmospheric Avalon in Ottawa South. For some time he was ably assisted in the operation of the three houses by members of his family, Maryan Nolan and one son, Ambrose. An opponent of the chain interests, "Paddy" caused some surprise when he leased the Avalon to Famous Players six years ago. During his lengthy illness, the Rexy and Nola have been managed by Miss Maryan Nolan with creditable showing.

To Build in the Spring

FORT WILLIAMS, ONT.—Famous Players will build a new theatre here in the spring.

Urge Playing Time for Series of War Films

TORONTO—The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League has sent out a general order to all Legion branches and zone commanders to extend cooperative assistance to local theatre managers in the presentation of the "Canada Carries On" series produced by the National Film Board and released through Columbia Pictures of Canada, Ltd., on a commercial rental basis.

Announcement is made in the circular that 660 theatres in the Dominion have signed contracts for these monthly releases and the Legionnaires are requested to support the performances when shown and to encourage other exhibitors to book the series as a form of national service.

Into Move to Restrict Juvenile Patronage

WINNIPEG—As the result of a petition presented to the Manitoba legislature urging amendment of the provincial act to prohibit children under 14 years of age to attend motion pictures classified as adult, a special committee is now investigating this matter.

Giving evidence before this committee, the Rev. W. E. Donnelly, pastor of Young United Church here, claimed that Catholic and Protestant churches, service organizations, clubs, etc., were all behind this effort. At the same time he brought forward another petition with an additional 5,000 names.

Reverend Donnelly said that every effort had been made to get cooperation from exhibitors before bringing the petition forward. Although there had been much favorable aid given, and a certain amount of short-time cooperation, he claims exhibitors later went back to the old type of adult bills at children's matinees. This move, he said, was explained by exhibitors as due to a lack of films of the kind desired.

E. K. Williams, counsel for 35 exhibitors of the city, told the committee he believed he was talking for the majority of parents when he said the answer to the problem was in the home and with the parents themselves. He argued it was not one that could or should be worked out by the government.

Replying to one member of the "better films" committee, he said that the standard of business morality in the film industry was as high as in any other type of business. Then he went on to explain that exhibitors had nothing to do with the nature of films produced, which they bought sight unseen for the year's showings. He pointed out that the Winnipeg film exchange supplied theatres in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and western Ontario and that the demands made it impossible to get films classified as general simply by asking for them.

In reply to a suggestion that double features be abolished at Saturday matinees, Williams said producers would like to get away from the policy but the public demanded this type entertainment.

WINNIPEG

OVER 900 newspaper carriers of the Winnipeg *Free Press*, together with their mothers and helpers, were guests of the newspaper at a special showing of "A Dispatch From Reuter's" at Syl Gunn's Metropolitan. The occasion was to mark the distribution of awards in a contest sponsored by the National Newspaper Carrier Press of Minneapolis. With carrier pigeons flitting across the screen and carrier boys filling his house, Gunn had a neat tieup with his film and also a nice break with the story in the daily which plugged his house and film.

An attractive tieup has been made with the T. Eaton Co., and other leading book stores, for window displays of the book "Mein Kampf," which has been made into a film and released by Grand National. Proceeds of the sale of the book will go to charity . . . Harold Bishop is looking forward to big doings next week when "Hudson's Bay" opens at his house. Bishop, together with George Frazer of 20th Century-Fox and Jack Fitzgibbons of the Metropolitan have cooked up some effective angles for publicizing the film.

W. H. Keirl, Coliseum, Semans, Sask., reports good business on the Lord Mayor's dedication program, consisting of "The Warning" and "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" . . . It is reported that the continued interest in reports from Vichy of the strengthening stand being taken by the Petain government, is of particular interest to exhibitors in western Canada in view of the number of French and French descendants who make up theatre audiences.

Leslie Allen, formerly with Grand National in Vancouver, has taken over the York in Victoria . . . William Kelly, formerly with RKO and Warner in Calgary, has been appointed manager of Grand National's Calgary office . . . S. E. Rost, popular Garrick manager, is on the sick list. Also Andie Ostrander, assistant treasurer at the Capitol, who has achieved complete ostracism with a case of "German measles" . . . Paul Nathanson, vice-president of Empire Universal; A. W. Perry, general sales manager for E-U, and Oscar Hanson, president of Hanson Theatres, are expected in next week.

Another visitor will be J. O'Loghlin, general manager of 20th Century-Fox, who will arrive here for the opening of "Hudson's Bay" at the Capitol . . . Dave Rothstein of Rothstein Theatre Enterprises has returned from Saskatoon and a tour of the circuit in Saskatchewan . . . Bob Rennie has resigned as Winnipeg booker for Vitagraph . . . S. Greco, formerly with 20th Century-Fox in Winnipeg, has joined the staff of Grand National . . . Ted Cohen of Warner's, Winnipeg, has returned to his post after a 30-day military training period . . . Miss Frances Goffman, a local actress, has gone to Hollywood to study with Maria Ouspenskaya.

Lyric in Ruins

MINNEDOSA—The Lyric is in ruins after a fire which gutted the house last Friday evening. Damage is estimated at about $15,000.

NUGGETS

"I'M NOT 'COMRADE X,' but I'm going to the place where you'll find him," was the copy carried around town by a sandwich man as one of the highlights of the "Comrade X" campaign put over by Louis Guidette, State, Charleroi, Pa. The man passed out numbered heralds, and those whose numbers corresponded with a list displayed in the lobby were awarded guest tickets.

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The cover of the press book on "Sea Hawk" was placed in the boxoffice window of the Symphony Theatre in Chicago by Manager Bob Kennedy, a week in advance of the picture's run.

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Manager James F. McCarthy of the Strand in Hartford, Conn., distributed blotter-rulers to the public schools, as part of his publicity on "Thief of Bagdad." The blotter rulers were in the shape of film strip and carried film-like scenes from the picture down the length. The ruler ran along the margin and playdate copy at one end.

•

A youngster dressed in woman's clothes paraded downtown Holyoke, Mass., with a sign: "If you think I'm funny, wait until you see 'Sailor's Lady' at the Victory Theatre." The stunt was Manager George Laby's.

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Every person named Kelly in Hartford, Wis., was invited to be an opening night guest of the Hartford Theatre as part of the "Little Nellie Kelly" campaign put over by Charlie Braun. The invitation made page one in the dailies.

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An old patrol wagon cruising the streets with men dressed as the Marx Bros., was part of the ballyhoo for "Go West" put on by H. D. Grove of the Fort Theatre at Rock Island, Ill.

•

An identification contest was one of the features of the "Third Finger, Left Hand" campaign put over by Milton D. Lewis, Fischer, Danville, Ill. An usher, impersonating Myrna Loy's "missing husband," toured several department stores with a copy of the local newspaper under his arm. Customers recognizing him received guest tickets to the theatre.

•

For his "Dulcy" campaign, Morris Rosenthal, Loew's Poli, Bridgeport, had a pretty young lady in uniform stroll through streets with a package marked: "Kisses from Dulcy." To all the curious she tendered a candy kiss.



These "Pickets" Were Welcomed—

A street ballyhoo used by Edward H. McBride at Loew's State in Providence for "The Thief of Bagdad." Sixteen boys were used, all wearing turbans and carrying an individual sign in color. "Good results," McBride reports.

Launch "Land of Liberty" With Advance Screening

MEMPHIS — Representatives of educational, civic, patriotic and other organizations, as well as members of the press, attended an advance screening of "Land of Liberty" as part of the campaign put over for the film by Cecil Vogel of Loew's State. A letter from Mayor Chandler urged citizens to see the picture.

Vogel also arranged a radio round-table discussion on the film, and secured the cooperation of every leading group in the city in circularizing information on the production.

"Escape" Teasers

SALT LAKE CITY—"Escape" teaser lines were utilized in a novel way by Ray Hendry of the Centre during his campaign for the film. Phrases like "You can't escape 'Escape'" were stenciled on sidewalks in residential and business districts.

Seeing It Sold Cinches Deals

Evidence that good showmanship not only sells the public but even sells a picture to an exhibitor, came from Eddie Selette, the Albany, New York, showman whose campaigns have frequently merited depiction in the Selling Seats pages of BOXOFFICE. Following the reproduction of Selette's front for "After Mein Kampf," in the December 21 issue, Selette received a letter from a Michigan showman, sold on the idea of showing the picture himself, and asking details.

"Nuts" Angle to Hilt In "Go West" Gags

CLEVELAND—An "All-Laugh Week" was inaugurated by Joe Longo, Loew's publicist, as part of his "Go West" campaign. He had three men, dressed as the Marx Bros., walk along crowded shopping streets and hand out bags of nuts. Also dwelling on the "nut" angle, Longo offered guest tickets for the nearest correct count on a large bowl of them displayed in a store window.

Ed Pentecost Uses Postcard Message

ATLANTA—A real laugh-getter was the postcard message used in advance of "Go West" by Ed Pentecost of Loew's Grand.

The message read: "At the request of a close friend of yours, we are shipping you, under separate cover, samples of our raindrops. Besides bringing relief from the drought, they can also be used in larger quantities to bathe the canary. We would refer you to the manager of Loew's Grand Theatre as to our qualities, but he has gone completely nuts since seeing the new Marx Bros. picture, 'Go West.'"

"Marxes" in Patrol Wagon

ROCK ISLAND, ILL.—Three men dressed as the Marx Bros. cruised the downtown section in a patrol wagon as part of the advance "Go West" campaign put over by H. D. Grove of the Fort. Grove also planted large lumps of coal, sprayed with gold, in local store windows, with a sign reading: "You don't have to 'Go West' to find a fortune in gold."



A Sure Traffic-Stopper—

One of a series of window displays devoted by Bloomingdale's department store in New York to the film, "They Met on Skis." Other angles in the store-wide tieup for the film in its playdate at the 55th Street Playhouse included newspaper ads, a 16mm reel from the film in the ski, sports and camera departments, and a ski fashion show in the theatre.

Utilize Portable Radios To Publicize "Nanette"

SALT LAKE CITY—Manager Dave Edwards of the Rialto, for "No, No, Nanette," put out 20 attractive girls with portable radios tuned into a special "Nanette" broadcast over KDYL. The girls visited downtown stores and distributed candy novelties advertising the film while shopping crowds listened to "No, No, Nanette" tunes.

Auction "Escape"

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—An auction of four autographed copies of "Escape" garnered columns of publicity and art for Mort Berman of the Orpheum. Auction was held on the stage and proceeds went to charity. Exploiteer Gene Rich assisted and helped put the same stunt over at Len Worley's Madison in Peoria.

Milking Contest

DENVER—A milking contest on the stage of the Orpheum was arranged by Manager Mickey Gross and Terry Turner of RKO's exploitation department, for "Little Men." The Denver *Post* cooperated in the stunt.

"Information" Broadcast Wider

NEW YORK—The Lucky Strike-sponsored "Information Please" broadcast network was increased by 20 stations on January 3. This makes a total of 113 stations in the NBC network carrying the ether program around the theme of which RKO's shorts series of the same title is based.

Many Serialize "Kitty"

NEW YORK—One hundred and fourteen newspapers are using the "Kitty Foyle" serialization currently, with more than 100 additional publications scheduled to run it within the next few weeks.

May Secure Cooking School Tieup Free

BOSTON — Cooking school tieups are available, without charge, to exhibitors in those parts of the country where Lever Brothers send special promotion crews, L. B. Sanders of the Consumers' Service Department informs BOXOFFICE.

Any exhibitor in the country is eligible to avail himself of the cooking school plan if he is in a district being serviced by one of the concern's special corps. Such segments now are operating in certain parts of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, New York, Illinois and Missouri.

Any exhibitor interested in the proposition, Sanders suggests, might write him for further information at Lever Brothers, 50 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Mass.

Uses School Schedules

WATERBURY, CONN.—With the cooperation of the local board of education, Ed Fitzpatrick of Loew's made up and distributed to schools, loose-leaf sheets on the top half of each of which were printed regular students' classroom schedules. The bottom half carried theatre copy.

Honor Buttons for McCurdy, Gilman

New York—M-G-M has awarded Honor Roll buttons to William B. McCurdy, manager-publicity director of the Broadway, Portland, Ore., for his campaign on "Land of Liberty," and to Sam Gilman, manager of Loew's, Dayton, Ohio, for his on "Bitter Sweet."

Big Campaign for "Kitty" in Philly

PHILADELPHIA—A "Kitty Foyle" newspaper contest featured the campaign put on locally by Manager Stanley Benford of the Boyd for that RKO picture.

The *Daily News* sponsored the contest which ran for ten days before opening, with generous allotment of daily stories and photographs. At a Ritz-Carlton Hotel luncheon for the contestants, the winner was selected and on the opening day she visited, in a Cadillac car decorated with pennants marked "Kitty Foyle," all the spots mentioned in the Christopher Morley novel. The same evening she acted as hostess at the Boyd habited in the original gold lame gown worn in the film by Ginger Rogers.

Producer David Hempstead made a special trip to Philadelphia and was tendered a luncheon attended by newspapermen who interviewed him.

The "Kitty Foyle" serialization in the *Bulletin* ran for three weeks. Newspaper trucks were placarded with the announcement and newsstands covered with tack cards.

Fifteen hundred de luxe window cards were distributed throughout the city; tie ups were arranged with principal bookstores featuring specially-printed cards with Ginger holding a copy of the book; daily radio broadcasts over WCAU announced the premiere at the Boyd and a 15-minute interview with the winner of the *Daily News* contest was held over Station WPEN on opening night.

Serialization of "Kitty" Highlights Campaign

NEW ORLEANS—Manager Vic Meyer of the Orpheum used the serialization of the Christopher Morley novel as the highlight of his campaign on "Kitty Foyle." A tie-in was also arranged with Godchaux's department store for a complete window featuring a "white collar girl." Walgreen's drug stores featured a "Kitty Foyle" sundae and the local bookstores set up an elaborate "Kitty Foyle" window featuring the popular dollar edition.

Assure Women "Kitty" Is Suitable for Children

DETROIT—The local tradeshowing of "Kitty Foyle" was combined with an intelligent piece of exploitation in the form of an invitation to some 2,000 representatives of Parent-Teachers' and similar organizations to the preview at Wisper & Wetsman's Roosevelt.

The preview was announced in the newspapers—one of the few ever to receive any newspaper publicity whatever here—but in editions after the starting time so that only the invited guests would attend.

One objective of the outside invitation was to convince leaders of these various civic groups and women's organizations that Ginger Rogers, the film's star, has made in "Kitty Foyle" a picture wholly for children. It will be recalled her former picture, "Primrose Path," was banned by the censor in this territory.

Western Daze

Paramount (Puppetoon) 9 *Mins.*

Very good. One of the most striking novelties in shorts today created and produced by George Pal with a musical background by Andre Kostelanetz and his orchestra. Photographed in Technicolor the blend of shadings is gorgeous to the eye, particularly the backdrops. There is a bit of a story which stirs the puppets into action and song. There is Jim Dandy, the tenderfoot, who meets up with two scurry-looking bandits only to be put on the spot for allegedly stealing the sheriff's horse. But an eye-full of femininity, better known as the sheriff's daughter, saves the day for Jim Dandy, as does the wooden steed.

The Sacred Ganges

Paramount (Fascinating Journey) 11 *Mins*

Impressive. Benares is a city in India dedicated to the worship of a strange, incomparable river, the Ganges. The people who come to the city to worship, their holy customs, Hindus of all castes and conformities, young, old, betrothed and afflicted are covered by the Technicolor camera. As social or historical documentation it ranks high. The holy men who sit for years, never moving, while the sacred Ganges flows by —others who stare forever in the sun and others who torture themselves to win divine favor and cremation of the dead are impressive sights. Narration is handled by Frank Gallop.

U. S. Military Academy, West Point

Columbia 10 *Mins.*

Well filmed. Nothing new on the subject is shown in this reel. Students at West Point study tactics, mechanics, chemistry, field maneuvers, handle guns and flex their muscles. Then they play football. Possibly audiences might be interested more at the moment than at any other time.

You, the People

M-G-M (Crime Does Not Pay) 21 Mins.

Excellent. Were there more short subjects of this character the chances are there would be fewer double feature programs. It's packed solid with an absorbing expose of election racketeering. When it's over it leaves the deep conviction that Mr. and Mrs. Citizen owe it to themselves and to their country to vote as a duty, not a convenience. From behind the scene it shows how ballot boxes are stuffed, voters intimidated, business men victimized, etc. And all this in a story that is compact, smooth and smartly handled.

Breezy Little Bears

Paramount 11 Mins.

Terrific. This reel featuring three mischievious little bears—the same ones that were in "Busy Little Bears" that copped an Academy Award in 1939—should send patrons of all ages out of your theatre asking for a repeat showing. It's crammed with more delightful, ingratiating humor—the natural kind—than many, many cans of studio stock. By name they are Horace, Herbert and Herman. Frank Crumit, the radio star, does a grand job as commentator in pointing up the situations. And they're a scream; first in a hay loft, then in a tub of soapsuds, sneaking pies off the window sills, cowering before a goose, dabbling around a dairy, cavorting in a baby carriage and much more. It's a top-notch laugh provoker.

Old New Orleans

M-G-M (FitzPatrick Traveltalk) 9 *Mins.*

Colorful. Technicolor does much to enhance the camera highlights of this historic Louisiana city. In the usual FitzPatrick manner, the reel offers a wealth of material for the armchair traveler; not the least of which is an atmosphere distinctly associated with the Old World. This is particularly true in the many evidences of the French and Spanish influences in architecture, landmarks, parks, restaurants, etc.

Dog in the Orchard

Vitaphone (Broadway Brevity) 20 *Mins.*

Compelling. A Mary Roberts Rinehart story makes an interesting tabloid screen drama. A farmer who killed his wife in order to run away with his clandestine sweetheart is eventually brought to justice when his wife's dog persists in coming back and bringing the sheriff with him. Neatly handled in all departments.

The Fighting 69th ½

Vitaphone (Merrie Melody) 7 *Mins.*

A rib tickler. In Technicolor, black ants and red ants imitate man in warfare when a picnic food spread is left unguarded. They perform all the maneuvers in the book. At length, an armistice is arrived at when a lone piece of cake is left. There is dispute over the division of the icing, war commences again.

Timid Toreador

Vitaphone (Looney Tune) 7 *Mins.*

Clever. Porky sells hot tamales at a bull fight. He wanders into the ring and contacts the bull. There follows a harum-scarum chase all over the place when the bull gets burnt—after eating the tamales. After many close shaves Porky, minus a few bristles, wins the contest.

Acrobatic Aces

Paramount (Sportlight) 10 *Mins.*

Interesting. Spectacular acrobatics and tumbling, featured by a group of experts, highlight this entertaining subject. It is the sort of thing most people marvel at on theatre stages. Here, the camera is a definite improvement over the stage, in that angles and slow motion are presented. The participants do their stuff outdoors and offer a variety of somersaults, pirouettes and back flips that look like the tops. The experts range from youngsters to a troupe of men and a quartette of comely girls.

Meet the Fleet

Vitaphone (Technicolor Special) 20 *Mins.*

Interesting. This just about completes the series on the services. With a slight story thread the footage, neatly filmed, tells of the training of young men once they join the force, the opportunities for learning trades and the first voyage on a battlewagon. The location is the San Diego naval base.

Problem Pappy

Paramount (Popeye) 7 *Mins.*

Fair. Not much in this cartoon distinguishes it from others of the series. Popeye's father, it seems, becomes imbued with the spirit of adolescence and goes in for some flagpole sitting. He's perched rather precariously on top of a high building and the footage is given over to Popeye's efforts to get him down to safety.

Boobs in Arms

Columbia (Three Stooges) 18 *Mins.*

Average. A little late, the Three Stooges this time register one based on induction into the army. They are men of goodwill, fundamentally, but run into a louse of a sergeant. During a sham battle they are taken prisoners, inhale laughing gas, demoralize the enemy and ride off, the three of them, on a passing shell. The last few hundred feet are funny.

Sea for Yourself

M-G-M (Pete Smith Specialty) 10 Mins.

Thriller. The magic of the camera seldom has a better opportunity to show off than in this blood-tingler. Most of it is shot under water, depicting a new kind of sport: Spear-fishing. The men manipulate with special, light-weight equipment strapped to the back. Here they go after the game, and it's mighty sporty fun. But the hair-raiser comes when a giant ray traps a diver in a cave. His colleagues come to the rescue, but encounter a swordfish which must be eliminated before the rescue is affected. It's action that staging can't match.

BOOKING CHART

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ✪ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JUNE 8	3 Drama 1112 **Mad Men of Europe** (73) R—June 1 Edmund Gwenn	7 Drama 39 **Susan and God** (117) Joan Crawford R—June 8		7 Western 3958 **Hidden Gold** (61) William Boyd R—May 25	6 Drama 902 **Women in War** (70) Elsie Janis R—June 1	7 Melodrama 033 **Saint Takes Over** (68) R—Apr. 27 George Sanders	7 Drama 034 **Earthbound** (67) Warner Baxter R—May 18		7 Drama 4036 **Love, Honor and Oh Baby** (59) R—June 8	8 Com. Dr. WB40? **Brother Orchid** (91) Edw. G. Robinson R—June 1	
JUNE 15	6 M'drama 1028 **Passport to Alcatraz** (60); **Jack Holt** R—June 22	14 Drama 41 ✪**Mortal Storm, The** (99) R—June 15 Margaret Sullavan James Stewart	11 Com. Drama 3915 **On the Spot** (62) Frankie Darro R—June 8	14 Drama 3937 **Safari** (81) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Madeleine Carroll R—June 1	19 Act'n Drama 907 **Wagons Westward** (70) R—June 29 Chester Morris Anita Louise	7 Western 084 **Prairie Law** (60) George O'Brien R—June 8	14 Drama 047 **Four Sons** (88) Don Ameche Mary Beth Hughes R—June 8		14 Com. Drama 4008 **Sandy Is a Lady** (64) R—May 25 Baby Sandy Eugene Pallette	15 M'drama FN473 **Fugitive From Justice** (53) R-June 22 Roger Pryor Lucille Fairbanks	
JUNE 22	20 Drama 1037 **Girls of the Road** (61) Ann Dvorak Lola Lane R—June 29	21 Com. Drama 42 **Captain Is a Lady** (65) R—June 29 Virginia Grey Billie Burke Charles Coburn	18 Western 3960 **Wild Horse Range** (51) Jack Randall R—June 22	21 Mys. Com. 3938 **Ghost Breakers** (85) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—June 15	25 Musical Com. 908 **Grand Ole Opry** (67) R—July 6 27 Western 955 **Carson City Kid** (57) R—July 6	21 Com. Drama 034 **Pop Always Pays** (67) Leon Errol R—June 22	21 Mystery 048 **Charlie Chan's Murder Cruise** (75) Sidney Toler Marjorie Weaver R—May 4		21 Comedy 4037 **I Can't Give You Anything But Love** (61) Broderick Crawford R—May 11	22 M'drama WB424 **Gambling on the High Seas** (56) Wayne Morris Jane Wyman R—Oct. 12	
JUNE 29	27 Western 1214 **Return of Wild Bill** Bill Elliott (57) R—July 13	28 Musical 31 **New Moon** (100) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—June 22	25 M'drama 3927 **Last Alarm** (61) Polly Ann Young Warren Hull R—July 13	28 Drama 3939 **Queen of the Mob** (61) R—June 29 Ralph Bellamy Blanche Yurka Jean Cagney	29 Western 992 **One Man's Law** (57) Don "Red" Barry Janet Waldo R—July 13	28 Drama 035 **Anne of Windy Poplars** (86) Anne Shirley R—June 22	28 Outd'r Dr. 049 **Lucky Cisco Kid** (68) Cesar Romero Mary Beth Hughes R—June 1		28 Drama 5046 **The Fugitive** (77) Ralph Richardson Diana Wynyard R—July 6		
JULY 6	30 Comedy 1021 **Out West With the Peppers** (61) Edith Fellows R—July 13	5 Comedy 43 **Andy Hardy Meets Debutante** (89) Mickey Rooney R—July 6	3 Western 3956 **The Golden Trail** (52) Tex Ritter R—July 13	5 Drama 3940 **Way of All Flesh** (86) R—June 1 Akim Tamiroff Gladys George	12 Drama 903 **Three Faces West** (81) R—June 22 John Wayne Sigrid Gurie	5 Drama 036 **Dr. Christian Meets the Women** (68) Jean Hersholt R—June 29	5 Com. Drama 052 **Sailor's Lady** (66) Nancy Kelly Jon Hall R—July 6		5 Com. Drama 4007 **Private Affairs** (74) Nancy Kelly Roland Young R—June 15	13 Drama FN467 **Man Who Talked Too Much** (75) George Brent R—July 6	8 Com. Drama 1 **Hold That Woman** (66) James Dunn R—Nov. 30
JULY 13		12 Drama 44 **Sporting Blood** (82) Robert Young Maureen O'Sullivan R—July 13		12 Western 3959 **Stagecoach War** (63) R—July 6 Bill Boyd Russell Hayden		12 Com. Drama 039 **Cross Country Romance** (68) Gene Raymond Wendy Barrie R—June 29	12 Drama 046 **Manhattan Heartbeat** (71) V. Gilmore R. Sterling R-June 8			13 Drama FN454 ✪**All This, and Heaven Too** (143) Bette Davis Charles Boyer R—June 22	
JULY 20	18 Drama 1038 **Military Academy** (66) T. Kelly R-July 13 24 Adventure 1110 **I Married Adventure** (78) R-July 20	19 Com. Drama 45 **We Who Are Young** (79) Lana Turner John Shelton R—July 20	16 Mystery 3910 **Haunted House** (70) R—Aug. 3 15 Melodrama 4020 **Boys of the City** East Side Kids (63) R—Aug. 31		20 Comedy 909 **Scatterbrain** (72) Judy Canova R—July 13 15 Western 944 **Carolina Moon** (65) G. Autry R—July 20	19 Drama 029 **Tom Brown's School Days** (82) James Lydon Fred. Bartholomew Cedric Hardwicke R—June 29	19 Drama 050 ✪**Maryland** (91) Walter Brennan Fay Bainter Brenda Joyce R—July 13	18 Melodrama **South of Pago Pago** (97) Victor McLaglen Jon Hall Francis Farmer R—July 20	19 Melodrama 4057 **Black Diamonds** (52) R—July 27 26 Western 4064 **Son of Roaring Dan** (64) R—Aug. 17 Johnny Mack Brown	20 Com. with Mu. **WB407** **My Love Came Back** (85) R—July 6 Olivia de Havilland Jeffrey Lynn	20 Western 1 **Billy the Kid Outlawed** (60) Bob Steele
JULY 27	25 Comedy 1012 **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (70) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 27	26 Com. Drama 47 **Gold Rush Maisie** (82) Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	29 Melodrama 4024 **Orphans of the North** (57) R—Nov. 9 29 Western 3957 **Rainbow Over the Range** (59) T. Ritter R-Aug. 10	26 Drama 3941 ✪**Untamed** (83) Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	30 Drama 904 **Girl from God's Country** (71) R—Jul 27 Chester Morris	26 Western 085 **Stage to Chino** (59) G.O'Brien R-Aug. 24 26 Com. Drama 037 **Millionaires in Prison** (63) L. Tracy R-June 29			26 Com. Dr. 4023 **You're Not So Tough** (72) R—June 1 26 Outd'r Dr. 4006 **When Daltons Rode** (81) R—Aug. 3	27 Comedy FN474 **Ladies Must Live** (58) Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		2 Costume Com. 46 ✪**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	5 Melodrama 3908 **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	2 Melodrama 3942 **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	30 Western 956 **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R-July 27	2 Drama 061 ✪**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov.26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	2 Drama 101 **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		2 M'drama 4039 **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	3 Drama FN460 **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	3 Western 1 **Gun Code** (56) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	7 Drama 1008 **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama 50 **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama 3943 **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical 910 **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama 042 **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama 104 **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy 4003 **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram WB414 **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama 1039 **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 15 Western 2201 **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy 49 **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama 3913 **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 Western 3958 **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	16 Comery 3944 **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western 071 **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama 041 **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama 103 ✪**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama WB417 **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama 1006 **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young		19 Melodrama 3938 **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western	23 Com. Drama 3945 **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy		16 Propaganda 171 **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama 043	23 Drama 106 **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan			24 Act. Dr. WB412 **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield	

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
31		Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners** (101) R.Colman R-Aug. 24	Jack Oakie R—July 20	Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy 1022 **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama 101 **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama 3920 **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. 4001 **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western 043 **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama 101 **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	6 Melodrama 110 **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (92) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. 5013 **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. WB519 **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama 2032 **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama 1024 **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama 017 **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept 14	13 Comedy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 Comedy 105 **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. 5006 **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama 5051 **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 Comedy FN554 **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 **The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 Mus. Com. 104 **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama 4021 **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordon R—Oct. 5	20 Drama 4002 **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western 086 **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Act. Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama 5020 **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 Western 5061 **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 Drama WB506 **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 Western 153 **Arizona Gang Busters** (60)
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 1040 **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery 105 **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama 4003 **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western 062 **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. 5001 **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 Western 158 **Billy the Kid in Texas** (57) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama 4004 **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 Western 072 **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western 181 **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama 5019 **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama WB502 **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Dr'ma 2018 **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 Drama 4005 **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 Mus. Com. 005 **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 Burl. Com. 105 **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R-Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 Mus. Com. 113 **Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 Melodrama 5017 **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 Comedy FN559 **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama 2030 **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows Billy Lee		7 Com. Dr. 4010 **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 Drama 4006 **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 Mus. Com. 001 **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 Melodrama 107 **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama 114 **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 Western 5062 **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. WB511 **Dispatch from Reuters** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama 3038 **Girls Under 21** (63) R—Nov. 30 21 Western 2202 **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy 109 **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 Drama 4007 **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 25 Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	21 Western 052 **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 Melodrama 104 **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 Comedy 111 **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy 5024 **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 Drama 5007 **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	26 Com. Dr. FN561 **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy 2016 **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama 108 **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 Musical 4008 **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 Mystery 006 **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 Comedy 109 **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 Comedy 5036 **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 Melodrama 5052 **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	2 Comedy FN570 **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical 110 **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western 4051 **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 Musical 4009 **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 Mus. Comedy 007 **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 Comedy 106 **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 Melodrama 117 **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy 5021 **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 Western 5063 **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama FN562 **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	5 Western 15 **Riders of Black Mountain** (60) Tim McCoy
NOV. 16	14 Western 2210 **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama 111 **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery 4012 **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western 4050 **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western 063 **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy 111 **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama 102 **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		16 Drama 5015 **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama WB513 **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Geraldine Fitzgerald R—Dec. 21	
NOV. 23	21 Drama 2012 **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30 23 Mystery 2021 **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30	22 Comedy 112 **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 Western **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western 041 **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 22 Western 073 **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. 108 **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy 119 **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy 5023 **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama **(Reissue)** **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama FN552 **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
NOV. 30	28 Mystery 2024 **Ellery Queen, Master Detective (69)** Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 115 **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 Comedy 018 **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karns R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 113 **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama 120 **Tin Pan Alley** (94) Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **Black Out (80)** Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy 5010 **Bank Dick, The** (74) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama WB512 **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western 2203 **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy 114 **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. 4011 **Night at Earl Carroll's, A (63)** Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western 053 **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western 182 **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama 118 **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy 5026 **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy FN571 **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	6 Com. Mys. **Devil Bat** (6 Bela Lugosi
DEC. 14	9 Drama 2031 **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama 113 **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		13 Western 4012 **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy 008 **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery 121 **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama 5008 **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Western **Billy the Kid's Justice** (..) Bob Steele
DEC. 21	20 Mystery 2033 **Phantom Submarine** (70) Anita Louise			27 Outd'r Dr. 3946 ◎**North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama 009 **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama 114 **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	20 Comedy 122 **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama 5025 **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 Reissue **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Dram **Misbehaving H bands** (65) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	25 Outd'r Dr. 2101 **Arizona** (128) Jean Arthur R—Nov. 23 31 Western 2211 **Wildcat of Tuscon** (67) Bill Elliott	27 Comedy 116 **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 Drama 4003 **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western 4052 **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) Tex Ritter	27 Comedy 4013 **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western 064 **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 112 **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 123 ◎**Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy ◎**Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Comedy **Invisible Woman** (72) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan 4—PG-1	28 Adv. Dr. FN551 **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Comedy **You Betcha My (..)** Henry Armetta
JAN. 4	2 Comedy 2205 **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama 117 **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical 4014 **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama 019 **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 Drama 161 **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	3 Drama 115 **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama 5030 **Where Did You Get That Girl** (67) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama 5053 **Lucky Devils** (64)	4 M'drama WB503 **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	3 Mystery **Secret Evidenc (..)** 3 Western **Lone Rider No. (..)** George Houston
JAN. 11	9 Western 2204 **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett	10 Com. Drama 118 **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (..) Range Busters	10 Western 4051 **Doomed Caravan** (60) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 Western 074 **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 Drama 110 **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama 124 **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western 5064 **Boss of Bullion City** (..) 10 Drama 5027 **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama FN572 **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon	
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. 2029 **Face Behind the Mask** (..) Peter Lorre	17 Drama 119 **Philadelphia Story** (112) Katharine Hepburn Cary Grant	15 Mystery **Dead Man's Shoes** (..) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 Drama 4015 **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western 054 **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers **R—Jan. 18—PG-10**	17 Musical 115 **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama 125 **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 Comedy **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Drama **Honeymoon for Three** (77) George Brent Ann Sheridan	17 Comedy **Glamour Girls N Say No (..)**
JAN. 25		24 Comedy 121 **Wild Man of Borneo** (..) 24 Historical **Land of Liberty** (98)	20 Melodrama **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 Comedy 4016 **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (81) Jackie Cooper	24 Western **Riding on a Rainbow** (..) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	24 Mystery 116 **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama 128 **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (..) Cesar Romero Virginia Gilmore	24 Comedy **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carol Landis		25 Drama **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino	
FEB. 1	1 Drama **Adam Had Four Sons** (..) Warner Baxter Ingrid Bergman	31 Drama 122 **Come Live With Me** (..) James Stewart Hedy Lamarr			31 Comedy **Arkansas Judge** (..) Weaver Bros. and Elviry	31 Comedy 117 **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard Robert Montgomery	31 Drama 127 **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Drama **Back Street** (..) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer		
FEB. 8	3 Melodrama **The Devil Commands** (..) Boris Karloff	6 Comedy **Blonde Inspiration** (..) John Shelton Virginia Grey	6 Western **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (..) Tex Ritter	7 Musical Com. **You're the One** (83) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker	7 Comedy **Petticoat Politics** (..) Higgins Family Roscoe Karnes	7 Western 183 **Along the Rio Grande** (..) Tim Holt	7 Comedy **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (..) Eugene Pallette Rita Quigley		7 Comedy **Buck Private** (..) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello		
FEB. 15	13 Western 2212 **Across the Sierra** (..) Bill Elliott	13 Drama **The Bad Man** (..) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore		14 Mystery **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone	14 Western **Bad Man From Rio** (..) Don "Red" Barry	14 Comedy 120 **A Guy, a Girl and a Gob** (..) George Murphy Lucille Ball	14 Com. Drama **Golden Hoofs** (..) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers		14 Comedy **Meet the Chump** (..) Hugh Herbert Lewis Howard		
FEB. 22	20 Drama **Return of Boston Blackie** (..) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson		19 Melodrama **Air Devils** (..) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan	21 Drama ◎**Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	20 Western **Prairie Pioneers** (..) Three Mesquiteers	21 Com. Drama 123 **Scattergood Baines** (..) Guy Kibbee	21 Drama **Western Union** (..) Robert Young Virginia Gilmore		21 Mus. Comedy **Nice Girl** (..) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone		
MAR. 1	27 Comedy **Blondie Goes Latin** (..) 27 Western		28 Drama **Sign of the Wolf** (..)	28 Western **In Old Colorado** (..) William Boyd		28 Drama 118 **Citizen Kane** (..) Orson Welles	28 Mystery **Scotland Yard** (..) John Loder Nancy Kelly		28 Drama 5040 **Dark Streets of Cairo** (..) Sigrid Gurie		

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ‡ Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. Ⓛ Indicates short of the week. Ⓒ Indicates color photography.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

2425..	Blondes and Blunders (16)	11-29	±	12- 7
2424..	Bundle of Bliss, A (18)	11- 1		....
2423..	Cold Turkey (16)	10-18		....
1438..	Fireman Save My Choo-Choo (18)	8- 9	+	8-31
1437..	His Bridal Fright (16)	7-12		....
2426..	His Ex Marks the Spot (..)	12-13		....
2421..	Pleased to Mitt You (18)	9- 6		....
1421..	Skinny the Moocher (16½)	9- 8		....
2422..	Spook Speaks, The (18)	9-20	+	10-19
1436..	Taming of the Snood (16)	6-28		....
9437..	Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18)	7-28		....
2627..	Watchman Takes a Wife, The (..)	1-10		....

CINESCOPES

2972..	Floating Elephants (8)	10- 4	+	10-19
2971..	Hobby Lobby (11)	8-30	+	9-21
2972..	Industrial Green Island (10)	9-20		....
2973..	Nice Work If You Can Do It (9)	11- 8	+	11-23
2975..	Ⓒ Ocean Trails (..)	1-31		....
1975..	Odd Vacations (8½)	6-16		....
2974..	Unusual Crafts (..)	12-25		....

COLOR RHAPSODIES (In Technicolor)

2505..	A Helping Paw (7)	1- 7		....
2502..	Ⓒ Mr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½)	10- 4		....
2503..	Mad Hatter, The (7)	11- 3		....
2501..	Tangled Television (7½)	8-30	+	10-19
1512..	Timid Pup, The (8)	8- 1	±	8-31
2504..	Wise Owl (7)	12- 6	∓	12- 7
1511..	Ye Olde Swap Shoppe (7½)	6-28		....

COLUMBIA TOURS

2556..	Beautiful British Columbia (..)	12-20		....
2557..	From Singapore to Hong Kong (..)	1-10		....
2551..	Historic Virginia (Andre de la Varre Productions) (10)	8-16		....
1558..	In the Land of Pagodas (9)	6-14		....
2554..	Islands of the West Indies (10)	10-25	‡	11-23
2553..	Old and New Arizona (Special) (9)	9-27		....
2552..	Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10)	9-13	‡	10-23
2555..	Sojourn in Havana (LaVarre Prod.) (9)	11-25	±	12- 7

COMMUNITY SING

1656..	No. 6 (Medley of Hits) (10)	6-28		....
2651..	No. 1.. (Jolly Tunes—D. Baker (10)	10- 2		....
2652..	No. 2.. (Popular Songs—D. Baker (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
2653..	No. 3.. (Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)	12-13		....
2654..	No. 4 (Gay Tunes) (..)	1- 1		....

FABLES CARTOONS

1754..	Barnyard Babies (7½)	6-14		....
2751..	Farmer Tom Thumb (6)	9-27	+	10-19
2752..	Mouse Meets Lion (6)	10-25	∓	12- 7
2753..	Paunch 'n' Judy (6)	12-13		....
1755..	Pooch Parade (6)	7-19		....
2754..	Streamlined Donkey (..)	1-17		....

NEW YORK PARADE

2951..	Magic City, The (..)	12-25		....

PHANTASIES CARTOONS

2702..	Happy Holidays (6)	10-25		....
2705..	Little Theatre, The (..)	2- 7		....
1706..	News Oddities (6)	7-19		....
1756..	Peep in the Deep, A (6½)	8-23	+	8-31
2701..	School Boy Dreams (5)	9-24	+	10-19
2704..	Tom Thumb's Brother (..)	1-17		....
2703..	Wallflower, The (..)	11-29		....

QUIZ REELS

2601..	Take It or Leave It (9½)	12- 5	o	12- 7
2602..	Take It or Leave It No. 2 (..)	12-25		....

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS

1859..	No. 9 (10) Ken Murray.	7-10		....
1860..	No. 10 (9) Jack Oakie.	8-16	±	8-31
2851..	No. 1 (10) Ken Murray.	9- 6		....
2852..	No. 2 (9) Don Wilson.	10-18	o	11-23
2853..	No. 3 (9)	11-22	±	12- 7

SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)

2441..	Puss in Boots (reissue) (40)	11-21		....

SPORT REELS

2803..	All the Giant Killer (..)	12-27		....
1809..	Canvas Capers (11)	7-19		
2802..	Hunting Wild Deer (9)	11-22	=	12- 7
2801..	Master of Cne With Willie Hoppe (9)	10- 4	+	10-19
1808..	Saving Strokes With Sam Snead (10)	6-28		....
2804..	Splits, Spares and Strikes (..)	1-10		....

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

2404..	Boobs in Arms (18)	12-27		....
2403..	Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)	11-15	±	12- 7
2401..	From Nurse to Worse (16)	8-23	+	8-31
1408..	How High Is Up (16)	7-16	=	8- 3
2402..	No Census, No Feeling (16)	10- 4		....
1407..	Nutty But Nice (18)	6-14		....

WASHINGTON PARADE Series 2

1905..	No. 5 (The Archives) (11)	7- 4	+	8- 3
1906..	No. 6 (Our Nat'l Defense) (10)	8-30		....

Series 3

2901..	No. 1 (The Mint) (10)	10-25		....
2902..	No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (..)	12-13		....
2908..	No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (..)	1- 3		....

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

P- 5..	Buyers Beware (20)	8-17	‡	9- 7
P-201..	Ⓛ Eyes of the Navy (20)	10-26	‡	10-26
P- 6..	Soak the Old (20)	8-24	±	9-28
P-815..	Think First (21)	9- 7		....
P- 4..	Women In Hiding (22)	6-22	±	7- 6

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS (In Technicolor)

T-214..	Beautiful Bali (9)	11-23	±	12-14
T-211..	Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)	9- 7	‡	9- 7
T-212..	Cavalcade of San Francisco (9)	9-28	∓	9-28
T-213..	Old New Mexico (10)	10-26	+	11- 9

MINIATURES

M-231..	Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia)	10- 9	±	12-14

M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series) (Technicolor)

W- 90..	Bookworm Turns, The (8)	7-20	+	8-31
W- 94..	Gallopin' Gals (8)	10-26	+	11- 9
W- 93..	Homeless Flea, The (8)	10-12	‡	12- 7
W-241..	Lonesome Stranger (9)	11-23	‡	12- 7
W- 89..	Milky Way, The (8)	6-22	+	7- 6
W- 92..	Papa Gets the Bird (8)	9- 7	∓	9-28
W- 91..	Romeo in Rhythm (8)	8-10	±	9- 7
W- 88..	Tom Turkey (7)	6- 8		....

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY Released Twice Weekly

OUR GANG COMEDIES

C-293..	Goin' Fishin' (10)	10-26	±	11- 9
C-291..	Good Bad Boys (11)	9- 7	+	9- 7
C-294..	Kiddie Kure (11)	11-23	+	12-28
C-292..	Waldo's Last Stand (11)	10- 5	∓	12- 7

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

K-281..	American Spoken Here (Sepia) (10)	11-30	‡	12- 7
K-126..	Baron and the Rose, The (11)	9- 7	‡	9-28
K-128..	Dreams (10)	11-16	+	12-14
K-127..	Utopia of Death (10)	10-12	+	11- 9
K-124..	Way in the Wilderness, A (10) (Sepia)	6-22	+	7- 6

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

S-110..	Cat College (9) (Sepia)	6-29		....
S-113..	Football Thrills of 1939 (10)	9-21	‡	9-28
S-112..	Please Answer (9)	8-24	‡	9- 7
S-261..	Ⓒ Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9)	10-12	‡	12- 7
S-262..	Wedding Bills (10)	11-30	‡	12- 7
S-109..	What's Your I. Q.? No. 2 (9)	6-10	±	7- 6

SPECIAL

X-151..	Ⓛ Ⓒ Flag Speaks, The (19)	6-14	‡	5- 4

Paramount

ANIMATED ANTICS

H0-4..	Bring Himself Back Alive (7)	12-20	∓	12-21
H0-1..	Dandy Lion, The (7)	9-20	±	10- 5
H0-3..	Mommy Loves Puppy (7)	11-29	+	12- 7
H0-2..	Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7)	10-25	±	11-23

BENCHLEY COMEDIES

S0- 1..	Trouble With Husbands (11)	11- 8	‡	12- 7

COLOR CLASSICS (In Technicolor)

C9-5..	Snubbed by a Snob (7)	7-19	+	8-31
C9-6..	You Can't Shoe a Horse-fly (7)	8-23	+	8-24

COLOR CRUISES (New Series in Cinecolor)

K9-7..	Pacific Paradise (10)	6-21		....

FASCINATING JOURNEYS (Technicolor)

M0- 1..	Ⓛ River Thames—Yesterday (10)	11- 8	‡	11-23

FLEISCHER CARTOONS

FF0-1..	Raggedy Ann (19)	12-20	‡	12-21

GABBY CARTOONS

G0- 2..	Constable, The (7)	11-15	+	11-23
G0- 1..	King for a Day (7)	10-18	+	10-26

HEADLINER

A0- 3..	Johnny Messner and Orch. (11)	12-13	±	12-21
A0- 2..	Listen to Larry (10)	10-25	+	10-26
A0- 1..	Ⓛ Moments of Charm of 1941 (10)	9-13	‡	10- 5
A9-10..	Pinky Tomlin and Orch. (11)	7-19	+	8-31

PARAMOUNT NEWS Released Twice Weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

V9- 9..	Dangerous Dollars (11)	6-28		....
V0- 1..	Nature's Nursery (10)	10-11	∓	10-26
V9-10..	Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)	9- 9	±	8-24
V0- 2..	Seeing Is Believing (11)	11-22	+	12- 7

POPEYE CARTOONS

E9-10..	Doing Impossikible Stunts (7)	8- 2	+	8-17
E0- 4..	Eugene, the Jeep (7)	12-13	±	12- 7
E9- 9..	Fightin' Pals (8)	7-12	‡	8-17
E8-11..	It's the Natural Thing to Do (7)	7-28	±	8-26
E0- 2..	My Pop, My Pop (7)	10-18	∓	10-26
E9- 8..	Nurse Mates (7)	6-21		....
E0- 1..	Popeye Meets William Tell (7)	9-20	‡	10- 5
E9-12..	Puttin' on the Act (7)	8-30	+	8-24
E9-11..	Wimmin' Hadn't Oughta Drive (7)	8-16	+	8-24
E0- 3..	With Poopdeck Pappy (7)	11-15	o	12- 7

POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)

J9-6..	(11)	6-28		....
J0-1..	(11)	9- 6	+	10- 5
J0-2..	(10)	11- 1	+	12- 7
J0-3..	(10)	1- 3	+	12-21

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

R0- 1..	Diving Demons (10)	9- 6	‡	10- 5
R0- 5..	Feminine Fitness (10)	1-10	+	12-21
R0- 4..	Marine Roundup (10)	12- 6	+	12- 7
R0- 3..	Motorcycle Stunting (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
R9-13..	Sink or Swim (10)	7-12		....
R0- 2..	Sporting Everglades, The (10)	10- 4	‡	11- 9

STONE AGE CARTOONS

B9- 9..	Fulla Bluff Man, The (7)	8- 9	±	8 24
B9-11..	Pedagogical Institution (7)	9-13		....
B9-10..	Springtime in the Rockage (7)	8-30		....
B9- 6..	Ugly Dino, The (7)	6-14		....
B9- 8..	Way Back When a Razzberry Was a Fruit (7)	7-26	+	8-17
B9-12..	Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)	9-27		....

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)

L9-6..	No. 6 (11)	8- 2	‡	8-17
L0-1..	No. 1 (11)	9- 7	+	10- 5
L0-2..	No. 2 (11)	11-29	+	12- 7

Republic

MEET THE STARS

028-1..	No. 1 (10)	12-24	+	12-28

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS (In Technicolor)

....	Big Hearted Pluto (..)	1-24		....
04,107..	Bone Trouble (9)	6-28		....
04,109..	Donald's Vacation (8)	8- 9	‡	8-10
04,114..	Fire Chief (..)	11-22	‡	12-14
04,113..	Goofy's Glider (8)	11- 1	+	12-14
04,112..	Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8)	11- 1	+	11-23
....	Pantry Pirate (8)	3-22		....
04,110..	Pluto's Dream House (8)	8-30	+	9-21
04,108..	Put-Put Trouble (7)	7-19		....
04,111..	Window Cleaners (8)	9-20	‡	10-26

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

....	Drafted in the Depot (19)	12-20		....
13,401..	Sunk by the Census (18)	9- 6	±	9-21
13,402..	Trailer Tragedy (17)	10-18	+	11- 9

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

03,704..	Bested by a Beard (20)	7-26		....
13,701..	He Asked for It (18)	9-27	∓	9-21
13,702..	Tattle Television (19)	11-29		....

MARCH OF TIME

03,112..	No. 12 (17) Spoils of Conquest.	8- 2	+	8-10
03,113..	Ⓛ No. 13 (20) Gateways to Panama.	8-24	‡	8-31
13,101..	No. 1 (19) On Foreign Newfronts.	9-13	‡	9-21
13,102..	No. 2 (18) Britain's R. A. F.	10- 4	+	10-19
13,103..	No. 3 (19) Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.	10-25	±	10-26

: WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS :

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7
Movietone News, No. 35

President's message to Congress; King George in Southampton; Petain in Marseilles; De Gaulle in England; victory fete in Athens; Hopkins flies to London; Phillips leaves for Rome; Zanuck gets critic's award plaque; boxing, skiing.

News of the Day, No. 233

Roosevelt addresses Congress; Petain in military ceremony; De Gaulle in England; Greece celebrates victory; Mrs. Roosevelt's new gowns; skiing; badminton.

Paramount News, No. 38

Outstanding events of 1940.

RKO Pathe News, No. 38

Roosevelt speech; Hopkins to England; Brazil's navy reinforced; football.

Universal Newsreel, No. 943

Roosevelt speech; Christmas in England; De Gaulle in England; Mummer's Parade in Philadelphia; Hopkins flies to London; Miami water sports; skiing; football.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
Movietone News, No. 36

The war front in England; Roosevelt announces budget; Miami Beach swimmers wear fins; Alice Marble in pro debut; golf; boxing.

News of the Day, No. 234

War news from Britain; Coast Guard in Pacific Coast stunt; troops train at Lake Placid; Anne Morgan asks food for France; Alice Marble in pro tennis debut; boxing.

Paramount News, No. 39

Alice Marble makes pro tennis debut; British army in African campaign; flying convoy guard; American club for volunteers in London; Roosevelt on the state of the nation.

RKO Pathe News, No. 39

Alice Marble makes pro tennis debut; R. A. F. flying boats patrol convoy; navy bomber lands in three inches of water; U. S. and Argentina sign loan pact; children in London's air raid shelters; golf; ice boating.

Universal Newsreel, No. 944

England ready for invasion; refugee diamond cutters at work in England; U. S.-Argentina in loan pact; demonstrate lightweight machine gun; Greeks in seashore religious ceremony; reducing studios; lifesaving dog in Florida; co-eds wear military style hats; pro tennis; toboggan race; golf.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
13,104	No. 4 (19)	11-22	+	12- 7
	Arms and the men.			
13,105	No. 5 (19)	12-20	+	12-28
	Labor and Defense.			
	PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE			
04,211	No. 11 (10)	6-14	±	6-15
04,212	◎No. 12 (12)	7-12	‡	7-13
04,213	No. 13 (11)	8- 9	±	8-10
14,201	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204	No. 4 (11)	11-29		....
14,205	No. 5 (11)	12-27		....
	PATHE NEWS			
	(Released Twice Weekly)			
	RADIO FLASH COMEDIES			
03,205	Goodness, a Ghost (16)	7- 5		....
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
04,312	Arrow Points (8)	7- 5	±	9-21
14,302	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,301	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,305	Snow Eagles (9)	12-20		....
14,304	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	‡	12-14
14,303	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
04,611	Streamlined (9)	6-21		....
04,313	Trouble Shooter (9)	8- 2	+	9-21
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404	No. 4 (10)	12- 6	+	12-14
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS			
	(New Series)			
13,501	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
03,504	Corralling a Schoolmarm (20)	6-14	+	8-10
	REELISMS			
	(New Series)			
04,613	Hats (9)	8-16		....
04,611	Streamlined (9)	8-10	∓	8-10
04,612	Week End (9)	7-19		....

20th Century-Fox

	ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN			
0201	Conquering the Colorado (11)	8-18	‡	8-19
1201	◎Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	‡	10-19
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	‡	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
0306	Action on Ice (9)	7-19		....
1303	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1301	◎Vacation Time in Florida (8)	8-10	±	8-17
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1101	Eskimo Trails (10)	8- 2	+	8-17
1103	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		....
	FASHIONS			
	(In Technicolor)			
0603	Fashion Forecasts No. 7 (8)	6-21		....
0604	Fashion Forecasts No. 8 (8)	6-21		....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS			
	Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE			
0404	Cheerio My Dears (9)	7- 5		....
1401	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402	Tale of Butch the Parrot, The (..)	12- 6		....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102	◎Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
	TERRY-TOONS			
1551	◎Billy Mouse's Akwakade (7)	8- 9	∓	8-17
1501	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		....
1503	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		....
1553	How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554	Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
0517	Love in a Cottage (7)	7-28		....
1552	Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		....
1504	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12 7
1555	◎Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
0514	Professor Offkeyski (7)	6-14	±	6- 8
0515	Rover's Rescue (7)	6-28		....
0516	Rupert the Runt (7)	7-12		....
1505	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		....
1556	◎Temperamental Lion, The (7)	12-27		....
1502	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19

Universal

	LANTZ CARTUNES			
	(Technicolor)			
5241	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		....
5243	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5245	Mouse Trappers (6¾)	1-27		....
5242	◎Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	‡	11- 9
5244	Syncopated Sioux (6¾)	12-30		....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
4363	No. 78 (9)	6-17		....
4364	No. 79 (9)	7-18	+	8- 3
4365	No. 80 (9½)	8-12		....
5351	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352	No. 82 (9)	10-14		....
5353	No. 83 (9)	11-11		....
5354	No. 84 (9)	12-23		....
5355	No. 85 (9)	1-20		....
5356	No. 86 (9)	2-19		....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 3
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
4383	No. 78 (9)	6-10	+	6-22
4384	No. 79 (9)	7- 8	+	7-27
4385	No. 80 (9)	8- 5	+	7-27
5371	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		....
5373	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		....
5374	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		....
5375	No. 85 (9)	1- 1		....
5376	No. 86 (9)	2- 5		....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
5225	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (..) The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.	1-22		....
5221	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		....
5223	Congamania (17) Jose Cansino Dancers, Eddie Durant & Orch.	10-16	±	12- 7
4231	Hawaiian Rhythm (17) Harry Owens and His Royal Hawaiians.	7-17	+	7-27
4233	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		....
4230	Naughty Nineties (18)	6-17	‡	7- 6
5224	Tickled Pinky (18) Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.	12-25		....
5223	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
4232	Varsity Vanities (17½) Six Hits and a Miss, Martha Tilton.	8- 7	+	8- 3

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	UNIVERSAL NEWS			
	Released Twice Weekly			

Vitaphone

	BROADWAY BREVITIES			
6202	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6202	Ed Sullivan's Hollywood (20)	11-16		....
6201	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		....
4008	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		....
5109	◎Spills for Thrills (19)	6-15	‡	8- 3
5110	Young America Flies (20)	8- 3		....
	THE COLOR PARADE			
	(New Series)			
5110	Famous Movie Dogs (10)	7-27	+	8-17
5408	Mechanix Illustrated No. 4 (10)	6-29	+	6-15
5410	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		....
5409	Valley, The (8)	7-20	+	7- 6
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6101	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6301	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6303	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		....
5614	Chewin' Bruin, The (7)	6- 8	±	6-22
5616	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	‡	8-24
5615	Porky's Baseball Broadcast (7)	7- 6	‡	7- 6
6604	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6602	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		....
6605	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		....
5613	You Ought to Be in Pictures (7)	5-18	+	5-18
	MELODY MASTERS			
6503	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	11-23		....
6502	Joe Reichman & Orch. (10)	10-26		....
6501	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	‡	8-24
5509	Ozzie Nelson & Orch. (10)	6-29	‡	7- 6
6504	Skinnay Ennis & Orch (10)	1- 4	+	12-28
5510	Woody Herman & Orch. (10)	7-27		....
	MERRIE MELODIES			
	(In Technicolor)			
6706	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		....
5326	Ceiling Hero (7)	7- 6		....
5321	Circus Today (7)	6-22	+	7- 6
6709	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)	1- 4	o	12-28
5323	Egg Collector (7)	7-20		....
5325	Ghost Wanted (7)	8-10		....
6104	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		....
6703	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11 9
5322	Little Blabbermouse (7)	7- 6	‡	8-17
6701	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		....
6708	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6702	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
6705	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
5324	Wild Hare, A (7)	7-27		....
	SPORTS PARADE			
	(Color)			
6404	California Thoroughbreds (10)	1-11	±	12-28
6403	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6401	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
6001	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002	March on Marines (20)	12-14	‡	12-28
5007	Pony Express Days (20)	7-13	+	7- 6
5008	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		....

Serials

	COLUMBIA			
1180	Deadwood Dick 15 Chapters. Don Douglas, Lorna Gray.	7-19	∓	7-27
1120	Green Archer, The 15 Chapters. Victor Jory,	10-25	∓	11- 9
	REPUBLIC			
973	Adventures of Red Ryder. Don "Red" Barry.	6-15	+	6- 8
061	King of the Royal Mounted 12 Chapters. Allan Lane.	9-20	‡	8-24
082	Mysterious Doctor Satan 15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.	12-13	+	11-23
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	Green Hornet Strikes Again 15 Chapters. Warren Hull.	12-24	+	11- 9
5681	Junior G-Men 12 Chapters. Dead End Kids, Little Tough Guys.	9- 1	+	8- 3
5881	Sky Raiders 12 Chapters.	4- 8		....
5581	Winners of the West 13 Chapters. Dick Foran, Anne Nagel.	7- 2	∓	5 11

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INDIVIDUAL desires to lease theatre in Missouri or Kansas, within 50 mile radius of Kansas City. State size of house, equipment, terms and full particulars in first letter. Box 1326, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

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Blind Ads—10c extra to cover cost of postage.

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THEY GASP!...
THEY SCREAM!
THEY LOVE IT!

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A COLUMBIA PICTURE

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

JANUARY 25, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION

PRODUCTION INDEX

CARY • KATHARINE • JAMES GRANT • HEPBURN • STEWART in "THE PHILADELPHIA STORY" with Ruth Hussey, John Howard, Roland Young, John Halliday, Mary Nash and Virginia Weidler. Screen Play by Donald Ogden Stewart. Based on the Play by Philip Barry, produced by The Theatre Guild Inc. Directed by George Cukor. Produced by Joseph L. Mankiewicz. An M-G-M Picture



The Story of the Week!
PHILADELPHIA STORY

Box-office history's in the making!
Get your share!
M-G-M's "Philadelphia Story" is a *miracle* picture!
The miracle is where the crowds come from!
As we go to press it's 4th Week at Radio City Music Hall!
And there's talk about a 5th!
A five-year record set! An all-time record coming!
Did you hear about Los Angeles?
Three first runs playing it simultaneously!
Never before! Perhaps never again!
Detroit is doing 228% of normal. Terrific!
And what about the smaller towns, you ask?
The first one is Scranton, Pa., coal-mining town!
And doing "Boom-Town" (*which played advanced prices*) biz!
Exploit "Philadelphia Story"!
There's gold in every foot of it!

BOXOFFICE *The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

"Dear Senator Wheeler"

THIS is one time the industry did not retreat under fire, but turned its face squarely into the accusation and let the answering facts fly. The very circumstance, so often desired but less often forthcoming, makes the Wheeler-Hays correspondence important. We would say important of and by itself and set aside in its own solitary compartment. More so, through this department's telescope, however, because it introduces steel to the celluloid backbone and because it long has been the conviction here that a mating of this nature must be permanently encouraged if the industry entertains any intentions about not being constantly kicked in the backside.

The facts, of course, must be familiar by now. Senator Wheeler, in the press, accused the industry of carrying forward "a violent propaganda campaign intending to incite the American people to a point where they will become involved in war." Wrapping the august cloak of senatorial high-and-mighty a bit closer around his shoulders, he threatened regulatory legislation unless more impartiality rules the roost.

Riding hard to the rescue came Will H. Hays. By analysis and trailing statistic, he entered the denial, drawing upon last year's product to advance this rebuttal:

"The record thus indicates that sixteen per cent of the newsreel clips dealt with a variety of people and current events related to national defense; only 2.4 per cent of the short subjects and five per cent of the features approved during 1940 had any relation, direct or indirect, to European politics or the European war, and no appreciable fraction of even these small percentages of the total can be said to show an intention to incite to war."

Other Days Are Ahead

THUS, the particular incident may or may not become a closed chapter. But if it does, let no one get the idea others will not crop up. As hysteria mounts, and it will, the industry and the tremendous influence it can imprint on the public consciousness will be submitted to close scrutiny, subjected to minute criticism. If these are not war times in America, certainly they are not peace times.

Your observer had something to observe about this last fall when "Pastor Hall" was experiencing censorship pains in Chicago and "The Ramparts We Watch" in Pennsylvania. With your leave and because he feels those earlier observations are more pertinent now than then, he repeats, briefly:

"It is not at all unlikely that, as it grows older and as world events take on more acuteness, this will become a business of communication, as well as of entertainment, through celluloid. There are current signs. Through the documentary method, 'The Ramparts We Watch' talks preparedness. 'Pastor Hall' inflicts its sledge-hammer blows on the Nazi scheme of things . . . Both are clear-cut examples of communicating thoughts and facts. No doubt, there will be other occasions concerning themselves with other matters. In one form or another, and presumably as well as hopefully, through the entertainment approach chiefly, the industry may determine for itself, or by suggestion advanced, to take a stand on other issues facing the nation . . . No one can foretell the direction from which [opposition] may develop. For it's a large country full of divergent points of view. This ought to be no deterrent, however. There is no valid reason why the freedom surrounding the newspaper and the radio should be denied motion pictures.

"This business and the medium at its disposal can have a great deal to say in the cause of general good without relinquishing its commercial character. It must feel free and be free to do so in reasoned, well-matured terms, bush league fuehrers in the guise of police and political censors, and from there on up, notwithstanding."

The Job Is Weighty

WITH this go no unbridled liberties, no quick leaps at conclusions, no assumptions a cause is necessarily fitting because it is noisy. The responsibility is a heavy one. It is also one which the industry cannot successfully dodge or sidetrack.

Insofar as Wheeler's charge is concerned, we believe the industry guiltless. In fact, all that the industry has done, thus far at least, is to peer into the mirror held aloft by the times and to reflect in essentially typical terms the events it sees there. Like the press. Like the radio.

If it is a reflection which many find unpleasant and alarming, the fault lies with the times and not with the industry.

Kann

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January 25, 1941
Vol. 38 No. 10

WHEELER'S REGULATION THREAT LEAVES WASHINGTON UNRUFFLED

International Situation Against Action; Reply By Para't "Adequate"

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—Threats of Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana to seek legislation regulating the "propaganda activities" of the industry are not being taken very seriously in Washington, where it is conceded that in view of the serious international situation it is essential that the American people be aroused to a realization of the need for an adequate defense.

At the same time, it is felt in some quarters that the Senator's charges were adequately answered by A. J. Richard, editor of Paramount News, to whom Wheeler had complained of "propaganda for war" and who asserted that no such purpose exists.

As evidence of the nonpartisan stand of the newsreels, Richard recalled that Senator Wheeler was extensively featured two years ago when he was fighting the proposed packing of the supreme court by the President.

Scores March of Time

Undeterred by lack of support, however, Senator Wheeler lashed out anew against film war propaganda, telegraphing to Louis de Rochemont, editor of the March of Time, a demand that his picture and utterances be immediately stricken from "Uncle Sam, the Non-Belligerent," latest March of Time release.

"This issue of March of Time may make some of your war-mongering friends lyrical when they see it, but it is a thinly disguised effort to report current events," the Senator declared caustically. "It is so obviously war propaganda that I doubt whether even you will advance a hypocritical plea of impartiality."

Says Statement Was Cut

Discussing the matter, the senator said he had been given to understand that his statement would be used equally with those of the President and that he was surprised to find they had been cut to once sentence.

While the Montana senator's honesty, ability and popularity are admitted in all quarters of the Capitol, as an isolationist he has embarked on a course counter to that of the administration and while, as chairman of the interstate commerce committee, he might be able to jam a control measure into the Senate, it would get no further. And there is only a possibility that he could get it through even his own committee.

The future course of all motion picture legislation is highly uncertain at the moment, so far as the Senate is concerned. Before he resigned to become governor of West Virginia, Senator Matthew M. Neely re-submitted his block booking and divorce bills, but whether they ever receive consideration is seen as depending, in the first instance, on who succeeds him in the Senate.

A Senate committee now is struggling with an unprecedented situation to determine who shall be seated as Senator from West Virginia. Within a few moments of the time Senator Neely was sworn in as governor, retiring-Governor Holt appointed Clarence A. Martin, former president of the American Bar Ass'n, to the Senate position, and Neely himself named Dr. Joseph Rosier, West Virginia college president, to the same post.

If Senator Neely's nominee is seated, it is possible he will take up the film fight where the new governor left off—and since Neely is a former member of the Senate, his candidate is seen as having a good chance.

On the other hand, if Martin gets the seat, it is unlikely that he will interest himself in his predecessor's bills and, although it is possible to put through a measure introduced by a member no longer sitting, it is more likely that the bills will be left to collect the dust that filters into the archives of the interstate commerce committee.

New Production Index Provides Data on Forthcoming Films

To fill an increasing need for such data, BOXOFFICE with this issue starts the new Production Index, a department of vital information on forthcoming feature pictures. Arranged alphabetically by companies, the service provides title, type, top cast names, synopsis, director, and release date where it has been set. The new Production Index appears on the last two pages of this issue; it will be published each fourth week.

Crackdown on Ticket Evaders Seen Behind Gov't Warnings

WASHINGTON—Behind the warning of the bureau of internal revenue that exhibitors must show admission prices on their tickets is a Washington belief a drive against violators is in the offing. Thus far, the bureau merely has pointed out failure to show prices subjects theatremen to severe penalties under the law, but there are indications a number of instances of unpriced tickets have been unearthed, most of them apparently among low admission, tax-exempt houses. Recently, BOXOFFICE reported investigators were gathering information throughout the middle west.

It is revealed that there is little difficulty in ascertaining which exhibitors are buying tickets on which the price of admission is not printed. Ticket manufacturers are required to submit reports on all orders, containing the name of the purchaser, the number of tickets ordered, the opening and closing serial numbers, and proofs or sample copies of the tickets themselves.

Check on Compliance

The collector's office, it is disclosed, examines such tickets to verify whether they are in all instances printed in accordance with the law and regulations, and with respect to any improperly printed tickets (including those marked "tax free" but as to which there is no record of an exemption having been granted) an immediate investigation is made to ascertain whether admission tax is due and, if so, whether adequate steps have been taken to insure its collection.

All taxable tickets are required to show, in addition to the price, the tax and the total, the name of the place to which they are valid for admission and must either be dated or serially numbered. Circuits desiring to use tickets showing the name of the circuit rather than the name of each

(Continued on page 16)

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is* 100 *per cent.*

PHILADELPHIA STORY—
Detroit (dual) 175
FLIGHT COMMAND—
Washington 175
NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE—
Washington 175
HUDSON'S BAY—
Washington 175
COMRADE X—
Pittsburgh 170
THIS THING CALLED LOVE—
San Francisco (dual) 160
GONE WITH THE WIND—
Washington 160

"IT LOOKS LIKE A GOOD YEAR," SAYS THE EXHIBITOR AT LARGE

Defense Spending Viewed As Hypo for Majority Of Nation's Houses

Some indecisions? Of course. Differences of opinion? Naturally.

But up and down the land, cross-sectionally, theatremen are reflecting general optimism of a high order for this new year. BOXOFFICE *correspondents asked why. The following dispatches report their findings:*

Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—Loath to make any long range predictions, exhibitors here are nevertheless hopeful that 1941 business, during the first six months at least, will top that of the previous year.

They base this hope on the fact business has shown an upward spurt within the last week and in the light of rising payrolls resulting from increased defense orders in this territory.

In November, the state industrial commission estimated, 93,200 wage earners were employed in manufacturing industries in Milwaukee—11,500 more than in July, just before the defense program orders began to flow, and almost equal to the average for 1937. The estimated weekly payroll for November was $2,863,000, a $563,000 increase over the July average and $59,000 better than the estimate for that month in 1937.

The average weekly wage in November, 1940, was $31.05, compared to $28.45 in July, and averages of $27.75 in 1939, $25.76 in 1938 and $27.68 in 1937. The average number of hours worked weekly in November was 40.9, compared to 38.3 in July and averages of 38.4 in 1939, 35.9 in 1938 and 38.5 in 1937.

San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—Undisguised enthusiasm prevails among all theatre owners, independents and circuits, in this territory. Even the most conservative feel that 1941 will be a great year for the business in Northern California.

It is the opinion of the exhibitor the decree is strictly in his favor, even though it may put him to work, and he feels the studios will rush fine pictures through during the first six months of this year because of it.

When anyone mentions the nation's defense program around this city, he is rewarded with broad smiles. This territory is getting a large hunk of the government's spending program and it takes no expert in economics to know that money poured into a city will circulate. The navy yard at Mare Island has almost doubled its population within the past few months. Bethlehem Steel has increased its personnel and payroll tremendously. The Presidio, one of the nation's largest army posts, and within the San Francisco city limits, is constantly building barracks to accommodate the influx of soldiers. And the big army camps at Fort Ord and Monterey are only a three-hour ride by car or bus.

The first two weeks of 1941 further indicate theatres may anticipate big boxoffice. The attitude of business is this year will be a banner one. The Christmas season was about 35 per cent over 1939 sales for the same period. This will give some idea of why the exhibitor is making big plans.

Take another look at the defense angle. The Bethlehem plant, the McCormack shipbuilding yards, and the Presidio are within the city's metropolitan area. The Mare Island navy yard, Camp Ord and Camp Monterey, the new Oakland navy airport, Hamilton Field, Moffat Field, and the proposed navy training field on Treasure Island are close enough to the city to provide patrons for the city's theatres. This is a huge addition to the city's populace. Of course, there are houses near these camps, fields, and plants but it is an accepted fact the soldier, sailor, and worker head for San Francisco when the opportunity presents itself.

Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—Business in 1941 is on the upgrade, is the consensus of opinion among Queen City independent and chain operators.

"Business in defense program areas," states Maurice White, associated with Ike Libson in RKO theatres and president of United Theatres, "undoubtedly will increase. Business in theatres experienced a

(Continued on page 24)

Grainger Reflects Optimistic Trend

By JAMES R. GRAINGER
President, Republic Pictures Corp.

New York—In my opinion, prospects for the industry for 1941 were never better.



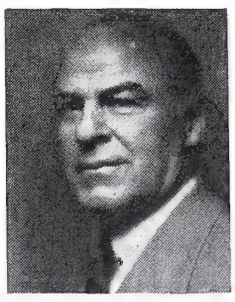
From my observation of the entire country during a recent tour, I find general business conditions on the upgrade which means a larger circulation of money which, in turn, is bound to help theatre attendance.

The public, I believe, are entertainment-minded at the present time and, unless some unforeseen circumstances arise, I believe 1941 will be a banner year in our industry.

Says It's a Case of Product; Sees Need to Attract Youth

By SIDNEY R. KENT
President, 20th Century-Fox

HOLLYWOOD—Prospects for our industry for 1941 will be in proportion to the Hollywood studios.

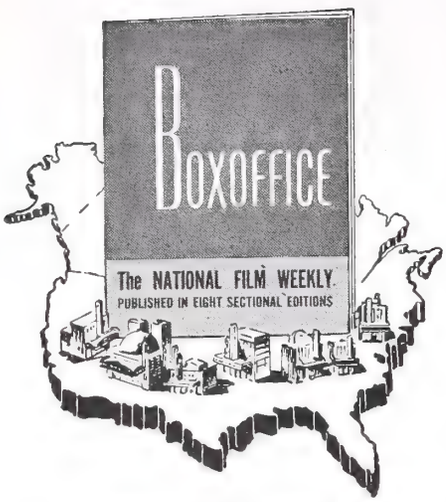


The national payroll will be increasing by leaps and bounds which means that the money will be in circulation if we have the product to attract it.

Our industry is getting a lot of competition that did not exist a few years ago. Literally dozens of new race tracks throughout the country, pin ball games, bowling, professional football and many other types of attractions not in existence a few years back, are competing with us for the loose dollar that is available for entertainment of some kind, and this makes the going tougher for us than ever before even with the same quality of product we have had in the past.

In my opinion, the biggest problem the industry has to solve at the boxoffice is this—how to get in the youth of the country between 14 and 21 years of age. I think that is where we are definitely weak.

All of these things put together as problems of various kinds can only be solved in one way. That is, product.



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PORTLAND, ORE.—925 N. W. 19th St., Harold Donner. Broadway 0136.
ST. LOUIS—5149 Rosa Ave., David F. Barrett. Flanders 3727.
SALT LAKE CITY—167 South State St., Viola B. Hutton. WAsatch 165.
SAN FRANCISCO—1095 Market St., Al Scott. Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2418 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Seneca 2460.
WASHINGTON—1426 G St., Earle A. Dyer.

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CALGARY—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
HAMILTON—20 Holton, N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON—97 Adelaide St., S., John Gore.
MONTREAL—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Walnut 5519.
REGINA—The Leader-Post. Bruce Peacock.
ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings., C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

IN THIS space a few issues back, the young reviewers of the National Board of Review had their story told. The conclusion then appeared to be that these boys and girls, ages ranging from eight to eighteen, are (1) individuals with definite likes and dislikes; (2) not part of tomorrow's, but of today's, audience and (3) not a segregated section of that audience demanding entertainment rolling off their own assembly line.

Four of them, presumably typical, went on the air Wednesday afternoon to explain what kinds of films children think children prefer to see. Some of their viewpoints struck us as arresting, and who knows but there lurks a lesson in them as well. Among others, it seems these cross-sectional ideas hold root:

"Forty per cent of Hollywood's boners could be eliminated if they would listen to us.

"Gangster pictures are all right, if they're funny. Having the cops win all the time, though, becomes monotonous," insisting even a gangster deserves an even break. Is the Hays office listening?

Love pictures are variously defined as "moosh, lovey-dovey and silly." Torrid love scenes on sofas embarrass. Necking is bad enough in the park, but in a closeup, "well, it's just not nice."

Child performers under ten get razzberries. Over ten, they are expected to act their age.

Accuracy is apparently a sort of phobia. They know how many stars ought to be in the flag, which way to bite the dust after a shot, the kind of trees that flourish in southern New Mexico.

At any rate, the broadcast appealed to the journalistic appetite of the New York "World-Telegram." Floyd Taylor, assigned to interview the youthful broadcasters, asked one of them, Daniel Feeley, his candid opinion of Hedy Lamarr. Daring to tread where oldsters could not possibly display the courage, this twelve-year-old replied:

"I think she stinks as an actress and I wouldn't call her any too beautiful."

Plan From Detroit

WALTER R. Stebbins, manager of the Film Exchange Building, Detroit, suggests a one-reel synopsis of each in-block film as a way out for the exhibitor. He would have it show "the essential nature of the film" checked over by "a board of some type . . . to assure essential accuracy in summation."

Let's get out the spyglass. Stebbins thinks the idea would be permissible under the decree. That is questionable; seemingly, he forgets the whole film, after completion, must be shown, although it is true the exhibitor doesn't have to see it. But if we were in the exhibition business, we would be decidedly hesitant about attempting to figure out values on the basis of one-reel boildown. And, if we were in the distributing business, what a field day this one-reeler plan would provide. Those studio editors are clever birds.

Amusing, however, is Stebbins' observation: "Exhibitors don't like to keep on looking at pictures—it is work, after all." If it is work for the exhibitor, what is it for the audience?

Please advise.

"Dear Mr. President"

IT WOULD be pleasant to contemplate it. But it wouldn't make very much sense.

Northwest Allied has written the President asking him to schedule future fireside chats for Monday, not Sunday, evening because "The Champ" continues a drawing card that nothing in Hollywood can approach and theatres, therefore, are very shy on customers when he takes to the air waves. It cuts into the government's taxes, too.

We like to think of this as a big and vital business. And so it is. But the President's job is to run a business that represents all the people alongside of whom Northwest Allied and its concern over Sunday night grosses loom as significantly as a lonely ripple on the ocean.

Besides that. If FDR did switch from Sunday to Monday, he probably would have Cecil B. DeMille protesting on behalf of Lux Theatre of the Air.

Steam Letting

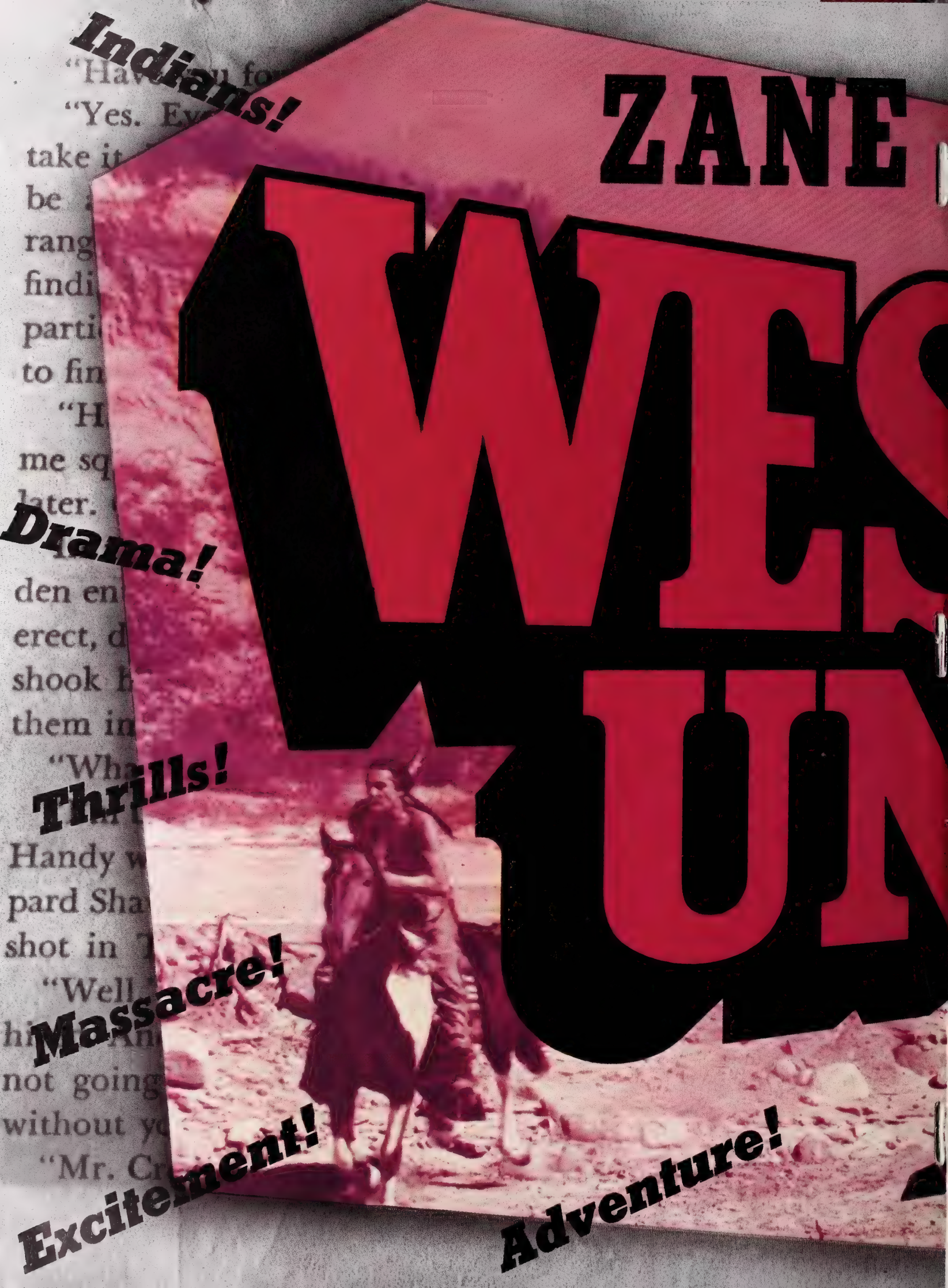
THAT sales executive whose name frequently gets into print, must be violently dissatisfied with his current post. He is registering his disaffection so widely that the secret is rapidly becoming wide open.

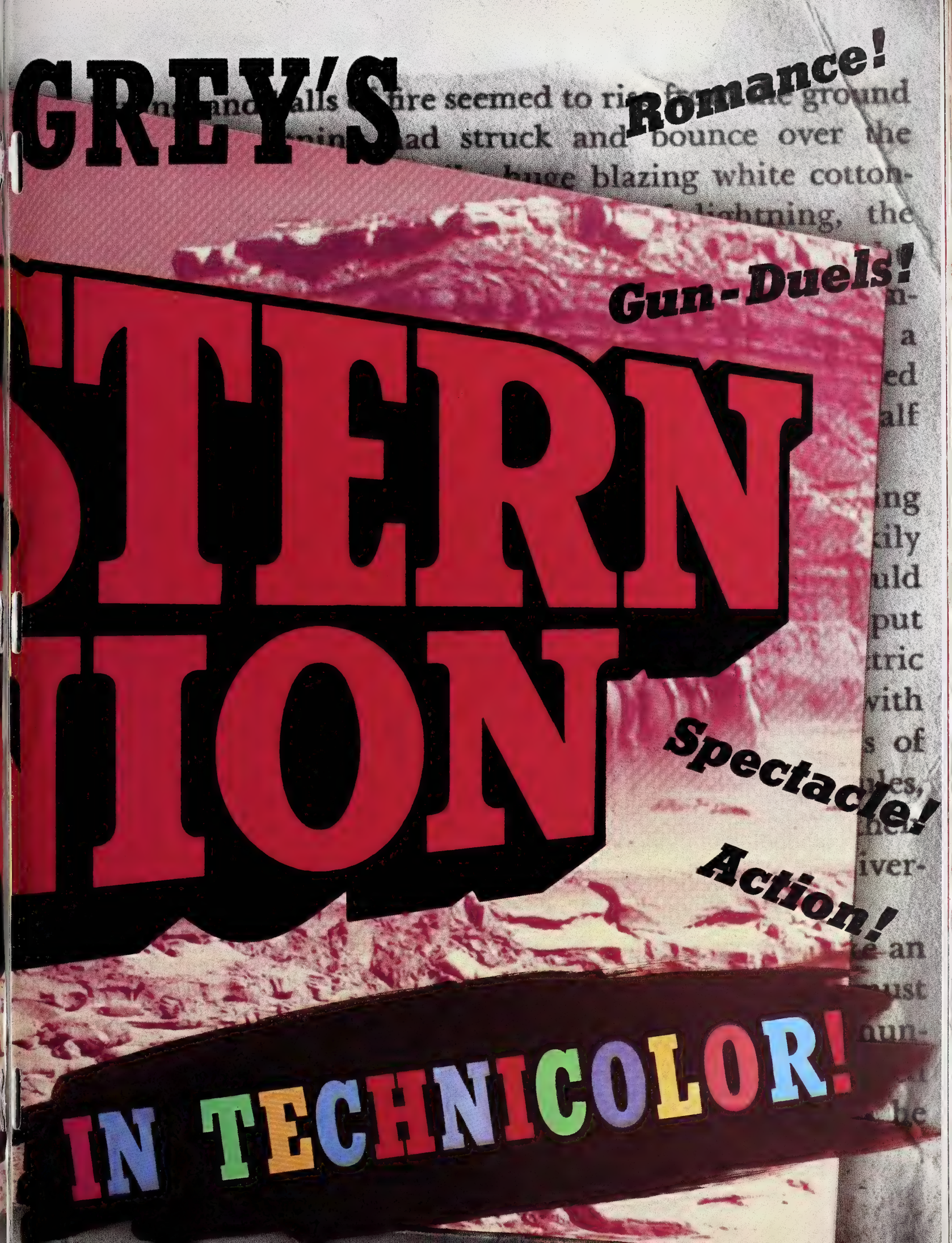
So wide open it even makes this column.

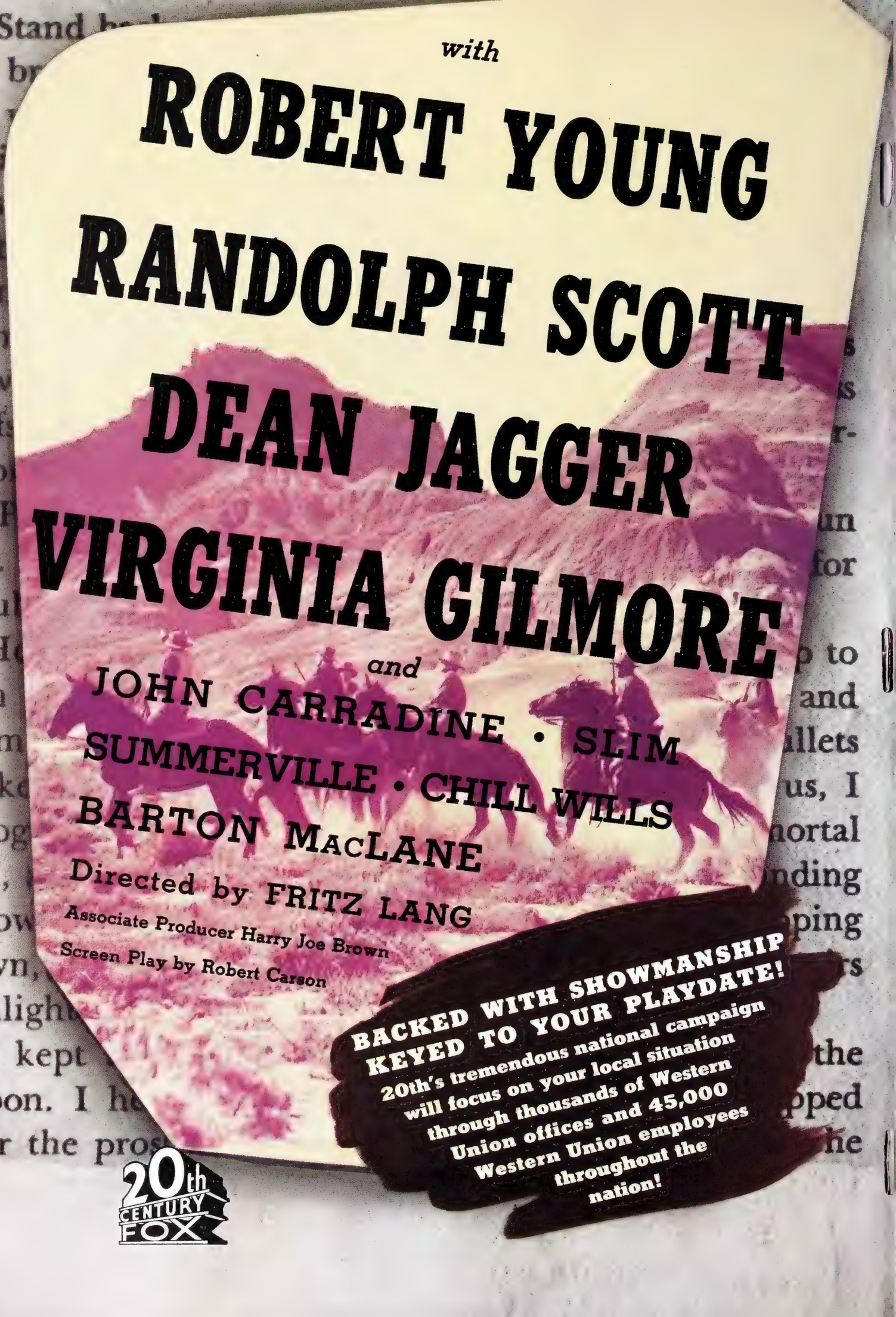

Here it is!...
BIG ONES
DON'T COME
ANY BIGGER!


THE GREATEST
BY THE WEST'S


STORY OF THE WEST . . .
GREAT STORY-TELLER!


Indians!
ZANE
WES
UN
Drama!
Thrills!
Massacre!
Excitement!
Adventure!


GREY'S
Romance!
Gun-Duels!
STERN
TION
Spectacle!
Action!
IN TECHNICOLOR!


with
ROBERT YOUNG
RANDOLPH SCOTT
DEAN JAGGER
VIRGINIA GILMORE
and
JOHN CARRADINE • SLIM SUMMERVILLE • CHILL WILLS
BARTON MacLANE
Directed by FRITZ LANG
Associate Producer Harry Joe Brown
Screen Play by Robert Carson
BACKED WITH SHOWMANSHIP KEYED TO YOUR PLAYDATE!
20th's tremendous national campaign will focus on your local situation through thousands of Western Union offices and 45,000 Western Union employees throughout the nation!
20th CENTURY FOX

Para't Realigns Sales, Gets Set for 5-Blocks



Up Another Notch—

He is understood to have wanted it for a long time. Now Charles M. Reagan, western sales manager for Paramount, becomes assistant general sales manager, a newly-created post and part of a rearrangement preparatory to operations under the decree.

Morris Joseph Retires With Universal Pension

NEW YORK—With the retirement of Morris Joseph as New Haven branch manager, Universal for the first time in its history has awarded a pension to an employe. In the business 29 years, Joseph spent 26 of them with Universal. He plans to leave for Miami shortly.

Succeeding Joseph is John Pavone, formerly Warner manager in the same city and who was special representative at New Haven until Joseph's retirement.

CHICAGO—Re-gearing its sales machinery with both eyes planted on operations under the decree, Neil F. Agnew, vice-president and general manager, this week effected these Paramount changes:

1—Named Charles M. Reagan, current western sales manager, to a newly-created post of assistant general sales manager.

2—Elevated George A. Smith, now west coast district manager, to Reagan's former post and expanded that division to embrace six southern and southwestern exchanges.

3—Eliminated the southern division, until now headed by Oscar A. Morgan and named the latter short subjects and Paramount News sales manager, thereby indicating a concentration in 1941-42 on those types of releases.

These shifts, and others, were divulged at the company's sales meeting which was held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel midweek and which was climaxed by a testimonial dinner arranged by Paramount's theatre partners for Barney Balaban at the same hotel Thursday evening.

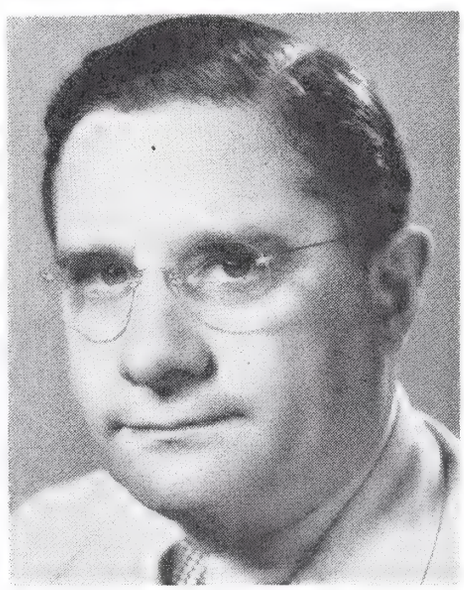
The reshuffle, while it reduced national divisions from three to two, at the same time stepped up sales districts from eight to ten. Joseph J. Unger, eastern divisional and Canadian sales manager, will continue in that post. Several of his districts, however, undergo realignment. William Erbb, New England district manager handling Boston and New Haven, now gets, additionally, Albany and Buffalo. Earl Sweigert, Philadelphia branch manager, gets a new district composed of Philadelphia, Washington and Pittsburgh. Milton S. Kusell will handle New York, New Jersey and Brooklyn, giving up Albany and Buffalo to Erbb and Philadelphia and Washington to Sweigert. Harry Goldstein, district manager out of Pittsburgh, will continue to handle Cincinnati and Cleveland as in the past, but relinquishes Pittsburgh to Sweigert and takes on Detroit and Indianapolis from Allen Usher, district manager in Chicago. Erbb, Sweigert, Kusell and Goldstein are responsible to Unger.

Smith gets the remaining six districts. Usher is to supervise Chicago and Milwaukee as in the past but takes on Minneapolis from R. C. LiBeau. The latter will handle Kansas City, St. Louis and Des Moines, encompassed in his current district, but gives up Omaha to a new district which will include Denver and Salt Lake City, formerly in Smith's territory. No manager has been named for this district for which headquarters will be centered in Denver. Hugh Braly, currently district manager out of Dallas, transfers to the coast where he will handle Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle, all exchanges in Smith's old area. Hugh Owen has resigned a district managership with UA in the south to join Paramount in charge of Dallas, Oklahoma City and Memphis, which is Braly's old territory. John F. Kirby, former branch manager at Atlanta, has been elevated to a district composed of Atlanta, Charlotte and New Orleans, succeeding Harold F. Wilkes, whose temporary retirement is dictated by illness. E. B. Price, former New Orleans branch manager, becomes Atlanta manager and, in turn, is succeeded in

(Continued on page 22)







Some of the Principals in Sales Realignment at Paramount—

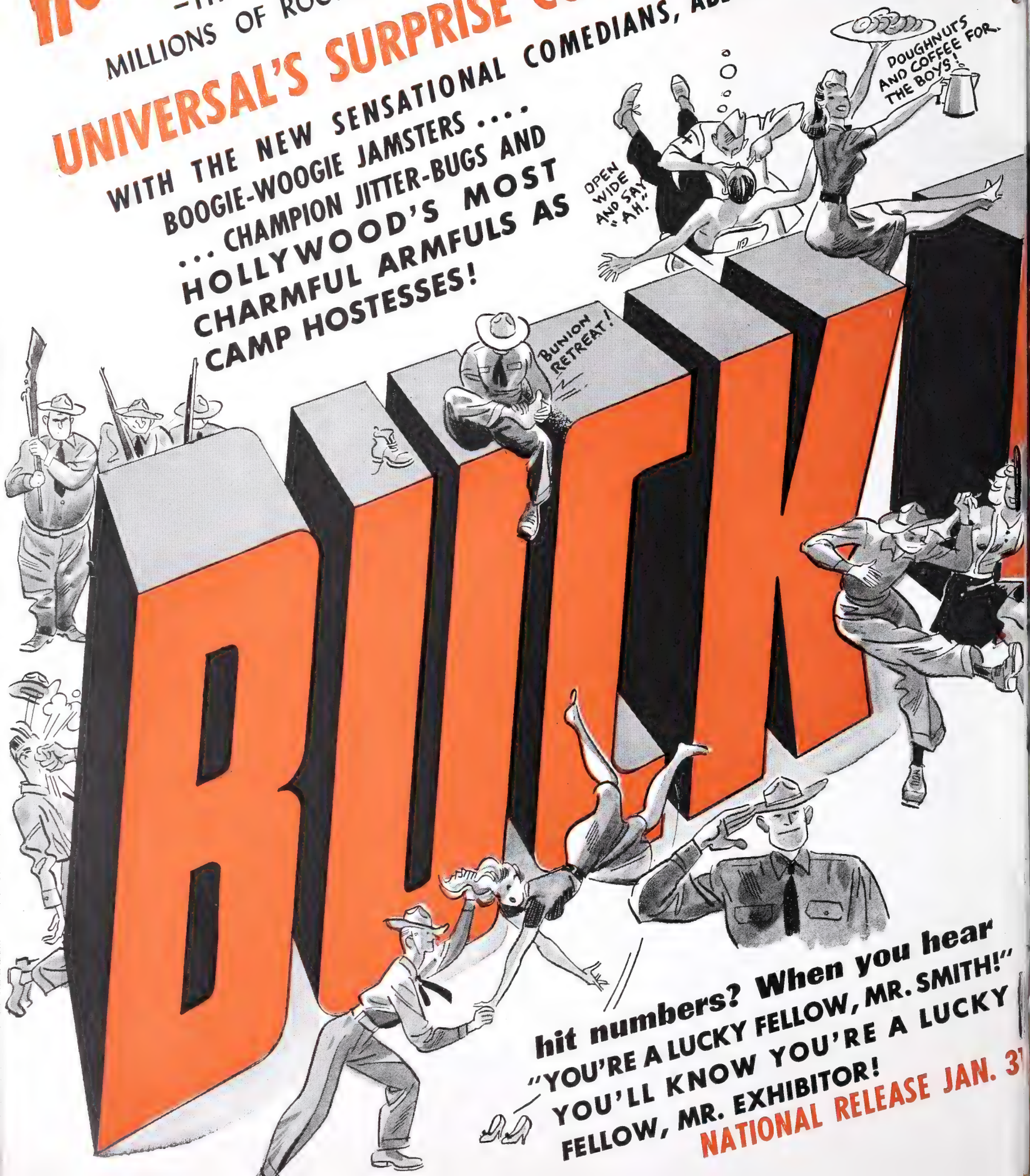
George A. Smith, (left) former Pacific Coast district manager, becomes western sales manager, succeeding Charles M. Reagan who, in turn, becomes assistant general sales manager. Smith's territory will embrace the six south and southwestern exchanges formerly handled through the southern division which is to be disbanded. Oscar A. Morgan (center), former southern sales manager, will handle national sales on shorts and Paramount News. Del Goodman (right), for years far eastern representative for 20th Century-Fox, is designated general manager for Canada, succeeding Morris A. Milligan, resigned.

Here's "No. 158!"

–THE FIRST PICTURE ABOUT UNCLE SAM'S MILLIONS OF ROOKIES HEADING FOR ARMY CAMP LIFE!

UNIVERSAL'S SURPRISE COMEDY SMASH...

WITH THE NEW SENSATIONAL COMEDIANS, ABBOTT & COSTELLO, BOOGIE-WOOGIE JAMSTERS .... CHAMPION JITTER-BUGS AND HOLLYWOOD'S MOST CHARMFUL ARMFULS AS CAMP HOSTESSES!



hit numbers? When you hear "YOU'RE A LUCKY FELLOW, MR. SMITH!" YOU'LL KNOW YOU'RE A LUCKY FELLOW, MR. EXHIBITOR!

NATIONAL RELEASE JAN. 3



starring

Bud ABBOTT & Lou COSTELLO

with

LEE BOWMAN
ALAN CURTIS

JANE FRAZEE • NAT PENDLETON • SAMUEL S. HINDS

and

The ANDREWS SISTERS

With the world's champion jitter-bugs

and a bevy of Hollywood's scintillating lovelies

JEANNA KELLY • NELL O'DAY • NINA ORLA • KAY LESLIE

DOROTHY DARRELL • MARIA MONTEZ • NELLA WALKER

Directed by ARTHUR LUBIN

Associate Producer, ALEX GOTTLIEB

Abbott and Costello, sensational comics known to millions of radio and stage fans!

Tribunal Clerks to Arbitration Schools

NEW YORK—The second session of schooling film tribunal clerks in the workings of arbitration as administered by the American Arbitration Ass'n gets under way January 27 for three days. It trails a similar three-day session ended January 24 at the AAA's headquarters here for the first 16 clerks selected. The 15 clerks that begin their schooling Monday make up the 31 to be in charge of all tribunals in the country.

Last week's program, which will probably be followed again, was highlighted with addresses by James V. Hayes and Robert Sher, department of justice "trouble shooter" and consent decree expert, respectively, on aims and purposes of the decree. The group also heard talks by C. V. Whitney of the administrative committee and Frances Kellor, AAA first vice-president. J. Noble Braden, executive director of the film arbitration system, and department staff heads also spoke on pertinent operations. Other topics, such as handling financial forms and aspects of publicity and public relations were taken up by Dr. Walter Derenberg, legal research director of the film arbitration system, and Lawrence Stessin, publicity director.

The final meeting was turned over to a mock arbitration hearing, in which typical operations in the administration of AAA machinery in respect to film complaints were pursued, followed by an open forum in which the clerks and AAA personnel exchanged questions and answers.

As far as can be ascertained, the clerks are from no particular business sphere, but are, in the main, either credit men or those who have had past experience in handling contracts or have held business management posts. While the decree specifies arbitrators are not to have had any past or present association, directly or indirectly, with the industry no such stipulation covers tribunal clerks. However, the AAA has automatically extended the same provisions that apply to arbitrators to cover clerks.

Flu Detains Hays

NEW YORK—Detained by an attack of the flu, Will H. Hays was slated to leave for the coast the latter part of the week. He had planned to attend the inaugural ceremonies in Washington, but was unable to make the trip.

16 Tribunal Clerks Lined Up

NEW YORK—*AAA is set in* 16 *of the* 31 *clerks who will function on its arbitration tribunals. Here they are:*

City	*Type*	*Clerk*	*Address*
Dallas	A	C. C. Williams	Fidelity Building
Denver	C	J. B. Milton	Chamber of Commerce
Des Moines	C	Bruce Wilson	Walnut Building
Detroit	A	Irvin Yackness	Penobscot Building
Indianapolis	C	Lloyd Littell	Underwriters Building
Kansas City	B	J. H. Brink	Waltower Building
Los Angeles	A	Walter H. Elliot	Van Nuys Building
Milwaukee	B	J. L. Loell	Loyalty Building
Minneapolis	A	Sheldon Ostroot	McKnight Building
Oklahoma City	C	Richard Romang	Commerce Exch. Bldg.
Omaha	C	Byron Pulis	Woodmen of World
Portland	C	J. P. Nelson	Pittock Building
St. Louis	B	C. W. Hudson	Cotton Belt Building
Salt Lake City	C	Roy Backman	Cont'l Bank Building
San Francisco	A	Charles Chambers	Mills Tower Building
Seattle	B	Joe J. Monahan	Not designated yet

How to find the clerks and the tribunals at each of these addresses? Each office will be listed as Motion Picture Tribunal of the American Arbitration Ass'n. The list reveals five "A" tribunals, meaning each will have one clerk and one secretary of higher salary background. There are four in the "B" division thus far, meaning each will also have one clerk and one secretary, but in a lower salary bracket. There are seven in "C," meaning each will have one clerk, no secretary.

May Crack Down on Ticket Tax Evaders

(Continued from page 4)

individual theatre must secure written permission from the bureau, granted only after submission of a report showing the number of theatres operated, whether tickets are sold at all of the houses through ticket vending machines which record the number of tickets sold, and the nature of the records kept at the home office and at each theatre.

Tickets sold at reduced rates must show the regular established price of admission and also the reduced price, the tax due and the total. The tax on the reduced price is based on the regular established price, except in the case of legitimate theatres showing a spoken play of not less than one hour 45 minutes duration.

The bureau's explanation is issued ostensibly for the benefit of ticket printers who are "confused" concerning the requirements, but is viewed as direct notice to theatres that they must comply strictly with the law and regulations.

"In accordance with section 1702 of the internal revenue code, the price at which every admission ticket or card is sold must be conspicuously and indelibly printed, stamped or written on that part of the ticket which is to be taken up by the management," it was stated. "This requirement is applicable to tickets which are to be sold for less than 21 cents as well as those selling for 21 cents or more.

"Despite this requirement of the law, ticket printers are sometimes requested to print tickets which do not show the price, but which have a space in which the price is to be later stamped or written by the theatre or other place before the tickets are sold. Ticket printers, as such, do not incur liability to any penalty by printing such tickets. However, in view of the fact that the theatre or other place will incur liability to the penalties provided by section 1703 of the internal revenue code if the price is not printed, stamped or written on the tickets at the time they are sold, the practice of printing tickets without the price is regarded by the bureau as likely to result in violations of the law by proprietors of places of admission and wherever possible orders for such tickets should be discouraged by the printer."

Warner Profit Rises Almost 100 Per Cent

NEW YORK—Warner net for the first quarter of its new fiscal year, the 13 weeks ending November 30, 1940, reflects a gain of $634,187 or slightly under 100 per cent over the corresponding period last year. The current statement shows $1,276,316 as compared with $642,129. This is equivalent to earnings of $12.81 per preferred share and places dividends in arrears at December 1 of $33.6875 per share. After allowing for preferred dividends, the net is equivalent to earnings of 31 cents per common share on the 3,701,090 shares outstanding November 30, but after deducting shares held in the treasury.

Into the Charmed Circle

NEW YORK—An all-time, all-kind of record for the first 25 days of "The Philadelphia Story" at Radio City Music Hall is 553,537 paid admissions.

The film began its fifth week Thursday and thereby joined the charmed circle of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and "Rebecca," the only previous attractions to run that long in the theatre's eight-year history. "Rebecca," in fact, went six weeks, which, on the basis of an exceptionally strong $90,000 for the fourth week of "Story" may find the latter holding it to a tie for longest run.

Statisticians are willing to bet "Story" will also top the two previous long run holders for a five-week figure. They are offering a potential $500,000 gross for five weeks of "Story," which would be some $10,000 over "Snow White" and "Rebecca" for the same period. "Snow White" attendance for the first 25 days was 544,519, while "Rebecca" pulled 504,415.

WHAT AFTER THE DECREE? U. S. SAYS THEATREMEN HOLD ANSWER

Warns Against Attempts To Coerce Exhibitors; Raps Reprisal Fear

WASHINGTON—The kind of business this will be after the three-year trial period of the decree has run out by November 20, 1943, is largely in the hands of the exhibitors of the nation and the degree of cooperation they evidence in the direction of making the consent work in that period, the department of justice believes.

Without publicly so stating, the department is taking cognizance of fears of reprisals which many exhibitors entertain by declaring it will not tolerate such tactics where they become known and by seeking to eliminate them in inviting exhibitors to file confidential complaints for private investigation. As specifically set forth in the decree text, a close watch on operations will be made by a special unit within the department under Robert L. Wright who conducted pre-trial examinations in New York.

Eye Acquisitions

But indicating disturbances already are reverberating is that portion of the justice department's formal statement which discloses theatre acquisitions have been undertaken since the New York decree was entered "which are apparently intended to eliminate the possibility of the independent theatres' securing relief that the decree was intended to provide." With this, and even before the blocks of five selling and arbitration are effective, goes a warning that, while action on acquisition is limited by the decree, the department is prepared to proceed under the Sherman Act to enjoin or divest such acquisitions when undertaken for the purpose and effect of suppressing or eliminating competition. Precisely what acquisitions, actual or contemplated, the department is hitting at has not been divulged. At any rate, enforcements of the decrees entered against Fox West Coast in Los Angeles November 27 and against B&K in Chicago December 10 will be handled by Wright's unit along with the overall New York consent.

Prefer to Investigate Singly

It is also made clear that the department prefers to investigate complaints as they arise and will not favor having them "cleared" through exhibitor organizations, coming to Washington in bunches.

But it gives to exhibitors assurance that they will be protected against reprisals in cases where they filed arbitration complaints rather than accept settlements negotiated without resort to the decree machinery. Contempt actions face any person who attempts to prevent an exhibitor from exercising any of his rights under the decree, it is made clear.

To effectuate the purposes of the government's suit and the decree, it is stressed, exhibitors must give their "wholehearted support." Otherwise, when the three-year trial period expires in November, 1943, the department will be without adequate data as to the working of the decree on which to base its policy for the future.

Explaining that enforcement of the decree, in the first instance, rests largely in the hands of independent exhibitors, the department points out that Wright's unit will be available to them for advice with respect to the remedies available to them under the decree.

"It cannot, of course, undertake to initiate or prosecute an arbitration proceeding but after a final arbitration award is made, the unit will undertake to see that compliance occurs," it is stated. "Where an appeal is taken from an award which involves an important question of construction of the decree, counsel in the unit may ask the appeals board for leave to participate in the appeal as a friend of the court."

Check on Competition

The unit also will undertake to ascertain the competitive effect of each theatre acquisition reported by the consenting defendants pursuant to Section XI of the decree and recommend such action with respect thereto as may be warranted under the decree and the Sherman Act.

Certain types of exhibitor complaints against the consenting defendants are not subject to arbitration under the decree but nevertheless may involve a violation of the Sherman act, it is pointed out. The decree unit will investigate such complaints and recommend such appropriate action as is not inconsistent with the decree, and also will investigate complaints which involve Sherman act violations by distributors and exhibitors who are not parties to the decree.

At the same time, the department will continue its practice of referring meritorious complaints which do not involve sufficient public interest to warrant federal litigation to the parties complained against for voluntary adjustment.

"No exhibitor's complaint will be referred or disclosed to any distributor or other person complained against, except in the course of legal proceedings, without the express authorization of the complaining exhibitor," it is emphasized.

The department requests that all complaints be forwarded to the anti-trust division as they arise. "It has no objection to the simultaneous clearing of exhibitor complaints through any exhibitor organization," it is explained, "but it prefers to make its own prompt and independent investigation of each complaint as it arises, instead of attempting to investigate them at a later date in larger groups."

Must Give Full Picture

Exhibitors are instructed that, in forwarding complaints, a complete picture of their theatre situation must be given; that is, a description of the seating capacity, age, condition and operating policy, including admission prices, run and clearance of the theatre and the houses competing against it, together with a description of the manner in which major product has been divided among them during the current and immediately preceding seasons.

To Study Effect of Decree

"The unit will attempt to observe and evaluate the effect of the decree on the industry as a whole by a study of the following factors, among others," it is explained:

"The extent to which arbitration under the decree succeeds in fairly adjusting the specific exhibitor complaints of which the department has knowledge;

"The general effect of the decree, and particularly the new method of selling, on competition between independent theatres, unaffiliated circuits and affiliated circuits;

"The effect of the decree, and particularly the new method of selling, on competition in producing and distributing films."

The data on which the unit principally will rely in making such studies will come

(Continued on page 22)

Jenkins on Coast With Distribution Handbook

HOLLYWOOD — Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel of 20th-Fox, arrived here from New York the latter part of the week with a tentative draft of his handbook on distribution provisions of the consent decree. The printed brochure is 34 pages and is being held up until Sidney R. Kent, president, officially approves its distribution to the sales force.

Kent has been conferring all week with Herman Wobber, general sales manager, Darryl F. Zanuck, Joseph M. Schenck and other studio executives on the 1941-42 program and how the company will be geared to operate under the decree.

Jenkins is due to make a tour of exchanges to explain the provisions of the decree shortly after Kent approves his handbook. He will be assisted by two other home office lawyers and each will cover different exchanges.

Buckley, Kent Back

LOS ANGELES—Charles A. Buckley, general counsel for FWC, and Larry Kent, film buyer and chief booker for the circuit, have returned from New York where both spent several months conferring with National Theatres home executives.

Will Continue Efforts At Voluntary Action To Settle Plaints

THE STARS THEY'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER

Set to smash at the box-office with all the weight and power of the most dramatic American love story ever told!

UNIVERSAL PICTURES presents

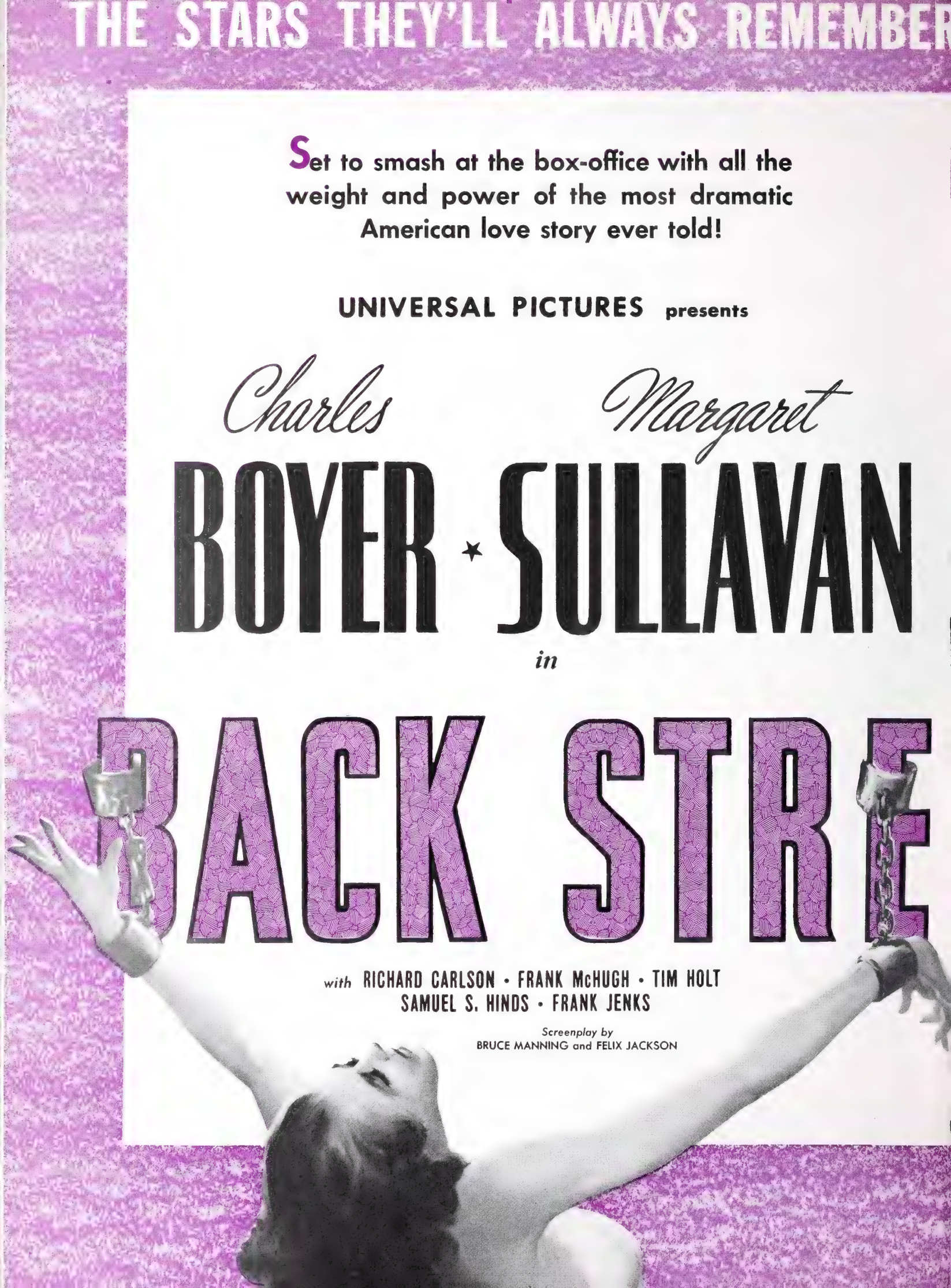
Charles **BOYER** ★ *Margaret* **SULLAVAN**

in

BACK STRE

with RICHARD CARLSON • FRANK McHUGH • TIM HOLT
SAMUEL S. HINDS • FRANK JENKS

Screenplay by
BRUCE MANNING and FELIX JACKSON



IN A PICTURE THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!



ET

Based on the novel by FANNIE HURST

Directed by
Robert Stevenson

Produced by
Bruce Manning

WORLD PREMIERE!

MIAMI BEACH! FEBRUARY 4th!

With America's foremost motion picture critics from key cities all over the country in attendance!

NATIONAL RELEASE FEBRUARY 7th!

Weigh Two Sites for Nat'l Theatres Meet

NEW YORK—Annual meeting of National Theatres divisional and home office executives will be held either at Palm Springs or Lake Arrowhead, Calif., the week starting February 10. Palm Springs has been mentioned several times as the likely spot, but Spyros Skouras hasn't yet made up his mind definitely.

Milton Hossfeld, home office booker, leaves Wednesday for Dallas on his vacation and from there will meet the conventionites at the designated site. Others attending from New York, in addition to Skouras, will be William T. Powers, Harry T. Cox, Edward Zabel and Aubrey Schenck.

From the field will be Charles Skouras, Los Angeles; Arch Bowles, San Francisco; Harold J. Fitzgerald, Milwaukee; Rick Ricketson, Denver; E. C. Rhoden, Kansas City; Mike Rosenberg, Los Angeles; Frank Newman, Seattle, in addition to executive assistants.

Main topic at the forthcoming sessions will be the new order of operations under the decree. As an affiliate of 20th-Fox, National Theatres must live up to its provisions. A recent analysis prepared by Powers and Schenck will be distributed to the divisions, as well as a handbook prepared by Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel for 20th-Fox.

Bowles has been in town for the past 10 days. The trip has been in the form of a combined business and vacation jaunt.

See $300-400,000 On "Liberty" Film

New York—Although there have been too few engagements on which to base an estimate, M-G-M sales chieftains hope to realize between $300,000 and $400,000 on "Land of Liberty," proceeds of which will be turned over to war relief agencies of all stricken foreign countries.

First to benefit will be British air raid victims, for whom the first $50,000 has been earmarked.

Equipment Association Convention in Chicago

CHICAGO—The second annual convention of Theatre Equipment Protectice Ass'n will be held at the Congress Hotel, February 8-10 with Harry Graham of Denver as acting chairman. There are no executive officers in the organization and all equipment manufacturers have been invited to attend.

All present will be asked to cooperate with President Roosevelt's rearmament program. Expected to be present are 45 member dealers throughout the country whose annual business aggregates over $10,000,000.

Hornstein to Meeting

NEW YORK—Joseph Hornstein, head of the company which bears his name here and one of the organizers of Theatre Equipment Protective Ass'n, will leave February 7 for Chicago to attend the three-day annual meeting of the organization.

Industry Through Last Congress Unscathed

WASHINGTON—Only one of more than 20 film measures introduced was enacted into law during the Congress which automatically ended January 3.

Repeal of the 1912 law prohibiting the interstate transportation of prize fight pictures, introduced by Sen. W. Warren Barbour (Rep., N. J.), represented the sole contribution of the Congress to the welfare of the film industry in 1939 and 1940.

Nevertheless, the two sessions of the Congress kept the industry active, through the efforts of Sen. Matthew M. Neely (Dem., W. Va.) to pass his bill prohibiting block booking and to get under way a companion measure prohibiting producers or distributors from having any interest in theatres.

Probably only the fact the department of justice was prosecuting the same issues in its New York all-industry suit saved the distributors from the imposition of controls on picture sales. Supported grimly by the West Virginia senator through bitter fights in the interstate commerce committee and on the floor of the Senate, the measure was passed by the Senate in 1939 and last year was the subject of lengthy hearings by the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce. That committee was prepared to amend the bill so as to make it less onerous when it suspended consideration of the subject to await the disposition of the block booking question in the consent decree then being negotiated.

With the final adjournment of the Congress all measures pending "died" and will have to be reintroduced and start from scratch if they are to be pressed this session. However, it is quite likely no effort will be made to do anything further with block booking until it is learned how the new setup provided for in the consent decree works out. With the fight-film bill finally passed, only one of the three "stand-bys" of many sessions remains—the copyright bill, on which, however, little action is expected until world conditions settle down.

One other measure received consideration during the past session, the resolution for investigation of Secretary of the Interior Ickes' efforts to assess producers for making pictures in national parks and public lands. Following announcement by Ickes of a schedule of fees running into real money, Sen. Pat McCarren (Dem., Nev.) last March introduced and secured Senate approval of a resolution for an investigation, but it has not been made.

Aside from bills on block booking and copyright, which have come up every session for a number of years, the only film legislation proposed was embodied in several bills for the creation of a Fine Arts Bureau, a bill to permit the making of newsreels from the press galleries, and the divorce measure proposed by Senator Neely.

A tentative effort was made by Senator Neely to get his divorce bill under way, but after two short hearings he acceded to the request of company representatives that the measure be held in abeyance.

Flashes From the News Front

Accept Decree War Plan

MINNEAPOLIS—Formal acceptance of a plan to nullify via state law certain important provisions of the federal consent decree was voted at the special meeting here of Northwest Allied. The measure would compel distributors to sell their entire season's output with a minimum 20 per cent cancellation. Other action included a demand for an immediate reduction of film rentals by ten per cent; opposition to 50 per cent split deals, increased admissions and extended playing time for any pictures; restriction via state laws of theatre building and circuit expansion.

Schlaifer Out of UA

NEW YORK—L. Jack Schlaifer, formerly western sales manager for United Artists and lately sales drive leader for the Arthur W. Kelly drive, has resigned.

Approve Fast Time

MADISON, WIS.—Leading dailies are giving support to a bill proposing adoption of daylight saving time.

Flu Hits South

NEW ORLEANS—The wave of influenza, almost of epidemic proportions, is depressing grosses throughout the eight southeastern states.

Interstate Wins Suit

DALLAS—The Interstate circuit won the anti-trust suit filed by R. Z. Glass, former Dallas exhibitor, on an instructed court verdict. The action preceded presentation of any defense testimony.

Would License Games

HARRISBURG, PA.—A bill to license "chance games" in theatres has been introduced in the legislature.

Poise Ascap Rein

BOSTON—A measure to restrict the activity of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has been introduced in the state legislature. Ascap won a point in Louisiana in a court ruling that its agents were not subject to state licensing.

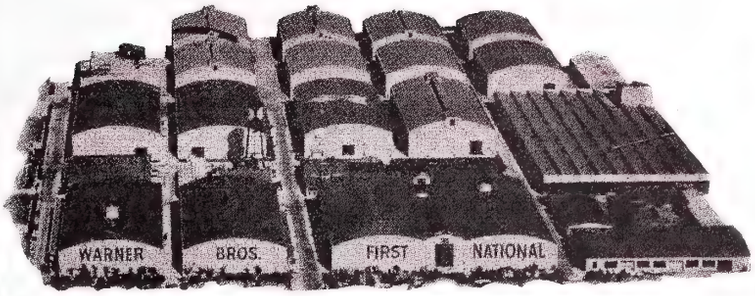
Talk New Zoning Plan

DETROIT—A new zoning plan, proposed by Frank J. Downey, Metro manager, which would alternate films for second runs geographically, is being discussed with the UDT circuit and Co-Operative Theatre Owners of Michigan.

J. I. Roberts Dead

DALLAS—J. I. Roberts, Dallas manager for National Theatre Supply, was killed in a highway auto crash Monday near Corsicana.







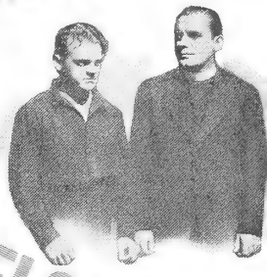


Warners' Studio is Your

POWER house!











No other entertainment carries the brand of Power that Warners load into THIS kind of attraction!

NOW!

HIGH SIERRA



By the Author of 'Little Caesar'

Directed by RAOUL WALSH

with Alan Curtis • Arthur Kennedy
Joan Leslie • Henry Hull • Henry Travers

Screen Play by John Huston and W. R. Burnett • From a Novel by W. R. Burnett

starring IDA LUPINO and HUMPHREY BOGART

As Marie, the taxi dancer and killer's companion—deep down just another woman whose hungry heart yearned for one man.

As 'Mad Dog' Earle, enemy of all that is decent and good, defiant of every law on earth—except the High Sierras!

Decree Aftermath "Up to Exhibitors"

(Continued from page 17)

from its own files, supplied by complaining exhibitors, the consenting defendants and other members of the industry; the records of the consenting defendants which are accessible to it under the terms of the decree; and the records of the arbitration proceedings and their disposition under the decree kept by the American Arbitration Ass'n and the appeals board.

"At the end of the three-year trial period," the statement continues, "the unit will attempt to answer the following questions and make specific recommendations based upon the answers to these questions:

"1. Has the three-year trial of the consent decree demonstrated that the competition required by the Sherman act can be achieved in the motion picture industry without securing the divorcement of production and distribution from exhibition?

"2. If it has, must the decree be modified in other respects in order to achieve such competition in the industry?

"3. If it must be so modified, what are the specific modifications which will achieve that end?

"The above outline of the proposed activities of the decree unit is necessarily tentative and subject to modification in the light of experience," the department declares in a plea for cooperation. "Suggestions for any modifications of this policy which will increase the effectiveness of the decree and the work of the unit are hereby invited and will receive careful consideration.

Must Cooperate to Work Well

"All exhibitors and their organizations must know that without their wholehearted support, neither the decree nor the decree unit can function properly. While the department is heartily in favor of the settlement of individual differences without resort to arbitration by voluntary agreement between the parties involved wherever the agreement is a fair one, it should be borne in mind that the decree was intended to relieve small exhibitors from the pressure which large circuits and distributors have been able to exert in the past with respect to the terms of such informal settlements. Unless free use of the arbitration machinery established by the decree is made by all exhibitors, this purpose will not have been fulfilled.

"It has been suggested that small exhibitors who insist on filing arbitration complaints rather than accepting settlements negotiated without resort to the decree machinery, may be subjected to reprisals in connection with future negotiations with the consenting defendants. The department believes that these fears are unfounded, but is prepared to prosecute for contempt any person who attempts to prevent an exhibitor from exercising any of his rights under the decree, by economic coercion or otherwise.

Would Punish for Reprisals

"The suggestion also has been made that exhibitors fear that complaints which are made to the department and referred to distributors will bring reprisals from them. The department believes that these fears are not well founded, but is also prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to punish such conduct. It can obviously do nothing about the cases of those exhibitors who may let such fears prevent them from making complaints to it.

"The questions which will be up for decision on November 20, 1943, must inevitably be largely determined by the data collected by the department during the preceding three-year period. Unless exhibitors make full use of the arbitration procedure set up by the decree and supply full information with respect to the effect of the decree on their business to the decree unit, that data will be woefully incomplete. Without such exhibitor cooperation on a substantial scale, these questions are certain to be erroneously decided, to the detriment of exhibitors and the industry as a whole."

What the Studios Are Doing

No Disney Competition For Cartoon Award

HOLLYWOOD—After winning the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences award for his short cartoons for five consecutive years, Walt Disney has notified Academy officials he will not compete in that classification this year. Producer gave as his reason the belief that it is more important for him to focus public attention on his feature-length subjects, although the Academy has ruled "Fantasia" may not compete because its Los Angeles release date is beyond the deadline. Disney stressed his action was not to be construed as indicating any antagonistic attitude toward the Academy.

Forty Features in Work; Heavy February Slated

Studios are continuing to hold to their fast picture-making pace, which finds 40 features now in work, another 16 scheduled for camera starts during the balance of January and 22 more written in for launching during February. Of them, 21 are in the top-budget category. RKO Radio and M-G-M, with four each to roll this month, are the busiest spots, while Paramount leads the February list with six starters.

Studios Stock Up on New Story Properties

Walter Wanger has swung back into action with the purchase of "Sundown," a new *Saturday Evening Post* serial by Barre Lyndon, which United Artists will release . . . 20th Century-Fox paid a reported $110,000 for screen rights to the venerable Brandon Thomas play, "Charley's Aunt," and also bought "The Dead Take No Bows" from Richard Burke . . . "Reunion," story of France under German rule by Ladislaus Bus-Fekte, goes to M-G-M . . . Paramount bought "Dangerous Holiday," spy melodrama, from Sidney Shelton and Ben Roberts.

Three More for Rowland; Hathaway Leaves Para't

Henry Hathaway, producer-director, and Paramount have amicably severed their contract. Hathaway will announce a new connection shortly . . . United Artists has picked up its option on Richard A. Rowland, whose first for the company was "Cheers for Miss Bishop." He will do three more for UA . . . M-G-M has assigned James Stewart to appear opposite Jeanette MacDonald in the re-make of "Smilin' Through" . . . Brian Aherne will co-star with Claudette Colbert and Ray Milland in Paramount's "Skylark" . . . Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy, Fibber McGee and Molly will headline a forthcoming RKO Radio musical . . . Paramount has launched an extensive radio exploitation campaign for "You're the One."

$175,000 to Shearer on Certain Story Rights

NEW YORK—Norma Shearer, representing the late Irving G. Thalberg's estate, has received $175,000 from M-G-M as settlement for claims and interests in certain story rights of pictures made while her late husband was in charge of production for M-G-M. However, the settlement does not preclude the estate from receiving a percentage of additional monies from the distribution of pictures made during the tenure of Thalberg.

Mendel Silberberg, coast attorney, represented Miss Shearer and the Thalberg estate, while Leopold Friedman and Irving Greenfield acted for Loew's, Inc., parent company for M-G-M.

Paramount Realigns Sales Under Decree

(Continued from page 13)

the former city by Saul Frifield, former salesman in the Charlotte territory, thus, Usher, LiBeau, Braly, Owen, Kirby and the one thus far undesignated district manager comprise the division headed by Smith who originally started with Paramount in Canada, then was transferred to Milwaukee and Cincinnati and later to San Francisco. He was made west coast district head when Myke H. Lewis resigned that post about two and a half years ago.

"Although the creation of two sales divisions gives the western group the greatest number of exchanges," Agnew explains, "quotas will be about evenly balanced because of the denser population and correspondingly greater number of accounts in the eastern territory."

Meanwhile, Del Goodman, long far eastern representative for 20th Century-Fox, becomes general manager for Canada, succeeding Morris A. Milligan, who has resigned because he reportedly declined to accept a shift to the prairie states.

All promotions and changes are to become effective between February 1 and March 1.

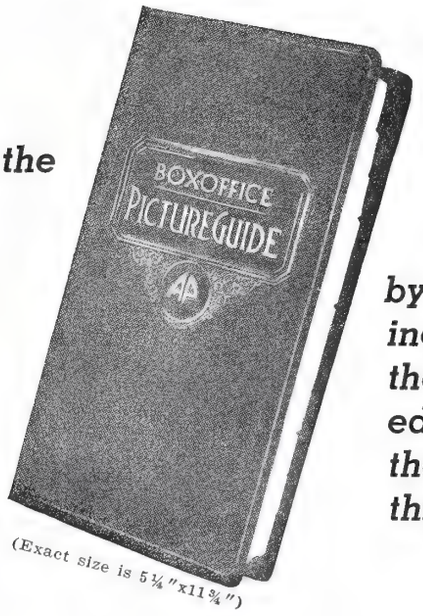
Screen Two New Ones

CHICAGO—"The Lady Eve," produced by Preston Sturges and co-starring Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda, and "Reaching for the Sun" with Joel McCrea and Ellen Drew were screened for Paramount's sales officials during their three-day meeting. "Western Daze," first of the George Pal Madcap Model shorts, also was shown.

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"A Good Year," Says Exhibitor at Large

(Continued from page 5)

sharp revival with the New Year. The weather continued open which had a good effect. And we can expect the huge sums being expended by the government to have a beneficial effect on industry in general. Motion pictures will get their share."

Wess Huss, of Associated Theatres and president of the ITO, agreed business, while sluggish in general, is reviving and the outlook for 1941 looks very encouraging.

Harold Bernstein, independent exhibitor and secretary of the ITO, thinks the full burden of good business rests with the producer. "It is up to the producer to combat the increasing lagging interest shown by the public in motion pictures. It is a matter of better product, which we must have to combat this lack of interest. When we have good product we have good business," is his comment.

The decree meets with some speculation, but little enthusiasm. "We have tried everything else," states White, "and lived through it. We have gone through every other change in distribution and we may as well try this."

To sit tight and await developments is the disposition of other exhibitors. The opinion is expressed among large chain owners, that word-of-mouth will adequately advertise the worth of available features without the necessity of managers and exhibitors attending trade showings, which in some cases is looked upon as an encroachment on time.

Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—While independent exhibitors in this area are not taking the decree too seriously, most of them are opposed to it. In fact, they say they already are faced with plenty of problems and that the decree will bring about more worries for them. Some say they do not thoroughly understand the new law and that few can tell how it is going to work out.

"We have everything to lose and nothing to gain," said one exhibitor. "Instead of having to buy films 10 or 12 times a year, the way I see it, I shall have to buy them 120 times a year."

Theatre business is holding its own in this area and some exhibitors say that in this particular section it should show a decided pickup in 1941. Construction work at Camp Robinson, near Little Rock, has brought several thousand workers in various crafts to the city. It also is estimated between 30,000 and 40,000 soldiers will be stationed at Camp Robinson in the near future.

C. C. Mundo, owner of the Rex here, recently opened the new Liberty, North Little Rock. Malco will open a new house in the Park Hill section, North Little Rock. The Crescent, owned by O. G. Wren, is being reconstructed at a cost of several thousand dollars.

Practically all Arkansas industrial cities expect a better year in 1941 than in 1940.

Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY—Business in Oklahoma will be up as far as boxoffices are concerned as theatre men look for much better grosses in 1941 than in 1940. The latter was not a bad year, however, as some general improvement was shown over the previous year. Biggest boost is expected to be in medium sized towns.

Defense spending will probably have some effect on grosses, but it is not felt that the amount of Oklahoma's share will bring any gross boom during 1941. Suburbans are expected to benefit most.

Previously at the turn of the year theatre owners have generally been worried about the year's grosses but this year concern is more in the direction of what is going to happen on the decree phase of operations. Oklahoma is certain to witness film "hoarding" from now on out with every picture of any value being played for every day's playing time it will stand. Plenty of changes of policy are looked for as a result of the jumbled state of the booking end of the business.

Both circuit executives and independent operators are far more concerned about what the decree is going to do to 1941's business than they are about the amount of business available. They have plenty of confidence on the latter score and none whatever on the former.

Wilmington

WILMINGTON, DEL.—Independent operators differ sharply from one of the two circuits operating local houses in regard to the outlook for 1941 in the 12 theatres of the city.

Edgar Doob, manager of Loew's, predicts as far as Loew's is concerned, business would exceed 1940 by about 20 per cent. "The year started out with a bang for us," Doob explains, "and I predict 1941 will be one of the best years the theatre has had. The studios are concentrating their production for home consumption with the loss of the foreign market."

On the other hand, Joseph A. DeFiore, manager of the Park, independent neighborhood house and president of the Independent MPTOA of Delaware and Eastern Maryland, paints an entirely different picture.

A member of the Delaware committee for national defense, DeFiore explains so far business for the majority of the independent houses is far below expectations.

Miami

MIAMI—Expectations of local theatremen for this year are most clearly indicated by the fact that theatre construction has outpaced that of any other year during the past decade. Besides numerous costly renovations, there have been four new houses opened in the past three months.

Even in the suburban area of metropolitan Miami, the resort city of Hollywood, attendance appears to be up considerably over that of last year at this same time.

Paramount Partners To Meet in March

NEW YORK—Looked upon as its most important conclave in years, Paramount theatre partners from this country and Canada will convene in Virginia during the latter part of March for a three-day session that will attract every ranking executive of the company's theatre enterprises, as well as those from the parent company's home office. Y. Frank Freeman is expected to be the sole coast representative.

"We're in the theatre business to make money, just as every one else is," declared a circuit spokesman in poising what he considered the leading thought to dominate the session. "If the decree doesn't prove to be onerous, we'll make that money. If it does, we'll have to find other ways to make a buck, and that way will probably be among ourselves."

The Virginia meeting, exact date and place of which have not yet been set, will present problems in operation that have not come up since 1930. The impact of the industrial boom as it bears on shifting populations where huge numbers of workers have moved to take new factory jobs is a big factor which works both ways. Economies to be considered in the light of higher operating costs to conform to the decree is another topic of importance.

Pat Garyn Succumbs To a Heart Attack

DALLAS — W. P. (Pat) Garyn, 52, widely known in national distribution circles, died Wednesday morning in St. Paul's hospital here due to a heart attack.



PAT GARYN

Garyn located in Dallas in the fall of 1937 with Trailer-Made Service. Subsequent deals included the organization of independent companies such as Texas Film Co., which passed over into other hands. Mrs. Vera Garyn was due here by plane Wednesday night to complete funeral arrangements along with a sister, Mrs. Wolfe, of St. Louis.

Marriage License Gets "Ecstasy" Past Censors

NEW YORK—Following four years of censorial prodding by Samuel Cummins, an approved, appended version of "Ecstasy" has entered a fourth week at the Ambassador. The censor board reversed the usual procedure of snipping and ordered the inclusion into the footage of a divorce, and a wedding license for the straying lovers to prove their legal right to the highly touted climax of the film. The additional footage runs about 1,000 feet.

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AND YOU'LL JOIN THE CHEERING CRITICS!

(continued above)

SOCKO ENTERTAINMENT *say the* CRITICS!

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"The film is unique . . . extremely well handled by Cecil B. DeMille . . . the cast is enough to knock anyone's both eyes out." —BOX OFFICE

"This unique production is in a class by itself . . . One of the finest achievements of its kind the industry has ever known . . . Fascinating." —FILM DAILY

"A magnificent job . . . swiftly moving . . . studded with drama . . . in consideration of the present temper of the people of this country, general world conditions and the preoccupation of the nation with matters of freedom and the support of the democratic ideal, this film should find strong popular support at the theatre." —M. P. DAILY

"Truly a 'Cavalcade of America.'..." —VARIETY

"Rare indeed are the opportunities of encountering in any medium such vitally absorbing entertainment . . . Amazing entertainment force, capable of holding a rank-and-file audience spellbound through its entire length." —HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



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(1) Every producer joined in making this timely entertainment which dramatizes America and its democratic way of life.

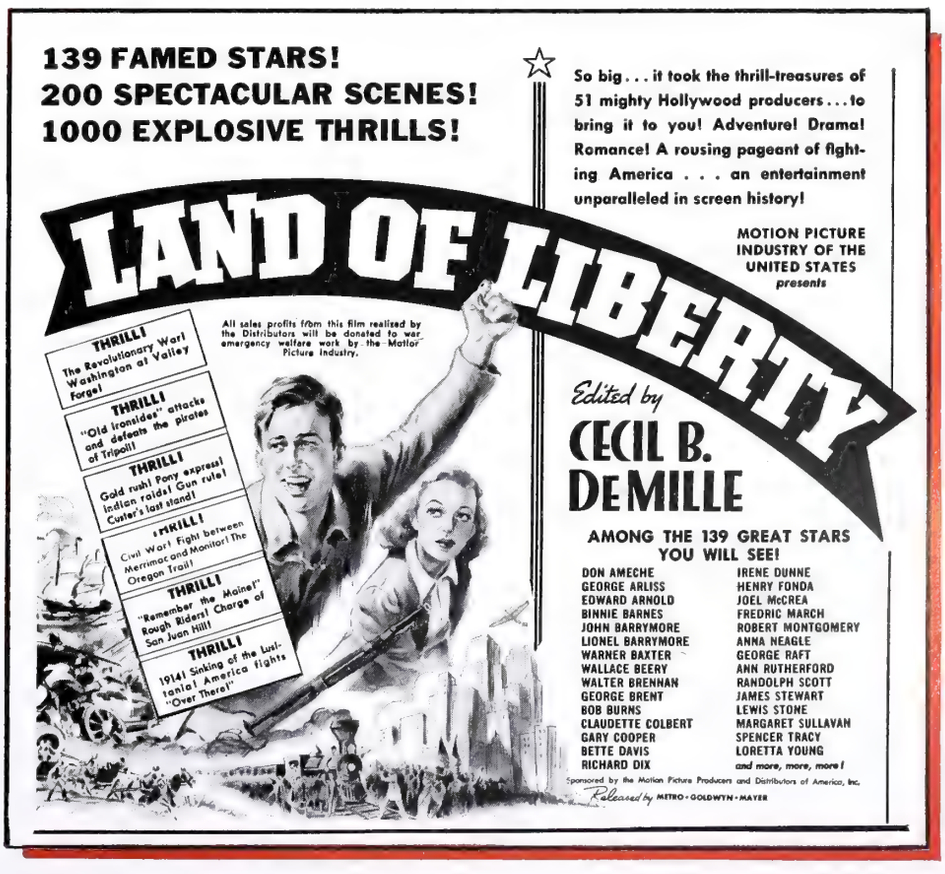
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(3) All the services of distribution are given free.

(4) Exhibitors are asked for rental only. Exceptional opportunities are yours through live-wire showmanship!

(5) M-G-M is handling distribution on behalf of the industry. Communicate with your M-G-M Branch.

BELOW: *Two-fisted showmanship packed Williamsport test run. This is a typical ad. Complete campaign, easily duplicated, available at your M-G-M Branch.*





"I'm proud to be an American and proud to present in my theatre–

LAND OF Liberty"



"Mister American Showman: Here's a truly great and inspiring attraction! Get behind it with your heart!"

PRINTED IN U.S.

High Sierra

F — Melodrama

WB (——) **100 Minutes** **Rel. Jan. 25, '41**

Every foot of the way "High Sierra" is solidly compact entertainment with thrill and suspense elements that fade and recur in quick succession. Audiences are going to relish this one. Also, it is another to enlarge the batting average of the team comprising Hal Wallis, Mark Hellinger, Raoul Walsh. Chief performances turned in by Humphrey Bogart and Ida Lupino are sharply etched and restrained; their emotional impact is keen. The supporting field never lets that section down. The W. R. Burnett story deals with a gangster type since gone into the history book. Played by Bogart it tells of a big time bandit "released" from prison to pull a highly remunerative jewel robbery at a resort hotel. The setup is carefully planned, Bogart's part is to get the "rocks" and deliver them to his boss in Los Angeles. By the time he gets to this point he proves himself something of a human being in diverse sequences with Miss Lupino, a migrating Ohio family going west and with a stray dog in a mountain camp. Throughout there is the symbolism of the title, throughout the approach is tellingly realistic and, concluding, has that much sought after different quality.

Ida Lupino, Humphrey Bogart, Henry Hull, Henry Travers, Alan Curtis, Arthur Kennedy.

EXPLOITIPS: Bogart and Miss Lupino are the names for the marquee. An interesting stunt can be worked up by buying back numbers of the local dailies and imprinting a heavy block type headline diagonally across page one to the tune of "Gunman Trapped On High Sierra." Should make a striking throwaway. Buy spot announcement time on the local radio. Plug "Wanted" posters around the main drag.

CATCHLINES: No Man Ever Reached Greater Heights to Wait for Death.

In "High Sierra" You'll Find Relentless Drama Mounting to a Peak of Thrills.

Life With Henry

F — Comedy

Paramount (4016) **82 Minutes** **Rel. Jan. 24, '41**

That boy's here again—Henry Aldrich, the All-American adolescent whose air antics make his ether program one of the more popular with both adults and youngsters. There is no readily-discernible reason why this, the second chapter in his screen career, shouldn't prove comparably acceptable to everyone who enjoys clean, human, down-to-earth entertainment. In most departments it is considerable of an improvement over the initial film venture, "What a Life," which did right well itself. In characterizations, dialogue and situations, the feature comes closer to ensnaring the atmosphere of the Aldrich Family radio stint. Jackie Cooper again is cast as Henry, while his inseparable foil, "Dizzy," is portrayed by Eddie Bracken. Both are highly creditable delineations of typical American youngsters with a penchant for getting into trouble. Henry makes application to accompany a boys' trip to Alaska and undertakes to earn the necessary $100 which, plus certain character qualifications, would make him eligible. Production and direction were ably handled by Jay Theodore Reed.

Jackie Cooper, Leila Ernst, Eddie Bracken, Fred Niblo, Hedda Hopper, Kay Stewart, Moroni Olsen, Rod Cameron.

EXPLOITIPS: This is the second in the Aldrich Family series and has considerable exploitation value through the fact that the radio show of the same name is one of the most popular in the nation. Have high schools conduct an election to select their most popular male student, the winner to be guest of honor at the opening day's showing. Give title credits to Jackie Cooper.

CATCHLINES: Yes, Henry Aldrich Is Back Again . . . In and Out of More Trouble Than You'd Think Two Boys Could Cook Up.

It's Funny as the Radio Show . . . And a Riot on the Screen . . . The Further Adventures of Henry Aldrich, American Boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith

F — Comedy

RKO Radio (117) **95 Minutes** **Rel. Jan. 31, '41**

British Alfred Hitchcock, who demonstrated to Hollywood and audiences everywhere his ability as a dramatic director in "Rebecca" and as a pilot of suspense and action in "Foreign Correspondent," displays an equal flair for humor in this, his first American comedy. As entertainment in the lighter vein, it is virtually flawless, and with Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery to grace the marquee, there is no apparent reason why it shouldn't quickly attain the hit class. Hitchcock was furnished all of the materials necessary to inspire the best work of a master craftsman. There were a speedy, bubbling and brilliantly-dialogued screenplay by Norman Krasna; unstinting production accoutrements; and a wisely selected and sensitive cast. The co-stars, Lombard and Montgomery, turn in magnificent comedy performances, while their fast pace fails to tire the supporting mummers. They portray a young married couple who are constantly feuding, despite their love for each other, and in the face of a set of rules of conduct, entirely of the wife's making. After three years of bliss, a technicality is uncovered to establish that they never were legally married. They separate, but the feuding continues through a new courtship which terminates in an ultimate—and this time legal—marriage.

Carole Lombard, Robert Montgomery, Gene Raymond, Jack Carson, Philip Merivale, Lucile Watson, William Tracy.

EXPLOITIPS: The teaming of Robert Montgomery and Carole Lombard is unusual enough to warrant special promotion. Director Alfred Hitchcock's name should also be of some value on the marquee. Direct a special campaign toward the Smiths, holding a special "Smith" night, awarding prizes for the Mr. and Mrs. Smith who most closely resemble Montgomery and Miss Lombard, etc.

CATCHLINES: He Directed "Rebecca" . . . And Now Alfred Hitchcock Gives You the Comedy Sensation of 1941.

They Scrapped Through Three Years of Bliss . . . Then They Marry Again to Start the Fight Anew.

Fast, Bubbling Dialogue . . . And Humor in the Lighter Vein.

Honeymoon for Three

F — Comedy

WB (——) **76 Minutes** **Rel. Jan. 18, '41**

A farce comedy about a novel-writing Casanova, it strains rather hard for laughs in many sequences, but in its entirety manages to pan out sufficient humorous lines and situations to please generally, although audiences cannot be expected to consider it particularly uproarious. The picture is unstintingly produced and the retarding weaknesses are attributable to writing and direction, which apparently went overboard in an effort to point up the script's best qualities. There is nothing in the story about a honeymoon. George Brent is a successful modern author, sought after by women of all ages and stations, but in love, passively, with his efficient secretary, Ann Sheridan. Arriving in Cleveland for a lecture, he encounters an old sweetheart who romantically decides he is the only man in her life and prepares to desert her husband. The secretary's fast thinking unravels all of the tangled situations which result and she, of course, winds up with the ink-slinging Lothario. Directed by Lloyd Bacon.

Ann Sheridan, George Brent, Charlie Ruggles, Osa Massen, Jane Wyman, William T. Orr, Lee Patrick.

EXPLOITIPS: There is plenty of potential marquee and exploitation material to work with on this one. Give Ann Sheridan and George Brent, whose names have been linked romantically in real life, a buildup as the screen's newest and most sensational romantic team. Don't neglect the "oomph" appellation for Miss Sheridan. Charlie Ruggles is another selling name which might fit into your plans. Make title tieups with, for example, a car dealer, on the line: "Make it a 'Honeymoon for Three' by giving your bride a new Ford." Prepare mailing pieces as pamphlets labeled: "Honeymooners! Make no plans until you've read this," and emblazon picture and theatre copy through the inside.

CATCHLINES: He Knew All About Love . . . In His Novels . . . But When a Real Woman Fell For Him . . . He Found He Wasn't So Smart.

REVIEW DIGEST
AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		A										
6		Aldrich Family in Life With Henry (Para)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2–
10		Along the Rio Grande (RKO)		+	±	∓		+	±	±		4+ 7–
		Always a Bride (FN)		∓	∓	∓	–	–	±	–		1+ 1–
		Angels Over Broadway (Col)		±	+	∓	+	∓	+	+	+	9+ 2–
		Ape, The (Mono)		+	–	–	+	+	+		±	5+ 3–
		Argentine Nights (Univ)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	–	7+ 3–
		Arise, My Love (Para)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	15+
		Arizona (Col)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	13+
4		Arkansas Judge (Rep)		±	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 2–
		B										
1		Back Street (Univ)		∓	+		∓	∓	∓			9+
		Bank Dick, The (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	+	+	±	11+ 1–
		Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2–
		Before I Hang (Col)		+	+	+	+	=	±	–	–	6+ 3–
		Behind the News (Rep)		±	+	±	+	∓	+	±	±	9+ 1–
		Beyond the Sacramento (Col)								+		1+
		Billy the Kid in Texas (PRC)				∓						1+ 1–
		Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		∓	+	∓	+	∓	∓	+	+	12+
		Blackout (UA)		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+
		Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3–
		Border Legion (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	∓	±	±	8+ 3–
		Boss of Bullion City (Univ)								±		1+ 1–
2		Bowery Boy (Rep)		∓	±	–	+	±	±	±	±	7+ 7–
		Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		–		±	–	±		3+ 5–
		Brigham Young—Frontiersman (20th-Fox)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
22		Buck Privates (Univ)		∓		∓	∓	∓	∓			10+
		Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+
		C										
		Calling All Husbands (WB)		±	∓	+	∓	–	–	±	∓	6+ 7–
19		Case of the Black Parrot (FN)		–	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 6–
		Caught in the Act (PRC)									∓	1+ 1–
		Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2–
		Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±					±		3+ 3–
		Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum (20th-Fox)		+	±	–	+	+	+	+		6+ 2–
		Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		∓	+	–	+	∓	±	+	±	8+ 4–
9		Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓		14+
		Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		∓	+		7+ 1–
		Christmas in July (Para)		∓	+	±	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+ 1–
		City for Conquest (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
		Colorado (Rep)		±		–	+			±	±	4+ 4–
17		Come Live With Me (M-G-M)		∓	±	–	∓	∓	∓	±		10+ 3–
		Comrade X (M-G-M)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	13+
11		Convoy (RKO)		+	+		+			+	±	5+ 1–
		D										
		Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±	±	+	∓	+	∓	8+ 5–
		Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		–	±	+	±			+		4+ 3–
		Devil Bat, The (PRC)				±	±				±	2+ 4–
		Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6–
		Diamond Frontier (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	∓	–	∓	6+ 7–
		Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	16+
		Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
		Dr. Kildare Goes Home (M-G-M)		+	∓	+		+	+	+	+	8+
9		Doomed Caravan (Para)		∓		+	∓	∓	∓	∓		10+
		Down Argentine Way (20-Fox)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
		Dreaming Out Loud (RKO)		±	∓	–	±	+	+	±		6+ 5–
		Drums of the Desert (Mono)		±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4–
		Dulcy (M-G-M)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2–
		E										
		East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5–
		Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
		Escape (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	∓	15+
		Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+	±		6+ 1–
		F										
28		Face Behind the Mask (Col)		+							±	2+ 1–
		Fantasia (Disney)		∓	∓	∓	∓		∓	∓	∓	14+
		Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±			+	+	+		5+ 1–
		Father's Son (WB)			±			–	∓			2+ 3–
		Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	–	–	3+ 9–
		Fight for Life, The (Col)		+						∓	+	4+
		Five Little Peppers in Trouble (Col)		±	±	–	–	=	–	–	∓	3+ 9–
		Flight Command (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
4		Flight From Destiny (WB)		+	+	±	∓	∓	∓	+		10+ 1–
		Four Mothers (WB)		∓	+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	10+ 1–
		Four Sons (20th-Fox)		∓		+	∓	∓	+	+	+	10+
		Freedom Radio (Col)				+						1+
		Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+ 0–
		Frontier Vengeance (Univ)		o		–	∓			±		2+ 3–
		Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		–	±	±	6+ 5–
		Fugitive From a Prison Camp (Col)			∓	=	±			±	±	4+ 6–
		G										
		Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	∓	+	±	±	9+ 3–
		Gay Caballero, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	–	+	+	±	7+ 4–
		Girl From Havana (Rep)		±	±	–	±		±	–	∓	5+ 7–
1		Girl in the News (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+			+		5+
		Girls Under 21 (Col)		–	±	±				±	±	4+ 6–
		Give Us Wings (Univ)		–	±	±			+	±	–	4+ 6–
		Glamour for Sale (Col)		±	±	±		=	±	–	∓	5+ 8–
		Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	∓	+	∓	+	±		9+ 1–
		Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	16+
		Great Commandment (20-Fox)								∓		2+
		Great Dictator, The (UA)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	+	∓	+	12+ 1–
		Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4–
		Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	∓	+	∓	+	±	11+ 2–
		H										
		Hard Boiled Canary (Para)								+		1+
		Haunted Honeymoon (M-G-M)		+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+ 6–
		Her First Romance (Mono)		+	+		+	∓	+	+		7+
		Here Comes the Navy (WB)								∓		2+
16		High Sierra (FN)		∓	±	±	∓	∓	∓		+	11+ 2–
		Hired Wife (Univ)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
		Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	∓	9+ 3–
		Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		–	±	+	–		±	4+ 4–
13		Honeymoon for Three (WB)		±	±			±	∓	+		6+ 3–
		Howards of Virginia (Col)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
		Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	±	+	∓	+	+	9+ 3–
		Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6–
		I										
		I Want a Divorce (Para)		+	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+
		I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2–
		I'm Still Alive (RKO)		∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 6–
1		Invisible Woman, The (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	∓	+	±	12+ 1–
		J										
		Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+			+	+	+		5+
		K										
4		Keeping Company (M-G-M)		–	±	–	∓	∓	±	+		7+ 4–
		Kitty Foyle (RKO)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
		Knute Rockne—All American (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
		L										
		Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4–
		Lady Eve, The (Para)								+		1+
		Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	±	9+ 2–
15		Land of Liberty (M-G-M)		∓	±	+				∓	+	7+ 1–
		Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+ 1–
		Leather Pushers, The (Univ)		+	±	±		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4–
		Let's Make Music (RKO)		+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4–
		Letter, The (FN)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	14+
1		Li'l Abner (RKO)		+	∓			∓	±	–		4+ 4–
		Little Bit of Heaven (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week. The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:

∓ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; – Poor; = Very Poor

In the summary ∓ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number).

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

The Mad Doctor F

Melodrama

Paramount (4018) 90 Minutes Rel. Feb. 14, '41

In most situations this will prove a celluloid problem child. The film is too long to function as supporting fare and is not sufficiently meritorious to grace the upper half of the bill except in the most unimportant program arrangements. The picture starts out as a chiller, goes off at a tangent to invade the fields of psychiatry, and then settles down to a routine of unmysterious, endless and useless murders. The entire blame for the feature's frailties, and they are legion, is attributable to the story, the multitudinous vagaries of which an apparently hard-working cast and director were unable to transcend. Basil Rathbone portrays the mad doctor, whose favorite pastime is marrying heiresses and promptly dispatching them to a better world. Ultimately he falls in love but, by this time, his past has caught up with him and he is forced to continue his orgy of killings. Directed by Tim Whelan.

Basil Rathbone, Ellen Drew, John Howard, Barbara Allen, Ralph Morgan, Martin Kosleck, Kitty Kelly.

EXPLOITIPS: Basil Rathbone, Ellen Drew and John Howard rate the marquee and advertising credits. Among radio fans the name of Barbara Allen (Vera Vague) might also be worthy of exploitation. Have house artist construct a leering compo-board portrait of Rathbone with green, blinking eyes, to be mounted above the marquee or used as the lobby center-piece. Emphasize the picture's chill angles by staging a special "midnight show" and install a "heart tester" in the lobby to ascertain whether or not prospective patrons are "healthy" enough to "take it." Stills depicting Rathbone in particularly sinister poses could be tied into displays of health foods and tonics, along the lines: "Do you feel like this? Try Pep-O."

CATCHLINES: He Committed a Series of Horrible Crimes . . . Then Discovered That Real Love Couldn't Erase His Past.

A Human Monster . . . Whose Heart Was Touched by a Beautiful Girl . . . Too Late.

Basil Rathbone in a Sinister Role of a Mad Doctor Whose Past Wouldn't Let Him Alone.

The Face Behind the Mask F

Drama

Columbia (2029) 69 Minutes Rel. Jan. 16, '41

The horror-gangster crowd will get their money's worth in "The Face Behind the Mask," which offers Peter Lorre in the main role. He is a Hungarian immigrant who gets horribly burned in a hotel fire—his face is disfigured. He turns criminal in order to get funds to pay for plastic surgery. The best a doctor can do is create a mask to hide the disfiguration. He meets a beautiful blind girl and they become close companions. Lorre tries to quit his gang. They think he has framed them. The girl is killed by a planted bomb. Lorre, in revenge, informs the police and flies the gang out to the middle of a desert in Arizona where they all perish. The various contributing elements of the story are well-handled and Robert Florey's direction effectively keeps them alike. It is good enough as support for any program.

Peter Lorre, Evelyn Keyes, Don Beddoe, George E. Stone, John Tyrrell, Stanley Brown.

EXPLOITIPS: Play this one up with the horror angle in the fore. Run a one-shot newspaper contest with a collection of portraits of various players who are wearing masks. For correct identification offer passes. Invite children to come to the theatre wearing grotesque masks. For poster displays have a rear view of Lorre with the following print: "We Dare You to Look At This Man's Face and Forget It." Get up a mask display with borrowed items from museums, department and art stores.

CATCHLINES: When You See This Man's Face on the Screen . . . You'll Never Forget It.

What Nameless Terror Lurks Behind This Mask? . . . What Strange Vengeance Is Brewing?

A Thrilling Story of Gang Terrorism . . . And a Terrible Retribution.

Scattergood Baines F

Comedy Drama

RKO Radio (123) 69 Minutes Rel. Feb. 21, '41

A fair portion of the nation's filmgoers should receive "Scattergood Baines" as another entertaining treatise on small town life. Again the accent is on a philosophical old gent who gives advice freely, who bests the slickest brains from the big city and maneuvers the minds and morals of his community with his little finger. And, to top it all off, he plays a courtly cupid. The role is tailored for Guy Kibbee. One day he wanders into Coldriver with $40. He invests $37.50 in a "problematical" venture, makes $750. He runs this stake into a bankroll, control of a spur line, two-car railroad, real estate and a full-rigged hardware store. Then he sits around in front of his store dispensing advice to all comers and weathers the storm of adversity in shipshape style. Spice this dish with dry humor, rustic accents and a romantic problem and you have "Scattergood Baines."

Guy Kibbee, Carol Hughes, John Archer, Francis Trout, Emma Dunn, Lee White.

EXPLOITIPS: Since this film is based on the Clarence Budington Kelland stories a good deal of effort should be expended on the bookshop and the dispensers of magazines. Tie these outlets in with posters and stills. A spot announcement over a radio station should contact the audience that is not to be reached through other channels. Get an old buggy, decorate with signs and have it driven up and down the main drag by an appropriately costumed ballyhoo man.

CATCHLINES: Meet Scattergood Baines . . . He's Slick and Sharp . . . But You'll Love Him.

He Put Coldriver on the Map . . . He Plays Cupid . . . He Has Plenty of Friends . . . He'll Make More, When You Meet Him . . . That's Scattergood Baines.

He Out-Slicked the City Slickers . . . And Ran $40 Into a Hardware Store.

Clarence Budington Kelland's Inimitable Sage Comes to the Screen.

The Monster and the Girl F

Horror Melodrama

Paramount (——) 62 Minutes Rel. ——

While this cannot hope for universal patronage or acclaim, it should find takers in profitable numbers among the horror fans for whom it will be a treat. The film has plenty of suspense and a bumper crop of murders, sufficient to sate the appetites of the most avid chill-seekers. The production is adequately mounted, enacted by an able cast and competently directed. It was produced under the title of "D. O. A." (Dead on Arrival), which former name is an index to its story material. In fact, the screenplay adroitly merges two yarns. The opening sequences reveal the story of an innocent girl from the hinterlands who, seeking employment in the city, is tricked into a life of shame by mobsters. Her brother attempts to avenge her betrayal and is accused of, and executed for, a murder of which he is innocent. Before dying he gives a scientist permission to use his brain, which is transferred to the body of a live ape. Escaping, the anthrapoid sets out on a mission of revenge and kills all members of the mob as well as the district attorney who sent the innocent man to the chair. Directed by Stuart Heisler.

Ellen Drew, Robert Paige, Paul Lukas, Joseph Calleia, Onslow Stevens, George Zucco, Rod Cameron, Phillip Terry.

EXPLOITIPS: Ellen Drew is probably the only name here worthy of exploitation effort. Sell the picture on its chill-horror angles. Have house artist construct a life-sized figure of a gorilla with eyes which emit green flashes and mount it above the marquee or as the lobby center-piece. A figure of Ellen Drew shrinking from it would add to the layout. Spot one-minute broadcasts on radio stations asserting the "gorilla" has "escaped" and warning everyone to "keep out of its way." Stage a midnight "horror" show.

CATCHLINES: Half-Man . . . Half-Gorilla . . . And All Bad . . . Was the Beast Produced Through a Scientist's Cunning.

He Had a Terrible Mission in Life . . . Died Before He Completed It . . . But Lived Again . . . in a Gorilla's Body.

ǂ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor

In the summary ǂ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
	Let's Make Music	(RKO)	+	±	∓	+	±	+	+		7+ 3−
	Letter, The	(FN)	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	14+
1	Li'l Abner	(RKO)	+	∓			∓	±	−		4+ 4−
	Little Bit of Heaven	(Univ)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	Little Men	(RKO)	−	±	=	±	ǂ	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Little Nellie Kelly	(M-G-M)	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 2−
	Lone Star Raiders	(Rep)	+		±	∓			±		4+ 3−
	Lone Wolf Keeps a Date	(Col)	+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
	Long Voyage Home	(UA)	+	ǂ		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	13+
	Love Thy Neighbor	(Para)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Lucky Devils	(Univ)		±							1+ 1−
	Lucky Partners	(RKO)	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	13+
	M										
5	Maisie Was a Lady	(M-G-M)	+	±	+		ǂ	ǂ			7+ 1−
	Margie	(Univ)	−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
	Mark of Zorro, The	(20th-Fox)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	Meet the Missus	(Rep)	±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
	Meet the Wildcat	(Univ)	−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
	Melody and Moonlight	(Rep)	∓	±		ǂ	ǂ	+	±		8+ 3−
	Melody Ranch	(Rep)	+	+	+	ǂ		ǂ	+	∓	9+ 1−
	Men Against the Sky	(RKO)	+	+	+		+	±	+	+	7+ 1−
	Mexican Spitfire Out West	(RKO)	+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
	Michael Shayne, Private Detective	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
	Misbehaving Husbands	(PRC)	+		=	+	ǂ	+		∓	6+ 3−
	Missing People	(Mono)	∓							∓	2+ 2−
	Moon Over Burma	(Para)	+	+	±	+	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 2−
	Mortal Storm, The	(M-G-M)	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	13+
13	Mr. and Mrs. Smith	(RKO)	ǂ			±	ǂ				5+ 1−
	Mummy's Hand, The	(Univ)	+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
	Murder Over New York	(20th-Fox)	±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
	N										
	Night at Earl Carroll's	(Para)	=	±	−	±	±	±	+		5+ 7−
	Night Train	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+	ǂ		+	ǂ	9+
	Nobody's Children	(Col)		−	∓	±			±	±	4+ 5−
8	No, No, Nanette	(RKO)	ǂ	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	No Time for Comedy	(FN)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	+	±	+	+	10+ 1−
	North West Mounted Police	(Para)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
	O										
	Oklahoma Renegades	(Rep)	+			+			+	±	4+ 1−
	Ol' Swimmin' Hole	(Mono)	+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
	On the Spot	(Mono)	+		−	+	+	±		∓	5+ 3−
	One Million B. C.	(UA)	±	±	−	+	±	∓			5+ 5−
	One Night in the Tropics	(Univ)	±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
	P										
	Passport to Alcatraz	(Col)	+	−	±	+	∓	−			4+ 4−
	Pastor Hall	(UA)	±	ǂ	±	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	11+ 2−
	Phantom of Chinatown	(Mono)	±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
	Philadelphia Story	(M-G-M)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
	Pier 13	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
	Play Girl	(RKO)	+	±	±	±	ǂ	+	+		8+ 3−
	Pony Post	(Univ)	±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
	Prairie Law	(RKO)	+	±	+	+		+		∓	6+ 2−
	Prairie Schooners	(Col)	∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
15	Pride of the Bowery	(Mono)	+	±			+	−			3+ 2−
	Public Deb No. 1	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+	+	∓		∓	6+ 5−
	Q										
	Quarterback, The	(Para)	±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	Queen of the Yukon	(Mono)	+	±	∓		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4−
	R										
	Ragtime Cowboy Joe	(Univ)	+		±	+			+	∓	5+ 2−
	Ramparts We Watch	(RKO)	o	∓	+	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	10+ 1−
	Range Busters	(Mono)	ǂ		±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
	Rangers of Fortune	(Para)	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	±	+	12+ 2−
	Remedy for Riches	(RKO)	+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
	Rhythm on the River	(Para)	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	13+
	Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride	(Rep)	+		+	+	..		+	∓	7+ 1−
10	Robin Hood of the Pecos	(Rep)	+		∓	+					3+ 1−
5	Romance of the Rio Grande	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	S										
	Safari	(Para)	±	∓	∓	±	+	+		∓	7+ 5−
3	Saint in Palm Springs	(RKO)	+	±	=	∓	=	+			4+ 6−
	Sandy Gets Her Man	(Univ)	+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	Sandy Is a Lady	(Univ)	+	∓	∓	+	+	±		±	7+ 4−
	San Francisco Docks	(Univ)	∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
	Santa Fe Trail	(FN)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		+	13+
	Sea Hawk, The	(WB)	ǂ	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	12+ 1−
	Second Chorus	(Para)	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
	Seven Sinners	(Univ)	±	+	±	ǂ	+	+		+	8+ 2−
	She Couldn't Say No	(FN)	+	±			∓			±	4+ 3−
12	Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga	(Univ)	+				∓	+			3+ 1−
	Sky Murder	(M-G-M)	±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+ 10−
	Slightly Tempted	(Univ)	±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
	So You Won't Talk	(Col)	−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
	Son of Monte Cristo	(UA)	+	±	∓	±	∓	ǂ	±	±	9+ 6−
	South of Suez	(WB)	+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
	Spring Parade	(Univ)	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
	Street of Memories	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
	Strike Up the Band	(M-G-M)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	T										
	Take Me Back to Okla.	(Mono)	+			ǂ	+	+	+		6+
14	Tall, Dark and Handsome	(20th-Fox)	+			ǂ	ǂ				5+
	Texas Rangers Ride Again	(Para)	+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
	Texas Terrors	(Rep)	+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
	That Gang of Mine	(Mono)	±	±	=	+	−	±	−	±	5+ 8−
	They Knew What They Wanted	(RKO)	ǂ	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	14+ 1−
	Thief of Bagdad	(UA)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
	Third Finger, Left Hand	(M-G-M)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	This Thing Called Love	(Col)	+	+	ǂ		ǂ				6+
	Three Men From Texas	(Para)	+		ǂ	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
	Thundering Frontier	(Col)	−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
	Tin Pan Alley	(20th-Fox)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Too Many Girls	(RKO)	+	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	11+ 1−
	Torpedo Raider	(Mono)	∓								1+ 1−
	Trail Blazers	(Rep)	+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
	Trail of the Vigilantes	(Univ)	+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
	Trailin' Double Trouble	(Mono)	∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
	Triple Justice	(RKO)	+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
	Tugboat Annie Sails Again	(WB)	+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
	U										
	Under Texas Skies	(Rep)	+		±	+			+	±	5+ 2−
	Up in the Air	(Mono)	+	±	±		+	+	+	∓	7+ 3−
	V										
	Victory	(Para)	+	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	+		9+ 1−
	Villain Still Pursued Her, The	(RKO)	±	∓	−	±	±	∓			5+ 6−
12	Virginia	(Para)	ǂ		±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ			9+ 1−
	W										
	Wagon Train	(RKO)	+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
	Wagons Westward	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	−	∓		±	6+ 4−
	West of Pinto Basin	(Mono)	±		±	+	ǂ	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
	Westerner, The	(UA)	±	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	+	10+ 1−
	Where Did You Get That Girl	(Univ)	+	±		±	+	+			5+ 2−
	Who Is Guilty?	(Mono)	−	±		±			±	+	4+ 4−
	Who Killed Aunt Maggie?	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
	Wildcat Bus	(RKO)	=	±	∓		∓	=	±		4+ 8−
	Wild Horse Range	(Mono)								∓	1+ 1−
	World in Flames	(Para)	+		ǂ	ǂ	+		+	+	8+
	Wyoming	(M-G-M)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 1−
8	Wyoming Wildcat	(Rep)	+			+					2+
	Y										
	Yesterday's Heroes	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
	You'll Find Out	(RKO)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Young Bill Hickok	(Rep)	±		∓	+			±		4+ 3−
	Young People	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	ǂ	+	+	+	+	9+
11	You're Out of Luck	(Mono)	±	±			∓	±			4+ 4−
	Youth Will Be Served	(20th-Fox)	±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Yukon Flight	(Mono)	+			+					2+

Admission Tax Return Over 43 Millions

WASHINGTON—Reduction of the admission-tax exemption last July and generally improved business brought federal admission tax collections for 1940 to a new peak of $43,483,372.84, according to bureau of internal revenue figures.

The year's take more than doubled the $19,876,311.98 collected in 1939, and on the basis of five months' experience with the lower exemption indicated that the 1941 revenue would be between $60,000,000 and $70,000,000, probably quite close to the latter figure.

Reflecting the usual year-end let down, collections in December declined to $6,653,971 from $7,124,225.19 in November, which was the peak month of the year, but continued the spread over 1939, when $1,974,534.56 was collected in December.

For the first five months of its application, the 20-cent exemption brought in probably $20,000,000 in additional revenue, making allowance for the better business which is believed to have prevailed as compared with 1939. Bureau figures for the first half of the fiscal year, July to December 31, show collections of $32,315,541.31 compared with $10,720,084.47 in the preceding comparative semester, an increase of $21,595,456.84. For 1940 as a whole, an increase of $23,607,060.86 was shown over the preceding year.

The drop in collections in December was the first decline recorded for a number of months and broke the upward trend which had been displayed consistently up to that time from the adoption of the 20-cent exemption in July. Collections for the year, by months, were reported by the bureau as follows:

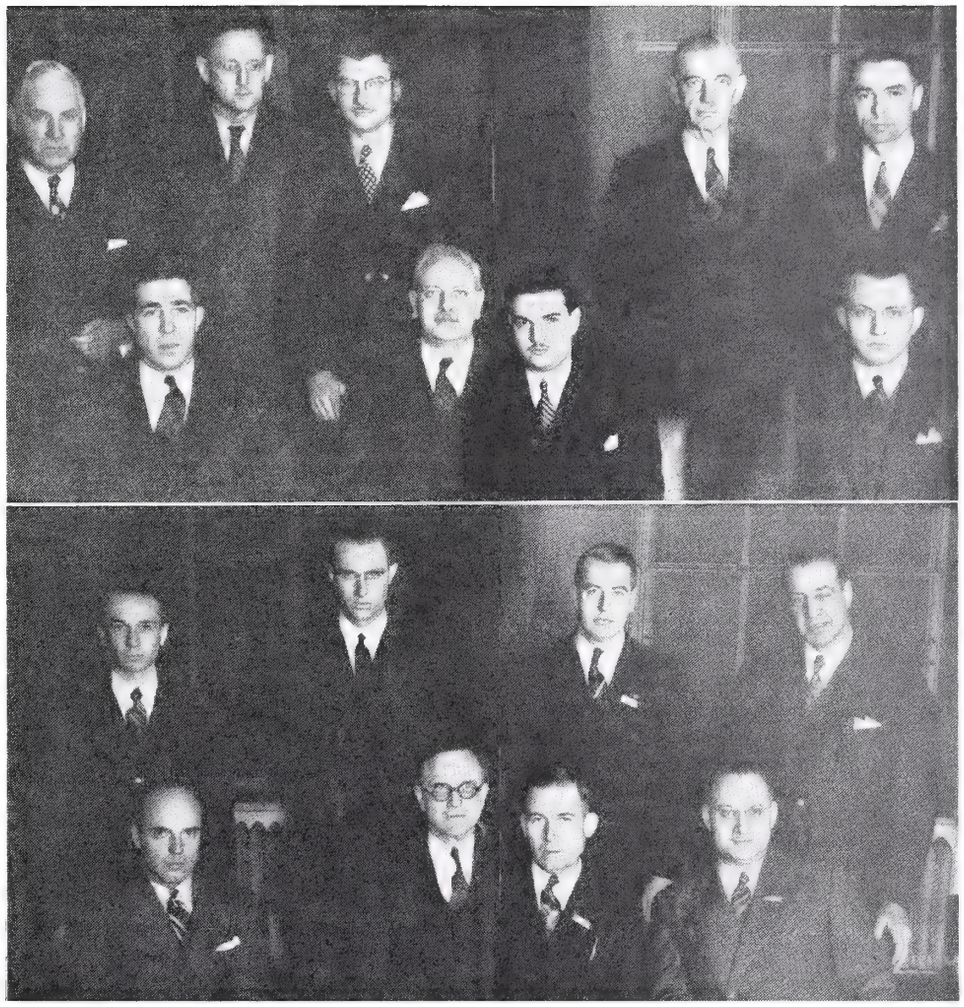
	1940	1939
January	1,486,534.64	1,564,134.28
February	1,852,763.82	1,503,127.31
March	2,390,931.82	1,606,996.13
April	2,000,902.18	1,384,721.72
May	1,791,095.76	1,605,987.70
June	1,645,603.31	1,491,260.37
July	1,650,162.91	1,534,249.77
August	4,407,097.18	1,513,468.12
September	5,851,655.13	1,852,256.14
October	6,628,429.90	1,727,931.46
November	7,124,225.19	2,117,644.42
December	6,653,971.00	1,974,534.56

Metro's Realignment Awaits Rodgers' Return

NEW YORK—Realignment of a score of M-G-M branch sales posts, particularly the promotion and transfer of bookers, office managers, student bookers and salesmen is expected to be completed shortly after the return from the coast of William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, who is due Monday.

Schnitzers in for Funeral

PITTSBURGH—Joseph I. Schnitzer, his wife and his brother, Abe, were here Friday from Hollywood to attend funeral services for Mrs. Schnitzer, mother of the two men.



What the AAA Clerks Look Like—

Of the 19 appointed to the film tribunals under the decree, two are missing from these mass shots. The studied camera studies, however, include: upper row, left to right and standing—Charles Chambers, San Francisco; Walter Elliott, Los Angeles; Detlef Hansen, Atlanta; J. B. Milton, Denver, and Joseph J. Monahan, Seattle. Same upper tier, left to right, but seated: Lloyd Littell, Indianapolis; J. P. Nelson, Portland; Irving Yackness, Detroit, and J. H. Brink, Kansas City.

The lower panel shows these men, standing and proceeding from left to right: Richard Romang, Oklahoma City; Roy Backman, Salt Lake; Sheldon Osroot, Minneapolis, and J. L. Loell, Milwaukee. Seated, in the same order, are: Byron Pulis, Omaha; C. W. Hudson, St. Louis; C. C. Williams, Dallas, and Bruce Wilson, Des Moines.

Need for Greater Effort in Merchandising—Schine

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y.—The necessity for greater effort in merchandising entertainment as a result of the decree, was emphasized by J. Myer Schine, president of the circuit bearing his name, during the course of a four-day zone managers' meeting here. Schine observed this effort will be most needed in the immediate future.

Attending the meetings were Zone Managers Louis Lazar, Frank Boucher and Gus Lampe, bookers and home office executives.

During the sessions it was revealed one manager and two assistants have been called for selective training. They are Herman Addison, manager of the State, Cortland, N. Y., who is scheduled to leave for a training camp January 29, and two assistants from the Ohio zone who are to leave January 27.

The circuit's long closed Palace in Watertown reopens Saturday on a two-day policy.

3 Tribunal Clerks Are Added by AAA

NEW YORK—Additional information on tribunal clerks for local AAA arbitration boards since the printing of page 16 is as follows:

The address for Joe J. Monahan in Seattle has been designated as the Marion Building. New appointments, all Class A boards, are: Atlanta, Detlef H. Hansen jr., Mortgage Guaranty Bldg.; Boston, Henry de la Morandiere, Chamber of Commerce; Washington, H. B. Barton, Denrike Bldg.

The Class A rating means that each board will have one clerk and one secretary of higher salary background. Clerks have been named now for 19 tribunals.

Matty Fox Due Monday

NEW YORK—Matty Fox, Universal executive, arrives here Monday from the coast.

"Philadelphia Story" Stays Strong in Fourth Week

NEW YORK—This is the fourth week in a row that this department has led off with "The Philadelphia Story." If it's getting routine here, it isn't at the Music Hall, where there's good cause for excitement over $90,000 at the end of the fourth week. The fifth ends January 29, but the attraction may go a sixth.

Otherwise, it's generally on the quiet side. No particular reason, just quiet. Some managers say too much important radio competition all of a sudden; others aren't saying. Anyhow, "Second Chorus" at the Paramount is about the only other entrant in the big money, with $50,000 for the first week.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 15th wk. roadshow. 100
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 10th wk. roadshow. 140
Capitol—Flight Command (M-G-M) 90
Criterion—**Behind the News** (Rep) 85
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 4th wk. 110
Paramount—**Second Chorus** (Para't), plus stage show 120
Radio City Music Hall—**The Philadelphia Story,** 4th wk, plus stage show 140
Rialto—**Convoy** (RKO) 100
Rivoli—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd wk. 100
Roxy—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk, plus stage show 110
Strand—**Four Mothers** (WB), 2nd wk, plus plus stage show 100

Inauguration Visitors Hypo to Washington

WASHINGTON — Washington's greatest event, the history making third term inaugural, swelled city with out of town guests, with first run houses cashing in. "Mounties" and "Hudson's Bay" vied for "mushing" honors; neck and neck at tape. "Flight Command" on moreover to Columbia, following nine day stay at Capitol, still on the beam.

Detail for week ending January 23.

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) and stage show 175
Columbia—**Flight Command (M-G-M) move-** over from Capitol after 9 day stay. 175
Earle—**North West Mounted Police** (Para) stage show 175
Keith's—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 3rd wk. 95
Metropolitan—**Escape to Glory** (Col) 80
Palace—**GWTW** (M-G-M) 160

Philly Does Right by "Philadelphia Story"

PHILADELPHIA—"The Philadelphia Story" was the biggest news this week, garnering a boxoffice of $26,500, which is 175 per cent of normal business at the Boyd. Business elsewhere was kept down by cold and slushy weather, and the still-present wave of flu and grippe.

Detail for the week ending January 24:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**The Son of Monte Cristo** (UA), 2nd wk. 65
Boyd—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 175
Big sendoff from critics brought results.
Earle—**Invisible Woman** (Univ), plus Ted Weems orchestra on stage 100
Fox—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 95
Karlton—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd run, third wk. downtown 90
Keith's—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd run. 105
Stanley—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), 2nd run. 100
Stanton—**Texas Rangers** (Para't) 75



—Metropolitan Photo Service

Charity Was Their Keynoter—

Tuesday and the Hotel Astor saw the induction of new officers of M. P. Associates. On the dais were Arthur Greenblatt of Monogram who is becoming increasingly popular as a toastmaster in New York; Jack Ellis of RKO, retiring president after three consecutive terms; Joseph Lee of 20th Century-Fox, new president, and Sol Trauner of Columbia, who was re-elected treasurer.

In his valedictory, Ellis stated Associates had disbursed 200 charity checks in its first year, 400 in its second year and 750 last year. Jack Bowen, new M-G-M district manager, presented the organization with a $600 check, net proceeds of the recent testimonial given him and E. K. O'Shea. Among the speakers stressing the charity work were Major Leslie E. Thompson, vice-president of the Will Rogers Memorial Fund; Sam Rinzler of Randforce, Harry H. Buxbaum of 20th-Fox and Lee.

Jim Frank of National Theatre Supply, who was elected first vice-president, named five directors, including Ellis, Nat Beier of UA, Jack Hattem of Interboro Circuit, Adolph Haas of Alexander Film and David Levy of Universal.

Flu and Weather Whittle Takes

New York—Theatre grosses took a terrific beating during the week as bad weather and influenza played havoc with attendance figures, according to Harry Brandt, head of the circuit bearing his name and the ITOA.

He said Monday night was worse than any summer evening and that he had never seen business so bad.

RKO District Heads Talk Selling Under Decree

NEW YORK—RKO district managers held a one-day meeting at the Waldorf Thursday on a call issued by Ned E. Depinet and there discussed selling policies, including plans to be employed under the decree. Home office executives also attended and addresses were delivered by George J. Schaefer, president, and A. W. Smith jr., general sales manager. Additionally, product for release the remainder of the season was gone over.

In attendance from the field were Herb MacIntyre, Dave Prince, L. E. Goldhammer, Walter Branson, Charles Boasberg, Nat Levy, Gus Schaefer, Bob Wolff and Sol Sachs. The headquarters contingent included Bob Mochrie, eastern sales manager; Cresson E. Smith, western sales manager; A. A. Schubart, manager of exchange operations; S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising and publicity; W. H. Clark, treasurer; Phil Reisman, head of the foreign department; Harry Michaelson, short subject sales manager; Leon Bamberger, Mike G. Poller, William Dahler, William Horne, Lou Miller, W. J. McShea and E. J. Smith jr.

Newbury Heads N. J. Allied Again Until Convention

TRENTON—Lee Newbury was re-elected president of Allied of New Jersey at a state-wide meeting here, an adjourned session of the organization's 21st convention. He will hold office for a "short" term, or until the next convention early this fall. With Newbury, the entire incumbent slate will function in the same manner.

This includes Vice-presidents Maury Miller for northern New Jersey and Ralph Wilkin for southern New Jersey; Henry H. Loewenstein, secretary, and Dave Snaper, treasurer. New board members elected are Florence Rosen, Bridgeton; H. A. Hill, Paulsboro; Sam Frank, Hammonton; Jack Waxman, Atlantic City, and Morris Spewack, Carteret. Three ex-officio board members, a new designation, are George Gold, Irving Dollinger and Sidney Samuelson. Jacob Unger and Frank Gravatt were re-elected to the board.

John Powers Services

NEW YORK—Funeral services for John Powers, 57, were held at the Universal Funeral Parlor Tuesday. Powers, who died suddenly, was long identified with D. W. Griffith, Inc. and handled the run of "Way Down East" in London.

BROADWAY

WALTER READE and the missus left Friday for a Palm Beach vacation . . . Abe Leff's daughter, Ethel, on February 9 will marry L. Bieberfeld at Riverside Plaza, following which the couple will spend their honeymoon at Lake Placid. They met at NYU and carried on the romance ever since. After the ceremonies, Leff and his wife will head for Miami for a vacation . . . Robert Riskin made his headquarters at the Selznick International offices while in town . . . Hal B. Wallis got in from Washington Wednesday for a short stay . . . Joe Seider has been confined to bed at the Buckingham Hotel with arthritis . . . His son, Eddie, is back from a Miami vacation, nicely browned . . . Bill Stein, who recently sold his four New Jersey houses to St. Cloud Amusement Co., left over the weekend for Miami and two months' rest. On his return, he says he will get back into the business. He has several things in mind now, but is waiting until he has a vacation behind him.

New M. P. Associates members include Ralph Pielow, Bob Bernstein, Irving Dollinger, Eugene Picker, Joe Engler, Bob Fannon, Abe Fox, Wilbur Snaper and Walter Brecher with Sam Rinzler and Louis Frisch already signifying their intention of joining up . . . Bill Sussman, Jack Bloom, Jack Sichelman are back at their 20th-Fox home office desks after Miami vacations . . . Bill Gerhing got back from Chicago Monday after a one-day meeting there . . . The RKO trade screening Tuesday morning at the Astor on "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" brought out, among others, Eddie Stern, Al Margulies, Jack Penelles, Harold Klein, Mike Edelstein, Sam Rinzler, Charles McDonald, Sol Schwartz, Dave Lustig, Laurence and Andrew Bolognino, Al Suchman, Eddie Seider, Henry Brown, Abe Levy, Myron Starr, Joe Rosenzweig, Walter Reade jr., Louis Geller, Fred Schwartz, Sam Goodman, Irving Dashkin, Joe Rosenbloom, Arthur Mayer, Bob Ungerfeld, Irving Renner and Ben Rossasy.

A sudden influx of English clients is the influence . . . which accounts for Schwartz & Frohlich serving tea and cookies each afternoon . . . and that means employes as well as the cash customers . . . William F. Rodgers was due from the coast over the weekend, which would bring him back to his desk Monday . . . Recent visitors include John Harris of Pittsburgh and Harry Kalmine, Warner zone manager in Pittsburgh . . . Edward Raftery is the recipient of one of the last photographs posed by the late Mort Shea, presented to the attorney by Shea's widow . . . Leonard Picker is visiting his office after being rudely interrupted by business while vacationing in Florida. He was poised to resume in Miami, but may have been stymied at the last minute . . . Gilbert Miller should be headed for Hollywood before month-end to produce his Broadway stage success, "Ladies in Retirement," for Columbia. Lester Cowan is associate producer . . . Roland Reed, RKO director, is in town from the studios. About a week . . . Leo Pillot was on special assignment for UA in Geneva and Amsterdam (New York, U. S. A.) in behalf of "Pastor Hall."

Their local vacation terminated, J. Walter Ruben, Metro director, his wife, Virginia Bruce, and daughter Susan have returned to Hollywood . . . Oscar Levant is west for Paramount and a role in "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" . . . J. Robert Rubin was among the many flu victims of the week . . . Harry Buxbaum broke down Monday, and treated the boys at the 20th-Fox exchange to a luncheon because that was the day he added another year to his gray hairs . . . Harry M. Goetz is back from the coast . . . Leopold and Ruth Friedman were in Washington for the inaugural ceremonies . . . Bill Scully had been invited, but was unable to attend due to pressure of business . . . Arthur Loew is planning to make a trip to Australia shortly. Incidentally, he was recently operated on his right hand which has left a scar . . . J. Coller, manager of the Major, lower east side, is happy over the recent engagement of his daughter, Ruth, to Edward Meister . . . Nat Holt, RKO division manager, has been around on his usual booking trip . . . Local Paramount employes will benefit by National Screen moving out of the ground floor space. It will be converted into a recreation room.

Sam Kaplan, RKO projectionist in Preview B at the Music Hall, is the latest new poppa handing out cigars. It's a boy . . . Leon Rosenblatt, partner of Isidore Welt, General Manager Bernie Brooks and Monogramites Bill Moses and Arthur Greenblatt making a cozy luncheon group at the subterranean Childs in the Paramount Building . . . Burt Champion, radio press contact at UA, down with influenza and bronchitis . . . Nat Wachsberger, Film Alliance head, also bedded with a cold, which will postpone his scheduled coast trip . . . Ruth Weisberg of Mort Blumenstock's staff at Warner is back at her desk after a week under the doctor's care . . . Nine pairs of binoculars have been received by M-G-M's foreign department in response to an appeal relayed from its London office. They will be shipped abroad through arrangements made by C. Suydam Cutting, chairman of the American Committee for Defense of British Homes. Nicholas M. Schenck, Si Seadler, David Blum, Michael Mindlin, Stanley Byre, M. D. O'Brien and William German are among the contributors . . . Mrs. William Madden, popular receptionist at M-G-M's eighth floor desk, has retired to the more domestic scene. She has been replaced by Mrs. Milton Levine . . . Edwin A. Aaron, assistant to William F. Rodgers, has received his diploma for an advanced course in public speaking from the Dale Carnegie Institute of Effective Speaking and Human Relations.

Harry Moskowitz, Loew construction head, returned Wednesday from a two-week trip to Kansas City, St. Louis and Evansville, Ind. . . . Dave Levy, local Universal branch manager, is vacationing in Miami and due back in about 10 days . . . Charles L. O'Reilly plans to leave for Miami, February 22. He was among the turnouts for the presidential inauguration in Washington . . . Deanna Durbin, Mickey Rooney, Nelson Eddy also were in the Capitol for the inauguration and have returned to the coast . . . Simone Simon has finished a week of p. a.'s at Loew's State . . . Bill Sussman is due back next week from Miami where he has been spending the past three weeks vacationing . . . Ralph Pielow, local branch manager for M-G-M, and the missus have been looking over Forest Hills apartments since they moved down from the upstate key center.

Sidney Schwartz, M-G-M foreign traveling auditor, will return to the Far East

(Continued on page 36-D)



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

Sears in His Huddle—

Robert Riskin is greeted by Mort Blumenstock on his New York arrival to confer with Gradwell L. Sears on the sales policy governing "Meet John Doe," which the former produced with Frank Capra for Warner release.



The Wallises Arrive—

The executive producer for Warner hits the town for shows and such, after attending the inauguration in Washington. With Hal B. is Mrs. Wallis, professionally known as Louise Fazenda, of course.

Freiday Must Amend Plaint Against "U"

NEW YORK—Court news of the week was featured by activity in William Freiday's stockholder suit against Universal, its officers and directors. The Universal director was ordered to serve an amended complaint, separately stating each cause of action.

Among the important points to be restated is the demand the deal between Universal and Big-U-Film Corp. be rescinded. The court ruled on one feature when Justice Edward R. Koch in the supreme court declared the voting trust agreement which is under fire does not constitute a wrong to Universal, but may to its stockholders. The suit claims waste and mismanagement and seeks $2,000,000 damages from the officers and directors as well as the ousting of those allegedly responsible.

Dismiss "Test Pilot" Suit

Suit by Delores Lacy Collins as administratrix of the estate of James H. Collins, deceased, against M-G-M, M-G-M Distributing Corp., Loew's, and Culver Export for $1,000,000 damages for the alleged plagiarism in "Test Pilot" of her husband's book, "Test Pilot," has been dismissed by Federal Judge John C. Knox. The action also sought an injunction and an accounting of profits.

Alvin A. Harnes and Howard A. Gray have filed a supreme court action against Warner and Vitagraph, claiming the plagiarism of a play which resulted in "Doctor Ehrlich's Magic Bullet." Damages of $75,000 and an injunction are sought. Warner is seeking a transfer to the federal court, claiming diversity of citizenship.

Suit by J. Raymond Cornell against Mary Pickford for $250,000 alleged libel in an article published in January, 1934, in the Boston *Sunday Advertiser* has been dismissed by Federal Judge John C. Knox. The suit charged the actress of accusing Cornell of being party to a plot to kidnap her.

Point to Goldwyn

Judge Edward A. Conger in the federal court has formally denied UA's plea to dismiss Samuel Goldwyn's suit against it and ordered the producer to re-frame that part of his complaint which seeks damages for alleged interference with the distribution of "The Westerner." UA must answer within ten days of Goldwyn's compliance with this order.

Leonard Goldstein has filed a $25,000 supreme court action against Mervyn Le Roy, claiming the producer persuaded him to give up his contract with Kenny Baker, promising him adequate compensation for it. No compensation has been paid. Le Roy claims the contract Goldstein had is not enforceable under California law and that Goldstein has no agent's license.

Suit by Films Sonores Tobis, S. A., French production company, against Charles Chaplin, Charles Chaplin Film Corp., and UA was dismissed by Federal Judge John C. Knox. The suit sought an injunction accounting of profits and damages against Chaplin's "Modern Times," claiming the picture to be a "deliberate piracy" of the plaintiff's film, "A Nous La Liberte."

Suit by the Juno Theatre Corp., operator of the Bedford Theatre, against the late Sotores D. Cocalis for $9,748 has been settled out of the supreme court. Under the terms of a contract whereby Cocalis was employed as film buyer for the Bedford, the cost of films was not to exceed 25 per cent of the theatre's gross. The amount sued for represented the alleged charge for film above that amount.

Republic Suit Dismissed

Federal Judge John C. Knox has dismissed a suit by Republic Pictures Corp. of Delaware and Republic Pictures against the Federal Film Co. and Frank J. Whittle. It sought damages, an accounting and an injunction, claiming the defendants were distributing eight Republic features and two serials without permission.

RCA, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., General Electric Co., and 30 officers and directors of RCA have applied to the supreme court to dismiss a $260,000,000 stockholder action against them. Suit charges RCA lost $10,000,000 through investments in RKO, and $240,000,000 by purchasing worthless patents from the other corporate defendants in return for 600,000 shares of stock worth $40 a share.

Supreme Court Justice Ferdinand Pecora has dismissed a counter claim by Edward Sheldon and Margaret Ayer Barnes against Paramount in connection with a suit by Guthrie McClintic against Miss Barnes and Sheldon, in which Paramount, Gilbert Miller and Charles Frohman, Inc., were added as defendants by Miss Barnes and Sheldon. McClintic seeks $67,608 representing half of what Miss Barnes and Sheldon received from Loew's for the plagiarism of "Dishonored Lady" in "Letty Lynton." They, in turn, sued Paramount, Miller and Frohman for $50,000, claiming these defendants had ruined the London presentation of their play. The court ruled Paramount had not assumed any obligations under the contract for the London play.

SEC November Summary Lists Two Stock Deals

WASHINGTON—Only two film stock transactions are reported by the securities and exchange commission in its second November summary of the activities of corporation officers and directors in the securities of their companies.

In Paramount Pictures, the commission reported the acquisition of 1,000 shares of common stock by Anson C. Goodyear, director, New York, increasing his holdings to 2,000 shares.

In Universal Pictures, Preston Davie, director, New York, was reported to have acquired 30 shares of eight per cent first preferred stock, representing his entire interest in that class.

Rose London-Bound

NEW YORK—David Rose, managing director for Paramount, arrived from the coast early in the week and was scheduled to leave for London the latter part.





—Joel Allen

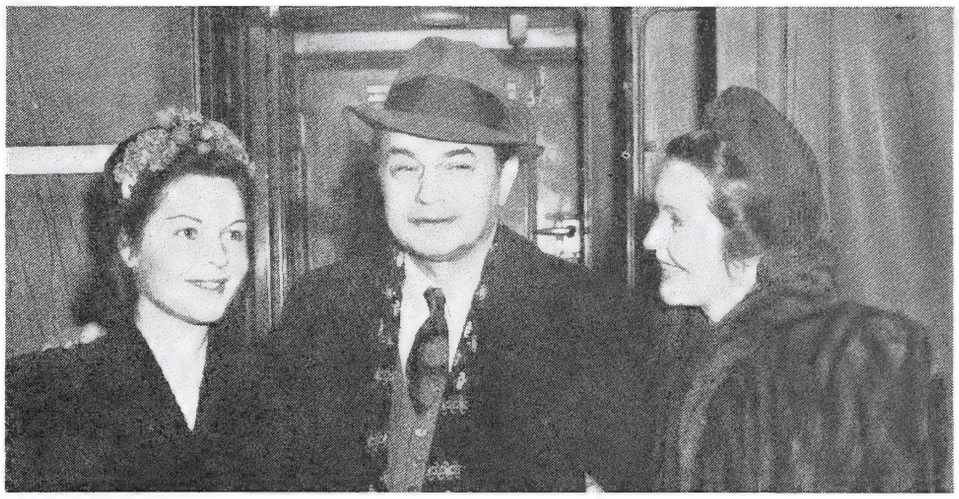
And So the Drive Was Launched—

Much fanfare marked the inauguration of the "March of Dimes" drive in New York what with parades of ushers who did some shivering in the trek down Broadway and a reviewing stand like the above. Wearing overcoats, left to right, are Ed Sullivan, columnist of the New York Daily News *and master of ceremonies; Marvin Schenck, Eugene Picker, Charles C. Moskowitz and Oscar A. Doob. They're with Loew's, of course. Nicholas M. Schenck is national chairman. Above, Sullivan changes Times Square into Dimes Square*

Peg "Fantasia" for 76 Runs by End of '42

NEW YORK—Long-range distribution of "Fantasia" by Walt Disney is pegged optimistically at 76 roadshow engagements up to the end of 1942. This embraces 12 key city runs of indefinite duration, of which one is under way here, and four more scheduled by the middle of February in Philadelphia, Washington, Boston and Chicago. Toronto may be an addition within the period.

The balance of the 76 dates will be spotted in cities of less than key proportions, but only after the first 12 engagements are completed. This will enable Disney to utilize the special sound equipment in the later showings. New equipment of fabricated composition will be in production by that time to go into the larger number of houses.



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

The Biographical Actor Arrives—

"The Sea Wolf" behind him, Edward G. Robinson reaches Gotham for a couple of weeks' stay. On the left is Jean Westervelt, his step-daughter, on the right, Mrs. R.

Handling "Night Train" In British Possessions

NEW YORK—M-G-M, which financed 50 per cent of the production for "Night Train," produced by GB in England, will release the picture in all British possessions. While 20th-Fox is handling the film in this country, M-G-M had an opportunity to do so but rejected it because it did not meet up with their domestic requirements. Both M-G-M and 20th-Fox will share equally in the international profits of the film which Robert T. Kane made last year.

Meet for Depinet

NEW YORK—Leo Devaney, Depinet drive leader, and RKO home office executives held a meeting at the local exchange presided over by Robert Wolff. A. W. Smith jr., general sales manager, also attended.

RKO Winds Up "Mr. Smith" Previews in Detroit

NEW YORK—With a preview at the Michigan, Detroit, on Tuesday, RKO washes up a series of 32 mass "sneaks" of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith." The entire United States and Canada were blanketed. In each exchange city, RKO district and branch managers were hosts. The initial preview was held at the Century, Buffalo, January 17 where Gus Schaefer, Elmer Lux, Terry Turner, Harry Reiners and George Degnon were present.

The screening at the Astor Theatre here Tuesday morning was thronged.

Blumberg Returns

NEW YORK—Nate J. Blumberg, Universal president, returned Saturday from an extended business trip to the studio.

William A. Scully, general sales manager, may manage a Florida vacation in three to four weeks.

Urges Lower Legit Price on Sunday

NEW YORK—"It is not enough that the Broadway theatre managers have agreed not to raise prices on Sunday; I think they ought to lower them. Members of the motion picture audiences are not $4.40 or even $3.30 patrons and there is little use in wishing that they were."

So states James F. Reilly, executive secretary of the League of New York Theatres, in a report to Actors' Equity Ass'n on the Sunday performance experiment begun last November.

He is of the opinion the experiment has not been in operation long enough to draw a conclusion on its success, although, for the time being "the managers seem to be very well satisfied with the results." Reilly urges legit theatre managers to attempt "heavier concentration on advertising" to advise audiences that Sunday shows are now available.



—Metropolitan Photos

They're West to Meet the Producers—

Object: Plans for 1941-42. *Therefore to Hollywood go Charles Schwartz, UA attorney; Murray Silverstone, chief of world-wide operations, and Arthur W. Kelly, vice-president and general sales manager.*

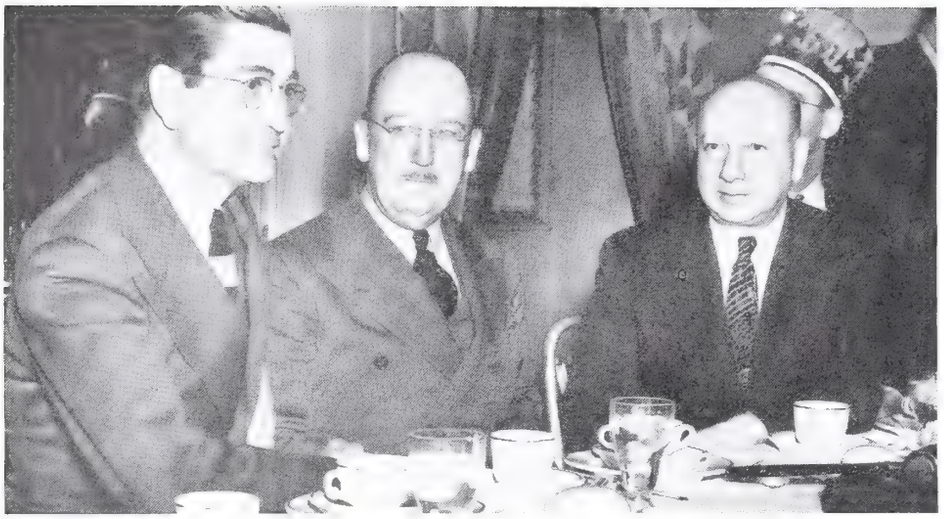
Nine New York Studios on SAG's "Unfair" List

NEW YORK—The Screen Actors Guild has placed the following New York studios on the "unfair" list for alleged refusal to enter into a contract with the guild, or to abide by the conditions of employment contained in the basic agreement of the SAG:

Advance Cinema Equipment Co., Commonwealth Pictures Corp., Courier Productions, Ted Eshbaugh Studios, General Business Films, Rowland Rogers Picture Service, Ruby Film Co., Willard Picture Productions and Films of Commerce Co.

Commercial Theatre Program

TORONTO—The first commercially sponsored theatre program bowed here at the Famous-Players Imperial. Sponsored by a biscuit company, the musical show is scheduled for weekly appearance.



New Managers Get a Welcome—

Variety Club members welcomed two new exchange managers to the Washington Filmrow with a party at the Willard Hotel. Appearing above at the head table are, left to right, John Allen, new M-G-M manager; Hardie Meakin, chief barker of the club, and Max A. Cohen, new Universal branch head.

WASHINGTON

HUMOR and music reigned on the occasion of the Inaugural Gala last Sunday evening when one of the most distinguished audiences ever assembled in Constitution Hall was entertained by a cast embracing the leaders of stage, screen and opera. Robert E. Sherwood, scheduled m. c., became a flu victim; Eddie Cantor was selected for the coveted role, but he, too, was indisposed, and finally Doug Fairbanks jr. filled in the breach and acquitted himself admirably in such an extemporaneous assignment . . . Rise Stevens of the Met, recently signed by Metro, and Nelson Eddy offered vocal selections. Raymond Massey gave an excerpt from "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" . . . Mickey Rooney came to the fore, seemingly out of place on such a program, but became the hit of the evening when he offered a portion of his own symphony on the piano, an artistic gaze, and encored with impersonations of Gable and Lionel Barrymore from "Test Pilot," and one on the Louis-Paychek fight. Irving Berlin sang his own composition, "God Bless America," Ethel Barrymore read a poem by Walt Whitman, and Charlie Chaplin concluded the program with his touching and stirring rendition of the concluding speech in "The Dictator."

The flu plague has struck the 20th-Fox staff, with Sara Young, Edythe Silverberg and May Feldman battling attacks at home . . . Elmer Nolte and Freddie Smouff of the Durkee circuit were Row visitors . . . RKO's Russ Hildebrand is mourning the passing of his father in York, Pa. . . . RKO's Emmet Cashman, home office auditor, is in . . . The booking department features a front that is quite an innovation; built to the ceiling, allowing windows for the bookers only, and accenting the Ned Depinet Drive.

The Metro staff was glad to see Phil Bobys return to his duties following a siege of the flu . . . Freida Cohen was feted with a luncheon by the girls of the staff and gifted with a hostess gown by the Pep Club on her resignation . . . Blanche LeMan comes from Boston to join the cashier's department . . . Jules Lapidus, Universal district manager, visited with Branch Manager Max Cohen . . . "Rusty" Duncan, secretary to Frank La Falce, shook the flu enough to return to work but is courting laryngitis.

Explosion and fire in the booth of the Little during the showing of "Pastor Hall" cleared the house in record time and in orderly fashion . . . The President's inauguration remained to be a call to cameras for the entire eastern staff of Paramount News . . . A. J. Richard and William Montague, Paramount executives, visited for the occasion.

The "Mile O' Dimes" campaign has been launched and the Row will be represented by a unit donation. Anyone in the field who would like to make a contribution toward the fight against infantile paralysis, same to be included in the group sum, will please forward their offering to your correspondent, Charles T. Hurley, 913 New Jersey Ave., Washington; chairman of the film distribution unit . . . Remember! Your dime on the line will help straighten a spine.

An announcement from John J. Payette, Warner general zone manager, advises that a special plaque will be posted on the boxoffices of all Warner houses in the near future. The Warner theatres are the first to sign up with the motion picture committee of the national defense group, the plaque being evidence of their enthusiam in support of the defense effort . . . The Warner club rooms, located in the Tivoli Bldg., were formally opened January 15, with all club members and their friends in attendance. The club will be open every day but Sunday, with two nights each week to be known as "Surprise Night" at which time entertainment will be presented. Club officers are: James Root, president; Harry Anger, vice-president; Harry Lohmeyer, vice-president of welfare.

Harold Wilsher of the Lyric, Occquan, became the proud pappy of a 6½-pound girl at Garfield Hospital January 8 . . . Mrs. Sam Wheeler is convalescing nicely in Pittsburgh . . . Arthur Silverstone, newly appointed UA district manager for the Washington territory, held a sales meeting with the staff at the local exchange . . . M. K. Murphy of Appalachia came up for the weekend . . . RKO's Russ Hildebrand finally shooed the flu.

Tommy Goldberg of the Walbrook, Baltimore, is building a 400-seater opposite the Walbrook . . . Spud Query was a visitor from Marion, Va., and advised that the New Norton which was recently destroyed by fire, is being rebuilt and will be ready in about eight weeks . . . The flu epidemic forced the Virginian, St. Charles, Va., to close . . . Columbia's Danny Rosenthal celebrated his sixth wedding anniversary on the 13th . . . Angie Sokol is scheduled to resign from Clark Film in early February in order to join her husband at Ft. Bliss, Tex. . . . The sick list at Warner theatres reveals that "Rusty" Duncan and Isabelle Baugh were home nursing severe colds, and that Bill Ewing was indisposed by the flu for the first time, but since recovered.

Metro's Freida Cohen from now on will labor for Uncle Sam . . . Ida Barezofsky has returned from her vacation which included a stay at S. Fallsburg, N. Y., for a spree of winter sports and a visit to the home office . . . Lou Litchenstein, 20th-Fox auditor, is in for a check and his coat of Florida tan is the cynosure of all eyes . . . January 26 is the joint natal day for Grayson Mills and Kate Hartnett . . . Rebecca Foster is home battling a cold . . . Edgar Moss, district manager, was a visitor.



$2,500 to Him—

Percy Friedman, Yeadon Theatre, Yeadon, Pa., winner of first place and $2,500 in the subsequent-run bracket of the M-G-M exploitation contest just concluded. His campaign was on "The Women."

PHILADELPHIA



He Was Promoted—

Earle W. Sweigert, long Paramount's Philadelphia branch manager, is to supervise a newly-created sales district embracing his own city, Washington and Pittsburgh under a sales realignment for operations under the decree. Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are now supervised by Milton Kusell; Pittsburgh by Harry Goldstein. Ulrick Smith, salesman, succeeds Sweigert as Paramount manager. See page 13 for full details.

Briggs Visits Key Centers En Route to PRC Parley

NEW YORK—O. Henry Briggs, president of Producers Releasing Corp., left Friday for Chicago and a number of other key centers en route to the coast where he expects to arrive within the next week. While in Hollywood he will go over production plans with George Batcheller, supervisor of production.

No general sales manager is to be appointed for some time, Briggs stated. Recent additions to the home office staff are Joseph Sullivan and Sam Kestenbaum.

14 Big Ones Due

NEW YORK—Fourteen "high bracket" pictures are due from Columbia during the next six months. With eight shooting, several to start in February and a number of others in preparation, the company is now in the midst of one of the heaviest schedules in its history.

Public Will Challenge Inflated Statements

New York—W. G. Van Schmus, managing director of the Music Hall, at the Ampa meeting Thursday, urged the industry not to underestimate the public's intelligence and not to exaggerate in advertising "because the public will challenge" inflated statements. Keynoting his talk with a discussion of the Music Hall's operation, Van Schmus said that in eight years the big theatre has grossed $34,000,000 and played to more than 48,000,000 people.

NOVEL experience for the local industry was the sneak preview of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the Orpheum. Hollywoodites came all the way across country to gauge audience reaction. The theatre announced film would be added to the regular 9 o'clock show, but did not reveal its name in advance . . . Leo Posel's Benner opened in the presence of a large gathering of industryites . . . The Variety Club will give a testimonial dinner Monday to David "Skip" Weshner, who is leaving for the green fields of New York . . . Allen Lewis, ex-star of the Showmen's Club, will be dined February 17.

Horlacher and Clark Film are now handling the new recruiting trailer for the 111th Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard, with some 141 independents and 80 Warner houses in this area set to play it . . . That makes the fourth trailer the two companies are handling free. The others are for the Salvation Army, United Campaign and Infantile Paralysis Campaign . . . Jimmy Tighe, who did publicity for the Democratic city committee, is now publicizing Cash Quiz . . . Lewen Pizor, UMPTO, is in the hospital for a short stay.

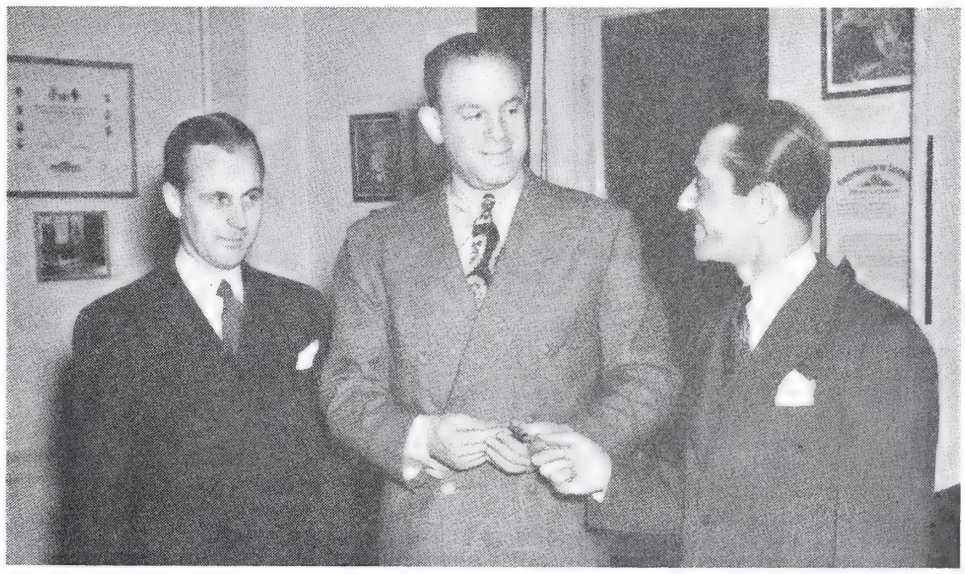
Earle Sweigert, newly appointed Paramount district manager, went off to Chicago for a company meeting. His new appointment was practically a birthday present. He cut his cake on the 24th . . . Florence Jackel, Republic, marked a birthday on the 25th, and Ray O'Rourke, Doris, 26th . . . Mel Koff, Darby, and the Mrs. celebrate a wedding anniversary on the 29th . . . Bill Brooker, Paramount publiciteer, returns Monday from a Virginia tour where he arranged premieres for "Virginia" in five cities.

George Kurlansik, Park and Town, Allentown, is thinking about a Florida vacation . . . Harry Stiefel, Main and Roxy, Ephrata, and Bud Hissner, Academy, Lebanon, were among the out-of-towners around this week . . . Betty Chambers, pretty Metroite, is ill. Her co-worker, Ann Morrison, is recuperating from a little bout with the knife . . . Milt Young, Warner publicity tycoon, was downed by grippe . . . A dutch lunch was the feature at the Variety Club Saturday.

First Russian-made film to play Philadelphia in a long time is "Mannerheim Line," at Charles Steerman's Cinema Arts . . . William Goldberg and Dick Mayers were host to critics at a luncheon celebrating Goldberg's tenth year of operation of the house. Incidentally, "The Baker's Wife," now in its 16th week, has set a new long-run record since advent of talking films, film chroniclers say . . . Eddie Tracht, Vine Street projectionist, had a relapse from a recent operation, and was rushed to a hospital. Is reported doing well.

Percy Friedman, Yeadon Theatre, Yeadon, came away with the $2,500 prize in Metro's independent exhibitor competition for campaigns for "The Women" . . . Jerome Engel, Family, Glen Lyon, won $100 for exploitation of the "Dr. Kildare" series, and Jack Harris, Mayfair, won $100 for his campaign on "Fast and Furious" . . . John Schaefer is representing Arthur Ziehm in this territory. First release is a twin horror bill, "Torso Murder Mystery" and "Face at the Window."

Four years ago, Phil Manes, then at the S-W Model, used to arrange special service for a crippled girl. He has just received a letter from her thanking him . . . Sid Poppay, Majestic, Gettysburg, arranged a benefit concert for the Crippled Children's Home . . . Bill Lafferty, Liberty, used the magic exploitation touch to promote an automobile giveaway two times in a row. The Tacony Business Men's Ass'n footed the bill.



They Look, But Goldman Got It—

Left to right, it's a case of Maurice Gable, who succeeded David E. Weshner as Warner district manager in Philadelphia; Ted Schlanger, zone head, and Jack Goldman, manager of Keith's in that city. Goldman won first prize for corralling the largest number of Kiddie Movie Check sales during what was known as the "Stanley-Warner Kiddie Check Championship Sales Contest."

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 35)

by way of Capetown, South Africa. He got his passport and visa during the week, and now it's a matter of getting reservations on the next sailing . . . A. A. Schubart, RKO exchange head, returned early in the week from Boston and Philadelphia . . . Steve Pallos is due back from the coast within the next 10 days . . . Dave Loew didn't take any chances when he came east. He brought along his own bowling ball. Incidentally, he's staying at the Lou Brechers . . . Nicholas M. Schenck has again delayed his departure for Miami, business details keeping him in town . . . Arch Bowles, northern California divisional head, has been in town. He hasn't been feeling well of late and the trip is more in the nature of a rest . . . Charles E. McCarthy is back from the coast . . . Milton Berle has returned to Hollywood after appearing on the Kate Smith program Friday night and a one-time p. a. at the Roxy with "Tall, Dark and Handsome."

Phil Brody, formerly with National Screen in Connecticut, now managing Randforce's Leader in Brooklyn, will become a benedict March 16 when he takes the step with Gladys Lustig . . . Ben Resnick, until recently of the Regent, Brooklyn, is now supervisor for the Margolies circuit in New Jersey with headquarters at the Mayfair, W. New York, N. J. . . . Gabriel Pascal will not report from Lisbon until January 29, having been delayed again and again on the transatlantic crossing . . . The flu got Alexander Korda just as he was preparing to return to the coast . . . Douglas Fairbanks did a swell m. c. job at the inaugural dinner preceding President Roosevelt's official induction to a third term.

Offer Hand for Benefit Opening of "Virginia"

NEW YORK—A host of theatrical celebrities have combined to offer their names and talents in the formation of a committee to assist in the benefit opening of "Virginia" at the Paramount, January 28, in behalf of the Maple Leaf Fund, which is the Canadian organization for British war relief.

Chairman of the committee is Canadian-born actress, Margaret Bannerman. Those helping, including a few who will participate in the entertainment at the premiere, include Raymond Massey, as master-of-ceremonies; Anton Dolin, Mary Pickford, Gertrude Lawrence, Peggy Wood, Constance Collier, Diane Barrymore, Jill Esmond, Jessica Tandy, Maurice Evans, Michael Bartlett, Ann Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Miller, Hassard Short, Margaret Webster, Auriol Lee, Anne Francine, Alicia Markova, Tosca Brissing and Marguerite d'Alvarez.

Ralph Pielow Meets ITOA Members at Astor Session

NEW YORK—Ralph Pielow, recently appointed local M-G-M branch manager, was formally introduced to members of the ITOA at their regular meeting Wednesday at the Astor. Jack Bowen, district manager, made the introductory speech.

Brandt Still Sour, Also Experimental

New York—Although he and the ITOA have pledged full cooperation on the decree, Harry Brandt still has his doubts about its success.

"I don't see how it is going to work," he says. He sees the sales of two major companies who signed the document as seriously affected unless each makes better product than released during the current season.

However, he admits there's nothing like experimenting, but what is to be done if the experiment fails, he will not conjecture.

Allied Will Discuss Course on Decree

WASHINGTON — Allied's future course anent the consent decree will be the major topic at the organization's annual directors' meeting here January 27 and 28. Much discussion will revolve around measures for collecting evidence and information from exhibitors on alleged inequities and cooperation with the justice department in handling such complaints.

Important also on the directors' agenda will be the consideration of a possible program to further opposition to distributor practices through federal or state legislation banning block booking and seeking theatre divorcement. The Ascap-BMI fight for control of music for broadcasting will be taken up from the exhibitor's viewpoint.

Col. H. A. Cole, president, will be honored at the annual dinner, and officers for new year will be elected.

Forming New York Allied

NEW YORK—About 50 theatres reputedly have pledged to form a New York state unit of Allied. Max Cohen, former regional vice-president of New York Allied, now an MPTO affiliate, is the prime figure behind the movement for the new group.

Television Demonstration

NEW YORK—The Dumont television system, claiming improved long-range transmission, touches off two days of demonstrations by the National Television System Committee, Friday and Saturday. Following Dumont, RCA and Bell Laboratories were to demonstrate their system, and CBS's demonstration was to be held on Saturday.

Scotch Walker Reports

WASHINGTON — The renomination of Frank Walker as postmaster general has gone to the senate for approval, thereby scotching recent reports Walker would quit the cabinet at the year's turn.

$1.75 KAO Dividend

NEW YORK—KAO directors have declared a $1.75 dividend out of surplus on the 7 per cent cumulative preferred for the quarter ending December 31.

RICHMOND

THE sudden cold weather had a bad effect on boxoffice takes all over town. Influenza in this section has also been felt in the weekly grosses . . . Wilma Near has succeeded Elizabeth Quisenberry as cashier at the State . . . Frank Storino, manager of the Lincoln, took his wife to Norfolk to visit relatives . . . Those new poster frames on the front of the Colonial are very attractive . . . Harvey Dunnavant has succeeded Dick Henry on the service staff at the Venus . . . Dave Kamsky, publicity head for Neighborhood Theatres, arranged for the serialization of "Kitty Foyle" in the *Times-Dispatch*.

The 12th annual theatrical ball will be held at Tantilla Garden on Tuesday, February 25. Sponsored by Local 87, IATSE, this event is looked forward to each year as a grand reunion of all theatrical folks. Harry Jarvis is general chairman this year, assisted by Claude Wilson, Dan Anderson, Tom Jones, Otis Bugg, Buck Colgin, Earl Clator, John Clator, Frank Mathews, John Leary, Stuart Atkisson, Joe LaPrade, Tom Murphy, Bill Walsh, James Evans, Kenneth Sickinger, Bernard McCann, Louis Levin, L. C. Ratliff. Proceeds go to the benefit fund of the local.

Ed Trainor, former checker for Warner, is now with Ross Federal here . . . Charlie Yerby is certainly missed around Loew's since he was promoted to assistant manager of Loew's Capitol, Washington . . . Walter Vincent was in town visiting with Frank O'Brien at the Colonial . . . Harold Wood, Neighborhood Theatres' official, has returned to his desk after being out with the grippe . . . Bill Ballenger, manager of the Grand, and his wife held open house the other Sunday all day long, and practically every theatre man and his wife or friends visited them sometime during the day . . . Mercer Stillman, Berlo representative, visited relatives in Pittsburgh.

Frank O'Brien, Allen Sparrow and Harold Wood, members of the convention committee of the MPTO of Virginia, are making plans for a bigger and better convention this year, which will be held at the Shoreham in Washington, February 2 and 3 . . . Dick Harrity, United Artists salesman, was here . . . Also Elbert Grover, RKO salesman . . . The State duckpin team won the first half in the Theatrical Midnight League by nine games, with Loew's taking second place and Brookland, third.

Mills Forms Exchange

NEW YORK — Bernard H. Mills has formed Equity Film Exchanges to cover the metropolitan area. He was formerly a Republic franchise holder.

More Ascap Woes

LANSING, MICH.—Ascap faces a 25 per cent franchise tax in Michigan under a proposed law aimed at agencies collecting royalties on copyrighted music.

Filmarte Reopens

NEW YORK—The Filmarte has reopened. Opening attraction was "Hatred." Joseph Plunkett is one of a trio of operators.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Academy Units Start Recognition Task

Although no date nor locale for the forthcoming Academy Awards banquet has yet been announced, beyond the fact that it will be held late in February, various Academy branches have begun to set the required machinery in motion whereby kudos will be distributed for endeavors in a number of fields.

John Aalberg, chairman of the Academy sound recording award committee, has announced the following nominations for the award for achievement in that classification:

"Arizona," Columbia; "Behind the News," Republic; "Captain Caution," Hal Roach; "Grapes of Wrath," 20th Century-Fox; "Howards of Virginia" (Col), General Service Equipment; "Kitty Foyle," RKO Radio; "North West Mounted Police," Paramount; "Our Town," Sol Lesser; "The Sea Hawk," Warner; "Spring Parade," Universal; "Strike Up the Band," M-G-M. One will be chosen from this group by a committee including Aalberg as chairman; Lawrence Aicholtz, Daniel Bloomberg, Bernard Brown, W. P. Delaplain, C. W. Faulkner, Lloyd Goldsmith, George Groves, Russell Hanson, Roger Heman, John K. Hilliard, Kenneth Lambert, W. W. Lindsay jr., John Livadary, C. L. Lootens, Russell Malmgren, J. G. Matthews, Thomas Moulton, William Mueller, K. M. Pier, Clem Portman, Elmer Raguse, Loren Ryder, Gordon Sawyer, Douglas Shearer, James G. Stewart, John A. Stransky, Homer Tasker, W. L. Thayer, S. J. Twining, W. W. Wells, E. H. Wetzel and J. R. Whitney. This committee has begun reviewing the nominated films in a projection room at the Walt Disney plant.

Cinematography Ballots Out

Nominations ballots for cinematography and film editing have been mailed out to directors of photography and film editors. Lensers will nominate ten black-and-white and six color films for the final vote. Editors will name ten candidates, the winner to be determined by a committee from the Society of Motion Picture Film Editors, which will be selected by Walter Wanger, Academy president, and Edmund D. Hannen, SMPFE president.

With Pete Smith as chairman, short subjects producers held a dinner meeting to discuss the selection of nominating committees, classification of entries for the Academy Award, and the method of balloting to be employed. Attending were:

E. H. Allen, Henry Binder, Lou Brock, Vernon Caldwell, Robert Carlyle, Jack Chertok, Roy Disney, Jerry Fairbanks, James FitzPatrick, Ira Genet, Richard Goldstone, George Hall, Lou Harris, Gordon Hollingshead, Jason Joy, Valeria Janus, Walter Lantz, Lewis Lewyn, Del Lord, Hugh McCollum, George Pal, Harriet Parsons, Fred Quimby, John Rose, Leon Schlesinger, Jack Warner jr., Jules White, Robert Winkler, Guenther Lessing and James Bromis.

Producers association officials, planning their annual meeting to elect officers for the year, expect Will Hays, MPPDA president, to check in from New York in time for the session. It is scheduled for February 3.

Stewart With MacDonald

James Stewart has been given the lead opposite Jeanette MacDonald in "Smilin' Through." He has appeared in but one previous MacDonald film, "Rose Marie," in which he made his film debut. Victor Saville will produce "Smilin' Through."



In Recognition—

For "outstanding contribution to Americanism" via his radio program, "Big Town," Edward G. Robinson is the recipient of the American Legion's citation of honor. Here Robinson accepts the award from Dr. Russell Starr, Legion executive.

Picture-Making Pace Sustained by Slate

Intent on holding to the picture-making pace which now finds 40 features in work, Hollywood producers have scheduled another 16 for camera starts during the balance of January, while 22 more are written in for February launchings.

RKO Radio and M-G-M, with four each to roll this month, are the busiest spots. The former studio lists "Tom, Dick and Harry," "Repent at Leisure," "Before the Fact" and "Hang Out the Moon," while M-G-M will gun "Love Crazy," "Blossoms in the Dust," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "A Woman's Face." Other January starters include:

"Texas," "A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street" and "Senate Page Boys" at Columbia; "The Great American Broadcast" and "The Cowboy and the Blonde" at 20th Century-Fox; Republic's "Mr. District Attorney;" Paramount's "Skylark;" Warner's "Mother's Boys," and Monogram's "Sign of the Wolf."

Paramount leads the list for February. During that month it will roll "Pioneer Woman," "Hold Back the Dawn," "Little Miss Muffet," "College Mystery," "The Night of January 16" and "Aloma of the South Seas." Destined for March cameras are "Dildo Cay" and "Buy Me That Town."

Scheduled also for February are:

Republic's "You'll Never Get Rich," "Lady of New Orleans" and "Bachelor for a Day;" 20th Century-Fox's "Man Hunt," "Miami" and "A Yank in the R. A. F.;" Universal's "Oh, Charlie" and "Mutiny in the Arctic;" Monogram's "Trail of the Yukon" and "Million Dollar Mystery;" Warner's "Flight Patrol," "Navy Blues" and "Sergeant York;" M-G-M's "Get a Horse" and "Lady Be Good," and Columbia's "Her First Beau."

Universal and Republic each have one chalked in for a March start. The former studio will launch "Amateur Angel," the latter "Puddin' Head."

Now Range Busters, Inc.

George W. Weeks has changed the name of his production unit releasing through Monogram from Phoenix Productions, Inc., to Range Busters, Inc. He is planning eight more "Range Busters" westerns for the 1941-42 season.

Cinémarks

Robert Riskin, Frank Capra's scenarist and production partner, is in New York conferring with Gradwell L. Sears, Warner sales head, on plans for the Capra-Riskin production, "Meet John Doe."

*

Jack L. Warner has been elected to membership on the board of trustees of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. He is the only motion picture executive on the board.

*

Charles Boyer has returned from New York, where he made a radio appearance, to report to Paramount for a film assignment . . . Oscar Levant, musician and one of the "Information Please" stars, also is in the Marathon Street studio. He has a role in "Kiss the Boys Goodbye."

*

Producer Robert Sparks is back at his Columbia desk after honeymooning with his new bride, Penny Singleton, whom he married New Year's Day . . . Harry Sherman went to Chicago to attend the celebration honoring Barney Balaban's fifth anniversary as Paramount president . . . Leon Schlesinger, the cartoon producer, is in New York for two weeks on business.

*

The Masquers staged a 15-act show in honor of John Barrymore, January 21, with Barrymore and Orson Welles headlining in a one-act satire on the former's life. Rudy Vallee was master of ceremonies, William Collier sr. served as toastmaster and other acts included Charles Laughton, Reginald Gardiner, Pat O'Brien, Joe E. Brown, Alan Mowbray, Adolphe Menjou, Frank Fay, Abbott and Costello, Fred Niblo and others.

*

M. A. Goldrick, assistant foreign manager for Electrical Research Products, Inc., checked in from the Orient, where he has spent eight months touring Erpi offices in China, the Malay States, India, Australia and the Philippines. He will spend two weeks here before proceeding to New York.

*

A. M. Botsford, executive assistant to William LeBaron at Paramount, served as toastmaster at the testimonial dinner, honoring Barney Balaban's fifth anniversary as company president, in Chicago January 23 . . . Alfred E. Green has returned to Columbia after three weeks in Washington, gathering atmosphere for his next piloting chore, "Senate Page Boys."

*

Paul Wurtzel, of RKO Radio's messenger department, has enlisted in the navy and reports for duty in a few days. He is 18 years old and a nephew of 20th Century-Fox's Sol Wurtzel . . . William Perlberg, 20th Century-Fox producer, is spending a week in New York looking at the new plays.

*

Francis T. Harlan, managing director of 20th Century-Fox's English production, has checked in to confer with studio and homeoffice executives on plans for his unit during the coming season.

*

Norman Moray, Warner short subjects sales head, arrives February 1 for conferences on the 1941-42 program.

*

Claudette Colbert has returned from two weeks of skiing in Sun Valley to prepare for her next Paramount assignment. While in the northern resort she won the first guest slalom ski event for women.

*

Director Ralph Murphy is back on the job at Paramount following a short holiday.

Start Production on Defense Subjects

Cameras have begun turning on the first in the series of short subjects which will keynote Hollywood's contribution to the national defense program. The one-reeler, concerning hygiene, is being made at 20th Century-Fox with Darryl Zanuck, a lieutenant-colonel in the signal corps reserve, supervising, and John Ford directing from a script prepared by William Ullman jr. Second in the group will follow immediately. Films are destined for the exclusive use of army and navy officials in training draftees and new enlisted men, and will not be shown to the public.

Greek Relief Broadcast

Grauman's Chinese Theatre has been selected as the locale for the gigantic broadcast being planned jointly by motion picture and radio charities committees for the benefit of the Greek War Relief Ass'n. The show will be broadcast coast-to-coast February 8 and will be transmitted via shortwave to London and Athens. With Jack Benny and Bob Hope as co-masters of ceremonies, volunteer entertainers will include Ronald Colman, Alice Faye, Fanny Brice, Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, Tony Martin, Mickey Rooney, Burns and Allen, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, Charles Laughton and Shirley Temple.

Launch March of Dimes

Eddie Cantor staged his annual March of Dimes broadcast for the national infantile paralysis campaign January 25 over three major networks. Participating were Bob Hope, Burns and Allen, Fanny Brice, Jack Benny, Humphrey Bogart, Bob Burns, James Cagney, Joan Blondell, Lew Ayres, Rudy Vallee, Mickey Rooney and others.

In ceremonies at the city hall in Los Angeles, W. V. C. Ruxton, president of the British-American Ambulance Corps, launched a national drive to raise funds for more ambulances. He was received by Mayor Fletcher Bowron, with film notables in attendance including Mary Pickford, Ronald Colman, Benita Hume, Reginald Gardiner, Mary Astor, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Joe E. Brown and Nigel Bruce.

Alan Mowbray, Rudy Vallee, Jean Parker, Roy Rogers, William Lundigan, Los Ranson and Sheila Ryan planed to San Diego January 17 to participate in a British War Relief rally. They also entertained the enlisted men of W. S. Van Dyke's marine corps stationed there.

UA Executives in a Production Huddle

In from New York for a series of conferences with the various United Artists producers, and to discuss a number of as yet undisclosed matters pertaining to UA operations, are Murray Silverstone, who heads the company; Arthur W. Kelly, sales head; and Charles Schwartz, UA counsel. They are expected to remain for at least two weeks and may extend their sojourn beyond that time.

Another arrival was Alexander Korda, who went to New York a short time ago to discuss release details with UA executives for his latest production, "That Hamilton Woman." While in the east, Korda also appeared to give a deposition in connection with the UA-Samuel Goldwyn litigation.

Blumberg to New York

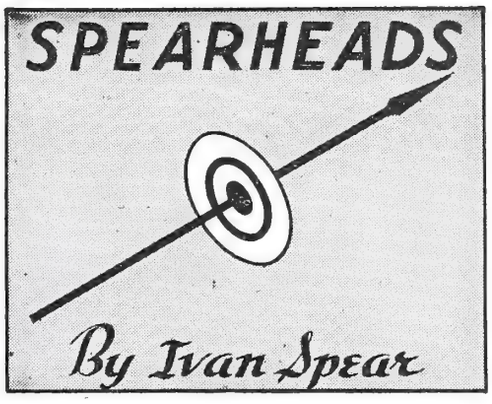
With the departure for New York of President Nate Blumberg, huddles at Universal pertaining to production plans and budgets for the 1941-42 season have come to an end. J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board; Joseph H. Seidelman and William A. Scully preceded Blumberg east after conferences with studio executives, including Cliff Work and Matty Fox. Before his departure, Blumberg declared no definite plans had been set regarding the possibility, as reported from New York, that Universal may transfer its laboratory printing work from Consolidated to another company. It was indicated that no further word on the matter will be forthcoming until Blumberg has studied the situation upon his return to the homeoffice.

Charles McCarthy East

First to leave for the east after production conferences at 20th Century-Fox was Charles E. McCarthy, advertising-publicity chieftain. He will be followed shortly by Herman Wobber, sales head, and President Sidney R. Kent.

William F. Rodgers, Metro's general sales manager, has decided to spend another week at the studio, discussing possible sales policy changes concerning short subjects as a result of the consent decree. He also is looking at pictures currently in work and those completed and awaiting release dates.

George Brown, new publicity-advertising director at Paramount, attended the Chicago get-together of homeoffice sales executives and district managers January 21-23. Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations, trained out in time to participate in the dinner given President Barney Balaban, January 23, honoring his fifth anniversary as head of the company. Meeting was devoted to mapping of sales and promotional plans for "Virginia" and "The Lady Eve," as well as discussions on the possible roadshowing of "I Wanted Wings," withdrawn from the regular release schedule recently by Neil F. Agnew, sales chief.



COMES now—it is hoped—an end to the industry's record season on polls. With the forthcoming annual Academy dinner, Hollywood will have harvested the last of a bumper crop of accolades, the likes of which, in both quantities and diversity, have never before been approached.

Time was, and even comparatively newcomers in the ranks of observers on affairs cinematic can remember, when so-called annual popularity polls were limited to a few accredited tradepapers and even fewer of the more widely read columnists and air commentators. Now, everyone and every medium with an audience of more than two indulges in the popular year-end sport of picking the "winnahs." For weeks studio publicity releases have been cluttered, to the despair of editors, with such startling announcements as "The Motion Picture Review Club of Long Beach . . . has chosen 'The Way of All Flesh' as the best film seen during 1940;" "A readers' poll of 1940's best movies, conducted by the Harrisburg *Telegraph*, resulted in.....;" "The motion picture reviewing committee of the Moose Lodge has selected as the most popular actors and actresses of 1940 ....."

The above and scores of similar unimportant and uninteresting findings are proof sufficient that the poll idea has gotten very much out of hand. The interests of the industry and those responsible for its public relations will be best served if steps are taken to discourage further growth. If not, it won't be long before readers will be assailed with the information that:

Mala is winner of the North Poll.

Victor McLaglen, complete with medals, is selected as the outstanding figure on the Totem Poll.

Charles Starrett, Tim McCoy and Ken Maynard finish in a three-way tie in the Gallop Poll.

Anne Shirley is the all-time champion Poll-y Anna.

Ann Sheridan's prolonged suspension sets a record in the Poll Vault.

Name your own winner in the Poll Cat.

"Grapes of Wrath" was a cinch to win the Poll Weevil.

But the Indians of Stanford still dominate the Rose Poll.

➞

With characteristic propensity toward the super, Cecil B. DeMille proposes that the situation be further complicated with the suggestion that an Academy of Radio Arts and Sciences be organized to encourage and recognize artistic and technical achievements in the broadcasting field. To do this he urges a series of annual awards be sponsored for writing, adaptations, production, performances and technical advancements.

➞

One of these days, it may even be possible to tune in the Rinso-Big Town air program without hearing Edward G. Robinson, its star, receiving a plaque, scroll, citation or other form of kudo.

➞

A local radio station each evening lists the seven biggest news stories of the day in the order of their importance. On one such broadcast, Number Three concerned the minute details of Bette Davis' finding a seat in a cactus plant while working on location in Death Valley, and her subsequent taking of sustenance from off the mantel. The bombing of London and other war news was Number Five.

Thus has the gentle art of press-agentry progressed in Hollywood.

➞

Perry Lieber reports that "William Eglington, head of the RKO camera department, has gone into the chicken and egg business in a big way and now has 1,000 *laying hens."*

Verily, Mr. Eglington is headed for a producership.

➞

A survey of the files of the Screen Actors Guild's statistical department was recently made to ascertain numbers of members who have had previous work in lines which might be useful in the national defense program. Former carpenters topped the list with 200. There were 100 each of former painters and former electricians, while blacksmiths and plumbers tied for third with 50 each.

There was nary a butcher nor farmer in the lot—which still leaves as an unsolved mystery the source of Hollywood's quantities of ham and corn.

➞

BALLYHOODLUMS: Although it did command considerable space and air news time, probably the cheapest publicity gesture of recent months was the bid sent John N. Garner, former vice-president of the United States, by Producer Charles R. Rogers, offering the statesman a role in a forthcoming picture he will make for Columbia . . . If Russell Birdwell continues to publicize the Hopi Indians as a by-product of his activities on behalf of Producer Howard Hawks, they should reciprocate by making him an honorary chief in the tribe —in which event an appropriate redskin cognomen for the prince of the freelancers would be "Collect-Much-Wampum-Birdwell."

Glib, Gangsters, Gloomy

Three pictures—running the range from farce to melodrama to sombre melancholy —topped the list of six which the studios saw fit to unfurl for Hollywood's reviewing fraternity during the week. While each is equipped to stand on its own merits, RKO Radio's "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," measured from all aspects, topped its competitors.

The first American comedy to be piloted by British Alfred Hitchcock, it aptly displays that he possesses a flair for humor equal to his ability as a dramatic director, demonstrated in "Rebecca," and as a master of suspense and action, shown in "Foreign Correspondent." It is virtually flawless entertainment in the lighter vein and, with Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery to top the marquees, seems certain to quickly attain the hit class. Hitchcock, it should be said, was provided with the best ingredients obtainable—a speedy, bubbling, brilliantly dialogued script by Norman Krasna; unstinting production accoutrements supplied by Harry E. Edington; and a wisely-selected and sensitive cast. Too, there is an excellent musical score by Edward Ward, which contributes greatly to the picture's general quality. Lombard and Montgomery turn in, as was to be expected, magnificent comedy performances, their fast pace matched all the way by such supporting players as Gene Raymond and Jack Carson.

Dealing, as it does, with the last phases of gangdom's rule in the United States, Warner's "High Sierra" is keyed to an exciting pitch throughout and can be characterized as cops-and-robbers melodrama on the highest possible plane. Prosperity, resultantly, should be its fate at the box-office, particularly where action-loving audiences predominate. The entry can safely be written down as another showmanlike contribution to the Warner slate by Producer Mark Hellinger, who again demonstrates his capabilities as picture-maker, while Raoul Walsh established exactly the right tempo in his first-rate directorial job. Humphrey Bogart, who has played many a gangster role in his screen career, has never turned in a more sincere and straightforward portrayal; Ida Lupino again draws attention to her undeniable histrionic abilities; and the supporting cast, including such splendid players as Alan Curtis, Joan Leslie and Jerome Cowan, is equally impressive.

As an artistic triumph, "So Ends Our Night," the first David Loew-Albert Lewin production for United Artists, might be criticized on only one count—overlength. As entertainment with popular appeal, however, it struggles under several handicaps. Talbot Jenning's script, from the Erich Maria Remarque novel, "'Flotsam,' is—as was its source—slowly unfolded, relating in tortuous detail the plight and dismal wanderings of German refugees. The theme is monotonous part of the time, sombre all of the time, and probably will require intensive selling to make it appealing to audiences whose cinematic tastes currently lie elsewhere. Although it will

(Continued on page 41)

Hollywood—
—Personnelities

Barnstormers

Free Lance

BASIL RATHBONE will act as master of ceremonies at the annual Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce banquet, to be held February 21 at the Ambassador Hotel.

Metro

NELSON EDDY checks out February 4 on his annual concert tour, covering more than 24 towns and returning here April 17 after his final appearance, in St. Louis.

Monogram

JOHN KING of the "Range Busters" opened a three-day p. a. engagement at the Minor Theatre in Dallas, January 18.

Republic

SMILEY BURNETTE has returned from Denver, where he was guest of honor at the National Western Livestock Show.

20th Century-Fox

MILTON BERLE opens a two-week nightclub engagement in Miami, January 28, following a week of p. a.'s with "Tall, Dark and Handsome" at the Roxy in New York.

Blurbers

Paramount

MURPHY McHENRY has returned to his publicity desk after three days in the Wilshire Hospital with a flu attack.

CLIFF LEWIS to accompany Susanna Foster and Dolly Loehr on their p. a. tour, beginning January 27 and covering 22 key cities.

JAMES SARNO added to publicity staff to work on art. He formerly held a similar job at M-G-M.

Universal

JOHN JOSEPH, advertising-publicity director, is in New York for a month's stay, during which he will attend the Miami premiere of "Back Street."

Warner Bros.

SAM CLARK has checked out on an advance exploitation junket for "Meet John Doe," on which he will make key cities throughout the country.

BILL HEBERT joins studio staff, replacing **JERRY HOFFMAN,** who has resigned. Hebert was with Paramount until recently.

Briefies

Columbia

ALAN MOWBRAY signed to star in an untitled two-reel comedy which Jules White will produce and direct. John Gray wrote the script.

RKO Radio

Fifth in a series of two-reelers starring Leon Errol is now in production with Harry D'Arcy directing for Producer Lou Brock.

Cleffers

Columbia

MORRIS STOLOFF scoring "Meet Boston Blackie."

SAMMY CAHN and **SAUL CHAPLIN** to write songs for "Time Out for Music," an Irving Briskin production.

Alexander Korda

EUGENE ZADOR, on loan from M-G-M, scoring "That Hamilton Woman."

Metro

BRONISLAU KAPER to score "A Woman's Face."

Paramount

ANDREA SETARO scoring "Road to Zanzibar," with **VICTOR YOUNG** conducting the recording orchestra.

SIGMUND KRUMGOLD and **LEO SHUKEN** scoring "Lady Eve."

VICTOR YOUNG and **ANDREA SETARO** scoring "I Wanted Wings."

20th Century-Fox

MACK GORDON and **HARRY WARREN** doing music and lyrics for "Sun Valley."

Universal

FRANK SKINNER completes score for "Back Street."

Warner Bros.

MAX STEINER doing score for "The Great Lie."

Loanouts

RKO Radio

ALAN MARSHAL borrowed from David O. Selznick for one of the leads in "Tom, Dick and Harry," starring Ginger Rogers.

Republic

JACQUELINE WELLS borrowed from Warner for the feminine lead in Gene Autry's next, "Song at Twilight."

Meggers

Columbia

GILBERT MILLER and **LESTER COWAN** to co-produce "Ladies in Retirement," the play by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham. Cameras will roll in mid-March on the murder mystery melodrama.

Metro

MILTON BREN to produce "Devil Fish," a story of deep-sea fishing, as a Wallace Beery starrer. Marjorie Main, Leo Carrillo and Virginia Weidler draw supporting roles.

NORMAN McLEOD to pilot "Lady Be Good."

Monogram

HOWARD BRETHERTON to pilot "King of the Zombies," starring Bela Lugosi, which Lindsley Parsons will produce. Ed Kelso did the screenplay.

Warner Bros.

BEN STOLOFF to direct "Mother's Boys," draft comedy featuring William T. Orr. Fred Niblo jr. did the script.

Options

Columbia

ALEXANDER HALL given new long-term directorial pact. His next assignment will be "Bedtime Story."

Larry Darmour

JACK HOLT set to star in an untitled serial, rolling about July 15.

Metro

WILLIAM TANNEN draws a featured role in "The Crime of Mary Andrews."

ROBERT THOEREN signs new long-term writing ticket.

OSA MASSEN given a featured lead in the Joan Crawford starrer, "A Woman's Face."

FAY BAINTER draws term ticket.

PHILIP DORN, featured player, given contract renewal.

Monogram

GRACE BRADLEY signed for the feminine lead in "Sign of the Wolf," a Paul Malvern production.

Paramount

RAYMOND WALBURN draws a comedy lead in "Kiss the Boys Goodbye."

BRIAN AHERNE joins the cast of "Skylark."

CAROLYN LEE, five-year-old player, signed to a long-time ticket to star in three pictures yearly.

BARBARA JO ALLEN (Vera Vague) draws the heavy role in "Kiss the Boys Goodbye."

VICTOR JORY signed for a lead in "Men of Action," new Harry Sherman "Hopalong Cassidy" western.

HELEN MACK given a lead in "Power Dive," which Picture Corp. of America is producing.

RKO Radio

ALBERTO VILA, South American singing star, held for another term. He made his American debut in "They Met in Argentina."

WENDY BARRIE and **KENT TAYLOR** booked for the leads in "Repent at Leisure," to be produced and directed by Frank Woodruff. Jerry Cady is scripting from an original by James Gow and Arnold D'Usseau.

BENNY RUBIN given a comedy lead in "Sunny."

TIM HOLT given new contract calling for his appearance in five westerns for the 1941-42 slate.

Republic

DENNIS O'KEEFE given lead in "You'll Never Get Rich."

20th Century-Fox

ROBERT ELLIS and **HELEN LOGAN,** writing team, handed new term deal.

ALAN MOWBRAY signed for a comedy lead in "The Cowboy and the Blonde."

SHEPPERD STRUDWICK given term acting contract.

Universal

DOROTHY TREE draws featured role in "The Man Who Lost Himself."

ROBERT ARMSTRONG handed a featured role in "Mr. Dynamite."

NILS ASTHER, silent screen star, signed for the second male lead in "The Man Who Lost Himself."

Warner Bros.

RALPH SPENCE signs one-picture writing deal, joining the Harlan Thompson production unit.

GEORGE TOBIAS given new term deal as a featured player.

NAN WYNN, New York and Chicago night club and radio singer, given term contract and a role in "No Hard Feelings."

GARRET CRAIG, featured player, held for another term.

Percenteers

HARRY HAM, for seven years Myron Selznick's London representative, has checked in for the duration of the war.

Scripters

Columbia

MORTON THOMPSON and **MALVIN WALD** to "One Way Street," from their own original.

CLYDE BRUCKMAN and **FELIX ADLER** to "Yankee Doodle Andy," an Andy Clyde two-reeler. Jules White is producer-director.

FELIX ADLER and **CLYDE BRUCKMAN** to 'Hic Hic Horray," a two-reel comedy.

JOE HOFFMAN to "The Officer and the Lady." Irving Briskin will produce.

ROBERT ANDREWS to "A Saint in Diamonds."

Paramount

FRANK PARTOS to "Dildo Cay," to be produced and directed by Edward H. Griffith.

W. L. RIVER completes first draft of "Pioneer Woman," the William A. Wellman production, which will co-star Barbara Stanwyck and Joel McCrea.

JAMES GOW to "Paramount Parade" for Producer Sol Siegel.

Picture Corp. of America

MAXWELL SHANE and **ED CHURCHILL** to an untitled script to star Richard Arlen, for Paramount release.

Republic

MILT GROSS and **JACK TOWNLEY** to "Puddin' Head," forthcoming Judy Canova starrer.

20th Century-Fox

CARL KRUGER teamed with **HORACE McCOY** on "Sioux City."

STANLEY RAUH and **MANNING O'CONNOR** to "The Dead Take No Bows," next in the "Michael Shayne" sleuth series.

Universal

VIC McLEOD to "Cracked Nuts."

BRENDA WEISBERG to "Give the Kids a Break." Ken Goldsmith will produce.

Warner Bros.

PHILIP and **JULIUS EPSTEIN** to "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

HAROLD SHUMATE to "Bad Men of Missouri."

Story Buys

Metro

"Reunion," by Ladislaus Bus-Fekete. Joseph Mankiewicz will produce.

20th Century-Fox

"Charley's Aunt," play by Brandon Thomas. Purchase price was reported as $110,000.

"Remember the Day," a play by Philo Higley and Philip Dunning. Dunning and Tess Slesinger are scripting.

Two untitled stories by Edward Van Every. They will be combined under the title "Coney Island."

Technically

Columbia

HENRY FREULICH lensing "A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street."

MARIE KAY supervising dance sequences in "They Dare Not Love."

CARY ODELL set as art director on "A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street."

Metro

CHARLES LAWTON photographing exterior location scenes for "Roosty."

AL JENNINGS named assistant director of location unit filming snow sequences in Sun Valley for "A Woman's Face."

WILLIAM DANIELS to lens "Love Crazy."

RKO Radio

RICHARD VAN HESSEN named sound recorder on "Sunny," with **ALEX KAHLE** handling still pictures.

MARK LEE KIRK set as associate art director on "Tom, Dick and Harry."

20th Century-Fox

WILLIAM IHNEN to handle art direction on "Man Hunt."

Warner Bros.

JERRY SCHOOLMAN named technical advisor on "Miss Wheelwright Discovers America."

HAROLD McLERNON to edit "No Hard Feelings."

SOL POLITO to lens "Sergeant York."

New Preview System Starts Off With Old

Although it developed into nothing more than a tempest in a teapot, the previewing of "So Ends Our Night," United Artists release produced by David L. Loew and Albert Lewin, gave further evidence of the precariousness of Hollywood's new preview system.

Under terms of the agreement reached by members of the producers association last December, major studios decided that after that date all "press" previews would be held in studio projection rooms, preferably in afternoons, and that only the working critical and reviewing press would be invited.

However, the Loew-Lewin unit had scheduled the press showing of its picture for the evening of January 24 at Grauman's Chinese Theatre. Two days before, Thornton Sargent, FWC district manager, and Spyros Cardos, of the Chinese, notified Loew-Lewin representatives the preview was to be cancelled; submitting as their authority a statement from President Charles P. Skouras, who had just returned from New York and who, upon scrutinizing the matter, declared he did not intend to violate the new system as worked out by the producers association.

Avoid Court Action

Loew and Lewin, in New York, were apprised of the situation by their representatives here, and promptly retained Attorney David Tannenbaum with instructions that he file suit in federal court charging FWC with breach of contract. Tannenbaum was to have sought an affirmative injunction compelling the theatre to stage the preview in accord with the written agreement. Loew-Lewin attaches insisted that the element of alleged collusion between FWC and the producers association would also be brought into the battle.

On the verge of the court action, however, Skouras ordered the preview to go on as scheduled when FWC attorneys conferred with Tannenbaum and reached an agreement whereby the projected suit was withdrawn. Skouras declared he had decided the arrangements to cancel the showing should never have been made, in view of the fact that it was during his absence in New York that the preview was set into the theatre by FWC executives.

Miss the "Glamour"

Two weeks or more ago, the Loew-Lewin unit had announced it was disregarding the "no-theatre preview" ruling because, attaches contended, it would be unfair to the picture to screen it in a "cold" projection room without any audience save critics and because, it was further contended, abolishing "press" previews in the theatres tended to "rob" Hollywood of a portion of its "glamour." Loew-Lewin officials also pointed out that the company is not itself a member of the producers association and has no projection room facilities "in keeping with the picture's importance."

Adapting Runyon Story

"The Old Doll's House," Damon Runyon story, is being adapted for Warner by Anthony Coldeway.

Spearheads

(Continued from page 39)

undoubtedly strike a sympathetic chord, even its anti-Nazi note may be too late to prove much of an asset. Performances are all that could be expected from a cast topped by such players as Fredric March, Margaret Sullavan and Frances Dee; although Miss Dee has deplorably little to do. The burden of the acting chore, however, falls to Glenn Ford, a promising new face, who ably fulfills the task he was called upon to deliver. John Cromwell, in his direction, did everything he possibly could to elevate and speed the film, while the supporting cast, a large one including numerous well-established names, is generally excellent.

* * *

Rating as better than average is 20th Century-Fox's "Tall, Dark and Handsome," another story of gangdom which vacillates between comedy and melodrama, with an occasional musical moment thrown in to further confuse its accurate designation. Script by Karl Tunberg and Darrell Ware is unadulterated hokum, but those who are not too critical of plot consistencies will vote the film a top-rate job of picture-making. It boasts a particularly good cast, in which Cesar Romero, as a soft-hearted mobster, and Virginia Gilmore, his romantic interest, dominate. On the comedy side there are long-legged Charlotte Greenwood and Milton Berle, complete with his new nose, in addition to a number of lesser lights. H. Bruce Humberstone did a notable directorial job and Fred Kohlmar, in his first producer assignment for the company, acquitted himself with honors.

* * *

The perennial western—without which no preview lineup would be complete—was represented by RKO Radio's "Along the Rio Grande," while Republic contributed a rural melodrama with hillbilly music in "Arkansas Judge."

In the former Tim Holt stakes out a new claim on his enviable, fast-growing reputation as one of the up-and-coming new sagebrush stars, again demonstrating that few of his rivals can surpass him in acting ability. He appears to advantage in a story containing more meat than the average outdoor yarn, scripted by Arthur V. Jones and Morton Grant from a Stuart Anthony original. Producer Bert Gilroy surrounded Holt with an able supporting cast in which Ray Whitley and Emmett Lynn appear as the inevitable two buddies and Betty Jane Rhodes supplies the little romantic interest that was considered necessary. Edward Killy contributed the standard brand of direction.

Hillbilly rhythm and corn are among the products coming from 'way down in Arkansas. And the Republic entry has a little of the former and bushels of the latter—possibly as large a load as was ever dumped on to the celluloid. However, it is probably the kind of corn small-town audiences like and will buy, although urban and sophisticated patrons will continue to express a preference for theirs on the cob. It stars the Weaver Brothers and Elviry, who handle their roles satisfactorily, with Leon Weaver turning in the best performance in a Will Rogers type of role. Roy Rogers, minus his horse, is also on hand, with Spring Byington and Pauline Moore contributing smaller parts. Dorrell and Stuart McGowan scripted from a novel by Irving Stone, "False Witness." Frank McDonald's direction is commendable and Armand Schaefer, functioning as associate producer, saw to it that the vehicle was provided with the necessary trappings.

Universal Names Gottlieb An Associate Producer

After a year on the lot as a scenarist, during which he scripted five pictures, Alex Gottlieb has been given a berth as an associate producer at Universal. Gottlieb was formerly advertising head for United Artists and Columbia in New York, and was publicity director for Walter Wanger in Hollywood some years ago. No assignment has been handed him as yet in his new position.

Other Changes

Francis Langton, head of the Paramount studio writers' department, has resigned and checked off the lot. He was with the company for nine years. After a three-week vacation Langton will announce a new affiliation. As a result of his departure, the Paramount writer and story departments will be combined with William Dozier, who recently joined the studio, in charge of both.

Republic has signed Martin Broones, at one time head of M-G-M's music department, to a term ticket as an associate producer. His first assignment will be set after Broones has surveyed studio procedure and studied a number of story properties.

Jerry Hoffman, former 20th Century-Fox producer and more recently a member of the Warner studio publicity staff, has turned in his resignation, effective in two weeks. No future plans have been announced.

War Film Casts Must Be Fingerprinted

Some 12,000 technicians, players and other studio workers who will engage in the production of films relating to national defense will be fingerprinted by Uncle Sam during the coming year, the studios have been notified by federal authorities.

Ruling applies to those going on location in national parks and other territories under U. S. domain. Workers also must show that they are full-fledged American citizens, according to new war and navy department regulations.

Technicians Deal With Producers

Negotiations are now under way between producers and the sound technicians local, IATSE, the craft having filed demands for complete jurisdiction in the studios, guaranteed employment, wage increases and a 54-hour minimum week, with time and a half pay after 40 hours. Harold V. Smith heads the union's negotiating committee and Pat Casey, Hays office labor contact, is handling the matter for the producers, who have informed Smith no deal can be set until the technicians have ironed out a jurisdictional dispute with the electricians' union.

Projectionists Request

Demands have also been filed with producers by the studio projectionists, asking for a minimum six-hour call, and requesting wage increases and other adjustments. The local has called a general membership meeting for January 27 to approve the new contract, which specifies a 36-hour week and two weeks vacation with pay for men at the studios who are employed 40 weeks or more a year.

Studio laborers and utility workers, IATSE, are disputing with the Studio Utility Employes on jurisdiction over laborers at the Fine Arts studio and the Universal ranch. The former craft has threatened a walkout unless lot executives cease hiring SUE men. The matter has been referred to Casey of the Hays office for study.

Art Directors Dicker

Producers are also dickering with the Art Directors Guild on a demand for a basic wage-hour agreement.

Screen Writers Guild is claiming jurisdiction over scripters employed by Walt Disney and other cartoon-makers. SWG has also completed a tentative draft of a proposed contract licensing agents who represent film writers. A membership meeting has been set for January 27 to approve details of the agreement. It is similar in scope to that between the Screen Actors Guild and the Artists Managers Guild.

SAG will resume its producer parleys January 29, at which time the Guild's drive to secure higher wages for day players and freelancers, and a reclassification of pay brackets for extras, will be renewed.

Retain Richard Rowland to Produce Three for UA

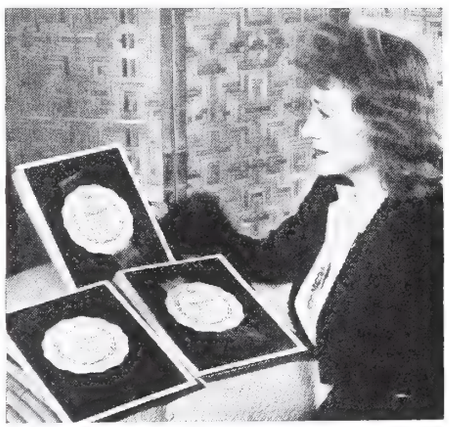
United Artists has picked up its option on Producer Richard A. Rowland, who will produce three more pictures for the company. His original deal called for an option for one more after "Cheers for Miss Bishop," with an option beyond that for two more.

Rowland is now preparing "The Battle of Britain," which may be the first under his new deal.

Hathaway Pact Settled

Henry Hathaway and Paramount have agreed to an amicable severance of Hathaway's contract as a producer-director. He will announce future plans shortly.

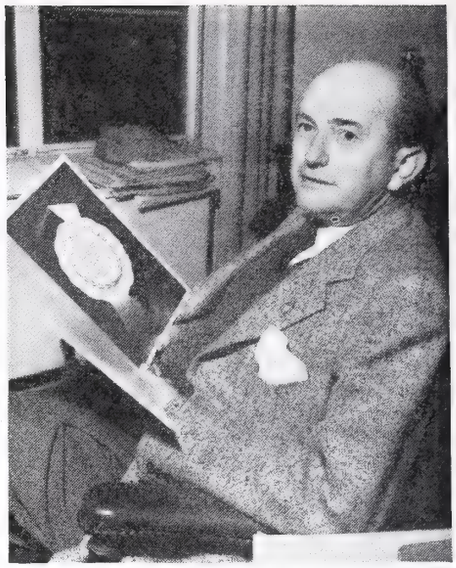






Blue Ribbon Winners—

A camera roundup of BOXOFFICE *Blue Ribbon Winners for November and December. In the first row are those awarded the coveted plaques from the National Screen Council for "North West Mounted Police." At the top, Cecil B. DeMille, producer, exhibits his award to William H. Pine (right), an onlooker. Center, Mrs. Natalie Kalmus, color director for Technicolor, brings out her two previous awards ("Drums Along the Mohawk" and "Pinocchio") to keep the new one company. At the bottom, Madeleine Carroll. In the second row are winners for "Tin Pan Alley," December Blue Ribboner. Top is Kenneth MacGowan, producer. Center, Walter Lang, director. Bottom, Helen Logan and Robert Ellis, who did the writing job.*







PORTLAND

THE local news front buzzed merrily the past week with all the exhibitors in town attending the PCCITO meeting. Theatres were represented from every section of the state and all enjoyed themselves at the meeting. The newspapers covered the meeting and took pictures of the officers.

Mr. Gould announced his new theatre in Dallas is coming along nicely . . . Carl Porter was in doing some booking as was Art Kolstad of Hood River. Art has been in semi-retirement for several months, but is back in the harness with active management of the Kolstad enterprises.

Mrs. Hartman, Estacada; Dutch Stover, Bend; Mr. Rosenfield, The Dalles; Basil Bashor, Kelso; George Roy, Eugene; Earl Baltazar, Rainer; Eino Hemmila and the Mrs., Medford; Dick Fisk, Bandon; Ken Spears, Winlock; Mr. Pragastis, Oregon City; all in town for the meeting, but tending to their booking chores in the meantime.

Word was received here of the death of Bobby Sutters in a plane crash. Sutters was an instructor in aviation and at the time of his death was flying with a student pilot when the plane went into a tailspin and crashed. He was well known on the Row.

Ron Harrington, long a favorite figure on Filmrow, took over the job as manager of the Star Theatre, Portland . . . Ross Nelson and Ray Harmon, Independence, were in town booking and buying advertising. Harmon recently renovated the booth at the Isis . . . Ron Burroughs of the Blue Bird Theatre has a new hobby. He is learning electric welding.

Ted Hackley's father is reported sick and Ted made a hurry-up trip to Seattle to visit him. Tom Tomlinson was down from Seattle to visit friends and renew acquaintances . . . Andy Anderson was slightly bruised in an accident on the road back from Corvallis last week.

Denny Hull was another Portland visitor . . . Banjo Miller has a reason to be proud these days. As secretary of the Oregon ITO he played host to the other officials of the PCCITO and arranged for a private car to transport the group to Seattle for the meeting there. At the Seattle meeting Ben Shearer treated the gang to cigars and cigarettes and carnations for the ladies.

Open Yiddish Studios

HOLLYWOOD—Offices and studios for the production of Jewish pictures have been opened here by Louis Weiss and Sam Rosen at 1357 North Gordon Street. These Yiddish pictures are the first to be produced in Hollywood and shooting will start on the initial production in February.

Leads for "Leisure"

HOLLYWOOD—Wendy Barrie and Kent Taylor have been booked for the leads in RKO's "Repent at Leisure," to be produced by Cliff Reid and directed by Frank Woodruff.

PCCITO Final Session in Series a Strong Draw

Get News-Ban Orders In RKO-Hearst Tiff

San Francisco—Ada Hanafin and Fred Johnson, drama critics of the "Examiner" and "Call-Bulletin" respectively, are said to have received orders from the powers that be that RKO products are not to be reviewed or publicized in any way in either of the newspapers. The papers, both Hearst owned, are obeying the command which came directly from San Simeon supposedly in protest to Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane."

Albert Law Opens Law Office in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—Albert J. Law, former department of justice deputy stationed here and active in the government's anti-trust suit against the industry, has opened law offices in the Subway Terminal Building. He was recently named general counsel for the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners.

Scripting "Henry and Dizzy"

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has ticketed Val Burton to script "Henry and Dizzy." Sol C. Siegel will produce.

LOS ANGELES—Termed by Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners spokesmen as one of the most significant and constructive sessions yet held by that organization was the meeting staged January 20 at the Elks Club, with some 100 independent showmen in this territory attending.

Keynoting the conclave were discussions of the government's consent decree, the urgency of educating exhibitors to the proper procedure in the matter of arbitration, and a survey of the possible effects on theatre operators of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers battle with the radio networks.

Exhibitors were urged by Albert J. Law, former department of justice deputy and now general counsel for the PCCITO, to clear any and all grievances against distributors or other theatres through him and the PCCITO. Law declared himself willing and ready to offer advice and counsel on consent decree problems whenever they might arise with any exhibitor. He also discussed the decree and its ramifications insofar as showmen in this territory are concerned.

Milton Arthur presided over the gathering, which was the fourth and last in a series up and down the Pacific Coast. Law and Robert H. Poole, the PCCITO's executive secretary, also attended sessions in Seattle, Portland and San Francisco.





At the PCCITO Meeting in Seattle—

Scenes at the board meeting of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners in Seattle. Top row, left to right: "Banjo" Miller, unidentified, Bob Poole, Bill Ripley, Hugh Bruen, Ben Levin, Jack Burman, Jim Hone, West Johnson, Rotus Harvey. Below, standing, same order: Jose Sarodka, Joe Bradt, Art Kolstad, West Johnson, Bill Ripley, Sam Whitesides, Bob White, Milt Odem. Seated: "Banjo" Miller, Lloyd Claver, George Hunt, Don Meyers, M. W. Mattecheck.

LOS ANGELES

BESS EMANUEL, Foreign Films exchange, is recovered from her recent flu attack and back on the job again . . . Lou Goldstein of Astor Pictures announces he has acquired three foreign releases for distribution in this territory—"Mayerling," "Ballerina" and "Song of Freedom" . . . When her incinerator at home exploded, Ida Traves, Columbia film inspectress, suffered serious burns which will keep her away from her job, recuperating, for at least a month . . . Fred Mercy, operator of theatres in Yakima and Walla Walla, Wash., dropped in for a visit with acquaintances here . . . Booking: George Diamos, Lyric Amusement Co. of Arizona; Ben Aranda, Eureka Theatre, Brawley.

Ben Mohi opened his new Picfair January 24. He formerly operated the Century and Princess theatres . . . Harry Gerlinger has taken over the Wistaria in Sierra Madre from J. S. Slate . . . Bill Cox has sold his Paramount and Chief Theatres in Casa Grande, Ariz., to the Louis Long circuit . . . A. Fakuda, Royal Theatre, Hanford, came in for bookings.

Seymour Willing, formerly with Mike Levinson, independent distributor, has now gone into the field for himself with a picture titled "Sinful Souls" . . . Sarah Sachs of M-G-M's billing department bedded with the flu . . . Booking: Phil Greenbaum, Castle and Mecca; Vic Walker, in from Santa Ana; Murray Hawkins of the Swan circuit; Jack Goldberg, booker for Ben Bronstein; Irwin Kanowitz of the Union.

Walter Gregg, formerly with the Louis Long circuit in Arizona, has taken over the Rex in Phoenix from R. B. Killeen . . . William F. Rodgers, Metro's general sales manager, came in from New York for studio conferences and dropped in for a visit at the local exchange . . . More bookers: Henry Milstein, Gardena, Gardena, and Grand, Torrence; J. D. "Judy" Poynter, Ramona, Ramona; Dave Cantor, San Clemente, San Clemente; Tommy Huntington, Seville, Chula Vista.

Jack Cooper, M-G-M booker, is minus a tooth—a bad molar which he had yanked . . . M-G-M employes have resumed their Tuesday night skating sessions at Pan-Pacific Auditorium . . . Sam Milner, Universal salesman, is in from a tour through the Arizona territory . . . Francis Bateman is back at Republic after a holiday in Palm Springs . . . Al Minor, Burbank exhibitor, is in the White Memorial Hospital in Pasadena for a checkup . . . Herb MacIntyre, RKO's western district manager, checked out for a tour through the territory . . . Jim Schiller is in Phoenix on M-G-M exploitation.

Here for conferences with executives of National Theatre Supply, which distributes his product in 11 western states, is E. P. Whitley, general sales manager for the American Seating Co. of Grand Rapids, Mich. . . . Joe Bernhard, Warner Theatres chieftain, has returned to New York after spending a week here huddling with studio and theatre officials . . . Walter E. Green, president of the National Theatre Supply Co., has returned east after conferring here with Oscar Oldknow, Pacific Coast head . . . No one can get Bess Booth, M-G-M secretary, to admit where she got that green zercon ring which she's wearing on the correct finger. She's had it since Christmas.

A three-hour meeting was held at RKO Radio to discuss the forthcoming Ned Depinet sales drive, with Leo Devaney, Canadian sales manager and drive leader, presiding. Also in on the session were Herb MacIntyre, western district head; Max Kravetz of Stephens-Lang Productions and William Burke, homeoffice auditor.

SALT LAKE

JOHN RUGAR of Park City was re-elected president of the Intermountain Theatre Association at a meeting of the group in the Newhouse Hotel. George Smith of Magna, Utah, is vice-president, and Rugar, J. J. Gillette of Tooele, Utah, J. H. Harris of Burley, Idaho, E. H. Steele of Nephi, Utah, Paul deMordaunt of Blackfoot, Idaho, and Walter Hull of Ely, Nevada, are directors.

The Victory Theatre here, under the management of Chet Price, announces a new policy. This house has been running first-run pictures for some time, and now changes over to showing one first run picture and one carry over from the Centre, Utah or Studio theatres. These are houses of the Intermountain Theatres, Inc., chain.

Manager Chet Price and Bill Glasmann, Intermountain theatre managers, accompanied by General Manager Harry David, left here this week to attend the banquet in Chicago given to honor Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, as part of the Fifth Anniversary Drive. Price and Glasmann were prize winners here. Others winning cash awards were Jack Braunagle, Capitol, Logan, Utah; Breck Fagin, Orpheum, Idaho Falls, Idaho; Nevin McCord, Granada, Boise, Idaho, and Harold Chestler, Marlo, Salt Lake City.

RKO District Manager Herb MacIntyre and Captain Leo Devaney have been in Salt Lake City for a few days attending special meetings in connection with the big Ned Depinet Drive now under way . . . RKO has released the latest picture of the Dionne Quintuplets in "Growing Up."

"Kitty Foyle" is a holdover at the local Rialto as is "Comrade X" at the Studio. "Rose Marie" and "Call a Messenger" are being held at the Star . . . John P. Byrne and E. M. Saunders, M-G-M officials, have returned to their respective headquarters after visiting here with Branch Manager Sam Gardner for several days. Conferences were also held with the sales force.

The Lake Theatre, operated by Andy Floor, has been operating under a picture program policy of late rather than pictures and vaudeville. A first run picture and subsequent run are shown.

"Philadelphia Story" Is Tops in Seattle

SEATTLE—Heavy rains for a couple of days kept the show-lovers home this week. However "The Philadelphia Story" enjoyed the town's top business at the Fifth. The Benny-Allen feud still continues at the Paramount and folks are still trekking there. Other houses just can boast fair business.

Detail for week ending January 18:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**White Zombie** (SR); **Phantom of Chinatown** (Mono) 90
Fifth Avenue—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox) 150
Liberty—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (Col) 90
Music Box—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 90
Orpheum—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Night Train** (20th-Fox) 90
Palomar—**Invisible Woman** (Univ); **Black Diamonds** (Univ), plus stage show 85
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Jennie** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 110

"Kitty Foyle" Holds L. A. First Run Bright Spot

LOS ANGELES—"Kitty Foyle," opening ing day and date at the RKO Hillstreet and Pantages theatres, proved the only bright spot in an otherwise under-normal week for first-run houses here. Holdovers included "Santa Fe Trail" at the Hollywood and Downtown for a second average week; "Love Thy Neighbor," grossing par business in its second stanza at the Paramount, and "Flight From Destiny," which wound up a third inglorious week at the Four Star to make way for "Cheers for Miss Bishop."

Detail for the week ending January 15:

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox) 85
Downtown—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd wk. 100
Four Star—**Flight From Destiny** (WB), 3rd wk. 50
Hollywood—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd wk. 100
Pantages—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col) 150
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 2nd wk., plus stage show 100
Hillstreet—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col) 150
State—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox) 100

"Kitty Foyle" on Dualler Does Best in Denver

DENVER—"Kitty Foyle" and "I'm Still Alive" at the Orpheum were the best business getters, but with the Denver double bill—"This Thing Called Love" and "Lady With Red Hair" a close second. "Santa Fe Trail" goes to the Rialto from the Aladdin; "This Thing Called Love" moves over from the Denver to the Aladdin, and "Kitty Foyle" and "I'm Still Alive" move to the Broadway from the Orpheum. The stock show had quite a bit to do with the good grosses.

Detail for the week ended January 15:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), after a wk. at the Denver 125
Broadway—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), after a wk. at the Denver 110
Denham—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 3rd wk. 100
Denver—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Lady With Red Hair** (WB) 135
Orpheum—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **I'm Still**

Alive (RKO) 140
Paramount—**East of the River** (FN); **Phantom Submarine** (Col) 125
Rialto—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), after a wk. at the Denver and Aladdin; **Street of Memories** (20th-Fox) 120

Take Under Expectation In S. F. First Runs

SAN FRANCISCO—Business on Market Street not so good as anticipated this week with all houses showing pretty good films. "This Thing Called Love" headed the parade to the boxoffice at the Orpheum. The Bob Crosby double feature, on the stage and on the screen, was disappointing at the Golden Gate. The Crosby orchestra coupled with the world premiere of the Crosby film, "Let's Make Music" was expected to make crowds but fell short. "Thief of Bagdad" did well enough in its third week to be held another. "Hudson's Bay" was the poorest draw on the Street.

Detail for week ending January 15:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox) 115
Golden Gate—**Let's Make Music** (RKO), plus Bob Crosby and orchestra on stage 95
Orpheum—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col).....160
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..110
St. Francis—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Marines March On** (Rep), moveover, 2nd wk. on Market St. 100
United Artists—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 3rd wk..100
Warfield—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Michael Shayne, Detective** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..... 60

Brisk Weather Benefits Grosses in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY—Sunshine with brisk cold weather in this city has intensified theatre patronage, with all houses reporting good attendance. "Arizona" continues for over two weeks and is now at the Studio after first opening at the Centre. "Kitty Foyle" is holding over at the Rialto. The Capitol packed them in with "A Little Bit of Heaven" which was tied in with the Parent Teachers Association.

Details for week ending January 17:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox); **A Little Bit of Heaven** (Univ).....110
Centre—**The Westerner** (UA) 110
Rialto—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 3rd wk. 115
Studio—**Arizona** (Col), 3rd wk. 115
Utah—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Christmas in July** (Para't) 110
Victory—**Queen of the Mob** (Para't); **Miracle on Main Street** (Col) 115

Hitching Post Opens; Will Show Westerns

HOLLYWOOD — The first theatre devoted exclusively to the showing of westerns and outdoor films opened here January 25 when the Hitching Post was given its press premiere.

The Hitching Post, operated by the Tele-View Corp., was formerly known as the Tele-View Revival Theatre. First bill was Republic's "Melody Ranch," starring Gene Autry, and "Robin Hood of the Pecos," a Republic western featuring Roy Rogers. Tele-View also will continue to operate its News-View Theatre.

Opening was preceded by a "wild west" street parade in which cowboy stars from several studios participated.

SEATTLE

THIS WEEK saw the gathering of all independent exhibitors in this territory to listen to an analysis of the consent decree. Meeting was held in the Washington Hotel . . . The ticket sale for the personal appearance of Gracie Fields, the English stage star, is nearing a record here. This clever gal is doing her chores on behalf of the British-American War Relief Association. Prices range from one dollar to ten. Place will be John Hamrick's Music Hall. Two thousand tickets were printed and the first thousand have been sold with yet eight days to go, and the ones sold are of the five and ten dollar class.

Claude Jensen, partner of John von Herberg, owners of many theatre and other enterprises, here for a couple of days which included an inspection of Von's Cafe, latest Seattle venture of the life-long friends and business associates. While von Herberg resides here Jensen has lived in Portland for the past 20 years.

The Palomar and its manager, Jerry Ross, garnered nice publicity by working with the Bon Marche department store. Alphonse Berge, known as the "Great Drapo" headlining the Palomar bill, demonstrated his stuff for the benefit of the women patrons of the Bon and the store went to town on advertising the fact. Berge takes large strips of cloth and transforms the yardage into almost any type of dress in 20 seconds.

Ben Shearer expects to open his new theatre in Bremerton some time in April. Bjarne Moe designed the job . . . Murray Peck, writing from Spokane, tells that he has been presented with a five-year pin and made a member of the Veteran Scouter's Association. He has also been appointed "Skipper" of his own "ship" in the Sea Scouts . . . Well, well, so the famous saying of Bill Shartin's has reacted. Bill is now in the hospital following an operation. He is allowed to play pinochle with his friends, but he does it laying on his tummy. Quick recovery Bill . . . Mrs. Charlie Greime of Wenatchee suffered a heart attack, but is coming along fine. Charlie is taking her to California in a few days where she will stay until she has fully recovered.

Mrs. Don Condon visiting from San Francisco whispers that she will be the mother of a youngster some time in June. The "gramps" will be Maury Saffle, local branch manager of Metro. Papa is with the Golden State Theatres in the Bay City.

Harvey Day, sales manager for Terry Tunes, here from New York and visiting with Herndon Edmond. Many friends will remember Harvey from the Educational contact . . . Paul Volkman in from Wapato for the first time since last June. Paul missed the exhibitors meeting owing to illness in the family.

Ed Metzger lunching on the Row with J. T. Sheffield prior to Sheff's trip to Portland . . . Tommy Tomlinson of the Republic office to Portland to confer with the booker there . . . Changes around the Sterling Theatres find Darrell Schmalle in charge of the Winter Garden Theatre; Bill Fleming acting manager at the Rivoli and Bill Keating holding down the fort at the Colonial. Jim Sechser was appointed assistant manager at the Woodland.

Milburn Kenworthy and his wife, after spending several days here, have returned to Moscow, Ida. . . . Ted and Mrs. Gamble of the Capitol in Portland here for a quick visit . . . Don Geddes, manager of the Orpheum, back on the job after being home sick with tummy trouble . . . Vic Gauntlett, head of the Hamrick-Evergreen publicity department, suffering a relapse of flu and again confined to his home . . . Harold Brake of the B. F. Shearer Company in San Francisco spending a few days visiting the Seattle office.

Mr. and Mrs. Slats Wilson over from Portland . . . Bruce Keller from Portland meeting friends here . . . Ray Ackles in from Spokane for the first time since his illness . . . Jimmy Beal, manager of the Portland Columbia office, in for the exhibitors meet . . . Mrs. Harry W. Wall, who, until Christmas Day was Mildred Bishop of Lewiston, Ida., here booking pictures. The Walls recently returned from their honeymoon in California.

Here to attend the RKO Radio Pictures meeting with the New York heads were H. Woolfe, manager and Myer Mackinson, salesman, Winnipeg, Canada; Joe McPherson, manager, and Reggie Doddridge, salesman, Calgary, and Bill Jones, Vancouver, B. C., Canada . . . No grandfather on Filmrow is prouder than Ray Felker. The baby born to his daughter Dorothy (Mrs. Robert Harnish) arrived on the birthday of his great grandfather. The son has been named Robert Michael.

Frank and Mrs. Mitchell of Walla Walla at a preview with Junior and Dorothy Mercy. Mitchell is business manager of the Walla Walla *Union Record* . . . Bill Conner on the Row from Tacoma, first time since his flu illness . . . The Nate Weitzmans back from their honeymoon and settled in their new apartment . . . Eugene O'Brien of the Warner auditing department here for his regular chores.

Ted Rising, West Coast division manager; W. H. Freisleben, division service manager, both of RCA here from San Francisco. Also here is Phil Wolds to take the place of Andy Nash of the RCA Recording division. Andy is still in the hospital recovering from an auto accident . . . Alys Johnson entertaining her card and luncheon club . . . C. L. Edwards shooting news shots for Paramount with a group of soldiers.

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LOS ANGELES

SAN FRANCISCO

EARL CARROLL brought his new road-show into the Golden Gate and proved the public will still pay to see beautiful girls. Bert Wheeler headed a bill of ten acts. His apple and sandwich eating act is a wow . . . Ward Pennington has been upped from booker to salesman at Paramount. He will cover the northern territory . . . T. Aspwell is back at his office manager's desk at M-G-M after a winter vacation . . . Chan Carpenter, who left Universal the first of the year, has started an independent booking service.

Guy Kibbee and Patsy Kelly in visiting . . . The Depinet Drive has started at RKO and will continue for 15 weeks . . . Bill Covert has returned to the El Camino in San Bruno as manager . . . The Alcazar opened on Tuesday after being dark over a year . . . To fill the vacancy created when Howard Moody was given the managership of the new San Carlos, Fox West Coast has promoted Albert Mooney from chief of service to treasurer at the Fox. Havillah Malsbury has been upped to chief, and Lucius Sanborn climbs from usher to assistant chief of service . . . Ed Morris is back at All-Star after a three-week battle with the flu . . . The Kinema in Fresno has reopened after a remodeling job. The Rex in the same city is discontinuing burlesque in favor of Spanish pictures.

Roy Cooper, San Francisco division manager for the Golden State and S. F. Theatres, Inc., has appointed Fred Curtice his assistant. The San Francisco division numbers 19 neighborhood theatres. Curtice has been active in the industry here since 1931, coming up from an usher to assistant to J. C. Richards at the Uptown. Joe Hildreth succeeds Curtice at the Uptown . . . Arch Bowles off to New York on Fox business . . . Walter Cree is quite elated over the new air training school being built at Tulare. Hundreds of workers are building the huge field and hangars and when they have finished there will be 600 to 800 students at the school. It means plenty of added boxoffice at Walter's El Rey.

RKO previewed "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the Alhambra . . . Bob Lippert is back at his desk after a trip east on Pacific Premium business. Doc Henning leaves for Seattle for the same reason . . . Harry Ettling, backstage major domo at the Golden Gate, received a gaily colored card from the inmates of San Quentin in appreciation of the New Year's Day show which Ettling assembled. "Five Thousand Thank You's," was the wording on the card . . . Al Grubstick is back in S. F. as Warner salesman after several months in Denver. Bud MacDonald is also back in the booking department until V. Preston recovers from burns suffered recently at his home . . . The Avenue Theatre, damaged by fire in November, will reopen on January 30. The theatre has been completely remodeled and additional seats have been installed.

The Curran, dark for several weeks due to Joe E. Brown's unexplained cancellation of his date here, will reopen on February 11 with "There Shall Be No Night," the Alfred Lunt-Lynn Fontanne play. Ruth Chatterton is expected to follow with "Pygmalion" . . . Barbara Cohen is leaving Columbia to join her husband in Nevada. Jack Tillman, exchange manager, will get his new secretary from Los Angeles . . . Robert Patton moves from the Mayfield in Palo Alto to the managership of the Orland in Orland . . . Alice Barnacle, for four years assistant head at the El Capitan, is now working for the Esquire . . . The Esquire booked "Sky Devils" and "Scarface" for a four-day revival, but was forced to hold the oldtimers for a week because of demand . . . Gracie Fields collected a hatful for the British Relief Fund at her one-night stand at the Opera House.

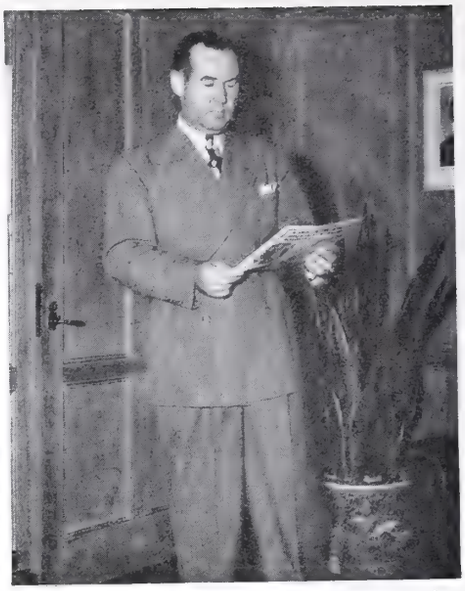
Bruno Vecchiarelli, owner-operator of the Strand in Gilroy, is the first theatreman (brought to our attention) to be drafted. Bruno has been given six months to make arrangements and then will be off to camp. Tony Funari, assistant manager at the Santa Clara, is also off to camp as a voluntary enlistment . . . Herb Jack, Fox usher critically injured when he fell seven floors down the elevator shaft at the theatre, has been moved from the hospital to his home . . . Lloyd Ownbee is back from National Theatre Supply managers' meeting in Los Angeles . . . Wanda Keith has taken a clerical job at National Screen Accessories, leaving the Embassy's usher's staff.

Dave Nathanson of Producers Releasing Corp. is using a telegram from Ed Gates, manager of the Esquire, to help sell "Misbehaving Husbands." The Blumenfeld circuit has booked this picture and "Devil Bat" for a first run showing at their first run houses . . . Doc Hart, former exchange man and well known on the Row, is dead . . . Jim Riley off on a flying trip to Los Angeles . . . Morris Gallus, formerly of the Majestic, has bought himself a lot in Richmond with the express purpose of building a theatre at a later date . . . Gerald Hardy has purchased the Piedmont in Oakland. His father, Douglas Hardy, will manage . . . Alvin Hatch is again operating the Half Moon Bay after Jack Redmond relinquished . . . Warner's new contract clerk is Clarice Troth.

The Embassy, downtown subsequent run, has gone in for door-to-door distribution of its programs. Barney McGettigan is doing the art work . . . Ted Lewis goes into the Bal Tabarin February 20 . . . Hal Neidus, for seven years manager of the Orpheum, leaves the theatre when the Blumenfeld circuit takes over. Neidus will remain with Fanchon & Marco . . . Joe Hee has left United Artists to accept a civil service position . . . "Thief of Bagdad" is in its fourth big week at the UA while "Love Thy Neighbor" continues to draw in its third week here . . . Booking: Sam Anea, Concord, Concord; Harry Hyashina, Star and Lincoln, Stockton; Yates Hamm, Livermore, Livermore; Ray Kelsall, Victory, San Jose; Bill Peters, Manteca, Manteca, and Al Chamberlain, Vista, Rio Vista.

REVIEW FLASHES

NOBODY'S CHILDREN (Col)—A maudlin tale of two orphans, a brother and sister, the latter a cripple. It is an item for the sentimental segment of audiences. Edith Fellows, Billy Lee, Georgia Caine.



New on the Coast—

Hugh Braly, former Paramount district manager supervising Dallas, Memphis and Oklahoma City, shortly takes over George A. Smith's territory composed of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. Smith becomes western sales manager under a reshuffle designed to meet decree operations. Full detail on page 13.

F&M Sell a San Francisco First-Run to Blumenfeld

SAN FRANCISCO—Fanchon & Marco has sold the Orpheum to Joe Blumenfeld of the Blumenfeld Theatre Circuit. The Orpheum, first run Market Street house showing Columbia and Universal films, has been under the F&M banner for the past seven years.

Blumenfeld will now operate first runs in San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, and Sacramento. In December, 1940, he opened the completely rebuilt Esquire Theatre, subsequent run theatre in downtown San Francisco. It is assumed that the Esquire will be used now for moveover and sluff pictures.

Buy "Benjamin Blake"

HOLLYWOOD—"Benjamin Blake," a novel by Edison Marshall, has been acquired by 20th-Fox. The story, laid in 18th-century England, will be produced by William Perlberg. Purchase price was reported as $50,000.

Paramount Bigwigs At Sales Meeting

CHICAGO—Attending the three-day Paramount sales convention at the Edgewater Beach Hotel Tuesday through Thursday were: Neil F. Agnew, vice-president in charge of production, who presided at the meetings; Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board at Paramount Pictures; Barney Balaban, president; C. J. Schollard, H. W. Braly, George Brown, J. J. Donohue, A. J. Dunne, W. H. Erbb, G. B. J. Frawley, H. H. Goldstein, R. M. Gillham, M. R. Goodman, Del Goodman, D. Gibbs, Allen Usher, M. S. Kusell, J. F. Kirby, R. C. Li Beau, F. A. Leroy, H. J. Lorber, O. A. Morgan, A. Moss, H. Owens, C. M. Reagan, Geo. A. Smith, Earl W. Sweigert, J. J. Unger, A. Wilke, and Rudolph Montgelas.

Berman Tops Great-States In Drive for Balaban

CHICAGO—Mortimer E. Berman, manager of the Orpheum, Springfield, was winner in the Publix-Great States Circuit's participation in the Barney Balaban drive. Berman, who was top man in the entire Great States circuit, and who, of course, topped the central district, won the individual prize offered by Jules J. Rubens.

Other winners announced by Henry Stickelmaier were: Walter F. Grometer, Harvey, Illinois, northern district; and Frank Staley, Edwardsville, southern district.

Additional winners were: Harry Duncan, Quincy; William T. Langdon, Kankakee; Thomas C. Pierce, Kewanee; William A. Hartman, Kewanee; Gilbert C. Brown, Bloomington; Marvin S. Harris, Joliet; A. J. Damon, Chicago Heights; Henry Foehrkalb, Wood River; John J. Haney, Waukegan; C. B. Atkins, Blue Island; John L. Mitchell, Waukegan; and I. Wienshienk of Alton.

Also number one man in his division was Ralph Lawler, manager of the Paramount Theatre, Toledo, Ohio.

Willian Holden Wins First Prize in Loop Division

CHICAGO—William B. Holden, manager of the B&K Flagship, the Chicago Theatre, won first prize in the loop division of the theatre circuit's participation in the Barney Balaban drive. The announcement of Holden's victory, together with that of other winners in the circuit's drive, was announced by drive chairman, Harry Lustgarten.

Capturing second place in the loop division was Ben Feldman, manager of the United Artists Theatre. Other winners were as follows: "A" houses—Al Bachman, Harding, first, and a tie for second, Roy MacMullen, Granada, and Les Walrath, Varsity. "B" houses—tie for first, Sam Claggett, Belmont, and Harry Odendhal, Congress. Ken Blewett at the Regal placed second. "C" houses—Walter Lyons, Biltmore, first, and a triple tie for second, Jerry Winsberg, Senate, Jack Lynch, Manor, Leonard Schiff, Central Park. "General Release" houses—Kenneth

(Continued on page 47)

Honor Drive Winners at Balaban Testimonial

CHICAGO—Paramount executives, heads of circuits affiliated with the company, and winning theatre managers in the recently concluded Barney Balaban drive—numbering 400-odd persons in all—met here at the Drake last Thursday to pay homage to the Paramount president on the occasion of his fifth anniversary as president of the company.

A. M. Botsford, Paramount producer, was toastmaster at the banquet held Thursday night, which climaxed the day's festivities. In chronological order, speakers who were to have addressed the assemblage included: A. H. Blank, president, Tri-States Theatres, Inc.; Stanton Griffis, chairman, executive committee, Paramount; Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president and general manager of Paramount studios; Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board of directors; Leo Spitz of Spitz & Adcock, law firm; Neil F. Agnew, vice-president and sales manager for Paramount; Hugo Sonnenschein, Sonnenschein, Berkson, Lautmann, Levinson & Morse; John Balaban, secretary and treasurer, Balaban & Katz; and E. V. Richards, Paramount-Richards Theatres, Inc.

The entire assemblage rose as one man when Barney Balaban addressed the men who had come to pay him tribute.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards to theatre managers who topped their respective circuits in the Barney Balaban Fifth Anniversary Drive held November to December, 1940. Those who were to step up to the podium and receive their prizes were:

S. A. Ammerman, Comerford-Publix Theatres; A. H. Bachman, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Harold D. Barnes, Central States Theatres; Gregory Beck, Comerford-Publix Theatres; Mortimer E. Berman, Great States Theatres; Harry Botwick, M&P Theatres; Jack Braunagel, Intermountain Theatres; S. R. Claggett, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Jack Dahmer, Jefferson Amusement Theatres; A. D. Deason, Interstate circuit; James Dempsey, M&P Theatres; Edward Dunn, Tri-States Theatres; Kenneth Edgerly, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Joseph Farrell, Comerford-Publix Theatres; Clark Field, United Detroit Theatres; John T. Floore, Interstate circuit; W. L. Gelling, Jefferson Amusement Theatres; Jack Goodwin, M&P Theatres; Walter F. Grometer, Great States Theatres; Albert Hamilton, M&P Theatres; William Hartnett, M&P Theatres; Grant Hawkins, United Detroit Theatres; Carl Herman, Comerford-Publix Theatres; William B. Holden, Balaban & Katz Theatres; William Keith, Publix-Bamford Theatres.

Also Jack King, Interstate circuit, Frank Labar, Publix-Bamford; Walter Lyons, Balaban & Katz Theatres; William Martin, Publix-Indiana Theatres; William Miskell, Tri-State Theatres; Geo. Moffitt, M&P Theatres; Harry Odendhal, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Everett Olsen, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; Roy Peffley, Northio Theatres; Ralph E. Phillips, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; A. G. Pickett, Publix-Richards-Nace Theatres; Woodrow

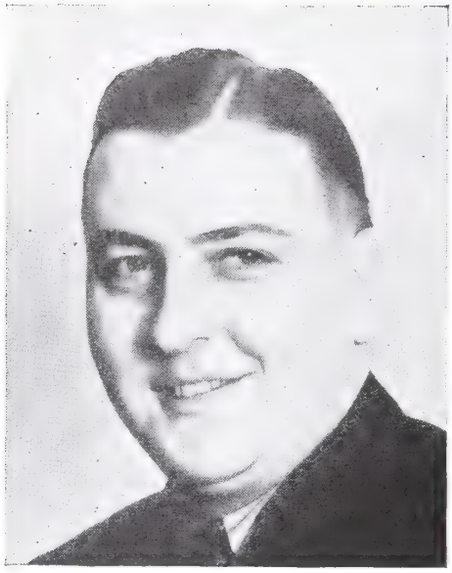
(Continued on next page)





In for the Doings—

On the left, Harry Sherman, producer of the Hopalong Cassidy series, is first of the Paramount executives to arrive in Chicago for the company sales meeting and the Barney Balaban Testimonial Dinner. To the right the guest of honor himself and Mrs. Balaban are being welcomed by John Balaban, secretary-treasurer of Balaban and Katz in Chicago, and A. H. Blank, president of Tri-States Theatres, and national chairman of the drive in behalf of the Paramount president.





They're First Run Winners—

First and second prize winners in the first-run division of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer exploitation campaign. At the left is Roy E. Hanson, Jefferson Theatre, Goshen, Ind., who took $2,500 as the top money for his campaign on "Joe and Ethel Turp Call on the President." Right is Rex Williams of the Elco in Elkhart, Ind., who annexed $750 for his campaign on "Judge Hardy and Son."

Honor Drive Winners at Balaban Testimonial Fete

(Continued from preceding page)

Praught, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; Chester Price, Intermountain Theatres; Morris Simms, M&P Theatres; Frank Staley, Great States Theatres; E. J. Sullivan, Interstate circuit; S. E. Tanner, Jefferson Amusement Theatres; Frank Upton, United Detroit Theatres; Lorenz Wegener, Central States Theatres; and Charles Zinn, Minnesota Amusement Theatres.

Other winners who were unable to be present at the testimonial were: Henry Brownlee, Malco Theatres; Willis W. Grist jr., Dominion Theatres; George Laby, Western Massachusetts Theatres; Louis Marcks, Western Massachusetts Theatres; J. R. McEachron, Malco Theatres; David F. Perkins, Western Massachusetts Theatres; Charles R. Smith, Western Massachusetts Theatres; Edward A. Smith, Western Massachusetts Theatres; Harl A. Wolever, Dominion Theatres; and Remmel Young, Malco Theatres.

The entertainment portion of the banquet started off with a stirring tableau entitled "To the Stars and Stripes," presented by the B&K Chicago Theatre ballet with choral ensemble. Following a community songfest entitled, appropriately enough after a smash Paramount picture, "Love Thy Neighbor," a regular floor show with Lou Holtz as master of ceremonies entertained the guests.

A riotous satire of the picture business in general, and Paramount in particular, with Jack Benny as chief "banterer," had the audience in hysterics. Following the showing of a special Paramount newsreel taken at luncheon that day, a floor show consisting of top names in Chicago's show business proved a fitting climax to the topnotch evening's entertainment. Included among those who entertained the guests were Jane Froman, the Nicholas Brothers, Wendy Barrie, Arlene Judge and Lola Lane.

Scheduled to come in from the Paramount Studios in Hollywood were: Phil Reagan, Constance Moore and Stirling Hayden, the studio's new acting find of "Virginia" who flew from New York to be present.

The complete attendance in alphabetical order of those who were to be present at the Barney Balaban dinner were: J. M. Abraham, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Adam Adams, Paramount Theatre, Newark, N. J.; Girard Adams, Comerford-Publix Theatres; John Quincy Adams, Interstate Circuit; Neil Agnew, Paramount Home Office; A. L. Anson, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; C. B. Atkins, Great States Theatres; Waldo Bail, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Barney Balaban, Paramount Home Office; David Balaban, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Elmer Balaban, H&E Balaban Circuit; Harry Balaban, H&E Balaban Circuit; John Balaban, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Carl Bamford, Publix-Bamford Theatres; Tracy Barham, Northio Theatres; Ray Beall, Interstate Circuit; E. C. Beatty, W. S. Butterfield Theatres; Hector Bishop, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Robert Blair, Paramount-Richards Theatres; A. H. Blank, Tri-States Theatres; Myron N. Blank, Tri-States Theatres; Raymond Blank, Tri-States Theatres; Kenneth Blewett, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Ben Bloomfield, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Ted Boisumeau, Balaban & Katz Theatres; R. W. Bolstad, Famous Players Canadian Theatres; Rudy Born, Great States Theatres; A. M. Botsford, Paramount Studio; T. J. Bragg, Famous Players Canadian Theatres; Hugh Braly, Paramount Pictures; George Brandt, Balaban & Katz Theatres; G. Ralph Branton, Tri-States Theatres; J. A. Branton, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; Maxwell Braswell, Paramount-Richards Theatres; William Briscoe, Balaban & Katz Theatres; A. H. Brolly, Balaban & Katz Theatres—Television; Edward E. Brown, President 1st National Bank of Chicago; Gil C. Brown, Great States Theatres; George Brown, Paramount Studio; Milton Brown, Great States Theatres; Harry Browning, M&P Theatres; Gibbons Burke, Paramount-Richards Theatres; Al Burne, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Wallace V. Camp, Western Massachusetts Theatres; Raymond Carsky, Balaban & Katz Theatres; N. L. Carter, Paramount Richards Theatres; Louis V. Charipar, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Bernard Cobb, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Miles Concannon, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Billy Connors, Publix-Indiana Theatres; A. P. Conroy, Balaban & Katz Theatres; James Cooney, Balaban & Katz Theatres; Charles Cottle, B&K Theatres; E. E. Crabtree, Great States Theatres; Edward A. Cuddy, M&P Theatres; Evert R. Cummings, Tri-States Theatres; A. J. Damon, Great States Theatres; Harry David, Intermountain Theatres; Charles F. Davidson, B&K Theatres; Jess Day, Central-States Theatres; J. J. Deitch, Tri-States Theatres; Louis Deutsch, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; Edward Dloughy, B&K Theatres; J. J. Donohue, Paramount Pictures; John P. Dromey, Great States Theatres; Gaston Dureau, Paramount-Richards Theatres; Allen Dumont, Allen Dumont Laboratories, Inc.; A. J. Dunne, Paramount Home Office.

L. E. Eastman, B&K Theatres; William Eddy, B&K Theatres—Television; Max Edelstein, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; Adolph Eisner, B&K Theatres; Oliver Epps, Paramount-Richards Theatres; William H. Erbb, Paramount Pictures; Aaron Feinberg, B&K Theatres; B. W. Feldman, B&K Theatres; Hy Fine, M&P Theatres; Joseph W. Finley, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; V. J. Fisher, B&K Theatres; John J. Fitzgibbons, Famous Players Canadian; Henry Foehrkalb, Great States Theatres; G. B. J. Frawley, Paramount Home Office; Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount Studio; Harry B. French, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Theatres.

Jack Garber, B&K Theatres; Ben Geldsaler, Famous Players Canadian Theatres; Robert M. Gillham, Paramount Home Office; Maurice Glass, B&K Theatres; Leslie H. Gleason, B&K Theatres; Leonard H. Goldenson, Paramount Home Office; Ernest E. Goldstein, Western Massachusetts Theatres; Harry H. Goldstein, Paramount Pictures; Nathan E. Goldstein, Western Massachusetts Theatres; Samuel Goldstein, Western Massachusetts Theatres; Dell Goodman, Paramount Home Office; W. W. Goodman, Malco Theatres; Julius M. Gordon, Jefferson Amusement Theatres; M. F. Gowthorpe, Paramount Home Office; Melvin Greenblatt, Paramount-Richards Theatres; Stanton Griffis, Paramount Home Office.

Marvin S. Harris, Great States Theatres; B. H. Harrison, Wilby-Kincey Theatres; Thor Hauschild, Publix-Indiana Theatres; William Heasman, Great States Theatres; Raymond Hendry, Intermountain Theatres; Archie Herzoff, B&K Theatres; A. H. Higginbotham, Paramount-Richards Theatres; Robert Hines, Paramount-Richards Theatres; Karl Hoblitzelle, Interstate Circuit; Jack Hoefler, Great States Theatres; Perry Hoeffler, Great States Theatres; Roger Holden, American Red Cross; W. K. Hollander, B&K Theatres; George C. Hoover, Paramount Enterprises; M. W. Hork, B&K Theatres; E. J. Hudson, United Detroit Theatres.

Elmer Immerman, B&K Theatres; Walter Immerman, B&K Theatres; William K. Jenkins, Lucas & Jenkins; I. Jacobsen, B&K Theatres; A. W. Jones, B&K Theatres; G. A. Kenimer, Florida States Theatres; Harry Kalcheim, Paramount Home Office; P. M. Kalleres, Gary Theatres; Jack Katz, B&K Theatres; J. N. Katz, B&K Theatres; Sam Katz, B&K Theatres; A. J. Kaufman, B&K Theatres; Joseph Kaufman, B&K Theatres; Duncan R. Kennedy, Publix-Indiana Theatres; Austin Keough, Paramount Home Office; Elmore Keyes, Great States Theatres; H. F. Kincey, Wilby-Kincey Theatres; Joseph Kinsky, Tri-States Theatres; J. F. Kirby, Paramount Home Office; Milton S. Kusell, Paramount Pictures.

William T. Langdon, Great States Theatres; Ralph Lawler, Paramount Theatre, Toledo, Ohio; Claude Lee, Paramount Home Office; Al Leonard, B&K Theatres; M. G. Leonard, B&K Theatres; F. A. Leroy, Paramount Home Office; Sam Levin, B&K Theatres; Gene Levy, Paramount Theatre, Newburgh, N. Y., Edwin B. Lewis, Great States Theatres; M. D. Lewis, Great States Theatres; R. B. Libeau, Paramount Pictures; M. A. Lightman, Malco Theatres; Byron Linn, Comerford-Publix Theatres; Louis R. Lipstone, Paramount Studio; H. J. Lorber, Paramount Home Office; L. J. Ludwig, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; Harry Lustgarten, B&K Theatres; J. J. Lynch, B&K Theatres; Herbert Lyon, B&K Theatres; Louis Machat, B&K Theatres, R. C. MacMullen, B&K Theatres; Hugh Martin, Publix-Indiana Theatres; M. E. McClain, Central-States Theatres; J. R. McCullough, Great States Theatres; Vincent McFaul, Buffalo Theatres; L. M. McKechneay, Tri-States Theatres; John McKenna, Paramount Richards Theatres; Francis W. McManus, M&P Theatres; William G. Methe, B&K Theatres; Max Milstein, B&K Theatres; Fred Minton, Jefferson Amusement Theatres; John H. Mitchell, Publix-Indiana Theatres; John L. Mitchell, Great States Theatres; Fred Mohrhardt, Paramount Home Office; A. J. Moreau, M&P Theatres; Oscar Morgan, Paramount Home Office; Alec Moss, Paramount Home Office; George E. Mullare, Great States Theatres; M. J. Mullin, M&P Theatres.

Harry L. Nace, Publix-Richards-Nace Theatres; Charles Nesbitt, B&K Theatres; Leon Netter, Paramount Home Office, John Nolan, Comerford-Publix Theatres; E. E. O'Donnell, B&K Theatres; Robert J. O'Donnell, Interstate Circuit, William O'Donnell, Interstate Circuit; Milton Officer, B&K Theatres; J. J. O'Leary, Comerford-Publix Theatres; Frank Omick, Great States Theatres; Hugh Owen, Paramount Home Office.

Francis Pallester, B&K Theatres; C. W. Perrine, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; Louis Phillips, Paramount Home Office; Thomas O. Pierce, Great States Theatres; Samuel Pinanski, M&P Theatres; Joseph Pipher, B&K Theatres; George Planck,

Northio Theatres; Abe J. Platt, B&K Theatres; N. M. Platt, B&K Theatres; Irvin L. Porter, Chicago; Clifford C. Porter, Jefferson Amusement Theatres; Harry Potter, B&K Theatres.

Paul Raibourn, Paramount Home Office; Melvin J. Rainey, B&K Theatres; C. M. Regan, Paramount Home Office; Harry G. Redmon, Great States Theatres; E. V. Richards, Paramount-Richards Theatres; Boris Riedel, B&K Theatres; Roy Rogan, Great States Theatres; George Romine, B&K Theatres; Thomas P. Ronan, Great States Theatres; Harry Royster, Paramount Home Office; C. B. Rubens, Great States Theatres; J. J. Rubens, Great States Theatres; M. M. Rubens, Great States Theatres; C. J. Russell sr., M&P Theatres; Charles A. Ryan, Comerford-Publix Theatres;

J. J. Sampson, B&K Theatres; Edward Sapinsley, Malco Theatres; James Savage, B&K Theatres; Jack Schaeffer, B&K Theatres; Leonard Schiff, B&K Theatres; Max Schosberg, Paramount Home Office; C. J. Scollard, Paramount Home Office; Edward Sequin, B&K Theatres; Philip Seletsky, M&P Theatres; Raleigh Sharrock, Paramount-Richards Theatres; Ralph Sherry, B&K Theatres; Harry Sherman, Paramount Studio; E. M. Simonis, Comerford-Publix Theatres; G. A. Smith, Paramount Pictures; Harry Smith, Western Massachusetts Theatres; McNeil Smith, B&K Theatres; Samuel Soible, B&K Theatres; Philip Solomon, B&K Theatres; Hugo Sonnenschein, Chicago; Harry Spiegel, Comerford-Publix Theatres; Leo Spitz, Chicago; William E. Spragg, M&P Theatres; Warren L. Stafford, B&K Theatres; Leo Stahr, B&K Theatres; Isadore Stein, B&K Theatres; Robert M. Sternburg M&P Theatres; Henry C. Stickelmaier, Great States Theatres; C. B. Stiff, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; C. L. Stoddard, M&P Theatres; A. G. Stolte, Tri-States Theatres; Rollin K. Stonebrook, Paramount Enterprises; Joseph Stout, B&K Theatres; E. W. Sweigert, Paramount Home Office;

Arthur Thaler, B&K Theatres; Raymond Thompson, B&K Theatres; James R. Thomson, B&K Theatres; E. R. Toerpe, Great States Theatres; A. L. Trebow, B&K Theatres; Edward Trunk, B&K Theatres.

J. J. Ungar, Paramount Home Office; F. B. Unseld, B&K Theatres; Elmer C. Upton, B&K Theatres; Allen Usher, Paramount Pictures; Ray Van Getson, B&K Theatres.

David R. Wallerstein, B&K Theatres; Leslie Walrath, B&K Theatres; J. A. Walsh, Paramount Home Office; Harry M. Warren, Central-States Theatres; H. I. Wasserman, M&P Theatres; Isadore Weinshienk, Great States Theatres; Robert Weitman, Paramount Theatre, New York City; Ralph Wettstein, B&K Theatres; F. N. Weber, Great States Theatres; J. R. Wheeler, Publix-Indiana Theatres; E. E. Whitaker, Lucas & Jenkins Theatres; R. B. Wilby, Wilby-Kincey Theatres; Raymond Willie, Interstate Circuit; Al Wilkie, Paramount Home Office; Charles Winchell, Minnesota Amusement Theatres; Jerry Winsberg, B&K Theatres; Paul Witte, Great States Theatres; Jack Wohl, Great States Theatres; Clare Woods, Intermountain Theatres; L. C. Worley, Great States Theatres.

George Zeppos, Publix-Wheeling Theatre; Jerry Zigmond, Newman Theatre, Kansas City, Mo., Adolph Zukor, Paramount Home Office.

PARAMOUNT SIDELIGHTS:

A SPECIAL television demonstration of the B&K radio station, W9XBK, was held at a special press luncheon at the Drake Hotel on Thursday. Executives and officials of Paramount, both from New York and Hollywood, also viewed the special demonstration. Paramount theatre associates, as well as Paramount theatre managers from the United States and Canada, also attended the luncheon.

The Paramount people made a beaten path between the Edgewater Beach and the Drake Hotel. The 3-day sales conference was held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel starting Tuesday, while the Barney Balaban testimonial dinner was held at the Drake on Thursday.

Preston Foster came through town Tuesday en route to Washington to attend the President's Ball.

Shows "Brazil Today"

ST. LOUIS—Julien Bryan, camera correspondent and lecturer, spoke and exhibited his motion picture, "Brazil Today," under the auspices of the YMCA Town Hall.





In Subsequent-Run Field Money—

Morrie Parfrey, Vogue, East Chicago, Ind., at the left, took second prize among subsequent runs and $750 in the M-G-M exploitation contest just concluded. His campaign was on "Northwest Passage." Jack Albertson (right), Indiana Theatre, Indiana Harbor, Ind., won third prize in the same bracket, getting $500 for his campaign on "Young Tom Edison."

Stage Shows Lend Power To Milwaukee Runs

MILWAUKEE—Theatre Row was rich in girlie shows with "Streets of Paris" gracing the stage of Fox's Wisconsin, Ada Leonard and her All-American Girl Band on the boards at the Riverside and "A Night at Earl Carroll's" on the flickers playing Fox's Palace. Topnotcher for the week was the Wisconsin show at hiked admissions of 44 cents and 65 cents.

Detail for the week ending January 16:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**Victory** (Para't); **A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't) 110
Riverside—**Give Us Wings** (Univ); Ada Leonard on stage 150
Strand—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Hullabaloo** (M-G-M) 100
Warner—**Four Mothers** (WB); **Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ) 125
Wisconsin—**The Bank Dick** (Univ)—Streets of Paris on stage 165

Indianapolis Experiences A Below Average Week

INDIANAPOLIS—A week that stayed below average in all but one instance—that afforded by Loew's Palace where "Go West" and "Land of Liberty" dualed to 100 per cent—was chalked up by Indianapolis first runs.

Detail for week ended January 18:

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**Fugitive From a Prison Camp** (Col); **Thundering Frontier** (Col) 90
Circle—**The Bank Dick** (Univ); **One Night in the Tropics** (Univ) 90
Indiana—**Four Mothers** (WB); **Street of Memories** (20th-Fox) 90
Lyric—**Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox); Raymond Scott orchestra on stage. 95
Palace—**Go West** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) 100

Back With Ice Show

ST. LOUIS — Russell Markert, of New York's Radio City Music Hall and formerly with the Missouri Theatre here, is handling the "Ice Capades of 1941," which opened a six-night stand here at the Arena January 20.

Paramount Bigwigs At Sales Meeting

(Continued from page 45)

Edgerly, Park, LaGrange, first place, and Ray Thompson at the Luna second.

Assistant managers who shared the prize awards were: W. Bader, Chicago; W. Brasch, United Artists; N. Brown, Harding; R. Copeland, Granada; C. Tucker, Special, Varsity; J. Anderson, Belmont; T. Tietz, Congress; D. C. Charlton, Regal; T. Wayner, Biltmore; T. J. McQuin, Senate; T. Mooney, Manor; F. Leonard, Central Park.

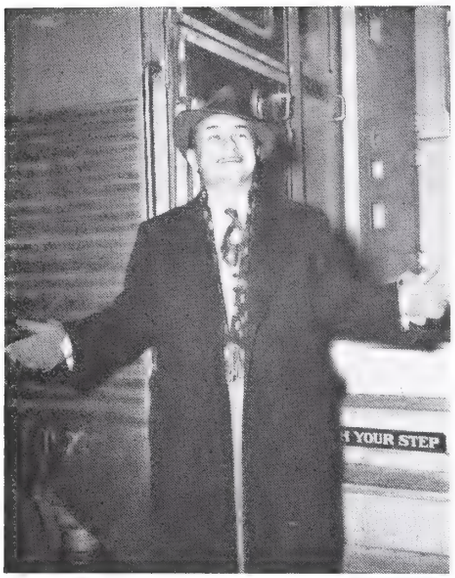
Winners of the special meritorious awards were: W. Bail, manager, La Grante Theatre; C. S. Levin, manager, Belpark Theatre; R. Emilio, assistant, Belpark Theatre; L. Eastman, manager, Valencia Theatre; G. Rosenthal, assistant, Garrick Theatre; Charles Davidson, booking department; Joseph Stout, booking department; Ed Sequin, advertising department; Jack Garber, advertising department; Jack Katz, advertising department. The entire advertising department was also given a special group award for their exploitation effort.

The judging committee was: John Balaban, secretary and treasurer of Balaban & Katz; Walter Immerman, circuit executive, and W. K. Hollander, publicity director.

Members of the drive committee who worked with Harry Lustgarten, chairman, were: Dave Wallerstein, Nate Platt, Dave Balaban, Abe Platt, J. J. Sampson and Jack Abraham.

Reopens With "Desire"

ST. LOUIS—The Hollywood has been reopened with "Sins of Desire."



What, No Snow?—

Asks Edward G. Robinson upon his arrival in snowbound Chicago last Saturday. Robinson, who has just completed the "Sea Wolf," was en route to President Roosevelt's inaugural. He brought along a parchment scroll containing the signatures of Warner stars unable to attend but desirous of extending their good wishes to the President.

Press Preview Held in Chicago for "Smiths"

CHICAGO—The Chicago press preview of RKO's "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" was held at the Palace Monday night following a cocktail party and dinner at the Bismarck Hotel. Terry Turner of the RKO home office handled the preview, assisted by Bob Hickey, RKO exploitation man in Chicago.

David Hempstead, producer of the same company's "Kitty Foyle," who was on his way back to Hollywood following a brief visit in New York, addressed the preview audience briefly prior to the showing of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

In addition to those mentioned above, at the cocktail-dinner party and preview were: Mort Singer, head of the RKO-Singer circuit, Chicago; Tom Gorman, division manager RKO theatres, Chicago; Frank Smith, manager of the Palace, and his wife; Mr. and Mrs. Hal Nelson, Rockford *Star;* Ralph Banghart, Waukegan *Post;* Mr. and Mrs. Harold Carey, Joliet *News-Herald;* Jean Cunningham, Hammond *Time;* Eva Beth Miller, Peoria *Star;* Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Ames, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Branson, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gorelick, and Mr. and Mrs. R. A. O'Brien, RKO; William Hackman, Danville *News;* Mr. and Mrs. Hal Tate, BOXOFFICE; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Topper, *American; Ed Johnson, Tribune;* Doris Arden, *Times;* Irving Yeargin, *Motion Picture Herald;* Dorothy Perschel, *Tribune;* Lucia Perrigo, *American;* Howdee Meyers, *Tribune;* Joe Esler, *Film Daily;* Dan Goldberg, *Variety;* Jim Booth, S&S Theatres; M. W. Rubens, Great States; Alex Halperin, Warners; Jack Rose, and Alex Manta, Rose circuit; Jack Kirsch, Allied Theatre Owners of Illinois; and Lou Reinheimer, Reinheimer circuit.

ST. LOUIS

THE big army training camp now being constructed in the vicinity of Rolla and Lebanon, has attracted another new theatre to that sector. F. L. Lowe of the Star Theatre Co., Hays, Hoisington and Lyons, Kas., is erecting a 500-seater at Lebanon. Work is being rushed for a spring opening . . . The flu has hit Du Quoin, Ill., keeping upwards of 250 children out of school. Public gatherings have been banned by city officials. Theatre attendance has been affected.

Henry C. "Hank" Riegel jr., manager of the St. Louis Theatre, cooperated with Les Kaufmann, exploiteer for Fanchon & Marco, in putting the finishing touches to the campaign for the local premiere of Republic's "Barnyard Follies."

Louis Ansell of the Ansell Bros. circuit and Barney Rosenthal, veteran local film exchange manager, are leading members of the Variety Club in a ticket-selling drive for various local shows and parties to aid the infantile paralysis fund.

Chester, Ill., is another town in this area that has found it necessary to suspend school classes because of flu. At Chester High School, more than a third of the students were home because of illness. Athletic activities have also been suspended.

Lou Astor, in the home office sales department of Columbia, and Carl Shalit, district manager from Detroit, were local visitors. They conferred with Clarence D. Hill, local manager, on the outlook for 1941 in these parts . . . Ray Colvin, head of Exhibitors Supply Co., and Mrs. Colvin have returned from a motor trip to California. They left here during the Christmas holidays and motored to various parts of California and the west while away.

Professionals of stage, radio and hotel floors appeared in "The Nights of Stars" benefit show held in the Municipal Auditorium Friday, for the Christmas Benefit for children organization, headed by Mayor Bernard F. Dickmann. The show helped make up a deficit of $8,000 *experienced this year when clothing, shoes and toys were given to some* 30,000 *needy children for Christmas. Acts from Fanchon & Marco's Fox, Grand and Garrick theatres, Radio Stations KMOX, KSD, KWK and WIL and from the Chase, Park Plaza and Jefferson hotels assisted in putting the benefit across.*

Marian Anderson, Negro contralto, will make her fourth appearance in recital here Tuesday evening at the Opera House in the Municipal Auditorium. Several years ago she sang before a small Negro audience at Poro College here . . . Norman Probstein of the Rio has returned to Dartmouth College . . . Sam X. Hurst, local correspondent for *Variety,* was bedded with flu for a few days.

Tommy Martin, usher of the Hi-Pointe, has grabbed himself a daytime job as a collector . . . Patricia Postar, cashier at the Granada, has returned to her cage after a two-week visit to Pittsburgh . . . A sound motion picture, "Perpetual Sacrifice," was shown at the St. Louis Cathedral School auditorium Tuesday. A choir of 60 *voices sang the liturgical chant of the Mass in connection with the showing. The film was produced by Religious Films, Inc.*

INDIANAPOLIS

SEEN along Filmrow: William Studebaker, Logan Theatre, Logansport; Roy E. Harrold, Princess, Rushville; Jack Van Borssum, Savoy, Terre Haute; Art Clark, Indiana, Bloomington; Robert Hudson, Hudson Enterprises, Richmond; Harry Van Noy, Paramount, Anderson; Mrs. Hilda P. Long, Hippodrome, Sheridan; Joe Schilling, Auditorium, Connersville; and Harold Reckley, Chateau, Greencastle.

The Vogue was robbed of $25 *by two bandits . . . Max Page, formerly with the Sconce circuit, is now in the booking department of Hudson Enterprises of Richmond, Ind. . . . James Smith, formerly with Columbia, is now head shipper for Paramount.*

RCA announces a new plant to cost $450,000 and to employ 1,000 men will be built here to take care of its share of the national defense program . . . Claude Allison of the Strand is taking advantage of radio's Ascap-BMI fight, by advertising that his patrons may hear the restricted tunes in his theatre.

Ben Schleeter of the Liberty in Alexandria has been on the sick list . . . Frank Michelfelder, husband of Minnie Michelfelder, cashier at United Artists, died last week . . . The flu epidemic has closed schools in several communities, including Shelbyville and Seymour.

Roy E. Harrold and Don R. Rossiter, president and executive secretary of Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, will attend Allied convention to be held at the Carlton Hotel in Washington, D. C., January 27-28. Rossiter leaves early by plane to be at the Allied Information Department's special meeting on the 26th.

Assessments on Four Exceed $1,000,000

MILWAUKEE—Among the 42 Milwaukee enterprises having a 1940 assessment value of $1,000,000 or more are the Majestic Bldg., theatre and stores, assessed at $1,780,000; the Empire Bldg., housing the Riverside Theatre, $1,513,000; the Warner Theatre Bldg., $1,094,000, and the Carpenter Bldg., housing the Wisconsin Theatre, $1,231,000.

Hold South American Star

HOLLYWOOD — Alberto Vila, South American singing star, has been held for another term by RKO. He made his American debut in "They Met in Argentina."

Support Bill for Daylight Saving

MADISON, WIS.—Milwaukee dailies have given editorial support to the Murray bill introduced in the state senate, which would remove the present statutory restrictions which prevent localities from adopting daylight saving, retaining merely the provision that the state shall go according to standard time. The measure provides for daylight saving for any community in Wisconsin that may desire it.

Strongest proponent of the measure has been the state medical society, which has been advocating the adoption of daylight saving time in Wisconsin for the past several months. Labor and farmers are expected to go along with exhibitors in opposing the measure.

Would Repeal Picketing Ban

Also of interest to exhibitors is the move by labor to repeal the Catlin and Peterson acts adopted by the 1939 legislature. The former law forbids picketing by a minority of any bargaining unit or by workers not employed by the firm against which a strike is called. The Peterson law forbids secondary picketing and permits employers, as well as labor unions and individual employes, to bring actions before the employment relations board. Both measures were bitterly fought in the last legislature by the Wisconsin Federation of Labor and the CIO as "anti-labor."

While the administration's budget bill calls for no additional taxes, it is regarded likely by some leaders that additional assessments will have to be made to meet a difference of more than $8,000,000 between budget requests and estimated revenues for the biennium.

Any tax proposals affecting the industry, such as a fee on film defeated in the 1939 legislature, will meet with stiff opposition from exhibitors.

A straw in the wind as to the likelihood of additional taxes, including a sales tax, is seen in the introduction of a joint resolution to amend the state constitution to prohibit the levying of taxes on "food, clothing, fuel or other necessities of life."

The resolution must pass the 1941 legislature and the 1943 legislature and be submitted to the electorate at a referendum before the constitution can be changed to prohibit the levying of these taxes.

Nearly One in Ten Have Influenza

St. Charles, Mo.—Upwards of 1,000 persons in this city of 11,000 are ill with influenza. The majority of cases are of a mild nature. Many cases have not been reported to Dr. A. A. Gossow, city health officer. About one of seven among the 3,009 students in public and parochial schools, are away from classes because of illness. Most of them have the flu but there are also a considerable number of mump cases.

SPRINGFIELD

PAULINE DRURY, cashier at the Fox-Lincoln, enjoying driving to St. Louis, but almost had to feel her way back through a heavy fog . . . Max Tschauder, manager of the Roxy, was away from the office a few days because of illness . . . M. E. Berman and Charles Brown, manager and assistant, respectively, of the Orpheum, presented prizes to a group of boy winners in a model airplane contest staged in connection with the showing of "Flight Command."

Dave Jones, manager of the Senate, and Bernard Palmer, manager of the Lory, Highland, Ill., of the Kerasotes chain, were among the winners in the M-G-M exploitation campaign . . . C. C. Murray, manager of the Fox-Lincoln, fixed up a special front for "Hudson's Bay," which was doing excellent business at his theatre.

Lee Brownlow, operator at the Fox-Lincoln, was absent from work for a week with flu . . . "This Thing Called Love" attracted fine crowds during its first-run two-week engagement at the Senate . . . One hundred representative citizens of Springfield were guests of M-G-M at a special screening of "Land of Liberty" at the Orpheum.

W. G. Bishop, Chicago, publicity director for M-G-M, was in Springfield working on a "Land of Liberty" campaign with M. E. Berman, manager of the Orpheum . . . Springfield theatre managers who supervised a "ten best film contest" assembled for a group picture for the local papers. Included were: Joe Nepote, Esquire; Edmond Metzger, Strand; M. E. Berman, Orpheum; C. C. Murray, Fox-Lincoln; Howard Moore, Roxy assistant; Ray Coe, Fox-Lincoln assistant; Max Tschauder, Roxy; Charles Brown, Orpheum assistant; Nicholas Kerasotes, Pantheon; and Dave Jones, Senate.

CHICAGO

TRAINING Through: Murray Silverstone, president of United Artists, and his wife; Arthur W. Kelly, vice-president and general sales manager; and Attorney Charles Schwartz and Mrs. Schwartz. The trio of UA officials were en route to Hollywood to view the company's latest product. They were seen off at the Dearborn Street station before boarding the Santa Fe Chief by: Haskell Masters, midwest district sales manager, and Irving Schlank, recently appointed United Artists district zone manager for Chicago, Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

Heading eastward after arriving aboard Sante Fe Chief: Charlotte Greenwood, Martin Brooks, Preston Foster and John Joseph. Latter is head of Universal publicity department . . . "Fantasia" now scheduled to open at the B&K Apollo early in February . . . Newly elected officers of the Reel-Fellows Club, film salesmen organization, will be installed at the club's dinner-dance, to be held January 31 at the Congress Hotel.

Irving Schlank, recently appointed division manager for United Artists, was given a diamond wrist watch by his friends at a testimonial dinner held at the Congress Hotel . . . Herb Elisburg says he did 165 per cent on first week of "After Mein Kampf" . . . Jerome I. Gumbiner, son of Abe Gumbiner, who graduates from the University of Wisconsin in June, was awarde dthe Greenlinger Award at the national convention of the Phi Sigma Delta Fraternity in Dallas. This award is given to the outstanding member of the fraternity throughout the United States; it is given only to the best scholar and to the one who did most in outside activity for his chapter during the year.

Film Bookers Club held luncheon meeting at their headquarters in the Crillon Hotel recently, to discuss their first event of the season, a dinner-dance to be held February 7. Hotel has not been chosen yet . . . First draftee reported on Chicago's Film Row is Charles Teitel, son of Abe Teitel, well known distributor of foreign films. Young Teitel, 25, who has been working with his father, is currently stationed at Fort Sheridan.

Joe Abramson, brother of Lou Abramson, who is Jack Kirsch's secretary, was installed as adjutant of the Jewish War Veterans of the Gen. Edward S. Solomon Post No. 153, last Tuesday. Joe, who is a former member of the local film board, is currently working for Excel Projector Co.

Benny Rubin for "Sunny"

HOLLYWOOD—RKO has signed Benny Rubin for a comedy lead in "Sunny."

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

SIGNS - MARQUEES AND MAINTENANCE

White Way Electric Sign & Maintenance Co.
Tom Flannery, President
315-17 W. Walton Street
Phone DELaware 9111

THEATRICAL PRINTING



Lending Foils Another Attempt by Stenchers

KIRKWOOD, Mo. — Theodore Lending, owner-manager of the Kirkwood Theatre, who has been having trouble with stench-bombers of late, became suspicious when two men purchased tickets for the show one evening last week. So he called the police. One of the men left before the officer put in an appearance, and the other tried to leave when John Law came in and took a seat behind him.

Taken into custody outside the theatre, the man was searched by the policeman who reported he found two bottles of stench fluid in the man's pockets. He told the police that he and his companion were promised $10 by a stranger to release the fluid in the theatre.

On January 10, Lending clamped a headlock on a stench-bomber. He has also frustrated several other "bombing" attempts since September 1 when he refused to renew his contract with the Projectionists' Local 143.

"Pappy" Cheshire Sees Himself on the Screen

ST. LOUIS—"Pappy" Cheshire, for the past ten years impresario for hillbilly radio shows, saw himself as others see him last Tuesday when he and other stars of his KMOX radio troupe journeyed out to the St. Louis Theatre for the midwest premiere of Republic's "Barnyard Follies." In the film, "Pappy" has the part of headmaster of an orphanage.

A battery of two 200,000,000 candlepower searchlights, together with six spots were utilized to light up Grand Boulevard in the vicinity of the theatre. The searchlight equipment used was en route from Hollywood to Miami, Fla., for the world premiere of Universal's "Back Street" on February 4.

Name Committees for Milwaukee Council

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—Mrs. William Festerling, president of the Better Films Council here, announces committee appointments as follows:

Preview, Mrs. Henry E. Smith, chairman; Mrs. O. R. Eichenberger, Mrs. Floyd Garner and Mrs. Arthur Gandre; press committee, Mrs. E. H. Rothe, chairman, who will select her own assistants; Sunday afternoon committee, Mmes. Earl Trowbridge, Frank Liebl and Martin De Ny.

The council attended a morning preview of "Land of Liberty" at the Rex here.

"BOXOFFICE is one of my favorite publications, and I look forward to each issue, particularly The Modern Theatre, which is always kept on file for quick reference."

—ROBERT E. BRYANT,
Capitol Theatre,
Rock Hill, N. C.

BOXOFFICE The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

A Dud Is a Dud in Any Language

St. Louis—Another slant on 1941 as Harry C. Arthur jr. of F&M sees it:

"The exhibitor doesn't want success without effort. We're all willing to dig in and go to work if a reasonable chance for success seems possible. But too many times, against our better judgment, we've advertised over our heads, exploited to the high heavens, only to meet the same meager boxoffice grosses as other exhibitors throughout the nation experienced on the same pictures. No amount of effort is going to transform a dud into a 'wow'."

MILWAUKEE

THE PABST Theatre here resumed its showing of weekend German films January 24 . . . Earl Fischer, manager of the Alamo, is on a two-week vacation . . . Joseph R. Rosenfeld, manager of the Modjeska, has been re-elected president of the Mitchell Street Advancement Ass'n.

Mrs. Phillip J. Tolkan, who before her marriage several years ago was Monya Zamil, secretary to Ben J. Miller, film attorney and secretary of the Variety Club, is the mother of a baby girl . . . Grace Bannow, personal secretary to the Andrews Sisters, is visiting her parents here.

Ken Mayer, who has been assistant manager at Warner's Venetian in Racine, has returned to Milwaukee to his former post as treasurer of the Warner. He is succeeded at the Venetian by Edward Friedwald, who has been assistant manager at the circuit's Jeffrey in Chicago . . . More than 500 junior police boys and girls were the guests of Jack Keegan, manager of Warner's Venetian in Racine, at an annual theatre party last week.

Russell Leddy, manager of Fox's Orpheum in Green Bay, and Harold S. Knudsen, manager of the circuit's Fond du Lac in Fond du Lac, addressed the Lions Club in the latter city . . . Edward Duclos, New Holstein theatre manager, is confined in a Sheboygan hospital with a strained back resulting from a fall.

The Rivoli in La Crosse announces a new type of double feature entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays consisting of a feature film and a comedy round-up of shorts. The show runs about three hours . . . Fox has shifted H. G. Dimmit from Racine to its Strand in Manitowoc, where he succeeds Verne Rounds, and Joe Klauzer from its Paradise in West Allis to its Sherman in Milwaukee. Charles Hacker is the new manager at the Paradise.

Walter Holt is the new manager of the Eskin-operated house at Kiel. He was formerly projectionist at the circuit's Rialto in Kaukauna and is succeeded there by Francis Bisel, who has been projectionist at Kiel . . . Norman Pettingill, Superior exhibitor, has a hobby of painting murals, and his scenes can be viewed in a number of business places throughout Upper Wisconsin.

The Home Theatre Corp. at Antigo has re-elected Mose A. Jansen, president; Dr. C. E. Zellmer, vice-president, and T. L. Jordan, secretary-treasurer. Also re-elected by stockholders are Directors Earl Plantz and Ray Walch . . . Old-time silents have made their bow at the Town Grill in Oshkosh.

St. Louis PRC Branch Is Formed by Three

ST. LOUIS—A local branch of Producers Releasing Corp. has been organized here. Incorporators are Andrew R. Dietz, well-known local film exchange manager and salesman; Noah Bloomer, theatre owner of Belleville, Ill.; and Philip C. Kopitsky, University City. Kopitsky & Kessler, St. Louis, are attorneys for the new company.

Theatre Attractions, Inc., Organized in Mound City

ST. LOUIS—Theatre Attractions, Inc., has been incorporated here to carry on and conduct a general advertising business both as principals and agents, including the preparation and arrangements of advertisements; to direct and produce radio programs, and to engage generally in the theatrical business.

Incorporators: Walter Lutz, 10 shares; Louis Bauer, 10 shares, and L. C. Craig, St. Louis, 1,590 shares. Karol A. Korngold is attorney for the company.

Funeral Services Held For Hannah Rosenthal

ST. LOUIS—Funeral services were held Tuesday at the Rindskopf Chapel for Hannah Sisco Rosenthal, wife of Barney Rosenthal, veteran local exchange owner, manager and salesman and a charter member and leader of St. Louis Variety.

Following the services at the chapel the body was taken to B'nai Amoona Cemetery in St. Louis county for interment.

Mrs. Rosenthal, apparently in good health, died of a heart ailment on January 19.

The services were attended largely by members of the local film colony.

St. Louis Variety Club May Open Restaurant

ST. LOUIS—Variety Club executives are considering a proposal to open a restaurant as a means of increasing its revenue. The club, now located in the basement of the Roosevelt Hotel, will be moved to the mezzanine of the Missouri Theatre Building.

A committee headed by Harry C. Arthur jr., chief barker, and Lou Ansell of the Ansell Bros. circuit, is acquainting members with the idea. A "chef of ability" would preside over the kitchen, if the idea goes through.

Northwest Allied Roster Zooms

Minneapolis—During the past year, under its new regime and with dues consideraly reduced, Northwest Allied has shown a 300 per cent increase in membership, with 210 theatres now represented as against 42 before and St. Paul independents signed up 100 per cent. These figures were made public by President E. L. Peaslee at the convention here this week.

"Kitty" and "Nanette" Big in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS — The heaviest boxoffice play currently is going to the Orpheum, which has "No, No, Nanette" and Cab Calloway, on the stage and screen, respectively, and "Kitty Foyle" at the State. "Tin Pan Alley" is a holdover, having moved over from the State to the Century for an extension of its loop first-run. "Gallant Sons," Gopher offering, also is attracting some attention.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**Doomed Caravan** (Para't); **Remedy for Riches** (RKO) 90
Century—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk... 95
Gopher—**Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 100
Minnesota—**Her First Romance** (Mono), plus stage show 90
Orpheum—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO), plus stage show 125
State—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 150
World—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 3rd wk..... 90

"Kitty Foyle" Holds Lead In Second Kaycee Week

KANSAS CITY—First run business: Fair. Weather: Rain and snow. Competition: Tough (included Ice Capades at Pla-Mor). Leader: "Kitty Foyle" at the Orpheum, in its second week. Also good: "Flight Command" at the Midland.

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Li'l Abner** (RKO) 80
Midland—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 130
Newman—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 2nd wk., held over 75
Orpheum—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), held over 150
Tower—**Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 90
Uptown—**Li'l Abner** (RKO) 90

Omaha Takes Hold Firm Against Inclemencies

OMAHA — Unfavorable weather, so-so product and strong competition pulled grosses down to normal figures. Exhibitors report generally good business, considering all angles.

Orpheum reported above average business for "Second Chorus" and "Murder Over New York" dual. Other two first-runs were glad to get "satisfactory" grosses, Omaha with "Go West" and "Gallant Sons," Brandeis with second week of "Kitty Foyle" and "Saint in Palm Springs."

Annual Golden Glove events and twice-a-week professional ice hockey are furnishing the competition. Old Man Winter is supplying cold wind and snow.

Details for week ending January 18:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 2nd wk. 100
Omaha—**Go West** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 100
Orpheum—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox) 120

Northwest Allied Accepts Plan to Fight Decree

MINNEAPOLIS—Northwest Allied will attempt to obtain passage of a state law to nullify many important consent decree provisions. This decision was reached at the final session of the convention here.

The circumventing measure would compel distributors to sell their entire season's product with a minimum 20 per cent cancellation, as at present, in place of groups of five as provided in the decree. It also would permit exhibitors to eliminate films deemed objectionable on moral, religious and racial grounds.

The unit also decided:

(1) To demand an immediate reduction in film rentals of at least ten per cent, based on the shift in population from the territory due to the military program and better employment conditions in industrial sections elsewhere.

(2) To launch a campaign, enlisting all industry branches, to bring the public back to the theatres and offset competing entertainment.

(3) To resist 50 per cent split deals, increased admissions and extended playing time for any pictures.

(4) To retain the "democratic right" to maintain and set admission prices on all pictures. Advanced admissions for particular films and boosted children's prices were opposed.

(5) To seek revocation of an internal revenue department ruling requiring an admission tax on reduced student tickets.

(6) To ask film exchanges to quit servicing schools and other such institutions showing films to the general public and charging admission therefor.

(7) To seek restriction of theatre building and circuit expansion via state laws.

(8) To propose a measure which will curb free shows and the exhibition of 16mm films.

S. P. Halpern, local attorney, informed the exhibitors that, under a court ruling in the state of Washington, all existing Ascap contracts are illegal and unenforceable. The question as to whether members should refuse to pay the music tax was referred to a committee.

A resolution calling for the organization's support of a theatre divorcement bill, now in the state legislature, was rejected.

Kaycee Trade Begins to See Merit in Decree

KANSAS CITY—There seems to be a disposition among film and theatremen to regard somewhat more favorably the consent degree, in which connection they think of the sales in blocks-of-five and arbitration. As the time approaches for arbitration to become effective, exhibitors are expressing a little more confidence in the possibility of the arbitration setup to do them some good. At least, they feel, the arbitration boards will be impartial, and while the fact that the boards will not include anyone in the industry may mean a long time for the reaching of a decision, there will be less disposition on the part of either complainant or defendant to be dissatisfied with decisions as unfair.

Exhibitors are inclined to think that selling in blocks of five will tend to make pictures better. Some complaints will be filed with the board, according to report, as soon as it is named and starts functioning.

Omaha's Arbitration Board Bows Feb. 1

OMAHA—The arbitration board with jurisdiction over the Omaha trade area of Nebraska and western Iowa will be opened formally February 1, following selection of a special panel of 20 arbitrators from this area, according to an announcement by the American Arbitration Ass'n.

The arbitrators will be business and professional men, who will receive $10 a day while settling controversies between distributors and exhibitors.

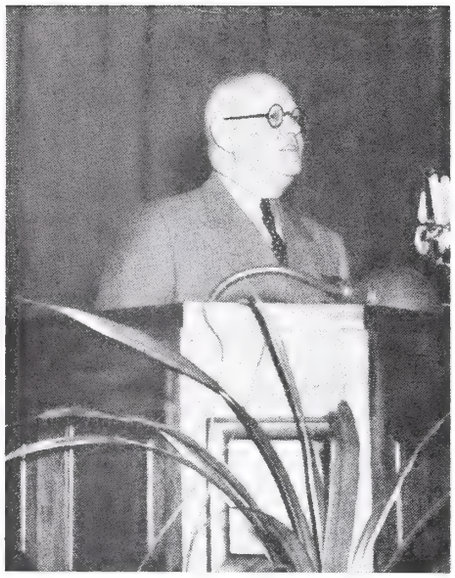
Danielson in Hospital

MINNEAPOLIS—E. L. Danielson, Mable, Minn., exhibitor, came to Minneapolis to attend the Northwest Allied convention. Before the meeting he went to a local hospital for a physical examination. Results of the examination were such that Danielson decided to remain at the hospital and pass up the convention.

Divorcement Bill In Minnesota

Minneapolis—A bill has been introduced into the state legislature providing for the divorcement of producer and distributor owned and controlled theatres. It is similar to the law passed in North Dakota and later knocked out in the courts. President E. L. Peaslee of Northwest Allied says that his organization did not know about its introduction until he heard about it over the radio and he is unaware as to who is sponsoring it.

OMAHA



CARL MANSFIELD, Colfax, Schuyler, Neb., writes BOXOFFICE complete information to correct a previously printed item and we're glad to get his letter. Mansfield and Harold D. Bowers of Weeping Water, Neb., own the theatre and Mansfield operates it. Bowers married Exhibitor Mansfield's niece and Mrs. A. D. St. Clair, wife of the Wymore, Neb., exhibitor, is Mr. Manfield's daughter. Thanks for the information, Exhibitor Mansfield.

B. A. Tomte, Paramount peddler, is celebrating his 14th wedding anniversary . . . Faye Honey, Tecumseh, Neb., was on Davenport street wearing a snappy tweed suit . . . Clyde Cooley, Fox screen room operator, was 41 years old this week, the youngest movie operator (in age) in Omaha. His wife's birthday was the same day . . . Roy Bott, exhibitor-mayor at Hooper, Neb., was on Filmrow. Also Carl Johnson, Grand, Red Oak, Ia.



Bill Laird is the new poster clerk at Warner's. He's a brother of Dorothy Laird, who works in the office of the same layout. Dorothy is quitting soon to join her husband on the coast. Hubby is in the navy. Margaret Collins, no relative of Tom, will take Dorothy's place as steno . . . Ike Rubin, who sells pictures for Paramount when he is not worrying about Nebraska's football team, was called to Chicago by the serious illness of his brother-in-law.

Fred Hunt, former operator at Omaha theatres, and former shipping clerk at Quality Theatre Supply, died at his home this week of a heart attack. He was about 50 years old. He was vice-president of Local B47, Film Exchange Employes Union . . . Dad Jenkins, City, David City, Neb., has been confined to his bed because of kidney trouble . . . Jack Riggs, Sun, Central City, Neb., has been recovering from an attack of flu.

Howard Kennedy jr., Bow, Broken Bow, Neb., has been promoting prize fights in addition to operating the theatre. The fights are held in the old Lyric Bldg. . . . Exhibitor Nelson, who runs the theatre at North Loup, Neb., also has a garage business . . . Dick Lysinger reports he had the Grand at Ravenna, Neb., "packed for the first time in history." It was an implement film free to farmers in the surrounding territory.

There's a lot of rivalry going on between two of our younger exhibitors. They are Maynard Nelson, manager of the World, and George Munroe jr., manager of the Fort, both at Kearney ,Neb. When one pulls a stunt to publicize a picture, then the other one thinks up another stunt which he hopes will outdo the other. The people in and around Kearney are getting a real display of showmanship from both sides, our scouts tell us.

H. B. Shook, manager of Photophone sales for RCA, from Camden, N. J., was here to see Frank Van Husan of Western Theatre Supply on business . . . Members of Local 343, IATSE, report they are on the lookout for two slot film machines expected to show up in Omaha in a couple of weeks. They will demand an operator be employed for each machine for maintenance.



When "Miss Bishop" Took a Bow—

The world premiere of "Cheers for Miss Bishop," held simultaneously at the Stuart, Nebraska and Lincoln theatres in Lincoln, Neb., Tuesday, January 14, drew many film and literary notables. Directly above are shown, left to right: Walter White, chairman; Bess Streeter Aldrich, author of the book from which the film was made, and Irvin S. Cobb, literary, film and radio figure, at the speaker's table during the dinner hosted by the chamber of commerce. In the center frame are the Hollywood contingent, including, from left to right: Mrs. William Farnum, William Farnum, Mary Anderson, William Gargan, Martha O'Driscoll, Wayne Morris, Producer Richard A. Rowland and Albert Dekker. At the top, Richard A. Rowland, the producer, as he addressed a crowd of 6,000 at the Coliseum public reception.

Censor an Act

MINNEAPOLIS—Censorship reared its head here when the police department purity squad head, Sig Couch, acting on complaints, ordered the Minnesota Theatre to direct Lou Holtz, the comedian, to eliminate a piece of comedy business from his show. No effort was made to defy the order. The department claims the right to revoke theatre licenses in instances where the entertainment is offensive, but showhouses can combat the order in the courts which ultimately would decide the issue.

KAYCEE

CLE BRATTON brought in a note of optimism from Council Grove, Kas., where he operates the Ritz. On the Row this week, Cle said he had recently talked with farmers. Some of them had been digging post holes, and reported moisture down from 60 to 72 inches, the deepest it had been in the memory of any of those in the group. This, farmers say, practically guarantees a wheat crop, and makes conditions excellent for corn.

On the Row: D. E. Burnett, State, Larned, Kas.; Hank Doering, Peoples, Garnett, Kas.; G. C. Coffman, Osceola, Osceola, Mo.; Frank Cassil, Rialto and Uptown, St. Joseph, Mo.; Glen Newbold, Temple, Yates Center, Kas.; A. J. Simmons, Plaza, Burlington, Kas. . . . Vernon Watkins is the name of the addition to the booking staff at H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc., assisting W. G. McKinney and Virginia Beuerman. He's from Oklahoma City.

Carroll Moore, manager of the Waldo, has ten acres of land half a mile from where they've just brought in a 500-barrel oil well, near Benton, Ill. . . . "I pick the damndest times!" moans E. L. Harris, Alexander Film Company representative. He went to Colorado Springs (home office) last week and got hung up by the snow storm at Goodland and Topeka, Kas., both.

Quite a few film, theatre and allied trades men went to St. Joseph, Mo., January 22, for the opening of Frank Cassil's Uptown. Frank has the Rialto there, too. The Uptown formerly was the Rivoli . . . Frank Meade is reportedly severely ill from the effects of a recent fall. He operates the Meade and Parma at Kingman, Kas.

Here's a mental picture for you: Imagine Bill Lansburg, Paramount exploiteer, singing while Nick Lucas (who gets paid for singing) accompanies him on the guitar. It happened the other evening at a party for Lucas, who has been at the Tower. Jerry Zigmond, manager of the Newman, told riddles as his contribution to the party (everyone had to do something)—and they were pretty snazzy riddles, too.

It's getting tougher all the time to find a parking spot on Filmrow. It doesn't bother us because we ride the street car mostly, but it must annoy exhibitors in from out of town, or in from the suburbs. It seems to have become a habit—or a game—to park as far as you can from the next car without actually leaving enough room for another car to get in. We looked the other day, and at least ten more cars could have been parked on the Row. If those parking had left just enough room to get in and out rather than a whole car length (less bumper) between them and the next one.

The roster of Universal exchange employe teams, fighting it out tooth and toenail for some of that Universal drive money, shifted somewhat last week, but didn't jar the Kellys from top spot. Com-

(Continued on page 36-A)

Bills Affecting Industry Stirring in Nebraska

LINCOLN—Legislative corridors here all are buzzing with talk of several bills soon to be hoppered of interest to the amusement industry. Motion pictures seem a cinch to draw the attention of most of them.

First in, although eyed coldly by most solons and Governor Dwight Griswold, is the proposed one-cent tax measure, which will put a penny tax on every purchase of what the bill describes as non-essentials. In this field are cosmetics, liquor, cigarettes, and all amusement tickets. It matters not whether an article or ticket costs five cents or $5, the one-cent ante will be on it. This money is earmarked for relief.

The man who is readying the measure is Sen. E. M. Neubauer, who, in his first term as a legislator, had two bills before the house, one on divorcement, and one a reel tax. Neither of those passed.

Ascap, which is already up to its neck in a struggle with BMI, may feel again the ire of the Nebraska legislature. It was in 1937 that the unicameral passed a law making music combinations illegal, a law which is even now facing test in the U. S. Supreme Court. The law this time will probably be in the form of a levied tax on every dollar collected by Ascap in Nebraska from the various licensees.

A censorship measure is apt to make its appearance, and there may be another attempt by the legislators to fasten some tax troubles on those who do business in Nebraska via circuit ownership.

J. T. Ghosen Building In Waynesville, Mo.

KANSAS CITY—J. T. Ghosen, who operates theatres at Sedalia, Versailles, and other Missouri cities, is building a new 500-seat house at Waynesville, Mo., near the new Ft. Leonard Wood. Ghosen is remodeling and extending an existing building.

Peterson "Freezem" Moves

KANSAS CITY—Peterson "Freezem" Manufacturing and Sales Co. has moved into its new quarters at 322 Southwest Blvd.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Peterson "Freezem" Mfg. & Sales Co.
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Complete Advertising Trailer Service

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HOTEL MONROE
MAIN AT 19TH ST.
Two Blocks From Filmrow
Completely Renovated . . Fire-Proof . . Innerspring Mattresses and Only 1.50 with Bath . . .
$1.00 Without
CLEAN AND FRIENDLY
Weekly Rates

MINNEAPOLIS

A CARD from Charlie Weiner, independent distributor, postmarked Rapid City, S. D., and showing Mt. Rushmore, says: "There isn't a sign of snow out here and the hotel menus have brook trout at 50 cents so I'm happy. I went out to see how Borglum is getting along with the national landmark. There's a show that's free. There won't be enough seats for the rush when it's finished" . . . Jack Haley of Jam Handy in from Detroit, Mich., to look things over. His pictures, distributed by Charlie Weiner, have been shown in recent weeks at the Orpheum and Minnesota theatres.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Tom Hall, Buhl and Cook, Minn.; Sim Heller, Grand Rapids, Minn.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Lyle Webster, Chippewa Falls, Minn.; Gene McCarthy, Fergus Falls, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; William Amacher, Castlewood, S. D.; Joe Schindel, Granite Falls, Minn., and Charles Connought, Olivia, Minn.

Charlie Jackson, Warner salesman, hasn't heard from his parents in London since November 28, and he's plenty worried. While a cousin was taking his wife to the hospital in London, a bomb struck the ambulance and blew him to pieces. His wife, however, escaped with slight injuries and came through her confinement nicely . . . Bill Grant, Warner city salesman here, in second place in the entire district in the Sears sales drive.

FIRST

In Style and Comfort

That's the thought that is always uppermost in the minds of those who attend you at Hotel Fontenelle. In keeping with this policy, the management is constantly adding new features for your comfort and convenience. The Amber Room Coffee Shop, the King Cole Room, and the Black Mirror-Bombay Room invite you.

HOTEL FONTENELLE



OMAHA

"Make Money With M-G-M," read signs in the M-G-M exchange . . . First theatrical and film ball to be held at Marigold Ballroom, January 27 . . . Livingston Lanning, Minnesota Theatre manager, back from a conference with E. J. Weisfeldt in Milwaukee . . . Mort H. Singer and Morgan Ames, Orpheum heads, in town for a few days . . . Edgar Rodberg, formerly of Omaha, has joined the Warner office staff here.

Gilbert Nathanson, Republic branch manager, back from his Florida vacation . . . Nate Rocklyn, M-G-M homeoffice traveling auditor, a visitor . . . "Ice Follies of 1941," coming into Arena, March 10-23, already has started its newspaper advertising campaign . . . Frank Soule, Republic homeoffice supervisor, a visitor . . . The father of John Hafich, M-G-M checker, passed away . . . Bill Scholl, RKO exploiteer, escorted Wendy Barrie through the exchange and introduced her to employes. She was playing a personal appearance engagement at the Minnesota. Lola Lane, also playing at the Minnesota, was taken in tow by "Kelly" Evidon for a jaunt through the Warner exchange.

Paramount looked at "Virginia" in the screening room and they're saying it's a dandy . . . Ben Landy, Columbia booker, boasting of handball victories . . . Vern Sessler, Paramount salesman, back on the job after a vacation in Florida . . . "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, attended a sales conference in Chicago . . . Chief Barker Ben Blotcky of the Twin City Variety Club happy because the organization was able to show a bigger bank balance January 1 than at the corresponding period a year ago, despite heavier expenditures for charity and social purposes in 1940.

Moe Levy and Joe Podoloff, 20th-Fox district and branch managers, respectively, in Chicago together for a sales meeting . . . Bill Lansburg, Paramount exploiteer, in town . . . Ray Nolan, RKO homeoffice auditor, in town . . . Ben Blotcky cheered by reports of heavy business that "Love Thy Neighbor" is chalking up in the territory . . . A record number of banners and cards in RKO plugging the Depinet drive. With new streamlined fluorescent lighting at the desks, RKO bookers are working under daylight conditions at all times.

Tom Caulfield, who at one time was Minnesota Theatre doorman, is now its assistant manager . . . Earl Tetting, Minnesota Theatre publicity man, here for a few days after spending a brief interval in New York. Then hopped off to Milwaukee . . . Steve Broidy, Monogram general sales manager, a visitor . . . Joe Floyd, Welworth circuit manager in Sioux Falls, S. D., stopped over en route home from a coin machine industry convention in Chicago . . . Al Fineberg, head of the theatre air conditioning company, to Florida for his health.

Polishing "Blossoms"

HOLLYWOOD—Margaret Cram is polishing "Blossoms in the Dust," Greer Garson starrer for Metro.

Barkers of Tent No. 8 Review the Year

By B. O. TELLER

KANSAS CITY—A real, heart-to-heart meeting was held January 20 by members of Variety Club. It was Jerry Zigmond's first time in the chair, and the Newman manager put responsibility for the future of the Tent squarely on the shoulders of individual members. He stated bluntly that members have as good a club as they work for, and stressed the fact that responsibility for developing and carrying through a program is on the personnel of committees he has named.

Variety members often overlook one of the primary objectives of the organization, Charley Shafer, Fox Midwest, said, and that is, good fellowship within the industry. Kansas City is one of the largest film centers in the U. S. from the standpoint of personnel, and he felt that the club, hard to get started, is doing a lot of good and can do more. H. J. Griffith of Griffith Theatres also commented.

A Good Job

The Tent here has done a pretty good job, according to Arthur Cole of Paramount. On the basis used by other clubs for totting up the score, Kansas City Variety will complete its year of 1940 pretty close to the $10,000 for charity pledged at the beginning. Cole stressed the frequency with which the club is called on for aid.

The club has attracted community attention through its charitable activities. A letter from C. Whit Pfeiffer, welfare agency director for Kansas City, was read; in it Pfeiffer complimented members of Variety very strongly for the help they've given children of Kansas City through the money raised in the bowling tournament.

Rube Melcher, chairman of the house committee, reported on some tentative plans being made by that group.

The Committees

Following are the committees, appointed by Zigmond, for 1941. The first member listed for each committee is chairman thereof.

House—Rube Melcher, Ward Scott, Dick Biechele, Rube Finkelstein, O. K. Mason, Beverly Miller, Jim States.

Ways and Means—H. J. Griffith, C. A. Schultz, J. H. States, J. W. McKinney, Finton Jones, Beverly Miller, Sam Abend, A. F. Baker.

Membership—O. K. Mason, Harry McClure, Ralph Morrow, Jack Renfro, Ward Scott, C. A. Schultz, O. L. Williamson, Roy Young, Les Durland.

Entertainment—Leland Allen, James McConnell, Hal Perrin, Stanley Goldberg, Nat Hechtman, Frank Ritter, J. W. Lewis.

Kings For A Day—R. F. Withers, Beverly Miller, Dr. N. Zoglin, George Baker, Finton Jones, H. J. Griffith.

Publicity—Bill Lansburg, Claude Morris, Homer Blackwell, Harold Cohen, Lon Cox, Norris Cresswell, Leo Finkelstein, John Graham.

Bowling and Bowling Tournament—Frank Hensler, Fred Meyn, Sam Naster, C. E. Shafer, Is Beiser, Jack Barnett, Gus

Kubitzki, Frank Lambader, George Hinton.

Welfare—Arthur Cole, C. M. Parkhurst, E. C. Rhoden, Ben Shlyen, W. E. Truog, Dick Biechele, Ed D. Durwood, Lee Jones, E. L. Harris, Dr. C. L. Gilles.

Days of '49—Charles Gregory, J. W. Lewis, J. W. McKinney, Frank Ritter, Truly Wildman, Wm. Benjamin, Jack Barnett, W. E. Gregory, Eddie Green, C. C. Knickerbocker, Ray Higdon, George Harttmann, J. H. Harris, C. E. Esterley.

Charity Ball—Earl Jameson, James McConnell, Beverly Miller, Hal Perrin, Sam Abend, Barney Joffee, Nat Hechtman, Larry Klein, L. J. Kimbriel, Leland Allen.

Special Charity — Jay Means, Ben Marcus, Grover Parsons, Collins Riley, Frank Smith, E. S. Sutter, J. H. Kelley, Max Barewin, E. M. Block, Russ Borg, Don Davis, George Fuller, George Baker.

Special Events—Finton Jones, Harold Lux, George Peterson, Wm. Porter, C. H. Potter, H. S. Stulz, R. R. Thompson, Morton Truog, Tom Baldwin, Frank Bowen.

Golf—T. R. Thompson, R. C. LiBeau, Joe Maguire, Lawrence Parrott, Jack Shriner, Lauren Turner, Wm. Bradfield, Fred Bredehoft, Ed D. Durwood.

Hollingsworth Will Ready Third House in Beatrice

BEATRICE, NEB.—Frank and Marie Hollingsworth, owners of the Rialto Theatre here, will remodel a recently acquired downtown building into a 400-seat theatre. The property is almost directly across the street from the Pix Theatre, also operated by the Hollingsworths.

Work will start February 1 and it is planned to have the job completed late in March. Scott-Ballantyne Company of Omaha will supervise the remodeling and equipping.

Fox Midwest to Play Astor Combination

KANSAS CITY—The Astor Pictures combination of "Scarface" and "Sky Devils" has been booked for the entire Fox Midwest circuit following two weeks of record-breaking business at the circuit's subsequent run Apollo here.

Kerr Set to Reopen

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA.—Earl W. Kerr expects to reopen the Broadway Theatre here by February 1. The house, following a fire late last year, has been extensively remodeled, including new seats, sound and cooling equipment, new furnishings, ticket office and a new marquee.

Back to Des Moines

MINNEAPOLIS—Tom Burke, former National Screen branch manager here and lately Monogram exchange manager in Des Moines, will go to the latter city for National Screen. He is a Minneapolis resident.

New Air-Loc Quarters

MINNEAPOLIS—Air-Loc (theatre seats) Manufacturing Co. has moved into new and larger quarters, taking over an entire building. The company is owned by Joe Numero and Ted Karatz.

KANSAS CITY

(Continued from page 35)

rade Daynosky was "taken" by Citizen Kane, and Kane moved off the bottom. The standings: Kellys, Kleins, Sieves, Kanes and Daynoskys.

It's a little early for Spring, but things are beginning to grow: that mustache of Charley Siebenthaler's, for instance. It's been a season for that sort of growth. We recall W. G. McKinney last fall; Dick Salt more recently, and now Siebenthaler.

Big news of the week really, though, is the 7½-pound baby boy whose birth January 19 has started buttons popping off Poppa Bill Redden's vest. The manager of Ross Federal Service says it happened at St. Luke's, that the name is William Burch Redden, and that everyone is doing fine.

Simon Galitzki, who has the Coed at Topeka, Kas., and Mrs. Galitzki celebrated Simon's birthday, January 16, as guests of the Albert Matlofs of Van Nuys, Calif., at Earl Carroll's theatre in Hollywood . . . Joe Green, who used to manage Bill Fulton's houses here, and who opened the Brookside, was in the past week visiting friends and waiting for the delivery of a new Cadillac. Joe now is managing the Raymond Theatre at Pasadena, Calif., which Bill Reinke (formerly of the Tower here) and Chet Johnson have. Between times Joe is appearing in pictures. He appears as second lead to Leon Errol in RKO's "The Fired Man."

Tom Edwards, Ozark, Eldon, Mo., currently is in bed with the flu . . . The Lakin Theatre at Lakin, Kas., is celebrating its third birthday. Shows are held in the high school auditorium . . . Influenza, widely suffered by a lot of people, isn't helping the boxoffice any at the moment.

Jerry Baker is remodeling the Liberty at Mexico, Mo. The remodeling includes a new marquee, new light fixtures, addition of modern rest rooms, new carpet, redecoration and repainting, new screen, new lamps and lenses. The Rex at Mexico also is being refurbished.

Bill Fulton, who has the Southtown, Strand and Vogue here, and the State in Kansas City, Kas., is in California, where he has purchased a ranch in Hidden Valley, 40 miles out of Hollywood . . . The Junction, Junction City, Kas., a Griffith house managed by John Sanders, has been recarpeted. The order went to National Theatre Supply . . . Bill VerBrugge is operating a show in the high school auditorium at Reading, Kas.

Jack Goldhar, district manager, was in last week with Haskell Masters, new western sales manager for United Artists, for a meeting with salesmen here . . . The Claflin Theatre at Claflin, Kas., has been closed . . . F. J. Peterson is managing the Panama, which recently was reopened at Burlingame, Kas., by C. L. Miller of Topeka.

Bob Haley, who used to manage the Orpheum here, was in this week from Chicago for RKO. He handled the special preview for press and exhibitors of this territory on "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the Orpheum, Monday evening. It was a "sneak preview" for the theatre, a special presentation for newspaper men from Western Missouri and Kansas, and for exhibitors from Kansas City and the territory.

Metro employes enjoyed a sleigh ride on January 17 . . . The Kansas-Missouri Theatres Association and Baker Enterprises have moved their offices from 221 West 18th Street to 126-28 West 18th Street, ground floor. This is the spot the association has occupied three times, off and on, since the building was completed.

Ted Wilkins, shipping clerk at Republic-Midwest the past year, has been appointed booker to succeed Jim Weakley. Wilkins, who will work with Johnny Scott, is succeeded by Cleo Burrell jr., who has been with Film Delivery.

Ad Service Partners

KANSAS CITY — Jim Weakley, formerly booker for Republic-Midwest, has joined Blackwell's Advertising Service on Film-row here as a partner. The company recently moved to 221 West 18th St.

Assignment for Epsteins

HOLLYWOOD—Philip and Julius Epstein are adapting "The Man Who Came to Dinner" for Warner.

The Times Are
CRITICAL
Once in a While

A Customer's Taste is CRITICAL Every Time She Steps in the Lobby to buy a Box of Corn.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY WHEN YOU USE

SUPERB SOUTH AMERICAN CORN

and

FLAV-O-NUT SEASONING

Exclusive With

POPPERS SUPPLY CO.

RUBE MELCHER

GR. 0672 1717 Wyandotte St.

Kansas City, Mo.

Prices Are Going Up!

Films Draw Surpasses Stage, Holds Singer

MINNEAPOLIS—With few exceptions, it's pictures, not stage shows, which attract the vast majority of patrons into a theatre, and that's the way it will continue to be, in the opinion of Mort H. Singer, owner of the Orpheum here and many other large theatres throughout the country in which he plays a combination of stage entertainment and films at frequent intervals.

And for that reason, Singer sees no come-back in prospect for vaudeville, he said here when he stopped over to inspect his Orpheum. The public, generally speaking, don't want vaudeville as a regular fare and it only will go to see name stars or important bands which it is especially anxious to catch in the flesh, according to Singer.

"A good stage show coupled with a weak picture usually will not draw profitable business," he asserted. "On the other hand, a worth-while picture will pull heavily alone or even when combined with weak stage fare. The number of stage attractions which can hold up strongly at the boxoffice alone, on the other hand, is small. That isn't only my experience, but the experience of all other theatre operators."

One of the main reasons for this situation, Singer, believes is that women constitute the principal potential theatre customers and they, in the aggregate, prefer films to vaudeville. The women bring the men along to the showhouses, he points out.

Commonwealth Transfers Parrott to Creston, Ia.

KANSAS CITY—Commonwealth Theatres this week announced that L. D. Parrott, who for several years has been in charge of the auditing department, has been transferred to Creston, Ia., as city manager for the circuit.

Merl Hillyer, city manager at Creston, comes to Kansas City as manager of the Benton. Howard Woolf of the Benton goes to Lawrence, Kans., as manager of the Varsity under Stan Schwahn, city manager for Commonwealth. Hazeljoy Ralph, with Commonwealth several years, is taking over the auditing department.

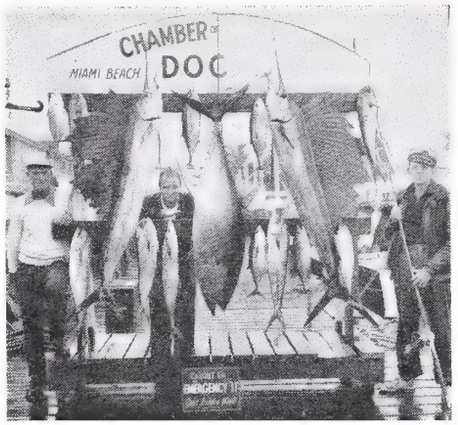
McClain Shifts Several Central States Heads

FREMONT, NEB.—Several switches in personnel have been made by M. E. McClain, district manager of Central States Theatres here.

Ed Schoenthal, formerly of the Sun, Holdrege, has been moved into Fremont to run the Empress.

Johnny Matthews has gone from the Rex, in Albion, to replace Schoenthal in Holdrege.

Art Johnson, until lately assistant manager of the Fremont Empress, has taken over the vacated post in Albion.



Gerbrach's String—

Joe Gerbrach, Central States Theatres' city manager in Ames, Ia., poses with one day's catch while deep sea fishing off the Florida coast recently. Left to right are the fishing boat's captain, Eddie Wall; the mate, Sterling Stewart and Gerbrach. Joe's feat of landing the two sailfish at the same time overshadowed the fishing trip of the Duke of Windsor and Wally in the Florida sports columns.

: *Back Seat for Wally* :

AMES, IA.—The sunny south hasn't slowed Ames' Joe Gerbrach down a bit.

In fact, judging from a column in the Miami (Fla.) *Daily News,* January 10, Windsor and Wally had to hire a press agent to get any attention in Florida with Joe around making news.

His latest exploit is right in line with his theatre tactics, designed to pull two customers instead of one past the ticket-taker. He's using a 24-thread line down in Florida and landing two fish at once—sailfish.

Bob Munroe's "Fishing Guide" column in the Miami *Daily News* tells the story:

"Possibly I should try to appear professionally excited over the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's visit to Cat Cay, and toss off a three-star essay on the six barracuda and the yellowtail he managed to snag day before yesterday fishing with Uncle Lou Wasey on the Cookie; but somehow my perverted sense of values gets me off today on the subject of a 148-pound Allison tuna taken just offshore here Thursday morning by one of Captain Wall's customers aboard the *Emergency II.*

"D'ye mind?

"The customer's name is Joe Gerbrach and he hails from Ames, Iowa—but don't let that fool you. Joe is quite a deep-sea fisherman, as he demonstrated yesterday in more ways than one.

"As to the Allison—and by the way, I'm pleased to note they're running more man-sized as the season gets under way—it was only a 40-minute job for him with a 24-thread outfit. So what did he do then? Why, if you'll believe Captain Wall, and you'd better or smile when you call him that, this visitor from 'where the tall corn grows,' stepped out and caught himself two sailfish simultaneously! Yeh . . . two, that's right. The weights were 55 and 44 pounds, respectively. I asked about that particularly.

"Captain Wall says not two, but three, struck together. The third one just missed getting hooked, or the story might have been that much better. Gerbrach handled both rods without any sort of help (except a little advice) from the guide, standing one up on its holder while he pumped up the fish on the other for a while, and finally bringing both gamesters within gaffing distance of the *Emergency's* cockpit. Whereupon the crew stepped in and boated 'em.

"What a man, h'm? . . . But do you imagine that was all? No, indeedy; the angler still had time to gather in four albacore, five dolphin, and a kingfish before the boat returned to the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce dock before mid-afternoon. Ho-hum . . ."

St. Paul Independents Agree to Rein Duals

ST. PAUL—In a move to halt the rapid spread of double features, independent neighborhood exhibitors here have agreed to eliminate the Thursday and Friday night twin bills and confine their dual shows to the special Saturday midnight performances. They also agreed that they'd only advertise one of the two features in the newspapers.

Like in Minneapolis, the St. Paul independents started by only double featuring on Saturdays in connection with their midnight shows. Then they started with Friday and lately Thursday also has been included. It has been feared that it would be simply a matter of time before dual billings would be a regular everyday policy.

In some St. Paul districts, overseating is acute and one hard-pressed exhibitor even used "Knute Rockne—All-American" as a surprise supporting dual on a midnight show. This particular section has eight houses within a six blocks' radius.

Friedl Finds Cheer in Forthcoming Product

MINNEAPOLIS—John J. Friedl, president of the Minnesota Amusement Company, the territory's principal circuit, is enthusiastic over the product outlook. It probably is the best, he believes, in the industry's history. The fine pictures now being released and impending make him optimistic over the 1941 prospects and he anticipates steady boxoffice gains.

State theatre bookings here constitute the strongest films ever booked into the house consecutively, Friedl feels. They are "Kitty Foyle," "Santa Fe Trail" and "Philadelphia Story," which have been designated "The Big Three" in the publicity matter and which follow "Love Thy Neighbor," "Comrade X" and "Tin Pan Alley." Friedl regards "Philadelphia Story" as "one of the finest motion pictures ever produced."

New Pacts by Local 343 Provide for Vacation

OMAHA — Two-year contracts recently signed between Local 343, IATSE, and about two-thirds of the Omaha theatres, contain two important features, union officials say.

They report them as: (1) a week's vacation with pay, (2) a five per cent pay increase. The vacation-with pay clause is new to Omaha operators and, according to Local 343 officials, is comparatively new in the nation. The contracts otherwise were the same as former years.

The contracts were signed with the Epstein circuit and all Omaha independents, officials said. The Epstein houses are: Benson, Berkley, Circle, Corby, Lothrop, Roseland, Tivoli; and the independents are: Beacon, Cass, Fort, Minne Lusa, Muller, Muse, North Star, Ritz and Vinton.

Local 343 is now negotiating the same two provisions in contracts with Tri-States Theatres and the Mort H. Singer circuit, due for renewal on February 1, 1941. Tri-States have the first-run Omaha and Orpheum, Singer has the first-run Brandeis.

Local 343's contract with Ralph D. Goldberg for his seven theatres expires October 1, 1941. Goldberg has the Arbor, Avenue, Dundee, Military, State, Town and Winn.

Dunn and Miskell Guests At Dinner for Balaban

DES MOINES—Eddie Dunn, Paramount Theatre manager here, and Bill Miskell of the Orpheum in Omaha, Thursday night were guests at the Paramount dinner for Barney Balaban in Chicago as winners of Tri-States Theatres' Thanksgiving-to-Christmas campaign.

Announcement of winners was held up until last week as a result of some close races. Dunn's "Tin Pan Alley" and "Westerner" showings put him over in this area.

Accompanying Dunn and Miskell to Chicago Wednesday night were A. G. Stolte, Evert Cummings, Joe Kinsky, Myron Blank and Joe Deitch.

A. H. Blank, listed as a speaker on the Balaban dinner program, G. Ralph Branton and Ray Blank went in Monday night to spend the week in conferences with Paramount executives.

Will Try to Get Product Via Arbitration Board

MINNEAPOLIS—An appeal to the arbitration board, as soon as it is established, to help him obtain product for his Esquire, local loop sure-seater, is contemplated by Bennie Berger, prominent circuit owner, he announces.

"I intend to lose no time in learning if I have any rights," says Berger. He asserts the Esquire is unable to obtain major screen product because practically all of it is sewed up by the Minnesota Amusement Co.

Irving Gillman, who took the Esquire from Berger and then gave it back, is suing Minnesota Amusement and major exchanges here because he says he couldn't get pictures.

Chain Opposes 50% Rentals on Film

Minneapolis—The Minnesota Amusement Co., the territory's principal circuit, has joined the independents in fighting against 50 per cent rentals. It has turned down both "Gone With the Wind" and "The Dictator" on such terms.

As far as "GWTW" is concerned, it is willing to pay 40 per cent, increase admissions, reserve seats, give preferred playing time and eliminate children's admissions in neighborhood houses and situations where it hasn't played the film yet. Independent exhibitors are opposing the other M-G-M terms, as well as the 50 per cent split.

While silent regarding the opposition to its terms, M-G-M here points out the picture even hasn't been offered to Twin City accounts as yet.

AFL Resolution Asks Film Problem Probe

MINNEAPOLIS—An investigation by the authorities of alleged unfair practices, regarding moving pictures as they affect the Minnesota Theatre, independently operated 4,000-seater, is called for by a resolution adopted by the Central Labor Union, which includes all of the A F of L bodies.

The resolution's passage was preceded by a discussion during which a mass meeting at the municipal auditorium in the theatre's behalf was advocated. However, no definite plans for the meeting have been made yet.

Patronage of the Minnesota and other theatres was urged. Charges were made that the erection of new theatres here has been blocked and suspicion was voiced as to motives preventing licensing of some theatres.

The Minnesota, using a policy of feature pictures, shorts and stage shows, has been unable to obtain major screen product, with one minor exception, because the Minnesota Amusement Company—Mort H. Singer pool—has practically all the major films sewed up for downtown Minneapolis. The owners themselves, previously operating the house, had the same difficulty and claimed their failure was due to it. However, a threatened suit based on the situation never materialized.

LINCOLN

PREMIERE AFTER-MATH: Bernie Evens, the St. Louis exploiteer, heard that United Artists may want to send him to Canada to work in Mary Pickford's home town . . . Gabe Yorke left town promising to be back in three weeks fronting for the all-industry epic, "Land of Liberty" . . . Bob Huffman wore an ice-pack instead of a hat for three days after the premiere—to bed and to work . . . Irvin S. Cobb said Lincoln had the nicest people he had ever seen, and the bumest big hotel . . . Biggest offstage hit: Albert Dekker, who couldn't tell his brand of stories on the stage . . . A swell disappearance publicity stunt for Mary Anderson backfired at Columbus, Neb., when coast p. a. Fred Stanley didn't wake up in time to wake her up . . . By the time Carl Reese (Republic) and Howard Federer got around to calling Lois Ranson, she had gone to bed . . . There wasn't a single squawk on the part of the townspeople regarding the affair—everything was ducky.

Yoo-hoo, Kansas City: Albert Dekker ate a total of nine steaks in Nebraska, breakfast, luncheon and dinner, and said they were the best he ever tasted! He was framed with fish on his last meal.

From Hollywood: Barbara Livingston, whose husband, Bob, runs the Capitol here, writes that she's finally up and around after that attack of the flu which put her in the hospital the day she landed for the express purpose of seeing the Rose Bowl game. She's Tucson bound . . . Seen at the Golden Gloves fights: Sol Yeager, who, standing with hands in pockets and look of disgust on his face, indicated his belief that he could have cleaned up the whole 24 fighters in a battle royal.

Coincidence: Gene Shanahan, Nebraska theatre manager, announced one week he would be married February 1, and the next week, received his draft questionnaire. That will list him as "un-married," with the draft board. There will be 2,064 Nebraskans called up in February.

Bigtime visitor: J. H. Cooper due in from New York to sound reactions on the premiere which was the biggest shot in the arm for local show biz in years, will probably stay in Lincoln two or three days.

Ten Best Poll stuff: Dean Pohlenz, who ran the Sunday Journal *and* Star 10 *best poll of pictures, is almost ready for a strait-jacket. Winner turned out to be a woman who is partially invalided, and may not be able to make the jaunt . . . Not a single townsman won in the associated contest in York, all the prize takers in M. E. Lofgren's town scattered far west.*

About managers: B. M. Montee of the Rivoli, Beatrice, was in Lincoln with a Beatrice *Sun* photographer shooting premiere pictures . . . Eddie Terhune, who was brought here to manage the Kiva, was hauled out overnight to take reins of the Chief, Colorado Springs, Colo., a much bigger job since it's the ace house of the L. L. Dent-Westland string in Colorado . . . There's a brother act at the Lincoln here—Bob Anderson ushers, and Paul Anderson manages.



DES MOINES

WAAAAAA! Waaaaaa! Waaaaaa! And lest you can't decipher that, my dears, it's little Carroll Segal . . . the new Segal infant must have some personality to get away with keeping Jack up all night with such a noise and still sell him the idea that it's something to go around bragging about. The Segals acquired Carroll recently via adoption.

About pets (the kind you can speak right out about in front of everybody): Chuck Elder has a cat, Alexander, who shudders at the sight of a mouse . . . Chuck says Alex will make a nice rug some day, but until then he's a total loss. Betty and Ralph's red-headed spaniel, Throckmorton (Throcky) Olson, is now in the pink, and Ralph still thinks he's cute despite his plumbing troubles (Throcky's, not Ole's).

Some of that fancy-looking lettering on those fancy-looking flashes of Burton Jerrell's is the handiwork of Opal Judd . . . our Opie is a very talented female . . . we had lunch with her last Saturday and she tells us she's going to change her name . . . Walt (Dimples) Lohman, now working in St. Louis, is the fella who wants her to take his and she flashes a diamond to prove it.

Once every five or ten years, Hollywood births a picture like "Philadelphia Story," and we scratch our bald head (we've got hair to burn, but we like the sound of that) and wonder if maybe we haven't been misjudging 'em out there. After the press preview the other night, we trudged up to the R&T *with Clayton . . . while he was pushing out a most flattering review, we heard at least five different enthusiastic comments about the picture floating around the halls . . . to date, we've heard nothing but praise, even from the cash customers!*

Munching a piece of Jack Segal's Christmas candy and thumbing through our BOXOFFICE notes, we see that Joe Garrison, Universal's district manager in Kaycee, was here last week dickering with Tri-States, Central States and Pioneer on product. Ole Olson says that Lou Elman is strutting around bragging about his ping-pong game and referring to himself as, "Champ," since he beat Ole one game . . . the pay-off: Ole had never played more than a couple of games in his life when he took on Elman! Lou, Bob Leach, Ole and Al Hill may be found these evenings at RKO busy batting the ball around and using some fancy language.

Lou Levy's little team mates cut loose and won another Universal drive . . . a short drive, we believe, although we can't see what difference it makes, since the film biz seems to be just one darn drive after another. Our pick-up man, Beverly Mahon, reveals the whereabouts of Jack Mathewson who resigned as chief of service at the Des Moines . . . he's tending door at the Tromar ballroom for Kermit Bierkamp . . . next time you want to tap a toe, drop around and say hello to Jack on your way in to do it . . . here's the spot to mention Harry the Holdsberg's latest attempt to crack the R&T *front page wide open . . . he got a gal to go out to Fort Des Moines and teach some of the sojer boys the Dig-it . . . then Harry slyly mentioned it to Clayton, and raising an eyebrow pregnant with meaning, informed him that "Second Chorus," was probably opening at his theatre.*

Gabe Yorke, fresh from cheering Miss Bishop for UA at Lincoln, popped into town last week to wave banners for the Hays office and the "Land of Liberty" and to spread the word that the one thing which kept Miss Bishop from turning cartwheels was the absence of BOXOFFICE & Co. who had too much work to do, Jack Moffett who had ditto, they say, and G. Ralph Branton, who was on ice . . . literally. Gabe and Jack Kennedy leased the Fox screening room for Friday night in order to show the film men how Hollywood says they won the liberties they prize.

Metro's Mr. Richey stood up Des Moines club women last week when ice forced him to cancel his date with them in Des Moines, but the gals are gonna have somebody to answer their questions about the film industry anyway . . . Gabe's promised to stand up and let 'em shoot at him after they see a screening of "Land of Liberty" Tuesday.

Emil Franke's idea for promoting his new stage show "Screwballs of 1941" consisted of putting Press Agent Charlie Riley into a strait jacket and a cell for the benefit of press and public . . . Emil got a strait jacket from Broadlawns hospital and a cell from the police department but the gag flopped when he failed to get cooperation from the press . . . A midnight dress rehearsal Thursday kept him from opening without advance warning though.

Everyone else may have been ogling Ruth Chatterton in the Fort Des Moines lobby Monday, but a fella with sharp eyes could have spotted Haskell Masters, western division sales manager for United Artists; Don McLucas from Omaha, and a coupla more visitors over in the corner . . . Keep it under your hat, but we could swear we heard 'em talking about Denver . . . and they weren't ordering sandwiches.

Wonder if Russ Fraser ever got lined up on the photo exhibit he wanted for the Parrot Film photo salon? . . . Russ spotted it while he was shooting Younkers tearoom footage for Tri-States and started bidding. Harry Hiersteiner's family has been smoking marihuana again. A note from Bobby Stone says he's signed a contract with Monogram . . . Which reminds us that we saw his picture identified as "Bobby Jones" in one of the trades (not BOXOFFICE) . . . It makes us feel good to know we're not the only ones who slip now and then, but we betcha Bobby ain't gonna like it.

"Ask your druggist for genuine Carter's Little Liver Pills" . . . Well, mebbe it isn't theatre news, but when we called DD for information she sez "justaminit" and the next thing we hear is the CLLP blurb.

DD attended the dinner ahead of the "Philadelphia Story" press preview with a game leg and without Harry Gottlieb . . . the ice was responsible for both . . . it hung Harry up in Coon Rapids and it threw Dorothy . . . The Lionel Wassons were in from Marshalltown for the affair (the preview, not DD's set-to with the ice) . . . being just a drab, brown-headed wench ourselves, we aren't exactly enthusiastic about our dazzling and preferred blonde sisters, but we have to concede there's something mighty purty about Mrs. Lionel . . . and we're willing to wager now that we've seen both of them, that she and Mrs. Harry Warren will stack up with any of the dazzlers in the biz.

G. Ralph Branton decorated his presence at the preview dinner with Mrs. B. and Nancy, who's prettiness he probably takes credit for, although anybody can see she's the spit'n image of her maw. Lois and Jack Kennedy sat across from us, and while we don't want to give the impression that everybody at the dinner was a raving beauty, we have to report the news as we see it, and we saw Lois looking lovelier than usual in a dubonnet hat sprouting dubonnet feathers. We rode from Younkers' Tearoom to the theatre with Ray Blank who was wondering how Emil Franke's "Screwball" show would stack up at the Orpheum.

Charlie Riley, "Screwball" advance man, settled down gratefully in the quiet, restful atmosphere of the Clayton household and began to discuss legit and relax . . . "Ah, Peace, it is wonderful," he muttered comfortably . . . suddenly, the doors burst open and in rushed Harry Holdsberg, the Eddie Dunns and a few other people . . . Harry hurried to the telephone and called Emil Franke, becoming disbelievingly vociferous and a little on the noisy side when Emil said he couldn't get over for a little while longer because he had a hold-out ("This Thing Called Love") . . . Harry hung up the receiver and he and Eddie spent the time until Emil arrived snorting to each other . . . Emil brought Vi, Bill Scholl and a merry soul (his own) . . . the congregation scattered at an unreasonable hour, and some of us ended up eating chop suey at the Hong Kong where who do you think popped up? Yeah, the inevitable Joe Ancher who asked us if we'd been out bicycle riding. Peace may be wonderful, Charlie, but how do you know?

A letter arrives from Mort Blumenstock in New York objecting with all 202 *lbs. to being referred to as "Whispy."*

Cent and a Half For Pictures

Minneapolis—The giveaway to end all giveaways occurred when the Alhambra, local independent neighborhood house, gave away a pie baker, costing 18½c at wholesale, to all feminine patrons buying a 20 cent admission. The picture was "Knute Rockne—All-American."

Jim Owen Wed

BRANSON, MO.—Jim M. Owen, owner of the Owen Theatre here, on January 18 married Miss Barbara Lewis of Pryor, Okla. Ceremony was held in Fairfax, Okla.

Says Trade Needs One Spokesman

Detroit—"There is a definite need for an informal organization that will be able to speak for all theatre operators of Detroit," says David M. Idzal, managing director of the Fox. "At present, there does not seem to be any one body or spokesman who can speak for the theatre industry when a common spokesman is required.

"The amusement industry will be called upon to do much in connection with national defense, with Red Cross activities, and other worthy local and national causes. There should be a common forum through which we can present our position and our willingness to do our share, and more, in which operators whether independents, owners of one little house, or of big chains, can unite whatever their individual business differences."

Sales Tax Income Is Increasing in Ohio

COLUMBUS—Assuming the generally accepted fact that an excellent barometer of business conditions in Ohio is the collection of the retail sales tax, the state treasury department gives out official figures showing that the retail tax for 1940 was 13½ per cent greater than the previous year. The same source reveals that although the sales tax increased 13½ per cent, the total admissions tax collected during 1940 increased only 3.2 per cent. Obviously the amusement business during 1940 failed to keep pace with the increased business in other lines.

The dollar comparison is that the 1940 retail tax netted $52,771,562 as against $46,504,018 in 1939. Opposed to this comfortable increase, the department states that the total admission tax collected during 1940 amounted to $1,694,120.39 as against $1,641,670.47 for 1939.

Solid in Support for Defense Program

PITTSBURGH—Independents of this territory in cooperation with Allied Theatre Owners of Western Pennsylvania have joined with IATSE Local 171 as wholeheartedly endorsing the national defense program as set forth by the President.

Both groups pledge their willingness "to continue uninterrupted an agreeable relationship and resolve to adhere strictly to the principles that are in accord with the government's national defense program."

Furthermore, they "stand in opposition to all individuals or groups that champion any 'isms' except Americanism" and offer their joint cooperative service in opposition to all elements who expound subversive un-American ideas or principles. They dedicate themselves "to maintain the democratic principles that we now enjoy."

Propose Licensing Theatre Games in Pennsylvania

May Legalize Bingo Games in Michigan

DETROIT—Michigan exhibitors who watched the disappearance of cash giveaways from their theatres in the past two or three years, find themselves faced with possible legalization of Bingo and similar games, including raffles, when operated by churches or veterans' or fraternal organizations. The move is threatened in a bill introduced by Senator Ernest G. Nagel at Lansing.

The bill does not, in the opinion of some showmen, do more than legalize the existing situation in most sections of the state where churches and lodges are generally conducting Bingo parties despite the official interpretation of the state gambling laws that such games are illegal. For this reason, because it would apparently offer little inducement for further spread of games, little effort has been made as yet to oppose it. The consensus, however, is that if cash prizes are to be allowed for one group, they should be allowed to all, although no exhibitors interviewed were prepared to advocate legislation for this objective.

Service Employes Union Keeps Pickets at Post

DETROIT—Difficulties of the Building Service Employes International with downtown theatres continued at a standstill last week, with pickets still on duty, particularly at UDT houses. No immediate settlement was in prospect.

Picketing appeared confined to downtown houses. An earlier statement printed in BOXOFFICE that pickets had been assigned to Wisper & Wetsman suburban houses, as given out by a union representative, was denied by spokesmen for W&W who said no pickets had actually appeared on duty at any of their houses.

Detroit Civic Leaders to See "Land of Liberty"

DETROIT—M-G-M's "Land of Liberty"—the industry's contribution to war emergency welfare, with all proceeds devoted to this purpose—will be screened January 31 for 54 representatives of Detroit civic clubs representing 14,000 civic leaders. Filming will be at the Film Projection Room.

Feel Immune

COLUMBUS, OHIO—Taking Gov. John W. Bricker at his word, it is now "officially" definite that there will not be an increase in the state's three per cent admission tax during the next two years.

HARRISBURG—Initial industry measure to be introduced in the Pennsylvania general assembly is a bill providing for the licensing of all theatre owners who operate "chance" games. A Senate bill, introduced by John J. Haluska, would tax the operators $600 in towns of over 3,000 population; $1,200, population from 3,000 to 10,000; $1,600 in cities over 10,000 population. Exhibitor additionally would deduct 15 per cent of the value of the prize award and make returns to the county treasurers' office, who would hire an additional employe to supervise such collections. All chance games, whether played in theatres or not, would be taxed $25, although special licenses would be issued to church and charitable organizations for $1.

Thirty-two organizations, with a membership of 800,000, will press for legislation designed to bar roadside signs from Pennsylvania highways during the current session. Billboard laws come before the general assembly regularly.

A political tabulation, unofficial, shows that the horse racing bill can win three-to-one.

There is a proposal for the placing of a tax on soft drinks.

Youngstown Council Zones Area to Permit Theatre

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO—City council has cleared the way here for the construction of a neighborhood theatre on the Northside at Belmont and Francisca Avenue, by passing an ordinance extending a commercial zone eastward along Francisca Avenue.

Herman Heller, spokesman for the group planning to build the theatre, assured councilmen in a letter that free parking space for 200 to 300 cars will be provided on the site.

Flu Closes Schools in Queen City Suburbs

CINCINNATI—While the flu has not as yet invaded downtown Cincinnati to seriously affect business, schools in adjacent suburbs are being closed. Schools in Ft. Thomas, Ky., have been ordered closed temporarily.

Reports are that the epidemic is menacing business in West Virginia and adjacent territory.

In Legislative Debut

CHARLESTON, W. VA.—Opening of the West Virginia legislature found an exhibitor as a new member of the house of delegates. He is J. C. "Jim" Shanklin of Ronceverte, vice-president of the West Virginia Theatre Managers Ass'n who was elected as a representative from Greenbrier county.

Shows Enjoy a Boom Week in Cleveland

CLEVELAND—A flock of exceptionally good pictures combined with unusually mild winter weather resulted in a holiday-time for the downtown first runs, while the flesh shows got their full share of the business as well. The Hippodrome enjoyed 11 big days with "Kitty Foyle" as the magnet, the engagement netting 45 per cent better than average. It moved over to the Allen for an extended downtown run. Over at the Palace, George Raft in person, drew 'em in from all corners of the city. His monologue and his dancing won him a place in the amusement field that will be hard to emulate. The Palace picture, "No, No, Nanette" the companion piece to the good vaudeville bill which Raft headed, brought the take to 35 per cent over par. "Flight Command" at the State was another winner going over usual take some 20 per cent and thereby winning a move-over engagement at the Stillman. The two holdovers, "Santa Fe Trail" at the Allen and "Comrade X" at the Stillman, both came through with better than average grosses. "Santa Fe Trail" in its third week downtown was five per cent over the line, while "Comrade X" in its second week soared to 35 per cent above the line.

Sonja Henie and her ice carnival played five SRO performances at the Arena and "Hellzapoppin" with Billy House and Eddie Carr in the Olsen and Johnson roles attracted comfortable crowds.

Weather was generally fair and unusually mild.

Detail for the week ending January 17:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 105
Played 11 days after a 2-week run at the Hippodrome.
Hippodrome—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 145
Played straight 11 days.
Palace—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO) 135
George Raft in person headed a strong vaudeville bill.
State—**Flight Command** (M-G-M) 120
Stillman—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 135
Second week on a move-over from the State.

Omens Fine, But Business Only Fair in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—Open weather, the settlement of the long drawn out street car and bus strike, and good boxoffice fare ought to have pepped up business; but it didn't. Receipts in all downtown houses were only fair, with the exception of RKO Shubert, where Sally Rand's revue and a screen offering, "Keeping Company," featuring Frank Morgan and Virginia Weidler took peak grosses of the week.

"GWTW," advertised as the third and final week, held over with 10 per cent above average grosses. "Kitty Foyle," pulled best of the first run screen offerings.

Detail for week ended January 16:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 115
Held for a second week, shifted to Keith's.
Capitol—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 110
Third week, held for fourth.
Grand—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 90
Second and final week.
Keith's—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 90
Second and final week.
Lyric—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA) 85
Second and final week.
Palace—**Flight Command** (M-G-M) 110
Held over.
Shubert—**Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 140
Also stage show.



A New Branch Manager Is Honored—

At the testimonial to Bryan D. Stoner in Cleveland to celebrate the elevation of the Ohio salesman to the branch manager's berth in the Pittsburgh exchange. At the speaker's table, left to right, here are shown Jack Sogg, chairman of arrangements; Frank D. Drew, Cleveland Metro manager; Stoner, and his father Frank. The elder Stoner made a surprise trip from Buffalo for the occasion.

Weather-Inspired Caution Depresses Detroit Take

DETROIT—Local show business took a slight dip, including both downtown houses and neighborhoods, generally attributed to the prevailing wet weather, with several days of fog. Weather was considered ideal for spread of the flu which has begun to worry health officers in the state, but has so far been played down in press reports. Some fear of gathering publicly was responsible for a slight drop in attendance, exhibitors seemed to feel.

"Philadelphia Story" rated top drawing power of the week, surprising some advance predicters.

Detail for week ending January 16:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), after 9 days at the Fox 125
Cinema—**Rebecca** (UA), revival policy for this week 90
Fox—**Arizona** (Col); **The Bank Dick** (Univ), 8 days 110
Michigan—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (Para't), played 9 days 130
Palms-State—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), after 3 wks. at the Michigan 100
United Artists—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M) 175

"Comrade X" Leads the Field in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—"Comrade X" grabbed the big dough as the first hit of 1941 at Loew's Penn. "Santa Fe Trail," in the Warner after a Stanley engagement, did upwards of double average. "Hudson's Bay" in the Fulton marked up a successful initial week. "Comrade X," "Flight Command, "Santa Fe Trail" and "Love Thy Neighbor," the latter another "hold over" film, were in exhibition for nine days.

Details to January 10:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col); **Pride of the Bowery** (Mono) 110
Fulton—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 150
Penn—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), 9 days 170
Ritz—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 2nd d. t. wk., 9 days 110
Senator—**Arizona** (Col), 2nd wk. 95
Stanley—**Flight Command** (M-G-M), 9 days..115
Warner—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd d. t. wk., 9 days 190

Who's Paying Defense Tax, Queries Wood

COLUMBUS—Venturing the opinion that the defense tax is being paid out of boxoffice receipts and not by the theatre-going public, P. J. Wood, in a bulletin to the members of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, declares: "If this is true, exhibitors should know it and act accordingly in buying their film and setting up their other operating expenses."

The ITO secretary's bulletin followed the release by the United States Treasury of an estimate that total collections from the admissions tax for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931, will amount to $69,000,000, an increase of $49,000,000 over the admission tax collections for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, with exemption set at 40 cents.

The answer as to who is paying the tax, Wood suggests, can be available to the exhibitors by comparing the net gross (that is, the total gross receipts less the amount of the defense tax collected and paid to the government) for the six months ending December 31, 1940, with the gross receipts for the six months ending December 31, 1939.

Hitherto M. D.'s From Law Schools

Columbus—A specialist, composed of "equal parts of producer, distributor, affiliated theatre executive and independent theatre owner" is the doctor prescribed to treat the industry's boxoffice ills by P. J. Wood, secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, in a recent bulletin. Wood's diagnosis that the industry is ill is predicated upon "the failure of boxoffice receipts to reflect the increases in most other industrial lines." His composite physician would "meet at some central point and decide upon some course of treatment that will bring about a quick recovery in boxoffice receipts."

PITTSBURGH

A L. PINDAT, Republic special representative, is headquartering at the local branch office for several weeks . . . Herb Greenblatt and his RKO staff are hard at work on the Depinet drive which continues to May 9. Herb will not vacation until after that date . . . Sam Fineberg has a new Oldsmobile . . . John J. Maloney is around covering his district for Loew's and is very much himself following his recent operation and illness . . . Melvin Mann, RKO booker, is photographing a number of exhibitors and displaying his prints under the glass of the bookers counter . . . Marty Seed, now managing the Regal, Wilkinsburg, forwarded a patriotic letter to his old roommate, Joe Minsky, Cleveland Vitagraph salesman and nephew of Harry Minsky Kalmine, who has been called by the government for army training at Camp Devers.

"Mr. Manley Lifetime" is the tag under which our bookkeeping department recently sent an advertisement statement intended for Roy J. Jeffries, the popcorn machine representative. Manley Lifetime is the machine model which Jeffries is so successfully selling in this area . . . A number of local theatres are going for a Saturday matinee "Tootsie Rolls" tieup . . . Burglars jimmied the front door of the Regent, East Liberty, and cracked a combination safe. They stole 90 cents from an outer compartment . . . Nixon box-office has been open for a couple of weeks —refunding on tickets which had been purchased for several shows that canceled local engagements . . . Nat Lee, local theatrical man, was held by police last week on charges of conducting an indecent exhibition at the Polish Falcon Hall, Ambridge. Five films and a projector were confiscated by state motor police. In the raid, five strip teasers escaped.

C. C. Kellenberg, Variety's chief barker, is seeking the proper date for next fall's annual banquet here, and local barkers are pepping up for the national convention of the various tents which will be staged in Atlantic City the latter part of April . . . The Joseph Misrachs were in charge of the January 17 family night party at the club, and Bob Post and Bob Fiske were "kings" at the January 20 dinner . . . Harry Kalmine and Joe Feldman were in New York for several days booking Stanley stage shows . . . Frank J. Harris, theatre executive and Allegheny county Republican chairman, is vacationing at Miami until February 8.

"GWTW" scrambled scene layout jigsaw puzzle was featured on the front page of last week's Pittsburgh Shopping News *with a circulation of* 185,000 *. . . Otto Brauning, RKO auditor, is on duty at the local branch exchange . . . Bill Odeum, chief engineer for the Brenkert Light Projection Co., was around checking up on the many local installations, and reporting everything satisfactory . . . Larry Clinton's orchestra is due in the Stanley January* 31.

Thieves broke into the new West End, rifled a candy vending machine, and ransacked the office. They gained entrance through a rear door . . . Allegheny county commissioners' legal department is filing court suit against the borough of Munhall to collect $90.85, the cost of printing special ballots for a Sunday show referendum during the November 5 general election. The borough refused to pay the bill because "movie interests" asked for the vote. Under the state law, the borough is liable for payment, according to county attorneys . . . Judge Henry H. Wilson, in Butler county court, has reserved decision on a petition asking for a special referendum on Sunday motion pictures at Rochester. The issue was defeated in Rochester by 87 votes, but attorneys for the Rochester Amusement Co. claim that the referendum was conducted "negligently and carelessly."

Eight persons have been nominated by a jury of 33 *newspaper and magazine editors and publishers as possible recipients of the third annual national humanitarian award of the Variety Clubs of America, Eugene L. Connelly, national chairman, has announced. As in the preceding two years, the* 1940 *award will consist of a bronze medallion, an enscrolled citation and* $1,000 *in cash. Father Flanagan of*

(Continued on page 58)

GENE AUTRY
ROY ROGERS
THREE MESQUITEERS
DON BARRY
SMILEY BURNETTE
"HIT PARADE"
"SCATTERBRAIN"
"MELODY & MOONLIGHT"
"BARNYARD FOLLIES"
"SIS HOPKINS"
ETC.

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REPUBLIC CORRAL 1701 Blvd. of the Allies, Pittsburgh, Pa.

New Zoning Schedule for Detroit to Get Hearing

DETROIT—Detroit's proposed new zoning schedule for alternate release of films, broached in these pages months ago by Frank J. Downey, M-G-M manager, after laying dormant for some time, is definitely on the agenda for discussions currently between Downey and representatives of the two largest exhibitor groups affected, United Detroit Theatres and Cooperative Theatres of Michigan.

Sentiment of exhibitors who have commented on the idea is generally favorable, provided that some means of making the plan general in the city is carried out.

Under the proposed plan, all pictures, beginning with the second runs, would play either the east or west side of the city the first week available, then move to the opposite side the next week, instead of playing at all houses of the same run simultaneously as at present. Houses on each side of town would get a break by having pictures of approximately even boxoffice value released at the same time, one to each side.

Milberger President Of Local No. 444

NEW KENSINGTON, PA.—New Kensington-Tarentum Local No. 444 has elected the following officers for 1941: R. Milberger, president; Anthony Haraznik, vice-president; I. E. Fike, business agent; Clyde Johnson, secretary; Charles Wolfe, financial secretary-treasurer; Joseph Milburn, sergeant-at-arms; J. J. McCloskey and Ray Craig, members of the executive board.

Theatrical Mutual Ass'n Re-elects McCloskey

NEW KENSINGTON, PA.—J. J. McCloskey, retired president of the local operators' union, has been re-elected president of the Theatrical Mutual Ass'n. Paul Milberger is the new vice-president, and other new officers are I. E. Fike, secretary; Charles Wolfe, treasurer; B. Zamparini, H. Hogge, A. Haraznik, trustees, and John Phillips, steward.

Lunds Open Remodeled Circle in Bobtown, Pa.

BOBTOWN, PA.—The Circle has reopened here after being streamlined. Features of the modernization include construction of new walls and other remodeling and the installation of new velour drapes, frames, lighting fixtures, screen and newly painted ceiling and lobby. John Lund, operator of five theatres with his son Werner, supervised the Bobtown streamlining.

New Front for WB Strand

PITTSBURGH—New modern marquee front and lobby floor is being installed this week at the Warner's Strand, Oakland district.

Horror Thrives in The Auto City

Detroit—Horror bills are continuing to grow into a regular trend. Currently, Monogram's combination of "The Ape" and "The Human Monster," after going a full week at each United Detroit's Regent and Annex, moved into Midwest Theatre's Colonial.

The Cinema, normally a first-run, special picture house, has shifted to a revival policy temporarily, and is "scaring" the customers in with the combination of "Dracula" and "Frankenstein."

Resume Midwest Suit Trial Next Tuesday

DETROIT—Trial of the lawsuit of Midwest Theatres against Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, which was slated to be resumed Tuesday, has been postponed a week to next Tuesday. A. J. Levin, attorney for the defendant, has been seriously ill and is now in Florida for a brief convalescence. The testimony of Cooperative, as defendant, is expected to start when the case is resumed in federal court.

The new trial date coincides with opening of the trial of another suit in which Midwest is defendant. It was brought by Jacob Schreiber in circuit court, but is expected to be postponed because of the physical impossibility of trying both cases simultaneously.

"Pop" Kane's Son Takes Over Pitcairn Theatre

PITCAIRN, PA.—William E. Kane, son of the late John B. "Pop" Kane, has assumed operation of the Nemo here. "Bill," who is a school teacher and well known in the tenth legislative district, has been out of touch with the theatre business for several years although he had formerly assisted his father, the veteran exhibitor, who died January 8 as the result of a heart attack.

Mrs. Anna Neaman Keeps Natrona Roxy Operating

NATRONA, PA.—The Roxy here is now being operated by Mrs. Anna Neaman, widow of Samuel Neaman, who died January 7. Mrs. Neaman's brother-in-law, Lou Padolf, former film salesman and now an exhibitor at Parkersburg, W. Va., is assisting as is Francis Patrick Michael McCoy, projectionist.

Open New Winoma

WINOMA, W. VA.—The new Winoma has been opened by R. L. Pugh.

DETROIT

ALEX SCHREIBER, Associated Theatres head, visiting Cleveland to look into fluorescent lighting and decorations . . . Frank Mellon, old-timer among Detroit managers, is new manager of Associated's Norwood . . . Louis B. Goodman, manager of W&W's Oakman, was a personal friend of Charles Hall (Don Carlos of Monkey Hotel fame), who died in the house while working his act there in his first theatre date in months.

Sydney and Erving Moss have moved their headquarters from the David Stott Building to their new Parkside Theatre . . . The Krim Brothers are starting construction on their new 1,000-*seater in Highland Park to be called the Krim . . . Mac Krim and the rest of the clan are in Florida, leaving Sol in town alone . . . Brothers Harry and Leonard Krim,* 16 *and* 17, *reached the semi-finals in the Diamond Belt matches, and go in the Golden Gloves.*

Bill Levinson of Los Angeles, who is a Variety member at Pittsburgh, was a Detroit visitor . . . Louis Kirchner was able to close the clubrooms up promptly Saturday night . . . Bill Murray of Grand Rapids with a party of three, Ray Branch of Hastings, and Lee Ward of Mount Pleasant were among the upstaters down to Variety . . . Toastmaster at the recent Variety banquet to Jack Flynn, Ira W. Jayne was guest of honor himself at one Wednesday. He's been presiding circuit judge of Wayne county for ten years . . . Bill Carlson, ex-chief barker, became high priest and prophet of Moslem Temple on his way "through the chairs."

Betty Bryden, booker, is moving to larger quarters in the Fox Building . . . Milt London is sending out invites on opening of the new Midtown . . . Oswald Garrison Villard, former editor of The Nation, *liberal weekly, was taken seriously ill on the stage of the Cass during a lecture . . . George W. Trendle, ex-UDT president, is co-chairman of Detroit's "Miles of Dimes" anti-polio campaign.*

Paris Bucci, who specializes in Italian film distribution, is forming Cine Roma Film Co. . . . Marion Poupard of the accounting department and Bea Mattingly, the boss' secretary, both of Paramount, were flu victims . . . Elizabeth Cleveland, contract clerk, did better. Off sick one day, and came back married . . . Mrs. William Flemion, wife of the PRC manager, is back in the hospital following an attack of pneumonia . . . Gil Becker and Cliff Perry of M-G-M each with two lovely luncheon partners.

TWENTIETH-FOX NOTES: Have you heard Jess (NOA) Veldman's accent? . . . Floyd Keillor due in Friday (it's payday) . . . Leland Sanshie and Al Rupert talking about touring the Bad Lands . . . Helen Rose reports Fox working two shifts now . . . Harold C. Robinson, Film Truck Service manager, is not going south at present because of his mother's serious illness . . . Irving Belinsky fraternizing at Variety Wednesday with his pharmaceutical Aesculapians.

Al Boodman, son of Jacob of Detroit Film Cleaning Co., has left National Screen

here to join Al Dezel Roadshows at Chicago. He has disclosed his engagement to Raye Nelson of Detroit . . . Edward Lamoreaux, manager of the Empire in Windsor, was robbed of $67 in his office by two armed bandits . . . Harry K. McWilliams, formerly of the publicity department of UDT, became the father of a six-pound girl recently, he learned by phone while in Hollywood. The mother, known to opera followers as Rosa Di Giulio, was in New York when the baby arrived.

Forman Brown, who gave a puppet show Monday for the Frank G. Tompkins Memorial, is retiring from this field to do script writing . . . Joe Conti of the Monte Carlo Studios, back in town, saw his own role in "East of the River" at the Palms-State . . . Alfred G. Wilson of the Wilson was named a governor of the Detroit Museum Founders Society for 1941.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Harold Muir, now with Harry Hobolth's DeLuxe at Imlay City, was formerly with the Fra Diavolo Magic Show.

Raoul Cleaver, former branch manager for Powers Pictures, and a distributor here since 1912, was in from Saginaw visiting along Filmrow.

William Kent is new state salesman for Monogram. Formerly with Dezel Roadshows.

Charles T. Wolfe has sold his theatre at Constantine to Harold Kortes, operator at Plainwell and Otsego.

Louis J. Wiethe Acquires Two From MacDonald

COLUMBUS, OHIO—The Cleve and Beechwold theatres here, units of the MacDonald chain, have been acquired by Louis J. Wiethe, Cincinnati circuit owner. The former is a three-year-old house with 700 seats and the Beechwold, now under construction, is scheduled to open shortly.

The MacDonald organization for the time being will continue to handle the booking and buying for the two houses. The organization is headed by the widow of the late C. A. MacDonald, who died recently.

Cooking School Matinees Are Proving Successful

CLEVELAND—Exhibitors in this territory have had great success with the special cooking school matinees arranged by F. Arthur Simon of Lake Shore Sales Co., in cooperation with the General Electric Co.

The school is held on an afternoon on which the theatre does not regularly have a matinee. Regular theatre admission is charged. A public cooking demonstration by experts is held on the stage and at each performance a $175 electric cooking stove is given away free, as well as 20 baskets of assorted foodstuffs.

Theatre Likely for Oakdale

OAKDALE, PA.—Real estate circles indicate that a modern theatre will be erected here. Owners' names are not available.



In New Territory—

Harry Goldstein, Paramount district manager who will supervise Detroit in addition to Cincinnati, Cleveland and Indianapolis under a re-shuffling preparatory to operations under the decree. Allen Usher, Chicago district manager, has been handling Detroit until now. *See page* 13 *for full detail.*

CLEVELAND

JOE MINSKY, Vitagraph city salesman, was the man of the hour last week. The employes of Vitagraph and the Warner theatre department held a special dinner-dance in the Warner club rooms in his honor, while the industry at large staged a big party for him Monday, January 20, at the Variety Club. The occasion of all this special attention, was Minsky's departure to join Uncle Sam's boys at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Arnold Nathanson of the Warner theatre publicity department breaks into the news via the society columns. On February 2, *at* 4 *p. m., in the chapel of the Temple, East* 105*th St. and Ansel Road, he will be married to Miss Ruth Schmitmann, formerly of Buffalo. It will be an open church wedding and all friends are welcome . . . "Kitty Foyle" is chalking up a new set of records in its local key runs. George Lefko, RKO branch manager, reports the picture is doing outstanding business in Akron, Canton and Cleveland where it ran* 11 *days at the Hipp before moving over to the Allen for an extended stay.*

Marge Britton, one of the Vitagraph secretaries, has announced her engagement to Jack Nolan of this city . . . Eddie Catlin of the Vitagraph sales force is back from a Florida interlude . . . Alice Dunham has resigned as United Artists cashier to assume domestic duties following her marriage late this month. Leah Goldman, her assistant, moves up into first place, and Harriet Kolisky joins the UA family. The exchange personnel held a farewell party at the Variety Club in honor of Miss Dunham, who severs a five-year connection with the exchange.

Eddie Miller, Hippodrome manager, is a flu victim but now on the mend . . . Jack Silverman, who operates theatres in Pennsylvania, was a Filmrow visitor for the first time in ten years . . . Leonard Greenberger of the Moreland is the father of a boy born January 15. *This automatically makes Henry Greenberger of the Community circuit a member of the local Grandfathers' Club . . . Al Sunshine, who has been manager of the local office of Hollywood Advertising Co. for the past six years, has resigned to join National Screen Service. He is succeeded by Manny Goodman, who comes here from Hollywood Advertising Co.'s Chicago office.*

Douglas George, manager of the Windameer Theatre, spoke before the students of Shaw High School on "How to Appreciate Motion Pictures" . . . Wally Caldwell's new de luxe Esquire in Toledo is scheduled to open January 30. Bob Bial of Art Guild Studios, Cleveland, is furnishing the lobby display frames for the Esquire . . . S. A. Galanty, Columbia district manager, spent his short Cleveland stay in bed at the Statler Hotel. It was a slight case of ptomaine . . . Harry Reinhart, the Canton theatre owner, invited Cleveland film men and their wives down to Canton on January 25 for a big hurrah staged at the Belden Hotel. It was just Reinhart's way of saying au revoir prior to pulling out for California for the rest of the winter.

On the sick list: Joe Kauffman, Universal branch manager, is still very ill at Mount Sinai . . . Ted Scheinberg, 20*th-Fox salesman, in with the flu . . . S. P. Gorrel, Republic branch manager, home all week with a bad cold . . . Frank Hunt,* 20*th-Fox head booker, was called away from the office last week on account of the death of his wife's mother . . . I. J. Schmertz,* 20*th-Fox branch manager, sends back postcards of sunshine and flowers in bloom just to make us snow bound-ers feel even worse . . . M. B. Horwitz, general manager of the Washington circuit, is back from a quickie Florida jaunt of seven days.*

Urban Anderson is back from Chicago where he attended the national coin machine convention. Anderson is president of Midwest Specialties Co., distributors of the "slot" coin films . . . Miss Rickie Labowitch, secretary of G. W. Erdmann of Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n, is resting comfortably following an operation at Mount Sinai.

Complete Remodeling on Metro Detroit Offices

DETROIT—Remodeling of the M-G-M offices following removal of district offices by Manager Jack Flynn to Chicago, has been completed, with enlarged space now available for local sales and booking.

Frank J. Downey, branch manager, takes over the southwest corner office vacated by Flynn, while John Morgan, assistant, gets Downey's old office. Warren Slee, publicity head, moves into the former district file room, and his office is being used for salesmen's offices, making two rooms devoted to this purpose. New booking department has just been completed with low type booking desk for convenience of exhibitors.

Robert Bernstein, salesman here for several months, has been transferred to the New York office, and Floyd Chrysler has been "loaned" to the Chicago office.

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from page 55)

Boys Town, and Miss Martha Berry of Georgia received the first two awards. The committee includes Harry M. Bitner, Edward T. Leech and Oliver J. Keller, Pittsburgh publishers.

Saal Gottlieb, M-G-M's city salesman, is back on the job after a Florida vacation and looking like a million . . . Martha Shulgold of Crown Film Co. struck her trial balance for the year late Monday afternoon after a short worry regarding a difference of four bits . . . Irving Dietz will offer a new sports wrestling subject which features two rough and ready gals on the mat . . . Charlie Baron pleased with an advance look at the "ten best" poll . . . Dave Shanahan, Nixon's assistant treasurer, a benedict.

A. P. Way, DuBois exhibitor, will attend the national Allied directors' meeting in Washington, D. C., January 27 and 28. Fred J. Herrington, recently renamed the local AMPTO's representative on the national board, local Allied prexy Fred A. Beedle, M. A. Rosenberg and Bill and Harry Walker are others who will attend . . . A new quiz show, Put and Take, made its debut over WWSW last Friday evening ing a broadcast from the stage of the Enright, with Walt Framer and Johnny Davis as emcees . . . M. Akselrad's Regent, McKees Rocks, has installed a cooling system from A. & S. Steinberg, Inc.

John Currie, who joined National Theatre Supply here five years ago, has returned to the local branch office as temporary manager, and will be on duty until E. B. Morton is well enough to return to the job. Morton was much inproved this week, but on the doctor's advice he will take a long rest. A. F. Baldwin, of NTS's home office, who had been in charge of business until Currie arrived, is returning to New York . . . Several West Virginia theatres were closed this week because of the flu epidemic . . . Republic has remodeled its local shipping quarters . . . We have understood for some time that Oliver K. Eaton will be connected with AAA here.

AMPTO directors were expected to meet in special session here prior to the national Allied directors' meeting in Washington, D. C., January 27 and 28 . . . Our national edition last week reported that Earle Sweigert, Paramount's Philadelphia manager, has been named to a district post embracing Washington, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh . . . March of Time's latest release, "Uncle Som—the Non-Belligerent," screened for the trade Tuesday afternoon at the uptown Rialto, has Kaspar Monahan of the Press *wondering if it can keep that title long enough to make the rounds!*

Lew and Milt Lefton this week denied any and all humors that Producers Releasing Corp. was merging with any other company. PRC is coming along very well and everything is satisfactory. Duddy Lefton of the local exchange is doing a splendid job, and at the end of the first six-week period in the PRC drive is leading the country in sales . . . S. David Lefton and Stanley Lieberfarb of PRC have offered their services to the government, and are ready for army camp life at any time . . . The industry's patriotic picture, "Land of Liberty," distributed by M-G-M, profits of which go to welfare work, is booked to open in the Fulton February 5 with M-G-M's "Keeping Company."

Abe Weiner, Harry Rees, William Scott and James H. Nash of this city joined United Artists sales organizations of Bert M. Stearn's district in Cleveland for a weekend conference . . . Back on the job this week after battling with the flu were Fred Solomon, American Poster Service; Guy V. Ida, McDonald; Lou Bender, Millvale; Mark Goldman, Monogram; Abe Steinberg, A. & S. Steinberg, Inc. . . . Bob Finkel has resigned his Monogram studio post and is now connected with an RKO producer. His dad, Bill Finkel, south side exhibitor, recently visited with him in Hollywood . . . Andy Dowd, local lisping projectionist, has been offering a $5 *reward for the return of his uppers, which were stolen while "parked" in a downtown cafe.*

E. W. Smith has resigned from managerial duties with the Mervis Bros. circuit, and I. L. Butler is no longer with the Sam Gould theatres . . . Jeanette MacDonald was honored at a reception Tuesday afternoon in the Twentieth Century Club and she appeared in concert in Syria Mosque Thursday night . . . Leo Abernathy is being opposed for re-election as president of the AFL-Pittsburgh Central Labor Union by Hunter P. Wharton of the Hoisting Engineers' Union. Abernathy is head of the International Alliance of Billposters, Billers and Distributors . . . Seymour Lefton, youngest son of the Lew Leftons, is recovering in Montefiore Hospital following an appendectomy. The hospital was under quarantine this week and members of his family couldn't visit with him.

Al Selig, RKO exploitation representative, was in a huddle the other day with Herb Greenblatt on campaigns for "Kitty Foyle" and "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," the latter comedy having been screened for the trade at the uptown Rialto Tuesday afternoon.

Andy Battiston has taken a gas station in McKeesport for his son Richard to operate . . . Freeman and Newbold's theatre at Iaeger, W. Va., was recently destroyed by fire . . . The Mort Englands have returned from their southern cruise and Havana vacation . . . Paul O. Klingler, manager of the Rialto, Lewistown, Pa., in returning "GWTW" will again present this epic on a reserved seat policy.

Buy "Remember the Day"

HOLLYWOOD—Twentieth-Fox has purchased screen rights to "Remember the Day," a play by Philo Higley and Philip Dunning. Dunning and Tess Slesinger have been assigned to script.

Farewell for Stoner Is Well Attended

CLEVELAND—More than 125 film folk from all sections of this territory turned out to do honor to Bryan D. "Buck" Stoner at a farewell testimonial dinner held in the Hollenden Hotel, January 13. The affair was arranged with mixed emotions, because his many friends, while happy over his promotion to manager of the M-G-M exchange in Pittsburgh, nevertheless regretted his leaving Cleveland.

Seated at the speaker's table with Stoner were Frank D. Drew, Cleveland branch manager; Jack Sogg, chairman and salesman in the Cleveland office; Lou Marks, who is succeeding Stoner here; Harry Goldstein, Paramount district manager; Bert Stearn, United Artists district manager; Charles Boasberg, RKO district manager; Charles Raymond, division manager for Loew's Theatres; Nat Holt, RKO Theatres division manager; Ernest Schwartz, president of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n and, as a surprise guest, Frank Stoner of Buffalo, father of the guest of honor.

An informal reception in the Variety club rooms for Mr. and Mrs. Stoner followed the dinner.

Among out-of-town exhibitors:

Frank Henson .....Loew's Akron
Orville Crouch.....Loew's Canton
Ray Hickman..Shea manager in New Phila.
Ed Hiehle.....Shea manager in Zanesville
Jack Hynes.....Paramount, Youngstown
F. King.....Shea manager in Newark
Bob Rhodes .....Colonial, Akron
M. A. Shea jr.....Ashtabula
Earl Gibbs .....Andover
Ernie Austgen.....Cuyahoga Falls
Jim Beidler .....Toledo
Biggio Brothers .....Steubenville
Bill Tallman and Bill Bridges.....
.....Ceramic, East Liverpool
Abe Cohen.....East Palestine
George Delis .....Canton
Louis Eick .....Martins Ferry
Paul Ellis .....Warren
Harry Flinn .....Berea
Max Greenwald .....Elyria
F. H. Hathaway.....Struthers
August Ilg .....Lorain
Harold Kay .....Painesville
Wayne Kimball .....Louisville
Reichblum Brothers.....East Liverpool
Joe Robins .....Warren
Harry Reinhart .....Canton
Pete Ruffo .....Niles
Sam Shia .....St. Clairsville
Martin Smith .....Toledo
Dan Stearns .....Willoughby
Walter Steuve .....Findlay
Joe Trunk .....Youngstown
Guy Lalama .....Youngstown
Nat Walker .....Salem
Ray Wallace .....Alliance
Peter Wellman .....Girard
Maurice Baker .....Steubenville
George Davis .....Wellsville
George Shenker .....Lorain
Hal Shreffler .....Shelby
Jerry Steel .....Oberlin
Paul Vogel .....Wellsville
Walter Schwartz .....Youngstown
Chris Velas ..... Bellaire

LOUISVILLE

HENRY REISSE of Amusement Enterprises, operating several theatres in the local territory, and Hughy Bernard, prexy at the local Towers, attended the inauguration of President Roosevelt and from Washington went to New York for several days . . . Henry Houchon, 60, of Waddy, Ky., here on a visit, collapsed in the lobby of the Kentucky Theatre. He died on the way to the hospital . . . Holdovers seem the vogue at downtown houses. The Rialto held "Kitty Foyle" for a second week, and "Go West" was moved to the Brown for a second week run. "Land of Liberty" played to well receiving audiences at Loew's and local critics gave much credit to the feature . . . Harry Gorman of Republic was in town for several days.

Jack Story, Mary Agnes, Jamestown, Ky., paid one of his very rare visits to Louisville. Story, who is probably the youngest exhibitor in the state, 21, *made a flying visit to several theatres under the guidance of Carl Mock of Universal . . . Nomination for busiest man in town and who really can take it, belongs to Chester Wentzell of the local Norman. He is now serving on the draft board in addition to his duties as booker for his theatre . . . Additions to the local round table luncheon at Thompson's were noted as Sylvester Grove of the local Capitol and Shelby, and W. E. Carrell of the Falls City Theatre Equipment Co.*

The old play company, "Adrift in New York," is going into its 23rd week at the Seelbach . . . W. S. Moore of the Temple, Portland, Tenn., has been ill for several days with influenza . . . C. M. Caldwell is opening his new Hart at Munfordville, Ky., about February 1. The building will be quite a showplace in the town. Caldwell also operates theatres at Cave City and Scottsville, Ky., and has just installed new lamps in his Lyric at Scottsville, Ky.

Ira Masden, who has been operating 16mm shows at Brandenburg, Ky., has installed new 35mm equipment and has renamed his theatre the New Ace . . . B. J. Curry of the Strand at Horse Cave, Ky., has installed new seats . . . Charles H. Behlan, who operates theatres at Nicholasville, Lancaster and Stanford, is erecting a new theatre at Stanford . . . Visitors included Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Caldwell of Scottsville, Ky., Mrs. Paul Sanders of the Alhambra, Campbellsville; A. N. Miles of the Eminence, Eminence, Ky; M. H. Sparks of Tompkinsville, Ky.

L. B. Wilson to Devote Time to Radio Station

CINCINNATI—L. B. Wilson of Covington, Ky., theatre owner and president of station WCKY, recently aligned with CBS, has resigned as president of the company operating the Liberty, Broadway and Wilson theatres. Wilson will be vice-president of the company and his position as head is taken by George L. Hill, prominent Covington grocer. Hill announces there will be no changes in the management or policy of the theatres. Wilson will devote his entire time to his radio station.

"How About a Smoky City Epic?"

"Of forthcoming films announced four will have New Orleans backgrounds. The New Orleans background has been overdone. How about a film with a Pittsburgh background? One concerning the romance of industrial achievement."—E. V. Durling's "Portraits in Words," Pittsburgh "Sun-Telegraph."

Variety Chairmen Named by Howard

DETROIT—Seven key men have been appointed to chairmanships of committees to handle activities of Detroit Variety for 1941 by Chief Barker John Howard. The club is starting off its 1941 season with its annual banquet, at which formal installation of officers and initiation of new members will take place.

Committee heads are: House committee: Edgar E. Kirchner, manager, Family Theatre; welfare, William Flemion, resident manager, Producers' Releasing Corp.; entertainment, Wade Allen, Fine Arts Theatre; ways and means, David M. Idzal, managing director, Fox Theatre; finance and auditing, Bernard Kilbride, circuit operator; membership, David Flayer, owner, Amo Theatre, and sports and outdoor activities, John Howard, branch manager, Paramount.

Committeemen appointed to the membership committee are: Walter Shafer, Wayne (Mich.) Theatre; Larry Becker, American Seating Co.; W. J. Turnbull, National Theatre Supply Co. manager; Eddie Heiber, Universal manager; Robert Mork, Mork-Green Studios, and Jack Young, Paramount.

Appointees to the sports committee are: Jack R. McPherson, National Screen Service manager; Harry Lush, manager, Penniman-Allen Theatre, Plymouth, Mich.; Jack Susami, Universal Pictures, and Frank Wagner, Wagner Electric Sign Co.

Other committeemen will be announced later.

IA Signs Two New Pacts In Detroit Territory

DETROIT—Two new contracts have been signed up by the IATSE in this territory, Roger Kennedy, a vice-president, reports. The first covers the field of laboratory technicians of all types working in industrial studios. About 50 men are involved, divided between Jam Handy and Wilding Studios.

At Cadillac, Mich., a new IA local has organized the projection field for the first time. Signed were some 15 members with the Butterfield circuit, which operates all the theatres in Cadillac, as well as independent exhibitors in surrounding towns.

Goodman Back at Desk

CLEVELAND—A. M. Goodman, United Artists branch manager, has returned to his duties after a three-month illness.

CINCINNATI

HARRIS WOLFBERG, new district manager for M-G-M, visited the local exchange getting acquainted and addressing the personnel in a get-together talk . . . Warner's Bob Smeltzer, district manager, was also here in the interests of the "20th Year for Sears" drive. The local force is well up in the running . . . W. W. Brumberg, Warner publicity-shooter, was here promoting latest Warner releases . . . Genial Bill Onie, president of the Queen City Variety Club and local Monogram head, announces the "Bill Onie Third Anniversary Playdate Drive," set for February 16 to April 11. Onie is enthusiastic over "Her First Romance," Monogram release of the Gene Stratton-Porter story, starring Edith Fellows.

Bob Drew, Monogram's West Virginia representative, has resigned to open a school for instruction of seaplane pilots. The new venture is thriving on the Ohio River. Drew's place has been taken by Ezra Skirball . . . 20th-Fox reports numerous voluntary bookings on "Night Train," due to its being listed as one of the ten best pictures in the New Critics' poll . . . John Gardner, manager of the new Labelle, Alpine circuit house recently opened in S. Charleston, is about to become a benedict.

The Weaver Bros., operating the Plaza at Miamisburg in conjunction with Palm Garden, have disposed of the garden and will devote all their time to the theatre . . . Warner's Thelma Watkins announces her engagement to W. Yockey . . . Virgil Jackson has returned from Florida . . . Louis Wiethe has taken over two houses from the C. A. MacDonald chain, the Cleves at Columbus and the new Beechwold, under construction at Beechwold, a Columbus suburb, which is expected to open in February.

Harry Jennings was in town . . . The Freeman-Newbold circuit is reported planning to rebuild their theatre at Iager, W. Va., recently destroyed by fire . . . Friends of John Jones, former manager of the Southern and Majestic theatres, Columbus, read with much interest his daily column in the Dispatch, *Jones having taken up newspaper work.*

Mrs. Floyd Williamson, Regal, Dayton, visited the local exchanges lining up bookings . . . Moe Baughman and Dorothy Maddux, Warner's, are on the sick list with flu . . . "Thief of Bagdad" opened to exceptional boxoffices and is rated as "A" entertainment by Queen City critics . . . "GWTW" did larger Saturday and Sunday business on its repeat week than it did on the opening. Indications are for several more weeks on this film's return engagement.

"Legislative Breakfast"

COLUMBUS—P. J. Wood, ITOO secretary, entertained Wednesday morning at the Variety Club with his regular "legislative breakfast." Purpose is to give the lawmakers an inside on the workings of the industry, and in particular problems of the exhibitors throughout Ohio.

Chas. Philbrook to Build Crafton Heights House

PITTSBURGH—Rumored for a long period, and now acknowledged "in the trade," are plans for the opening of a theatre in Crafton Heights. Seating capacity will be around 400. Backing the project is the name of Charles Philbrook, former Sheraden exhibitor.

Farewell Dinner

CLEVELAND—The M-G-M Pep Club last week held a farewell dinner party in honor of Jean Chapman who after 12 years with the local M-G-M exchange, resigned to go domestic. Marie Flynn succeeds her as accountant clerk; Gertrude Shaw becomes statement clerk, and Jean's sister, Marie Mack, takes over the switchboard.

Canton Warner Frolic

CANTON, OHIO — Canton Warner Bros. club, comprised of executives and employes of the Ohio Theatre here, will hold its annual winter frolic at the Colonade Inn, Tuesday night, January 28, according to William Harwell, manager of the Ohio. R. Jay Myers jr., is assisting Manager Harwell with arrangements.

To Camp Shelby

COLUMBUS—Lee Fisher, assistant publicist for RKO, left Wednesday for Camp Shelby, Miss., for a year's training under selective service. He is the first of the local theatrical crew to have his number called.

BOWLING

DETROIT—Amusement Supply moved up two notches last week in the Film Bowling League, confirming the high scores that gave them the all-season high in earlier weeks of the season. Individual high scores were rung up by Jack Susami, 219, and Max Englander, 201.

Standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
United Artists	40	24
Co-operative	38	26
Republic	37	27
Film Drug	32	32
Amusement Supply	29	35
Film Truck	28	36
Monogram	28	36
20th Century-Fox	24	40

DETROIT—The Nightingales got back into stride last week with half a dozen good scores rolled up after an all-season low a week ago. S. J. Lambly totaled 561, with one 202 score, while Jack Hall got 558, including a 211. Romulus Albu hit a 209 and T. Goossen hit the week's high of 212.

Standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Lorenzen Flower Shop	38	26
National Carbon Co.	38	26
Motiograph	37	27
McArthur	34	30
National Theatre Supply	34	30
Ernie Forbes	28	36
Amusement Supply	26	38
Brenkert Projectors	22	42

Select for Crown

PITTSBURGH—Crown Film Co., managed by Max Shulgold, has secured the local franchise for distributing Select Pictures product. Select has announced 16 productions for the season, first of which is "Adolescence," with Leon Janney, which is completed and ready for release.

Mrs. Albert A. Weiland Dies From Heart Attack

PITTSBURGH—Mrs. Amelia C. Reckinger Weiland, wife of Albert A. Weiland, pioneer film distributor and exhibitor, died of a heart attack last week as she entered the Capitol Theatre on Warrington Avenue. She had just passed the doorman when she was stricken.

Funeral services were held Wednesday morning from the family home. Surviving are her husband, proprietor of the Weiland Theatre in the Oakland-Bellefield district; ten children, three grandchildren, two sisters and one brother.

105-Year-Old Mother Of Al Taylor Dies

CINCINNATI—Death came last week to the 105-year-old mother of Al Taylor. She was the great-great grandmother of Mae Taylor, who aids her grandfather in booking for his Dixie and is often here with him on Filmrow. Taylor himself boasts of 85 years.

Dies in Childbirth

ERIE, PA.—Mrs. Joseph Seyboldt jr., daughter-in-law of the veteran exhibitor, died here in childbirth last week. The deceased's husband is the projectionist at the Regent and booker for the Gem.

Sound Engineer Dies

DETROIT—W. G. Nelson, 34, sound engineer for about 25 local theatres, died last week in Henry Ford Hospital from pleurisy. He was with RCA for about ten years.

ANY NEWS TODAY?

Planning a new theatre? Remodeling? Being promoted? Getting married? Got a new baby (infant)? Buying new equipment? Been elected mayor? Son or daughter graduating? Proud of a new exploitation stunt? Hired a new staff member? Solved a knotty problem?

Then Tell It To BOXOFFICE

BOXOFFICE,
4804 E. Ninth St.,
Kansas City, Mo.

NAME ..... THEATRE ..... LOCATION .....

Follow Precedent in Clearance—Bevan

BOSTON—Al Bevan, M&P Theatres Corp. assistant booker, recalled to the stand in the Waldo Theatres Corp. vs. the late Joseph Dondis, et al. anti-trust suit, replied in the affirmative to plaintiff's attorney, George S. Ryan's question: "Did you find in your dealings with any distributor, take in 1930-31, that they gave as a reason for violating protection that another distributor had done the same thing?"

In further questioning Bevan declared that representatives of all the major exchanges, at different times, asked him what protection was being given him by the other exchanges.

Responding to questions on talks between Bevan and Paramount exchange officials Bevan told the court, presided over by Master Francis P. Freeman, that in a conversation on protection with Eddie Ruff, branch manager for Paramount at New Haven, he (Bevan) asked "for certain clearance for some of the towns in Connecticut" but that an accord had not been reached on what the clearance should be in towns in Connecticut.

"Too Much Sought"

When queries turned to Metro's attitude on protection requests, Bevan declared that Jack Byrne, branch manager for Metro in Boston at the time, dismissed arguments as to what other distributors were allowing in clearance as irrelevant. The discussion at that time pertained to the M&P theatres in New England outside of Connecticut.

The crux of the objections by Metro to the clearance requests was that too much was being sought, informed Bevan.

Concentrating upon the request for protection from one company by citing the fact that another company was according the desired protection, Ryan inquired as to the advantage to the company (desiring the protection) and was told its advantage lay in its convenience.

This was elaborated by the M&P assistant booker with: "Your local managers will call you up or write you a letter and tell you that someone is violating a clearance, and you forget what they had and have to look it up. If everybody is the same you don't have to look it up. Sometimes they complain of something that isn't so at all. Where there is a difference between the different exchanges over a given situation."

Lydon Will Confer With Allied States Leaders

BOSTON—Frank Lydon, eastern regional vice-president of Allied States Ass'n and president of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., planned to leave Boston over the weekend for the Washington conference of Allied leaders. Arthur K. Howard, business manager of the Independent Exhibitors, and Nathan Yamins, former local and national Allied president, expected to accompany Lydon in official capacity.

Massachusetts Solons Get Anti-Ascap Bill

BOSTON—An anti-Ascap bill has been filed in the Massachusetts legislature. The petition, some 38 pages long, had not been printed up to press time, and details, therefore, were not generally known.

Arthur K. Howard, Independent Exhibitors business manager, who last year came out against local action against Ascap in lieu of concentrated national Allied efforts, told this publication he could take no stand on the present bill until settling of an Allied States Ass'n national poll at the forthcoming Washington confab.

Other bills affecting the industry were filed but are still unprinted.

Legislative spokesmen agree off the scenes that no great amount of activity is to be expected on Beacon Hill for the next month. The legislative body has been slow, too, in forming committees.

An unusual quantity of labor legislation will probably be acted upon this year. The film industry, in recent past sessions, has come out unscathed on this score.

Grippe Hits Trade In New England

BOSTON—Grippe, which closed numerous New England schools and universities, hit hard at this territory's grosses this week and last. It has been estimated an average of one person out of every five, has already had the grippe in these states. Thousands have kept away from theatres becauses of fear of contagion.

In Boston and suburban towns, "Ice Follies of 1941" was no film hypo. The Boston Garden show played to some 100,000 during its seven days here. Only comforting point, as far as exhibitors were concerned, was the announcement that Sonja Henie would skip Boston this year, partly because of a proposed rental increase, which, based on last year's figures, would lift her lodging expenses 400 per cent.

The Cinema Club's Fifth Dinner-Dance March 16

BOSTON—The fifth annual dinner-dance of the Cinema Club will be held March 16. Executives of the bookers' organization have set the fete for the Cocoanut Grove, film district nitery.

William Cuddy, first vice-president and RKO booker, is in charge of the programs, assisted by Charles Wilson of Republic. Larry Herman of the Ralph Snider circuit is in charge of printing. Tom Fermoyle of M&P has been appointed chairman of the committee on arrangements. Abe Barry of Columbia has supervision over tickets.

Aiding in general supervision of the affair are Charles Repec, M-G-M head booker and Cinema Club second vice-president; Dave Grover of RKO, Cinema treasurer; and Harry Smith of RKO, Cinema Club secretary.

"Slot" Films Franchise To Wm. McLaughlin

BOSTON—William H. McLaughlin, who recently sold the Stoneham in Stonham to Al Rudenstein, has taken over the Essex county, Massachusetts, franchise for the Mills-Roosevelt screenings. A number of other local film men, including members of the exhibition, equipment, and distribution fields here, have financial interest in the New England promotion of the machines.

Nominate in March

BOSTON—Nominations for new officers of the Exchange Employes Local, AFL affiliate, will probably take place in March, followed by April elections. Mathew Moriarty of Universal heads the union local.

Saltonstall Advocates No New Taxes for '41

BOSTON—The film industry looks for one of its best legislative years in some time here, although a new record total of bills was filed in both the Massachusetts senate and house.

One of the brightest signposts was Gov. Leverett Saltonstall's announcement he would advocate no new taxes. His stand resulted in the absence for the first time in years of a proposed sales tax, perennially filed by State Commissioner of Taxes Henry F. Long.

A bill did get in though for imposition of a three per cent tax on luxuries, the proceeds to be divided between public welfare and reduction of local levies.

New Lottery Proposal to New Hampshire Solons

CONCORD, N. H.—Despite defeat of a similar bill in 1939, a new state lottery proposal designed to provide revenue for old-age assistance, is sought in House Bill No. 78, which has been introduced at the new biennial session of the legislature here by Rep. John C. O'Brien of Manchester.

A referendum would be submitted to the people in the various cities and towns at a special election and a majority of the voters would have to approve the plan before the lottery could be held. Fifty per cent of the lottery receipts would go toward prizes, the state would receive 25 per cent, and the remaining 25 per cent, less expenses of a commission conducting the lotteries, would be distributed to various cities and towns in the state.

The bill has been referred to the house ways and means committee for public hearings.

"Kitty Foyle" Leads in Second Boston Week

BOSTON—"Kitty Foyle," in its second week at Keith's Memorial, led the field last week in first-run Boston. Heavy concentration of grippe and flu here did no good for boxoffices. A streak of record cold weather for the winter kept others at home. Detail for the week ending January 16:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**Four Mothers** (WB); **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 70
Keith's Memorial—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 2nd wk. 145
Loew's Orpheum—**Arizona** (Col); **Angels Over Broadway** (Col) 90
Loew's State—**Arizona** (Col); **Angels Over Broadway** (Col) 85
Metropolitan—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Michael Shayne, Detective** (20th-Fox) 80
Paramount—**Four Mothers** (WB); **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 70

"Kitty Foyle" Holds Lead Second Providence Week

PROVIDENCE—A generally fair week was enjoyed by the Providence first runs with "Kitty Foyle" on a dual bill and in its second week at the Albee leading the field with 50 per cent over average.

A second week stanza also was earned by "Santa Fe Trail" at the Carlton.

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 2nd wk.....150
Carlton—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ), 2nd wk..... 90
Fays—**Lucky Devils** (Univ); **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (Univ) 120
Majestic—**Four Mothers** (WB); **South of Suez** (WB). 110
State—**Go West** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M). 100
Strand—**Victory** (Para't); **Dancing on a Dime** (Para't) 80

New Haven Grosses Hold Against Sport Events

NEW HAVEN—Business was better this week in spite of the competition of outdoor skating. "Flight Command" at the Loew-Poli and "Thief of Bagdad" at the Roger Sherman were the leaders. Exhibitors welcomed back the 5,000 Yale students.

Detail for week ended January 16:

(Average is 100)

College—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Jennie** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100
Loew-Poli—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Street of Memories** (20th-Fox), including midnight New Year's Eve performance 120
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), return engagement; **World in Flames** (Para't), 6 days 90
Roger Sherman—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (RKO).....130

"Kitty" Holds On

BOSTON—Harry McDonald, RKO divisional manager, put "Kitty Foyle" into a third week at Keith's Memorial to make it the town's only holdover. "The Saint in Palm Springs" also stayed for the three weeks. Common RKO Memorial practice is to shift subsequent-features on holdovers.

To a Friday Change

HARTFORD—The M&P's Allyn, managed by Walter B. Lloyd, is now starting all new shows on Friday instead of Thursday.

PORTLAND

AN EPIDEMIC of influenza is spreading throughout the state with schools and many public gathering places closed. The epidemic seems most severe at Waterville, Bangor, Lewiston and Auburn. Doctors have publicly warned the public to "stay away from crowds." All local theatres are being affected but, at present, the situation is not critical.

Ralph W. Pinkham, manager of the Temple, Houlton, Me., for the past ten years, has been transferred to Bath to take charge of the Uptown, formerly managed by Francis J. Gooch. Gooch, at the same time, went to Houlton to manage the new Houlton, directly adjacent to the Temple.

The Strand here is being remodeled and redecorated, with fluorescent lighting fixtures installed in the lobby. New carpets will be laid throughout the theatre. Walls are to be repainted for the most part, except those in the remodeled inner lobby. These will have a leather covering with walnut agate glass and clear glass doors and display frames, according to Leo Young, manager.

Marjorie Peterson, screen and stage star, played the leading role in Victor Herbert's "Babes in Toyland," presented by Guy Palmerton at the Civic Theatre last week. She was supported by a New York company.

Luxury Tax Bill to Include Theatres

PORTLAND—A broad luxury tax bill, which provides levies on amusements, cosmetics, candy, jewelry, soft drinks and tobacco, has been drafted by Rep. E. Sam Farwell for introduction in the Maine legislature in the near future.

The purpose of the bill is to obtain "new money" by which the state can finance old-age assistance, welfare programs, including pauper support, and meet increasing costs of expansion of governmental activities.

A tax of one cent for each 10 cents or fractional part thereof on theatre admissions will be provided by the bill. The tax on cigarettes and all other forms of tobacco would be five per cent of the retail selling price of each article.

A 10 per cent levy would be imposed on the retail price of cosmetics or toilet preparations; a two per cent levy on all jewelry sales and a similar tax on all candy sales. The soft drink tax would include one-fourth cent on each five cent bottle; 20 cents a gallon on syrups.

Change Vaudeville Days

HOLYOKE, MASS. — The Holyoke has vaudeville Thursday, Friday, Saturday, instead of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday.

PROVIDENCE

PREVALENCE of grippe epidemic in Rhode Island has many theatres working with reduced staffs, but still worse, preponderance of illness is now being noticed in theatre grosses . . . Providence theatre managers who in the past couple of years have ran up against censorial troubles, now face new headaches along these lines in Chapter 1047 of city ordinance, No. 495, approved by City Council December 31 and now in effect. Ordinance regulates billboards and outdoor advertising. Portion directly due to bring worry to theatres is Section 16, which reads: "No outdoor advertising of an obscene, indecent, licentious or immoral character or kind, or depicting the commission of any crime, shall be displayed or maintained on or as part of any billboard or structure . . . In order more effectually to secure compliance with this regulation, no outdoor advertising shall be displayed, exposed, posted up or exhibited . . . unless the subject matter thereof shall have first been approved by the bureau of police and fire of the city in writing." Violations will be subject to $10 per day fine for every day display continues.

Fay's Theatre, which dropped its vaudeville-film policy eight months ago, returned to stage shows January 24. House has done well with first-run westerns and melodramas but, according to Operator Edward M. Fay, lack of product necessitates dropping of the dual-feature policy and resumption of single features and variety acts.

New fronts have recently gone up on Associated Theatres' Empire and Bijou and District Manager George Cronin is sporting a new car—all indicating business good at these theatres. Empire staff is awaiting delivery of new uniforms . . . Manager Matt Reilley of Associated's Palace, Cranston, has effected a tieup with Marty's Clothing Mart through which super clothing store carries advertising in theatre programs and contributes a suit of clothes as prize in a number drawing conducted at the theatre once a month.

George Sarrais, Providence College footballer, is that husky new outside doorman wearing the Strand Theatre uniform . . . Providence newspaper critics tossed orchids galore to Ruth Hussey, Providence gal, for her work in "Flight Command" following film's opening at Loew's State. Which pleased Manager Ed McBride plenty and helped film's grosses no end.

M&P circuit is running cooking schools at their Strand, Pawtucket, and Stadium, Woonsocket, one matinee weekly during this month. Florence Buxman of Spry Research Kitchen conducting the school . . . Hugh Kelly, special officer at the Strand, Pawtucket, for the past seven years and who was stricken ill Christmas Eve, died at his Pawtucket home, January 12.

BOSTON

MYER STANZLER, operator of the Community in Wakefield, has left Rhode Island for Florida climes . . . Nathan Yamins, former local and national Allied president, plans to hit Florida the last week of the month . . . Joe Mathieu, circuit owner headquartering in Winchendon, is another exhibitor with a Florida ticket . . . Warren Nichols, operator of the Gem in Peterborough, is scheduled to take his golf bags to Florida soon.

Florence Scully of M-G-M has been convalescing . . . David Ambuter, head of the Ambuter Film Labs here, went home last week with the grippe . . . Michael J. Hurney, office head of Specialty Pictures, Inc., returned to the district after being confined with the flu . . . Sam Berg, Cinema Club president, has set the fifth annual charitable ball of the bookers and office managers fraternity for the Cocoanut Grove, March 16.

Jack Shea, circuit owner, was in from New York . . . Abe Barry, Columbia branch manager, has returned from his vacation . . . Irving Beck of M-G-M was here from New York . . . Sam Torgan, Lowell exhibitor, has been ill . . . Morris Safner, Woonsocket exhibitor, has had the grippe . . . John Glazier, booker for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., has been ill . . . Phil Berler, E. M. Loew head booker, has had the grippe.

Ann McClellan, Universal contract clerk, has resigned because of a change of residence to California . . . Ben Domingo, city manager for the RKO Theatres, has been mourning the death of his mother. His mother-in-law passed away a few days previously . . . Ed Morey, Republic branch manager, has had the grippe . . . Bill Hawkins of Capitol Theatre Supply Co. has been out . . . Joe Stanzler of East Greenwich, R. I., has had the grippe . . . Roy E. Heffner, local distributor and exhibitor, bagged three deer during the course of a recent western hunting trip.

Ann Harrington of M-G-M has been out with the flu . . . Helen Glazier of Producers' Releasing Corp. had the grippe . . . Shep Epstein, field representative for Arthur K. Howard of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., had the grippe last week . . . Al Gould of Mount Pleasant, R. I., had the grippe . . . William H. McLaughlin jr., son of the former Stoneham exhibitor, has been named an alternate for Annapolis by Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers.

Katherine Galvin of Columbia was to have become a bride this week . . . Anna Krim, personal secretary to the local Columbia branch manager, has a diamond . . . Lou Newman has been appointed manager of the Trans Lux in Boston, operated by Interstate . . . Harriet Botnick, veteran Columbia employe, was absent for the first time in years because of the grippe.

Shirley Rachlier of Universal has been out with the grippe . . . Miriam Haines of Universal was also ill . . . Bernard Levin, local Columbia accessories manager, had the grippe . . . Joe Cohen, booker for the Morris Pouzzner chain, and his bride have been honeymooning in Florida . . . E. H. Wolk, Chicago manufacturer, stopped off in Boston last week en route from Montreal to New York . . . Kenneth R. Douglass, Capitol Theatre Supply Co. head, was out last week with the grippe . . . L. L. Foster, Capitol executive, also had a touch of the flu . . . Dorothy Rooney of Universal had the grippe . . . Emma V. Corbett of the Universal booking department had the grippe.

Carl Jamroga has been appointed manager of the Academy in Northampton by Julian Rifkin. Jamroga formerly managed the Phillips in Springfield . . . Joseph Brennan, executive secretary of the MPTO here, was out last week with a severe case of flu . . . John Caskey, New York attorney representing 20th-Fox in the Waldo Theatre Corp. anti-trust suit being heard here, was out last week with the grippe . . . Marian Neenan of M&P returned to work last week following the grippe . . . Wendell Love of Springfield has been running film shows at the Olivette Community House, although still in high school. He hopes to enter the film business on a full basis when he graduates in June.

Stirling Hayden, Bostonian whose first film appearance is in the supporting male role in "Virginia," is due here next month as part of the exploitation campaign on the release. Hayden has been cast in the

(Continued on page 64-C)

CAPITOL

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A NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZATION FOR NEW ENGLAND EXHIBITORS

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NEW HAVEN

EXHIBITORS have until January 31 to worry about new legislation in the current session of the state legislature. After that no new bills can be filed . . . Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut met Tuesday for lunch and the regular bi-weekly talk on problems of the business . . . A big social event was the Donaldson dinner which expressed the good wishes of the trade to the departing and the new local Metro exchange manager. Bouquets to the committee for arrangements. Maurice N. Wolf was in fine style as toastmaster. Twenty-two Boston film men including the entire Metro office staff came down in a private railroad car. Donaldson bade the boys goodbye in an earnest speech. The film circle liked Morey Goldstein at first sight and predicted he would receive the cooperation he asked for in his talk.

Harry Shaw was to the point in his own inimitable style at the banquet. Jack Fishman did a smart job of presenting the beautiful parchment scroll and a handsome radio-Victrola combination to Donaldson. Hy Fine was given his usual enthusiastic reception. Ben Simon, Walter Higgins, Herman Rifkin and Joseph Stein added speeches. The governor of New Hampshire, mayor of Berlin, N. H., and headmaster of Donaldson's school in Berlin sent wires. Mack Murray floored them with his "psychic" reading. Virgie Scott contributed hilarious lyrics. And another New Haven manager makes good.

The grippe bug is becoming increasingly active. Latest on the sick list include I. J. Hoffman and B. E. Hoffman, Warner theatre department executives; Lou Phillips, Modern Theatre Supply manager; Max Melincoff, Warner theatre department; Norman Randall, assistant at Paramount, New Haven . . . Jeanette Berliner keeping to her Republic booking post in spite of a bad cold . . . Marian, daughter of the late Abe Fishman, home from University of Connecticut with the grippe . . . "Dean" Morris Joseph, looking himself again, visited Meadow Street and his Universal office before leaving for a Florida vacation . . . Lucy Flack escaped unhurt when her Pontiac car was badly damaged in a collision . . . J. H. Reilly jr., WICC news reporter, died of cerebral hemorrhages after being stricken in his car.

Peter Perakos and Joseph Quittner are reported erecting a 1,000-seat theatre in East Hartford . . . The Albert Smiths have a new vertical neon sign on their 500-seat Colonial, Walnut Beach . . . Morris Drucker, assistant at the Poli, Worcester, has been transferred to the State, Cleveland, to substitute for Everett Steinbuck, on leave of absence, while Max Nevetsky, assistant at Elm Street, fills Drucker's Shoes.

The Barney Pitkins (he is RKO manager) are in Florida and may take in Havana, too . . . Sam Rosen of Rosen Film Deliveries is getting set for a visit to Florida and some fishing . . . Earl Wright, 20th-Fox, just back from St. Petersburg, says he caught enough fish to supply all the neighbors. He has pictures to prove it . . . Ben Cohen, former College manager, on leave from Calcutta, still visiting in town.

New Haven 20th-Fox exchange rated eighth in the country in the Sidney R. Kent Drive . . . All Poli houses played the special newsreel shots of the Hurley inauguration, including not only the inaugural ceremonies and parade, but also the ball at the armory. Opening day at the Poli, Hartford, had the governor and staff members as honor guests . . . Martin Larkin of the Hays office is spending some time in New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, and other New England towns on "Land of Liberty," documentary "war relief" film which soon plays all Poli towns. Bert Mackenzie, Boston M-G-M exploitation man, also spent a few days in the territory on exploitation of the picture.

Bob Russell and Nat Rubin gave "GWTW" a second big sendoff in New Haven . . . "Love Thy Neighbor," back for a six-day re-engagement at the Paramount, after a tremendous first week, was co-featured with "World in Flames" this time . . . Morris Rosenthal staged a special screening at the Majestic, Bridgeport, of "Land of Liberty," inviting 150 publicity and personnel executives of leading factories, educators, city officials, and the press.

Projector Repair Shop Above Capitol Supply

BOSTON—Kenneth R. Douglass, Capitol Theatre Supply head, has turned the second floor of Capitol quarters into a projector repair shop to accommodate the combination of personnel and mechanical equipment of Capitol with that of the Theatre Service & Supply Co. The move gives Capitol the largest projector repair shop in New England.

P. Edward Comi of the Theatre Service & Supply Co. and Al Nasif of the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. will personally supervise the shop when the new setup goes into effect February 1. The enlarged and modernized shop facilities will be open to inspection at that time.

Al Herman New England Manager for Monogram

BOSTON—Al Herman has been installed here as New England manager for Monogram, succeeding Steve Broidy who became national sales manager. Herman was recently New England district manager for Universal and before that was connected in an executive capacity with several other major distributors.

Weekly Quiz Program

HARTFORD—A quiz program which will be a regular Friday feature, has been started at the State here. Cash awards totaling $100 will be given away weekly for correct answers. Jack Lacey, local radio station announcer, will be the quizmaster.

Martha Scott and Brent

HOLLYWOOD—Martha Scott has been set for the lead opposite George Brent in "They Dare Not Love," Sam Bischoff production for Columbia.

Turn to Radio When Printers Walk Out

NEW HAVEN—Theatres, along with other advertisers, took all available air space on local stations WELI, WBRY and WICC when they were confronted last week with a two-day suspension of publication of the *Morning Journal-Courier* and a one-day suspension of the evening *Register*, both John Day Jackson papers.

A strike by Local 47, International Typographical Union, for a $3 weekly wage increase, a written contract and a two-week vacation with pay, caused the tieup, first in the history of the *Courier* and second for the *Register*, the only New Haven dailies.

Theatres were swamped with telephone calls, and business showed a drop, although it was impossible to trace this directly to the lack of a press.

The *Register* has resumed publication under a temporary agreement with the union.

Sunday Censor Gives 31 Clean Bill of Health

BOSTON—Films were given a clean bill of health by the Sunday Bureau of Censorship when the entire list of 31 went through without eliminations. The features surveyed included M-G-M's "Maisie Was a Lady," 20th-Fox's "Girl in the News," and Monogram's "You're Out of Luck."

The title change of Paramount's "Magic in Music" to "Hard-boiled Canary" was noted.

The Cathry Dancers was the only vaudeville routine to be refused a Sunday license, although four other acts including the George White "Scandals" tab, were clipped. Ben Blue and 16 other vaudeville acts were okayed for Sabbath showings.

Horace Decelles to Helm Of Richmond, N. Adams

NORTH ADAMS, MASS.—Horace Decelles, assistant manager at the Capitol, Pittsfield, and formerly assistant manager of the Paramount, has been appointed manager of the Richmond, succeeding Thomas W. Chatburn who has resigned due to poor health. Gerald Savoie, former manager of the Richmond, was shifted from the Victory, Holyoke, to the Capitol, Pittsfield, replacing Decelles.

Boost Elizabeth Wilson To Academy Manager

NORTHAMPTON, MASS.—Elizabeth Wilson, cashier and assistant manager of the Academy here, has been upped to manager, succeeding M. Frank Shaughnessy, who is now recuperating from injuries received in an automobile accident.

It was announced earlier in Springfield that Carl Jamroga, manager of the Phillips in that city, would handle the Academy, a Herman Rifkin house.

May Have to Resort To Female Help

Hartford—Factories and shops in this area participating in the defense program are cutting heavily into the personnel of local theatres and creating for exhibitors a first-class problem.

Ushers are being lured away almost daily as well as a number of higher-placed employes, including student assistants and assistant managers.

Exhibitors generally believe they will have to resort to female employes to solve the problem for the duration of the war emergency, at least.

Birthday Ball Plans in Charge of Jack Simons

HARTFORD—Jack A. Simons, manager of Loew's Poli, has been appointed chairman of the President's Birthday Ball to be held January 30 at the Hartford Club.

Rudy Frank, publicity director for the State, and Wallace J. Cooper, assistant manager of Loew's Poli, are in charge of entertainment. Other committees: Reception, Morris Schulman, Schulman Theatres; George E. Landers, E. M. Loew's; David E. Sugarman, Colonial. Concessions: Walter B. Lloyd, Allyn; James F. McCarthy, Strand; Personnel: Louis A. Cohen, Palace; Michael J. Daly, Daly.

Springfield Local 186 Inaugurates Officers

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Officers for the new year were inaugurated recently by Local 186 at the Central Labor Union hall here. They include: Benjamin G. Hull, Bijou, business agent; Louis Williamson, Bijou, president; Granville G. Best, vice-president; Arthur J. Payette, Arcade, secretary-treasurer, and Owen Holmes, Garden; Yvan Ellia, Paramount, and Edwin B. Webber, Broadway, executive board members.

The Local's next meeting will be held February 3 at the labor union hall.

Joseph Ehrlick to Manage Gayety for E. M. Loew

BOSTON—Joseph Ehrlick has been appointed manager of the Gayety by E. M. Loew. Ehrlick, former assistant publicist for Loew's State and Orpheum here, was for several years assistant to Advertising Manager Jack Granara at local RKO theatres. Ehrlick has also been connected in an exploitation capacity with United Artists and the handling of roadshows last summer for Harry Segal.

Head Theatre Firm

HARTFORD—The secretary of state has received a certificate of organization from the State Hartford Theatre, Inc., naming as officers: Theodore Harris of West Hartford, president; Martin D. Harris of Passaic, N. J., vice-president; and Sam E. Harris of Passaic, treasurer-secretary.

HARTFORD

MANAGER BILL FLANAGHAN of the Lyric reports Ideal has reseated that 990-seat house . . . While Charlie Repass, Crown manager, was ill at home with the flu, Barney Fitzpatrick, the Crown's chief of service, filled in . . . Manuel Wendrow, former Proven Pictures doorman, is a new usher at the State . . . Bill "Big Ben" Benn, projectionist at the Crown, has been ill with the flu. Leo Tasmannio filled in . . . Irving Freedman, former chief of the State's service staff, is the new doorman at the State . . . Jack A. Simons, Loew's Poli manager, was ill with the grippe . . . Elihu Brooks, doorman at the Loew's Poli, was given a two-week leave of absence due to Trinity College exams.

The Empire, New London, managed by Tommy Ware, has been redecorated . . . O. H. Matinzi, manager of the Palace, Rockville, visited his parents in Plymouth, Mass. . . . Jules Frank, Loew's Poli chief of service, now takes his day off on Friday . . . Mrs. Joseph Loftus, wife of the Colonial janitor, is dead . . . Nick Mascoli of the Plaza, Waterbury, was ill with the grippe . . . The Children's Museum of Hartford presented a motion picture program on New England last Sunday afternoon . . . Blue Barron and his orchestra played to SRO business at the State . . . Phil Bergin, student assistant at the Loew's Poli Elm Street, Worcester, is now assistant manager . . . John Moreno has joined the ushers' corps at the State . . . Jules Frank, chief of service at the Loew's Poli, had a bad cold.

Joseph Miklos, manager of the Broadway over in Norwich, is reportedly contemplating marriage . . . Stanley Barnett is the new doorman at Proven Pictures here, succeeding Manuel Wendrow, resigned . . . Frankie Ramsey, assistant manager at the WB's Strand, was in New Haven . . . Robert Tamkin is the new relief doorman at the WB's Strand . . . Joseph Bernard, chief of the WB's Strand service staff, had a bad cold . . . Sylvester Markoski, assistant manager at the Proven Pictures, announces the appointment of Rosalie Guraso as cashier at that theatre.

Kitty Newcomb of the Crown, New London, is soon to be Mrs. Mondo Baldelli . . . Harold Thomas, assistant manager of the New London Crown, was in New Haven recently . . . Joseph Samartano, manager of the Loew's Poli Palace, Meriden, landed a newspaper color contest for "North West Mounted Police" . . . Alhambra, Torrington, brought back "Hell's Angels" . . . Raymond England, manager of the Colonial, Southington, has been named chairman of the local committee for the President's Birthday Ball . . . "Flight Command" was held over for a second week at the Loew's Poli Palace.

Thomas Quinn is the new usher at the M&P's Allyn, succeeding Norman Lang, resigned . . . George Feschler, usher at the WB's Regal, has been upped to doorman . . . The Laurel Cinema Club held a meeting in the club room of Sam Merman's Camera Exchange . . . Patricia Ellis, film star, did a p. a. at the State, Torrington . . . Three training motion pictures, "Infantry Crossing Stream," "Employment of Machine Guns in Defense," and "Infantry Hasty Field Fortifications," were shown at a meeting of reserve officers in this district last Thursday evening in the Hartford Federal Building.

The play, "Ladies in Waiting," is due at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, Springfield, Wednesday, February 5, as the first in a series to be shown at that E. M. Loew house under the sponsorship of the Springfield Playgoers' League. Such big productions as "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "The Little Foxes," and "Life With Father," are due at the same theatre . . . Schulman's Plaza, Windsor, brought back "Mikado," starring Kenny Baker . . . Mrs. M. Oakley Christoph, film columnist on the Hartford Courant, spoke on "The Theatre of Today," at a meeting of the Guild of St. Theresa in the Sacred Heart parish, Wethersfield . . . Betty Van Dyke, former director of publicity at the State, Hartford, appeared in the Hartford Players' production of "Shadows and Substance," at the Avery Memorial.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

WHEN the epidemic of cold and influenza cases began to reach disturbing proportions in New Hampshire, children were refused admittance to theatres in Dover. City Health Officer George Brennan barred youngsters from all public gathering places in an effort to curb further spread of the flu. Later a similar order was issued in Keene, where more than 700 school children were ill.

Arthur Brock of Laconia, a member of the "Mimic Four," famous vaudeville team of the early 1900's, has received word of the death of one of the quartet, William B. Van Duser, in Davenport, Ia. At one time, Van Duser leased the Moulton Opera House in Laconia for theatrical productions.

In the neighboring state of Vermont, the inauguration address of the new governor, William H. Wills, included a recommendation for direct repeal of the state law legalizing amusement machines. The new executive favored abolishing the machines regardless of the loss of revenue involved.

Keene's new radio station, WKNE, was dedicated recently with nearly 100 guests in attendance. Special guests included Gov. Robert O. Blood and members of his military staff and executive council.

Show German Comedy

HARTFORD—The German comedy, "Das Ekel," was shown at Saegerbund Hall.

To "Episode in Lisbon"

HOLLYWOOD—"Episode in Lisbon," an Edgar Selwyn production for Metro, is being adapted by Everett Freeman.

SPRINGFIELD

MRS. OLIVE J. SIMMS, cashier at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, has returned to Springfield after a visit to her husband, who is living at present in St. Catharine's, Canada . . . Manager George E. Freeman of the Loew's Poli reported smash SRO business with "Flight Command" . . . Philip Smith is a new usher at the Broadway, succeeding Joseph Dolan, resigned . . . Louis Lambert, projectionist at the Garden, and Simone Sirois of Springfield are slated to be married some time in February . . . Stevan Colter, projectionist at the Loew's Poli, returned last week to Springfield after a physical checkup at the Leahy Clinic in Boston.

Mrs. Anne A. Snow is the cashier at the WB's Capitol, replacing Evelyn King, who has left for fields unknown . . . Romeo Pelliquin, former WB's Capitol porter, is now stationed with Uncle Sam's army at Fort Devans, Mass. . . . Herman Rifkin of the Rifkin Theatres returned to this area last Wednesday after attending the Monogram convention out in St. Louis. Julian Rifkin of the Boston office was also in town last week . . . Bernard Cramber, UA exploitation field representative, was in Springfield to set a "Thief of Bagdad" campaign for the local Loew's-Poli rolling . . . Johnny Sullivan, electrician at the Loew's-Poli, won the speed skating contest at Porter Lake last Monday night.

The flu epidemic hit not only Springfield theatre-goers last week, but theatre help as well. As BOXOFFICE went to press, those ill with the flu in this town were: Eddie Powers, assistant manager, F&M Art; Henry Cook, GB's Paramount chief engineer; William "Billy" Powell, division manager, Rifkin Theatres; Arthur Roberts, GB's Paramount usher; Johnny Smail, Arcade usher, and Guy Kellogg, GB's Paramount usher.

William Carroll of the Warner, Lynn, was recently operated on for appendicitis . . . Manager Joseph Flynn of the Victoria, Lawrence, has recovered from an illness . . . Henry Smith, son of Edward, GB's Paramount, Springfield manager, will leave in about a week for training in Uncle Sam's air corps . . . Palace, Lawrence, has been remodeled and redecorated . . . George E. Freeman, Loew's-Poli, Springfield manager, has been appointed chairman of the Springfield Greek War Relief Ass'n motion picture committee.

Ted Holt of Loew's-Poli maintenance department, New Haven, Conn., is in town to repair seats at the local Loew's-Poli . . . Katharine Hoar has been named chief candy girl at the Loew's-Poli . . . All service staff members at the F&M Art are now sporting new uniforms . . . Melvin M. Aronson and Joseph J. Josephs, GB's Paramount chief of service staff and doorman, respectively, are now taking fencing lessons at the West Springfield YMCA . . . F&M Art played Monogram's "Queen of the Yukon" . . . GB's Paramount had Republic's "Barnyard Follies."

Henry Cook, chief engineer at the GB's Paramount, will have six teeth extracted within two weeks . . . Mary Manning, receptionist for the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., had a cold . . . Arthur Deane Nelson, chief of the service staff at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, is growing a mustache . . . Now sporting a nifty new wrist watch is Pauline Norat, candy girl at the E. M. Loew's Court Square . . . John Ross is a new part-time usher at the WB's Capitol, succeeding Thomas Kenney, who is now a full-time man at that theatre . . . Raymond Title of the F&M Art was in Boston's film district last week on business.

Sammy Kaye and his orchestra are due at the local GB's Paramount for a three-day run, starting Monday . . . Ernest W. Whitford of the E. M. Loew's Court Square reports that bigger and better vaudeville acts are due at that theatre in February . . . Alex Condinno, former Broadway usher, is a new usher at the Jefferson . . . Joseph Condinno is the new Garden doorman, succeeding Raymond Grainger, resigned . . . J. Jerauld, assistant to Harry Smith, division manager and also director of publicity for the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., visited George W. Coleman and Hy Nozak of the Arcade.

Tony diCaro, assistant manager at the WB's Capitol, has a large new sign entitled "Stand by America!" in a prominent place in his office . . . Charlie Harvey is the new porter at the WB's Capitol . . . Eve "Auntie" Sarafini, cashier at the WB's Capitol, had the grippe . . . The Massachusetts state employment service last week reported that 6,820 persons found jobs in the Bay State during the month of December . . . M. Frank Shaughnessy of the Academy, Northampton, is recuperating in the Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Northampton, from injuries received in an automobile accident last fortnight outside of Northampton . . . Carl Jamroga, manager of the Phillips, Springfield, had the grippe.

Richard Diodate is a new doorman at the Garden, Springfield . . . In town last Monday to see Manager George E. Freeman of the Loew's-Poli concerning plans for "Gone With the Wind," was Harry F. Shaw, division manager of the Loew's Poli circuit . . . Daniel Schwartz, assistant manager at the Jefferson, Springfield, has resigned, as has also Albert Morreau, assistant manager at the Forest Park Phillips . . . Dickie Larsen, usher at the Arcade, has sold a love song (the title of which is to be announced soon) to a music publishing company.

Results From Protest

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—A union projectionist was hired to exhibit "U. S. Tobacco-land," a 16mm commercial by Chesterfield, following a protest by Local 186. The IATSE Local considers the 16mm field its sphere of operation, and has been actively opposing all efforts to negate its stand.

See Anderson Film Early

HANOVER, N. H.—This Dartmouth College town had the distinction on January 15 of being one of the first communities in the nation to witness a film of Maxwell Anderson's play, "Journey to Jerusalem," a recent Broadway stage hit.

BRIDGEPORT

HARRY F. SHAW, Loew's New England division, and his wife, Flo, are going to Hollywood in March. They have planned the trip for several years and have always ended up in Cuba or Mexico, but this year it will really be the west coast . . . Mark Larkin of the Hays office was in town . . . Ernest Graculia, manager of the State, Torrington, made the papers when he had his picture taken with Patricia Ellis.

Managers Matt L. Saunders of the Loew-Poli, Morris Rosenthal of the Majestic, and Harry Rose of the Globe were in New Haven for the testimonial dinner to Thomas Donaldson, departing M-G-M exchange head . . . The Palace, Stamford, is again playing vaudeville on Saturdays . . . George Mangone, manager of the Playhouse in Ridgefield, has been transferred to the Playhouse in nearby Rye, N. Y. Richard Night of the New Canaan Playhouse is looking after the Ridgefield Theatre.

Manager Manny Kugell of the Warner was the first trade flu victim in town. His wife and little daughter were also ill . . . Manager Morris Rosenthal of the Majestic ran two morning previews of "Land of Liberty" . . . Ed Madden, Lyric manager, has been busy in New York . . . Max Rudnick is sending his friends and business associates crates of oranges and grapefruit from Florida . . . Bert McKenzie, M-G-M field man from Boston, was in town and landed himself in the middle of two column art in the dailies pratting Manager Matt L. Saunders for his advance campaign on "Gone With the Wind."

The city-owned Klein Memorial is negotiating with the United booking office and Lee Shubert in New York to bring legitimate attractions here. The city was once one of the principal try-out towns in the east, but during the past 15 years has seen only about a half-dozen legitimate attractions . . . Gus Myers jr., orchestra leader at the Globe, has been on the sick list.

Lou Carroll is manager of the Alhambra, Torrington. The house is using reissues four days a week at 10 and 20 cents and vaudeville two days . . . Johnny Downs did a personal appearance at the State, Torrington . . . John Scanlon of the Warner, Torrington, is looking for a new assistant manager . . . Cecila Svobowitz, cashier at the Palace, Torrington, will become a bride on February 22 . . . Thomas Murphy of the Lyric was feted by theatrical friends at a testimonial dinner marking his 37th year in show business.

Back from illness absences are Horace Vitallie of the Lowe-Poli and Richard Carey of the Majestic . . . Harry Rose of the Globe guested Post-Telegram *carriers at "Behind the News" . . . Instead of going up on admissions for "North West Mounted Police," the Warner eliminated the balcony price and made the admission standard for the entire theatre . . . The sudden sleet storm hit theatres hard all over the western section of the state.*

Women's Civic Federation Hears John Mason Brown

BOSTON—John Mason Brown, New York dramatic critic, spoke at the Copley-Plaza last week before the Women's Civic Federation of Massachusetts on "The Theatre and the Movies."

Brown said the art of the motion picture is lagging behind its mechanical achievements, and he called Walt Disney's "Fantasia" the purest picture of the winter in camera terms, suggesting that it travels from the sublime to the ridiculous and has a mixture of good and bad which, according to Brown, "is so typical of Hollywood."

Memorial Mass

BOSTON—The Catholic Motion Picture Guild plans a Memorial Mass in memory of the "deceased of the industry" for next month. This film district organization, to which any film man may belong regardless of his religious preference, is also completing arrangements for a retreat group which will attend Campion Hall in Andover for the weekend of April 4.

"Range Busters" Popular

BOSTON — Tom O'Brien, Monogram booker, reports that George Weeks' new "Range Busters" series is catching on in New England in sizable proportions. O'Brien told this publication that "200 theatres in the New England states already are booking the westerns."

Schuman to Modernize

BRIDGEPORT—A. M. Schuman plans to modernize his Black Rock here. The project will include a complete overhauling job, new seats, slightly increased capacity, more modern rest rooms, new booth equipment, redecorating, new carpets, and marquee alterations.

Study Officers' Fees

GLASTONBURY, CONN. — At a meeting of the Glastonbury police commission, a committee comprising Commissioners Hune and Samuel W. Friend was appointed to study a system of handling fees for special officers stationed at places of amusement, including theatres.

Leaves War Behind

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—Michelina, sister of Anthony Masella, assistant manager at Loew's Globe, has arrived in this country by Clipper after being trapped by the war in Naples. Miss Masella, a voice student, made her opera debut in Italy a few days before the country entered the war.

Has New Kiddie Deal

BOSTON—Joseph Schmuck, local film and premium distributor with offices on Melrose Street, has a new kiddie deal. The latest juvenile premium is operated in conjunction with film shorts.

Settle Bank Night Suit

BOSTON—Joe Mathieu, circuit owner, and Roy E. Heffner have settled a Bank Night lottery suit out of court.

BOSTON

(Continued from page 63)

second male lead in "Aloma of the South Seas" . . . Daniel Schwartz has been appointed manager of the Jefferson in Springfield. He replaces George Rabb who was promoted to the managership of the Phillips . . . Harry Olshan, Columbia salesman, has been convalescing at home following a Beth Israel operation . . . Tom Fahey of the M&P Theatres Corp. has been on the sick list . . . Joseph Plunkett, M&P auditor, was out with the flu.

Fred Sharby, New Hampshire circuit owner, may take his golf bags to Florida . . . Charles Stern, United Artists executive, was in town . . . Meyer Fox of Columbia was in last week after the grippe . . . Frederick R. Greenway, Loew's State manager, was another grippe victim . . . Mrs. Frank Petrone of Columbia was ill . . . Ina Mercier of Columbia was also out . . . James Depsey, manager of the Paramount in Lynn, has made a radio title with a Salem station, broadcast being piped weekly from the stage . . . Dorothy Donoghue has joined the exchange force of Columbia here.

Film district construction jobs continue on the new buildings to house RKO and National Screen Service respectively . . . Hy Teich, head of the Four Star Program Co., has been mourning the death of his mother, the late Mrs. Pearl Teich of Chelsea . . . Gerald Savoie has been transferred from the Victoria in Holyoke to the Capitol in Pittsfield as manager . . . The American Institute of Decorators held its annual convention at the Hotel Statler here this week . . . Maurice Druker, assistant to J. J. Moloney at the Poli in Worcester, has been named acting manager of the State in Cleveland.

Vera Smith and Mary Connors, switchboard operators at M&P, were both out at the same time with the grippe. Secretaries and other fellow employes filled in . . . Ed Renick of M-G-M has been convalescing . . . E. M. Loew plans to transfer his local Tremont Street headquarters to the Metropolitan Theatre Building where a number of other circuit offices are located . . . Jack O'Brien, assistant to Managing Director Jack Goodwin, led the Metropolitan staff in the recent movie check sales drive. The house walked away with a competition among the some 100 M&P Theatres Corp. houses.

R. J. Curran of M-G-M was ill here with grippe . . . Sayde Weiner of M-G-M has been ill . . . New iron grilles have been installed on the United Artists and Republic exchange building . . . Roland Moon has promoted a cooking school at the Cameo in South Weymouth, Arthur Lockwood and Louis Gordon house . . . Frank Shaughnessy, manager for the Herman Rifkin circuit, was injured recently in an auto accident . . . Sadie Feltman of M-G-M has been out . . . Solly Levin of the M-G-M office force was out last week with the flu.

Borrowed for an Autry

HOLLYWOOD — Republic has borrowed Jacqueline Wells from Warner for the feminine lead in Gene Autry's next, "Song at Twilight."

Says Public Will Force Music War Settlement

DURHAM, N. H.—A prediction that public demand would force a mutual decision settling the Ascap-BMI controversy was voiced by Dr. S. Stephenson Smith, educational counsellor for the composers' and publishers' organization, during an interview while on a lecture visit here at the University of New Hampshire.

The Little in Whitefield To Mrs. Selma Arcieri

WHITEFIELD, N. H.—Announcement is made of the purchase by Mrs. Selma Arcieri of Boston of the interest of William W. Banzhaf in the Little Theatre and the four-story brick block in which it is located here. Mrs. Arcieri has taken over management of the house.

Western Massachusetts Circuit Plans Meet

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Harry Smith, division manager and also director of publicity for the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., announces that a divisional managers' meeting will be held in the Broadway Theatre building headquarters of the circuit here within a few weeks.

Plugs "Fantasia"

BOSTON—Jack Goldstein, exploitation head here for the roadshow engagement of "Fantasia," spotted an ad for the Broadway-New York engagement of the Disney feature to open his Hub campaign. Supplementary equipment necessary for the local screens have been installed at the Majestic, leased from the Shubert interests for the run. Redecoration has also been going on at the house.

Farber Joins Boroff

BOSTON—George Boroff, National Committee for Education book distribution New England franchise owner, reports Sam Farber has become associated with him in this territory. Boroff has taken over the entire first-floor quarters at 37 Melrose Street in the district.

NEW BRITAIN

MR. AND MRS. Swen Swanson of New Britain are expecting a visit from the Stork some time in February. Mr. S. is projectionist at the WB's Embassy here . . . In New Haven last week on business were: Peter Perakos, Palace; John S. P. Glackin, Arch Street; and Pat McMahon, State.

Mother of Warren Kingsbury, WB's Embassy usher, has been ill with pneumonia at New Britain General Hospital . . . Randy Maller, WB's Strand manager, takes his day off on Monday . . . Phil Demas of the Roxy reports Polish pictures at that theatre have been doing pretty good lately.

From All Corners Of the Nation--

PRINCESS THEATRE

WAUSEON, OHIO

Sept. 18, 1940

BOXOFFICE:

Relative to our recent ad in BOXOFFICE: To date, within the first week after publication, we have received 109 answers to this ad, the replies coming from Massachusetts to Washington, from Minnesota and Montana to Texas.

The response was almost unbelievable. Certainly I could think of no other medium that might return such a result.

P. R. TOUNEY

Whatever You Have to

BUY — SELL — TRADE

For Best Results Use the

Clearing House

Section of

The BOXOFFICE *Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

In Advertising There Is No Substitute For GOOD RESULTS

New Tax Proposal By Gov. O'Daniel

AUSTIN, TEX.—Places of amusement are slated for additional taxation if a proposal submitted by Gov. W. Lee O'Daniel in his message to the legislature goes through.

"Every person," reads the proposal, "firm, association of persons, or corporation, owning or operating any place of amusement which charges . . . admission . . . shall file with the state comptroller of public accounts a quarterly report on the 25th days of January, April, July and October for the quarter ending on the last day of the preceding month; said report shall show the gross amount received for admissions and said person, firm, etc., at the time of making such report shall pay to the treasurer of this state a tax of one and one-half (1.5) per cent of the total gross receipts . . ."

The proposal provides, further, that "this tax shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any other taxes now levied by law."

Postpone Passage of Operators Ordinance

MEMPHIS—The city commission has postponed passage, on second reading, of the proposed operators' ordinance for further consideration, after John Shea, attorney representing the operators' union, entered an informal protest.

Mayor Chandler advised Shea that union representatives could meet with members of the commission to discuss objectionable phases of the bill, after the attorney told the commissioners he had been instructed by the organization's executive board to enter the protest.

One of the main objections to the proposal, according to Shea, is that section requiring health examinations of operators. He charges that portion of the ordinance is not definite enough and "should be defined fully as to what disabilities would include."

$20,000 Loss When Fire Levels Royal, Newark

NEWARK, ARK.—The Royal in Independence county was leveled by fire recently with the loss estimated at $20,000. The blaze originated from a defective flu. It spread quickly to other part of the building.

Newark has no fire department, but a "bucket brigade" prevented the fire from spreading. The theatre, owned by O. F. Craig, editor of the Newark *Journal*, was the only one in town. It was partly covered by insurance.

Plans are under way for rebuilding.

Theatre for Gillette, Ark.

GILLETTE, ARK.—R. A. Wilson's new theatre here is to be completed within the next few weeks. This is the first theatre operation in this town.

Interstate Wins Suit Via An Instructed Verdict

DALLAS—Before the defense had presented any testimony, R. Z. Glass, former Dallas exhibitor, lost his triple-damage suit totaling over $50,000 against the Interstate circuit via an instructed jury verdict Monday afternoon in Judge W. H. Atwell's federal court.

The hearing started at 10 o'clock in the morning. Glass, who owned the Fair and Knox theatres here during 1935-36 and '37, when he claimed he was damaged by Interstate because of the 25-cent minimum restrictions price clause, took the stand before noon and recounted his alleged damages from his records. Then, after a recess, Glass told how he had sold his three theatres here to Karl Hoblitzelle for $40,000 and also of a partnership later between himself and Hoblitzelle in the new Stude at Houston. The damage suit was filed some time after this partnership had been in operation, it was disclosed.

Following this initial testimony, the plaintiff's father, R. W. Glass, who said he was manager of the Fair in those years and kept books for all three theatres, said the balcony at the Fair had about 130 seats and that on occasions he had sold from 500 to 650 balcony tickets in one night. He added there was no attendant to see whether these patrons sat downstairs in the 25-cent seats or not.

He said he could not answer from the stand without his records as to whether the Fair had played a certain list of pictures restricted to 25 cents or whether it had played any of these pictures on double bills, restrictions on which were also claimed as part cause for the alleged damages. Testimony on the balcony 15-cent tickets and the double billing of "A" pictures was taken by the defense, and within a few minutes the plaintiff rested his case.

Grants Motion

Judge Atwell then allowed a brief recess, the jury retired and the motion for an instructed verdict was put and granted. The judge pointed out to the jury that Glass had all of his records with supporting evidence of his alleged damages in '35-36 and '37, including bank checks and boxoffice statements, but that in connection with 1934, the year Glass used to gauge later losses, he had only book entries without the customary supporting records.

Judge Atwell told the jury the plaintiff admitted he had sold, as a general practice, several times the number of balcony tickets that he had balcony seats, and that none checked where these patrons sat, and therefore a jury could only guess at damages, if any, on the 25-cent restriction clause. In conclusion, he instructed the jury to render a verdict in favor of Interstate.

There were indications this week that Interstate would ask Judge Atwell to set aside the jury verdict in the Jorgensen case on the grounds it was at variance with evidence presented and, further, that a new trial be granted.

Other possibilities expressed were that Judge Atwell might reduce the damages granted to a lower figure. Jorgensen, who operates the East Grand Theatre here, was awarded a total of $4,500 by a federal jury last week, plus $500 attorney's fees, on claims he suffered damages because of the 25-cent minimum restrictions and because of an alleged agreement existing between Interstate and film companies to hold back the East Grand 15 days behind the White Theatre, owned by Interstate.

The Glass case winds up all pending damage suits against Interstate resulting from the government's case against the circuit on the 25-cent and double-bill provisions. One case from Houston, however, that of O. B. Bridges vs. Interstate covering the time Bridges operated the Palace there and docketed to be heard before Judge Atwell here later, may or may not be tried, it was advanced in local theatre circles.

Ascap Wins Royalty Rights in Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS—A cheering episode in a currently dark chapter has been written for Ascap in Louisiana where the state supreme court ruled for the music writers and publishers society.

The high court upheld a district court's decision that a law passed in 1934 imposing a fee on the society's right to collect on its copyrighted pieces when these were presented for profit was illegal.

The law which failed to stand the test of constitutionality demanded a license fee of $5,000 a year for each parish in which Ascap sought to collect fees from taverns, hotels, clubs and the like that used its copyrighted music. Ascap's winning contention was that the law was unconstitutional because it imposed a local criminal penalty for compliance with a federal law: the copyright act.

Sunday Night Show Ban Will End in Abilene

ABILENE, TEX.—This "blue law" West Texas town, soon to be the headquarters for the 45th Division, is going to do away with its ban on Sunday night shows. A city ordinance, recently passed, allows films to operate on Sunday nights until 11 p. m. in place of the former 7 p. m. closing hour.

Flu Epidemic Is Taking Big Toll in Carolinas

CHARLOTTE—The flu epidemic now sweeping the Carolinas has caused a number of theatre towns to close and local health authorities to restrict patronage to persons above 16 years of age.

In South Carolina, theatres in the following towns have been closed: Parris Island, Walterboro, Ridgeland, Lancaster, Marion, Fairfax, Abbeville, Ware Shoals, Woodruff, Greer and Honea Path. North Carolina towns ordering theatres to close include Cherryville, Belmont and Kings Mountain.

In Charleston, S. C., the Pastime Amusement Co. (Albert Sottile) has closed its Majestic and canceled all flesh attractions at the Victory because of the epidemic. Also, the company's Riviera, Gloria and Garden theatres have been required to rope off every other row of seats.

Like Charlotte, Gastonia, N. C., and a number of other Carolina operations are refusing to sell tickets to children under 16. Also, local authorities are urging the public not to attend church services as a health measure.

That the malady is showing signs of letting up in some sections, is indicated by the reopening of all theatres in Anderson and Belton, S. C., following a temporary shutdown.

Flu Whips Carolinas; Grosses, Service Hit

CHARLOTTE—The Carolinas are confronted with the worst epidemic of influenza since 1918. Health authorities, however, announce that the type is not so severe as that in 1918. Many exchanges are seriously crippled on account of illness of employes. The following is a partial list of flu victims:

Republic: Roy Bradley and Berda Griffith.

RKO: Roger Mitchell and Gene Dyer.

Columbia: Skinner Williamson, Nellie Lay, Janie Choate and the wife of Carl Patterson, booker, his daughter, Beulah Margaret, and his sons, Carl jr. and Jimmy.

Metro: Margaret Adams, Rose McIlroy and Jewell Terry.

Paramount: E. C. DeBerry, Nancy Womack, Aileen Simpson and Bob Fite.

20th Century-Fox: Harry Jones, Jean Hoyle, Martha Farr, Bill Henderson and Frank Lowry.

Monogram: Clara Blackwelder and Mrs. Adams.

Universal: Jimmy Greenleaf.

Sound Engineering Service Co.: Eddie (Rosy) Rosenblatt.

North Carolina Theatres, Inc. (Wilby-Kincey): Doretta Fitzgerald, Mrs. H. F. Kincey and children, Sara and Junior.

Carolina Delivery Service: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jackson and children.

New Bern, N. C.: T. B. Kehoe, Show Shop Theatre.

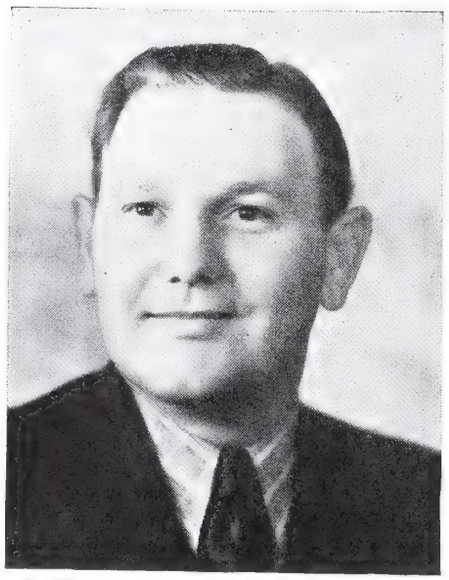
Washington, N. C.: C. A. Turnage, Turnage and Rita theatres.

Erwin, N. C.: O. F. Jernigan, Peerless Theatre.

Everett Enterprises: Ann Everett, daughter of H. H. Everett.

Independent Theatre Supply Co.: Eddie Carroll.

Producers Releasing Corp.: E. E. Heller.



$500 to Him—

George Limerick, Aztec, Enid, Okla., winner of third place and $500 in the first-run division of the M-G-M exploitation contest just concluded. The campaign was on "Another Thin Man."

Jacksonville, Fla., House Is Robbed of $2,500

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.—The Sunday receipts totaling $2,500, garnered from a capacity crowd, were lost by Manager Robert C. Heekin, manager of the Florida Theatre, to a bandit who apparently waited in the theatre until the last show was over.

At gun's point the bandit compelled Heekin to take the money from the safe. He then tied Heekin, Assistant Manager Francis Seel and Baxter Weeks, doorman.

The Florida is the ace Sparks house in Jacksonville.

Stengel Adds Two

MEMPHIS—Kermit C. Stengel of the Rockwood Amusement Co., Inc., has announced the opening of two new theatres in western Tennessee, one to be located in Humboldt, and the other in Milan, Tenn. These houses are expected to be completed by early spring.

"Philadelphia Story" Strongest in Dallas

DALLAS—Extreme cold here found "Philadelphia Story" getting the most customers at the Majestic. Hepburn starred in the play on the Melba stage only two weeks ago. "Flight Command" took a spurt over Saturday and Sunday to end about 20 per cent above average. "This Thing Called Love" was up 25 per cent for nine days and went to the Tower. The Capitol continues a big pick-up with one double a week over the weekend.

Detail for the week ending January 18.

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Great Plane Robbery** (Col)..... 80
Capitol—**Scarface** (Astor) and **Lucky Devils** (Univ) 125
Majestic—**Flight Command** (M-G-M).....120
Majestic—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M).....130
Opened strong on Wednesday and due for hold-over.
Palace—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....125
Played 9 days, getting Palace back to week-end opening following extra shows during holidays.
Rialto—**East of the River** (FN).....100
Rialto—**Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't)...100
Tower—**Comrade X** (M-G-M).....100
Held over four days throughout Tuesday.
Tower—**Flight Command** (M-G-M).....100
Held over three days only, starting Wednesday, to get back to Saturday change.

Visitors Restore Takes in Flu-Hit New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS—Flu took a heavy toll from the neighborhoods but the metropolitan area seemed to have escaped to a certain extent owing to the great number of visitors and tourists. One of the highlights of the week was Katharine Hepburn's personal appearance in the legit "Philadelphia Story," which at $2.50 top packed the Municipal Auditorium.

At Loew's State, "Flight Command" drew heavily, dividing honors with "Chad Hanna" at the Saenger and "Santa Fe Trail" at the Orpheum.

(Average is 100)

Center—**Angels Over Broadway** (Col)..... 90
Globe—**Arise, My Love** (Para't)..... 80
Liberty—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 90
Loew's—**Flight Command** (M-G-M).....135
Orpheum—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN).....130
Saenger—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox).....135
Tudor—**Tin Pan Alley** (20th-Fox)..... 90

Good Films Spell Good Week in Okla. City

OKLAHOMA CITY—It was a good week for Oklahoma City last week even though a few days of cold and bad weather hit the town. Quality of the films had most to do with the results. Figures on "Gone With the Wind" at the Criterion are as near regular hundred per cent could be figured making an allowance for fact only three-a-day could be run as compared with usual five-a-day run on top films.

(Average is 100)

Criterion—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....140
Previously played first road-show run at Midwest and Tower. Small price boost at Criterion from 40 to 55 cents.
Liberty—**A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't); **Three Men From Texas** (RKO)..... 90
Midwest—**Second Chorus** (M-G-M).....125
State—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 140
Tower—**Flight Command** (M-G-M).....110
Did good business in a prior week run at Midwest.

Two New Azteca Films

SAN ANTONIO—Azteca Film Exchange announces two new films for current release, "Milagro de la Calle Mayor" and "La Noche De Los Mayas."

NEW ORLEANS

FILMROW enjoyed a boat ride and dance sponsored by Mike Pisciatti, on the evening of January 24. Another one is scheduled later in the year.

Deanna Durbin will visit New Orleans, February 3, accompanied by her mother and manager, for a couple of days stopover following her appearance at the President's Ball . . . While attempting to quell a disturbance in the Casino Theatre on North Rampart Street, James Lansiter, an usher, was shot in the neck.

Among visitors to the Row: Louisiana—J. Gaude, Magic, Port Allen; L. G. Langlois, New Roads, Alamo; O. A. Ott, Kentwood, Kentwood; Vic Maurin, Fox, Houma; Gordon G. Ogden, Chimes, Baton Rouge; Mrs. Gene Anthony, Ideal, Ponchatoula; J. C. Keller, Eunice; L. C. Lampo, Avalon, Jeanerette; Mrs. H. H. Everett, McGee, McGee; A. Marrelo, Rendevois, Grand Isle; Morris Meltz, Arcade, Ferriday. Mississippi—Stanley Taylor, Crosby, Crosby; Ed Delaney, Pike, Magnolia; Frank Bishop, Variety, Ellisville.

John Caldwell of the Royal Theatre, Bernice, is preparing for the opening of a new house at Ruston, La. It will have a seating capacity of approximately 450 *and will be modern in every detail, as well as independent . . . Houses catering to colored patrons report a great increase in business, attributed to the number of men employed by the WPA and various defense programs. Over* 1,000 *have recently been put to work on street improvements and the erection of the new U. S. hospital on the lake front.*

Many upstate houses thoroughly disinfect the premises after each performance as a precaution against the spread of the flu and open all windows and doors a few hours before the regular opening time. A few of the local neighborhoods are adopting the same method and report favorable results as regards coughing.

The Writers Project (WPA) is preparing to formulate a history of the motion picture industry in New Orleans. It is estimated that three or more years will be necessary to complete the work.

The Atlantic Films (Goodrow and Sliman) are now the official representatives of the Producers Releasing Corp. . . . Willis H. Cobb, president of the Exhibitors Poster Service who has just returned from a business trip upstate, reports business increasing. He finds that the firm's advertisement in BOXOFFICE carries his message to hundreds of exhibitors in a short space of time, to exhibitors he could not visit in many weeks. His clerical force has been enlarged to take care of additional orders.

THAT HUNTING CLUB AGAIN:

The last session of the Filmrow Hunting Club was held with open doors and windows after the arrival of a committee that accepted an invitation to act as judges at the beauty contest, held on the night of the session, at the Shrimp Packing Plant to select Miss Fertilizer for 1941. The committee reported that as the weather was slightly chilly the promoters insisted that the contest be held with closed doors and windows. Heading the committee were Bob Kelly, Columbia, and W. H. Cobb of the Exhibitors Poster Service who were excused by the president on account of sudden illness.

The business session was cut very short on account of the moonlight excursion given by the Filmrow inhabitants on the steamer Capitol. As the boat was about to leave, the assemblage threw care up against the rear end of the 20th-Fox exchange and made a hotfoot for the boat, as tickets were not good after the date stamped on them. The boat had already pulled out, but backed up to accommodate the late comers. Arriving there they discovered that a vaudeville performance was already in progress, a turkey-in-the-straw contest between Vic Maurin of the Fox Theatre of Houma, and Lou Langlois of the Arcade of New Roads for the championship of Louisiana. So realistic was the contest that the judges, Anthony Sumpia of the Raceland Theatre, Raceland, La. and A. J. Brussard, Bruce, Crowley, reserved their decision until later. One of the highlights of the affair was the presence of the treasurer, who, it is said, accidentally dropped the books of the club in the middle of the Mississippi River.

Honorary members elected at an executive session held in the boiler room of the steamer were: A. Marrelo, Rendevois, Grand Island; A. L. Runbach, Algy Theatre, New Orleans. Music for the turkey-in-the-straw contest was furnished by the Atlantic Films string orchestra and sound effects by the National Theatre Supply Co.'s mechanical force, led by Frank Ruffino of the Gaiety Theatre.

CORRECTION

Through a typographical error, the address of the EXHIBITORS POSTER SERVICE, Inc. in New Orleans, was given as 218 So. Liberty in the last issue. The correct address is 221 So. Liberty St.

Ark. Theatres Join in Polio Fund Campaign

LITTLE ROCK—It is announced that 150 motion picture theatres in the state will participate in a program Thursday evening, January 30, in connection with the "Fight Infantile Paralysis" campaign. The program will be held in 110 or more independent houses and between 30 and 40 chain theatres. The program was arranged by Eli Collins, former MPTOA president, who is now unemployment compensation commissioner for Arkansas.

O. G. Wren, Little Rock, president of the Arkansas ITO, and K. K. King, Searcy, secretary, are working with Collins in arranging the program for film houses in the state. Malco theatres and the R&R theatres also are co-operating with Collins and others in the plan.

Holden in "Texas"

HOLLYWOOD—William Holden has been selected to play the male lead in Columbia's "Texas," temporary title. The production will start within a few days, with Stuart Heisler directing and Sam Bischoff as producer. "Texas" tells a story of the cattle wars in the Panhandle state, in the days immediately following the Civil War.

Fourth for Gulfport

GULFPORT, MISS.—With three theatres already operating, plans are being made to establish a fourth here, according to announcement by Joe Graham Post, American Legion, that tentative plans have been made for the establishment of a theatre building in which picture programs may be shown.

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ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

Notables Turn Out for 'Our Night' Premiere

MIAMI — Many nationally prominent figures turned out for the world premiere of "So Ends Our Night," at the Lincoln and Surf theatres here Friday, January 24.

Among those attending, as a tribute to both the new David L. Loew-Albert Lewin production unit and to Glenn Ford, currently hailed screen newcomer, were Sinclair Lewis, George Ade, Paul Draper, Jack Dempsey, Sophie Tucker, Paul Whiteman, Harry Richman, Desi Arnaz, Maxie Rosenbloom, Abe Lyman, Lucille Ball, Carlyle Blackwell, Jan Pearce, Terry Lawlor.

Also Gladys Swarthout, Grace George, William A. Brady, Walter Winchell, Danton Walker, Rita Johnson, Stanley Kahn, Max Fleischer, Lee Shubert, Major Albert Warner, N. B. Shanberg and E. J. Sparks.

John Boyd's Enlistment Brings Houston Shuffle

HOUSTON—The departure of John Boyd, River Oaks manager, for the Army resulted in the following changes in Houston houses: Pat Daley, assistant manager of the Metropolitan, promoted to manager of the River Oaks; John Byus, North Main assistant manager, shifted to the Metropolitan in place of Daley; George Pattillo, Eastwood assistant manager, to the North Main, and Oran Deford to the Eastwood.

Back to Flesh

SAN ANTONIO—The Texas adopted a vaude-film policy last week presenting the "All American Revue" in conjunction with Universal's "One Night in the Tropics."

DALLAS

HENRY FORD, west Texas chain operator in the silent days, and now a hotel and property owner in Wichita Falls, spent a few hours on the Row visiting with friends. Ford also owns the Ambassador Hotel, bordering Sullivan Park here, where several in the business have established residence . . . Gene Hendon, former manager of the Grand in Pecos for Oskar Korn, and who managed theatres in East Texas and Louisiana before that, was here renewing old acquaintances. He is seeking a new connection.

Projection and sound men were here from the north and east holding conferences on equipment distribution. They were Wayne Brenkert, head of the Brenkert Electric Co.; Homer Snook, sales manager of RCA Photophone, and Edward Auger, also of RCA's Photophone division . . . Herbert and Mrs. Stroud of the Texas and Strand, Hamilton, were here Monday . . . Ben Ferguson, manager and part owner of the new Campus at College Station, was here for a short visit. With him was his wife.

E. R. Rainosek of Iraan finished up his quarterly trip to the Row and returned after two days here to that far west Texas town. He is owner of the Texas Theatre there and also operates a grocery store . . . Phil Isley, who will soon open his third Texas theatre at Abilene, dropped in between visits there and to Brownwood and Palacios, spending a few hours in his Filmrow office.

R. H. and Mrs. Thompson, owners and operators of the Mecca in Jacksboro, were here booking. She is quite active in the theatre's management as well as in handling business details on the Row.

J. I. Roberts Dies In Highway Crash

DALLAS—A major shock to Filmrow and to exhibitors generally over Texas was the sudden death Monday night of J. I. Roberts, National Theatre Supply Co. manager, a victim of an automobile crash on Houston Highway about ten miles south of Corsicana.

Actual details of the accident were lacking, but it was reported he was killed instantly.

Roberts was identified through cards in his pocket. Corsicana authorities notified Mrs. Roberts of the tragedy in Dallas.

With the arrival Wednesday of Oscar Oldknow, southern division manager for National Theatre Supply, burial arrangements were completed. Exhibitors from over a wide area came in for the last rites.

Pallbearers were: E. S. Gardner, W. B. Hardin, M. J. Koneman, A. G. Smith, F. R. Hansen and C. W. A. McCormack. Honorary pallbearers were: Charles Dunn, Don Douglas, John Miller, J. I. Watkins, Herb Griffin, P. G. Cameron, F. C. Nance, C. C. Ezell, Jack Zern, S. G. Fry, H. P. Nettleton, W. E. Green, E. H. Rowley, H. B. Robb, Oldknow, W. G. Underwood, R. J. O'Donnell, E. C. Zrenner, T. R. Clemmons, F. D. Wilkie, Will Horwitz, Burt King, Arthur De Stafeno, R. D. Thrash and Howard Thrash.

Roberts is survived by his wife, a son, Jim; a daughter, Virgie Bell, and a brother Winifred.

Roberts was 47 years old. He came to Dallas from Atlanta in 1923 as manager of Southern Theatre Equipment Co. for the Oldknow interests.

He continued in this capacity until the organization of National Theatre Supply Co., which absorbed the Oldknow business. His ability brought a transfer to New York as a home office executive for the new company. During his residence east, he also served as manager of the New York distribution branch.

Some time later, Roberts was transferred back to Dallas as branch manager with supervision over Oklahoma as well. In 1933 he put on a sales campaign celebrating his 10th year with the company.

Among organizations with which he was identified were the Shriners and the Variety Club of Texas.

Irwin Waite Will Helm Miami Beach Theatre

AUSTIN, TEX.—Dick Waite, manager of the Paramount, states that his brother, Irwin Waite, has resigned as manager of the Liberty, Beaumont, to take over the helm of the Sheridan, Miami Beach, Fla. Irwin is a former manager of the first Miami Beach theatre, the Community.

File Robbery Charge

OKLAHOMA CITY—Charges of robbery with firearms against five men have been filed in justice court here for the $422 robbery January 8 of the Criterion.



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ATLANTA

L. T. SHEFFIELD and A. C. Saunders, operators of theatres in Headland and Hartford, Ala., and Bonifay, Fla., were in town booking . . . Roscoe B. Gann has resigned from Universal to take over as Republic office manager and booker. Gann has been with "U" for the past 18 years. Paul Stephens, who has also been with the same company for 20 years, will leave also and assist in the booking department at Republic.

Wm. K. Jenkins, Lucas & Jenkins, was in Chicago for Barney Balaban's fifth anniversary banquet celebration by Paramount. J. H. Harrison and R. B. Wilby of Wilby Theatres also attended . . . Claude Zellner, secretary at Lucas & Jenkins Theatres, attended the inaugural in Washington.

Visitors: A. L. Sheppard, Grand, Waynesboro, Ga.; Curtis Ware, Royce, Royston, Ga.; J. Jarrell, Roxy, Commerce, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Woodward, Strand, Winder, Ga.; Fred McLendon and Eddie Tomberlin, Union Springs, Ala.; L. J. Duncan, Al Dun Amusement Co., West Point, Ga.; Paul Engler, Famous and Frolic, Birmingham; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Shields, L&J's city manager at Columbus, Ga.; and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller and son, Augusta, Ga. . . . Harry Graham, Universal branch manager, will return from the west this week . . . Lamar Swift, formerly manager of the Bradley, Columbus, Ga., has been made city manager for Lucas & Jenkins at Waycross, Ga.

Ike Katz, Producers Releasing Corp., was in Washington for the inaugural . . . Howard Wallace, Sack Amusement Co., is in Tennessee and West Virginia this week . . . Mrs. Jack Elwell, Amity Exchange, and Mr. and Mrs. John Jenkins, Million Dollar Productions, spent the weekend in Chattanooga . . . Dorothy Norris has been added to the personnel of 20th Century-Fox . . . Irma Lane has resigned from Universal to become secretary to the head of the state safety patrol.

Variety Installation Appears Promising

ATLANTA—February 1 has been selected by directors of Variety for their banquet to be highlighted by the installation of officers and the appearance of Deanna Durbin as guest of honor.

Officers to be installed include: William K. Jenkins, chief barker; Harry G. Ballance, first assistant chief barker; Charles E. Kessnich, second assistant chief barker; R. B. Wilby, dough guy, and E. E. Whitaker, property master.

At a meeting of the board last week, arrangements committees were appointed. They already are hard at work on plans which should make this banquet one of the most outstanding events ever conducted by the local Tent.

The guest list is expected to read like a "Who's Who." Governor Talmadge of Georgia and city and state officials as well as national Variety officers, will be present.

The banquet will be held in the Dixie Ballroom of the Henry Grady Hotel starting promptly at 7:30 p. m.

Chief Barker Jenkins announces tickets will cost $1.50 per person for a barker and his wife or guest. Tickets for additional guests, however, will cost $5. Reservations may be made through Willis J. Davis, Fox Theatre Bldg., Atlanta.

The number of outsiders is being held down to 100. All members of the club, both resident and non-resident, are requested to send in their reservations as soon as possible.

Second Fordyce House For K. Lee Williams

FORDYCE, ARK.—K. Lee Williams, manager of the K. Lee Williams Theatres, Inc., announced on a visit here last week the leasing of a Main Street building which will be remodeled into a modern theatre.

Plans also have been made, Williams said, to enlarge his company's Dallas Theatre here and to install a new cooling system.

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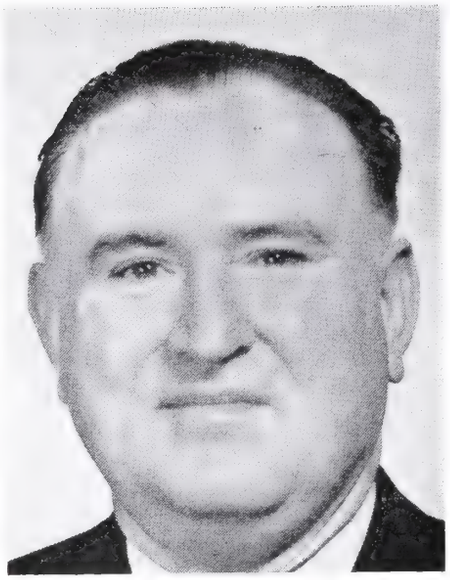
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TED TODDY



JOHN JENKINS

Toddy and Jenkins Merge; Form Exchange Company

By HELEN HARDY

ATLANTA—Ted Toddy of Dixie National Pictures and John Jenkins of Million Dollar Pictures have merged and formed a new company, Consolidated National Film Exchanges, closing a long-term contract for exclusive national distribution of all product released by Million Dollar Pictures and Dixie National Pictures.

The consolidation involves $250,000 for the present exchanges and their pictures and an additional eight pictures each year from the combined studios. The new company controls national distribution of eight all-colored cast features for immediate release, with a release schedule of four pictures a year from Million Dollar and a like number from Dixie National, in addition to three series of shorts.

Home office of Consolidated will be in Atlanta, in the firm's own building at 141 Walton St. Dallas office is at 302½ S. Harwood. In addition, exchanges will be opened in New York, Chicago and on the west coast.

Toddy long has been associated with Columbia in the southeast. Four years ago he organized Dixie Film Exchange, and a year ago the national organization bearing a similar name. Jenkins, for the last five years, has been southern representative for Million Dollar Pictures and a year ago was named executive representative of the company.

The new firm will release all-colored cast pictures and specialty white exploitation attractions for various producers in Hollywood and New York.

CHARLOTTE

CHARLES H. ARRINGTON, president of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina, and Mrs. Aureola D. Wharton, who assists him in the management of his Cameo Theatre in Rocky Mount, N. C., paid the local office of the association a week's visit. Arrington was elected to the presidency at the December meeting and his visit was for the purpose of making himself thoroughly familiar with the association's activities. He expressed his desire to meet personally every exhibitor in the Carolinas and that this thought may be carried out, he is planning many trips throughout the territory. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Walter Griffith, the association's secretary.

The Princess, Ayden, N. C., recently acquired by C. E. Myers of Rich Square, N. C., from W. C. Ormond, was destroyed by fire . . . The Grand, Charlotte's leading colored theatre, has just been renovated. The theatre is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Morris Nuger . . . Charles A. Harper is opening his new Ann in Estill, S. C., on January 27 . . . Joe Brecheen, local RKO manager, announces that the Depinet drive, which starts on January 25 and ends on May 9, will keep him on the jump inasmuch as two of his salesmen are confined with flu. On Saturday, January 25, the first of the drive meetings was to be held at the local branch. Attending were to be Leo Devaney, drive captain, and also Canadian division manager; T. Harry Gittleson, from the New York office, and Dave Prince, district manager, Atlanta . . . George W. Parr, who has just completed his new Parr in Lancaster, S. C., which was to have opened January 21, advises of an indefinite postponement due to the flu epidemic.

Jack London, Republic salesman in eastern North Carolina, arrived for the weekend laden with a supply of wild geese and country hams (roast beef to Jack), which he confiscated from a customer exhibitor . . . The Lyman in Lyman, S. C., operated by J. C. Holland and his wife, is no place for thieves. Two youths who recently attempted robbery of the theatre were sentenced to life imprisonment. Later a Negro youth made the same try. He failed to open the safe, but was awarded a three year prison term . . . Benny Ralston of Sound Engineering Service Co. has returned from New York where he spent a week on business.

The New Theatre in Hamlet, N. C., owned by K. E. Bryson, has been closed after two months operation . . . J. H. Webster, manager of Captain Willie Culpepper's theatre operations in Elizabeth City and Hertford, N. C., and Craddock, Va., has just completed a 12-family apartment in Craddock . . . Ralph Cook, associated with his brother, Henry, in the operation of the Ritz, Walterboro, S. C., returned in his plane from the air races in Miami. Cook already has his private pilot's license and will take an examination for a commercial license within a few days.

Harry K. Lucas, formerly owner and operator of the Charlotte here, is confined to Presbyterian Hospital after a tonsillectomy. He is improving and hopes to be home shortly . . . John H. Vickers of Carolina Delivery Service and his son, John H., jr., are visiting his mother in Tifton, Ga. . . . Mrs. Sarah Ritchie has been added to the booking department of Universal.

Verne Davis, owner and operator of the Alva and Mimosa theatres in Morganton, N. C., and the Marion in Marion, N. C., is taking his usual mid-winter fishing sojourn in St. Petersburg, Fla. W. P. Erwin, his Marion manager, is now booking the theatre and paid his first visit to the Row last week . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lamont of Saginaw, Mich., will arrive this week for an extended stay with their son, Jack Lamont, manager of Monogram . . . Judging from recent stork showers, it appears as though the old bird will be mighty busy in February, especially at the homes of "Happy" Bell (Metro) and Ernest Stellings (Everett Enterprises) . . . The handsome young gent in the local Metro office is Vince Thompson, student booker.

Metro salesmen are busily engaged in taking photographs of every theatre in the territory . . . Visitors on the Row: Senator-exhibitor Roy Rowe of the Pender Theatre, Burgaw, N. C.; O. T. Kirby of the Palace and Dolly Madison theatres, Roxboro, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Anderson, Ritz, Tabor City, N. C.; Jeff Wilson, Biscoe, Biscoe, N. C.; George Carpenter, Colonial, Valdese, N. C.; the Patovi, Madison, N. C., and the Main, Granite Falls, N. C.; Albert Powell of the B. B. Anderson circuit, Marion, S. C.

Mrs. S. S. Stevenson is still seriously ill at her home in Henderson, N. C. Her husband is a former president of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina and operates the Stevenson, Embassy and Vance theatres in Henderson and also the Stevenson and Carolina theatres in Rock Hill, S. C.

After Seizure of Films Officials Face Jail

By A. JULES BENEDIC

BIRMINGHAM—The public prints are rife with a big motion picture story. In short, the police chief and three other prominent officials were given 48-hour jail sentences over the seizure of the motion picture, "French Girls' Club," starring Danielle Darrieux, which ran last October at Frank Merritt's Galax Theatre. As this is written, one convicted official, City Attorney J. H. Willis, said he would seek a review of the case by the Alabama supreme court. The other three, Police Chief T. A. Riley, Assistant City Attorney John S. Foster, and City Commissioner Eugene (Bull) Connor, were silent as to decisions to serve the contempt-of-court sentences or appeal. At this writing, none of the quartette actually had begun serving the sentences, which had been meted out by Judge E. M. Creel in circuit court.



BENEDIC

It was contempt of court, Judge Creel ruled, when police seized a print of the controversial film last October 26, several hours after Circuit Judge John Denson had issued an injunction to prevent interference with its exhibition. A fifth city official, Police Judge Henry J. Martin, had been cited for contempt, but charges were dismissed after it was shown he had had no knowledge of the court order.

Theatre Wins In End

Attorneys for W. M. Merritt, manager of the theatre, a brother of the circuit head, charged that Riley and Connor banned the picture because Merritt had failed to submit to them newspaper proofs of ads for the picture. A police sergeant had approved the film on moral grounds, but, in subsequent court proceedings, the content of the film was attacked as salacious.

During the last week of October, numerous court proceedings were held, with first the theatre interests, then the city, holding the whip hand. There were three injunctions issued, one of which prevented police from picketing the theatre and stopping patrons from entering.

Once-Overing the Orr Circuit

ALBERTVILLE, ALA.—We angle into Albertville, hoping to see Colonel Thos. E. Orr, head of the Alabama theatre circuit bearing his name, but history repeats, and he's out of town, and we see instead Hammond Green, the Colonel's Man Friday, whose other title is circuit manager. We chat with Hammond, who recalls our visit six years ago, when we were his guest at the Albertville horse show. The Colonel, we find, is in Birmingham with his family, for a short visit.

We're next into Boaz, and shake hands with Carl Medlock, Rialto impresario. This is another Orr stronghold. The Rialto is a new theatre erected last summer and replaces the old Rialto . . . At Attalla we renew acquaintance with Jack Brown, who's been at the helm of the Liberty for Colonel Orr these two score years or more . . . At Tallapoosa, just over the line in Georgia, we gallop to the Grand and there meet T. R. Harris . . . Another pleasant Orr call was upon S. S. Barksdall, in charge of the DeKalb and Strand at Fort Payne, Ala.

We clip to Collinsville in Alabama, and at the Cricket Theatre wangle a bit with M. G. Weaver, owner-manager, whose multitudinous duties include theatre operation, being head of the waterworks and other enterprises. Weaver's also chief stockholder in the new hosiery mill here and in his spare moments conducts a realty enterprise. He's very proud, and justly so, of the new improvements at the Cricket, completed Christmas Eve, which include new chairs, screen, sound equipment and projectors. Other improvements are contemplated for the theatre, in anticipation of expected good business through the influx from the new industry.



WEAVER

We peregrinate to Piedmont and renew acquaintance with J. G. Varnell of the Princess, who is under the weather temporarily from the well known flu . . . At the Allison in this town we meet J. E. Aaron, who conducts an operation quite creditable to this Alabama town.

Gadding about Gadsden, we meet Messrs. Dixon and Parker of the Princess and Capitol respectively, Sudekum holdings, while out in East Gadsden we meet H. T. Bailey, who runs the independent Dixie . . . Roy Gamel of the Bremen in Bremen, just over the line in Georgia, a Martin stronghold, is another call before ambling back to Atlanta.

Atlanta Merger Interests

ATLANTA—Back to Atlanta, The Row's chief topic for the week is the merger between Ted Toddy and John Jenkins, of Dixie Films Exchange and Million Dollar Distributing, respectively. These concerns, both handling pictures with colored casts, as well as other product, decided on cooperation and expansion. John tells us some big things are in prospect when the concern gets its new offices opened in Chicago and New York. At present, offices are being maintained in Atlanta and Dallas. Both principals in the transaction are well known along the Row.

: There's Gratitude :

OKLAHOMA CITY—Paul Harrup, secretary of the Hi-Y Councils of the YMCA in Oklahoma City, paid a tribute to the local Variety Club in a letter sent last week to Louis C. Griffith, chief barker.

"Wise men of the ages have proclaimed Christian character the gem that sends forth more brilliance and affords more genuine happiness than all other jewels," Harrup said, "You have shared generously in our humble efforts to develop this gem in the hearts and minds of our youth.

"Your generous and substantial gift to our new camp development has helped to erect a monument to the character service of scores of youth down through many years to come.

"We are grateful for your fine interest, express our sincere appreciation for the good work and warm friendship of you and the Variety Club and wish for everyone the most bountiful blessings."

The letter was in particular appreciation of the club's furnishing a truck and equipping it with portable motion picture equipment to furnish pictures for shut-ins. Howard Wortham, Horace Falls and Hy Berling are members of the joint committee in charge of this part of the club's activities.

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OKLAHOMA CITY

BOB BUSH, manager of the Midwest Theatre here, has resigned to become manager of the new Uptown at 12th and Hudson, opening within the next two weeks. Bush has been manager of several Standard Theatres during the past few years. The Uptown is being built by the Sieber interests here. It has been leased by Charles "Chuck" Ferris.

Jake Jones has resigned as assistant manager of the Liberty and left for Shawnee, where he will again join the staff of his father's theatre operating organization in that city . . . Fred White, former State chief of service and assistant manager of the Tower, has left to take a job with the Malco organization.

E. H. Husley jr., former doorman at the State, and more recently with the Peak Theatre at Colorado Springs, was a visitor last week. He has resigned from the latter position and is awaiting his call to join the U. S. Army Air Corps.

Fred White has taken himself a wife; former Shirley Davis. Criterion cashier . . . Paul Verderey, State Theatre usher, was one of the boys caught in the draft and is set to leave for Fort Sill February 5. Incidentally Paul told us something the State's management didn't mention: That T. B. Noble jr. ordered a two weeks salary check for him as a going-away present.

RKO exchange held a special press screening of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" January 21 at the State with newspaper folk from all over the state sitting in . . . Bob Pfotenhauer has returned from Tulsa bragging heavy about Talbot's remodeled Majestic there which Bob says is one of the finest show houses in the Southwest. The new Majestic was set as the site of an indefinite "Gone With the Wind" run last week. Same film is playing Oklahoma City a second time at the Criterion to very nice business on three a day.

Work is progressing on Griffith's new Main Street Theatre in Tulsa with a stucco front up and work starting on the remainder of the outside walls.

Andy Higgins was a recent visitor. Things are going good for Higgins who is now working some 60 hours a week in an airplane factory at Wichita, Kas. He's traded in his old bus on a new wagon . . . Sam Caporal is putting the finishing touches on his new Bison on Northeast 23rd Street.

C. A. Gibbs, Columbia exchange manager, is back from an extended vacation and a much happier man for the rest. All set to go to work on selling Columbia this year . . . Bud Gray, RKO exploitation man, was in-again and out-again last week doing some exploitation work on "Kitty Foyle" which started its run at the State last week . . . Frank Bruner of United Artists was also in town to do some "pushem" on "The Thief of Bagdad" which played at the Midwest. And Jimmy Birge has a two city exploitation job on "Gone With the Wind," it playing Oklahoma City and Tulsa simultaneously.

Those pictures Burley Hyde, Tower Theatre operator, took at the state convention are worth seeing. Hyde filmed the annual banquet and caught all the boys when they thought the reels weren't spinning. The Variety Club has the films for showing to any who may desire to see.

Mary Ellen Foster, cashier at the Liberty Theatre, is back on the job following an attack of the flu . . . Oklahoma's Bob Wills really brought the business to the Rialto last week when the Griffith house showed his picture, "Carry Me Back to Oklahoma." It wowed 'em in Tulsa at the Rialto also and we understand in the latter spot it did more business than "Boom Town." No exhibitor has to be told of Bob Wills' pulling power in Oklahoma.

Word comes back from Montgomery, Ala., of Charles T. Rook's new house, said to represent some $100,000 investment . . . A pat on the back to J. Eldon Peak whose Oklahoma Theatre Supply Co. is leading the nation in sales for Brenkert projectors . . . The draft got Paul Townsend, Liberty manager, but the board turned him down due to his high blood pressure.

Chet Humphreys has made Jimmy Adams, who has been around in local theatre circles for quite a spell, new manager of his Log Cabin Theatre.

B. H. "Bob" Pfotenhauer, manager of the State, Oklahoma City, is enjoying a series of anonymous love letters from an admirer who has started writing him a note every time she plans to come to the State and is hoping that he will be around so she can "get another look at him."

Walter Shuttee Acquires Two Houses in Cherokee

OKLAHOMA CITY—Walter B. Shuttee, until recently general manager of Standard Theatres, Inc., here, has purchased the Mex and Ritz in Cherokee. He will move to Cherokee about March 1, personally directing the two houses. He resigned his post here December 15.

Shuttee came here three years ago to become manager of the Criterion, Midwest and other houses in the Standard group. Before that he was engaged in the theatre business in Nebraska and Colorado for eight years. He was reared in El Reno and served as a bank clerk before entering the motion picture business.

Role for Nils Asther

HOLLYWOOD—Nils Asther, silent screen star, has been signed for the second male lead in Universal's "The Man Who Lost Himself."

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
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A New Way to Get Into a Theatre

Charlotte—Mr. and Mrs. Morris Nuger, who operate the Grand in the Biddeville colored section, had a novel experience recently which neither hardly will soon forget.

Mrs. Nuger, who assists her husband as cashier, was approached one evening by a woman who said "I'd like very much to see Mr. Nuger," then turned and walked to the street.

Mrs. N. pushed the buzzer summoning Mr. N. to the boxoffice and informed him a party wished to see him, so he walked to the street entrance and asked the woman what she wanted. In reply, she reached into her coat and brought forth a shiny revolver, which she pointed at Mr. N., stating that she wished him to take the revolver as security for two theatre tickets for her and the boy friend. Speechless, he merely indicated with his thumb to go ahead.

AUSTIN

TWO Interstate-employed girls are among the 284 nominees for University of Texas beauty honors. Joyce McIlroy, Paramount cashier, and Betty Waite, candy girl at the same theatre, are the candidates.

Two new ten-minute sound pictures, "Mexicana" and "You and Your Child," have been added to the Visual Instruction Bureau's film library and are ready for distribution, according to Mrs. Joe Moore, director . . . Skinny Pryor, top man at the Cactus, anticipates a bigger and better year for his independent East-Sixth-Street house.

Mary and Francis Vickers (he's the assistant manager at the State) are house hunting . . . Victoria Blanca, Mexican screen star, played a sellout midnight show at the Capitol . . . "Maisie Was a Lady" (M-G-M) owled at the Paramount . . . Ruth Lewis, amusement editor of the Austin *American-Statesman*, is back from her annual trip to the New York show-shops. David Botter, a reporter on the same sheet, took over while Ruth was in the Big City . . . Les Carpenter is *The Daily Texan's* new amusement editor.

"Land of Liberty" received a big send-off by local newshounds who caught the screening . . . Lena and Earl Podolnick are planning to build a little nest of their own soon. Earl is the State's well-dressed skipper.

Sam Stokes Will Helm Corpus Christi String

MCALESTER, OKLA.—Sam Stokes, manager of the three McAlester theatres here for the past 13 years, has been promoted to manager of 13 theatres with headquarters in Corpus Christi, Tex. He will be succeeded by Alex Blue of Palestine, Tex. Alston Hardin will continue as assistant manager in McAlester.

Gadsden Theatre Man Injured

Gadsden, Ala.—A second blood transfusion was deemed necessary for Benton W. Pierce jr., assistant manager of the Princess Theatre here, after an incident highly unusual.

A monument to a war hero stands in the heart of town. It divides traffic into right and left movements.

During a fog on January 9, Pierce drove into the monument after his windshield became cloudy. His car was demolished and he was critically injured. At this writing his condition warrants the belief he will pull through.

Fourteen hours later, a similar accident happened at the monument.

In this, two persons were killed, two hurt rather badly.

Now the city, after placing red lights on all sides of the obstruction, has decided to do away with the monument, at least in its present position.

SANTONE

INTERSTATE City Manager E. E. Collins has been chosen to head the Bexar county President's Birthday Ball committee. Dance and floor show will be held at the Municipal Auditorium Thursday night . . . "Buzzo" has been transferred from the Texas over to the Empire in conjunction with "Gift Night" every Wednesday . . . LeeRoy Handley, skipper of the Harlandale, is back on duty after a sojourn in the Santa Rosa Hospital.

Genial Johnny Floore, Majestic bigwig, was in Chicago Tuesday for the Balaban & Katz reception honoring John, who is co-winner in the Hallowe'en to Christmas drive . . . Additional changes in personnel at downtown Interstate houses include the following: Martin Burns, new chief of service at the Palace; Beverly Jolley, candy saleslady in the Palace arcade, and Katherine DeSold, ticket seller at the Prince.

Travelers: George Burnett to Houston; Patsy LaBasse, vocalist, to Oklahoma City; H. W. Kier, commercial picture producer, has returned from a business trip to Austin, and Charlie Freeman, Interstater, has returned to Dallas after catching the Texas stageshow.

H. Menck is a new addition to the Majestic service staff . . . Nick Price, mentalist, known as "The Great Bogota," is in town . . . Recent visitors to Sunny Santone were Jack H. Adams jr., Adams Film Exchange, Dallas; Jack Huey, RKO, Dallas; Herman Craven, Columbia, Dallas, and Salesman Taylor, south Texas representative for Metro out of Dallas.

Open Booking Service

ATLANTA—Lex Benton and George Jones have opened a booking service at 192 Luckie St., N. W. Both are well known throughout the Atlanta trade territory.

MEMPHIS

MRS. LELA FLIPPIN and Juanita Williams of the Grand at Cardwell, Mo., were recent Filmrow visitors . . . Cliff Wallace, branch manager of the local Ross Federal checking office, is off to Miami for a fishing trip with the company's officials.

Jess Norman, operator of two theatres in England, Ark., who has been seriously ill the past three months, now is greatly improved and will soon be able to return to his business . . . C. E. Peppiatt, branch manager for UA in New Orleans, spent several days in Memphis calling on his circuit accounts.

R. L. Osborne and Mrs. Osborne of the Harlem, Belzoni, Miss., paid the Row one of their infrequent visits this past week . . . Walter Parham of the Royal, Memphis, has installed new projectors in his house.

Moses Sliman and Mrs. Sliman who opened their New Lux Theatre at Luxora, Ark., January 23, paid the Row their initial booking visit, and while in Memphis subscribed for BOXOFFICE. *This is the first theatre operation for Luxora.*

Exhibitors seen on the Row: Barney Haberfeld, Varsity, Amory, Miss.; Jack Marshall, Frances, Dyersburg, Tenn.; J. J. Sharum, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; Buster Clark, Alamo, Pine Bluff, Ark.; Wilfred Bonds, Dyer, Dyer, Tenn.; H. G. Brewer, Savoy, Clarksdale, Miss.; Harry Shaw, Ritz, Aberdeen, Miss.; John Mohrstadt, Missouri, Hayti, Mo.; R. H. Fisher and H. H. Alexander, Crescent, Belzoni, Miss.; Raymond Kinkle, Joiner, Joiner, Ark.

Yola Spiotta of Film Transit, Inc., is back at her desk after several days' absence due to the death of her grandmother . . . S. T. "Doc" Lyles jr., manager of the Ritz at Oxford, Miss., is confined to his home due to the flu.

M. H. Brandon, president of Film Transit, Inc., who makes his headquarters in Charlotte, spent several days at his Memphis office recently . . . Jack Guest made one of his rare booking trips, and while here announced the opening of his new theatre in Smackover, Ark., around February 20. Guest now has two theatres in Camden, Ark.

F. G. "Bob" Roberts of the Ritz at Bald Knob, Ark., was seen on the Row recently for the first time in many weeks . . . H. I. "Buddy" Mansfield, Universal's branch manager, is back from a visit to the district office in Atlanta.

E. H. Smothers of the Dixie at Camden, Tenn., still confined to his home due to illness. His son is operating the theatre during his absence . . . W. S. Tyson of the Grand at Water Valley, Miss., was on the Row booking for the first time since before the holidays.

Loyd Hutchins of the Ozark Amusement Co. advises his company is opening a theatre in Williford, Ark. They now have theatres in Black Rock, Calico Rock, Hardy, Melbourne, Revendon, Salem and Yellville, Ark.

Lawrence Landers of the Landers at Batesville, Ark., was in a very unhappy frame of mind on his recent visit here. The day before he had arisen at the crack of dawn to go quail hunting, and on his way to the game preserve he had two flat tires, and after finally getting there, lost his cigarette lighter and his favorite bird dog decided to run away.

C. V. Jones, R&R executive of Dallas, spent a couple of days in Memphis recently with his local booker, Alton Sims . . . Richard Bryant, booker for Strand Enterprises, Inc., is driving a new car.

George Simpson, traffic manager for Film Transit, Inc., had his little eight-year-old daughter down to spend the holidays with him . . . M. V. Smith of the U. S. Army Motion Picture Service was in booking for Camp Joe T. Robinson in Little Rock.

G. W. Haynes of Strand Enterprises has installed new seats in his Roxy here, Strand at Philadelphia and Star at Marked Tree . . . Malco Theatres have announced the opening of their new Park Hill Theatre in North Little Rock for approximately March 1. This will be their third theatre in N. Little Rock.

The stage attraction at the Malco Memphis featuring Milton Slosser, organist, Berl Olswanger, pianist, and the Blue Belles, three local girls, have been booked for the second week.

M. A. Connett and J. A. Owen have opened a new theatre in Philadelphia, Miss., during the last few weeks.

Lyle Richmond and John Mohrstadt, who in the past have done the booking for their circuit of Missouri theatres, now find it necessary to have some one else do their booking in order to give them more time to devote to other business interests. Accordingly, Charles Ferry will handle their feature bookings and Maurice Olds will book their shorts. Ferry and Olds paid the Row their initial booking trip a fortnight ago.

Produces "Devil Fish"

HOLLYWOOD—Milton Bren will produce "Devil Fish," story of deep-sea fishing, for Metro. Wallace Beery will be starred, with Marjorie Main, Leo Carrillo and Virginia Weidler in supporting roles.

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ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

HOUSTON

THE opening of the Motion Picture Operators new club rooms was a gala affair attended by city and county officials, representatives from Dallas, Beaumont, San Antonio, Tyler, Lufkin and many other Texas towns. All independent theatre owners of Houston were present as well as officials of Interstate theatres from Dallas and Houston. Operators' wives and friends were well represented and were given souvenirs along with plenty to eat and drink. Dancing followed the reception.

O. B. Bridges, former owner of the Crown, Cozy and Midway theatres here, was a visitor from New Orleans where he is now managing the Joy-Strand Theatre . . . Mr. McDaniel of the Queen has returned to the job after two weeks of illness.

Murry Smith of Beaumont and Harvey Hill of Dallas were visitors the past week . . . Houston's Drive-In Theatre still is going strong despite the cold weather.

Cotton Mulliniz of the Joy Theatre entertained four friends from Ft. Worth the past week, showing them the town and feeding them fried chicken at the Dixie.

L. W. Merchant, Tower Theatre projectionist, also in the sound business, equipped the Operators Club with the communicating system . . . Raymond Hay, manager of the North Main Theatre, has been appointed chairman of the underprivileged children's committee in his local Kiwanis Club.

Jerry Jobin, assistant chief usher at the Metropolitan, has been transferred to Lever's office with J. T. Baine, who was only recently rehired, taking Jerry's post . . . Weldon Parsons, city manager of the neighborhood houses, is looking at homes.

In spite of a broken blood-vessel in his right leg, W. E. Bremer, Kirby manager, has been valiantly pushing his plans for entertainment at the President's Ball and has promised that the entertainment this year will be the best ever presented and worth the price of admission.

F. B. Logan, Kirby electrician who has been recovering from a serious operation, is resting at home and is feeling fine . . . Miss Thelma Ward, an employe of the Horwitz Theatres for 18 years, was recently married to Dewey Edgar.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Horwitz have returned from an extended trip that included New York, Florida and Panama . . . Add to the growing list of Houstonians who have gained recognition in Hollywood the name of Don Castle. He was signed to a long-term contract by Paramount and has a featured role in the film "So You're the One" with another Houstonian, Bonnie Baker, and Orrin Tucker.

When Mrs. "Chang" Jackson, secretary to Al Lever, left this week, she could not be accused of being hasty—she resigned the last of March. As it was then planned, Mrs. A. C. Driver (formerly Miss Mildred Jones) will replace her.

Protest Proposed Amusement Tax

Oklahoma City—Members of the Theatre Owners of Oklahoma, Inc., headed by President Morris Loewenstein, have protested to Gov. Leon C. Phillips against a proposed five per cent amusement tax as provided in a bill introduced in the current legislative session last week.

Approximately 15 members of the association met with Phillips to discuss the bill and the tax problem. A committee is to be named to study the question.

The association members protested that they were already overtaxed.

New "Beast" Deal

NEW YORK — Pathe Laboratories announces its Atlanta franchise-holder, Ike Katz of Producers Releasing, has consummated a deal on "Beast of Berlin" with the Publix-Wilby Kincey circuit for the Carolinas. The picture had extended runs throughout the Interstate and the Jefferson circuits in Texas.

Alsina Sells to Saenger

NEW ORLEANS—The Famous Theatre, one of the largest in the lower section of the city, has been taken over by the Saenger interests. Joe Alsina, proprietor hitherto, who has been in ill health, it is said is planning an extensive tour in the endeavor to regain his health.

A Great Educator

NEW ORLEANS—A tribute to motion pictures as "one of the greatest educators outside the classroom" was paid by Mrs. E. Williams, newly elected president of the Louisiana Better Films Council. Another new officer of the organization is Mrs. L. A. Zollinger, secretary.

Give Cosmetics

OKLAHOMA CITY—The Midwest, Standard first-run house here, has begun distribution of Constance Bennett Cosmetics in a special giveaway stunt to promote Thursday and Friday night business.

Bob Martin a Father

MEMPHIS—Bob Martin, manager of the Bells in Bells, Tenn., was all smiles on his recent visit to the Row, the reason for which was the arrival of an eight-pound baby on Sunday, January 12. Both the baby and Mrs. Martin are doing nicely. This is their first child.

Atlanta Tribunal By February 1

Atlanta—A regional tribunal for arbitrating disputes in the industry will be opened here February 1 following selection of a panel of 40 arbiters from this area, it is reported. It will be composed of business and professional men.

MIAMI

AL WEISS of the Olympia had to hang out the SRO sign as thousands of Miamians stormed his boxoffice to be part of the audience of "Dr. I. Q.'s" initial Miami coast-to-coast broadcast. This was the first of a series of six programs to be broadcast from the stage of the local theatre on successive Monday nights . . . Friends of A. R. Ninninger, veteran Fort Lauderdale showman, are congratulating him on having passed his 40th anniversary as a theatreman . . . The Max Fleischers have moved into a handsome new home they purchased recently on North Bay Road, Miami Beach.

Latest threat to Texas' claim for being the best producer of beautiful girls, is quite obviously Miami. And the latest personification of this threat is Mary Joyce Walsh, recently "Miss Florida," who has gone west with a 20th Century-Fox contract in her handbag.

Current activity at the Colonnade Studios is in preparation for the filming of an English war feature to be titled "Bomb Shelter." It will take precedence over the previously scheduled "Tigress and the Lady."

With the opening of the new British-Colonnade Theatre School being started at the studio, additional space and facilities are being made available at the Coral Gables production center where actual shooting and sound reproduction have been underway since midsummer. Among the school's sponsors are Lady Louis Montbatten and Alexander Korda.

Honor Picquet

CHARLOTTE—Charles W. Picquet, president for many years of the Theatre Owners Ass'n of North and South Carolina, and who operates the Carolina theatres in Southern Pines and Pinehurst, N. C., was honored recently by the Kiwanis with the "Builders Cup" for outstanding civic endeavor during 1940.

Plug Warner Short

AUSTIN, TEX.—The Warner short, "Young America Flies," based on the CAA program which is being carried out on the University of Texas campus, was given prominent publicity in the U. of T. daily when the featurette played the Varsity Theatre.

Sonneman Opens Fourth

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.—W. F. Sonneman held the formal opening of his new theatre here January 16. The house, located near the campus of the University of Arkansas, is Sonneman's fourth in this town.

Thieves Take $700

STUTTGART, ARK.—The Majestic here was robbed of $700 in cash and valuable papers, including stocks and bonds, by thieves who entered the private office of Manager Alger Lancaster and battered the combination off the safe.

Construction Pace in Southern Area High

NEW YORK—In the last quarter of 1940, twenty theatres were opened in Texas or in various stages of construction, a survey by BOXOFFICE reveals. New theatre construction also was keeping apace in a number of other southern states during the same quarter, including North and South Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

The detailed break-down, by states, follows:

North Carolina

Goldsboro—Worth Stewart and his associates have opened the Wayne.

Hamlet—K. E. Bryson has opened his new theatre.

Lenoir—Work has started on Lenoir Theatres' new 850-seat house.

Old Fort—John V. Robinson has opened the new theatre here.

Wilmington—Wilby-Kincey has opened the Bailey.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City—L. B. Warren of Yukon, Okla., has started work on a new 525-seat house.

Griffith Amusement Co. announces plans for two new theatres.

Wilburton—K. Lee Williams Theatres, Inc., has leased a business building to be remodeled into a subsequent run house.

South Carolina

Barnwell—G. Frank Lundy, who operates the Ritz, is constructing a 250-seat house.

Elloree—Dr. J. T. Greene will soon open a new theatre.

Pageland—W. D. VanDerburgh of the Pageland will erect a new 350-seat house.

Rock Hill—Robert E. Bryant has opened the new Pix.

Spartanburg—Construction has started on the new 850-seat house by Palmetto Amusement Co., the fourth unit here, to be known as the Palmetto. Opening is scheduled for April.

Sumter—K. Ward has opened the new Rex.

Summerton—W. S. Walker has a new house under construction.

Tennessee

Chattanooga — Independent Theatres, Inc., has opened the Capitol, new 600-seater, seventh unit in the circuit.

Erwin—Cherokee Amusements, of which Tony Sudekum and Earle Hendren are executives, has opened the new Capitol.

Memphis—Mike Cianciolo has opened the Luciann, seating 1,200 and costing approximately $100,000.

Sheffield—Muscle Shoals Theatres has under construction a 1,000-seat house, scheduled to open February 1, to cost $75,000.

Tullahoma—Crescent Amusements of Nashville is building a theatre.

Texas

Bay City—Weldon Smith will build a 500-seat theatre on a site in this town.

Bremond—John Bielamowicz opened a new theatre here during Christmas week.

Brownsville—Interstate plans to include a theatre in a building project here that will also house stores and offices.

Brownswood—Texas Consolidated Theatres has let a contract for an 800-seat theatre to cost approximately $40,000.

Dallas—Ray V. Starling has a new, RCA-equipped house under construction here.

Garland—H. R. Bisby has opened a new house near an airplane factory.

Grapevine—J. K. Buckner has opened the new 660-seat Palace here.

Houston—Lou Baxley and W. J. Lytle have opened their new 880-seat Plaza.

Humble—it is reported Oskar Korn plans to erect a theatre.

Linden—B. R. McLendon has opened a new theatre.

Mineral Wells—E. L. Fawkes will build a 260-seat theatre.

The Resort Amusement Co. has a theatre under construction here.

Oak Cliff—L. L. Dunbar started construction this week on a new 800-seat theatre.

Orange—Tom R. Clemmons has opened his new Royal.

Palacios—The new 1,500-seat Granada has opened.

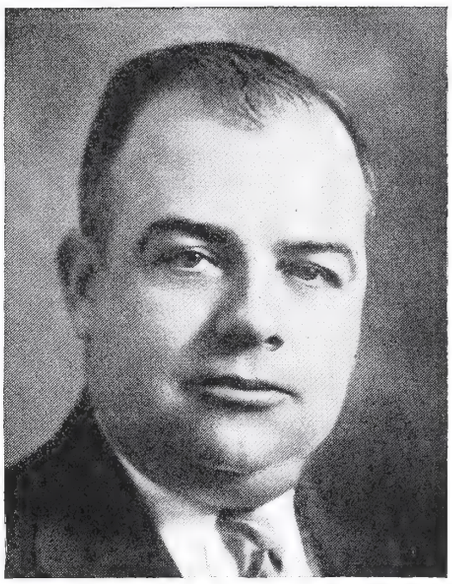
Phil R. Isley is building a 1,000-seat house.

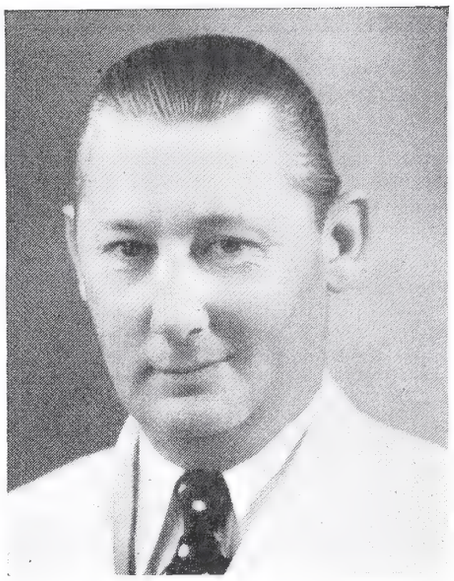
Rio Grande City—M. F. Garcia has opened a new theatre here exclusively for Mexican audiences.

Sundown — Wallace Blankenship has opened his new Wallace.

Van—Lee Scarborough has a new theatre under construction.

Whiteface—Wallace Blankenship, Panhandle circuit operator, is building a new theatre.





Kirby Gets District; Price Transferred—

John F. Kirby, Paramount's branch manager at Atlanta, gets a district composed of that city, Charlotte and New Orleans, succeeding Harold F. Wilkes, temporarily retired by illness. This is part of a rearrangement looking toward operations under the decree. It includes abandonment by Paramount of its southern division, appointment of Oscar A. Morgan as sales manager of shorts and newsreels and transfer of E. B. Price (right), current New Orleans manager, to Atlanta succeeding Kirby. Saul Frifield, salesman out of Charlotte, becomes New Orleans manager.

(Full detail on page 13)

Fire Damages Elba

ELBA, ALA.—A fire which started in the rear of the building, damaged the Elba Theatre here recently. The Elba was remodeled more than a year ago.

ARKANSAS

THE U-ARK Theatre, Fayetteville's newest house, opened Thursday, January 16, W. F. Sonneman, owner and manager, has announced . . . The 4-Mile Theatre has opened in the Schoffner Building on Asher Avenue, Little Rock . . . L. Braziel and wife who have operated the Rex at Bearden for the past few years, have moved to Little Rock . . . Luxora is to have a new film house, which will be known as the "Lux." Moses Sliman will open the theatre which will have a seating capacity of 450.

Pete Park, projectionist at the Royal, Fayetteville, underwent an operation at the City Hospital . . . Plans for a celebration of the President's birthday are under way at the U-Ark, Fayetteville, for January 30. One dollar admittance will be charged.

Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Nichols of Clarksville announce the engagement of their niece, Miss Geraldine Hudson, to Audley Scarborough, also of Clarksville. Scarborough is connected with the Palace there . . . Mr. and Mrs. Avery Shinn of Russellville announce the engagement of their daughter, Adalissa, to Thomas Austin Wilson jr. of Russellville. The wedding will take place January 31. Wilson is assistant manager of Malco theatres at Russellville.

Matson Remodeling

DALLAS—Mrs. C. W. Matson has let a contract to W. B. King of King Scenic Co. for the remodeling of her Majestic in Somerville. King said the work will start at once.

Luncheon Meeting by Charlotte Variety

CHARLOTTE—The local Variety Club recently held its first luncheon meeting of all charter members at the Hotel Charlotte. Plans for elaborate headquarters in the Hotel Charlotte were presented and approved. Renovation starts immediately with completion in about six weeks.

Chief Barker H. H. Everett announces the following house committee: Chairman: John H. Vickers, second assistant chief barker (Carolina Delivery Service); vice-chairman: Phil Longdon (20th Century-Fox); Jay Schrader (United Artists), Roger Mitchell (RKO), and Harry Hardy (North Carolina Theatres, Inc.)

The Loop Bows

MOBILE, ALA.—The Loop, Mobile's newest neighborhood house, had its formal opening recently. It was built by Paramount-Richards Theatres, Inc., at a cost of about $50,000. It seats 1,000. Meantime, construction on a new colored theatre, the Ace, on Congress Street at Davis Ave., by C. H. and J. E. King, is nearing completion. The $15,000 house will have a capacity of 492.

Laying Foundation

HOUSTON—Foundation work is under way on a $30,000 theatre and store building for Negroes at 3404 Holman St. The theatre will seat 550, according to M. M. Lewis, builder.

About a Little Man

OKLAHOMA CITY—The local sheriff was very angry last week.

A certain H. J. Wallingford came into his office and used the phone. The next thing the sheriff knew, Wallingford was soliciting funds for the sheriff's "Littlejohn Memorial," a quite non-existent project.

Sheriff Goff and his boys were raging mad about the whole thing when the phone rang. A call came from the manager of the Joy Theatre who said that a little fellow, who said he was a pal of the sheriff, was there to collect the theatre's contribution for the sheriff's memorial.

The sheriff sent his men flying, but by the time they arrived the little man was gone.

However, as they still stewed moments later, another call came in, this time from the manager of the Jewel, a colored house here. This time the sheriff suggested to tell the man to come and get a check from them.

When they arrived, they found Wallingford had already picked up the check, but caught him a moment later when the little man stopped to ask a Negro policeman whether the check was any good or not and where he could cash it.

With Army Theatre

BRISTOL, TENN.—Lieut. Jay Baumgartner, with former experience with local theatres, is credited with excellent management of the government training camp theatre at Camp Jackson, S. C.

Reports Increase for Tennessee Circuit

CHATTANOOGA—Emmet R. Rogers, district manager for Eastern Theatres, states that its largest local theatre, the Tivoli, had an increase of 20 per cent for 1940 over 1939, and that increases for the State, Bijou and Rialto were even greater. He attributes increases to better business conditions and better pictures. Independent Theatres, which last month opened the New Capitol, reported increases for the Riveria, Park, American, Cameo, Ritz, and Rivoli. The Grand Amusement Co., operating local Negro theatres, recently opened the Harlem and plans another soon which will double the seating capacity for Negro houses.

Elm Street Hippodrome Undergoes Remodeling

DALLAS—One of Elm Street's old theatrical landmarks is now going modern.

The old Hippodrome, whose marble walls, big pipe organ and first run pictures were the pride of Dallas entertainment during the regime of E. H. Hulsey, is now getting a new front, streamlined marquee and other improvements to bring it up to date.

For the past few years it has been operated as the Joy with burlesque and pictures. It is owned by Percy Wade of Oklahoma City and operated by his son, Gene. Incidentally the house name is being changed to the Wade.

ANY NEWS TODAY?

Planning a new theatre? Remodeling? Being promoted? Getting married? Got a new baby (infant)? Buying new equipment? Been elected mayor? Son or daughter graduating? Proud of a new exploitation stunt? Hired a new staff member? Solved a knotty problem?

Then Tell It To BOXOFFICE

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NAME ..... THEATRE ..... LOCATION .....

W. C. Tyers Campaigns Earn Hanson Award

TORONTO—W. C. Tyers, manager of the Granada at St. Thomas, Ont., has been awarded the plaque as the grand prize for the best picture exploitation throughout 1940 among the managers of the Hanson Theatres Corp., according to announcement by H. C. D. Main, general supervisor of the circuit. Tyers rolled up a total of 130 points with one "Best Campaign of the Month," seven honorable mentions in the competition and 45 promotional highlights, indicating that he kept plugging with promotional features every week throughout the year.

Coincident with this award, Pres. O. R. Hanson has approved a competitive award system for 1941 to be featured by the presentation of an annual trophy, plus a personal prize of an attractive plaque which is to remain the permanent property of the winning manager. In addition, there will be quarterly competitions for cash prizes, with $100 to be distributed for each three months' exploitation on the basis of $50 to the leading manager for the period, $30 for second place and $20 for third manager in the standing. This makes it possible for one manager to win $200 during 1941. The competition will be conducted on the point system and additional points will be awarded for practical suggestions on theatre maintenance, accounting, equipment operation, staff management and other features, according to information supplied by Mr. Main. The plaque to be awarded at the end of 1941 will be similar to that which has been sprung as a surprise for 1940 exploitation work, the winner being Wannie Tyers.

Grant Garrette Runner Up

The runner up in the 1940 compilation was Grant Garrette of the Geneva, Orillia, Ont., who captured 104 points with one best campaign of the month, two honorable mentions and 69 promotional highlights. The third manager was T. A. Mascaro of the Capitol, Belleville, who scored 67 points with three best campaigns and 22 highlights and fourth was Lorne Moore of the Grand, Sudbury, with 61 points for two best campaigns, one mention and 21 highlights. G. D. Beavis of the Royal, North Bay, earned 59 points with one campaign, two mentions and 24 highlights.

Next in order were Tom McKnight, Patricia, London, Ont., with 52 points; seventh, Emmett Stark, Palace, Timmins, 43 points; eighth, Henry Marshall, Rideau, Ottawa, 30 points; ninth, Frank Miley, Granada, Nepanee, 26 points, and 10th, Don Doberer, Granada, Dunnville, 23 points. Supervisor Main pointed out that the showings were made with limited budgets but that continuous plugging with inexpensive ideas had brought results. Miley and Doberer have small theatres, for instance, but they were among the first 10 in the exploitation records of the past year.

Adapt a "Michael Shayne"

HOLLYWOOD — "The Dead Take No Bows," next in 20th-Fox's "Michael Shayne" sleuth series, is being scripted by Stanley Rauh and Manning O'Connor.

Report Tracy Flies Planes to Canada

Regina—Belief that Spencer Tracy was a recent visitor in Regina and Lethbridge, was expressed in the Lethbridge "Herald" the other day. The story going the rounds in the Alberta city was that Tracy, a pilot of some experience, is one of a number of American fliers who have been ferrying American-built planes into Canada. The system calls for the pilots to fly the planes in and then return to the United States via commercial airlines.

According to the story, Tracy had been unable to fly out of Regina owing to the weather, so he traveled to Lethbridge by train. A porter on the Lethbridge-Regina run claimed to have talked to him.

Plans Advanced for War Stamps Drive

TORONTO—Plans for the Dominion-wide campaign for the sale of War Savings Stamps were advanced at a luncheon meeting in the Royal York Hotel, at which Walter P. Zoller of Montreal, general chairman of the government committee, was present. Theatres across Canada are preparing to cooperate in this drive during February and March under the sponsorship of the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee of which N. L. Nathanson is chairman.

Handling details for theatre cooperation is a sub-committee which has already held several meetings, the personnel being Chairman Nathanson, Col. John A. Cooper, O. R. Hanson, T. J. Bragg and N. A. Taylor. Physical distribution of campaign trailers and advertising accessories will be done by Regal Films, Ltd., through its six branches. Henry L. Nathanson, general manager of Regal, was recently added to the Motion Picture War Services executive in succession to H. M. Masters. During the absence of N. L. Nathanson in Florida for a rest, chairmanship duties are being performed by J. J. Fitzgibbons, vice-president of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

Intimate Grierson May Keep Commissionership

OTTAWA—From the office of the National Film Board has come an intimation that John Grierson of London, England, is reconsidering his resignation as film commissioner of the Dominion government and may decide to continue in the post indefinitely, although he had announced that the supervision of the Board should be in the hands of a Canadian, in view of the fact that the organization work has been completed.

The chairman of the board is Hon. J. A. MacKinnon, minister of trade and commerce in the federal cabinet, but no announcement has been made by him because of absence from the country and subsequent illness. The resignation of Grierson was scheduled to take effect at the end of January.

Effective Treatment For "Hudson's Bay"

WINNIPEG—The opening of "Hudson's Bay" at the Capitol was attended with as complete a publicity campaign as has ever been attempted here. It was carried out by George Fraser of 20th Century-Fox and Harold Bishop and Jack Fitzgibbons jr.

The campaign included a telephone hookup between John Sutton, who appears in the film, speaking from Hollywood, and Clifford Wilson, official historian of the company at Winnipeg. A 15-minute narrative script prepared by Wilson was aired over CJRC. In addition, through an arrangement with CJRC, two announcers attended the opening night at which they carried out interviews with local celebrities. Another good move was the featuring in the company's window of an autographed copy of the script.

Letters to Schools

The T. Eaton Co. tied in with a full window display as well as cooperative ads, and the lobby of the Capitol was furnished with models of early forts, blankets, muskets, bead work and a variety of other articles loaned from the HBC Museum. Doormen and ushers at the Capitol were dressed in trappers' costumes and the front of the house was built up to represent an old-time stockade.

Letters were circulated to school principals and teachers and also to the fur trade in the city. The HBC distributed 50,000 stuffers and mailing inserts calling attention to the opening. Excellent cooperation from the film trade was manifested through the efforts by which Frank Vaughan, Universal manager in Winnipeg, arranged to have his father-in-law, oldest living Hudson's Bay factor, to be available for newspaper interviews.

Toronto Clearance Board Has Rosenfeld, Cohen

TORONTO—Louis Rosenfeld, general manager of Columbia Pictures of Canada, Ltd., and Wolfe Cohen, Canadian district manager of Warner Bros., have been named as the representatives of the film distributors to the newly created Ontario clearance board to act in an advisory capacity in dealing with booking reforms.

They are working with Nat Taylor, vice-president of the Independent Theatres Association of Ontario, in studying the priority schedule situation as a further step toward reorganization of trade regulations.

Sees "Ski Patrol"

MONTREAL—Through the combined efforts of Empire-Universal Films and R. L. Vallee, manager of the New Premier Theatre, Sherbrooke, Que., officers and men of the Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment, A. C. A., attended a free presentation of the picture "Ski Patrol." Canadian regiments are introducing ski-training, and newsreels recently pictured Canadian troops on skis. Montreal police force also has established a ski patrol.

TORONTO

J A. McCULLOCH had an overflow crowd at his Royal George, Toronto, for a Sunday night patriotic performance at which Mayor F. J. Conboy officiated, with other members of the City Council present, the result being a donation of $106.10 for the British War Victims' Fund. The extra 10 cents was a dime which was found on the floor after the show . . . W. E. "Ted" Fraser, manager of the Century, Trenton, Ont., has been cooperating with S. J. McMaster, publisher of the *Quinte Sun*, in a "Find-the-Name" contest for which he has provided all the passes as prizes. Editor McMaster says: "Ted Fraser is about the livest man in Trenton. He has a keen sense of advertising values and he certainly makes use of them."

Roy Miller, assistant manager of the Patricia, London, has been appointed manager of the Marks at Oshawa in succession to Keith Wilson, resigned. Howard Binns, formerly doorman at the Granada, Hamilton, has been transferred to London to succeed Miller . . . G. J. Lofty has joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and is now in training at Toronto. He was formerly an operator at the Corona, Winnipeg, owned by J. Pearson . . . J. J. Allen, prominent theatre pioneer, has been confined to his home in Toronto once more after showing evidence of permanent recovery from a previous lengthy illness. Ray S. Allen, supervisor of the Allen chain, spent a brief period in a local hospital because of kidney trouble but has returned to his business duties.

Mrs. Joshua Smith, owner of the Avenue, Toronto, has contributed the receipts, amounting to $127.50, to the British War Relief Fund, this being the take for the New Year's Eve show at which John Lodge, star of the picture "One Night in Paris," made a personal appearance. It was at this performance that Boris Silver, president of Colonial Pictures, last appeared in public before his sudden death in New York a few days later . . . Syd Taube, energetic member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, has been compelled to take a rest in the southern states because of overwork in connection with the campaigns of the Motion Picture War Services Committee, including the rodeo which featured Gene Autry.

Harry J. Allen, general manager of Grand National Films, Ltd., Toronto, spent several days in Winnipeg where he formerly resided and was met by a roundup of old friends. Allen made the western business trip to arrange for the release of a group of features . . . Two sons of Capt. W. M. Gladish, Canadian film writer and organizer, are now in uniform for active service with the armed forces. The eldest is with the Royal Canadian Air Force and the second is with the infantry . . . Emmett Stark of the Palace, Timmins, turned out a novel front for "New Moon," consisting of fibre board done in dark blue with brilliant stars and quarter moon on each panel and sailing ships, the title being displayed in large cutout letters.

Harry Neun, manager of the Granada, Chatham, pulled off a three-way stunt when he distributed sticks of chewing gum attached to small cards which bore the message, "Three Big Treats for You." One was the showing of "Melody Ranch" at the Granada, the second was a suggestion to listen to Gene Autry on the Sunday evening radio program and the third was the gum . . . In a review of the past year, H. C. D. Main, supervisor of the Hanson Theatres Corp., pointed out that this company inaugurated holidays with pay for all employes, group insurance, a Christmas bonus plan, various salary increases and more adequate staffing of theatres. And now President Hanson has authorized cash prizes for exploitation competitions throughout 1941.

Tom Pringle, proprietor of the Ideal, Toronto, held a special matinee on a weekday, the proceeds from which were donated for the relief of bombing victims in Great Britain . . . According to Ernie Moule, veteran manager of the Capitol, Brantford, the theatres of that city recently cooperated with the local women's organizations in staging a performance for which the admission price was an aluminum cooking utensil which is to be converted into an implement of war.

Leonard Levy of the Toronto office of Columbia has joined the colors and is now wearing the uniform of the Royal Canadian Air Force . . . George Degnom is now in charge of feature publicity for the Canadian branches of RKO Distributing Corp. of Canada under the direction of Leo M. Devaney, general manager for the Dominion.

Ten Toronto Theatres Will Auction Gifts From Stars

TORONTO—The 10 theatre managers of Toronto's North End are cooperating in the preparation of a combined stunt for the auction of numerous articles which had been donated by actors and actresses of Hollywood some weeks ago as a contribution to the war effort. It has been decided to stage simultaneous "sales" of the gifts in each of the 10 theatres, the proceeds to be turned over to the Toronto *Telegram* for the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of British war victims. Practically all of the donations are accompanied by personal letters or certificates which denote that the article had been used in designated sequences of feature films or had been the personal property of the star. Some of them are quite valuable, apart from intrinsic interest.

This auction, which is scheduled for the near future, is the outcome of the cooperative activity of the 10 managers in connection with the War Savings Stamp Campaign by theatres across the Dominion last July. The North Toronto theatres comprise the Belsize, Bedford, Eglinton and Capitol of the Famous Players' chain; Oriole, Circle, Avenue and Hudson, independent houses; the Beverly of the Hanson circuit and the Hollywood, leading local cinema of the Allen chain, all of whom are actively cooperating on a common basis for the cause.

Critics, Exhibs Agree On Four Out of Ten

TORONTO—A poll of Canadian critics resulted in the selection of the following as the 10 best features of the past year:

1. "Gone With the Wind;" 2. "Rebecca;" 3. "Foreign Correspondent" and "North West Mounted Police;" 5. "Our Town;" 6. "Mortal Storm" and "Pride and Prejudice;" 8. "Abe Lincoln in Illinois;" 9. "Pinocchio," "Convoy" and "Waterloo Bridge."

A vote of theatre managers on the 10 biggest features of the year had the following result:

1. "Rebecca;" 2. "Northwest Passage;" 3. "Swanee River" and "Waterloo Bridge;" 5. "North West Mounted Police;" 6. "Irene;" 7. "Gone With the Wind," "My Son, My Son," "Four Feathers" and "Shipyard Sally."

The exhibitors named the 10 most popular stars in the following order:

1. Spencer Tracy; 2. Clark Gable; 3. Mickey Rooney; 4. Gary Cooper; 5. Deanna Durbin; 6. Jeanette MacDonald; 7. Bette Davis and Nelson Eddy; 9. Tyrone Power; 10. Gene Autry.

Incidentally, the Toronto *Daily Star* is in the midst of compiling a vote among the film fans of the Dominion to secure a rating of pictures and stars of the past year according to public taste but the outcome will not be ready for several weeks.

Westboro Will Have Its First Theatre by May

TORONTO—A syndicate has been organized for the construction of the first theatre in Westboro, a town in the Ottawa Valley, for which a site has been purchased on Main Street on which a theatre to seat 500 persons has been started, the contractor being Baker Bros. of Ottawa. The house is to be opened in May.

Biltmore Theatres, Ltd., Toronto, has bought a theatre site on Princess Street in Kingston, Ont., at a cost of $25,000 for the erection of a house to seat 750 and measuring 60 by 140 feet. There are already three theatres in Kingston, all operated by Famous Players Canadian Corp., the population of the city being approximately 25,000. The largest is the Capitol which has accommodation for 1,177. Biltmore Theatres, which is headed by B. Laxer, constructed the Biltmore at Oshawa, Ont., more than one year ago, this being classed as the first all-concrete cinema in the Dominion. The Kingston theatre will be of similar type.

The Theatre Holding Corp., operating the Allen chain, has closed the Capitol in Kirkland Lake, Ont., following the acquisition of the LaSalle in that city from the Cinemas Rousson-Trudeau Limitee and will continue to operate the Strand, Uptown and LaSalle in the gold mining center. The Capitol seats 516 while the LaSalle has 716 seats.

The Marks, Oshawa, Ont., has been modernized by the construction of a new front, sound equipment, seats and other new features. This house is a unit of the Hanson chain.

WINNIPEG

A PAT on the back and a kick in the pants were simultaneously administered to showmen here last week by the Rev. J. W. Clarke of Knox Church. Doctor Clarke, speaking at a meeting of the Winnipeg presbytery of the United Church of Canada, praised house operators for their cooperation in discontinuing Sunday midnight shows. At the same time he urged suburban residents to be on the strict lookout for any neighborhood houses which might be tempted to sneak through the occasional midnight filming.

Britain is still producing films in spite of air raids and blackouts. This statement was made here last week by Paul Nathanson, vice-president of Empire-Universal. Nathanson also said that new pictures in production in Britain are designed to raise the morale of the people. To do this, the films either deal with the heroic elements of the fight which Britain is now carrying on, or are of a comedy nature designed as relief. A. W. Perry, general sales manager of E-U, who was here with Nathanson, said Canadians are showing considerable liking for British films and this has been on the increase since the war broke out.

Jack Randall, College Theatre manager, carried off the biggest bonus at the end of the year of all manager of Western Theatres, Ltd. . . . "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" is being used to swell the Lord Mayor's Fund . . . "The Warning" is being widely booked. Another film, "One Night in Paris," recently reviewed for the trade, is described as one of the most unusual of the season in the field of musical melodrama.

Vaudeville acts have been introduced at the Times and the Plaza here and seem to be going over very well judging by the reaction of patrons. An excellent house saw this type of entertainment introduced last week at Billy Williams' Plaza. Mike Goodman, Times manager, emceed the show in a professional manner. The undertaking is under the personal supervision of Sam Rosenblatt, supervisor for Western Theatres, Ltd.

"Mein Kampf," recently screened for the press, earned praise in the dailies . . . "Scarface," with Paul Muni, has been reissued to the accompaniment of favorable critical comment . . . At the Metropolitan, Syl Gunn has been making extensive use of Radio Station CJRC to plug his films. Recently Gunn used this medium to ballyhoo "A Dispatch From Reuter's" and "Second Chorus."

A visitor to the city was Leon Asper, whose Lyric burned down in Minnedosa recently. Asper returned to Neepawa where he will run his Roxy . . . Jack Kurk, manager of the Neepawa Roxy, has gone to Carmen, where he is to manage the Boyne . . . Frency Noel, well-known theatre man, who is now operating the Nola at Binscarth, was in the city recently on his way to Fort William . . . Max Heppner of the Colonial is in Montreal . . . J. P. O'Loghlin, general manager of 20th Century-Fox, was here for the opening of "Hudson's Bay." . . . George Dowbiggin, F-P booker, has been made a corporal and instructor in the Winnipeg Light Infantry.

Commercial Sponsor For a Stage Show

TORONTO—Commercial sponsorship has invaded the realm of theatres in the Dominion through the presentation of a musical program of the Weston Biscuit Co., Toronto, on the stage of the Imperial, ace house of the Famous Players' chain, one night of the week, namely Wednesday at 9:30 o'clock. The program, which has been featured on the air for some time as "Memoirs in Music," is comprehensive in scope and includes Lou Snyder's 20-piece orchestra, the 40 Weston Singers, Lawrence Defoe, Marilyn Stewart and Duncan Gillard, with the latter as master of ceremonies, produced and directed by Frank Dennis.

The series, which forms practically the first tieup with commercial sponsorship in actual conjunction with regular screen performances, is being featured by cooperative advertising, a separate newspaper display being used to announce the one-night attraction which runs for 30 minutes, with the volume and flash proportions to provide adequate showmanship.

Radio programs have been conducted in theatres in recent years but these have been in the nature of amateur competitions and quiz contests, some of which have been scheduled at hours when regular performances were not being presented. Another current stunt in Toronto has been the recording of quiz programs on the stage of neighborhood theatres and the presentation of the recorded questioning as a radio feature a day or two later when the theatre obtains a plug on the air.

Secure Greater Income for Maple Leaf Fund Benefit

NEW YORK—A special press preview of "Virginia" has been arranged by Paramount for the Paramount Theatre here on Monday, January 27, preceding by a day the premiere, proceeds of which will go to the Maple Leaf Fund, national Canadian organization for British war relief.

The great demand for tickets to the premiere impelled Paramount to schedule the press preview, thus releasing for sale a large block of tickets.

Among notables who will attend the premiere Tuesday are Loring Christie, Canadian minister to the United States and Mrs. Christie, and the British consul at New York, Godfrey Haggard.

The program to precede the picture includes Raymond Massey as master of ceremonies; Glenn Miller and his Orchestra; a talk by Victor Guggin, president of the Maple Leaf Fund, and a telephone message to the audience from Madeleine Carroll, co-star with Fred MacMurray in "Virginia," from Hollywood.

Terence O'Neill Is Named Victoria York Manager

VICTORIA—Terence O'Neill has been appointed manager of the York Theatre which is operated by the David Theatres, Ltd., of Vancouver. O'Neill was formerly a free lance newspaper writer and at one time on the staff of the Toronto *Star*. He also is an experienced radio announcer.

MONTREAL

NEWSREEL and radio operators from all over America will attend the great Victory Mass which Cardinal Villeneuve of Quebec has arranged to be held in the historic church of Notre Dame in Montreal, February 9. A great gathering of notables will attend and special facilities will be given the cameramen to picture the historic ceremony.

Slowly recovering from Quebec's long Christmas and New Year's holiday which extends to January 6, exhibitors are beginning to find their way to Filmrow again. M. Rozon of the Royal, Hudson, and George Champagne of the Roxy and Auditorium, Shawinigan Falls, were amongst the earliest to show up.

"Un Royaume du Cheval," French version of "Kingdom for a Horse," Canadian Cameo short produced by Associated Screen Studios, is playing at the Cinema de Paris . . . Montreal branch of the National Film Society is holding its evening showings weekly on Thursdays instead of Fridays until the end of February . . . United Amusement is leading in the Filmrow Bowling League race, with Regal, second, and Paramount, third.

Sympathy is expressed with Ben E. Norrish, president of Associated Screen News, on the death of his sister-in-law, Miss Lillian A. Cowan, who served overseas as a nurse in the first Great War . . . Roy Tash, news cameraman of Associated Screen News, filmed a ski picture at Huntsville, Ont., and then pictured the manufacture of airway beacons near Toronto for the National Film Board.

Arthur L. Brown, assistant general sales manager of the Northern Electric Company, has returned from a business trip to the west during which he took charge of the office at Vancouver, B. C., until the recovery of T. C. Clarke, district manager, from an illness. Brown's return was suitably celebrated at an informal luncheon given by the vice-president, M. K. Pike, at the Mount Stephen Club of which Brown is president.

J. W. Campbell, newsreel editor, and Ross Beesley, cameraman of Associated Screen News, were in Ottawa filming a story of "Science at War" as represented in the wartime work of the National Research Laboratories. Beesley also covered preparations for the National War Savings Campaign, and then swung eastward to get additional war slants for the newsreels.

"The Thief of Bagdad" completed four weeks at the Orpheum . . . Change of ownership of the Amherst is marked by the omission of that theatre from the column of announcements run by the United Amusement Corporation chain. The Amherst runs a separate ad in the evening papers . . . Mayfair is staging amateurs Friday nights.

Parisian films showing in Montreal theatres include "Le Charme de la Boheme" and "Une Femme par Interim" at the Dominion; "Le Pere Lebonnard" and "Le Fantome" at the Cartier; "Le Maitre de Forges" and "Monsieur Sans-Gene" at the Maisonneuve; "Coup de Bourse" and "Les Fregates du Ciel" at the Chateau.

EDMONTON

MANAGERSHIP of the Dreamland, one of the Entwisle chain, has been taken over by Clarence Entwisle, former manager of the Princess. F. Tickell, formerly assistant manager of the Capitol in Calgary, has been appointed manager of the Princess.

Regular weekly meeting of the Theatre Managers' Ass'n held recently, saw the enrollment of all Edmonton managers. Last to become members of the association were W. Wilson jr., manager of the Roxy and Garneau, and W. Shaker, manager of the Avenue.

Leo Maher and W. Yuill of the Majestic and Monarch, Medicine Hat, were recent visitors. While here, they visited the Garneau in order to obtain first-hand information on the most up-to-date theatre equipment before launching an extensive program of alterations to the two Medicine Hat houses . . . Harry Phillips, Abe Feinstein and J. Cohen, all of Calgary, were recent visitors.

As a former outpost, long known in the history of the Hudson's Bay Co., great interest is being shown in the premiere of Paul Muni's latest, "Hudson's Bay," which opened at the Capitol last week, states Manager Walter Wilson.

W. Shaker of the Avenue is receiving congratulations on the recent birth of a daughter.

Silver's Death Occasions Revamp for Colonial

TORONTO—A business trip was made to Toronto by Budd Rogers, general manager of Alliance Films Corp., New York, following the sudden death in that city of Boris W. Silver, president of Colonial Pictures, Ltd., Canadian distributing agency for Alliance and British pictures.

The business is being continued, it has been announced, but a reorganization is said to be necessary, this being the reason for the visit of Rogers who has an interest in the enterprise, for which a new head will have to be appointed.

Gift Devotees Stress British-Made Angle

TORONTO—A number of exhibitors who have engaged in the practice of giving merchandise as patronage builders have played up a British angle in connection with giveaways, since the Dominion government placed an embargo on the import of dishes, cutlery, jewelry and other articles from other than "sterling countries" which had been used for premiums. Products from Britain are now being emphasized.

"Britain Delivers the Goods," "Help Win the War," "Made in England" and "Buy British" are the slogans which are being used by Manager Howard Elliott of the Beverly, a Toronto neighborhood house, for his giveaways which are dishes from Great Britain.

"London Under Fire" to The Dominion Shortly

TORONTO—Warner will shortly release "London Under Fire" in Canada as a sequel to "London Can Take It," and the exchange will again turn over the total rental proceeds to the British War Relief Fund. In the case of the previous picture, which was produced under official auspices, the distributing company in the Dominion added a contribution of 25 per cent to the rentals and it is expected that the total gross on "London Can Take It" for the whole continent will be in excess of £15,000, of which £6,000 has already been paid as a first installment.

Grand Forks Exhibitor Acquires Alta. House

GRAND FORKS, B. C.—Mr. Tillie, exhibitor here, has entered the prairie territory by securing control of the Opera House at Pincher Creek. When alterations are completed the name of the Alberta house will be changed to the Fox.

In the Turner Valley oil fields district, the Sharp Circuit has acquired the Diamond Hall at Black Diamond. It will be opened as a motion picture theatre under the management of Harry Patten.

VANCOUVER

BEN PLOTTEL of Empire Universal is going around these days with a large smile on his face, the reason being the many holdovers that his pictures are enjoying . . . Nat Levant of Columbia and Sam Nagler of UA enjoying the pleasures of buying new cars . . . G. G. Baiss of the Capitol Theatre, Duncan, ill in bed with influenza.

O. R. Hanson, president, and Paul Nathanson, vice-president of Empire Universal Films, visiting Vancouver. This is Hanson's first visit to the city in a good many years and both he and Mrs. Hanson, who is accompanying him, are thoroughly enjoying the mild weather.

Ralph Calladine of the Plaza, Victoria, is very busy these days arranging the many details of the new home he is building on Cadboro Bay Rd. . . . Les Allen announces that Terrance O'Neill has taken over the management of his York Theatre in Victoria.

Building has been started on one of the largest drydocks in Canada at Esquimalt and when completed should increase the number of naval men stationed at that base . . . Jim Haworth of Rio Ladysmith reports record business for his engagement of "It's in the Air" . . . Ray Tarling of the Film Exchange Tennis Team was selected to play in the Burnaby league and managed to win the first game for that team.

Sympathy to Gordon Kerr, whose father died Monday, January 13.

SASK'WAN

THE Strand, Prince Albert, missed a Monday's business recently due to the non-arrival of the feature picture, "Second Chorus." Delay was due to bad weather for flying in the south of the province . . . Credit for buying the first 1941 city business license in North Battleford went to the Empress Theatre.

Lenore Williams, secretary of the Capitol, Regina, is back on the job after an extended vacation in British Columbia. During her absence she was relieved by Nora Runciman . . . Marjorie Hawe, treasurer at the Met, Regina, is out with the measles.

Friends in Regina were glad to hear that Fred W. Tickell, for many years on the staff of the Capitol, Calgary, had left his position as assistant manager to take over managerial duties at the Princess, Edmonton. Tickell spent some weeks in Regina last fall managing the Capitol in the absence of Larry Graburn. Bert H. Wiber has been promoted from floor manager to assistant manager at the Capitol, Calgary.

Jack Reid, United Artists, Winnipeg, was a recent visitor in Regina, paving the way for "The Thief of Bagdad," due at the Rex soon. During his stay, he received a letter from Bernice Bailey, 18-year-old daughter of Marsh Bailey, manager of the Strand, Bryden, Ont., telling him that she had just become a licensed apprentice projectionist.

Film Board Completes "People of Canada"

MONTREAL—The National Film Board's latest motion picture "People of Canada" was rushed to completion this week by Associated Screen Studios for its Canadian premiere at Ottawa.

One of the most ambitious undertakings to be handled for Canada's Film Board, the picture has been nine months in the making. It was directed by Gordon Sparling, production chief for Associated Screen Studios, and tells the story of the variety of racial strains making up the nationhood of Canada.

John Grierson, Canada's film commissioner, said that while the film contains no mention of the war, he felt it was the best war picture produced so far. "It is a film," Grierson said, "that shows the contribution of these people, and at the same time shows their skill, persistence and culture. It also brings out the blessing of religious and racial tolerance."

Interest-Free Income Tax Payments Are Now Due

MONTREAL—To take advantage of interest-free installment payments of income taxes, payments must commence this month, the minister of national revenue is informing theatre audiences.

Hon. Colin Gibson, minister of revenue, spoke on this subject before the news camera of an Associated Screen News crew. The interview is now being carried by all major newsreels. The minister explains that while Dominion income taxes are higher, the government is easing the burden by making provision for payment in instalments.

"Land of Liberty" Is A Publicity Magnet

The campaign put on for the run of "Land of Liberty" at the Rialto, Williamsport, Pa., is viewed as the most comprehensive on the picture to date. As a pattern of what might be done elsewhere, BOXOFFICE, *therefore, publishes the detail.*

Exhibitors are reminded that this is the attraction which is being released by M-G-M with the net proceeds to go to war emergency relief as the organized industry's contribution.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.—The campaign here for "Land of Liberty" took the school angle as the initial selling point.

This was based on the theory the film is a graphic portrayal of memorable events in the progress of this country which students have either read or are reading about. Dr. A. M. Weaver, school superintendent, called a meeting of all principals and urged them to give the engagement every possible support in the school assemblies, classrooms, on bulletin boards, etc. Students were dismissed earlier than usual during the three-day engagement to enable them to attend matinees.

The next most important point stressed in the campaign was cooperation with churches. Every clergyman received an invitation to a private, advance screening. It was well attended and many openly expressed their approval of the film. Timed to coincide with the screening, these clergymen received special letters from the Hays office in New York enlisting their support. The result was that the film and theatre were mentioned on numerous pulpits during Sunday sermons.

Message to Women

Church and religious cooperation was heightened through contact with the Knights of Columbus, which passed a resolution endorsing the film, as did the YMCA and the YWCA.

While it was still undetermined at the time of the engagement as to just what charities would share in the profits, the management was able to secure a strong testimonial from the local head of the American Red Cross. This was printed in newspapers as "A Message to the Women of Williamsport." Permission to use this endorsement was granted in a telephonic message with the national headquarters of the Red Cross in Washington.

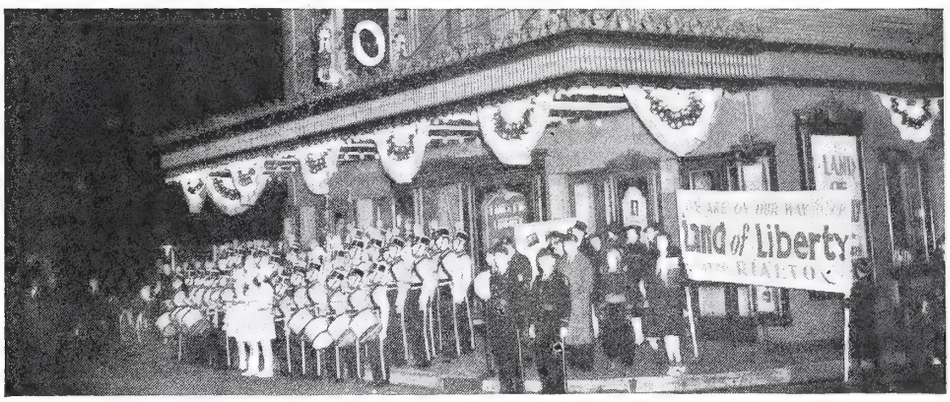
A heavy barrage of correspondence emanating from the MPPDA was important. The association sent letters to leaders in public and civic life, city officials, leading clubwomen, and ministers and, through MPPDA intervention, letters were also sent out from headquarters of the Legion of Decency, Boy Scouts, Boys' Club of America, Lions International, American Legion, etc., to units of their organizations here.

Normally there is an ironclad rule on Williamsport newspapers not to give any publicity to theatres. However, because of the charity nature of the film, an exception was made and both papers offered exceptional cooperation. As soon as the management secured official proclamations from the government and mayor establishing "Land of Liberty" Days, both were printed by the papers, which, additionally, had their city editors attend the opening night and write reviews.

Public Officials Cooperate

Cooperation was extended by every public official contacted, whether in a state, city or town capacity. Mayor Leo C. Williamson not only attended the private screening but agreed to lend his name in any way possible that would help publicize the film. His first official act was to write a statement of thanks for the screening to the theatre manager. This letter carried the playdates, sincere praise of the film and congratulations for bringing the world premiere here. His proclamation of "Land of Liberty" Days, the first he had issued in connection with a film, as well as his letter of praise were picked up by the newspapers. He also helped by speaking of the engagement at meetings and social functions he attended prior to the opening.

The opening night was designated American Legion Night and was so advertised. The organization's Junior Drum and Bugle Corps, consisting of 50 members and three girl drum majors, marched through the streets opening night carrying banners and proceeded to the theatre. Here they held a short concert in front of the house. They then proceeded down aisles of the theatre to the stage, where a Color Guard ceremony was held. A mailing list to 500 members announcing the event was used over the signature of the unit commander.



With Fanfare—

A brief concert is put on in front of the Rialto in Williamsport, Pa., by the Junior Drum and Bugle Corps of the American Legion. The occasion was the opening night's show of "Land of Liberty," designated American Legion Night. To the side are the Legion's girl drum majors in a Color Guard ceremony that was part of a stage presentation.



Capital Responds to "Land of Liberty"

WASHINGTON—Congressional leaders, British War Relief agencies and capital reviewers combined their enthusiasm to make the premiere of "Land of Liberty" here an outstanding publicity and boxoffice success. The designation of $50,000 derived from the release of the picture for British air raid victims, struck a responsive chord, and legislators and war relief

agencies were active in supporting the engagement.

Highlights of Dan Terrell's campaign for the Columbia Theatre engagement follow: An advance screening for representatives of 16 educational, civic and patriotic organizations. Later, bundles of cards were handed out, with this copy: "I have just seen 'Land of Liberty,' a motion picture which deserves our full support, and take this means of letting you know that it opens its Washington engagement next Thursday." The message also included other facts about the film.

For the first time, the local public school system permitted the hanging of placards in every school building in the District of Columbia. In addition, 10,000 heralds were distributed in schools and special material was sent to all high school newspaper editors.

Special postcards were imprinted and distributed at the end of each performance to those wishing to advise friends about the picture. The Boy Scouts included a special announcement on the picture in their mimeographed bulletin which goes to every troop in the city. Announcements also were made at the weekly meetings of Rotary, Kiwanis and other local civic organizations.

Arrange Three-Way Tie For Sheridan's Latest

HOLLYWOOD—A three-way tie involving RCA-Victor, Warner Bros., and Chesterfield, resulted in exploitation of "Honeymoon for Three," starring George Brent and Ann Sheridan, in 2,000 daily papers and 300 weeklies, beginning January 20. By arrangement with Chesterfield, a half-page ad ran in the 2,000 dailies featuring a picture of Miss Sheridan standing by an RCA-Victor radio, and a credit line for "Honeymoon for Three." In addition, cutouts of Miss Sheridan, mentioning "Honeymoon for Three," will be displayed by several thousand Victor dealers.



Deliver the Tunes—

Some of the 20 girls David Edwards of the Rialto, Salt Lake City, outfitted with portable radios which were tuned in to a special "No No, Nanette" broadcast. Visiting downtown stores, the girls distributed candy novelties plugging the picture, while shoppers listened to the Nanette tunes.

"Kitty" on Shopping Tour To Sell Film in Dayton

DAYTON, OHIO—A "White Collar Girl" shopping tour, sponsored by a local paper, featured the campaign by Manager Bill Clark of the Keith here for "Kitty Foyle."

A girl dressed as Kitty visited stores and public places at specified times. People recognizing her and tapping her on the shoulder with certain editions of the co-operating newspaper received passes for the picture.

The stunt was started a week in advance of opening with co-op merchant ads and story breaks.

1941 **1941**

DON'T LET THE

SEASON PASS

Without attending our Mammoth Owl Show every Saturday night. Come as late as 10 p.m. and see a complete show. Ear phones for the hard of hearing.

PARKSIDE THEATRE

East Warren at Dickerson FREE PARKING

Looks Real—

The above "pass" was printed up as a throwaway by Edward Jacobson, manager of the Parkside Theatre in Detroit.

Ryan on Ushers

CHICAGO—The problem of selecting and training ushers is discussed by Charles H. Ryan in a recent bulletin which went to Warner theatre managers. It's Ryan from now on, but to the trade.

"In selecting ushers, see that they have a good education, speak properly and have good breeding. They should be coached on how to handle cranky patrons, remembering that your customer is, after all, their employer and pays their salary, and is therefore entitled to every consideration that they can give them.

"In addressing patrons, the usher should say *'How far down, please?'* and to patrons whom he disturbs on the aisle or obstructs their vision of the screen, say *'Pardon please.'*

"In most theatres in handling crowds, ropes are an important part of theatre equipment. Everybody on the staff must be particularly cheerful when the house is full and people are standing in the rear and in the lobby. The manager, his assistant and chief of service should wear a broad smile, helping create *'Good Will'* and saying pleasant things to those standing so that the standees will not become impatient.

"Patrons should never be spoken to crossly at any time, particularly in a crowd. The reason for this is that too many people hear you and take sides—not with you, but with the patron. Handling crowds is difficult and courteous attention is everything in business today.

"Have the chief of service bring to your attention any remarks overheard in the lobby in regard to the likes or dislikes of your program and house service. At your weekly service staff meeting, give a resume of the mistakes made during the week, such as poor handling of crowds, employes saying the wrong thing at patron, neglecting to say, *'Thank you,' 'This way, please'* or selling single seats.

"Call attention sharply to the fact that they must hustle and use their utmost efforts to keep all seats filled. You are protecting the theatre's investment when you give your personal attention to this item."

Paunch and Judy

Columbia (Fable) 6½ *Mins.*

Average. Father tries his hand at photography. His young daughter gets in his hair. At length, he blows up and falls into the clutches of a French poodle, an English bulldog and a Dachshund who make sport of him until a salesman sets him off on the exasperation routine again.

Beautiful British Columbia

Columbia (Columbia Tour) 10½ *Mins.*

Good travel fare. The most westerly province of Canada is capably presented here in color. The footage, though brief, covers a good deal of ground. Camera compositions include plenty of pretty young misses.

Mrs. Ladybug

M-G-M (Technicolor) 8 *Mins.*

Clever. Well away from run-of-the-mill animation is this one after the famed fable. And the elders won't be too critical of it, either. Story invention is bright. It has Mama Ladybug overburdened with housework, considering the large brood of offspring in her charge. When she finally decides to advertise for a maid, a villainous spider dresses up and gets the job. But he doesn't get the large helping of little ladybugs he anticipated.

Watchman Takes a Wife

Columbia (Andy Clyde) 16 *Mins.*

Standard. Andy Clyde gets himself married to Betty Compson after a number of awkward moments. Following the honeymoon, egged on by a scheming lawyer, he grows suspicious of his wife and starts shooting at a salesman. Later he finds that she only wanted to get him a motor scooter to replace his decrepit bicycle.

Uncle Sam—The Non-Belligerent

RKO 21 *Mins.*

(March of Time, Vol. 6, No. 7)

Timely. A composite picture, not necessarily embodying all the contributing elements with which the man in the street is continually buffeted, emerges from the chambers of the editors of March of Time in the first issue of the new year. March of Time's connections with the Canadian Film Commissioner are good because they have again obtained interesting footage filmed by German army cameramen which show life in France under the heel of the Nazi boot and a few of Hitler's military shenanigans—the 100-mile gun which looks like a phoney. Additionally, the local footage offers a picture of the lineup in the isolationism-interventionism battle which is brewing in Washington, the Gallup poll of public opinion on aid to Britain, and a few main streeters who voice their opinions on the last mentioned issue. It is as timely as last week's headlines and as current as the weekend review of the news. "Uncle Sam—Non Belligerent" takes place as a revelation of what is happening at the moment here and abroad.

All's Well

Paramount (Gabby Cartoon) 7 *Mins.*

Amusing. Most audiences should get a kick out of Gabby attempting to diaper a baby. While overdone, it's probably not much out of line with what usually goes on when it comes time for an infant's change of dress. In this instance, the little one, somewhat precocious for its age, gives Gabby a severe beating before the effort is accomplished.

Unusual Crafts

Columbia (Cinecolor) 9 *Mins.*

Interesting. The arts and crafts of the inhabitants of the Scilly Islands off the coast of England are offered here. The folks makes various objects from stone for jewelry, model ships and the like.

U. S. Naval Academy

Columbia (Washington Parade) 10 *Mins.*

Good program filler. Annapolis, the naval academy and the midshipmen are smartly filmed here. It shows the boys at their studies, making muscles, parading and eventually being assigned to the fleet.

Take It Or Leave It, No. 2

Columbia 11 *Mins.*

Fair. Bob Hawk gets four people, from all indications carefully picked and rehearsed, up on the stage of a theatre and pops questions at them about crime, languages, etiquette and sound. One makes off with $64. Where they like this sort of thing, it should go over.

Ali, the Giant Killer

Columbia (World of Sports) 10½ *Mins.*

Average. Ali Baba, a Turkish wrestler, and Hardboiled Haggerty, a native grunt and groaner, have it out in the ring. The Turk is a little guy, the American over six feet. It is a case of David and Goliath. After the first hundred feet, it becomes tiresome.

Screen Snapshots No. 5-20

Columbia 10 *Mins.*

Usual stuff. The Invisible Man attends a party at the Hollywood Pirate's Den where Bob Hope and his radio troupe, plus Harry Ritz and Andrea Leeds are present and go through their shenanigans. Jerry Colonna does his familiar double talk poem routine.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Movietone News, No. 37

Willkie endorses Roosevelt policies; munitions ship destroyed off Australia; Knox tells of navy reorganization; army ski maneuvers; rifle production; new west coast dam takes shape; motor boat show; New Hampshire dog sled races; billiards in Chicago; skiing.

News of the Day, No. 235

Liner on reef off Florida; discuss aid to Britain; Shasta Dam under construction; air show in Miami; rifle production; Hialeah opens; billiards; skiing.

Paramount News, No. 40

Boston track meet; motor boat show; Miami air show; fashions for men; California dam under construction; defense bill debate; Greeks take Koritza.

RKO Pathe News, No. 40

Greeks take Koritza; Willkie backs Roosevelt policies; liner grounds off Florida; Shasta Dam building; Farley off to South America; motor boat show; Miami air races; skiing.

Universal Newsreel, No. 945

Knox discusses navy changes; Henry Ford at California plane plant; Miami air show; girls learn defense work; religious ceremony in Washington; Shasta Dam building; liner aground off Florida; motor boat show; billiards; racing at Hialeah.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Movietone News, No. 38

London afire; British enter Sidi Barrani; Hull gives Congress views on lend-lease bill; passengers quit stranded "Manhattan;" March of Dimes; Golden Gloves bouts.

News of the Day, No. 236

Bombs ignite London; New York firemen return with praise for British fire laddies; fall of Sidi Barrani; Hull on invasion peril; March of Dimes; Golden Gloves.

Paramount News, No. 41

The war in Libya; Sidi Barrani; on the Mediterranean; Malta, Athens, Turkey; London on fire; March of Dimes.

RKO Pathe News, No. 41

London set afire by bombs; British round up Italian prisoners; March of Dimes drive opens; passengers quit stranded "Manhattan;" spring hat fashions; British reinforce war aid to Greece; Golden Gloves bouts.

Universal Newsreel, No. 946

Bombs set London afire; New York firemen return from London with praise for firefighters; British launch desert blitzkrieg; fleet battle Axis planes in Mediterranean; Mrs. Roosevelt visits infantile paralysis victims; cat show; stock car race; Golden Gloves bouts.

TO SPEED TELEGRAMS AT LOW COST—PHONE

Postal Telegraph



CHARGES FOR TELEGRAMS 'PHONED IN APPEAR ON YOUR TELEPHONE BILL.

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ✪ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JUNE 15	6 M'drama 1028 **Passport to Alcatraz** (60); **Jack Holt** R—June 22	14 Drama 41 ✪**Mortal Storm, The** (99) R—June 15 Margaret Sullavan James Stewart	11 Com. Drama 3915 **On the Spot** (62) Frankie Darro R—June 8	14 Drama 3937 **Safari** (81) Doug. Fairbanks jr. Madeleine Carroll R—June 1	19 Act'n Drama 907 **Wagons Westward** (70) R—June 29 Chester Morris Anita Louise	7 Western 084 **Prairie Law** (60) George O'Brien R—June 8	14 Drama 047 **Four Sons** (88) Don Ameche Mary Beth Hughes R—June 8		14 Com. Drama 4008 **Sandy Is a Lady** (64) R—May 25 Baby Sandy Eugene Pallette	15 M'drama FN473 **Fugitive From Justice** (53) R-June 22 Roger Pryor Lucille Fairbanks	
JUNE 22	20 Drama 1037 **Girls of the Road** (61) Ann Dvorak Lola Lane R—June 15	21 Com. Drama 42 **Captain Is a Lady** (65) R—June 29 Virginia Grey Billie Burke Charles Coburn	18 Western 3960 **Wild Horse Range** (51) Jack Randall R—June 22	21 Mys. Com. 3938 **Ghost Breakers** (85) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—June 15	25 Musical Com. 908 **Grand Ole Opry** (67) R—July 6 27 Western 955 **Carson City Kid** (57) R—July 6	21 Com. Drama 034 **Pop Always Pays** (67) Leon Errol R—June 22	21 Mystery 048 **Charlie Chan's Murder Cruise** (75) Sidney Toler Marjorie Weaver R—May 4		21 Comedy 4037 **I Can't Give You Anything But Love** (61) Broderick Crawford R—May 11	22 M'drama WB424 **Gambling on the High Seas** (56) Wayne Morris Jane Wyman R—Oct. 12	
JUNE 29	27 Western 1214 **Return of Wild Bill** Bill Elliott (57) R—July 13	28 Musical 31 **New Moon** (100) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—June 22	25 M'drama 3927 **Last Alarm** (61) Polly Ann Young Warren Hull R—July 13	28 Drama 3939 **Queen of the Mob** (61) R—June 29 Ralph Bellamy Blanche Yurka Jean Cagney	29 Western 992 **One Man's Law** (57) Don "Red" Barry Janet Waldo R—July 13	28 Drama 035 **Anne of Windy Poplars** (86) Anne Shirley R—June 22	28 Outd'r Dr. 049 **Lucky Cisco Kid** (68) Cesar Romero Mary Beth Hughes R—June 1		28 Drama 5046 **The Fugitive** (77) Ralph Richardson Diana Wynyard R—July 6		
JULY 6	30 Comedy 1021 **Out West With the Peppers** (61) Edith Fellows R—July 13	5 Comedy 43 **Andy Hardy Meets Debutante** (89) Mickey Rooney R—July 6	3 Western 3956 **The Golden Trail** (52) Tex Ritter R—July 13	5 Drama 3940 **Way of All Flesh** (86) R—June 1 Akim **Tamiroff** Gladys **George**	12 Drama 903 **Three Faces West** (81) R—June 22 John Wayne Sigrid Gurie	5 Drama 036 **Dr. Christian Meets the Women** (68) Jean Hersholt R—June 29	5 Com. Drama 052 **Sailor's Lady** (66) Nancy Kelly Jon Hall R—July 6		5 Com. Drama 4007 **Private Affairs** (74) Nancy Kelly Roland Young R—June 15	13 Drama FN467 **Man Who Talked Too Much** (75) George Brent R—July 6	8 Com. Drama 1 **Hold That Woman** (66) James Dunn R—Nov. 30
JULY 13		12 Drama 44 **Sporting Blood** (82) Robert **Young** Maureen **O'Sullivan** R—July 13		12 Western 3959 **Stagecoach War** (63) R—July 6 Bill Boyd Russell Hayden		12 Com. Drama 039 **Cross Country Romance** (68) Gene Raymond Wendy Barrie R—June 29	12 Drama 046 **Manhattan Heartbeat** (71) V. Gilmore R. Sterling R-June 8			13 Drama FN454 ✪**All This, and Heaven Too** (143) Bette Davis Charles Boyer R—June 22	
JULY 20	18 Drama 1038 **Military Academy** (66) T. Kelly R-July 13 24 Adventure 1110 **I Married Adventure** (78) R-July 20	19 Com. Drama 45 **We Who Are Young** (79) Lana Turner John Shelton R—July 20	16 Mystery 3910 **Haunted House** (70) R—Aug. 3 15 Melodrama 4020 **Boys of the City** East Side Kids (63) R—Aug. 31		20 Comedy 909 **Scatterbrain** (72) Judy Canova R—July 13 15 Western 944 **Carolina Moon** (65) G. Autry R—July 20	19 Drama 029 **Tom Brown's School Days** (82) James Lydon Fred. Bartholomew Cedric Hardwicke R—June 29	19 Drama 050 ⊙**Maryland** (91) Walter Brennan Fay Bainter Brenda Joyce R—July 13	18 Melodrama **South of Pago Pago** (97) Victor McLaglen Jon Hall Francis Farmer R—July 20	19 Melodrama 4057 **Black Diamonds** (52) R—July 27 26 Western 4064 **Son of Roaring Dan** (64) R—Aug. 17 Johnny **Mack Brown**	20 Com. with Mu. **WB407** **My Love Came Back** (85) R—July 6 Olivia de Havilland Jeffrey Lynn	20 Western 1 **Billy the Kid Outlawed** (60) Bob Steele
JULY 27	25 Comedy 1012 **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (70) Penny **Singleton** Arthur **Lake** R—July 27	26 Com. Drama 47 **Gold Rush Maisie** (82) Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	29 Melodrama 4024 **Orphans of the North** (57) R—Nov. 9 29 Western 3957 **Rainbow Over the Range** (59) T. Ritter R-Aug. 10	26 Drama 3941 ⊙**Untamed** (83) Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	30 Drama 904 **Girl from God's Country** (71) R—Jul 27 Chester Morris	26 Western 085 **Stage to Chino** (59) G.O'Brien R-Aug. 24 26 Com. Drama 037 **Millionaires in Prison** (63) L. Tracy R-June 29			26 Com. Dr. 4023 **You're Not So Tough** (72) R—June 1 26 Outd'r Dr. 4006 **When Daltons Rode** (81) R—Aug. 3	27 Comedy FN474 **Ladies Must Live** (58) Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		2 Costume Com. 46 ✪**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	5 Melodrama 3908 **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	2 Melodrama 3942 **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	30 Western 956 **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R-July 27	2 Drama 061 ⊙**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov.26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	2 Drama 101 **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		2 M'drama 4039 **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	3 Drama FN460 **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	3 Western 1 **Gun Code** (56) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	7 Drama 1008 **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian **Aherne** Rita **Hayworth** R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama 50 **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama 3943 **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical 910 **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama 042 **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama 104 **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy 4003 **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram WB414 **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama 1030 **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 15 Western 2201 **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy 49 **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama 3913 **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 Western 3958 **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	16 Comery 3944 **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western 071 **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama 041 **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama 103 ✪**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama WB417 **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama 1006 **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama 3938 **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama 3945 **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda 171 **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama 043 **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R-Aug. 24	23 Drama 100 **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. WB412 **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama 48 **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama 3903 **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western 069 **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug.	23 Comedy 046 **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners** (101) R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy 109 **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—**Sept. 7**		31 Drama WB401 **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—	28 Mystery 1 **Marked Men** (70) Warren Hull

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
SEPT. 7	**Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	**Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	**Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	**Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	**Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	**Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	**Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	**Pastor Hall** (92) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	**Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	**Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama 2032 **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama 1024 **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 **Melodrama 017** **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept 14	13 Comedy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 **Comedy 105** **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 **Com. Dr. 5006** **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 **Melodrama 5051** **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 **Comedy FN554** **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 **The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 **Mus. Com. 104** **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 **Melodrama 4021** **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordon R—Oct. 5	20 **Drama 4002** **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 **Western 086** **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Act. Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 **Melodrama 5020** **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 **Western 5061** **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 **Drama WB506** **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 **Western 1** **Arizona Gang Busters** (60)
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 1040 **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 **Mystery 105** **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 **Melodrama 4003** **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 **Western 082** **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 **Mus. Com. 5001** **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 **Western 1** **Billy the Kid in Texas** (57) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 **Melodrama 4004** **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 **Western 072** **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 **Western 181** **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 **Drama 5019** **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama WB502 **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Dr'ma 2018 **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 **Drama 4005** **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 **Mus. Com. 005** **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 **Burl. Com. 105** **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R-Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 **Mus. Com. 113** **Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 **Melodrama 5017** **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 **Comedy FN559** **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama 2030 **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows Billy Lee		7 **Com. Dr. 4010** **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 **Drama 4006** **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	16 **Mus. Com. 001** **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 **Melodrama 107** **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama 114 **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 **Western 5062** **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. WB511 **Dispatch from Reuters** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama 2038 **Girls Under 21** (64) R—Nov. 30 21 Western 2202 **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy 109 **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 **Drama 4007** **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 25 **Documentary** **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	21 **Western 052** **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 **Melodrama 104** **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 **Comedy 111** **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 **Comedy 5024** **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 **Drama 5007** **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	26 **Com. Dr. FN561** **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy 2016 **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama 108 **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 **Musical 4008** **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 **Mystery 006** **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 **Comedy 109** **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 **Comedy 5036** **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 **Melodrama 5052** **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	2 **Comedy FN570** **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 **Musical 110** **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 **Western 4051** **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 **Musical 4009** **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 **Mus. Comedy 007** **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 **Comedy 106** **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 **Melodrama 117** **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 **Comedy 5021** **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 **Western 5063** **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama FN562 **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	5 **Western 1** **Riders of Black Mountain** (60) Tim McCoy
NOV. 16	14 Western 2210 **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama 111 **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 **Mystery 4012** **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 **Western 4050** **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 **Western 063** **Trail Blazers, The** (58) R—Nov. 2 Three Mesquiteers	15 Comedy 111 **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 **Drama 102** **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		16 **Drama 5015** **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 **Drama WB513** **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Geraldine Fitzgerald R—Dec. 21	
NOV. 23	23 Mystery 2021 **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30 28 Drama 2012 **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30	22 Comedy 112 **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 **Western** **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 **Western 041** **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 23 **Western 073** **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 **Mus. Com. 108** **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 **Comedy 119** **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 **Drama** **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 **Comedy 5023** **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama R5048 **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama FN552 **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	30 Mystery 2024 **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 **Drama 115** **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 **Comedy 018** **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karns R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 113 **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama 120 **Tin Pan Alley** (94) Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable R—Nov. 30	29 **Drama** **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy 5010 **Bank Dick, The** (72) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama WB512 **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
DEC. 7	5 Western 2203 **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy 114 **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. 4011 **Night at Earl Carroll's, A** (63) Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western 053 **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western 182 **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama 118 **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy 5026 **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy FN571 **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	6 Com. Mys. 10 **Devil Bat** (67) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 14	9 Drama 2031 **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama 113 **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		18 Western 4012 **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy 008 **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery 121 **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama 5008 **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Western 10 **Billy the Kid's Gu Justice** (..) Bob Steele
DEC. 21	20 Mystery 2033 **Phantom Submarine** (70) Anita Louise			27 Outd'r Dr. 3046 **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama 009 **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama 114 **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	20 Comedy 122 **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama 5025 **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 Reissue **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Drama 10 **Misbehaving Husbands** (65) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	25 Outd'r Dr. 2101 **Arizona** (128) Jean Arthur R—Nov. 23 31 Western 2211 **Wildcat of Tuscon** (57) Bill Elliott	27 Comedy 116 **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 Drama 4003 **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western 4052 **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) Tex Ritter	27 Comedy 4013 **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western 004 **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 112 **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 123 **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Comedy **Invisible Woman** (72) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan 4—PG-1	28 Adv. Dr. FN551 **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Comedy 10 **You Betcha My Life** (..) Henry Armetta
JAN. 4	2 Comedy 2205 **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama 117 **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical 4014 **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama 019 **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 Drama 161 **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	3 Drama 115 **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama 5030 **Where Did You Get That Girl** (65) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama 5053 **Lucky Devils** (62)	4 M'drama WB503 **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	3 Mystery 10 **Secret Evidence** (..) 3 Western 10 **Lone Rider No. 1** (..) George Houston
JAN. 11	9 Western 2204 **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett	10 Com. Drama 118 **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (..) Range Busters	10 Western 4051 **Doomed Caravan** (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 Western 074 **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 Drama 110 **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama 124 **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western 5064 **Boss of Bullion City** (59) 10 Drama 5027 **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama FN572 **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon	
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. 2029 **Face Behind the Mask** (69) Peter Lorre	17 Drama 119 **Philadelphia Story** (112) Katharine Hepburn Cary Grant	15 Mystery **Dead Man's Shoes** (..) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 Drama 4015 **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western 054 **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers **R—Jan. 18—PG-10**	17 Musical 115 **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama 125 **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 Comedy **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Drama **Honeymoon for Three** (77) George Brent Ann Sheridan	17 Comedy 10 **Glamour Girls Neve Say No** (..)
JAN. 25		24 Comedy 121 **Man of Borneo** (78) 24 Historical **Land of Liberty** (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	20 Melodrama **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 Comedy 4016 **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (82) Jackie Cooper	24 Western **Riding on a Rainbow** (..) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	24 Mystery 116 **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama 128 **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (..) Cesar Romero Virginia Gilmore	24 Comedy **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carol Landis		25 Drama **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino	
FEB. 1	3 Melodrama **The Devil Commands** (..) Boris Karloff	31 Drama 122 **Come Live With Me** (..) James Stewart Hedy Lamarr			28 Comedy **Arkansas Judge** (..) Weaver Bros. and Elviry	31 Comedy 117 **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard Robert Montgomery	31 Drama 127 **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Comedy **Buck Privates** (..) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello	1 Drama **Father's Son** (..) John Litel Frieda Inescort	
FEB. 8	6 Drama **Adam Had Four Sons** (..) Warner Baxter Ingrid Bergman	7 Comedy **Blonde Inspiration** (..) John Shelton Virginia Grey	6 Western **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (..) Tex Ritter	7 Musical Com. **You're the One** (83) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker	31 Comedy **Petticoat Politics** (..) Higgins Family Roscoe Karnes	7 Western 183 **Along the Rio Grande** (..) Tim Holt	7 Comedy **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (..) Eugene Pallette Rita Quigley		7 Drama **Back Street** (..) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer	3 Drama WB520 **Flight From Destiny** (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	13 Western 2212 **Across the Sierra** (58) Bill Elliott	14 Drama **The Bad Man** (..) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore		14 Mystery **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone	14 Western **Bad Man From Rio** (..) Don "Red" Barry	14 Comedy 120 **A Guy, a Girl and a Gob** (..) George Murphy Lucille Ball	14 Com. Drama **Golden Hoofs** (..) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers		14 Comedy **Meet the Chump** (..) Hugh Herbert Lewis Howard	15 Com. Drama **She Stayed Kissed** (..) Dennis Morgan Jane Wyatt	
FEB. 22	20 Drama **Meet Boston Blackie** (..) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson	21 Drama **Trial of Mary Dugan** (..) Robert Young Laraine Day	19 Melodrama **Air Devils** (..) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan	21 Drama **Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	20 Western **Prairie Pioneers** (..) Three Mesquiteers	21 Com. Drama 123 **Scattergood Baines** (..) Guy Kibbee	21 Drama **Western Union** Robert Young Virginia Gilmore (..)		21 Mus. Comedy **Nice Girl** (..) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone	22 Com. Drama **Strawberry Blonde** (..) James Cagney Olivia de Havilland	
MAR. 1	27 Comedy **Blondie Goes Latin** (..) 27 Western 2205 **Outlaws of the Panhandle** (59) Charles Starrett	28 Comedy **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (..) Mickey Rooney	28 Drama **Sign of the Wolf** (..)	28 Western 4052 **In Old Colorado** (..) William Boyd		28 Drama 118 **Citizen Kane** (..) Orson Welles	28 Mystery **Scotland Yard** (..) John Loder Nancy Kelly		28 Drama 5040 **Dark Streets of Cairo** (..) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7		
MAR. 8				7 Comedy **Hard Boiled Canary** (..) Allan Jones		7 Drama 121 **Play Girl** (77) [illegible]	7 Drama **Tobacco Road** (..) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau		7 Comedy **Mr. Dynamite** (..)		

Looking Ahead at Forthcoming Pictures Now in the Making

PRODUCTION INDEX

COMPANY	TITLE	TYPE	STARS	THUMBNAIL SYNOPSIS	RELEASE DATE
COLUMBIA	PENNY SERENADE	Drama	Irene Dunne Cary Grant Beulah Bondi	A girl marries a penniless reporter in Tokyo. Driven to San Francisco by the Japanese earthquake of 1923, they lose their baby, then find happiness through adopting another. George Stevens, director.	Not Set
	THE LONE WOLF TAKES A CHANCE	Mystery	Warren William Henry Wilcoxon June Storey	Based upon the stories by Louis Joseph Vance, this finds Warren William, as the Lone Wolf, coming out of retirement again to aid a lady in distress. Sidney Salkow, director.	Not Set
	THEY DARE NOT LOVE	Drama	George Brent Martha Scott Paul Lukas	Story of two who fall in love in modern, Nazi-controlled Vienna, but who are kept apart by the Gestapo because they are suspected of anti-Nazi leanings. James Whale, director.	Not Set
	A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND IS WALL STREET	Comedy	Franchot Tone Joan Bennett	This tells of a Wall Street telephone operator who plays the financial and matrimonial game all backward, but who nevertheless walks off with a fortune and the street's most eligible young broker. Richard Wallace, director.	Not Set
	SENATE PAGE BOYS	Drama	Herbert Marshall Virginia Bruce	Topical story concerning a little-known phase of our national legislature, and the influence these page boys have on Congress and its members. Director, not set.	Not Set
	THE THREE SCRATCHES	Mystery	Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay Charles Grapewin	Second in the series of "Ellery Queen" detective dramas, with Ralph Bellamy in the title role. James Hogan, director.	Not Set
	HER FIRST BEAU	Romance	Jane Withers Jackie Cooper	From the stage play, "June Mad," this deals with young love in the springtime, and its comic and dramatic developments. J. Theodore Reed, director.	Not Set
M-G-M	THE ZIEGFELD GIRL	Drama with Music	James Stewart Judy Garland Hedy Lamarr	Lana Turner portrays one of the Ziegfeld girls and the picture deals with her career, romances and ultimate fall from the pinnacle. Robert Z. Leonard, director.	Not Set
	BILLY THE KID	Western Drama	Robert Taylor Brian Donlevy Mary Howard	Re-make of a historical western tracing the life of one of the west's most notorious gunmen. Frank Borzage, David Miller, directors.	Not Set
	ANDY HARDY'S PRIVATE SECRETARY	Comedy-Drama	Mickey Rooney Lewis Stone Cecilia Parker	Newest in the "Judge Hardy" series, in which Andy goes into business for himself—with ludicrous results. George B. Seitz, director.	Not Set
	THE TRIAL OF MARY DUGAN	Melodrama	Laraine Day Robert Young Marsha Hunt	On trial for her life, Mary Dugan seems doomed to be convicted of murder until her lawyer-sweetheart reveals the true killer. Norman Z. McLeod, director.	Feb. 28
	FREE AND EASY	Comedy	Robert Cummings Ruth Hussey Reginald Owen	Sophisticated comedy concerning the life and loves of playboys and playgirls high in the social scale. Edward Buzzell, director.	Not Set
	ROOSTY	Drama	Lionel Barrymore Edward Arnold Gene Reynolds	Concerns the regeneration of a gangster and his boy when they are forced to hide out on a small farm. Harold S. Bucquet, director.	Not Set
	LOVE CRAZY	Comedy	William Powell Myrna Loy	William Powell and Myrna Loy portray a scrapping married couple who go to the divorce courts over absurd quarrels, and reconcile in the nick of time. Jack Conway, director.	Not Set
	A WOMAN'S FACE	Drama	Joan Crawford Melvyn Douglas Conrad Veidt	A beautiful woman's face is horribly scarred in an accident. Story concerns her inward mental battle to force herself to go out and meet the world again. George Cukor, director.	Not Set
	DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE	Drama	Spencer Tracy Ingrid Bergman	From Robert Louis Stevenson's fantastic story of the doctor, respected and eminent, who discovers a concoction whereby he turns into a lustful, murderous beast. Victor Fleming, director.	Not Set
MONOGRAM	AIR DEVILS	Aviation Drama	David Gorcey Joan Barclay	Another in the "East Side Kids" series which finds the boys working in an aviation plant and becoming heroes by thwarting would-be saboteurs. Joseph Lewis, director.	Feb. 21
PARAMOUNT	ONE NIGHT IN LISBON	Drama	Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray Akim Tamiroff	This has Europe at war as its background and concerns the efforts of a group of Americans to return to the United States via Clipper. Edward H. Griffith, director.	June 13
	CAUGHT IN THE DRAFT	Comedy	Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour Eddie Bracken	Topical story of the nation's conscription program, which traces Bob Hope's adventures as a draftee. David Butler, director.	May 30
	HOLD BACK THE DAWN	Drama	Paulette Goddard Charles Boyer	Story with a refugee background, concerning European war victims attempting to find haven in America. Mitchell Leisen, director.	Not Set
	SKYLARK	Comedy	Claudette Colbert Ray Milland Walter Abel	Based on the stage success by Samson Raphaelson, this reunites the stars of "Arise My Love." Mark Sandrich, director.	Not Set
REPUBLIC	BAD MAN FROM RIO	Western	Don Barry Virginia Carroll	El Lobo, a masked rider, thwarts the efforts of a grasping villain to seize the property of the niece of a Mexican hacendado. George Sherman, director.	Feb. 14

COMPANY	TITLE	TYPE	STARS	THUMBNAIL SYNOPSIS	RELEASE DATE
REPUBLIC (Continued)	PRAIRIE PIONEERS	Western	Bob Livingston Bob Steele Rufe Davis	Latest in the western adventures of the "Three Mesquiteers." Lester Orlebeck, director.	Feb. 21
	CITADEL OF CRIME	Drama	John Wayne Frances Dee Edward Ellis	Concerns gang-busting activities in Kansas City. John H. Auer, director.	Not Set
RKO RADIO	THEY MET IN ARGENTINA	Musical	James Ellison Maureen O'Hara Buddy Ebsen	South America, its atmosphere and its music, supply the background for this extravaganza. Leslie Goodwins, Jack Hively, directors.	Not Set
	THE DEVIL AND MISS JONES	Comedy	Jean Arthur Robert Cummings Charles Coburn	Jean Arthur portrays a New York shop girl whose romantic inclinations plunge her into plenty of complications. Sam Wood, director.	Mar. 14
	SHOW BUSINESS	Comedy	Alan Mowbray Donald McBride Elyse Knox	Two stage producers with a shoestring bankroll pose as sailors to secure financing from an old lady whose first and only love was a sailor. Gruing Reis, director.	Mar. 21
	SUNNY	Musical	Anna Neagle John Carroll Ray Bolger	Adapted from the famous stage musical with a circus background, and for which Jerome Kern supplied the musical score. Herbert Wilcox, director.	Not Set
	HANG OUT THE MOON	Musical	Rosemary Lane Dennis O'Keefe	A host of children noted for their dancing and singing ability will be prominently featured in this musical in addition to the adult leads. Jack Hively, director.	Not Set
20TH-FOX	THE OUTLAW	Historical Western	Walter Huston Thomas Mitchell Jack Beutel	Concerns the career of that notorious bandit, Billy the Kid, portrayed herein by a new screen discovery, Jack Beutel. Howard Hughes, director.	Mar. 21
	DEAD MEN TELL	Mystery	Sidney Toler Sen Yung Sheila Ryan	Latest in the sleuthing adventures of the perennial Oriental detective, Charlie Chan. Harry Lachman, director.	Mar. 28
	RIDE ON, VAQUERO	Western	Cesar Romero Chris-Pin Martin Lynn Roberts	The Cisco Kid, in the person of Cesar Romero, again stumbles into romance and adventure along the border. Herbert J. Leeds, director.	Apr. 18
	A VERY YOUNG LADY	Comedy	Jane Withers Nancy Kelly John Sutton	At an exclusive school, Jane Withers falls in love with one of the professors, but sacrifices him when she learns he loves one of the other teachers, Nancy Kelly. Harold Schuster, director.	June 6
	BLOOD AND SAND	Drama	Tyrone Power Linda Darnell Laird Cregar	Drama of Mexican bull-fighting, with Tyrone Power essaying the role once brought to the screen by Rudolph Valentino. Rouben Mamoulian, director.	May 30
	MIAMI	Musical	Betty Grable Jack Haley Robert Cummings	The famed Florida play spot is the locale for this extravaganza, to be filmed in Technicolor. Walter Lang, director.	Not Set
UNITED ARTS.	POT O' GOLD	Musical	James Stewart Paulette Goddard Horace Heidt	Adapted from the radio show of the same name, this features that program's orchestra leader, Horace Heidt, and shows what occurs to the winners of a "pot o' gold." George Marshall, director.	Not Set
	BROADWAY LIMITED	Drama	Dennis O'Keefe Victor McLaglen Patsy Kelly	Entire action of this drama takes place aboard one of the nation's crack transcontinental expresses. Gordon Douglas, director.	Not Set
UNIVERSAL	MODEL WIFE	Comedy	Joan Blondell Dick Powell Lee Bowman	Domestic entanglements supply the motif, with Lee Bowman, as the other man, almost succeeding in splitting up the happy home of Dick Powell and Joan Blondell. Leigh Jason, director.	Mar. 14
	THE FLAME OF NEW ORLEANS	Drama	Marlene Dietrich Bruce Cabot Roland Young	Marlene Dietrich returns to her glamorous "sultry" roles in the story of a southern charmer and her romantic adventures. Rene Clair, director.	Not Set
	NICE GIRL	Romance with Music	Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone Robert Stack	Another chapter in the career of Deanna Durbin, interspersed with musical interludes, and in which she becomes involved in a love affair with Franchot Tone. William A. Seiter, director.	Feb. 21
	THE LADY FROM CHEYENNE	Western	Loretta Young Robert Preston Edward Arnold	A naive schoolteacher comes to Wyoming in the 1880's, becomes infuriated at the crooked element running Cheyenne, and chases the gangsters out of town. Frank Lloyd, director.	Mar. 28
	MR. DYNAMITE	Melodrama	Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey J. Carrol Naish	A world series pitcher, involved in a murder when he hides a beautiful girl accused of the killing, turns detective. John Rawlins, director.	Mar. 7
WARNER	MISS WHEELWRIGHT DISCOVERS AMERICA	Comedy-Drama	Jeffrey Lynn Priscilla Lane Ronald Reagan	Chronicles the adventures of a debutante who, deprived of the chance of acquiring European culture because of the war, learns something of her own country. Curtis Bernhardt, director.	Not Set
	WINGED VICTORY	Drama	Geraldine Fitzgerald James Stephenson Donald Crisp	Action is laid in a sanitarium in Scotland wherein mental disorders of various kinds are treated. Irving Ropper, director.	Not Set
	STRANGE ALIBI	Drama	Arthur Kennedy Joan Perry Minor Watson	A detective-lieutenant is ostensibly fired from the force so he can join a gang of racketeers and capture them. Ross Lederman, director.	Not Set
	AFFECTIONATELY YOURS	Drama	Merle Oberon Dennis Morgan Rita Hayworth Ralph Bellamy	A foreign correspondent doesn't realize how much he loves his wife until he learns she, in America, has divorced him. Then he returns to try to win her back, pursued by a girl who loves him. Lloyd Bacon, director.	Not Set
	THE BRIDE CAME C. O. D.	Comedy	Bette Davis James Cagney Stuart Erwin	A Texas oil king's spoiled daughter tries to elope with an orchestra leader. An airplane pilot, hired by her father, breaks up the elopement by kidnaping her. William Keighley, director.	Not Set

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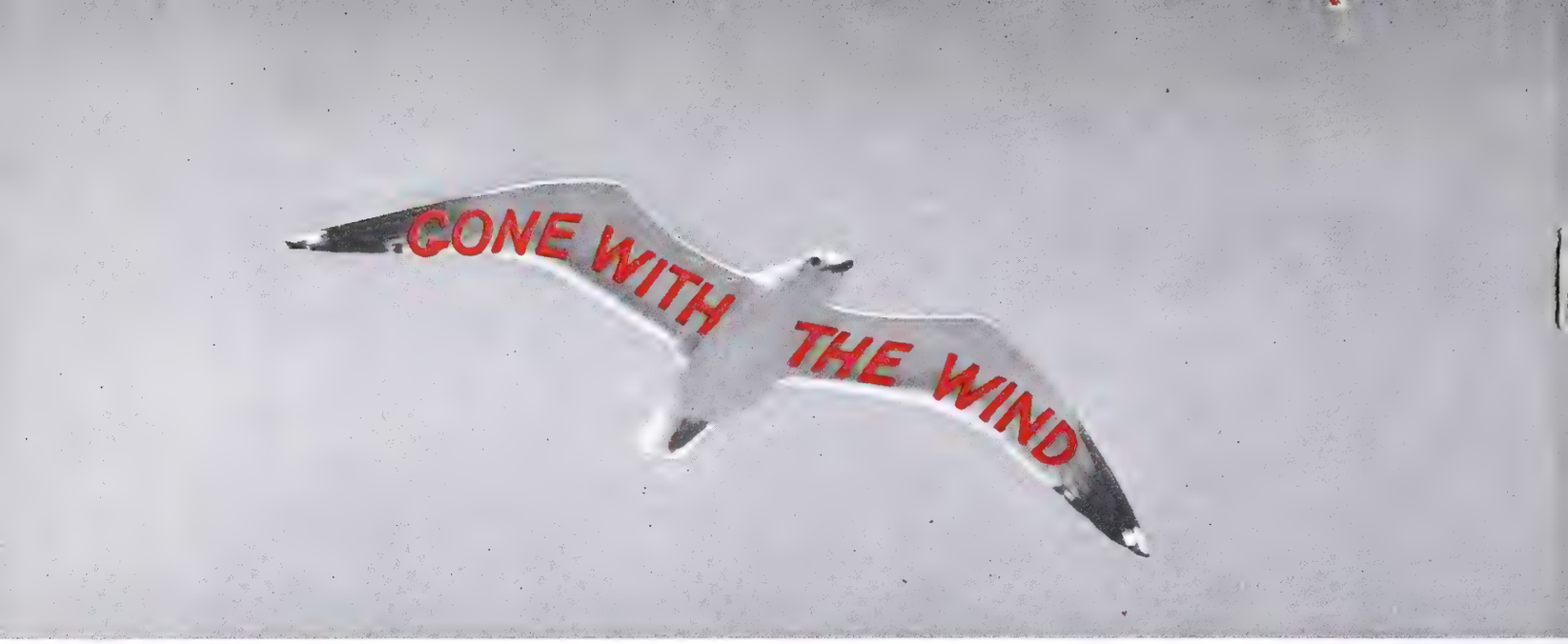
EASTMAN NEGATIVE FILMS

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

FEBRUARY 15, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION

58 ANTI-TRUST SUITS SEEK $27,629,556 IN DAMAGES, MARKING A NEW HIGH . . . NO PUNITIVE RELIEF FOR PAST INJURIES VIA DECREE, BUT ARBITRATION SEEN PROVIDING "QUICK REMEDY" BY MYERS . . . "BOXOFFICE" INTRODUCES "THE NEW GLAMOUR GIRL;" SEE PAGE 3 EDITORIAL FOR WORD ON WHO AND WHAT SHE IS . . . REVIEWS THAT REALLY TELL . . . "THE REVIEW DIGEST" . . . "BOOKING CHART"



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BOXOFFICE The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

The New Glamour Girl

"RADIO-TELEVISION on 15 by 20 Foot Screen Called Epochal" went that headline two weeks ago. It was not designed to frighten. And the story, definitely, was not blown up beyond its worth. In fact, it climaxed a series of yarns which BOXOFFICE had been reporting in the last few weeks based on demonstrations arriving in one lump.

The first startler was a coaxial cable enterprise on the part of Columbia Broadcasting System to show how, in a handful of months, it had advanced experimentations in full-color television to a point where whatever wonderments may have prevailed over the black and white kind faded into complete obscurity. No doubt you may have read the occasion then had two receiving sets flanking each other. Over each came the same demonstration and, while the small, telecast images were identical, of course, the similarity in eye values ended there. The difference was marked to a degree which induced the impression, if not an irrevocably final conclusion, that television in black and white might be outmoded before actually getting under way.

The current startler deals with the headline reference at the top of the column and a bit of RCA wizardry which picked up scenes at Camp Upton sixty-eight miles from New York and others over a 102-mile circuit and televised them on a theatre-size screen. The significant point here is that television through the air and without dependence upon coaxial cables, or wires between point of transmission and point of reproduction, is a fact.

This briefest sort of account tends to reduce the situation to a more simple statement than the facts themselves allow. It is quite essential to observe all television continues in its experimental stages; that, aside from technical developments and further perfections, there is the economic side which, clearly enough, means ways of absorbing investment and conveying television to the market place.

She Bears Watching

TIME was when activity in television was surrounded by an aura of mystery and much uncertainty. No one quite knew what the gain was, although widespread was the general realization the various experimenting leaders were hard at it. Even now, it is difficult to know exactly whether current progress, coming at one time, merely happened that way or was designed that way to indirectly serve notice the time is close.

What do these events suggest insofar as the film industry is concerned? They might suggest many things. It seems on the conservative side to assume television will excite a vast public interest if and when the invention can become a nation-wide factor. Whether this will be, or indeed can be, in terms of one program televised to the entire country or whether in terms of the same program originating simultaneously in a series of telecasting centers is an engineering problem, not one this column presumes to answer.

No matter how it comes, when it does, likewise does it seem on the conservative side to predict a powerful competitive attraction for motion pictures is on the way. Casually prevails the vague realization here is something about which something ought to be done. Paramount holds an interest in Dumont and RKO is tied structurally to RCA, but beyond that this entire business has no known working agreements or understandings with television groups, nor has it sought any.

It became painfully apparent this is a state of affairs requiring attention, not the frenzied attention which accompanied the onrush of talking pictures after they had arrived, but a planned and plotted attention prior to the event and as far ahead of it as might be possible and feasible. This industry was taken for one beautiful ride in assorted sound-proofing mish-mosh at the studios and on interchangeability, as well as on price, in theatre sound reproducers; it could very easily face an identical ride in television.

Courtship Time

HOWEVER, this department, to its honest discredit, has no specific proposals to advance. It has no idea whatsoever as to the willingness or otherwise on the part of television interests to effect an arrangement with the film business, but it does know this should not rule off the attempt.

The industry has the talent which many believe television, if and when, will need. But, assuming this will not be so, there remains an important function for those in this business to undertake on behalf of their own interests.

For, if television is not here now, it will be and in order would appear to be another courtship. Film may not win the girl, but they should try. Television may grow up into one helluva glamour girl.

Kann

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FEBRUARY 15, 1941
Vol. 38 No. 13

AFTER $27,629,556, NEW HIGH, IN TRUST ACTIONS VS. MAJORS

Additional Twenty Cases Disposed Of; 58 Now Pending in Courts

NEW YORK—A record sum of $27,629,556 damages is sought from major distributors in 58 pending anti-trust suits. This is exclusive of 20 cases that have been disposed of and which sought an additional $1,637,750 damages since February, 1940.

Of the 58 cases still alive, 46 seek monetary satisfaction, some with coupled demands for injunctions of one form or other. The other 12 make no demands whatsoever for money, seeking injunctive relief only. The list includes two actions filed last month and represents authoritative information up to and including January 31, 1941.

It reveals 23 suits were filed during 1940, as compared with 33 docketed in the preceding 12-month period. While there was a noticeable reduction in private actions last year, the figure is still well ahead of the 11 filed in 1938. The government, which filed three regional anti-trust actions against Schine, Crescent and Griffith in 1939, did not move against any circuits last year.

Concerning 1940

The present crop compares with 58 suits, seeking $23,904,431 pending in February, 1940. This was exclusive of 26 cases, seeking $4,143,541, that were disposed of in the 12-month period prior to last February. Of the 26 cases settled, only 14 sought monetary damages.

Of the pending litigation, the government's New York equity action still open against Columbia, UA and Universal is probably the most important from an industry point of view. The same undoubtedly also is true of the department of justice suits against Schine, Crescent and Griffith, although settlements are being attempted in two cases, with Crescent not yet being reached.

Big Claim by Momand

The most important private action pending, if only from a monetary consideration, is that of A. B. Momand of Shawnee, Okla., which in three separate petitions, the earliest dating from June, 1937, seeks damages aggregating $9,636,631.

Of the cases disposed of in the past year, the government's criminal contempt proceedings against Balaban & Katz in Chicago and Fox West Coast in California, claiming violations of consent decrees were outstanding. Runner up was affirmation of a decision in favor of the majors in the significant Westway case in Baltimore, involving clearance.

From a standpoint of money involved, dismissal of the $876,600 suit brought in Indianapolis by Apollo against Warner and the other majors last June ranks first. Other settlements affected during the year, either for want of prosecution, dismissal by the courts, monetary consideration or compromise of demands, include:

Earl Whittaker against Vitagraph, four other majors and competitive operators in Utah; New Haymarket against B&K in Chicago; Peck against Paramount in Georgia; Linden against Vitagraph in Maryland; K-M-K against Miller in Chicago; Odom against Paramount in Atlanta; Rosewood against Silverman in Chicago; Byers against Murphy in Roanoke; Commonwealth against Colonial in Boston; Smith against M-G-M in Georgia; Gittone against Warner in Philadelphia; Aetna Amusement against Maine & New Hampshire in Boston; William and Elsie Haas Littlejohn against C. E. Huish in Salt Lake City; Schwartz & Myers against 20th Century-Fox, Frankfort, Ky.; Pollard against Maine and New Hampshire in Boston.

At a Glance

New York—The anti-trust suit picture, nationwide and in boildown:

As of February, 1939, pending were 36 actions seeking $23,366,081 in damages. This was exclusive of 11 suits seeking $4,263,224 disposed of variously in one year up to that time.

As of February, 1940, pending were 58 actions seeking $23,904,431. This was exclusive of 26 suits seeking $4,143,541 disposed of variously in one year up to that date.

As of February, 1941, pending were 58 suits seeking $27,629,556, or an all-time money high. This too, was exclusive of 20 actions seeking $1,637,750 disposed of variously in one year up to that time.

One Plaintiff Alone Asks $9,636,631; Five Are Settled in Texas

Defense attorneys have filed briefs in the Gary, Ind., action, which may take this case off the calendar.

Five cases against Interstate Circuit in Texas were disposed of during the year. These are not included in the survey because, while the distributors were named as conspirators with the defendant, they were not named parties defendant. The action brought by Dunbar for $54,443 and $5,000 attorney's fees was settled; the complaint filed by Paul Scott seeking damages of $315,000, plus an injunction, was to be reached for trial about March, 1940, but was settled before trial; the suit filed by H. N. Jorgensen for $35,556 was tried last month, resulting in a judgment of $1,500 treble damages for the plaintiff, and defendants will move to set aside the verdict; the Kirchheimer action for $16,344 was settled last month, and the R. Z. Glass action for $68,443 was also tried last month resulting in a verdict for the defendants.

Of the cases instituted in the past 12 months, that filed in Los Angeles by Criterion against the MPPDA and other defendants for $1,500,000 damages ranks topmost from a monetary viewpoint. The eight majors as well as Will H. Hays, Joseph I. Breen and Samuel Goldwyn are named. It is noteworthy that a practice seldom pursued in the filing of anti-trust cases in the past—the naming of the MPPDA as co-defendants—has taken on new life. Of the suits started since Janu-

(Continued on page 12)

Changes in "This Thing" Not Likely, Despite Legion Ban

HOLLYWOOD—Unofficial spokesmen for Columbia regard it as very unlikely any effort will be made to re-edit "This Thing Called Love" in an effort to have the film removed from the "C," or "condemned" classification imposed upon it by the National Legion of Decency. This viewpoint traces to the fact the picture has played widely in key runs and is heavily sold.

Music Hall Opening on Schedule, Sans Change

NEW YORK—Despite pressure presumably focalizing from sources affiliated with, or close to, the National Legion of Decency in Brooklyn, "This Thing Called Love" opened on schedule at the Music Hall, Thursday.

Columbia has on hand a number of letters from various organizations, the communications having been mailed from Brooklyn and registering their protests in what is understood to be an identical vein which suggests they are following a general line of predetermined attack.

When the Legion first saw "This Thing Called Love," it placed it in the "B" group, or suitable for adults. It is understood that, when the attraction began to play first run around the country, a number of Catholic priests filed protest with the Legion, this, in turn, leading to a second review and the current "C" grouping.

Meanwhile, the film has completed approximately 40 key city engagements and now reaches its New York first run late because of prior picture commitments at the Hall. Columbia points out all state censor boards, including New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kansas and Maryland passed the film without deletions, that

(Continued on page 13)

BOXOFFICE Barometer for 1941

It's the TOPS in Service to ALL of the Industry!

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Not only does BAROMETER do a thorough job of coverage on product for the past year, but also on the physical phase of the theatre—inside and out. Besides there's a very good look into what is coming for the year ahead.

BIGGER *and* BETTER THAN EVER

Out Next Week

PUNITIVE DAMAGES ON OLD ILLS OUT UNDER DECREE, SAYS MYERS

Rates Clearance Clause Decree's Most Vital; Criticism Is Mild

By LEONARD WEISBERG

NEW YORK—"The decree offers nothing to the exhibitor who is looking for punitive damages for past injuries. He still has his right of action under the Sherman act. But to the exhibitor seeking a quick and specific remedy, arbitration under the decree may fill the bill."

This is but one of many observations made by Abram F. Myers, Allied's general counsel, over the decree, arbitration, the Sherman act and phases of trade practices affected by each in an article entitled: "Arbitration and the Independent Exhibitor," appearing in *Arbitration Journal*, published by the American Arbitration Ass'n.

Others who are represented with articles in the publication are James V. Hayes, who was considered the decree expert by the government in drawing up the document's provisions; Austin C. Keough, Paramount's general counsel, and Paul F. Warburg, chairman of the AAA's administrative committee.

Clearance "Most Important"

Myers states the most important of all remedies provided by the decree is that against unreasonable clearance. However, he sees this factor and all others designed to revert to the benefit of the independent exhibitor as depending in large measure "on whether the tribunals function quickly and cheaply. Unless hearings on proceedings under Sections IV, VII and IX can be disposed of quickly, they will be of absolutely no benefit to exhibitors. Delay of even a few weeks would amount to a denial of justice. And unless the costs can be kept within reasonable bounds, exhibitors will not be able to arbitrate at all."

The Allied counsel states "there is reason to believe distributors would rather see the system succeed than to see it fail." He then discusses the "main remedy" sought by the government in its original petition—theatre divorcement—which the decree postpones for three years.

"Upon the conduct of the consenting defendants during the trial period, as evidenced by the records of the arbitration tribunals, depends the ultimate decision of the attorney general whether to stand on the decree as entered or to proceed with the demand for the divestiture of theatres," Myers asserts.

"The more cases filed and the more awards entered against distributors, the worse will the record appear," he adds. "Taking a broad view, it is decidedly to the advantage of the distributors to settle as many claims as possible before proceedings are begun. If, at the end of three years, it should appear that no cases have been filed and no awards have been made, there would be no record on which the attorney general could apply to the court for further relief."

Characterizing the decree as "reasonable and mild—perhaps too mild," Myers contends many of its provisions are complicated and technical.

"They are surrounded by safeguards designed to protect the distributors and the theatre circuits in the enjoyment of their lawful rights as distinguished from their monopolistic privileges. Resort to interpretation will be necessary to ascertain the true meaning of many of these provisions. In clearance cases, arbitrators will require extrinsic aid in determining what is reasonable and what is unreasonable.

"The purpose of the decree to remedy conditions graphically depicted in the government's complaint shines through every line of its verbiage," Myers continues. "Arbitrators both on the local tribunals and on the appeal board in interpreting and applying the decree will give full scope to its remedial purpose. It will be liberally construed in favor of independent exhibitors."

Discussing the effects of some of the awards which arbitration tribunals may make, Myers includes these:

(1) If an exhibitor has had unwanted features or shorts forced on him, the arbitration tribunal may cancel the exhibitor's license so far as the unwanted product is concerned.

(2) If an exhibitor has been denied a run of pictures, and he can qualify under conditions of the decree, the tribunal may order the distributor to offer its pictures to the complaining exhibitor.

(3) If a distributor has sold its product away from an independent exhibitor and to a circuit theatre, and the independent can qualify under the decree, the tribunal can pit the two contending theatres against each other in bargaining for film without regard to circuit buying power. If, in the latter case, its award is not obeyed in good faith, the tribunal may award compensatory damages to the independent exhibitor.

Myers regards the following as among "unique features" of the arbitration system:

(1) The decree provides for the institution of arbitration proceedings by distributors against exhibitors.

(2) Although exhibitors stand to gain by the awards, actually the proceedings have for their main purpose the enforcement of a decree entered in a suit by the government under a public statute.

(3) Controversies can be arbitrated which could not be the subjects of civil actions at law; not, at least, without allegations and proof of combination and conspiracy, which will be unnecessary in proceedings under the decree.

(4) The arbitration tribunals are charged with the duty of deciding certain controversies on abstract principles of

(Continued on page 13)

How Clerks Were Chosen

New York—For the first time, Paul Warburg, chairman of the AAA administrative committee, reveals the manner in which the organization selected arbiters for the 31 key city tribunal panels. He explains the process in the "Arbitration Journal," as follows:

"First of all, we are giving priority to men who have served as honor men on our national and special panels for many years. When men are chosen who are not on our panel, they must be sponsored by at least two business organizations in their locality—all of which must agree upon the nominee according to the qualifications we prescribe and send them.

"But no matter from what source men are drawn for the panel, we require the following information: age, citizenship, education, honors and positions; business experience, public or non-profit making positions held or services rendered; law school and date of graduation, bar association membership and field of practice; whether nominee has or has had any connection with the motion picture industry; his previous experience as an arbitrator, other data which has a bearing upon a nominee's qualifications; and lastly, references from at least two organizations acceptable to the administration."

Sees Return of Good Sans Former "Abuse"

New York—In the article he contributes to "Arbitration Journal," Abram F. Myers, Allied's general counsel, known for a subtle wit, buries this dandy: "The Sherman Law giveth as surely as it taketh away."

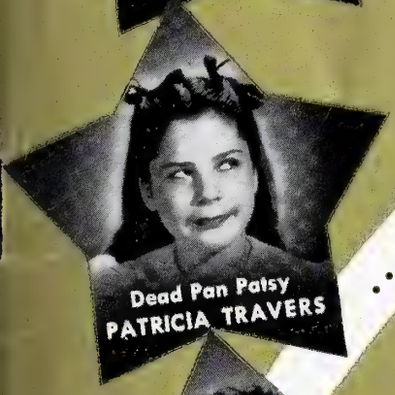
But immediately preceding this line, Myers is serious, and offers this: "Section XX of the rules of arbitration wisely provides for submission to the tribunals controversies between exhibitors and distributors other than those arising out of the decree itself. This opens the way for the restoration of commercial arbitration in the motion picture business with ample safeguards against a return of the abuses which discredited the former (compulsory arbitration) system.

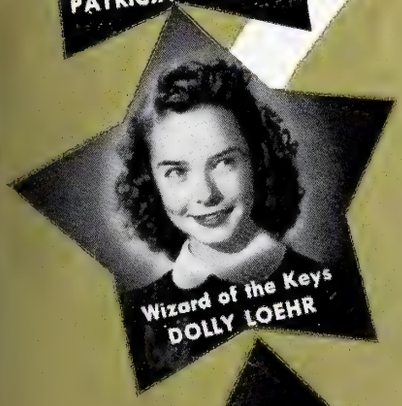
"It is to be expected that the distributors will hereafter include in their licenses an optional clause which will make use of the arbitration machinery established by the decree. If so, I hope the exhibitors will sign it."

ALL AMERICA IS WAITING TO MEET THOSE AMAZING KIDS FROM INTERLOCHEN, "AMERICA'S MUSIC TOWN"!
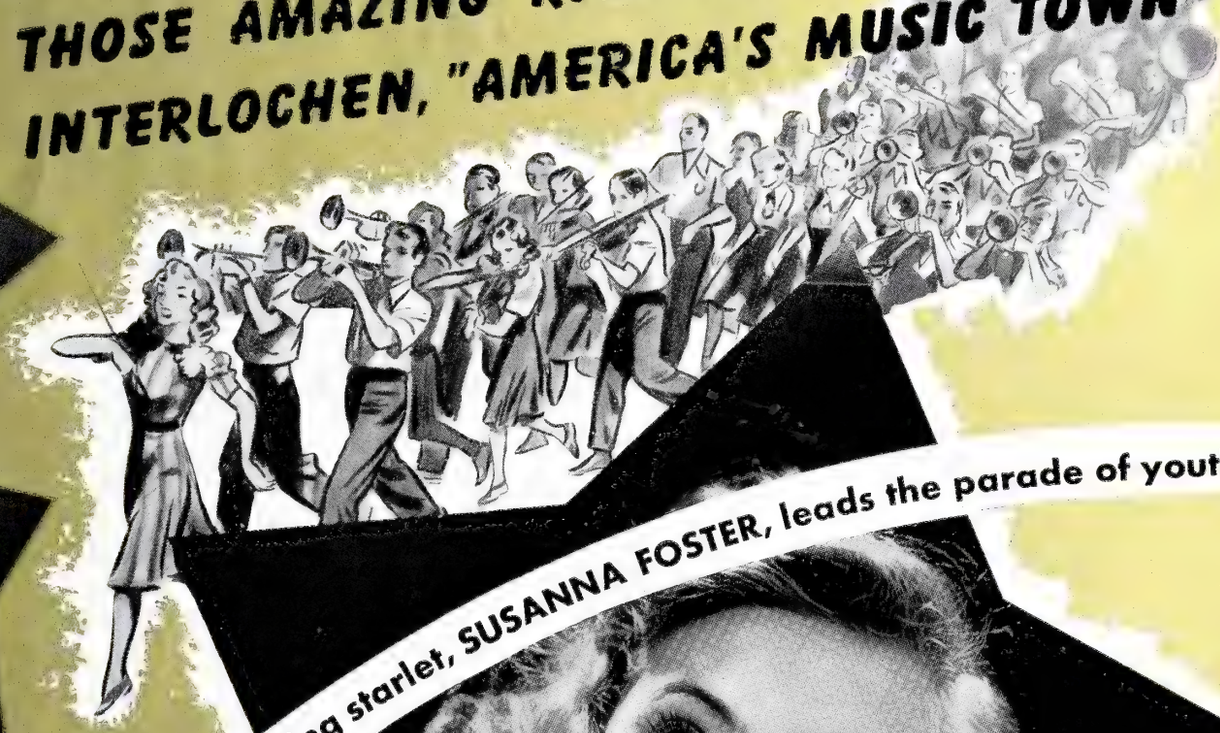












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Produced and Directed by Andrew L. Stone • Screen Play by Frederick Jackson • From a Story by Andrew L. Stone and Robert Lively • Based on an Idea by Ann Ronell



Take it from a cagey bird... *turn the page!*

THEY'LL BE THE NATION'S TOAST FROM COAST TO COAST!





SUSANNA FOSTER and ALLAN JONES ...winging and singing their way the length and breadth of the country in one of the greatest personal appearance tours ever planned...covering **40** key cities. Broadcasts...civic celebrations...concerts...interviews...reams and reams of publicity . . . all to make all America beat a path to your box office!

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That's how Paramount builds audiences... and pre-sells them for your box office!

SUSANNA FOSTER'S TOUR - - - - ALLAN JONES' TOUR ———

Washington Tribunal Gets First Plaint

BALTIMORE—Declaring the Durkee house, the Ambassador, is not entitled to a seven-day clearance over his Walbrook here, Thomas D. Goldberg of the Walbrook & Hartford theatres has filed the first complaint before an arbitration tribunal. The demand was filed with the Washington board February 7 and will most likely be heard the first week in March.

Over a number of years, according to Goldberg, the Walbrook has participated in a 21-day subsequent clearance following first run, together with similar houses in their respective zones. The Forest, two miles from the Walbrook, and owned by Durkee interests, also operated on the same setup. Not far distant the Gwynn was taken over by Durkee from an independent some time ago.

As soon as Durkee built the Ambassador, an "A" house, a demand for seven days' clearance over the Walbrook was made of all distributors. M-G-M and Paramount declined to accede to the demands, according to Goldberg, these companies purportedly basing their decision on precedent of dealing with the Walbrook over a score of years.

It is said Durkee asked for the clearance because of the Walbrook's admission scale of 10-25-40 cents, while the Ambassador had a 30-cent evening admission. The 40 cent price for the Walbrook applied only for loges.

Durkee has played M-G-M and Paramount "A" films in the Forest, a 25-cent house.

Early this month, Durkee booked "Comrade X" at the Ambassador on practically a day-and-date run with the Walbrook. This was followed with "Northwest Passage" the following week, on the same setup. "Flight Command" has been dated into the Walbrook for February 23-25 and for February 23-26 at the Ambassador.

Goldberg has also bought 20th-Fox and Warner, signatories to the decree, in addition to other product. He did not buy RKO, the fifth decree company. And since he is enjoying a virtual day-and-date policy with the Ambassador and Forest on M-G-M and Paramount product, the complaint filed is against 20th-Fox and Warner which are reported to be giving Durkee the clearance he demanded.

Another feature to be discussed at the arbitration preceeding is the 20th-Fox franchise with Durkee. It does not expire until 1942.

In talking about the case, Goldberg emphasizes the friendly relationship which has existed between him and M-G-M and Paramount. He also points out his theatre is two miles from the Ambassador, yet the Pimlico and Avalon are about a mile away in another direction but do not figure in the clearance angle.

Currently being built opposite the Walbrook by Goldberg is the Hilton, which is expected to be ready soon.

"Pal Joey" to Columbia

NEW YORK—Columbia has bought the film rights to John O'Hara's stage play, "Pal Joey." George Abbott, who produced, will make the film.



—Bachrach

First Over the Line—

So far as is known, the first complaint lodged under the arbitration section of the consent decree was filed by Thomas D. Goldberg, an oldtime fire-eater in exhibitor organizations and representing the Walbrook Amusement Corp., operating the Walbrook and Hartford theatres, Baltimore. Filed with the Washington tribunal, the complaint concerns clearance.

Indep't Supply Men In Goodwill Move

CHICAGO—P. S. Guss of Intermountain Theatre Supply Co. has been named chairman of a committee set up by members of Theatre Equipment Dealers Protective Ass'n to foster goodwill and ethics between manufacturers and dealers. The annual convention was held at the Congress. Arthur Theil of the middle west and John Philbert of the coast also are on the committee.

The consensus among the independent dealers is that there is more activity in new building in the middle west and the south than ever before.

Manufacturers who spoke to the group present assured a steady supply of equipment, barring emergencies brought about by the national defense program, and urged all dealers to stack up on supplies to obviate shortages which might crop up if the defense program seriously cuts into production.

The next meeting is slated for June, the city yet to be decided. Harry Graham of Denver presided as acting chairman. The only officer named, Graham was elected executive secretary.

Among the speakers were E. A. Williford of National Carbon, William Gedris of Ideal Seating, Fred Matthews of Motiograph and Oscar Neu of Neumade Products. The meeting, instead of lasting three days, continued to a fourth.

Schenck Is Called Loew's "Churchill"

NEW YORK—One of the greatest tributes ever paid a film executive was the description given Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's and M-G-M, by David Warfield at the company's stockholder's meeting when he referred to Schenck as "The 'Churchill' of our company."

Warfield, who owns a big block of stock and is a director, was sitting in the audience listening to a minority stockholder heap praise on Schenck. He waited until the stockholder finished and without rising shouted across the room, "Mr. Schenck is the Churchill of our company."

Warfield was applauded, following which J. Robert Rubin, chairman of the meeting, introduced him and alluded to the fact he was the star of "The Music Master." The former stage star then became the idol of most of the stockholders who later rushed to shake his hands, and compliment him.

One stockholder, who declined to give his name, started the ball rolling when he got up and out of a clear sky began, "In no small measure the leadership of Mr. Schenck is what keeps Loew's out in front. There is none other as capable or as qualified." This was seconded by Rubin, who said, "He is very able. His leadership is more essential in these times."

Going further, Rubin added, "Everything I own is invested in the company and I am heartily in sympathy with your sentiments."

Joseph Pulvermacher, an attorney who said he represented a substantial amount of stock, then took the floor. "We are very fortunate to have the type of leadership we have in our organization." He then reflected on the past 10 years when times were not so good but the company continued to pay dividends regularly.

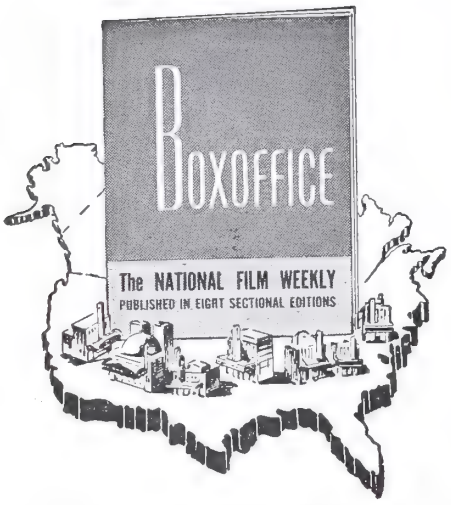
George N. Armsby, a director and stockholder, was of the opinion, and so expressed himself, that he would like to see Schenck continue on the job for life rather than for another five years.

Schenck's new five-year contract was voted by an overwhelming majority. All directors were continued for another year. Officers were elected the afternoon following the stockholders' session.

Asked for a picture on the outlook, Rubin asserted "It is very encouraging. South American business is improving and we are hopeful everything will be good in the next year."

3,000,000 See 'GWTW' In New York Area

New York—At M-G-M where statistics frequently reach the stratosphere, or the sub layer of it anyway, they have figured out that "Gone With the Wind" by Tuesday had been seen by 3,000,000 people in the New York area alone. The word came in connection with decision to hold the film for a fourth week at the Capitol which it did on Thursday. Manager Herman Landwehr stated 350,000 had caught the attraction at his theatre thus far. That is, at regular prices.



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ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings., C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Expect 10,000 Theatres To Play Defense Shorts

NEW YORK—Ten thousand theatres are expected to join hands in the industry's move to cooperate on national defense through trailers and shorts which will reach them without rental. Certificates of cooperation to a total of between 5,000 and 7,500 already are reported by Harry Brandt, chairman of a special subcommittee, to the theatre division of which Joseph Bernhard of Warner is chairman and E. V. Richards of Saenger Theatres, co-chairman. Working with them are A. H. Blank, Des Moines; Si H. Fabian, Albany; John H. Harris, Pittsburgh; Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA; Sam E. Morris, New York; Charles C. Moskowitz, New York; John J. O'Connor, New York; R. J. O'Donnell, Dallas; Spyros Skouras, New York; Robert B. Wilby, Atlanta, and Nathan Yamins, Fall River, Mass.

In transit are 12 one-minute trailers made by the war department to stimulate recruiting. They will be released three at a clip at three-week intervals through a series of clearing houses, based on exchange centers, which have been set up by William A. Scully, chairman of the distributors' division of the Motion Picture Committee Cooperating for National Defense. George J. Schaefer, RKO president, is chairman of the national coordinating committee and Francis S. Harmon, of the Hays organization, is coordinator. Three hundred prints of each trailer have been struck off. By titles, the series embraces:

"The Infantry," "The Air Corps," "The Armored Force," "The Coast Artillery," "Flying Cadets, No. 1," "Flying Cadets, No. 2," "Flying Cadets, No. 3," "The Field Artillery," "Oversea Commands," "The Signal Corps," "The Medical Department" and "The Quartermaster Corps." Additionally and thus far, at least, "Power for Defense," a 10-minute short, is also available. It was made by the National Defense Advisory Commission and narrates the story of the use of TVA power for defense industries in the southeastern portion of the country.

National Film Carriers, Inc., with approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, has volunteered to handle shipments of these and other films sponsored by the committee without charge. Special red, white and blue labels, carrying the shield of the committee, are being forwarded to exchanges to be affixed to all shipments.

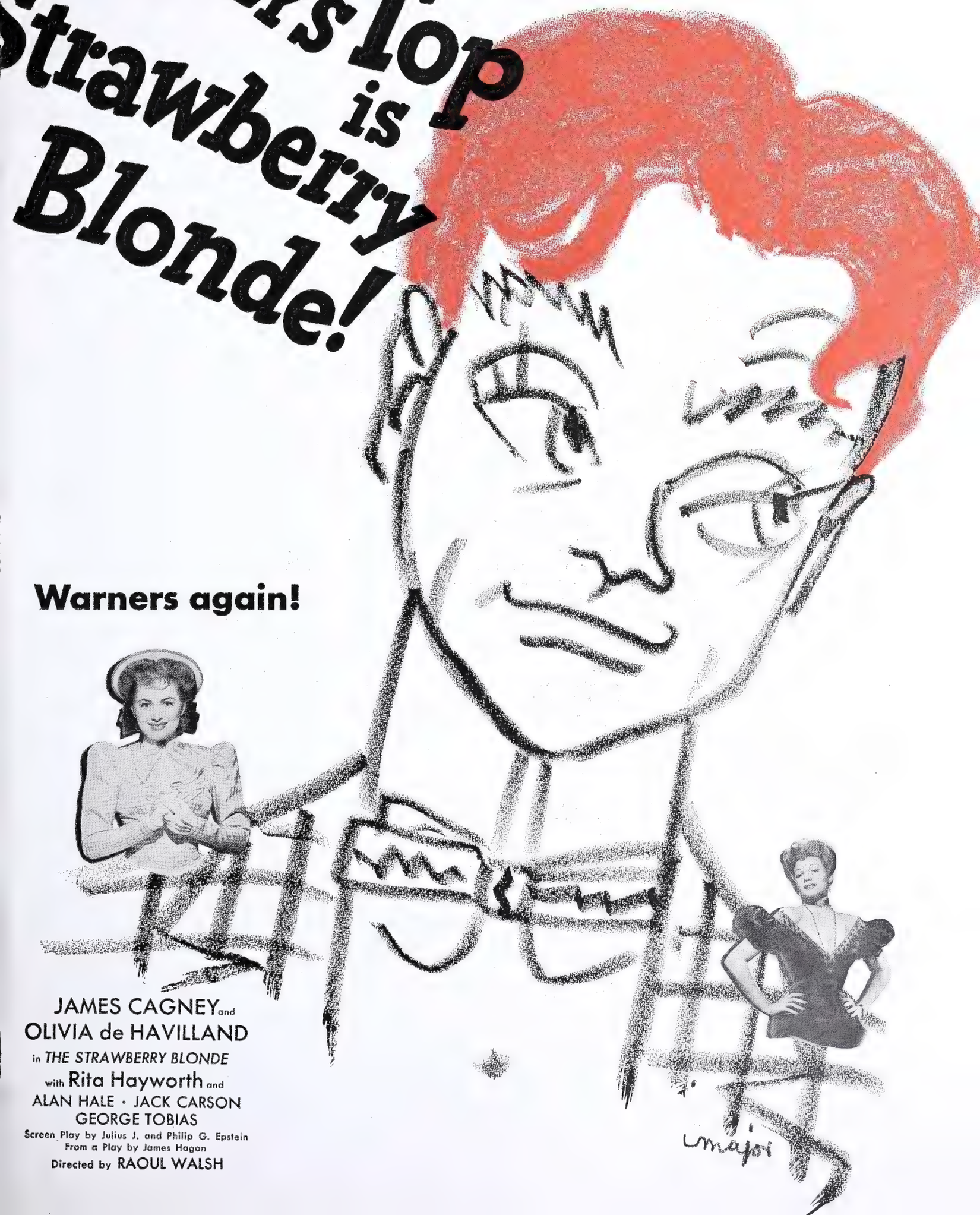
Scully's distribution committee includes Neil F. Agnew, Paramount; George Dembow, National Screen Service; Ned E. Depinet, RKO; William F. Rodgers, Loew's; Gradwell L. Sears, Warner, and Herman Wobber, 20th Century-Fox.

Film Outposts on Nat'l Defense

NEW YORK—*William A. Scully, chairman of the distributors' division of the Motion Picture Committee Cooperating for National Defense, has divided the nation into six districts. In each exchange area, one distributor has been designated as the clearing house for national defense films. Here they are:*

City—	Clearing House	Address
Albany	Columbia	1050 Broadway
Atlanta	Paramount	154 Walton St., N. W.
Boston	Columbia	57 Church St.
Buffalo	United Artists	505 Pearl St.
Charlotte	United Artists	224 West Second St.
Chicago	Paramount	1306 S. Michigan Ave.
Cincinnati	Universal	1634 Central Parkway
Cleveland	United Artists	10,017 Lake Ave.
Dallas	RKO	402 S. Harwood St.
Denver	20th Century-Fox	2101 Champa St.
Detroit	Loew's	2310 Cass Ave.
Des Moines	Columbia	1003 High St.
Indianapolis	Universal	326 N. Illinois St.
Kansas City	20th Century-Fox	1720 Wyandotte St.
Los Angeles	20th Century-Fox	2019 S. Vermont Ave.
Memphis	Loew's	502 S. Second St.
Milwaukee	20th Century-Fox	1016 North 8th St.
Minneapolis	Universal	1019 Currie Ave., N.
New Haven	Vitagraph	134 Meadow St.
New Orleans	Paramount	215 S. Liberty St.
New York	Loew's	630 9th Ave.
Oklahoma City	RKO	706 W. Grand Ave.
Omaha	Columbia	1516 Davenport St.
Philadelphia	Vitagraph	1225 Vine St.
Pittsburgh	Vitagraph	1623 Blvd. of the Allies
Portland, Ore.	Paramount	909 N. W. 19th St.
St. Louis	Vitagraph	3304 Olive St.
Salt Lake City	Loew's	123 S. Second East St.
San Francisco	RKO	251 Hyde St.
Seattle	RKO	1216 Second Ave.
Washington	Universal	913 New Jersey Ave., N. W.

CAGNEY'S Top is Strawberry Blonde!



Warners again!

JAMES CAGNEY and
OLIVIA de HAVILLAND
in *THE STRAWBERRY BLONDE*
with Rita Hayworth and
ALAN HALE · JACK CARSON
GEORGE TOBIAS
Screen Play by Julius J. and Philip G. Epstein
From a Play by James Hagan
Directed by RAOUL WALSH

$27,629,556 New High In Anti-Trust Suits

(Continued from page 4)

ary, 1940, the Hays office is named in three; the Criterion case above, that of Netcong against Warner and seven other majors in New Jersey, and another of Westor against Warner and the other majors, also in New Jersey.

In addition to the three actions named in the preceding paragraph, the following were commenced since January, 1940:

Shapiro against Warner for damages of $225,000 and injunction, in Philadelphia. Co-defendants are the seven majors.

Waldo Theatre Corp. against Dondis for damages of $250,000 and injunction, in Maine. Co-defendants are seven majors, excepting Columbia.

Loew's Drive-In against 20th Century-Fox for damages of $450,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are M-G-M, Paramount and Warner.

Governor Ritchie Theatres against 20th Century-Fox for damages of $225,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are M-G-M, Paramount and Warner.

Miami Drive-In against 20th Century-Fox for damages of $450,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are Paramount and Warner.

Lynn Open Air Theatre against 20th Century-Fox for damages of $450,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are M-G-M, Paramount and Warner.

E. M. Loew's against 20th Century-Fox for damages of $120,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are the seven majors, the Massachusetts Amusement Corp., Massachusetts Operating Co., and Middlesex Theatres.

Mount Vernon Theatre Corp. against 20th Century-Fox for damages of $150,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are M-G-M, Paramount and Warner.

Miami Drive-In against Loew's for damages of $450,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are Columbia, M-G-M, RKO, UA and Warner.

Winchester Theatre Co. against 20th Century-Fox for damages of $300,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are the seven majors, the Massachusetts Amusement Corp., Massachusetts Operating Co., and Middlesex Theatres.

Hollingsworth against Fox Beatrice Theatre Corp. for damages of $234,300, in Lincoln, Neb. Co-defendants are the majors excepting Columbia and Warner and Republic Pictures of Midwest.

Courter against Warner for damages of $574,200, in Trenton, N. J. Co-defendants are the seven majors.

M-F-S Corp. against Warner for damages of $330,000, in Philadelphia. Co-defendants are the seven majors.

Battin against Cocalis Amusement Co. for damages of $450,000, in Trenton. Co-defendants are the eight majors, William A. Scully, James J. Thompson and Evangelos Hardaloupas, individually and as executors and trustees under the last will and testament of Soterias D. Cocalis, deceased, and Munroe Stein.

Cassil against Paramount for damages of $452,775, in St. Joseph, Mo. Co-defendants are Charles G. Geiger, Barney Dubinsky, Irwin Dubinsky, Edward Dubinsky also known as Edward Durwood, William Dubinsky, and Kansas City Operating Co.

Johnson and Hartman against Minnesota Amusement Co. for damages of $523,500, in Sioux Falls, S. D. Co-defendants are the eight majors, Welworth Theatres, Monogram Pictures of Minnesota, E. R. Ruben, S. W. Fitch, C. B. Stiff, F. C. Myers, and Republic Pictures Corp. of Minneapolis.

Bridges against Interstate for damages of $300,000, in Dallas. Co-defendants are the majors, except UA and Universal.

Hennepin against Paramount for damages of $30,000, in Minnesota. Co-defendants are the seven majors, Minnesota Amusement Co., and American Amusement Co.

Orange Theatre Corp. against Rayherstz Amusement Co. for damages of $450,000, in Trenton. Co-defendants are the eight majors, David Weinstock, Benjamin Weinstock, J. Joshua Goldberg, Emanual Hertzig and Harry Brandt.

Block and Sork against Warner for damages of $62,700 and injunction, in Philadelphia. Co-defendants are the eight majors, except M-G-M, Republic; Jay Emanuel, East Reading Theatre Co., Rajah Theatre Co., Wilmer & Vincent, David D. Brodstein, George Lessey, and Comerford-Publix Theatres Corp.

Milton against Warner for damages of $378,000 and injunction, in Philadelphia. Co-defendants are the eight majors, except Columbia and 20th Century-Fox.

The only action brought within the year in which there is no demand for monetary damages is that of the River Theatre Corp. against Skouras in New York. The plaintiff seeks only an injunction.

The following actions, still pending, were instituted before January, 1940, and all seek monetary damages:

Rivoli Theatre Co. against UA for damages of $262,950, in Tampa, Fla. Co-defendants are Columbia, RKO, Warner, Casino Enterprises, Consolidated Theatres and Frank Rogers. The suit, the oldest on record, was filed October 7, 1932.

Colcata Corp. against Moore for damages of $1,200,000 and $25,000 attorney's fees, in Los Angeles. Co-defendants are William H. Moore jr., Charles C. Irwin and Charles P. Skouras as trustees in bankruptcy for Fox West Coast, Spyros Skouras and Charles P. Skouras as Skouras Bros. The original action was commenced June 25, 1935, with an amended complaint filed February 22, 1939.

A. & W. Amusement Co. against Paramount for damages of $100,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are the seven majors and RKO-Rhode Island Corp.

Elite Amusement Enterprises against Paramount for damages of $100,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are the seven majors.

Fidel Amusement Co. against Paramount for damages of $100,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are the seven majors.

Nashua Theatres against Colonial for damages of $100,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are the eight majors.

Standard Amusements against Paramount for damages of $100,000, in Boston. Co-defendants are the seven majors.

The last five cases, namely, A. & W., Elite, Fidel, Nashua and Standard, were heard before a special master on May 18, 1940. Decisions are pending.

Loretta L. Momand against Paramount. The plaintiff is from Shawnee, Okla., but brought the action, which is for treble damages although the amount is not stated, in Boston. It names all majors as defendants.

A. B. Momand, also of Shawnee, against Universal for damages of $3,000,000. Action filed in Boston and names all majors except Paramount.

Quemos Theatre Co. against Warner for damages of $3,525,000, in Trenton. Co-defendants are the seven majors, Grand National Films, Edward Peskay, Skouras Theatres Corp. and Fox Theatres Corp.

A. B. Momand against 20th Century-Fox for damages of $1,676,119, in Oklahoma City. Co-defendants are the seven majors, excepting Paramount.

A. B. Momand against Griffith for damages of $4,960,512 in, Oklahoma City. Co-defendants are Paramount, Warner, Consolidated Amusement Co., Consolidated Theatres, Regal Theatres, Pathe Exchange and Educational Film Exchange.

LaCrosse Theatres against Paramount for damages of $1,050,000, in Wisconsin. Co-defendants are 20th Century-Fox, UA, Welworth Theatres of Wisconsin, Minnesota Amusement Co., and Ed Rubin.

Savannah Theatre Co. against Lucas & Jenkins for damages of $654,000, in Atlanta. Co-defendants are the eight majors.

Gorham against Kurson for damages of $100,000, in Vermont. Co-defendants are the eight majors.

Millinocket against Kurson for damages of $100,000 and injunction, in Maine. Co-defendants are the eight majors and the Graphic Circuit.

Millett against Kurson for damages of $100,000 and injunction, in Maine. Co-defendants are Columbia, RKO, UA, Warner and the Graphic Circuit.

Folley against Randforce for damages of $750,000, in New York. Co-defendants are the eight majors, Monogram and Republic.

Tegu's Palace against Interstate for damages of $125,000, in Vermont. Co-defendants are the eight majors, excepting RKO and 20th Century-Fox, Rockingham Operating Co. and Graves Theatres.

United Exhibitors against 20th Century-Fox for damages of $425,000, and injunction, in Pittsburgh. Co-defendants are the seven majors, Monogram, Republic, Erie Amusement Corp., Colonial Amusement Co. and a large number of individual exhibitors.

Harrison Bros. against Warner for damages of $210,000 and injunction, in Philadelphia. Co-defendants are the seven majors.

The following cases, also instituted before January, 1940, seek only injunctions or restraining orders, making no demands for monetary damages:

Gary Theatre Co. against Columbia, in Chicago. Co-defendants are the seven majors. Decision on appeal is pending.

Adelphi against Paramount, in Chicago. Co-defendants are the eight majors, B&K, Walter Immerman, Abe Kaufman and Joe Kaufman.

Ford against Paramount, in Chicago. Co-defendants are the eight majors, excepting M-G-M, B&K, S. C. M. Theatres and Sam C. Meyers.

The government's actions against Griffith, Schine and Crescent.

Graves against Warner, in Philadelphia. Co-defendants are the eight majors, excepting 20th Century-Fox and Columbia, and the Warner Circuit.

Goldberg against Tri-States Theatres, in Omaha, Neb. Co-defendants are the eight majors.

395 Amusement Corp. against Randforce, in New York. Co-defendants are all majors, excepting Columbia, M-G-M and RKO, and William Yost.

Zukor Industry Chairman For Greek War Relief



NEW YORK—Adolph Zukor, functioning for several weeks in that capacity, now emerges officially as chairman of the amusement division of the Greek War Relief Ass'n. Offices have been established in the Paramount Bldg.

On his advisory committee are Will H. Hays, Sidney R. Kent, Joseph Bernhard, W. G. Van Schmus, Martin Quigley and Sam H. Harris. Gradwell L. Sears is chairman of the distributors' division and John H. Harris, Pittsburgh, chairman of the exhibitors' committee. The nation has been cut up into a dozen zones of which prominent theatremen are local chairmen.

This list includes Arch B. Bowles, Fox West Coast, San Francisco; John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusements, Minneapolis; Harry M. Kalmine, Warner theatres, Pittsburgh; M. A. Lightman, Malco Theatres, Memphis; Martin J. Mullin, M. & P. Theatres, Boston; Robert J. O'Donnell, Interstate, Dallas; E. C. Rhoden, Fox Midwest, Kansas City; E. V. Richards, Saenger Theatres, New Orleans; Rick Ricketson, Fox Intermountain, Denver; Jules J. Rubens, Great States Theatres, Chicago; Joseph R. Vogel, Loew's, New York, and Robert B. Wilby, Valatenga Theatres, Atlanta.

Organizational Committee

Additionally, there will be a committee representing exhibitor organizations composed of Harry Brandt, H. A. Cole, E. L. Kuykendall, Abram F. Myers, M. A. Rosenberg, W. A. Steffes and Nathan Yamins.

Leslie E. Thompson, who has handled the Will Rogers drives and for two years hand-running handled the industry's Red Cross drive, will be chairman of this one, and A. P. Waxman, its director. Assisting them will be Jack Connolly, Leonard Goldenson, Paramount, and George P. Skouras, Skouras theatres.

The drive runs from March 25 to 30.

Many Suits Settled; 58 Actions Pending

Damages for Old Ills "Out" Under Decree

(Continued from page 6)

"reasonableness," with no fixed standards to guide them.

(5) A complaining exhibitor may be awarded a run, or be given a reduction in clearance, at the expense of another exhibitor, without joining the latter as a party; although, of course, the affected exhibitor may intervene.

The article presented by Hayes is a compilation of excerpts from his opening statement before Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard at the time the proposed decree was presented to the court and which has previously been reported by BOXOFFICE. The highlight of his statement, it is recalled, was his assertion that "the approach on the part of the defendants filing the consent and on the part of the government, was an endeavor to meet, through the terms of the decree, a solution of the alleged evils and the alleged abuses in the industry, without resorting to the very drastic remedy of divorcement."

Still May Sue

Keough devotes the bulk of his article to a review of the various sections of the decree and the part the AAA will play in administering arbitration. He makes the point at the outset that the decree gives exhibitors certain privileges not otherwise provided by law; namely, the settlement of disputes arising under the document. "However," he states, "the decree does not take away an exhibitor's right to sue where he believes he has been injured either by a violation of law, breach of contract or other alleged wrong."

Observing exhibitors generally are opposed to trade showings and groups of five selling sections of the decree on the ground the new selling system will impose hardships in time consumed and costs increased that will outweigh any good that can possibly come from it, Keough asserts: "It is to be hoped they are mistaken. In any event, the decree can be amended if the experiment does not prove the new system a good thing for all concerned."

The Paramount counsel, after offering numerous "considerations" that played a part among the consenting distributors in promulgating the rules of arbitration, concludes with this:

Imposes New Rules

"To the extent that the decree imposes obligations voluntarily undertaken by the distributors, it imposes upon them new rules of trade conduct. It does not go beyond this. It does not make new law. It does not empower the arbitrators to establish additional trade practices or put additional restraints or limitations upon either the distributors who consented to the decree or exhibitors who arbitrate under it. Economic and social theories are not to be legislated into existence by arbitration."

The AAA's views of how it is going to administer "the most comprehensive system of arbitration ever set up in this country for a single industrial group" is the subject of Warburg's article.

"We want to use the first year to find out whether arbitration is a system which business groups can afford to install and to run practically as a method of self-regulation and as an integral part of their business mechanism," is the way he puts it.

No bottlenecks in settling disputes will be allowed to arise, he states, "for cases will be put on the calendar and settled with the greatest possible speed so no hardships will result either to distributor or producer, or to the public that wants to see a picture."

In citing what he terms the AAA's "own problems" in relation to the administration of film tribunals, Warburg states that hitherto, commercial arbitration proceedings conducted by the AAA "have had behind them centuries of experience and court decisions. This practice is founded upon arbitration law and its legal interpretation, which afford a competent guide. Under the decree, the AAA sets out without any such seaworthy law boat and with no legal compass."

No "Experts" Allowed

One of the strongest arguments in favor of arbitration, he continues, has been the reference of a dispute to experts, a principle strongly adhered to by the AAA in all its practices.

"The decree applies a contrary principle and imposes as a condition of appointment ignorance and lack of experience with the industry. This necessitates the training of arbitrators to become experts in the motion picture industry," is Warburg's conclusion.

Another AAA "handicap" recognized by Warburg is the lack of "advisory committees" which existing tribunals can go to for expert advice on trade practices in various trades and industries. "From such friendly and experienced sources of advice, the new motion picture tribunal is completely divorced as to membership on the board or membership on any of its relevant committees."

He goes further to say the introduction of paid arbitrators, contrary to the AAA's practice of utilizing "honorary services of arbitrators," presents a "challenge to maintain the high prestige and integrity of this new panel."

Still another problem Warburg refers to is the "unprecedented pace" at which arbitration is expanding throughout the country. "In the 31 cities, one in each motion picture exchange-arbitration district, this tribunal will be the only visible center for the convergence of controversies arising in other industrial groups."

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from the first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is* 100 *per cent.*

GONE WITH THE WIND—
- Dallas 285
- Indianapolis 250
- Cleveland, New Orleans.....200
- Philadelphia 185

BACK STREET—
- Washington 175

MR. AND MRS. SMITH—
- New Orleans 175

PHILADELPHIA STORY—
- Washington 175

SECOND CHORUS—
- New Orleans 175

THIS THING CALLED LOVE—
- Cleveland 175

"Liberty" in 54 Dates Draws 450,000 Persons

NEW YORK—The first 54 engagements of "Land of Liberty" have played to approximately 450,000 persons. Figures indicate the film is doing "good 25 per cent business," according to an M-G-M spokesman.

Lead in UA Drive

NEW YORK—Charles Stern, Jack Goldhar and Bert Stearn, district managers, are up front in the UA standings after one month of the Arthur W. Kelly drive.

"This Thing" Changes Termed Not Likely

(Continued from page 4)

no protests have been received from any exhibitors who thus far have picked up their playdates or from any of the public who thus far have seen the film. Furthermore, headquarters sentiment matches studio sentiment in that changes are probably out of the question because of contractual commitments and fundamentals in the structure of the story itself.

It is also pointed out at Columbia that the film was passed by the National Board of Review, that it was approved in script and in completed form by Joseph I. Breen, production code administrator, and given code seal No. 6,846. The current attitude of the Legion and its latter day "C" grouping therefore, largely sound a mystery note insofar as the producer is concerned.

The Legion's explanatory notation follows:

"The treatment of the plot concentrates throughout the greater portion of the film upon a marriage situation which as screen material is highly suggestive and objectionable. The film, moreover, reflects ideas contrary to the Christian concept of marriage."

Wholesale condemnations are rare in the Legion's career. "Strange Cargo," an M-G-M release, was so rated. It had played a few situations before seen by the LOD. When it arrived in Detroit, the police censor there attacked it. This drew the LOD's attention to it, it is understood, and a condemned rating followed because of a religious, not a sex, approach. The film was finally LOD-approved after M-G-M made revisions which proved acceptable.

LOD headquarters, via Father McClafferty, explain the Legion will be glad to look at "This Thing Called Love" a third time with the idea of again revising the classification provided Columbia, if it is willing, can make satisfactory alterations.

This is what BOXOFFICE thought of the film:

"Like an avalanche, this is slow in starting, but once it attains speed . . . it carries everything before it with a crash and roar of laughs. Being another in the substantially-produced, smartly-lined, impressively cast comedies in which Columbia has been specializing, there is no reason why the film should not follow in the financial footsteps of its illustrious predecessors."

Paramount Net Last Year at $7,617,000

NEW YORK—With net earnings for the fourth quarter ended January 4, 1941, estimated at $2,807,000, Paramount's profits for the 53 weeks to that date amounted to $7,617,000, including $974,000 share of undistributed profits of partially owned non-consolidated subsidiaries and $98,000 profit on purchase on debentures. Earnings for the year ended December 31, 1939, were $3,874,000, including $1,117,000 share of undistributed earnings of partially owned non-consolidated subsidiaries. Earnings for the last quarter of 1939 amounted to $1,030,000, not including $245,000, representing the amount of dividends received by the corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Increasing the dividend by five cents, directors declared a 20 cents payment on the common, together with a quarterly dividend of $1.50 on the first preferred and the usual 15 cents on the second preferred, payable April 1 to stockholders of record March 14.

During 1940, the company acquired 10,482 first preferred shares and 22,600 second preferred, of which 2,500 shares and 11,400 shares respectively were purchased in the final quarter. These were acquired at a discount of approximately $203,500 which amount has been credited to special capital surplus. Also acquired during the 12-month period were $925,000 principal amount of 3¼ per cent debentures at a discount of approximately $98,000.

Guaranteed Gets Eleven Condor Productions

NEW YORK—Guaranteed Pictures Co., Inc., has secured world distribution rights to the following Condor Productions formerly distributed by Grand National:

"Captain Calamity," "Devil on Horseback," "We're in the Legion Now," "Love Takes Flight," "Yellow Cargo," "Navy Spy," "Gold Racket," "Bank Alarm," "King of the Sierras," "Trailing Trouble" and "Boots of Destiny." The first three are in color.

Sell "Dugan" Outside in "Wind" and "Story" Jam

NEW YORK—M-G-M has booked six test runs of "The Trial of Mary Dugan" away from the regular first-run accounts because the latter are tied up with "Gone With the Wind" and "The Philadelphia Story." The spots are Charlottesville, Va., Charleston, West Va., Youngstown, Ohio, Elmira, N. Y., Memphis and Williamsport, Pa.



This Is De Sylva—

New executive producer at Paramount succeeding William Le Baron. B. G. "Buddy" De Sylva went from De Sylva, Brown and Henderson, song publishers, to production via Fox and Universal. In between were stage plays in New York where he can boast three current hits—"Louisiana Purchase," "Du Barry Was a Lady" and "Panama Hattie." Finishing up at Paramount under his aegis is "Caught in the Draft," co-starring Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour.

Flashes From the News Front

WB Wins "Spy" Suit

NEW YORK—Katherine Moog is not entitled to damages in connection with Warner's "Confessions of a Nazi Spy," a federal court jury ruled here in her suit for $75,000. She charged that the film libeled her.

Largest Stock Month

WASHINGTON—Rolling up the largest total of film stock deals ever reported to the SEC for one month, officers and directors of film companies and large holders of film securities moved 155,000 shares. Atlas Corp. alone acquired 140,000 RKO common and preferred.

Yorke Rejoins 20th-Fox

LOS ANGELES—Gabe Yorke, recently handling special exploitation on "Cheers for Miss Bishop" and on "Land of Liberty," has rejoined 20th-Fox as western divisional promotion manager. His headquarters will be here.

Would Legalize Beano

CONCORD, N. H.—A bill to legalize Beano, with a 50 per cent tax on the prizes, has been introduced in the state legislature. Bank Night was cleared of anti-lottery charges in the first such test case in the country.

Near-Epidemic in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—Roland R. Cross, state health director, says cases of measles and scarlet fever are approaching epidemic proportions.

Sues Yamins for $10,650

BOSTON—Suits for collection of Bank Night royalties allegedly due Roy E. Heffner as assignee of Affiliated Enterprises, Inc., have been filed in Taunton superior court against Nathan Yamins of the Strand and Park at Fall River. Heffner asks a total of $10,650.

Defense Questionnaire

COLUMBUS—The ITO of Ohio is asking exhibitors for data on admission prices charged prior to July 1, 1940, and those charged today. The figures are to be used when and if the federal government seeks to lower the ticket tax exemption from 20 cents.

Operate Cleveland House

CLEVELAND—Harry Brandt, New York ITOA president, and Louis and Marty Levine have formed a company to operate the Lake Theatre here, recently leased from Warner.

On Individual Basis

MINNEAPOLIS—Acting individually, independent exhibitors are demanding film rental reductions. Northwest Allied recently urged exchanges to grant adjustments. Distributors are holding out against immediate cuts.

Iowa Distributor Tax Bill

DES MOINES—A bill has been introduced in the legislature to tax exchanges $1,000 per year for a license, plus $1 per reel for films, including newsreels and shorts, brought into the state.

Nat'l Theatre Supply In Six-Day Meeting

NEW YORK—Internal problems and a discussion by manufacturers of their product highlighted the six-day meeting of 29 National Theatre Supply branch managers at the Belmont Plaza Hotel. Walter E. Green, president, wielded the gavel and Oscar S. Oldknow, vice-president, western and southern division manager, acted as vice-chairman.

On Wednesday afternoon the managers visited the Alexander Smith factory and on Saturday visited the Broadway Theatre where the company's new E-7 projector is in operation.

Among the manufacturers who spoke were Herbert Griffin and Arthur Meyer of International Projector, Cy Dash of Hertner Electric Co., W. W. Irwin of Irwin Seating, J. E. Macauley of Macauley Mfg., J. A. Scheick of Bausch-Lomb Optical Co., H. B. Myrtle and H. A. Olson of General Electric, H. E. Barth, vice-president of American Blower Corp., E. Wagner of Wagner Signs, J. S. Mill of Rowe Mfg. Co., J. P. Travis of Universal Building Products and E. A. Williford of National Carbon.

"U" Parent Shows Loss

NEW YORK—Universal Corp., on last November 2, had a deficit of $553,039 despite the fact its principal subsidiary, Universal Pictures, showed a 53-week net profit of $2,232,805, it is revealed in the company's annual report.

"U" Hammers Away On Star Lineups

CHICAGO—Definitely listing 23 stellar vehicles for 1941-42, an analysis of Universal's program makes it clear the company is driving harder than ever in the direction of personalities and stars.

Of the 47 features plotted for the new season, as reported exclusively in BOXOFFICE last week, William A. Scully, general sales manager, divulged detail on 36 as the three-day convention drew to a close at the Blackstone Monday, although in some instances titles were not revealed.

As far as it went:

Deanna Durbin will star in two. Joe Pasternak will produce both. Henry Koster and William A. Seiter will direct one each.

To Film Stage Hit

"Hellzapoppin'," Broadway musical comedy hit with Olsen and Johnson featured. Jules Levey and Mayfair Prod. will make it.

Three from Frank Lloyd Productions, Inc.; no detail.

One starring Irene Dunne. Bruce Manning will produce from his own and Felix Jackson's script.

Charles Laughton in "Almost an Angel." Joe Pasternak will produce and Henry Koster direct.

Boyer-Sullavan Again

Charles Boyer and Margaret Sullavan in one produced by Bruce Manning.

Margaret Sullavan and Franchot Tone co-starred in one, produced and directed by William A. Seiter.

One starring Carole Lombard.

One starring George Raft, with Carol Bruce and Broderick Crawford featured. Bruce Manning will produce from a script by himself and Jackson.

One starring Loretta Young.

"Hilo Hattie," starring Marlene Dietrich. Joe Pasternak will produce.

Hints Theatres Are Today's "Bottleneck"

Chicago—As a one-time exhibitor—about 20 years or more, in fact—Nate J. Blumberg qualifies as an observer on exhibition and its trends. Said he to the Universal convention here:

"Exhibitors must come to realize that all we can do is make the finest pictures we know how, make them available when they are needed and inject in them that certain something that is called boxoffice appeal. After that, it's the exhibitors' job to make the public come to his theatre to see them. If there is a 'bottleneck' in this business today, it's in the theatre."

One to be produced and directed by Sam Wood.

"Badlands of Dakota" described "as an epic production for which one of the finest casts and directorial combinations of the year is being assembled."

Franchot Tone and Virginia Bruce co-starred in one to be produced and directed by Seiter.

W. C. Fields in "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break," featuring Gloria Jean, Baby Sandy and Butch and Buddy. Eddie Cline will direct.

Laughton, Lombard, Dunne Included

One featuring "a new figure of grotesque horror." It will be billed as "The Wolf Man."

Bud Abbott and Lou Costello in "Ride 'Em Cowboy" and "They're in the Navy Now."

"The Yukon Trail."

"The Ghost of Frankenstein," a sequel, of course, to "Frankenstein."

"Bombay Clipper," based on exploits of cross-ocean flyers.

"Straight From the Heart," starring Gloria Jean. Islin Auster will be associate producer.

Two starring the Dead End Kids and Little Tough Guys.

A "Novelty" Film

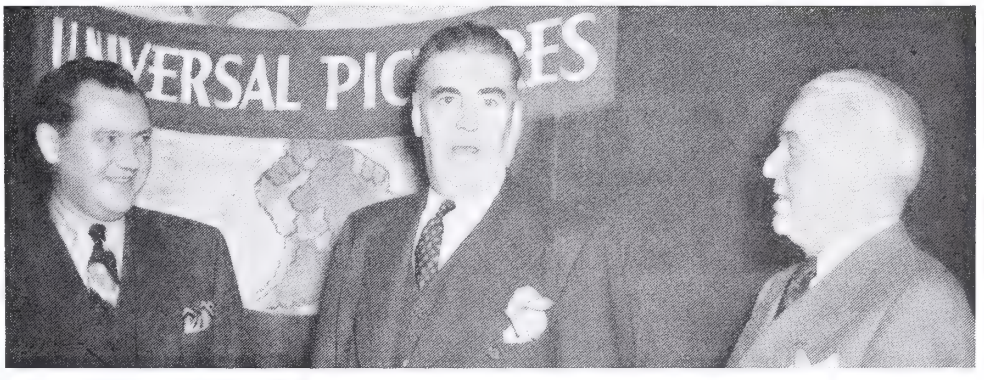
"Mermaid in Distress," a "novelty idea production" with Vaughn Paul as associate producer.

"The Black Cat," starring Basil Rathbone and featuring Broderick Crawford, Hugh Herbert and Anne Gwynne. This is described as a "wacky horror picture."

Two starring Baby Sandy.

"Captive Wild Woman," featuring "a

(Continued on page 16)





Something Amusing Lights Up Faces at Universal's Convention—

Maybe it was merely the cameraman after a pleasant shot of the rostrum. Anyway, here they are at the Blackstone, Chicago. Top row, left to right: Matty Fox, vice-president; Cliff Work, vice-president and studio manager; Nate J. Blumberg, president; William J. Heineman, western sales manager; on his feet, William A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager; J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board; his face hidden, Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president in charge of foreign sales, and Frank J. A. McCarthy, eastern sales manager. Bottom row, in the same order: John E. Joseph, director of advertising and publicity; Adolph Schimel, attorney; B. B. Kreisler, short subject sales manager; Clair Hague, Canadian representative; Paul J. Nathanson, vice-president of Empire-Universal; A. W. Perry, general manager of that company; James J. Jordan, manager contract department, and F. T. Murray, manager of exchange operations. Above, a closer view of the sales phalanx—Heineman, Scully and McCarthy.

What the Studios Are Doing

Hollywood Selecting Academy Award Recipients

HOLLYWOOD—With the final results, as tabulated by certified public accountants, to be announced at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science's 13th annual Awards banquet February 27, some 12,000 industry workers are now engaged in selecting those they consider most worthy of recognition in the yearly event from among the list of ten films, five actor and five actress performances. Candidates for best production honors are Warner's "All This, and Heaven Too" and "The Letter;" Walter Wanger-UA's "Foreign Correspondent," 20th Century-Fox's "The Grapes of Wrath," Charles Chaplin-UA's "The Great Dictator," RKO Radio's "Kitty Foyle," Argosy-Wanger-UA's "The Long Voyage Home," Metro's "The Philadelphia Story," David O. Selznick-UA's "Rebecca" and Sol Lesser-UA's "Our Town." Best actor performance nominees are Charles Chaplin, "The Great Dictator;" Henry Fonda, "The Grapes of Wrath;" Raymond Massey, "Abe Lincoln in Illinois;" Laurence Olivier, "Rebecca;" James Stewart, "The Philadelphia Story." Best actress: Bette Davis, "The Letter;" Joan Fontaine, "Rebecca;" Katharine Hepburn, "The Philadelphia Story;" Ginger Rogers, "Kitty Foyle;" Martha Scott, "Our Town."

Speculate on Where Goldwyn Will Turn

Settlement of the Samuel Goldwyn-UA lawsuit, with Goldwyn now released from his UA distribution contract, is giving rise to conjectures as to where the producer will henceforth release his films. Only definite information available is that his next will be "The Little Foxes," starring Bette Davis. The fact Miss Davis was borrowed from Warner, in exchange for the loan of Goldwyn's Gary Cooper, strengthens reports that the most likely possibility is Goldwyn will release through that company, plus the fact Goldwyn had once tentatively planned to distribute "The Westerner" through Warner and cancelled out when UA threatened legal action. 20th Century-Fox is mentioned as another candidate, while there have been rumors Goldwyn may even release through UA . . . Four UA units, Edward Small, Sol Lesser, Argosy Corp.-Walter Wanger and David O. Selznick, are planning March starts on new films . . . George W. Weeks is preparing "Tumbledown Ranch in Arizona" as his next "Range Busters" western for Monogram . . . Also for Monogram, Sam Katzman is readying "Murder by Proxy" and an East Side Kids vehicle, "Ghosts of the Night."

Dramatic Films Hold Production Spotlight

Dramatic offerings hold the dominant position in the lineup of product to be made during the next three months. Sharing the second ranking position are westerns and comedies, with musicals bringing up the rear of the procession. Dramatic entries numbered 15, with six each of westerns and comedies and five musicals.

Intensive Exploitation For "The Lady Eve"

Paramount has lined up an intensive field exploitation campaign for "The Lady Eve," covering openings in 30 key cities following its New York premiere February 26 . . . Extensive tieups whereby Western Union offices everywhere will plug "Western Union" have been set by 20th-Fox.

23 "A" Productions On Universal List

CHICAGO—Universal will have 23 "A" pictures, three of which are to be produced by Frank Lloyd and one ("Hellzapoppin'") by Jules Levey, William A. Scully, general sales manager, told BOXOFFICE at the conclusion of the company's four-day convention at the Blackstone. The budget for the feature program will range from $16,000,000 to $18,000,000, he added, this representing the greatest outlay under the new regime.

Discussing sales policy, the general sales manager asserted "it will be flexible and made to fit each and every situation. Universal Pictures is an insurance policy for the exhibitor," he added. In addition to the 47 features, 14 outdoor and action pictures, four serials there will be 13 two-reelers and 43 singles with a special two-reel subject to be made up by the newsreel department, as yet untitled.

"Selling will begin right away," Scully stated. Divisional Heads William J. Heineman and Frank J. A. McCarthy will hold a series of meetings with district, branch and other members of the sales force. On Thursday, Heineman met here with the districts supervised by E. T. Gomersall and Joseph E. Garrison. He returned to New York after the sessions, leaving Sunday for the coast where he will convene in San Francisco with the district handled by A. J. O'Keefe.

On Saturday, McCarthy met with Dave Miller and his mideast branches in Cleveland. On Tuesday next he will be in New Orleans where he will go over details of product and sales policy with Harry Graham and his southern forces.

Discussing the personnel, Scully said, "We are always interested in the right manpower and prefer to promote within the ranks." In this connection he mentioned the promotion of James Frew from salesman to New Orleans branch manager, succeeding W. M. "Snake" Richardson who is now holding down the managerial reins in Atlanta.

"U" Hammers Away On Star Lineups

(Continued from page 15)

new type of star aimed to capture the interest of novelty seekers."

Rudy Vallee starred in "Radio Follies."

Two starring Hugh Herbert. One will be "Hello, Sucker" and the other "Man or Mouse."

"Juke Box Jennie," based on the juke box craze.

The rest of the program will be drawn from these properties:

"Havana Nights," "Moonlight in Hawaii," "You've Got to Have Rhythm," "Men of the Mounted," "Sea Spoilers," "Frisco Kate," "Half Way to Shanghai," "Mississippi Gambler," "Black Fleet," "Terror of the South Seas" and "Flying Cadets."

The seven actioners to star Dick Foran, Leo Carrillo and Andy Devine generally will deal with American adventure along the Mexican border in the days of Spanish, Mexican and American conflict. They will be "Beyond the Pampas," "In Old Monterey," "Viva Pancho," "Sunset on the Sierras," "Dons of San Marcos," "The Fighting Padre" and "The Americanos."

The seven westerns designed for Johnny Mack Brown, with Fuzzy Knight and Nell O'Day featured, are not listed by title.

In serials, Scully stated the company planned two with adult appeal. First will be "Riders of Death Valley," starring Foran, Carrillo, Buck Jones, Charles Bickford, Jeanne Kelly and Lon Chaney jr. It will be in 15 chapters. In 13 episodes, will be "The Gang Busters" and with it goes the possibility it may be remade into a series of featurettes or a full-length feature. "The Sea Raider" and "Head Hunters of Amazon" will be in 12 chapters each.

The 93 reels of shorts, aside from the usual 104 issues of Universal Newsreel, break down into four series:

One special two-reeler "of sufficient timeliness to warrant special exploitation."

Fifteen "Stranger Than Fiction" in one reel each.

Thirteen "Personality" musicals, each in two reels, featuring top-name bands and Hollywood film youngsters.

Thirteen Andy Panda cartoons by Walter Lantz, each a one-reeler in color.

Fifteen "Going Places," each in one reel.

The convention terminated with a banquet. Prior to it, however, Scully told his men Universal again had increased its total of exhibitor accounts, adding another ten per cent to the number which the company had divulged ten months ago in Atlantic City.

J. Cheever Cowdin, board chairman, in an address told the conventioneers Universal's financial position is the strongest in its history, and solidly endorsed the progress made since the Blumberg administration took over three years ago.

Pasternak, although listed, did not make the meetings, but Milton H. Feld, another associate producer, did. Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel who attended the "Back Street" premiere at Miami, returned directly to New York and thus was another absentee. Addresses were made by Frank J. A. McCarthy, eastern sales manager; William J. Heineman, western sales manager, and Cliff Work, studio head.

Opinions on Current Productions, and Exploitips for Selling to the Public

FEATURE REVIEWS

Meet the Chump

F

Comedy

Universal (——) **60 Minutes** **Rel. Feb. 14, '41**

If squirrels bought theatre tickets, this would undoubtedly smash all existing boxoffice records because it is nuttier than a 30-cent drugstore sundae. The amount of human patronage it will attract, however, is problematical, insofar as its customers must be limited to those who can take their humor raw, crude and unrefined, and who are not too exacting as to cast. Had not the designation been overworked, the feature would be classified as a screwball comedy. It takes up where all others in that category left off, resorting to most of the tried-and-true gags found in such offerings since the days of Mack Sennett—and incorporating a few of its own creation. The picture is reasonably funny in spots, dull in others, but on the whole should serve satisfactorily where mirthful support material is desired. What little story structure it has concerns the efforts of Hugh Herbert to appear insane as a cover-up for a $5,000,000 shortage in his nephew's estate, of which he is administrator. Edward Cline's direction reflects his early training as a master of broad comedy.

Hugh Herbert, Lewis Howard, Jeanne Kelly, Anne Nagel, Kathryn Adams, Shemp Howard, Richard Lane.

EXPLOITIPS: Hugh Herbert is the name for the marquee. Conduct an amateur contest on the stage for imitators of the "woo-woo" comedian. Send out two men in straightjackets for street ballyhoo, carrying signs reading: "Think we're crazy? Wait till you see Hugh Herbert in 'Meet the Chump'." Give out small sacks of peanuts, imprinted: "Hugh Herbert says 'Nuts to You, too'." Dress ushers as attendants in a sanitarium and rig up a booth where patrons can be given a burlesque psycho-analysis.

CATCHLINES: When Hugh Herbert Really Tries to Act Crazy . . . Even Where Five Million Dollars Is Involved . . . You Get the Laugh of Your Life.

The Woo-Woo Specialist . . . Hugh Herbert . . . Is Here Again . . . In the Picture That's Guaranteed Not to Make Sense.

The Trial of Mary Dugan

A

Drama

M-G-M (125) **90 Minutes** **Rel. Feb. 14, '41**

That a good thing is worth repeating almost goes without saying. This is the case in the remake of "Dugan." Emerging again after 12 years, the courtroom drama, when it achieves that status after the preliminaries, makes the grade easily as effective dramatic entertainment. Although memory of the first film version is somewhat dim for comparative purposes, the latest treatment is additionally, a field day for neatly-turned performances, particularly the supporting members of the cast. Laraine Day emotes the title role, giving what it requires. Her counsel is Robert Young. They keep the romantic substance on tap expertly. "Dugan's" big scenes are laid in a courtroom where, in this case, Miss Day is on trial for her life, for the murder of her employer. All the evidence, until Young comes back from South America at the psychological moment, is just so much more grease to speedily skid her to the gallows. But Young aspires to be a Clarence Darrow of his generation. He takes over and, in a manner that has become historic stage and screen "business," clears her. Norman Z. McLeod directed.

Laraine Day, Robert Young, Tom Conway, Frieda Inescort, John Litel, Marsha Hunt, Marjorie Main, Sara Haden.

EXPLOITIPS: Hitch your exploitation to the rapidly rising stock of Miss Day. The name values of the cast are readily apparent. Feature Miss Main. Her's is one of the best performances in the show. Work on creating interest in the Bayard Veiller play with which a new generation is not too familiar. In keeping with the courtroom aspect of the story, circulate "summonses" imprinted with the legal flim-flam, calling attention to the film. A display of identical knives in a clue cabinet will attract spectators.

CATCHLINES: Did She Kill? . . . For $20,000,000 . . . ???

A Girl on Trial for Her Life . . . A Boy Fighting Against Odds to Save Her.

Road Show

F

Comedy

United Artists (——) **85 Minutes** **Rel. Jan. 24, '41**

The action starts in a nut house and gets nuttier every foot of the way. There have been countless screwball comedies about allegedly sane people but this is probably the first one in which the leading characters are admittedly screwballs. There are no limits to the number of laughs it will furnish the customers who relish their humor in the broadest possible vein with gags and slapstick predominating. Although unstintingly and modernly mounted, the production is reminiscent of the early-day screen funfests which prevailed before art came to the industry. Adolphe Menjou justifies his place in the topline by proving the greatest laugh-garnerer, although he is pressed by Patsy Kelly and Charles Butterworth. Properly merchandised, the feature should pay its way handsomely. Escaping from an asylum, Menjou and a young companion finds refuge in a broken-down traveling carnival, owned and operated by Carole Landis. They are put to work and the motivation from that point forward serves only as a frail framework upon which are plastered the fast flow of gag situations. Hal Roach produced and directed.

Adolphe Menjou, Carole Landis, John Hubbard, Charles Butterworth, Patsy Kelly, George E. Stone, Margaret Roach.

EXPLOITIPS: Give the topline mention to Adolphe Menjou, Carole Landis and John Hubbard. Imbue the lobby and theatre front with a carnival atmosphere, including a loud-voiced "barker," a steam calliope if it is obtainable, and sawdust scattered around the foyer. The novel by Eric Hatch has been widely read and can be made the basis of library and bookstore tieups. Three original songs by Hoagy Carmichael should be plugged with music stores, dance bands, and via other outlets. Stress comedy angles in advertising and exploitation.

CATCHLINES: There's Something Radically Wrong With Your Funny-Bone If You Don't Agree This Is the Most Hilarious Comedy of the Year.

It Was Funny as a Novel . . . And "Road Show" Is a Downright Riot on the Screen.

Ride, Kelly, Ride

F

Comedy

20th Century-Fox (129) **64 Minutes** **Rel. Feb. 7, '41**

As racetrack features go, this measures up to expectations. Obviously designed for the action houses and the Saturday matinee trade, it has the necessary qualifications to please in those situations, but isn't pretentious enough to secure, or even expect, bookings in more important situations. The cast is uniformly competent but lacks anything in the way of selling names—with the one possible exception of Eugene Pallette, who supplies the comedy. Young Marvin Stephens has the leading role, that of a cowhand whose riding prowess attracts the attention of Pallette and Richard Lane, owners of a racing stable. They train him as a jockey. Stephens is borrowed by Charles D. Brown, another stable-owner, to ride, and is pushed into the fence by another jockey. Then his pals get together and agree to "fix" a race so a long-shot will win planning to use the proceeds to pay Stephens' hospital expenses. When Stephens hears this he escapes from the hospital and upsets their plans by winning the big race. Norman Foster directed.

Eugene Pallette, Marvin Stephens, Rita Quigley, Richard Lane, Frankie Burke, Charles D. Brown, Chick Chandler.

EXPLOITIPS: Direct your exploitation toward the sporting fraternity by placing track cards and advertising matter in night clubs, pool halls and in the vicinity of race tracks, baseball and football grounds. Dress a youth as a jockey and have him parade a racehorse with a blanket on which is picture and theatre billing. Stencil streets and sidewalks with hoof prints of a horse leading to the theatre. Gild two or three dozen horseshoes, obtainable from a blacksmith, and string them around the marquee. Suspend a floral horseshoe over the cashier's cage. Decorate the lobby and interior with oldtime Currier & Ives prints of famous racehorses of the past.

CATCHLINES: It's the Grandest Racing Story Ever Brought to the Screen . . . This Tale of a Jockey Who Couldn't Be Bought.

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

REVIEW DIGEST
AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		A										
6..		Aldrich Family in Life With Henry (Para)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2–
0..		Along the Rio Grande (RKO)		+	±	∓		+	±	±		6+ 4–
		Always a Bride (FN)		∓	∓	∓	–	–	±	–		4+ 7–
		Angels Over Broadway (Col)		±	+	∓	+	∓	+	+	+	9+ 2–
		Ape, The (Mono)		+	–	–	+	+	+		±	5+ 3–
		Argentine Nights (Univ)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	–	7+ 3–
		Arise, My Love (Para)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	15+
		Arizona (Col)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	±	+	14+
4..		Arkansas Judge (Rep)		±	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 2–
		B										
1..		Back Street (Univ)		∓	+		∓	∓	∓			9+
		Bank Dick, The (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	+	+	±	11+ 1–
		Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2–
		Before I Hang (Col)		+	+	+	+	=	±	–	–	6+ 3–
		Behind the News (Rep)		±	+	±	+	∓	+	±	±	9+ 4–
		Beyond the Sacramento (Col)								+		1+
		Billy the Kid in Texas (PRC)				∓						1+ 1–
		Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		∓	+	∓	+	∓	∓	+	+	12+
		Blackout (UA)		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+
		Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3–
		Border Legion (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	+	±	±	8+ 3–
		Boss of Bullion City (Univ)								±		1+ 1–
2..		Bowery Boy (Rep)		∓	±	–	+	±	±	±	±	7+ 7–
		Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		–		±	–	±		3+ 6–
		Brigham Young—Frontiersman (20th-Fox)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
2..		Buck Privates (Univ)		∓		∓	∓	∓	∓			10+
		Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+
		C										
		Calling All Husbands (WB)		±	∓	+	∓	–	–	±	∓	6+ 7–
9..		Case of the Black Parrot (FN)		–	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 6–
		Caught in the Act (PRC)									∓	1+ 1–
		Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2–
		Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±					±		3+ 3–
		Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum (20th-Fox)		+	±	–	+	+	+	+		6+ 2–
		Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		∓	+	–	+	∓	±	+	±	8+ 4–
9..		Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓		14+
		Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		∓	+		7+ 1–
		Christmas in July (Para)		∓	+	±	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+ 1–
		City for Conquest (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
		Colorado (Rep)		±		–	+			±	±	4+ 4–
7..		Come Live With Me (M-G-M)		∓	±	–	∓	∓	∓	±		10+ 3–
		Comrade X (M-G-M)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	14+
1..		Convoy (RKO)		+	+		+			+	±	5+ 1–
		D										
		Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±	±	+	∓	+	∓	8+ 5–
		Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		–	±	+	±			+		4+ 3–
		Devil Bat, The (PRC)				=	±				±	2+ 4–
		Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6–
		Diamond Frontier (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	∓	–	∓	6+ 7–
		Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
		Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
		Dr. Kildare Goes Home (M-G-M)		+	∓	+		+	+	+	+	8+
9..		Doomed Caravan (Para)		∓		+	∓	∓	∓	∓		10+
		Down Argentine Way (20-Fox)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
		Dreaming Out Loud (RKO)		±	∓	–	±	+	+	±		6+ 5–
		Drums of the Desert (Mono)		±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4–
		Dulcy (M-G-M)		∓	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2–
		E										
		East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5–
		Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
		Escape (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	∓	15+
		Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+	±		6+ 1–
		F										
26..		Face Behind the Mask (Col)		+							±	2+ 1–
		Fantasia (Disney)		∓	∓	∓	∓		∓	∓	∓	14+
		Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±			+	+	+		5+ 1–
		Father's Son (WB)			±			–	∓			2+ 3–
		Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	–	–	3+ 8–
		Fight for Life, The (Col)		+					∓	+		4+
		Five Little Peppers to Trouble (Col)		±	±	–	–	=	–	–	∓	3+ 9–
		Flight Command (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
4..		Flight From Destiny (WB)		+	+	±	∓	∓	∓	+		10+ 1–
		Four Mothers (WB)		∓	+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	10+ 1–
		Four Sons (20th-Fox)		∓		+	∓	∓	+	+	+	10+
		Freedom Radio (Col)				+						1+
		Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5–
		Frontier Vengeance (Univ)		o		–	∓			±		2+ 3–
		Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		–	±	±	6+ 5–
		Fugitive From a Prison Camp (Col)			∓	=	±			±	±	4+ 6–
		G										
		Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	∓	+	±	±	9+ 3–
		Gay Caballero, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	–	+	+	±	7+ 4–
		Girl From Havana (Rep)		±	±	–	±		±	–	∓	5+ 7–
1..		Girl in the News (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+			+		5+
		Girls Under 21 (Col)		–	±	±				±	±	4+ 5–
		Give Us Wings (Univ)		–	±	±			+	±	–	4+ 5–
		Glamour for Sale (Col)		±	±	±		=	±	–	∓	5+ 8–
		Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	∓	+	∓	+	±		9+ 1–
		Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	16+
		Great Commandment (20-Fox)								∓		2+
		Great Dictator, The (UA)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	+	∓	+	12+ 1–
		Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4–
		Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	∓	+	∓	+	±	11+ 2–
		H										
		Hard Boiled Canary (Para)								+		1+
		Haunted Honeymoon (M-G-M)		+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+ 6–
		Her First Romance (Mono)		+	+		+	∓	+	+		7+
		Here Comes the Navy (WB)								∓		2+
16..		High Sierra (FN)		∓	±	±	∓	∓	∓		+	11+ 2–
		Hired Wife (Univ)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
		Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	∓	9+ 3–
		Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		–	±	+	–		±	4+ 4–
13..		Honeymoon for Three (WB)		±	±			±	∓	+		6+ 3–
		Howards of Virginia (Col)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
		Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	±	+	∓	+	+	9+ 3–
		Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6–
		I										
		I Want a Divorce (Para)		+	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+
		I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2–
		I'm Still Alive (RKO)		∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 6–
1..		Invisible Woman, The (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	∓	+	±	12+ 1–
		J										
		Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+			+	+	+		5+
		K										
4..		Keeping Company (M-G-M)		–	±	–	∓	∓	±	+		7+ 4–
		Kitty Foyle (RKO)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
		Knute Rockne—All American (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
		L										
		Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4–
		Lady Eve, The (Para)								+		1+
		Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	±	9+ 2–
15..		Land of Liberty (M-G-M)		∓	±	+			∓	+		7+ 1–
		Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+ 1–
		Leather Pushers, The (Univ)		+	±	±		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4–
		Let's Make Music (RKO)		+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4–
		Letter, The (FN)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	14+
1..		Li'l Abner (RKO)		+	∓			∓	±	–		4+ 4–
		Little Bit of Heaven (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week. The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:

∓ **Very Good;** + **Good;** ± **Fair;** ∓ **Mediocre;** – **Poor;** = **Very Poor**

In the summary ∓ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number).

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

The Mad Doctor F — Melodrama

Paramount (4018) — 90 Minutes — Rel. Feb. 14, '41

In most situations this will prove a celluloid problem child. The film is too long to function as supporting fare and is not sufficiently meritorious to grace the upper half of the bill except in the most unimportant program arrangements. The picture starts out as a chiller, goes off at a tangent to invade the fields of psychiatry, and then settles down to a routine of unmysterious, endless and useless murders. The entire blame for the feature's frailties, and they are legion, is attributable to the story, the multitudinous vagaries of which an apparently hard-working cast and director were unable to transcend. Basil Rathbone portrays the mad doctor, whose favorite pastime is marrying heiresses and promptly dispatching them to a better world. Ultimately he falls in love but, by this time, his past has caught up with him and he is forced to continue his orgy of killings. Directed by Tim Whelan.

Basil Rathbone, Ellen Drew, John Howard, Barbara Allen, Ralph Morgan, Martin Kosleck, Kitty Kelly.

EXPLOITIPS: Basil Rathbone, Ellen Drew and John Howard rate the marquee and advertising credits. Among radio fans the name of Barbara Allen (Vera Vague) might also be worthy of exploitation. Have house artist construct a leering compo-board portrait of Rathbone with green, blinking eyes, to be mounted above the marquee or used as the lobby center-piece. Emphasize the picture's chill angles by staging a special "midnight show" and install a "heart tester" in the lobby to ascertain whether or not prospective patrons are "healthy" enough to "take it." Stills depicting Rathbone in particularly sinister poses could be tied into displays of health foods and tonics, along the lines: "Do you feel like this? Try Pep-O."

CATCHLINES: He Committed a Series of Horrible Crimes . . . Then Discovered That Real Love Couldn't Erase His Past.

A Human Monster . . . Whose Heart Was Touched by a Beautiful Girl . . . Too Late.

Basil Rathbone in a Sinister Role of a Mad Doctor Whose Past Wouldn't Let Him Alone.

The Face Behind the Mask F — Drama

Columbia (2029) — 69 Minutes — Rel. Jan. 16, '41

The horror-gangster crowd will get their money's worth in "The Face Behind the Mask," which offers Peter Lorre in the main role. He is a Hungarian immigrant who gets horribly burned in a hotel fire—his face is disfigured. He turns criminal in order to get funds to pay for plastic surgery. The best a doctor can do is create a mask to hide the disfiguration. He meets a beautiful blind girl and they become close companions. Lorre tries to quit his gang. They think he has framed them. The girl is killed by a planted bomb. Lorre, in revenge, informs the police and flies the gang out to the middle of a desert in Arizona where they all perish. The various contributing elements of the story are well-handled and Robert Florey's direction effectively keeps them alike. It is good enough as support for any program.

Peter Lorre, Evelyn Keyes, Don Beddoe, George E. Stone, John Tyrrell, Stanley Brown.

EXPLOITIPS: Play this one up with the horror angle in the fore. Run a one-shot newspaper contest with a collection of portraits of various players who are wearing masks. For correct identification offer passes. Invite children to come to the theatre wearing grotesque masks. For poster displays have a rear view of Lorre with the following print: "We Dare You to Look At This Man's Face and Forget It." Get up a mask display with borrowed items from museums, department and art stores.

CATCHLINES: When You See This Man's Face on the Screen . . . You'll Never Forget It.

What Nameless Terror Lurks Behind This Mask? . . . What Strange Vengeance Is Brewing?

A Thrilling Story of Gang Terrorism . . . And a Terrible Retribution.

Scattergood Baines F — Comedy Drama

RKO Radio (123) — 69 Minutes — Rel. Feb. 21, '41

A fair portion of the nation's filmgoers should receive "Scattergood Baines" as another entertaining treatise on small town life. Again the accent is on a philosophical old gent who gives advice freely, who bests the slickest brains from the big city and maneuvers the minds and morals of his community with his little finger. And, to top it all off, he plays a courtly cupid. The role is tailored for Guy Kibbee. One day he wanders into Coldriver with $40. He invests $37.50 in a "problematical" venture, makes $750. He runs this stake into a bankroll, control of a spur line, two-car railroad, real estate and a full-rigged hardware store. Then he sits around in front of his store dispensing advice to all comers and weathers the storm of adversity in shipshape style. Spice this dish with dry humor, rustic accents and a romantic problem and you have "Scattergood Baines."

Guy Kibbee, Carol Hughes, John Archer, Francis Trout, Emma Dunn, Lee White.

EXPLOITIPS: Since this film is based on the Clarence Budington Kelland stories a good deal of effort should be expended on the bookshop and the dispensers of magazines. Tie these outlets in with posters and stills. A spot announcement over a radio station should contact the audience that is not to be reached through other channels. Get an old buggy, decorate with signs and have it driven up and down the main drag by an appropriately costumed ballyhoo man.

CATCHLINES: Meet Scattergood Baines . . . He's Slick and Sharp . . . But You'll Love Him.

He Put Coldriver on the Map . . . He Plays Cupid . . . He Has Plenty of Friends . . . He'll Make More, When You Meet Him . . . That's Scattergood Baines.

He Out-Slicked the City Slickers . . . And Ran $40 Into a Hardware Store.

Clarence Budington Kelland's Inimitable Sage Comes to the Screen.

The Monster and the Girl F — Horror Melodrama

Paramount (——) — 62 Minutes — Rel. ——

While this cannot hope for universal patronage or acclaim, it should find takers in profitable numbers among the horror fans for whom it will be a treat. The film has plenty of suspense and a bumper crop of murders, sufficient to sate the appetites of the most avid chill-seekers. The production is adequately mounted, enacted by an able cast and competently directed. It was produced under the title of "D. O. A." (Dead on Arrival), which former name is an index to its story material. In fact, the screenplay adroitly merges two yarns. The opening sequences reveal the story of an innocent girl from the hinterlands who, seeking employment in the city, is tricked into a life of shame by mobsters. Her brother attempts to avenge her betrayal and is accused of, and executed for, a murder of which he is innocent. Before dying he gives a scientist permission to use his brain, which is transferred to the body of a live ape. Escaping, the anthropoid sets out on a mission of revenge and kills all members of the mob as well as the district attorney who sent the innocent man to the chair. Directed by Stuart Heisler.

Ellen Drew, Robert Paige, Paul Lukas, Joseph Calleia, Onslow Stevens, George Zucco, Rod Cameron, Phillip Terry.

EXPLOITIPS: Ellen Drew is probably the only name here worthy of exploitation effort. Sell the picture on its chill-horror angles. Have house artist construct a life-sized figure of a gorilla with eyes which emit green flashes and mount it above the marquee or as the lobby center-piece. A figure of Ellen Drew shrinking from it would add to the layout. Spot one-minute broadcasts on radio stations asserting the "gorilla" has "escaped" and warning everyone to "keep out of its way." Stage a midnight "horror" show.

CATCHLINES: Half-Man . . . Half-Gorilla . . . And All Bad . . . Was the Beast Produced Through a Scientist's Cunning.

He Had a Terrible Mission in Life . . . Died Before He Completed It . . . But Lived Again . . . in a Gorilla's Body.

‡ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor — In the summary ‡ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		Little Men (RKO)		−	±	=	±	‡	+	±	±	7+ 7−
		Little Nellie Kelly (M-G-M)		‡	‡	+	±	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 2−
		Lone Rider Rides On (PRC)								+		1+
		Lone Star Raiders (Rep)		+		±	∓		+	±		5+ 3−
		Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (Col)		+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
		Long Voyage Home (UA)		+	‡		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	13+
		Love Thy Neighbor (Para)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Lucky Devils (Univ)			±					+		2+ 1−
		M										
26		Mad Doctor, The (Para)		∓				+	±	+		4+ 2−
5		Maisie Was a Lady (M-G-M)		+	±	+	∓	‡	‡	+		9+ 2−
		Margie (Univ)		−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
		Mark of Zorro, The (20th-Fox)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
28		Meet the Chump (Univ)		±				+	+			3+ 1−
		Meet the Missus (Rep)		±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
		Meet the Wildcat (Univ)		−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
		Melody and Moonlight (Rep)		∓	±		‡	‡	+	±		8+ 3−
		Melody Ranch (Rep)		+	+	+	‡		‡	+	∓	9+ 1−
		Men Against the Sky (RKO)		+	+	+		+	±	+	+	7+ 1−
		Mexican Spitfire Out West (RKO)		+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
		Michael Shayne, Private Detective (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Misbehaving Husbands (PRC)		+	±	=	+	‡	+		∓	7+ 4−
27		Monster and the Girl (Para)		+				+	±			3+ 1−
		Moon Over Burma (Para)		+	+	±	+	‡	+	+	±	9+ 2−
		Mortal Storm, The (M-G-M)		+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	+	13+
13		Mr. and Mrs. Smith (RKO)		‡	+	+	‡	±	‡	+		10+ 1−
		Mummy's Hand, The (Univ)		+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
		Murder Over New York (20th-Fox)		±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
		N										
		Night at Earl Carroll's (Para)		=	±	−	±	±	±	±	±	6+ 9−
		Night Train (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	‡		+	‡	9+
18		Nobody's Children (Col)		±	−	∓	±	±	±	±	±	7+ 8−
8		No, No, Nanette (RKO)		‡	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		No Time for Comedy (FN)		‡	+	+	‡	+	±	+	+	10+ 1−
		North West Mounted Police (Para)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
		O										
		Ol' Swimmin' Hole (Mono)		+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
		On the Spot (Mono)		+		−	+	+	±	±	∓	6+ 4−
		One Million B. C. (UA)		±	±	−	+	±	∓	±		6+ 6−
		One Night in the Tropics (Univ)		±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
		Outlaws of the Panhandle (Col)								−		1−
		P										
		Passport to Alcatraz (Col)		+	−	±	+	∓	−	±		5+ 5−
		Pastor Hall (UA)		±	‡	±	+	‡	+	‡	+	11+ 2−
		Petticoat Politics (Rep)					+	−	+			2+ 1−
		Phantom of Chinatown (Mono)		±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
		Phantom Submarine, The (Col)								±		1+ 1−
		Philadelphia Story (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
23		Pinto Kid (Col)		+		±	+			±	±	5+ 3−
		Play Girl (RKO)		+	±	±	±	‡	+	+	±	9+ 4−
		Pony Post (Univ)		±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
		Prairie Law (RKO)		+	±	+	+		+	±	∓	7+ 3−
		Prairie Schooners (Col)		∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
15		Pride of the Bowery (Mono)		+	±	=	±	+	−	+	∓	6+ 6−
		Public Deb No. 1 (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+	+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
		Q										
		Quarterback, The (Para)		±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		R										
		Ragtime Cowboy Joe (Univ)		+		±	+			+	∓	5+ 2−
		Rangers of Fortune (Para)		+	±	‡	‡	‡	‡	±	+	12+ 2−
		Remedy for Riches (RKO)		+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
		Rhythm on the River (Para)		+	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
25		Ride, Kelly, Ride (20th-Fox)		±	−							1+ 2−
		Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride (Rep)		+		+	+	‡		+	∓	7+ 1−
19		Ridin' on a Rainbow (Rep)		∓		∓	+					3+ 2−
25		Road Show (UA)		+				−	+	+		3+ 1−
10		Robin Hood of the Pecos (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	∓	+	±	7+ 4−
17		Rolling Home to Texas (Mono)		=			+	+	±			3+ 3−
5		Romance of the Rio Grande (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		S										
		Safari (Para)		±	∓	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
3		Saint in Palm Springs (RKO)		+	±	=	∓	=	+	+	+	6+ 6−
		Sandy Gets Her Man (Univ)		+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		Sandy Is a Lady (Univ)		+	∓	∓	+	+	±	+	±	8+ 4−
		San Francisco Docks (Univ)		∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
		Santa Fe Trail (FN)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
27		Scattergood Baines (RKO)		+								1+
		Second Chorus (Para)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	14+
23		Secret Evidence (PRC)		+			+	+	−			3+ 1−
		Seven Sinners (Univ)		±	+	±	‡	+	+	±	+	9+ 3−
		She Couldn't Say No (FN)		+	±	±	±	∓		±	±	7+ 6−
12		Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga (Univ)		+	±			∓	+	±		5+ 3−
		Sky Murder (M-G-M)		±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+ 10−
		Slightly Tempted (Univ)		±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
20		So Ends Our Night (UA)		∓	+	±	‡	+	‡	‡		10+ 2−
		So You Won't Talk (Col)		−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
		Son of Monte Cristo (UA)		+	±	∓	±	∓	‡	±	±	9+ 6−
		South of Suez (WB)		+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
		Spellbound (UA)				+						1+
		Spring Parade (Univ)		‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	14+
		Street of Memories (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
		Strike Up the Band (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		T										
		Take Me Back to Okla. (Mono)		+			‡	+	+	+		6+
14		Tall, Dark and Handsome (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	12+
		Texas Rangers Ride Again (Para)		+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
		Texas Terrors (Rep)		+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
		That Gang of Mine (Mono)		±	±	=	+	−	±	−	±	5+ 8−
		They Knew What They Wanted (RKO)		‡	±	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	14+ 1−
		Thief of Bagdad (UA)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
		Third Finger, Left Hand (M-G-M)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
		This Thing Called Love (Col)		+	+	‡		‡		±		7+ 1−
		Three Men From Texas (Para)		+		‡	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Thundering Frontier (Col)		−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
		Tin Pan Alley (20th-Fox)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Too Many Girls (RKO)		+	±	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	11+ 1−
		Torpedo Raider (Mono)		∓								1+ 1−
		Trail Blazers (Rep)		+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
		Trail of the Silver Spurs (Mono)				+				+		2+
		Trail of the Vigilantes (Univ)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		Trailin' Double Trouble (Mono)		∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
28		Trial of Mary Dugan (M-G-M)		+								1+
		Triple Justice (RKO)		+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
		Tugboat Annie Sails Again (WB)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		U										
		Under Texas Skies (Rep)		+		±	+			+	±	5+ 2−
		Up in the Air (Mono)		+	±	±		+	+	+	∓	7+ 3−
		V										
		Victory (Para)		+	+	±	‡	‡	+	+	‡	11+ 1−
		Villain Still Pursued Her, The (RKO)		±	∓	−	±	±	∓	±		6+ 7−
12		Virginia (Para)		‡	±	±	‡	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 3−
		W										
		Wagon Train (RKO)		+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
		Wagons Westward (Rep)		+	+	±	+	−	∓	±	±	7+ 5−
		West of Pinto Basin (Mono)		±		±	+	‡	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
		Westerner, The (UA)		±	+	+	‡	‡	+	+	+	10+ 1−
24		Western Union (20th-Fox)		‡		‡	‡	‡	‡		+	11+
		Where Did You Get That Girl (Univ)		+	±		±	+	+	±		6+ 3−
		Who Is Guilty? (Mono)		−	±		±			±	+	4+ 4−
		Who Killed Aunt Maggie? (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
		Wild Horse Range (Mono)								±	∓	2+ 2−
24		Wild Man of Borneo (M-G-M)		+	−					+		2+ 1−
		World in Flames (Para)		+		‡	‡	+		+	+	8+
		Wyoming (M-G-M)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 1−
8		Wyoming Wildcat (Rep)		+			+			+		3+
		Y										
		Yesterday's Heroes (20th-Fox)		+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
		You'll Find Out (RKO)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Young Bill Hickok (Rep)		±		∓	+			±		4+ 3−
11		You're Out of Luck (Mono)		±	±			∓	±	±		5+ 5−
21		You're the One (Para)		+		∓		‡	+	−		5+ 2−
		Youth Will Be Served (20th-Fox)		±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
		Yukon Flight (Mono)		+			+					2+

Term Price for "Lady" Tops for a Play

NEW YORK—In the face of spirited competition, Paramount nabs "Lady in the Dark," hit musical play starring Gertrude Lawrence. Barney Balaban, in commenting on the purchase, states the price is "substantially above $275,000" while Paramount asserts this is the highest ever paid by a film producer for a stage property.

Produced by Sam H. Harris, Paramount is understood to have financed the play to the tune of 30 per cent, but other interested parties include Howard S. Cullman, Jules E. Brulatour and Harris.

Meanwhile, special handling goes to "The Lady Eve." Neil F. Agnew has mapped out a three-way publicity and exploitation campaign the first part of which is under way for the New York opening at the Paramount February 26. The second phase will be a three-week drive to precede the opening in one key city in each of Paramount's ten sales districts in what may be a tipoff as to the manner in which this company will proceed under the decree and blocks of five sales.

The third phase will be a three-week campaign ahead of the openings in 20 additional key cities about March 21.

The purchase price, according to the New York *Times*, was $283,000. That paper declared theatrical circles viewed the figure as "astronomical" and added this comment:

"Broadway's surprise was the more apparent because it had not expected the movies would go beyond $200,000 for a hit play in view of the economies adopted since the collapse of the foreign market and the subsequent decline in film profits due to the war. Loss of the foreign market is estimated to represent a drop of 30 to 40 per cent in film company earnings."

Times Square reports added Miss Lawrence, star of the play, may appear in the film.

Paramount Interest in Play Shaves Price for "Lady"

NEW YORK—Paramount's reputed 30 per cent interest in "Lady in the Dark" will cut the approximate $283,000 it paid for the film rights to about $197,100 thereby, and by this approach, bringing the purchase figure well under the record buy for stage properties. Nevertheless, the acquisition remains well among the leaders over the years.

According to the New York *Times*, Paramount's bid rose to its high level because Warner had offered $275,000, but this is not confirmed. At any rate, the "Lady in the Dark" deal launched that newspaper into a discussion of play purchases by film producers. It cites the previous high as having gone to "Arsenic and Old Lace," purchased recently by Warner for $175,000, plus a percentage of the gross. Earlier, the same company paid $83,000 for "George Washington Slept Here" and $75,000 for "Old Acquaintance." M-G-M parted with $130,000 for "Panama Hattie," the account continued, and Columbia $70,000 to $75,000 as a down payment on "Pal Joey," plus a percentage of the gross.

"For a long time," reported the *Times*, "the $250,000 Paramount paid for 'Abie's Irish Rose' in 1928 set the pace for play purchases by the movies. Record prices for plays in recent years were 'You Can't Take It with You,' $200,000; 'Hellzapoppin',' $200,000; 'The American Way,' $225,000; 'Room Service,' $255,000; 'The Man Who Came to Dinner,' $275,000 and 'Tobacco Road,' $200,000 plus a royalty payment to Jack Kirkland, the producer. The film version will open at the Roxy February 20 in competition with the play, now in its eighth year on Broadway."

Paramount is reported to have sold rights to "The Play's the Thing" to RKO for $45,000.

Second Complaint Due Under Decree

Washington—Aside from the Walbrook, Baltimore, case on clearance, the local board of the AAA has been informed another complaint will be filed in the near future. Unlike the first, this will not involve protection between houses in the same city, but will revolve around clearance granted a theatre in one small Maryland town over another house in the same community.

New England Arbiter Has His First Case

BOSTON—The first New England arbitration case was filed Thursday afternoon by Ben Gold, independent operator of the Park Theatre at Nashua, N. H., with the local clerk, Henry de la Morandiere, at the newly established offices here in the Chamber of Commerce Building.

Independent Exhibitors, Inc., of which Gold is a member, assisted Gold in preparing the case and laid the groundwork for the hearing, in which action under Section 6 of the code is sought.

Gold alleges inability to buy any major product. The complaint states that the Shea circuit, Edward Grainger its general manager, has tied up all major product for its two Nashua theatres with the single exception that recently, following the Morse and Rothenberg anti-trust suit, decision on which has not yet been handed down, Morse and Rothenberg have been sold Columbia pictures for their house, the only other theatre in the city.

Illinois Independent Files Against Loew's, Inc.

CHICAGO—With the words, "E. F. Van Derveer claims that Loew's, Inc., has arbitrarily refused to license second run pictures for exhibition at the State Theatre, Morris, Ill.," the film arbitration office in Chicago has its initial case.

Van Derveer, who operates one of three houses in the downstate town, the other two being operated by the Anderson circuit, filed his complaint Thursday against Loew's, Inc., Chicago, claiming inability to obtain Metro product.

Indirect Swing by Hearst at RKO

NEW YORK—Repercussions of the difficulties between William Randolph Hearst and RKO over "Citizen Kane," indicating the situation has not been settled, were seen late in the week when the New York *Journal-American* gave almost a column to a lawsuit filed by Joseph Ermolieff, European producer, against the distributor. A companion story appeared in the Daily *Mirror*, in both instances the dispatches coming from special Los Angeles correspondents of these Hearst papers.

While it is not without precedent for stories of this nature to appear in New York newspapers, Times Square opinion, in part at least, read into them and their length more of a play than normally might be accorded yarns containing their general news values. Some held it to be significant, too, that the dispatches were sent to their specific Hearst newspaper here and not over the wires of the International News Service, Hearst-operated, which serves hundreds of papers outside of the Hearst string.

The story itself was an account of a $1,042,000 action brought by Ermolieff. It said Schaefer deliberately broke a contract under terms of which Ermolieff was to produce both an English and French version of a story entitled "I Solemnly Swear." The producer claims he signed a contract July 8, 1939, that he and RKO were to divide net profits and negative costs and that the picture was to cost $600,000. He further alleges RKO repudiated the deal October 31 of that year. The picture, he adds, was to be released as "Outpost in Morocco."

Already Taking Bows for "Pot O' Gold" Premiere

NEW YORK—UA expects to garner for itself, and take the bows for gathering for the country at large, considerable Latin-American goodwill through a super-elaborate world premiere of James Roosevelt's "Pot O' Gold" in Mexico City just before Easter. The event will be timed, if plans materialize, to take advantage of a gigantic nationwide day-and-date effort for Easter bookings in this country.

Opening of the film below the border, is seen as a natural through the presence of President Roosevelt's son as producer. Additionally, there is good reason alone in the fact that the film boasts some pretentious Mexican production numbers.

UA is heading for special attention in still another direction, it appears. According to Monroe Greenthal, director of advertising and publicity, five of the company's next seven releases are scheduled for first run here at the Music Hall. They are "That Uncertain Feeling," "Major Barbara," "That Hamilton Woman," "So Ends Our Night" and "Cheers for Miss Bishop."

See Big "Virginia" Play

NEW YORK—Paramount has 225 pre-release bookings on "Virginia" to date. Neil F. Agnew expects to have 285 dates before general release, February 22.



Among Those at Universal's Convention—

It goes like this, from left to right: Dave Levy, Big U, New York; Frank J. A. McCarthy, eastern sales manager; George E. Schwartz, Philadelphia; John Pavone, New Haven; Paul Baron, Boston; Max Cohen, Washington, and Jules Lapidus, district manager. All men have returned to their offices with the exception of McCarthy who is holding regional sales meetings.

Points to Universal's "Unalterable Policy"

CHICAGO—It is Universal's unalterable policy that salesmen must deal fairly with exhibitors and avoid any promises that cannot be reduced to writing in contracts, William A. Scully declared at the company's final convention session. The slogan for next season will be "Universal Pictures, the Exhibitor's Insurance Policy for 1941-42."

Jim Frew succeeds W. M. (Snake) Richardson as manager in Atlanta where John Ezell has resigned, as reported in BOXOFFICE's Southern edition last week. Gordon C. Craddock now is assistant to William J. Heineman, western sales manager, while H. H. Hull succeeds Craddock in charge in Indianapolis. Jack Bannon, long secretary to Sam Dembow and latterly in the state right field on his own, becomes assistant to Frank J. A. McCarthy, eastern sales manager. Scully introduced them, as he did Harold Dudoff, India representative, and L. L. Foeldes, Universal's representative in Central Europe.

Convention enthusiasm was further aroused by wired reports indicating "Back Street" had been held over in 14 first runs. Paul J. Nathanson, Canadian distributor, informed Nate J. Blumberg and the assemblage it was his opinion Universal is now the second ranking company in the Dominion. John Joseph, director of advertising and publicity, detailed the "Back Street" premiere in Miami and reported a generally favorable press. Addresses Monday included one from J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board, and from Blumberg. While the banquet that evening officially terminated the meetings, divisional and district managers went into a huddle Tuesday.

Name Change

ALBANY—RKO Proctor Mt. Vernon Corp. has made a name change to Parkway Theatre Corp. Prentice-Hall, Inc., 90 Broad St., recorded papers.

Wind Up Remittance Hearings Next Week

NEW YORK—Arbitration hearings on proposed changes in the allocation plan for British remittances as suggested by M-G-M, are expected to wind up before Milton J. Handler, impartial arbitrator, next week. Sam Cohen of M-G-M's legal department is presenting arguments for the company and Joseph H. Hazen of Warner is acting for the other seven majors.

With England permitting a total of $12,900,000 to be transferred to this country for the year started November 1, M-G-M claims its share of the money should be based on net business rather than gross.

More From "London Can Take It" Forwarded

NEW YORK—The $25,000, earmarked and already forwarded to Lord Beaverbrook, British minister of aircraft production, represents the bulk, but not necessarily all, of the returns on "London Can Take It," Quentin Reynolds' short distributed by Warner.

All proceeds, less print cost, go to the British Spitfire fund.

Opposing Radio? Now Take a Look

New York—A nation-wide survey discloses that 87 per cent of sponsored radio film commentators are engaged by exhibitors, according to the National Radio Film Commentators Circle, headed by David Lowe of station WNEW of New York. The group states it polled 178 film commentators appearing over stations in 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, and declares its findings are a significant disclosure in light of the "purported anti-radio feelings of the Hollywood producers."

28 Independents Test Theatre Guide Ads

NEW YORK—With RKO, Loew's and Skouras having their theatre guides appearing regularly in local newspapers, 28 independent theatres last week inserted a group ad under the name of United Neighborhood Theatres as an experiment. One circuit operator who participated in the combination stated the rate was cheaper under this plan. It also was felt that if he advertised alone his theatres would be lost on the page with small copy.

If, however, the idea clicks, similar arrangements will be worked out with other papers. The experiment was tried in the N. Y. *Post*. Theatres listed included the Ace, Freeman, Heights, Jerome, Kingsbridge, Metro, Mt. Eden, Astor (Bklyn), Ascot, Fleetwood, Lido, Fenway, Tower, Granada, Avalon, DeLuxe, Oxford, Vogue, Prospect, Grand, Savoy, Kent, Star, Zenith, Earl, Luxor, Ogden, and Surrey.

Yorke Rejoins 20th-Fox In West on Promotion

NEW YORK—Gabe Yorke has rejoined 20th-Fox, this time as western divisional promotion manager with headquarters in Los Angeles. For the past few weeks he had been handling special exploitation for "Cheers for Miss Bishop," which was produced by Richard A. Rowland for UA, and "Land of Liberty." Under his new duties he will supervise promotion work in cooperation with theatres playing the company's product. He was formerly advertising manager for 20th-Fox and also head of advertising for Fox West Coast circuit. The February 8 eastern edition of BOXOFFICE exclusively reported Yorke rejoining 20th-Fox.

Hearing on Publicists' Demands February 17

NEW YORK — The second adjourned hearing between the Screen Publicists Guild and representatives of the majors before NLRB Trial Examiner Dan Baker has been set for February 17 due to Baker's illness. Baker is listening to testimony over the SPG's demand for designation as collective bargaining agent for what is claimed to be a majority of members among publicists at home offices.

Screeno Eastern Rights To Dave Dietz Firm

NEW YORK—The Dave Dietz company has been named by J. S. Markstein, Chicago, general manager of the Screeno Amusement Co., as the distributor of Screeno in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The new firm, Eastern Screeno Co., succeeds George B. West, who withdrew to take care of his interests in the Monogram exchanges at St. Louis, Cincinnati and Kansas City.

Markstein came here from Chicago to close the deal.

BROADWAY

NICHOLAS M. SCHENCK is due back from a belated visit to the M-G-M studios on Monday. He was on the coast about a week . . . Sam Rinzler left Thursday to join his partner, Louis Frisch, in Miami. Because of the bad weather, Frisch is staying on a little longer than he contemplated . . . John Dervin, UA Boston manager, was in town the other day . . . Jacob James Milstein and Arthur Gottlieb plan to head for Mexico about the middle of next month, with a short stopover at Miami for a fishing vacation . . . Haskell Masters' wife has joined him here, moving in from Toronto the early part of the week. Their son has been here some time and, as soon as their daughter finishes school, she will head for New York . . . Harry Mersay of 20th-Fox has March 2 set as his departure date for Miami.

Glenn Ford, Columbia contract player, has returned to the coast after an extensive vacation in the east . . . Clarence Nash, the "voice" of Donald Duck, got into town Sunday . . . Ona Munson left Sunday for the coast after appearing on the "Big Town" broadcasts with Edward G. Robinson . . . Joseph Seider has gone to Cuba and promises to come back with plenty of fishing stories . . . Charles Moses has turned the Palace, Port Richmond, S. I., over to Si Fabian and in return got the Staten, New Dorp, S. I. In other words, it was a swap and eliminated competition between the two men in those towns . . . On Monday night, last, Warner sneaked "Mr. John Doe," latest Frank Capra picture, at an RKO house in White Plains . . . Dick Rowland was in Toronto the middle of the week for the trade screening of his UA film, "Cheers for Miss Bishop" . . . Harry Goetz is reported asking $250,000 *for the screen rights to "Sister Eileen" and M-G-M is reported offering* $40,000 *for "Mr. and Mrs. North." Would be for Loy and Powell.*

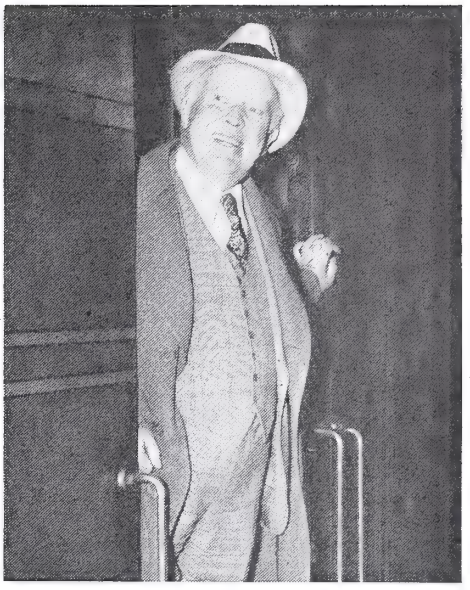
David Loew will embark on his return coast trip February 21 . . . Oscar Doob predicts that in three years, the "9 o'clock plan" in local circuit houses will bring about week bookings of pictures instead of split weeks . . . Johnny Murphy and Eddie Dowden of Loew's returned from Buffalo after short trips upstate . . . Jerry Sager, handling Westchester publicity for the Loew circuit, has been laid up with flu . . . John W. Hicks jr., foreign head for Paramount, returned Saturday on the *Ancon* from Panama City where he conducted a meeting of South American managers . . . Merian C. Cooper has sailed for England for additional data on "The Eagle Squadron" to be released by UA . . . W. Ray Johnston has been in the east conferring with Steve Broidy, Monogram general sales manager. Incidentally, Eddie Golden, now on his own as an independent producer for Monogram, says he expects to have an important announcement about his plans shortly. He's been visiting various key cities the past few weeks.

S. Machnovitz and Mrs. M.—he's Universal's treasurer—are others who extended their southern stay, but are due back momentarily . . . Doug Churchill, Hollywood correspondent for the New York Times, *is in town. He left Miami early for a few days at Nassau; thereafter, his visit here . . . The Charles D. Prutzmans figured on a short visit to Havana, found they could fly over but couldn't get passage back in time to make the New York-bound train. Anyway, they were among the many who attended the Press Photographers' ball at the Astor Friday night . . . Matty Fox, back from Miami and the Universal Chicago convention, will continue in the east for another two weeks or thereabouts. Then Hollywood.*

Joe Rosthal of Loew's foreign department continues on the sick list . . . Ed Raftery returned early in the week from a trip to Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Newark, Ohio. In the latter city, he met Ed C. Grainger, who came back with him . . . Gabe Yorke left for the coast Friday to assume his new duties as western promotional manager for 20th-Fox . . . Herman and Rose Gluckman leave February 22 for New Orleans and the Mardi Gras. From there they will continue by car to the coast. Eugene and Mrs. Picker, who had planned to accompany them, leave February 28 for Los Angeles where they will meet the Gluckmans. After a vacation there the quartet will head for home together . . . Bill White of the Skouras circuit didn't pay much attention to the pedestrian crossing signals at 45th & Broadway until Jack Harris pointed the system

(Continued on page 25)







—Metropolitan Photos

One Leaves, but Two More Arrive—

Above (left), Jack Hively, co-director of "They Met in Argentine" for RKO, reaches New York on vacation. Top right photo is another arrival, this time of Guy Kibbee, star of "Scattergood Baines" who is in Montpelier, Vt., for the premiere of the film. As they came in, out went Jean Hersholt carrying with him the grey hat worn by the President during his three campaigns. Presented to Hersholt, it will be auctioned at the Associated Actors and Artistes ball at the Ambassador, Los Angeles, March 17 for the benefit of the M. P. Relief Fund of which Hersholt is president.

RKO Cleans Up All Claims Against It With $7,250

NEW YORK—It took years, but RKO and its reorganization detail, in the form of final claims, this week cleared federal courts. Nothing else hangs fire.

The cleanup took form in $7,250 additional allowances granted by Federal Judge William O. Bondy to firms of attorneys and accountants for their stint in the proceedings.

David Stock and Donald Macks, attorneys for H. Cassel and Co., were allowed $1,500 out of $9,000 requested, providing Kommel and Rosenberg, also attorneys for Cassel, have their appeal denied. The latter firm asked for $15,000 and was granted nothing.

George L. Schein, attorney for the independent protective committee for common stockholders, received an additional allowance of $4,500 to the $8,000 already received. He had asked $100,000. His accountants, Gottheimer and Bercu, who had received $2,000 out of $30,000 sought, were granted an additional $1,250. This wipes out the last remaining vestige of RKO in the U. S. courts, as nothing else is hanging fire.

May Set Precedent

A decision which may have some bearing on future copyrights was handed down in the supreme court when Justice Peter Schmuck dismissed Stephen Tamas' suit against 20th Century-Fox in which Tamas, an Hungarian playwright, sought an injunction, accounting of profits and damages against "Stowaway." He claimed the Shirley Temple picture was based on his story. The court found no plagiarism other than the title which could not be copyrighted and remarked Tamas had already lost in the Hungarian courts. Under the ruling it may develop that U. S. courts will follow European ones in deciding issues.

Katherine Moog's $75,000 libel action against Warner was tossed out by a federal jury. The action claimed libel in "Confessions of a Nazi Spy," with the plaintiff charging the part played by Lya Lys in the film was meant to represent her. The jury, before Judge Matthew T. Abruzzo, ruled otherwise.

Suit of Harry Essex and Sid Schwartz, playwrights, against Republic Pictures was dismissed on its merits by mutual consent in federal court. The action sought an injunction, accounting of profits, and damages against "Money to Burn" with the plaintiffs charging the film was a deliberate piracy of their play, "Something for Nothing."

Travelcade Sues Consolidated

Travelcade Film Corp. filed suit in the supreme court against Consolidated Film Industries seeking $25,000 damages for alleged failure to deliver prints on time. The plaintiff says it gave Consolidated six negatives in August with the understanding that 15 prints of each would be ready in six days. After two months of waiting it is alleged Consolidated stated it could not do the job. By that time the prints were outdated and could not be sold, the plaintiff charges. The films were all travelogues.

Philip Chapman, projectionist, has filed a supreme court suit against the Empire State Operators and Square Enterprises, Inc., operators of the Square Theatre, Brooklyn, claiming the union suspended him when he refused to leave his job at the Square where he has been employed for two years to take a job at another theatre. He seeks reinstatement and his job back.

F. D. R. Will Address Academy Award Dinner

Hollywood—President Roosevelt will address the Academy Awards dinner, February 27, via radio from Washington. Walter Wanger, Academy president, arranged it while on a recent visit to the White House.

Weingarten and Wyngate Secure Rights to "Ecstasy"

NEW YORK — Max Weingarten and Michael Wyngate were returned victors in a one-day trial over Eureka Productions and Samuel Cummins when Justice Aaron Steuer in supreme court handed down a decision from the bench that the picture, "Ecstasy," belongs to the plaintiffs. An injunction against further distribution, accounting of profits, damages, and return of prints were ordered. The defendants' rights in the film ran out October, 1939, according to the complaint, which claimed the plaintiffs had purchased the rights for the next five years from the producers, Elekta Films of Czechoslovakia. Fitelson and Mayers represented the plaintiffs.

Would Question Zanuck

Application to examine Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president of 20th-Fox, has been made by Eleanor Harris. The plaintiff, author of the original on which "Brigham Young" was based, seeks $50,000 damages for alleged failure to give her proper screen credit.

RKO has notified the federal court of its intentions to examine Helen Twelvetrees before trial on February 24. The company is being sued for an injunction, accounting of profits and $100,000 damages for alleged libel in "I'm Still Alive" which, the actress claims, is based on her life with her former husband, Jack Woody, Hollywood stunt man.

Botsford to LeBaron; Moss Joining Wanger

HOLLYWOOD—Producers A. M. Botsford and Jack Moss have resigned their Paramount posts. Botsford will continue in association with William LeBaron who recently resigned as Paramount production head. Moss joins Walter Wanger as production associate.

December Is Record Film Stock Month

WASHINGTON — Approximately 155,000 shares of film company stocks were involved in transactions entered into in December by officers and directors of film companies and large holders of film securities, it is shown by the semi-monthly summary of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The largest total of film stocks ever reported for one month by the commission, the greater part of the volume was accounted for by the more than 140,000 shares of Radio-Keith-Orpheum common and preferred stock acquired by the Atlas Corporation in an almost daily series of purchases.

Transactions of the month, as reported by the commission, were as follows:

General Theatres Equipment Corp.: Acquisition of 200 shares of capital stock by Edward C. Delafield, director, New York, giving him a total of 400 shares.

Keith-Albee-Orpheum: Disposition of 9,000 shares of 7 per cent preferred stock (2,000 shares of gift in trust for children), by Michael J. Meehan, New York, reducing his interest to 17,004 shares; exchange of 10 shares of preferred stock for 10 preferred voting trust certificates by Malcolm Kingsberg, officer, New York, who held 490 shares of preferred and the 10 certificates at the close of the month.

Loew's Boston Theatres: Acquisition of four shares of common stock by Loew's Incorporated, making a total holding of 117,787 shares.

Loew's, Inc.: Acquisition of 100 shares of common stock by Al Lichtman, officer, New York, representing his total interest at the close of the month.

Radio-Keith-Orpheum: Acquisition by the Atlas Corp., Jersey City, N. J., of 138,578 shares of common and 2,900 shares of six per cent preferred stock; at the close of the month Atlas held 732,896 shares of common, 327,812 warrants for common and 35,481 shares of preferred stock direct and 268,230 shares of common through the American Company. Disposition of 600 shares of common stock and 75 shares of preferred by Frederick L. Ehrman, director, New York, leaving him with 200 shares of common and no preferred; and disposition of 2,000 shares of common stock by L. Lawrence Green, director, New York, leaving him with 2,250 shares.

Trans Lux Corp.: Disposition of 500 shares of common stock by Robert L. Gordon, director, New York, his total holdings, and acquisition of 200 shares of common by Walter Siemers, director, Jamaica, N. Y., giving him 1,200 shares.

Twentieth Century-Fox: Acquisition of 1,000 shares of common stock by Sidney R. Kent, officer, New York, giving him a total of 3,180 shares.

Handles Select List

NEW YORK—Equity Exchange will handle Select Attractions' output in Greater New York, Albany and Buffalo, according to a deal closed early in the week.

(Continued from page 23)

out to him . . . Milton Feld came on to New York from the Chicago convention . . . Arthur W. Kelly walks to his office every morning from home, and vice versa.

William F. Rodgers is back at his desk after a trip to Detroit where he conferred with "Ted" O'Shea, Jack Flynn and John Maloney . . . Budd Rogers says he expects three Mayflower (English) productions from London within the week . . . Leonard Picker, Columbia attorney, left for Florida Friday on the second installment of his vacation . . . Tom Connors returned from Dallas Thursday and left the next day for a Florida vacation . . . Edward M. Saunders is there already . . . Monroe Greenthal is back from a trip to the coast, mostly to look at a flock of new product . . . Mrs. David Palfreyman has the flu and a stay at St. Clare's Hospital behind her. She was discharged Friday.

Guy Kibbee, accompanied by Terry Turner, was in Montpelier, Vt., and Claremont, N. H., for personal appearances with "Scattergood Baines" . . . Abraham Leff of the Five Boro Circuit in the Bronx announces the marriage of his daughter, Ethel, to Albert J. Beberfeld. The groom is connected with a theatre cleaning supply house . . . Harry Gittleson, editor of RKO's publication, *Flash,* has returned from Toronto after a tour with Leo Devaney in connection with the Ned Depinet Drive . . . Albert Lewin goes to Washington Wednesday to deliver an address before the student body of four Catholic universities on the functions of a producer.

B. S. Moss has gone to Miami . . . Norman Moray has been in the same spot for the past week . . . Milt Kusell has converted the space formerly occupied by National Screen Accessories at the local Paramount exchange into a recreation room . . . Leah Peterson, cashier at the same branch, has returned from Florida with a nice tan . . . Nat Steinberg is the exhibitor who took over the Parkway, Mt. Vernon, from RKO on a leasing deal . . . Bob Benjamin has called off his trip to the coast, for the present . . . Joe Unger is eyeing Miami shores, waiting for the weather to warm up a bit before making reservations . . . Harry Goetz will make another trek to Hollywood the latter part of the month . . . John Joseph left over the weekend for the coast. On Thursday he got together with Oscar Doob, Art Schmidt and Dave Lipton for a reunion of B&K days in Chicago . . . S. Barret McCormick has been down with a touch of the flu . . . Alec Moss goes to Miami late in the week. Vacation, of course.

A brewers' convention without beer would be an awfully dull affair, but not so a press photographers' dance without cameramen. Yet that's the big story about the 12th annual shindig the lensers tossed off at the Hotel Astor Friday evening, not unless, of course, there's a story in the fact that some 3,700 persons crowded into the ballroom and some 100 creme de la creme of the professional theatrical world contributed upwards of four hours of entertainment. Then there was dancing until dawn between the orchestras of Eli Dantzig and Augusto Sanabia and his Rum Conga band. Then, too, there were a couple of up-and-coming boys working like beavers at master ceremoning—Ed Sullivan, Harry Hershfield, Henny Youngman, Olsen & Johnson and Nick Kenny, to mention just a few. And just to round out the reportorial job, here are a few of the names who appeared and contributed a couple of thousand of dollars' worth of fun: Danny Kaye, Boris Karloff, Ethel Merman, Lee Tracy, Lyle Talbot, Willie Howard, Glenda Farrell, Gloria Stuart, Carol Bruce, Luise Rainer, Jack Durant, Victor Moore, Helen Morgan, Herman Timberg, Belle Baker, Diosa Costello, Lionel Stander, Bill Robinson, John Beal, Jane Pickens, Ben Bernie, Bert Lytell, Arthur Treacher, James Dunn and Gilda Gray.

Dr. Emanuel Stern, in charge of welfare of the Paramount home office employes, has been under observation at the French Hospital for the past few days . . . Hal Horne of the Walt Disney Hornes has been laid up at home with a bad back . . . Morris Jacks, New Jersey operator, is back from Florida via New Orleans, where he stopped off for some oysters. He says his Community at Morristown broke every record with "The Philadelphia Story" . . . More than 1,200 members and guests attended the Paramount Pep Club's St. Valentine Day Party at the Capitol Hotel. A buffet supper, presentation of "The Gofers Go to Town," a play written, staged and featuring home office employes, and dancing to the music of Dick Raymond and his orchestra, headed the program . . . Dock Condon was in Philadelphia for the opening there of "Fantasia." While he was absent, his secretary, Marjorie Chapman, lost her wallet. "It's not the money," she bemoans, "it's my social security card that I miss."

Leslie E. Thompson, president of Trans Lux, is in Palm Beach vacationing . . . Harry Brandt heads for southern vacation spots March 2. Meanwhile, brothers Louis and "Bingo" returned from their Miami siestas over the weekend . . . Robert Young's first eastern vacation in five years has terminated and he is now back on the M-G-M lot . . . Rise Stevens, Metropolitan Opera star recently signed by M-G-M, sang at Carnegie Hall Wednesday night at a benefit concert for British and Greek war relief . . . Herbert J. Yates is on the coast planning Republic's lineup for next season with James R. Grainger and M. J. Siegel . . . Howard Dietz has returned from a combined vacation and business trip on the coast . . . R. Yentes of the local 20th-Fox exchange has been called to the colors and is at Fort Ethan Allen in New England. Richard Skillman of the home office also is in training . . . John Hay Whitney is in Hollywood for conferences on betterment of relations with Latin America.

Byron Kantack of the M-G-M legal staff has been called by the National Guard, 207 Division, for active service . . . Jean Gabin, French actor, is due by Clipper sometime in March to report for 20th-Fox work on the coast . . . Francis L. Harley, 20th-Fox managing director in England, is vacationing in Miami and plans to return to London early in March . . . Ben Miggins, European managing director for the same company, is back from Miami and claims he hasn't put on any weight . . . Harry Reinhardt has been elected president of the 20th-Fox home office credit union, succeeding Edwin S. Fraser jr. Eugene McEvoy has been named vice-president and Nat Brower secretary. Joseph Tyrrell is the new treasurer . . . Greta Garbo is due to return to the coast in a week.

REVIEW FLASHES

GOLDEN HOOFS (20th-Fox)—Considerable of an improvement over the last two or three Jane Withers vehicles is reflected in this treatise on the sport of harness racing which should slide nicely into the program groove, particularly in those sectors where the Withers name is a marquee magnet. Walter Morosco and Ralph Dietrich produced; Lynn Shores directed.

PHANTOM COWBOY (Rep)—A tale of Spanish settlers and landowners who are falling into the grasp of an unscrupulous ranch hand, and are saved by a prairie Robin Hood and a returning cowboy. Liberally strewn with outdoor action, discharging firearms and fast riding horses. Don Barry, Virginia Carroll.

STRAWBERRY BLONDE (WB)—A full measure of laughs, a few tears, a large helping of romance and a dash of bittersweet nostalgia are expertly blended against authentic backgrounds, atmosphere and music of the gay nineties to compound a story which, entrusted to a sterling cast, emerges as a film treat for which great popularity and profit may be confidently prophesied. James Cagney, Olivia de Havilland and Rita Hayworth are starred. William Cagney produced; Raoul Walsh directed.

Complete reviews on the above features will appear in an early issue.

Bills Regulating Outdoor Advertising in Albany

ALBANY—Regulation of outdoor advertising, for years a bone of contention in the legislature, is to be chewed over at the current session. Bills restricting this type of advertising already have been introduced by Sen. Thomas C. Desmond, Newburgh, and by Sen. G. Frank Wallace, Syracuse, and Assemblyman Robert F. Wagner, New York. Others are expected.

Long Runs Causing Philly Product "Jam"

PHILADELPHIA—Long runs in Warner's downtown key houses have caused a "jam-up" of product which "means slow strangulation for every subsequent run independent exhibitor in this area," William Goldman, independent circuit head, charges.

In a letter mailed to all exchanges—with mimeographed copies going to all independent exhibitors in the area—Goldman asserts:

"The bottleneck means that many important pictures will be delayed until Lent, when patronage always falls off, and this backlog of films will not become available until into the summer. Further, delay in promptly playing the pictures while they are new and novel has a marked effect on the receipts, inasmuch as these pictures have been published in the movie magazines months back.

"And while the first run downtown houses are tied up with extended run pictures, coupled with the fact that distributors will not agree to their 'A' pictures going into 'B' houses, there is an accumulation of unplayed, undated pictures, drying up in the vaults. And this backlog thus created stops the flow of product, the life's blood of the theatre, to the independent subsequent run exhibitor, whose only alternative is to close his doors, or turn to repeats and reissues, which is tantamount to shuttering his theatre.

Offers an "A" Outlet

"I realize naturally that these pictures, now being bottlenecked because of Warner's physical impossibility to play them, are under contract to Warner. But, I am sure that it should likewise recognize an emergency exists, and therefore should make pictures available for play-off elsewhere, for which we can offer the Erlanger (recently acquired by Goldman) for an immediate and meritorious run in an 'A' theatre—also preventing 'A' pictures from going into a 'B' house.

"To further aid a steady infiltration of product to the subsequent run houses now being threatened with the impending shutdown, we would also be willing to waive the usual 28 days protection.

"If Warner should refuse to release these pictures, then it should likewise make the same gesture, and waive its protection, and permit these pictures to go into the subsequent run theatres."

The theatres he mentions as tied up are the Boyd, with "Philadelphia Story" in its fourth week, the Fox, with "High Sierra" in its second, the Stanley, with "Gone With the Wind" in its third, and the Aldine, with "Fantasia" coming in for an indefinite run.

Hollywood Who's Who Covers 500 Players

NEW YORK—A listing of 500 thumbnail biographies and pictures of screen players in 19 different categories with a foreword to each group by a representative spokesman is one of the features of *Hollywood Who's Who,* new semi-annual magazine published by Dell Publishing Co., the first edition of which hits the newsstands February 14. Albert P. Delacorte is editor.

PHILADELPHIA

A BENEFIT show for the widow of Jimmy Jones, late orchestra leader at the Fays, was scheduled at that house for Sunday. Jimmy Klaiss takes his place on the podium . . . Maurice Rosen, son and aide de camp of Sam Rosen, Monogram exchange head, has been listed as I-A by his draft board and may be in uniform the first week of March . . . Lillian Gimbel is the new girl behind the cashier's window at Monogram. She replaces Mollie Ellman, who is busy becoming Mrs. Joseph Miller . . . Norman "Nooky" Beckett will celebrate the 16th anniversary of his cigars, etc., emporium at 13th and Vine, February 25.

Al Holmstock, UA shipper, is due to go into National Guard uniform Monday for a year's service . . . Cecil Felt, who was given a premature send-off party and then was turned down by Uncle Sam's army, did the big thing by giving a "reciprocation stag party" at the Showmen's Club Thursday . . . Testimonial dinner for Earle Sweigert and Ulrik Smith, recently promoted Paramounters, will be held at the Warwick February 21 . . . Allen Lewis will be honored by Fellow Showmen-clubbers Monday with a dinner. Moe Verbin is dispensing tickets.

A smart exploitation job was handled by William Blum and George Handy for the opening of "Fantasia" at the Aldine. They held a special preview, at which they invited every important newspaper executive, all the critics, all exchange heads, a number of judges and many other key citizens. Result was that the whole town was buzzing with "Fantasia." All the papers gave plenty of space, with the *Record* contributing columns by its film and music critics; its feature columnist, Charles Fisher, and a front-page story on the Junior League's benefit showing Wednesday night.

The Arcadia is getting a renovation and repair once-over . . . Steve Barutio's district is leading the Warner league in competition for $1,750 *in cash prizes, in a business drive dedicated to Joe Bernhard's 10th anniversary with Warners.*

"Fantasia" 125% Top In a Slow Stanza

NEW YORK—Catch-as-catch-can sounded like the Broadway first run theme song for the week, so "Western Union," "Virginia" and "Gone With the Wind" caught the best there was around, which was nothing special.

The telegraphic epic at the Roxy holds until February 20, when "Tobacco Road" goes in. The former tallied a creditable $43,000 the first stanza. "Virginia" at the Paramount wound up a second week with a very nice claimed $49,000 and holds a third. "Wind" was a nice $40,000 at the end of the third week, and ends a four-week engagement Wednesday, following up with "Go West." The Strand is hobbling along with "Honeymoon for Three," although the booking calls for two weeks and the Music Hall's "Arizona" was somewhat disappointing, dropping out Wednesday to make room for "This Thing Called Love."

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 18th road-show wk. 100
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 13th road-show wk. 125
Capitol—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 110
Criterion—**Life With Henry** (Para't) 90
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 7th wk. 100
Paramount—**Virginia** (Para't), 2nd wk, plus stage show 100
Radio City Music Hall—**Arizona** (Col), plus stage show 85
Rialto—**Face Behind the Mask** (Col) 95
Rivoli—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 4th wk. 100
Roxy—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 110
Strand—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB), plus stage show 90

"Back Street," "Story" Divide Capital Honors

WASHINGTON—Debut of "The Philadelphia Story" at the Palace and "Back Street" at Keith's call for toss of coin, as both share the limelight and are going strong. "Gone With the Wind" on move-over to Columbia from Palace still riding even keel.

Detail for week ending February 13:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Road Show** (UA), plus stage show... 90
Columbia—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M)..... 100
Earle—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), plus stage show 110
Keith's—**Back Street** (Univ) 175
Metropolitan—**Victory** (Para't) 100
Palace—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 175

Warner Men to Coast to Confer on New Season

NEW YORK—Gradwell Sears, Carl Leserman, Sam Schneider, Ben Kalmenson and Roy H. Haines will leave for the Warner studio the first week in March for conferences on next season's program. The home office group was scheduled to depart last week but deferred the trip until next month.

Columbia's 11th Annual Dinner-Dance Feb. 22

NEW YORK—Columbia will hold its 11th annual dinner and dance February 22 at the Waldorf. The affair will be formal with Phil Weissman, president of the Columbian Club, handling arrangements.

Clearance Up First Here

New York—Looming as the first local complaint with the arbitration tribunal is the grievance on clearance of Jack Fields of the Cameo, Jersey City, against Skouras' Fulton and major distributors.

Fields contends his theatre seats more than 1,400 while he has to follow a number of 500 and 600 seat houses, including the Fulton. He has complained to local exchanges for some time and recently engaged Emil K. Ellis, attorney, to secure relief from the majors. Ellis had been working on the case for a while and then dropped it.

Before taking over the theatre, Fields had been a booker for the New Jersey Paramount exchange for a number of years.

WASHINGTON

THE Variety Club will celebrate a combination St. Valentine's Day-Washington's Birthday with a luncheon at the Willard Monday, February 17. Archie Engel and Eddie Melnicker will be "Kings for the Day" . . . John J. Payette, Warner zone manager, is sun tanning on Miami shores. He was accompanied by George Crouch, assistant zone manager, and Al Pratt, Warner sound man. The trio no doubt will break bread with other notables from the local scene, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Lichtman, Columbia's Sam Galanty, and Monogram's Harry Brown . . . Sidney Bowden of the Wilder circuit is vacationing via a cruise to South America.

Sidney Lust gave a farewell party at his Hyattsville house Tuesday evening February 11, *for the entire personnel of Company F, 1st Maryland Regiment of the National Guard, which has been called to service . . . Max Cohen, Universal branch manager, returned from the managers' convention in Chicago, gathered his flock and headed for the regional in Philly. Included in the group were salesmen Joe Young, Walter Davis, Barney Frank, and Sam Tabor . . . Joe Kaliski, a veteran of the Row, has joined the Warner sales staff in Cleveland . . . John F. Allen, Metro branch manager, accompanied District Manager Rudy Berger on a swing through Virginia.*

A consent decree meeting was held last Friday with the salesmen and bookers of the 20th-Fox staff, with William Sussman and Fred Pride presiding . . . May Feldman, secretary to Branch Manager Sam Wheeler, is at her home in Rochester for a respite . . . Al Miller, accessory manager, is mourning the loss of his father . . . Ian Sichelman, son of 20th-Fox's Ira, will celebrate his second birthday on the 17th. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sichelman are expected from New York for the occasion.

Stanly Summers, 20th-Fox head shipper, is vacationing in the southland . . . Joe Bernheimer, 20th-Fox projectionist, celebrated a birthday February 13 . . . *Likewise Mollie Gurtove.*

George T. Coleman of St. Paul, Va., has taken over the State, Damascus, from F. L. McCready . . . Bob Scheck, owner of the Ld. Baltimore, accompanied by Mike Leventhal, manager, took a boat to Miami . . . Sammy Bandler of the Leader has a wrenched back, the cause has the medicos baffled . . . Columbia's Danny Rosenthal was bedded with a cold for three days . . . Margaret Mortensen has resigned from RKO to join the British air corps staff . . . Esther Katznell and Marie Metzler are the newcomers to the RKO fold . . . Nat Levy, district manager, and Leo Devaney, Ned Depinet drive leader, held a drive meeting with the entire RKO force.

Mrs. Louis Gullen of Lawrenceville is wrestling with an attack of grippe . . . Paul Ramsdell of Gaithersburg is enjoying the shade of the palm trees . . . "U" notes reveal that Jack Klein, assistant shipper, journeyed to Philly to attend a wedding; Myrtle Friess added another year on the 11*th; Eunice Girardi has bested a severe cold while her co-worker Claudia Pfaff is at home heeding a threat of pneumonia.*

Rudy Berger, Metro district manager, celebrated his seventeenth year with M-G-M February 6. Anna Ridgely also took a bow for the same day marked her twelfth year with company . . . Mrs. John F. Allen and family have arrived from Cincinnati and taken residence on Calvert Street . . . The Carolina of Washington has changed hands from A. Marticos to Samuel L. Ashman & Co.

Columbia's "Exhibitors Goodwill Campaign" has been set for the 13 *week period of March* 1 *to May* 30 . . . *Rita Morrison is serving as a temporary clerk at UA . . . Marjorie Stinette, former secretary to Monogram's Harry Brown, is en route to Hollywood to join her sister in the office of Will Hays . . . George Gill of PRC visited the Big City . . . NSS's drive, "Beat Par Campaign," was launched February* 3 *and will carry to June* 7. $16,000 *in prizes is worth shooting at, with all employes eligible.*

Henry Hiser's engagement of "Night Train" broke all records at the Hiser . . . NSS's Norman Robbins has been assigned to the Philly branch for a spell . . . Branch Manager Art Jacobson headed for Richmond, Norfolk and surrounding situations.

Bill Taxing Chains Counts Theatres

ALBANY—A bill licensing chain stores in New York state, with theatres included in the definition of "store," and requiring the payment of yearly fees of from $50 to $1,000, depending upon the number of outlets, is pending in the legislature. Assemblyman Louis Bennett of New York City is sponsor of the measure for a third consecutive year. It was killed in committee in 1939 and 1940.

The license fee is fixed at: $50 for each store in excess of two and not more than five; $100 for each store in excess of five and not more than ten; $250 for each store in excess of ten and not more than 25; $1,000 for each store in excess of 25.

Violation of the act is made a misdemeanor, punishable upon conviction by a fine of $25 to $100. For each day the violation continues, the offense is declared a separate and distinct one.

BALTIMORE

JOE FIELDS, Rivoli, and his wife flew down to Florida . . . Lawrence Schanberger had members of the Amateur Press Club review "Back Street." The best one was published in the Baltimore *News-Post* . . . A "Get-Together" party was held by Variety. Free beer and sandwiches were served . . . Abe Cohen, Essex, is sporting a new car . . . While Louis Azarel, *News-Post* columnist, was in Florida for the premiere of "Back Street," his column was written one day by Howard Burman, a member of Variety . . . Vacationing in Florida are Frank Durkee and Arthur Pacy . . . "The Man Who Came to Dinner," with Alexander Woollcott, was held over at the Ford for a second week. That hasn't happened there in many a year.

William K. Saxton, Loew's city manager, is in Sinai Hospital . . . Clift Jarrett, former assistant manager of the Hippodrome, is now selling marquee neon lighting . . . "Night Train" is in its 11*th record-breaking week at the Little . . . Nine hundred children attended a party at the Stanley as guests of Rodney Collier, manager. They saw "Santa Fe Trail" . . . Victor Ackman is now doorman at Loew's Century. He replaces John Brady, resigned . . . Nearly* 400,000 *Baltimoreans have seen "GWTW" . . . The Cinema is featuring Artkino's "Mannerheim Line," film record of the Soviet-Finnish war . . . Howard Cooling, Maryland censor board inspector, says he is going on a diet . . . Tom Goldberg, Walbrook, has received a permit from the City Council to build a new theatre on the site of his former Goldberg, across the street from the Walbrook. House will seat about* 500, *will be named the Hilton.*

Those attending the Jewish War Veterans convention in Louisville: Dave Kaiser, Maryland Display Co.; Harry Vogelstein, Baltimore Poster Co., and Nathan Kress . . . Leon Zeller, Roxy, and his wife, returned from Florida with coats of tan . . . Gertrude Meade, cashier, Rivoli, underwent an operation Friday. She is coming along nicely . . . Reports that plans for a Managers' Club in Baltimore are under way . . . George Raft, Wayne Morris and Maureen O'Hara appeared at the President's Birthday Ball here . . . J. L. Schanberger, Keith's, reports that the premiere of "Back Street" last Thursday was a big success. Most of the proceeds were turned over to the Maryland League for Crippled Children. Prices were $1 and 50 cents.

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BUFFALO

UNIVERSAL'S "Buck Privates" was "sneaked" at A. C. Hayman's Lafayette. The preview was handled by George McKenna, manager of the theatre, and W. F. Bork, city salesman for the exchange. John J. Scully, branch manager for Universal, was unable to attend because of an important company meeting in Chicago . . . Leland Stowe, noted foreign correspondent, lectured at Kleinhans Music Hall . . . Kiddie parties are in order on Washington's birthday at the various Shea houses, with prizes to be distributed to lucky children. Through neighborhood tie-ups, Bob Dame, Niagara manager, secured a camera and a scooter; Jim Stubbe, North Park, a radio, and Bob Demming, Elmwood, a bicycle.

W. E. J. Martin, Courier-Express *scribe, tells us the Apollo will soon be opened. It is a Basil Bros. house . . . Tonawanda's rebuilt Star is about ready, too, and plans for a university district theatre are going forward . . . Phil Fox of Columbia is the father of a boy . . . This week finds Jack Fury, Shea electrician, on the sick list. He is confined to his home . . . Allan Poole of the maintenance department was called home because of the illness of his wife and children . . . Carl Rindcen, Kenmore manager, celebrates a birthday, March 5.*

After the British relief benefit at the Great Lakes, George A. Mason will ready his staff for another benefit, a three-hour vaudeville show to be presented at the Lakes March 8 for Greek war relief. Show will be sponsored by Variety. Working to assure its success are Elmer Lux, RKO branch manager; Murray Whiteman, Irving Fried, Phil Fox of Columbia; Syd Samson, 20th Century-Fox; Melvyn Schwartz, Ralph Maw, M-G-M; George F. Hanny jr., Stanley Kozanowski and Nicholas J. Basil of the Basil Bros. Circuit . . . Shea service employes' Benevolent Association, through Mart Murret, president, are still trying to organize a party for members to be held at the Variety Club shortly. May we suggest they contact Syd Lehman, newly elected chief barker . . . After looking out the window at the snow drifts, we wonder how Marion Gueth and Marion Walsh are enjoying their cruise through southern waters.

Shea's Hippodrome, sister theatre to the Buffalo, will inaugurate a new policy on the 28th by bringing back stage shows. This will mark the first time in almost a decade that the boards of the Hipp have felt the step of living people. Local observers are of the belief the new venture will meet with success. The Hippodrome, in its prime, presented such stars as Clara Kimball Young, Milton Berle, Earl Carroll's "Vanities" and "The Chocolate Soldier." This will make the third part-time vaudeville house in Buffalo. The other two are Shea's Buffalo and Dipson's Twentieth Century . . . F. Schlageter, musician who played under Victor Herbert, died last week in Florida. He was the uncle of Paul Schlageter, Shea switchboard operator.

20th-Fox N. Y. Branch Gets Decree Analysis

NEW YORK—Having discussed the decree with the Philadelphia sales force the week before, William Sussman, eastern division head for 20th-Fox, and Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, attorneys for the distributor, detailed various phases of the document to the New York exchange Monday, on Thursday appeared before the Cincinnati staff and on Friday the Cleveland office.

Next week both men expect to visit a number of other branches and will continue these junkets until the entire division is covered.

Felix Jenkins, general counsel for 20th-Fox, has been making the rounds of the entire coast division, working his way to the midwest, following which he will head south. Division Manager William C. Gehring has been accompanying Jenkins on the midwest tour and will be with him on the southern trek.

When National Theatres divisional and district heads meet with home office executives at its annual convention on the coast, Richard E. Dwight of the same legal firm as Pride will talk to the circuit men on the decree. The dates for the convention have again been put back with present indications the sessions will not take place before March 3.

Detroit and Chicago to See "Fantasia" Next

NEW YORK—The next two engagements of "Fantasia" are set for the Wilson, Detroit, February 18, and the Apollo, Chicago, February 19. Although theatres have not yet been definitely set, the following two cities to show the film are San Francisco and Pittsburgh, with Washington to follow.

Installation Party for Big U Club Officers

NEW YORK—Newly elected officers of the Big U Club were inducted at a ceremony and party at the exchange on Friday. Harry Fellerman is president; Fred Mayer, vice-president; James Davidson, treasurer; Rose Youngfield, secretary, and Tom Goff, sergeant-at-arms.

"Double Bill Shock Show" Lined Up by Paramount

NEW YORK—Paramount is offering a "double bill shock show" in the form of "The Mad Doctor" coupled with "The Monster and the Girl." Bookings on the first-named will be held up in dual territories until prints of "Monster" arrive at the exchanges around February 28.

Topline for C. Aubrey

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has signed C. Aubrey Smith for a topline in their remake of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

Curb Youngsters in Amusement Field

ALBANY—A law uniformly regulating the employment of youngsters under 16 in motion pictures, stage shows, theatres and all other branches of the entertainment business, is proposed in identical bills sponsored by Sen. William H. Hampton, Utica, and by Assemblyman Harold B. Ehrlich, Buffalo.

The measure inserts a new section in the education law and repeals a section of the penal law. It would allow children to work in pictures, shows, etc., provided written consent is given by the board of education of a city, village or district, or by a delegated school official. This permission would be granted when school authorities deem the employment not to be harmful or undesirable from the viewpoint of welfare and proper education of the child.

Application in writing would have to be made 72 hours before a proposed performance, such application to contain detailed information as to the child, the part it is to play, etc. Action by officials on the application could not be delayed more than 48 hours. The commissioner of education would have power to prescribe rules.

Violation of the act would be a misdemeanor. The state department of labor would be entrusted with its enforcement.

Action Against Delaware Blue Laws Is Blocked

WILMINGTON, DEL.—Attempts to repeal the ancient Delaware Sunday blue laws by a record-breaking action in the general assembly at Dover ran afoul of varied but stern opposition in the house of representatives Friday, after the senate had passed the liberalizing local option measure the day before by a 14 to 3 vote.

The bill, introduced by Senator Paul Rinard of Wilmington, Thursday morning, was reported favorably by the judiciary committee early in the afternoon and half an hour later was called up for a vote.

Similar procedure was attempted in the house in an effort to pass it and place the bill before Governor Walter Bacon, but opposition forced postponement.

The bill would abolish the two-century old sabbath statutes and substitute local option. While Sunday shows are not mentioned in the measure, they would be possible in those municipalities where legislative bodies approve and provide proper regulations.

Demolish Albany Dwelling For New Warner House

ALBANY—A wrecking company is demolishing a dwelling at 290 Delaware Avenue to make way for a 699-seat theatre to be built for and leased by Warner Bros. House will cost between $40,000 and $50,000.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Whither Goldwyn? Is Moot Studio Topic

Settlement of the Samuel Goldwyn-United Artists lawsuit whereby Goldwyn, as announced last week, is given a release from his UA distribution contract, has given rise to queries as to the possible channels through which the veteran producer's future films will be released. The only definite information available through the Goldwyn organization is that his next film, "The Little Foxes," will go into work shortly and that Bette Davis has been borrowed from Warner for the lead in the screen version of the Lillian Hellman play, which William Wyler will direct.

Both 20th Century-Fox and Warner have been mentioned as strong possibilities by those conjecturing as to where Goldwyn's product will be distributed, and there have even been rumors circulating to the effect he may release through UA despite his long, and now successful efforts, to break away from that organization. Most likely of the three, the consensus is in the absence of any confirmation, is Warner. Reasoning advanced for this candidate is the fact that at the time he was making "The Westerner," Goldwyn had gone so far as to tentatively arrange a release deal for that picture with the Warner company, which was later withdrawn when UA threatened legal action. Too, indications that Goldwyn may favor a Warner deal are seen by some in the interchange of talent which has been manifested between the two organizations. For example, Goldwyn, in borrowing Bette Davis for "The Little Foxes," lent Gary Cooper to Warner to star in "Sergeant York."

A joint official statement was issued by Goldwyn and UA when settlement of their suit was reached. It follows:

"Negotiations have been completed between Samuel Goldwyn and United Artists, whereby United Artists has granted to Mr. Goldwyn his immediate release from his United Artists distributing contract. United Artists has also arranged for the purchase of Mr. Goldwyn's stock in the United Artists distributing corporation. Mr. Goldwyn's suit against United Artists will be immediately withdrawn."

Botsford, Moss Quit

Producers A. M. Botsford and Jack Moss have resigned their Paramount posts. Botsford will continue in association with William LeBaron who recently resigned as Paramount production head. Moss joins Walter Wanger as production associate.

Katzman Prepares One

For Monogram, Sam Katzman is preparing "Murder by Proxy," being scripted by Al Martin, and "Ghosts of the Night," an East Side Kids vehicle which William Lively is writing.



The Studio Delegation—

From Hollywood came these Universal executives to Chicago for the company's annual sales convention. Left to right, Milton Feld, studio executive; Dan Kelley, casting director, and Cliff Work, vice-president and studio manager.

(Production Details on Page 15 This Issue)

Rosten Film Volume Due in the Fall

Two solid years of exhaustive research and analysis, during which the film colony in its every phase was placed under a figurative microscope by Dr. Leo C. Rosten and his Motion Picture Research Project, will culminate this fall in the form of the first of a three-volume series which Rosten is now writing under grants from the Carnegie Institute and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Rosten told BOXOFFICE he expects to have the initial volume in his trilogy completed this spring, to be published probably in September by Harcourt-Brace. He has closed his Hollywood headquarters and retired to a San Fernando Valley retreat with a carload of data, charts, facts and figures from which the books are being shaped.

The work has been delayed, Rosten explained, for since last July he was appointed to the national defense commission as Hollywood representative and has devoted considerable of his time since to that work, in addition to his research project. As a matter of fact, he is due in Washington, in about six weeks for further defense program conferences, which means his other work will again be tabled for some time.

First to Personalities

First volume in the series will be devoted to the people of the motion picture colony —the salaries they earn, the jobs they hold, their outlook on life. In essence, Rosten points out, it will be a sociological analysis—"but a readable one," he adds.

Volume Two will concern the industry itself—the economics of picture-making, size of the various film corporations, financial records, the growth of organized labor, and exhibitor problems. Third in the series will treat of the actual completed motion picture—what goes into it, what must be left out of it, censorship regulations both domestic and international, the Production Code, the influence of the film throughout the world and other aspects.

Rosten plans to headquarter here until the work of correlating and writing his material has been completed. A sociologist, he is also noted as the author, under the pseudonym of Leonard Q. Ross, of "The Education of Hyman Kaplan," a series of humorous sketches first contributed to the *New Yorker* and then compiled in book form.



Averting All Doctoring—

When O. Henry Briggs made his first visit to Hollywood since his election to the presidency of Producers Releasing Corp., local employes of the company tendered him a "red apple" reception. Here is the lineup of PRC producers who tendered their chieftain some brightly polished Washington apples—left to right: T. H. Richmond, Sigmund Neufeld, Jed Buell, Briggs, E. B. Derr and John T. Coyle.

Drama to the Fore; Westerns, Comedies, Then Musicals

Unadulterated dramatic offerings, ranging from mysteries and stories of adventure to aviation melodramas, hold the dominant position in the lineup of product to come out of Hollywood's motion picture studios during the next three-month period. Sharing the second ranking position are the ever-reliable westerns and comedies, with musicals bringing up the rear of the procession.

Dramas to be produced include:

Monogram—"The Million Dollar Mystery" and "Trail of the Yukon." Warner—"Dive Bomber." Metro—"Washington Melodrama." Paramount—"Aloma of the South Seas," "College Mystery" and "Forced Landing." Republic—"The Lady From New Orleans." Twentieth Century-Fox—"Man Hunt." RKO Radio—"Before the Fact" and "Water Gypsies." Universal—an untitled Richard Arlen-Andy Devine co-starrer. Sol Lesser—"Strange Victory." Argosy (for release by Walter Wanger through United Artists)—"The Eagle Squadron." David O. Selznick—"Jane Eyre."

Among the westerns are Columbia's "Texas" and "North of the Lone Star;" Warner's "The Bad Men of Missouri;" Paramount's "Pioneer Woman," and Monogram's "Tumbledown Ranch in Arizona" and "The Pioneers."

"Little Miss Muffett" and "Buy Me That Town" are Paramount's contributions to the comedy slate. RKO Radio has "Tom, Dick and Harry" and "True to Form." Universal will launch "Oh, Charlie," and Hal Roach is preparing "Niagara Falls."

In the musical category are Metro's "Lady Be Good" and "Smilin' Through." Paramount lists "Birth of the Blues;" Republic will roll "Rookies on Parade," and 20th Century-Fox is preparing "Miami."

Cartoonists Prepare For New Bargaining

Having launched its collective bargaining fight against Walt Disney Productions, Inc., by filing an "unfair" complaint against the cartoon studio with the national labor relations board, the Screen Cartoonists Guild is now preparing to open bargaining negotiations with two other production units—Walter Lantz and Screen Gems. SCG members at the Disney plant met to elect unit officers, then participated in a general meeting with other SCG personnel, at which it was revealed a contract covering working conditions and wage demands is already being drafted for submission to Disney executives. The NLRB is not expected to set a hearing date on the SCB petition against Disney, however, for about three weeks. Disney's plant is charged with maintaining a "company" union, the Federation of Screen Cartoonists, and of refusing to open bargaining negotiations with the SCG, although the latter claims a majority of the approximately 600 Disney employes.

Check Extras' Earnings

Before taking any steps toward eliminating so-called "casual" extras from the industry in accordance with recommendations of the producer-Screen Actors Guild standing committee, the SAG and Central Casting Corp. are making a check on extras' earnings. These figures, expected to be complete by March 1, will be used as the basis of any pruning of extra lists, deemed necessary to aid the currently serious unemployment situation.

Screen Publicists Guild has appointed a new negotiating committee, headed by Jerry Breitigam, to meet with producers concerning revisions which the organization is seeking in its five-year contract with producers. It particularly desires changes in clauses pertaining to vacations and severance pay.

Affiliated Property Craftsmen, Local 44, IATSE, is seeking the aid of the IA international in its current negotiations with producers, in which it is demanding a six-hour minimum call, improved wages and working conditions.

Laboratory Technicians, Local 683, IATSE, has forwarded a draft of its proposed new producer contract to the IA international for approval before submitting it to producers. New pact calls for a guaranteed 36-hour minimum week, improved working conditions and a 10 per cent wage increase in all classifications.

90-Minute Airshow For Greek Cause

Paced by all the trappings usually associated with a gala world premiere, Hollywood's film industry united with the radio world to participate in one of the most extensive benefit efforts staged to date when a 90-minute broadcast was unfurled February 8 at Grauman's Chinese Theatre on behalf of the Greek War Relief Fund. NBC and the Mutual network aired the show, which tied into similar broadcasts emanating from London and Greece. More than 2,000 spectators filled the theatre, paying an average of $10 per seat, the entire proceeds going into Greek War Relief coffers.

Spencer Tracy presided and Jack Benny and Bob Hope shared the master of ceremonies chore. Performers included Mickey Rooney, Lewis Stone, Fay Holden and Ann Rutherford of the "Hardy Family;" Tony Martin, Robert Taylor, Barbara Stanwyck, Melvyn Douglas, Charles Laughton, Clark Gable, Merle Oberon, George Raft, Ronald Colman, Groucho Marx, Madeleine Carroll, Frank Morgan, Dick Powell, Alice Faye, Reginald Owen, Charles Holland, Shirley Temple, Carole Lombard, Myrna Loy, Tyrone Power and many others. Louis K. Sidney of M-G-M produced the broadcast and Meredith Willson conducted the music.

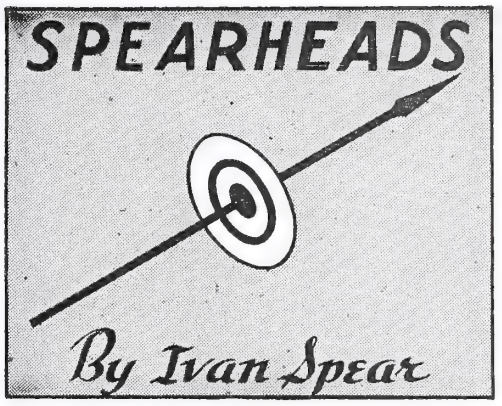
Meantime the British American Ambulance Corps held a benefit premiere of "London Can Take It" and a French film, "Of Human Passions," at the Esquire Theatre in Hollywood, with proceeds going into its coffers for the purchase of field ambulances for the British forces.

French War Relief Association held a Valentine benefit ball at the Biltmore Hotel, with Carmen Miranda among the film headliners appearing on the program.

Production is scheduled to start early in March on "Let the Rafters Ring," to which British members of the film colony are contributing their services and revenue from which will go to Britain and American charities. Frank Lloyd will wield the megaphone on opening scenes, to be shot at RKO Radio, with Madeleine Carroll, George Sanders, Charles Laughton and Jessie Ralph to face the cameras. RKO Radio will distribute the film at cost.

Buy Van Druten Play

Warner has acquired screen rights to "Old Acquaintance," Broadway play by John Van Druten. Olivia de Havilland is tentatively set for a top line.



RARELY, if ever, have so many production, distribution, exhibition and exploitation mistakes been wrapped up in a package. The reference is to the "Spook - Week - With - a - Double-Terror-Show" program which just closed at the Paramount Theatre, Los Angeles. "The Mad Doctor" and "The Monster and the Girl," both Paramount productions, were dualed. Presumably exhibitors in other cities are being urged to book the same double-chiller bill.

The ultimate Patsy in the error-laden situation will be Ellen Drew. For months that personable young lady has been hailed by Paramount publicists as one of the star discoveries of the century. Reams of copy have been released touting her talents and the great plans the company has for her film future. Miss Drew does photograph well, has considerable acting ability and, with the proper careful handling, could probably go places. She was given the top feminine acting spot in both of the horror features, either one of which bits of miscasting was sufficiently dangerous to jeopardize her career.

Then, to make doubly sure of ruining her popularity, the powers-that-be book the two films as a single unit—a handicap which few players could overcome, even if they were exceptional features, each with entirely different subject matter. A fan would have to be rabid, indeed, to want to see his or her favorite starred in both pictures on a double bill; and, to date, Miss Drew is a favorite with comparatively few ticket buyers.

Incidentally, "The Monster and the Girl" was produced under the title, "D. O. A.," and as such was intensively publicized for nearly a year—finished and shelved. Suddenly it emerged with a new name. Only those with a close touch on the Hollywood pulse knew it to be the same picture.

→

There's an explanation for the smell of sulphur and brimstone which assails the nostrils of the sojourner in the neighborhood of Gower and Melrose. RKO Radio is producing at one and the same time "The Devil and Miss Jones" and "The Devil and Daniel Webster."

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If Bill Boyd ever decides he is tired of playing Hopalong Cassidy in the films, he should be a cinch for radio offers following his appearance on a recent Charlie McCarthy-Edgar Bergen airshow. Another Hollywoodian to display suprising poise and magnetism before a coast-to-coast microphone was Producer David O. Selznick when he received a kudo on DeMille's Lux Theatre program.

Students in advanced dramatics at Stephens College, Columbia, Mo., named Bette Davis' portrayal in Warner's "The Letter" the year's outstanding screen performance.

Doesn't that make the annual Academy balloting and dinner a trifle anti-climactic and superfluous?

→

Studio executives who are constantly on the lookout for new screen material would do well to spend a little of their time further considering Orrin Tucker, the orchestra leader who made his film debut in Paramount's "You're the One." Tucker has looks, personality and a singing voice, and displayed remarkable competence as an actor in his first camera appearance. In addition, he and his orchestra rate near the top among popular music fans—a factor which would certainly add lustre to his boxoffice draw.

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BALLYHOODLUMS: Whenever a trade item appears stating that someone is "dickering" for a story with somebody else, which properly "might" be considered as a "possible" production for such-and-such a producer, it's a cinch that all of the principals are clients of Dave Epstein, guess-agent de luxe. Witness the following vague venture into the improbable: "Jack Oakie is negotiating with Howard Estabrook for rights to a comedy skit taken from Estabrook's three-act play, 'The Grady Family,' produced in 1914 by Klaw and Erlanger. Oakie wants the sketch for a contemplated South American tour."

Hysteria, Horror, Horses

Another starvation week confronted Hollywood's hungry reviewing brigade. There were no groceries and only four meager offerings to feed the souls of the esthetes and the maws of the boys and girls who write on string. Of the quavering quartette, Hal Roach's "Road Show" for United Artists release was an easy best.

There have been innumerable screwball comedies about people who were allegedly sane—but this is probably the first one in which the leading characters are admittedly zanies. The action in the Arnold Belgard-Harry Langdon-Mickell Novak script, from Eric Hatch's novel, gets under way in a nut house and gets nuttier as it progresses. For the customers who relish their humor in the broadest possible vein, with gags and slapstick predominating, there are no limits to the number of laughs it will furnish. Roach, who both produced and directed, evidently had the early-day screen funfests—which prevailed before Art came to the industry—firmly in mind when he made it; and, properly merchandized, the film should come through with a handsome revenue record. Adolphe Menjou, in the topline, justifies that casting by garnering most of the laughs, with Patsy Kelly and Charles Butterworth pressing him for the honors. Carole Landis and John Hubbard carry the romantic leads acceptably.

Further in the non compos mentis classification was Universal's "Meet the Chump," which would undoubtedly smash all existing boxoffice records, if squirrels bought theatre tickets—for it is nuttier than a dime's worth of peanut brittle. Just how much human patronage it will attract is, however, problematical—for its customers must be limited to those who can take their humor raw, crude and unrefined, and are not too exacting as to cast. The original story by Hal Hudson and Otis Garrett, and the script by Alex Gottlieb, take up where all previous screwball comedies left off, resorting to most of the tried-and-true gags found in such offerings since the days of Mack Sennett and incorporating a few of their own creation. Edward Cline's direction reflects his early training as a master of broad comedy. The vehicle is reasonably funny in spots, dull in others, but on the whole should serve satisfactorily wherever mirthful support material is desired. Hugh Herbert so completely dominates the cast that the work of the supporting players passes almost unnoticed.

* * *

The chills were supplied by "The Monster and the Girl," second of its ilk to be unfurled by Paramount within two weeks. It cannot hope for universal patronage or acclaim, but should find takers in profitable quantities among the horror fans, who almost undoubtedly will consider it a treat. The original script by Stuart Anthony has plenty of suspense and a bumper crop of murders which should be sufficient to sate the appetites of the most avid of chill-seekers. Adequately mounted as to production trappings, the feature is enacted by an able cast, topped by Ellen Drew and Robert Paige, and was given competent direction by Stuart Heisler. In supporting spots are such established menaces as Paul Lukas, Joseph Calleia and George Zucco.

* * *

As racetrack features go, 20th Century-Fox's "Ride, Kelly, Ride" measures up to expectations. Obviously it was designed for the action houses and Saturday matinee trade and has the necessary qualifications to please in those situations. It isn't pretentious enough, however, to secure or even expect bookings in more important spots. The cast is uniformly satisfactory, but lacks anything in the way of selling names—with the one possible exception of Eugene Pallette, who supplies the comedy. William Conselman jr. and Irving Cummings jr. contributed the script, adapted from a Peter B. Kyne story, and Norman Foster directed for the Sol M. Wurtzel production unit.

Hollywood—Personnelities

Briefies

Columbia

Cartoon Films, Ltd., is launching a new series of short subjects using a new three-color process developed and perfected by Dunningcolor Corp. Claim is that the new process simplifies and reduces the number of laboratory operations required for turning out release prints. Series will be for Columbia release.

EL BRENDEL is starring in an untitled two-reel hillbilly comedy, scripted by Harry Edwards and Elwood Ullman and being directed by Del Lord. Lord is also co-producing with Hugh McCollum.

Metro

Next Technicolor cartoon will be "Abdul—The Bul Bul Ameer," with Hugh Harman producing the one-reeler.

Next Carey Wilson short subject will be "Watchdog of a Nation," story of Harvey W. Wiley, the man who created the Pure Foods act.

Paramount

A distribution deal has been set with Scientific Films for a series of novelty shorts titled "Speaking of Animals." First, "Down on the Farm," will be released nationally April 18.

Cleffers

Columbia

WALTER G. SAMUELS sells two original songs for use in "Betty Co-Ed."

Metro

E. Y. "YIP" HARBURG sells three new tunes for use in "Babes on Broadway."

FRANZ WAXMAN handling musical score on "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

Warner Bros.

HOWARD JACKSON scoring "Singapore Woman."

NAT FINSTON completes recording of three operettas—"Algeria," by Victor Herbert; "Sari," by Emmerich Kalman, and "High Jinks," by Rudolph Friml. They are for reference of M-G-M producers and directors as the operettas are slated for future production.

Loanouts

Paramount

OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND borrowed from Warner for a co-starring spot with Paulette Goddard and Charles Boyer in "Hold Back the Dawn."

RKO Radio

IRVING REIS, director, has been borrowed by the Columbia Broadcasting System to produce and direct a special program of welcome for the "S. S. America" when it docks at San Francisco after its maiden voyage in the U. S. Merchant Marine from New York.

Meggers

Columbia

GEORGE MARSHALL to direct "Texas," a Samuel Bischoff production starring William Holden.

Paramount

COLBERT CLARK named associate producer on "Little Miss Muffett," Ann Shirley starrer to be made by the Sol C. Siegel unit.

20th Century-Fox

RALPH DIETRICH and **WALTER MOROSCO** to co-produce "Man Alive," a musical being scripted by John Larkin from an Albert Duffy story.

Options

Columbia

ANN MILLER, dancing star, signed for a role in "Show Business."

Metro

C. AUBREY SMITH draws a topline in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

SIDNEY BLACKMER joins cast of "Love Crazy."

BARTON MacLANE joins cast of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

ROBERT Z. LEONARD given new producer-director contract. He has been associated with the company for 17 years and will next produce "Two Women."

KATHLEEN LOCKHART draws support role in "Love Crazy."

Paramount

JEAN PHILLIPS, featured player, given new contract and a role in "Little Miss Muffett."

PRESTON STURGES given new writer-director contract. He is now preparing "Sullivan's Travels" as a Joel McCrea starrer.

EDITH HEAD draws new term contract as fashion designer and head of the studio wardrobe staff.

NILS ASTHER signed for a topline in "The Night of January 16."

KATHRYN STEVENS draws a role in "The Pioneer Woman." She is the daughter of Director Sam Wood.

Picture Corp. of America

RICHARD ARLEN signed to star in two more aviation features for Paramount release following "Power Dive."

Republic

The **ADA BROADBENT** dancers, ballet group, signed to perform three routines in "Sis Hopkins," the Judy Canova starrer.

20th Century-Fox

JANE WITHERS given new seven-year contract, effective when her present deal expires in December. She has appeared in 26 films for the company since 1934. Her next will be "Coast to Coast," musical to be produced by Milton Sperling from an Ethel Hill script.

Universal

GLADYS GEORGE and **BARTON MacLANE** given toplines in "Hit the Road," a "Little Tough Guys" feature to be directed by Joe May.

Warner Bros.

FAYE EMERSON, San Diego Community Theatre actress, given term contract and a role in "The Bride Came C. O. D."

Scripters

Columbia

SETON I. MILLER to "Heaven Can Wait," from a play by Harry Segal. Everett Riskin will produce.

KAREN DE WOLF to "Cowboy Joe," for production by Robert Sparks.

IRWIN SHAW to "Mr. Twilight," to be produced by Everett Riskin.

Frank Lloyd

GEORGE BRUCE to an untitled screenplay which Lloyd will produce and direct for Universal release.

Metro

FRED FINKLEHOFF to "Babes on Broadway," forthcoming musical.

WILLIAM R. LIPMAN to "The Bugles Blow at Midnight," for production by Frederick Stephani.

MARION PARSONNET to "Washington Melodrama," from a story by L. Du Rocher Macpherson. Edgar Selwyn and S. Sylvan Simon will produce and direct, respectively.

DOANE HOAG to "Wills," a John Nesbitt Passing Parade short.

EDMUND KELSO to "I Cover the Town," next Frankie Darro to be produced by Lindsley Parsons.

Paramount

J. ROBERT BREN and **GLADYS ATWATER** to "Two Bad Angels," a Sol C. Siegel production with Lloyd Nolan and Betty Brewer in the toplines.

CURTIS KENYON and **KENNETH EARL** to "The Night of January 16."

EVERETT FREEMAN to "Kiss the Boys Goodbye," from the Clare Booth play.

BRADFORD ROPES to "Paramount on Parade," musical to be produced by Sol C. Siegel.

RKO Radio

NORTON PARKER to "Deadwood Days," an original by Tom Gibson. Bert Gilroy will produce the Tim Holt western.

LYNN ROOT and **FRANK FENTON** to an untitled George Sanders starrer for Producer Howard Benedict.

Sol Lesser

FRANCES MARION to "Strange Victory," from the Rose Franken-William Brown Meloney story. Martha Scott will be starred.

20th Century-Fox

JOHN TAINTOR FOOTE to "The Black Swan" for Producer Harry Joe Brown.

STEVE FISHER to "Red Cross Girl," from his own original. Harry Joe Brown will produce.

CHARLES FISHER to "Red Cross Nurse." Harry Joe Brown produces.

Warner Bros.

AENEAS MACKENZIE and **WALLY KLEIN** to "The Widow of Devil's Island," forthcoming Bette Davis starrer, from an original story by Nichol Smith.

CASEY ROBINSON to "One Foot in Heaven," from the Hartzell Spence original.

Story Buys

Columbia

"Pal Joey," the play by John O'Hara, with songs by Rodgers and Hart. George Abbott, who produced the stage version, has been signed to transfer it to the screen.

Metro

"Johnny Eager," by James Edward Grant. John W. Considine jr. will produce the underworld story.

Paramount

"Lady in the Dark," Broadway hit by Moss Hart, with music by Kurt Weill and lyrics by Ira Gershwin. Production will start when the New York stage run and road tour have been completed. Purchase price was more than $275,000.

20th Century-Fox

"Duchess by Appointment," by Lady Mary Cameron. Cobina Wright jr. will be starred in the Ralph Dietrich-Walter Morosco production.

"Fraternity," magazine story by Mary C. McCall jr.

Warner Bros.

"Old Acquaintance," Broadway play by John Van Druten. Olivia de Havilland is tentatively set for a topline.

Technically

Metro

ART SMITH named unit manager on "Lady Be Good."

JOE BORGEAU to edit "Come Back Miss Pipps," Our Gang one-reeler.

BUD LAWTON to lens "The Man Who Changed the World," a Carey Wilson short.

RICHARD DUCE named unit art director on all future short subjects, his first to be "The Man Who Changed the World."

CHARLES HUNT named unit production manager on "The Uniform."

HUGH BOSWELL set as assistant director on "The Uniform."

Paramount

HALDANE DOUGLAS designing sets for "Little Miss Muffett."

JOHN COONAN named assistant director on "Aloma of the South Seas." **BUDDY COLEMAN** will be the assistant director on "Little Miss Muffett."

TED TETZLAFF to photograph "The Night of January 16."

RKO Radio

EDDIE DONAHUE named assistant director on "My Life With Caroline."

WILLIAM HAMILTON to edit "Before the Fact." It is his 600th cutting assignment.

VICTOR MILNER to photograph "My Life With Caroline."

Universal

RALPH DE LACY named art director on "Double Date."

Warner Bros.

ARTHUR LUKER replaces **CHUCK HANSON** as second assistant director on "Miss Wheelwright Discovers America." Hanson has been set as first assistant to Director Anatole Litvak on "The Gentle People."

ESDRAS HARTLEY named art director on "Highway West."

TERRY MORSE to edit "Three Sons O' Guns."

CARL WEYL named art director on "The Gentle People."

Begin Balloting on Award Contenders

From among ten films, five actor and actress performances, five supporting actor and actress performances, five directorial and 15 writing achievements, some 12,000 motion picture workers are now engaged in selecting those whom they deem most worthy of recognition in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 13th annual Awards of Merit. Ballots were mailed out February 13 and the final results, as tabulated by certified public accountants, will be announced at the Awards banquet scheduled for February 27 at the Biltmore Bowl.

Candidates for best production honors, as selected by actors, directors, writers and the producer and technical members of the Academy:

"All This, and Heaven Too," Warner; "Foreign Correspondent," Walter Wanger-United Artists; "The Grapes of Wrath," 20th Century-Fox; "The Great Dictator," Charles Chaplin-UA; "Kitty Foyle," RKO Radio; "The Letter," Warner; "The Long Voyage Home," Argosy Corp.-Walter Wanger-UA; "Our Town," Sol Lesser-UA; "The Philadelphia Story," Metro; "Rebecca," David O. Selznick-UA.

Best performance by an actor, as nominated by Class A members of the Screen Actors Guild:

Charles Chaplin in "The Great Dictator," Chaplin-UA; Henry Fonda in "The Grapes of Wrath," 20th Century-Fox; Raymond Massey in "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," Max Gordon Plays and Pictures-RKO Radio; Laurence Olivier in "Rebecca," David O. Selznick-UA; James Stewart in "The Philadelphia Story," Metro.

Best performance by an actress, nominated by the SAG:

Bette Davis in "The Letter," Warner; Joan Fontaine in "Rebecca," Selznick-UA; Katharine Hepburn in "The Philadelphia Story," Metro; Ginger Rogers in "Kitty Foyle," RKO Radio; Martha Scott in "Our Town," Lesser-UA.

SAG's nominations for best performance by an actor in a supporting role:

Albert Basserman in "Foreign Correspondent," Wanger-UA; Walter Brennan in "The Westerner," Samuel Goldwyn-UA; William Gargan in "They Knew What They Wanted," RKO Radio; Jack Oakie in "The Great Dictator," Chaplin-UA; James Stephenson in "The Letter," Warner.

SAG's nominations for best performance by an actress in a supporting role:

Judith Anderson in "Rebecca," Selznick-UA; Jane Darwell in "The Grapes of Wrath," 20th Century-Fox; Ruth Hussey in "The Philadelphia Story," Metro; Barbara O'Neil in "All This, and Heaven Too," Warner; Marjorie Rambeau in "Primrose Path," RKO Radio.

Best directorial achievement, as nominated by the Screen Directors Guild:

John Ford, "The Grapes of Wrath," 20th Century-Fox; Sam Wood, "Kitty Foyle," RKO Radio; William Wyler, "The Letter," Warner; George Cukor, "The Philadelphia Story," Metro; Alfred Hitchcock, "Rebecca," Selznick-UA.

Writing nominations were made by screen writers meeting qualifications for active membership in the Screen Writers Guild. Nominated for the best original motion picture story were:

"Arise, My Love," Paramount, by Benjamin Glazer and John S. Toldy; "Comrade X," Metro, by Walter Reisch; "Edison, the Man," Metro, by Dore Schary and Hugo Butler; "My Favorite Wife," RKO Radio, by Bella and Samuel Spewack and Leo McCarey, and "The Westerner," Goldwyn-UA, by Stuart N. Lake.

For the best-written screenplay, regardless of whether developed from published material or from an original by some other writer or writers:

"The Grapes of Wrath," 20th Century-Fox, by Nunnally Johnson; "Kitty Foyle," RKO Radio, by Dalton Trumbo; "The Long Voyage Home," Argosy Corp.-Wanger-UA, by Dudley Nichols; "The Philadelphia Story," Metro, by Donald Ogden Stewart; "Rebecca," Selznick-UA, by Robert Sherwood and Joan Harrison.

Best original screenplay, the writer or writers of which are also the sole author or authors of the original:

"Angels Over Broadway," Columbia, by Ben Hecht; "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet," Warner, by John Huston, Norman Burnside and Heinz Herald; "Foreign Correspondent," Wanger-UA, by Charles Bennett and Joan Harrison; "The Great Dictator," Chaplin-UA, by Charles Chaplin, and "The Great McGinty," Paramount, by Preston Sturges.

Previously announced were nominations for best achievements in art direction, sound recording, cinematography, music, film editing and short subjects, including cartoons and one- and two-reel films.

Simultaneously Darryl F. Zanuck, chairman of the Academy Research Council, announced the appointment of six committees of technical experts to assist in appraising nominations for scientific or technical achievement awards. Membership includes:

Committee on laboratory nominations—Sidney Solow, chairman; Gerald Best, Philip E. Brigandi, C. R. Daily, Fred Gage, John K. Hilliard, George DeMoss, Kenneth Pier, Carl Schillinger, Ray Wilkinson. Committee on lighting nominations—John Arnold, chairman; Earl Miller, Walter Strohm, Joseph Valentine. Committee on photographic nominations—Keith Glennan, chairman; Lawrence Aicholtz, Winton Hoch, Grover Laube, Virgil Miller. Committee on production equipment nominations—Mitchell Leisen, chairman; Gavin Burns, Richard Day, D. Iszard, H. F. Koenekamp, Irving Pichel. Committee on sound nominations—E. H. Hansen, chairman; Lawrence Aicholtz, Daniel Bloomberg, Lloyd Goldsmith, John Livadary, Wesley C. Miller, T. T. Moulton, William Mueller, Clem Portman, Loren Ryder. Committee on special effects nominations—Farciot Edouart, chairman; R. O. Binger, Merle Chamberlin, Arnold Gillespie, Stanley Horsley, Paul Lerpae, William Thomas, Joseph Valentine, Vernon Walker.

Cinémarks

Kay Kyser, orchestra leader, is here for huddles with RKO Radio executives concerning plans for his third starring film, which David Butler will produce and direct.

*

Myrna Loy is planning a trip to her former ranch home near Redersberg, Mt., when she has completed her current M-G-M assignment.

*

Harry Link of Leo Feist, Inc., has returned to New York after conferences at M-G-M concerning a campaign on the musical selections in "Ziegfeld Girl."

*

Combining business with pleasure, S. Charles Einfeld, Warner advertising-publicity head, has sailed for Honolulu. While on vacation, Einfeld will investigate possibilities of taking the Hollywood press to Hawaii for the world premiere of "Navy Blues," forthcoming musical.

*

Director Jack Hively of RKO Radio is in New York to confer with Herbert and Dorothy Fields on their story, "Father Takes a Wife," which Hively will pilot . . . Norma Shearer has returned from a Sun Valley vacation.

*

William Seiter, his wife, Marian Nixon, and their family are in from a week's holiday in Palm Springs . . . Merian C. Cooper, executive producer for the Argosy Corp., has sailed for Europe to gather data for "The Eagle Squadron," to be filmed for release by Walter Wanger through United Artists.

REVIEW FLASHES

STRAWBERRY BLONDE (WB)—A full measure of laughs, a few tears, a large helping of romance and a dash of bittersweet nostalgia are expertly blended against authentic backgrounds, atmosphere and music of the gay nineties to compound a story which, entrusted to a sterling cast, emerges as a film treat for which great popularity and profit may be confidently prophesied. James Cagney, Olivia de Havilland and Rita Hayworth are starred. William Cagney produced; Raoul Walsh directed.

An SMPE Chairman

Loren Ryder has been appointed chairman of the West Coast Admissions Committee of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers by President Emery Huse. Members of Ryder's committee include H. W. Remerschied, Hollis Moyse, K. F. Morgan and J. G. Frayne.





Westerners in Chicago—

For the Universal product and sales convention at the Blackstone Hotel. Top row, left to right: A. J. O'Keefe, district manager, Los Angeles; E. T. Gomersall, district manager; G. C. Craddock, assistant to Wm. J. Heineman, western sales manager, and Heineman. In the bottom row, same order, are: Jack Langan, Denver; L. J. McGinley, Seattle; C. J. Feldman, Los Angeles; R. O. Wilson, Portland; Barney Rose, San Francisco; O'Keefe, again, and C. R. Wade, Salt Lake City.

(*Product Lineup on Page* 15 *in This Issue*)

SALT LAKE

GRACIE FIELDS, famed English comedienne who played to a packed tabernacle here in December to aid British war relief, will appear again in Salt Lake City March 18, completing a nationwide tour of this country . . . Anna May Wong, Chinese actress, has been invited to make a personal appearance at the Coconut Grove ballroom here for the "Bowl of Rice" party given for Chinese war relief . . . Susanna Foster, the Utah National Guard's "Sweetheart for a Day," sliced a gigantic birthday cake with the engraved saber of a colonel while here for a concert.

The Victory here has inaugurated parking service with the new policy of one big repeat engagement picture and a first run . . . Harry David, general manager for Intermountain Theatres, Inc.; Chet Price, Victory manager; and Bill Glasmann of Ogden, are back from New York . . . An attractive lobby display for "Go West" was on display at C. Clare Woods' Capitol, with intensified lighting making up the scheme of the display . . . "City for Conquest" is a holdover at the Victory.

"Rebecca," second run, is holding over at the Star . . . "Foreign Correspondent" went two weeks at the Studio and "Philadelphia Story" is now being transferred there after a successful week at the Centre . . . J. S. Abrose was in Salt Lake for a few days in connection with the Arthur W. Kelly sales drive. Abrose is in charge of Salt Lake, Denver and Omaha for UA . . . Bob Hill, district supervisor for Columbia, was in conferring with branch manager Bill Seib . . . F. H. Smith, Paramount branch manager, is expected back from a sales trip through Idaho.

The Joe Lawrence Theatre Co. enjoyed a successful opening of their newly acquired theatre, the Olympus at Holliday. The building has been completely renovated with new equipment, displays and seats . . . Sam Gardner, M-G-M chief here, is back from an extensive sales trip into Montana where he found conditions "fairly good" . . . M-G-M's "Maisie Was a Lady" was well received when previewed here this past week . . . Fox Intermountain Theatres will hold a regional meeting in Idaho Falls this weekend. More than 35 *managers of the Fox chain will be present from cities in Utah, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, according to Frank P. Larson, in charge of arrangements. Rick Ricketson of Denver, general manager of the chain, will preside.*

Practically unnoticed by bystanders, Bing Crosby and his eldest son, Gary, stepped off a train at the U. P. depot here and made a sightseeing tour of Salt Lake before continuing on to Sun Valley. It was Gary's first trip out of sunny California. They will meet Mrs. Crosby and the other boys at Sun Valley.

LOS ANGELES

GEORGE A. SMITH, former western district sales chieftain for Paramount, is conducting his successor, Hugh Braly, on a tour of the Pacific Coast exchanges. Smith is due in New York, March 1, to become western division sales manager for the company, and was tendered a farewell banquet February 7 at the Elks Club, attended by 250 exhibitors throughout the local territory. A. M. Botsford, Paramount producer, acted as toastmaster.

Combining business with pleasure on a two-week jaunt, Ben Fish, western district manager for United Artists, has sailed for Honolulu . . . Altec Service has installed a complete new sound system in Fox West Coast's Uptown Theatre, neighborhood house here . . . In for bookings: Murray Hawkins, general manager of the Swan circuit; Jenne Dodge, Mission and Mayfair theatres, Ventura; Mrs. Lorraine Valuskis, Valuskis, Willowbrook . . . Herb MacIntyre, western district manager for RKO, back in town after a visit to the San Francisco exchange.

Interior of the M-G-M exchange has been freshened up with a new coat of paint . . . Mike Newman, Columbia exploiteer, back from a business junket which took him to San Francisco and Seattle in connection with openings in those cities of "This Thing Called Love" . . . Film Alliance's "The Challenge" opened an indefinite run at the Hawaii in Hollywood, February 11, coupled with the David O. Selznick production, "Rebecca."

When Mac Sinift opened his new Normandie, February 7, among those attending was George Finch, a San Diego exhibitor and old friend of Sinift . . . Jerry Persell, manager of the local Postal Telegraph office, didn't have to buy his tickets for the Greek War Relief show at the Chinese Theatre. He won two $10 *seats on one of Fox West Coast's punchboards.*

Services were held February 11 for Viola Pennell, secretary at 20th Century-Fox, who died February 6 as the result of injuries suffered when an automobile knocked down the horse on which she was riding. Miss Pennell never regained consciousness. Engaged in operations with Victor McLaglen's Light Horse Troop at the time of her accident, Miss Pennell was given a military funeral by the McLaglen organization, following which her body was sent home to her family in Overland, Mo.

J. G. Maddux, who formerly operated theatres in Auburn, Wash., came in for a visit with Filmrow acquaintances . . . Boris Posner, operator of the Arlington, checked in on a booking trip . . . Frances Ramirez, secretary-booker at the Azteca exchange, took a couple of days off to nurse a cold.

Howard Stubbins, Monogram franchise holder for the Pacific Coast, left for San Francisco, Portland and Seattle for a week's tour of his exchanges . . . Fox West Coast has transferred Clark Blythe from its local real estate department to San Francisco to take charge of the circuit's northern California theatre rentals. Robert Northmore replaces Blythe here.

Unsettled Weather Aids Grosses in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY—Unsettled weather conditions may have added to the good patronage enjoyed by local theatres this week. The Intermountain area is experiencing a wide variety of weather with Montana, usually bitter cold during January and February, reporting weather like spring.

A holdover bill was reported at the Victory, which is double feature, one picture being "Prairie Schooners" and the other "City for Conquest." "Philadelphia Story" was in its second week at the Studio after its initial week at the Centre.

Detail for week ending February 5:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Go West** (M-G-M); **The Face Behind the Mask** (Col) 105
Centre—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....105
Rialto—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO) 105
Studio—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 105
Utah—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Private Detective** (20th-Fox) 105
Victory—**Prairie Schooners** (Col); **City for Conquest** (WB), 2nd run 105

Seattle First Runs Give Way Before Stage Show

SEATTLE—Lunt-Fontanne, appearing in person at the Metropolitan did a sweet business with a sellout at all performances. Motion pictures, despite added flow of money in town, are not doing what they should in comparison to general business. Liberty got away to a fine start on "This Thing Called Love." Other houses just getting along.

Detail for week ending February 8:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 3rd wk..... 90
Fifth Avenue—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..... 90
Liberty—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....120
Music Box—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Michael Shayne, Detective** (20th-Fox), 4th wk. 90
Orpheum—**High Sierra** (FN); **Where Did You Get That Girl?** (Univ), 2nd wk..... 90
Palomar—**Ridin' on a Rainbow** (Rep); **Remedy for Riches** (RKO), plus stage show..... 90
Paramount—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Little Men** (RKO) 100

"Hudson's Bay" on Dual Is Leader in Denver

DENVER—"Hudson's Bay" and "Michael Shayne, Detective" at the Denver took in the most money. "Philadelphia Story," in its second week at the Orpheum, was around average.

Detail for the week ending February 6:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Four Mothers** (WB), after wk. at Denver; **Here Comes the Navy** (WB), day and date with the Broadway 110
Broadway—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd wk. after a wk. at Broadway; **Here Comes the Navy** (WB), day and date with the Aladdin.....100
Denham—**Victory** (Para't) 60
Denver—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Michael Shayne, Detective** (20th-Fox) 135
Orpheum—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 100
Paramount—**Escape to Glory** (Col); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox) 110
Rialto—**Arizona** (Col), after wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **The Outsider** (SR) 120

Holdovers Rival New Ones In San Francisco Runs

SAN FRANCISCO—The best the first runs could do this week was hold their own—or worse. "Long Voyage Home" opened at the United Artists but could do no better than a bit above average. "Kitty Foyle" did the same in its second week. A couple of fourth-weekers, "This Thing Called Love" and "Comrade X" managed to garner considerable patrons despite the fact that they have been on Market Street for a month. The followers of "Maisie" helped the Warfield do average business.

Detail for week ending February 5:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Jennie** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100
Golden Gate—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), plus stage show, 2nd wk. 110
Orpheum—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col), 4th wk.. 80
Paramount—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 90
St. Francis—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox), 4th wk..... 90
United Artists—**Long Voyage Home** (UA).....110
Warfield—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); **Night Train** (20th-Fox) 100

"This Thing Called Love" Heads Good L. A. Week

LOS ANGELES—Top hit of a generally prosperous week in the first-run houses was "This Thing Called Love," booked with "Remedy for Riches" in a day-date run at the RKO Hillstreet and Pantages theatres. Extended runs included "Cheers for Miss Bishop," continuing a normal draw in its third week at the Four Star, and "High Sierra," coupled with "She Couldn't Say No," dipping slightly under average in its second stanza, day-date, at Warner's Downtown and Hollywood.

Detail for week ending February 5::

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) 100
Downtown—**High Sierra** (FN); **She Couldn't Say No** (FN), 2nd wk..... 90
Four Star—Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA), 3rd wk. 100
Hillstreet—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Remedy for Riches** (RKO) 150
Hollywood—**High Sierra** (FN); **She Couldn't Say No** (FN) 90
Pantages—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Remedy for Riches** (RKO) 150
Paramount—**You're the One** (Para't), plus Dinah Shore on stage 125
State—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) 100



Their Own "Premiere"—

Heading the parade of screen cowboys, Indians and stage coaches which preceded the recent opening of the Hitching Post Theatre on Hollywood Blvd. in Hollywood were "Arkansas Slim" Andrews, Betty Miles and Tex Ritter, Monogram cowboy star. All three are appearing in "Ridin' the Cherokee Trail." New theatre is the first in the film city devoted exclusively to screening western fare.

Anti-Ascap Plaint Not Yet Complete

LOS ANGELES—As yet uncompleted is the bill of complaint which Albert J. Law, as general counsel for the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, announced last week he will file in federal court here against the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers seeking to kill the "dual scoring" charge which exhibitors now pay for the privilege of screening films containing Ascap music.

Spokesmen for Law declare the attorney, a former department of justice deputy, has uncovered several "interesting" new angles in the projected anti-Ascap suit, which are being incorporated in the complaint. No specific explanation of them is, as yet, available, however.

The fight will be based on the contention that it is unfair for showmen to be forced to pay scoring charges to distributors on films in which there is Ascap music, and then are compelled to pay another charge direct to Ascap to screen the production.

Gibraltar Names Ward Manager in Santa Fe

SANTA FE, N. M.—Tom Ward, formerly with Gibraltar's theatres in Raton, has been named city manager of their three theatres here.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
1964 So. Vermont RO. 1145
LOS ANGELES

SEATTLE

RUBINOFF arrived this week with his $100,000 fiddle to do a concert under the auspices of a local club. Lots of free space in the papers and good tie-ups but biz was lukewarm. Along comes Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne to the Met appearing in "There Shall Be No Night"—just a couple of small newspaper ads and a complete sellout for the entire showings . . . Radio station KIRO will open its new spot on Vashion Island early in May. The Federal Communications Commission recently granted increase in power to this station jumping from 10,000 to 50,000, making it the most powerful in the northwest.

Chang Hung Sang and Mon Lei Fong, Chinese acrobats appearing at the Palomar, have only been in this country three weeks. Both are unable to speak English. This couple decided to be married so Jack Sampson, publicity ace for Sterling Theatres, with the aid of an interpreter, sold them the idea of a stage wedding. For the first time on any Seattle stage a real Chinese wedding was performed. The Palomar did extra biz, the audience witnessed something different, and the happy couple were handsomely repaid.

Mike Newman, Columbia publicity demon, spent a few days here campaigning "This Thing Called Love." Picture opened at the Jensen-von Herberg Liberty . . . Basil Gray, business agent of the Stage Employes Union, Local 15, states that the Lunt-Fontanne engagement at the Met furnished work for 21 stage employes and also 40 other theatre workers in the front of the house.

Word from California tells that Bob Gumm, formerly of Cinema Screen Service of this town, died and was buried in Fullerton . . . Joseph Monahan, local head of the American Arbitration Ass'n, is now settled in his new offices in the Marion Bldg. and waiting for business.

Jim Hone, executive secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of Washington, Idaho and Alaska, was host at a luncheon honoring H. M. Richey, assistant to W. F. Rodgers of Metro. At the table were Mike Barovic of Tacoma; Gene Groesbeck of Enumclaw; Fred Mercy jr. of Yakima; Morry Saffle local head of Metro, and Paul Westlund, B. F. Shearer, L. O. Lukan, Leroy V. Johnson, and J. von Herberg all of Seattle.

George Mitchell of National Screen Service is handing out the cigars. It was a boy who has been named Stephen Gerald . . . Lois Jones, until recently with the Paramount gang in Des Moines, Iowa, has joined the local office of Metro on Seattle's Row . . . L. J. McGinley, branch manager for Universal here, and Slats Wilson of the Portland exchange, off to a Chicago convention . . . B. F. Shearer announces that the Tower Theatre Corp.'s new house in Bremerton is coming along ahead of schedule.

Heaton Randall, manager of National Theatre Supply, out by plane for New York to attend a meeting of national managers . . . Joe and Dot Cooper celebrating their 13th wedding anniversary . . . Bill Duggan jr., local Monogram manager, back from the trip through Washington . . . Barclay Ardell, manager for Altec, after a business trip to Salt Lake and Denver has enjoyed a two weeks vacation in Los Angeles accompanied by Mrs. Ardell . . . The Northwest Film Club party for Valentine's day featured "various mistakes in double billing" . . . Eddie Lamb, branch manager of RKO, over to Bremerton to help with the grand opening of "Convoy." The theatre was "armed to the teeth" and business was a new record.

Herb Royster, in charge of theatre operation for Mrs. Pulver in Lewiston, Ida., here for a couple of days representing the Lions Club, of which he is president, in Lewiston . . . Peter Higgins back from Los Angeles where he was called by the death of his father . . . Harry Davidson of Port Angeles in the hospital here for an operation on his nose caused by an injury in a baseball game years ago . . . Lynn Peterson over from Bremerton and telling his newest story . . . Dorothy Mercy and Marian Walton off to Los Angeles.

Hal McLeod in from Portland and greeting old friends on the Row . . . Concrete work has been completed on Jay Twe's new theatre in North Bend and he is planning on opening March 16 . . . Bill Evans of Centralia in town for a day . . . Senior and Beryl Mercy back to Yakima after a vacation trip to Hollywood and other California spots . . . Mr. and Mrs. Will Hoffman, brother-in-law and sister of Kathryn Brobeck, here from Lewiston, Ida. . . . M. A. Ellsworth, who has been attached to the Universal office here, has returned to California . . . Ted Wilson of Leavenworth on the Row for the first time in three months . . . Bob Scott of the West Coast Candy Co. in Portland cracking up a truck but escaping injury.

Last Rites in Fullerton For Robert E. Gumm

FULLERTON, CAL.—Services, followed by burial at the Loma Vista Cemetery, were held here for Robert E. Gumm, 57, former operator of the Brea and La Habra theatres. Gumm was Chicago branch manager for National Theatre Supply for several years, and later manager of the NTS office in Indianapolis. He opened the Cinema Screen Service in Seattle in 1934, then came to California and purchased the Lomita, Brea and La Habra theatres, which he sold in 1940. His widow and a son, Richard, survive.

DENVER

FRANK H. (RICK) RICKETSON, division manager for Fox Intermountain Theatres, was re-elected president of the Rocky Mountain Screen Club at that organization's annual meeting in clubrooms at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Other officers include Joe H. Ashby, first vice-president; Robert Hill, second vice-president; Henry Friedel, treasurer; Ross Bluck, secretary, and Albert J. Gould, counsel. Directors include the officers and William Agren, A. P. Archer, Buzz Briggs, Duke Dunbar, Jack Langan, J. J. Morgan, Dr. John Zarit and Robert J. Garland. The executive council includes Ricketson, Ashby, Hill, Friedel, Bluck, R. J. Morrison and Mickey Gross. The club hopes to bring at least one world premiere to Denver this fall. Ted Halmi and John Denman were named to care for the public relations angle, with their first activity being the starting of a monthly bulletin for members.

John Henry Bock, 22, booker for Gibraltar Enterprises' theatres, died in a Denver hospital as a result of influenza and complications. Services were in Denver.

Dave Cockrill, manager of the Denham, in an ad in the papers, offered not only to refund money to any person who failed to get their money's worth out of seeing "Hard-Boiled Canary," but agreed to give them passes for some future attraction.

Connie Rose, salesman for Monogram, is making the Colorado territory in a new Oldsmobile . . . Claude Graves, now operating the Coronado in Albuquerque, plans to build another there, to seat 900, and hopes to have it open by July.

Charles Klein of the Black Hills Amusement Co., Deadwood, S. D., is receiving congratulations on the birth of a baby daughter to Mrs. Klein at St. Lukes Hospital Monday . . . Robert Hill, Columbia exchange manager, is recovering from a flu attack.

Ed Mapel, manager of the Gem, in town a few days, then back to the coast to get Mrs. Mapel, who is recovering in a hospital from the effects of an auto accident . . . For the first time in years the opening policy at the Kiva has been changed. Instead of opening at 10:30 the time now is 3 p. m.

J. J. Goodstein will reopen the Lincoln Park Theatre March 1. The house was so named when it was done over recently because of its proximity to the Lincoln Park housing project, which will shelter more than 350 families.

The Coppel Amusement Co. will reopen the Mora Theatre at Mora, N. M. The house was closed a few weeks ago because of a booth fire. Using portable equipment the resident manager will operate in Mora, Wagon Mound and Pecos, N. M., a total of five days a week.

John Bertalero, one of the partners in the Black Hills Amusement Co., Deadwood, S. D., has been called to duty in his capacity of captain in the National Guard, and he will leave soon for maneuvers in Louisiana.

J. T. Sheffield, owner of the Sheffield-Republic exchanges, was in town a couple of days conferring with Gene Gerbase, manager, and others at the local exchange. He left for Hollywood by way of Salt Lake City, where he also has an exchange.

"U" Conventionettes

CHICAGO—Delegate who traveled farther than anyone to attend the three-day Universal convention at the Blackstone was Harold Dudoff, manager of Universal Pictures, India, Ltd., Bombay. Dudoff, sporting a healthy Indian tan, arrived in this country February 4 after traveling 30 days. Before leaving for New York on Tuesday, he said he would probably remain in this country two or three months.

First of the contingent to leave the convention were the newsreel boys, Tom Mead and Joseph O'Brien, and Comptroller E. Walsh. They left on Sunday, the second day of the convention.

A. J. "Andy" Sharick, studio sales contact, and F. T. Murray, manager of branch operations, got up beautiful foyer display of the new Universal product which caused much favorable comment. Display was in large reception room of the Grand Ballroom where all meetings were held. Sharick and Murray worked on display almost the whole night preceding the initial meeting on Saturday morning.

One placard which had the boys talking, simply had the following words: "Boys, You're in Business—N. J. Blumberg."

Much favorable comment heard anent the company's slogan: "Universal Pictures, the Exhibitor's Insurance Policy for 1941-42."

Milton Feld, studio executive, was unable to get to Chicago until the second day of the convention. Joe Pasternak was unable to make it because of the press of duties on the west coast. He had his address put on transcription. Delegates heard talk at final session.

John Joseph, director of advertising and publicity, who started here in Chicago, spent spare time visiting old cronies. One person he saw was the popular *Daily News* sports editor and dramatic critic, Lloyd Lewis.

A Quartet Relight After Remodeling

CHICAGO—At least four Chicago theatres have opened within the last couple of weeks after extensive remodeling jobs. They include the Oakley, Ken, Rockne, and the Lyric.

The Oakley, a 1,000-seater, had a gala reopening on Tuesday, about $40,000 having been spent on improvements. Lester Retchin, who sold the Howard to B&K about eight months ago, is now operating it. His son, Sheldon, is managing. Young Retchin was formerly with Warner Bros. in San Francisco where he was employed as a booker and junior salesman.

The Ken, operated by Bennie Banowitz and John Landis, opened on Saturday. The Rockne until recently was known as the Ambassador.

New Sound at Racine

RACINE, WIS.—New RCA sound and projectors are being installed in Warner's State Theatre here. The house seats 800.





At the Universal Convention—

The Central area contingent to the annual product parley held Monday in the Blackstone at Chicago. Left to right, Ed Heiber, Detroit; L. J. Miller, Minneapolis; E. T. Gomersall, district manager; Frank Mantzke, Milwaukee; H. H. Hull, Indianapolis, and M. M. Gottlieb, Chicago. At the top is a close-up of Hull, newly appointed manager of the Indianapolis exchange.

(Product Detail Elsewhere in This Issue)

Regional Follows "U" Convention

CHICAGO—Following the three-day national convention of Universal here, February 8-10, at the Blackstone, the first of the regional meetings was held at the same hotel under the chairmanship of William J. Heineman, western sales manager, on Wednesday. Exchange managers and salesmen in the districts headed by E. T. "Peck" Gomersall, who headquarters in Chicago, and J. E. Garrison, who headquarters in Kansas City, attended the initial regional confab.

Following the meeting Heineman was scheduled to leave Thursday morning for New York and then planned to fly to Los Angeles on Sunday night. On Monday night he plans on going to San Francisco where another regional embracing branch managers and salesmen from the six key western cities is scheduled to be held Tuesday, February 18, at the St. Francis Hotel.

Heineman told BOXOFFICE that insofar as he knew there would be no additions made to the Universal sales force. He did say that one or two replacements might be made to the present staff.

Frank J. A. McCarthy, eastern sales manager, was scheduled to hold similar regional meetings in Cleveland, Philadelphia and New Orleans. He left Chicago last Tuesday afternoon and will probably wind up the regional meetings in New Orleans on Tuesday.

In addition to Heineman and Gomersall, others scheduled to attend the initial regional meeting at the Blackstone last Wednesday, included the following branch managers: M. M. "Manny" Gottlieb, Chicago; Frank Mantzke, Milwaukee; L. J. Miller, Minneapolis; Ed Heiber, Detroit and H. H. Hull, Indianapolis. The aforementioned are all in Gomersall's district.

Salesmen who were to attend included: Chicago—William E. Weinschenker, T. G. Meyers, R. W. Funk, M. C. Brodsky and Al Kent. Detroit—Jack Stewart, Bert G. Tighe and Jack R. Susami. Indianapolis—William H. Sherman and Carl F. Mock. Milwaukee—E. W. Gavin, R. J. Bassett and D. McFadzen. Minneapolis—Harold B. Johnson, A. L. Zacherl, M. P. Halloran, F. E. Abelson and R. H. Stahl.

Exchange managers in the territory supervised by District Manager J. E. Garrison who attended the Wednesday regional meeting included: Grover Parsons, Kansas City; Harry Hynes, St. Louis; Lou Levy, Des Moines and Otto Siegal, Omaha.

Will Build Theatre Near Leonard A. Wood Camp

JEFFERSON CITY—The secretary of state's office has granted a charter of incorporation to the Commonwealth Waynesville Corp. of Kansas City, Mo. The company plans to erect and operate a new theatre in Waynesville, Mo., adjacent to the General Leonard A. Wood army camp in central Missouri.

Incorporators are James W. Taylor, Byron Spencer and M. White, all of Kansas City.

Harry Graham Leads Equipment Dealers

CHICAGO—Harry W. Graham, Graham Bros., Denver, was elected executive secretary of the Theatre Equipment Dealers Protective Ass'n at the three-day meeting held at the Congress here February 8-10 which was attended by some 25 dealers from all over the country. No other officers will be elected by the group.

Purpose of the confab was "to further improvement in services to the theatre trade, to protect dealer-members against unethical practices that are liable to come up during the expected business boom, and to generally encourage exhibitors to look for quality in the selection of equipment and service."

In addition to the dealers, some 25 theatre equipment manufacturers were in attendance.

At the Sunday session a short talk was made to the manufacturers by Graham in which he outlined the intents and purposes of the dealer's association. The manufacturers approved the dealers' plans and agreed to cooperate fully with all suggestions made by dealers. The dealers, in turn, said they would cooperate both with manufacturers represented at the meeting and any other manufacturers with whom they might do business.

Graham said membership in the association is open to all "reliable and dependable" theatre supply houses. A nonprofit organization, the dealer's group will have very nominal dues, according to Graham. He said that to date there are 37 members. National headquarters of TEDPA will be located at 546 Lincoln Street, Denver.

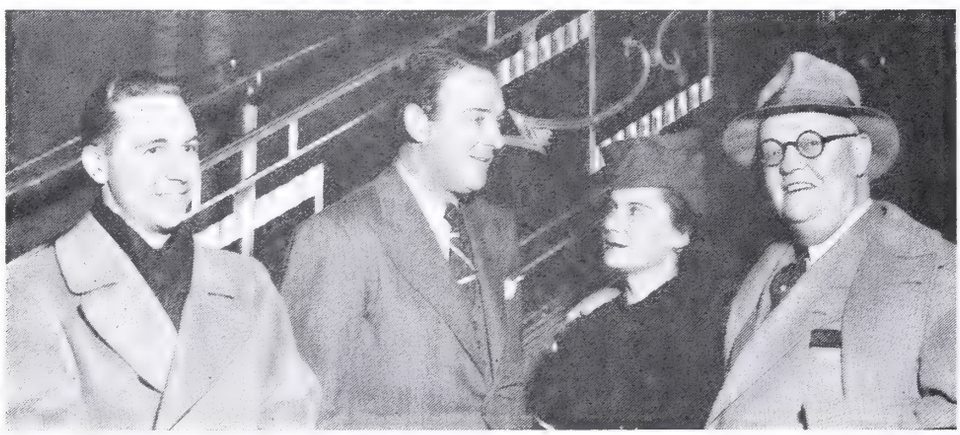
The organization is the first active one to be formed since the old independent theatre supply group disbanded about three years ago.

Dealers attending the three-day convention were, in addition to Graham: Ken Douglass, Capitol Theatre Supply, Boston; Des Moines Theatre Supply, Des Moines; Roy Colvin, Exhibitors' Supply Co., St. Louis; Falls City Theatre Equipment, Louisville; John P. Filbert, John P. Filbert Co., Los Angeles; Ger-Bar, Inc., Indianapolis; Joe Goldberg, Joe Goldberg, Inc., Chicago; M. O. O'Neill, Guercio & Barthel, Chicago; Joe Hornstein, Joe Hornstein Theatre Supply, New York City; Louisiana M. P. Equipment, New Orleans; George McArthur, McArthur Theatre Equipment, Detroit.

Eldon Peek, Oklahoma Theatre Supply, Oklahoma City; Walter G. Preddey, Walter G. Preddey Theatre Supply, San Francisco; Miss V. Harwell, Queen Feature Service, Birmingham; Ben Shearer representing the B. F. Shearer Co., Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Portland; Ray Smith, Ray Smith Co., Milwaukee; Southwestern Theatre Equipment Co., Houston; Stebbins Theatre Equipment, Kansas City, Mo.; F. A. Van Husan, Western Theatre Supply Co., Omaha; C. B. Paden, Western Theatrical Equipment, San Francisco.

Manufacturers represented at the convention included the following: E. J. Vallen, Vallen, Inc., Akron, Ohio; William A. Gedris and Ed Blanchard, Ideal Seating Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.; Harry Strong, Strong Electric Corp., Toledo, Ohio; H. Thorwell Matthews and Fred Matthews, Motiograph, Inc., Chicago; J. C. Heck, president and C. C. Cooley, sales manager, Da-Lite Screen Co., Chicago; Erwin Wagner, Wagner Sign Service Co., Chicago; J. J. Ansfield, Adler Silhouette Letter Co., Chicago; Edw. H. Wolk, Theatre Equipment and Parts, Chicago; Jake Mitchell, LaVezzi Machine Works, Chicago; L. W. Davee, Century Projector Co., New York, City, N. Y.; Homer B. Snook, RCA Mfg. Co., Camden, N. J.; L. D. Strong, Essanay Mfg. Co., Chicago.

James K. Elderkin, Forest Mfg. Co., Newark, N. J.; Robert L. Smith, Century Electric Co., St. Louis, Mo.; E. A. Williford, National Carbon Co., New York City; C. S. and Mrs. Ashcraft, C. S. Ashcraft Mfg. Co., Long Island City, N. Y.; Warner S. Victor, Projection Optics Co., Inc., Rochester, N. Y.; Lou Goldberg, Goldberg Bros., Denver, Colo.; M. Golde, Golde Mfg. Co., Chicago; T. Karatz, Air-Loc Seat Industries, Inc., Minneapolis; W. C. Stober, General Register Corp., Chicago; A. M. Pollack, St. Louis, Mo., and A. Siegal, Ansell-Simplex Ticket Co., Chicago.



With "Miss Bishop" Viewed—

Lobbying after the trade showing of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" at the Esquire, February 6, are, left to right: Howdee Myers of the publicity department of radio station WGN, William Gargan, male lead of the film; Doris Arden (Eleanor Keen) film critic of the Chicago Daily Times; *and Dick Rowland, producer of the UA release. Rowland left for Minneapolis for another trade screening following the one in Chicago.*

Hopeful Fast Time Bill Will Fail in Wisconsin

MADISON—Exhibitor leaders left the hearing on the Murray bill to legalize daylight savings time in Wisconsin before the senate state and local government committee hopeful that the measure will fail to be enacted.

Leaders of the medical profession, sponsor of the measure, met united opposition from the theatre industry, farmers' spokesman and labor in general.

The trade was represented in opposition to the bill by Steven J. Thomas, Racine, of the Wisconsin Association of Stage Employes and Projectionists, who said daylight saving probably would close 200 theatres in Wisconsin; Jack Warner, Milwaukee, of the Theatrical Stage Employes Local Union No. 18, and W. L. Ainsworth, Fond du Lac, president of the ITPA of Wisconsin.

Ainsworth outlined the history of daylight saving legislation and how its adoption has caused confusion.

Caused Mixup Before

On April 5, 1921, daylight saving was voted in Milwaukee despite the protest of farmers and labor, Ainsworth related. It went into effect June 29, 1930 in some industries in Milwaukee, he said, and not in others, thereby causing a considerable mixup. On May 17, 1931, Kenosha cancelled daylight saving time after it had been in effect for a month, he stated.

Chief proponent of the bill was Dr. Ralph P. Sproule, Milwaukee, president of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin.

Besides theatre owners, those indicating their opposition included the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, the Wisconsin Chiropractic Ass'n, the Wisconsin Farmers' Equity Union, the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture and the Milwaukee Gardeners' Ass'n.

Speaking for the State Federation of Labor, which he said has a membership of upward of 200,000, J. F. Friedrick, Milwaukee, recited how Milwaukee had voted 29,890 to 23,133 in favor of daylight saving in a referendum in April, 1921, and two years later had voted 34,515 to 24,769 for its discontinuance.

The Murray bill would repeal the present state law which requires the use of central standard time and would permit municipalities to adopt daylight saving at their pleasure.

Serlin Spurns 5 Offers To Film Smash Play

CHICAGO—Oscar Serlin, producer of "Life With Father," who is in town for the first anniversary celebration of his play at the Blackstone Theatre, told BOXOFFICE he has refused offers from five film companies to picturize his play.

Serlin said he has refused to sell for two reasons. Firstly, he does not want to make any screen commitments until the stage possibilities of the play have been exhausted not only in metropolitan centers but in outlying cities as well. Secondly, Serlin would want complete charge and responsibility for the screen version.

CHICAGO

SOME 400 educators, together with librarians and parent-teachers representatives, witnessed a special screening of Metro's "Land of Liberty" at the Cinema. Film opened Friday at the Garrick . . . Tom Gorman says that even though "Kitty Foyle" business warranted it being held for seventh week at Palace, it was decided at last minute to start "Buck Privates" last Tuesday. All RKO and Universal product was being "bottled up" in Chicago since those two companies have first run showing of their films at Palace. Following "Buck Privates," house will present "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," "Back Street" and "Citizen Kane."

Herb Elisburg reports swell business at his Studio on "Rebecca" which was chosen best picture of '40 by over 400 critics. Film also won BOXOFFICE *Blue Ribbon award in April . . . Ben Bernie, heading east from Hollywood, arrived in town via Santa Fe Super Chief, Sunday . . . Lieut. Harry M. Costello of censor board ill at home for two weeks . . . Abe Teitel reports booking his double horror bill, "Torso Murder Mystery" and "Face at the Window," into the Warner Metropolitan, February 27, 28 and March 1.*

S. A. Shirley has been called out of retirement from the west coast to pinch-hit for "Doc" Banford, Metro branch manager. "Doc" is convalescing at St. Luke's Hospital . . . Gene Krupa may go to Hollywood soon to make a full-lengther for Paramount. Krupa, who finished big week at the Chicago on Thursday, recently completed a Paramount Headliner short . . . Susanna Foster was to have arrived in town last Thursday after a two-day visit in Minneapolis. In Chicago she was to have made guest appearance at B&K Chicago Theatre at sneak-preview of "Hard-Boiled Canary" Thursday night as well as starring on WGN-Mutual "In Chicago Tonight" the same evening. Fred Bartow, Paramount exploitation man, is traveling with the starlet in this territory. Itinerary was to have included a visit to Peoria on Friday and a trip to Milwaukee on Saturday. Detroit is to be visited on Monday. Cliff Lewis is handling Miss Foster's nation-wide tour.

Frank Behrens, actor on CBS's "Right to Happiness" program, left Chicago last Monday for RKO screen test in Hollywood. If test is n. g., Frank says he'll go to New York to do stage work . . . Shirley Dean, who recently finished a Sam Coslow "Soundie" for Mills Novelty Panoram machines, visited Mills' home office while here. Shirley was featured on State-Lake stage bill . . . George Beck, with RCA here in Chicago, is working with E. J. Dustin on the installation of special "Fantasound" equipment at the Apollo.

Legit Paragraph: Talk is that Lon Chaney jr. will head Chicago stage company of New York hit, "Arsenic and Old Lace." Boris Karloff has lead on Broadway . . . "Pins and Needles," which has a $1 top and advertises itself as the "Hit Musical at Movie Prices," goes into its ninth week at the Studebaker . . . Everett Marshall, star of "Blossom Time" at the Grand Opera House, was to have starred on BOXOFFICE-Joy Candy Shoppes' "That's Show Business" radio show on Sunday.

Cole Porter took City of Los Angeles for west coast Thursday evening . . . Tom Gorman has bandaged finger. Says it's caused by ingrown hair . . . Charley Lindau, sales manager for Capitol-Monogram, married Dorothy Peschel of Chicago Daily News *amusement advertising department last Saturday. Couple are honeymooning in California.*

What's this about Henri Elman's dog kennels on west side? If it's true, Henri's emulating Irene Castle McLaughlin, who has become famous for her "Orphans of the Storm" dog shelter on the swanky north shore . . . Mort Singer tells us "Arizona" did bigger three-day business at his Orpheum, Davenport, Ia., than house has done in a year. Phil Dunas, Columbia branch manager here, tickled pink at the news.



—Chicago and North Western Photo

Two Stars Meet—

Guy Kibbee (right), star of RKO's new picture, "Scattergood Baines," and John Barbirollo, conductor of the New York Philharmonic orchestra, pose for a picture following their arrival from Los Angeles aboard the same train. Kibbee was en route to Montpelier, Vt., and the world premiere there of "Scattergood Baines."

Measles, Scarlet Fever On Rampage in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Roland R. Cross, state health director, reports that the outbreak of measles in various parts of Illinois is rapidly reaching epidemic proportions. In the first five weeks of 1941, a total of 5,512 cases were reported.

The four grade schools in Vandalia, Ill., have been closed by health authorities in an effort to stem the number of scarlet fever cases in that vicinity. Public meetings and social gatherings of all kinds have been curtailed and theatre attendance in the city and adjoining communities has been seriously affected.



—Photo-Ad

His Story to Warner—

Hartzell Spence, author of "One Foot in Heaven," as he paused in Chicago en route to New York after conferences in Hollywood with Warner executives on the filming of his book. A newspaper man, Spence based the book on the life of his father, a Methodist minister.

Fire Levels Milltown

MILLTOWN, IND.—A fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Milltown Theatre. Efforts of the town's volunteer firemen to confine the blaze proved futile. The building was owned by Luther E. Flannagan.

Get General Seats

CHICAGO—New General seats have been installed in the State, Sterling, Ill., and the Star, Fort Branch, Ind.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

SIGNS - MARQUEES AND MAINTENANCE

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Tom Flannery, President
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THEATRICAL PRINTING



INDIANAPOLIS

HOWARD F. MURPHY, manager of the Artcraft Theatre at Franklin, resigned to join with U. S. Machine Corp. Fahnley Bridges succeeds him at the Artcraft . . . John Peterson of the Uptown Theatre was guest of honor at a birthday party given by a group of his pre-teen age patrons. They presented him with a cake baked by the girls, and quite a time was had by all.

Mrs. W. E. Lynch of Danville, Ill., announced the engagement of her daughter to J. B. Sconce, operator of several theatres in Indiana. The wedding date is set for February 15.

Morris Horowitz, who recently retired as president of the Fountain Square Theatre Co., operators of a group of theatres in Indianapolis, sold his entire interests in the corporation to Central Indiana Corp. . . . Kieth Siegrist, formerly with Paramount Pictures as a booker, joins Theatrical Managers, Inc. He was succeeded by Arthur Manning of Bowling Green, Ky.

Harry Goldstein, new district manager for Paramount, paid his first visit to the local exchange. He assumes the duties of Allen Usher . . . The State Theatre at Milltown, Ind., was in the process of remodeling when it was badly damaged by fire.

A bill was introduced in the Indiana state legislature to impose a sales tax of three per cent, to be paid by the consumer. Operators would be faced with the collection of the sales tax in addition to the Federal Defense Tax already in effect . . . Lloyd W. Littell, clerk for AAA, has established his office at 307 Underwriters Building . . . Lowell Brewer, manager of the Grove Theatre, Beech Grove, had an accident while ice skating and had to have several stitches taken over his eye.

Visitors to Filmrow: Ike R. Holycross, Paramount, Anderson; Abe Kaufman, Fountain, Terre Haute; Mrs. Wm. Luckett, Indiana, Scottsburg; Art Clark, Indiana, Bloomington; E. K. Crouch, Palace, Fairmount; D. D. Lee, Princess, Cayuga; Ben Van Borrsum, Savoy, Terre Haute; Sam Neall, Sipe, Kokomo; Bruce Kixmiller, Colonial, Bicknell; H. Lisle Kreighbaum, Char-Bell, Rochester; Arthur B. Thompson, Ritz, North Vernon; A. H. Borkenstein, Wells, Fort Wayne; Roy Kalver, Adams, Decatur; Douglas M. Haney, Albion, Albion; Joe C. Schilling, Auditorium, Connersville; Joe Finneran, Elwood, Elwood; Roy E. Harrold, Princess, Rushville; J. M. Dixon, Flora, Flora; Alex Manta, Indiana-Illinois Theatres, Chicago.

Two more Indiana exhibitors are vacationing in Florida, as Trueman Rembusch of Rembusch Theatres, Franklin, Indiana, and Percy H. Dickson, Eagles Theatre, Wabash, journeyed southward.

MILWAUKEE

FOX'S DOWNTOWN houses participated in Dollar Day with other local merchants by offering a 25 per cent discount coupon in newspaper advertising. Persons presenting the coupon at the circuit's Wisconsin, Palace and Strand theatres, were allowed 10 cents on regular admissions.

Fox is offering Turf Night at its Varsity on Fridays and Saturdays . . . Oliver C. Trampe, 27, *manager of the Rainbow, has been selected by a local draft board to fill its February quota.*

Herb Graef, formerly assistant manager for Warner in Sheboygan, has been named manager of the Chilton Theatre at Chilton succeeding Elmer Nitzke . . . As a Farm and Home Week attraction in Madison, Edward J. Benjii featured the WLS Barn Dance at his Capitol theatre and the flicker, "Barnyard Follies," in which Dorothy Harrison, Wisconsin's 1940 Dairy Queen, has a role.

Fox has reopened its Rialto in Marinette . . . Warner-Saxe staged Valentine parties last weekend at its Garfield, National, Milwaukee, Uptown, Egyptian, Savoy, Modjeska, Lake, Parkway, Juneau, Princess and Tivoli theatres with five Valentines free to every boy and girl.

Altec Service to 45

ST. LOUIS—Altec has obtained contracts to service 45 St. Louis theatres. Deals were signed with Harry Arthur of the St. Louis Amusement Co., Fanchon & Marco, Ansell Brothers, Sam Schubert, Bess Schulter, John Caporal, Clarence Turley, and Frank Sperce.

ST. LOUIS

JOHNNY PERKINS, popular emcee and more recently operator of a recreational resort in East St. Louis, Ill., has been in St. John's Hospital for a checkup . . . Services of all the employes of the Fox were donated for the free-admission Bundles-for-Britain matinee at that theatre last Saturday.

The St. Louis, flagship of the St. Louis Amusement Co.'s fleet, has inaugurated a policy calling for a twice-a-week change of bills.

Funeral services were held Wednesday for Mrs. Elizabeth Bona, mother of Lester Bona, Warner salesman . . . With the shuttering of the Grand, a local burley, it is learned a merger was effected by Jay Hornick and Dick Zeisler, for the Izzy Hirst circuit, with Arthur Clamage of the Wolverine Amusement Co., which has a lease on the Grand. Hornick and Zeisler are interested in the Garrick, other local burley.

Jack Eckhardt to Lead Chicago Bookers' Club

CHICAGO—Jack Eckhardt of 20th Century-Fox was elected president of the local Film Bookers Club at the business meeting preceding the third annual banquet held at Henrici's in the Merchandise Mart, February 7. Eckhardt, the son of the 20th Century-Fox branch manager, succeeds Harry James, United Artists.

Other officers elected are: Sam Traynor, Bailey Enterprises, Princeton, Ill., vice-president; Frank Williams, Warner Bros. Theatres, secretary; Jack Wahl, Publix-Great States Theatres, recording secretary; Jack Friedman, Capitol-Monogram, treasurer, and Al Raymer, Indiana-Illinois Theatres, sergeant-at-arms. Russell Hurt of the Alger circuit was chosen down-state representative. All newly elected officers were installed immediately following the banquet.

"Philadelphia Story" Chicago Pace-Setter

CHICAGO—Continuing as pace-setter in the loop is Metro's "The Philadelphia Story," which started its fourth big week at the United Artists Theatre on Lincoln's birthday. Establishing what is believed to be a house record is RKO's "Kitty Foyle" which will have concluded seven big weeks at the Palace on the 18th.

Detail for week ending February 6:

(Average is 100)

Apollo—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA) 85
This will be last feature in Apollo for perhaps a year. "Fantasia" opens the 19th.

Chicago—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), plus stage show 125

Garrick—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 80
Picture was shifted here for second loop week after fair week at Chicago.

Oriental—**Lady With Red Hair** (WB), plus stage show 110
Stage show headed by Larry Adler accounted for great deal of business.

Palace—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 140
Record-breaker for Palace. Looks like seven weeks.

Roosevelt—**Flight Command** (M-G-M) 130
Started off very good.

State-Lake—**Escape to Glory** (Col), plus stage show 115
Sally Rand and Jackie Heller bringing in most customers.

United Artists—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) ... 155
Doing a good imitation of the New York run of the picture.

Stage Attraction Helps "That Girl" Into Lead

MILWAUKEE—The Riverside show with "Where Did You Get That Girl?" on the screen and Lou Holtz, Lola Lane and Arline Judge on the stage, proved the week's best money getter. Runnerup was "Flight Command" and "Keeping Company" at Fox's Wisconsin.

Detail for week ending February 6:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**Go West** (M-G-M); **Angels Over Broadway** (Col) 125

Riverside—**Where Did You Get That Girl?** (Univ), plus **Lou Holtz, Lola Lane, Arline Judge** on stage 150

Strand—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 110

Warner—**The Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **No, No, Nanette** (RKO) 130

Wisconsin—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 135

Competition Does Not Mar Indianapolis Grosses

INDIANAPOLIS—Despite stiff competition from Sonja Henie's Ice Revue, business was generally excellent, with the first week of "Gone With the Wind" getting a terrific gross.

Detail for week ending February 8:

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**Under Texas Skies** (Rep); **One Frightened Night** (Univ) 80

Circle—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Remedy for Riches** (RKO), 2nd wk. 100

Indiana—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 110

Loew's—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 250

Lyric—**Meet the Missus** (Rep), plus Gray Gordon's Orchestra on stage 95

Individual Demands For Lower Rentals

MINNEAPOLIS—Acting individually, Twin City independent exhibitors will visit local film exchanges to demand an immediate reduction in film rentals, according to announcement by S. G. Lebedoff, Northwest Allied leader.

The decision to make individual calls upon the exchanges was reached at a Northwest Allied meeting when speakers declared that the exhibitors are faced with "emergency conditions" which threaten their very survival.

"In selling current contracts, film companies promised Twin City exhibitors tremendous prosperity this winter and rentals were based on such promised prosperity," declares Lebedoff. "Instead of such prosperity there has been a steady and continued decline in grosses and now most exhibitors are unable to operate their theatres profitably. Bankruptcy looms in a number of cases.

"Northwest Allied doesn't feel that the exhibitors alone should carry present burdens. It contends that the distributors also must bear a share of the load. For the industry's sake, it behooves distributors to grant relief to sorely beset exhibitors caught in the web of declining income and rising costs."

Exchange Heads in Stand Against Reduction Demand

MINNEAPOLIS—Film exchange heads here are refusing to recognize Northwest Allied's contention that exhibitors in the territory are entitled to immediate downward readjustment of their film contracts because of a shift of population away from Minnesota and the Dakotas to other sections, due to greater industrial activity elsewhere arising from the government's defense program and the sending to the south and west of conscripts, volunteers and National Guardsmen.

The film companies are evading the issue, it is charged by Fred Strom, Northwest Allied executive secretary.

However, Ben Blotcky and W. H. Workman, Paramount and M-G-M exchange managers, respectively, assert there is no "problem." They take the position that the situation does not call for a general revision of film prices. If, however, any exhibitors are able to show they are suffering hardships from current developments, the branch managers explain they are willing to consider the cases individually.

See Deluxer Losing

MINNEAPOLIS—Heavy operating losses are believed to have been sustained by the independently operated 4,000-seat Minnesota the past two weeks with its policy of big and expensive stage shows and independent films.

Larsen Into Sabetha

WEBB CITY, MO.—Larry Larsen of this town has taken over the Royal Theatre at Sabetha, Kas.

Inactivity Marks Response To Arbitration Service

MINNEAPOLIS—Exhibitors in this territory certainly are taking their time in seeking arbitration. Although nearly two weeks have elapsed since the inauguration of arbitration to correct alleged trade inequities and since the arbitration office has been opened, not one complaint has been filed yet with Sheldon M. Ostrott, in charge, he says.

There have been many claims on independent exhibitors' part during recent years anent zoning and clearance and inability to obtain product and it was expected that there would be a rush to seek relief through the arbitration setup under the consent decree. The fact that exhibitors are taking their time, however, may indicate that the troubles are not so serious as they have been made to appear.

Heads of the Minnesota and the Esquire theatres had announced their intention to go before the arbitration board in a fight to compel servicing of the houses by the major exchanges.

Decree Counter Bill Near Introduction

Minneapolis—Completion of the anti-consent decree bill, which Northwest Allied will sponsor in the Minnesota state legislature, still awaits the return to Minneapolis of E. L. Peaslee, Northwest Allied president, and Harold Field, chairman of the legislative committee, according to Fred Strom, executive secretary. They are expected back this month. The measure would knock out the groups-of-five selling plan and compel companies to sell their entire season's output as at present. It also would make forced selling of shorts illegal.

Nebraska Film Bills Come Up Feb. 20

LINCOLN—First airing of Nebraska film bills in the legislature since their introduction last month will come February 20, according to the docket of lawmaking activities posted this week.

On that date, Sen. E. M. Neubauer's double-barrelled attack on the industry, L. B. 115 and L. B. 116—putting 10 per cent tax on theatre tickets, cigarets and cosmetics, and assessing an annual $1,000 tax on distributors, with an extra $1 per reel for each one distributed in Nebraska—will come up for hearing.

Time for discussion of Neubauer's other film bill, the divorcement measure which demands complete separation of producer-distributor and exhibitor relations, has not been set yet.

Sol J. Francis, Monogram franchise holder in Omaha, has thus far been the spearhead of the Filmrow opposition to the distributor tax. He has been organizing the effort against the bill which would toll Omaha exchangemen about $17,000 annually.

Sound Surveyors Find Theatres Cooperative

KANSAS CITY—Some runs already have been made on local theatres, in the survey of representative houses planned by the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Theatre operators are reported lending their theatres readily for the resarch work, and personnel are contributing their time and help for the necessary operations outside of show hours. The survey work is being done by the district personnel of Altec Service Corp., which is cooperating in other districts as well as the Kansas City area in the program of the Research Council.

The objective of the survey is to discover the "intangible" influences of various factors on the quality of performance-sound to the patron's ear.

Claims Lack of Product Is Closing Esquire

MINNEAPOLIS—Because of asserted inability to obtain satisfactory film product, the Esquire, Bennie Berger's loop sure-seater, will go dark next week indefinitely. The house was dark a short while ago when Irving Gillman, also handicapped by product difficulties, turned it back to Berger.

Berger has announced his intention to go before the arbitration board in an effort to compel the servicing of the house by major exchanges.

Kansas-Missouri AAA Office Functioning

KANSAS CITY—The motion picture arbitration tribunal of the American Arbitration Association, for the Kansas City district, was set up and ready to go, February 1. Offices at 807 Waltower were furnished, John H. Brink, clerk, was at his desk, his secretary was at hers; the telephone, Victor 0812, was installed. Up to February 11, however, the arbitrators for this district had not been announced here; no complaints had been filed. But inquiries had come in by telephone, on the decree; with promises that the callers would visit the office personally, for answers to questions. The tribunal here serves a territory including the western half of Missouri and all the state of Kansas.

Daylight Savings Bill Will Meet Opposition

MINNEAPOLIS—A bill providing for daylight saving throughout the summer in the state's three largest cities, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth, has been introduced in the legislature. It will be opposed by exhibitors as a menace to the theatre business.

Good Showing Against Counter Attractions

KANSAS CITY—Pulling against counter-attractions on several nights that had large attendance, first-run theatres made on the whole above-average showings in receipts. A spectacular fashion show, plus Ted Lewis with band and floor show, plus dancing, drew 6,000 at 75 cents to the Municipal Auditorium one night. Yet "Gone With the Wind" at the Midland had a big second week for its return engagement, people being turned away at matinees, two days being bigger than corresponding days of the first engagement a year ago. The second week of "The Santa Fe Trail" at the Orpheum also did well; and W. C. Fields in "The Bank Dick" put the Tower ahead of average.

Detail for week ending February 8:

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 110
Midland—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 190
Newman—**Victory** (Para't) 90
Orpheum—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **She Couldn't Say No** (FN), 2nd wk. 105
Tower—**The Bank Dick** (Univ), plus stage show 120
Uptown—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 100

Good Product, Weather Push Up Omaha Takes

OMAHA—First-run exhibitors reported an upward curve in boxoffice takes, due to good product and good weather. Mild, clear winter has been a factor in helping grosses generally.

"Philadelphia Story" was the town's best in a single-feature policy at the Omaha. "This Thing Called Love," dualled with "Escape to Glory," was so successful at the Brandeis the bill was held a second week. The fact that the Brandeis bill was given a "banned" rating in the local Catholic paper apparently failed to hurt business.

"Hudson's Bay" and "Night at Earl Carroll's," at the Orpheum, suffered from the competition.

Detail for week ending February 8:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Escape to Glory** (Col) 150
Omaha—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 150
Orpheum—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't) 110

"Mr. & Mrs. Smith" on Dual Des Moines' Strongest

DES MOINES—"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" gave the Orpheum one of the best Sundays it ever had without a stage show, and outgrossed "Kitty Foyle," one of the top boxoffice attractions of the season. Tri-States Theatres Corp. jerked Wanger's "The Long Voyage Home" after four languishing days at the Paramount and out-Foxed adversity with a double 20th-Century return bill of "Jesse James" and "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

Detail for week ending February 11:

(Average is 100)

Des Moines—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Captain Caution** (UA) 80
Orpheum—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 140
Paramount—**The Long Voyage Home** (UA); **Dancing on a Dime** (Para't) 50

"Flight Command" Plus a Stage Show Minny's Top

MINNEAPOLIS—The Orpheum, with Kitty Carlisle, Ben Blue, Rufe Davis and others on the stage and "Flight Command" the screen attraction, did the business of the town this week. However, "Santa Fe Trail" also gave a fine boxoffice account of itself and "Philadelphia Story," in its third week, continued to click, too. Anita Louise and Jackie Heller headed the Minnesota stage show.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**Romance of Rio Grande** (20th-Fox); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 90
Century—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 3d wk..100
Esquire—**You'll Find Out** (RKO), 2nd run..... 80
Gopher—**Escape to Glory** (Col) 90
Minnesota—**Bowery Boy** (Rep), stage show.... 80
Orpheum—**Flight Command** (M-G-M), stage show. 125
State—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 100
World—**Long Voyage Home** (UA) 90

Film Selling Campaign Details Developing

MINNEAPOLIS—Details of the Northwest Allied spring selling campaign to revive the boxoffice in this territory will be ready within the next fortnight, according to Cliff Gill, head of the Welworth circuit advertising and exploitation department, who is working out the drive of which he is the author. Collaborating with him on the proposition is his employer, E. R. Ruben, Welworth circuit owner, and Fred Strom, Northwest Allied executive secretary.

The idea back of the campaign will be to sell the public on the idea that motion pictures today are better than ever in quality and it is proposed to exhibit a succession of the best films available in every theatre. All theatres and circuits in the territory, along with the film exchanges, will be asked to cooperate.

Lincoln Accords Crown To "Philadelphia Story"

LINCOLN—"Philadelphia Story" mopped up on the available money here in the week just past. Weather was okay, just nippy enough to favor going out of the house for entertainment, but demanding that the entertainment be indoors. "Honeymoon for Three" was a weakie, and "Foreign Correspondent" was in second place on coin.

Detail for the week ending February 7:

(Average is 100)

Colonial—**Secret Valley** (20th-Fox); **Gaucho Serenade** (Rep) split with **Fargo Kid** (RKO) and **Flying Deuces** (RKO) 105
Lincoln—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M).....160
Nebraska—**Slightly Tempted** (Univ); **Here Comes the Navy** (WB).....105
Stuart—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB)..... 90
Variety—**Face Behind the Mask** (Col); **Bowery Boy** (Rep) split with **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) and **Meet the Missus** (Rep)....100
Varsity—**Foreign Correspondent** (UA).....130

Business Reports Grow Brighter in Territory

KANSAS CITY—Reports of business from areas of the Kansas City territory hit hard by weather, were enough better to talk about. Side roads in many districts still are rough, some still look impassable, keeping farmers in. But a few days of sunshine have done much to promote both traffic and spirits. The prospects for crops, because of greatly increased moisture, are called good, and the year is looked to bring good business, irrespective of any effect of defense activities. Communities that have no immediate connection with army or supply programs, are promised a little more active flow of money from the regular causes.

LINCOLN

MRS. AVIS RUTHERFORD, who has been Capitol boss Bob Livingston's secretary, office manager, and chief cashier for many years, came within an ace of going out of circulation last week. She was accidentally overcome by gas in her apartment, and was found on the floor unconscious.

Eugene Shanahan, manager of the Nebraska, has gone and done it. The girl who was Evelyn Hanson is now Mrs. Shanahan . . . Bill Messmer, announcer on the J. H. Cooper-Lincoln Theatres Corp. radio show, is taking Mary Jayne Inglis, of Cambridge, Ia., to wife on February 23.

Sherman-was-right Dept.: Second Lt. Roger Emrich, former doorman at the Varsity, was ordered to Camp Murray, Wash., February 12, so married Doris Picking, February 9, so he could take her along . . . The Widows & Orphans Protective Ass'n met this week—Sol Francis, Sol Yeager and Alvin Hendricks taking Mrs. Barney Oldfield to dinner.

Bill Scholl, campaigning for "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," painted some signs on Lincoln's sidewalks, unaware he was breaking the city ordinances in doing it. Cops called Howard Federer on it. He promptly threw full blame for the affair on "some out-of-town guy who came in and did it without sanction of the theatre." Then, right in earshot of Bill, he started describing the culprit. Bill left town so fast a pajama leg was waving unpacked from his suitcase. Now, he'll be glad to know, it was all a gag, and the police NEVER were looking for him.

Bob Huffman and Eugene Shanahan were in court defending themselves against lottery charges for operation of the weekly quiz giveaway, "Abner Askit's Basket."

Gabe S. Yorke, the Will Hays gent, is convinced this is a lucky country. He had been around Hollywood for years and at times recently was hard pressed for connections in his line. He came to Lincoln when Sam Goldwyn shut down to stage the premiere for "Cheers for Miss Bishop," changed jobs at the end of it without missing a day, and has had seven jobs offered him on the coast during his two months in the midwest.

Active Social Season For Twin City Tent

MINNEAPOLIS—An all-out Twin City Variety Club social season got under way this week with a Valentine party in the clubrooms. One of its features was instruction in the rhumba.

The next big event on the calendar is an "Old Rush Daze of '49," scheduled for the Grand Ball and Francis I rooms at the Hotel Nicollet Saturday night, March 15. A "hot old time" is promised. Net proceeds will go to the club's charity project, the Milk Fund.

Saturday night, May 10, has been set for the second annual ball and supper dance. The place, of course, will be the Nicollet Hotel. Chief Barker Ben Blotcky promises that every effort will be made for an even more elaborate and entertaining affair than last year.

Luncheons Monthly

In the meantime there'll be "Kings for a Day" luncheons in the clubrooms once a month and Saturday night open houses, with stage celebrities in town the club's guests at these latter affairs. "Hy" Chapman and LeRoy J. Miller, Columbia and Universal branch managers, respectively, will be the kings for the first of these, at 12:15 p. m., Monday, February 17. Anita Louise and Jackie Heller, among others, were guests at last Saturday night's open house and it's hoped to have the Merry-Macs and Bert Wheeler this Saturday.

Although the club's membership drive has just started, eight new members already have been enrolled. They include Harold Kaplan, St. Louis Park theatre co-owner; Gordon Wilcox and Verne Sessler of Paramount; Jules Steele, St. Paul *Pioneer Press* film editor; Ben Edelman and Shayel Hochman, U. S. Air Conditioning Co.; Dick Stahl and Pat Halloran of Universal, and Roy Wyland of the American Rug Co.

Friday Night Parties Launched by Variety

KANSAS CITY—The first of the Friday night "Get Together" parties will be held at the Variety Club quarters here Friday, February 21. Kings and Queens for the evening are C. A. and Lila Schultz, O. K. and Inez Mason and Robert F. and Helen Withers.

A buffet dinner will be served at 7:00 p. m. Cost for the evening's entertainment is 65 cents per person. Tickets may be obtained from the hosts. It is open to members and their wives, or sweethearts.

The social schedule will be maintained through the year, a different group of Kings and Queens officiating each Friday night.

Start by Allender

NORTHOME, MINN.—Leo Allender has started work on a new theatre here. It will replace his showhouse which was destroyed by fire.

KAYCEE

MR. AND MRS. FRANK W. NELSON (he is maintenance engineer, H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc.) are to take a honeymoon trip southwestward; to include a week at Hotel El Rancho, Gallup, N. M. This stay at the world-famous hotel is the wedding gift of H. J. Griffith. The bride, as Hazel Kirkbride, had been secretary to Griffith for some time to December 1, when she became secretary to Jack Gregory, credit manager at the Kansas City district office of Altec. She will resume her work at Altec after the honeymoon trip. They were married January 31.

On the Row—E. P. Michaels, Braymer, Mo.; D. A. Gifford, Louis, St. Joseph, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Griefe, Windsor, Windsor, Mo.; Floyd Hill, Drexel, Drexel, Kas.; Ross McKay, Mrs. McKay and son, all of whom help operate their several theatres in Kansas and Missouri; Bob Gorham, Liberty, Horton, Kas.; M. B. Presley, Globe, Savannah, Mo.; A. N. Brown, Roxy, New Franklin, Mo.; George Nescher, Rio, Valley Falls, Kas.; C. S. Laird, Madison, Madison, Kas.; Ralph Larned, Paramount, La Crosse, Kas.; Bill Forrest, Rex, Joplin, Mo.; A. J. Simmons, Plaza, Burlington, Kas., on vacation, going to California; Frank Anderson, Family, Kirksville, Mo.; Ken Winkelmeyer, Casino, Boonville, Mo.; F. B. Baker, Ritz, Ashland, Kas.

Tom Edwards, Ozark, Eldon, Mo., drove up in a new Packard . . . Chet Borg, Warner booker, is reported recovering very satisfactorily from a serious operation . . . Doc Hatcher and Paul Rienke, Fox-Midwest managers respectively for the Madrid and the Vista, have exchanged theatres.

G. C. Parsons, branch manager, and J. E. Garrison, district manager, went to the Universal convention in Chicago . . . It is the Avenue Theatre now, formerly the Garrett, West Plains, Mo., Dean W. Davis, owner, reopening with popular prices. William Castner manager.

Improvements in the Ellinwood, Ellinwood, Kas., include leather-cushioned seats and aisle lights . . . It was guessed that M. B. Baker, Ritz, Ashland, Kas., whom people on the Row were glad to see again, hadn't been in for two years.

Standings in the Bill Scully drive at the Universal office here were on last report Kleins-Kellys-Kanes, giving the three leaders . . . Jerry Zigmond, manager of the Newman, with Mrs. Zigmond and their small daughter, Jerry Sue, are vacationing at Miami Beach.

John Eifert, house manager at the Newman, in charge while Manager Zigmond is taking a vacation, became a father February 11; a girl, Mr. and Mrs. Eifert's first child—who was named Patricia Louise.

Names have been selected for two boys born into film industry families recently: The son of Irwin W. Tucker, manager of the H. J. Griffith Fayette at Fayette, Mo., was named Irwin William Tucker jr. Melvin Neal is the name of Gene Snitz, Columbia booker's son.

Jean Fiske, secretary to W. O. Williamson jr., Warner branch manager here, will be absent for a few weeks, having suffered a broken ankle . . . Irving Zussman, president of Metro Premium Co., spent a weekend in Kansas City, with Herschel Kaufman, local manager.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Peterson "Freezem" Mfg. & Sales Co.
Blowers, washers, spray nozzels, office and home units.
Special Offer—Priced to Sell.
Why Pay More?
G. A. Peterson
VIctor 4075 322 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, Mo.

A. A. Electric Machinery Co.
Ernest Amoneno, Mgr.
1117 Cherry St. Phone: Victor 8796

Holmes Projector Sales Co.
Projectors and Sound for the Largest and Smallest Theatre. John A. Muchmore and R. H. Patt.
1820 Wyandotte St. Kansas City, Mo. HA. 7472

Missouri Theatre Supply Co.
Distributors for
RCA, Brenkert, U. S. Air, Heywood-Wakefield
115 West 18th St. GR. 2864 Kansas City, Mo.
708 West Grand Ave. Oklahoma City, Okla.

Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.
1804 Wyandotte St.
C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't
Wichita, Kas.
C. D. Peck, Mgr. Phone 2-2153

EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
R. R. Biechele, Pres. Fred Meyn, Sec.-Treas.

SCREEN PUBLICITY

Alexander Film Company
Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: Hiland 2694

FILM LABORATORIES

MISSOURI FILM LABORATORIES
Charles O. Siebenthaler
110 W. 18th GR 0708
Kansas City, Mo.
Complete Advertising Trailer Service

MINNEAPOLIS

WALTER WINCHELL Department: Cliff Gill, Welworth circuit publicity and exploitation head, will have another kid to read the funnies to in the not too distant future. Late next summer is our guess . . . That was considerable of an impromptu floor show staged at the Twin City Variety Club last Saturday night by Lowell Kaplan and Gilbert Nathanson. Very clever, these young men. Any time these boys decide to quit their present occupations in show biz a future undoubtedly awaits them on the burlesque stage. Speaking of Lowell Kaplan, he and Charlie Rubenstein, as co-chairmen of the Variety Club's entertainment committee, were the envy of all the other male members—having the beautiful Anita Louise in tow. Miss Louise, Jackie Heller, Rufe Davis and some of the other performers appearing at Minneapolis theatres were the club's guests at an open house that Saturday night.

The RKO bunch is in Chicago this week attending a sales meeting . . . Morrie Abrams, popular and efficient exploiteer, long with M-G-M, on a special Welworth circuit assignment currently . . . Hale Kavanaugh back on the publicity job at the Minnesota Theatre where he occupied the same post during the previous 26 *weeks operations under Gordon Greene . . . At a special Valentine party at the Twin City Variety Club this Friday, members learned the rhumba.*

Merry-Macs, from the films, into the Minnesota the ensuing week and Bert Wheeler, the screen star, at the Orpheum with Earl Carroll's "Vanities." Merry-Macs hail from Minneapolis . . . Plenty of the Filmrow gang in evidence at the Golden Gloves boxing tournament at the Auditorium, including that red-hot fistic fan, Harry Dryer, independent exhibitor, who is bacheloring it during his wife's absence in Florida; Billy Elson, etc. . . . Abe Kaplan, popular independent circuit owner, back at his apartment in the Oak Grove following recovery from a minor operation . . . A demand for $5,000 for the week is said to have had both Orpheum and Minnesota theatres balking on a Pat O'Brien personal appearance engagement.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Walt Lower, Moose Lake, Minn.; Carl Sather, Annandale, Minn.; Leo Allender, Northome, Minn.; "Doc" Reynolds, Princeton, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn., and Harry Knoulton, Elsworth, Wis. . . . Bill Grant, Warner city salesman, leads the local office and is in fifth place in the district in the Sears sales drive . . . Florence Oppheim, National Screen secretary, vacationing in and about the Twin Cities . . . W. H. Workman, M-G-M branch manager, visited Duluth accounts.

Bill Grant over the flu and back on his Warner city salesman job . . . R. C. LiBeau, formerly Paramount district manager in this territory, brought his successor, Allen Usher, here to turn the office over to him . . . Charlie Jackson, Warner salesman, in an auto collision with a milk truck. His new and beautiful car was almost completely demolished, but he escaped injury . . . Air travel is great for branch managers. Art Anderson, Warner branch manager, flew the entire 900 miles to Bismarck, N. D., and back to contact an exhibitor in one day. The entire trip consumed only seven and a half hours.

Allan Cummings, home-office head of M-G-M exchange operations, a visitor . . . Fire next door to Warner exchange scared employes . . . Universal here screen "Buck Privates" for the Andrews Sisters, appearing at the Orpheum, and they gave their approval to the picture in which they play prominent parts . . . L. E. Goldhammer, RKO district manager, visited the Omaha branch . . . Arch Zacherl, Universal salesman, sufficiently recovered from a heart attack to leave the hospital and go home.

Bill Soper of Universal finally has learned to obey traffic rules after receiving tags on three successive days . . . W. C. Gehring, 20th-Fox division manager, a visitor . . . Ed Ballew, United Artists exploiteer, here in connection with the invitation screening of "Cheers for Miss Bishop," which also brought its producer, Richard A. Rowland, to Minneapolis. A beautiful story magnificently done, was the verdict of those who saw it. There are tears, laughs and romance in this life-story of a school teacher and every woman and most of the men will enjoy it. Martha Scott turns in a masterly performance in the title role.

Lowell Kaplan, Welworth circuit booker, downed by old man flu for a few days . . . 20th-Fox held an invitation screening of "Western Union" and everybody present gave the film their approval . . . Alex Quam, Twin City Variety Club assistant steward, has gone to Louisiana with the Minnesota National Guards . . . J. D. Gowthorpe of Paramount's theatres in town . . . Earl Tetting, publicity man, handling the Minnesota Theatre managerial post since Livingston Lanning's departure.

Welworth circuit's "Big Six" campaign got away to a flying start with almost all houses flashing full page ads, especially designed window cards and a whole pack of exploitation. Business is reported as responding nicely . . . Efforts are being made to confirm a report that Manny Goodman, valance and banner man, has been transferred from this territory to the Cleveland district . . . While most of the boys were buying heart-shaped candy boxes for their sweeties, Mickey Coen, the M-G-M salesman, was observed shopping for dolls . . . Bess Crane, the Welworth secretary, sunning in Florida.

Scene at the 620 *Club: Harry Katz, the burlesque impresario, and Jackie Heller, the stage personality from the Minnesota Theatre, looking at the "soundies" a dime a subject and sipping soft drinks . . . Our choice for the title of White Collar Girl in the local show business is Dorothy Crane, Welworth lass . . . Willard Greenleaf, assistant to Art Ableson in the Devil's Lake, N. D., theatres, in Rochester, Minn., for a Mayo checkup. Harold Bartlett, Art's man in Langdon, N. D., in Fargo for clinical treatments, too, with Ralph Watson pinch-hitting for him at the Roxy.*

Look-alikes: Helen Hillman, the "Kitty Foyle" of the Harry Dickerman circuit offices, and that young lady who sells pumpernickle and pastrami in a bakery at Hennepin off Seventh Street. Also the Altec wizard, Maxwell, and the rotund bartender at the Stockholm cafe.

DD Roared; After All She Had to Tell 'Em

Des Moines—Three weeks ago Des Moines PTA club women gathered in solemn conclave at the Fox screening room to fire questions at and hear answers from H. M. Richey, assistant to Bill Rodgers, general sales manager for Metro.

Wind blew, snow fell, ice froze . . . and Mr. Richey stood the club women up.

Last Monday Richey finally arrived. He would be glad to face the women Tuesday night.

Tuesday morning dawned fair. The sun was shining, the breeze was gentle and telephone wires were humming as the women arranged another solemn conclave for that evening.

Then another wire hummed—with orders for Mr. Richey.

Tuesday afternoon Mr. Richey whizzed —out of town by plane.

DD roared . . . She had to tell 'em they'd been stood up again.

Grainger Talks Product With Minn. Amusement

MINNEAPOLIS—James R. Grainger, Republic president, spent two days here this week with Gilbert Nathanson, local branch manager. A conference was held with the Minnesota Amusement Co. relative to a product deal.

Adapts "Washington Melodrama"

HOLLYWOOD—Marion Parsonnet will adapt "Washington Melodrama" for Metro from a story by L. Du Rocher Macpherson. S. Sylvan Simon will direct for Producer Edgar Selwyn.



DES MOINES

PONDERING over a good lead for this column, we decided that Paramount's cockroaches were about the most fun at the moment . . . you've probably all met up with one of them in the hallway, the screening room or at the drinking fountain . . . they're friendly little guys, always interested enough to stop and give a gal the once over on her way through the first door to the right.

Iowa Film boys are sporting a bevy of new Chevie trucks . . . watching the "Thief of Bagdad" the other eve, we had to keep apologizing to ourselves for thinking "with the light brown hair" everytime someone in the pic said "Genie." DD telephoned Sunday and swapped us five words with Harry Gottlieb for a few with & Co. . . . DD wanted to tell & Co. that Suzanna Foster would be late getting in DM and we'd not be able to have dinner with her, which we hadn't known anything about anyhow.

Before the show Monday, we dined with Suzanna, Dolly Loehr, Cliff Lewis, Bill Lansburg, a Spanish teacher whose name we cannot spell, and a Miss Peacock (fine company for "The Hardboiled Canary") . . . We listened to the sassy Suzanna for a while and then abandoned her to that adequate duo, Lansburg & Clayton while we opened our mouth and stuck our foot into it with the Senorita . . . We never dreamed that she who was living off the fat of the Land of Liberty (you're welcome, Gabe) wouldn't relish our glowing account of Mexico's inferiority. We even got to the awful point of pitying the poor Indians (who are too numerous in Mexico to vanish like the accommodating American species) before we noticed she didn't like it.

Cliff Lewis and Bill Lansburg have a trip to South America up their sleeves . . . BOXOFFICE *& Co. tried to horn in as a couple of interpreters (they've had two Spanish lessons) but Lewis and Lansburg say you can't horn in on a couple of horner-inners . . . Anyhow, Bill's pledged to fetch us back one of those little wooden barrels of brandy which we didn't have enough money left to buy when we got back to Monterrey* (BOXOFFICE *didn't know & Co. was practically broke and embarrassed him no end by ordering one of those little barrels which he would have had to pay for with the dough needed for our last three tankfuls of gasolina).*

A man named Tyler showed a color film, "Iowa, the Hawkeye State," to an enthusiastic audience at the Fort Des Moines, Monday, February 10 . . . It's a conservation pic and available to organizations interested, we understand. Lou Patz objects to the base canard that the roll is called at National Screen every morning . . . Does he want us to think they haven't even got a permanent roll yet? Slater O'Hare, Manfre's zone three peddler, came back from Rochester with a new diet which is guaranteed to subdue untamed ulcers.

Mildred Begley, Julia Brooks, Ann Rose and George Campbell (mascot) did the Paramount Polka at Wakonda for the amazed Beta Sigma Phis . . . Ruth Slater of Chariton, Iowa, is the new Paramount booking steno replacing Lois Slater, her sister . . . Lois sent to Seattle, Wash., and is working for Metro there. New product was discussed at the Para't sales meet last Saturday with Smith, the new western division sales manager replacing C. M. Reagan . . . Ralph LiBeau attended from Kaycee . . . Ray Copeland was back for a short visit last week.

"Car of scenery . . . 60 people . . . seven changes . . . revolving stage . . . Frisco fair" . . . That's just Emil Franke mumbling about the stage show he has coming up at the Orpheum . . . He says it'll feature a top-notch count, on the stage and at the boxoffice. Harry Holdsberg's trying astrology at the Des Moines. Frank Atherton Clark, who's been doing film page copy for & Co. at the *R&T*, has shuffled off to the *R&T* syndicate department, so Sterling Bemis will share the chore now.

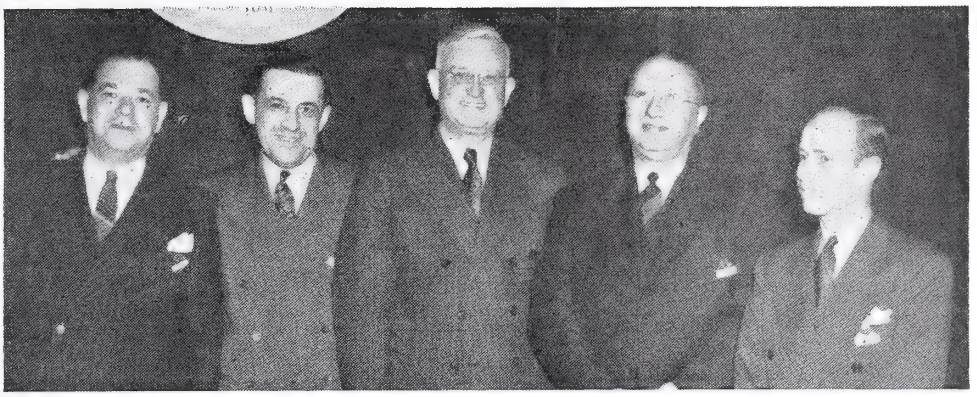
Mebbe Bernie Evens won't like all the things this Sunday's Register *magazine section tells about Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton, but if he looks back in his files, he'll find he was asked for a yarn . . . When it didn't show, the* R&T *staff checked up on the romance being portrayed by Olivier and Leigh and found a lot of goings-on the Hays office wouldn't have liked.*

The man with feet out on the aisle, elbow on knee, chin on hand and pencilled frown on a high forehead at the Susanna Foster personal appearance was A. Grandioso Stolte . . . Art apparently was gobbling in the vocalizing just like the Canadian muskies gobble his red-eye wigglers. Louis Hellborn blew into town Monday, dropped off a few stills on the cut-rate "GWTW," and blew out for Fort Dodge . . . Lou admits he's stacking up big mileage totals these days, but says it'll be a lot more fun when the grass gets green and the ice gets gone.

Ralph Hayden wore his mittens to the Golden Gloves tournament . . . Neil Adair and the missus spent the weekend kicking up their heels in Minneapolis . . . Bob Newman was home with an attack of appendicitis . . . Jean and Dot Post went to Omaha to see Sonja Heinie . . . Everybody (and us) is waiting with bated breath to see Captain Marvel out-super Superman . . . Rud Moran has dressed Republic up with new Venetian blinds and a new janitor.

Clifford Nolte gave his g. f. a diamond . . . Now he'll probably be able to stall off the fatal moment for a year or so more. Can anybody figure out how Grace Simons keeps that little black hat with the long red feather cocked atop her head? Emil Franke says he'll give "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" board'n room from now on . . . And he can afford to. The Claytons were supposed to meet the Frankes at the Kirkwood smorgasbord last Sunday . . . The Frankes forgot all about it . . . P. S. So did the Claytons!

Joe Fieldman's wife, Mildred, will spend about five more weeks in the hospital with that broken shoulder.



They Hear About Product, Sales—

The midwestern delegation of managers to the Universal sales convention at the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago. Left to right: O. A. Siegel, Omaha; Lou Levy, Des Moines; G. C. Parsons, Kansas City; Harry Hynes, St. Louis, and J. E. Garrison, district manager. Also present, but not pictured here, was L. J. Miller of the Minneapolis exchange.

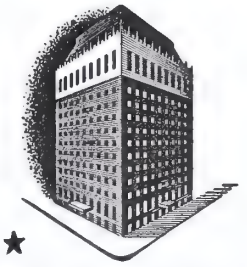
(U Product Announcement on Page 15 in This Issue)

FIRST

In Style and Comfort

That's the thought that is always uppermost in the minds of those who attend you at Hotel Fontenelle. In keeping with this policy, the management is constantly adding new features for your comfort and convenience. The Amber Room Coffee Shop, the King Cole Room, and the Black Mirror-Bombay Room invite you.

HOTEL
FONTENELLE



OMAHA

Wage Campaign for "Decent Movies"

OMAHA—Exhibitors in Nebraska and western Iowa are wondering what effect, if any, will come from a "decent movies" campaign now being waged by *The True Voice,* Omaha weekly Catholic newspaper.

Omaha's Catholic population is about 50,000 persons, over one-fifth of the city's total population. In addition, many communities in Nebraska and western Iowa are heavily Catholic and the newspaper has some circulation among those communities.

For some years the publication has carried a weekly rating of the first-run product being exhibited in Omaha. They are divided in four classifications: Class A, unobjectionable for general patronage; Class A-2, unobjectionable for adults; Class B, objectionable in part; Class C, condemned.

During the last year the newspaper has been running, in addition to the ratings, the total list of films classified by the Legion of Decency. The latest is an editorial printed this last week by the newspaper under the heading, "Decent Movies." The editorial says:

The producers of pictures in this country seem to be impervious to the demands made by decent people that decent pictures be produced and presented for their patronage.

Scanning the bills in Omaha's leading downtown theatres last weekend, it is more shocking than amazing that not one picture is listed by the Legion of Decency as unobjectionable for general patronage! A holdover is in Class C (condemned).

These columns have before and again affirm the belief that Catholics want decent movies and that if producers won't give Catholics decent pictures to which a father and mother can take their children, then these Catholic mothers and fathers will have to seek other forms of recreation and entertainment.

Hollywood learned a lesson some few years ago regarding promiscuous pictures. As a result of the Legion of Decency it became quite evident that pictures should be cleaned up. They were. Distasteful plots and scenes were abhorred by the producers because they saw in their continued production of filth and dirt a certain diminution in revenue. Apparently these producers are beginning to forget the warning given by the inauguration of the Legion of Decency. That must be why Omaha downtown theatre managers had on their bill during the last weekend shows which were classified only as A-2 or B or C class.

If the producers of pictures had heeded the warning of the Legion of Decency, no Class A-2 or Class B or Class C pictures would now be available for the local purveyors of pictures.

If these local purveyors have to run Class A-2 and Class B, to say nothing of Class C pictures, then the Catholics of this community will have to boycott theatres. That seems the only logical way to bring the matter to the attention of the local dealers.

The pastor who went from room to room in his school last week denouncing the film shown at one of the downtown theatres is to be highly commended. What one pastor has done others will do to insure the decency of the entertainment the children of their schools seek.

May we urge parents and teachers to scan carefully the "movie lists" as presented in "The True Voice" each week and patronize only those theatres which give to their patrons decent pictures. The judges of the Legion of Decency are no prudes—neither are we—but those things which our Divine Saviour and His holy church regard as sacred and holy cannot be made light of just for a laugh and for the insurance of substantial return on the investments of those who have mocked Christ and the teachings of His Church.

.....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By KEN and RENE CLAYTON

THERE'S a ready market for a budding author along Filmrow. The gals there want Ralph Green's biography. They're contending that a volume on the Dodge Adonis from Fort Dodge would classify as tops in the literary field.

Kate McKee from Osceola hustled in, picked up her film, and hustled right out again.

The bookers got a look at the McGregor scenery we hear so much about last week. Ed Nordhus was miles from home and miles from his Strand Theatre at McGregor, but he'd steered a true course to the High Street houses of chance. (Round and round the movie reel goes; whether it's a hit, nobody knows).

Happy Henry, the always good-natured Rehfield from Bloomfield, spread cheer among the exchanges, too. And he ordered a little screen cheer for his Iowa Theatre patrons, also. Bob Malek of the Grand and Iowa at Independence and the Uptown at Gladbrook, was around.

Due back Thursday with a face of many colors (if we can believe chamber of commerce reports of southern sunburn) was Joe Kinsky, Tri-States district manager in Davenport, Rock Island and Moline. Joe does business with California, but when he got two weeks to himself, he up and hiked off to Florida.

Lillian Rittenmeyer spent Friday afternoon at the Casino Theatre in DM in a booking conference with Paramount's James Foley.

Sure, and if to Mike it really was that Pat told all those stories you've heard, then last week it must have been, for the Roth was in from Anita.

Ray Walters, formerly of the Washington in Davenport, is reported opening a house in Grand River, Ia.

You wouldn't believe (and rightfully) that Grand River reminded us of Ed Mason's power boat story, so we won't tell you it did. We've been dying to tell you that the sage from Osage claims to be the only living boatician who ever tied up auto traffic with a motor boat. He did it by staging such a hair-raising exhibition on the Des Moines river here that cars lined up for blocks on both sides of the Locust, Walnut and Grand avenue bridges while drivers ogled.

Ralph Olson paddled the yarn our direction, but he didn't tell us that Ed's reported to have bought the boat from Joe Lilly. In fact, it has been said that Ed almost took the boat back—or vice versa . . . Yeah, Joe's one of the Lilly brothers—undertakers.

OMAHA

GLADYS ANDRESS, who runs the theatre at Ponca, Neb., had a birthday during January and celebrated by taking a trip to California. Her husband, Roy Andress, also had a birthday during January and accompanied her on the trip to California. At least that's the story Harold Neumann gave us! . . . Bill Wink, Warner booker, has a birthday this week which he plans to celebrate by jumping into the lead in the current Warner drive.

A. P. Sorenson is getting along swell with the new Vogue at Beresford, S. D., according to our scouts . . . Leo Doty, United Artists office manager, is celebrating a wedding anniversary . . . Charles Lee, exhibitor at Parker, S. D., is quite a hunter, especially during the pheasant season . . . It's a birthday soon for Regina Molseed, RKO booker, and for Bill Miskell, Orpheum manager.

A bouquet to J. Erle Kirk, owner of the North Star here in Omaha. A youngster in North Omaha liked the pictures but because of a cast on his leg had trouble getting into a theatre seat. Exhibitor Kirk had a special last-row seat fixed up for the lad, who is brought to the theatre before regular opening time. He sees the show in comparative comfort . . . Thanks to Jake Rachman of the *World-Herald* for this story.

Ed Delaney, exhibitor at Marcus, Ia., has the flu but it didn't keep him from being mighty proud of the fact his daughter is growing like a weed. Delaney will be voted a member of the self-admiration society formed by B. A. Tomte of Paramount, Charlie Lieb of Metro and BOXOFFICE . . . *More birthdays: Harold Martin of Warners and Joe Rosenberg . . . Mr. and Mrs. John Noffsinger, Madison, Neb., were on Davenport street this week.*

Ralph Green, exhibitor from Minneapolis, Minn., has purchased the Park Theatre at Sioux City, Ia., from Odes A. B. Hilton, according to reports here. Green also has houses in Iowa and Wisconsin . . . E. C. Lund, Glud Theatre at Viborg, S. D., has had the flu but is feeling better now, thank you . . . It's a second wedding anniversary for Bill Ruthhart, Metro booker, and a third w. a. for Jack Kolbo, now manager of a Tri-States house in Davenport, Ia., and former manager of the Omaha here.

"Shack" Shackleford, Columbia peddler, has been getting the rib this week, mostly from Private Joe Smith of RKO about a fancy haircut. Look who's talking about fancy haircuts, a man who soon will be wearing his strictly military . . . Olin Fosse, Community, Ridgeway, Ia., has a birthday this week, near the 60 mark . . . Byron Pulis, arbitration board secretary, reports "no complaints" filed yet. The board has been in operation two weeks now.

Sid McArdle, United Artists booker, plans to build a home this summer and he thinks he'll have another announcement ready about June . . . Mons Thompson, exhibitor at St. Paul, Neb., chopped one of his fingers while chopping wood.

Outlook Encourages Kansas, Missouri

KANSAS CITY—A somewhat better year is expected by exhibitors in western Missouri and Kansas although the picture at this date looks a little spotted.

Crop conditions in Kansas are the best they have been in ten years, with plenty of moisture. They are not so good in western Missouri. Some localities were hauling water up until a few weeks ago, which means the subsoil is pretty well dried out.

The defense program is expected to help business generally to some extent, and to that extent will be reflected at the boxoffices of most theatres. However, direct effect will be felt principally by theatres in towns like Wichita where aviation is booming and employing large numbers; Junction City, Kas., near Ft. Riley, where thousands of workmen now are employed; Kansas City, which expects a bomber plant and a small arms factory, which will put some 15,000 to 20,000 back to work; near Rolla, Mo., where there will be an army camp.

More Seats Offset Hopes

One factor is that already in those spots, or near them, new theatres are being planned or already are built. One of the boxoffice deterrents of the past few years has been too many theatres and the ease with which new capital for more seats can be secured is demonstrated by the rapidity with which new theatres are gotten under way the moment business picks up in a locality. There is little doubt, therefore, but that part of the beneficial effect from spurting payrolls in localities directly benefiting from the defense program will be offset by too many seats.

In other towns and cities, exhibitors do not expect much benefit this year from defense spending. As a matter of fact, they say it may hurt business some. For instance, Frank Weary, who operates the Farris and Vogue at Richmond, Mo., near Kansas City, points out some of the young men will go in the draft; some of the town's workmen already have been attracted to Kansas City and elsewhere by work on defense projects. Tom Edwards, Ozark, Eldon, Mo., notes the same drift.

Circuit executives, not inclined to go on record by name, still are for the most part, optimistic about 1941. General business, they feel, can hardly help reacting favorably to defense spending, even in so agricultural an area as this. They definitely are counting on more business.

Sentiment with respect to the decree is mixed. Circuit operators are inclined to believe it will help—in that it should mean better pictures, fewer pictures. Independents don't like the decree and doubt it will be of any benefit. Fewer pictures, in the minds of some, will reduce the number of triple and double bills, which should help. Benefit, if such there is, in better pictures, under the decree, will be somewhat offset by increased prices, exhibitors believe.

Nebraska Is Dependent Upon Crop Situation

LINCOLN—Showmen in Nebraska expect 1941, as usual, to be dependent, not on the money being spent nationally for defense, but on the bounty of rainfall. This is an agricultural state, and that's the source of income. A BOXOFFICE check finds showmen of the opinion that the 1940 take and net, approximates that of 1939. At this time, there is no reason to expect it to be greater in 1941.

R. W. Huffman, city manager for the Lincoln Theatres Corp. (J. H. Cooper-Paramount), said it was his finding that 1940 produced higher individual grosses on some big pictures, but the "B's" failed to measure up to the 1939 takes. Result brought the books to a level.

Howard Federer, general manager of Nebraska Theatres, Inc., an ally of the L. L. Dent-Westland Theatres of Colorado and Oklahoma, found his product position bettered a great deal in 1940 and the tone of his "A" house operations was improved. Like Huffman, he found the load of toting "B" house operation heavier.

It was an echo when R. R. "Bob" Livingston, whose Capitol is independent and the major subsequent, was quizzed. He had an excellent year in 1940 and did alright in 1939.

The only real worry apparent on the scene right now is not so much the output of Hollywood to insure grosses, but the prospect of a one cent tax on all tickets sold, regardless of price. Sen. E. M. Neubauer of Orleans, Neb., who tried a previous industry tax sock two years ago, has announced he'll submit such a bill in the present session.

Recreational Committee Formed in Kansas City

KANSAS CITY—A committee representing the various types of commercial recreation and entertainment has been organized in Kansas City, with Glenn H. Park, city recreational director, chairman, for "service to service men;" specifically, to assist the Kansas City Women Volunteers, Inc., for National Defense in providing information to visiting soldiers and sailors as to "approved" places of entertainment.

The women's organization, of which Mrs. Morton T. Jones is head, operates the information booths at the Union Station and elsewhere, to help service men. The film industry is represented on the committee by E. C. Rhoden, division manager, Fox Midwest Theatres, Inc., for exhibitors, and Arthur Cole, Paramount office manager, for distributors.

Lists of commercial dance halls, skating rinks, bowling alleys, and the like presented to the visitors, are to contain no names of establishments that do not have approval of local welfare officials. It is understood, however, that no film theatre in Kansas City is excluded from such approval.

Ken Clayton a Judge in Still Photography Show

DES MOINES—Ken Clayton, roto, magazine and motion picture editor of the Des Moines *Register* and *Tribune*, is one of five newspapermen outside the Los Angeles-Hollywood area to be chosen among judges of the first Hollywood Still Photography Show.

Plus-Minus Attitude In the Twin Cities

MINNEAPOLIS—The show must and will go on—decree or no decree. That's the feeling of the film trade generally here regarding 1941.

Theatres will continue to operate and show pictures much the same as ever and the public will come or stay away, just at present, in the opinion of even those independent exhibitors who are bitterly opposed to the decree. At the same time, there's a considerable difference of opinion as to the new year's boxoffice prospects.

Distributors expect a banner year. With improvement in weather, which has been an extremely adverse boxoffice factor the past two months, with heavy gains in farm income, with benefits gradually trickling to these parts from the government's defense spending and with the improving quality of product, as evidenced by present and impending releases, theatres can't miss, they insist.

Smile on Defense Spending

These exchange heads aver more and more direct defense spending benefits will accrue to the numerous industries in this territory, although they concede these industries are not so numerous and large as those in many other sections. Moreover, they point out, the defense spending will increase purchasing power substantially throughout the nation and that this will mean a greater demand and higher prices for farm products, improving agricultural conditions still further and thus aiding this territory particularly. As far as farm income is concerned, it showed substantial gains last year over the preceding year, as a result of good crops in many districts and heavy government payments, it is pointed out.

Many larger circuit operators feel the same way about the outlook as the exchange heads, but, on the other hand, most of the independent exhibitor leaders, particularly those high up in Northwest Allied councils, are pessimistic over the outlook.

Independents Gloomy

These leaders declare many potential customers of their theatres are moving away from this territory to other industrial sections where, because of increased employment due to greater government defense spending, there are greater opportunities. Moreover, they point out, military training also is taking away many of their customers to camps and encampments in the south and far west.

This territory has received comparatively little benefit and no considerable benefit is in prospect from the defense and military programs, it is asserted.

Moreover, the feeling among these independent exhibitor leaders is that ever-increasing opposition, including bowling, the radio, night sport and other attractions, night clubs, taverns, etc., has taken away many of their customers and will continue to take even more and that they will not be able to win back these lost patrons. Thus, they are gloomy and blue in the face of "growing tax burdens and increasing film and other costs and declining grosses."

Bill in Iowa Would Tax Distributors

DES MOINES—Asked three weeks ago whether the film industry was involved in any legislation pending at the Iowa statehouse, Art Stolte, sage Tri-State district manager, commented:

"No, not yet. They tackle everything else and when they run out of other things they'll start on films."

This week Art's prophesy proved correct. A bill introduced in the Iowa house Tuesday proposed an annual $1,000 license fee on every Iowa distributor of motion picture film and a $1 special tax on every reel of motion picture film shown in Iowa.

Proceeds of the new taxes, except for a small amount for administration costs of the law, would go to the old-age pension fund.

Offered by two Republicans, Harvey Long of Clinton and Elmer E. Cooper of Corning, the bill would give the state tax commission jurisdiction over motion picture distributors and movie houses.

Distributors would be required to pay both the $1,000 annual distributors license or permit fee and the $1 a reel tax on all motion picture film brought into the state for showing. The $1 a reel tax would be levied on all types of film, including newsreels.

Exhibitors would not be taxed, but they would be prohibited from buying or leasing, showing or exhibiting any film acquired in any manner from an unlicensed distributor, or any film on which the special $1 tax had not been paid. The $1 a reel tax would be levied on the film only once.

: A Case of J'ining 'Em :

LINCOLN—Most surprising ad to hit the papers locally in many a moon is that concocted for the Varsity this week on "Mr. and Mrs. Smith"—the idea coming from RKO's publicist Bill Scholl, and seconded by Howard Federer, general manager.

Recognizing the whopper drawing ability of "Gone With the Wind" at the opposition Stuart across the street, this is the way the ad copy ran:

"Believe it or not, we are taking this space advising you to see 'Gone With the Wind,' now playing a competitive theatre. We feel that this picture is a tribute to the entire motion picture industry and was undoubtedly one of the greatest pictures ever made. HOWEVER, we're shouting about our show, too—a pieture we're proud to present, which *Redbook* magazine calls the most explosive and hilarious comedy of 1941, 'Mr. and Mrs. Smith'."

That makes of "Gone With the Wind" a great leveler. The opposition here, the L. L. Dent allied Nebraska Theatres, Inc., which sponsored the ad, has been fighting tooth and nail with the J. H. Cooper-Paramount theatres for five years. This is the first time they've written into the records on either side anything which amounts to a bow at the waist.

Anti-Music Tax Bill Backed by Allied

Minneapolis — Northwest Allied will back a bill now in the state legislature designed to knock Ascap and its music tax out of the state.

The measure prohibits copyright owners from combining in any manner to issue licenses for the public performance for profit of their compositions. It also would tax gross receipts of all sales and require registration of performance rights and schedule of license prices with the secretary of state.

Homecoming Reception For Susanna Foster

MINNEAPOLIS—Susanna Foster, a young local girl who has made good in the films, staged a two-day triumphant return to her home town where friends and admirers gave her a warm welcome. Together with Dolly Loehr, 14-year-old pianist, who also is featured in Paramount's "Hard-Boiled Canary," she appeared in person at the Orpheum Tuesday and Wednesday. The personal appearance engagement was designed to plug that film.

Bill Lansburg, Paramount exploiteer, came up from Kansas City to handle the Foster and Loehr engagement. He grabbed off considerable newspaper space and arranged a number of effective tieups for the pair.

Foster and Loehr P. A. At Kaycee Newman

KANSAS CITY—Many adults, as well as youngsters took advantage of the opportunity to see, and hear, Susanna Foster and Dolly Loehr in their personal appearance at the Newman Friday and Saturday, February 7 and 8. Miss Foster sang, accompanied by Miss Loehr, and the latter played, in a 30-minute interpolated program Friday evening at 9. Saturday morning, they autographed pictures which had been distributed, with announcements of the occasion, to high schools and junior colleges previously. A committee of Junior College girls met the artists at the Union Station. They went from Kansas City to Omaha, thence to Des Moines; their itinerary including Minneapolis and Chicago. The personal appearance series started in Salt Lake City, including Denver on the way to Kansas City.

Banquet Jennie Smeby

MINNEAPOLIS—Members of the Universal staff gave a banquet for Jennie Smeby, veteran contract clerk, and presented her with a suit case. She has resigned to move to California. Esther Singer replaces her.

Lyons to Des Moines

MINNEAPOLIS—Harold Lyons, 20th-Fox salesman here, has been transferred to the Des Moines exchange. His successor here hasn't been named yet.

Rowland Sees Selling Efforts Rewarded

MINNEAPOLIS—Happy days are ahead for the film industry, in the opinion of Richard A. Rowland, producer who visited Minneapolis in connection with the invitational screening of "Cheers for Miss Bishop," his newest production. Producers' super-efforts to improve their product and exhibitors' harder and more effective work in selling the "better" pictures will bring larger returns all along the line, he believes.

There already are fruits borne from the producers' concentration upon the domestic market and might-and-main striving to raise their products' quality, according to Rowland. Current and impending releases set a new aggregate high for Hollywood, he feels. Moreover, he is confident there'll be no let-down and that the consent decree also will be an influence making for a higher quality average.

"In this connection," he said, "I want to commend Eddie Ruben's constructive proposal to Northwest Allied to unite all branches of the industry in a campaign to sell the public the idea that Hollywood now is turning out the best pictures in the industry's history and then proving the fact. Good films, effectively sold to the public, will never fail at the boxoffice. Motion pictures still provide the utmost in entertainment for the least money and will continue to do so."

Good stories are the mainstay of worthwhile film productions and the most essential ingredients for a first-rate picture, in Rowland's opinion. And Hollywood producers now appreciate this and are devoting the utmost attention to the story side, he asserts.

Shifts by Pioneer Trail Parkinson's Resignation

DES MOINES—Resignation of Marion Parkinson, manager of the Spencer Theatre at Spencer, Ia., to go into business for himself, last week touched off a series of managerial changes in the Pioneer circuit.

Shuffled into the Spencer job by the deal was the Perry Scotchman, Gordon McKinnon, while Cliff Lindblad left the Iowa at Atlantic to take over McKinnon's post at the Perry.

Art Farrell was transferred from the Rapids at Rock Rapids to the Iowa in Atlantic and Lee Beckley, who has been calling the turns in the Frazier Theatre at Spencer now is guiding the Rapids.

Max Facter, head man at the Pioneer circuit offices in Des Moines, is expected to announce the Frazier setup soon.

"Bishop" Is Screened

KANSAS CITY—A screening of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" was held Monday at the Vogue to an invited audience of teachers and club women. A luncheon, attended by Richard A. Rowland, producer, and local theatre executives, followed the screening.

Several Bills Hold Trade Significance

HARRISBURG—Former Governor Earle's "emergency tax program" has been reintroduced in the House by Edwin Winner as the first step toward carrying into effect the financial program of Gov. Arthur H. James. Submitted were eight measures which would raise $184,575,500.

The Pennsylvania general assembly is considering James' budget recommendations of $542,208,797.

Emergency program provides a tax of 2 cents a pack on cigarets, an extra tax of 1 cent a gallon on gasoline, a 4-mill personal property tax, a 6 per cent corporate net income tax, a tax on bank and trust company stocks, a 10 per cent tax on liquor and a tax on the gross receipts of transportation companies and utilities. The Earle program has stood since its enactment in 1937. Originally there was a state admission tax on amusements, but this tax was discontinued several years ago.

Sunday Sports Bill Introduced

Bills to license Sunday bowling and basketball, provided the voters of a community approve by referendum, were introduced by Representatives John J. Baker, Thomas J. Heatherington and Louis Leonard, of Allegheny County.

Senate "Hot" on Games

State Senator John J. Haluska of Cambria County has introduced no less than six measures of interest to the motion picture industry. These bills include:

S-11: Which would license and tax pinball, hi-score and other games; Referred to the committee on finance.

S-14: Which would legalize Bingo and establish license fees; Referred to the committee on finance.

S-16: This measure provides for a license tax on all coin operated music boxes; Referred to the committee on finance.

S-18: Under terms of this bill theatre Bank Nights would be legalized and 15 per cent of the value of the prize would be payed as a tax within seven days thereafter to the county treasurer; annual fees which each theatre would pay for Bank Night permit would be based on population: Less than 3,000, $600; 3,000 to 10,000, $1,200; 10,000 and more, $1,600; Referred to the committee on finance.

S-20: This bill would license and tax all slot machines; Referred to the committee on finance.

S-96: This Haluska bill would legalize horse racing together with wagering on such races and would establish a commission and license fees; Referred to the committee on judiciary general.

"Dogs" in the House

H-118: Representative Powers has introduced a house bill which would legalize dog racing; Referred to the committee on law and order.

H-22: This is the "plumbers' bill" introduced by Representative Bretherick which would require all public toilets and urinals to be either self-flushing or flushed by foot instead of by hand; Referred to the public health and sanitation committee.

H-79: Representative Reuben E. Cohen's bill would prohibit the recording of any broadcast without the consent of the broadcaster and would prohibit the sale of such recordings; Referred to the committee on judiciary special.

Vote Down Bill to Legalize Bingo

Detroit—The Buckley-Walsh Bill to legalize Bingo for churches and veteran and fraternal organizations has been voted down by the house judiciary committee at Lansing.

Rep. Nelson A. Miles, committee chairman, said that members considered the matter one to be handled by local control.

Use Arbitration Office to Feel Way on Decree

ITO Defense Tax Questionnaire

Columbus—To present facts and figures in connection with the federal defense tax, the ITO of Ohio is asking exhibitors to submit information on each theatre as to admission price charges prior to July 1, 1940, and those charged today.

Four Bills Vital to The Trade in Ohio

COLUMBUS—There are four bills before the state legislature affecting the industry generally and exhibitors of Ohio specifically. They are:

H. B. 125: This measure was introduced at the request of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio with an eye to future protection. It provides for extension of the scope of the Department of Workshops and Factories, so as to give it jurisdiction over theatres showing "television pictures."

H. B. 240: This measure would eliminate newsreel censorship.

H. B. 246: This measure, similar to the federal wage and hour act, imposes a minimum of 30 cents an hour, with time and a half for all hours in excess of eight per day or 40 per week, for the next five years, after which the hourly rate jumps to 40 cents.

Commenting upon this bill, P. J. Wood, ITO secretary, says: "If it passes, every employer, including operators of theatres, would become subject to the new act regardless of the intrastate character of his business or his present status under the federal setup. Its enactment will certainly add to the operating cost of each and every theatre in the state."

H. B. 271: This measure would make it a felony to possess obscene magazines, literature and motion picture films.

By H. F. REVES

DETROIT—Detroit exhibitors have been visiting the new arbitration office here in increasing numbers for the past week, but up to the time of writing, no formal complaint for arbitration had been filed.

Active interest was shown by careful questions asked by a number of exhibitors, and putting of hypothetical problems that indicated a careful consideration before resorting to this new procedure.

One important conclusion drawn from questions presented by filmites contacting the office, is that a detailed study of the consent decree would answer a number of questions for them. A number of filmites, for instance, have evidently not understood the scope and limitations of subjects for arbitration as established by the decree and have brought up subjects not properly in its field.

One circuit was known to be studying a local situation with a view toward presenting action for arbitration.

Paramount Has Special Two-Branch Meeting

PITTSBURGH — David Kimelman, Paramount branch manager, and members of the local exchange staff, enjoyed a busy day Tuesday when they served as hosts to visiting Paramount representatives from the Cincinnati office. Louis Phillips, home office legal representative, was present to unravel the consent decree for the benefit of the members of the two company branches. Attorney Lee, another Paramount special representative, also was present, and the session was an all-day affair.

From Cincinnati were Joe Oulahan, manager, Mark Cummings, Bob Clark, Bill Meier, Tom Day, Jim Doyle, Jack Rodman, Ross Spencer, Lucielle Leisendecker, Lillian Montague, Mary Hess and Aeolian Green.

AAA Sets Up Commodious Quarters in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—Commodious offices, reception rooms and tribunal for the convenience of distributors and exhibitors, are provided in suite 910 Chamber of Commerce Bldg. here by the American Arbitration Ass'n for the Cincinnati arbitration board. It is under the direction of Lorenz L. Lemper, tribunal clerk.

Appoints Swiger

CLEVELAND—Herbert Scheftel, president of the Newsreel Theatre Co., announces the appointment of Holden Swiger as resident manager in Cleveland. The company last week opened its new 488-seat Telenews here.

Bill Bowers at Vic

WHEELING, W. VA.—Bill Bowers is now in charge at the Vic.

Variety Committees Are Named for '41

COLUMBUS—Virgil Jackson, chief barker of the Variety Club, Tent 2, has named the following committees to serve during 1941:

National convention—Ben Almond, Lou Holleb, Charlie John, Leo Yassenoff; membership—C. Harry Schreiber, chairman; Johnny Murphy, Jack Needham, Max Stearn, George Anagnost; house—Al Redman, chairman; Russ Bovim, Bill Cunningham, Charlie John and H. A. Vance; card room—Harrold Eckert, chairman; Lawrence Burns, Johnny Murphy, Max Stearn and Harry Young.

Finance—J. F. Luft; welfare and charity—P. J. Wood and Jake Luft; constitution and by-laws—Jim Hale, Bill Pullin sr., P. J. Wood; publicity—Johnny Barcroft, Bill Cunningham, Harrold Eckert, Freddie Oestreicher; mobile unit—Lou Holleb, Lloyd Goad; news—Freddie Oestreicher; celebrities—Harrold Eckert, Mel Frank, Freddie Oestreicher; golf—Lee Hofheimer, Dr. Louis Mark, H. A. Vance; skating—George Anagnost.

Activities—Jim Hale, chairman; Ben Almond, vice-chairman; Lloyd Goad, treasurer; George Anagnost, Russ Bovim, Dr. Don Bowers, Jim Hendel, Jeffrey Goldsol, Lou Holleb, Johnny Murphy, Bob Nelson, Bill Ortman, Al Redman, C. Harry Schreiber, Al Sugarman and Leo Yassenoff.

"Liberty" Campaign Wins Award for E. L. Merkley

LANSING, MICH.—E. L. Merkley, Gladmer Theatre, has been awarded an Honor Roll Button by M-G-M for his campaign on "Land of Liberty," industry-sponsored feature which the company is releasing.

Highlights of Merkley's campaign included a special screening for the governor of Michigan and his administrative board. A letter from the governor endorsing the film was obtained and published in the dailies. A proclamation was made by the mayor of Lansing. An invitation to both bodies of the legislature was read from each floor.

Fifty newly naturalized citizens were escorted to the theatre by Legion members on opening night and were addressed by one of the city's leading judges. A radio contest on the subject: "What the Land of Liberty Means to Me," was conducted. The Chamber of Commerce cooperated fully and notices were sent to all boy scouts and similar organizations. Local libraries used window cards and arranged historical book displays.

The De Luxe Beechwold Opened in Columbus

COLUMBUS—The newest and most de luxe theatre in Ohio's capital city opened Friday—the Beechwold. Milton Yassenoff is house manager for Louis J. Wiethe of Cincinnati.

CLEVELAND

BOB BLAIR, former Paramount cameraman, is now a member of the Telenews theatre as resident news cameraman. He will cover everything of local interest which is to be regularly incorporated in the Telenews program . . . Milt Mooney has a new booker in his Co-operative Theatres of Ohio office. The new booker is his son, Tom, who is interrupting his course at Notre Dame to get a little practical education.

James R. Grainger, president of Republic Pictures, stopped over last Thursday to visit with Nat Lefton and the local Republic boys on his way to the coast . . . George Fetig of Cincinnati, booking the Marion and Fremont theatres for Midhio, was on Filmrow . . . Also visiting the booking spots during the week were Nat Charnas of Toledo; the J. A. Beidlers sr. and jr. also of Toledo, and one of the Ortt Brothers of Newcomerstown.

Leonard Mishkind, Republic head booker, officially goes out of circulation with announcement of his engagement to Miss Cecile Schneider of this city. They were "at home" Sunday, February 16 . . . Another engagement of interest to film folks announced last Sunday was that of Miss Mary Campbell of the Associated Circuit, to James Wise of Cleveland. And Alvern Dietrich, also of Associated, became Mrs. Warren Fowler last week. This is the third item of matrimonial news affecting the Associated Circuit personnel reported within a week.

Joe Lissauer, who went to Florida for a vacation, came home to recuperate from the flu which occupied most of his vacation time . . . Jack Southe, artist for the Warner theatres, is at Polyclinic Hospital recovering from an operation . . . Miss Eva Urdang, secretary to M. B. Horwitz, general manager of the Washington circuit, is resting comfortably at Mt. Sinai Hospital after an appendectomy . . . Harry A. Flinn of the Berea Theatre, Berea, and Mrs. Flinn left last Monday to spend a month at Fort Lauderdale in Florida.

Joe Shagrin reportedly plans to build a new house in North Canton, duplicating in style his Foster Theatre of Youngstown . . . Another rumor has it that Loew's might open the Ohio on Euclid Ave., adjoining its State Theatre, as a newsreel house.

"Back Street" was screened here last week to an enthusiastic group of exhibitors . . . Cleveland newspaper critics, W. Ward Marsh, Plain Dealer; *Arthur Spaeth,* News, *and Jack Warfel,* Press, *are back from Miami where they were guests of Universal at the premiere of "Back Street."*

Joe Kauffman, Universal branch manager, is reported to be making rapid strides back to health following a serious two-month illness . . . Frank Belles, Republic special sales representative, was a flu victim last week but is reported on the mend . . . F. Arthur Simon of Lake Shore Sales Company staged two cooking school matinees—at the Bedford Theatre, Bedford, and at the Euclid Theatre, Cleveland. The matinees are sponsored by the Electrical League of Cleveland, giving away an electric stove at each matinee, as well as baskets of food.

Arnold Nathanson of the Warner theatre publicity department, who was married February 2, spent his honeymoon in New York . . . "GWTW," at popular prices, was held a second week at the Stillman following two weeks at the State making a total of four consecutive weeks on the Main Stem . . . "This Thing Called Love" was held for three weeks . . . Everett Steinbuck, manager of Loew's State on leave of absence, writes from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., that he is busy arranging to convert a house he owns, into an apartment . . . Milt Harris, formerly in charge of publicity for the Loew Theatres here, handled the "Back Street" premiere publicity campaign for Universal in Miami . . . Robert Yodice, assistant manager at Loew's State, is searching for a name for his new daughter who arrived last week.

Schwartz Rejoins Warner At Helm of Ohio, Canton

CLEVELAND—Richard Wright, Warner assistant zone manager, announces that Ben Schwartz, formerly with the Warner theatre organization, has rejoined the circuit and has been appointed manager of the Ohio at Canton.

He succeeds Bill Harwell in Canton, Harwell having been promoted to the position of city manager in Mansfield, a position left open because of the resignation of William Dworski.

Dworski to Lorain

CLEVELAND—William Dworski has been transferred from city manager for Warner in Mansfield to manager of the Palace, Lorain. He succeeds Louis Lamm, who is now at the helm of the Capitol here.

Hold Over "Story"

CLEVELAND—"Philadelphia Story" will stay a second week at Loew's State, Charles Raymond, Loew's district manager, announces.

Brandt and Levines To Operate Lake

CLEVELAND—Harry Brandt and Louis and Marty Levine of New York have formed a theatre company to operate the Lake here which they have leased from Warner. The house was to have opened Saturday on a dual bill policy featuring foreign product. Prices are scaled from 33 to 55 cents.

In the east, Brandt operates a circuit bearing his name and also is president of the ITOA of New York.

Son to Pearlsteins

CLEVELAND—A son, named Gerald, was born last week to the Manny Pearlsteins. He is publicity director for Warner Theatres in the Cleveland zone.

On and On Goes "GWTW"

Cleveland—There seems to be no limit to the number of people in this territory who want to see "GWTW." The picture has just completed its third week downtown at popular prices and now is in its fourth week, with no abatement in attendance.

"GWTW" played two big weeks at Loew's State. It moved down to the Stillman where it doubled average grosses in its first move-over week. At $1.10 top, "GWTW" last year played a record engagement of 10 weeks at the Stillman.

Warner Men in Canton Area Hold Meeting

CANTON, OHIO—Warner executives and house managers of the Canton area attended a regional meeting at Hotel Belden here at which the outlook for the spring and summer was discussed along with exploitation of future bookings and other trade problems.

Attending were Nat Wolf, in charge of the Cleveland zone office; Dick Wright, Saul Bragin and E. C. Pearlstein, all of Cleveland; Frank Savage, manager of the Warner, Youngstown; John La Due, manager of the Strand, Akron; Irving Solomon, manager of the Lincoln, Massillon, and Bill Harwell, manager of the Ohio here.

CINCINNATI

PRACTICALLY every exchange on Filmrow was represented at the opening of Carl Roh's new theatre in Cynthiana, Ky., which was a gala occasion. Following a parade by the town band, speeches were delivered by the Hon. Judge McSwinford and every member of the theatre family, including the ushers and "French" Patterson, projectionist and engineer. Completely equipped by Midwest Theatre Supply, the new theatre is modern in all respects. A buffet luncheon and refreshments were served.

The opening of Archie Clemons' newest house at Nitro, W. Va., also promises to be a "super" social event, outdoing even his grand opening at Smithers. Word that Ethel Clemons will supervise the buffet spread, guarantees it will be tops in epicurean feasts . . . M. W. Murphy, pioneer operator, is reported negotiating for a 1,200 *seat theatre in War, W. Va. . . . Max Matz, Colonial and Ryland theatres, Bluefield, W. Va., is vacationing in Florida . . . Ferd Midelberg of Logan, Ohio, was in town . . . Willis Vance has equipped his Eden with new projectors and sound . . . Pete Lang's theatre at Whitesville, W. Va., has new lamps and projectors and sound.*

"Pop" Wessel reports the Queen City Variety Club's special drive for the welfare fund will soon be inaugurated . . . Columbia's "Penny Serenade" is booked for the RKO Albee . . . 20th-Fox's Irene Sagel is vacationing in Florida. She will trip to Cuba via the homeward trek . . . Peter Rosian, Universal, spent the weekend in Chicago at a meeting of company executives.

Saul Renick, publicist on "Back Street," spent two weeks in Cincy prior to his departure for Atlanta, Ga., for further promotion work . . . Alec Booth of the Strand, Kenova, W. Va., also conducts an active coast business, and spends much time planing between Cincy, Chicago and Cleveland . . . Gene Custer and his son, Jack, spent the weekend in Cincy . . . Charley Cassinelli, Mullins, W. Va., is reported on the sick list.

L. E. Rogers, Welsh, W. Va., is welcoming a new daughter-in-law, his son having recently married a popular belle of McDowell county . . . The local RKO force is out in front in the Ned Depinet drive, recently inaugurated, announces Wilbur Heatherington . . . Ed Novak, Midwest Theatre Supply, left this week to join Uncle Sam's army at Shelby, Miss. He was the honored guest at a farewell party given by the office force, and was presented with a handsome traveling bag. The office also officially "adopted" Ed, and each week of his absence he will receive a remembrance from the force.

Kay Harris, who appears on WSAI in the "Pogue's Home of the Air" program, will receive a screen test for the new "Tillie the Toiler" series to be filmed by Columbia. The test is on the recommendation of Allan Moritz, Cincinnati Columbia manager.

HOW IS YOUR DEFENSE?

Hundreds of exhibitors who are concerned about increasing their attendance are spending all kinds of money which cuts deeply into their profits. Here is a deal that a wide-awake manager can't afford to pass up:



Maurice Zell, who recently came from California, has a formula that will increase your box office receipts. Results will be definitely better. You will be wondering where all the people are coming from, who are crowding into your theatre, its amazing. Besides, you are not to invest a **single penny.** If you will send for me there won't be any obligations on your part. I feel sure that it will be the beginning of a long and mutually pleasant business relationship. I shall be glad to see you in your office at your convenience.

Write — Wire or Phone Main 4700

MAURICE ZELL, Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio

"GWTW" Exceptional Draw in Cleveland

CLEVELAND—"Gone With the Wind" is gone in name only. After two very big weeks at Loew's State, it moved over to the Stillman for a third big week and is staying on for a fourth consecutive week playing at the same theatre where last year, at $1.10 top, it held forth for ten weeks. It doubled the average Stillman business last week. RKO Palace patrons are giving their support to the name bands and outstanding stage shows that are following each other weekly. Last week it was Cab Calloway and his Cotton Club Revue augmented by the Mills Brothers, that filled the house, while patrons stayed on to see "Escape to Glory" as the secondary attraction.

Exceeding expectations was the very excellent business of "The Thief of Bagdad" at Loew's State. The run opened with an exceptionally big weekend, and held to a comfortable business during the week. Another hit with the Cleveland public is "This Thing Called Love." A big opening week at the Hippodrome is followed by an even bigger move-over week at the Allen where it stays on for a third week. "High Sierra" came through with comfortable but not outstanding business.

Weather was average winter weather, with snow and ice part of the time. There was no unusual competition.

Detail for week ending February 7:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....190
This is a move-over from the Hippodrome for a second week on the Avenue.
Hippodrome—**High Sierra** (FN) 85
Palace—**Escape to Glory** (Col) 120
Cab Calloway and his Cotton Club Revue was the main drag.
State—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA) 95
Stillman—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....200
Fourth week downtown—Picture played two weeks at State and moved over to Stillman where it is being held for a fourth week.

"This Thing Called Love" Strong Into Third Week

CINCINNATI—"This Thing Called Love," Columbia feature, walked off with the top grosses in Cincinnati in its third week, running ten per cent above any other feature, including first runs. Cold weather and Bingo receipt, which for January exceeded preceding months, retarded motion picture business. "Back Street," Universal feature, opened at the Albee with outstanding business.

Detail for week ended February 6:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), held over..110
Capitol—**Arizona** (Col), 2nd and final wk..... 90
Grand—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB), held over.100
Keith's—**Second Chorus** (Para't), 2nd wk..... 80
Lyric—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 3rd and final wk. 120
Palace—**Victory** (Para't) 60
Shubert—**Life With Henry** (Para't), plus stage show 90

Credit Stage Show With Leadership in Detroit

DETROIT—Best business of the week, on a comparative basis, went to the Michigan where "Folies Bergere" stage show drew heavily on masculine attendance. Amazing story of the month is the surprising holdover of "Philadelphia Story" at the UA, which is heading into a fifth week currently, but "positively" won't go further.

Weather has been generally favorable, with marked absence of snow and rain, but fairly cool. Detroiters are still recovering from the flu epidemic, and are not "doing right" by theatre boxoffices, in the opinion of exhibitors, yet.

Detail for week ending February 6:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Invisible Woman** (Univ); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox)..... 90
Cinema—**Time in the Sun** (SR); **Next Time We Love** (Univ), revival 75
Fox—**Night Train** (20th-Fox); **This Thing Called Love** (Col) 95
Michigan—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA), plus "Folies Bergere" on stage 115
Palms-State—**South of Suez** (WB); **Here Comes the Navy** (WB) 95
United Artists—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M), 4th wk.....100

"Wind" Tops Pittsburgh In Winter's Blackout

PITTSBURGH—Total Winter arrived and the first month of 1941 went into the records as "Black January" as "Gone With the Wind" remained the standout attraction. The sun was visible only 17 per cent of the time during the month. Smoke, fog, clouds and smog showed with snow, snow, rain and snow. Not too many people ventured forth to theatres, although "Second Chorus" and a snappy stage show at the Stanley and "This Thing Called Love," in its second week at the Senator, in addition to "GWTW," were over average when boxoffice receipts were counted. The Columbia comedy was held over at the Senator and "GWTW" was moved into the Warner. "The Thief of Bagdad," in its third downtown week, made a good showing. Details to February 1:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox); **Phantom Submarine** (Col)..... 85
Fulton—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M)..... 80
Penn—**Gone With the Wind** (M-GM), 2nd wk...130
Ritz—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 3rd downtown wk. 95
Senator—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 2nd wk. 115
Stanley—**Second Chorus** (Para't); Streets of Paris stage show 120
Warner—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **Little Men** (RKO) 90

Detroit Party for Lucille and Desi

DETROIT—RKO entertained exhibitors, the press and radio celebrities at a reception at the Statler Hotel for Lucille Ball, who is starred in "A Girl, a Guy, and a Gob," and her husband, Desi Arnaz, who is here for two weeks of personal appearances at the Statler Terrace Room.

Miss Ball said she knew BOXOFFICE by its "bright red cover," and that she read it religiously. Arnaz said he always read it in RKO Vice-President Joe Nolan's office . . . Jim Sharkey, another RKO vice-president, calmly officiated as host, ably abetted by local Office Manager Harry Levinson and Salesman Milton Cohen . . . Charlie Perry, ex-chief barker of Variety, and Mrs. Perry (who was really hungry), plus Irving Goldberg, represented exhibitors.

Dick Osgood of WXYZ and Jimmie Stevenson were among the radio-ites. Press gallery included a cross-section of Detroit's amusement journalism: Ed Lapping, managing editor; Sunday Editor Charles Wagner and Film Critic Walter Stevenson of the Detroit *Times*. From the *Free Press*—Frank P. Gill, film editor, and his wife, and the "Town Crier" himself, Jack Pickering; and from the *News*, Herschel Hart, radio editor; John Finlayson, film editor, and Verne Minge, cartoonist.

Alice Gorham, Bill Hendricks and Ralph Stitt capably represented UDT.

Reorganization of UDT Publicity Department

DETROIT—Publicity department of United Detroit Theatres has been reorganized with Bill Hendricks placed in charge of west side houses under the supervisor, Joseph Busic, while Cliff Brown has been placed in charge of east side houses under supervisor, Asher Shaw. Downtown houses will be handled directly by Ralph Stitt, head of the department. Alice Gorham will continue to handle special publicity.

LOUISVILLE

W. E. CARRELL of the Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. has returned from Chicago where he attended the first convention of the Theatre Equipment Dealers Protective Ass'n held at the Congress Hotel, February 8, 9 and 10 . . . The State, Milltown, owned and operated by R. L. Harned, suffered severe damage by fire which started on the stage and worked through the whole interior of the building. Harned states repairs will begin immediately.

Critics Boyd Martin of the Courier-Journal *and A. A. Daugherty of the* Times *in Miami for the world premiere of "Back Street." A special campaign for the Universal picture here was handled by L. J. Alleman . . . Dr. W. H. Race has sold his Pastime, Butler, Ky., to local interests . . . Alterations amounting to* $1,000 *will be effected on the Rialto Theatre building . . . New chairs, lamps, generator, screen and sound have been installed in the Town Hall, Winchester, Ky. Also sound in the Grand at Frankfort, Ky. Both are owned by S. D. Lee.*

G. W. Honsberger has been appointed manager of Westinghouse's Louisville office in succession to T. W. Volls, deceased . . . J. H. Meadows has reconditioned and re-equipped his Strand at Dawson Springs, Ky. . . . The new Royal, Paintsville, Ky., has been opened by Kenneth Williams . . . Film salesmen noted in town recently included Milton Krueger, United Artists; Bob "Sherlock Holmes" Schrader, Warner, and Tom McCleaster, Fox.

PITTSBURGH

RECEIPTS of $1,000 were "Gone With the Wind" one evening last week when two armed bandits held up two employes at the Warner Columbia, Sharon, and made their getaway in a waiting auto. The final evening showing of "GWTW" had just been started when the bandits approached the boxoffice as Andrew Gorzo, assistant manager, and Paul Volkie, doorman, gathered the money to take from the ticket office to the manager's office. Pat Notaro, manager, and T. Fordham, Warner circuit's northern area district manager, witnessed the holdup . . . Speer Marousis was around the other day and reported that his Regent, New Castle, was entered one night recently and around $70 was stolen, together with considerable property damage. Two men have been placed under arrest and have confessed the crime. Marousis stated that around $150 was recently taken from the cashier of the Penn, New Castle, by an armed bandit.

Thomas A. Gilbert, who has sold his New Oakland to the Warner circuit, was around Filmrow the other day "clearing the books" . . . Harry Kalmine was in New York last week whipping up some stage shows for the Stanley . . . Fred J. Herrington, AMPTO secretary, reports satisfaction on legislative matters. He spent several days in Harrisburg last week looking over the situation . . . Helen Hoerle has been here exploiting "Fantasia," which opens in the Fulton early in March.

"The movies," writes Florence Fisher Parry in the *Press*, "more now than at any time in their existence, are the friends and aides of democracy, and are assisting the United States in its defense program, with all their mighty resources."

The John Perrys of Belle Vernon are vacationing in Miami . . . Vern Scott, circuit exhibitor, is a 16mm camera fan and has exposed a lot of film in pursuit of his hobby. He is especially proud of his natural color reels . . . Al Weiss of McKeesport finally tore himself away from his Weiss Big 5 basketball team and is vacationing in Florida . . . Warner's South Hills Harris is introducing a new game called Quest: How Smart Are You?, invented and patented by Peter Carmine Abate of Wilmerding.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fineberg were host and hostess at last Friday's family night party at the Variety Club . . . Joe Hiller was King at the February 10 dinner . . . Mrs. Peter Dana and Mrs. John J. Maloney were hostesses at the ladies luncheon February 11 . . . Mr. and Mrs. M. S. England were scheduled as leaders for the February 14 family night party, and the February 21 date will find Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Rosenberg in charge . . . Pete Dana will be King at the February 17 dinner and Herb Greenblatt has the February 24 date.

Earle W. Sweigert, newly-appointed Paramount district manager, covering Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Washington, was welcomed here on his first official visit by Dave Kimelman, branch manager. Also here to greet Sweigert was Harry Goldstein, former local manager, who drops this city's branch from his supervision as he assumes additional authority in his new district which has added Detroit.

Walt Thomas, former assistant manager at the State, Wilkinsburg, has returned across the street to the Rowland as assistant to Dick Brown. At one time he was doorman there. He succeeds Harold Banks, who has entered military service.

Oldtime friends cheered Richard A. Rowland when he arrived to screen his latest production, "Cheers for Miss Bishop," at the uptown Rialto. Rowland's return was a grand occasion and his picture, which is being distributed by United Artists, was applauded for its fine merit. He has signed with UA to produce three more. First in preparation is "Those Amazing People," Dick's new title for "Battle of Britain."

The new Shadyside will be ready for opening any day now. It's a beauty, too . . . New engineer here for RCA service is Dan Ferguson . . . Ray Allison, circuit operator, was confined to his home in Cresson for over a week by the flu . . . The "UA-Kelly" drive extends to April 19, announce colorful banners in the local UA office . . . Frank Carver, local American Seating Co. representative for many years, is dead.

Martin Terner of American Theatrical Valance Co. has joined Mrs. Terner in Miami . . . Fred A. Beedle, AMPTO's president, is interested in Senate bill No. 18, which would license theatre games at very high fees and which, additionally, would give the state a 15 per cent cut on all "awards" . . . A. L. Pindat, Republic's special representative, has completed his work here and goes next to the Washington branch.

Adapting Programs To the Audience

DETROIT—Adapting the features to the audience by having a different program matinees and evenings, looks like the major new trend in Detroit show business.

With one of the largest downtown houses seriously flirting with the idea, a different adaptation is being started out at the Varsity by Grant Hawkins, UDT manager.

The Varsity has Saturday matinees with a heavy attendance of youngsters. Instead of picking a feature intended primarily for youngsters and using it on the entire weekend change, thereby discouraging a certain amount of adult patronage, Hawkins is dropping the heavier of the two features on his dual bill and substituting with a western for the youngsters, plus some extra cartoons, for the matinee show only, thereby catering to both types of taste.

The Fox is trying out the idea this week, running "Back Street" alone in the evenings, plus some added shorts, while "Youth Will Be Served" is added for the matinee trade.

The idea of the Fox showing is apparently based upon the theory that the matinee patronage is more interested in quantity for a given admission, while the night patrons will be choosier in going to a theatre and insist a bit more on picture quality.

Paves "Fantasia's" Way

PITTSBURGH—Walter Wall of RCA's home office will be in charge of the installation of special sound reproducing equipment at the Fulton for the engagement of Walt Disney's "Fantasia."

Releases That Count . . . Available NOW

DEVIL BAT
SECRET EVIDENCE
MARKED MEN
I TAKE THIS OATH
MISBEHAVING HUSBANDS
CAUGHT IN THE ACT
HOLD THAT WOMAN

SURE-FIRE WESTERNS

BILLY THE KID
With BOB STEELE

FRONTIER MARSHAL
With TIM McCOY

LONE RIDER
With GEO. HOUSTON



Exchanges Everywhere

Contends "Service" Passes Justified

DETROIT—Passes admitting any number of persons at five cents apiece have been distributed over the near-downtown area by the Town Theatre, operated by the Broder circuit. Described as an "Adult's Get Acquainted Courtesy Pass," they are found in merchants' stores nearby, with the merchants giving them out as goodwill gestures to customers.

The passes are "good for one or more persons," and for "any time" until expiration date, at a service charge of five cents per person. One edition of the passes expires February 15, and the house is slated to go into regular vaudeville on a split week policy February 21 at 20 cents admission. Present admission is 15 cents.

Jack Broder, who recently acquired the house, has been the objective of several attacks by other exhibitors on charges of lowering prices by this and other means. Broder said that he found the public reluctant to enter the Town, which has an old-standing reputation as a society house, and adopted the low-priced pass idea strictly to introduce the new policy to the public. Broder contends that he has not used the special forms of passes under attack except where competitive or other conditions demanded, citing the Time Theatre as one place where he had not adopted such a pass policy.

Explaining his reduction of prices at the Seville, which he also took over three weeks ago, from 20 to 10 cents for four days a week, Broder cited the difficulty of getting product within a reasonable running time for this house as an important reason for lowering prices.

Further, he said: "In my opinion, 10 cents, except for weekends, is sufficient for that neighborhood. The residents may be classed among the poorest in Detroit and cannot afford more.

"I'd like to operate at 30 cents, but I can't under the conditions. For years this theatre has lost money, in my opinion, and I'd be a poor business man to carry on the same policy.

"The house has to wait eight to ten weeks after the key theatre, my nearest competitor, to get a print of a popular picture for a weekend booking."

Roxy in Martinsburg Under Blatt Banner

MARTINSBURG, PA.—The Roxy has reopened under the banner of the Blatt Bros. David Madden, formerly connected with the circuit at East Brady, is house manager, and William Blatt, supervisor. The 300-seat house was acquired under a long-term lease from John Helleberg.

Detroit Variety to Hold First Meeting of 1941

DETROIT—Variety Club will hold its first general membership meeting of 1941 on February 17. The event will be held in the clubrooms in the Book Cadillac Hotel, and will launch a program for the year.

DETROIT

GEORGE L. SCHUYLER has joined the sales development staff of Jam Handy . . . Wade Allen, Fine Arts manager, was confined to his home by illness . . . Bill Carlson pinch hit as emcee, ringmaster, and general factotum at Variety, Saturday . . . Father David J. Duncan has resigned as chaplain of Variety because of his transfer to Birmingham . . . John Howard, Paramount manager, was hit by a puck during one of the Red Wings' (hockey) games. Six stitches were taken in a nasty cut just over his left eye.

Jack Bell of United Billposters, recovering from a bad cold, is off for a month in Florida . . . Monogram's new offering, "Pride of the Bowery," is not about Frank Barbaro . . . Richard Rowland, producer of UA's "Cheers for Miss Bishop," had a personally-conducted preview for exhibitors Tuesday at Wade Allen's Fine Arts . . . David M. Idzal, managing director of the Fox, is back from New York where he made arrangements for stage shows.

Ray Schreiber, president of Midwest Theatres, off for a couple of weeks to visit his family at Tucson, Ariz. . . . Girls of the "Folies Bergere" show at the Michigan were guest artists on the WXYZ "Mile O' Dimes" broadcast . . . Saul Sloan is incorporating his new Mercury Theatre Co. . . . Irving Belinsky, Morris Fishman and Sonia Mellon are incorporating the Clawson Amusement Co.

Earl Hudson, UDT president, was long associated with Richard Rowland as production chief at FN, Rowland disclosed when he was here for the preview of UA's "Cheers for Miss Bishop" . . . Irene Fairbairn is visiting her husband's family here while he's taking a year in the army; he's Murray M. Fairbairn, Detroit artist, now of Disney studios. He did the centaurette heads in "Fantasia."

Jacob Schreiber, retired theatre magnate, has changed his address to Cocoanut Lane, Palm Island, at Miami Beach . . . Jackson S. Hurford sr. and wife are leaving for a ten-day Florida jaunt . . . Arthur Robinson is starting his new blue orchid dishes in Fred De Lodder's Aloma . . . Albert W. Heuser, manager of the Aloma, manages to be one of happiest managers—always that bright laugh for a caller . . . Sympathy to Ralph Raskin of Robinson Premiums on the death of his day-old son . . . Walter Aller, manager of the Del-The, finally manages to do his business by telephone.

Nat Haase is opening his own office on the seventh floor of the Film Exchange Building, to represent Quality Premiums. Lillian Ambrozy remains temporarily in charge of the Metro Premium office which Haase vacates . . . Les Gruber, new Variety member, recovered from a case of flu . . . Max M. Barewin, who was with Price Theatre Premiums for seven years in Kansas City and St. Louis, is managing the local office, replacing Leonard Soskin.

Book Sammy Kaye

COLUMBUS—After the successful engagement of Ted Weems' Orchestra, Loew's Broad has booked in Sammy Kaye for the week of the 28th.

Metro Executives Come to Detroit

DETROIT—Top M-G-M executives were in town over the weekend for the formal transfer of the Detroit exchange territory under the new divisional setup.

William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, headed the delegation, accompanied by "Ted" O'Shea, new central division manager, whose responsibility includes Detroit; J. J. Maloney, new district manager for Detroit, and Jack Flynn, who relinquishes the city as his district headquarters in favor of Chicago.

Together with Frank J. Downey, local M-G-M branch manager, and practically the entire local sales force, the executives visited with many members of the industry at Variety Club on Saturday night and at individual meetings over the weekend. They had lunch on Saturday with Earl Hudson and Ed F. Hyman of United Detroit Theatres, and on Monday with E. C. Beatty and J. Oliver Brooks of the Butterfield circuit.

Harry Alberth Wins $250 In Manos Circuit Drive

PITTSBURGH—Harry Alberth, manager of the Manos, Hollidaysburg, for winning the recent Manos circuit managers' drive, received a prize of $250. Runners-up were Dick McCool of Latrobe and George Kerr, Homer City. Twelve managers and assistants received bonuses, Bernard Buchheit, Manos circuit's district manager, stated.

Wrist Watches for Two

PITTSBURGH—Bert M. Stearn, UA district manager, has awarded wrist watches to Dick McCool, Latrobe, and Joe Bugala, Ellwood City, winners in a special Manos circuit exploitation campaign covering "Foreign Correspondent" and "The Thief of Bagdad."

Laverne Crisswell Heads Pittsburgh Local 754

PITTSBURGH—Annual election of Local 754 (Theatrical Crafts Federal Credit Union) resulted in naming of the following officers: Laverne Crisswell, president; William Humphrey, vice-president; Charles Bengel, treasurer; and these members of the board of directors, Lou Indo, William Thompson, Charles Kennedy, Earl Lohr, Art Williams and William Watterson.

Police Stumped

SHARON, PA.—Police as yet have failed to uncover any clues as to the identity or whereabouts of two armed men who held up the Columbia Theatre and escaped with $1,000.

Probe Safe-Cracking

UHRICHSVILLE, OHIO—Police are probing a safe-cracking job at the State where weekend receipts, estimated at between $400 and $500, were taken when a safe was drilled open by someone who forced entrance to the building.

Heart Attack Fatal To Hettisheimer

CINCINNATI—Andrew Hettisheimer, pioneer independent and for 61 years connected with theatrical enterprises, died suddenly at Christ Hospital following a heart attack at the age of 73.

He began his career as an usher at Heuck's Theatre, later becoming treasurer. At one time he also was treasurer and manager of Pike's Opera House, a Cincinnati landmark. Before the advent of motion pictures, Hettisheimer was treasurer of Keith's and later managed the Orpheum where he inaugurated the "sky roof." He also served variously as assistant supervisor of the Strand, Walnut, Keith's, Family and Gift's theatres under Ike Libson until 1918. He managed Dr. Kolb's Norwood Theatre for five years, the position he occupied at the time of his death.

He pioneered the industry in Cincinnati as operator of the old American, now the Strand, and at one time served as treasurer for the Cincinnati baseball club.

As vice-president of the OMPTA, he was a member of the arbitration and examining boards of projectionists, and he was also a leader of the Cincinnati Independent Exhibitors.

Services were conducted at the Church of the Nativity, with the following serving as honorary pallbearers: J. J. Grady, 20th-Fox; Stanley Jacques, RKO; Wess Huss, Associated Theatres; J. J. Oulahan, Paramount; E. M. Booth, M-G-M; Jake Gelman, Midwest Theatre Supply; and Ralph Kinsler, Charley Weigel, Harry Wessel, Harold Bernstein, Dr. Kolb and Mayor Roudebush of Norwood.

He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, and two sons and two daughters.

Fred Witter Dies After A Lingering Illness

CANTON, OHIO—Fred W. Witter, 71, for a time manager of the old Lyceum, now the State, died at his home here after a lingering illness. He had long been prominent in theatrical circles here and for years was a member of the famous Grand Army band which toured the United States. His wife and two daughters survive. Services and burial were locally.

Lester E. Matt

DETROIT—Lester E. Matt, a pioneer upstate exhibitor, is dead. He withdrew from the industry a few months ago, selling his Strand, State, Della and Roxy at Flint to the Butterfield circuit in order to return to the real estate business. His wife, after whom the Della was named, survives. Interment was at Sandusky, Ohio, which was his home town.

George W. Dawson Dead

PITTSBURGH—George W. Dawson, 66, local newsreel cameraman for many years, died last Saturday in Oakland, Cal., where he was visiting his son, George W. Dawson jr. The body was returned here for burial.

New Equipment Sales Lively in Cleveland

CLEVELAND—L. H. Walters, manager of the local office of National Theatre Supply Co., reports a lively interest in new equipment installations in this territory. NTS has just completed installation of booth equipment at the Liberty Theatre, Cleveland. The work included a new sound system, stands and magazines, new lenses and screen.

The Majestic, Lima, a George Titzler house, has new sound, projectors, stands and magazines. The Lyric, Lima, also a Titzler house, has a new pair of lenses and a screen.

For the new house now under construction in Ellet, a suburb of Akron, recently leased for 20 years by Louis Isreal of Cleveland, NTS will provide booth equipment. This new house will have 750 seats, and will be completed in the spring.

Hyman Assumes Para't Post Around March 1

DETROIT—E. F. Hyman, film buyer and assistant to the president at United Detroit offices, will leave about March 1 to become assistant to Sam Dembow and Leonard Goldenson, top Paramount Theatres executives, in the home office. For 15 years with the Mark Strand Theatres and for eight as general manager of the Century circuit, Hyman is well known in the New York territory.

He is succeeded by Jack Keegan, who comes here after being with Warner Theatres in Milwaukee for 15 years.

135,000 Pay to See "GWTW" in Akron

AKRON—When "Gone With the Wind" closed its recent two-week engagement at Loew's here, it had played to at least 135,000 paid admissions in a total of five weeks on the screen of the local house.

That probably is 15,000 more persons that were expected to see the "anniversary" release of the three hour and 45-minute spectacle in Akron. For having played to 85,000 persons on its three-week visit a year ago, it was not expected to last more than a week. On several days of the first week of its return, it drew more patrons than a year ago.

Ease Money Restrictions On Canadian Visitors

DETROIT—Detroit theatres which have been seriously affected by money restrictions placed on Canadians visiting this town, will secure a little relief in new regulations by the Canadian foreign exchange control board.

Under the new regulations, any Canadians visiting this country may take up to $5 in Canadian currency along under a 48-hour social visit permit.

Break Into Foster

YOUNGSTOWN—Cracksmen broke into the Foster Theatre during the night and smashed the combination on the safe, escaping with an undetermined amount of money.

Packard Executives At Sneak Preview

DETROIT—Sneak previewed last Thursday at the Vogue was Paramount's "Reaching for the Sun," which has for a background Detroit and its vast automobile industry. Some 200 top executives of the Packard Motor Co. attended.

The Packard plant (called Crane in the film) is the scene of most of the action of the film which was originally titled "F. O. B., Detroit." Audience reaction at the preview—which drew an SRO crowd to this 1,800-seater—indicated that, even apart from local interest, the treatment will make it a strong film for both feminine and child patrons.

Alec Moss, Paramount director of exploitation, came on for the occasion to assist Manager John Howard. Among film notables attending were Earl Hudson, Ed Hyman, Ralph Stitt, Asher Shaw, Alice Gorham and William Hendricks, all of United Detroit Theatres.—H. F.

Seek Scientific Approach To Assessment Problem

DETROIT—More scientific assessment of Detroit theatres for local real estate tax purposes will be the objective of a reorganization of the Detroit assessment system proposed by the board of assessors in a report to the city council.

Basis of the report is a proposal to develop special assessors and assistants who would be skilled in handling one of the four main types of property in which theatre buildings bulk more prominently than those of any other single industry. Classes as proposed are: (1) Land; (2) Industrial, public utility, hotels and large apartments, theatres, and large mercantile buildings; (3) Residences, stores and miscellaneous; (4) Personal property.

Ashland May Be Without Theatre After March 1

ASHLAND, OHIO—It looks like Ashland will be without a theatre after March 1.

Its only showplace, occupying a portion of the Old Opera House, has been ordered to close by that time unless it makes extensive repairs deemed necessary by the state industrial commission. Schine operates the city-owned theatre.

Voters recently approved a bond issue for the construction of a new theatre building, but a common pleas court ruling prevented the city from constructing a building to house a privately operated theatre.

R. G. Carey Will Open One in Beach Bottom

PITTSBURGH—R. G. Carey, formerly with the Alpine circuit, will open a new theatre at Beach Bottom, W. Va. Seating capacity will be 350. The exhibitor resides in Steubenville, Ohio, where he operates the Carey Decorating Co.

"The Hard Boiled Canary" Bows at Traverse City

DETROIT—Michigan was the scene Sunday of a world premiere for the third time in recent history of premieres. Occasion was the opening of Paramount's "The Hard Boiled Canary," which played at the Butterfield circuit's Lyric at Traverse City, about 300 miles northwest of Detroit.

The picture is largely based on a story of Interlochen Music Camp, near Traverse City, and was tentatively called "Interlochen," then "Magic in Music," on earlier production schedules.

Susanna Foster, who sings in the picture, is making a personal appearance tour that will bring her to Detroit, February 14-17, for several days.

Another Paramount sneak preview was held at the Michigan here Saturday night when "Virginia" was booked in for a midnight show.

Religious Films Getting Big Play in Auto City

DETROIT—Early survey of religious films being distributed here shows unusually heavy demand this year, according to Charles A. Garner, veteran distributor.

Garner is now handling "Passion Play," "King of Kings," "March to the Alter," "Ave Maria," "Glory of Faith," and "Miracle of Faith."

16MM Film Distributors' Ranks Grow in Pitt

PITTSBURGH—Several new narrow gauge film distributors have opened for business here. This brings the number to over ten such 16mm libraries in Pittsburgh, in addition to such distributors as department stores and "your local drug store."

Transfers New Oakland To the Warner Circuit

PITTSBURGH—Thomas A. Gilbert has transferred the New Oakland in the Schenley district to the Warner circuit. The transfer gives Warners three theatres in this area.

Williams Opens New Royal

PAINTSVILLE, KY.—The new Royal, a 570-seater, was opened here recently by Kenneth Williams. Cost of the project, including equipment, was $36,000. Programs are changed four times weekly.

"Enclosed find my first contribution to your 'Exhibitor Has His Say.' I read your magazine from cover to cover every Monday morn and am only glad to contribute to your new department and will eagerly await the first publication."

—R. A. MOORE,
State Theatre,
Clarence, Ia.

BOXOFFICE
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

Elmer a Victim Of "Gestapo"

Detroit—The American Legion's famed cry of "Where's Elmer!" went up for an apparent victim of the "Gestapo" at UDT's Annex Theatre during the showing of "Pastor Hall."

Manager Cassius Smith had a favorite dummy, nicknamed Elmer, which for years he used for front and lobby displays on sensational pictures, usually mysteries. Pressed into service for "Pastor Hall," he just disappeared from in front of the house.

"Too Many Class 'B' Films," Paper Holds

PITTSBURGH—There are too many Class B films, *The Pittsburgh Catholic* reported in a front page editorial January 25. The article pointed out that "Gone With the Wind," now in release here, is in this Legion of Decency classification and therefore "should be avoided by Catholics who have pledged themselves against witnessing or supporting films harmful to morality."

"Incredible as it may seem," the official organ of the Diocese of Pittsburgh reports, "Loew's Penn offers a special low admission price for children—actually striving to lure those of immature minds into the influence of a film which the Legion of Decency considers unfit for adults.

"The Bishops of the United States a few months ago warned their people to be on guard against the increasing number of films 'which disregard the moral law and subvert the foundations of Christian society.'" Several other of the Class B pictures are now being shown in the Pittsburgh district, including "The Letter," "Leopard Men of Africa," "Too Many Girls," "Seven Sinners," "Before I Hang," "The Baker's Wife" and others.

An editorial page article of the same issue, captioned "Movie Watchfulness," regrets the practice of combining an A-1 (unobjectionable) picture with one of a lower classification, as a double bill.

"Where this is done, it simply means that those theatres do not want children's patronage."

BOWLING

DETROIT—Al Grasgrin, holding the season high score of 616 in the Film Bowling League, rolled 610 for second high last week. Other top scorers: Jack Sturm, 202; Barney Adair, 216; Clark Baker, 202; Max Englander, 200, and William Szypulski, 200. Cooperative Theatres rolled up a new second high for teams, hitting 916. Team standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
United Artists	48	28
Cooperative	45	31
Republic	42	34
Film Drug	41	35
Film Truck	36	40
Amusement Supply	32	44
Monogram	30	46
20th Century-Fox	30	46

Joe Goetz Heads Bookers' Club for Sixth Term

CINCINNATI—Joe Goetz, assistant divisional director of RKO Midwest Theatres, was unanimously elected Chief Booker (president) of the Cincinnati Filmrow Bookers' Club, at the recent annual election. Goetz succeeds himself for the sixth consecutive term, having headed the club since he organized it in 1935.

Jimmy Brunnetti, Warner head booker, was elected assistant chief booker (secretary-treasurer).

The election followed the recent celebration staged by Tony Sauer, superintendent of the Cincinnati Workhouse, who is an honorary member of the organization. Following the dinner at which Sauer was host, members and guests toured the recently constructed theatre erected at the Cincinnati Workhouse and designed and built by Sauer.

O. A. Kihchels Modernize Princess at Jeannette

JEANNETTE, PA.—Princess here has been modernized with new equipments, fixtures and complete new decorations. The O. A. Kihchels had recently remodeled the building and front and had installed new rest rooms. Decorating was the work of William Naidenoff.

Joseph Gray Renovating House in Spangler, Pa.

SPANGLER, PA.—Gray here is being renovated and improved for the veteran Joseph Gray. New front and marquee have been installed, and the lobby is being modernized with new chrome frames and mirror glass. Auditorium and stage are being newly draped and painted under the direction of Billy ZeVan.

Local B-12 Installs

PITTSBURGH—Filmrow Employes Union, Local B-12, staged its annual installation party recently at the Yacht Club. Ted Tolley, president, presented a traveling bag to L. J. Katz, retiring business agent. Katz remains as the local's supervisor. Approximately 125 attended the party. Alfie Kuhn of Vitagraph and Sarah Kells of RKO were in charge of arrangements.

Change at Jerome, Pa.

JEROME, PA.—The Jerome here has been acquired by Charles Szewczyk, owner and operator of two theatres at Boswell. Jerome, now being remodeled, was formerly operated by James DiMauro, who continues in exhibition at Vintondale.

Build in Norwalk

NORWALK, OHIO—The Norwalk Theatre Corp., a link in the Schine circuit, is building an 1,100-seat theatre here, to be known as the New. RCA sound is being installed.

"Bugles" for Lipman

HOLLYWOOD—William R. Lipman is scripting "The Bugles Blow at Night" for Producer Frederick Stephani at Metro.

Bank Night Collection Suit Facing Yamins

BOSTON—Nathan Yamins, former National and local Allied States Association president, has been sued for a total of $10,650 here in a Bank Night collection action. Roy E. Heffner, assignee of Affiliated Enterprises, Inc., brought the action against Yamins in superior court, Taunton, seeking to collect $5,500 alleged delinquent royalties from the Strand, and $5,150 from the Park both in Fall River.

George S. Ryan, representing Heffner in the litigations, also brought an action against Jack Saranga, operator of the Royal in Fall River, suing the exhibitor in Suffolk superior court in Boston for $2,560.

The Holyoke Theatre, Inc., Frederick E. Lieberman operating concern controlling the Holyoke in Holyoke, was sued for $1,755 in Bank Night action filed here last week.

Ryan also brought a collection suit for Heffner against the Leominster Allied Theatre Corp., Peter Latchis concern operating the Plymouth in Leominster. The writ was for $1,440.

Greenway Moves to Helm Of Hartford Palace

BOSTON—Frederick Randolph Greenway III, manager of Loew's State in Boston, for the past three and a half years, has been transferred to Hartford where he has taken over the management of the Palace in the Connecticut city. Greenway came to Boston from Baltimore June 23, 1937, succeeding Stanley Gosnell, resigned.

Ed McBride, manager of Loew's State in Providence, takes over the managerial assignment at the Hub show place. Jack Simons has been transferred from the Palace in Hartford to the State in Providence.

Jack A. Simons Succeeds McBride in Providence

HARTFORD—Jack A. Simons, manager of the local Loew's Poli, has been named managing director of the Loew's State in Providence, succeeding Eddie McBride.

Louis A. Cohen, manager of the Loew's Poli Palace, Hartford, has been named manager of the Loew's Poli, replacing Simons. It is expected here that Fred Greenway of the Loew's State in Boston will handle the Palace.

Exhibitors Secure Complaint Forms

Boston—A number of exhibitors secured forms last week from local arbitration headquarters in the Chamber of Commerce Building preparatory to filing complaints with the tribunal. Indications are that the first hearings may begin Monday.

But He Gets Out Fast

Boston—Local film interests thought that something was up last week when Assistant Attorney-General Thurman Arnold paid a surprise visit to Boston, but the fact was that no one was more surprised than Arnold. Leaving New York at midnight, he climbed into a berth on what he thought was a train for Washington. It turned out to be one for Boston, as Arnold discovered when he awoke in the South Station. He later took an American airliner for the capital after repeatedly making sure of its destination.

Booth Bill Again Makes Appearance

NEW HAVEN—The perennially defeated two-men-in-a-booth bill has again made its appearance in the current session of the legislature among a crop of late bills filed. The bill, S. B. 775, filed for the judiciary committee, by Senator Malkan, reads:

"While operating a moving picture machine, every operator shall devote his entire time and attention to that work. He shall not leave the operating side of a motor-driven machine at any time nor engage in unnecessary conversation with anyone, nor in any other work in the motion picture booth while operating a moving picture machine." The provisions of this bill are not to apply to projectors "using cellulose acetate films only of not more than 100 feet in length nor one inch in width and not requiring more than 500 watts, except when such films are used in regular places of exhibition charging admission, not including churches, lodge rooms, clubs." Cellulose acetate films of 1,000 feet, one and one-quarter inches wide, using only inclosed incandescent lamp are also excepted.

Senator Coles, author of last session's Bingo bills, has filed S. B. 703, which will also come up before the judiciary committee. It reads: "Provided that when the municipality (Sec. 155e of the 1939 Revision of the General Statues) shall have voted favorably two successive years upon the question of permitting the playing of Bingo, playing of such game shall be permitted indefinitely thereafter, without further petition or action of the governing body" until such time as it may be forbidden upon similar written petition of 5 per cent or more of the electors, whereupon the game shall be prohibited after the September 15 next following such a negative vote. Under the present law, churches and organizations may only play Bingo if petition is annually circulated and aldermen or other governors of the municipality vote favorably.

S. B. 201 provides for the licensing of copyright societies in the state and payment of a franchise tax equivalent to 25 per cent of their entire gross receipts annually. Any person, except the composer, acting as an investigator in the state, will be required to be licensed, and 50 per cent of the license fees so collected are to be distributed to the towns in the state. A $500 fine for violation is recommended.

Female entertainers and musicians are excepted from the provisions of Sec. 1605c of the 1935 supplement in S. B. 502. The statute provides that minors and women shall not be employed in public restaurants, cafes and dining rooms between the hours of 10 p. m. and 6 a. m., or for more than nine hours daily or 52 hours weekly. This has been a sore spot with roadhouses, taverns, cafes, etc., who wish to employ women singers and musicians.

A new tax commission of five members appointed by the governor would be created under S. B. 843, to investigate taxes in the state, draw up legislation for enactment of new taxes with a view to reducing the load of taxation on real estate if possible. The commission "may or may not hold public hearings" and may compel examination of books and records if necessary.

Court Tussle Over Letter From Arnold

BOSTON—Thurman Arnold, U. S. assistant attorney general who did a Corrigan here last week when he found out the next morning that he had mistaken a Boston for a Washington sleeper, has come up in the prevailing Waldo Theatre Corp. vs. Joseph Dondis et al., anti-trust suit being heard before a master here.

Arnold's name arose when George S. Ryan, plaintiff's attorney sought to introduce as an exhibit a letter from the government attorney, dated July 28, 1938, to Gabriel L. Hess, general attorney for the MPPDA.

John Caskey, 20th-Fox attorney, objected to the letter as immaterial, incompetent and irrelevant, averring that "certainly Mr. Arnold's statements are not evidence. Mr. Arnold is simply a lawyer representing a client."

"Well, thus far," said Edward F. McClennen, presenting Paramount interest, "I think if it is admitted, it should be limited to being admitted as against Mr. Arnold." Francis Freeman, U. S. district court appointee as master, excluded the letter. Ryan asked to have his objection noted.

"If Mr. Arnold were here and under oath he could not testify as to the statements contained in the document," Caskey said later. Caskey, stating that he had no doubt that 20th-Fox received a copy of the letter in question, added that, "at the time, Mr. Arnold was counsel for the U. S. government and he made a number of charges both in petitions filed and in court and in his speeches, none of which he has substantiated by the testimony of many witnesses."

The master later reversed his ruling and admitted the Arnold letter as to Fox, with the plaintiff's attorney asking to have his objection noted as to the limitations.

Rob Lyric in Hartford

HARTFORD—Safe robbers took $500 from the Warner Lyric recently.

"Kitty Foyle" Spurts in Fifth Providence Week

PROVIDENCE — "Kitty Foyle" showed a jump in business in its fifth week at the Albee and, going into a sixth week equals the long-run record of "Snow White." Business good at other houses though King Winter still reigning with plenty of snow to hamper auto trade.

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 5th wk. 120
Carlton—**High Sierra** (FN); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN), 2nd wk. 110
Fays—**Wyoming Wildcat** (Rep), plus stage show 70
Majestic—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (WB) 115
Metropolitan—**Villain Still Pursued Her** (RKO), plus stageshow (3 days only) 100
State—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), return engagement, 2nd wk. 120
Strand—**You're the One** (Para't); **Behind the News** (Rep) 110

Holdovers Potent Draw For Boston First Runs

BOSTON—Holdovers took good money in Boston last week with "GWTW" holding up well during the third week of its repeat-run at Loew's Orpheum, while "Kitty Foyle" hit a couple of SRO performances at Keith's Memorial and went into a record sixth week. Snow fall was slight, but there was slushy going under foot. The Sportsman's Show at the Mechanic's Building was a strong counter draw.

Detail for week ending February 6:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**Behind the News** (Rep); **Honeymoon for Three** (WB) 75
Keith's Memorial—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **The Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 5th wk. 75
Loew's Orpheum—**GWTW** (M-G-M), repeat, 3rd wk. 70
Loew's State—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 115
Metropolitan—**High Sierra** (FN); **Father's Son** (WB) 100
Paramount—**Behind the News** (Rep); **Honeymoon for Three** (WB) 80

'Philadelphia Story' Earns Holdover in New Haven

NEW HAVEN—On the seventh day of the Loew-Poli run, "The Philadelphia Story," dualled with "Saint in Palm Springs," was still holding out 200 lobby standees for the break in the show. Total take was excellent, and the dual moves to the College for a second week. The sellout "Ice Follies of 1941" at the Arena cut into mid-week business plenty. "GWTW" held up for a nice little third week at the College.

Detail for the week ended February 6:

(Average is 100)

College—**GWTW** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 120
Loew-Poli—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 165
Paramount—**Give Us Wings** (Univ); **Little Men** (RKO) 125
Roger Sherman—**High Sierra** (FN); **Six Lessons from Madame Lazonga** (Univ) 110

Defense Chairman

HARTFORD—Walter B. Lloyd, manager of the Allyn, has been named chairman of the Hartford chapter of the "National Defense Week." Walter, by the way, is a first lieutenant in the army reserves, and may be called up any minute now.

Industrial Picture Growing Brighter

HARTFORD—Continued increase in industrial and general business activity throughout Connecticut in December, is reported by managers of field offices of the unemployment compensation division. The effects of the national defense program have been felt in all areas to some extent, but particularly in the heavy industrial and textile centers.

Areas reporting increasing activity are: Bridgeport, Danbury, Stamford, New Haven, Waterbury, Middletown, Meriden, Hartford, New Britain, Bristol, Torrington, New London, Norwich, Danielson and Willimantic. A slight drop in industrial activity was noted in Norwalk due to the seasonal slack in the needle trades and in Ansonia.

Severe shortages of skilled workers in the machinist and metal trades continued while the shortage beginning to develop a month ago in textile operatives accelerated considerably. Employes in the textile trades are said to be considering the inauguration of a plan to train workers.

Loew Publicists, Managers, Map "Our Night" Bally

BOSTON—Joint Boston and Providence publicity meeting held here under the supervision of Charles E. Kurtzman, Loew's divisional manager, brought together Manager Frederick R. Greenway of the State in Boston, Manager Howard Burkhardt of the Orpheum in Boston, Manager Edward McBride of the State in Providence, Joseph A. DiPesa and Al Longo of the local Loew's publicity office, and George Scher, UA exploiteer.

Numerous publicity hookups were proposed for "So Ends Our Night."

Herman Forging Ahead in Monogram Sales Drive

BOSTON—Setting a stiff pace in Boston's attempt to win the annual Monogram sales drive for the third year in a row, Al Herman, new local district manager, has set "Dead Man's Shoes" for a first-run local engagement at the RKO Boston this week. "Daredevils of the Air" and "Sign of the Wolf" follow for band-box openings in March.

Herman and his staff have also placed "Hoosier Schoolboy" at the Metropolitan in Providence on March 7 and the State in Hartford on March 22.

New Sound for Marlboro

MARLBORO, MASS.—The 1,071-seat Marlboro, an M&P house, will get new RCA sound.

"Kitty Foyle" Topples Holdover Record

Boston—"Kitty Foyle," after playing to an SRO house on Sunday, was last week held for a sixth consecutive week at Keith's Memorial. Companion feature continued to be "The Saint in Palm Springs." The holdover toppled the previous house record which was set up when "Top Hat" continued for five weeks. Business last week was better than some of the earlier stanzas of "Kitty Foyle."

Independents Will Elect on March 4

BOSTON—The annual meeting and election of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., was tentatively set for March 4 at the regular monthly business confab of the organization here Tuesday.

Indications are that Frank Lydon, president, and practically the entire slate of officers will be installed.

Independent Exhibitors' Roster Shows Growth

BOSTON—A marked increase in Independent Exhibitors, Inc. membership during the past year under a drive supervised by Arthur K. Howard, business manager, has resulted in the New England territory.

Roster of the local Allied States Association unit was increased during 1940 to the extent of 34 new members. This is exclusive of Connecticut which also experienced a sizeable membership increase. Massachusetts furnished the majority of additional New England independents, while Rhode Island was second.

Hub First-Run Picture Knots Availabilities

BOSTON—Local bookers and exhibitors working their availabilities from Boston first-runs were further confused this week when Columbia sold away from Loew's, Inc., to the M&P Theatres Corp., spotting "Lone Wolf Keeps a Date" at the Paramount and Fenway, two local first-runs. Several M-G-M pictures played the twin houses previously. Holdovers, "GWTW," three weeks at the Orpheum and "Kitty Foyle" six weeks at Keith's Memorial, have not clarified the picture.

Narrow Gauge Reels Into Fifth Week at Fine Arts

BOSTON—Showing the potentialities of 16mm specialties, George Kraska has held "Here Is Ireland" for a fifth consecutive week at the Fine Arts in Boston. The picture, an all-color travelogue both dubbed and duped, is being screened at the house by especially installed equipment.

Millett Puts on Winter Carnival in Bridgton

BOSTON—How a theatreman may put on a winter carnival has been illustrated, and practically, by C. F. Millett, operator of the State in Bridgton. The former Paramount executive, now an independent in Maine, was general chairman in charge last week of the second annual winter sports carnival at Bridgton, a probable perennial that Millett originated in the resort town last year.

A Maine inter-scholastic winter sports meet was one of the major events. Millett also promoted a speed skating championship under the sponsorship of the New England Skating Association, Inc. A New England sled-dog club race, with over 30 entries, was another winter touch. Nothing less than a "Cavalcade of America" exhibition put on by 40 costumed skaters on ice in which was depicted the growth and advance of American civilization, rounded out the affair.

Millett tied in over 100 different business concerns, from E. I. DuPont and Company to the corner grocer. The Bridgton Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations supported the affair. Millett, however, reserved one function for himself. It was the presentation speech made at the coronation ball to the carnival "Queen of 1941."

BOSTON

RALPH SNIDER is south with the yacht he purchased recently from J. Don Alexander . . . Leonard Goldstein, Paramount executive, was in recently to confer with Martin J. Mullin and Sam Pinanski of the M&P Theatres Corp.

Ed McBride and Vaughn K. R. O'Neill, manager and treasurer respectively of Loew's State in Providence, were in Thursday to testify in a damage suit brought in superior court here. The judge decreed that the operating concern was blameless.

Roy E. Heffner, Bank Night assignee in New England, returned to Boston after a two-month combined hunting and business trip in Texas, Oklahoma and points east . . . Harry Asher, head of Producers' Releasing Corp., gave "Caught in the Act" a bandbox opening here this week at the RKO Boston. Asher has set "Secret Evidence" for a local first-run at the same house, beginning February 27.

Norman Glassman, local exhibitor, is mourning the death of his father . . . Viola Berlin, manager of the Exeter Street in Boston, has been hypoing business at the Back Bay house via the penny postcard route, mailing weekly programs with brief critiques of each feature . . . Edward A. Cuddy, M&P divisional manager, has put a continuous show policy into the Strand in Uphams Corner in suburban Dorchester.

Frank Lydon, operator of the Hamilton in Dorchester, has put a new dish deal into the house on Mondays and Tuesdays, setting the giveaway to begin next week . . . Harry Rose, manager of the Globe in Bridgeport, has been hospitalized . . . Marie Nessikian Markarian, who resigned from the Loew's State staff last year following marriage, has been subbing at Loew's Orpheum to cover during illnesses there.

Mrs. Leonard Kraska, wife of the Fine Arts manager, and the new Kraska heir went home Sunday from the Fiske House in Cambridge . . . Ben Domingo, city theatre manager for RKO, has signed Ben Bernie for a personal appearance at the RKO Boston for four days, beginning February 20 . . . Because of the success of a recent stage show built on NBC talent, the local RKO house may go for another so-called radio show.

Katharine Hepburn and Van Heflin are in town, appearing in "The Philadelphia Story" at the Colonial . . . Dorothy Gish and Louis Calhern are still in Boston with "Life With Father" . . . Harvey Eisenberg, assistant manager at the Fenway, did an Errol Flynn at the Sportsmen's Show the other night, trying his hand at archery, trap shooting, marksmanship, and finally indoor golfing.

Joe Marquis, manager of the Capitol in Allston, has assigned two theatre employes to handle the garage rented opposite so as to provide free indoor parking for patrons. Accommodating 225 automobiles, the indoor facilities are being operated in conjunction with two large outdoor lots.

Jack Saef, manager of the Shawmut in Roxbury, took up a voluntary contribution for the Boston Community Fund last week when youngsters jamming the house to participate in Saef's 30-minute quiz program donated pennies and nickels . . . Phillip A. Lavine, divisional manager for the Ralph Snider circuit, took a personal interest in the recent turn of Cuban affairs, being a friend of President Batista and a frequent visitor at the Cuban capital during his regular Caribbean cruises.

Paul Barron and John Pavone, Universal district managers from Boston and New Haven, respectively, attended the midwinter Universal sales convention at the Blackstone in Chicago recently . . . Harry Browning, M&P Theatres Corp. advertising manager who leans more to sailboats than to skis, has taken up card tricks so as to keep in trim . . . Chromium and leather form the motif of the newly renovated and fluorescent-lighted lobby of the Strand in Portland.

Marjory Adams, Helen Eager, Eleanor Hughes, Peggy Doyle, Prunella Hall, and Joan Hutchins, local film critics, returned from previewing "Back Street" in Miami . . . Jack Granara, RKO publicity head, made numerous tieups here with such concerns as Canadian Pacific and I. J. Fox to exploit "Hudson's Bay." Granara also tied in extensively with the Boston Sportsmen's Show.

HARTFORD

ALICE ERICSON, WB's Strand cashier, has returned to work after being out with the grippe . . . In New Haven last Monday were Charlie Repass, Crown, and Mickey Daly, Hartford Daly and Plainfield, Plainfield . . . Donald Bullard has been filling in at the WB's Central in West Hartford for Robert Dawson, usher, who is on the sick list . . . Cecila Svobowitz, cashier at the Palace in Torrington, is slated to walk down the aisle to the tune of "Here Comes the Bride" on February 22 . . . Charlie Williams, porter at WB's Strand, has recovered from the flu . . . Jerry Goldberg, Loew's Poli usher, had a birthday last Tuesday . . . Elihu Brooks, usher, Loew's Poli, had a bad cold . . . Martin Kelleher, manager of the State St. Princess, tripped to New Haven . . . Beverly Roberts, film star, visited friends in Torrington.

Schulmans' Rivoli, Hartford, had an all-Swedish program, consisting of "Larsson's Second Marriage" and "Province of Haelsingland," last Tuesday . . . Stepin Fetchit appeared at the Stamford Palace . . . Rialto, Stamford, has started a household ensemble giveaway deal . . . Vincent Calano is a new usher at the Loew's Poli Palace, Hartford, succeeding Gerald J. Antaya, resigned . . . William Woods is the new assistant at the Capitol, Ansonia, replacing Wm. Shuran . . . Prices have been upped slightly at the State, Waterbury, with 50 cents top for weekends . . . In New Haven was Morris Keppner, manager of the Glastonbury, Glastonbury . . . Harris Brothers' State now has new booking offices in the RKO building in New York's Radio City . . . Jack Sanson, manager of the State in Manchester, was on the sick list with a bad cold.

Loew's Poli Palace jottings—Tommy Dunfey, house usher, has been upped to relief doorman . . . Angie Caraddo has succeeded Helen Covell as cashier . . . Jimmy Stevans, house usher, draws in his spare time . . . In Hartford last Friday were Harry F. Shaw, Loew's Poli divisional manager, and Lou A. Brown, the circuit's publicist . . . Walter B. Lloyd, manager of the M&P's Allyn, reports that "Virginia" is due at that theatre soon.

Bernard W. Levy, manager of Proven Pictures, was in Boston . . . Jay Pinckney has replaced Albert Cook as doorman at the WB's Capitol . . . Exterior and interior of the E. M. Loew's have been repainted . . . Children's prices at the Strand, Plainville, have been slightly increased . . . The Connecticut theatrical fraternity had luncheon at New Haven's Hotel Taft last Thursday afternoon with Harry F. Shaw of the Loew's Poli Theatre to meet Albert Lewin, who co-produced "So Ends Our Night."

18 Years With Metro

HOLLYWOOD—Robert Z. Leonard, associated with Metro for 17 years, has been given a new producer-director contract. His next production assignment will be "Two Women."

NEW HAVEN

COLOR CALLS: Sal Popolizio, 20th-Fox assistant booker, called in the draft, has been temporarily deferred because of a defect in his teeth . . . Bob Schaefer, son of Lou Schaefer, Paramount manager, has enlisted in Company C of the 102nd Infantry, National Guard . . . Ditto Jack O'Connell, for the past several years assistant manager of the Roger Sherman . . . And the Roger Sherman's chief usher, Stanley Wilchinski . . . No new appointments yet announced for these. Billy Nutile, shipper at the Paramount exchange, will also be inducted for National Guard duty at Fort Blanding in Florida, February 24, and Jimmy Mahan steps up to his job . . . Robert, son of Adolph Johnson, has enlisted in the air service . . . John Lavella, doorman at the Middlesex, writes from camp he misses Ernie . . . The district wishes all the boys good luck and a speedy return.

More than 80 friends turned out for the Morris Joseph farewell luncheon at Ceriani's . . . George H. Wilkinson jr. presented the gift of portable typewriter and deep-sea tackle . . . Harry Shaw, m. c., congratulated the "Dean" on now being in the retired "capitalist" class, and extended the best wishes of the group . . . John Pavone, new Universal manager, spoke . . . Joseph thanked and took leave of film and other friends whom he has known over a period of 26 years, and who felt sincere admiration of his record and regret at his illness . . . Jack O'Connell, Roger Sherman assistant, confined to his home with the grippe . . . Al Schuman of the Black Rock, Bridgeport, and Joe Walsh of the Colonial, Southington, are recuperating from severe colds.

Earl Wright, 20th-Fox salesman, has sinus-itis as an unwelcome souvenir of the grippe . . . Mrs. Sam Germaine, wife of 20th-Fox booker, is a flu patient . . . Ernest Dorau, manager of Middletown houses, just emerged after beating the flu . . . While Aaron Fishman was down with the grippe, Jack Fishman was at home nursing a sprained ligament, and the Phil Saslaus were pulling their daughter, Naomi, through a combination attack of bronchitis and appendicitis . . . Whew! . . . Ruth Curry, Loew-Poli, Bridgeport, cashier, is back with her smile after a week of the flu . . . Also Jeanette Carroll, cashier, Paramount, New Haven . . . William Rogers of the same Bridgeport house is taking his turn with the germ . . . W. R. Carr has returned to his Warner exchange audit here after being called to New York because of the illness of his wife.

George LeWitt, who recently bought his 700-seat Strand, Plainville building, has put in a new tile floor and is contemplating air-conditioning and changes on lobby and interior . . . Joe Walsh is considering some remodeling at the 700-seat Colonial, Southington . . . Webster, Hartford, and Rialto, Hartford, had receipts taken from safes on successive early morning robberies. The week before the Lyric, Hartford, was a similar victim . . . Warner has raised admissions at the State, Waterbury, Sundays from the former 33-44 cents to 35-50 cents, including tax . . . Capitol, New Britain, is holding "GWTW" a second week; then it goes into Sunday only performances at regular 30-40 cents plus tax . . . Roadshow of "Tobacco Road" at 50-$1.00 matinee and $1.00-$1.50 evening, is also scheduled for March 17, 18 and 19. This Warner house has been closed for many years.

Travel Notes: Washington's Birthday will be the signal for an exodus to Miami Beach for Jack Fishman, Fishman Theatres general manager, and family . . . Also Mrs. Roger Mahan, wife of the Warner exchange manager, and son Roger jr. Both parties will go by train . . . Henry Needles, Warner Hartford district manager, just back from a tour of the south by car and boat . . . Dan Finn of the Warner theatre department hasn't made plans yet for his annual spring trip south . . . I. Levine of Inter-State Film Co. spent a few days in New York . . . Ben Simon had a reunion with his family in Philadelphia, the home town . . . Sam Rosen of Rosen Film Delivery and daughter, Mimi, are back from Miami Beach . . . William Hutchins, National Theatre Supply manager, attended the national convention in New York . . . Mrs. Rose Fishman and Mrs. Dave Cherman of the Fishman chain are sojourning in Florida . . . George Scher, United Artists exploitation representative, spent a week here on "So Ends Our Night" and is now working on "Roadshow" at the Majestic, Bridgeport.

Harry Rose, manager of the Globe, Bridgeport, spent a week in Atlantic City with Mrs. Rose to complete his recuperation from a recent stay in the hospital . . . Billy Sirica of the Lido, Waterbury, entrained for Miami leaving Fred Quantrano in charge. The Quantranos and baby will take their Miami vacation when Sirica returns . . . Joseph Faith, operator in Unionville, Collinsville and Terryville, was in New York for three days . . . Nick Marlemes of the Roxy, New Britain, formerly a Floridian, has decided to extend his sun-basking there until late this month . . . Al Poulton, associated with Adolph Johnson, returned from 28 days of shivering in the sunny south, is selling "Honey" in Boston . . . M. Melincoff, Warner theatre district manager, Boston, takes a train February 21 for Miami.



Visitors—

On the left, Acting Manager Tony Massella of the Globe Theatre at Bridgeport welcomes Louise Campbell, who appears in his current screen attraction, "Bowery Boy," and her husband, Horace MacMahon, screen player who hails from Norwalk.

Bob Russell's corner display on "Western Union" is a replica in miniature of one of the sets . . . Russell-Rubin tieup with Western Union locally resulted in the company delivering telegrams with picture copy to leading business heads in town, and distribution of 500 heralds . . . On "This Thing Called Love," the Loew-Poli team distributed 5,000 imprinted envelopes containing candy hearts. Also bought out 100 copies of January 8 *Daily News* which carried three scenes from the picture with copy, and imprinted them "At Loew's-Poli Now," for distribution in barber shops and other spots. And arranged a heart centerpiece with copy in a central Valentine window . . . John Hesse tied in with Kresge's for an attractive window book display on "Back Street." Premiere here was handled as "world premiere," with which it coincided.

Jack Simons planted a drawing of Katharine Hepburn by a local artist in the Hartford Times *on "Philadelphia Story" . . . Loew's coveted Dollar Club award has been given Bob Russell and Nat Rubin for the Boys' Club tieup on "Flight Command" which brought in $300 extra money, and the duo is expecting another award on "Go West." On "So Ends Our Night," exploitation led off with the Taft press luncheon and radio interview of Albert Lewin . . . Russell sent a circular letter to a select "class" list of 400 . . . Ten young couples about to be married will be invited to see the picture's "magnificent romance" . . . Following the policy of lightening the picture, Jake, who has done every kind of theatre street ballyhoo, will be on the Green and around town with a limp female dummy whose head will rest on his shoulder while a placard announces "So Ends Our Night."*

Signs of the times: January Connecticut tax receipts exceeded January, 1940, by $607,337. Of this increase $1,132 was in amusement tax; $10,727 in cigarette tax; $5,140 in unincorporated business, and $3,300 in corporation tax. McMann's State, New Britain, has a new policy of four changes a week, with Sunday a single day engagement . . . Rivoli, Hartford, continues occasional double feature Swedish programs . . . "This Thing Called Love" is in its fourth week at E. M. Loew's, Hartford, and may stay a fifth. Local Warner office is in first place in its division in the "20th Years With Sears" drive . . . Those Ned Depinet drive badges are weighing down the RKO staff . . . Barney Pitkin wears ties to match . . . Lou Schaefer is starring on the Lyons bowling team.

"Blacklisted" Films Facing No Threat

BOSTON—John Spencer, Boston city censor, told this publication last week that he doesn't plan any "specific action" against the films he put on a special Hub blacklist several days ago. Theatre managers at the time, were ordered to report to Spencer's office proposed local playings of any of the pictures on the list. No reports had been received up to the time of the conversation, Spencer declared.

Spencer's letter didn't indicate what action, if any, he would take, beyond specifying that the licensing commission might request a special screening before any openings of the films involved.

Asked if he planned any outright bans, Mayor Maurice Tobin's brother-in-law replied, "I haven't the vaguest idea."

Maine Legislators Turn Eye on Pari-Mutuels

AUGUSTA, ME.—A bill to repeal pari-mutuel betting in Maine was introduced in the legislature January 30 by Rep. Lee C. Good, (R) of Monticello. Good, in presenting the bill, asserted that "pari-mutuels are degrading" to sports.

On the same day a bill, prepared by Sen. Joseph E. Harvey (R) of Saco, asked that the state's share in commissions from pari-mutuel betting on harness racing in Maine be jumped from 3½ to 15 per cent.

Maximum commissions allowed under the present law are 10 per cent of pari-mutuel pools. Harvey's bill would increase that to 25 per cent, the 15 per cent for the state included. The remainder would be available to fairs and associations sponsoring racing as compared with 6½ per cent they now retain.

The bill, according to Senator Harvey, was necessary because the revenue of $40,000 provided by legalizing pari-mutuels in 1939 was inadequate.

Legalization of Beano Is Sought in New Hampshire

BOSTON—A bill to legalize Beano in New Hampshire, with one-half the profit going to the state, has been introduced in legislative action there. Theatremen might be more interested inasmuch as the measure would also allow Bingo, if Bank Night had not been cleared of anti-lottery charges there some years ago in the first such case in the country.

State of Massachusetts Gets Gaming Equipment

NORTH ADAMS, MASS.—Forfeiture to the commonwealth of Massachusetts of alleged gaming equipment, seized by state police last June at the local E. M. Loew's Mohawk, has been ordered by Judge William A. Burns in the superior court at Pittsfield, Mass.

PROVIDENCE

PLENTY of snow around and grippe still continuing in Little Rhody but business holding up well at all houses and holdovers becoming a regular thing in Providence.

Hank Howard, Universal publicist, was in town doing promotion on "Buck Privates" for RKO-Albee . . . Al Clarke, manager of Majestic, is getting some good cooperation from Western Union locally in a campaign to put across film of that title at his house shortly . . . Manager Cronin of Associated Theatres' Empire also going in for some extra advertising these days, using multi-color oversize window cards.

Something of a case of love's labor lost was exploitation given "Buck Privates" when "Kitty Foyle" was held over for a sixth week at RKO-Albee, February 5. Last Saturday morning preview of "BP" was staged at theatre with entire 6th Army Corps staff as invited guests, coming to theatre in convoy of army trucks, joining there officers of the selective service board, office force and registrants called to the colors in the state. From the lobby came a 15-minute broadcast over WEAN. The big campaign was worked out by Manager George French, Hank Howard and Bill Morton, only to have the film's opening set back a week.

State Manager Fred Newcomb of Strand has been dismissed from R. I. Hospital and is now recuperating at his home . . . Three of RKO-Albee's staff, members of the National Guard, are due to go into military service in mid-February and fellow workers and Manager George French are planning a farewell party in their honor.

Manager Edward H. McBride of Loew's State left February 11 to take over the managerial post at Loew's State in Boston. McBride will be succeeded here by Jack Simons, formerly at Loew's, Hartford, Conn.

One of last stunts maneuvered by McBride before his promotion to the larger Hub house was bringing Albert Lewin, producer of "So Ends Our Night," opening at the State, Thursday—to Providence to lecture at Brown University before student members of the university dramatic organization, and teachers of Providence public schools. McBride also engineered a radio interview with Lewin over station WEAN.

Ralph E. Snider, circuit owner identified with Associated Theatres here, back last week from a month's stay in Florida . . . Stirling Hayden, who turns in a nice job in "Virginia," will make a p. a. at several Rhode Island houses plugging that film. Manager Eddie Reed of Strand will play host. Other stops are scheduled at Woonsocket, Pawtucket and Newport.

When the rest of the first-run managers were bemoaning the drenching downpour that soaked Providence and hit grosses last Friday, Al Clarke, manager of the Majestic, watched the lineup at his boxoffice and decided that there's something to "Advertising Pays." Clarke sold "Western Union" as few films have ever been sold at the Majestic, explaining the good business done, despite rain, on opening day and throughout the week. His campaign included 1,000 W. U. telegrams sent to a selected list of citizens, windows in W. U. office, bus terminals, drug stores and other downtown spots; book tieups and windows standees throughout city; bumper strips on 100 taxis; six giant telegrams spotted in vacant stores. Newspapers ran interview and cut of local "singing messenger boy" as additional plug for film.

Testimonial dinner to J. Alden Dooley, recently named a member of Rhode Island Bar Association, held at Biltmore Hotel Tuesday night saw District Manager George Cronin, and Managers Charlie Nelson of Park, Albert Colagiovanni of Bijou, and Matt Reilley of Palace in attendance. Young Dooley is the son of Judge Dooley, president of Associated Theatres, Inc.

When school officials of Warren recently sent youngsters home from classes because of grippe threats, Manager Lon Vail of the Lyric showed cooperation by barring children of school age from theatre during continuance of epidemic. Action was voluntary and won him commendation from town's health officials.

A "Valentine's Day" followup idea suggested by Loew's State, through circulars affixed to back-issue film magazines passed out to customers, suggests: "Ladies take him to a Sweetheart's Show, Saturday night, February 15. You buy the tickets! You pay . . . you do anyway! C'mon girls, treat the old man. Take the boy friend to see the picture for all sweethearts 'So Ends Our Night'."

Probably Called Him a Dog

Bridgeport, Conn.—Possibly the scanty attire of "The Thief of Bagdad" discouraged police from trying to pin anything on him, but while that worthy was cavorting before Manager Michael Carroll and assorted customers on the screen of the American, his modern counterpart, armed with functional crowbar instead of flying carpet, entered the office and helped himself to two of Carroll's summer suits, a sport coat, two pairs of trousers, a pair of overshoes, half a dozen neckties and $28 in cash. A few days later it rained, and Carroll discovered his umbrella was also among the loot.

Site to Goldsteins

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Samuel and Nathan E. Goldstein of Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., have purchased the property at the corner of State and Dwight Streets here, formerly occupied by the Washburn Funeral Home, and will erect a business block containing stores and offices on the site which is directly across from the Arcade, one of the circuit's houses. Purchase price was not revealed.

Cigarette Causes Fire

HARTFORD—The fire last Sunday evening on the top of the local Palace marquee was reported caused by a cigarette.

: SPRINGFIELD :

GEORGE W. COLEMAN, Arcade manager, and his assistant, Hy Nozak, have inaugurated a program, "High School Quiz Program," over Station WSPR every Monday evening . . . Mrs. Olive J. Simms, cashier, E. M. Loew's Court Square, will be leaving Springfield permanently for Quebec, Canada . . . Andrew A. Sette, manager of the WB's Capitol, was in New Haven on business . . . Frank de Carlo is the new Loew's Poli usher, succeeding William Tice, who has been upped to assistant chief of service, replacing B. Williams, resigned.

Local 86, IATSE, held a meeting last Monday with Louie Williamson, Bijou projectionist and union president, presiding . . . Arthur Bernard, formerly assistant manager at the Strand, Holyoke, has joined the marines . . . Ruth Weed, candy girl at the F&M's Art, was ill at home . . . Joe Anstead, manager of the Loew's Poli Elm Street, Worcester, is back on the job after undergoing a minor arm operation . . . Dr. Lawrence A. Averill has been re-elected president of the Worcester Motion Picture Reviewing Council . . . John Hallsworth, Palace, Lawrence, is recovering from injuries received in an automobile accident . . . Katharine Hoar, Loew's-Poli chief candy girl, and Eddie Conroy, night superintendent at that theatre, are reported contemplating marriage in the near future . . . Jack Marvin is a new usher at the Broadway.

The first 500 kids at last Saturday's matinee at the Garden were given free stamp albums and presidential stamps . . . Tommy Penner is the new usher at the GB's Paramount, succeeding Joseph J. Josephus, who has joined the service staff of the WB's Capitol as doorman, replacing Clement C. Thieler, resigned . . . Marcella Gagne is the new GB's Paramount cashier, succeeding Grace Prescott, who has left for other fields . . . Interior and exterior of the Strand, Clinton, have been redecorated . . . Elmer Daniels, manager of the M&P's Capitol, Worcester, played host recently to 250 newsboys . . . Eleanor Price is the new candy girl at the Paramount, North Adams . . . Joe Egan, assistant engineer at the GB's Paramount, who has been recuperating following an operation, is expected back on the job by March 1.

Henry Smith, son of Edward, GB's Paramount manager, left with an air corps contingent for Birmingham, Ala. . . . James J. Bloom, chief of service at the GB's Paramount, attended the Joe Louis-Red Burman fight in New York . . . Arthur Arakelian has succeeded Jimmy Hoey as student assistant at the Loew's Poli Elm Street, Worcester . . . Nathan Yamins, prominent Fall River exhibitor, has been re-elected trustee of the Union Hospital . . . In Springfield was Don Chambers, New England publicist for Paramount . . . Engagement of Helen Noring, Warner, Lawrence, and Leonard J. O'Loughlin, also of that theatre, was recently announced.

Victor Thomas has succeeded his brother, George, as a member of the service staff at the Paramount, North Adams . . . Phil Jasen, publicist for the Plymouth, Worcester, has resigned to become WTAG's promotion manager.

Stirling Hayden on P. A. Tour in New England

BOSTON—Stirling Hayden, young Yankee sailor-of-fortune turned film actor, returned for the first time since becoming famous, Wednesday, February 12, and started a personal appearance tour that is taking him through New England.

Hayden, who made his screen debut with Madeleine Carroll and Fred MacMurray in "Virginia," was scheduled to stop at Hartford, Worcester, Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, R. I., and Newport. He will reach Boston, Saturday, February 15, to be feted at a press cocktail party on Tea Wharf. Saturday evening he will be given a gala party by old sailing comrades at Gloucester, his home port.

Hayden's trip will continue Monday when he proceeds to Portland, Me., with stops at Lowell and Haverhill, Mass. His schedule in the Maine city includes a personal appearance at the local opening of "Virginia," an evening party given him by the Motion Picture Council and an Advertising Club luncheon at which he will be guest of honor.

Anthem-Playing Mandate Defeated in Massachusetts

BOSTON—Local film interests, for practical reasons, successfully opposed a bill that would make it mandatory that Massachusetts theatres play "The Star-Spangled Banner" after each performance. Speaking against the bill, Joseph Brennan of the MPTOA told of the confusion and disturbances resulting in houses of a New York circuit which took the step voluntarily. The previous practice here of playing the national anthem between performances resulted in similar disorders.

Also up for legislative consideration last week was a measure that would make it a misdemeanor to sell standing room in Boston motion picture houses. The industry took the stand that no revision of the present status was necessary and that the proposed measure cast aspersions on the present able supervision directed by the officers of the fire, building and police commissioners.

Transfer Ben Cohen to Durban, South Africa

NEW HAVEN—Ben Cohen, former manager of the College here and for the past few years supervisor of Loew's theatres in Calcutta, India, has been transferred to Loew's 1,000-seat theatre in Durban, South Africa. Before sailing, Ben and Mrs. Cohen are visiting in New York and New Haven.

Special Shows for Defense Workers

Hartford—The local M&P's Allyn now has a "Defense Workers' Morning Show" Saturdays only. Doors are opened at 9:15, with the show starting at 9:30. Prices are 28 cents for adults, and a dime for children.

: BRIDGEPORT :

MANAGER HARRY ROSE of Loew's Globe is back from Atlantic City where he has been convalescing from his recent illness at his mother's home . . . Jack Sidney jr., assistant manager at the Loew's Poli, has composed a new song . . . Manager Michael Carroll of the American is displaying a new wrist watch, a wedding anniversary present from his wife.

Manager Edward Madden of the Lyric received a telegram informing him that his sister had just made him an uncle. He slipped a bill to his assistant, Fred Perry, with orders to buy a layette. Perry, the father of six children, had to ask Madden what a layette was . . . William Garrity is a new usher at the Strand succeeding Raymond Faulkner. Faulkner has entered the booth at the Hippodrome as an apprentice projectionist.

Under a new policy at the Strand, Plainville, all children must have tickets. Up to 12 the admission is a dime; 12 to 14 is 15 cents and all others must pay adult prices . . . Louise Campbell and her husband, Horace MacMahon, were the guests of Assistant Manager Anthony Massella of the Globe to see Miss Campbell's latest picture, "Bowery Boy" . . . Mary Bacik is back at the Loew's Poli after being hospitalized . . . In New Haven for a dinner were Morris Jacobson, general manager of the Strand Amusement Co.; Charles Levine, president of the company, and Murray Kaufmann, manager of the circuit's Rialto.

William Dougherty, assistant manager at the Strand-Palace, is flashing a new set of store teeth . . . Edward Madden has presented his wife with a pair of fox furs . . . Fred Hellman, Barnum manager, is back after an illness. Also recovered is Lou Anger, owner of the theatre . . . "The Philadelphia Story" stayed three weeks at the Avon, Stamford and two weeks here.

Manager Manny Kugell of the Warner and is wife were in New York to see "Panama Hattie" . . . Harry F. Shaw, Loew's New England division manager, and his wife, are planning a trip to Panama in March . . . Matt Saunders and Otto Esposito of the Loew's Poli were in New Haven to meet David Loew and Albert Lewin . . . William Neilson is back on the door at the Hippodrome.

The Klein Memorial did capacity business at $3.30 for "The Man Who Came to Dinner," but the second attempt at a road show, "Ladies in Retirement" resulted in two small houses . . . Milt Milcowitz of the Bershire Film Co., reports his firm is now negotiating with New England fairs to show old-time pictures next fall . . . Richard Knight of the Playhouse, New Canaan, gave away a cocker spaniel as a plug for "The Biscuit Eater."

The State, New Britain, has switched to four changes a week . . . The Capitol, Meridan, is giving Junior "G" Man badges to boys and girls at Saturday matinees . . . Mrs. Ida Shaw was in New Haven for several days to visit her son, Harry F. Shaw . . . William Pine of the Playhouse, Darien, is exhibiting paintings in his lobby.

: NEW BRITAIN :

NICK KOUNARIS, co-owner of the Roxy, returned last Monday after a month's vacation in St. Petersburg . . . Expected back in town within a few weeks is Nick Marlames, the other owner of the Roxy, who is currently vacationing in that Florida city . . . I. J. Hoffman and B. E. Hoffman, Warner New Haven executives, visited Joe Bornstein, WB's Embassy, and Randy Maller, WB's Strand.

Peter Perakos, Palace owner, was in New Haven on business . . . Helen Tarzaskos, cashier at WB's Strand, has resigned to work in a local factory . . . Phil Demas, Roxy manager, brought in "The Day the Bookies Wept," starring the late Joe Penner . . . Revival of Warner's "Here Comes the Navy" did good business at the WB's Strand.

John S. P. Glackin, manager of the Arch Street, has been ill . . . Nan Fannier, cashier at the State, on the sick list with the grippe . . . Randy Maller, WB's Strand manager, has recovered from an attack of the flu . . . The play "Tobacco Road," is due at the local WB's Capitol in March, reports Joe Bornstein.

Lina Pruchniciki has joined the Strand cashiers' staff . . . Front of the WB's Embassy has been remodeled . . . New carpets have been laid at the WB's Strand.

"Flight Command" Opens With Navy Cooperation

BOSTON—Frederick R. Greenway, manager of Loew's State in Boston, wouldn't take anything less than a Rear Admiral and a mass flying of Navy planes to give "Flight Command" its Hub unveiling. Rear Admiral John T. Nelson, together with Lt. Commander C. A. Collins and a score of other navy officers, were present in the Loew's State lobby opening night for a special broadcast.

For lights, Greenway promoted the Navy into setting up two huge floods opposite the theatre, and for pre-publicity, the Loew's State manager had navy squadrons canvassing the skies in the vicinity of the de luxe house.

"Fantasia" Boston Run Sold Out in Advance

BOSTON—"Fantasia," which opened an extended roadshow engagement here two weeks ago, is sold out well in advance. An added boost was given the Majestic run last week when Jack Goldstein, special publicist attached to the roadshow, got quotes from local educators to the effect that the film is acceptable to children.

Servicing Connecticut From New Haven Office

NEW HAVEN—National Screen Accessories, previously shipped from New York, will now be distributed through New Haven for the Connecticut territory, it is announced by company officials.

Yale Drama Students Hear Albert Lewin

NEW HAVEN—In a radio interview from the Hotel Taft and a subsequent talk to students of the Yale University department of drama, Albert Lewin, producer with David L. Loew of "So Ends Our Night," new United Artists release, outlined the functions of a producer and the growth of a picture from purchase of script to distribution of finished product.

Lewin and Professor Allardyce Nicoll, chairman of the Yale drama department, were invited to meet representatives of the press from New Haven, Hartford and Bridgeport, and Loew-Poli and United Artists officials and theatre managers at a special luncheon at the Taft prior to the opening of the picture here on February 13.

From the Fourth Estate

Attending were Harry F. Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager; Lou Brown, publicity chief; Lou Wechsler, United Artists manager; Myer Beck, eastern representative for Russell Birdwell; George Scher, UA exploitation representative; Herbert Sedgewick of Associated Press; Julia Farnham Nicoll, in charge of dramatics for all Bridgeport public schools; Delancy Jones, Bridgeport *Post Telegram;* Mabel Sherwood, Bridgeport *Life;* Nancy Hendrick, Bridgeport *Times-Star;* Julian Tuthill, Hartford *Times;* M. Oakley Christoph, Hartford *Courant;* Jane O'Rourke, *Echo;* James Milne, WELI manager; Robert E. Russell, manager of the Loew-Poli, New Haven, and Nat Rubin, assistant; Matt Saunders of the Loew-Poli, Bridgeport, and Otto Esposito, assistant; Elliot Kronish of the division office; Jack Simons, who wound up his managership of the Loew-Poli, Hartford, and was Providence-bound; Lou Cohen, who replaces Simons at the Loew-Poli; Joseph Samartano, Loew-Poli, Meriden manager; William Borden, vice-chairman, Yale *Daily News;* and William White, business manager.

Introduced by Professor Nicoll as a "former professor of English who saw the error of his ways and is now a success in Hollywood," Lewin spoke to a keenly interested group on the steps in the production of "So Ends Our Night." At the close of his talk, scores of questions revealed the students' great curiosity about Hollywood methods.

Asked if abolition of block booking would lead to increase in independent producers, Lewin said he "unquestionably" thought so. The block-of-five method of selling under the consent decree, he termed "an improvement." About Technicolor he expressed the opinion that it would not "save a bad picture," but that "it would add to a good picture." He defined entertainment as "anything which touches an audience emotionally."

Storrs May Get Theatre

STORRS, CONN.—This town, home of the University of Connecticut, will have a theatre in the near future, if plans reportedly now under way go through.

: NEW HAMPSHIRE :

"GONE WITH THE WIND" was held over for three extra days at the Strand in Manchester . . . Viola Gordon Munro, a former Broadway stage actress and wife of the general representative of the Schubert theatre chain in Boston, gave a talk before the Somersworth Women's Club, February 4.

The State Racing Commission has announced that the New Hampshire Jockey Club's request for 60 days of pari-mutuel horse racing at Rockingham Park in Salem this year has been approved. This is the same period authorized last season.

Theatre traffic will probably be affected in Rochester by a recommendation placed before the city council by the chamber of commerce, which requests the installation of traffic lights at the street crossing directly opposite the Scenic Theatre. At present, the traffic is handled by a policeman.

Lloyd Bridgham, manager of the Broadway in Dover, was a member of the committee which staged a testimonial banquet in that city for textile executives.

The Scenic in Pittsfield was the scene of the crowning of Pittsfield's winter carnival queen . . . More than 500 persons braved below-zero weather to attend a show in the Barton, Vt., municipal auditorium, staged by Orleans County merchants in appreciation of patronage during the past year.

Honor Roll Button Won by Rosenthal's Campaign

NEW YORK—M-G-M has awarded an Honor Roll Button to Morris Rosenthal of Loew's Majestic, Bridgeport, Conn., for his outstanding campaign on "Land of Liberty," industry-sponsored feature which the company is releasing.

Highlights of Rosenthal's campaign: Special screening for heads of civic, social and educational organizations. Through Chamber of Commerce cooperation posters were placed in every local factory. Approval of the film by the superintendent of the board of education was posted on every school bulletin board. All teachers made class announcements. Stills and cards were planted in all libraries. Cards were used in all buses. Restaurants were supplied with menus. Newspapers cooperated with front page news stories and laudatory editorials.

Gordon & Lockwood Move On Skowhegan Strand

BOSTON—The Strand in Skowhegan, Me., is definitely in line to be taken over by the Louis Gordon and Arthur Lockwood circuit. Only legal technicalities remained at press time as a bar to Gordon & Lockwood acquisition of the theatre of the late Joseph Dondis. Operation of the house will parallel that of the State in Calais, taken over a few days ago from Charles Staples.

This Week We Meet

JACK SIMONS

INTRODUCING a man who really needs no introduction in this territory, Jack Simons, with the glad news that Jack has been promoted to the managership of Loew's State, Providence, after distinguished service for more than six years at the helm of the Loew-Poli, Hartford. How he got to be so good? Well—

Some 44 years ago Jack was born in Detroit, into the very midst of a talented family. Several aunts were musicians and performers; his sister, Ray Linker, was to appear in the "Zeigfeld Follies;" and his brother, Charles, was a violinist of promise who was later to become known on the concert stage. Before his school days started, the family moved to Pittsburgh. Here Jack attended both public and high school, and evidenced an amazing amount of ability and ambition—though what would become of him the Simons didn't know. For one day it was medicine he chose for a career, then journalism, and all the time the theatre was subtly and increasingly attracting him, too.

While in high school, Jack was one of the handsome young ushers at the old Nixon in Pittsburgh, and was showing promise of advancement. Always casting about for better opportunities, however, Simons landed a job with the old Pittsburgh *Leader*, then owned by Alexander P. Moore, whose fame was two-fold—as husband of Lillian Russell and later as ambassador to Spain. Simons soon proved he had a facile pen and knew his public. He not only did ghost-writing for Lillian and other feature writing, but developed one of the first syndicated features. His daily four-line poem followed by terse remarks on current news caught on easily and became a front-page box. When Moore went to Spain as ambassador, Simons was offered an opportunity to go along, but refused, believing his best interests lay ahead in the field in which he was already making strides.

But he was destined to be interrupted, and it was the World War which dictated the next move. Simons joined the army, went abroad, and fought in several major engagements, with the result that he was forced to spend almost a year recuperating in a hospital. He was still in his early twenties when he emerged and landed a berth as publicity man for the Harris Amusement Co. in Pittsburgh. Later he tackled both the publicity angle and the managership of the East End. From that time on, the lure of the theatre held. About 18 years ago he joined Loew's as manager of the Aldine in Pittsburgh before the de luxe Penn had been built.

About that time he began to be aware of Ethel, who had lived across the street from him all the time. No movie romance could have been more rapid nor had a happier ending. Just 17 years ago they were married, in spite of the fact Jack had just finished saying for the thousandth time that he was a confirmed bachelor.

His duties included a great deal of theatre relief work, and on one of his travels he renewed acquaintance with Harry Shaw, whom he had already met many years before. Shaw was then manager of the State in Syracuse, and Simons recalls being amazed at the popularity he had attained in the city. "He could have been mayor," Jack assures us. The two struck up a friendship then, but never dreamed that not very long after they would be working in the same division with Harry as boss. "It's six and a half years that I've been working under Harry Shaw now," Simons said on the eve of his transfer to Providence, "and leaving him is the only sad note in the good news. He is a man for whom I have the highest esteem—a brilliant and capable executive, who knows how to make friends and how to keep them. It has been a genuine pleasure to be associated with him."

Simons has enjoyed Hartford as "my most pleasant stay in any city." He feels the level of appreciation of Hartford audiences is high, and their support of good product is gratifying.

Ten-year-old Eleanor, the Simons' only child, will also be conquering new audiences in Providence. A talented musician, she has already given several recitals. Simons' own hobby of 25 years standing is magic. He knew Thurston and Houdini personally and never tires of probing and trying to emulate their skill. In Providence his tricks will be practically new.

PORTLAND

A NEW QUIZ type radio program is being aired over WCSH by the State Theatre, authors of the popular "Recess Time" juvenile program. The new program "Quest-On-Air" was broadcast for the first time Monday evening, February 3, from 7:30 to 8 o'clock, and features Dean Quest as master of ceremonies. A merchant is sponsoring.

"Welcome Home" week was celebrated by district M&P exhibitors recently honoring the return of A. J. Moreau, district M&P manager, to his desk after a prolonged absence due to illness . . . Another victim of "grippe"—Billy Romanoff, chief-of-service at the State . . . The Portland Theatre launched two new giveaway attractions this week: Cooking utensils and a cut glass set.

Mrs. Harry Botwick and daughter, Lennye returned from a visit to New Haven . . . The MPMO Local 458 held its annual banquet at the Columbia Hotel . . . The Portland Motion Picture Council launched a series of radio programs. The programs are carrying a "Better Pictures" theme and will be aired every two weeks for an indefinite time.

Marshall Megs "Texas"

HOLLYWOOD—George Marshall will direct "Texas," a Samuel Bischoff production for Columbia starring William Holden.

Shed Removal Order May Spur Building Plan

WETHERSFIELD, CONN.—A spur to plans of the Webster Co., Hartford theatre firm, to start construction on a proposed theatre here, may be the result of a court order to remove two tool sheds from the theatre site within two weeks unless building is started within that time. Permit for the building was issued in October, 1939.

Construction has not yet started, explained Joseph Schulman, an official of the Webster Company, because new plans were being drawn and a new permit was to be sought with the intent of building this spring.

A New 1,000-Seater for Cape Elizabeth, Me.

PORTLAND—A new 1,000-seater will be constructed in Cape Elizabeth, Me., to replace the Cape, Leon P. Gorman, operator of both the Cape and Cameo theatres there, announces. It will be located across the street from the present theatre. Plans have been drawn and the site purchased, and construction is expected to start soon.

Salesmen's Club Ball To Be Held April 20

BOSTON—The annual spring ball of the Boston Motion Picture Salesmen's Club will be held April 20 this year at the Cocoanut Grove with Harold Goldman of Producers' Releasing Corp., fraternity president, in general charge.

Mrs. Ralph L. Ripley

BOSTON—Mrs. Ralph L. Ripley, 64, wife of the manager of the Codman Square in Dorchester, died here last week. A native of Quebec, she had lived in Boston for the past 50 years. Burial was at North Chelmsford. Besides her husband, she left two sons and three daughters.

To New York Boat Show

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Charlie Lane, engineer for Western Electric and prize boatman in western Massachusetts, attended the motor boat show in New York recently. He was accompanied by F. R. Burr, manager of the Burr Theatre, Ludlow, and Peter Rush, projectionist.

Radio Music Feud Cripples Tieups

Boston—The Ascap-radio feud has resulted in the closing, temporarily at least, of one of the local theatre publicists most lucrative exploitation avenues. Music tieups with films, including the usual windows littered with title pages, etc., used to be as close to the Boston advertising man as his telephone. That was when the music contact man was on the job. The radio-music dispute, however, has resulted in the dismissal of most of the former local music contact men.

Trade Organizes Aid For Greek Relief

DALLAS—Organizing to solicit funds within the industry for Greek War Relief, a meeting was scheduled to be held here Monday among distributor and exhibitor leaders.

R. J. O'Donnell of Interstate is chairman of the Oklahoma City and Dallas districts. As co-chairman, Louis Charninsky, Elm Street showman, will head the theatre group and H. Biersdorf, 20th-Fox branch manager here, will be in charge of the exchange division.

All exhibitors in Texas will be solicited by salesmen from the various distributing companies, it was said. Adolph Zukor is national chairman for the amusement industry. Gradwell Sears of Warner Bros. is chairman of the exchange group nationally and John H. Harris, national chief barker of Variety, is chairman of the nation-wide exhibitor drive for Greek relief funds.

Lightman Heads Greek War Relief Division

MEMPHIS—M. A. Lightman, head of the Malco Theatres here, heads the sectional theatre division in a current campaign on behalf of the Greek War Relief Fund.

Lightman appointed Ed Sapinsley of Malco as city chairman. Adolph Zukor is national general theatre chairman.

Through mediums other than theatres the Memphis committee already has raised $12,000.

Joe Cooper Gives $500 For Greek War Relief

OKLAHOMA CITY—Announcing that the Greek war relief fund here had been boosted to $8,600 by a $500 donation from Joe Cooper, head of Standard Theatres, John Sinopoulo, former theatre man here and fund leader, began further plans for boosting the local relief chest with the help of the theatre industry here.

Ample publicity for the Samuel Goldwyn network broadcast was secured in Oklahoma City through Sinopoulo's and Cooper's activities.

Theatres Plan to Collect Scrap Iron for Britain

OKLAHOMA CITY—Plans are being made for half a dozen or more theatres to accept scrap iron as admission tickets in the iron-for-Britain movement being energized by Louis J. Horwitz here. Trucks are to be placed in front of theatres to receive the iron.

Scully to Miami

NEW YORK—William A. Scully, Universal general sales manager, left here over the weekend for Miami on a combined business and vacation trip. While in the south, he expects to close new deals with the Sparks and with the Wometco circuits.

Role for Ann Miller

HOLLYWOOD—Columbia has signed Ann Miller, dancing star, for a role in "Show Business."

B&B Amusement Co. Buys Savannah Theatre Block

CHARLOTTE—Ellis Blumenthal, president of the B & B Amusement Co., advises through his general manager, C. A. Matthews, that he has purchased the entire business block in which the Star Theatre is located in Savannah, Ga.

Blumenthal has had the Star under lease for some time. Matthews advises that the purchase price was in excess of $60,000.

Rowland to Dallas for 'Miss Bishop' Showing

DALLAS—Richard A. Rowland, one of the industry's production pioneers, arrives Monday for a trade screening of his first for United Artists, "Cheers for Miss Bishop." The screening starts at 9 o'clock in the Tower Theatre on Elm Street. A good attendance of exhibitors and press representatives is expected. The producer will be a guest of Variety the same day.

Worth Leuthstrom Wins R&R Publicity Job

DALLAS—Worth Leuthstrom, R&R booker, has been assigned to the theatre division as advertising and publicity head for the circuit's five Oak Cliff houses under Manager Lloyd Pullen. Worth displayed considerable talent for his new job while editing *Tips*, the circuit's publicity organ. His booking post will be filled by Adrian Upchurch, who comes here from Little Rock.

Holloway Commissioned

NEWTON, N. C.—I. C. Holloway of the State Theatre has been made a captain of Catawba County Home Guard, according to announcement made in Raleigh. Holloway, before leasing Gus Mitchell's State, was city manager for Wilby-Kincey at Lexington.

Guinn Goodrich Joins Forces

KNOXVILLE, TENN.—Guinn B. Goodrich, manager of the Gem Theatre and a first lieutenant in the R. O. T. C., was ordered to report February 11 at Fort Benning.

Jim Frew Universal New Orleans Head

NEW ORLEANS — Jim Frew has been named manager of the local Universal branch to succeed W. M. Richardson, who was announced last week as manager of the Atlanta branch on the resignation of John T. Ezell.

Works Out Booking Plans For Special Occasions

DALLAS—O. K. Bourgeois of Astor Pictures here, whose new work sheet includes 33 films, has worked out booking plans for showings to fit any special purpose a theatre might have. For instance, he booked William S. Hart in "Tumbleweeds" into the Parkway, Fort Worth, on February 7, for showing to the T. C. U. faculty and student body which is making a study of motion pictures. Bourgeois will soon screen one of his pictures for Gov. Lee O'Daniel in one of the downtown theatres of Austin.

Clemmons Will Build Two Negro Houses in Houston

DALLAS—Two new Negro theatres will be built in Houston soon by Tom R. Clemmons of Beaumont he said while in Dallas this week in connection with product for those situations and with bookings for his white trade Royal in Orange.

One of the Houston houses is under construction now to be ready by April 15, and the second will be under way in a short time. The properties, exclusive of equipment, will amount to investments of about $30,000 each, Clemmons said.

Trade Attends Opening

WILSON, N. C.—Several exchange managers, salesmen, and exhibitors attended the opening of Worth Stewart's new Drake Theatre here this week. The house is named for Stewart's father-in-law who operated a theatre in Wilson 25 years ago.



At the Universal Convention—

In the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago where the company's product plans (published on page 15 in this issue) and sales policies were outlined to the field force. Left to right are: James Hobbs, Oklahoma City; E. S. Olsmith, Dallas; J. A. Prichard, Charlotte; F. J. A. McCarthy, eastern sales manager; W. M. Richardson, Atlanta; H. D. Graham, district manager, and H. I. Mansfield, Memphis.



—Photo by Wilson

At the Atlanta Banquet—

A scene at the annual banquet of the Atlanta Variety Club when a check for $1,000 was presented to the Martha Berry school for furtherance of that humanitarian institution. Miss Deanna Durbin, left, was guest of honor. Others in that photo are, seated: William K. Jenkins, chief barker of the Atlanta club, and Dean Raimundo de Ovies, club chaplain and chief speaker at the banquet. Standing are, same order: Bob Hawk, radio personality; Allan Jones, screen and concert singing star; Miss Inez Henry, representative of Miss Martha Berry, and R. J. O'Donnell, former chief barker of the Dallas Variety club, and first assistant chief barker of the Variety Clubs of America.

Dallas Music Clubs Tie On "Sonata" Booking

DALLAS—In cooperation with Dallas music clubs, in observance of Paderewski's anniversary celebration, Interstate has booked "Moonlight Sonata," starring the pianist, for showing in its Melrose Theatre February 20.

Add 300 Seats

NEW ORLEANS—The Bijou Amusement Company of Nashville has started the installation of an additional 300 seats in its Ritz Theatre here.



Deanna Durbin Guest At Variety Luncheon

DALLAS—More than 500 persons attended the first Ladies Day Luncheon given by the Variety Club of Texas Monday noon in the Grand Ballroom of the Adolphus Hotel at which Deanna Durbin was guest of honor.

The Grand Ballroom was decorated as an ocean-going ship deck representing the *S. S. Variety* on its charitable voyages.

Chief Barker Paul Short turned the meeting over to R. J. O'Donnell, who introduced a number of visitors including Mrs. James Durbin, Deanna's mother; Judge Sarah T. Hughes, principal speaker; M. J. Hamilburg, the star's manager; George Thomas, of the Universal publicity department; Mrs. Dora Foster of Freeman Memorial Clinic, Variety's chief charity objective; Julius Gordon, of Beaumont, chairman of the board of Jefferson Amusement Co.; C. B. Akers, of Griffith Amusement Co., Oklahoma City, and others.

Welcoming committee for Miss Durbin at the station were Chief Barker Short, R. J. O'Donnell; Jake Lutzer on behalf of Universal for Branch Manager E. S. Olsmith who was in Chicago; Frank Starz, and Ray Beall, P. K. Johnston and J. O. Cherry of Interstate Rader.

A dinner party was also held in the Universal starlet's honor.



A Star's Course—

A visit to Hope Cottage for foundling babies, which is under the protectorate wing of the Variety Club of Texas, was included on the list of activities in which Deanna Durbin participated on her visit to Dallas. Miss Durbin was the guest of honor at the first annual Ladies Day Luncheon of the Variety Club. In the upper photo are the star and R. J. O'Donnell, first assistant national Chief Barker of Variety, at the luncheon. Below, at the home, left to right are Paul Short, Chief Barker; Mrs. Glen Carson, executive secretary of the cottage; Deanna Durbin and Dr. Ramsey Moore of the medical staff.

"Wind" Unrivalled in Dallas First Runs

DALLAS—"Gone With the Wind" took the lion's share on Elm Street for the week during fair weather, showing three a day. Lines formed for a block morning and night. The in-between show at 4:15, however, was run with a few vacant seats, with the other two steady at capacity. A second holdover week followed in the same theatre. The Capitol continues its double bill on the weekend to stay above average.

Detail for week ending February 8:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Li'l Abner** (RKO) 80
Played three days starting Wednesday.
Capitol—**Arkansas Judge** (Rep); **Behind the News** (Rep) 120
Started Saturday running through Monday.
Majestic—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 90
Palace—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....285
Rialto—**Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 100
Played three days starting Tuesday.
Rialto—**South of Suez** (WB) 90
Played four days starting Friday.
Tower—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd wk.....100

"GWTW" Stays in the Fore In Third N. O. Week

NEW ORLEANS—Opening a three week return engagement at Loew's State, "GWTW" has broken all house records in New Orleans with a 50 cent top and bids fair to continue its triumphal march. Second in drawing power is "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the Orpheum which jammed Vic Meyers playhouse with a crowd of satisfied patrons and divided honors with the Saenger, presenting "Second Chorus."

"Dreaming Out Loud" had its first run at the Liberty and brought many out St. Charles street way. The flu has subsided and defense work resumed.

Detail for week ending February 8:

(Average is 100)

Center—**The Bank Dick** (Univ) 100
Liberty—**Dreaming Out Loud** (RKO) 100
Loew's—**GWTW** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 200
Orpheum—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO) 175
Saenger—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 175

Above-Average Week Is Enjoyed in O. C.

OKLAHOMA CITY—No competition from outside interests, good pictures and balmy weather, gave all local boxoffices a comfortable feeling here. "Virginia" led the parade at the Criterion with a second week on "Foreign Correspondent" at the State proving satisfactory.

Detail for week ending February 8.

(Average is 100)

Criterion—**Virginia** (Para't) 145
Liberty—**Dulcy** (M-G-M); **Rookie Cop** (RKO)..105
Midwest—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB).....125
State—**Foreign Correspondent** (UA), 2nd wk..135
Tower—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 125
following week's run at downtown Criterion.

Crescent Moves Three

COLUMBIA, TENN.—Al Shortley, city manager for Crescent Amusement Co., Nashville, has announced the transfer of R. L. Tunks from management of the local Lyric to that of the Roxy at Murfreesboro. Homer Pearson, former assistant manager, is now manager of the Lyric, and Ed Graham, of the Lyric house staff, is assistant manager. Tunks succeeded Joe Wiley at the Roxy.

M I A M I

BIG EXCITEMENT out at the Max Fleischer Studios these days all centers around the starting of actual production on the big cartoon studios' next full length feature opus to be entitled "Mr. Bug Goes to Town." It is a yarn about one particular bug and his fellow insects. We're going to be let in for a very surprising bug's-eye view of ourselves and our fellowmen, we understand, as the result of this feature on which some 700 artists and technicians will spend the better part of 1941.

At Coral Gables casting is in progress at the Colonnade Studios for the adaption of "Lost Atlantis" which Korda and Reviere will be shooting by the middle of the month.

As the autograph fans catch their breaths following the personal appearance of Stirling Hayden last week at initial showing of "Virginia" concurrently at the Beach and the Paramount, comes the announcement that Carolyn Lee has recuperated from that attack of bronchitis which kept her in a Washington hospital for two weeks and will bow from the Olympia stage February 20 when "Virginia" opens there.

Subtle but effective psychology, used by cashiers at Herman Polies' Harlem, lies in the fact that patrons are always given one or more nickles with their change. Those nickels in hand have a bigger bolstering up effect on candy sales than you'd believe until you try it, Polies declares.

Employes of the Sparks theatres in Hollywood are making big plans for a gala evening to be celebrated soon at the new Spotlite club . . . Paul Robinson played "Philadelphia Story" four days at his Florida.

Jorgenson-Interstate Hearing to Feb. 20

DALLAS—Defense motions in the H. N. Jorgenson of the East Grand Theatre vs. Interstate circuit damage suit, scheduled to be heard Monday in federal court by Judge W. H. Atwell, were passed and especially set for February 20.

Interstate's motion is to have the jury verdict, which awarded Jorgenson $4,500, set aside on grounds that the award was not in line with evidence presented and asks Judge Atwell to instruct the jury to render in favor of the circuit. In event this motion is denied, Interstate will then ask for a new trial. The case is based on the 25 cent price restrictions in vogue here several years ago. All other cases involving this issue have been disposed of by settlement or trial.

Wilby-Kincey Lease House From Herman Schubert

KNOXVILLE, TENN.—The State Theatre, 1505 Washington Avenue, has been leased from Herman Schubert and is now being operated by Wilby-Kincey, which also controls the Tennessee, Riviera, Strand, Bijou, and Park. Joe Alexander of Elizabethton, has been made manager of the State, which has reopened after redecoration of the interior and installation of new projection equipment. Re-runs of leading films are shown with four changes of program a week.

Privilege to Patrons

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. — Commissioner E. R. Betterton has granted the parking of automobiles in the center of Broad Street between 6 p. m. and midnight for the benefit of theatre patrons on this street.

If Winter Comes Can Spring be far away?

NOW is the time to think about your **COOLING** requirements for 1941

For Complete, New and Improved

WASHED AIR SYSTEMS

—See

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

Dallas, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Charlotte and Oklahoma City

OKLA. CITY

BOB BUSCH pulled the strings on opening of the new Uptown last week with films of the opening being taken as first-nighters arrived. They will be shown on the screen this week. The new suburban house, located just outside the business section, and under lease to "Chuck" Faris, has one of the most attractive auditoriums in the city. It seats 650. Two changes a week on second runs has been set as the policy.

Don't let anybody tell you Pete Crown, who has theatres in Pampa and Borger, Tex., doesn't know how to play dominos. Your correspondent was given an effective lesson last week . . . Congratulations to Sam Caporal on his new Bison Theatre and particularly on filling up all those store spaces in the same building almost as quickly as the house was completed. Incidentally Caporal has installed a lot of new furnishings on his Yale front including new tile, decorations and fluorescent lighting.

No new theatres now under construction, but several in the "planning" stage . . . Watch for possible reopening of Standard's Victoria and building of another new suburban house by Standard; for a possible second house by T. B. Noble jr., of the State Theatre; for an effort by George Laham of Blackwell and two or three more which are merely being planned as "maybes."

AFL pickets are still pacing the sidewalk in front of the State because of the theatre's use of a non-union firm for art work . . . The former Mrs. Dick Talbot is now learning the ropes as a Standard cashier, your correspondent having eyed her understudying at the Liberty the other day.

Compliments from every direction are pouring in on L. C. Griffith and the Variety Club for their new health center which is a sizeable contribution to the welfare activity of the city . . . Talk of the town is WKY's "Smarty Party" show wherein listeners phone in questions for a board of experts to answer; if the boys, with their library, can't answer in two minutes, the listener gets two tickets to the State as a prize. Costs the State nothing but the tickets and is very good publicity, says Bob Pfotenhauer.

The Times Are
CRITICAL
Once in a While

A Customer's Taste is CRITICAL Every Time She Steps in the Lobby to buy a Box of Corn.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY WHEN YOU USE

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SOUTH AMERICAN CORN
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Exclusive With
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GR. 0672 1717 Wyandotte St.
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Prices Are Going Up!



New Neighborhoods—

Two new houses just opened in Oklahoma City. At the top is Sam Caporal's Bison, his third suburban unit, located on northeast 23rd St. Below is Chuck Faris' new Uptown, a neighborhood near 12th St. and Hudson.

"After Mein Kampf" to Franconi, Blumenthal

DALLAS—"After Mein Kampf" will soon be distributed to Texas exhibitors by Ed Blumenthal and John Franconi out of their Monogram exchange here. Prints will arrive early next week and screenings for the trade will follow immediately. The Hitler film will be sold on a special contract and exhibition will be on a roadshow basis only, it was said.

Labor Issue Is Swiftly Settled by Exchange

DALLAS—A difference arising between the Film Exchange Employes Union and Universal was amicably settled last week when a shipper working at the exchange under permit from the union was replaced by a union member on the union's request.

New Tulsa to Bow

TULSA—The new Tulsa on Third and Main will be formally opened Wednesday evening by Griffith-Southwestern Theatres, Inc. A banquet, an invitational affair, will be held at the Hotel Tulsa preceding the opening.

SANTONE

VISITORS to San Antonio's Theatrerow last week included Jimmy Allard, Interstate city manager of Vernon, Tex.; Jack Karmi, Roadshow Pictures, Dallas, and Alton Josef, Los Angeles . . . The Prince has adopted a new policy of changing programs three times a week . . . Miss Joan Crapps has returned to the Harlandale as candy vendor . . . Ace Querner, one-time Hollywood cowboy actor, is now a deputy under Sheriff Owen W. Kilday.

Jack Ford, chief of service at the State, spent the weekend in Castorville. It was rumored that he recently tied the nuptial knot . . . The current Azteca Film release playing the National recently was tagged "Mala Yerba" . . . Seen at the Golden Gloves tourney: Billy Johnston, Eddie Collins, Henry Bergman, and V. D. Welker, all of Interstate here.

Christopher Morley's "Kathleen" is being filmed by the picture production class at Jefferson Senior High School under the direction of Miss Simena Wolf, motion picture production instructor.

"Hudson's Bay" (20th-Fox) owled at the Majestic Saturday while "Six Lessons from Madame Lazonga" (Univ.) dittoed at the Texas along with added specialty acts and vaudeville hi spots on the stage . . . Tommy Whales, who ramrods the Cascade up in Boerne, was a showshopper at Barron's Independent Film Exchange as was a Mr. Lennie who is opening a theatre in Lavernia soon. Lennie has taken over a store and has added the necessary changes to make it a showhouse.

Raymond "Wimpy" McKay, the Majestic sound man, has received his draft papers, so it may not be long now . . . "GWTW" is slated for a return engagement at the Majestic, March 1, for a week's run . . . Phil Spitalny and his All-Girl Orchestra has been booked for a personal appearance at the Majestic Easter Week . . . Kate Smith, the radio songstress, is scheduled for a p. a. in Santone the first Friday in March.

Robert "Bob" Hawk, the radio emcee, plans to do a personal with his quiz show, "Take It or Leave It," at one of the downtown theatres in the near future . . . "Hell's Angels" (Astor) is continuing to break house records in the territory . . . Among the show people who took part in the Texas Open Golf Tourney last week were Benno Kusenburger, local projectionist; Ed F. Brady, sr., San Benito theatreman, and Jack Jackson, Dallas.

A request of the Elmer Horne Film Co., Dallas, to sign a contract with the city of San Antonio for exhibiting films at the playgrounds during the summer has been rejected by the recreation board.

A. B. Johnston is building a theatre in South San Antonio to seat around 600. It will mark South San's first flicker house. Name will be selected by a contest in which the winner will receive a cash prize of $10 . . . Maria Conesa's latest starring Mexican talkie, "Madre A La Fuerza" was unreeled at El Nacional last week.

MISS BONNIE LONG has resigned as executive secretary of the Variety Club of Texas and the guess is her next assignment will be operating her own theatre before long in some of the smaller situations. Miss Long, for many previous years, was secretary of the Dallas film board of trade until the curtain fell on that organization. She rendered additional service to the industry in Texas by getting out the Texas Theatre Almanac each year.

H. S. Usry of the Majestic at Decatur, has been taking some advanced Masonic work and, we understand, has been progressing with honors . . . D. A. Dickson, owner of the Haskell Theatre here, dropped in to renew his subscription to BOXOFFICE.

A. W. (Jack) Lilly was here the other day from Greenville on a visit long overdue. He said his theatre office is temporarily in the Washington Hotel in Greenville. New furnishings and fixtures are replacing those damaged by fire in his office at the Rialto.

Herschel Crawford, owner of the Palace at Slaton, put in a couple of days over booking counters here advancing playdates for about a 30 day period . . . Chester Morris reportedly will arrive in Texas soon to look after oil interests. He is said to have investments in the East Texas pools.

Robert Foster, of Interstate's general office, has departed for New London, Conn., where he joins the U. S. Navy as Ensign, junior grade. He is an Annapolis graduate. Replacing Foster is Lynn Harris, who has been in the circuit's short subjects department. In turn Miss Lola Cheaney, former Warner contract player, succeeds Harris.

D. C. Carraway of the Cliftex at Clifton has been a recent commuter to Dallas because Mrs. Carraway has been here several weeks under medical treatment. Her condition is much improved and she will return to her home shortly.

Mrs. Wallace Rucker, who has a part with her husband in operating the Rock Theatre in Round Rock, was here this week with her son, Wallace, jr., on a visit to friends. The Ruckers are former Dallasites of long standing. Wallace having been connected with exchanges here for many years, his last post being as manager of GB.

R. C. (Bob) McIlheran of the Gem at Wichita Falls arrived Tuesday for a two day session with exchange bookers. He has an Interstate affiliation but does a large part in setting in Gem dates.

Invitations were received along the Row here for the opening Wednesday, February 19, in Tulsa of the new Tulsa Theatre, latest operation of Griffith Southwestern Theatres, Inc. Highlight will be a banquet in the Hotel Tulsa, preceding the dedication of the theatre. L. A. Chatham active in arrangements for the big opening.

Howard Baskin, who is drifting into the roadshow game after booking experiences on the Row for several years, has been in west Texas following through on a group of playdates . . . E. S. Olsmith, Universal's branch manager, was in Chicago over the weekend attending the company's advanced annual sales convention.

G. A. Cole, New Braunfels exhibitor, was married in Dallas, Saturday night, to a teacher in the New Braunfels high school. They will live in New Braunfels where Cole is in the midst of plans of rebuilding his theatre which was destroyed by fire the first of the year . . . Henry Rogers jr. of Sweetwater, assistant manager of Robb & Rowley theatres there, was a visitor in the circuit's home office on Filmrow . . . Raymond and Mrs. Thompson of the Mecca at Jacksboro were on the Row Wednesday for a quick booking trip. They are among Harwood Street's regular visitors.

P. J. Poag, R&R's city manager in Del Rio, and incidentally a partner, has recovered after an operation and is now back on the job . . . R. O. Gross, owner and operator of the Joy at Roscoe, and Mrs. Gross were on the Row Wednesday for a short visit . . . Miss Lillian Walker, owner of theatres in Durant, Okla. and Sherman, Tex., was here on a booking trip . . . Al Mortensen, co-owner of Southwestern Theatre Equipment Co., Houston, was up Tuesday on business.

L. B. Brown of Gatesville was in booking for his Regal and Ritz theatres . . . Among out-of-town exhibitors and their wives at the first annual ladies' day Variety luncheon Monday at the Adolphus, were Rubin and Mrs. Frels of Victoria, and B. R. and Mrs. McLendon of Atlanta . . . C. V. and Mrs. Carter of Comanche who operate the Majestic there, were on the Row, Monday.

The Stewart brothers, John N. of Kaufman, and M. D. of DeLeon, were here Monday. Ditto Carl Milentz of Daisetta, busily booking for several houses; C. W. Niece of the Crystal at Hubbard, and W. S. "Bill" Hurst of the Plaza, Denton . . . Pete Blackshear was in town Wednesday before reopening his rebuilt Queen in Aspermont . . . Uncle Sam reached into the Republic exchange, taking two into camp. Doyle Baker, shipper, is the first to go. He is replaced by Edgar Lederman, moved up from ad sales. Billy Ledbetter comes in as ad salesman. The second draftee is Clarence Walker, colored porter.

Mitchell Lewis, booking his three colored theatres in Houston, and Emile George, with two colored shows in Port Arthur, were on the Row at the same time and business took a spurt for distributors handling that type of entertainment.

Fort Worth Houses Are Reviving Old Features

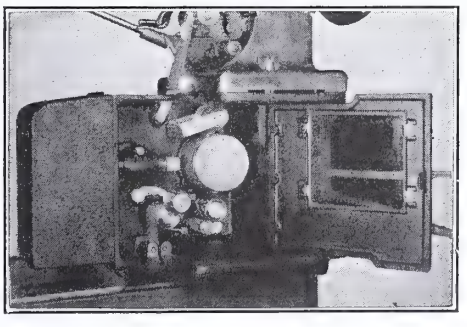
FORT WORTH, TEX.—A number of old films are being revived locally and with good results, exhibitors say. "Things to Come" played the Palace recently, while the Parkway brought back "The Gay Desperado" and "Bringing Up Baby" last week.

Austin Businessmen Plan Drive-In Near Houston

AUSTIN, TEX.—A group of local businessmen are planning to build a $27,500 drive-in in a suburb of Houston, according to a reliable source. The outdoor theatre is expected to accommodate nearly 1,000 automobiles with individual loudspeakers.

NEW SOUND AT LOW COST

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2. Superb Quality reproduction of all wide range recordings.
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"Fair Treatment and Adequate Service Always"

408 S. HARWOOD DALLAS, TEXAS

Concerning the Joels

By A. JULES BENEDIC

JACKSONVILLE—With nearly two score years of exhibition to his credit, L. D. Joel of this lively Florida metropolis views life calmly, taking things as they come and go at the Casino Theatre on Bay street. Mr. Joel says he read with interest of that Kirbyville, Tex., exhibitor, and of those other old-timers up in the Carolinas. Acknowledged as the oldest exhibitor in point of service in Florida, Mr. Joel wonders if he may not exceed or at least tie his exhibitor-brethren over the South.

Mr. Joel told this interviewer he has two great ambitions in life.

The first: that he can live to 75, so that he can celebrate his golden anniversary in what he terms "this great game."

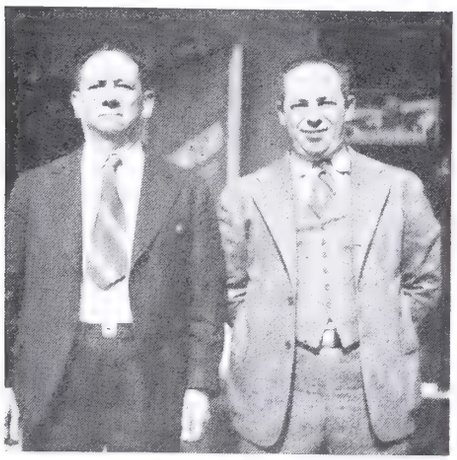
Credit Good for a Short Reel?

The second: that he can live long enough to be able to get a $2 comedy shipped to the Casino without a COD, if his check should fail to arrive before shipment.

"Maybe I can realize the first," said this veteran of the celluloids, "but I fear greatly I'll never taste victory on the second."

Photographed in front of the Casino Theatre along with his son, Morton, Mr. Joel reminisced over the years.

"I suppose I'm the oldest in the State," he began, "if not the entire Southland. I started 36 years ago—in 1905—at the Nickelodeon, on Bridge St., now Broad.



The Joels—

Caught by the BOXOFFICE *roving photographer in front of the Casino at Jacksonville are L. D. Joel (left) and his son Morton, known better in the trade at "Mutt." The accompanying article deals rather in detail with the Joels.*

Then I built the Airdome at Ashley and Broad streets.

"Then I opened the Globe Theatre here. By this time, the virus was in my blood, so I went to Atlanta, where I bought and operated a string of colored houses, in partnership with Mr. Bailey. I also had the Grand in Chattanooga. In Atlanta I had the Central, the 81, Dixie, Famous and the Joel and Bailey, known familiarly as the J. and B.

"Shortly thereafter I returned to Jacksonville, where I ran the Prince Theatre and also took over the old Phoenix on Bay street. Subsequently, the Phoenix was renamed the Liberty. Then came the Pastime Theatre in Jacksonville, which I later called the Casino, my present show, which I have operated continuously for twenty-five years. In my time I have also had the Auditorium in Lakeland and the Garing in Greenville, S. C."

Easier the First 50 Years

Besides the son associated with him at the Casino Theatre, Mr. Joel has another son, a lawyer. His son-in-law, L. A. Stein of Jacksonville, is head of Stein Interests, a circuit of 20 theatres in small towns over South Georgia and middle Florida. L. A. Stein's brother, Ben Stein, formerly operated a theatre at Valdosta, Ga., and is at present an attorney here.

"I expect to celebrate my 61st birthday March 14," resumed the veteran, and will retire on my 75th, if attained, even though folks say this game is easier after the first 50 years.

"I have discovered, after my 36 years in this business, that I know less about the industry than when I started. Yes, I've had my share of interesting and unusual experiences.

"I remember a noble experiment many years ago at a house which I was operating. On Monday night I gave away a set of dishes. On Tuesday night, a box of groceries. On Wednesday night some lucky lady got a dress. On Thursday night a gentleman received a fine suit of clothes. On Friday night I gave away $15 in gold (which was negotiable in those days), and on Saturday night I gave away something or other as a special valuable prize.



—William Dunn Photo

Heads Consolidated—

Collyar Phillips, who has been named manager of the Atlanta office of Consolidated National Film Exchange, Inc., a combination of Million Dollar Productions and Dixie National Pictures. Phillips formerly was with 20th-Fox in Dallas.

Proud of Jail-less Record

"As a result of all this crazy ballyhoo. I made from $300 to $500 every week and, thus encouraged, I spent $10 for a coat of paint for the lobby. This act, I found, completely ruined the fine business I had built up, as folks didn't feel at home in swanky surroundings.

"I have tried every plan and have done everything known in this game, and by a streak of fortune, I have somehow kept out of jail.

"For the last 15 years, I have been associated in business with Ray Yockey, and am glad to say publicly he's the finest man I've ever met. His counsel and assistance have been invaluable to me, and together I believe we have made a success of our business.

"I can still say, 'this is a great game if you don't weaken,' and hope to stay with it for many years to come."

Sneak Previews Gaining Hold in Neighborhoods

DALLAS—Popularity of sneak previews in Elm Street first run houses is now spreading to the neighborhoods. For Valentine's Day a sneaker was booked for the Majestic and also in four neighborhood houses. The Village and Lakewood were to play the same film and others unknown were set in the Melrose and Varsity.



Newcomer Welcomed—

Stirling Hayden, who appears in Paramount's "Virginia," is greeted by H. H. Everett, circuit head of Everett Enterprises, Inc., at the exhibitor luncheon held recently at the Hotel Charlotte in Charlotte, N. C.

Learn About Decree

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Manager Joe Brecheen and the RKO sales force met with William Zimmerman, of the home office legal department, to discuss the consent decree.

CHARLOTTE

CLYDE WOOTEN, who has been going great guns recently at the local Broadway Theatre with one of the best of T. D. Kemp jr.'s flesh flashes, conducted a novel contest during the appearance of Fifi D'Orsay and Lee Dixon, supported by Fifi's ensemble. The letter contest, "Why I would like a date with a movie star"—the prize for the "gal" was a real honest to goodness date with Lee and the boy winner a date with Fifi.

Harry Epting, of the engineering department of National Theatre Supply Company with headquarters in Atlanta, is spending some time in the Carolinas on business . . . Eddie Carroll announces that Independent Theatre Supply has contracts to place new chairs in the Oasis at Wilson, N. C. for Mrs. Jane Paradis; Grand in Greer, S. C., for Bill Drace and Opera House in Weldon, N. C., for E. W. Batchelor.

Ben Ralston of Sound Engineering Service Corp. is on an extended trip throughout the two states . . . Mrs. S. S. Stevenson, wife of S. S. Stevenson of Henderson, N. C., who has been quite ill for some time, is improving.

A. C. Bromberg announces a Republic sales meeting to be held in Atlanta on March 3 and 4 . . . The Tryon Theatre has the world's premiere of Monogram's Tex Ritter's "Riding the Cherokee Trail," with the local Tennessee Ramblers underlined for February 24.

John Robinson of the New Theatre in Old Fort, N. C., who announced that he would go into war defense service and turn over the operation of his theatre to W. A. Ashley, has reconsidered and will continue to operate the theatre . . . Wilby-Kincey's new Palmetto Theatre, seating 850, located at East Main and North Liberty Streets in Spartanburg, S. C., will open early in April. This is the fourth Wilby-Kincey house for Spartanburg.

Al Miller, who operates the Rivoli and Grand in Lincolnton, N. C., advises that his new Century Theatre, now in the course of construction, will seat 750. No opening date is yet set.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stellings are the parents of a baby girl, named Sandra Ann. Both mother and baby are doing fine. Ernest is booking manager for Everett Enterprises.

Mrs. Lester Sipe has entered a hospital in Miami, Fla. She has been ill for some time and was accompanied by Mr. Sipe, who will join a local fishing party at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., if Mrs. Sipe's condition is improved. Sipe has been in the exhibition business in the Carolinas for many years.

Tom Bailey, eastern Carolina salesman for Metro, is confined to his home with flu . . . Ira Smith, who operates the Breeze Theatre in Beaufort, S. C., announces the construction of a new theatre which will seat 250. Work already has started.

Tom Little, well known exhibitor in the Carolinas, paid a visit to Raleigh. His business associates, J. Francis White jr. of Asheboro, N. C., Sam Craver and Frank Beddingfield of Charlotte, N. C., and H. V. Wynn of Greenville, S. C., are puzzled at this unusual urge on Tom's part inasmuch as he hasn't been beyond the boundary of Mecklenburg County for the past year. Was it politics or his Wake Theatre interests there?

Mrs. Margaret Brown, secretary to Manager Benn Rosenwald at Metro, is ill with pneumonia . . . "Back Street," Universal's revival of an oldie, must have what it takes to get them up to the boxoffice, judging from the "raves" being carried daily in both Charlotte papers. Tom Fesperman of the *News* and Dick Pitts of the *Observer* were both guests at the premiere in Miami.

Announcement is made of the marriage of Miss Miriam Matheson to William Wilson Sharpe. Mrs. Sharpe has been connected with the Southeastern Construction Company. Sharpe is a salesman for Paramount.

C. A. Harper jr. announces that his Ann Theatre in Estill, S. C., has been reopened after having been closed for a time . . . National Theatre Supply has completed the installation of booth equipment and screen in the St. Pauls Theatre, St. Pauls, N. C. The theatre is owned by E. G. Pophal.

Max Bryant of Bryant Theatre Supply Co. is ill with flu at his home in Rock Hill, S. C. . . . Bryant Supply Co. announces the sale of lamp houses to Tom Fleming of the Sylva Theatre in York, S. C. . . . Hugh Anderson, representative of the National Carbon Co., with headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., visited with his local dealers during the week.

Harold Flavin, who supplies several major distributors with advertising accessories, was in conference this week with John Mangham, president of Monogram Southern, who came in from Atlanta . . . William B. Brenner, executive from the New York office of National Screen Service and Advertising Accessories, Inc., visited the local branch, conferring with Manager Bob Simril and the sales staff.

M. L. Stevens, eastern salesman for Monogram-Southern, is seriously ill in the King Cotton Hotel in Greensboro, N. C. . . . John Bachman, manager of the local Warner office, attended the North Carolina legislative session during the past week—awaiting his chance to get the attention of our busy exhibitor senator, Roy Rowe, of Burgaw, N. C. Result was a contract for Johnny.

John Mangham, president of Monogram-Southern, held a sales meeting with his Charlotte force, which is managed by Jack Lamont. Mangham stated that sales plans and product for the new season were discussed—with considerable attention given to the consent decree. He will fly from Charlotte to New Orleans and then to Memphis.

Alice Montague, Universal biller, was married to John "Red" Polk recently. John is connected with the Union Storage and Warehouse Co. Mrs. Polk will continue with Universal after a short honeymoon. . . . Ray Erwin, Metro salesman for South Carolina, and western North Carolina, is back in the fold after an attack of flu.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Nuger, who operate the Grand in Charlotte, were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Reevin, who have the Lyric in Sumter, S. C. Reevin has just completed the reseating of the Lyric. Mr. and Mrs. Reevin will attend the Zionist Convention at the Hotel Charlotte this week.

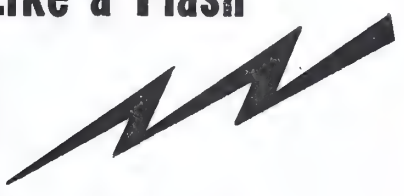
"Rosy" Rosenblatt of Theatrical Engineering has secured a sound service contract with P. C. Osteen jr. for his Carolina Theatre in Anderson, S. C. . . . C. G. Lawing has closed his Badin in Badin, N. C. He will continue to operate the Norwood Theatre in Norwood, N. C., and the Roxie in Albemarle, N. C. . . . Ralph McCoy, southeastern district manager for Warner, spent the weekend with Manager Johnny Backman.

It looked like a convention on the Row this week—visitors were: Mrs. H. T. Green, Hollywood Theatre, Manning, S. C.; S. (Staff) G. Rogers, Chatham, Pittsboro,

(Continued on page 72-C)

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of Lightning---
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CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Concerning Florida

By A. JULES BENEDIC

TAMPA—As we trip into Tampa for a tussle with local cinematic caliphs, folks are wearing overcoats on this, the coldest day of the year so far. It's just one of those things, so to speak, a temporary touch of the cold weather, but not so cold as Kansas City, for example, which the paper says registers 14 above, while we down here shiver in the early forties. Trotting to the Tampa, the city's largest theatre, ace house on the Sparks circuit, we induce Vincent Wade, manager, and Bert Stephens, assistant, to pose for a photograph. This was on Sunday, and a few hours later both were held up, tied and robbed, the bandits departing with some $3,200 receipts. A clever stunt, with the bandit pair planning the thing in advance. One of them posed as a patron who had earlier lost a cardcase, and so gained entrance to the office.

Telling the story to officers, Stephens said one of the men entered the office, held him up, while the other bound and gagged Manager Wade. Telephone wires were then cut; the assistant forced to open the safe, then the second executive was bound and gagged. The money was placed in paper bags.

Pre-View of Pirates' Visitation

The robbery was pulled a day in advance of the local Pirate Festival, a Gasparilla event that draws thousands to this lively resort city. "Pirates" invaded the city Monday, while the Sunday theatre event was in the nature of a preview, so to speak. A close check showed that neither the thin man, nor the fat man, as identified by their victims, were members of the local Gasparilla Krewe, a carnival organization patterned along the lines of those which make merry in New Orleans during the Mardi Gras season.

We ease to Ybor (pronounced E-bor), that delightful Cuban adjunct to Tampa, celebrated for cigars, cuisine and dark-eyed senoritas, our mission partly to interview E. N. Creek and George Stonaris, exhibitors de la cinema. Partly, too, to have one of those tables de hote at Cafe Columbia. This column may have prated, in the past, of delectable dishes at The Original in San Antonio; at Antonie's in New Orleans, at Yashimini's in Piedras Negras, or at the Ruby Foo joints in New York and Boston, respectively, but for genuine Latin-American seven-course repasts, the Columbia is four deuces in a wild deck. Not to take away credit, at that, from Los Novedades and other Cuban restaurants in this bit of Havana; it's the general atmosphere and old-world cooking that woos so many tourists.

It's a cold, bleak Domingo, but that does not deter these dark-orbed Cuban-Americans from attendance at their favorite cinema, and all the shows—the Broadway, Ritz, Casino, Royal, are well attended. We consult with Mr. Creek at his Ritz Theatre office; Mr. Stonaris is caught on the fly, so to speak, on his way to the Broadway.

Gore at the Helm of Five

Back in Tampa, we renew acquaintance with B. E. Gore, irrepressible Tampan who never said quit in his life, and find B. E. at the helm of the State, offering first-run Warner, as well as at the Rialto, a subsequent run house. In addition, Mr. Gore will open his new Howard, a suburban, approximately February 23, while his Northtown, also in the suburbs, is expected to open 60 days after. These houses, with an interest in the Broadway at Ybor City, give this exhibitor a quintet of operations in the Tampa metropolitan area.

We ramble to the Rex, for a confab with Mr. Livingston, then find that Manager Laird of Republic, the solo exchange in Florida, is away on business, so we photograph the office force instead, including Office Manager J. E. Thrift.

Tripping to Tarpon Springs, we ramble 'round a bit with Charles H. Richelieu, who erected in this competitive spot a theatre patterned after an arcade, enjoying fair business. Mr. Richelieu has an idea, which he bounced at us, to the effect that all talking pictures should have silent interludes. He promised to enlarge on his theory and pound out a story of his own, so here's hoping . . . St. Pete is another port of call, where we renew acquaintance with the Boardman brothers at The Playhouse and find Bob Boardman recovering nicely after an illness of some four months' duration.







Readers Aghast at Auburn Trade

Of late our readers may have wondered why there was no references to the hybrid Auburn, a more or less animated gasoline wagon which since last April rolled or was pushed over most of a score of states. The Auburn is now no more, at least under instant auspices, having been traded in on a reissue model of Plymouth, a car some years younger, not a '41, to be sure, but propelled under its own power, at least to date.

News of the daring trade, accomplished in Jacksonville, was received with mingled feeling when transmitted to two exchange centers. Pauline Griffith, at Charlotte, reported these interviews:

From Sam Perry, proprietor of the Hollywood Grill, a Filmrow hangout:

"The trade comes as a distinct blow to my organization. Every time the Auburn was parked in front of my joint, folks came from miles around, to see why it ran at all. We will feel keenly the loss in business."

Repair men's organizations of both North and South Carolina passed resolutions of regret after being apprised on the new deal. Particularly was consternation rife in South Carolina, where the motorized monstrosity passed its declining weeks. In the welding personnel, particularly, there were numerous cancellations of Florida trips.

Everett Refuses to Comment

Heck Everett, head of the theatre circuit bearing his name, said he was too busy barking on the Variety club to mess with the incident, while Roy Springer, MPA salesman with headquarters at Thomasville, could not be located for comment.

"We have enough to cope within the local flu situation," said Larry Waters, caliph at Cinema Charlotte, "without any new worries. At any rate, I will take whatever stand is opposite to that of Sam Perry, who was never right in his life."

Concerning People—

The roving BOXOFFICE *camera in the hands of Roving Reporter A. Jules Benedic catches these trade figures in Jacksonville. At the top, Mrs. M. C. Moore on a shopping tour. She is the wife of the rajah of the Riverside in Jacksonville, who also is the perennial president of the Southeastern Theatre Owners Ass'n. Center: Guy Kenimer, left, city and division manager for the Sparks circuit, and Robert Heekin, the Florida's co-pilot. At the bottom, combination businessing and pleasuring are, left to right, RCA's W. L. Jones, service manager; Ed Auger, goodwill ambassador, and Homer B. Snook, general sales manager of RCA Photophone.*

MEMPHIS

H I. "BUDDY" MANSFIELD, Universal's branch manager, is back at his desk after several days in Chicago, where the national sales convention was held . . . M. B. Hasty of the Joy at Dardanelle, Ark., made his regular monthly booking trip . . . Dwight Blissard of the Okolona at Okolona, Miss., was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce there.

John Mohrstadt of the Missouri at Hayti, Mo., a recent visitor . . . Nathan Flexer of the Waverly at Waverly, Tenn., made a flying trip to Memphis last week. Some of his projection equipment needed repairing so he brought the defective parts with him. He was home the same day to start the show.

Tallulah Bankhead played at the Ellis Auditorium Saturday with a matinee and evening performance of "Little Foxes," to capacity crowds . . . Sid Metcalf of the Petit Jean at Morrillton, Ark., was a most unusual filmrow visitor this past week . . . M. Stephens of the Stephens at Sherman, Miss., is off to Rockford, Ill., for a two week vacation. Mrs. Stephens is managing the theatre during his absence.

"Pop" Stockard, who formerly was checking supervisor for Warner, was on the Row this past week, with the aid of crutches. Pop slipped several weeks ago and sprained his leg, and he was en route to Hot Springs for treatment.

Carl Christian, who owns and operates a chain of theatres in Ark., spent a couple of days on the Row, advancing his bookings . . . John Mangham, president of Monogram Southern exchanges, spent several days in Memphis with his local manager, Bill Osborne . . . John Staples of the Franklin, Piggott, Ark., another visitor.

Harry Martin, film critic on the Commercial Appeal, *and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Johnson, he the critic on the* Press Scimitar, *are back in Memphis after a week in Miami for the world premiere of "Back Street" . . . Heck Everett, who is well known in the Memphis theatre circles, spent a short time on the Row last week seeing old friends. He was en route to Charlotte after a visit in Dallas.*

An infrequent visitor this week was Ray Morrow, R & R's partner in Malvern, Ark. . . . L. R. Allen, Commonwealth circuit booker, in Kansas City together with K. K. King, of Searcy, Ark., spent a couple of days on the Row . . . Al Wilson of the Bay at Red Bay, Ala., is up and about again after several days siege with the flu . . . Burris Smith of the Imperial, Pocahontas, Ark., was in for the first time in several weeks.

Book "Devil Bat"

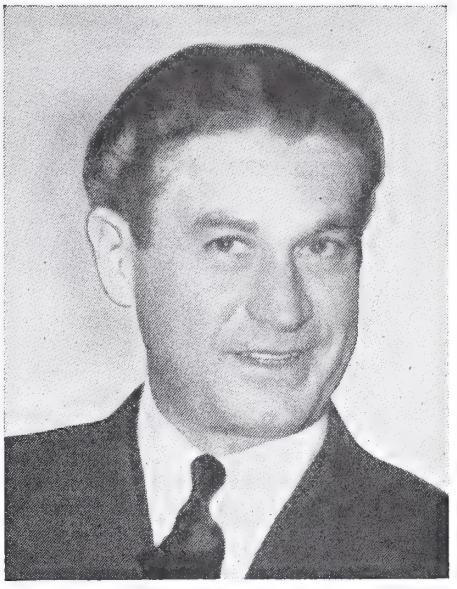
DALLAS—Interstate circuit has signed PRC's "The Devil Bat" for four of its deluxe houses: the Majestic, Dallas; Worth, Ft. Worth; Majestic, San Antonio; Orpheum, Waco. "Devil Bat" is booked for a midnight spook show in conjunction with a stage presentation, at the aforementioned theatres.

Discuss Blue Ribbon Films in Dallas

Dallas — Discussions on BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award pictures were held Monday at the Melrose Hotel during a meeting of the Dallas Motion Picture Council. Mrs. Clarence Echols presided.

A report on the Blue Ribbon Award of the National Screen Council, sponsored by this trade paper, and given to the best family picture of the month, was read by Miss Mary Ryburn. It included the January selection, "Philadelphia Story."

Mrs. J. Howard Payne, wife of the Dallas Postmaster, talked on "Documentary Films." Another talk was made on "Gain in Popularity of Westerns."





—Boutet-Lyons Photos

Hugh, Both of Them, Well-Wished—

A scene at a dinner in Dallas to honor Hugh Owen, new Paramount district manager, and Hugh Braly, returned to his west coast district by the same company. The top picture is of Owen, a belated shot that trails by a couple of weeks the reproduction of Braly's likeness. In the bottom photo, left to right, at the head table are Mrs. C. L. Dees; C. L. Dees, Oklahoma City manager; Mrs. L. W. McClintock; L. W. McClintock, Dallas manager; Mrs. Hugh and Hugh Braly; Toastmaster C. H. (Buck) Weaver, Dallas sales manager; Hugh Owen; Miss Rosemary Sullivan; Bill Bugie, Memphis manager, and Mrs. Weaver. In the left foreground is Lloyd Henrich, chief accountant for the Dallas area; in the right foreground, Jim Ryan, east Texas salesman. All the titles belong to Paramount, of course.

Columbia Drive

DALLAS—Columbia Pictures is next in line for a nationwide drive, according to Branch Manager J. B. Underwood. It is called "Exhibitors Good Will Drive" and is booked for March 1 through April 30.

Third Week for "GWTW"

NASHVILLE, TENN.—"GWTW" has played to capacity audiences at Loew's for two weeks and is now in its third. The original run was for seven weeks. "Virginia" is having a full-house run at the Paramount.

Redecorate at Harriman, Tenn.

HARRIMAN, TENN.—The Webbo Theatre has recently undergone remodeling, getting a new marquee and redecorated interior.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
1026 SANTA FE BLDG. BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC. DALLAS, TEXAS

ATLANTA

MRS. THELMA JOHNSON, who some time ago was connected with United Artists, will take over duties as secretary to John Mangham and P. H. Savin, Monogram Southern Exchanges, this week . . . Bill Nix, of the Jam-Handy Organization of Detroit, was a visitor for several days.

Miss Mary Baker, 20th Fox, will resign to be married to a young man in Knoxville, Tenn., on February 22.

Mrs. Bernice Wadsworth has resigned as secretary for Monogram Southern Exchange to accept a similar post with Benton Bros. Express . . . Kay and Claude Norton (she is boxoffice clerk for Warner) have moved into their new home at Hapeville, Ga.

Among visitors: Frank Dowler and son, Dixie Operating Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.; J. E. Duncan, Playhouse, Carrollton, Ga.; Paul Kelly, Loma, Lawrenceville, Ga.; Mrs. Violet Edwards, Royal, Monticello, Ga.; Ernest Ingram, Ashland, Ashland, Ala.; A. H. Dainwood, Marengo, Demopolis, Ala.; and T. E. Watson, Strand, Montevallo, Ala. Lester Neely jr. also on the Row booking for the Neely Theatres, Marion, Ala.

John Jenkins, Consolidated National Film Exchange, will leave for Chicago this weekend, where he will meet Ted Toddy to select a location for a new office there . . . J. U. McCormick, Amity Exchange, is traveling Tennessee and Howard Wallace, Sack Amusement Co., is covering the Carolinas.

Thelma Rowden, Affiliated Producers, lost her brother . . : John Mangham, Monogram Southern Exchanges, is on a tour of his offices this week.

Winston W. Sharp has been named manager of the Techwood Theatre, replacing Doug Avey, who has been called to the colors . . . Mayor T. K. Jones, Ritz, Dadeville, Ala., brings the news that his cashier, Miss Sara Parrish, was married to his head usher, Mack Millican, January 25.

Theatrical Printing Company has installed the very latest in offset equipment and is the only printer in the Southeast offering heralds and programs printed by this new process.

Warner Sales Meet

ATLANTA—Norman H. Moray, Vitaphone sales manager, was in town Monday and Tuesday for a sales meeting with Atlanta salesmen, branch manager and district manager.

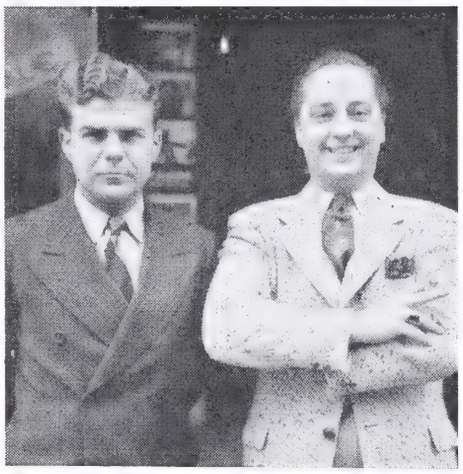
C. A. Harper Sr. Beaten, Robbed

ESTILL, S. C.—C. A. Harper sr., father of C. A. jr., who operates the Ann Theatre here, was found in his car on the main street. He had been badly beaten and robbed.

Safecrackers Rob Royal

ATLANTA—Bailey's Royal Theatre, 232 Auburn Avenue, lost $150 to safecrackers.

Managers Victimized In $3,200 Robbery



TAMPA—Pictured above in order are Bert Stephens, assistant, and Vincent Wade, manager of the Tampa Theatre here, ace house of the Sparks circuit. They were held up in a daring Sunday night robbery, bound and gagged, while two bandits escaped with more than $3,200 in cash, receipts from several Tampa houses.

BOXOFFICE's roving reporter snapped the picture about six hours before the robbery, not realizing that the two men so soon would be in the public eye. Later Stephens and Wade were the subjects of front page publicity; local newscameras snapping them from several angles in showing how the robbery was accomplished.

NEW ORLEANS

THE DRIVE-IN on the lake front has reopened with two shows nightly . . . A farewell party was staged at a downtown hotel in honor of S. W. M. Richardson, local manager of Universal, who has been transferred to Atlanta . . . Shirley Krebs, the "voice" of Minnie Mouse, was in the city last week while en route to Dallas to meet her husband, Connie Krebs of RKO.

Richard A. Rowland, UA producer, was here for the private screening of his "Cheers for Miss Bishop" . . . Accompanied by her mother, Deanna Durbin, en route from Miami to Hollywood, spent several days here shopping.

Inasmuch as the groundhog failed to show last week, W. A. Hodges, local manager for National Theatre Supply, was telling Fred Goodrow of Atlantic Films that he had seen a dozen robins in his back yard! . . . Visitors were exceedingly scarce the past week.

Bijou Amusement Co. Remodels Carolina Duo

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The Bijou Amusement Co. has let contract for complete remodeling jobs on the Capitol Theatre at Columbia, S. C., and the Eagle Theatre, Asheville, N. C.

AUSTIN

FRANCISCO and his midnight Spook Frolic dualed with "The Ape" (Monogram) February 10 at the Paramount . . . Carole B. Hellums, daughter of Capitol Manager Bill Hellums, celebrating her third birthday . . . Bobby Robbins of the same theatre is back on the job after being laid low by the flu . . . State Manager Earl Podolnick sporting a new pair of cowboy boots.

Kenneth Francis, the State usher, asks what do you do in a case like this: He gets his B. A. from the University of Texas on June 9, then on July 1 he goes into the Army for a year's service . . . Joseph's Drive-In on the Dallas Highway doubled up a first-run film, "Torpedo Raider" (Monogram), and "Cavalcade of Texas."

"The Man Who Came to Dinner" will play a one-night stand at the Paramount February 21 . . . John Mason Brown, New York drama critic, will lecture under the auspices of the Curtain Club at the Varsity, February 21 . . . Petitions signed by U. of T. students are seeking to put a local band, Bobby Hammack and his orchestra, on the NBC Fitch Bandwagon . . . An item in BOXOFFICE about Irwin Waite recently brought him more than twoscore letters of congratulation.

Wil-kin Installations

CHARLOTTE—Wil-Kin Theatre Supply announces recent equipment installations in the following Carolina theatres: Palace, Thomasville, N. C., operated by John Prevo; Raeford, Raeford, N. C., J. B. McIntyre; Ambassador, Raleigh, N. C., North Carolina Theatres, Inc.; Carolina, Goldsboro, N. C., North Carolina Theatres, Inc.; Rex, Sumter, S. C., Palmetto Theatres, Inc.; Bailey, Wilmington, N. C., North Carolina Theatres, Inc.; Carolina, Kinston, N C., A. B. Huff; Colonial, Florence, S. C., Florence Theatres Co.; Capitol, Raleigh, N. C., North Carolina Theatres, Inc.; Reliance, Orangeburg, S. C., J. I. Sims; Drake, Wilson, N. C., Worth Stewart, and Carolina, Burlington, N. C., North Carolina Theatres, Inc.

College Theatre Draws

ROCK HILL, S. C. — Winthrop College, with a new modern auditorium, is presenting attractions that are drawing large audiences from near-by towns. On February 7 Helen Jepson, Metropolitan soprano, appeared to capacity business. She was followed by the San Carlo Opera Company. Underlined for March 4 is Tallulah Bankhead in "The Little Foxes."

Monogram Transfers

ATLANTA—Harold M. Cohen has been appointed branch manager of Monogram Southern Exchanges in New Orleans. J. Harry Spann, formerly manager in New Orleans, has been transferred to Atlanta.

Charles Hopper Wed

HUMBOLDT, TENN. — Charles Hopper, of the Rex Theatre, was recently married to Miss Emma Louise James.

HOUSTON

LOEW'S STATE held over "Gone With the Wind" for the third week with attendance bolstered by the crowd drawn to town to see the Fat Stock Show. Recent change has Leroy Roye replacing Felix Fabian, as chief of service.

Suburban Interstate houses, finding stage acts to be what they need, have continued using them at the Saturday Popeye Clubs.

Miss Ruby Patton, Bluebonnet cashier, recently announced that she has been married to Zelmon Tyree of Baytown, Texas, since January 25 . . . Next Music Hall attraction is "The Man Who Came to Dinner" on February 19 . . . Johnny, the Phillip Morris boy, made an appearance with the "Sing for Dough" stage act at the Met on February 7.

New 1,000-Seater Gets Under Way in Roanoke

ROANOKE, ALA.—T. A. McDougald, manager of the Ritz Theatre, reports construction has started on a new house, to be owned and operated by Martin Theatres of Columbus, Ga.

The new theatre will seat 1,000 and will be named the Bama. It is expected to open in May.

No Pine Bluff Fire

PINE BLUFF, ARK.—William G. Clark, manager of the Alamo here, refutes a report carried in the preceding issue of a booth fire in his theatre, with the declaration that there has been nothing of the sort in the "12 year history of the theatre."

Paramount Conference

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Austin C. Keough, vice president and chief counsel of Paramount Pictures, and John F. Kirby, southeastern district manager, conferred with local manager Scott Lett and the selling organization regarding the consent decree.

Remodel Ritz at Bruceton

BRUCETON, TENN.—A new front and ticket office for the Ritz Theatre and remodeling and redecoration of the interior has been completed. The front is of structural glass.

A. B. McCoy Convalescing

CONWAY, S. C.—A. B. McCoy of the Carolina Theatre, who has been confined for some time by illness, was able to be in his office for a short time during the past week.

Paradis Enters Hospital

WILSON, N. C.—Jane Gregson Paradis, owner of the Oasis, has entered a hospital for observation.

"Heaven Can Wait" for Miller

HOLLYWOOD—Seton I. Miller is adapting "Heaven Can Wait" for Columbia from a play by Harry Segal. Everett Riskin will produce.





Side Shots on a Premiere—

The camera apparently was awed by the magnitude of the doings at the premiere in Miami of Universal's "Back Street" and managed to wangle only a couple of shots—but good ones. Above are Deanna Durbin, who did a personal appearance at the Lincoln, and Robert Stevenson, director of the film.

CHARLOTTE

(Continued from page 71)

N. C.; W. P. Benner, Wm. Penn Theatre, Carthage, N. C. and the Village Theatre, Hemp, N. C.; Mrs. Runa E. Curtis, Curtis, Liberty, N. C.; W. H. Smith, Pal, Fairfax, S. C.; C. M. Bowden, Palace, New Bern, N. C.; Ira Smith, Breeze, Beaufort, S. C.; O. A. Hill, Y. M. C. A. Theatre, Ware Shoals, S. C.; John A. Murrary, Calhoun, St. Matthews, S. C.; F. C. Hanks, Avon, Lenoir, N. C.; W. S. Walker, Gem, Summerton, S. C.; George Ward, Colonial, Chesnee, S. C.; John O. Robinson, New, Old Fort, N. C.; A. B. Huff, Carolina, Paramount and Oasis theatres, Kinston, N. C.

H. E. Wessinger, Carolina, Lexington, S. C.; E. L. Hearne, Alameda Theatre, Albemarle, N. C.; Vern and Fin Davis, Mimosa and Alva theatres, Morganton, N. C.; W. D. VanDerburgh, Pageland, Pageland, S. C.; Jeff Wilson, Biscoe, Biscoe, N. C.; Dan Holt, Troy, Troy, N. C.; N. W. Land, Gilmont, Mt. Gilead, N. C.; G. L. Faw, Dixie, Troy, N. C.; B. B. Horton of the Rialto in Greer S. C., the Red Springs in Red Springs, N. C., the State in Inman, S. C., and the State in Concord, N. C.; J. W. Wactor and T. M. Ulmer of the Holly in Holly Hill, S. C., and the Calhoun Theatre in St. Matthews, S. C.

E. L. Carroll, Roxie, Bessemer City, N. C.; J. W. Griffin, Romina and Pastime theatres in Forest City, N. C.; R. D. McGowan, Nash Theatre, Spring Hope, N. C.; P. J. Caudell, Blair Theatre, Marshville, N. C., and Wanoca Theatre, Wallace, N. C.; J. M. Sellers, Blacksburg Theatre, Blacksburg, S. C.; George D. Carpenter of the Colonial, Valdese, N. C., Patovi, Madison, N. C., Main, Granite Falls, N. C., and C. R. Andrews, Lyric, Bishopville, S. C.

Adapts "Babes on Broadway"

HOLLYWOOD—Fred Finklehoffe is adapting "Babes on Broadway," forthcoming Metro musical.

"Mary Dugan" Makes Debut in Memphis

MEMPHIS—The world premiere of Metro's "The Trial of Mary Dugan" was held here Thursday at Loew's Palace. The first premiere in Memphis theatrical history, it was sponsored by the *Press Scimitar* as a benefit for Greek war relief. Tickets sold for $1.

Augmenting the film program was a stage show featuring Ray Kinney's orchestra and the Five Aloha Maids from the Hotel Claridge, and Blue Baron and his band, here for an engagement at the Hotel Peabody.

Probe Cash Prize Fraud Charge in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, TENN.—Judge Dancey Fort has ordered the Robertson county grand jury to investigate the recent Bank Night fraud at the local Capitol Theatre, owned by the Crescent Amusement Co., of Nashville.

Two people are waiting trial on charges of winning a $600 prize by substituting bogus tickets, but there has been official criticism of the theatre management and charges of negligence on their part. Bank Night at the Capitol has been postponed until the matter is completely cleared. The charges of negligence have been denied by the manager of the theatre.

Lee Sells to Evans

MEMPHIS—W. R. Lee, who for the past couple of years has operated the Lee at Mt. View, Ark., and the Gem at Heber Springs, advised that effective February 15, he was selling his house in Mt. View to M. H. Evans. Lee will continue to operate Heber Springs. Evans is a brother of the exhibitor in Mt. Pine, Ark.

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WAR TIME CANADA IS CAUTIOUS BUT CONSERVATIVELY CHEERFUL

Defense Programs Are Scattering Money; Tax Belts Tight

TORONTO—The stage of war developments has been reached in the Dominion where theatre operators, generally, are in a position to know definitely how the conflict is affecting the amusement business, both in public attitude and internal management. The trend has been gradually upward in boxoffice figures, without any move toward an advance of prices and despite the withdrawal from civilian circulation of many thousands of men through voluntary enlistment and conscription, the number of which cannot be stated for military reasons.

It can be said, however, that there are 127 camps, barracks and training centers where the army has its own entertainment facilities and, in addition, a Canadian corps has already proceeded overseas. In spite of these losses, theatre patronage has increased until, in the case of Toronto at least, a maximum attendance was attained at New Year's Eve shows and on New Year's Day. The comment of managers is that no substantial post-holiday reaction is evident, compared with past years.

Wives, mothers and sweethearts who have their men in the army are seeking escape from emotions in the stories of the screen and, frankly, some of them have money for this safety-valve through government allowances for dependents of soldiers which they did not have several years ago when civil employment was not in full swing.

Theatres are not making proportionately as much profit with the increase of business in this war situation because of the tightening of the tax belt. There is a growing list of varied imposts for war finance purposes—increased levies on income, more charges and restrictions on imports and assessments on foreign exchange. The provincial governments are standing pat on amusement taxes, however, in recognition of the fact that the Federal authorities need the money for prosecution of the war. At the same time, theatres are doing extensive voluntary work in aid of the war effort on a cooperative basis, internal differences being put aside. Theatres are not suffering in a boxoffice sense, but they are justifying their existence and are demonstrating the practical value of amusements in war time.

See Saskatchewan Grosses Holding Current Good Pace

REGINA, SASK.—Theatremen in Saskatchewan, and in Regina in particular, are of the opinion theatre business during 1941 will remain as is, which is pretty good, due mainly to the war.

Managers are quick to point out that,

(Continued on page 76)

Winnipeg Reflects Wartime Activity

Winnipeg—The consensus here is that increased payrolls, due to military activity, are bound to reflect in increased attendance at theatres with a corresponding rise in grosses. In fact, this condition has prevailed since the outbreak of war and is expected to continue.

Agricultural Alberta Population Drop Hits

CALGARY—Steady drain upon the male population of the Canadian prairies for air, naval and army services began to be strongly felt in 1940. Although the farming industry was exempt from such service, still many young men from the farms volunteered. Small towns centered upon farming communities were not so exempt so that the loss of male patrons has been severely felt by the small exhibitors in the west. These suffer a loss of regular patrons, a loss that cannot be recovered until the conclusion of the war, it is felt here.

The same situation applies to all larger cities where little military activity is taking place. Thus in Edmonton, capital city of Alberta, mercantile and theatrical business has been lowered in a year of general business recovery.

A different picture is reported where military establishments are centered. In Calgary, which boasts a population equal to Edmonton, mercantile business for the last six months of 1940 surpassed 10 year records. Even during the usual Christmas shopping weeks when boxoffice receipts weaken, Calgary theatres reported good business. This was due to the many airports and military barracks erected in this prairie city. Airmen from New Zealand, Australia, Eastern Canada and local points, numbering thousands, are now in training and, as one batch completes its course, a new group of students arrive.

The same situation is reported from smaller centers where military training camps are established. From Lethbridge, Red Deer, Penhold, Camrose, High River, Grand Prairie and Macleod, exhibitors are revelling in fat boxoffice receipts.

No Sharp Increase Noted in Edmonton

EDMONTON, ALTA.—Wartime theatre business here has not increased greatly since its first sharp drop after the outbreak of war, managers of its 11 houses find.

Differing from many other Canadian cities, which have had a large increase of population through the establishment of military, naval and air training bases, Edmonton has lost considerable of her population because of the war.

Employment Increase, Product Quality Prove Boosts

MONTREAL — War conditions are not necessarily detrimental to the picture business, if, as is the case with Canada, the country is at war but is not suffering from bombing or invasion. In 1940 business grew appreciably better in the second half of the year as more money circulated, due to the unemployed being absorbed into war industries.

First runs benefited more than the second run or neighborhood houses, owing to the high quality of many of the pictures shown and the consequent rush to see them. Neighborhood theatres felt the loss of the patronage of the thousands of young men who are now in the army. On the whole the conditions existing in the closing months of 1940 are expected to prevail in 1941, according to views expressed. Some views follow:

Stresses Product

George Rotsky, managing director, Consolidated Theatres, Ltd.: "We did tremendous business at New Year's and the outlook seems very good. There is more money around, and the product is impressive. Although a great deal depends on the product, the future for the first run theatres looks bright."

William Lester, assistant managing director, United Amusement Corp., controlling the largest chain of Montreal theatres: "I expect 1941 to be very similar to 1940. That depends on world conditions. Nobody can look ahead more than a few weeks. In any case, we only hold the money a short time before it is taken away in taxes. For the past 12 years we have been paying in taxes 28 to 30 per cent. I think the saturation point in that respect has been reached, however."

A. Lawand, assistant manager, Confederation Amusements, Ltd.: "I feel sure 1941 will be as good as 1940. There is more money around, and if something like additional taxation upsets business, the extra money circulating will balance matters."

Melvin Cohen, manager of the Empire, northend independent: "Although there is considerably more money circulating, I do not expect business in neighborhood theatres to be much ahead of 1940.

"I feel that the first run theatres stand to benefit more than the neighborhood houses."

L. C. Pearson, sales manager, Dominion Sound Equipments, Ltd.: "From conversations I have had with theatre people I think that business will be good in 1941. As indicated by boxoffice returns, business was very much better in the last few months of 1940 and I see no reason why it should not carry on. There is certainly more money being spent and managers seem more optimistic."

During the current year Canadian exhibitors should enjoy at least as good volume as in 1940, with the prospect of increases.

TORONTO

EARLY in the war, Albert E. Glazer flew from Toronto to Camp Borden with a print of "The Lion Has Wings" for the screening of the picture before the youthful war pilots, many of whom he met. He is now Flying Officer Glazer of the Signals Division of the RCAF at Camp Borden, largely because of that first insight into Canada's air training. Son of Sam Glazer, general manager of United Artists Corp., Ltd., he is 22 years of age, a graduate of the University of Toronto, has had experience as a newscameraman and, before his enlistment, was manager of the Strand at Tillsonburg, Ont.

Sam Sternberg, executive of the B&F Theatres, operating 16 *houses in Toronto, has announced that all employes of the circuit have pledged themselves to make regular purchases of war savings stamps starting with the current financial drive of the Dominion government. The stamps are also on sale in the boxoffice of all theatres . . . Patricia Bailey, protege dancer and singer of Jack Arthur, district manager of Famous Players, in stage presentations, had an all-expense flying jaunt to Hollywood this week for the purpose of appearing as a Canadian guest star with Al Pearce and His Gang on February* 14 *over the airwaves and is scheduled to do the rounds of the studios.*

W. A. Summerville jr., manager of the Prince of Wales in East Toronto, has been elected president of the Danforth Business Men's Ass'n, a lively community organization. He is the son of W. A. Summerville, member of the Ontario legislature for years and owner of local theatres . . . Harlon Buettner, designer of sets for "Three Smart Girls," "The Great Ziegfeld" and other pictures, is now one of three American pilots of the Royal Canadian Air Force at the Malton, Ont., air base. He was already a commercial pilot before he joined the Canadian air arm, having flown several U. S. aircraft to the Dominion.

W. R. Ostrom, district manager at Toronto of the Northern Electric Co., Ltd., the Canadian counterpart of Western Electric, has been elected a director of Dominion Sound Equipments, Lt., in succession to J. D. Hathaway, resigned . . . Charlie Mavety, head of the film delivery service in Ontario and prominent member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, is promoting his Circle M dude ranch at Kleinberg, Ont., as a winter resort for skiing and sleighing parties . . . The Hon. J. Earl Lawson of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, Toronto, delivered a rousing speech at the annual meeting of the Brantford, Ont., board of trade in which he emphasized the maintenance of the British Empire and its greater future.

Film men of the Ontario district recently elected to membership in the Canadian Picture Pioneers include three employes of Loew's, London, Ont.—Alex McLeish, Russell Courtney and H. J. Allister. A prominent film executive who has qualified for the veterans' circle by reason of 25 years service with the industry is Alf Perry, general manager of Empire-Universal Films, while other new Pioneers include Pete Bardessano, exhibitor of Timmins, and Fred W. Reid of 20th Century-Fox film exchange, Toronto . . . W. J. Risewick of Film Laboratories of Canada, Ltd., is the president for the current year of the Canadian Kennel Club . . . Wolfe Cohen, district manager of Warner Bros., is celebrating because "The Letter" broke all Toronto records for a Warner feature with its grosses for the two-week run at the Uptown.

Connie Boswell, who has been signed by Paramount for "Kiss the Boys Goodbye," is a sister of Mrs. Paul Jones of Toronto . . . An interesting downtown race developed in Toronto between Manager Jules Bernstein of Loew's and Manager Tom Daley of the Imperial. At the former, the attraction has been "Gone With the Wind" in its popular-price holdover engagement while the Imperial has already had three weeks of "This Thing Called Love."

Harry Garalick, manager of the Paradise in the Toronto West End, pulled a classic when he was robbed as he returned home after a night's performances, by exclaiming, "When it gets that hot, I don't want money, so I gave it to them." No arrests have been made of any of the three gunmen who secured $111, of which $76 was the night's take, although the stolen automobile which was used for the crime has been recovered . . . Ed Lamoureux, manager of the Empire, Windsor, fooled two bandits who held him up at the theatre by hiding $95 in his pocket, although they did get $67. One thug was arrested a few hours later but his companion escaped after a thrilling chase.

Propose Amendments On Theatres Act

TORONTO—Official announcement has been made by Chairman O. J. Silverthorne of the Ontario censor board that amendments to the Theatres and Cinematographs Act will come before the Ontario legislature to require any child under seven years of age to be accompanied by an adult guardian or a person of high school age when attending any matinee at a theatre in Ontario and also to provide for the constant attendance of a matron at every matinee performance, this attendant to be in uniform.

The amendments are the outcome of the public inquiry into the near-tragedy at the Doric, Toronto, when 30 juveniles were seriously affected by coal gas fumes during a Saturday matinee and action has been taken against Sam Lester, proprietor of the theatre for many years, by the theatres branch of the government by ordering the house to remain closed for Saturday and holiday matinees until further notice, the Doric to continue to be open for night shows only.

"The department is not yet satisfied that the owner has a proper staff with which to take care of children at matinees," Chairman Silverthorne announced. "To give him ample opportunity to study the system employed in other theatres and to train his own staff, he will be required to remain closed for matinees until the department is satisfied that the safety of children in this theatre is thoroughly vouched for."

MONTREAL

FROM far up in the Northern Quebec mining country a couple of exhibitors found their way to the Regal (M-G-M) distributing office on "Little Film Row," Craig Street. They were J. St. Pierre of Lasarre, Que., and John Dyzak, of the Palace, Val d'Or and the Palace, Cadillac. More frequent visitors who dropped in were George Gray, Wonderland, Magog; Albert Bey, Cinema, Thetford Mines; Georges Champagne, Roxy and Auditorium, Shawinigan Falls, and T. Trow, Imperial, Three Rivers.

Canadian newsreels will again assist the country in calling attention to the new War Savings campaign. Associated Screen News produced a special story picture under the direction of J. W. Campbell, newsreel editor, for distribution to the cinemas of the nation. Roy Tash and Arnold Hague, newsreel crew, also covered the special program staged in Toronto to mark launching of the drive.

Montreal branch of the National Film Society has formed a junior section designed especially for the interest and education of children from eight to 15 years of age, who are not admitted to motion picture theatres in Quebec province, except on special and rare occasions, owing to the existence of a ban imposed by the provincial government 12 years ago following the Laurier Palace fire in which 78 youngsters lost their lives. A special committee has been formed to select and arrange the film programs for the children. Performances will be given on four Wednesday afternoons, beginning in March, with two others during the Easter holidays, and another on an undecided date later.

Pat Pare, one of Canada's best women skiers, was selected to give lessons in the winter sport to Fredric March during his recent holiday in the Laurentians, when he was accompanied by his wife, Florence Eldridge.

Larry Stephens, manager of the Snowdon, called his staff together to discuss the War Savings campaign. Every employe agreed to participate and to devote part of his salary to the purchase of war savings certificates, deductions being made on the payroll.

Many parts of Canada offer excellent facilities for the training of ski troops and also for excellent snow pictures at this season. Bob Martin, Associated Screen News cameraman, took advantage of the ski maneuvers near Huntsville, Ont., to obtain several excellent shots.

War Savings Campaign Film Unit Is Active

TORONTO—The Toronto motion picture committee of the war savings campaign, which has taken an active part in the drive for the raising of funds for the government's war effort, comprises Paul Nathanson, vice-president of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd.; Morris Stein of Famous Players; Herb Allen, representing Columbia Pictures and the Allen chain; Harry Alexander and N. A. Taylor, president and vice-president of the Independent Theatres Ass'n of Ontario, and H. C. D. Main, general supervisor of Hanson Theatres Corp.

Representing the film industry in the general publicity work for the Toronto district are Paul Nathanson and Mr. Main, who have reported details of theatre cooperation to the War Services Committee of the Canadian Picture Pioneers. One result has been the sending out of a circular letter to every exhibitor in Canada to urge full cooperation in the sale of war savings certificates at every theatre, before the close of the drive at the end of February.

Speakers have been appearing on the stage of every theatre in the Toronto district every Tuesday and Friday; selling booths in charge of Boy Scouts have been placed in lobbies; display material has been put up and newspaper advertising has included boosts for the war savings drive, while theatre fronts have been decorated with flags and bunting. The Toronto campaign committee seeks 200,000 subscribers for pledges to invest in one or more war savings certificates each month for the remainder of the war.

Stars' Gifts Will Be Auctioned for Charity

TORONTO—The final decision has been reached that the souvenir gifts from numerous Hollywood stars, which had been sent to Toronto for the Win the War Campaign last summer for the raising of funds in support of the war effort, will be offered to the public in connection with the drive of the Federated War Charities which will be staged in March through the holding of auctions in the 11 theatres of North Toronto.

There are approximately 60 gifts, including articles of considerable interest to film fans such as a pair of skates and boots used by Sonja Henie in a recent feature, hats and purses worn by stars in current attractions and many personal articles from private wardrobes. Arrangements have been made for window displays of the mementoes. The gifts are stored in the Eglinton Theatre under the watchful eye of Manager Bob Eves in the meantime.

Delmar Fox to Manage Pincher Creek House

PINCHER CREEK, B. C.—The Opera House here, recently acquired by Mrs. Tillie Fox, who also operates the Granada at Grand Forks, will be managed by Delmar Fox, son of the owner.

Mrs. Fox will continue to operate the Granada.

Curb on Carnivals Is Spreading

Toronto—The movement started by the municipal council of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., to prohibit local engagements of carnivals and other traveling shows for the duration of the war has been taken up by the council of Smiths Falls in eastern Ontario. The decision was reached to issue no more licenses or permits for carnivals "thus keeping in the municipality the money which would otherwise be removed from the community."

The council of Smiths Falls requested the cooperation of surrounding municipalities in the ban so that carnival companies could not pitch their tents just outside the town limits. Applications from charity organizations for a carnival engagement from which they are supposed to receive a percentage of the take will not be entertained by the town. Places in other parts of Ontario are considering a similar move.

Projectionist Training Scheme Riles Labor

OTTAWA—Tom Moore of Ottawa, president of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, has issued a call to all organized labor organizations to unite against the Ontario government in the carrying out of the plan for the Projectionists' Training School under direct Provincial auspices. This school, which has a limit of 30 candidates, was opened in January for a 12 months' course in projection theory and practice, the tuition being $100.

VANCOUVER

FRANK SHEPHERD of Biggar, Sask., has taken over the managership of the Star, Armstrong, B. C. . . . Work is rapidly progressing on William Clayton's new theatre at Port Haney . . . The Dunbar, previously owned by J. H. Boothe, has been taken over by Odeon Theatres, Ltd. . . . Ted Bobier has signed a lease for the South Wells Theatre at South Wells, B. C. This means that Ted is relinquishing his connections with Westminster Theatres, Ltd.

A theatrical ball and banquet for the Red Cross will be held under auspices of the B. C. Projectionist's Society on Sunday, February 23, in the Commodore Cabaret. A feature of the evening will be the use of special lighting and sound effects loaned for the occasion by different theatres. The Projectionist's Society has donated a silver tea service, valued at $250, as a prize the night of the entertainment. Plans are also under way to bring a Hollywood celebrity to the function.

The film exchange table tennis team was triumphant in its match with the C. P. R., winning 18 to 6. The boys had a real good time, complimenting the C. P. R. on their sportsmanship. Refreshments were served after the games . . . N. D. H. Evans, Empire Universal auditor, in Vancouver on his regular western visit . . . The Vogue Theatre, Vancouver's newest first run, plans to open on or about April 1.

A Healthy Building Pace in Ontario

TORONTO—Theatre construction activity in Ontario is moving forward at a healthy pace in line with accelerated activity in other fields due to the war, a cursory survey by BOXOFFICE indicates.

After a delay of almost a month, the Madison at Bloor and Bathurst streets here has received its new front in its reconstruction by Midtown Theatres, Ltd., which acquired the theatre on a 10-year lease from the estate of John C. Brady, operations having been held up because of inability to secure materials. The new company is headed by N. A. Taylor of the Independent Theatres Ass'n of Ontario.

A second new theatre is announced for Kingston, Ont., which is booming because of military training and munitions orders. Announcement has been made that the Fallon property on Princess Street has been purchased by Odeon Theatres and that plans have been made for the construction of a house to seat 1,000. H. G. Duerr of Toronto acted for Odeon in the transaction. Previously, Biltmore Theatres, Ltd., Toronto, had announced the purchase of a site in Kingston for the erection of a theatre to accommodate 750 which is to be similar to the Biltmore and which was opened in Oshawa, Ont., some months ago.

Famous Players has scheduled the opening of its new Park in Welland, Ont., for May, the seating accommodation for this house being 800. The circuit already operates the Capitol in Welland and there is also the Community, an independent house owned by Abe Polakoff and managed by Joe Paul.

Dominion Motors, Ltd., occupying the site in Port Arthur, Ont., owned by Famous Players, has been notified to vacate the present premises on March 31 so that the building of a new theatre can be started. The circuit also plans to erect a new house in Fort William, the sister city to Port Arthur. Five circuit houses in Vancouver, B. C., are also to be modernized under a reconstruction program for the coast city.

Robert Hambleton, owner of theatres in Simcoe, Tillsonburg and Delhi in western Ontario, has secured a site at Norwich on which he is arranging to erect a new theatre. There has never been a theatre at Norwich.

Nathanson's Option on F-P Common Extended

TORONTO—For the second time, the option held by President N. L. Nathanson for the purchase of 11,000 common shares of Famous Players Canadian Corp. at $16 per share before July, 1940, has been extended and the time limit has now been fixed at April 30, 1941. Under the terms of the contract between Nathanson and the company, a block of 11,000 shares was available for purchase by him for each of five years at prices which ranged from $12 to $16 and it is understood that the present allotment is the last to be taken up by the president.

WINNIPEG

MAIN STREET houses, usually pursuing their pedestrian pace of second and third runs, this week kicked up their heels with record breaking holdovers. At the Starland, Grand National's "Mein Kampf," was held over for a second week, setting a holdover mark for the first time in the history of the house. At Garnet Wright's Bijou, the British comedy hit, "It's in the Air," playing its first Main Street run, has gone into its third week, which is something of a record-breaking precedent at this house. "Gone With the Wind" is packing Harold Bishop's Capitol on its return run here.

A nice boost for showmen was the public appearance in the daily press of favorable comments made towards them at the annual meeting of the Manitoba branch of the Lord's Day Alliance. This organization expressed appreciation of the attitude of theatre executives throughout Canada in keeping their show closed on Sundays . . . Syl Gunn arranged a private showing for commanding officers of this military district of his coming attraction, "Flight Command." Syl sent out clever invitations along the line of regular army order sheets, which were sure to catch the eye of the army officials. He intends to follow this up with letters which will bring the show to the attention of the men in the ranks.

Kurt McComb, head usher at the Metropolitan, did some good work arranging for music store tieups for the current showing of "No, No, Nanette" . . . The drive for War Savings stamps in the Winnipeg film exchange is being conducted by Abe Levy of Regal and Richard Miles of Western Theatres, Ltd. . . . Mescho Triller of United Theatres, Ltd., is redecorating his houses . . . "One Night in Paris" opens its initial western engagement soon at the Tivoli . . . E. A. Zorn, district manager for Famous Players, has returned from a trip through the eastern division . . . John A. Fiddes is recovering from an illness . . . Irwin Triller of the Transcona Theatre, who has been confined to the hospital, has recovered . . . Sim Rost, Garrick manager, has left the hospital and is recovering at home . . . Hugh Brown, Classic, St. James, is heading the skating group at Sherburne . . . Visitors to the city included P. W. Mahon of Prince Albert and George Bailey of the Lux at Humbolt.

When trainees at Portage were confined to barracks due to illness, Charlie Taylor's Playhouse suffered at the boxoffice . . . New houses are to go up for Famous Players at Fort William and Port Arthur. It is understood that construction on a house now going up at Port Arthur has been seriously handicapped owing to the shortage of labor available due to the demands of war industry. Electricians are as rare as hens' teeth and putting up a new house has become a major undertaking.

Reception for Huston

MONTREAL—Mayor Conboy of Toronto announced that Walter Huston, Canadian film and stage star, will be welcomed at Toronto City Hall and given a civic reception on February 15.

Sask. Grosses Hold Current Good Pace

(Continued from page 73)

since the war got under way, their business has picked up. This is most noticeable in the larger centers of the province, most of which have been chosen as training centers for army and air force men. All the cities of Saskatchewan and even some of the small towns are playing host to hundreds of members of Canada's armed forces, and, even though most of the recreation rooms for the troops have their own picture shows, most of the boys prefer feminine company when they go to films; hence the town's picture houses are getting plenty of business from the men who, in nearly every case, buy two tickets.

Another factor in the improved situation during the past few months has been the increased number of men being employed on construction work, preparing the training centers for the army and air force. Thousands have been taken off the relief rolls throughout Saskatchewan and theatres have been sharing in the distribution of their good-sized pay checks. With even more construction work to be done and with plans going ahead for increased armament manufacture in western Canada during 1941, theatremen should continue to benefit from civilian business during 1941.

OTTAWA

RAY TUBMAN, manager of the Ottawa Capitol, who is one of the committee chairmen for the War Stamp Saving Campaign of the Dominion government, organized a stage show at the theatre Sunday evening, February 9. Between entertainment features, the guest speaker was Hon. Colin Gibson, minister of national revenue in the Canadian cabinet . . . For the first time in many weeks during which he has featured several Canadian premieres, Manager Lloyd Mills turned to a double-bill program for the past two weeks but has announced that the single-feature policy will be resumed without further delay.

Donat Paquin, owner of the Francais and Victoria in Ottawa and the Laurier in Hull, figured in the real estate market the other day when he sold an important property on Besserer Street . . . John Grierson of London, England, has decided to stay on the job as Dominion film commissioner although he had announced his resignation effective this month and will continue indefinitely in his Ottawa office, according to Hon. J. A. McKinnon, chairman of the National Film Board. Grierson had declared the production of Canadian shorts should be handled by Canadians.

"Gone With the Wind" was held for a second week at the Regent at 50 cents top with performances continuous from 11:30 a. m. Included in the program was the special Warner short, "Xmas Under Fire," dealing with life in England under the Nazi air raids . . . Manager Henry Marshall of the Rideau, Ottawa, reports continued success with his all-French film programs which are being presented on Wednesdays only practically every week.

Famous Players has sold its site in the central business section of Ottawa to the F. W. Woolworth Co. for the erection of an enlarged 5 and 10 cent store, the chain having decided to drop its plan for the erection of a new theatre in the Canadian capital. The reported price for the site and two adjacent store buildings was $100,000.

SASK'WAN

ITS MEMBERSHIP campaign postponed over the Christmas season so that it could start another drive to get enough members to operate without a loss, the National Film Society, Regina branch, seems doomed to failure for this season. Though a definite announcement to that effect is not expected for a few days, members of the executive are inclined to think plans should be dropped owing to the lateness of the season and the number of executive members who have left town, some to the armed forces, others to other positions.

Les Pugsley, manager of the Orpheum, Moose Jaw, reports terrific business on "Mein Kampf," British picture based on Hitler and Germany, which had its first showing in the Saskatchewan-Alberta territory at his house . . . Dave Weyling, southern Saskatchewan operator, was a recent Regina business visitor. He reported good business in the south despite bad road conditions.

Crash of a mail and passenger-carrying Trans-Canada Airliner in Ontario on February 6, in which the nine passengers and crew of three were killed, is thought to have been responsible for the non-arrival of the weekend newsreel for the Capitol, Regina, believed to have been on the westbound plane . . . Saskatchewan theatres are doing their bit toward drawing the attention of the people to the current War Savings campaign by carrying a special story in short feature form turned out by Associated Screen News.

Business men of Star City, Sask., combine to sponsor two shows each Saturday in the Roxy and admit all district people free . . . Larry Graburn, manager of the Capitol, Regina, off work for a few days with the flu . . . Peter Kosh, doorman at the Rex, Regina, back on the job after an appendectomy.

Surprise entertainments on Tuesday nights are being used to pack people into the Roxy at Watrous. On recent nights the theatre has staged a pie-eating contest and a photo night. Generous cash prizes are given away . . . Amusement tax in Moose Jaw, Sask., for 1940 totaled $9,873, as compared to $8,847 in 1939.

About 4,000 school children from grades five to nine were guests of the Hudson's Bay Co. store during the showing of "Hudson's Bay" at the Capitol in Saskatoon. The store received hundreds of letters from the children telling how much they enjoyed the picture and teachers agreed that it was the best educational film ever brought to Saskatoon.

Contest on "Blackout" Ties In Newspaper

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y.—Both a timely contest and an unusual display featured Manager Lou S. Hart's campaign for "Blackout" at Schine's Hippodrome Theatre here.

The contest, in which the newspaper cooperated with a generous story, offered a cash prize of $5 and several prizes of passes for the most accurate definition of words that the war has made commonplace on the front pages of our dailies.

The announcing paragraph (a bow to the newspaper) read: "Through the wires of the Associated Press, which every morning provides readers with 'on-the-spot' news of foreign happenings, some stories built around a new lexicon of words. 'Blitzkrieg,' 'Blackout,' 'Bottleneck.' Can you define them?"

Then followed a list of the prizes and the words, herewith:

"Gestapo, Blenheim, Incendiary, A.R.P. Patrol, Communique, Luftwaffe, Priorities, Jamming, Lebensraum, Neutrality Patrol, Caproni, R.C.A.F., Evzone, Torpedo Fleet."

The list was to be filled in, the entries sent to the theatre before opening night. A local educator served as judge.

The display consisted of painting on a temporarily vacant store window a scene similar to that depicted on the 24-sheet. Stills flanked top and bottom of the window. Also the windows of a four-story building were whitewashed leaving only the outline of a single letter on each window. The letters, each the size of the window itself spelled out on the top floor, "Smash Hit"; on the floor below, "Blackout" and on the second floor "Hipp Soon."

Wide-Spread Magazine Ads for "Citizen Kane"

NEW YORK—"Citizen Kane" will be nationally advertised through newspapers and magazines by RKO, it is announced by S. Barret McCormick, director of advertising and publicity.

The release of the show set for the end of February will be ushered in with full-page, two-color advertisements in the big-circulation weekly magazines with distribution that will reach an estimated 50,000,000 readers. Large space, two-color newspaper copy also has been scheduled for a number of key cities.

Contest for "Philadelphia Story"

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—The Orpheum here, in cooperation with a local newspaper, conducted a contest to determine the outstanding "Springfield story," told in 25 words or less, in connection with the showing of "The Philadelphia Story."

'Wind' Campaign Wins For Ed Fitzpatrick

WATERBURY, CONN.—His outstanding campaign for the popular-price engagement of "Gone With the Wind" makes Ed Fitzpatrick, manager of the Poli, in this city, the first Loew exhibitor to win a second citation on M-G-M's Exploitation Honor Roll. Fitzpatrick recently won a Gold Button for his campaign for "Strike Up the Band."

Highlights of the "Gone With the Wind" campaign follow:

Mayor Scully issued a proclamation declaring a "Gone With the Wind" week in Waterbury. With the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce, bargain days for shoppers were set during the run, with bus companies putting special schedules in effect to accommodate late crowds.

The Junior League distributed special invitations, reading: "Miss Scarlett O'Hara requests the pleasure of your presence at Loew's, etc." Those holding numbers corresponding to those posted in front of the boxoffice received guest tickets.

A young man from a nearby town was planted in front of the theatre with cot and blankets, etc., and newspapers played it up, stating that the young man wanted to be certain he'd be the first in line to see the film.

A large cake was secured from a leading bakery and placed on display in the lobby. It carried the copy: "First Anniversary Premiere of 'GWTW.'" Sidewalks were stencilled: "'GWTW' is coming—Nothing cut but the price." A local radio station used a contest asking listeners to send in letters of fifty words or less on the subject: "Why I Want to see 'GWTW.'"

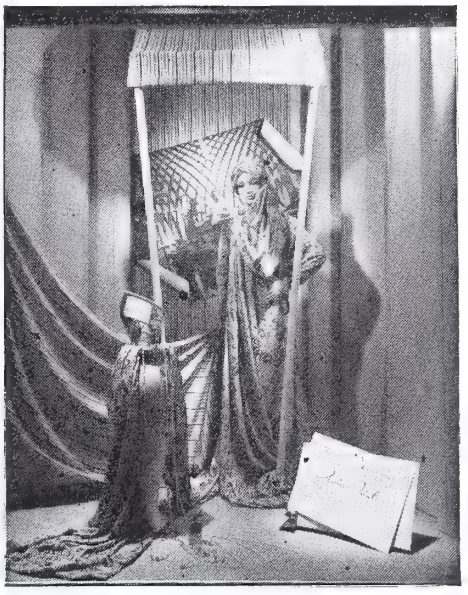
A special six-foot pass was made, carried through the streets and presented to the Mayor. A large book was built for lobby display with a pretty young lady, wearing a "GWTW" gown loaned by a leading store, stepping from its pages.

Red Heads Occasion Special Sale

Springfield, Ill.—It cost some 400 complimentary passes (admittedly more than foreseen) but it was a great publicity stunt. Red-headed women from 16 to 60 were invited to register at a booth placed near the city square to receive tickets to see "Lady With Red Hair" at the Roxy. Several stores cooperated with special discounts on purchases made by the flame-tressed girls.

Inside and Out—

To the side, a store window display obtained by Walter Henshell, manager, and Forrest Thompson, publicity director of the Palace, Dallas, Texas, in a tieup for "Thief of Bagdad." Below is the sound truck used for one week in advance at all grade schools at recess times. The truck at present is doing similar duty for the Hollywood Theatre in Fort Worth.





NUGGETS

REMINDER cards mailed to 3,000 potential patrons, in the form of a personal message from the star, were used by Jack Randall of the College in Winnipeg to create interest in a showing of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." The cashier further phoned all the Smiths advising them of the showing.

•

Five days in advance, Jack Campbell of the Booth in Independence, Kas., handed to outgoing patrons 500 *small cards with small birthday type candles attached. Cards read: "Save this candle to light your way home after you see Boris Karloff in 'The Ape' (theatre and playdate)."*

•

On the inside of a portable phonograph lid was painted the message: "Just one of the many hit tunes in 'Tin Pan Alley' with (cast names and theatre) now showing." Manager Barnes Perdue of the Ritz in Chillicothe, Mo., then had a boy carry the phonograph to every corner of the business district, sit down on the curb, wind it and play two or three tunes from the picture.

•

In a tieup with a local shade company, E. R. Erickson, manager of the Rhodes Theatre in Chicago, obtained a sample Venetian blind in a frame for a lobby display. The slats were lettered on one side; "Shhhh—Whatever you do, don't peek!" Alongside an arrow pointed to string as a cue to pull the string. Other side of slate read: "See Bette Davis in her top performance 'The Letter' (playdate and catchlines)."

•

On opening day of "Escape" at the Arcade in Springfield, Mass., George W. Coleman, manager, had a fellow dressed in a prison convict getup chained to the theatre's boxoffice, with a card next to the fellow reading: "I tried to escape to see 'Escape'."

Patrons Lead Band

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Patrons who had the urge to lead an orchestra were invited to lead Sammy Kaye's orchestra when the latter came to town for a three-day engagement at the Paramount. In a feature called "So You Want to Lead a Band," Kaye called patrons out of the audience, handed them a baton and invited them to conduct his musicians. Each contestant received an autographed baton from the orchestra leader.

An Oriental Lobby

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—An attractive lobby display was arranged by Lester Pollock for "The Thief of Bagdad," when it played Loew's. With one of the usherettes as a slave girl, the display included Oriental rugs, Oriental lamps, hand-carved screen, tables, Persian smoking pipe, miniature elephants and statues. It was tie-up with local Oriental rug store.

Ginger Rogers Doubles Contest for "Kitty"

DENVER—A Ginger Rogers double contest featured the campaign arranged by Manager Mickey Gross of the Orpheum for "Kitty Foyle."

The contest, open to all "white collar" girls, was sponsored by the *Rocky Mountain News* and the Denver *Post*. A board, consisting of prominent individuals, judged the contest with appropriate prizes awarded the winners.

The *News* and *Post* ran a picture of the winners as a news item. Other features included the distribution of 5,000 specially printed "Kitty Foyle" blotters to all offices in the downtown district and window display tie-ins with the local book stores featuring stills from the film and the popular dollar edition of the Christopher Morley best-seller.

Theatre Candy Case Into a Confectionery

COTULLA, TEX.—Installing a candy case in his lobby in December, Milton DuBose of the Majestic, found his customers so responsive that he rented a building next door and installed a soda fountain, line of tobacco and ice cream cabinet, putting a girl in charge.

At a school matinee on opening day DuBose had the youngsters suggest names for the new business, offering a cash prize for the one selected by popular vote of the juvenile audience. "Sugar Bowl" was the name that emerged, with a ready-made trade from the children who feel a real interest in the business.

No. 711 THE A—1 "FRIGHT-INSURANCE" COMPANY'S

FAINT CHECK

THE PERSON named below is entitled to return again to the Fox Granada Theatre in Inglewood if sufficient evidence is presented to management proving he or she fainted during the showing of "The Torso Murder Mystery" and "Face At the Window," Wed. or Thurs., January 8 or 9.

Name.....

Address.....

A—1 "FRIGHT-INSURANCE" COMPANY
115 North Market St. Inglewood, Calif.

Were in Demand—

Five thousand of the above-pictured cards were distributed by Dave Martin, manager of the Fox Granada at Inglewood, Calif., and his assistant, Bill Erickson, in advertising a double horror show. Business was above normal.

Into the Papers

A PAGE photo of Diana Lewis in skating costume, with mention of her new film, "Go West," planted in the Sunday magazine section of the Columbus *Citizen* by Fred Ostreicher, publicist.

A full page of action stills from "Comrade X," depicting Hedy Lamarr in the hair-pulling sequence landed in the Sunday roto section of the Washington *Post* as part of Publicist Dan Terrell's advance exploitation.

A special series of stills, showing the progressive stages from girlhood to age as depicted by Martha Scott in "Cheers for Miss Bishop" was planted in a six-column, 10-inch space in the Detroit *Evening Times*. The stills, along with a guiding article, have been sent to all UA exploiteers.

A full page of scenes from "That Hamilton Woman," forthcoming Korda production, were planted in the roto-gravure section of the Atlanta *Constitution*.

A contest awarding prizes to boys wearing the most authentic "North West Mounted Police" outfits cracked the front page of the Charleston *Daily Mail* for R. E. England, manager of the Virginian at Charleston, W. Va.

Birthday List

GARNETT, KAS.—As a goodwill builder, Hank Doering, who operates the Peoples Theatre here, some time ago passed out slips on which patrons wrote their name and birth date. He now has a list of about 4,000, and each day the girl spends an hour writing 18 to 20 of them a letter and enclosing a pass for use on their birthday anniversary two or three days later.

Milking Contest

NEW YORK—Three prize-winning cows played the leading roles in an old-fashioned milking contest on the stage of the suburban Alden Theatre here. Members of the audience who had experience in the art of milking were invited to participate for cash prizes. The contest was in conjunction with the showing of "Little Men."

Indians in Front of Theatre

WAUSAU, WIS.—John Matis, manager of the Wausau, promoted a premiere showing in connection with "Arizona." Mayor August C. Polster of Wausau welcomed Chief Big Thunder and other Indians attending the show in front of the theatre for a gala affair.

Two serializations suitable for the newspapers on the forthcoming "Come Live With Me" are available in mat form at the M-G-M exchange. One is a six chapter, two column 19½ inch serialization; the other three chapters, 4 column 14 inches.

Opinions on the Current Short Subjects

SHORTS REVIEWS

One-Tenth of Our Nation

American Film Center 26 *Mins.*
(Documentary)

This documentary pictorially and vocally takes up the plight of the American Negro, how he is overworked, underfed, medically neglected and generally left to his resources which have resulted in the pitiful conditions found throughout the south. It has a straightforward argument and the scenes bear it out. The film is propaganda which pleads for an equal opportunity for Negroes—they comprise one-tenth of the nation's inhabitants—in the democratic tradition. Negotiations are in progress for distribution in various territories. Recommended for houses with serious, thinking audiences.

A Village in India

Paramount 11 *Mins.*
(Fascinating Journeys)

Tasteful Travelogue. In the brief time span allotted to this short an intimate glimpse of native village life in India is achieved. Done in Technicolor the footage deals with fundamentals, religion, the caste system, crafts and customs. These are quite the best in travel series these days.

Wild Oysters

Paramount (Animated Antics) 11 *Mins.*

Entertaining Novelty. What this subject needs is color. It offers animated figures, a cat, dog and mice activated in the puppet technique a la George Pal. The oysters make things generally hot for the mice but eventually are foiled. Kitchen background is real. It is a smart novelty.

Unusual Occupations, LO-3

Paramount (In Cinecolor) 10 *Mins.*

Good. The material in this effort ranges from a mechanical elephant in Miami to an Indian who achieves some startling things with soap bubbles. Also, there is the mayor of Salt Lake City who drives racing cars, a Hollywood girl who makes interesting dolls, and a mattress "breaker inner."

Spotlight on Indo-China

20th-Fox (Magic Carpet) 9 *Mins.*

Timely. This is just a motley collection of scenes showing Indo-Chinese natives dancing, fishing, planting rice and pursuing sundry work-a-day activities, plus a few shots of the Burma Road, Angkor Vat and much palaver by Lowell Thomas, whose narrative is better than the photographic material.

The Temperamental Lion

20th-Fox 7 *Mins.*
(Technicolor Terry-Toon)

Entertaining. A loud-mouthed lion, captured and brought to a zoo, in place of Hollywood, complains at length and finally settles accounts with his captor. Gags are a bit silly but should provoke laughter.

Sky Raiders

Universal (Serial) 1*st Episode,* 19 *Mins.*

There are numerous exploitation possibilities which should be utilized by the exhibitor when he plays this serial. It is the usual melange of exciting situations suitably topped off when each chapter concludes with an increasingly narrower escape by the hero from the hands of a gang of international spies who are out to get the plans for a new airplane. It should click. Featured are Donald Woods, Billy Halop, Eduardo Ciannelli.

Fair Today

Universal (Color Cartoon) 6⅔ *Mins.*

Entertaining. The gag man had a field day translating the bucolic diversions at a country fair to cartoon burlesque. Generally, it should prove relaxing.

A Helping Paw

Columbia (Color Rhapsody) 7 *Mins.*

Fairly clever stuff. Cartoon action concerns a fellow who gets himself involved with a masseur, a trick dog and a pair of eyeglasses that make him see everything double. Eventually, the dog gets the glasses and is quite pleased by the effect.

Waiting for Baby

Paramount (Robert Benchley) 11 *Mins.*

Very Good. Robert Benchley parodies the plight of the expectant father. His approach to a subject that has been the butt of humorous endeavor since the first time it happened is none the less funny—the laughs come easy and often.

Training Police Horses

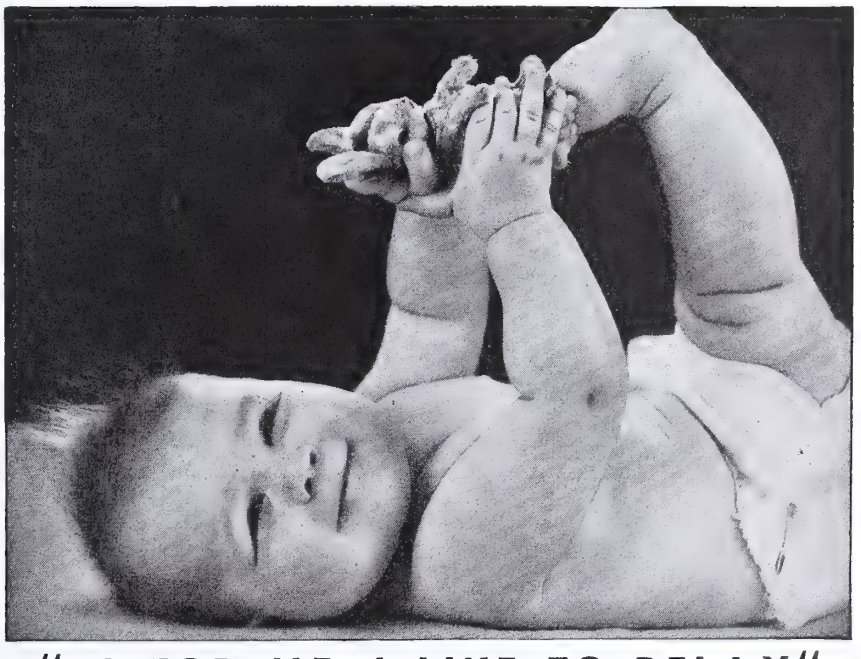
20th-Fox (Newsreel Adventure) 10 *Mins.*

Good. The gradual steps in breaking mounts for the New York City police force, in the Brooklyn pampas, should prove enlightening and entertaining to all audiences. The reel's footage manages interesting moments with touching bits for animal lovers.

Mississippi Swing

20th-Fox 7 *Mins.*
(Technicolor Terry-Toon)

Diverting. This cartoon takeoff on showboats and darkies having a high old musical time has a few smart comic moments. A good deal of animated detail with varying degrees of humor, makes up for what is lacking. Generally it is tuneful and full of action.



"AS FOR ME, I LIKE TO RELAX"

Some folks may enjoy carrying around in their own heads all the worries of the world. Not so, smart showmen. Worries that can be delegated, they delegate—to people willing and able to take responsibility. To keep projection room equipment in the pink of condition, they know they need engineers, so they take Altec service—sound service and booth parts service. Take this time-tested way to relax: save all your energies for the prime job of showmanship. Change to Altec.

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BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JULY 6	30 Comedy 1021 **Out West With the Peppers (61)** Edith Fellows R—July 13	5 Comedy 43 **Andy Hardy Meets Debutante (89)** Mickey Rooney R—July 6	3 Western 3956 **The Golden Trail (52)** Tex Ritter R—July 13	5 Drama 3940 **Way of All Flesh (86)** R—June 1 Akim Tamiroff Gladys George	12 Drama 903 **Three Faces West (81)** R—June 22 John Wayne Sigrid Gurie	5 Drama 036 **Dr. Christian Meets the Women (68)** Jean Hersholt R—June 29	5 Com. Drama 052 **Sailor's Lady (66)** Nancy Kelly Jon Hall R—July 6		5 Com. Drama 4007 **Private Affairs (74)** Nancy Kelly Roland Young R—June 15	13 Drama FN467 **Man Who Talked Too Much (75)** George Brent R—July 6	
JULY 13		12 Drama 44 **Sporting Blood (82)** Robert Young Maureen O'Sullivan R—July 13		12 Western 3959 **Stagecoach War (63)** R—July 6 Bill Boyd Russell Hayden		12 Com. Drama 039 **Cross Country Romance (68)** Gene Raymond Wendy Barrie R—June 29	12 Drama 046 **Manhattan Heartbeat (71)** V. Gilmore R. Sterling R-June 8			13 Drama FN454 ◎**All This, and Heaven Too (143)** Bette Davis Charles Boyer R—June 22	
JULY 20	18 Drama 1038 **Military Academy (66)** T. Kelly R-July 13 24 Adventure 1110 **I Married Adventure (78)** R-July 20	19 Com. Drama 45 **We Who Are Young (79)** Lana Turner John Shelton R—July 20	16 Mystery 3910 **Haunted House (70)** R—Aug. 3 15 Melodrama 4020 **Boys of the City** **East Side Kids (63)** R—Aug. 31		20 Comedy 909 **Scatterbrain (72)** Judy Canova R—July 13 15 Western 944 **Carolina Moon (65)** G. Autry R—July 20	19 Drama 029 **Tom Brown's School Days (82)** James Lydon Fred. Bartholomew Cedric Hardwicke R—June 29	19 Drama 050 ◎**Maryland (91)** Walter Brennan Fay Bainter Brenda Joyce R—July 13	18 Melodrama **South of Pago Pago (97)** Victor McLaglen Jon Hall Francis Farmer R—July 20	19 Melodrama 4057 **Black Diamonds (52)** R—July 27 26 Western 4064 **Son of Roaring Dan (64)** R—Aug. 17 Johnny Mack Brown	20 Com. with Mu. WB407 **My Love Came Back (85)** R—July 6 Olivia de Havilland Jeffrey Lynn	20 Western 15 **Billy the Kid Outlawed (55)** Bob Steele
JULY 27	25 Comedy 1012 **Blondie Has Servant Trouble (70)** Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 27	26 Com. Drama 47 **Gold Rush Maisie (82)** Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	29 Melodrama 4024 **Orphans of the North (57)** R—Nov. 9 29 Western 3957 **Rainbow Over the Range (59)** T. Ritter R-Aug. 10	26 Drama 3941 ◎**Untamed (83)** Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	30 Drama 904 **Girl from God's Co'ntry (71)** R—Jul 27 Chester Morris	26 Western 085 **Stage to Chino (59)** G.O'Brien R-Aug. 24 26 Com. Drama 037 **Millionaires in Prison (63)** L. Tracy R-June 29			26 Com. Dr. 4023 **You're Not So Tough (72)** R—June 1 26 Outd'r Dr. 4006 **When Daltons Rode (81)** R—Aug. 3	27 Comedy FN474 **Ladies Must Live (58)** Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		2 Costume Com. 46 ◎**Pride and Prejudice (118)** Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	5 Melodrama 3908 **Doomed to Die (67)** Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	2 Melodrama 3942 **Golden Gloves (69)** Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	30 Western 956 **Ranger and the Lady (59)** R. Rogers R-July 27	2 Drama 061 ◎**Queen of Destiny (95)** R-Nov.26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	2 Drama 101 **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		2 M'drama 4039 **South to Karanga (69)** Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	3 Drama FN460 **They Drive by Night (95)** R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	3 Western 151 **Gun Code (55)** Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	7 Drama 1006 **The Lady in Question (81)** Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama 50 **I Love You Again (99)** William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama 3943 **Mystery Sea Raider (78)** R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical 910 **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot (72)** Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama 042 **One Crowded Night (68)** R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama 104 **The Girl From Avenue A (73)** Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution (86)** R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy 4003 **Boys From Syracuse (72)** R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram WB414 **River's End (69)** Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama 1030 **The Secret Seven (62)** R—Aug. 24 15 Western 2201 **Durango Kid (65)** R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy 49 **Golden Fleecing (68)** Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama 3913 **Laughing at Danger (62)** R—Aug. 10 19 Western 3958 **Arizona Frontier (55)** R—Sept. 14	16 Comery 3944 **Comin' Round the Mountain (63)** Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western 071 **Tulsa Kid (57)** Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama 041 **Stranger on the Third Floor (64)** Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama 103 ◎**Return of Frank James (92)** Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent (120)** Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama WB417 **Money and the Woman (67)** Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama 1006 **He Stayed for Breakfast (87)** Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama 3938 **Missing People (69)** R—Nov. 16 22 Western RB-1 **Range Busters No. 1 (55)** R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama 3945 **The Great McGinty (83)** Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda 171 **Ramparts We Watch (87)** R—July 27 23 Drama 043 **Wildcat Bus (63)** F. Wray R-Aug. 24	23 Drama 106 **Pier 13 (66)** Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. WB412 **Flowing Gold (82)** Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama 48 **Boom Town (120)** Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama 3903 **Queen of the Yukon (63)** Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western 069 **Okla. Renegades (57)** R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone (67)** R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy 046 **Dance, Girl, Dance (89)** R—Aug. 31 30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners (101)** R.Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy 109 **Young People (79)** Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson (97)** Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama WB401 **Sea Hawk, The (126)** Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 Mystery 103 **Marked Men (69)** Warren Hull R—Feb. 1—PG-18
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy 1022 **Five Little Peppers in Trouble (65)** Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama 101 **Dr. Kildare Goes Home (79)** Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama 3920 **Who Is Guilty? (73)** Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. 4001 **Rhythm on the River (94)** Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western 043 **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride (65)** Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama 101 **Men Against the Sky (75)** R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	6 Melodrama 110 **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum (63)** Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall (92)** Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. 5013 **Argentine Nights (73)** R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. WB519 **Calling All Husbands (64)** George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama 2032 **Fugitive From Prison Camp (59)** 17 Melodrama 1034 **Before I Hang (63)** R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming (88)** Wallace Beery Leo Carillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air (61)** Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama 017 **Girl From Havana (69)** Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept 14	13 Comedy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud (81)** R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	18 Comedy 105 **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1 (80)** George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. 5006 **Hired Wife (96)** R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama 5051 **Leather Pushers (64)** R—Sept. 7	14 Comedy FN554 **No Time for Comedy (93)** James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 ◎**The Howards of Virginia (117)** Cary Grant Martha Scott	20 Mus. Com. 104 **Haunted Honeymoon (83)** Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama 4021 **That Gang of Mine (62)** Bobby Jordon R—Oct. 5	20 Drama 4002 **I Want a Divorce (92)** R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado (57)** Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western 086 **Triple Justice (66)** Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes (65)** Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—May 25	20 Act. Drama **The Westerner (99)** Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama 5020 **The Mummy's Hand (67)** R—Aug. 31 20 Western 5061 **Ragtime Cowboy Joe**	21 Drama WB506 **City for Conquest (106)** James Cagney Ann Sheridan	16 Western 153 **Arizona Gang Busters (60)** Tim McCoy

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SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 2040 **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery 105 **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama 4003 **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western 062 **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. 5001 **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 Western 158 **Billy the Kid in Texas** (55) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama 4004 **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 Western 072 **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western 181 **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama 5019 **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama WB502 **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Dr'ma 2018 **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western RB-2 **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 Drama 4005 **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 Mus. Com. 005 **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 Burl. Com. 105 **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R-Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 Mus. Com. 113 **Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 Melodrama 5017 **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 Comedy FN559 **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama 2030 **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows R—Feb. 1—PG-18		7 Com. Dr. 4010 **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 Drama 4006 **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 Mus. Com. 001 **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 Melodrama 107 **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama 114 **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 Western 5062 **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. WB511 **Dispatch from Reuters** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama 2038 **Girls Under 21** (64) R—Nov. 30 21 Western 2202 **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy 109 **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 Drama 4007 **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 28 Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	21 Western 052 **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 Melodrama 104 **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 Comedy 111 **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy 5024 **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 Drama 5007 **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	26 Com. Dr. FN561 **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy 2016 **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama 106 **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 Musical 4008 **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 Mystery 006 **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 Comedy 109 **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 Comedy 5036 **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 Melodrama 5052 **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	2 Comedy FN570 **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical 110 **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western 4051 **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 Musical 4009 **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 Mus. Comedy 007 **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 Comedy 106 **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 Melodrama 117 **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy 5021 **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 Western 5063 **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama FN562 **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	
NOV. 16	14 Western 2210 **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama 111 **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery 4012 **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western 4050 **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western 063 **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy 111 **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama 102 **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		16 Drama 5015 **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama WB513 **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Geraldine Fitzgerald R—Dec. 21	11 Western 154 **Riders of Black Mountain** (59) Tim McCoy
NOV. 23	23 Mystery 2021 **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30 28 Drama 2012 **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30	22 Comedy 112 **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 Western RB-3 **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western 041 **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 22 Western 073 **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. 108 **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy 119 **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy 5023 **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama R5048 **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama FN552 **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	30 Mystery 2024 **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 115 **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 Comedy 018 **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karns R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 113 **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama 120 **Tin Pan Alley** (94) R—Nov. 30 Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable	29 Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy 5010 **Bank Dick, The** (72) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama WB512 **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western 2208 **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy 114 **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. 4011 **Night at Earl Carroll's, A** (63) Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western 053 **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western 182 **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama 118 **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy 5026 **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy FN571 **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	
DEC. 14	9 Drama 2031 **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama 113 **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		18 Western 4012 **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy 008 **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery 121 **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama 5008 **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Com. Mys. 105 **Devil Bat** (69) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 21	20 Mystery 2033 **Phantom Submarine** (70) Anita Louise			27 Outd'r Dr. 3046 **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama 009 **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama 114 **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	20 Comedy 122 **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama 5025 **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 Reissue **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Drama 104 **Misbehaving Husbands** (66) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14

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DEC. 28	26 Outd'r Dr. 2101 Arizona (128) Jean Arthur R—Nov. 25 31 Western 2211 Wildcat of Tuscon (57) Bill Elliott	27 Comedy 116 Keeping Company (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 Drama 4003 Her First Romance (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western 4052 Rolling Home to Texas (63) R—Feb. 1—PG-17	27 Comedy 4013 Love Thy Neighbor (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western 064 Lone Star Raiders (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 112 Kitty Foyle (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 123 Chad Hanna (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy Thief of Bagdad (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Com. 5018 Invisible Woman (72) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan 4—PG-1	28 Adv. Dr. FN551 Santa Fe Trail (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Western 159 Billy the Kid's Gun Justice (63) Bob Steele
JAN. 4	2 Comedy 2205 This Thing Called Love (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama 117 Flight Command (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical 4014 Second Chorus (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama 019 Bowery Boy (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 Drama 161 Convoy (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	3 Drama 115 Hudson's Bay (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama 5030 Where Did You Get That Girl (65) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama 5053 Lucky Devils (62)	4 M'drama WB503 Four Mothers (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	
JAN. 11	9 Western 2204 Pinto Kid (61) Charles Starrett R—Feb. 8—PG-23	10 Com. Drama 118 Maisie Was a Lady (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western RB-4 Trail of the Silver Spurs (60) Range Busters	10 Western 4051 Doomed Caravan (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 Western 074 Wyoming Wildcat (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 Drama 110 Little Men (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama 124 Michael Shayne, Private Detective (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama Son of Monte Cristo (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western 5064 Boss of Bullion City (59) 10 Drama 5027 San Francisco Docks (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama FN572 Case of the Black Parrot (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon R—Feb. 1—PG-19	10 Western 163 Lone Rider Rides On (64) George Houston
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. 2029 Face Behind the Mask (69) Peter Lorre R—Feb. 15—PG-26	17 Drama 119 Philadelphia Story (112) Katharine Hepburn Cary Grant	15 Mystery Dead Man's Shoes (..) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 Drama 4015 Victory (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western 054 Robin Hood of the Pecos (59) Roy Rogers R—Jan. 18—PG-10	17 Musical 115 Let's Make Music (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama 125 Romance of the Rio Grande (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 Comedy 5022 Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga (62) Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Dr. WB510 Honeymoon for Three (76) George Brent Ann Sheridan	17 Comedy 107 Caught in the Act (62) Henry Armetta
JAN. 25		24 Comedy 121 Wild Man of Borneo (78) R-Feb. 8-PG-24 24 Historical Land of Liberty (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	20 Melodrama 4014 You're Out of Luck (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 Comedy 4016 Aldrich Family in Life With Henry (82) R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western 044 Riding on a Rainbow (79) Gene Autry R—Feb. 1—PG-19	24 Mystery 116 Saint in Palm Springs (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama 128 Tall, Dark and Handsome (78) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 25—PG-14	24 Comedy Road Show (87) Adolphe Menjou Carol Landis R—Feb. 15—PG-25		25 Drama FN556 High Sierra (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western 160 Billy the Kid's Range War (..) Bob Steele
FEB. 1	3 Melodrama 2028 The Devil Commands (..) Boris Karloff	31 Drama 122 Come Live With Me (86) James Stewart R—Feb. 1—PG-17			28 Comedy 010 Arkansas Judge (72) Weaver Bros. R—Jan. 25—PG-14	31 Comedy 117 Mr. and Mrs. Smith (95) Carole Lombard R—Jan. 23—PG-13	31 Drama 127 Girl in the News (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Comedy 5011 Buck Privates (84) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello R—Feb. 8—PG-22	1 Drama WB520 Father's Son (57) John Litel Frieda Inescort	31 Mystery 106 Secret Evidence (65) Marjorie Reynolds Chas. Quigley R—Feb. 8—PG-22
FEB. 8	13 Western 2212 Across the Sierra (58) Bill Elliott	7 Comedy 123 Blonde Inspiration (72) John Shelton Virginia Grey	6 Western 4053 Ridin' the Cherokee Trail (..) Tex Ritter	7 Mus. Com. 4017 You're the One (81) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker R—Feb. 8—PG-21	31 Comedy 020 Petticoat Politics (67) Higgins Family	7 Western 183 Along the Rio Grande (64) Tim Holt R—Feb. 1—PG-20	7 Comedy 129 Ride, Kelly, Ride (89) Eugene Pallette R—Feb. 15—PG-25		7 Drama Back Street (89) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer R—Feb. 8—PG-21	8 Drama Flight From Destiny (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	18 Drama Adam Had Four Sons (..) Warner Baxter Ingrid Bergman	14 Drama 125 Trial of Mary Dugan (90) Robert Young R—Feb. 15—PG-28		14 Mystery 4018 Mad Doctor, The (90) Basil Rathbone R—Feb. 15—PG-26	14 Western 075 Phantom Cowboy (56) Don "Red" Barry	14 Drama 121 Play Girl (77) Kay Francis James Ellison R—Dec. 14	14 Com. Drama 130 Golden Hoofs (..) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers	14 Drama So Ends Our Night (121) Fredric March Margaret Sullavan R—Feb. 1—PG-20	14 Comedy Meet the Chump (60) Hugh Herbert R—Feb. 15—PG-28	15 Comedy The Great Mr. Nobody (71) Eddie Albert Joan Leslie	
FEB. 22	20 Drama Meet Boston Blackie (..) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson	21 Comedy 126 Andy Hardy's Private Secretary (..) Mickey Rooney	19 Air Drama Air Devils (..) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan	21 Drama 4019 Virginia (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	16 Western 065 Prairie Pioneers (..) Three Mesquiteers	21 Com. Drama 123 Scattergood Baines (69) Guy Kibbee R—Feb. 15—PG-27	21 Drama 126 Western Union (98) Robert Young R—Feb. 8—PG-24		21 Mus. Comedy Nice Girl (..) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone	22 Com. Drama Strawberry Blonde (97) James Cagney Olivia de Havilland	
MAR. 1	27 Comedy Blondie Goes Latin (..) 27 Western 2205 Outlaws of the Panhandle (59) Charles Starrett	28 Com. Drama Free and Easy (..) Ruth Hussey Robert Cummings	28 Drama Sign of the Wolf (..) Grace Bradley	28 Western 4052 In Old Colorado (..) William Boyd	3 Drama Citadel of Crime ( ) John Wayne Frances Dee	28 Drama 118 Citizen Kane (..) Orson Welles	28 Mystery Murder Among Friends (..) John Hubbard Marjorie Weaver		28 Drama 5040 Dark Streets of Cairo (..) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7	1 Mys. Drama Shadows on the Stairs (..) Frieda Inescort Paul Cavanagh	28 Western 164 Lone Rider Crosses the Rio (..) George Houston
MAR. 8	28 Drama Missing Ten Days 6 Mystery Lone Wolf Takes a Chance (..)	7 Drama Rage in Heaven (..) Robert Montgomery Ingrid Bergman		7 Comedy 4020 Hard Boiled Canary (79) Allan Jones Susanna Foster			7 Drama Tobacco Road (..) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau		7 Comedy Mr. Dynamite (..) Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey	8 Mys. Drama Footsteps in the Dark (..) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall	7 Western 155 Outlaws of the Rio Grande (..) Tim McCoy
MAR. 15	13 Com. Drama Penny Serenade (..) Cary Grant Irene Dunne	14 Drama 124 The Bad Man (..) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore			10 Action Drama Great Train Robbery (..) Bob Steele Claire Carleton	14 Comedy 120 A Girl, a Guy and a Gob (..) George Murphy Lucille Ball	14 Drama Sleepers West (..) Lloyd Nolan Lynn Bari		14 Comedy Model Wife (..) Joan Blondell Dick Powell	15 Comedy Here Comes Happiness (..) Mildred Coles Edward Norris	
MAR. 22		21 Musical Ziegfeld Girl (..) Judy Garland James Stewart Hedy Lamarr		21 Comedy Lady Eve (97) Barbara Stanwyck Henry Fonda	17 Western Back in the Saddle (..) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	21 Musical 119 Footlight Fever (..) Alan Mowbray Donald McBride	21 Drama The Outlaw (..) Walter Huston Thomas Mitchell		21 Drama Double Date (..) Peggy Moran Edmund Lowe	22 Drama The Sea Wolf (..) Edw. G. Robinson Ida Lupino John Garfield	22 Western 101 Billy the Kid Trails West (..) Bob Steele
MAR. 29	24 Mys. Drama Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery (..)	28 Drama The Penalty (..) Lionel Barrymore Edward Arnold		28 Musical Las Vegas Nights (..) Phil Regan	27 Drama Mr. District Attorney (..) Dennis O'Keefe	28 Drama Melody for Three (..) Jean Hersholt	28 Mystery Dead Men Tell (..) Sidney Toler Jean Rogers			29 Drama Knockout (..) Arthur Kennedy Olympe Bradna	29 Drama The Fugitives (..)

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ‡ Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. ◯ Indicates short of the week. ◎ Indicates color photography.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

2425..	Blondes and Blunders (16)	11-29	±	12- 7
2424..	Bundle of Bliss, A (18)	11- 1		....
2423..	Cold Turkey (16)	10-18		....
1438..	Fireman Save My Choo-Choo (18)	8- 9	+	8-31
2628..	Fresh as a Freshman (..)	1-29		....
2426..	His Ex Marks the Spot (18)	12-13		....
2421..	Pleased to Mitt You (18)	9- 6		....
1421..	Skinny the Moocher (16½)	9- 8		....
2422..	Spook Speaks, The (18)	9-20	+	10-19
9437..	Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18)	7-28		....
2627..	Watchman Takes a Wife, The (16)	1-10	±	1-25

CINESCOPES

2975..	Feathers (Cosmocolor) (..)	1-31		....
2972..	Floating Elephants (8)	10- 4	+	10-19
2971..	Hobby Lobby (11)	8-30	+	9-21
2972..	Industrial Green Island (10)	9-20		....
2973..	Nice Work If You Can Do It (9)	11- 8	+	11-23
2975..	◎Ocean Trails (..)	1-31		....
2974..	Unusual Crafts (9)	12-25	±	1-25

COLOR RHAPSODIES (In Technicolor)

2505..	A Helping Paw (7)	1- 7		....
2502..	◎Mr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½)	10- 4		....
2503..	Mad Hatter, The (7)	11- 3		....
2501..	Tangled Television (7½)	8-30	+	10-19
1512..	Timid Pup, The (8)	8- 1	±	8-31
2506..	Way of All Pests (7)	2-28		....
2504..	Wise Owl (7)	12- 6	∓	12- 7

COLUMBIA TOURS

2556..	Beautiful British Columbia (10½)	12-20	+	1-25
2557..	From Singapore to Hong Kong (De La Varre Prod.) (10)	1-10		....
2551..	Historic Virginia (Andre de la Varre Productions) (10)	8-16		....
2554..	Islands of the West Indies (10)	10-25	‡	11-23
2553..	Old and New Arizona (Special) (9)	9-27		....
2552..	Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10)	9-13	‡	10-23
2555..	Sojourn in Havana (LaVarre Prod.) (9)	11-25	±	12- 7

COMMUNITY SING

2651..	No. 1..(Jolly Tunes—D. Baker (10)	10- 2		....
2652..	No. 2..(Popular Songs—D. Baker (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
2653..	No. 3..(Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)	12-13		....
2654..	No. 4 (Gay Tunes) (10)	1- 1		....
2655..	No. 5 (10) Fun with Songs—L. White.	2- 7		....

FABLES CARTOONS

2751..	Farmer Tom Thumb (6)	9-27	+	10-19
2755..	It Happened to Crusoe (..)	3-14		....
2752..	Mouse Meets Lion (6)	10-25	∓	12- 7
2753..	Paunch 'n' Judy (6½)	12-13	±	1-25
1755..	Pooch Parade (6)	7-19		....
2754..	Streamlined Donkey (6)	1-17		....

NEW YORK PARADE

2951..	New York Parade (10)	1-24	+	2- 8

PHANTASIES CARTOONS

2705..	Little Theatre, The (..)	2- 7		....
1706..	News Oddities (6)	7-19		....
1756..	Peep in the Deep, A (6½)	8-23	+	8-31
2701..	School Boy Dreams (5)	9-24	+	10-19
2705..	There's Music in Your Hair (..)	3-28		....
2704..	Tom Thumb's Brother (..)	1-17		....
2703..	Wallflower, The (..)	11-29		....

QUIZ REELS

2601..	Take It or Leave It (9½)	12- 5	o	12- 7
2602..	Take It or Leave It No. 2 (11)	12-25	∓	1-25
2603..	Take It or Leave It No. 3 (..)	2- 7		....
2604..	Junior I. Q. Parade (..)	3- 7		....

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS

1860..	No. 10 (9) Jack Oakie.	8-10	±	8-31
2851..	No. 1 (10) Ken Murray.	9- 6		....
2852..	No. 2 (9) Don Wilson.	10-18	o	11-23
2853..	No. 3 (9) Ken Murray.	11-22	±	12- 7
2854..	No. 4 (9) Ken Murray.	12-27		....
2855..	No. 5 (9) Bob Hope.	2- 2	∓	1-25

SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)

2441..	Puss in Boots (reissue) (40)	11-21		....

SPORT REELS

2803..	All the Giant Killer (10½)	12-27	∓	1-25
1809..	Canvas Capers (11)	7-19		....
2802..	Hunting Wild Deer (9)	11-22	=	12- 7
2804..	Ice Capers (..)	1-24		....
2801..	Master of Cue With Willie Hoppe (9)	10- 4	+	10-19
2805..	Splits, Spares and Strikes (..)	2-21		....

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

2404..	Boobs in Arms (18)	12-27	±	1-18
2403..	Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)	11-15	±	12- 7
2401..	From Nurse to Worse (16)	8-23	+	8-31
1408..	How High Is Up (16)	7-16	=	8- 3
2402..	No Census, No Feeling (16)	10- 4		....
2405..	So Long Mr. Chumps (..)	2- 7		....

WASHINGTON PARADE

Series 2

1906..	No. 6 (Our Nat'l Defense) (10)	8-30		....

Series 3

2901..	No. 1 (The Mint) (10)	10-25		....
2902..	No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (10)	12-13	±	1-18
2903..	No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (10)	1- 3	+	1-25

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

P- 5..	Buyers Beware (20)	8-17	‡	9- 7
P-201..	◯Eyes of the Navy (20)	10-26	‡	10-26
P- 6..	Soak the Old (20)	8-24	±	9-28
P-815..	Think First (21)	9- 9		....
P-202..	◯You, the People (21)	11-30	‡	1-18

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS (In Technicolor)

T-214..	Beautiful Bali (9)	11-23	∓	12-14
T-211..	Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)	9- 7	‡	9- 7
T-212..	Cavalcade of San Francisco (9)	9-28	∓	9-28
T-213..	Old New Mexico (10)	10-26	+	11- 9
T-215..	Old New Orleans (9)	12-21	+	1-18

MINIATURES

.....	Great Meddler, The (11)		‡	2- 8
.....	Happiest Man on Earth (11)		‡	2- 8
M-231..	Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia)	10- 9	±	12-14

M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series) (Technicolor)

W- 90..	Bookworm Turns, The (8)	7-20	+	8-31
W- 94..	Gallopin' Gals (8)	10-26	+	11- 9
W- 93..	Homeless Flea, The (8)	10-12	‡	12- 7
W-241..	Lonesome Stranger (9)	11-23	‡	12- 7
W- 92..	Papa Gets the Bird (8)	9- 7	∓	9-28
W- 91..	Romeo in Rhythm (8)	8-10	±	9- 7

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY

Released Twice Weekly

OUR GANG COMEDIES

C-293..	Goin' Fishin' (10)	10-26	±	11- 9
C-291..	Good Bad Boys (11)	9- 7	+	9- 7
C-294..	Kiddie Kure (11)	11-23	+	12-28
C-292..	Waldo's Last Stand (11)	10- 5	∓	12- 7

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

K-281..	American Spoken Here (Sepia) (10)	11-30	‡	12- 7
K-126..	Baron and the Rose, The (11)	9- 7	‡	9-28
K-128..	Dreams (10)	11-16	+	12-14
K-127..	Utopia of Death (10)	10-12	+	11- 9

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

S-113..	Football Thrills of 1939 (10)	9-21	‡	9-28
S-112..	Please Answer (9)	8-24	‡	9- 7
S-261..	◯Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9)	10-12	‡	12- 7
S-263..	◯Sea for Yourself (10)	12-21	‡	1-18
S-262..	Wedding Bills (10)	11-30	‡	12- 7

Paramount

ANIMATED ANTICS

H0-4..	Bring Himself Back Alive (7)	12-20	∓	12-21
H0-1..	Dandy Lion, The (7)	9-20	±	10- 5
H0-3..	Mommy Loves Puppy (7)	11-29	+	12- 7
H0-2..	Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7)	10-25	±	11-23

BENCHLEY COMEDIES

S0- 1..	Trouble With Husbands (11)	11- 8	‡	12- 7

COLOR CLASSICS (In Technicolor)

C9-5..	Snubbed by a Snob (7)	7-19	+	8-31
C9-6..	You Can't Shoe a Horsefly (7)	8-23	+	8-24

FASCINATING JOURNEYS (Technicolor)

M0- 1..	◯River Thames—Yesterday (10)	11- 8	‡	11-23
M0- 2..	Sacred Ganges, The (11)	12-27	+	1-18

FLEISCHER CARTOONS

FF0-1..	Raggedy Ann (19)	12-20	‡	12-21

GABBY CARTOONS

G0- 2..	Constable, The (7)	11-15	+	11-23
G0- 1..	King for a Day (7)	10-18	+	10-26

HEADLINER

A0- 3..	Johnny Messner and Orch. (11)	12-13	±	12-21
A0- 2..	Listen to Larry (10)	10-25	+	10-26
A0- 1..	◯Moments of Charm of 1941 (10)	9-13	‡	10- 5
A9-10..	Pinky Tomlin and Orch. (11)	7-19	+	8-31

MADCAP MODELS (In Technicolor)

J0-1..	Western Daze (9)	1-17	‡	1-18

PARAMOUNT NEWS

Released Twice Weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

V0- 3..	◯Breezy Little Bears (11)	12-27	‡	1-18
V0- 1..	Nature's Nursery (10)	10-11	∓	10-26
V9-10..	Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)	9- 9	±	8-24
V0- 2..	Seeing Is Believing (11)	11-22	+	12- 7

POPEYE CARTOONS

E9-10..	Doing Impossikible Stunts (7)	8- 2	+	8-17
E0- 4..	Eugene, the Jeep (7)	12-13	±	12- 7
E9- 9..	Fightin' Pals (8)	7-12	‡	8-17
E8-11..	It's the Natural Thing to Do (7)	7-28	±	8-26
E0- 2..	My Pop, My Pop (7)	10-18	∓	10-26
E0- 1..	Popeye Meets William Tell (7)	9-20	‡	10- 5
E0-5..	Problem Pappy (7)	1-10	±	1-18
E9-12..	Puttin' on the Act (7)	8-30	+	8-24
E9-11..	Wimmin' Hadn't Oughta Drive (7)	8-16	+	8-24
E0- 3..	With Poopdeck Pappy (7)	11-15	o	12- 7

POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)

J0-1..	(11)	9- 6	+	10- 5
J0-2..	(10)	11- 1	+	12- 7
J0-3..	(10)	1- 3	+	12-21

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

R0- 6..	Acrobatic Aces (10)	2- 7	+	1-18
R0- 1..	Diving Demons (10)	9- 6	‡	10- 5
R0- 5..	Feminine Fitness (10)	1-10	+	12-21
R0- 4..	Marine Roundup (10)	12- 6	+	12- 7
R0- 3..	Motorcycle Stunting (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
R9-13..	Sink or Swim (10)	7-12		....
R0- 2..	Sporting Everglades, The (10)	10- 4	‡	11- 9

STONE AGE CARTOONS

B9- 9..	Fulla Bluff Man, The (7)	8- 9	±	8-24
B9-11..	Pedagogical Institution (7)	9-13		....
B9-10..	Springtime in the Rockage (7)	8-30		....
B9- 8..	Way Back When a Razzberry Was a Fruit (7)	7-26	+	8-17
B9-12..	Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)	9-27		....

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)

L9-6..	No. 6 (11)	8- 2	‡	8-17
L0-1..	No. 1 (11)	9- 7	+	10- 5
L0-2..	No. 2 (11)	11-29	+	12- 7
L0-3..	No. 3 (11)	1-24		....

Republic

MEET THE STARS

028-1..	No. 1 (10)	12-24	+	12-28

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS (In Technicolor)

.....	Big Hearted Pluto (..)	1-24		....
04,109..	Donald's Vacation (8)	8- 9	‡	8-10
04,114..	Fire Chief (8)	11-22	‡	12- 7
04,113..	Goofy's Glider (8)	11- 1	+	12-14
04,112..	Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8)	10-11	+	11-23
04,115..	Pantry Pirate (8)	12-27	+	2- 8
04,110..	Pluto's Dream House (8)	8-30	+	9-21
04,108..	Put-Put Trouble (7)	7-19		....
04,116..	Timber (8)	1-10		....
04,111..	Window Cleaners (8)	9-20	‡	10-26

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

13,403..	Drafted in the Depot (19)	12-20		....
13,401..	Sunk by the Census (18)	9- 6	±	9-21
13,402..	Trailer Tragedy (17)	10-18	+	11- 9

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

03,704..	Bested by a Beard (20)	7-26		....
13,703..	Fired Man, The (20)	1-10	+	2- 8
13,701..	He Asked for It (18)	9-27	∓	9-21
13,404..	Mad About Moonshine (19)	2-21		....
13,702..	Tattle Talevision (19)	11-29		....

MARCH OF TIME

03,112..	No. 12 (17) Spoils of Conquest.	8- 2	+	8-10
03,113..	◯No. 13 (20) Gateways to Panama.	8-24	‡	8-31
13,101..	No. 1 (19) On Foreign Newfronts.	9-13	‡	9-21
13,102..	No. 2 (18) Britain's R. A. F.	10- 4	+	10-19
13,103..	No. 3 (19) Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.	10-25	±	10-26

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Movietone News, No. 43

President's birthday ball; Lloyd's of London functions underground; English women work in heavy industries; Pan-American Airways trains Army air navigators; giant bomber in work on coast; Millrose games; Australian stallion arrives; skating; Miami golf.

News of the Day, No. 241

Lloyd's of London operates underground; south hails peanut queen; boat freed from ice near New York; marines promote mascot; table tennis; Australian horse arrives; Millrose games.

Paramount News, No. 46

Relief ship sails; radio commentator returns from Europe; train wreck in south; Porto Rico defenses rushed; war and navy department workers under surveillance; FBI listens to foreign broadcasts; Dies shows material sent through mails; racing on coast; table tennis; sportsmen's show in Boston.

RKO Pathe News, No. 46

President's birthday ball; radio commentator returns from London; train wreck in south; ready largest bomber on coast; table tennis; ice carnival in St. Paul; south honors peanut queen; promote marines' mascot; Millrose games; racing on coast.

Universal Newsreel, No. 951

President's birthday ball; troop train wrecked in south; marines promote mascot; ice carnival in St. Paul; Millrose games; table tennis; horse racing on ice in New Hampshire; golf in Florida; racing on coast.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Movietone News, No. 44

Fall of Bardia; Willkie in England; renovate old locomotives for defense service; student pilots at Kelly Field; fashions in hats; Silver Skates; outboard motorboat racing in Seattle.

News of the Day, No. 242

Fall of Bardia; Willkie in England; autogiro plane trial; Silver Skates; outboard motorboat racing in Seattle.

Paramount News, No. 47

Outboard motorboat racing in Seattle; Batista and Cuban Army; midshipmen graduate in Annapolis; conquest of Libya by British; Willkie in London.

RKO Pathe News, No. 47

Batista nips Cuban revolt; British make flour from potatoes; army in artillery practice; Australian cavalry in maneuvers; Layden named pro grid czar; alligator farm and leather fashions; demonstrate new autogiro; midget auto races; Willkie in London.

Universal Newsreel, No. 952

Batista takes over Cuban Army; American Legion mission off for London; test new autogiro; Willkie in England; Valentine fashions; show new gadgets made from plastics; Penguin sailboat races; Silver Skates; circus performers in benefit show; outboard motorboat races in Seattle.

Prod. No.	Title	Date	Rel. Rating	Rev'd
13,104	No. 4 (19) Arms and the men.	11-22	+	12- 7
13,105	No. 5 (19) Labor and Defense.	12-20	+	12-28
13,106	No. 6 (21) Uncle Sam—Non-Belligerent.	1-17	‡‡	1-25
	PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE			
04,213	No. 13 (11)	8- 9	+	8-10
14,201	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204	No. 4 (11)	11-29		....
14,205	No. 5 (11)	12-27	+	2- 8
	PATHE NEWS (Released Twice Weekly)			
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
14,302	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,301	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,305	Snow Eagles (9)	12-20	+	2- 8
14,304	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	‡‡	12-14
14,303	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
04,313	Trouble Shooter (9)	8- 2	+	9-21
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404	No. 4 (10)	12- 6	+	12-14
14,405	No. 5 (10)	1- 3	±	2- 8
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)			
13,501	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
13,502	Prairie Schooners (13)	1-31		....
	REELISMS (New Series)			
04,613	Hats (9)	8-16		....
04,611	Streamlined (9)	8-10	∓	8-10

20th Century-Fox

ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN

1201	Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	‡‡	10-19
1202	Training Police Horses (11)	1-17		....
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	‡‡	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
1303	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1304	The Rodeo Comes to Town (10)	1- 3		....
1301	Vacation Time in Florida (8)	8-10	±	8-17
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1101	Eskimo Trails (10)	8- 2	+	8-17
1103	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE			
1401	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402	Tale of Butch the Parrot, The (..)	2-28		....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102	Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
1105	Spotlight on Indo China (10)	12-20		....
	TERRY-TOONS			
1551	Billy Mouse's Akwakade (7)	8- 9	∓	8-17
1501	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		....
1503	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		....
1553	How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554	Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
0517	Love in a Cottage (7)	7-28		....
1552	Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		....
1504	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12 7
1557	Mississippi Swing (7)	2- 7		....
1555	Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
1505	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		....
1556	Temperamental Lion, The (7)	12-27		....
1502	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19
1506	What a Little Sneeze Will Do (7)	1-10		....

Universal

LANTZ CARTUNES (Technicolor)

5241	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		....
5246	Fair Today (6¾)	2-24		....
5243	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5245	Mouse Trappers (6¾)	1-27	+	2- 8
5242	Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	‡‡	11- 9
5244	Syncopated Sioux (6¾)	12-31		....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
4365	No. 80 (9½)	8-12		....
5351	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352	No. 82 (9)	10-14		....
5353	No. 83 (9)	11-11		....
5354	No. 84 (9)	12-23		....
5355	No. 85 (9)	1-20		....
5356	No. 86 (9)	2-17	±	2- 8
5357	No. 87 (9)	3-17		....
5358	No. 88 (9)	3-31		....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 8
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
4385	No. 80 (9)	8- 5	+	7-27
5371	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		....
5373	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		....
5374	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		....
5375	No. 85 (9)	1- 6		....
5376	No. 86 (9)	2- 3	±	2- 8
5377	No. 87 (9)	3-10		....
5378	No. 88 (9)	3-24		....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
5226	Bagdad Daddy (17) Gertrude Neisen, Ambassadorettes, Fuzzy Knight, Johnson Bros.	2-19	±	2- 8
5225	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (17) The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.	1-22		....
5221	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		....
5223	Congamania (17) Jose Cansino Dancers, Eddie Durant & Orch.	10-16	±	12- 7
4233	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		....
5224	Tickled Pinky (18) Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.	12-25		....
5223	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
4232	Varsity Vanities (17½) Six Hits and a Miss, Martha Tilton.	8- 7	+	8- 3
	UNIVERSAL NEWS Released Twice Weekly			

Vitaphone

BROADWAY BREVITIES

6202	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6204	Dog in the Orchard (20)	1-25	+	1-18
6202	Ed Sullivan's Hollywood (20)	11-16		....
6201	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		....
6203	Love's Intrigue (20)	12-28		....
4008	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		....
6205	Take the Air (20)	2-22		....
5110	Young America Flies (20)	8- 3		....
	THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)			
5410	Famous Movie Dogs (10)	7-27	+	8-17
5410	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		....
5409	Valley, The (8)	7-20	+	7- 6
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6102	Lady and the Lug (20)	3-22		....
6101	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6305	Boar Hunt, The (10)	1-15		....
6301	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6304	History Repeats Itself (10)	1-18		....
6303	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		....
6607	Haunted Mouse, The (7)	2-15		....
6608	Joe Glow, the Firefly (7)	3- 8		....
5616	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	‡‡	8-24
6609	Porky's Bear Facts (7)	3-29		....
6604	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6606	Porky's Snooze Reel (7)	1-11		....
6602	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		....
6605	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		....
	MELODY MASTERS			
6506	Cliff Edwards and His Buckaroos (10)	3- 8		....
6503	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	2- 1		....
6502	Joe Relchman & Orch. (10)	10-26		....
6501	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	‡‡	8-24
6504	Skinnay Ennis & Orch (10)	1- 4	+	12-28
5510	Woody Herman & Orch. (10)	7-27		....
	MERRIE MELODIES (In Technicolor)			
6706	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		....
6713	Cat's Tale, The (7)	3- 1		....
6712	Crackpot Quail, The (7)	2-15		....
5323	Egg Collector (7)	7-20		....
6709	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)	1- 4	o	12-28
6710	Fighting 69th½, The (7)	1-18	‡‡	1-18
5325	Ghost Wanted (7)	8-10		....
6104	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		....
6715	Goofy Groceries (7)	3-29		....
6703	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11 9
6701	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		....
6708	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6711	Sniffles Bells the Cat (7)	2- 1		....
6702	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
6714	Tortoise Beats the Hare (7)	3-15		....
6705	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
5324	Wild Hare, A (7)	7-27		....
	SPECIAL			
	They Spent Christmas Under Fire (10½)		‡‡	2- 8
	SPORTS PARADE (Color)			
6404	California Thoroughbreds (10)	1-11	±	12-28
6403	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6405	Fight, Fish, Fight (10)	3- 1		....
6401	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
6001	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002	March on Marines (20)	12-14	‡‡	12-28
6003	Meet the Fleet (20)	2- 8	+	1-18
5008	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		....

Serials

COLUMBIA

1120	Green Archer, The 15 Chapters. Victor Jory,	10-25	∓	11- 9
2120	White Eagle 15 Chapters. Buck Jones.	1-31		....
	REPUBLIC			
081	King of the Royal Mounted 12 Chapters. Allan Lane.	9-20	‡‡	8-24
082	Mysterious Doctor Satan 15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.	12-13	+	11-23
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	Green Hornet Strikes Again 15 Chapters. Warren Hull.	12-24	+	11- 9
5681	Junior G-Men 12 Chapters. Dead End Kids, Little Tough Guys.	9- 1	+	8- 3
5881	Sky Raiders 12 Chapters.	4- 8		....

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...To Hester

they were nothing but *men*...to be wooed–one by one –or destroyed!

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...A Real Woman's Picture

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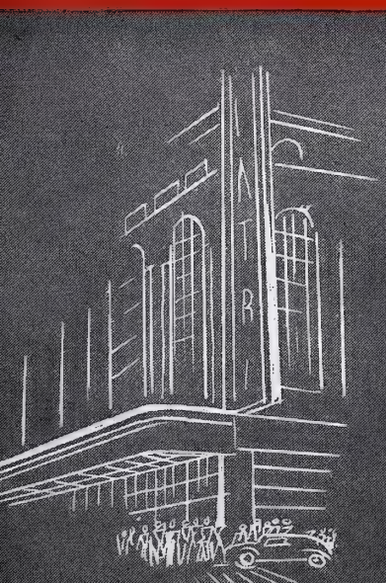
COLUMBIA PICTURES

Based upon "LEGACY" the best-selling novel by Charles Bonner

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

FEBRUARY 1, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION



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Put "Gone With The Wind" on your marquee!

It's magic!

BOXOFFICE
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

Script for a Happy Ending

THIS MAY interest you, or it may bore you. Either way, blame it on Pete Harrison.

He was writing recently about Nelson A. Rockefeller, coordinator of commercial and cultural relations among the American republics, who told the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York the Axis powers are employing Hollywood films to discredit democracy of all brands and the American brand more particularly. To illustrate "the decay of democracy," Rockefeller pointed out "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" is being used in South America above all others.

His foundation laid, Pete thereafter harkened to his original deploring of that film, wondering how other people in other lands will view this country "when they are made to believe that the United States senate, the entire congress for that matter, is controlled by crooked politicians?" Then Harrison referred to our defense of the picture and our criticism of him for criticizing, a right which was not then, nor is now, challenged.

In the normal course of events, this foray into another year returned us to the first comment. Frequently unhappy is this business of re-reading what once rolled, or dripped, from an earlier typewriter. But this time, and if we may be permitted the illusion, it was not at all bad. Pertinent, anyway. Most pertinent.

We remarked we had been trying to figure out why Pete was excited to a point where he had called upon Allied to pick out the nice and honest Mr. Smith as a catapult from which to launch renewed attempts at enactment of the Neely bill. Little being immune from Hollywood story ingenuity, why should senatorial immunity go untouched? we had asked. Why gloss over crookedness if it should be lodged in high places like the senate, and we point out we said "should be lodged" and not "is lodged." It seemed, then and today, that such very rarified atmosphere was all the more urgent reason not to indulge in the glossing.

Short View and Long

MOREOVER, the effect abroad, it was argued, was not as catastrophic as Harrison feared it for every nation has its political foibles and all nations are suspect in the functioning of some phase of their political parties.

"Viewpoints such as this are shortsighted," wrote your watchdog, "and potentially even more serious since they evidence a from-within-the-industry desire to further muffle a method of expression which requires more, not less, freedom. Presumably the country may laugh at stock jokes about senators and congressmen, but Hollywood may not touch them. 'Mr. Smith' actually is one of the finest expressions of faith in country that the studios have launched . . . Capra's method of obtaining results merely varies from the rest. By pounding away at the evils of which any individual allegedly alert must be aware, he forcefully drives home the good.

"Country and code come out victorious and the populace is amused."

It was a couple of days later when Capra himself defined his theme: "It is that American democracy is indestructible, no matter to what buffeting it may be exposed. Plenty of people are going to call it an unpatriotic picture. They will pretend to believe that the buffetings are the theme. Those are the people who are attacked in the picture. They will scream in futile self-defense."

Having once accepted this neat capsule, we do so again and now. The Axis powers now apparently are reaping a harvest with "Mr. Smith" in South America. Regrettable, of course. So terribly damaging? We do not think so.

Home Comes First

WE DO NOT think so because there is more here than pours out of the bottle. There is the imperative need to protect what we have while we have it and that's a job on which this industry, as far as it can go, must not turn its back, or should. Our weaknesses and our indecisions always make capital for the Axis powers, but the first responsibility certainly is a reforging of the links at home, not such surface concerns as the reactions of the dictators. They will lead to the chin anyway. On fanciful counts when they can no longer find real counts.

What has all this to do with making, selling and exhibiting motion pictures? It does seem remote at first flush, but is it? This is merely another of a long series of arguments and reiterations for a freer screen, for a more fluid and thus a less hamstrung medium, for an industry that will develop the courage to stand by its rights without retreating.

Along this way runs the road to a full-blown maturity and to that broader horizon where this industry and all in it might hope to find their permanent moorings.

Kann

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Vol. 38 No. 11

FOUR MAJORS HOP THE HURDLE, LAUNCH '41-'42 SHORTS SALES

Delaying on Features, Offering Is Mainly Standard Series

NEW YORK—Four of the majors now have their sales forces selling shorts designed for 1941-42 release, according to a checkup made by BOXOFFICE. These are Paramount, Warner, 20th-Fox and RKO.

M-G-M, Universal and Columbia are holding off for the time being, it is stated, but the indication is some companies may begin selling before the summer rolls around. One in particular is M-G-M, but this is not definite as yet.

United Artists has no shorts on its current or contemplated program.

Those companies now selling new season's shorts are offering series which are standard on the program. In some cases allowances are made for subjects which may be announced later on when conventions are held.

Two Reasons for Move

Two reasons are given for the move now under way. One is that with the bulk, if not all, of accounts sold for the present season, salesmen with nothing on their hands are making use of their time by selling in advance of the season.

Another reason is that there are no restrictions on selling shorts under the decree and four of "The Big Five" are taking advantage of this fact. However, features must be trade shown in advance of sales.

Under the decree shorts cannot be coupled with features or forced upon exhibitors. In this respect, the four companies involved are now feeling out customers on the brevities, in some cases making sales, but all in the endeavor of learning how exhibitors will react to shorts as independently sold attractions for the forthcoming season.

"Never Stop Selling"

"The truth of the matter is that we never stop selling shorts," is the way Abe Montague, Columbia's general sales manager, sizes up the situation.

In answer to a direct question, he declared the company is presently mulling over its lineup for 1941-42, but emphasized, "You can't pin us down to anything when it comes to selling. If a buyer wants any of our shorts we'll sell them to him at any time."

Montague took occasion to minimize the importance that would appear to attach to getting sales on the one and two reelers started well in advance of the season for which they are intended. He gave as his opinion the purported practice of film buyers in "allowing for" proportionate short subject playing time with each feature contract as vitiating the necessity for advance or extra sales effort in this direction.

Peace for Circuits Looming Sans Trial

WASHINGTON — Negotiations are under way for out-of-court settlement of two of the three pending government anti-trust actions against independent circuits, reliable sources inform BOXOFFICE. Hopes are held in government quarters that, as soon as the two suits are disposed of without benefit of trial, the third will follow in due time.

The two circuits which are trying to avoid trials are Schine and Griffith, the former operating in a number of eastern states with headquarters at Gloversville, N. Y., and the latter operating in the southwest.

Several conferences have been held between Willard S. McKay, counsel for Schine, and department of justice representatives here. Progress is reported, but holding up any finalization is a disagreement on expansion. The government wants J. Myer and Louis W. Schine to completely discontinue adding theatres while these men refuse to budge from their present program, which is to acquire where a spot looks suitable to its operations.

Compromise Expected

However, as in the case of the big suit, a compromise is expected to be effected which will not altogether curtail expansion, but somewhat limit activities on additional units. Any settlement will take the form of a decree as in the case of "The Big Five," FWC and B&K.

The talks between department representatives and counsel for Griffith have not reached stages where a formula for settlement can be worked out. It is understood the government does not view the acquisition of the Long circuit by Griffith Brothers some time ago favorable.

In some government quarters, the continued acquisitions by these two circuits —Schine and Griffith—are regarded as a

(Continued on page 31)

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is* 100 *per cent.*

GONE WITH THE WIND—
Cleveland 270
New Haven 190

KITTY FOYLE—
Cleveland 200
Chicago (4th wk) 175

ARIZONA—
New Orleans 200

FLIGHT COMMAND—
Indianapolis (dual) 195

PHILADELPHIA STORY—
Minneapolis 175

See Clearance Under Franchises Shifting

NEW YORK—Clearance under existing franchises is subject to revision if an arbitration award finds it unreasonable, 20th Century-Fox's sales force is being advised via a handbook on the decree prepared by Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel. Such franchise amendments are possible now under the clearance provisions of the consent which went into effect November 20, the day on which it was signed by Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard and lawyers representing the "Big Five."

Thus, potentially and perhaps theoretically, franchises no matter to whom sold by Paramount, Loew's, Warner, 20th-Fox and RKO are viewed as susceptible to changes if local arbitration tribunals so hold and if, in the event of appeal, the appeals board in New York upholds the local rulings. The possible implications where independent may be pitted against circuit theatre thereby seem to be clear.

Caution Against Guesswork

The handbook reputedly was scanned and checked over by a battery of 10 lawyers before released to the 20th-Fox sales force. It is a lengthy document which, in simple and trade terms easily understandable, is designed to aid salesmen in current and future operations under the decree. But with it goes a final word of caution not to indulge in guesswork but to call New York headquarters, if required, for final interpretations.

It is pointed out the decree does not stipulate in what cities trade showings are to be held, although Jenkins says "probably" it will be exchange centers and that two or more showings may be required in the event all exhibitors wishing to attend cannot be accommodated at one time.

On Features and Shorts

While shorts, newsreels, trailers, serials, reissues and westerns and foreigns must be sold apart from the regular feature program, the handbook avers such negotiations may be conducted during the same sales solicitation and adds this warning, "A salesman cannot directly or indirectly refuse to license features because the exhibitor refuses to license the short subjects, newsreels or other types of product described in this section." But where an exhibitor claims he was forced to take shorts and others in this class, he goes to arbitration if he so elects. This, too, applies to those instances where the exhibitor claims an offer to buy regular features is conditioned upon purchase of shorts.

Emphasizing not more than five pictures can be offered in a single group "nor can you negotiate with an exhibitor on the basis of including more than five features in a single license agreement," the handbook makes it clear there is no provision

(Continued on page 31)


Big as the
Heart of Dixie
and twice as
Beautiful...

A FOUR STAR CAST!



MADELEINE CARROLL

Fresh from her great box office triumph in "North West Mounted Police!"



FRED MacMURRAY

Star of "Honeymoon in Bali" in his greatest role!



EDWARD H. GRIFFITH

The man who made "Honeymoon in Bali" creates his greatest entertainment!



STIRLING HAYDEN

The year's most important star discovery!



CAROLYN LEE

The "Honeymoon in Bali" baby scores a sensational success!

. . . and an all-star supporting cast headed by popular Helen Broderick and beautiful Marie Wilson!

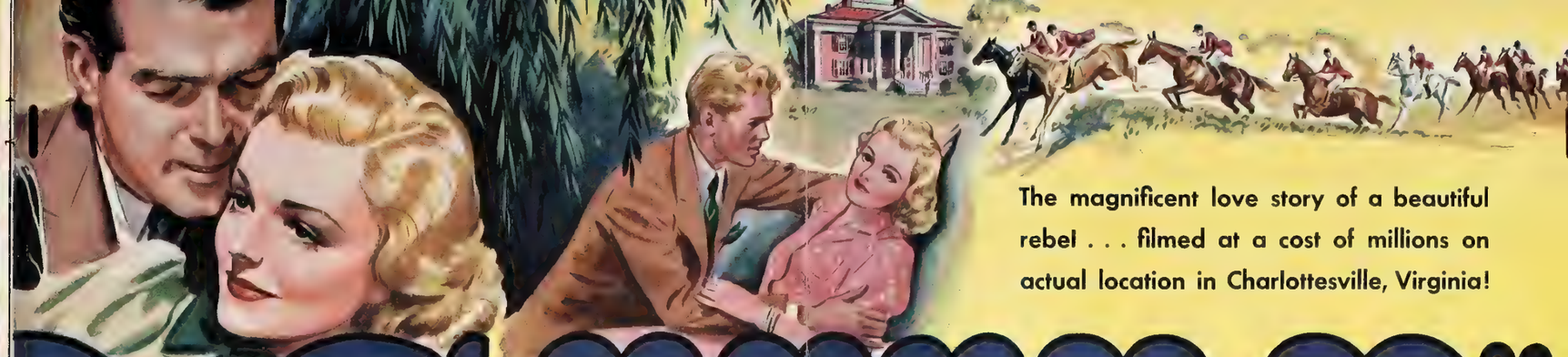
Simultaneous release throughout the United States on Washington's Birthday

FEB. 22

PARAMOUNT'S "VIRGINIA"



• That tiny, terrific little star of "Honeymoon in Bali," CAROLYN LEE...back in an even greater smash role!



The magnificent love story of a beautiful rebel . . . filmed at a cost of millions on actual location in Charlottesville, Virginia!

IN TECHNICOLOR!

37,526,377 OF YOUR PATRONS WILL THRILL TO "VIRGINIA" ADVERTISING IN THESE NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS!



LADIES' HOME JOURNAL
Full-page, four-color advertisement read by 8,866,993 people!

WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION
Full-page, four-color advertisement read by 8,726,133 people!



LIFE
Full-page, four-color advertisement read by 7,129,695 people!



VOGUE
Full-page, four-color advertisement read by 522,003 people!



SUNDAY NEWS
Full-page, four-color advertisement read by 8,709,040 people!



SUNDAY MIRROR
Full-page, four-color advertisement read by 3,572,513 people!

37,526,377 READERS!







• Huge advertising campaign scheduled to reach every movie-goer in the nation. National magazine advertisements in full color! Coast to coast newspaper campaign! Everyone who can read will thrill to the news: "VIRGINIA" is the season's greatest entertainment!

Paramount Pictures

Paramount presents

"VIRGINIA"

IN TECHNICOLOR!

MADELEINE CARROLL · FRED MacMURRAY

with Stirling Hayden · Helen Broderick · Marie Wilson

Carolyn Lee

Screen Play by Virginia Van Upp · Based on a Story by Edward H. Griffith and Virginia Van Upp · Produced and Directed by EDWARD H. GRIFFITH

RADIO-TELEVISION ON A SCREEN 15 BY 20 FEET CALLED EPOCHAL

Perfection May Be Far Off, but Will Come, Reporter Asserts

By LEONARD WEISBERG

NEW YORK—Take equal parts of a television picture projected on a 15 by 20 foot screen, sight plus sound of your favorite radio program and good, old showman's imagination and you've got something of history-making proportions.

That's exactly the way this reporter felt and still feels after sitting in on a series of demonstrations by leading organizations engaged in the new art. The newest developments in their respective lines were shown to members of the FCC, the National Television System Committee and the press as sort of a prelude to the hearings that got under way Monday in Washington at which the FCC considered the granting of authorization to commercialize the medium.

Four Put on Shows

Du Mont, RCA, Bell Telephone and CBS put on the shows. Previously, but not for the benefit of the FCC, Scophony showed large screen reception. Perhaps the best overall impression gained from these performances is that no matter how many obstacles, technical or economic, must be overcome no one is going to entirely cut off television's surge to go places; it just can't be stopped. True, it may be a matter of some years before television is enjoyed on a level comparable to radio or films, but when it does it stands an excellent chance of offering the masses something no existing entertainment medium can match.

Clarity Achieved

That statement will stand up under fire of the most rabid belittler once the impact of a sensational screen-size demonstration is considered. In spite of a dreary, sun-less day the audience saw scenes picked up at Camp Upton, 68 miles away on Long Island. Although the quality of brightness was not all that could be hoped for, everything the mobile camera scanned was picked up with clarity. The pickup was achieved over a relay system that "bounced" the pictures through the ether. And just for a "clincher," RCA shot another image of the announcer in New York out to one of the relay stations and brought it back to the theatre screen, thus completing a 102-mile circuit.

The theatre demonstration included a studio-produced play which showed immense flexibility in that it fused live talent with film clips, a ballet, a performance by Jean Dickenson of the Metropolitan, a comedy act by Al Trahan and news. Each of the sequences was received with applause.

Prior to the theatre show, RCA exhibited its newest home model receiver. The screen, largest the company has developed to date, measures 13½ by 18 inches, with projection of 441 lines, 30 frame pictures. Almost an hour's entertainment gave no noticeable eye strain to this reporter, who inquired of others and received the same reply. Brightness of the images, including scenes from Camp Upton, was comparable to the best home "movie" sets. The new receiver is equipped with a retractable translucent screen, which slides down into the cabinet when the set is not in use. Here, as never before, the romance of television became apparent.

To this observer, the Aldrich Family radio program has always been a favorite. And here was the Aldrich Family again, complete to Ezra Stone and other members of the cast, performing one of their amusing stories. But this time we were looking at Henry Aldrich and the others, too, and the effect was galvanizing. That's because television permits you to muse over the pain you see in Henry's face as he goes into one of his extremely funny tantrums.

The demonstration put on by Du Mont was more of a technical nature, designed to show the practicability of employing 625-line definition at 15 frames per second so as to vitiate obsolescence of home receiving sets, especially as it bears on that population residing in rural areas.

The Bell exhibition was over coaxial cable, which, in layman's language, is nothing more than a "pipe line" between the point of transmission and reception. This consisted of a few shorts and test patterns transmitted from an adjoining studio over a line in Philadelphia and back again, a complete distance of about 200 miles. Its sponsors believe the system will naturally follow in the footsteps of sound broadcasting, and thus would require networks for interconnecting television stations employing wire line technique.

The first wide use of natural color in television was the object of the CBS demonstration, which was a repeat performance for the benefit of the FCC officials but was seen by this department recently and was reviewed in detail in the January 18 issue of BOXOFFICE.

The system demonstrated by Scophony is intended to interest theatre owners. It was shown on a nine by 12 foot screen and employs new principles that make for ease of operation. However, the system was not shown to best advantage due to the fact that new equipment was not available. The equipment used did not present the light intensity necessary for theatre use, neither did it permit more than two persons to get into the camera range comfortably. The system utilizes rear projection.

$66,000,000 in 5 Cent Pieces

New York—Gross intake for juke boxes for the 1939-40 season is estimated in unofficial quarters at $66,000,000. It is stated there are approximately 250,000 of the nickel music machines throughout the country.

The source which mentions the figures also says each user must pay Ascap $250 a year for the privilege of reproducing the music.

Some of AT&T subsidiaries are understood sponsoring this type of entertainment under a plan which calls for a nickel for a particular number and an extra five cent piece to dedicate it to someone over the loud speaker connection with the telephone central office.

Ascap-Broadcasting Struggle Opens Market Wide on Rumor

NEW YORK—Among many potential outcomes in the Ascap-radio controversy conceived by observers are (1) the networks are given from three to six months to hold out, (2) they are not "getting excited" because they may promise the public television within a limited period and thereby distract attention from the music situation, (3) the foremost publishers might offer theatres a series of "bouncing-ball" slides with popular songs built around a "Hear Your Favorite Songs at Your Neighborhood Theatre" campaign, and (4) belief affiliated and independent radio stations may band together to form another national network sympathetic to Ascap.

These would appear to be the more substantial of straws in the wind, which are plentiful for the asking along Tin Pan Alley. It's largely a matter of must about everyone making the Ascap-network tiff his own personal affair. But when it comes to getting an informant to qualify his observation the informant usually becomes just another "guess artist."

The four interpretations outlined above, however, have answers. The answers belong to the observers, not BOXOFFICE, and are passed along that way. Here it is for number one: The national advertisers will go just so far, no more than six months, in taking less than they are entitled to from the networks for the expensive shows they sponsor. Surveys reputedly even now show there is only a small percentage of the public listening to the programs as compared to before January 1 because the

(Continued on page 40)

TALL, DARK and HANDSOME" SMASHES ROXY RECORDS TO SMITHEREENS

20th CENTURY FOX

Of course -- IT'S HELD OVER FOR A SECOND WEEK!

Biggest Sunday business in the history of the house!

Beating everything in sight —bigger than "The Rains Came", "Drums Along The Mohawk", "Jesse James"!

Builds and bounds and grows in the face of a raging blizzard!

And no wonder—when the N.Y. Daily News says "Beg, borrow or steal—but don't miss it!"

BOXOFFICE
The NATIONAL FILM WEEKLY
PUBLISHED IN EIGHT SECTIONAL EDITIONS

Published Every Saturday by
ASSOCIATED PUBLICATIONS

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ALBANY—21-23 Walter Ave., M. Berrigan.
ATLANTA—183 Walton St., Helen Hardy. JAckson 5331.
BOSTON—14 Piedmont St., Brad Angier, Liberty 9305.
BUFFALO—Buffalo Theatre, G. C. Maurer.
CHARLOTTE—216 W. 4th, Pauline Griffith.
CHICAGO—332 S. Michigan Blvd., Hal Tate. Wabash 4575.
CINCINNATI—127 Tremont St., Ft. Thomas, Ky., Clara Hyde. Highland 1657.
CLEVELAND—12805 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights, Elsie Loeb. Fairmount 0046.
DALLAS—408 S. Harwood, V. W. Crisp, Southwestern editor. Telephone 7-3553.
DENVER—319 S. Clarkson St., J. A. Rose. Telephone Spruce 0318.
DES MOINES—The Colonade, Rene Clayton.
DETROIT—424 Book Bldg., H. F. Reves. Telephone Cadillac 9085.
HOLLYWOOD—6404 Hollywood Bvd., Ivan Spear, Western editor. GLadstone 1186.
INDIANAPOLIS—42 West 11th St., Kolman Hirschman.
KANSAS CITY—4804 East Ninth St., Jesse Shlyen, Midwest editor. CHestnut 7777.
LITTLE ROCK—P. O. Box 253, Lynn Hubbard. 3-0156.
MEMPHIS—399 So. 2nd St., Carolyne Miller.
MILWAUKEE—210 East Michigan St., H. C. Brunner. Kilbourn 6670-J.
MINNEAPOLIS—Essex Bldg., Maurice Wolff.
NEW HAVEN—42 Church St., Suite 915, Gertrude Pearson. 6-4149.
NEW ORLEANS—1136 Behrman Ave., J. W. Leigh.
NEW YORK CITY—9 Rockefeller Plaza, William Ornstein, Eastern editor.
OKLAHOMA CITY—Box 4547. E. W. Fair.
OMAHA—5640 Woolworth. Monte Davis.
PHILADELPHIA—426 Pine St., Joseph Shaltz. WALnut 0860.
PITTSBURGH—1701 Blvd. of the Allies, R. F. Klingensmith. ATlantic 4858.
PORTLAND, ORE.—925 N. W. 19th St., Harold Donner. Broadway 0136.
ST. LOUIS—5149 Rosa Ave., David F. Barrett. Flanders 3727.
SALT LAKE CITY—167 South State St., Viola B. Hutton. WAsatch 165.
SAN FRANCISCO—1095 Market St., Al Scott. Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2418 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Seneca 2460.
WASHINGTON—1426 G St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
HAMILTON—20 Holton, N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON—97 Adelaide St., S., John Gore.
MONTREAL—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Walnut 5519.
REGINA—The Leader-Post. Bruce Peacock.
ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings., C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

NO DOUBT and pretty quickly, too, "Cheers for Miss Bishop" will get itself known as "the female Mr. Chips." This, because in pattern both films are largely alike. If, by some mathematical deduction, it would follow then that "Bishop" will do the kind of business "Chips" did, the satisfaction ought to be general and complete.

In fact, we hold to the firm idea something of the sort will happen. For "Miss Bishop" is a tender and charming story of a prairie school teacher who finds love twice and twice loses it, thereafter to devote the rest of a long and fruitful life to the molding of young men's and young women's characters in their formulative years. The film develops an enormous tugging at the heartstrings which that reminds that any attraction with this very definite quality manages to do extremely well by itself.

Once again, Martha Scott, by ability demonstrated a favorite of this department's, attempts and succeeds beautifully in a difficult and exacting role. It is a decided compliment to her performance that she dwarfs such excellent support in large and small roles as is provided by William Gargan, Edmund Gwenn, Sidney Blackmer, Mary Anderson, an attractive newcomer, and Rosemary De Camp in a notable reading of the Constitution. Tay Garnett, too, might well be proud of this directional job.

These are the cheers for "Miss Bishop." The parallel tale, however, calls for cheers for Richard A. Rowland whose comeback this attraction represents. He is the Dick Rowland who ran the production end of the original First National which oldsters will remember for its "Black Oxen," its "Flaming Youth" and a long and formidable array of smash hits which had Adolph Zukor, in those days, indulging in much worry over Famous Players-Lasky.

Rowland was a good producing generalissimo then, and now he proves he still knows how. But between then and now and interspersed is a long series of ups and downs, mostly downs, in a highly dramatic and real life effort to get inside the active circle once more. There is an eight-year tale behind Rowland's return engagement. It involves kicks in the face and also in the pants, a race against death as focalized in one of his financial backers and the completion of the picture three days before the money man found his worldly troubles at an end.

This proves all of the drama is not captured on the celluloid, that this topsy-turvy business sometimes makes sense and that, definitely in the sense column, is the re-entry of Rowland into the columns of picture makers. Those who know something of this story behind the story today are making up the cheer squad. Firstly for Rowland. Secondly, for Miss Bishop.

Mailbag

WRITES E. L. Stein, who runs the Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz.:

Your editorial in the January 11 issue of BOXOFFICE merits compliments. Especially the last short paragraph:

["If the public gets a big admission's worth, the climax of this tale will write itself. It will need no embroidery rolling out of this typewriter."]

For the past three months exhibitors have been given very little but "quickies" to show to the public. Result? The public has begun to wander away from this industry's product as "its best entertainment." What to do? The theatres of the country must have bigger and better pictures immediately to re-attract the public.

The statement of Nicholas Schenck that "there is nothing wrong with this industry that good pictures won't cure" was never more true than today. But some "cure" must be applied or there won't be any industry to work on.

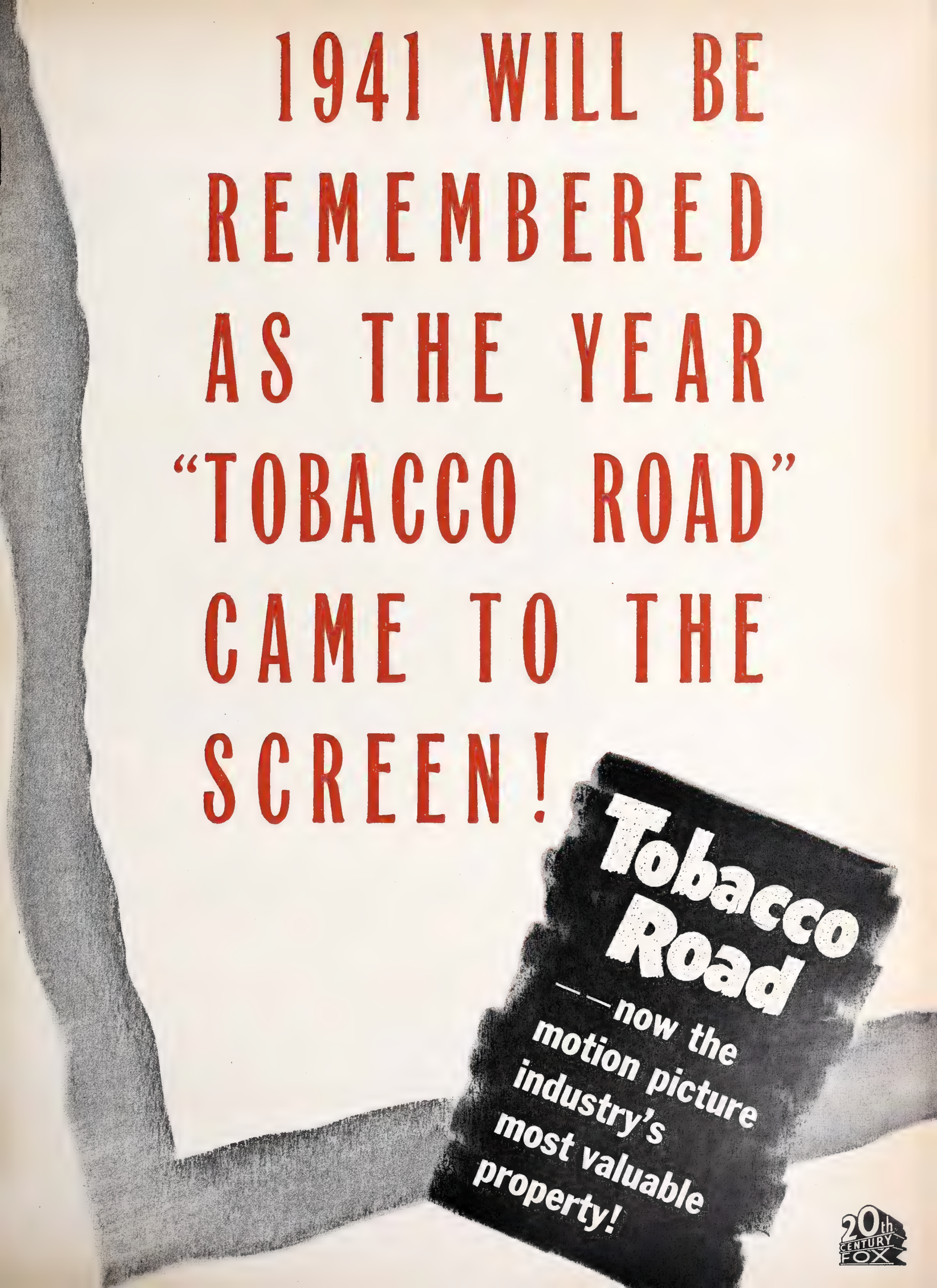
Thanks to Stein for the roses. Word to Stein about his worries:

It couldn't possibly be as appalling as he feels. There will be an industry to work on, down curve and up curve as circumstances may occasion. If it will help any, he might be interested in learning what the indications are:

Good attractions and plenty of them are on the way. A lot of best feet are being put forward—now that selling under the decree is getting closer. For one thing, the distributors appear to be in a frame of mind of sweetening, if not softening, theatre reaction to their wares. This is designed to help current merchandise and to develop a more brotherly sentiment for and on behalf of the impending blocks of five. The advantage, for the time being, appears heading in the direction of the exhibitor.

These are the indications, the signposts. Remember, please, not to hold us to account if the directionals prove faulty.

1941 WILL BE REMEMBERED AS THE YEAR "TOBACCO ROAD" CAME TO THE SCREEN!



20th CENTURY FOX

AAA CLERKS DRAWN FROM MANY FIELDS AND SOME PROFESSIONS

The 31 Tribunals Now Open Throughout The Country

The 31 clerks of the arbitration tribunals are now functioning throughout the nation, the promise of the AAA that the system will be functioning by February 1 thereby having been met on the dot.

These men have been drawn from many business fields and a sprinkling of the professions, as their biographies on these and other pages reveal:

Albany—Robert Elliott, a graduate of the High School of Commerce, New York, took a special course at the pay officers' school and a war training course at the U. S. Naval Training Academy, Annapolis. He is married, a life-long resident of New York City, a member of Amity Lodge No. 323, A. F. & A. M., and was an ensign in the supply corps with the first salvage division of the navy during the last war. His business background, 25 years with the Merritt-Chapman and Scott Corp., engaged in marine salvage, heavy lighterage and construction. From July to December of last year, he was attached to the New York office of the AAA. His office is located in the Standard Building.

Atlanta—Detlef H. Hansen jr., has been a resident of this city and state for 38 years. He is married. Business background includes a manager-cashier post with a Wall Street brokerage house for 14 years; for over five years, he was an employment supervisor of the department of welfare, New York City. Education includes two years at Columbia University, two at Cooper Union, one at Mechanics Institute and two at New York University where he studied business organization and administration, bookkeeping and accounting and architectural design. His office is located in the Mortgage Guarantee Building.

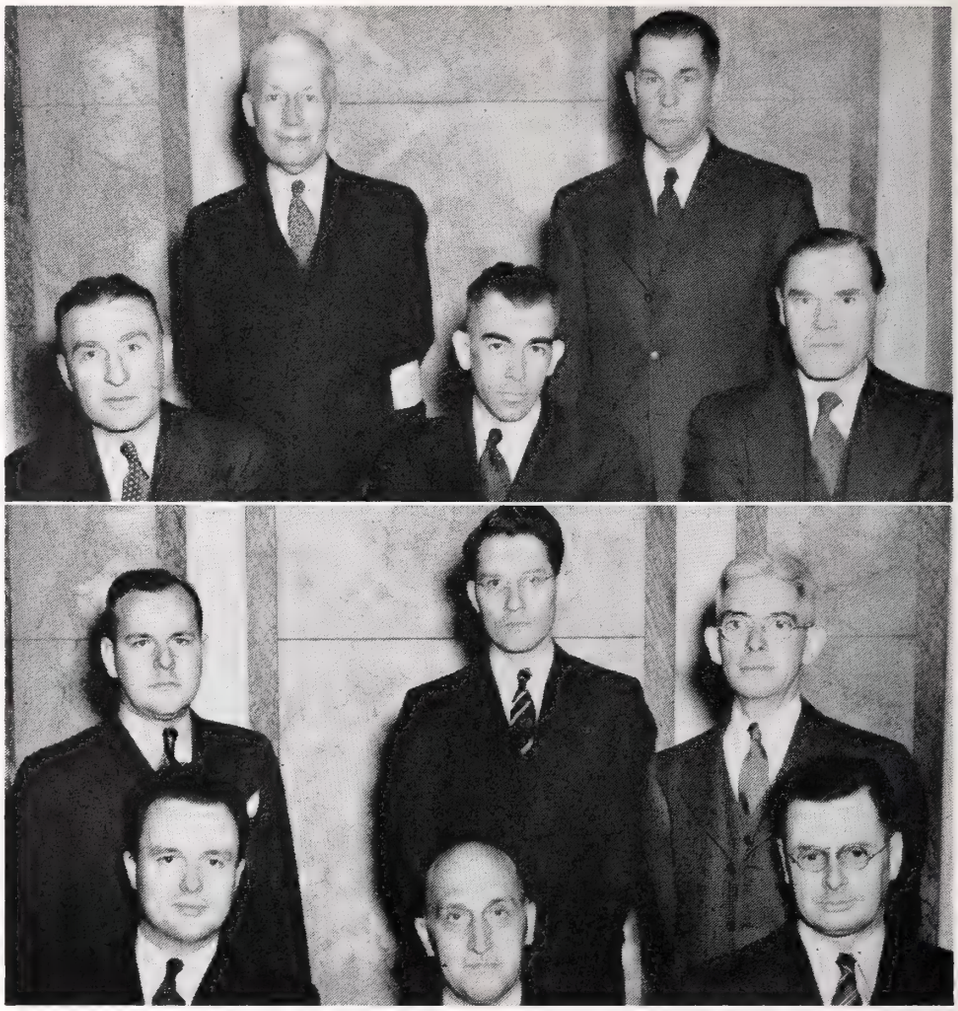
Boston—Henry de la Morandiere is a native of New York. He is married, has one child and was educated at Oxford, the University of Paris and Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. His business background traces to England and France; he was also a salesman with B. Altman and Co. at White Plains, N. Y. His office is with the Chamber of Commerce.

Buffalo—Edward William Spitznagel is a life-long resident of this city. He is married, has a grown daughter and for 27 years was credit manager of Jacob Dold Packing Co., meat packers. His office is with the Chamber of Commerce.

Charlotte—Joseph C. Wright has lived in Charlotte and North Carolina for 13 years. He was a member of the graduate class of 1926 of The Citadel, the military college of South Carolina and is a bachelor of science in business administration as well as a senior cadet officer. Wright is married, belongs to the Walhalla Lodge, No. 66 of the A. F. & A. M., and a member of the Charlotte junior chamber of commerce. Business background includes five years with the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., seven years prior to that with H. V. Johnson and Son, coal dealers; membership on the school board of the city of Charlotte and 16 months with Burroughs Adding Machine Co. His office is located in the Liberty Life Building.

Cincinnati—Lorenz L. Lemper is a life-long resident of this city and got his LLB. here. A bachelor, he is a member of Cincinnati Council No. 373, Knights of Columbus, the Hamilton County Republican Club and the 3rd Ward Republican Club. Lemper was formerly secretary of the municipal civil service commission and a practising lawyer for the past 25 years. His office is with the Chamber of Commerce.

Cleveland—Luke H. Lyman has been living here over six years, but 34 years in Ohio. He is married and has a baby daughter. He is a Mason and a member of the Goodale Lodge, Columbus and was a Kappa Sigma at college. He practiced law for two years after four years of undergraduate courses in the commerce college of Ohio State University where he graduated in '29. Graduating from law college there in '32, he passed the Ohio bar the same year.



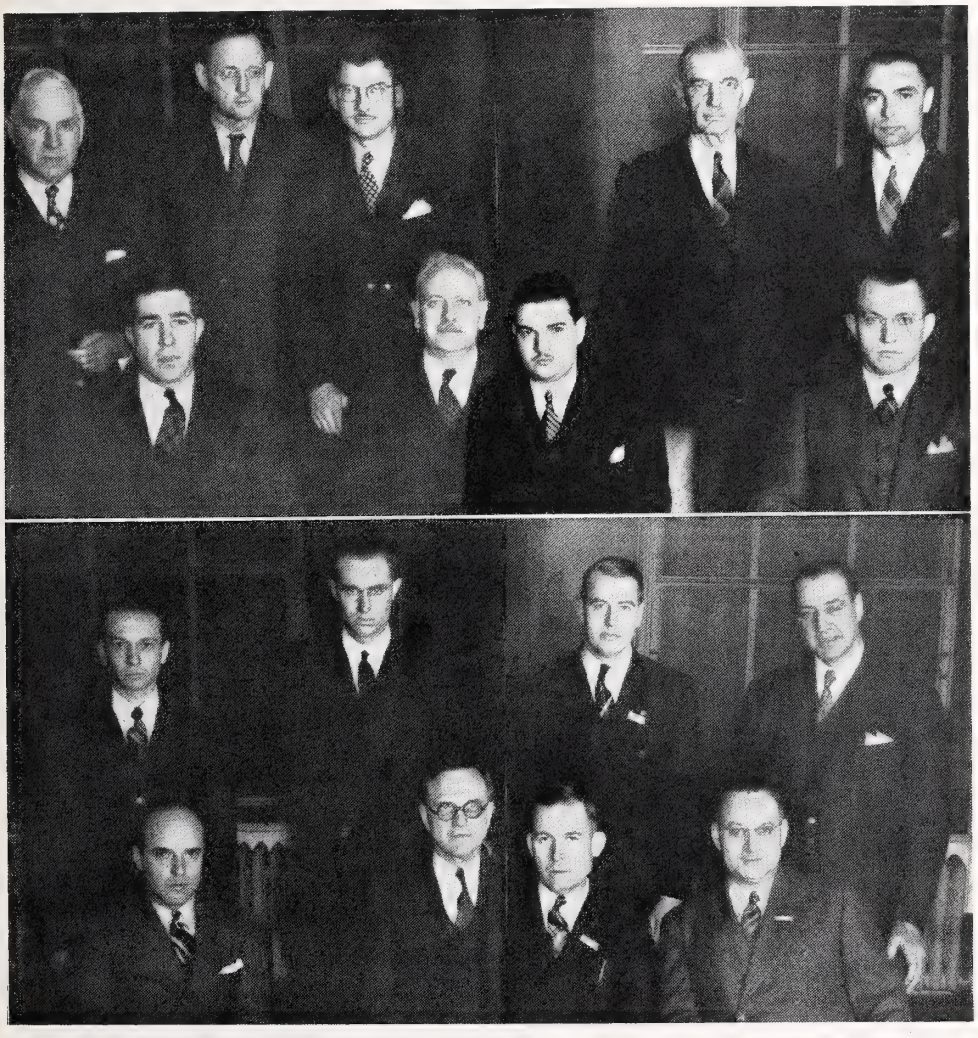
—Joyce-Nones

This Is What Eleven Look Like—

All of the men in these photos attended "school" early in the week to become acquainted with the decree under which they will function as clerks of the arbitration tribunals. Their names and their offices: Upper shot, left to right and seated are William A. Livingston, Pittsburgh; Charles Q. Blomquist, New Orleans, and Harold B. Barton, Washington, while standing are Charles S. Wall, New York, and Oliver F. Bishop, New Orleans.

The lower panel includes these, seated and moving from left to right: Henry de la Morandiere, Boston; Lorenz L. Lemper, Cincinnati, and Joseph C. Wright, Charlotte. Standing, also from left to right, are Jack W. Harmon, Memphis; Luke H. Lyman, Cleveland, and Edward W. Spitznagel, Buffalo.

INCLUDE CREDIT MEN, LAWYERS, EDUCATORS AND ONE EX-FARMER



And Here Are Seventeen More—

The west and the far west predominate in these photographs. Here's the key: Upper row, left to right and standing are Charles Chambers, San Francisco; Walter Elliott, Los Angeles; Detlef H. Hansen, Atlanta; J. B. Milton, Denver, and Joseph J. Monahan, Seattle. Same upper tier, left to right, but seated: Lloyd W. Littell, Indianapolis; J. P. Nelson, Portland; Irving Yackness, Detroit, and J. H. Brink, Kansas City.

The lower panel shows these men, standing and proceeding from left to right: Richard Romang, Oklahoma City; G. Roy Backman, Salt Lake; Sheldon Osroot, Minneapolis, and J. L. Loell, Milwaukee. Seated, in the same order, are: Byron Pulis, Omaha; C. W. Hudson, St. Louis; C. C. Williams, Dallas, and Bruce Wilson, Des Moines.

He was a law clerk for Florence E. Allen, judge of the U. S. circuit court of appeals for the sixth circuit from 1934, until assuming his AAA post. His office is located in the Standard Building.

Dallas—Charles Calvin Williams. A born Texan, he has lived in Dallas for six months. He is married, has one son, is a Mason, has been active in civic work through the chambers of commerce and was assistant manager of the South Texas Chamber of Commerce during 1935-36. Williams is a graduate of East Texas State Teachers' College; was president of his graduating class, attended two sessions of the national school for chamber of commerce and trade organizations at Evanston, Ill., spent four years teaching English in the Philippines and has traveled extensively in the Orient and Europe. His office is located in the Fidelity Building.

Denver—John B. Milton has lived in Denver for 32 years. He is married, has two adult children and is a Mason. He has an A.B. degree, '06, from Washington and Jefferson. Business background is in general real estate. His office is located with the Chamber of Commerce.

Des Moines—R. Bruce Wilson is married and a relative of John Wilson, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; a Mason. Educated in high school, he has spent about 10 years in municipal and county government as a bookkeeper. His office is located in the Walnut Building.

Into the Field After "School" Sessions Held in East

Detroit—I. H. Yackness is a bachelor and a member of several college fraternities. He was educated at Wayne University where he specialized in personal administration and attended the Detroit Institute of Technology and Sociology. He has an LLB from the Detroit College of Law and was on the debating squad of the Detroit College of Law during '36-37. His general background includes research in the Wayne county juvenile court, a law clerkship with Cook, Smith, Jacobs and Beake, Detroit; and a post with the bureau of social aid of the Michigan Welfare Commission. His office is located in the Penobscot Building.

Indianapolis—Lloyd W. Littell has lived in the state 37 years and in this city five. He is single and was educated at Indiana University where he earned his bachelor of science degree in commerce and finance in '28 and currently is in his senior year in the night classes of the Indiana Law School. He is a Mason, a fraternity man and a member of the International Ass'n of Public Employment Services. His business background includes the post of office and department manager in the placement offices of the Indiana state employment services here. He was once a draftsman and stone cutter as well as traveling representative of the Bloomington Limestone Co., Bloomington. His office is located in the Underwriters Building.

Kansas City—John H. Brink has lived in this city and the state for 29 years. He is married, studied at high school, a business college and the Kansas City School of Law. Business background includes a clerkship with the Santa Fe railroad, the Kansas City Structural Steel Company, Libby, McNeil and Libby, and a chief clerkship with the Great Lakes Pipe Line Co. His office is located in the Waltower Building.

Los Angeles—William H. Elliot is a New Yorker who has resided in California for 22 years. He is unmarried. Business experience includes the building material, steamship and banking fields. Elliot has been with the AAA for six years. His office is located in the Van Nuys Building.

Memphis—Jack W. Harmon has been living here for nine years. He is married, has no children and was educated at University of Mississippi where he graduated in '32 as a bachelor of science and commerce and has an LLB degree. He quali-

(Continued on page 36)

EVIDENCE STILL ACCUMULATING TO PROVE THAT '41 WILL BEST '40

Territorial Round-Up Continues to Show Optimistic View

This edition continues BOXOFFICE'S *'round-the-country analysis of business conditions and latter day reactions to the decree and what it may hold in store.*

On business prospects: Encouragement and general anticipation the year will be a good one, certainly far better than its predecessor.

On the decree: Virtually a nation-wide question mark.

And now the detail:

New Haven

NEW HAVEN—They're uncertain about the future here.

Consensus of available exhibitor opinion reflects dislike and distrust of the decree and uncertainties about business as a consequence. Independent exhibitors are on the *qui vive* awaiting announcements of selling policies and are not at all cheery about the buying outlook. They predict confusion.

At the same time, general rising business indices in the territory lead them to believe business should improve, although showmen are disappointed their grosses have not kept pace with the improvement in retail trades.

Impending arbitration arouses no enthusiasm. The belief largely is that the time lost under the rules of procedure is too great for effective relief.

Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY — Uncertainty over operation under the decree prevails here. Cross-sectionally, what follows is the exhibitor reaction:

"We don't know how it's going to work out. It would be only a wild guess to make one. We expect bigger and better pictures and we also expect to have to pay more for them."

An approach, in terms of general business indices, however, is a much more clear-cut and optimistic story. Deposits in nine local bank and trust companies reached an all-time high at the close of the year and bank loans showed almost a 15 per cent increase over the same period a year earlier. Local postal receipts, moreover, were the largest in the city's history last year.

Real estate sales last year represented a new high, according to the real estate board. Department store sales reached a 10-year peak by mid-November.

At Las Vegas, announced construction projects total more than $6,300,000, presaging the biggest business year that area has yet experienced.

Predicts Appreciable Increase

New York—John J. O'Connor, vice-president and general manager of the RKO circuit, sizing up the theatre situation, currently and in the future:

"Our opinion of the 1941 outlook for theatre attendance is that from a business improvement standpoint patronage should certainly jump considerably over 1940 figures.

"The national government's 'on order' plans for defense are coming out of the tool stage. With the necessary implements available for production purposes, the billions of dollars appropriated will slowly be distributed in every corner of the country. And, as employment rises and the government's spending increases week by week this industry, supplying as it does the great outlet for recreation for the masses, should also find its attendance jumping.

"It would also be very helpful to business if producers would stay away from war subjects and heavy, dismal dramas and keep new production on the lighter side by giving us more comedies and musicals as an offset to the disturbing influences contained in newspapers and radio broadcasts."

Dallas

DALLAS—The outlook for Texas appears rosy, according to a BOXOFFICE survey. There is a minimum amount of uncertainty expressed which is far outshadowed by a greater confidence that the industry will weather its ills.

Karl Hoblitzelle recently expressed his views on the decree in BOXOFFICE. He made a plea for unity and at the time voiced the opinion all effort should be made to adjudicate differences before rushing to arbitration. He favors a harnessing of the industry's manpower "for the betterment of the entertainment and services offered the American people, as well as the betterment of our public relations and our own internal affairs; we must continue our efforts to dignify our business."

Holger Jorgenson, an exhibitor here antedating the first World War and a neighborhood operator now, does not look for any marked changes. He thinks the product looks good, but urges exhibitors, however, to work for a basic availability so that when he buys pictures he will know then when he is going to get them. Jorgenson looks for no boom conditions in normal situations. He sees nothing that should cause alarm except to what height the defense taxes will mount. As far as the decree and operations under it are concerned, he believes anything in it that is not right will soon be made right.

In the smaller situations, Mart Cole, circuit operator of Rosenberg, is in doubt on the decree. "We don't know—we have to try it and it may help or may hinder. I can't see how it will benefit the independent theatres, but we have got to try to make it work," he said.

He expects a good year. He feels that, while defense towns are getting the money, that there is more general spending all over south Texas now which he believes will continue. Flu cut grosses way down in his towns, but he regards that as only temporary. Grosses in theatres depend largely on the headlines, Cole believes. When the war is going as they want it people are in the frame of mind to go to the theatre but, when it goes wrong they stay at home, he observes.

"There has to be a top in the raising of film rental and taxes. We have to have taxes and especially the defense taxes, but we don't have a chance to raise admissions," he thinks.

Sees Income Increase Reflected in Grosses

New York—Thinks Joseph Bernhard, general manager of the Warner Bros. Circuit Management Corp. about 1941:

"With the reduction of the relief rolls and increased employment on the defense program, the rise in national income should be reflected in motion picture theatres.

"With more people going oftener to the movies, boxoffice results should be definitely better this year."

San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO—Local theatremen are optimistic over 1941. The national defense program is expected to boost receipts in this area since thousands of new recruits will be hungry for flesh shows as well as films and Interstate will supply their entertainment at both downtown and near army post theatres. The estimated military population of the Alamo City, for instance, was placed at 30,000 at the turn of the year.

Jean Wildenstein, manager of the Municipal Auditorium, predicts that "1941 will be the most prosperous year San Antonio has ever had."

Mid-winter bulletin from Universal City, California

...AND THE GREATEST EXHIBITOR NEWS ANNOUNCED THIS SEASON!



UNIVERSAL WILL DELIVER FOR 1940-41

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PICTURES PROGRAMMED!

UNIVERSAL HAS ADDED TO THOSE PICTURES YET

TO BE RELEASED STAR AND PRODUCTION VALUE

ENOUGH TO TRIPLE THEIR TICKET-SELLING POWER!

Mid-winter bulletin from Universal City, California

January 31st Release

BUCK PRIVATES

starring Abbott and Costello with Lee Bowman, Alan Curtis and The Andrews Sisters.
Directed by Arthur Lubin. Associate producer, Alex Gottlieb.

February 7th Release

BACK STREET

by Fannie Hurst, starring Charles Boyer and Margaret Sullavan, with Richard Carlson, Frank McHugh, Tim Holt.
Directed by Robert Stevenson. Produced by Bruce Manning.

February 14th Release

MEET THE CHUMP

starring Hugh Herbert, with Jeanne Kelly, Lewis Howard, Anne Nagel. Directed by Edward Cline.
Associate producer, Ken Goldsmith.

February 21st Release

NICE GIRL?

starring Deanna Durbin, with Franchot Tone, Walter Brennan, Robert Stack, Robert Benchley, Helen Broderick.
Directed by William A. Seiter. A Joe Pasternak production.

February 28th Release

DARK STREETS of CAIRO

with Sigrid Gurie, Ralph Boyd, Eddie Quillan, Katherine DeMille, George Zucco. Directed by Leslie Kardos. Associate producer, Joseph G. Sanford.

March 7th Release

MR. DYNAMITE *(Tentative Title)*

with Lloyd Nolan, Irene Hervey, J. Carroll Naish, Frank Gaby, Ann Gillis, Robert Armstrong. Directed by Jack Rawlins. Associate producer, Marshall Grant.

March 14th Release

MODEL WIFE

starring Joan Blondell, Dick Powell, with Charlie Ruggles, Lee Bowman, Ruth Donnelly.
Produced and directed by Leigh Jason.

March 21st Release

DOUBLE DATE

March 28th Release

FRANK LLOYD PRODUCTIONS, Inc., presents

LADY FROM CHEYENNE

starring Loretta Young with Robert Preston, Edward Arnold, Gladys George, Frank Craven, Jessie Ralph.
Produced and directed by Frank Lloyd. Associate producer, Jack Skirball.

April 4th Release

MUTINY IN THE ARCTIC

starring Richard Arlen and Andy Devine.

...AND THE GREATEST EXHIBITOR NEWS ANNOUNCED THIS SEASON!

April 4th Release

HORROR ISLAND

April 4th Release

MAN MADE MONSTER

starring Lionel Atwill and Lon Chaney, Jr., with Frank Albertson, Anne Nagel, Samuel S. Hinds. Directed by George Waggner.

April 11th Release

THE FLAME OF NEW ORLEANS

starring Marlene Dietrich, with Bruce Cabot, Mischa Auer, Roland Young, Andy Devine. Directed by Rene Clair. A Joe Pasternak production.

April 18th Release

SKY RAIDERS—*A Serial in 12 Episodes*

with Donald Woods, Billie Halop, Robert Armstrong, Kathryn Adams, Eduardo Ciannelli, Bill Cody, Jr., William Desmond. Directed by Ford Beebe and Ray Taylor. Associate Producer, Henry MacRae.

April 25th Release

THE MAN WHO LOST HIMSELF

starring Brian Aherne and Kay Francis, with Henry Stephenson, S. Z. Sakall, Nils Asther. Directed by Edward Ludwig. Produced by Lawrence W. Fox, Jr.

May 2nd Release

BUTCH MINDS THE BABY

A Mayfair production. Story by Damon Runyon.

May 23rd Release

TOO MANY BLONDES

starring Rudy Vallee

May 30th Release

OH, CHARLIE

starring Bud Abbott and Lou Costello. Directed by Arthur Lubin.

June 6th Release

MEN of the TIMBERLANDS

starring Richard Arlen and Andy Devine.

June 13th Release

TIGHT SHOES

A Mayfair production. Story by Damon Runyon.

Mid-winter bulletin from Universal City, California

...AND THE GREATEST EXHIBITOR NEWS ANNOUNCED THIS SEASON!

June 20th Release

NORTH of the KLONDIKE

June 27th Release

HIT THE ROAD

starring The Dead End Kids and The Little Tough Guys.

July 4th Release

FRANK LLOYD PRODUCTIONS, INC., presents

I, JAMES LEWIS *(Tentative Title)*

Produced and directed by Frank Lloyd. Associate producer, Jack Skirball.

July 11th Release

CRACKED NUTS

July 18th Release

SANDY STEPS OUT

starring Baby Sandy

July 25th Release

FIFTEEN FATHOMS DEEP *(Tentative Title)*

starring Richard Arlen and Andy Devine.

August 1st Release

RAIDERS of the DESERT

August 15th Release

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

starring Irene Dunne and Robert Montgomery. A Gregory la Cava production.

August 22nd Release

A DANGEROUS GAME

starring Richard Arlen and Andy Devine with Jeanne Kelly. Directed by John Rawlins.
Associate producer, Ben Pivar.

August 29th Release

A FRANK LLOYD PRODUCTION

Watch

UNIVERSAL FOR 1941-42

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

So Ends Our Night

F — Drama

United Artists (——) — **118 Minutes** — **Rel. Feb. 14, '41**

When judged solely for its artistry, overlength is the only possible criticism which might be made of the first offering from Producers David Loew and Albert Lewin. Viewed as entertainment with a popular appeal, however, a different story must be told. The screen play was adapted from Erich Maria Remarque's novel, "Flotsam," to the text and atmosphere of which it adheres, being a slowly-unfolded account of German refugees, their sufferings and tortuous wanderings over the face of Europe. Resultantly, the theme is monotonous part of the time, sombre and depressing all of the time. The feature will probably require intensive selling before it can be widely dovetailed into current tastes in film fare. Even its anti-Nazi note, which will undoubtedly strike a sympathetic chord, may be too late to be a great asset. While Fredric March, Margaret Sullavan and Frances Dee occupy the toplines, the brunt of the acting chore falls on Glenn Ford, who ably handles the task. Miss Dee has deplorably little to do, but does it well. The supporting cast is large, possesses numerous well-established names and is generally excellent. John Cromwell's direction does everything possible to elevate and speed the picture.

Fredric March, Margaret Sullavan, Frances Dee, Glenn Ford, Anna Sten, Erich von Stroheim, Allan Brett, Joseph Cawthorn.

EXPLOITIPS: If the marquee permits, Fredric March, Margaret Sullavan, Frances Dee and Glenn Ford are all entitled to mention thereon. Hail Ford as a new star discovery. The name of Erich Maria Remarque, who authored "All Quiet on the Western Front," is also exploitable through library and bookstore tieups. Stage a debate, either by letter through a newspaper, or orally on the stage, on the question of whether or not the U. S. should admit any and all foreign refugees.

CATCHLINES: The Saga of a Homeless People . . . Driven From Comfort and Security by a Ruthless War They Did Not Make.

Here at Last Is the Film You've Been Waiting to See . . . Based Upon Erich Maria Remarque's Powerful Novel, "Flotsam."

Along the Rio Grande

F — Western

RKO Radio (183) — **66 Minutes** — **Rel. Feb. 7, '41**

Youthful Tim Holt stakes out a new claim on his enviable and rapidly growing reputation as one of the up-and-coming new western stars in this, the fourth picture featuring his six-gun and saddle heroics. He again demonstrates that few, if any, of the sagebrush supermen can surpass him in acting ability. Other assets include a story with more meat than the average outdoor script, although motivation pretty much follows established routine; a good supporting cast; a few diverting musical sequences; and able direction. It rates, in toto, as prime western fare. Holt is a cowhand who, with the inevitable two buddies, undertakes to run to earth the villain who has been terrorizing the community and who has murdered his kindly employer. To accomplish their ends, they join the gang and work from within—successfully, of course. Directed by Edward Killy.

Tim Holt, Ray Whitley, Betty Jane Rhodes, Emmett Lynn, Robert Fiske, Hal Taliaferro, Carl Stockdale.

EXPLOITIPS: Tim Holt is the name to sell in this one. Erect a blownup figure of him in the lobby or above the marquee, in western costume and with a gun in his hand. Launch a Tim Holt Fan Club for juvenile sagebrush fans, giving out inexpensive membership buttons and other paraphernalia. Make over the lobby in the usual western style, and play range ballad recordings over the lobby p.a. system. You might also tie in with spot announcements on hillbilly and western radio shows. For Saturday matinees, hold a "rifle shoot" with BB guns on a vacant lot, awarding a Tim Holt trophy to the winner, or stage a juvenile "rodeo" on the stage as an added matinee attraction.

CATCHLINES: Unfair to Organized Outlaws . . . That's Tim Holt . . . When His Guns Blaze Into Action to Clean Up the Border.

Your Newest Western Hero . . . Tim Holt . . . Rides Into Action Again in the Rugged, Roaring West.

Come Live With Me

F — Romantic Comedy

M-G-M (122) — **85 Minutes** — **Rel. Jan. 31, '41**

Charming romantic comedy, into which has been woven sufficient whimsical and idyllic strains to set it apart from the trend toward the screwball and slapstick approach which has characterized so many recent humorous offerings, this has much to assure a wide general audience appeal and should be a breadwinner at the boxoffice. It is clean, wholesome fun from start to finish and considerable of a triumph for Clarence Brown, who produced, directed and, it is reported, had a sizeable finger in the preparation of the script. James Stewart and Hedy Lamarr are co-starred, the former in the type of role which fits him best and which has crystallized his marquee magnetism. Pulchritudinous Miss Lamarr continues to show marked improvement in her Thespic abilities. An Austrian refugee, she faces deportation unless she marries an American citizen within the week. She isn't too anxious to stay, but Playboy Ian Hunter, himself married but interested in her, persuades her to seek a husband. It turns out to be Stewart, a penniless writer, who accedes to her proposal as a business suggestion, gradually falls in love with her and wins her away from Hunter.

James Stewart, Hedy Lamarr, Ian Hunter, Verree Teasdale, Donald Meek, Barton MacLane, Edward Ashley, Ann Codee.

EXPLOITIPS: Co-starred for the first time, James Stewart and Hedy Lamarr rate concentrated effort via exploitation, advertising and the marquee. Title might be used in a promotional tieup with hotels, apartment houses, the rental section in newspaper classified ads, and in other ways. Use the "refugee" angle to stage a special "Refugee Benefit" performance, turning the proceeds over to a worthwhile charity agency. Give supporting credits to Ian Hunter and Verree Teasdale.

CATCHLINES: She Used Her Marriage Certificate as a Passport . . . Then Surprised Herself by Falling in Love With Her Husband.

Gay, Gorgeous Hedy Lamarr . . . Teamed for the First Time With James Stewart . . . In One of the Brightest New Comedies of the Year.

Rolling Home to Texas

F — Musical Western

Monogram (4052) — **63 Minutes** — **Rel. Dec. 29, '40**

Producer Edward Finney apparently had some difficulty in deciding what he was trying to produce—a filmusical, a western or a broad burlesque on the latter. The result is he has a little of each but not enough of any one to make much of a picture. It is probably the worst Tex Ritter sagebrusher to date, and there have been 17 preceding it. Because of its many motivating elements and an unsuccessful effort to avoid formula, the story is extremely improbable, even for an action melodrama. Dialogue is strained and jerky and direction by Al Herman does nothing to mitigate. In fact, even the title doesn't fit, inasmuch as the story has nothing to do with Texas or rolling home. Rather, it concerns a prison in Arizona from which convicts are helped to escape by an organized gang which makes a business of framing and killing them to collect rewards. Rugged Ritter comes to the rescue and saves the warden's job by exposing the dastardly plot and capturing the perpetrators.

Tex Ritter, Cal Shrum, Slim Andrews, Virginia Carpenter, Eddie Dean, Jack Rutherford, Minta Durfee.

EXPLOITIPS: Tex Ritter is the principal source of interest here. Prepare a large cutout of the cowboy star in a two-fisted, shootin' pose for the theatre front. Worthy of extra plugs are Cal Shrum and his Rhythm Rangers, cowboy band which has made a number of recordings and is well known to addicts of hillbilly music. Ritter himself can be tied into displays of records and sheet music with local music stores. Make over the lobby in the usual western style and be sure to hold a Saturday matinee meeting of your juvenile "Tex Ritter" Fan Club on the day the film opens.

CATCHLINES: One Against a Gang . . . But Tex Ritter Swings His Fists . . . With the Law on His Side.

There's Action . . . There's Mirth . . . There's Music . . . and There's Tex Ritter in This Exciting New Western.

REVIEW DIGEST
AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		A										
	16	Aldrich Family in Life With Henry (Para)		+	+	±		+	+	+		6+ 1–
	20	Along the Rio Grande (RKO)		+				+	±	±		4+ 2–
		Always a Bride (FN)		∓	∓	∓	–	–	±	–		4+ 7–
		Angels Over Broadway (Col)		±	+	∓	+	∓	+	+	+	9+ 2–
		Ape, The (Mono)		+	–	–	+	+	+		±	5+ 3–
		Argentine Nights (Univ)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	–	7+ 3–
		Arise, My Love (Para)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	15+
		Arizona (Col)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓		13+
	11	Arkansas Judge (Rep)		±			+	+	+			4+ 1–
		B										
		Bank Dick, The (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	+	+	±	11+ 1–
		Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2–
		Before I Hang (Col)		+	+	+	+	+	=	±	–	6+ 3–
		Behind the News (Rep)		±	+	±	+	∓	+	±	±	9+ 4–
		Beyond the Sacramento (Col)								+		1+
		Billy the Kid in Texas (PRC)				∓						1+ 1–
		Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		∓	+	∓	+	∓	∓	+	+	12+
		Blackout (UA)		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+
		Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3–
		Boom Town (M-G-M)		∓	∓		∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+
		Border Legion (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	+	±	∓	8+ 3–
		Boss of Bullion City (Univ)								±		1+ 1–
	2	Bowery Boy (Rep)		∓	±	–	+	±	±	±		6+ 6–
		Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		–		±	–	±		3+ 5–
		Brigham Young—Frontiersman (20th-Fox)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
		Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+
		C										
		Calling All Husbands (WB)		±	∓	+	∓	–	–	±	∓	6+ 7–
	19	Case of the Black Parrot (FN)		–	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 6–
		Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2–
		Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±					±		3+ 3–
		Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum (20th-Fox)		+	±	–	+	+	+	+		6+ 2–
		Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		∓	+	–	+	∓	±	+	±	8+ 4–
	9	Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓		14+
		Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		∓	+		7+ 1–
		Christmas in July (Para)		∓	+	±	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+ 1–
		City for Conquest (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
		Colorado (Rep)		±		–	+			±	±	4+ 4–
	17	Come Live With Me (M-G-M)		∓				∓	∓			6+ 1–
		Comrade X (M-G-M)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	14+
	11	Convoy (RKO)		+	+		+			+	±	5+ 1–
		D										
		Dance, Girl, Dance (RKO)		+	∓	±	+	±	±	+	∓	9+ 4–
		Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±		+	=	+	∓	7+ 4–
		Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		–	±	+	±			+		4+ 3–
		Devil Bat, The (PRC)				=					±	1+ 3–
		Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6–
		Diamond Frontier (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	∓	–	∓	6+ 7–
		Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
		Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
		Dr. Kildare Goes Home (M-G-M)		+	∓	+		+	+	+	+	8+
	9	Doomed Caravan (Para)		∓		+	∓	∓	∓	+		10+
		Down Argentine Way (20-Fox)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
		Dreaming Out Loud (RKO)		±	∓	–	±	+	+	±		6+ 5–
		Drums of the Desert (Mono)		±		±	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4–
		Dulcy (M-G-M)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2–
		E										
		Earl of Puddlestone (Rep)		±	±	±	+		±	±	∓	7+ 6–
		East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5–
		Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
		Escape (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	∓	∓	15+
		Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+	±		6+ 1–
		F										
		Fantasia (Disney)		∓	∓	∓	∓			∓	∓	12+
		Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±			+	+	+		5+ 1–
		Father's Son (WB)						–	∓			1+ 2–
		Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	–	–	3+ 9–
		Fight for Life, The (Col)		+						∓	+	4+
		Five Little Peppers in Trouble (Col)		±	±	–	–	=	–	–	∓	3+ 9–
		Flight Command (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
	4	Flight From Destiny (WB)		+	+	±	∓	∓	∓	+		10+ 1–
		Four Mothers (WB)		∓	+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	10+ 1–
		Four Sons (20th-Fox)		∓		+	∓	∓	+	+	+	10+
		Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+ 6–
		Frontier Vengeance (Univ)		o		–	∓			±		2+ 3–
		Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		–	±	±	6+ 5–
		Fugitive From a Prison Camp (Col)			∓	=	±			±	±	4+ 6–
		G										
		Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	∓	+	±	±	9+ 3–
		Gay Caballero, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	–	+	+	∓	7+ 4–
		Girl From Havana (Rep)		±	±	–	±		±	–	∓	5+ 7–
	1	Girl in the News (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+			+		5+
		Girls Under 21 (Col)		–	±	±				±	±	4+ 5–
		Give Us Wings (Univ)		–	±	±			+	±	–	4+ 5–
		Glamour for Sale (Col)		±	±	±		=	±	–	∓	5+ 8–
		Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	∓	+	∓	+	±		9+ 1–
		Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	10+
		Great Commandment (20-Fox)								∓		2+
		Great Dictator, The (UA)		∓	∓	+	∓	∓	+	∓	+	12+ 1–
		Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4–
		Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	∓	+	∓	+	±	11+ 2–
		H										
		Haunted Honeymoon (M-G-M)		+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+ 6–
		Her First Romance (Mono)		+	+		+	∓	+	+		7+
		Here Comes the Navy (WB)								∓		2+
	16	High Sierra (FN)		∓	±	±	∓	∓	∓		+	11+ 2–
		Hired Wife (Univ)		∓	+	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	13+
		Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+		8+ 2–
		Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		–	±	+	–		±	4+ 4–
	13	Honeymoon for Three (WB)		±			±	∓	+			5+ 2–
		Howards of Virginia (Col)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
		Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	±	+	∓	+	+	9+ 3–
		Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6–
		I										
		I Want a Divorce (Para)		+	∓	+	∓	∓	∓	+	+	12+
		I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2–
		I'm Still Alive (RKO)		∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
	1	Invisible Woman, The (Univ)		∓	+	+	∓	∓	∓	+	±	12+ 1–
		J										
		Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+			+	+	+		5+
		K										
	4	Keeping Company (M-G-M)		–	±	–	∓	∓	±	+		7+ 4–
		Kit Carson (UA)		+	+	±	+	±	∓	+	±	9+ 3–
		Kitty Foyle (RKO)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	+	14+
		Knute Rockne—All American (WB)		∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	∓	+	15+
		L										
		Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4–
		Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	±	9+ 2–
	15	Land of Liberty (M-G-M)		∓	±	+				∓		6+ 1–
		Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+ 1–
		Leather Pushers, The (Univ)		+	±	±		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4–

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week. The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:

∓ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; – Poor; = Very Poor

In the summary ∓∓ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number).

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

Nobody's Children F — Drama

Columbia (——) 65 Minutes Rel. Oct. 17, '40

Popularity of a coast radio program designed to get homes for orphans is responsible for this maudlin tale of a brother and sister, the latter a cripple, who experience heartaches when separated and great joy when eventually they come to live together under the same roof of adoption. It is an item for the sentimental segment of the audience, the group that is touched emotionally by the poignant situation. And the exhibitor, with the aforementioned in mind and with his chart of past performances before him, should take them into consideration if and when he plays it. Best bet for the picture will probably be women. Edith Fellows and Billy Lee carry the burden of the story.

Edith Fellows, Billy Lee, Georgia Caine, Lois Wilson, Walter White jr., Ben Taggart, Mary Currier.

EXPLOITIPS: Edith Fellows has probably carved a place for herself in the film-going esteem of the general run of audiences and should continue to measure up with this offering. Tieups are indicated with the local Mutual Broadcasting outlet, 'teen age styles and coiffures, parties for orphans, milk dealers, an adopt-a-child campaign, women's clubs. The radio program goes out over 34 stations, emanating from Los Angeles.

CATCHLINES: Their Small Hearts Ache Just to Call Someone "Mother" and "Dad."

Larceny Street F — Comedy Drama

Film Alliance (SR) 65 Minutes Rel. ——

Here is an English variation of the husband-wife style of crime detection brought into vogue by the "Thin Man" cycle. Jack Buchanan produced. He has the leading role. Generally the plot manages to provoke laughter and the criminal pursuit provides sufficient thrill business. Storywise, it leans heavily on dialect—Anglo-Italian vintage. Buchanan and his wife, Elsie Randolph, track down a gang of insurance company defrauders and jewel thieves in Dublin by getting into the good graces of a barber shop proprietor who, as a sideline, commits murder and disposes of bodies. Tim Whelan directed.

Jack Buchanan, Elsie Randolph, Arthur Margetson.

EXPLOITIPS: Where Jack Buchanan has a reputation, plug him in advertising copy and on the marquee. Elsewhere, circulate publicity telling of his theatrical career in musical comedy and the like. A tieup with toy train dealers is indicated. For clue display get some facial clay shaped into a likeness of a man's face, a toy locomotive and an assortment of cheap jewelry. The barber shop angle is interesting.

CATCHLINES: Meet the King of the Smash and Grab Racket . . . An Underworld Dealer in "Hot Ice" and Sudden Death.

Marked Men F — Melodrama

Producers Releasing Corp. 67 Minutes Rel. ——

"Marked Men" is a feeble remake of that old melodramatic worthy which has run the gamut of treatment on the screen from a novel story idea to something in a hack writer's filing case. For the record, the story deals with an innocent who is forced to break jail with a gang of plug uglies just because he happens to be there. He makes his way to Arizona. En route he befriends a police dog. They work themselves into the good graces of a doctor and his daughter. Eventually he is apprehended and, in the last two reels, catches the jailbreakers.

Warren Hull, Isabel Jewell, John Dilson, Paul Bryar.

EXPLOITIPS: The police dog angle is important. Work up a dog show which features prizes to the best looking police dog, or awards to the cleverest mongrel. This should particularly attract youngsters. Get up a display of the cactus found in Arizona, and its various food derivaties. Get a sandwich man to parade the main drag with signs calling attention to "Is It Fair That Ex-Convicts Should Always Wear the Brand of Marked Men?"

CATCHLINES: Six Fugitives for Freedom . . . Four Die on a Desert . . . One Is Captured and the Other Finds Freedom and Happiness.

Case of the Black Parrot F — Mystery

First National (572) 60 Minutes Rel. Jan. 11, '41

What might have been a good idea at a Hollywood story conference, certainly falls short in the delivery. "The Case of the Black Parrot" is merely a case of cut and dried hokum, corny humor, trite lines, ineffective mystery and a hodge-podge of stock situations, all handled in routine fashion and topped off with a climax that gives itself away many hundred feet before it should. The "Black Parrot" is revealed as a slick fellow who is in the blackmail, murder and stolen antique business. The case struggles along bravely with a weak story. Noel Smith directed.

William Lundigan, Maris Wrixon, Eddie Foy jr., Luli Deste, Paul Cavanaugh.

EXPLOITIPS: William Lundigan manages to make the best of a mediocre role. He is the up and coming player in this film. Get a crime detection equipment display from the police. Paste a tab on the back pages of detective pulp fiction magazines in cooperation with a newsdealer. Get up a "guest of honor" screening for the detective force "ace." Get a stuffed bird, spray it with black paint, and place in the right spot, appropriately captioned.

CATCHLINES: Who Will Be the Black Parrot's Next Victim . . . Do You Dare Match Your Wits With a Master Killer.

Ridin' on a Rainbow F — Western

Republic (——) 79 Minutes Rel. Jan. 28, '41

The extra money and effort that went into this western to take it out of the routine category has paid off dividends entertainment-wise. That is, if your action customers expect action in a western, they must sit through no less than eight song numbers and long stretches of footage aboard a river showboat. The story gets very cluttered up between too much solo vocalizing, showboat entertainment and making room for very talented little Mary Lee. But that doesn't make for action any more than does Gene Autry's efforts as a confidant in getting her to reveal where her father, innocently involved, has hidden a cache of stolen cash. Lew Landers directed.

Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Mary Lee, Carol Adams.

EXPLOITIPS: You would not be misrepresenting this film and you might be giving it a new twist by selling it as a super musical western. For one thing, western fans who like Autry for his singing as well as his shootin' should certainly know about all the songs in here. Then there should be a new motif in the front, if only to maintain the new atmosphere presented.

CATCHLINES: Bringing Law and Order With Fist and Bullet.

Death in His Trigger Finger . . . Dynamite in His Fists.

Cavalcade of Faith F — Documentary

Jeffrey Film Corp. (SR) 65 Minutes Rel. ——

Not in any sense of the word is this Catholic subject entertainment in the accepted sense for average theatre consumption. It is a compilation, and not a very good one, of scenes taken at various church functions in Rome, for the most part, and at Eucharistic Congresses in Chicago, Buenos Aires and other cities. While the foreword purports to establish the film as a recording of milestones in the ascension of Christendom this is not borne out in the footage, which is heavily repetitious, laboriously jointed and below par photographically. Most interesting sequences are close range shots of the induction of the late Pope Pius XI and many activities he engaged in, as well as similar footage of Pope Pius XII. Background dialogue is handled by Basil Ruysdael.

EXPLOITIPS: The local Catholic laity would seem to be a pre-sold audience for this subject, merely for the asking. In other words, contact the bishop of your diocese well in advance of booking so that he may inform the community of the playdate. Obviously, the film should be especially attractive to children. It may be desirable to arrange with the Sunday school for a contest on any subject allied with the picture.

ǂ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor

In the summary ǂ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

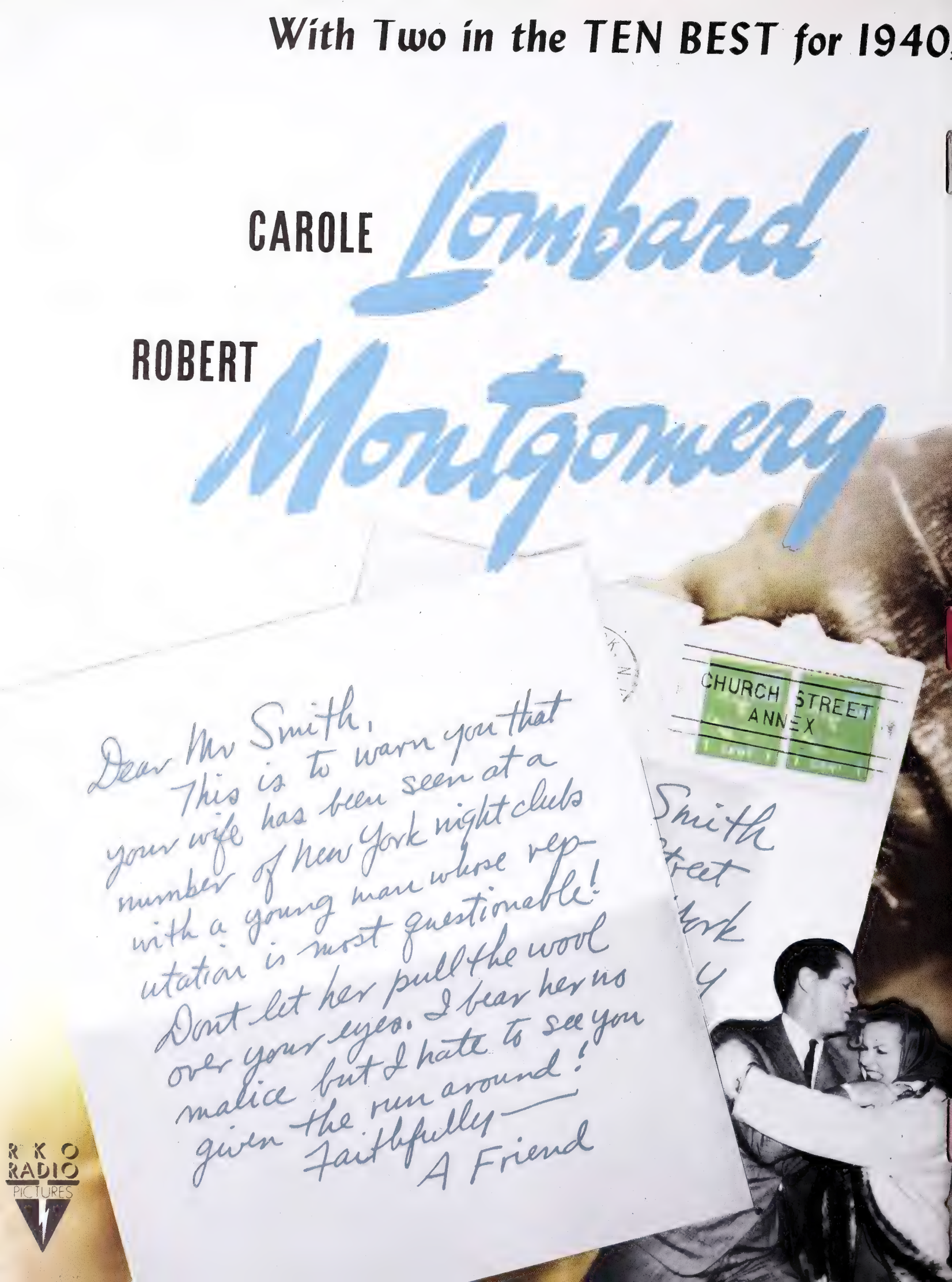
P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
	Let's Make Music	(RKO)	+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
	Letter, The	(FN)	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	14+
1	Li'l Abner	(RKO)	+	∓			∓	±	−		4+ 4−
	Little Bit of Heaven	(Univ)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	Little Men	(RKO)	−	±	=	±	ǂ	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Little Nellie Kelly	(M-G-M)	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 2−
	Lone Rider Rides On	(PRC)							+		1+
	Lone Star Raiders	(Rep)	+		±	∓			±		4+ 3−
	Lone Wolf Keeps a Date	(Col)	+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
	Long Voyage Home	(UA)	+	ǂ		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	13+
	Love Thy Neighbor	(Para)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Lucky Devils	(Univ)		±					+		2+ 1−
	Lucky Partners	(RKO)	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	13+
	M										
	Mad Doctor, The	(Para)							+		1+
5	Maisie Was a Lady	(M-G-M)	+	±	+		ǂ	ǂ	+		8+ 1−
	Margie	(Univ)	−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
	Mark of Zorro, The	(20th-Fox)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
18	Marked Men	(PRC)	−								1−
	Meet the Missus	(Rep)	±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
	Meet the Wildcat	(Univ)	−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
	Melody and Moonlight	(Rep)	∓	±		ǂ	ǂ	+	±		8+ 3−
	Melody Ranch	(Rep)	+	+	+	ǂ		ǂ	+	∓	9+ 1−
	Men Against the Sky	(RKO)	+	+	+		+	±	+	+	7+ 1−
	Mexican Spitfire Out West	(RKO)	+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
	Michael Shayne, Private Detective	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
	Misbehaving Husbands	(PRC)	+		=	+	ǂ	+		∓	6+ 3−
	Moon Over Burma	(Para)	+	+	±	+	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 2−
	Mortal Storm, The	(M-G-M)	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	13+
13	Mr. and Mrs. Smith	(RKO)	ǂ		+	ǂ	±	ǂ	+		9+ 1−
	Mummy's Hand, The	(Univ)	+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
	Murder Over New York	(20th-Fox)	±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
	N										
	Night at Earl Carroll's	(Para)	=	±	−	±	±	±	±	±	6+ 9−
	Night Train	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+	ǂ		+	ǂ	9+
18	Nobody's Children	(Col)	±	−	∓	±			±	±	5+ 6−
8	No, No, Nanette	(RKO)	ǂ	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	No Time for Comedy	(FN)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	+	±	+	+	10+ 1−
	North West Mounted Police	(Para)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
	O										
	Oklahoma Renegades	(Rep)	+			+			+	±	4+ 1−
	Ol' Swimmin' Hole	(Mono)	+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
	On the Spot	(Mono)	+		−	+	+	±	±	∓	6+ 4−
	One Million B. C.	(UA)	±	±	−	+	±	∓	±		6+ 6−
	One Night in the Tropics	(Univ)	±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
	Outlaws of the Panhandle	(Col)							−		1−
	P										
	Passport to Alcatraz	(Col)	+	−	±	+	∓	−	±		5+ 5−
	Pastor Hall	(UA)	±	ǂ	±	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	11+ 2−
	Phantom of Chinatown	(Mono)	±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
	Philadelphia Story	(M-G-M)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
	Pinto Kid	(Col)							±		1+ 1−
	Play Girl	(RKO)	+	±	±	±	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 4−
	Pony Post	(Univ)	±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
	Prairie Law	(RKO)	+	±	+	+		+	±	∓	7+ 3−
	Prairie Schooners	(Col)	∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
15	Pride of the Bowery	(Mono)	+	±			+	−	+	∓	5+ 3−
	Public Deb No. 1	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+	+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
	Q										
	Quarterback, The	(Para)	±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	Queen of the Yukon	(Mono)	+	±	∓		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4−
	R										
	Ragtime Cowboy Joe	(Univ)	+		±	+			+	∓	5+ 2−
	Rangers of Fortune	(Para)	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	±	+	12+ 2−
	Remedy for Riches	(RKO)	+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
	Rhythm on the River	(Para)	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	13+
	Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride	(Rep)	+		+	┘	··		+	∓	7+ 1−
19	Ridin' on a Rainbow	(Rep)	∓			+					2+ 1−
	Road Show	(UA)							+		1+
10	Robin Hood of the Pecos	(Rep)	+		∓	+			+	±	5+ 2−
17	Rolling Home to Texas	(Mono)	=				+	±			2+ 3−
5	Romance of the Rio Grande	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	S										
	Safari	(Para)	±	∓	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
3	Saint in Palm Springs	(RKO)	+	±	=	∓	=	+	+		5+ 6−
	Sandy Gets Her Man	(Univ)	+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	Sandy Is a Lady	(Univ)	+	∓	∓	+	+	±	+	±	8+ 4−
	San Francisco Docks	(Univ)	∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
	Santa Fe Trail	(FN)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
	Sea Hawk, The	(WB)	ǂ	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	12+ 1−
	Second Chorus	(Para)	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
	Seven Sinners	(Univ)	±	+	±	ǂ	+	+	±	+	9+ 3−
	She Couldn't Say No	(FN)	+	±	±	±	∓		±	±	7+ 6−
12	Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga	(Univ)	+				∓	+			3+ 1−
	Sky Murder	(M-G-M)	±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+ 10−
	Slightly Tempted	(Univ)	±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
20	So Ends Our Night	(UA)	∓				+	ǂ	ǂ		6+ 1−
	So You Won't Talk	(Col)	−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
	Son of Monte Cristo	(UA)	+	±	∓	±	∓	ǂ	±	±	9+ 6−
	South of Suez	(WB)	+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
	Spring Parade	(Univ)	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
	Street of Memories	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
	Strike Up the Band	(M-G-M)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	T										
	Take Me Back to Okla.	(Mono)	+			ǂ	+	+	+		6+
14	Tall, Dark and Handsome	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	12+
	Texas Rangers Ride Again	(Para)	+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
	Texas Terrors	(Rep)	+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
	That Gang of Mine	(Mono)	±	±	=	+	−	±	−	±	5+ 8−
	They Knew What They Wanted	(RKO)	ǂ	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	14+ 1−
	Thief of Bagdad	(UA)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
	Third Finger, Left Hand	(M-G-M)	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	This Thing Called Love	(Col)	+	+	ǂ		ǂ		±		7+ 1−
	Three Men From Texas	(Para)	+		ǂ	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
	Thundering Frontier	(Col)	−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
	Tin Pan Alley	(20th-Fox)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Too Many Girls	(RKO)	+	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	11+ 1−
	Torpedo Raider	(Mono)	∓								1+ 1−
	Trail Blazers	(Rep)	+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
	Trail of the Silver Spurs	(Mono)			+						1+
	Trail of the Vigilantes	(Univ)	+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
	Trailin' Double Trouble	(Mono)	∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
	Triple Justice	(RKO)	+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
	Tugboat Annie Sails Again	(WB)	+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
	U										
	Under Texas Skies	(Rep)	+		±	+			+	±	5+ 2−
	Up in the Air	(Mono)	+	±	±		+	+	+	∓	7+ 3−
	V										
	Victory	(Para)	+	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	+		9+ 1−
	Villain Still Pursued Her, The	(RKO)	±	∓	−	±	±	∓	±		6+ 7−
12	Virginia	(Para)	ǂ	±	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+		11+ 2−
	W										
	Wagon Train	(RKO)	+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
	Wagons Westward	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	−	∓	±	±	7+ 5−
	West of Pinto Basin	(Mono)	±		±	+	ǂ	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
	Westerner, The	(UA)	±	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	+	10+ 1−
	Where Did You Get That Girl	(Univ)	+	±		±	+	+	±		6+ 3−
	Who Is Guilty?	(Mono)	−	±		±			±	+	4+ 4−
	Who Killed Aunt Maggie?	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
	Wild Horse Range	(Mono)							±	∓	2+ 2−
	World in Flames	(Para)	+		ǂ	ǂ	+		+	+	8+
	Wyoming	(M-G-M)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 1−
8	Wyoming Wildcat	(Rep)	+			+					2+
	Y										
	Yesterday's Heroes	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
	You'll Find Out	(RKO)	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	You're the One	(Para)							−		1−
	Young Bill Hickok	(Rep)	±		∓	+			±		4+ 3−
	Young People	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	ǂ	+	+	+	+	9+
11	You're Out of Luck	(Mono)	±	±		∓	±	±			5+ 5−
	Youth Will Be Served	(20th-Fox)	±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Yukon Flight	(Mono)	+			+					2+


Alfred Hitchcock
says
THIS IS
LOVE!

With Two in the TEN BEST for 1940

CAROLE *Lombard*

ROBERT *Montgomery*



ere is Alfred Hitchcock's FIRST for 1941!



HE ALL-TIME PRIZE PANIC OF THE SCREEN!

Mr. & Mrs. Smith

with

GENE RAYMOND JACK CARSON

PHILIP MERIVALE · LUCILE WATSON

Story and Screen Play by NORMAN KRASNA

Directed by

ALFRED HITCHCOCK



The Devil and Miss Jones on the way!

Jean Arthur in "The Devil and Miss Jones," with Robert Cummings, Charles Coburn, Edmund Gwen, Spring Byington and many others. Directed by Sam Wood, director of "Kitty Foyle" and "Mr. Chips." Produced by Frank Ross-Norman Krasna, Inc. Screen Play by Norman Krasna.

LITHO

See Clearance Under Franchises Shifting

(Continued from page 4)

requiring a distributor to include as many as five in a group. "Features may be offered singly or in groups of two, three, four or five. So long as the number . . . is five or less, the matter is entirely one of negotiation with the exhibitor. You can insist that the exhibitor must take all or none of that particular group or you can reduce the number which were originally offered as a group," go the instructions.

The analysis thereafter goes into careful detail to explain how blocks of five are to be sold. For instance:

"If more than five trade shown features are available, you may substitute features from one group and place it in another. Likewise, you may offer one exhibitor a group containing five particular features and offer his competitor a group of five in which only three, for example, of the features offered the first exhibitor are included. The vital thing is that not more than five features may be the subject of any one offer or negotiation, and that in all negotiations in which the question of a substitution of features is involved, no basis be given for a claim that, in fact, you were offering more than five features in a single group.

On Price

"In negotiating with an exhibitor as to price, there is no requirement that a separate price be placed on each individual picture in a group. They may be priced individually, or a flat price may be fixed for the group as a whole and negotiations conducted on that basis.

"The decree expressly recognizes that a distributor's salesman may license or offer for license more than one group of features at the same visit, provided, however, that the licensing of one group may not be conditioned upon the licensing of another group or feature. In other words, you cannot force the exhibitor to take one group or feature in order to secure a license for another group.

"In any negotiation, however, which involves more than one group of features, the utmost caution should be used so as to avoid any claim that in fact you were offering more than five features at the same time.

May Choose Customer

"Where competitive situations exist it is not necessary for a distributor to offer a group of features to each of the competing exhibitors. You may freely choose the exhibitor to which you wish to make the first offer and, if satisfactory terms are arrived at, you may license the features without attempting to license the competing exhibitor.

'Where competitive situations exist it is recognized that difficult questions may arise when a distributor has more than one group of features available for licensing. In all such situations you must be certain that the negotiations in question relate only to individual groups and that the licensing of one is not tied up with the licensing of another.

"Where an exhibitor has entered into a license agreement and claims that he was forced to take the particular group of features involved in order to secure another group of features which he desired, he may arbitrate the matter.

"Where an exhibitor does not enter into a license agreement, but claims that more than five features were offered as a part of a single group or that the licensing of one group of features was conditioned upon the licensing by him of another group, he may arbitrate the matter."

Circuit buys for the entire country, or any portion of it, may continue to be centralized in New York as in the past, according to Jenkins, but the contracts must be individually applied to the territory in which the theatres function. "This means," he states, "that if an exhibitor has theatres which are located in the Chicago exchange district and others located in the Indianapolis exchange district, the license for the theatres in the Chicago district cannot be made applicable to and cannot include the theatres in the Indianapolis district. There is nothing, however, that prohibits either the distributor or the exhibitor from negotiating with respect to both groups of theatres at the same time and the same place." And, of course, one deal cannot be conditioned upon any other deal involving a different area.

Perhaps open to future controversy is that portion of the handbook which gives 20th-Fox's interpretation of an independent buying through combines. In discussing Sec. X of the decree, which deals with refusal to license an independent exhibitor on the run requested by him, Jenkins holds such an exhibitor is not entitled to arbitrate under this section unless he can show he is an independent. What Jenkins views as an independent follows in his own language:

"This means that he must be wholly independent of any circuit or buying combination of more than five theatres. If the exhibitor in question operates, or is interested in any way whatsoever in the operation of more than five theatres, or if the features for his theatre are licensed by, or through, a buying combine, cooperative or agent which acts for more than five theatres, he is entitled to none of the advantages set forth in this section."

Kent and His Decree Credo

New York—In a foreward to the handbook on the decree prepared by Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel, for 20th-Fox sales force, Sidney R. Kent, president, states:

"We intend that this company shall live up to both the letter and spirit of the decree.

"A system of arbitration has been set up which will be honestly and impartially administered. It is our hope that our company will be in only those arbitration proceedings in which a fundamental and honest difference of opinion is involved. We have no business in any other kind of dispute.

"We think you men in the field can straighten out most local problems on a man to man basis and we expect you to continue to deserve the respect of exhibitors."



C. E. Williams Dead—

Funeral services were held in Omaha Wednesday for Charles E. Williams, long president of MPTO of Nebraska and Iowa. He died Sunday evening, following a paralytic stroke, at 72.

Peace for Chains May Be Reached Sans Trial

(Continued from page 4)

slap in the face because of the pending suits. Yet, nothing can be done about it unless the suit is tried or an agreement on expansion reached in the form of decrees.

Tony Sudekum of the Crescent circuit in Nashville has been holding out and has not approached the government on any kind of a deal.

BOXOFFICE, some months ago, intimated that the department of justice would entertain settlement negotiations on the three pending suits. Likewise, the same idea has been talked about for "The Little Three," which declined to become parties to an all-industry decree in the big suit.

In addition to the big suit, "The Big Five" have been eliminated as defendants in the Griffith and Crescent actions and, while a similar stand was expected in the Schine suit, it is believed no move has been made because of the possibility a favorable outcome of pending negotiations, which would automatically take care of the distributor defendants.

Small Will Make Five This Year for UA List

HOLLYWOOD—Hitting back at published reports stressing a "strike" among UA producers, but without recognizing the fact such stories had been published, is word from Edward Small he will make five this year.

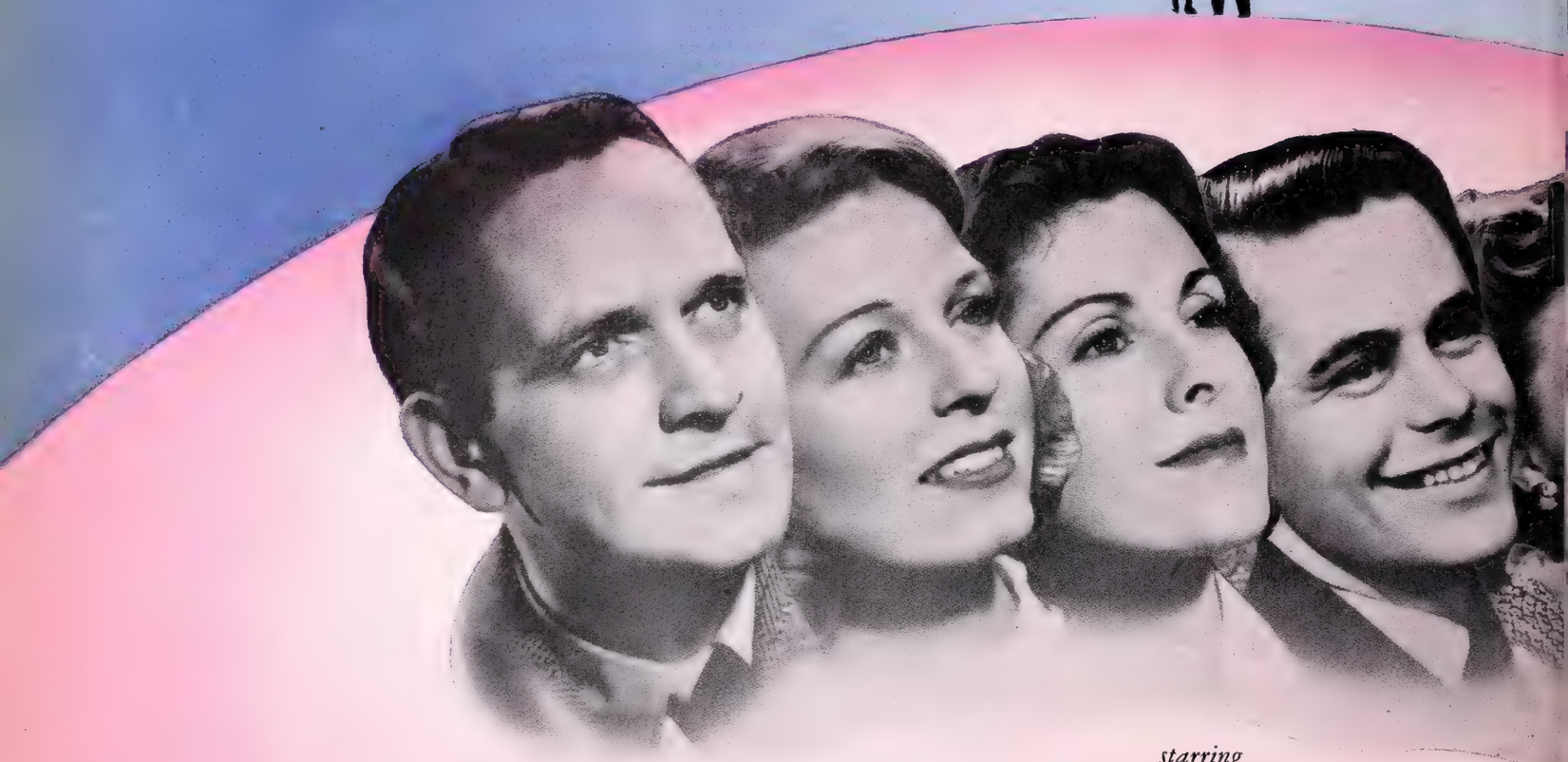
Two of the quintet he plans to deliver to UA for distribution this year. The others presumably will be sold next season. "The Corsican Brothers" already had been listed, but new are "My Official Wife," "Sabotage," "She Was a Working Girl" and another so far untitled.

A picture audiences will see with

DAVID L. LOEW · ALBERT LEWI

present

SO ENDS OUR



starring

FREDRIC MARCH ★ MARGARET SULLAVA

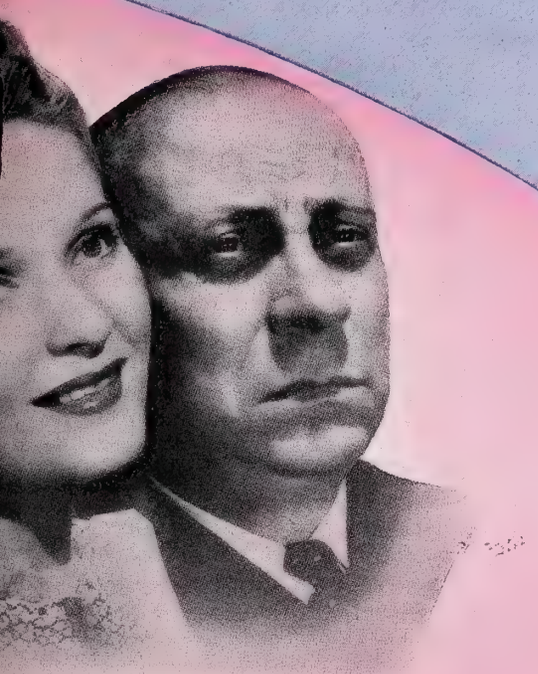
with **GLENN FORD ★ ANNA STEN** *and* **ERICH VO**

Directed by John Cromwell • Screenplay by Talbot Jennings

Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

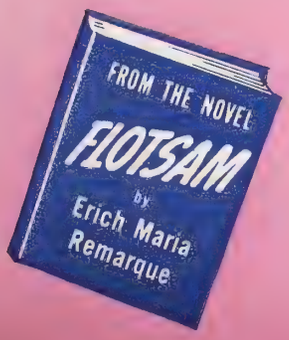
eir hearts

NIGHT



FRANCES DEE

TROHEIM



Two
GREAT LOVE STORIES

Six
GREAT PERFORMANCES

Fredric March
star of "A Star is Born"
as Steiner

Margaret Sullavan
star of "The Mortal Storm"
as Ruth

Frances Dee
star of "Wells Fargo"
as Marie

Glenn Ford
the screen's newest romantic
discovery, as Kern

Anna Sten
glamorous actress in her
greatest screen role!

Erich von Stroheim
the man you love to hate,
as Brenner

Support Gov't on Decree, Despite Its "Flaws"

WASHINGTON—Section III of the New York consent decree will be an adequate solution for the problem of blind selling, but other provisions of the decree have serious drawbacks, in the view of Allied.

Nevertheless, it was decided at the annual meeting of the Allied directorate this week, the association will go along with the government in its effort to bring about a new order in the industry.

Officers Re-Elected

At the annual election, all 1940 officers were re-elected and Arthur K. Howard was named recording secretary, to fill a vacancy. Col. H. A. Cole was re-elected president; Abram F. Myers, chairman of the board and general counsel; Martin G. Smith, treasurer; Herman A. Blum, financial secretary, and Charles H. Olive, secretary.

The executive committee, with one exception, also was renamed, the only change being the substitution of Roy E. Harrold for W. A. Steffes, for whom, "in consideration of his long and faithful service to the association," a new position of honorary national councillor was created. Other members of the committee are Colonel Cole, Nathan Yamins, Sidney E. Samuelson, Martin G. Smith, Jack Kirsch and M. A. Rosenberg, with Myers an *ex officio* member.

Although the directors considered a number of subjects, the consent decree was the most important matter to come up and was, in fact, the only subject on which any statement was issued publicly.

Pointing out that Allied's main objectives in the past have been the abolishment of compulsory block booking and blind selling and the right of the independent exhibitor freely to contract for pictures on appropriate runs and on "fair and nondiscriminatory terms," the committee on policy, in a lengthy report, analyzed the decree from these angles.

"Admittedly Section III, providing for trade showings, is a remedy for blind selling," it was declared in that report.

"Heretofore, Allied has contended for the identification of pictures, synopses instead of trade showings, so that pictures could be sold in advance and in such quantities as the parties might agree upon. Some exhibitors are concerned about Section III because of its close relation to the provision for selling in groups of five. But putting out of mind differences as to the most acceptable method of accomplishing the desired end, it must be conceded that the consent decree ends blind selling.

"Section IV, providing for the selling of pictures in groups of not more than five each, makes selling somewhat more elastic than it now is, but it does not abolish compulsory block booking.

"Under the new system weak pictures can still be forced with the strong. Selling at frequent intervals instead of on an annual basis casts an undue burden on the exhibitors and increases the opportunities of the distributors to play one exhibitor against another and to impose harsh terms. Unless the distributors are scrupulously fair in selling under the new system, the hardships will outweigh the benefits.

"Section IV contains a forthright declaration that no exhibitor shall be required to license short subjects, re-issues, westerns or foreigns as a condition to the right to license desired groups of features. This should be effective to eradicate a serious evil. We recognize, however, that so long as distributor representatives have several classes of products to sell the exhibitors at the same time there will be a temptation to condition the sale of desired product upon the acceptance of unwanted product. This can be overcome and the provision can be made effective if the distributors insist upon good faith observance by their sales forces and exhibitors are alert to make a record of all infractions which will stand the test of an arbitration proceeding."

Believe "Divorce" Essential

The committee paid particular attention to those provisions of the decree touching upon the right to buy, but expressed the view that the abuses long complained of can be eliminated only by the divorce of exhibition from other branches of the industry, holding that the decree provision postponing action on that point for three years is the "most disappointing" feature of the decree.

"Section VI should be effective to prevent exclusive selling," it was stated. "The language is nicely balanced to insure a run to all worthy exhibitors without lending encouragement to shooting galleries and fly-by-nights. We feel that the clause protecting the distributor's total film revenue in the area should not be interpreted to cover threats of withdrawal of patronage made by circuits to perpetuate their local monopolies.

Praise for Arbitration

"Section VIII, providing for the arbitration of complaints of unreasonable clearance, is in good form and should be effective except for the provisions protecting clearance granted in certain franchises.

"Section X, relating to discrimination in the granting of a run, imposes so many conditions to the right to arbitrate thereunder as to be of little practical value. However, for those who can qualify under its provisions, the section holds out the prospect of relief from the most serious abuse that has been practiced by the Big Eight.

"For a number of years Allied has contended that the only effective remedy for the abuses attempted to be dealt with in the foregoing paragraphs was the separation of production and distribution from exhibition. Section XI, postponing the issue of theatre divorcement for three years, is the weakest and most disappointing feature of the decree. It is doubtful whether, under its provisions, the government can control acquisitions to any extent during the test period. However, in view of the outstanding importance of this subject, acquisitions or new developments by any of the consenting distributors which indicate a general policy of expansion, such as would violate the decree, should be promptly reported to national Allied."

Flashes From the News Front

Hub Film Curb Strict

BOSTON—John G. Spencer, chief of the licensing board, has ordered exhibitors here to notify him in writing, within four days before the showing, of plans to exhibit any in the list of 34 pictures he attached to the order. All were foreign-made or states rights films. Included, however, was the reissue of "The Private Life of Henry VIII."

New Nebraska Bills

LINCOLN—Senator Neubauer is back this year with two industry tax bills. One, a duplicate of his 1939 try, would impose a license fee of $1,000 annually and a tax of $1 per reel upon distributors. The other would levy ten per cent against admissions.

New England Flu Wanes

PORTLAND, ME.—Numerous schools in the New England states that were closed in the wave of flu and grippe epidemics are reopening. Children were barred from theatres in some localities.

Walker Is Renamed

WASHINGTON—Frank C. Walker has been re-appointed by President Roosevelt as postmaster general.

Product Problem First

MINNEAPOLIS—Bennie Berger, independent, has announced he will complain to the local arbitration board of inability to obtain suitable product for his Esquire here and World in St. Paul. Irving Gillman, owner of the Gayety, says he will ask relief for his house on the same plea.

Two Suits Postponed

DETROIT—The suit of Midwest (Raymond Schreiber) against Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan has been postponed to Monday. Another suit, in which Jacob Schreiber, uncle of Raymond, is seeking to regain possession of Midwest houses, has been delayed to March 18.

To Talk on Decree

CHICAGO—Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel for 20th-Fox, is due here February 7 for a two-day session with the local sales setup to outline company operation under the consent decree.

Boston Allied Meet Set

BOSTON—The annual convention of the local Allied unit has been set for February 11 by Frank Lydon, president.

"These honest portrayals of life in our Armed Service are of great value to the country in these times of national preparedness.

WARNER BROS.

are to be congratulated for the patriotic service they perform in producing films of this type."

Walter H. Sitz

Lieut. Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps. Commanding

Through the cooperation of the U. S. Marine Corps, Warner Bros. present

MARCH ON Marines



A two-reel Vitaphone Short in **TECHNICOLOR**

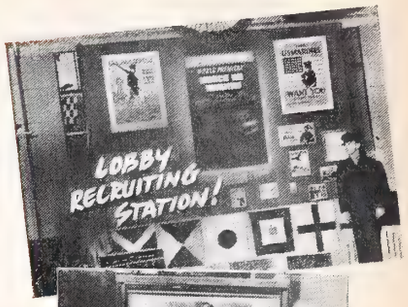
"All recruiting officers are enjoined to cooperate fully with managers of theatres which have this picture on exhibition." **Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, Wash.**

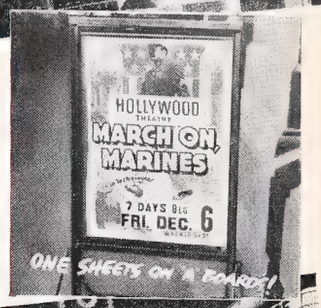
W. E. Burke, By Direction

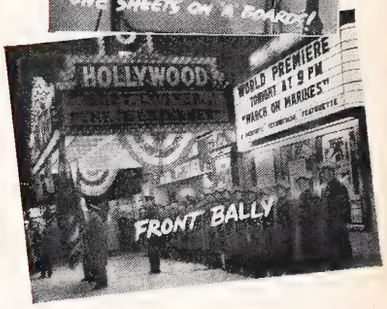
with **DENNIS MORGAN** · **JOHN LITEL** and **The MARINES**

This is the Campaign of the Hollywood, East Orange, N. J.

There are dozens more like it!





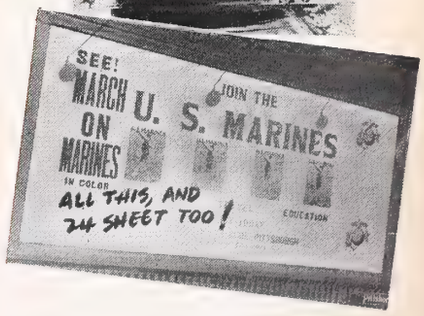


. . EASY TO EXPLOIT AND PROFITABLE TO PLAY

"The results obtained from the showing of this picture thoroughly convinces me that Warners' patriotic subjects (and this one in particular) can get extra business when properly exploited."

R. W. Hill, District Manager





By COL. FRANK KNOX

Secretary of the Navy:

"I am advised by Capt. Jules James of the Navy Department that 'March on, Marines' is an excellent picture. I am sure that a wide distribution of it will be very useful."

Arbitration Boards Ready for Operation

(Continued from page 17)

fied for law practice in Tennessee and Mississippi in '39 and '40. He is a Sigma Chi and Delta Sigma Pi man. For three years he was identified with the Wesson Oil Snowdrift Sales Co. and with the city of Memphis for three years as treasurer, bookkeeper and as superintendent and acting clerk of the juvenile court. His office is located in the Shrine Building.

Milwaukee—John L. Loell is new to this city, having resided here for only six months. He is married and a member of the University of Michigan club. He studied at Michigan where he played football and baseball. A lawyer, Loell has had experience in banking, his chosen profession, and in the field of industrial relations. His office is located in the Loyalty Building.

Minneapolis—Sheldon M. Ostroot has lived in this city and state for 17 years. He is married, has a young daughter, is a member of the Minneapolis Vocational Guidance Ass'n, the Civic Service Club and Minneapolis L's Men's Club. He holds a B.A. from University of Minnesota where he majored in socio-psychology. The last four years he was an interviewer and placement officer in the Minneapolis office of the division of employment and security and has been assistant educational director of the Minneapolis YMCA and boys' work secretary of the YMCA at Lima, O. His office is located in the McKnight Building.

New Haven—Oliver Frederick Bishop has lived here for 38 years. He is married, has two daughters and graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School in '09 and the Yale School of Forestry in '11. For three years, Bishop was attached to the U. S. forest service, to the Philippine bureau of forestry for four years and for 10 years was with the Holland American Plantations Co., an affiliate of U. S. Rubber, stationed at Sumatra, Dutch West Indies. His office is located in the Second National Life Building.

New Orleans—Charles Quentin Blomquist has been living here for 15 years. He is married and carries the degree of bachelor of science in business from the University of Minnesota, '24. For several years, Blomquist was claims supervisor in the accident and health department of the Union Indemnity Co. here. Prior to that he was for eight years office manager and accountant for the Orleans Ice Manufacturing Co. and for three years was a farmer, raising strawberries chiefly. His office is located in the Barrone Building.

New York—Charles S. Wall lives in Jackson Heights and for 32 years has been a resident of New York and environs. He is a widower and has three adult children. In '06 he received his LLB at the Kent College of Law, Chicago. Former business affiliations include Armour & Co., Chicago; National City Bank and National City Co., New York. He was also in the brokerage business here and is a lawyer. His office is located in the U. S. Rubber Building, Radio City.

Oklahoma City—Richard Edward Romang is a native Oklahoman, has lived in Oklahoma City four years, is married, is a member of Phi Alpha Delta, legal fraternity, and of the Oklahoma State Bar Ass'n. He got his B.A. at the University of Chicago in '34, his LLB at the University of Oklahoma in '36, won an oratorical contest at Oklahoma, is a member of the literary society of that school, played violin for two years in its orchestra and is active in YMCA work. Romang has engaged in law for the past five years. His office is located in the Commercial Exchange Building.

Omaha—Byron Evers Pulis has lived in this city and state for 22 years. He is a bachelor, is interested in the theatre, graduated from Omaha Technical High School where he took a business course. For 11 years was assistant to the Omaha traveling passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific road. His office is located in Woodmen of the World Building.

Philadelphia—William Elliot is a resident of New Jersey. He gives as his business background a sales managership with Packard motors and cites his association with the trade relations department of the AAA. His office is located at 1420 Walnut St.

Pittsburgh—William Alexander Livingston has lived in Pennsylvania 40 years and in Pittsburgh 15. He is married and childless, a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 657 at Avalon, Pa., and a high school graduate who later enrolled in evening classes at the University of Pittsburgh. He was formerly employed as an examiner for the Globe and Republic Fire Insurance Co. and for the past six years by the Home Owners Loan Corp., as a field representative. His office is located in the Investment Building.

Portland, Ore.—J. P. Nelson has been a resident of this city and state for 22 years. He is married and has two adult children. He attended the Warren High School, Warren, Minn. and took a business course at the North Star College in that same town. A member of the Retail Credit Ass'n, Nelson was assistant cashier of the Northern State Bank, Grand Forks, N. D. in '17-18; manager of the note department, Northwestern National Bank, Portland, from '18 to '27; assistant credit manager, Meier and Frank Co., Portland, from '27 to '34 and credit manager of the Charles F. Berg, Inc., here from '34 to '40. His office is located in the Pittock Building.

Salt Lake City—G. Roy Backman has lived in this city and state for 27 years. He is married and has a son 10 months old. Backman studied for three years at the University of Utah and is a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Business background includes the post of purchasing agent of the soil conservation service of the department of agriculture, secretary to Mayor John M. Wallace of Salt Lake and assistant secretary of the Utah Centennial Commission. His office is located in the Continental Bank Building.

San Francisco—Charles Chambers was a field administrator under the NRA cotton garment code and an automobile sales manager in '29. For six years he has been with the AAA. His office is located in the Mills Tower Building.

Seattle—Joe James Monahan has lived in Washington for 40 years, in Seattle 15. He is married and has two children. He attended Oregon State College and was a member of the Seattle Association of Credit Men until '39 and served on its board for two years. Business background includes the post of credit manager of the Crescent Manufacturing Co., food products concern. Monahan is the inventor of Mapleine, a syrup which he says is shipped around the world. His office is located in the Marion Building.

St. Louis—Charles Walter Hudson has lived in this city and state for 65 years. He is married and has one grown child. He belongs to the Missouri Athletic Ass'n, studied in high school and took two years of commercial law. Hudson was with the Hoyt Metal Co. and National Lead from '01 and was sales manager of the mixed metal department. His office is located in the Cotton Belt Building.

Washington—Harold Bullard Barton was born in Worcester, Mass., where he received his early vocation. Later, he studied at Harvard and undertook graduate work in social economics at Clark University and in education and economics at Stanford University. He was a teacher in history and economics and, at one time, taught at St. John's College, Shanghai. While in government service, he was trade commissioner to the Caucasus and was attached to the embassy in London where he did research for the commercial attache there. In business, he was identified with Ford in Paris, a mining concern in Paris, was district manager in Chicago and Boston for Vitaglass Corp. in advertising with J. Walter Thompson Co. and branch manager for that company at Sao Paulo, Brazil. At one time, he was British manager for Simplicity Patterns, Ltd. His office is in the Dendrike Bldg.

Dwight and Pride Explain Decree at Circuit Meet

LOS ANGELES—Richard Everett Dwight and Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, attorneys for 20th-Fox, will explain all phases of the decree to National Theatres divisional managers at their annual meeting slated to get under way at the Ambassador the week of February 10.

These attorneys assisted Felix A. Jenkins in the preparation of a handbook for 20th-Fox sales forces and are understood to be working on a similar book for National Theatres men. William T. Powers and Aubrey Schenck of the circuit's home office staff have prepared a tentative draft of an analysis of the text, but this is being polished up by Dwight and Pride.

Spyros in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—Spyros Skouras, president, and Harry Cox, treasurer of National Theatres, were here during the week for business conferences.

Clerks Drawn From Many Trade Fields



FOUR OUT OF TEN WINS!

The record speaks for itself! There can be no question as to which company won the Quigley Short Subject Annual Exhibitor Vote. The results appeared on Page 21 of Motion Picture Herald, issue of Jan. 11, 1941, as follows:

The Leaders

The leaders of the general featurette poll, the ten which received the highest number of favorable citations, are, in order they placed:

1. .....
2. .....
3. *Crime Does Not Pay*
4. *Pete Smith Specialties*
5. .....
6. .....
7. .....
8. .....
9. *Our Gang*
10. *Passing Parade*

only musical series in the ten-list was War

M-G-M 4
Next Company 3
Next Company 1
Next Company 1
Next Company 1

Leadership means doing the unusual *first!*
Here's M-G-M's newest idea:
Tapping an unexplored field,
Short story masterpieces at last
On the screen—the first is
"THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH"
One of M-G-M's most important steps
In years of short subject leadership.

•

Get ready for PETE SMITH'S "PENNY TO THE RESCUE," another Prudence Penny cookery comedy in Technicolor. It's swell. Also CAREY WILSON'S "MORE ABOUT NOSTRADAMUS," a sequel to the prediction short that fascinated the nation.

Watch for this great short subject!

"THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH"

featuring

PAUL KELLY
VICTOR KILLIAN

The O. Henry Memorial Award-Winning Short Story

What the Studios Are Doing

Studios Near Winter Production Record

HOLLYWOOD—A picture-a-day tempo is indicated for a new winter production record as 31 features are scheduled to go before the cameras during February. Looking further ahead, 11 have been set for March starting, with four already pointing to an April sendoff. Paramount and Warner are starting six each this month; Univeral, four; Metro and RKO, three each; 20th-Fox, Columbia, Republic, Monogram, two each; UA, one.

Academy Award Selections Entering Home Stretch

Approximately 4,000 creative artists have begun voting for the candidates for Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awards. The banquet for distribution of the "Oscars" will be held February 27 at the Biltmore Bowl.

Employment Fails to Keep Pace With Production

Despite the fact that production is soaring toward a winter record, a drop of $14,317 in weekly payrolls for December as compared with November is announced by the state labor department. While studios employed 12,391, only 37 less than in November, the average weekly salary of $43.87 was $1.03 below the preceding month. Central Casting disclosed extra players wound up 1940 with $594,905 less than at the end of 1939.

"Jane Eyre" Is Next Selznick UA Release

The first of three pictures David O. Selznick will produce for United Artists release will be "Jane Eyre," from the novel by Charlotte Bronte. The producer is asking fans to write their choice of Vivien Leigh, Joan Fontaine or Katharine Hepburn in the title role. The first two are Selznick pactees.

Miscellany

"The Red Pony," by John Steinbeck, will be the first independent feature to be made by the unit headed by William Hawks and Lewis Milestone for 20th-Fox release. The duo will do "My Life With Caroline," starring Ronald Colman, for RKO Radio release . . . Newly designed and perfected film laboratory equipment was described and demonstrated at a meeting of the western section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers . . . Carolyn Lee's first under her new long-term Paramount pact will be the starring role in "You Go Your Way," by Katharine Brush. Edward H. Griffith will produce and direct . . . Warner has lifted its suspension on Wayne Morris and pegged him for the topline role in "Parachute Jumpers." The star was suspended when he turned down a proffered role in "Knockout" . . . The trade's official spokesmen are looking the other way when RKO-Hearst battle comment is sought.

Universal in Lead Bandwagon On Marketing New Output

NEW YORK—Universal will lead the bandwagon in next season's selling and begin marketing its 1941-42 features and shorts shortly after a three-day mid-season meeting at the Blackstone, Chicago, February 8-10 of all branch, district and division managers.

Matthew Fox, vice-president, has been in town all week from the coast going over plans with Nate J. Blumberg, president, who returned a week ago after an extensive stay on the coast, and William A. Scully, general sales manager.

The number of features and shorts for the new season has not been completed. The various groups of pictures proposed are now being studied as well as the possibility of a new series of shorts.

The Windy City sessions will take up the balance of the current season's output, in addition to new product to be announced before the men depart for their headquarters.

Universal is not a signatory to the decree and may begin selling its new product without screenings as soon as it desires. Because of plans by "The Big Five" to begin trade showings as early as July on next season's schedule, Universal will be taking the leadoff when it begins to swing into action after the Chicago palavers.

Directors met Tuesday at the home office for a regular meeting at which time the contemplated program was reported to have been presented by Blumberg and Fox. J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board, also has been on the coast looking over material for next season.

Scully, who will preside at the Chicago meetings, states he does not plan any changes in personnel.

Two New "U" Buildings; One Being Altered

NEW YORK—New exchanges are being built for Universal in Cincinnati and Indianapolis and alterations have been completed at the Cleveland branch. The new Cincinnati building will be ready for occupancy March 1, and the Indianapolis quarters April 1.

Variety Club Convention Set for May 15-16-17

PITTSBURGH—The national convention of the Variety Club will be held May 15-16-17 at the Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City, according to John L. Harris, president. Dates previously were announced as April 17-18-19.

Committees are being appointed and work is starting immediately from the Traymore headquarters.

Equipment Dealers To Name Officers

CHICAGO—The roster of officers will be elected at the second annual convention of Theatre Equipment Dealers Ass'n, slated for the Congress Hotel, February 8-10. Harry Graham of Denver will be acting chairman.

All equipment manufacturers will be represented, although no displays are being permitted. The main purpose of the three-day meeting is to cooperate with President Roosevelt's rearmament program.

Among dealers who have made known their plans to attend are Ken Douglass of Capitol Theatre Supply, Boston; Des Moines Theatre Supply, Des Moines; Roy Colvin of Exhibitors Supply Co., St. Louis; Falls City Theatre Equipment, Louisville, Ky.; John P. Filbert of the company of the same name in Los Angeles; Ger-Bar, Inc., Indianapolis; Joe Goldberg of the same name in Chicago; Harry Graham, Graham Bros., Denver; M. O. O'Neill, Guercio & Barthel, Chicago; Joe Hornstein, Joe Hornstein Theatre Supply, New York City; Louisiana M. P. Equipment, New Orleans; George McArthur, McArthur Theatre Equipment, Detroit.

Also Eldon Peek, Oklahoma Theatre Supply, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Walter G. Preddey, Walter G. Preddey Theatre Supplies, San Francisco; Miss V. Harwell, Queen Feature Service, Birmingham, Ala.; O. J. Hazen, Service Theatre Supply, Salt Lake City; Ben Shearer, representing his own offices in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Portland; Ray Smith, Ray Smith Co., Milwaukee; Southwestern Theatre Equipment Co., Houston; Stebbins Theatre Equipment, Kansas City, Mo.; Superior M. P. Co., Pittsburgh; George Breneman, United Projector & Film Corp., Buffalo; F. A. Van Husan, Western Theatre Supply Co., Omaha; C. B. Paden, Western Theatrical Equipment, San Francisco.

REVIEW FLASHES

BUCK PRIVATES (Univ)—Timeliness is this feature's greatest asset. As the first of an impending large number of pictures dealing with the draft and other phases of national defense, it will doubtlessly strike a popular chord and register revenue scores of husky proportions. During the film's comic and musical moments, it is very good entertainment, thanks to Abbott and Costello and the Andrews Sisters. When the story veers toward the dramatic and super patriotic, however, it loses ground. Alex Gottlieb produced; Arthur Lubin directed.

YOU'RE THE ONE (Para't)—Fans who have dumped carloads of nickels into the juke boxes to hear wee Bonnie Baker and Orrin Tucker's orchestra should be more than satisfied with their first film appearance. It's a nonsensical musical giving Bonnie plenty of opportunity to display her talents. Gene Markey produced; Ralph Murphy directed.

NOW PRINTING

BOXOFFICE Barometer for 1941

"You are to be congratulated upon the excellent coverage of product as evidenced by BOXOFFICE BAROMETER. *This is one of the most complete and helpful arrangements we have ever had the pleasure of using and we hope you will keep up the good work each succeeding year."*

—CHARLES ROTH
Valley Enterprises, Inc.
Harrisburg, Va.

Not only does BAROMETER do a thorough job of coverage on product for the past year, but also on the physical phase of the theatre—inside and out. Besides there's a very good look into what's coming for the year ahead.

OUT THIS MONTH

Ascap-BMI Battle Opens Rumor Mart

(Continued from page 11)

popular tunes are not sung or played. The advertisers will force the networks to make peace with Ascap or withdraw or decline to renew their contracts.

For number two it goes like this: The networks are "not excited" because they know the peak of perfection in radio broadcasting has been reached. With NBC, through RCA, and CBS, through Columbia Phonograph, directly interested in the production and sale of television receivers, the new medium will get going with such a blast that the public may be promised a variety of programs—although coverage will be limited—and combination television and radio receivers at "moderate" prices. This could not fail to excite the public, at least long enough to temporarily distract their attention from Ascap-less radio programs, and thus give the networks even more time to offer resistance to Ascap. The promise of television, however limited, would, of course, be sincere.

Theatres May Plug Songs

The number three answer is said to have come under consideration of a few music publishers and points to this: The one-time popular "bouncing-ball" slide which invited audiences to participate in community singing would be revived. A group of the bigger music publishers would offer the slides either gratis or for a small fee. They would be the most popular Ascap tunes of the day and would be nothing more or less than an out-an-out plug for the songs that have been depopularized through lack of radio presentation. The idea would be launched with a national advertising campaign built around a slogan like: "Hear Your Favorite Songs at Your Neighborhood Theatre."

Long a dream and now closer than ever to realization is that of another national network made up of affiliated and independent stations. This is the gist of number four. It stems from the long opposed exclusive contract arrangement NBC and CBS has had with many stations which pipe in to the major programs whenever they are so called upon. If such a new chain were formed it would tie up with Ascap, a situation held to be desirable but denied the smaller stations in the past. The reason such a network is not at the moment under formation is that it is feared CBS and NBC might "any day" capitulate and come to terms with Ascap and leave the new network "out on a limb."

Calls National Theatre Supply Meet for Feb. 9

NEW YORK—Walter E. Green, president, has called the annual meeting of National Theatre Supply branch managers, officers and general sales promotion personnel for February 9-14 at the Belmont Plaza here. Manufacturers of various products distributed by National will be represented at the five-day session during which Green will act as chairman and Oscar S. Oldknow, vice-president, will be vice-chairman.







Paramount Fetes Balaban in Chicago—

Directly above, Barney Balaban (center), president of Paramount and its theatre subsidiary, with Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board, and E. V. Richards, head of the Saenger Amusement circuit, in New Orleans. Top left, Balaban makes a stab at expressing his appreciation via the microphone. Top right, Brother John Balaban, of B&K, and Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount vice-president in charge of production. The party was given by Paramount theatre partners as a testimonial to Balaban on his fifth anniversary as president of Paramount.

"U"-Pathe Lab Two-Year Contract Is Ratified

NEW YORK—Universal's board on Tuesday ratified a two-year deal with Pathe Laboratories whereby approximately 120,000,000 feet of film will be developed annually by that laboratory, starting February 1, 1941. The distributor's newsreel will be printed by H. E. R. Laboratories in the east under a sub-contract with Pathe.

Printing of the newsreel held up the deal for a while since Pathe could not handle it in New York, its laboratory being in Bound Brook, N. J. Sub-letting of the contract ironed this out.

Up to now Consolidated Film Laboratories has been handling all of Universal's developing in the east and west. There are no options attached to the deal.

Negotiations were handled on the coast by Nate J. Blumberg, president; Matthew Fox, vice-president, and Adolph Schimel, home office counsel for Universal, with Robert Benjamin and others for Pathe. Benjamin is eastern counsel for the company and a partner of Phillips & Nizer.

Travis to Pathe Board

NEW YORK—C. Merwin Travis, who has been vice-president of Pathe Laboratories in California, has been elected a director of Pathe Laboratories, N. J.

N. Y. Area Theatres Cut by 11 in 1940

NEW YORK—With a new total of 1,208 theatres seating 1,346,594 in the Greater New York area for 1940, the number marks a drop in 11 houses and a total of 2,711 seats, according to the New York Film Board annual survey. New York City saw the elimination of 10 houses while northern New Jersey showed one less than last year. The comparative years show 2,101 less seats in New York for 1940 and 610 for New Jersey area.

The number of theatres open in this exchange area was 1,068 seating 1,234,260 at the close of last year. This compares with 1,072 houses seating 1,240,304 in 1939. The latest report shows 140 closed houses, seating 112,334, as compared with 125 theatres and 103,579 seats for 1939.

There are currently listed 759 circuit theatres with 997,365 seats, as compared to 1939 when the figures were 771 houses and 1,023,016 seats. This is broken down to 131 affiliated houses in New York state seating 265,267, compared with 129 seating 262,958 in 1939; 66 affiliated theatres in New Jersey seating 117,492, compared with 66 seating 118,062 seats in 1939; 434 unaffiliated houses in New York seating 488,588, compared with 450 houses seating 519,112 in 1939; 128 unaffiliated theatres in New Jersey, 126,018 seats, compared with 126 seating 122,884 seats in 1939.

Independent theatres at the close of 1940 totaled 449 with 349,229 seats as compared with 426 and 320,867 seats in 1939. This is broken down to 314 houses seating 239,595 in New York state, compared with 290 and 209,279 seats in 1939; and for New Jersey, 135 theatres seating 109,634 seats, compared with 136 houses and 111,588 seats in 1939.

Total sound houses in 1940 were 1,192 against 1,179 the previous year. Total silent houses showed a drop of two. The total number of closed houses in 1940 was 140, or 15 more than in 1939, of which 124 were sound and 16 silent as compared to 107 sound and 18 silent in 1939.

Gulkas & Rosenzweig May Get Bronx Units

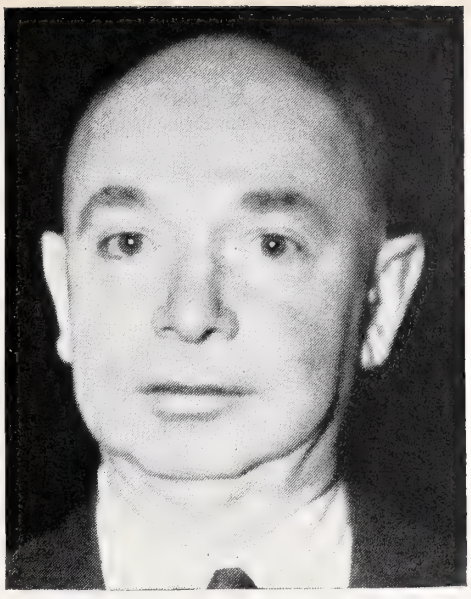
NEW YORK—Negotiations are under way by Gulkas & Rosenzweig to take over operation of the Beach and Yorke in the Bronx. The Cocalis circuit, current operators, is reported selling its interest. The circuit and G & R are partners in the Alpine, Bronx. G & R also have the Melba and Craft in the Bronx, in addition to a number of other theatres in Brooklyn and Long Island.

Sale of the two Bronx houses will mark the windup of operations in New York for the Cocalis circuit, which will continue to operate in New Jersey under J. J. Thompson.

William A. Scully, general sales manager for Universal, is an executor of the Cocalis estate. He passes on all deals.

Hartley Prod. Offices

NEW YORK—Hartley Productions, a 16 mm firm, have opened new offices and studios on W. 47th Street.



—Joyce-Nones

Albany, His Bailiwick—

This is Robert Elliot, thus far an unfamiliar face in the industry. He is the clerk of the AAA arbitration tribunal for the Albany area. Monday morning finds him, like his 30 confreres around the nation, open and ready for business.

To Chicago for 20th-Fox Talk on Decree Policy

CHICAGO—Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel for 20th-Fox, is due here February 7 for a two-day session with local sales force and personnel to explain the operations under the decree.

Prior to his arrival, he is due to have visited the Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Denver, Omaha and Des Moines, Minneapolis and Milwaukee branches on similar missions.

From here he will embrace midwestern, southern, Atlantic and other branches in the east and north east. He started on the tour January 27 following a week's conference at the studio with Sidney R. Kent, president; Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, counsel for Chase National Bank.

Although 20th-Fox is affiliated with National Theatres, Jenkins will not discuss theatre operations under the decree, attorneys for the circuit having prepared a simplified analysis for the purpose. These lawyers were William T. Powers and Aubrey Schenck.

The 20th-Fox counsel recently completed a 34-page handbook which is being made available to every salesman, booker, branch and district manager, in addition to divisional heads. Each provision of the decree is published with an interpretative appendage by Jenkins.

National Theatres division heads most likely will learn first hand the way the decree affects them at the February 10-12 annual meeting slated for the coast in Los Angeles.

Ricketson in East

NEW YORK—Rick Ricketson of Denver was in town the latter part of the week for National Theatres conferences at the home office.

Recognize Exhibitor Music Row Status

WASHINGTON—The stake of the exhibitor in the music controversy between the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, and Broadcast Music, Inc., is recognized in a consent decree which the latter has signed with the department of justice in a specific provision that BMI agrees never to engage in an all-or-none policy in licensing its music.

This means, it was explained by the department in announcing acceptance of the decree, that exhibitors and other commercial users of BMI music "will be able to obtain the right to perform any BMI compositions desired without being compelled to accept and take the entire BMI catalogue."

As a result of the agreement, BMI, the National Broadcasting Co. and the Columbia Broadcasting System will be dropped from the four-party criminal suit which the department last month announced it was about to initiate in Milwaukee.

Awaits Similar Ascap Rein

However, the decree will not become effective until similar restraints have been imposed upon Ascap, by way of either decree or litigation. Negotiations with Ascap for a consent decree were abruptly halted last month. At the same time, the department announced intention to proceed promptly with criminal proceedings against Ascap.

Under the agreement, BMI is not to discriminate in either price or terms among the users of copyrighted music, and all BMI compositions will be offered for performance to all users of the same class on equal terms and conditions. Music will be licensed on a pay-when-you-play basis, on either a per-piece or per-program schedule.

In a statement announcing the consummation of the agreement, Neville Miller, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, explained that it provides merely for the practices which BMI planned originally to adopt and pointed out that the decree specifically stipulates that it does not constitute an admission or finding of any violation of law on the part of the organization.

Extend Collections for Paralysis Campaign

NEW YORK—Collections in theatres for the National Infantile Paralysis Drive, which was scheduled to end Thursday, were being extended to Sunday night.

At all theatres where cash is being given away on games, winners were asked to donate part of the awards. In addition, persons admitted on passes were asked to contribute at least one dime.

Nicholas M. Schenck, chairman, expects the current campaign to be the most successful ever held. Every employe in every company has been asked to lend full support.

David Whalen Resigns

NEW YORK—David B. Whalen has resigned from the advertising department at Republic.

Loew Also Switches Aces to the Front

NEW YORK—On February 6 Loew's will emulate the RKO circuit by switching the order of presentation of double features so that the "top" picture hits the screen at 9 p. m., instead of at 10:30.

That Loew's has long been considering such a move was exclusively indicated by BOXOFFICE on October 5, when it reported the circuit "is known to be conducting a careful checkup of the experiment being conducted by RKO at the 86th Street."

On September 26 RKO tried the idea at the 86th Street, after John J. O'Connor, circuit head, considered the feasibility of attracting more night patronage if audiences could see the main feature at 9 p. m., thus vitiating the necessity of waiting until about 10:50 and getting out well after midnight.

Since that time RKO has extended the idea to nine houses in the metropolitan area, but is still engaged in jockeying the starting time between 9 p. m. and 9:30 p. m. Once a clear cut appraisal is reached the circuit will "gradually add more" houses, according to a spokesman. However, he points out RKO's units invariably run their shows later than Loew's, the difference being about 20 minutes. For this reason the circuit is more inclined to a 9:30 p. m. starting time for the main feature than at 9 p. m.

The Loew changeover will affect 35 houses, and is designed, according to Oscar A. Doob, to "answer the complaints of single-feature fans." They may have a leisurely dinner, reach the theatre about nine, see the main feature and be home at a reasonable hour. An extensive advertising campaign will use the slogan "The 9 o'Clock Plan."

These are the houses where the switch will take place: Inwood, Dyckman, Olympia, 72nd Street, Commodore, Avenue B. and Canal in Manhattan; Gates, Bedford, Melba, Century, Warwick, Brevoort, Bay Ridge, Boro Park, Oriental and Premier in Brooklyn; Burnside, Elsmere, Victory, Boston Road, Post Road, Burland and American in the Bronx; Prospect, Hillside, Willard and Woodside in Queens, and Embassy, North Bergen, N. J.; Proctor's, New Rochelle; Coliseum, Pelham; Castle Hill, Keith's, Flushing.

RKO Tests Switching of Duals at 81st Street

NEW YORK—The RKO circuit has added the 81st Street in Manhattan to the list of units experimenting with switching the order of presentation of double features so that the last complete show has the main attraction going on at 9 p. m.

Warner Club Readies 12th Annual Ball for March 8

NEW YORK—Warner's 12th annual banquet and ball, sponsored by the organization's club, will be held March 8 at the Waldorf. Talent for the affair is now being lined up.



—Metropolitan Photos

Author, Actor, Critic—

Maybe that explains the slightly quizzical look on Robert Benchley's face. Anyway, the news is he's back from the coast and next will be seen, and no doubt heard, in "The Reluctant Dragon," Disney feature cartoon for RKO release.

New York, Virginia Have Six in Construction

NEW YORK—Detail on theatre projects advanced in New York and Virginia during the last quarter of 1940 follow:

New York

Albany—Construction will start this spring on a 700-seat Warner house on Delaware Avenue.

Cohoes—Work is under way on the 1,000-seat Fabian theatre, scheduled to open this spring.

Great Neck—Construction has started on a 1,200-seat house by Bowler Realty Corp.

New York—The new Art in Greenwich Village, seating 600, opened a few weeks ago.

Loew's has opened the 2,000-seat American in the Parkchester development.

Virginia

Newport News—Abe Lichtman plans a new theatre.

Norfolk—The Levine circuit is completing the new Rosna.

Suffolk—The third Pitts-Roth house here is expected to be completed early this spring.

Start in Three Months On Bolognino House

NEW YORK—Construction will start in three months on the new 600-seat house, tentatively called the Mercury, at Eighth Avenue and 19th Street. Laurence Bolognino, operating head of the independent circuit, stated that, while no plans are set for additional units, he will consider any which have possibilities.

Rebuilt and Renamed

ALBANY—The Diana, Harrisville, badly damaged by fire last year, has been rebuilt and re-equipped. It is now called the Royal. Teddy Berkley is the operator.

Sees Readjustment As Earnings Boost

NEW YORK—Readjustment by the industry to conditions abroad as well as those developing as a result of the decree indicate "the moving picture business is moving ahead to much better earnings this year," states the *Wall Street Journal*, authoritative financial newspaper.

"The industry as a whole is probably in the strongest cash position in its history," the publication adds, "well prepared to weather any further business vicissitudes." It also states considerable progress has been made in cutting expenses and a smaller number of high priced films will be made this year.

"The provisions of the recent consent decree reached with the department of justice, modifying the industry's selling policies are not expected to have a serious adverse effect on business or costs."

Special notice is taken of Paramount's new position. The paper states the company is expected to show around $2.60 a share or more ($2.85 also has been reported) on the common for 1940. "Earnings so far in January are running much ahead of a year ago with the prospects good that the company will show the best first quarter earnings it has had in many years." Cash position is cited at around $12,000,000 for the parent company with an additional $10,000,000 in the treasuries of non-consolidated subsidiaries.

National Theatres has already declared a $700,000 dividend to 20th-Fox, which holds 48 per cent of the circuit's stock. Results of the last quarter "will be a good deal better" because of this dividend, the publication states. The first quarter of the new year should show continued improvement with indications the company will be well in the black for the first half of the year.

Sussman Adds Academy In Wappinger Falls

NEW YORK—Herman Sussman has added the Academy, Wappinger Falls, to his string of country towns upstate. He took the house from R. Marasco. M. Kaufman has finally given up the Sunshine, Manhattan, after months of trying to make it pay and without success. Joachim Tischler and Fred Stein have acquired the Costello from Edmund London. Seisser and Krasner are partners in Entertaining Playhouse, Inc., which recently relighted the Bobby, Brooklyn.

Smith & Sloane Boost Jersey String to 12

NEW YORK—Bringing their New Jersey total to 12, Smith & Sloane of St. Cloud Amusement Co., have acquired William Stein's four, the Palace, Flemington; Strand, Lambertsville; Gem, Frenchtown, and Strand, Hackettstown.

Charles Blum, formerly booker and supervising manager for the Stein group, has joined the Temple, Union City, in a like capacity.

BROADWAY

IT'S REASSURING to know that the industry need not fear a dearth of showmanship talent. There's gobs of it close by, and a healthy slice was dished up for the benefit of a few tables of RKO executives and trade press representatives when the Dexter Fellows Tent of the Circus Saints and Sinners Club of America inducted Christopher Morley as a member at a luncheon at the Astor. RKO and the trade press were in on the bombastic proceedings by way of the fact Morley is the author of "Kitty Foyle," which fact gave the club's ringmasters a corking opportunity to roast him . . . all in fun. But fun as the Saints and Sinners know it is something you just can't get unless you belong to the same golf club with License Commissioner Paul Moss. Anyway, the unique luncheon, attended by numerous critics, columnists and radio commentators proved a formidable buildup, publicity-wise, for the film, because those CSS luncheons make news . . . Gillespie Evans, Paramount radio contact working with Alec Moss, is mourning the loss of his father in Los Angeles . . . Carl Fishman, Jerry Sager and Morty Tauber of Loew's home office publicity are down with bad colds . . . Ben Serkowich, Capitol press agent, has gone to Florida to recuperate after a serious attack of influenza . . . Arthur Herschman of Loew's is at home after two months at the French Hospital.

Morris Kutinsky and his wife, Hinda, leave Monday for an indefinite stay at Miami Beach . . . Jack Kirsch has been hearing so much about "Land of Liberty" that he paid his own way into the Criterion Thursday afternoon to see what it was all about . . . Eddie Golden, independent producer for Monogram, is still around town, mapping plans for his two features . . . Charles Stern, UA district manager, was in New England during the week . . . Louis Hyman, general manager for Sol Lesser and Ernst Lubitsch, arrives from the coast Monday with a print of "That Uncertain Feeling" . . . Louis Weinzimmer and Harry Egert are back from three weeks in Miami. Shortly after Egert reached town he took a trip to Buffalo on behalf of National Screen's accessory division . . . George Dembow still basking under the Miami sun, what there is of it . . . Pete Wood and Martin Smith of Ohio were in town Thursday lunching with Bill Rodgers of M-G-M . . . Wilma Freeman of the Warner publicity department is recuperating from effects of a broken foot.

Harry Moskowitz celebrated another birthday the same day with President Roosevelt . . . Detective Johnny Leffler, well known in exhibition circles, has been down with the flu the past week . . . G. A. Durlam, writer and director of eight two-reel subjects on American history, will sell them through Producers Releasing . . . Charles Penser has joined Bernie Mills' Equity Film Exchange in the local area . . . Joseph M. Schenck is in from the coast, having made half the trip by plane and the balance by train . . . Al Wilkie has gone to Miami for his vacation, which means fishing and looking over the high spots . . . Richard A. Rowland attended the Washington premiere of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" . . . J. J. Milstein has been battling the flu all week.

John J. O'Connor has expanded the buying and booking offices for the RKO circuit on the 11th floor of the RKO Building. Fred Meyers and Max Fellerman now are in one office with the other bookers combined in one adjoining office . . . E. C. Grainger returned recently from a trip to Feiber & Shea houses in Ohio, Pennsylvania and upstate New York . . . Eugene Picker has been forced to delay his coast vacation and plans. He now intends to leave late in February by train and return by boat, which is a reversal of the original schedule . . . Max A. Cohen departed Wednesday for Miami and a two to three-week vacation . . . Joseph Bernhard says he spent most of his coast trip in his hotel confined to bed with the flu . . . Harry Gold has been trying to fight off a bad cold and was holding up pretty well . . . Uncle Lou Weinberg, circuit contact for Columbia, is going to Miami February 7 with the missus.



—Metropolitan Photos

It's Ginger Rogers, All Three Times—

Seeing as how it was her cocktail party—RKO, the host; the Waldorf's Starlight Roof, the place—this becomes an assorted album of Miss R. in various smiling poses. Above, she smiles with George J. Schaefer. In the middle, she smiles with M. J. Poller, head of RKO's playdate department; Andy Smith, general sales manager; Herb MacIntyre, west coast district manager, and A. A. Schubart, manager of exchange operations. Below, she smiles with, and for, some of RKO's directors, including Thomas P. Durell, Frederick L. Ehrman and John Whitaker.

Bob Benjamin will head for the coast February 13 to spend three weeks on PRC and Monogram business . . . Abe Blumstein is a grandpop for the first time. His son, Edgar, became the father of a seven-pound girl, Lynn Rita, on January 23, at Beth David Hospital. Bernice Blumstein and daughter are doing well . . . Milt Hossfeld of National Theatres is now vacationing on the coast in advance of the annual circuit's convention slated to begin February 10 . . . Bill Corum, sports writer, bought Grad Sears his lunch the other afternoon at Toots Shor's. Sears, incidentally, says his plans for a coast trip are uncertain at this time . . . Harold Rinzler is back from Miami where he has been spending a vacation. His father, Sam, is waiting until his partner, Louis Frisch,

(Continued on page 44-E)

A Sweet "U" Profit; Net of $2,390,772

NEW YORK—Further evidencing its upward profit climb, Universal and subsidiaries report consolidated net profit of $2,390,772 for 53 weeks ended November 2, or an increase of 107 per cent over consolidated net income of $1,153,321 for previous fiscal year. J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board, so advises the company's stockholders.

Completing its first full year under wartime conditions affecting many foreign markets, the company did a gross in the period covered of $27,677,627 which Cowdin points out is 16 per cent greater than the $23,878,868 reported for the preceding fiscal year and a four year gain of $10,269,373.

Consolidated current working assets, other cash and accounts receivable, including restricted British sterling, totaled to $12,953,683 on November 2 while current liabilities were $4,241,774, or a ratio of 3.05 to one. Net working capital of $6,823,563 compares with $5,512,194 the year before. Since the beginning of last year, the company retired 7,261 shares of first preferred at an average price of $118.03 per share, including 4,591 shares purchased in response to a request last month for tenders. This leaves 10,739 of this class of preferred outstanding.

Taxes totaled $1,210,648, or $267,490 greater than in the 1939 period, and were equivalent to about 50 cents on each dollar of net profit, according to Cowdin who adds the tax figure for last year was 97 per cent larger than taxes in the 1938 fiscal year. Although the new excess profits tax did not apply last year, it will this year and thereby add a substantial amount to tax payments, he further observes. "Your company desires to pay its full share of taxes, but believes better profits brought about by skilled management should not be penalized by taxation aimed at war profits," he told stockholders.

British revenue in the period covered was 1,306,187 British pounds as against 859,084 British pounds in the 1939 fiscal year and 621,476 British pounds in the 1938 fiscal year and 600,032 in the 1937 period. Thus, a substantial gain is reflected in that direction.

The domestic market, which always includes Canada, brought a gross of $18,073,055, or an increase of $2,602,535 over the preceding period. Cowdin re-emphasizes an earlier statement in declaring all effort is being directed toward making Universal self-sufficient in the home market and hopes "that this may be accomplished this year."

Home Office Executives To Universal Convention

NEW YORK—Home office executives to attend Universal's convention at the Blackstone February 8-10 will include J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board; Nate J. Blumberg, president; William A. Scully, vice-president and general sales manager; Frank J. A. McCarthy, eastern sales manager; William J. Heineman, western sales manager; Bernard B. Kreisler, short subject sales manager; James J. Jordan, F. T. Murray, Andrew J. Sharick, Morris Alin and Hank Linet. From the studio will be Cliff Work, vice-president and general manager; Matthew Fox, vice-president; Joe Pasternak, Milton H. Feld, Dan Kelley and John E. Joseph, director of advertising and publicity.

These district managers will be there: Jules Lapidus, New York; Dave Miller, Cleveland; Harry D. Graham, Atlanta; J. E. Garrison, Kansas City; A. J. O'Keefe, Los Angeles, and E. T. Gomersall, Chicago.

Branch managers will embrace Dave Levy, New York; Paul Baron, Boston; John V. Pavone, New Haven; George E. Schwartz, Philadelphia; Max Cohen, Washington; J. R. Kauffman, Cleveland; Peter Rosian, Albany; John J. Scully, Buffalo; J. J. Spandau, Albany; Pete Dana, Pittsburgh; John Ezell, Atlanta; J. A. Prichard, Charlotte; H. I. Mansfield, Memphis; W. M. "Snake" Richardson, New Orleans; Ed S. Olsmith, Dallas; James Hobbs, Oklahoma City.

Also C. J. Feldman, Los Angeles; Jack Langan, Denver; R. O. Wilson, Portland; C. R. Wade, Salt Lake City; Barney Rose, San Francisco; L. J. McGinley, Seattle; Grover Parsons, Kansas City; Harry Hynes, St. Louis; Lou Levy, Des Moines; Otto Siegel, Omaha; M. M. Gottlieb, Chicago; Ed Heiber, Detroit; H. H. Hull, Indianapolis; Frank Mantzke, Milwaukee; L. J. Miller, Minneapolis, and Gordon Craddock, special representative.

Leon Fromkess Gets Top Post in PRC's Setup

NEW YORK—Leon Fromkess, formerly treasurer of Monogram, has been elected vice-president in charge of home office and foreign operations for Producers Releasing Corp. He also has a financial interest in PRC.

Call It a Success Story

New York—Universal's progress is graphically illustrated in the following chart, culled from the financial report for the 53 weeks ended November 2, 1940:

Year Ended	Gross Income	Net Income	Net Profit
Oct. 31, 1936	$17,408,254	$1,631,295 (Loss)	$1,835,419 (Loss)
Oct. 30, 1937	18,150,876	1,030,489 (Loss)	1,084,999 (Loss)
Oct. 29, 1938	20,190,117	391,461 (Loss)	591,178 (Loss)
Oct. 28, 1939	23,878,868	1,628,733	1,153,321
Nov. 2, 1940	27,677,627	2,954,467	2,390,772

Miami Is Set for 'Back Street' Bow

MIAMI—Film critics and columnists representing daily newspapers and syndicates in 34 cities, plus a contingent of Universal home office executives and trade-paper men arrived here Saturday for the world premiere on Tuesday of "Back Street" at the Lincoln and Cameo theatres over on the Beach. Most of them will remain five days, comfortably ensconced at the Miami Biltmore with beach cabanas available at the Roney Plaza and an assorted program of events to keep them occupied. In fact, the whole caravan stands up well alongside of any assembled by any other producing company at any other time, near and far.

And, of course, the place is Miami; the time, February.

The Universal group includes Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel; S. Machnovitch, treasurer; Peyton Gibson, secretary; J. H. Seidelman, vice-president in charge of foreign sales; John Joseph, director of advertising and publicity, and Lou Pollock, eastern advertising and publicity manager who represented the vanguard in order to check on the planned arrangements.

To attend, also, will be Bruce Manning, producer of the film, and Robert Stevenson, its director; Anna Lee, who is Mrs. Stevenson; and Felix Jackson, who wrote the script with Manning. Deanna Durbin, accompanied by her mother and Mitchell Hamilburg, her business manager, arrives Monday after attending the President's Birthday Ball in Washington.

New York sent the biggest newspaper group. It embraces William Boehnel, *World-Telegram;* Cecilia Ager, *PM;* Kenneth McCaleb, *Sunday Mirror;* Rose Pelswick, *Journal-American;* Eileen Creelman, *Sun,* and Selig Adler, *Daily Mirror.* The trade paper representation, a goodly one, includes Don Mersereau, *Film Daily;* Chick Lewis, *Showman's Trade Review;* Sam Shain, *Motion Picture Daily;* Jay Emanuel, *The Exhibitor* who plans to stay for several weeks; Pete Harrison, *Harrison's Reports;* Mo Wax, *Film Bulletin;* Arthur Ungar, *Daily Variety;* Lionel Toll, *The Independent;* Herb Stein, *Hollywood Reporter,* and Red Kann, BOXOFFICE.

The premiere here is designed to catch the annual winter concentration of important exhibitors. They are here from all over the nation, as usual.

David Rose Seeks Story To Star Luise Rainer

NEW YORK—David E. Rose, managing director for Paramount in England, is looking for a story to star Luise Rainer, he stated prior to his sailing on the *Excambion* over the weekend. He has had several talks with the former M-G-M star and is interested in signing her up provided suitable material can be obtained.

Two pictures will go into work shortly after his arrival in London, the first depending on stars available. Robert Morley is anxious to appear in "Hatter's Castle" and negotiations are under way to have him play a featured role, says Rose.

Skouras, Goldwyn Map A Benefit Air Show

NEW YORK—A mammoth air show to build a fund for Greek war relief, undertaken by Spyros P. Skouras and Samuel Goldwyn, promises to be one of the most novel ever presented along these lines.

Under supervision of Mort Blumenstock, eastern advertising and publicity director for Warner, a 90-minute broadcast will go out from Hollywood over NBC and Mutual the evening of February 8. Tieups have been made with about 60 department stores all over the country. Local announcers will tell listeners they can contribute to the fund by calling these department stores in their cities with their fund pledges. If the listener wishes to contribute immediately, he can call the department store and a messenger will be dispatched to pick up the money.

A flock of top flight Hollywood stars will participate in the air show, including Bette Davis, Spencer Tracy, Paul Muni, Clark Gable, Charles Laughton, Madeleine Carroll, Groucho Marx, "Rochester," Burns and Allen, Fanny Brice, Alice Faye, Carole Lombard, Myrna Loy, Mary Martin, and the entire "Hardy Family." Jack Benny and Bob Hope will be co-masters of ceremonies.

Assisting Blumenstock are Harry Maislish of KFWB, Ed Schreiber from the Warner home office publicity staff and Al Simon, promotion manager of station WHN here.

Broadcast Series Feb. 23 by "Free Company" of Talent

A "Free Company" of writers, playwrights and actors will launch a nationwide campaign to "remind the American people of what they have and believe in" with a 13-week series of half-hour broadcasts over 100 stations of CBS starting February 23. Burgess Meredith is chairman of the Hollywood group that will furnish the majority of talent for dramatizing the series; Robert E. Sherwood is chairman of the writers' group, and William Lewis, CBS vice-president, chairman for the radio group. CBS is making the time for the broadcasts available gratis.

Among writers and playwrights who will contribute scripts are Maxwell Anderson, James Boyd, Orson Welles, Paul Green, Archibald MacLeish, Ernest Hemingway, George M. Cohan, Sherwood, Marc Connelly, and Stephen Vincent Benet. None will receive remuneration.

The first dramatizations in the series will be devoted to the eight basic liberties in the Bill of Rights, with the remainder presenting the "general theme of liberty as it flows from these basic rights."

Jack Simons to Helm Of State in Boston

HARTFORD—Jack Simons, manager of the Poli, has transferred to a similar post at the circuit's State in Boston, replacing Fred Greenway, who has taken over at the Palace here. Greenway replaces Lou Cohen, who has been switched to the Poli.

Dissatisfied Over Films And Lend-Lease Bill

NEW YORK—Major foreign executives are represented by informed sources as "dissatisfied" with the government's lend-lease bill in that it allows for payment to American manufacturers of 100 cents on the dollar for goods ordered by England but ignores the fact that distributors' products are subject to an exchange restriction embodied in the film agreement that runs to October 25.

It is not considered as even remote that the foreign heads will ask Washington to consider the film situation in recognition of the fact that H. R. 1776 covers nothing but materials to be sent to England for pursual of its war aims. However, foreign sales managers still feel they have been ignored over something England very much wants although films are not as "essential" as planes, guns and munitions. In this connection, one spokesman declares films are the only major "commodity" being imported by Great Britain, so important are they to the country's morale.

This is the way a reliable informant avers the foreign managers feel about the situation:

"The lease-lend bill provides that the government pay American manufacturers for war goods ordered by England for which it has no funds. If England wants 1,000 planes and says it cannot pay for them, the government will foot the bill. In effect, it is the same as if the government agreed to loan England the money, sent the money over there and England sent the money back to pay for the 1,000 planes.

"No matter how you cut it up, it still means England is paying 100 cents on the dollar for those 1,000 planes. Yet we are being asked to send over film, but instead of being paid for it in full we are asked to take only part payment. In fact, the film agreement allows a maximum of $12,900,000 to be withdrawn for all companies, even though all companies might have double that amount due them in rentals."

Russian Claims Third Dimension Effect Device

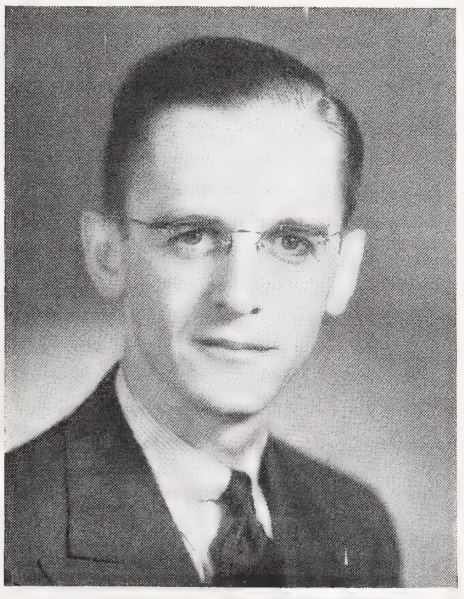
NEW YORK—Soviet science claims a new stereoscopic projector which its inventor says adds a third dimension, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Moscow.

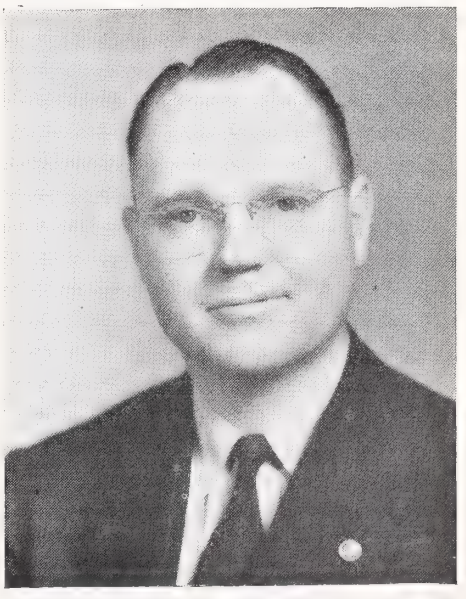
Smyon Ivanoff, the inventor, showed seven experimental shorts. One of them, in color, was a fancy dress ball which he said "combined all the most modern developments of the cinema-motion, sound, color and depth." He declared the essential of his development was a six-ton perspective grill, or transparent screen of 30,000 closely spaced wires having a total length of almost 100 miles. This grill is placed in front of the usual theatre screen.

The A. P. reports double films, photographed from slightly different angles, were shown and, with the aid of two mirrors, reflected back through the grill to the audience, providing a separate image for each eye.

Succumbs to Stroke

DETROIT—Suffering a stroke while on a business trip, Henry S. Koppin, 64, died while in Toledo, Ohio. He built and operated a string of 26 theatres in this area.





RCA Photophone Promotes These Two—

M. J. ("Mike") Yahr (left) has been moved up the line and is now Photophone product engineer at the company's Indianapolis plant. He was former commercial engineer at Camden, N. J. Carl Johnson, after 11 years with RCA, takes over Yahr's old position.

Broadway First Runs Kept Strong by Good Product

NEW YORK—Competition strong, weather far from fair, but business just dandy is the Broadway picture in a nutshell. It sounds like a paradox, but that's where Nicholas M. Schenck's line about "there's nothing wrong with this business that a good picture," etc., comes in.

Anyway, and paradoxically, it's a pair from Schenck's firm that is leading the parade in more than one respect. Take "The Philadelphia Story" for example. Not only did it hit a handsome $83,000 for its fifth week at the Music Hall, but the first four days of that week were better than the first four days of the fourth week. Currently in its sixth week, the film may go a seventh.

Over at the Capitol, where "Gone With the Wind" is in its second week of its anniversary repeat performance the first four days exceeded the original engagement by 15,204 admissions, this despite the fact that the current scale is approximately one-half less than last year. The first week wound up at a very profitable $53,000.

The Roxy has extended "Tall, Dark and Handsome" for a second and final week for the very good reason the first—which was to be final—clicked off a grand $50,000. Also well up in the money column is "High Sierra," which the Strand is holding after a swell $38,000 for opening week. Excellent staying power is being shown by "Kitty Foyle" at the Rivoli, which is no less true of the two roadshows, "Fantasia" and "The Great Dictator."

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA) 16th roadshow wk. 100
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney) 11th roadshow wk. 130
Capitol—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 125
Criterion—**A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't) .. 90
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 5th wk. 110
Paramount—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 2nd wk., plus stage show 110
Radio City Music Hall—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 5th wk., plus stage show 135
Rialto—**Pride of the Bowery** (Mono) 100
Rivoli—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 3rd wk. 100
Roxy—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 120
Strand—**High Sierra** (FN), plus stage show and Quentin Reynolds 130

"Maisie" Plus Stage Show Washington Pace Setter

WASHINGTON—Business pulse returns to normal as F. D. R. digs in. "Maisie Was a Lady" at the Capitol with Will Bradley's orchestra on the stage getting the nod. "Mounties" ride through for a second week at the Earle, with "Neighbor" at the Metropolitan still in favor on the moveover. "Kitty Foyle" doing outstanding fourth week at RKO Keith's, and "Gone" at the Palace is far from it with capacity biz.

Detail for week ending January 30:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); Will Bradley orch. on stage 140
Columbia—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); moveover from Palace 100
Earle—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't), stage show 125
Keith's—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 4th week 100
Metropolitan—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 100
Palace—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 135



In Step—

Are Latin American golfers and their host, Jack L. Warner, at the latter's club in Los Angeles. Left to right are Eduardo Blasi, runner up in the Argentine national open; Martin Pose, Argentina national open golf champion; and the Warner vice-president in charge of production. Co-host with Jack Warner was S. Charles Einfeld, the Warner vice-president in charge of advertising and exploitation.

"Wind" Comes Back for Philadelphia Top Rung

PHILADELPHIA—Lines almost a block long at the Stanley greeted the return of "Gone With the Wind," in a week that saw business booming all over downtown. "Kitty Foyle," winding up the second week of its second run at the Keith's, was held over for a third week, the first time in three years that the Keith's had a three weeks' run. Last time was with "Snow White." "Philadelphia Story" was still pulling them in at the Boyd for a second week.

Detail for the week:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Road Show** (UA) 70
Arcadia—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't), 2nd run, 2nd wk. 110
Boyd—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. .. 150 Set for a long stay.
Earle—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ), plus colored stage show featuring Erskine Hawkins' orch. 140
Fox—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 100
Karlton—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), 2nd run 115
Keith's—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd run, 2nd wk. . 105
Stanley—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 165
Stanton—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox). 85

Warner Paying 96¼ Cents Dividend on Preferred

NEW YORK—Meeting Wednesday, the Warner board, in special session, voted to resume dividends on the preferred stock and declared a current payment of 96¼ cents per share. This is payable March 1 to stockholders of record as of February 14.

Broadcast Observes AAA Trade Entry

NEW YORK—The AAA dedicated its designation as official arbitrators to the industry in a 15-minute broadcast over the Mutual Broadcasting System network Saturday evening featuring C. V. Whitney, president; Paul Felix Warburg, chairman of the administrative committee, and Professor Wesley Sturges, member of the committee. It was the same day that the AAA's 31 film tribunals opened for the arbitration of exhibitor grievances.

A Pattern for Others

It was this event that served as a springboard for the broadcast, which was general in character but which was overtoned with the AAA's entrance in the film field as an example of what the association might, or could do, for other industries. It was Warburg who spoke on and reviewed events leading up to the selection of the AAA as arbitrators as an outcome of the government suit. He held out the "hope" the AAA's work in the film field may form a pattern by which other industries, possibly involved in anti-trust litigation, might benefit.

Whitney dwelt on arbitration as a channel through which industries engaged in national defense have been able to clear up their difficulties and thus prevent bottlenecks in vital production. Sturges outlined other phases of arbitration that the AAA comes in contact with, notably its tort tribunals.

The AAA was given the time on the network gratis, the broadcast coming under the broadcasting company's designation of "special feature."

Promotions and Shifts Announced by Loew's

NEW YORK—The following promotions and transfers around Loew's metropolitan circuit have been affected:

Sigmund Schwartz, assistant at the State, becomes manager of the Premier, Brooklyn. Nat Slater, assistant at the 83rd Street, replaces him. Schwartz, it seems, is the 26th man who has graduated from the State, which is something of a personal tribute to Al Rosen, the mentor of that house and one whom the "boys" cherish working with. Unless there is a sudden switch of plans, the graduating class of 26 will honor Rosen on the occasion of his eighth anniversary as manager with a dinner on February 3.

Joe Beck, manager of the Avenue B, moves to the Canal, replacing Walter Mock, who becomes assistant at the 46th Street.

Stanley Marks, Bedford manager, is transferred to the Avenue B.

William Woolfolk, relief manager, is assigned to the Bedford.

Joseph Citron, assistant at the Oriental, moves to the 83rd Street, replacing Slater.

Harold Zeltner, assistant at the 46th Street, transfers to the Oriental.

Predicts Regulation If the Decree Fails

NEW YORK—"It is urged that rigid statutory regulation will follow if the decree fails to work satisfactorily," observes an MPTOA bulletin, the while predicting "it will merely demonstrate once again the utter futility of trying to solve our commercial and economic difficulties by dragging them through the courts."

The bulletin, over the signature of Ed L. Kuykendall, president, expresses "doubt if it is constructive cooperation to see how many complaints and grievances can be stirred up for arbitration," but proposes "to watch closely developments under the decree and take advantage of any practical benefits (if any) that can be secured for exhibitors through its provisions."

The greater portion of the bulletin is devoted to a recent statement by the department of justice that it would set up a special unit under Robert L. Wright to handle matters arising in connection with operation of the decree. A preface by Kuykendall to reproduction of the justice department's statement goes like this:

Burden on Distributors

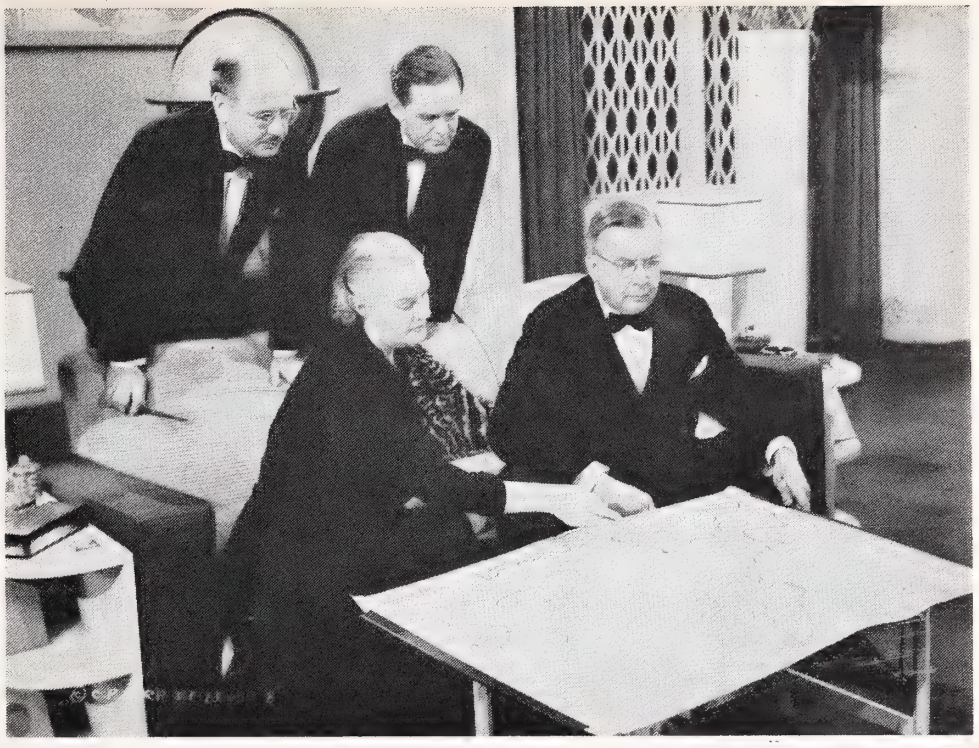
"No exhibitor cooperation or participation is required by the consent decree. The restrictions on licensing motion pictures are imposed entirely upon the distributors who submitted to it and will be carried out by them whether we like it or not. You are offered a restricted privilege of submitting certain types of complaints to the arbitration system established by the decree and placed under the terms of the decree entirely in the hands of the American Arbitration Association, but you are not required to submit any such complaints.

"In some quarters it is being urged that as many complaints as possible be filed for arbitration to 'cooperate in giving the consent decree a fair trial.' This is a strange sort of cooperation for exhibitors to offer. If the complaint is genuine and cannot be settled by negotiation, the exhibitor then must decide for himself whether it should be submitted to arbitration under the decree, with full knowledge of the costs and uncertainties involved."

Urges Vigilance on Taxes

Taking the position that film entertainment "today is not a luxury and most certainly should not be taxed as such," Kuykendall urges concerted action among organized exhibitors to combat the threat of a "number of states" to impose taxes in addition to the federal levy for "added tax revenue—not for national defense."

He observes that if legislators "really understood the theatre situation and the tax burden now carried they would not try to impose special taxes on admissions at three to four times the highest rate considered for a retail sales tax on any other business. Once the legislature realizes the disastrous consequences of such unfair taxation on the local theatres, on the working people who patronize the motion picture theatres, on the building of new theatres and the modernizing of the older theatres in their own state, they will realize the unfairness of excessive and discriminatory taxes on theatres."



Commentators Sign for Short—

Columbia gathers a whole flock of well-known commentators to co-star in "What's the Shooting For," first of an "International Forum" series of one-reelers which William Rowland will produce. Round-table discussions of events of the times are to be held. First are those above: William L. Shirer, long CBS commentator in Berlin; Linton Wells, war correspondent; Dorothy Thompson and Wythe Williams, who regularly broadcasts over Mutual. Columbia estimates they have a combined listening audience ranging between 60,000,000 *and* 80,000,000 *weekly.*

Para't to Deliver All on Schedule

NEW YORK—Paramount will deliver all of the current season's product as scheduled and will have three groups of five ready when the new selling season starts, Neil F. Agnew, general sales manager, stated on his return from Chicago where he attended a three-day meeting of district and division managers.

The first block will be ready for trade showing early in the summer. In making the announcement, Agnew stressed the fact there will be no withdrawals from the company's spring and summer schedule to be delivered under the 1940-41 contracts.

"I Wanted Wings" will be released in the spring on a plan which calls for special handling.

Three Electrical Suits

WILMINGTON, DEL.—Three suits asking for declaratory decrees adjudging radio, conduit, and cable patents invalid, were filed in the U. S. District Court here by the Crosley Radio Corp., the Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corp., and the Triangle Conduit & Cable Co. of New York.

Crotona, 30 Years

NEW YORK — A seven-day celebration, which got under way Thursday, marks the 30th anniversary for Skouras' Crotona, Bronx. Special vaudeville attractions have been booked for the entire week.

Delays "Little Three" Dismissal Motion

NEW YORK—Federal Judge Henry W. Goddard has postponed to February 17 the plea of Columbia, UA, and Universal to dismiss that part of the amended complaint by the department of justice against them that contains references to the five producer-exhibitors. The "Little Three" want every allegation referring to theatre ownership and all charges relative to that ownership dropped from the complaint.

Argument was supposed to be held January 30, but went over due to inability of attorneys to be in court as they are tied up on relative matters.

Columbia will also ask an outright dismissal of the action claiming it violates the 14th amendment to the Constitution in that it seeks to force a consent decree on the "Little Three" because of the necessity of holding the original decree made with the "Big Five."

"Pepe Le Moko" Replaces "Baker's Wife" at World

NEW YORK—The World, intimate house on 49th Street operated by Gilbert Josephson, will bring in on March 3 the French "Pepe le Moko," original version from which "Algiers" was produced. It will replace "The Baker's Wife," which will have completed a 53-week run. The latter opens the next day over the entire Loew's metropolitan circuit.

Chicago Allied Own Arbitration Counsel

NEW YORK—While other exhibitor organizations are prepared to have an attorney represent their members at arbitration hearings, Allied's unit in Chicago will not follow this plan, according to Jack Kirsch, president. His explanation is that the hearings are not supposed to involve legal questions, but anyone who wants the benefit of an attorney to present his case will do so on his own.

In town for a few days after the national Allied board met in Washington, Kirsch attended the Louis-Burman fight Friday night and then left for the Windy City. He stated the unit's annual convention will be held in March but there will be no elections. His term as president is for three years and has two more to go.

After a week in Chicago finishing up some business, Kirsch plans to leave for Miami to join his family vacationing there.

Sales Staff Promotions Likely Fox Development

NEW YORK—Several promotions within the 20th-Fox sales forces in the field are contemplated in the new operating setup under the decree, it is learned with the return from the coast of Herman Wobber, general sales manager.

Reports are current that a number of changes will be made in the mideast area, but Wobber and his associates decline to comment until further home office conferences are held and definite changes decided upon.

No switch in the production number for next season is contemplated with the regular 44 features slated to be made in Hollywood, four in England and 52 shorts.

Filmarte Will Cater to The "Discriminating"

NEW YORK—"Truly a center for the discriminating audience" is the management credo behind the reopened Filmarte now on the local scene again under the aegis of Joseph Plunkett, Mrs. Reda Kovacs and L. David Weiss. The opening attraction is "Hatred," a French import.

In addition to the policy of "only the finest French films available," the idea is to run lectures, concerts of recorded music and special Saturday morning performances of new "as well as old films" with an eye on student attendance and all at moderate prices.

A Trailer-Ambulance for Britain by MPTO Unit

BALTIMORE—The MPTO of Maryland is donating a trailer-ambulance to Great Britain, Frank A. Hornig, president, announces following approval by the board of governors of a proposal to that effect by Arthur B. Price. It will be named for Maryland's Governor O'Conor.

REVIEW FLASHES

WESTERN UNION (20th-Fox)—Clear all wires—here's a flash of action entertainment which should be a "must" on page one of everybody's motion picture theatre budget. It relates the stringing of the first transcontinental telegraph line, around which hazardous undertaking is spun such a yarn of hardship, adventure and romance as to make the film one of the all-time "superest" of the super-westerns. As a piece of red-blooded, he-man showmanship, it is close to perfection. Harry Joe Brown produced; Fritz Lang directed.

Additional Review Flashes appear on page 38.

"Virginia" and "Liberty" Get High Tone Sendoffs

NEW YORK—The Paramount and Criterion on Broadway went considerably—and profitably—out of their way in launching the premieres of "Virginia" and "Land of Liberty," respectively.

Behind a beautifully handled advance campaign, the Paramount brought "Virginia" into the house Tuesday evening under the aura of a gala benefit in behalf of the Maple Leaf Fund, national Canadian organization for British war relief. Plenty of names, kleig lights, loudspeakers, lavish decorations and police gave the opening a festive sendoff. A special stage show brought together, in addition to Glenn Miller and his band, Raymond Massey as master of ceremonies, Raoul Jovin, Metropolitan Opera tenor; Anton Dolin, premier danseur of the Ballet Theatre; Dean Murphy, mimic, and other singing and comedy acts. Madeleine Carroll, feminine lead in the film, spoke to the audience via telephone from Hollywood. The Canadian Minister to the United States, Loring Christie, and the British consul here, Godfrey Haggard, were among the distinguished guests.

No less ostentatious was the event signalizing the opening of "Land of Liberty" at the Criterion Thursday forenoon. Direct descendants of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Alexander Hamilton and other famous Americans who were represented in the film, took part in a tape-cutting ceremony in front of the house. Messmore Kendall acted as chairman.

Screen Publicists, Majors Continue NLRB Session

NEW YORK — Three hearings before NLRB trial examiner, Dan Baker, between the Screen Publicists Guild and representatives of major home offices were concluded Saturday and are expected to resume next week. The sessions were devoted entirely to evidence put in by the SPG on the question of whether free lance artists are to be considered home office employes in the same category as SPG members in the latter's demands for recognition as sole collective bargaining agency for a claimed majority of home office publicists.

Reserves Decision In RCA Action

NEW YORK—Court news of the week slowed up considerably with the most important development being a reserved decision by Supreme Court Justice Philip McCook in a plea by RCA, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., and General Electric to dismiss a $270,000,000 stockholder suit against them. The plaintiffs, some 17 in number, also applied to examine the president of the three corporations before trial in a cross-motion. The suit which charges waste and mismanagement alleges $240,000,000 was lost by RCA through the purchase of worthless patents from the other corporate defendants by handing over 600,000 shares of common worth $40 a share and a loss of $10,000,000 through investments in RKO.

To Examine Isidore Ostrer

Isidore Ostrer and Mary Larkin both of GB Pictures Corp. of America were ordered to appear for an examination before trial in the supreme court Feb. 10 in connection with two suits each for $100,000 against GB and Ostrer by Film Alliance of the U. S. The plaintiff claims GB breached an agreement to give it exclusive U. S. distribution rights to "Things Are Looking Up," starring Vivien Leigh.

On February 3 Universal, Universal Films Exchanges, Big-U-Film Corp., and the Roxy applied to the supreme court to preclude Producers Laboratories from giving evidence at the trial of its suit against them for failure to comply with a supreme court order and serve a bill of particulars. The suit seeks an injunction, accounting of profits, and damages, claiming "Hired Wife" was having its title infringed by Universal's "A Hired Wife."

Agent Sues Joan Crawford

Lee Morrison, agent, filed a $25,000 supreme court suit against Joan Crawford, claiming breach of an agreement made in November, 1939 whereby the actress agreed to appear in the lead of a play, entitled "Death of a Rose." Morrison's financial backers withdrew when Miss Crawford did, he says.

Judge John Foster Symes in the federal court dismissed after trial Milton Herbert Gropper's suit against Warner. Gropper claimed the plagiarism in "Alcatraz" of his play "Ex-Racketeer," which was submitted to the studio and rejected. An injunction, accounting of profits and damages was sought.

Examination of Jacob Wilk of Warner is under way in the federal court in connection with Katherine Moog's $75,000 libel action against the company. She claims she was libeled in "Confessions of a Nazi Spy."

Paramount Pep Club Will Celebrate Valentine Day

NEW YORK—The Paramount Pep Club will celebrate Valentine's Day with a buffet supper, stage show and dance at the Capitol Hotel, February 14. An original musical revue, titled "The Goofers Go to Town," will be the attraction. The book is by Sue Brust and Jesse Goodman, with music by Knox Haddow.

(Continued from page 43)

returns from the southern resort before he packs his bags and golf sticks.

Charles Sonin, M-G-M and Loew purchasing head, is in Miami looking for sunshine . . . Eddie Rugoff of Rugoff & Becker is back from those shores with a swell tan . . . Matty Fox has put on quite a bit a weight since his last trip east . . . Neil F. Agnew was in Toronto during the week setting up Del Goodman as Paramount's new district manager succeeding M. A. Milligan . . . Arthur W. Kelly went to San Francisco from the UA studio meeting and then headed for New York . . . Lana Turner was in Washington for the President's Birthday Ball. From the Capitol she came on to New York, accompanied by her mother . . . Bernie Kreisler, Universal short subject sales manager, had planned to go to the coast, but the trip is off. Instead he will go to Chicago for the mid-season sales meeting which opens at the Blackstone, February 8.

Harold Eskin, who operates seven theatres in New England, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is back from a Miami siesta . . . Jimmy Binkov, retired New Jersey exhibitor, has finally gone to Miami Beach where he contemplates building an efficiency apartment house . . . Ed Raftery spent a few days in Kansas City, then went to Oklahoma City and on Sunday was back in Kaycee on UA legal matters . . . Orson Welles, George J. Schaefer, Ned E. Depinet, A. W. Smith jr., Bob Mochrie and other home office RKO executives held an ultra private screening of "Citizen Kane" at the "A" Music Hall screening room. A page boy outside the entrance prevented outsiders from even knocking on the door . . . Harry Gittelson of RKO is due back next week with Leo Devaney, RKO Drive leader, from a tour of the country.

Eddie Dowdin, of the Loew's New York exploitation staff, visited Buffalo to discuss forthcoming attractions and their campaign with Charles Taylor of the Shea circuit . . . Charlie Kurtzman, northeastern division manager for Loew theatres, was a visitor . . . Vincent McFaul of the Shea circuit, Buffalo, did some conferring with Joe Vogel during the week . . . Glenn Ford who, according to reports, does things in "So Ends Our Night," Dave Loew's first in association with Al Lewin, is in New York. Came up from Florida . . . It took Gus Eyssell and that recent Ampa lunch for W. G. Van Schmus to make official what was generally known anyway: That Fred Lynch is the Music's Hall publicity director . . . Phil Engel, up in New England on exploitation assignments from Warner. For "High Sierra."

Sidney Edelstein and Roger Lewis, both members of the Warner home office publicity department, are now at Fort Dix. It's the draft, mates . . . Bob Goldfarb, accessory sales manager of UA, and Madeleine Jacobs are engaged. The wedding is on the calendar for June . . . Toni Spitzer, who has been handling general press stuff for "Fantasia" at the Broadway, is now in Chicago whipping up the advance campaign for the opening there. Robert Baral, meanwhile, holds forth at the Broadway . . . Pauline Kelen of the Walter Reade office is back at her desk. She was out for 10 days. Flu . . . Lester Cowan is in town conferring with Gilbert Miller, "legit" producer, on "Ladies in Retirement" which they will produce jointly for Columbia . . . Bob Young came east to broadcast on Friday's Kate Smith hour which was on behalf of "Western Union" in which he co-stars with Dean Jagger and Randy Scott.

Bill Perlberg, associate producer at 20th-Fox, is here to take a gander at "Charley's Aunt" which that company will make. Jack Benny, slated to star in it, came along. He's looking too . . . Gabriel Pascal, producer for UA in London, is slated to arrive from England Monday or Tuesday via Clipper from Bermuda. He has with him a print of "Major Barbara," George Bernard Shaw play in which Wendy Hiller —remember "Pygmalion"? — stars. And also Robert Morley and Rex Harrison— he's one of the leads in "Night Train" . . . Plans are progressing neatly for the Press Photographers' ball at the Astor February 14. A long list of notables has pledged attendance. S. Barret McCormick, who always goes, says he wouldn't miss any of these parties. Thinks they are among the best of the year.



The ("Blitz") Life—

Just in from London is this Christmas card of Mervyn McPherson of M-G-M's London organization. His home bombed, McPherson as of the time and along with other members of the staff was living 60 feet below street level, cheerfully taking it.

Ginger Rogers arrived here on the 24th for a brief vacation and a visit with her cousin, the former Phyllis Fraser, now Mrs. Bennett Cerf . . . Jean Hersholt described his experience with the Dionne Quintuplets at the International Song Festival "Let's Sing for China," at New York's Town Hall Friday, January 24. The Festival was for the benefit of Chinese medical relief.

Haskell Masters, newly appointed western sales head for UA, got as far as Omaha on his trip west and then returned to New York. He says he will move his family from Toronto the middle of February . . . Herman Wobber was grounded in Chicago on his return by plane from the coast after studio conferences . . . Bill Sussman returned from a month's vacation in Miami and was bedded for several days before reporting to his office . . . Eddie Hyman, formerly with Century and Prudential circuits, is now with the United Detroit circuit . . . Arthur Gottlieb of DuArt Labs has been ill for a couple of days, the flu having caught up with him . . . Wallace Beery and his adopted daughter, Carol Ann, have been in town vacationing . . . Harry Michalson, head of RKO short subject sales, got back Wednesday from a brief tour.

Ned E. Depinet has given Sam Kaplan, RKO home office projectionist and recent father, a baby carriage to celebrate the event . . . Incidentally, Depinet met up with Former Senator James A. Reed the other day and went over St. Louis in 1935 . . . Charles C. Moskowitz last week celebrated his 28th year with Loew's . . . William Kunzmann of National Carbon, with headquarters in Cleveland, was in town the other day on one of his periodic visits . . . The first 15 salesmen who won honors in the recent National Screen drive tendered to Herman Robbins will receive gold rings with their initials engraved on them.

Benito Del Villar, sales head in Chile, Peru and Bolivia for Paramount, has been in town for a couple of weeks and planned to sail January 31 for Ancon, Panama, to attend the South American convention to be held in that city February 6-9 . . . John W. Hicks was in Mexico City and Cuba prior to sailing for Panama and the convention . . . Helen Cohen of the 20th-Fox home office purchasing department and Sol Krieg of the publicity department took the step and are honeymooning at Atlantic City . . . Elmer Sichel of the 20th-Fox office in Albany is due back at the exchange Monday after a vacation in Miami.

Arthur Jarratt of GB, who is in this country from London on a government mission, has gone to Hollywood for two weeks. On his return to New York, he will spend three days here, then fly home . . . George J. Schaefer, Richard C. Patterson and Merlin H. Aylesworth in an earnest huddle in front of the RKO Bldg. . . . G. L. Carrington, vice-president and general manager of Altec, has returned from the coast where he spent a month . . . Phil Reisman is vacationing in Palm Beach. From there, he flies to the coast . . . Monroe Greenthal is in Hollywood again, this time conferring not only with UA producers and their publicity representatives but with Murray Silverstone and Arthur W. Kelly who are there . . . Bert Stearn, UA's midwestern district manager, has been around town.

WASHINGTON

THE widely publicized sneak preview in conjunction with the showing of "Kitty Foyle" at Keith's, which turned out to be "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," beckoned the critics and circuit heads from the local scene, Baltimore, Richmond and Norfolk. The doubleheader caused a sellout and the fans ignored the SRO well in advance of show time to get a look-see. Incidentally, "Kitty Foyle" carried over for a fifth week, breaking all attendance records . . . Preston Foster and Carolyn Lee, in town for the President's Birthday Ball, were on deck to personally usher in their latest, "Virginia," which had its world premiere at the Earle, simultaneously with other key cities . . . Sen. Walter F. George, accompanied by Carter Barron, Loew's eastern division manager, presented a complete print of "GWTW" to R. D. Conner, chief archivist of the Archives of the United States . . . Producer Richard A. Rowland held a screening of his first United Artists release, "Cheers for Miss Bishop," at the Circle.

Ted Spraker of Saltville is readying for his annual jaunt to the sand dunes . . . Earl S. Horne of the Virginian, Radford, is the proud daddy of a girl . . . Jim Goebel of Bristol is favoring a siege of sinus . . . J. Conklin of the State, Radford, is sporting a new gas buggy . . . Spud Query of the Lincoln Theatre Corp. is concentrating on a "strep" throat infection . . . The Bonny Blue, of Bonny Blue, Va., has been taken over by Laningham & Stewart . . . Charlie Moore of Fries, Va., is sponsoring a girls basketball team . . . Ellison Loth of Waynesboro has sounded the "all clear" signal with regard to his child's recent illness . . . W. S. "Buck" Wilder of the Wilder circuit in Norfolk and Portsmouth has purchased property in Portsmouth for a de luxe 1,200 *seater.*

Clarke Davis of the Lichtman circuit feted the bookers with a cocktail party at his home . . . Harry Brown, Monogram branch manager, advises of the launching of the "Lucky Seven Drive" to be held from February 2 to April 11, in which the local exchange will be pitted against Philly and Pittsburgh. Harry's plan for a Miami bake has met its fate, and he must wait for a future date . . . Harry Crull was a flu victim for a short spell . . . The MPTO of Virginia will hold its annual two-day convention at the Shoreham, February 2-3, with a dinner dance highlighting festivities on the evening of the third . . . Sam Galanty, Columbia district manager, is perusing travelogues of the southland . . . The board of directors of Allied met in Washington on January 27-28, with discussions of the decree and the method of selling pictures on the agenda.

Charlie Olive of Allied observed a birthday on January 28, *and February* 1 *marked the natal day of G. E. Maddrix of the Arcade, Crisfield . . . Variety Club's revised roster is in press and will be mailed shortly; the recently mailed by-laws, however, contain various amendments regarding new members . . . Title to property* 306-310 *H Street, N.W., on which the new Paramount exchange will be erected has been cleared and demolition of buildings is under way . . . Joe Kushner, Columbia head booker, has been confined to his home with illness, the second attack in a short space of time . . . Max Cohen, Universal branch manager, was a flu victim and forced to remain at home . . . The Monogram exchange is sparkling following a face lifting . . . Henry Ajello, Metro assistant shipper, is the proud daddy of a girl . . . "Syd" Rosenthal, formerly of the* 20th-Fox *staff, has joined the Metro force . . . Betty Topf is back after wrestling with demon flu.*

Felix Jenkins, 20th-Fox general counsel, is on the expected list at the local exchange . . . Lou Lichenstein, auditor, has completed his check . . . Sara Young is back at her ole stand following a rare absence due to this winter's plague . . . Likewise Grayson Mills . . . "Pat" Taylor, however, remains on the sick list . . . Reports from Will Rogers Memorial have Helen Inglee and Miriam Hirsch doing excellently . . . The girls in the office and the wives of the managers have organized a Warner Women's Bowling Club, with membership confined to this group only . . . Charlotte Duncan Birge, secretary to Warner's publicity chief, Frank La Falce, subscribes to the ole adage that when it rains it pours. Her recovery from illness was comforting. However, her joy was short-lived when her husband was assigned on a war department mission to Trinidad, South America, for a one or two year stay.

Fred Thomas, manager of the Earle, was conspicuous by his absence due to illness, especially during the year's crowning event, the President's Birthday Ball, and his yearly midnight show . . . Rick LaFalce of the publicity staff carried on despite a sore throat . . . The Hollywood entourage for the President's natal celebration finally included the following: Deanna Durbin, Lana Turner, George Raft, Wayne Morris, Maureen O'Hara, Wallace Beery, Charlotte Greenwood, Stirling Hayden, Kay Aldridge, Preston Foster, Al Ritz, Clifton Fadiman, Tommy Harmon, Alice Marble, Jean Hersholt and Red Skelton.

: New Corporations :

DOVER, DEL.—Articles of incorporation have been filed here by the following theatre and film concerns:

Labor Pictures, Inc., to deal in motion pictures with a capital of 1,000 shares no par value.

Minoco Productions, Inc., to deal in motion pictures with a capital of 1,000 shares no par.

Theatre Owners, Inc., to deal in real and personal property listing no capital stock.

R. F. Lewis, L. H. Herman, and Walter Lenz of Wilmington were the incorporators for Minoco and Theatre Owners, Inc., and H. Albert Young, Ethel J. Stephan, and Mildred L. Geisbert of Wilmington for Labor Pictures.

Philadelphia Theatres Get a Tax Cut

Philadelphia—Substantial cuts in assessments on several center-city theatres are announced by the board of revision of taxes. Among the reductions are Aldine, from $593,500 to $549,000; Boyd, $656,600 to $573,800; and Karlton, from $1,003,000 to $980,000.

Election in Spring For N. Y.'s Allied Unit

NEW YORK—Following a statewide campaign, the proposed Allied unit for New York will meet this spring to elect officers. As reported, operators representing from 40 to 50 theatres reputedly are pledged on behalf of the new unit. Max Cohen, former regional vice-president of Allied of New York, issued the call.

BALTIMORE

VARIETY held its third anniversary dance at the Belvedere Saturday night. Many notables of the industry attended from Washington, Philadelphia and New York. Money raised will be used for another "iron lung" to be given the city . . . Bill Hicks has opened his new Mayfair . . . Baltimore exhibitors were invited to United Artists' screening of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" at the Circle Theatre, Washington, last Tuesday.

A gala time was had by all who attended the Jewish War Veterans annual cabaret dance at the Lord Baltimore last Sunday night. Among those from the film colony there were: Harry and Al Vogelstein, Baltimore Poster Co.; Dave Kaiser, Maryland Display, who is commander of the Post and acted as master of ceremonies; Sam Soltz, Howard; Harry Silver, Overlea; Lou Cohen, Essex; Bill Hicks, Mayfair and Hampden; Bernie Seaman, Hippodrome; Frank Hornig jr., Horn; Buddy Silverberg, Park; Milton Caplon, Linden; Eddie Perotka; Sam Taber, Universal salesman; Maurice Oletski, Republic salesman, and Frank Hahn, Horlacher Delivery Service. Entertainment was furnished by I. M. Rappaport of the Hippodrome.

Edward Kimple jr. of Rome Theatres has returned after weekending in New York and visiting a motor boat show there . . . Along with Deanna Durbin, George Raft and Wayne Morris attended the President's Birthday Ball at the Fifth Regiment Armory . . . J. Harry Gruver, Glen, has returned to work after being confined to his home for a week by illness . . . William K. Saxton, Loew's city manager, is receiving visitors now at Sinai Hospital.

H. Ted Routson, Hippodrome, was chairman of the entertainment committee of the Baltimore Press Clubs first "Night in Hollywood" party held January 18.

Probe Government's Outlay for Films

WASHINGTON—An intensive investigation of the government's expenditures for motion picture production has been undertaken by the Bureau of the Budget, it was disclosed in testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on the independent offices appropriation bill.

The bureau is sending a questionnaire to the heads of all departments, independent commissions and agencies, asking for detailed information on motion picture expenditures for the current fiscal year. The questionnaire will call for both the costs of any production or circulation of films which may be undertaken and information as to the number of persons employed and total salary payments.

The first census of its kind ever undertaken, the survey was initiated at the suggestion of the committee, which pointed out to bureau officials that information regarding the publicity expenditures of the government agencies has been impossible to secure heretofore.

It has frequently been charged in Congress that the various New Deal agencies have spent large sums for motion picture production and distribution which have never been revealed in detail, and that films have been used as a means of propaganda to whip up public sentiment for New Deal activities.

Sam Baker Opens Eighth: Mainstree in Flushing

NEW YORK—Sam Baker opened his eighth theatre Wednesday night when the Mainstree, Flushing, L. I., a 600-seater, debuted.

Joe Rosenzweig and M. Meyer have started remodeling the Empress in Washington Heights and Hugh Kent has installed new chairs at the Clinton, Clinton, N. J. Julius Charnow and Abe Ratner have installed new Erpi Mirrophonic at the People's Cinema, Brooklyn. Eisenberg & Cohen have installed new Brenkert Senarc lamphouses at the Star, Rheinbeck, N. Y., and Harry Kridel has installed the first pair of Brenkert 80 projectors at the Mayfair, Newark. All equipment was furnished by Joe Hornstein.

Mills and Cooper Form Equity Film Exchange

ALBANY — Equity Film Exchanges, Inc., has been formed to conduct a motion picture business, with headquarters in New York. Incorporators are: Bernard H. Mills and Philip Cooper, 723 Seventh Ave.; Attorney Irving B. J. Levine, 505 Fifth Ave. Filmrow gossip is that Mills and Jack Berkson, who operated the Republic franchises in Albany and Buffalo for sometime, may open exchanges in both these cities. They have maintained offices at the New York address since severing their connections with Republic. Mills and Berkson are releasing independent product, including former Grand National pictures. Cooper was cashier when Mills had the local Republic franchise. Mills still has a residence here.

BUFFALO

THOSE two inseparable Marions, Gueth and Walsh, of MPTO and Lafayette Theatre, respectively, are leaving on a two-week cruise of Panama waters. This may be called an act of solidifying Pan-American relations, for who could possibly find fault with two such charming ladies . . . Also taking to the south are Dot and George Gammel of the local circuit . . . We hear that A. C. Hayman of the Lafayette is enjoying his vacation . . . Gene Gorman, junior executive at Dipson's 20th Century, is Alabama-bound, but not for a vacation. He is to report to Uncle Sam for defense training. His successor is Donald Baecher, former right hand to Bob Dame at Shea's Niagara. Before that Don was at the Kenmore under Carl Rindcen, so Don is well fitted for his new position . . . Walt Leffler of the Bellevue in Niagara Falls has been made manager of that theatre, with Bob Murphy, former Shea booker, acting as city manager for the Falls branch of the Shea circuit.

Continuing in its benevolence, the local tent of Variety will hold a St. Patrick's Party in the club rooms to buy an "iron lung" to aid victims of infantile paralysis. The main charity of the organization, "The Heart," again has capable Elmer Lux of RKO at the helm . . . During the Lenten season, cooking schools will be conducted in the various Shea community theatres . . . Mat Konczakowski is reopening his Marlowe this month after complete and extensive alterations . . . The Apollo, formerly the Liberty, will be reopened shortly . . . Vincent R. McFaul of Shea Theatres is in the Big City on business . . . George C. Maurer of the Buffalo Theatre and vice-president of the Shea service employes' Benevolent Ass'n was appointed by unanimous vote to head the board of stewards of the clubrooms . . . Ralph Maw, M-G-M branch manager, attended the testimonial dinner honoring the Ralph Pielows in Albany recently . . . "Gone With the Wind" is still going strong at Shea's Great Lakes, according to Manager George A. Mason, as is "Ecstasy" at Dewey Michael's Mercury. The latter is in its seventh record-breaking week.

E. K. O'Shea was emcee at a testimonial dinner to W. E. Martin Monday night at the Variety Club. The dinner was tendered to honor Martin's years of service in the organization. Many prominent members of Filmrow were in attendance. Besides being secretary and treasurer of the organization, Martin is Sunday and dramatic editor of the *Courier-Express* . . . Bill Brett jr., ex-assistant manager of Shea's Elmwood under Bob Demming, is now assistant to Bob Dame at Shea's Niagara. Bill is the son of Bill Brett, house manager of Shea's Buffalo. Speaking of the Buffalo, Bill tells us that his theatre and the *Courier-Express* are holding auditions for girl instrumentalists to appear on the stage of the Buffalo with Phil Spitalny and his all-girl orchestra. There will be $110 distributed among the first three winners . . . Bob Dame is still continuing his amateur contests at the Niagara. In addition to his managerial duties, he is starting another class in first aid for the Red Cross. Ushers from the various Shea houses will be his pupils.

Noted on the ever-increasing ailing list this past week are: Ed Frank, chief engineer for Shea's; Clayton Weston, Shea engineer; Emil Rothfus, manager of Basil's Victoria; Al Crato, Lafayette operator, and Freddie Koester, junior executive of the Lafayette. Gwen McDonald, also of the Lafayette, is just developing the sniffles . . . Nick Alico of the Shea pit band won't drive without lights any more. It seems there is a law against it . . . Has any theatre executive two more charming daughters than Spence Balser, booker for the Basil Theatres. The parties in question, Bernice and Beatrice . . . Ward Thompson, "ex" of the Shea staff, is now employed at the Twentieth Century as a relief doorman . . . In the alleys: The Buffalo One team won three Friday night with the aid of George Thompson, who is back after a recent illness. George Rosing, Roosevelt manager, and his team are way out in front in the league standings. Chuck McKernan and his Buffalo Two boys are on their tail. Shea's Hippodrome is the third place team. Mart Murret and boys of the Kenmore are coming along nicely and expect to take fourth place within a few weeks.

Para't Latin-American Convention on Feb. 6

NEW YORK—Paramount opens its first all Latin-American convention in Panama, February 6, when Austin C. Keough, vice-president and general counsel, will be the guest of honor. He and John W. Hicks, general foreign sales manager, are en route to the convention city now. The latter returns to New York immediately thereafter.

Attending will be Arthur L. Pratchett, general manager for Central America; John B. Nathan, in charge in the Argentine; Benito del Villar, who handles Chile, Peru and Bolivia; S. E. Pierpoint, Brazil; Robert L. Graham, Mexico; J. D. Rapoport, Cuba; Henry Gordon, Central American manager; Juan Oliver, Uruguay; J. P. Donohue, Puerto Rico; Alvaro Reyes, Colombia; Mrs. T. Andrews, Guatemala; Pedro Germano, Sao Paulo; Lazarus Constantine, Trinidad, and Larry O'Toole, assistant Central American manager.

Rites for I. H. Silver

NEW YORK—Funeral services were held over the weekend for I. H. Silver, 80, who died Thursday morning at Flushing Hospital. He leaves a widow, four daughters and a son, Milton, who is advertising and publicity head for National Screen Service.

Working Toward Lineup

NEW YORK—Bernard H. Mills, former Republic franchise holder who recently formed Equity Film Exchanges to operate in the metropolitan area, informs BOXOFFICE he has lined up no product yet, but is working on several deals.

Randforce Renews Altec

NEW YORK—Altec has renewed its service agreement with Randforce circuit, operating 50 Brooklyn houses.

PHILADELPHIA

NEW $500 life insurance policies have been taken out for all of the 105 members of Motion Picture Associates, President William C. Karrer, Republic, announces. The new arrangement is in addition to the $500 policies subscribed for several months ago . . . The organization is making requests to all branch managers to choose from its unemployed members when making additions to sales staffs, which will be necessitated by the new buying methods under the consent decree . . . An entertainment committee is planning some shindig or other. The members: Bill Doyle, Universal; Herman Rubin, Paramount; Bill Heenan, Peerless; Jack Engel, RKO; Saul Krugman, UA, and Sam Rosen, Monogram.

United Artists held an exhibitor showing of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" at the Uptown . . . Carman Juliana, Horlacher driver, was killed in an accident during the snowstorm last week . . . New offices for the arbitration board under the consent decree are being set up at 1420 *Walnut St. . . . Variety Club and Showmen's Club vied with each other in giving Cecil Felt, Affiliated, the biggest send-off for his trip into the army . . . Friends of Marty Hirsch, Century, report he is due to leave for Washington for an army post.*

John Schaeffer and Jack Weiss want to emphasize that the recent fire at their new poster exchange didn't call a halt to business . . . Inside dope from the Detroit auto industry is to the effect that Sam Palan, Monogram, and Frank Hammerman, Republic, will soon blossom out in new cars . . . Maxwell Gillis, Republic's lively exchange head, presented his blonde secretary, Vivian Baylinson, with an "academy award" for her skill in handling sensitive exhibitors . . . George Benedict, Columbia clerk, doubles as advertising manager of the *Lantern*, University of Pennsylvania evening school magazine.

Mike Lessy is reported leaving for a Florida trip . . . Ann Bubeck, Paramounter, is back at her desk after a round with the grippe . . . Nancy Fraser, Paramount's Betty Boop girl, has her heart strings tied around half the world. She has a sister under the bombs in England and a boy friend stationed at the army post in Hawaii . . . Edgar Moss, 20th-Fox, threw a party for exhibitors at his gilt-edged, diamond-studded new mansion in Bala-Cynwyd . . . Esther Diamond, his dark-haired secretary, is planning a vacation beginning February 14, *decorating Florida sands . . . Jack Bergin, Fox booker, went to Scranton on a business trip.*

Among out-of-towners that braved the slush for a visit to Philly last week were Tommy Thomas, Thomas Theatre, Taylor; Eddie Jones, Magazzu circuit; Elias Coury, Capitol, Summit Hill; Vic Austin, Grand, East Stroudsburg; Bill Bayher, Park, Lehighton; Jimmy Dukas, Grand, Edwardsville; Stanley Peters, Ritz, St. Clair; George Reister, Capitol, Shamokin, and Harry Waxman, Atlantic City circuit.

Equip With Photophone

PHILADELPHIA—The Diamond, Warner house, is being re-equipped with RCA Photophone sound. The house seats 927.



Succeeds Sweigert—

Ulrik Smith, former salesman for Paramount in Philadelphia, succeeds to the managership of that office now that Earle Sweigert has been made district manager of a newly-created area embracing that city, Washingington and Pittsburgh.

Philly Barkers Fete David 'Skip' Weshner

PHILADELPHIA—A spinet piano was the surprise gift David "Skip" Weshner received at a testimonial banquet tendered him by the Variety Club. Several friends had heard him say he was planning to buy a spinet, and the club beat him to it.

Weshner, who has left the Warner organization for an exploitation post with United Artists, was lauded for his services to the industry by half a dozen speakers. Powers Gouraud was master of ceremonies.

On the dais were Jay Emanuel, toastmaster; Harry Goldberg, Arthur and Emanuel Silverstone, Louis Krouse, Nat Levy, Morris Wolf, Ted Schlanger, Joseph Bernhard, Dr. Leon Levy, George Skouras, Earle Sweigert, Eddie Peskay, Sam Stiefel and Everett Callow.

The club announced appointment of new committees as follows:

Motion pictures: Ted Schlanger, Bob Lynch and George Schwartz. Cards: Ben Fertel, Maxwell Gillis and Leo Posel. Entertainment: Harry Biben, Stan Lee Broza, Oscar Neufeld and Lawrence Shubert. Rules and resolutions: Al Cohen and Harry Ball. Convention: Earle Sweigert, Frank Elliott, George F. Weilland, Frank Gravatt, Emanuel Munzer, Mort Lewis, Jay Emanuel, Ben Fertel, Meyer Adelman, Sam Stiefel and Jack Greenberg. Charity: Charles Goldfine, Martin B. Ellis, Harry Weiner, Meyer Adelman and Irwin Charlap. Welfare: Sid Samuelson, Melvin Fox, Elmer Wilschke. House: Henry Friedman, Oscar Neufeld, Bill McAvoy, Leo Beresin and Dave Supowitz. Luncheon: Al Davis, Sam Gross, Jack Kraker and Jack Greenberg.

Exhibitors Line Up to Aid Defense Program

PHILADELPHIA — Cooperation of the industry with the government's defense program will aid distributors and exhibitors to continue to keep control of their screens, Harry Brandt told 200 exhibitors at a meeting in the Broadwood Hotel.

The meeting was called by the local section of the theatre division of the motion picture industry committee cooperating for national defense. Jay Emanuel, local chairman, presided.

Brandt pointed out that the alternative to industry cooperation would be direct government control. He urged all exhibitors to sign pledges of service in the defense program.

Lowell Millet is the probable choice of President Roosevelt as co-ordinator for the theatre division, Brandt reported. His function will be to help the industry formulate policy on problems arising out of the defense program, such as the suggestion of reduced admissions for enlisted men. Exhibitors would be asked to refer to the co-ordinator and his associates in the industry all requests from organizations to use their stages or screens for "campaigns" and propaganda of various sorts, to make sure exhibitors do not unwittingly support unpatriotic bodies.

Brandt pointed out that producers already have enlisted in the defense program by making patriotic shorts, and urged exhibitors to play as many as possible.

William Crockett of Virginia MPTOA reported exhibitors in his territory are getting behind the program enthusiastically.

N. Y. Motion Picture Tax Nets More Than Estimate

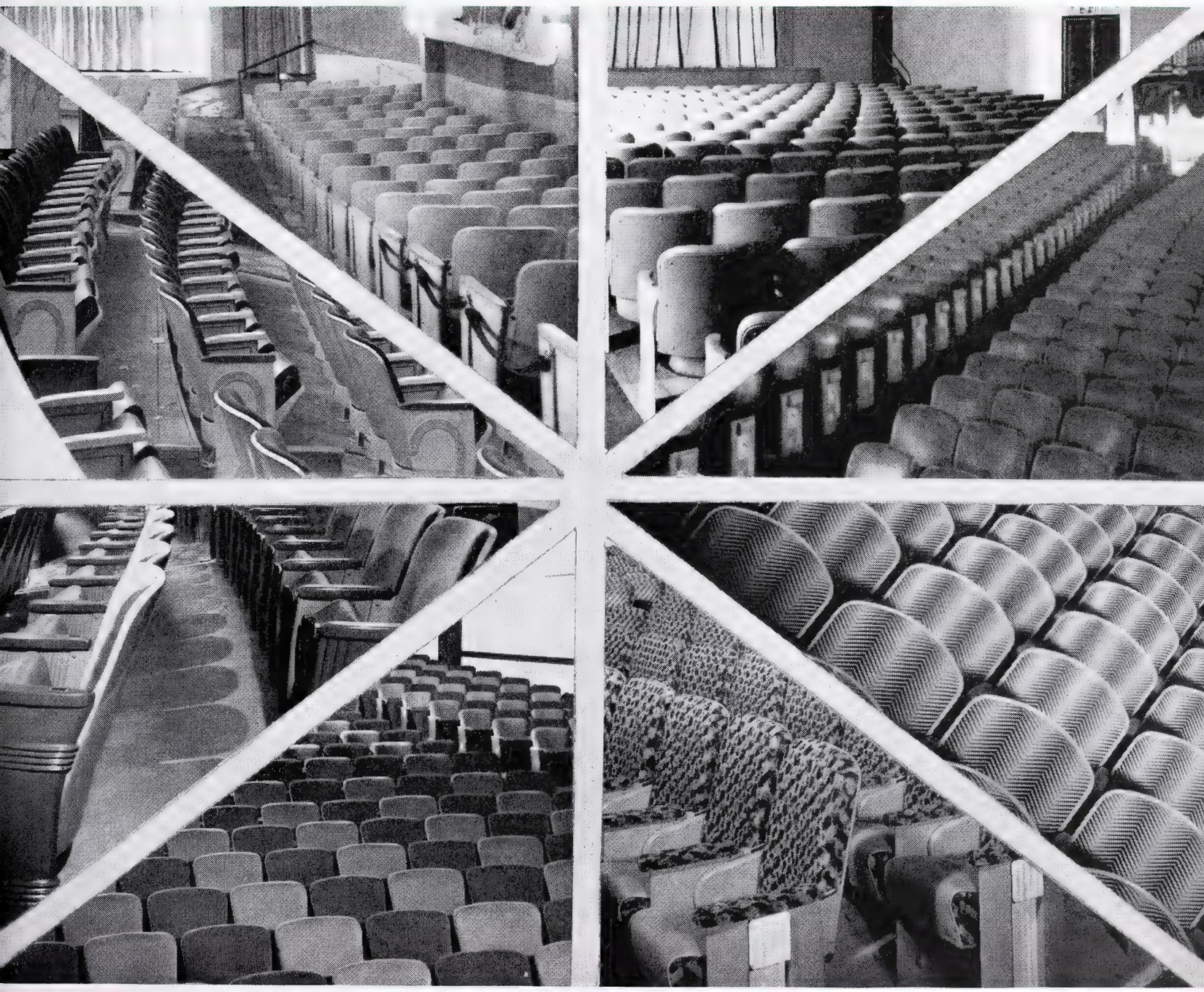
ALBANY—The motion picture tax, collected on a per thousand foot basis for the examination and licensing of films, netted the state $9,635.50 more than the estimated $300,000 for fiscal year 1939-40. Gov. Herbert H. Lehman reported this in his annual budget message, which called for a nine million dollar cut in appropriations during 1941-42 and a $21,000,000 reduction in the personal income tax payable in April, 1942. The latter will be for the tax year starting January 1, 1941. Governor Lehman did not change the film tax estimate (by the Education Department whose motion picture division handles the licensing) of $300,000 for 1940-41, and for 1941-42.

Total appropriations for the next year, in the Governor's budget, are approximately $385,100,000, which is an actual reduction of about $5,000,000. He scaled down the estimated revenue on the stock transfer tax in 1940-41 to $14,000,000, compared to $19,181,000 in 1939-40. The governor fixed the 1941-42 estimate from this source at $16,000,000. He informed the legislature he did not expect an increase in revenue from betting through the pari-mutuel machines this spring. Lehman estimated the yield from July 1, 1940 up to June 30, 1941, would be $5,500,000.

Governor Lehman emphasized that while revenue has been rising, due to improved business conditions, the war situation makes predictions uncertain.

The MODERN THEATRE

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION of BOXOFFICE



presents **SEATING SERVICE**

***Issue of* FEBRUARY 1, 1941**

Should I AIR CONDITION?



1.



Mr. Don'tle: "How can you afford it? Save your money!"

Mr. Do-odle: "But you can't let competitors take your business."

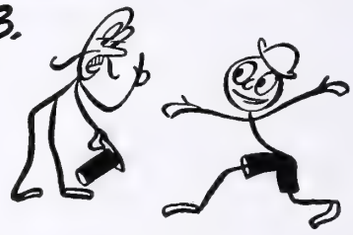
2.



Mr. Don'tle: "No. But it would be a terrible job to air condition this place at a reasonable cost."

Mr. Do-odle: "Yes. But certainly the right outfit could do it."

3.



Mr. Don'tle: "Perhaps. But who *is* the right one for you to turn to?"

Mr. Do-odle: "There is nobody better than Carrier."

4.



Mr. Don'tle: "But doesn't Carrier do only the big jobs?"

Mr. Do-odle: "You're nuts! Carrier's big jobs showed them how to air condition places like yours."

5.

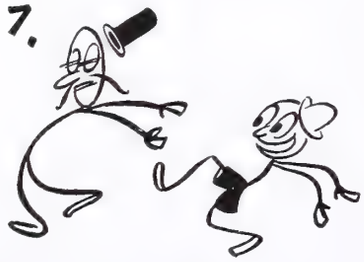


Mr. Do-odle: "Carrier has done hundreds of jobs for leading theatres all over the country. Take the case of . . .

6. **Palace Theatre in Youngstown, Ohio**

'My choice of Carrier equipment,' wrote Manager E. O. Prinsen, 'was based on . . . the advice of the finest engineers, men who do nothing but supervise such equipment for large theatre circuits. Without exception these engineers recommended Carrier. I could write a book about the economical operation, and generally splendid results.' "

7.



Mr. Don'tle: "Curses, I'm lost."

Mr. Do-odle: "Scram. I'm going to send for Carrier, then I know I'll have the best."

Carrier

Air Conditioning's *First Name*

CARRIER CORPORATION Desk B11
"Weather Makers to the World"
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK
(In Canada, 30 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario)

Gentlemen: Without obligation, send me complete information on Carrier Air Conditioning for Theatres.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____



For Profits . . . Replace your old Sound System with

RCA PHOTOPHONE MAGIC VOICE OF THE SCREEN

Gone are the bloomers of yesteryear! The modern girl has found it pays to play in streamlined togs—just as *you* will find it pays to use streamlined RCA Photophone Magic Voice of the Screen to reproduce modern movie sound. For good sound means good box-office!

But don't take our word for it! Ask the movie makers in Hollywood how important sound is to the box-office value of any picture. Ask your patrons, too. You'll find it's *plenty* important! That's why we say: You'll boost your business when you match Hollywood's modern sound with equipment that will properly reproduce it in your theatre.

And that equipment is the RCA Photophone Magic Voice of the Screen. Styled and priced for any and all size theatres, it's the box-office tonic you've been looking for!

•

Trademark "Victor" Reg. United States Patent Office by RCA Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Better sound means better box-office . . . RCA Tubes mean better sound.

VICTOR and BLUEBIRD RECORDS

The music you want when you want it

THEATRE EQUIPMENT

Complete Sound Systems . . . Screens . . . Theatre Record Players . . . Projectors . . . Sound Reinforcing Equipment . . . Inter-Communication Systems . . . Hearing Aids . . . Service and Maintenance. See your RCA Photophone Representatives or affiliated theatre supply dealers. Photophone Division, RCA Manufacturing Company, Inc., Camden, N. J. In Canada, RCA Victor Company, Ltd., Montreal • A Service of the Radio Corporation of America.

THE PRESSURE IS OFF THE Popliteal!

POPLITEAL—
According to *Webster's*, the Popliteal is the "back part of the leg behind the knee joint." It is very sensitive because arteries, veins, and nerves are close to the skin surface. Pressure on the Popliteal causes legs to "go to sleep," is responsible for nervousness and restlessness.



HERE'S THE LATEST IN THEATRE SEAT COMFORT

A revolutionary new-type theatre seat of exquisite comfort—*exclusive with American Seating*

Feather Foam Front

No hard steel wires—No rolled or packed stuffing across front edge. The Feather Foam Front is truly soft!

FEATHER FOAM FRONT! Get acquainted with that name—because you'll hear a lot about it from now on. It's American's latest contribution to theatre seat comfort. Once and for all it *takes the pressure off the popliteal!* No more complaints from patrons about hard seat edges that put legs to sleep! Instead praise and profits because you have the most comfortable theatre seats in the world today!

And the remarkable thing is that *Feather Foam Front* seats cost you no more! This great advance in theatre seat design is now a regular feature of the American Bodiform, Commodore, Zephyr and Zenith theatre chairs.

See these new chairs before you buy. Brilliant new color schemes . . . streamlined designs . . . and *Feather Foam Front* seats!

AMERICAN SEATING COMPANY · GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. · REG. U.S. PAT. OFFICE

American Seating Company

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Pioneers and pacemakers in theatre, auditorium, school, church, stadium and transportation seating

Branch Offices and Distributors in Principal Cities

The MODERN THEATRE

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION of BOXOFFICE

(Title registered U. S. Patent Office)

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Underseating of Small Theatres Is a Serious Mistake

We often hear of over-seating as a problem of pressing concern to theatre management, but the complaint is usually centered on the existence of too many seats to fill in a given locality. The competitive situation, so to speak.

Seldom is heard any serious complaints about over-seating of theatres individually. Capacity sufficient to take care of a surge of extra patronage whether it comes unexpectedly or otherwise is something every theatre builder should plan to provide. And the time to do it economically is before the concrete is poured.

"My greatest trouble with theatre owner clients today," says an architectural associate of ours, "is to get them to see the wisdom of providing enough seats (and without crowding) to make their investment profitable. Too many of them want to hold their capacities to 400 when the situation really calls for many more."

The task of making a theatre of less than 500 seating capacity pay dividends at prevailing admission prices and under current costs of operation must be obvious to every experienced theatre operator.

The feast or famine factor is always to be reckoned with, especially in small town and suburban locations. Turnaways on weekends and holidays are disheartening.

Will theatre builders never learn to give their businesses a chance to grow? Under-capacity is easy to assume but hard and expensive to correct. An extra row or two of seats won't long remain empty in a theatre that's really modern in all respects.

Toler

Further emphasis on RELAXATION features Modern Seating Service

BY UNRELENTING persistence in research and fabrication for utmost comfort value in each succeeding new model they introduce, the public seating industry en masse has steadily contrived a higher standard in theatre seating efficiency each year during the past decade.

In reviewing the accomplishments each year we find it increasingly difficult to forecast the ultimate in theatre seating provision for comfort and the eye appeal that keeps steadily apace with it. Each year brings many new and unexpected contributions to the comfort of moving picture patrons.

Other industries have shown remarkable interest in relieving the many mechanical problems confronting modern theatre operation. They too have researched and contrived for improvement in the house appeal characteristics of the products they manufacture. But the theatre seating industry stands out by a wide margin on one important particular, i. e.:

GOOD MERCHANDISING

Seating manufacturers have not only assiduously applied themselves to the design and production of better merchandise, they have seen to it that the theatre industry is fully aware of all their developments in the direction of greater comfort for moving picture patrons, plus such other important considerations as attractiveness, lasting efficiency, and all-round quality of product. The theatre seating industry cannot be accused of laxity in the merchandising of its commodity—seating service.

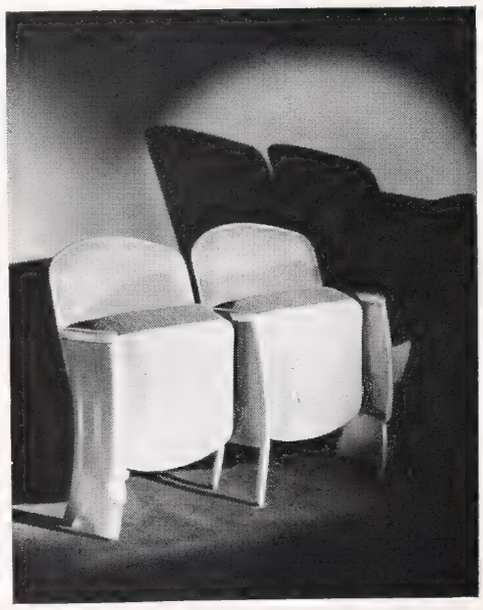
It is because of this fine follow-up to the fabrication of an ever-better product, that theatre owners are today more familiar with quality and use value characteristics in theatre seating than they ever were before. Despite the fact that competition among theatre seating manufacturers is quite keen, a condition which ordinarily might create a general cheapening of product, there is at present no evidence of any tendency to cheapness in the construction of seating for theatres. In fact the trend to quality was never more apparent than now.

It would be manifestly unfair, however, to permit the seating people to take all the credit for a condition that augurs so well for the future brightness of the moving picture business. Theatre owners, their architects and others mutually involved in the building and equipment improvement cycle must surely be given a substantial share of the credit for remarkable accomplishment. Their ever-widening appreciation and understanding of what seating comfort means to the boxoffice has made them highly receptive to the sound reasoning of the sponsors of better seating for all classes and sizes of theatres.

COMFORT CONQUERS ALL

Most experienced theatre owners now realize that without means of relaxation provided in their places of business the difficulties of entertaining the public are multiplied. They know, perhaps from weekly experiences and boxoffice records, that of all pictures they are permitted to play, there are comparatively few with such intense entertainment value that they will compensate for physical discomfiture, inconvenience or other common distractions during their presentation.

They realize quite as well too, that the former dyed-in-the-wool movie fan, to whom nothing mattered but what is on the

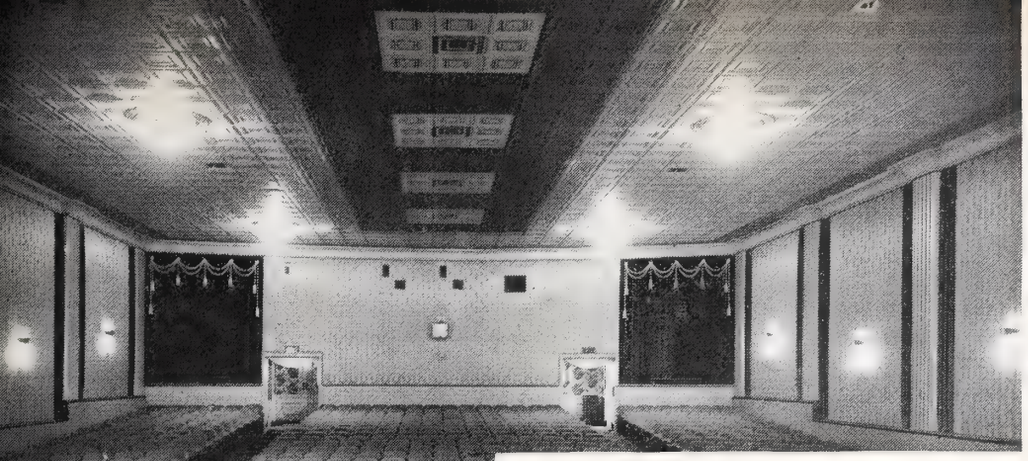


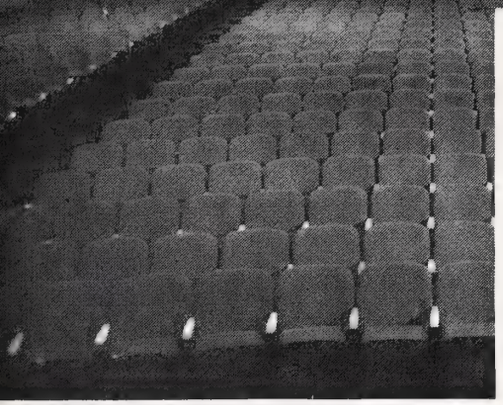


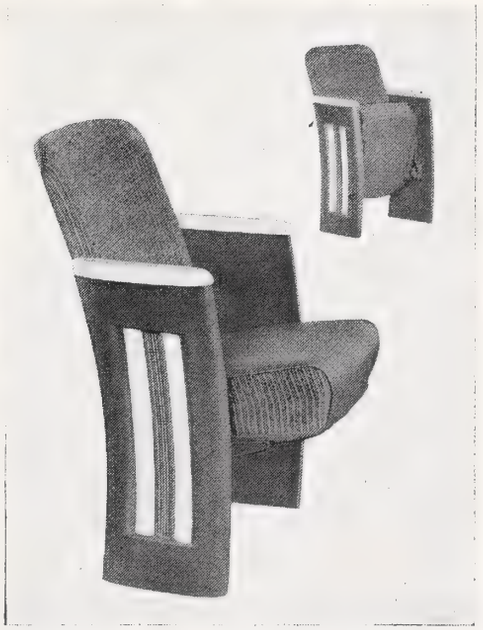
The new Royal Theatre in Detroit has an outstanding installation of 2,406 comfortable and beautifully designed theatre chairs. The lately introduced "Cameo" chair was selected and it adds its bit both decoratively and efficiently. The particular model (inset) in this instance features pillow-spring type construction and steel edge top finish. Its arms are of a new plastic material which resists scratching and end standards are of cast iron with aisle-light louvres inset. The upholstering material for this installation is a high grade, high-pile turquoise colored mohair to complement the theatre's stunning decorative scheme. (Photo courtesy Heywood-Wakefield Company).

Cover Plate

The essence of comfort and relaxation is expressed in our photomontage of modern theatre seating in actual situations. Each of the eight angles presents the case for patron appeal in a forthright manner. Each extends an invitation to relaxation and enjoyment of entertainment. The theatre patron who is accorded this added advantage in his moving picture diversion is the satisfied customer who will return again and again for more of the same. Beauty too is a magnetic characteristic of modern seating as shown in these pointed views. Each depicts the sleek lines and contour of functional design and all are products of the comfort-creator's art in posture correctness, upholstering snugness and beauty of finish. The specific attributes of such modern theatre chair installations as those shown on the cover are outlined in this, our issue devoted to the natural science of "Public Seating."







Charm and comfort in a modernized theatre, the Majestic in West Springfield, Massachusetts, are heightened by its new seating installation. The "Challenger" model, a streamlined exponent of relaxation and patron comfort, was chosen for its many construction features as well as economy since it is in a moderate price range of seats. The Majestic's model (inset) has streamlined standards in Spanish orange with buff trim, with full upholstered back and spring-edged seats in orange corduroy of a new specially processed type that is moisture resistent. (Photo courtesy Ideal Seating Company).

screen, is well on the way to extinction, and that the demand for physical relaxation has become common to all except a relatively few patrons. Even this minority can be quite easily made comfort-conscious, to the detriment of the neighboring competitor who still feels that comfortable seating service is only a minor consideration of a ticket sale.

Theatre men who have reseated their houses properly in the face of competition from those favored with the privileges of picture priorities, but whose theatres are allowed to deteriorate because of such special protection and privilege, have found comfortable seating an ace-in-the-hole, because of its definite appeal to the majority of patrons who now seek relaxation. An easy chair makes a man or woman much less critical in regard to the program.

To illustrate the point of this article, that, the seating industry has done, and is



The Columbia Theatre in Longview, Wash., illustrates how well beauty and comfort are being combined. Its installation of 858 "Crusader" model chairs is modern to the minute in both public seating efficiency and attractiveness of design. The "Crusader" (inset) is of the full-upholstered type with a seat feature known as spring-to-edge. This model also has the new seat bucket construction and indirect compensating hinges for smooth operation, as well as self-raising seat mechanisms. On the aesthetic side, the Columbia installation is upholstered in orange mohair at back and leather for seats, with standards in sand color trimmed with red. (Photo courtesy Irwin Seating Company).

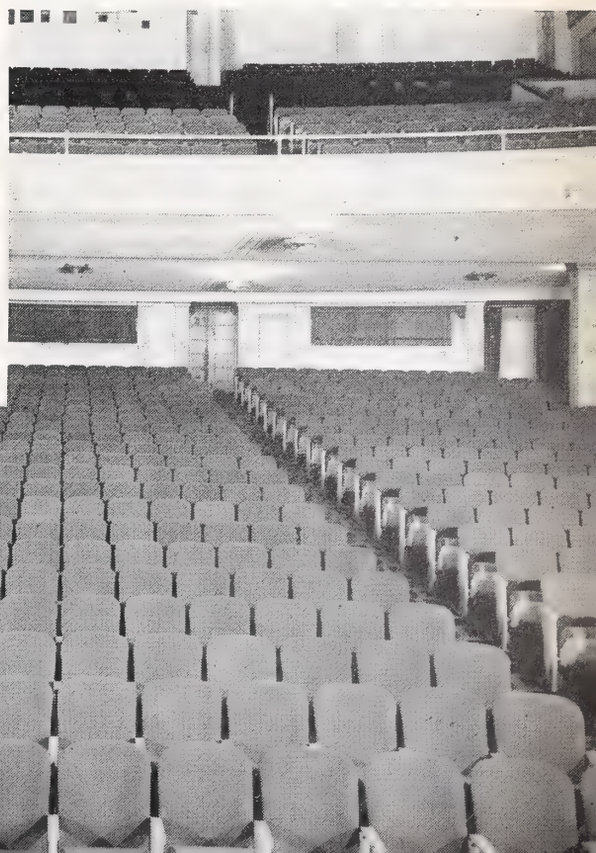
still doing, much to re-establish and then stabilize the movie-going habit, we present herewith a few pictorial examples of seating and reseating projects recently completed. Each of the seating manufacturers represented, submitted at our request, a picture of a current theatre seating project, together with a close-up view of the chair model installed. We reproduce them here, with brief descriptions to emphasize the fact that more than ever before, *Relaxation Features Modern Theatre Seating Service.*

Yet, in contriving for ever greater comfort in theatre seating, the secondary factors of greater eye appeal, decorative harmony and general quality of construction have not been slighted, as will be noted from the examples illustrated, which indicate a range of prices as well as requirements. Practically all theatre seats, except the very cheapest ones being offered today have one or more pronounced comfort characteristics. Logically in the higher-priced brackets these characteristics become more pronounced. As always the selling price affects quality on all points.

Numerous Innovations

The latest model chairs offer certain innovations in design and construction that should be noted here. Such for instance, as improved spring and hinge construction; rubber cushioning; pillowy softness in seat upholstery due to new discoveries in upholstery technique; plastic arm rests and many other functional refinements—all with a well-studied design for greater comfort, convenience of access with unusual attractiveness to the eye.

Both full and partially self-raising seats continue in popularity. Double width (love seats) settees and special roomy lounging chairs for loges are now in vogue. Steel pan construction for theatre seats and backs which are molded for posture correctness form the basis of body-caressing upholstery while artistically designed end



standards in pleasing harmonious color schemes suggest comfort even before the patron is seated.

Other innovations include colorful new upholstery fabrics in mohairs, corduroys and leatherettes; special life-time enamel finishes for metal parts, and as previously mentioned the foam rubber cushion which either alone or cleverly combined with steel springs of various improved types provides all that can be called for in theatre seating comfort.

The Delivery Situation

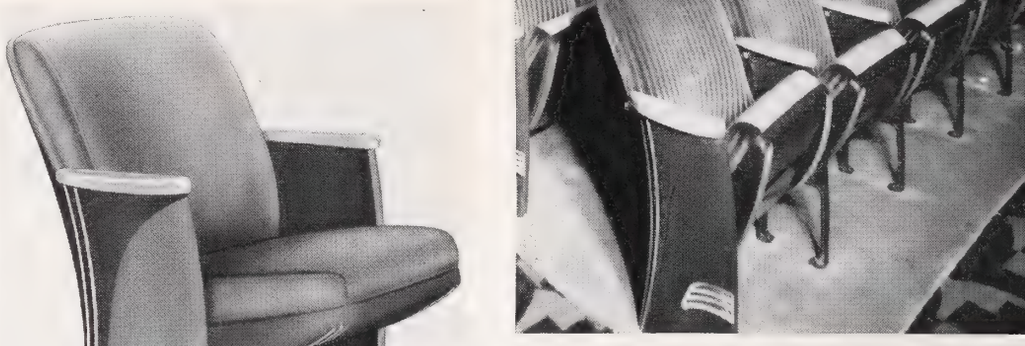
While the National Defense Program requirements on American industry have not as yet seriously affected the manufacture and delivery of theatre seating, it is anticipated that some interference is to be expected soon, especially in a possible shortage of steel and certain upholstery fabrics.

But certain of the manufacturers have already protected themselves well against such events by laying in huge supplies of such materials that may be affected by defense measures. One such concern advises furthermore that they are standardizing or grouping their lines of seating, so that with a quick interchangeability of stock seats, backs and standards, they can accommodate theatre trade with delivery of the finest in modern theatre seating on even shorter notice than has been possible heretofore.

The price situation is seriously problematical in view of present conditions; but all indications lean well toward the probability that theatre seating costs are lower now than they will be in many years to come.

Meanwhile the theatre seating industry remains entirely at your service.





Detroit's new Parkside Theatre promotes comfort and relaxation as highlights of its recreational policy. For this purpose, 862 single chairs and 14 love seats in the new "Commodore" model spring back style were selected by its owners, Erving and Sidney Moss, and Architects Bennett & Straight, to serve as real comfort facilities for the patrons. The exact model (inset) has all the posture and ease qualities available today and for beauty it is entirely harmonious and complementary to the auditorium decorative scheme. Red aisle standards with cream colored trim are used with clover red mohair backs and ivory leatherette seats. (Photo courtesy American Seating Company).



The Loop Theatre in Mobile, Alabama, a new Saenger house, has all the elements of comfort and beauty highly exemplified by its seating installation. An insert panel chair was selected (inset), having all-steel welded construction and a metal rim on the back for the protection of upholstery material. The seat cushion is of standard 20-coil construction giving extra comfort without additional cost. To harmonize with and complement the color scheme used in the Loop's auditorium, the chairs are upholstered and enameled in delicate shades of coral and peach, thus making the installation by Wil-Kin Theatre Supply Co., decoratively beautiful as well as extremely relaxing. (Photo courtesy International Seat Corp.)



Special Advantages of Rubber Seat Toppings

Among the remarkable advantages of the new development of foam rubber seat topping for theatre chair upholstery, the following are pointed out by manufacturers of the material, seating companies and buyers of new theatre seats as well:

The material provides the most comfortable seat cushioning ever developed. It can't pack down, can't bulge or lose its shape. It actually outlasts the ordinary spring unit, and it is absolutely dustless, proved germ and moth proof.

Upholstery covers last longer over its smooth, flexible surface. It puts greatest strength at the most vulnerable point for seat wear. Furthermore, the material actually improves acoustics since it is a known sound insulator. Any customer survey will indicate the value placed on good seating. This new development is one way to assure seating comfort.

Gentlemen, Be Seated! . . . in some of your own chairs

by ANSEL M. MOORE

IT'S A SHAMEFUL, sordid and shabby suggestion that shouldn't be allowed to happen even to a dolt, much less to a moving picture patron; but because we've been ordered to do it, Gentlemen, we're going to ask some of you to swallow your own medicine, or to put it even less mildly, to stew in your own juice.

Gentlemen Be Seated! Not here and now perhaps; nor in that softly padded swivel chair behind your desk; nor at home beside your favorite book rack; but right down there in your theatre, in one of those tiny torture chambers, you choose to tell us are as comfortable as the day you bought them at $4.98 installed some 13 years ago! Don't rush it, please. The place is empty and you can take your pick —something your poor patrons can't always do.

Test Your Temper

Now, Gentlemen Be Seated! . . . and sit right there for the time it takes to dissipate one of your dual feature dissipations. No! No! Don't get up now! You haven't even got the feel of it yet and you can't duck the issue that way. Sit there a short while and you'll soon begin to wiggle and squirm; the first shift is due any minute now, and while we're waiting for it, let us (meaning your tormenter) squeeze through in front of you just to remind you what 32 inches back-to-back really means to We the People. Aggravating, isn't it? Scarcely satisfying, eh, what?

Be careful now Gentlemen. Don't commit yourselves! Remember, too, you're a patron, and good patrons can take it; anyhow that's what you think. And Gentmans, these are your very own little comfort-makers. They've been good enough for you for over 13 years now, and after all there's such a thing as sentiment in association. But the helluvit is, me hearties, this is perhaps the longest you ever sat in one of your theatre's seats for lo, these many years.

No sirs, you can't get up now. This is only the first reel. You ain't felt nothin' yet. Wait till your bones start creaking in earnest and your backache begins to bear down. Squirm some more. Make yourself comfortable with curvature of the spine. Enjoy the sensations you have so unselfishly showered on us patrons in the past.

Honestly men, we can't go on with this. Its heart-rending, cruel and beyond our conception of what you've got coming to you. We conclude the fiendish performance forthwith and take up the accustomed position of a polite theatre manager at the exit door, there to ask you blithely on your way out, "Gentlemen, how'd you like the show?"

We apologize for your acrimony, after such an experience. Of course it couldn't have happened to you—unless you are in the habit of changing places with your patrons. We likewise beg your pardon for bringing the subject so sharply home to you, in case the shoe is one that fits you.

Doing Unto Others

But seriously now and without further similes or beating around the bush about it; don't you think we've preached a pretty good sermon on the evil effects of "doing unto our patrons that which we would not like them to do unto us"—all the while expecting them to continue to do business with us?

By the very nature of seating; the fact that it was created in the beginning by our ingenious forebears for one purpose, solely to provide comfort, and from the very fact that comfort of body is directly connected and contributory to ease of mind, it is the one condition of service that cannot be trifled with in the theatre. It is one phase of theatre operation on which you may easily fool yourself; but fooling the public, that's something else.

When the average theatre owner goes shopping for theatre chairs he has usually but one all-consuming objective in mind. He wants a piece of furniture that will look good for a long time. Next he desires a chair that is comfortable in the extreme and one that will stay comfortable for keeps. He'll demand quality construction, noiseless operation and all the use values and advantages he's read about in sales literature and seen demonstrated in the display rooms. He knows about what he wants.

But here's what usually happens to him if he doesn't stick closely to his buying guns: The siren call of the short-price proposal throws him off guard. A seeming chance to save from a few cents to a dollar or more per seat changes his buying mood from one of sound business logic to mere speculation. Under such a spell of a bargain offer he goes all out for good looks; and the guts of the proposal—what the product is made of and how it's put together—doesn't matter. His object is forgotten.

Lest You Forget

Let's remind ourselves emphatically, Gentlemen, that aside from the combined projection and sound system, theatre seating represents, as it should, the largest financial investment in the outfitting of a theatre plant. The size of the investment makes it imperatively necessary to look into the future and try to avoid the necessity of reseating too soon.

It is the most important equipment provision in the plant for another important reason, that the theatre chair is one of the few articles of theatre furniture with which the customers make personal and prolonged contact. The comfort of the patrons cannot therefore be trifled with for the sake of saving a few cents per seat or even a dollar or so.

In closing may we admonish you again regarding the long life and comfort-giving characteristics of the chairs you are going to buy. All chairs appear comfortable to the eye at first glance, and to the body when you sit quickly and promptly arise. They're all beautiful to behold—but as with other gorgeous creatures and creations, beauty in theatre seats can be only of dermal depth.

Your problem, Gentlemen, is how long they'll stay both good to look at and comfy. It's the hidden virtues that determine the value in public seating—not the shorter selling price.

Gentlemen, if you're still with us, you may now arise!

Creating a mood for relaxation is as much a part of entertainment as is the provision of comedy, tragedy or melodrama on the screen. This is accomplished by the addition of comfort and convenience to your exploitation points.

Patrons who are comfortable are much less critical of the entertainment provided for their enjoyment. This is a prime motivation for the reseating of many theatres.

Give Us Fresh Air!

In the forthcoming (March First) issue Ansel Moore will make another heroic plea for the physical welfare of the patrons and the benefit of the box-office with some pertinent hints to theatre men on what to do about air conditioning and how it appeals to "We, the People." Air Conditioning, incidentally is the theme subject for next issue of The Modern Theatre section. So look forward to something special—The Editor.

Detroit's new PARKSIDE... a 3-Unit Recreation Center

• • •

ALMOST logical combination of recreation attractions that heralds a basically new trend in theatre planning is embodied in one of Detroit's newest neighborhood theatres—the Parkside.

First of the additional crowd attractions is a cocktail lounge, including a bar and grill, which is designed as a neighborhood center of good cheer. More radical in planning, however, is the inclusion of the third unit, in addition to the theatre and cocktail lounge—a large, modern bowling alley.

In the past, exhibitors have looked upon bowling as a potential major rival to their own enterprises. In many cases, they have been bowling fans themselves, of course, and a few have also bought or built bowling alleys. But they were generally always individual enterprises, most probably in "opposition" to somebody else's theatre business.

However, in this new Detroit house, the owners have gone deliberately into the opposition field, and made the alley an integral part of the theatre structure itself —actually taking up half again as much space as the theatre auditorium. With the alleys right in the building project, the patrons of bowling are brought to the theatre building as often as they play—and traffic is increased to the spot; which is a fundamental objective of modern showmanship in theatre planning.

Mutual Benefits

But the alleys contribute to the theatre even more directly than as just traffic-builders. Bowlers playing their games early can go to the theatre afterward to see the show, while late bowlers can see the early show. Again, wives of bowlers need no longer be "alley widows," but can put in their time seeing their favorite pictures, while "friend husbands" who don't care so much for pictures, are enjoying themselves next door, making strikes and spares and "railroads." Families can well divide their patronage as their individual inclinations dictate. In any case, the theatre receives additional patronage, because the non-bowling wife who will go to a show while her husband is out skittling, for instance, will find it much more convenient to accompany him in the family car to the same spot, than to go out by herself to some more distant theatre.

The Parkside bar serves as a neighborhood gathering-place, as well as a spot for the after-the-show lunch. Meals are served there, as well as liquid refreshments, and the spot has made an important specialty of noon-day lunches, so that business men and women of the community are inclined to gather there from stores and offices all over the neighborhood. This brings still more people—who are well able to spend money for frequent show-attendance for themselves and families—to the house, to notice what is playing there daily from marquee and front signs and banners.

Such is the background of the strong "triple-threat" construction which makes this new house unique, probably, among American theatres. The success of the idea is evidenced by the boxoffice records of the house in the few months since its opening.

Site Suitability

The Parkside is located in a thickly-settled east-side district of Detroit, and is nearly a mile from the next nearest theatre. Nearby are better working-class homes, built about 15 years ago, worth about $4,000-$6,000 in a largely home-owning section, and renting at about $40-$65 for single homes, with prices mostly in the lower brackets. Vacant lots are few, and the number of potential patrons is great, although the average number of children is not large in this section.

Across the street is the new Federal Housing Project, Parkside Homes, to house perhaps 1,000 families when completed. The last addition is now under construction, with the balance occupied. The theatre name was selected to tie in with that of the Housing Project, and it is essentially a community enterprise. Here on an old circus-lot, is the largest closely-localized addition to Detroit homes in many years. Older theatres took care of the original residents quite adequately, particularly when one large new house was opened on Harper Avenue a year ago. But this sudden increase of local residents through the Federal project made the construction of the new theatre and its allied units worth immediate consideration.

Community Interest

Practicing modern showmanship, the management of the house has used every means of stimulating the sense of community interest in the house. The manager was selected from one of the nearest theatres, as one who knew his people, and who was a sort of honorary official of the Project Community Association, composed of residents in the Federal homes. Special parties and adequate exploitation have helped to knit this tie closer.

The Parkside was designed by Architects Bennett and Straight of Dearborn, Michigan, who have created many of the more modern Detroit theatres. It was erected by the Moss Brothers—Erving and Sydney—who, as the Moss Investment Company, operate the house. The structure is unusual in that it was actually built by the exhibitors, who are themselves also in the building field. A number of special features of the house, particularly in detail work, such as artistic treatment and decoration, were designed or suggested by the brothers Moss.

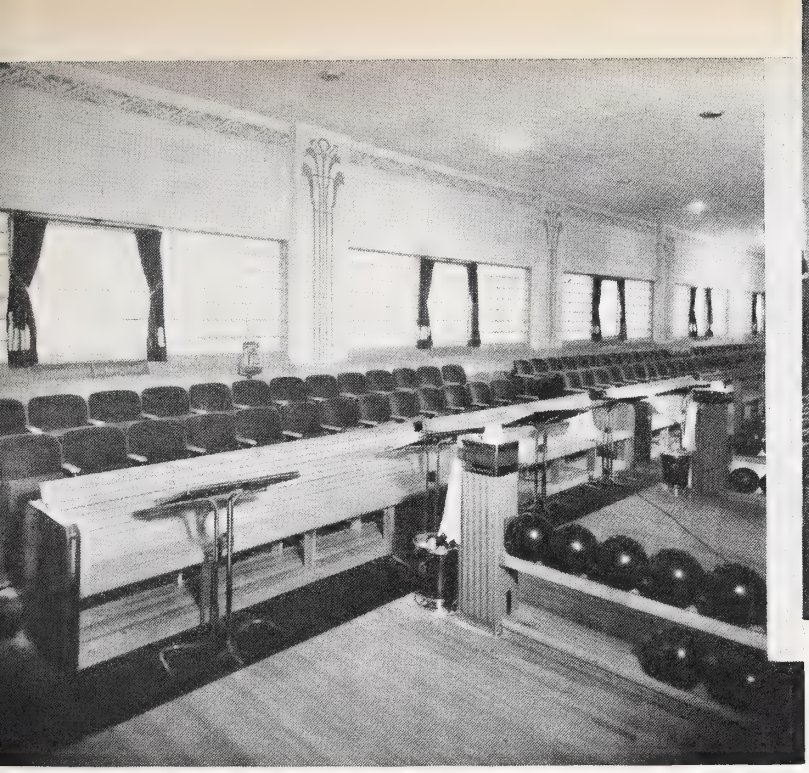


The Parkside Theatre front expansively proclaims the dominance of motion picture entertainment by the brilliant display of color, light and promotional advertising. However, the Parkside project is a "triple-threat" for entertainment seekers, providing also an inviting bar and grill and a bowling hall which exercise a tremendous draw and which may be noted in the view at right. (Photo courtesy Long Sign Company).

The building is 260 by 100 feet in dimensions, fronting the full length of one block on East Warren Avenue, with the back of the theatre on Dickerson Avenue, while the side of the bowling alley runs 100 feet on Gray Avenue.

Effective Contrast

The structure is faced with enameled metal in contrasting colors on the theatre side, while the bowling alley portion





A bowling hall of the latest and most improved type is a part of the Parkside project, denoting a trend which will bring the two popular competing types of entertainment under one management for greater profit to both. The finest alleys and equipment were installed and a feature is the provision of regulation theatre-type chairs for spectators. (Photo courtesy American Seating Company).

and cocktail lounge are finished in face brick, marking a distinct break in style between the two sections. Enameled metal trim in contrasting colors is used on the brick part, to tie in with the general decorative scheme.

Basic colors of the theatre front are bronze, maroon and buff, repeated in the trim on the rest of the building. The upper portion of the theatre front, rising above the marquee and finished in a panel effect, has color striping between each vertical panel, with concealed colored neon tubing to give a fountain-like lighting effect. Additional relatively low-powered floodlights hidden in the marquee are used to dramatize the front.

The whole architectural style is genuinely modern with the color scheme in somewhat restrained tones on the glittering enamel as the basic exterior motif. The more conventional brickwork of the bowling alley portion is given a strongly modern tone by almost continuous glass-brick windows set essentially in sets of three—two glass-brick portions with one of louvred glass between, which contains a portion that may be controlled for ventilation.

Brilliant Display

The marquee is triangular in shape, with three rows of interchangeable lettering on each of the two exterior faces. Colored neon tubing is used for the border lighting on the marquee, while a flat portion along the wall carries out the design of the center angle to balance.

Rising to 60 feet above the sidewalk, the sign at the end of an extended wall-border of the marquee, is V-shaped, with the name of the theatre on the two sides facing Warren Avenue. Projecting entirely over the sidewalk, the marquee and sign are visible for over a mile in each direction along this important east-and-west thoroughfare. The sign is suspended from an angle-positioned support of the false front of enameled metal erected over the theatre portion.

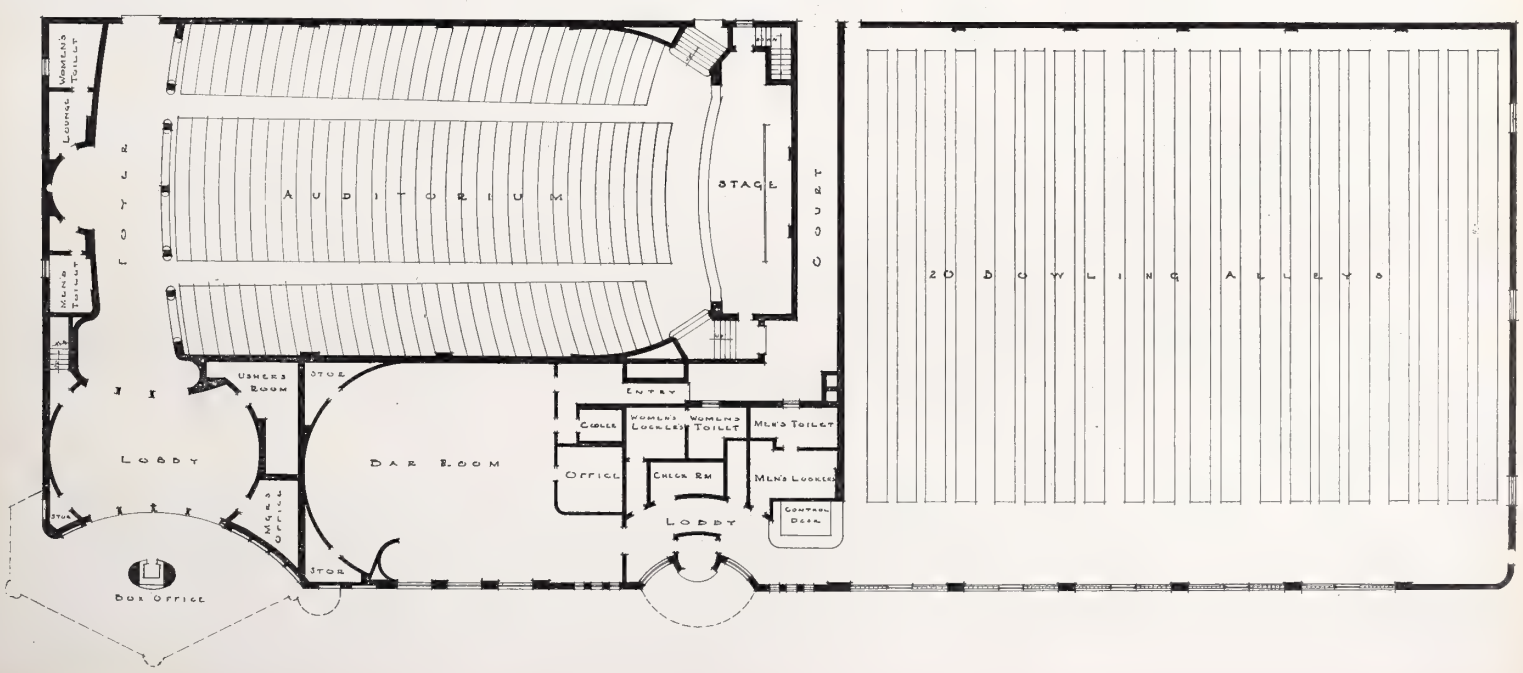
The lobby rises to full two-story height. Modern murals in an abstract style serve as unique decoration. Concealed colored lighting is used to enhance an unusually attractive entrance to the house—thus serving the purpose of good appearance in salesmanship, by inviting the prospective patrons to enter when they view the lobby from the outside, and in turn making the final effect a pleasing one as they leave the house.

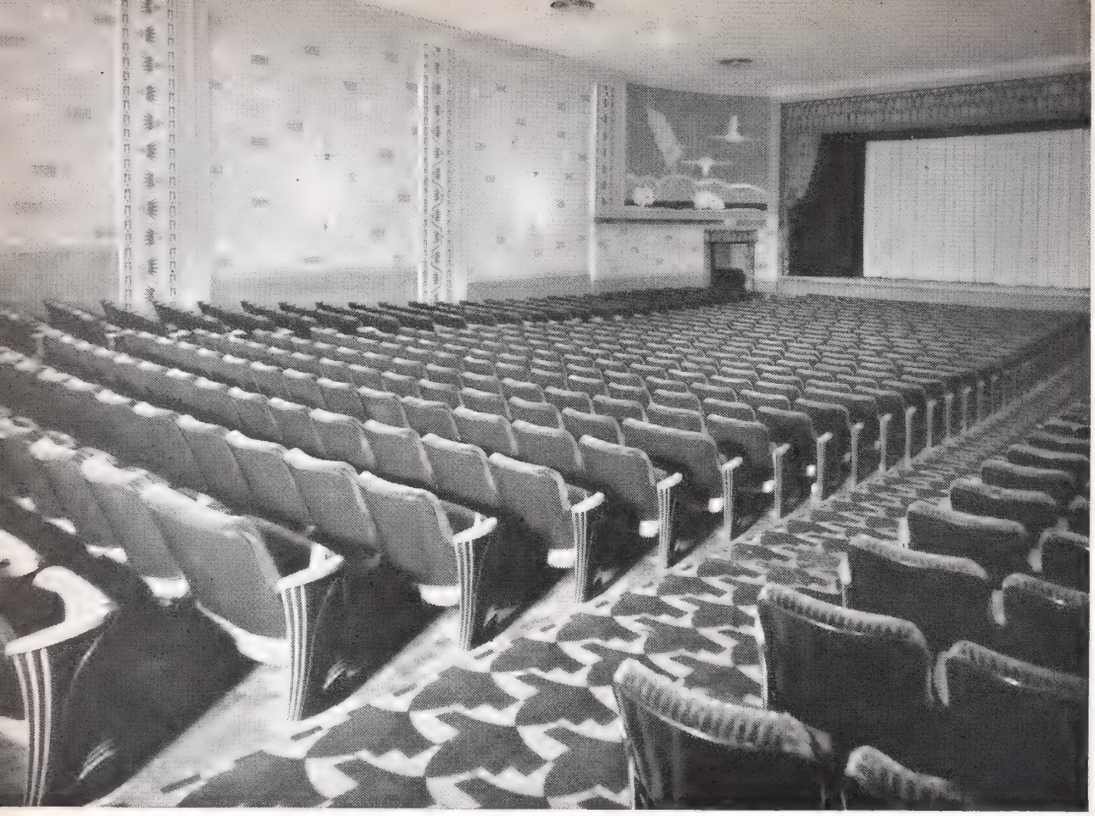
The theatre seats 1,000 patrons. Its floor is elevated on a "bowled" plan, according to the architects, so that the curve of elevation gradually flattens out from the back of the house to a line which is practically level at the stage. This allows every row of seats to have five inches of clearance over the row in front, providing adequate screen vision for patrons.

Further attention to good view of the screen resulted in the installation of seats in a staggered arrangement. This made necessary the installation of many of the

(Continued on following page)

Floor plans by Bennett & Straight, architects of Dearborn, Michigan, for the Parkside Theatre and Bowling Alley project show the adequacy with which the owners tackled the public entertainment problem. The theatre, the bar room and the bowling hall each exerts a tremendous draw on the diversion-seeking public and with the three under one roof and one management a new formula for success has been achieved.





The Parkside auditorium seats 1,000 patrons and is a model of comfort, convenience and eye appeal. Loungey seats, luxurious carpeting, proper air conditioning and distinguished decoration are highlights. (Photo courtesy American Seating Company).

Detroit's New PARKSIDE—A Three-Unit Recreation Center

(Continued from preceding page)

wide double chairs, known as "love seats," in order to even up the rows under the staggered arrangement. They are placed at about every fifth row, as indicated in the picture of the seating arrangement.

The stage is 15 feet deep, adequately designed for stage presentations of average size. The screen is normally set back about 10 feet from the proscenium arch. As designed, the house is not at present provided with fly-loft or dressing rooms.

The auditorium is lined with cinder block, decorated in contrasting colors. Each block is of a slightly different tone from adjacent blocks with occasional darker blocks to provide interest. Large murals, similar in design to those in the lobby, are painted on each sidewall near the stage.

Special equipment includes 100 seats provided with earphones for the hard-of-hearing—a modern convenience that has become increasingly important in neighborhood theatres, since exhibitors now know that some four per cent of the population may be considered in this unfortunate class.

Comfort Stressed

Air conditioning of the direct-fired type was installed, for complete year-round operation. Separate air-conditioning units were provided for the other two parts of the building, in order that they may be controlled separately. The theatre, for instance, can usually be kept at a higher temperature than that required for the more active bowlers.

The bowling hall contains 20 regulation alleys, with about 125 spectator seats. An unusual feature here is the provision of theatre-type chairs of the same design as those used in the auditorium, instead of the familiar hard benches. This convenience, almost unique in bowling alleys, has already brought the place much favorable comment from bowlers and spectators who like this unusual degree of comfort.

Acoustic Considerations

A special acoustical treatment was used extensively on the walls and ceiling of the bowling alley to drastically reduce noise, so that no interference with the operation of the theatre will ever occur. Acoustical treatment was used only in a very limited quantity in the theatre auditorium—only over the wall behind the standee rail—but it was used throughout the alleys to provide the greatest possible absorption capacity. Additional noise-deadening is provided by an eight-foot air court between the bowling hall and theatre proper. The ceiling of the bar room is also treated acoustically to reduce noise. This room, which seats about 200, is lighted from concealed cove lighting sources.

Separate entrances for the cocktail lounge and bowling alley are provided, leading from a common lobby. A checkroom and rest rooms as well as locker rooms are reached from this lobby. The alley-bar lobby entrance has its own marquee, semi-circular in design, and distinct in treatment from the theatre marquee.

The bowling alley portion of the building is designed to bear the weight of an additional floor, and ultimate plans call for its construction, with space for an additional 20 alleys.

The entire building is estimated to have cost about $300,000. The relative size of each of the three main units is well shown in their floor dimensions, including service and accessory rooms: Bowling alley, 12,900 square feet; cocktail lounge, 1,500 square feet; theatre, 8,670 square feet; a total of 23,070 square feet.

IDENTIFICATION
(Parkside Theatre)

AIR CONDITIONING: McLouth Air Conditioning Corp.
ARCHITECTS: Bennett & Straight.
BOWLING EQUIPMENT: Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co.
CARPETS: Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Co.
COOLING: American Refrigerating Co.
DRAPERIES: Mork-Green Studios.
ELECTRICAL WORK: Jackson Electric Co.
FRONT: "Namelstone" Company.
LIGHTING FIXTURES: Michigan Chandelier Co.
PAINTING: Anthony Eugenio.
PROJECTION: Brenkert Light Projection Co.
SEATING: American Seating Co.
SIGN & MARQUEE: Long Sign Co.
SIGN LETTERS: Adler Silhouette Letter Co.
SOUND EQUIPMENT: RCA Mfg. Co., Inc.

Additional particulars on the project may be secured upon request to The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.

Centrifugal Refrigeration Booklet Released

A new booklet entitled "20 Years Centrifugal Refrigeration" has just been released by Carrier Corporation for the use of air conditioning and refrigerating engineers and architects.

The booklet is a 44-pager in which the centrifugal machine is described in detail. Beginning in 1918, when Dr. Willis H. Carrier started experimental work on the centrifugal principle of compression for mechanical refrigeration, the history of the machine is carried through the following years. The first installation in 1922, still in operation, is followed with performance records of hundreds of installations.

All parts of the machine, each contributing to its life and economic service, are shown by simple perspective drawings accompanied by direct non-technical descriptions of the parts and the functions they perform. The refrigerating cycle with Carrene 2 is shown in a four-color diagrammatic drawing.

The center spread of the booklet is a cutaway brush drawing which shows interiors of compressor, cooler and condenser as if parts of casings or shells had been removed. A chapter on performance compares the cycle efficiencies of refrigerants as well as mechanical efficiencies of refrigerating systems.

Many installations, described and illustrated, show the application range of the centrifugal refrigerating machine. The ever growing number of installations since the first machine in 1922 is depicted by the rapidly rising tonnage curve.

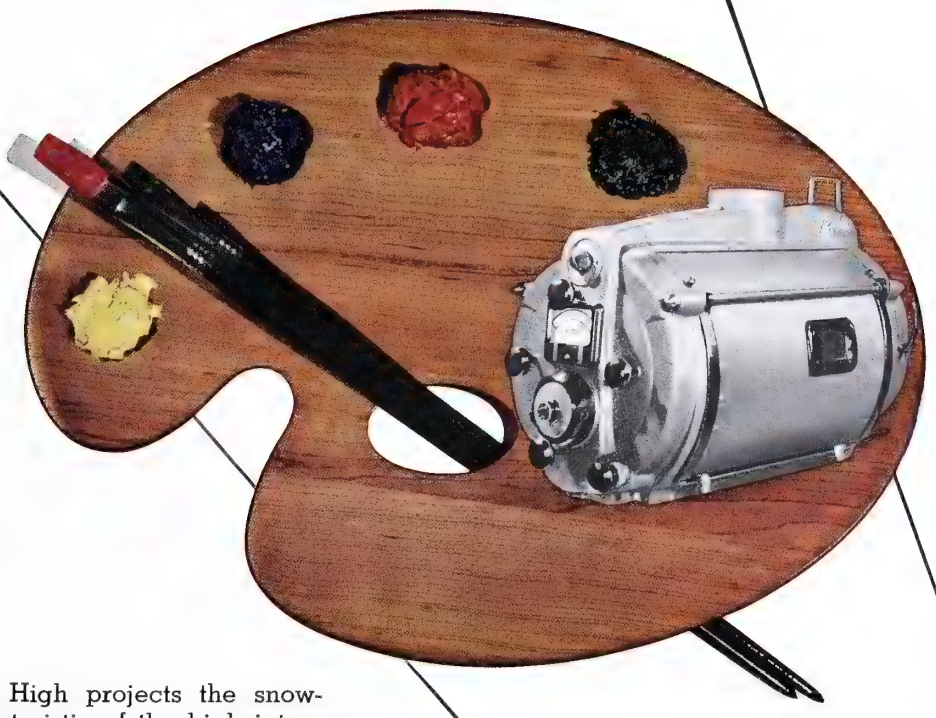
Competition with other theatres dwindles when your house is modern, comfortable and attractive in appearance. Such a place can even compete with the charms of home and fireside—and that's real competition.

When new seats are installed, exploit their comfortability and beauty to the customers. Promote this item of equipment which has been provided for their greater enjoyment and they'll react in the most approved manner.



ONLY THROUGH THIS MEDIUM

CAN YOU REPRODUCE COLORED PICTURES SATISFACTORILY



The Simplex High projects the snow-white light characteristic of the high intensity arc which is so necessary to the projection of colored pictures.

This low cost, high intensity, direct current projection arc of intermediate capacity has been designed especially for theatres of up to 800 seats and using screens as large as 18 feet in width, heretofore restricted to the use of low intensity lamps, with their dim yellow light, because the operating, if not the original cost of the earlier high intensities has been prohibitive.

Although the Simplex High projects twice as much light as the low intensity, the over-all operating costs are only slightly higher.

The New 19000 Series

Simplex High

PROJECTION ARC LAMP

Distributed by

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

"There's a Branch Near You"



*Color Photographs by James T. Strong

There's a National Rectifier to Fill Every Need



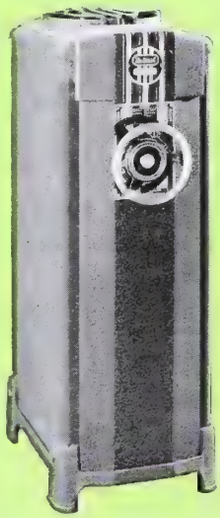
National
FOUR-TUBE RECTIFIER FOR HIGH INTENSITY PROJECTION ARCS

The most efficient, low-priced means of converting three-phase alternating current to direct current for use as a power supply to the Magnarc lamp. This rectifier is built in two capacities, adjustable 45 to 50 amperes and 45 to 65 amperes.

National
COPPER OXIDE RECTIFIER

A full metallic, heavy duty equipment which has been designed for converting three-phase alternating current to direct current as a power supply for Magnarc high intensity projection arc lamps.

Maintenance or attention is unnecessary. There are no moving parts nor physical changes in the rectifying process, since rectification is simply by molecular action.



National
SIX-TUBE HEAVY DUTY RECTIFIER

has been designed as a companion to the Magnarc lamp, wherever the lamp is to be used at high currents.

This rectifier employs six 15-ampere Tungar-type tubes, connected for full wave rectification on three-phase current which results in an overlapping in impulses sufficient to produce an exceptionally smooth output current.

National
INTERMEDIATE CAPACITY HIGH INTENSITY FOUR-TUBE RECTIFIER

has been designed for use as a direct current power supply for the Simplex High Intensity Projection Lamp. This coordinated rectifier equipment has the built-in volt-amperage characteristics necessary to maintain the perfect power balance required by this new type arc.

Distributed by

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

"There's a Branch Near You"

Mr. Popkin's Revenge . . . or the worm kicks back--but hard

by F. LOUIS FRIEDMAN*

While the characters and incidents depicted in this somewhat pathetic epic are entirely fictional, any resemblance to actual or living persons should come as no great surprise to the reader. It could be!

MR. POPKIN—Mr. Nicholas Popkin—had loved the movies for more than thirty years, ever since he and his three younger brothers had seen their first picture at the old tin-front Doric in Chicago. He still remembered that one nickel had taken all four of them in, by special arrangement with the theatre owner and the Popkin boys' mother, and he liked to look back upon those days of "The Perils of Pauline," "The Clutching Hand" and "The Keystone Cops" as among the happiest in his life.

Now, at thirty-eight, still a confirmed movie-goer, he went three times a week to the one lone theatre in the little town of Zinopolis where he lived. Mr. Popkin paid a quarter now—or twenty-eight cents, with tax—and he had long ago forgotten his allegiance to Broncho Billy Anderson in favor of Gene Autry and Smiley Burnette. He still liked to immerse himself in the exploits of his favorites and forget the world outside, but he had noticed of late that at the Zinopolis Rocksy it was becoming increasingly difficult to enjoy the pictures as he used to.

A Plot Is Hatched

"Maybe it's something wrong with me," Popkin told his wife. "Maybe it's my eyes." But his work in his cigar and stationery store gave him no trouble; he could still spot a moocher or a lead nickel as fast as ever, and it was just as easy as always to read aces back to back in the poker sessions with the boys on Sunday.

"That Rocksy, now," Popkin told Takasch the butcher, "is it the pictures getting worse, or is it something else? I just ain't enjoying them like I used to. What do you think, Herman?"

"I don't know," said Takasch. "I don't go to the Rocksy now for two year."

The next day Mr. Popkin went over to Tony Molinari's Elite Barber Shop for his periodic hair cut. "You go to the Rocksy this week Tony?" Popkin asked the barber. "They got a new Gene Autry there that's supposed to be a hummer."

"Me, I no go. I like-a better the Rivoli, over by Starkville. How you want the hair comb, wet or dry?"

"I'll take it dry," said Popkin, and relapsed into thoughtful silence in the barber chair.

That Friday Mr. Popkin put his wife in his Plymouth and drove ten miles into Starkville. Mr. and Mrs. Popkin went into the Rivoli at eight o'clock and came out at eleven-thirty, and when the two of them got into the Plymouth again, Mr. Popkin had his answer.

Episode No. 2

Early the next morning Nicholas Popkin, smiling broadly, visited in quick succession the butcher shop of Herman Takasch, the tonsorial parlor of Tony Molinari and the tailoring establishment of Sam Kopitsky. To each of his friends he presented the same conspiratorial plan, and when he left them, after fifteen minutes of whispered conversation, they had laughingly, and with much hilarity, promised to do what he asked them.

"It's just a joke, of course," Mr. Popkin explained to his three friends. "But it's the only way I can think of to make that Gus Malvina see his Rocksy like I see it."

"Sure, sure, we help," Takasch, Kopitsky and Molinari all said. "That fellow Malvina, it's 'bout time he wake up."

Episode No. 3

The Rocksy's Mr. Malvina had lived in Zinopolis for fifteen years. Up until a few years ago he had always made a comfortable living out of the place; he managed the house himself, and he rather fancied his ability to squeeze the last penny of concessions out of the film salesmen. Once in a while you could find a letter from him in "The Exhibitor Has His Say" column of his favorite trade paper. The letters were all the same. "Metro pictures? Terrible. Warner's? Awful. Fox? No good. These producers don't know how to make pictures any more. A small exhibitor just can't make money nowadays."

When Malvina wasn't thumbing idly through the trade papers in his little office next to the projection room, he could be found in Nicholas Popkin's tobacco and stationery store on Main Street or visiting with some of his other acquaintances in Zinopolis. So when Mr. Popkin left his three friends that Saturday morning and went back to his store, he knew that sometime that day Gus Malvina would be around. Mr. Popkin was prepared for him.

Popkin was down behind the counter checking up some stock when he heard the squeak of the door as it opened. Mr. Popkin straightened up and looked at Gus Malvina.

"H'ya, Gus," Popkin smiled. "How's the Rocksy?"

"How should it be?" said Malvina, sourly. "Gimme pack o' Luckies." He threw some change on the counter.

Mr. Popkin didn't move. He just stood still, smiling at Malvina. "Pack o' Luckies, eh, Gus?"

"I got 'em, Gus. Here you are." Mr. Popkin took down a package of Lucky Strikes from the shelf, picked up a razor blade, slit the package neatly down the sides and threw the paper wrapping away. Then he tossed the twenty loose cigarettes out on the counter.

"Hey, wootsa idea!" Malvina spluttered. "You crazy? What kinda monkey business you call that? If that's your idea of a joke . . ."

"Now, now, take it easy, Gus. You asked for cigarettes, didn't you? What do you need the wrapping for? It's the cigarettes you want, isn't it? What do you care if they're fixed up pretty? Go ahead, pick 'em up."

"I want my money's worth, that's what," Malvina yelled. "I want my cigarettes in a package. I don't have to buy from you—I can go some place else!" He swept up his money from the counter and stalked out.

Mr. Popkin smiled to himself as he watched Malvina leave. "Well, that's round one," Popkin said. "Just wait 'til he gets the rest of it."

Episode No. 4

Never had Mr. Malvina had such a day. It wasn't enough that he couldn't get his cigarettes decently wrapped as he always got them; it seemed that the other stores had suddenly gone crazy, too. Never before had Tony Molinari treated him as he had today when he had gone in to have his hair cut. All had gone well enough until Tony had suddenly whipped off the long cloth that covered Mr. Malvina and said, "Okay, Mist' Malvin,' finished. Glad to see you."

Malvina looked at himself in the mirror. He turned to Tony: "Finished? Whaddya mean, finished. You ain't combed it."

"Oh you no need it comb," Tony said, smiling. "What for you need it comb? I tell-a you what, you go comb de hair yourself, heh? What for you need-a the extra trimmings?"

"You comb my hair or you don't get paid."

"Okay, I don' get paid. I no worry."

"You'll go broke if you treat all your customers this way," Malvina shouted. "I'm through. I'll never come in here again."

Mr. Malvina stormed out of the barber shop and Tony Molinari went back and phoned his friend Mr. Popkin. They talked for a few minutes, and when Tony

*Advertising Manager National Theatre Supply Company.

hung up the receiver, he was chuckling to himself.

But it wasn't until the next day, at the Sunday afternoon poker session, that the full report of Gus Malvina's tribulations reached Mr. Popkin. Herman Takasch, the butcher, had refused to wrap the porterhouse steak that Malvina had ordered, claiming that Malvina had asked for a steak and had got a steak, and that having it wrapped wasn't necessary. "I tell dat faller, dat Gaus Malvina," said Herman, "you cook paper, or you cook steak? Paper is trimmings. Not necessary."

Mr. Malvina hadn't taken the steak.

Yet it was in Sam Kopitsky's tailor shop that Mr. Popkin's plan had reached its final flowering. Into the shop came Gus Malvina, very dark and red in the face and demanded the topcoat he had ordered. "And don't tell me you're not going to wrap it, either," Malvina rasped out. "I've had enough of that today, already."

"Wrep op the coat?" said Sam. "Sure, I'll gonna wrep op the coat. But first you'll gonna try it on, please. For the fit."

"Okay, okay," grunted Malvina. "But hurry it up. I gotta get back to the Rocksy. Got work to do."

So Kopitsky gently took off its hanger the very new topcoat Malvina had ordered and holding it by the collar, helped Malvina into it. "There you are," Kopitsky said. "Look by the mirror."

Malvina stepped forward for a closer look into the three-sided mirror, smoothed the front of the coat down and then, putting his hands in the side pockets, looked at himself again. Then he tried to button the coat. There were no buttons.

Malvina was so mad he couldn't talk. All he could do was point. He kept stabbing at the front of the coat with his finger, trying to show the tailor what was wrong. Finally, he managed to splutter, "the buttons—where's them buttons? How'm I gonna wear——"

"Bottons?" asked Kopitsky innocently, "you want bottons, too?"

"Yes, I want buttons. What kinda dope you think I am, going 'round in a coat with no buttons. Sam, are you nuts?"

"Oh no, Mr. Malvina, I know what I do. You ordered one topcoat, I make you one topcoat. You'll gonna be warm even without bottons. Of course, I'm figuring all you're interested in is keeping plain warm. Yes, or no, Mr. Malvina?"

EPISODE No. 5

After the Sunday afternoon poker game, Mr. Popkin and his three friends sauntered by the Rocksy. The cashier behind the ticket window was reading a magazine. Gus Malvina standing near the box-office eyed the four men gloomily, but said nothing.

Popkin turned to his friends. "Shall we tell him?" he asked. Takasch, Kopitsky and Molinari all nodded their heads. "Sure, sure, tell him," Kopitsky said. "Tell him so he'll don't think we're so crazy."

"You don't have to tell me nothing," Malvina said. "I'm off you guys for life."

"Oh, no, you're not," said Mr. Popkin. "We're really doing you a favor. Now listen. You didn't like it when I gave you cigarettes loose like I did, did you? No. And you didn't like it when Herman handed you that steak without wrapping it? No. And when Tony cut your hair without combing it, you didn't like that either, did you? And you sure didn't like it when Sam gave you your coat without buttons, did you? No. Well, Gus, you're just as bad as we were trying to be. Maybe not quite so bad because we were kinda putting it on thick so's you could see the point——"

"Whaddya mean, me?" Malvina countered. What did I ever do like that—"

"Wait a minute; wait a minute! You run a theatre, don't you? You ask money for it, don't you? So what do we get? Sure we get pictures," Mr. Popkin said reasonably, "but how do we get pictures? I admit I didn't realize what was wrong until I went over to the Rivoli. I thought all pictures had to be fuzzy and gray-looking like yours. And the surroundings! The pictures ain't everything. Look at your place, worn-out, dingy-looking, run down . . . why you just give your customers the—the—the skeleton, the bare skeleton, that's what. So we—me and Sam and Herman and Tony thought we'd try the same on you—we'd leave out the trimmings and see how you liked it. Now you know . . . Whew! That was a long speech!"

THE OUTCOME

"That's right, that's right, Gus," said the other three conspirators. "We just wanted to show you."

"Aw, you fellows are crazy. Besides, I can't afford to fix this place over. The business just ain't there."

"Okay, okay," said Nicholas Popkin, "but remember, Gus, it's the trimmings that count. We don't HAVE to come here. Right, boys?"

"Right," said Takasch.

"Right," said Molinari.

"Right," said Kopitsky.

"Well, we'll be seeing you," said Popkin. "Now how about visiting a *good* theatre? How about the Rivoli, boys? What do you say?"

"Okay," said Takasch and Molinari and Kopitsky.

"Wrap it up, boys," Popkin said, and all four men walked away.

Gus Malvina watched them thoughtfully. "I wonder . . ." he said to himself. "Are they crazy, or am I?"

REPORTS PROGRESS; PREDICTS GOOD BUSINESS

REPORTING many important technical contributions to the motion picture sound recording and reproducing fields from the RCA Research Laboratories during the past year, Edward C. Cahill, Division Manager, recently reviewed 1940's progress and took a look into the future. He revealed that his company's sound reproducer sales during 1940 were considerably ahead of 1939's total.

"This has been a year of unusual progress in the technical field," he said. "It has seen the introduction of the revolutionary new Fantasound as the first practical solution of the problem presented by the unnatural concentration of motion picture sound behind the screen.

"Further, 1940 witnessed the development of Panoramic Sound, to provide more realistic sound reproduction for theatres of every size and description at a moderate cost, and utilizing all presently-installed equipment. Establishment of film standards by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences must precede its general release to the industry.

"Then there was the introduction of the new magic screen during the year, providing exhibitors with an entirely new type of low-cost screen—new in light reflecting characteristics, and in sound transmitting properties. Among other forward steps during the year were the introduction of new low-cost, highly-efficient reproducing system for small theatres, and the new record player mechanism especially designed to operate with modern theatre sound systems.

"Also introduced in 1940 was a radically new, portable recording equipment packed in suit-case size carrying cases. Used in recording "The Ramparts We Watch" and numerous newsreel sequences, the system was hailed as one of the most important contributions to the recording art in recent years. In addition, certain refinements in studio recording apparatus were introduced in 1940."

Mr. Cahill continued, "thanks to generally improved business conditions and an apparent understanding on the part of thousands of exhibitors of the need for modernizing their houses, the outlook for 1941 continues favorable.

"It is notable that during the latter half of 1940 an unusually large portion of reducer sales were to operators of new houses, either building or planned," he said. "The industry is continuing to expand its outlets in virtually every section of the country."

Plan Well for Safety in Stage Equipment

Too frequently, plans for the mechanical elements of a stage are subjected to demands for economy, because the workings of the stage are too little understood, or the safety element is not taken seriously.

When properly planned, an efficient stage can be installed with genuine long-time economy and complete safety. Proper planning, however, requires complete knowledge of the stress, strain and load to be handled on all stage devices. There are danger points which must have complete analysis and understanding.

It is unquestionably false economy to specify such material as head blocks, loft blocks, floor blocks, cable and so forth of a weight and quality less than is absolutely needed to handle the maximum load. Permanent safety in operation and low maintenance costs can be provided for with equipment that will stand up for many years.

Decoratively, the theatre chair is perhaps the largest item in an auditorium scheme. As such it should be a thing of beauty and harmony with all other elements therein.


the CAMEO
gives
YOU CLASS AND COMFORT
TO make your box office *pay* . . . you need Class and Comfort in your theatre chairs. And that's where Heywood's new Cameo really shines. This swanky seat gives you plenty of class . . . oodles of real, spring-edge comfort. You'll like the Cameo . . . like the way it adds color, sparkle and glamour to your theatre interior. Your patrons will like it too. They'll enjoy its fireside comfort and return to *your* box office for *more!*
May we furnish details?
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THEATRE SEATING DIVISION
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AIR CONDITIONING NEEDS MEN WITH TRAINING

EVERY technical industry in this country, including air conditioning, needs men who have been "properly trained," Dr. Willis H. Carrier, chairman of the board of Carrier Corporation, told members of the New York Section of the American Physical Society at a recent meeting at Syracuse University.

Contending that there are plenty of openings for the right men, Dr. Carrier explained that by proper training he meant men who have been educated "rather than merely superficially informed as we find the great majority of students coming to us today."

"We need men who are able to advance the boundaries of human knowledge and accomplishment," he maintained. "If it had not been for old Steele's natural philosophy, which I found around the house when a boy, together with a natural curiosity which led to my reading and studying all by myself, thus acquiring my grounding in physics, it is quite possible that I would not have developed air conditioning."

He pointed out that the so-called "best students" often fail, where those considered their scholastic inferiors succeed.

"We want men with elastic minds, men who are not 'mentally muscle-bound'," said Dr. Carrier. "We need men who have a conception of the broad generalities, or the philosophy of physical science rather than the narrow technicians.

"This does not mean that the individual should not, in addition, have been trained in precision, in thoroughness and in respect for the truth," he added. "The latter is a part of all sound education and while it must not be ignored, it must not be overemphasized to the exclusion of a true perception and appreciation of the broader philosophy of the science."

Contending that undergraduate work in engineering should never be specialized, Dr. Carrier contended that emphasis should be placed on training to develop independent thinking and good work habits, rather than toward amassing factual knowledge.

"This is equally true of the training for an engineer who is later to follow air conditioning," he said. "He needs, however, a thorough grounding in the mechanics of fluids, in thermodynamics and heat transfer.

"The air conditioning engineer also must know something about sound. For air conditioning to be acceptable, it must be quiet. This problem of noise is particularly acute in broadcasting and movie studios, as well as in theatres."

Hospitality is a potent quality in entertainment provision. Practice it as you do in your home and you'll find your *paying* guests returning more often.

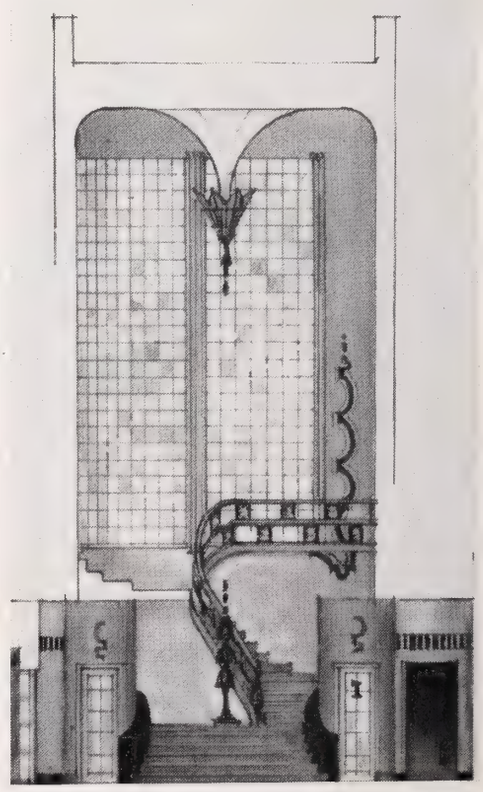
Lewin Designs Another Modern for Rockford

The Auburn district in Rockford, Illinois, is now the only important business sector in the city without a motion picture theatre. But ground was recently broken for the erection of the New Auburn Theatre in this district on Auburn Street just east of North Main for the Auburn Amusement Company, of which Willard N. Van Matre is president.

Edward Paul Lewin, a member of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute, who also designed and built the Times Theatre in Rockford in 1938, is architect for the new house. The Auburn and Times theatres are the only new houses that have been constructed in Rockford in the last decade.

The new house will be completely air conditioned and will contain many new developments in theatre construction and design, of which the main feature will be a circular crystal railed stairway from the main foyer to the lounge rooms in the basement.

The complete case history of this project with further descriptive sketches of the design will be presented in one of the forthcoming issues of The Modern Theatre section. Completion is set for September, 1, 1941.

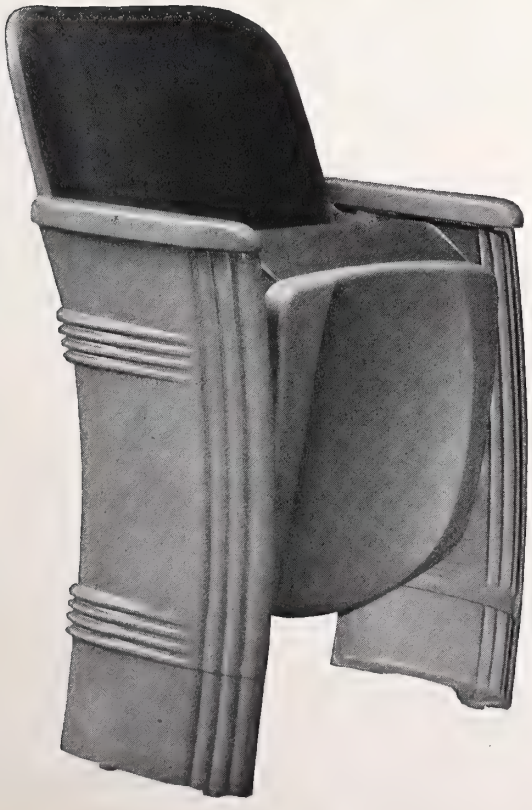


A view showing how the circular crystal stairway immediately off the fountain lounge in the new Auburn Theatre will appear after completion this Fall.

Spring cleaning time will soon be upon us. This is the time when changes of appearance, installation of new equipment and general refurbishing are most timely.

BE A GOOD HOST TO YOUR PATRONS





Just as you would offer your friends the most comfortable chairs at your hearth, you should make even more sure of the comfort of your patrons. They expect it. They pay for it. You must provide it . . . or it is natural for them to seek it elsewhere.

The comfort of Ideal Seating is your best insurance against such loss of patronage.

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FLOOR COVERINGS

A DEPARTMENT FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PROVISIONS FOR HOUSE APPEAL UNDERFOOT

Carpet is a Keynote in the Modern Theatre Plan for House Appeal

by HELEN KENT

THERE is one item of modern theatre furnishing which perhaps covers more territory both literally and figuratively, than any other-carpet. Yet, so often this very important functional material is passed over lightly and given too little consideration by theatre owners or builders of new houses. Unfortunately, beautiful carpet is just taken for granted. No doubt this may be attributed to the fact that we all place so much trust in the carpet manufacturers, and of course this trust is well-founded.

However, the carpet people certainly consider us, their customers. The American rug and carpet industry is a venerable and trustworthy element of the American scene. Reliability has been built up over years of service—and latterly over years of service specifically to the theatre industry. Theatre people are able to judge quality in carpet trustingly by no other scale than the list of prices, knowing full well that a real money's-worth will be received no matter what the purchase price.

The carpet-maker's advice may be taken quite safely in all matters pertaining to the purchase and installation of his product. He knows best and his advice has been found to be impartial and unbiased. The manufacturer wants to see the most practical product of his art placed in a position of trust at all times, yet if the purse-strings are not too elastic, he will advise accordingly and explain differences in the price scale in a forthright manner.

Basis for Decoration

Too, the carpet manufacturer has become a competent decorative and color counsellor. Since carpet is now regarded as a basic element of the decorative scheme, it is only natural that the carpet-maker's advice in this direction would be most reliable and studied. Staffs of artists are maintained by the leading mills and their representatives for this purpose and their counsel is highly valuable to all purchasers of theatre carpet.

But we take all these things for granted. We let the carpet people think out our problems for us and then we don't even give them a second thought. Perhaps we should, since undoubtedly the carpet weavers welcome cooperation—even criticism—on the part of those they serve so splendidly.

In the first place, carpet has been considered a necessity in the theatre only since the introduction of sound in motion picture entertainment. Prior to that time it was looked upon by most theatre men merely as a luxury for the lavish metropolitan houses and only occasionally was this beautiful decorative medium used in smaller theatres. Then it was used only for foyer decoration and very seldom in auditoriums, except for occasional aisle runners.

For this reason, grades of carpeting designed for homes or hotels were loosely adapted to theatre use and often they were neither particularly applicable nor long-wearing enough to be of much service either decoratively or otherwise. In the "movie palaces," as they were known, it was almost a custom to have carpet designed and woven especially for the purpose. The stock theatre carpet pattern was quite an unknown quantity.

Acoustic Necessity

However, with the coming of sound it was an acoustic necessity to carpet the aisles of auditoriums in even the most unpretentious houses. The scraping of feet on hard concrete or wood floors was a tremendous detriment to proper sound reception and carpeting soon became one of the leading elements in the improvement of sound conditions.

Hundreds of mistakes were made in these early days. Because of the added expense of procuring sound equipment, only the smallest appropriations were set aside for acoustic considerations and of these carpet was probably slighted to the greatest extent. Some of the cheapest and most impractical installations of this once-luxury furnishing were made hurriedly and without regard to decorative appropriateness or anything else.

Fortunately these hurried and inappropriate installations did not last long because they were not made for the heavy traffic service to be found in first class theatres. But many disappointments were felt among the theatre fraternity which by this time was bewildered by a great many other things as well.

Even the carpet mills were caught unaware when this sudden great influx of theatre floor covering business came their way. They had plenty of carpet on hand in all grades and colors, but they found that their cheaper grades were the ones which appealed to a majority of their theatre purchasers and it was with some reluctance that they saw these installed in such heavily trafficked areas.

Design for Theatres

A second puzzler was that of the "theatre pattern." There was no such thing as a stock theatre design for carpeting and the designs on hand were highly inappropriate and much too colorless for this new use. It was imperative that the mills bestir themselves immediately to satisfy this new demand, both as to finer quality and more dramatic design interest.

So the carpet weavers set to work and began turning out carpeting of a type with especial appeal to theatre buyers—and theatre patrons. For this purpose, they studied the situation and discussed it with theatre-owners, managers, architects, decorators and maintenance men—to learn the outsiders' angles on their business. It was of great help to them to have the cooperation and design assistance of the ones for whom they were working.

Thus was born the stock theatre pattern. From such a small beginning came the beautifully appropriate and highly ef-

PRELUDE

This article inaugurates a new round table medium for the discussion of theatre floor coverings. The department will be conducted by Miss Kent in collaboration with the design and production staffs of a number of leading carpet mills whose products and patterns are already familiar to theatre trade. Introducing the subject with a general resume of conditions leading up to the present status of carpet as a basic element of the modern theatre plan, succeeding articles in the series will deal more concretely with current developments and trends in all phases of floor covering for all classes of theatres, including reviews of current pattern and product development, decorative effects, maintenance factors and other details.
—The Editor.

INFORMATION

Readers who desire special information or advice on the selection or application of theatre carpets are invited to communicate with Helen Kent in care of The Modern Theatre section, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., accompanying such inquiry with postage for reply. All problems will be given prompt and helpful attention.

ficient floor covering which today is taken for granted as the most logical material for the purpose to be used throughout the theatre. Today in small houses as well as large ones, in just plain "picture shows" as well as "Music Halls," carpet is one item of furnishing which is of practically stable quality and beauty.

No longer is it necessary for theatre owners seeking novelty or innovation to have carpet patterns designed especially for their exclusive use. That is still done and is not to be discouraged in many cases, but it is a custom which the carpet manufacturers have made quite unnecessary in most instances because they now provide such an unlimited scope of patterns, colors and styles that are primarily suitable for theatre use. Almost any taste can be satisfied from stock these days.

The Quality Scale

Stock patterns for theatres does not necessarily refer to a single scale of quality or prices either. The gamut of quality and cost is as flexible as ever. There are still cheap grades and expensive luxury grades, with all the intermediates available as well. But there is a norm in theatre carpeting—a number of grades which have been found most serviceable for this use—and in this type one will find practically anything desired in the way of style and color selection.

The popularity of carpet as the most practical floor covering for theatres is no accident. It is the result of the carpet weavers' striving to be of the greatest service. Remember this in purchasing new floor coverings and the consideration will be well worth-while. Consider the advice of the carpet man; "he knows whereof he speaks," as in further articles on the subject we will undertake to confirm.

The Popliteal Rates Exhibitor Attention

A part of the anatomy, upon which a great deal of patron comfort depends, is being brought to the attention of theatre people by American Seating Company whose research department seems to have uncovered the very definite bearing this part of the body has on relaxation and comfort for the seated patron. This unfamiliar anatomical portion of the human frame-work is termed the "popliteal," described by Webster's as the "back part of the leg behind the knee joint."

Because arteries, veins and nerves are close to the skin surface at this point, the popliteal is very sensitive. Pressure on this part of the body causes legs to "go to sleep" and is responsible for nervousness and restlessness. A new seating development by the company is said to take pressure off this nerve center.

Incorporating a new front-edge construction in all except its lower-priced models of theatre chairs, American Seating Company has announced a "feather foam front" as its latest comfortizing development. The new seat edge is extra soft and pillowy, having no hard steel wires and no rolled or packed stuffing across the front. It fits the under side of the knee-joint and supports it amply, but without pressure of any kind. Thus, the popliteal, which really deserves attention despite its unfamiliar technical name, is caressed in another new move to bring more comfort to the theatre-going public.



"Just like CRESTWOOD . . ."

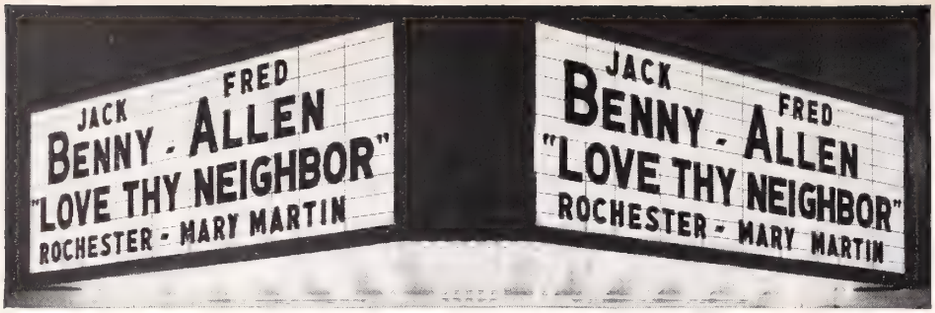
The next time someone tells you his carpet is "just like CRESTWOOD," remember this:

No other carpet can be just like CRESTWOOD for the same reasons no other automobile can be just like Cadillac or no other piano just like Steinway.

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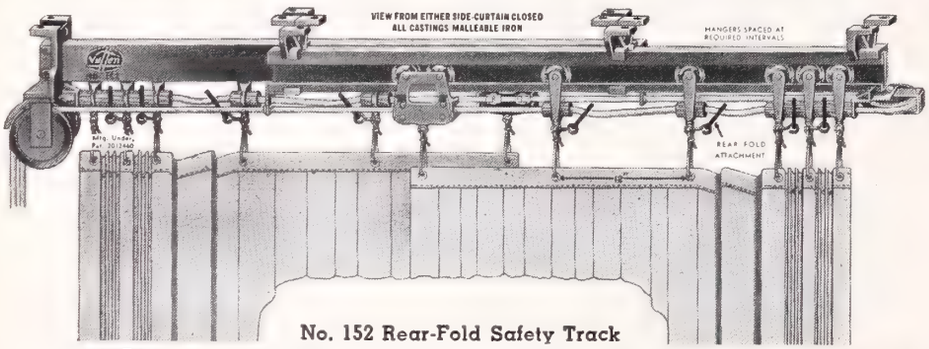
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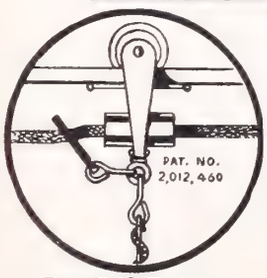
BOXOFFICE *Barometer*

for 1941

TWO REASONS WHY VALLEN LEADS

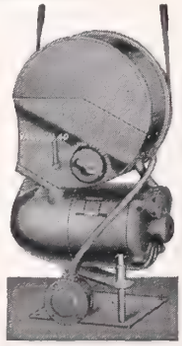


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VALLEN, INC., Akron, Ohio

LITERATURE

The following concerns have recently filed copies of interesting descriptive literature with *The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.* Readers who may wish copies of such literature may obtain them promptly by addressing The Modern Theatre, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Carrier Corporation, of Syracuse, New York, submits a most interesting 44-page brochure entitled "20 Years Centrifugal Refrigeration," in which the subject is covered understandably in all its phases. Many illustrations, drawings and graphs add interest to the presentation.

J. R. Clancy, Inc., of Syracuse, New York, presents its Catalog No. 44 on stage construction, equipment and theatrical hardware. The 48-page booklet is profusely illustrated with both actual installation photos and individual pieces of equipment in pictures and diagrams. Prices also are given in this catalog.

Ex-Cell Products Corp., of Chicago, Illinois, files a copy of its folder on modern sand urns. Several models are pictured in color and described. Advantages of the products are outlined and prices are given.

S. C. Lawlor Company, of Chicago, Illinois, submits a folder covering Lawlor Floor Maintenance Equipment. Scrubbing, waxing and polishing machines are described and pictured and general specifications are covered in this pamphlet. Mopping tanks and mop wringers also are given attention.

The Polaroid Corporation, of Boston, Massachusetts, presents its Survey No. 1 on the remarkable new scientific discovery, Polaroid. The new light controlling medium is delineated in a manner that is understandable to the layman and its advantages in many uses are outlined—with one of essential application to the motion picture industry.

Universal Building Products Corp., of Dallas, Texas, submits several pieces of literature on various metal products, including mirror frames, poster and display frames, and entrance doors and store fronts of extruded aluminum and bronze. All of the products bear the trade name "Sealuxe" and the informative literature covers their uses and advantages most comprehensively.

Yale & Towne Manufacturing Co., of Stamford, Connecticut, presents an attractively designed little booklet entitled "Loxology," in which is given a history of lock security and of the Yale & Towne Company as well. Many attractive illustrations and drawings of lock mechanism make this booklet interesting and useful.

NOTICE: *Manufacturers of all products adapted to theatre modernization or maintenance are invited to file latest copies of their catalogues or descriptive literature with The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.*—THE EDITOR.

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PLANNING

INTERESTING CASE HISTORIES ON CURRENT MODERN THEATRE PROJECTS

Case History and Notes on a New England Modernizing Project

BEFORE and after (modernization) views of the Majestic Theatre in West Springfield, Massachusetts, are quite inspiring. They bring to mind the many style changes this industry has witnessed within the past decade or so. An entire atmosphere was changed in this instance, which is typical of the many remodeling projects that have taken place recently and that are under consideration even at the present time.

The Majestic Theatre operated by Al Gould of the Majestic Amusement Corporation, was an example of the many small grind shops which do nothing much for the industry nor for their owners either. Such houses are not encouraging to theatre business and the entire industry is influenced by the fact that too many of these places still dot the countryside. More and more they are being changed into modern theatres with a purpose to entertain, but the process is yet too slow for the good of all concerned.

Primarily, one will note from the views of the Majestic Theatre *before* its recent renovation a general air of gloom and drabness which seemed to radiate to all parts of the house. Gloom was never a colleague of amusement and it is strange that the two should ever have met and resided together so long as in the case of too many of our older motion picture theatres.

Lack of Style and Beauty

Secondly, there was not one iota of style in the old Majestic. From front to rear, not a single element of beauty, novelty or good taste was evident. It was exactly like any other cheaply-put-together small movie, which makes one wonder at the infinite patience of picture patrons after all.

We are so condemning the little old Majestic Theatre in New England merely to cite it as an example of what has been so general throughout the theatre field. This one has now lost its dreariness and emerges as an invitingly beautiful showplace; but there are still thousands of its ilk which have not. They and their owners are the ones which deserve the pointed finger.

The new Majestic is a completely functional contrast to the old in every respect. The new is bright and smiling throughout, exuding hospitality and charm, whereas the old made one want to frown and hold one's breath to avoid the coldness of atmosphere which permeated every nook and cranny.

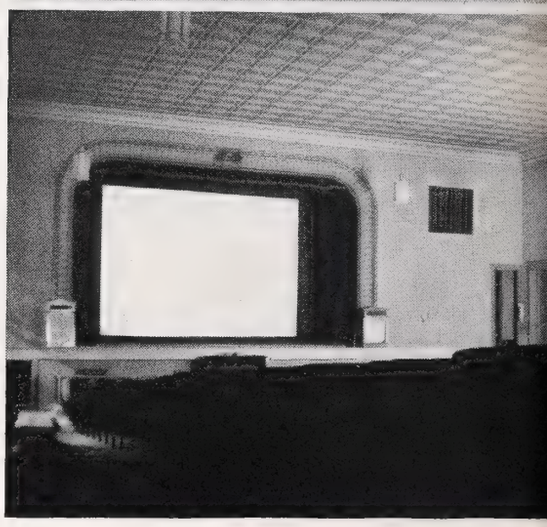
Colonial, Modern Version

As to style, the new house has it in all particulars. Wisely suiting the architectural and decorative motif to the New England locale and interests of its residents, a Colonial treatment was selected for application in a modernized version to this old house. The building required little

BEFORE









BEFORE and AFTER TAKING

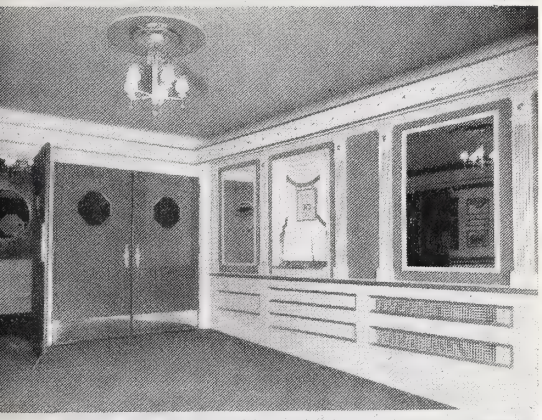
The cure for the ills of the old Majestic Theatre in New England was a complete renovation tonic. The panel of views at left shows the generally dilapidated condition of the old house in which not one whit of invitation to patrons could be discerned. The panel of views at the right, arranged in the same order for cross reference, depicts what could be and was done to put the several departments of this house back on the profit side of the ledger. The comparison is interesting. Economy and quality combined to effect the complete recovery of this theatre. (All photos courtesy Capitol Theatre Supply Company, Boston, Mass.)

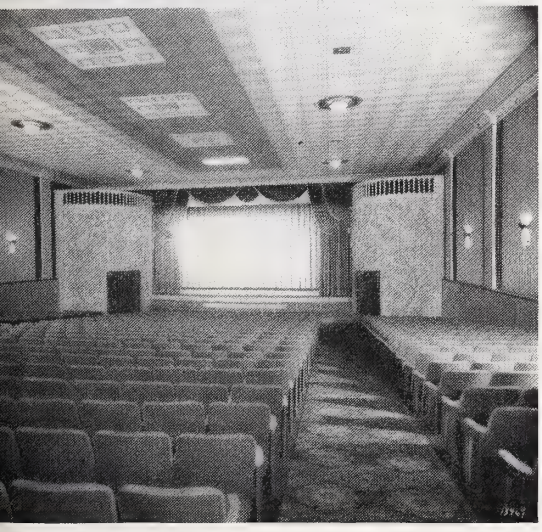
●

Dingy is the word for the original foyer (left) of the Majestic Theatre in West Springfield. Charming best describes the new foyer (right), wherein the Colonial motif provides a light and airy atmosphere. Note of irony: The display of dishes in the "before" view is no longer necessary in this house which has returned to the business of entertainment.

AFTER







IDENTIFICATION

(Majestic Theatre)

AIR CONDITIONING: Worthington Pump & Machinery Corp.
CARPET: Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Co.
CURTAIN CONTROLS: Vallen, Inc.
DRAPERIES: Capitol Theatre Supply Co.
GENERAL CONTRACTORS: Capitol Theatre Supply Co.
GENERATORS: J. E. Robin, Inc.
MARQUEE: University Sign Co.
PROJECTION: Motiograph, Inc.
PROJECTION LAMPS: C. S. Ashcraft Mfg. Co.
SCREEN: Da-Lite Screen Co., Inc.
SEATS: Ideal Seating Co.
SIGN LETTERS: Wagner Sign Service, Inc.
SOUND: RCA Mfg. Co., Inc.
STRUCTURAL GLASS: Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co.

Additional particulars on the project may be secured upon request to The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.

structural change except for cleaning the two-story brick facade and refurbishing the fronts of two shops at either side of the theatre entrance.

Structural glass in cadet blue was then applied to the entranceway to add a gleamingly reflective touch and more color. Display frames in Colonial styling also were installed at either side of the entrance. The familiar pillar and capital motif distinguishes them and adds beauty to the front.

A new marquee further graces the Majestic. Where formerly a poorly lighted and unimpressive small box affair served, now a broad three-sided canopy extends completely across the front of the building, above the theatre entrance and also over the shops. It is brilliantly lighted and display space with clearly legible silhouette letters makes the whole ensemble a potent advertising medium.

The lobby with boxoffice to one side is now beautifully treated in the Colonial manner. Its lightness and cheeriness contrast notably with the dreariness of the former lobby. White enamelled woodwork and pastel-tinted panelling, a characteristic of this most applicable style of interior decoration, lends a particularly pleasant note to the hospitality of this first-to-be-seen part of the house.

Inspired Traditional

Conventional and traditional describes the foyer of the renewed Majestic. Here a white enamelled wood panelled wainscot and other woodwork carry out the traditional, while conventional floral patterned carpet and wall paper, which might be an exact replica from an old Colonial mansion, give a charm which cannot be overestimated. Colonial-inspired lighting fixtures and mirrors enhance the scene further. A charming ladies' lounge may be glimpsed in the background.

How utterly different is this foyer from the one which it supersedes. Dingy and drab were the words for the old Majestic's reception room with its inappropriate lace curtains and a closed entrance to the ladies' lounge, which no doubt was hardly a pretty sight either. An ironic note is the display of "etched gold" dishes, a giveaway which could be and was banished when the owners of the house went back into the entertainment business.

The auditorium is a picture of newfound beauty and relaxing comfort for patrons. Here the charm of good taste in decoration and functionality combine to make a perfect setting for entertainment consumption. The barn-like contours of the old house have been obliterated by clever manipulation of lines and decorative effects to make a smart, yet not pretentious, scene for modern moving picture presentation.

Economy Plus Quality

Economy also was an important element in the Majestic's renovation. And it may be seen that not a great deal of money need necessarily be expended to gain an effect of refined charm and inviting atmosphere. The entire project bespeaks quality, however, and this rather than any other aspect keeps the new Majestic in the smart class of theatres—the money-making class. All of its new equipment and furnishings are of the finest quality, which

(Continued on page 73)

THEATRE PLANNING GUIDE

Through the cooperation of our affiliated architects, leading manufacturers, their engineers, designers, dealers, contractors and others, a majority of whom are active members of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute, we are prepared to assist the theatre-owner in selection and application of all commodities and services needed in remodeling and modernizing by placing him in touch with dependable sources of supply. As sponsor of the Institute, we strive to impartially relay each inquiry only to sources of reliable information. However, we do not guarantee all statements or claims made in connection with products offered.

MAIL THIS FORM FOR FREE INFORMATION

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☐ Carpets	☐ Plumbing Fixtures	☐ Theatre Fronts
☐ Cleaning Equipment	☐ Projectors	☐ Ticket Machines
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.....

Theatre ..... Seating Capacity.....

Address .....

City ..... State.....

Signed .....
(Owner-Manager)

CINE' CLINIC

PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS ON MODERN PROJECTION AND SOUND PRACTICES

Defects in Motion Picture Projection and Their Correction

by IRL GORDON*

CONTROL of the flicker evil has had much attention from the industry. Flicker caused by shutters, light fluctuation, and uneven photography has been investigated, and progress has been made on the elimination of each. But today there still exists an evil which has been with us since the first release print. It is the evil of oily film, which is becoming more and more noticeable through the adoption of more brilliant light-sources and high-key photography.

It is essential to good projection that the film be clean, since every defect is highly magnified, and any deviation from perfect cleanliness is detrimental. Perhaps the most commonly recognized indication of oily film is the traveling "frame-line effect," so noticeable with the high-key prints. A lighter area, the width of a frame line, starts from the bottom of the screen, and travels slowly to the top. This is surrounded by a darker flickering area superimposed over the entire picture.

All oil patterns are not of such a well defined shape. They vary from frame to frame and depend in extent upon the amount of oil on the film at that moment. The pattern changes from one rewinding to another. It always shows on the screen as a crawling, spotty effect which may move from bottom to top as the "frame-line effect," or horizontally as a dancing effect. It may even appear as a wavering mass of flicker. If the film is light or toned, the effect is very pronounced, due to the contrast between the oil spots and unaffected areas.

If oil is present on the film in a thick layer the image becomes blurred, causing an out-of-focus effect. This type of oily film shows a strong tendency to buckle under heating. The alternate sharpness and blur of the image, combined with "mass flicker effect," are very tiring to the eyes, and with the long show times of double-feature bills, running from three hours upward, sets up a condition discussed by Snell, namely, "Anything causing difficult seeing will result in eye-strain."

The combined action of all the various types of flicker caused by oil spots, constantly changing position over a period of hours, most certainly must affect the eyes of the theatre patron and mar his enjoyment. Almost all films, after the first and second runs, have some oil on their surface.

Various kinds of oil are used for lubricating motion picture projectors. Some are thin and fairly transparent; others are of a heavy, sticky automobile type used under the mistaken impression that they will cling to the bearings longer. When any oil is on the film, dirt, dust, and bits of grit are picked up and lodge along the path of the film in the projector, or cling to the rotary stabilizer drum of the sound-head thus constituting a prolific cause of scratches. If the emulsion with all this dirt, which acts as an abrasive, happens to "skid" while rewinding, fine scratches occur which soon fill up with dirt and show on the screen as a form of "rain."

Once oil is on the print, it is a difficult job to remove it without proper cleaning machines. The mere wiping of the film with a rag moistened with cleaning fluid will not do much good, since in a very short time the rag becomes so dirty it merely smears the accumulated dirt over a larger area. Very few theatres have installed cleaning machines.

Film images may be classified broadly into four groups accordingly as they show oil spots, as follows:

(1) The first and worst is probably the toned print, and the most seriously affected of this type is the brown toned film. Indeed if a liberal dose of oil is present, the result is so very annoying that it will detract from the dramatic value of the story in spite of concentration on the part of the observer. We have had many complaints of "something wrong with the picture," when showing this type of print. "Frame-line effect" and "mass movement of oil" stand out very clearly.

(2) The next is the print in the light or high-key, containing very light scenes, outdoor western shots, and scenes in which there are great areas of low density. "Frame-line" and "mass" effects predominate. Dirt and scratches show plainly. Cartoons are included in this group.

(3) Color-film comes next. With some scenes, the oil causes a fuzzy appearance; on the lighter scenes "frame-line" and "mass" effects are very annoying. In only a few instances, however, does the oil appear to change the color values. However, with the trend to lighter color prints the oil evil is becoming more troublesome, because on the dark prints of the past the oil spots did not show up so plainly as explained below.

(4) Probably the least affected are very dark prints, in which even the highlights are grayed considerably. These are called "low-key" prints. Oil on this type shows only as a mass effect in the lighter portions of the scene, causing a wavering effect. The tendency for the emulsion to become scratched seems greater, which may be accounted for by the fact that the emulsion appears to be softer when much oil is present. If oil happens to be present in considerable quantity the image seems to change color. Dense prints are difficult to project in any event, and the addition of oil and dirt further reduces the brilliancy of the screen image. Some tendency to buckle has been experienced with oily dark prints, though this can not be stated as the general rule.

Oil gets on film in various ways. A new print will begin to show signs of oil along the left side within a short time. With the new print, poor waxing or treatment before showing is one reason why the print is often "directly oiled." A new print as received from the exchange has been either waxed or treated. The first time through the projector everything is fine. After three or four showings, however, trouble very often starts. Usually during the evening show on the opening day the print begins to stick. Late-model projectors have means for tension release, but tension has to be so loose that the screen image will jump, and rather than face a bill from the exchange for strained perforations or have a jumpy picture, the tension is eased up a little and oil is poured on the perforation track, which in successive runs spreads over increasingly large sections of the film. Quite a number of first-run projectionists have felt obliged to resort to this oiling practice at some time or other. As to the relative merits of the various film treatments with respect to preventing oil spotting I have no reliable data, but do know that sticking occurs with all of them on occasion.

The most common path of access to the film is through contact of the film with oil in the projector mechanism, particularly near bearings or intermittents, and in sound-heads. Worn bearings, leaks at the intermittent and over-oiling cause oil to be smeared over the interior of projector and sound-heads, often causing pools of oil to be formed. Gears throw off oil which drains and seeps through crevices, often

*Forum Theatre, Akron, Ohio. Reprinted from the Journal of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, issue of June, 1940.

Have You a Problem?

Conductors of the CINE' CLINIC will be glad to answer questions relating to problems of projection and sound operation and practices through these columns. State your problem clearly, detailing symptoms of trouble. Answers to questions of general interest will be published in a later issue, identified by inquirer's initials only. Should you desire private information or advice, enclose stamp for reply. Address The MODERN THEATRE, Room 334, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

NAME IN LIGHTS



Nipper, the venerable Victor Dog, has at last achieved that goal of all great entertainers—his name and picture in lights on New York's Great White Way. It took the revolutionary cartoon-movie "Fantasia" to put this most famous trade-mark into Times Square's aura of lights. It is located on the Palace Theatre building and occupies three floors.

running down the magazines, to drop either in a pan or directly upon the floor under the lower magazine causing an oily area which collects dirt and dust. In threading, the leaders are dropped on the floor, gathering this oil and dirt. The first two hundred feet of a film are always oily and dirty, tending to make change-overs noticeable. The oil is carried by the back of the film, sticks to the rotary stabilizer drum in the sound-head, and is distributed over additional areas. As a result of rewinding, the oil and dirt are spread along the film until finally they are present from end to end of the reel.

The complete abolishment of the oil evil will be a difficult task. It requires careful study and cooperation by all concerned: everyone from producer to projectionist, including equipment manufacturers. Such evils lower entertainment values and, in the last analysis, detract from boxoffice income; hence everyone connected with the industry is affected. People tire of attending theatres where the screen fare is marred by flicker and the sound reproduction punctuated by pops, cracks, and unevenness caused by oil and accumulated dirt. With each new advance toward a brighter screen image, the defect becomes more visible, and the time to effect eradication of it is right now.

The theatre can do its part by providing the necessary rags, cleaning materials, and working conditions (some projection rooms boast as much as one rag a month). Above all, theatre managements should insist that exchanges supply cleaned prints. Projectors should be kept in good repair and a fair amount of supervision exercised by the theatre managers to see that the projection room is kept clean. Reports of film conditions should be kept and action taken when necessary, instead of merely filing the report against the time when the ex-

(Continued on page 73)

LONG LIFE
HIGH FIDELITY



PHOTOELECTRIC CELLS
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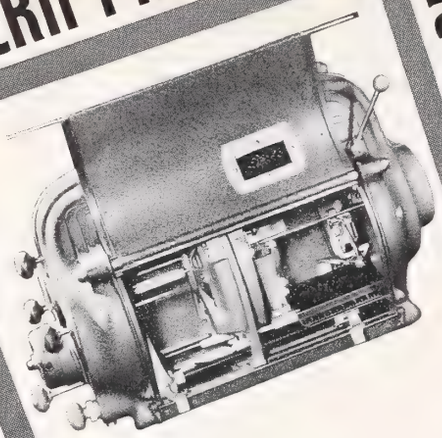
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●

Case History and Notes on a New England Modernizing Project

(Continued from page 69)

of course is obvious to all who see the new Majestic.

Decoratively, the auditorium carries further Colonial devices in its wall panelling, lighting fixtures and proscenium treatment. The walls are covered with a soft acoustical material over which damask in a rust and gold tassel pattern was placed. This, and the fluted pilasters covered by biege leatherette, is an adaptation of the traditional Colonial wall treatment.

The Majestic Theatre owners also may point with pride to their installation of the first fluorescent carpeting to be used in New England. It is of the same pattern as that used in the foyer, but even greater beauty is brought out by the "black lighting" process. The full-upholstered comfort chairs upholstered in tangerine and finished in grey add another decorative as well as atmospheric touch.

Beautiful draperies and stage curtains on noiseless automatic tracks and control equipment were designed and made especially for this installation. They repeat the predominating rust and gold tones of the decorative scheme and are gracefully swagged with cords and tassels. This drapery treatment is also used at the rear of the auditorium to add interest to the decoration.

Equipment Completely New

Throughout the Majestic entirely new equipment and furnishings were installed. An air conditioning plant of the latest type provides year-round comfort temperatures through modern air diffusers in the ceiling of both auditorium and lobby where they were combined with the lighting fixtures.

In the projection room, the finest and latest model projection and sound equipment and accessories were installed for the most satisfying type of moving picture presentation, which is all that could be countenanced in so fine a theatre. A new screen also was one of the necessities provided.

This forward-looking modernization project is an ideal subject for consideration and study by those thousands of owners of theatres where boxoffice troubles continue to beset them in spite of temporary expedients. It was an economical project in every respect but one in which quality is the by-word, and for this reason greater profit and longer profit-making life is destined to be its lot.

Defects in Motion Picture Projection and Their Correction

(Continued from page 71)

change might complain about film damage. The cooperation of the projectionist should be sought and encouraged, to get the best possible screen image and sound quality at all times. I wonder how many exhibitors, if they were in the automobile business, would drive a mud-spattered car before potential customers, yet they permit parading of oil-soaked films before their regular customers expecting them to like the show and come back for more.

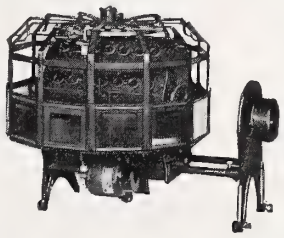
The manufacturers of motion picture projectors should investigate ways of eliminating oil seepage, even going so far as to make something foolproof if necessary. Grease-packed bearings, roller or ball bearings, or better sealing of existing bearings might be considered. Due to the excessive projection angles, much over-oiling takes place when it is attempted to keep oil in the top parts of the bearings. Sound-heads should be drilled to drain any oil that might collect, and some simple oil-catch, flexible enough to fit the older projectors, should be made available. Some of the existing oil-pans and drains will not fit older sound equipment now in use. By using a lighter color for the projectors the oil and dirt would show up, and through pride the projectionist would be led to keep his equipment cleaner. The black now used does not show the oil and dirt plainly and tends to cause neglect.

Exchanges should seek better green film treatment and should clean prints after each booking; also schedules should be worked out to stop the circuiting of prints from theatre to theatre with no inspection or cleaning. Sufficient additional prints should be issued if bookings are heavy. In one instance a print started in a first-run house and was passed on through seven houses before it went back to the exchange. This was regular practice. It was weeks before the print reached the exchange. Further study should be given the treatment of toned prints, and probably some work done on an oil repellent to coat all films. Crabtree and Ives in 1927 suggested that toned prints be treated with a solution that would fill up the pores in the surface of the toned film and thus repel the oil to a great extent. So far as my memory goes, I have never received a print treated in this manner.

If oil were of a brilliant color, it would be so noticeable that it would not be long before steps would be taken to deal with the situation; but since it is semi-transparent, its effects are not fully realized. It will take extensive education and vigilance to cope with the evil. Film goes into all kinds of projection rooms, some dirty, others clean, but by the use of reports, education, and vigilance, it may soon become apparent who are the worst offenders so that steps can be taken to eliminate the source. Only then will the projectionists in the smaller theatres be able to give the patrons excellent projection equal to that in the first-run houses.

It's not one bit too early to start considering your summer air conditioning problems. As a matter of fact, year-round air conditioning is the logical subject for consideration.

Best Automatic Slide Projectors



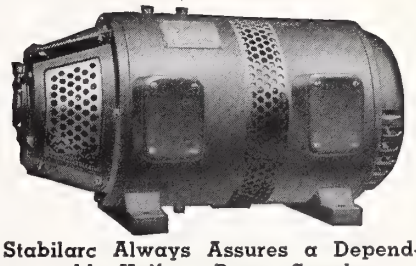
Extensively used in theatre projection booths, theatre lobbies, and on rooftops with outdoor screens. The 500-watt model accommodates ten standard size (3¼"x 4") or smaller slides, the 1000 and 1500 watt models handle twelve. Powered by heavy duty motors.

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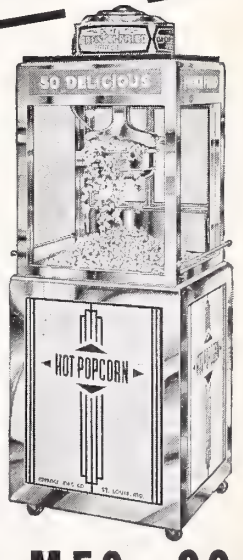
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FACTORIES AT WORK

A series of introductions to theatre equipment manufacturers and the methods behind their products.

Where Curtain Controls and Tracks Come From

THOUSANDS of theatre owners and managers, their architects and others concerned with the selection and purchase of theatre equipment, building materials and furnishings may not believe themselves to be vitally interested in the origin of such products. But it is safe to propose that greater familiarity with sources of supply, methods of manufacture, plant facilities and policies of factory management, would make purchasing a more pleasant and profitable task.

Although many manufacturers invite and encourage their patrons and prospects to visit the factory and see how this or that is made, it is practically impossible for most theatre owners or their agents to accept such invitations unless the factory happens to be close at hand.

To substantially effect the very worthy purpose of the more intimate personal plant inspection tours, we undertake serially starting with this issue of The Modern Theatre section to conduct our readers through a number of factories, whose names and products are seen frequently in print.

Reversing alphabetical order, we start the series of Pictorial Plant Inspection Tours with a visit to Vallen, Inc., at Akron, Ohio, presenting in prelude a few remarks regarding the product and the man behind it.

The Beginning

Back in 1915 a young man just out of Buchtel College set himself up in the general electrical contracting business. His capital then consisted of a small and borrowed "stake," a rented sub-basement on Canal Street and the capacity for hard work over long hours, day in and day out. Akron, Ohio, was at that time experiencing its "mushroom" growth. From small jobs the young man of this narrative went rapidly to larger scale undertakings. First, a country club; then a hospital; several mansions soon followed.

Monte Winters, ever a good showman, was busy with his newly built Strand Theatre which was soon to become the latest and best in movie houses of that era. He stood and looked at his new and unadorned white picture screen and couldn't stand it! He called over the electrical contractor and told him, "I want curtains in front of that screen which will open and close when a switch is pushed in the booth. Can you fix it?"

PLANT LIFE

(Viewed from top downward)

(1) A corner of the clean, well-lighted modernly equipped plant, where the tooling of Vallen products is started; all but the best of raw materials having first been rejected.

(2) Parts are carefully machined by skilled workmen in broad daylight on modern machinery, most of which was especially designed for the milling of Vallen products.

(3) Here is shown the process of assembly of the precision-built Val-switch—the inventor's own brainchild for the assurance of positive, fool-proof curtain control operation.

(4) The crucial period of rigid inspection takes place in this spacious, well-kept room where Vallen contrivances are subjected to exacting tests demanded by the man who gave them his name.

(5) And further inspection occurs here, where Vallen tracks reach their final examination which is made during assembly for shipment.

Earl Vallen did and thereby laid the foundation for Vallen, Incorporated, a firm which now is known the world over for its stage curtain tracks and electric controls.

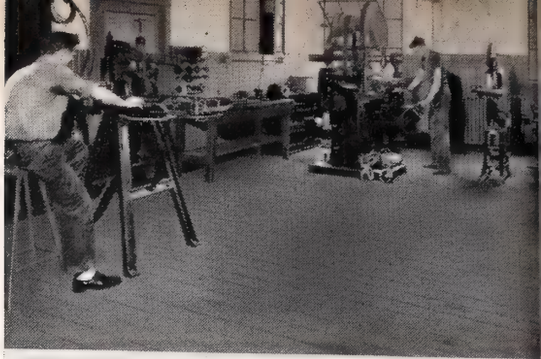
Then came the first World War to temporarily disrupt the proceedings; but when Vallen returned to his business after eighteen months in the A.E.F., he discovered that two more theatres under construction had contracted for electrical curtain operators and it had been stipulated that he should do the work. Then Vallen's creative career began in earnest.

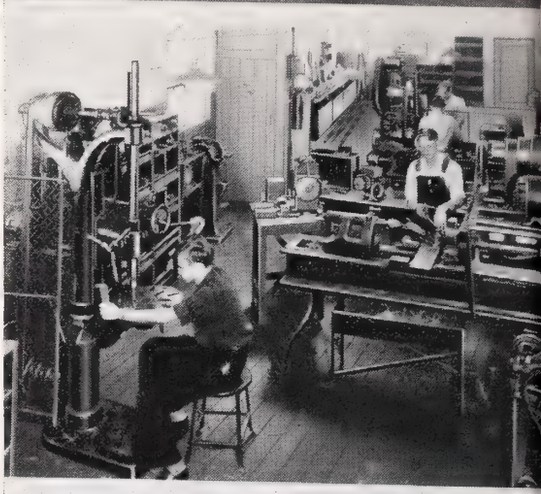
It was not long before the then Vallen Electrical Company had developed the first wooden curtain track which quickly outmoded all previous curtain carriers, particularly the taut-wire type of apparatus.

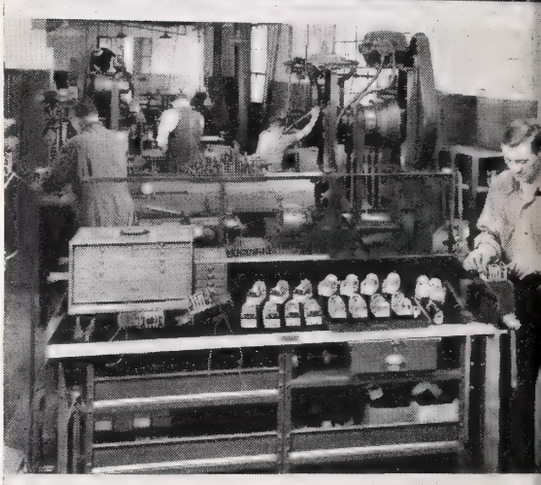
Created a Standard

Then followed the demand for a satisfactory unit to operate curtains around curved prosceniums. Vallen got busy and soon developed a unit which brought materialization to architects' designs. First of the new units was installed for Billy James, the oldtime Columbus, Ohio, operator. Job followed job. By this time Vallen's equipment had created a standard in curtain operation which became quite as inseparable from the theatre as pictures and play dates.

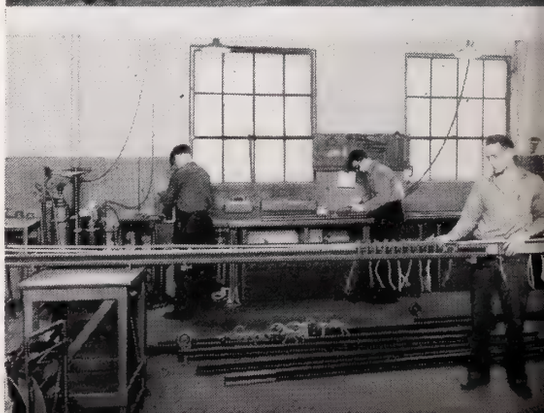
The time had arrived when concentration on noiseless curtain tracks and con-











trols was indicated. Now franchised as Vallen, Incorporated, the firm built a new factory of its own in 1926. Some of the men still working for Vallen have been with him steadily for almost twenty years. They are part of a relatively small organization of skilled workers and have seen improvement follow improvement. They know every detail of their specialized trades and build equipment to application, thus achieving the best possible installation for the user's need. Today they ship curtain tracks of all-steel and fully automatic curtain controls to all points of the world, confident that they will perform efficiently for years to come. They know that distance is no detriment to the use of their products because they, to quote Mr. Vallen, "have built units not intended for 'peddling' but for purchase on purely manifest merits."

Visitors, always welcome at Vallen's plant in Akron, instantly observe the efficient and workmanlike atmosphere which prevails. They note the well-kept and busy machine shop, testing loft and equipment, modern steel storage bins and assembly benches. A portion of the factory is devoted to experimental study of the company's products with a constant eye to improvement of existing mechanisms and development of new ones.

A Mechanical Mecca

The oldest and largest concern of its kind, Vallen now supplies many unusual equipment requirements in addition to the manufacture of their regular line of curtain operating equipment. The market is no longer the theatre alone; churches, schools, auditoriums, hotels, hospitals and advertising promotions bring their special operating problem needs to Vallen. For instance, if you saw the hit show "Higher and Higher," the five sixty-foot curtains, used so effectively to disguise scene-shifting without necessity of lowering the front drop, were operated by special Vallen units built with special types of mechanical movements.

Earl Vallen, president of Vallen, Inc., is now 50 years old. He is married and has two sons, 15 and 17, in prep school. He is the inventive type of business executive, meticulously critical regarding the quality and use values of products bearing his name. He is practical mechanically and thoroughly at home in his factory where he may often be found helping to set up a milling machine or turning out special parts which he may first have developed and drawn. He dictates his letters "on the run," travels all over the country for his firm, frequently by air. His hobbies are fishing and gardening. With his family he resides on Sand Run Road in suburban Akron, Ohio.

Upholstery Cleaning a Smart Consideration

Theatre chair upholstery soiled by perspiration, dust and dirt from long use should appear as a "must" on the cleaning schedule of every operator. Too, periodic cleaning of upholstery will return handsome dividends in extra years of service for the expenditure of a slight bit of time and effort.

Thorough cleaning is simplicity itself when proper materials and procedure are employed. Needless to say, different materials require different cleaning methods. Selection of method should not be left to chance. A surface improperly cleaned may be damaged. Instructions for cleaning upholstery, removal of spots and stains and care of wood and metal finishes can best be secured from the manufacturer or supplier of the chairs.

ILLUMINATED COLOR-PHOTOS ON THE BOARDS



Not only does the modern theatre attraction board now proclaim the names of pictures and stars in legible silhouette letters, but a recent development, the Wagner Transparency Frame, also makes possible the use of colored photographic illustrations on the marquee in the manner above shown. Made to contain 24 by 24 inch National Screen Accessories transparencies, the new frame is of the same construction and slotting and is applied in the same manner as the changeable silhouette letters with which it is used, thus providing colored, illuminated illustrations which add further interest and life to the theatre's attraction board. (Photo courtesy Wagner Sign Service, Inc.)

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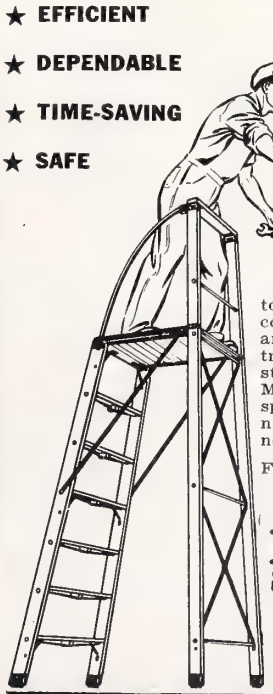
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DECORATING

THE ARTISTIC SIDE OF ARCHITECTURE AS APPLIED TO THEATRE DECORATION

Seating Plays an Important Role in the Decorative Scheme

by WILLARD H. BOND, Jr.*



A DISCUSSION of the part which seating plays in theatre decoration may start appropriately with the purpose for which theatres exist. While this statement has a somewhat pedantic flavor, it is good sense to remember that disregard of the obvious is one of human nature's more prevalent faults.

Theatres exist in order that entertainment may be made completely enjoyable; and this can come about only through the existence in the minds of patrons of the receptive mood and its companion, an alert imagination. This mood ought not to be taken for granted. "Let's go to the movie" has received its impetus from a long list of reasons, including family quarrels and a desire to get in out of the rain.

Once in the theatre, moods and imaginations are largely in the hands of that telling trio, form, line, and color; and they can be a tyrannical trio as well as gentle sedatives.

Fostering Functionalism

How to further the receptive mood through form, line and color brings us to functionalism, the current name for an age-old truth, the rediscovery of which has brought the usual host of camp-followers, counterfeits and exploiteers. Too often weird groupings of geometrical abstractions, huge glowering masses of masonry or raw color, a total lack of ornament and refinement, have been timidly accepted as functional design rather than the shriveling accusation of being old fashioned.

But in esthetics as well as economics there has never been a worthwhile substitute for clear thinking. Functionalism is the result of clear thinking and functionalism is synonymous with beauty. If this sounds paradoxical, consider that Michelangelo said of beauty, "It is the purgation of superfluities," and Emerson wrote, "We ascribe beauty to that which is simple; which has no superfluous parts; which exactly answers its end; which stands related to all things. It is the most enduring quality and the most ascending quality."

Every great work of art, whether it be a painting, a bit of sculpture, or an architectural masterpiece is built around one central theme; one dominant idea. In a painting it may be the beauty of winter sunlight falling upon melting snow. In architecture it may be the carefree simple life expressed in the rambling woodland lodge; or the precise regularity and orde red safety of banking that is translated into the adequate columns of a chaste and classical facade.

Whatever the theme, each component detail, however casual it may appear to be calls attention to or emphasizes this dominating idea. To the extent that it strays, so will the work of art lose its purpose.

The receptive mood therefore seems the logical theme around which to create the individual theatre, and the problem should be approached as an esthetic obligation.

First Impressions

Welcome, directional facility, relaxation, and rest are qualities contributing to the receptive mood and should be suggested as early as possible, for first impressions are vital. Provocative and startlingly interruptive motives ought to be avoided. Mild interruptives, however, may contribute to a needed sense of movement by stimulating the eye to desire the restoration of the interrupted motive. And in the desire for innovation and novelty, it is wisdom to remember that nothing is as tiresome as yesterday's gewgaws.

Within the auditorium simplicity is even more important. There the imagination performs its miracles, and immediate things recede to temporary oblivion. One day we roll indolently on the south sea swell; another we stagger through a desert waste, sharing the thirst of the foreign legion; while in the evenings we have all kinds of money to spend in the most fabulous of night clubs. In these circumstances should our actual surroundings take a definite decorative pattern and bring us back to an abortive realization of today; or should a luminous untouchable beauty seek to prolong the gifts of imagination and allow a gentle transition back to material surroundings? This is an important question for it has been said truly that the imagination and senses cannot be gratified at the same time.

Within this tranquil atmosphere rests the last opportunity to develop the receptive mood, but it is also the best opportunity. The smartest functional planning and decorative treatment can be more than wasted by imperfect seating.

Comfort Axiomatic

It is probably an axiom of the seating industry that the most desirable virtue of a theatre chair is comfort. Comfort, then, is its central theme; and the designers problem is to make the chair look comfortable.

The modern theatre chair is distinguished by unified appearance rather than the assembled effect of a collection of parts. It is designed as a complete unit. There is no abrupt transition from back to standard. Back and seat outlines flow naturally to fit the form of the body, with no angles to hinder free circulation. End standards are no longer regarded as grand and vertical opportunities for the exercise of cast iron sculpture, but are treated as integral parts of a unified design. Ornamentation and decoration beautify only so far as they emphasize the central theme, *comfort*. When decoration goes beyond this point, it becomes clever or tricky and betrays a lack of confidence in the fundamental design. These tricky or clever designs may appeal occasionally in the lower taste brackets; but the general average of public taste is high. For the great works of art are great because they have had universal appeal.

The cumulative effect of a modern seating installation is that of an invitation to comfort, an invitation to share the receptive mood.

Use Value of Color

There remains the great common denominator, color, with which to unify the entire theatre; color and light which bring life to form. The distinction between color and light need not be drawn, for color is, after all, sunlight taken apart and labeled. And when we rearrange these parts to emphasize some particular purpose, we must be sure not to leave one out and unbalance the collection. Disregard of the truth behind this statement is quite often responsible for the restless reaction so frequently expressed in the words, "Yes, it's beautiful I guess, but there's something about it I don't quite like."

Color need not be dull to give gentle and subdued effects. Some of the softest and "grayest" paintings are composed with pure and brilliant colors, not mixed, but placed judiciously. Brilliancy of constituent colors gives life to the color composition. This is particularly true in the auditorium where softening lighting effects reduce brilliant harmonies to that ineffable quality of restrained but pulsating life, im-

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* Two years at Lafayette College; two more years at Beaux-Arts Institute of Design (Architecture). Then to business in New York City as show window trimmer, show card writer and photographer. Later to architecture in the capacity of draftsman, designer and delineator. Another branch of art beckoned and he became art director for an advertising agency in New York City followed by a period of free lancing which produced 13 oil paintings for the front cover of the magazine "Arts and Decoration" during 1930, '31 and '32. Today and since 1932, Industrial Designer and Artist for American Seating Co., in Grand Rapids, Mich. . . . The foregoing chronology of training and experience, we believe, qualifies Willard H. Bond, Jr. to write with authority on the subject of decorating as applied to theatre seating. The subject will receive further attention herein by this author from time to time.—The Editor.

possible of attainment through a faint-hearted color approach.

Seating need not be dark and funereal. The receptive mood is not a gloomy one; it is buoyant, happy, expectant, hopeful. And theatre chairs need to be seen to be appreciated. They present a decorative opportunity for harmonious contrast, that necessary foil to balance the color scheme.

Thoughtful study spent in building up the patrons expectation is wasted if at the last moment he finds his chair shrouded in the mantel of precedent. Shall he be left with a let-down? Remember, his chair is the last chance. Give him a lift with a light-hearted color.

Plate Glass: Mirrors in Modern Decoration

Areas of plate glass are being constantly increased in present day architectural design—to draw more light into rooms and to add to exterior beauty. The widespread use of structural glass in theatre construction is an example. This opaque variation of polished plate glass, beautifully colored, sturdy and strong is ideal for theatre fronts, restroom and toilet walls, corridors and lobbies.

But great as the use of polished plate glass in building has become in recent years, its astonishing increase in importance in interior decoration has been even greater. Today it is one of the decorator's most valuable and versatile tools, lending its beauty, transparency and utility for scores of fascinating and modern purposes. The use of plate glass mirrors is an example.

Mirrors, originally employed only as looking glasses for utilitarian purposes, are now decorative and ornamental media of the highest importance. Mirror paneling of walls and furnishings has become highly successful. Framed and unframed mirrors of all types and colors now bring gayety and light into modern theatres. Mirrors are used for dressing tables and tops, for ornamental screens and doors and for numerous other novel purposes. Because only plate glass can give perfect, undistorted reflection, most mirrors are being fabricated from this material.

INDIAN SUMMERS

East is East, and West is West, as Kipling once wrote—but when they want air conditioning in Madras, India, they recognize no barriers!

In Charleston, S. C., several days ago, Frederick A. Bailey, Jr., local air conditioning engineer, received by air mail a request for an estimate on air conditioning a theatre in Madras, described as the "city's up-to-date and luxurious talkie house."

It asked for complete details and specifications, with lowest possible quotation, terms and time of delivery for air conditioning a theatre 84 by 60 feet, and 30 feet high, with a capacity of 900 persons.

"The outside temperature is 100 degrees Fahrenheit and the temperature of water, 90 degrees Fahrenheit," the letter further explained.

Mr. Bailey, who is the Charleston distributor for Carrier air conditioning, turned the letter over to company headquarters, where in turn it was referred to the company's distributors in Bombay, India.

Recently, Mr. Bailey wrote an article on air conditioning and believes a copy of the magazine may have reached far-off India, accounting for the unusual request.

Advisory Service



Since modern theatre decorating is a specialized art requiring counsel, creative talent and planning ability which are not usually available at all points of the country, Mr. Hanns R. Teichert, nationally known theatre decorating specialist of Chicago, was retained to serve our readers in an advisory capacity. He will be glad to correspond with any who may wish information and advice on decorating procedure. All such inquiries will be given prompt attention. Address your inquiry to THE MODERN THEATRE, *332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. It will be immediately referred to Mr. Teichert for analysis and advice, without obligation. Please include postage for reply.*—EDITOR.



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SANITATION

EMPHASIZING THE ESSENTIALS OF HOUSE HYGIENE IN THEATRE MAINTENANCE

Several Ways to Promote Theatre Cleanliness in Stormy Weather

by MILTON A. LESSER*

THE WINTER up-swing in attendance annually brings to the fore certain theatre cleanliness problems not met with, at least not to the same degree, during any other season of the year. As long as the winter weather remains dry and crisp, the routine methods for maintaining the theatre's cleanliness are quite sufficient. However, the advent of rain or snow throws an immediate extra burden on the maintenance staff and requires extra effort to keep the theatre neat and clean despite the deleterious effects of the wet and dirt tracked in by the patrons.

Practical Precautions

Obviously, one way to ease this strain is to have the necessary cleaning and maintenance supplies readily available. These include such items as mops, pails equipped with suitable wringers, plenty of soap and water, and clean dry wiping rags. In addition, adequate supplies for the washrooms and rest rooms, such as towels, soap, and roll paper must also be ready for use, inasmuch as these rooms have a higher influx of patrons during cold, stormy weather.

At the first sign of inclement weather, the floor mats, which should have been thoroughly washed with soap and warm water, and well dried before storage, ought to be laid out in the foyer; and if it is uncarpeted, in the lobby as well. However, if the weather is especially bad and attendance is especially high, a clean, solid rubber runner mat may be needed to protect the carpeting. Even if the storm does not materialize, it is far better not to take any chances than to be caught napping—to the detriment of the expensive floor coverings in the other parts of the theatre. During wet weather, these mats, whether of the jointed, open design, or solid, corrugated type, should be washed and then wiped dry with a well-wrung mop. When things get especially bad, it will be necessary to lift up sections of these mats, particularly the open type, to clean the floor underneath.

Floor Maintenance

Stone or composition floorings of theatres are certainly liable to show up the dirt, and since they do not absorb moisture, are prone to become thoroughly wet and muddied. Unless particular care is taken to wash up and wipe up these accumulations, not only will the appearance of the floor suffer, but it also often becomes dangerously slippery. Foyer floors are affected most in this respect, with the floors of the lobby and the washrooms, next in order of importance. If these accumulations are permitted to dry before previous cleaning, not only do the dirt blobs make an ugly appearance that is hardly an appeal to patronage, but they also make it a more difficult task to properly wash the floors afterward. Of course the mere fact that dirt is tracked from the foyer and lobby to other parts of the theatre, where cleaning is even more difficult, does not help matters either.

In some well managed theatres, it is a fixed policy to have an extra maintenance man on duty during especially bad weather. It is his particular job to see to it that stone, concrete, tile, linoleum or composition floors are as clean and dry as possible, with particular emphasis on the foyer and lobby floors, where bright lighting is most likely to reflect dirt. It should also be his duty to see that the cigarette receivers at the doors, particularly those near the ticket-taker are clean and regularly cleared of discarded cigars and cigarettes. It is also important that cigarette butts which have fallen to the wet floor be picked up as soon as possible. A wet cigarette disintegrates rapidly, and when it has fallen apart, makes a very messy looking spot.

Reassures Patrons

People do not resent the sight of a clean-up man, provided he is neat and not too conspicuous, anywhere nearly as much as they resent dirt and grime in a place where they have come to expect immaculate soap-and-water cleanliness. As a matter of fact, most theatre patrons have rather come to expect to see someone about, armed either with a dust-pan and brush, or in stormy weather, with a pail and mop. Consciously or not, it gives people a feeling that things are being cared for and that their comfort and safety is being considered.

At least once every three or four hours during the business day, the floors should be given a thorough soap and water cleaning followed by a rinse and a quick drying. It is usually best to do only a small section of the floor at a time, not so much to prevent freezing which is not likely to occur in a heated lobby, as to avoid inconveniencing patrons who may be entering or leaving the theatre. If feasible, it might be well to rope off the section being washed, so that people will be guided away from that area. A "Please Use Other Door" sign will also help toward doing a more thorough and speedy cleaning job without undue interruption.

In the legitimate theatre or in the two- or three-a-day motion picture houses where seats are reserved for each performance there is a special need for this more thorough, during-the-show cleaning because people congregate in the foyers and lobbies. Here, however, there is no particular difficulty inasmuch as the time between intermissions can be devoted to the cleaning task and there is no interference due to the traffic of patrons. The problem of timing is a bit more difficult in the continuous-performance theatre, but even here the problem is not at all insurmountable. The six o'clock, dinner hour attendance lag is probably the best time for the business day quick, but thorough floor washing. Such a cleaning heightens the theatre's attractiveness for those who come for the evening shows, and so is a definite good business practice during winter months.

Carpet Protection

Theatre rugs and carpets should not present any great stormy weather cleanliness worries, if the moisture and dirt problem has been taken care of adequately. This of course can be accomplished by proper cleaning of the outer foyer and lobby, before people enter the theatre proper. Naturally, a certain amount of dirt and moisture will be carried in on the shoes and clothing. Carpets, however, are fairly absorbent, but the immediate cleaning problem from blobs of dirt or scattered bits of paper or the like can be taken care of by the use of a stiff small long-handled brush and dust pan. It is generally considered inadvisable to try to clean rugs and carpets more thoroughly during the day and evening performances, but rather to allow them to dry overnight, so that efficient vacuum cleaning can lift dried dust and dirt off and out of these floor coverings. Since they get the brunt of footsteps, carpets on stairs and stair landings should receive particular attention.

Of course, carpets will require more frequent soap shampooing during the winter season, because wet dirt usually penetrates further and clings longer than does dry dust. The more walked-on portions will necessarily require more attention from the soap and water shampoos. Unless there is thorough and adequate ventilation to insure complete drying it is probably best to clean only a small carpet area at a time. The best period for cleaning rugs, without having to remove them is, obviously, just after closing since this permits a longer drying time.

Washroom Attention

Special attention should also be given to washroom and rest room cleanliness during stormy winter weather. The sudden transition from the cold outside air into the theatre's warm atmosphere, particularly with those who come a distance, often makes it a functional necessity to visit the rest room. In addition, what with larger attendance, the handling of rubbers,

*Cleanliness Bureau, New York City.

galoshes and wet clothes and umbrellas, people find it more than ordinarily necessary to use the other facilities of the washrooms. Of course, this heavier traffic brings more than usual dirt into these places. This, coupled with abnormal use of washbasins, and therefore more splashings and drippings from them, makes for dirtier and more sloshy floors and fixtures. Unless cleaned up regularly, these factors unquestionably mean that dirt and water will be tracked into the adjacent rest rooms and smoking rooms. This does not take into consideration the bad impression a dirty washroom leaves with cleanliness-minded patrons. This can occur only if there has been a let-down in washroom cleanliness standards.

During the stormy weather washroom influx, it is usually necessary to fill the paper towel-racks more often and to empty the used towel receptacle more frequently. If cloth roller towel equipment is used, the rolls will undoubtedly have to be replaced with clean ones at closer intervals. Soap dispensers will need to be refilled and cleaned more often. The same increased frequency will have to be employed if the floors are to be clean and free of litter.

RESPONSIBILITY

In most large theatres, the responsibility for maintaining the cleanliness standards of the washrooms rests with the attendants assigned to them. Where a theatre is too small to warrant this extra help, the management will find it profitable to see to it that the regular maintenance man is prepared to meet these winter emergencies and so insure washroom cleanliness.

Although, in the telling, these stormy weather suggestions may appear to be a bit complicated, actual application of them will soon show that they can be easily applied without any marked strain on the regular cleaning routine. Properly applied, such use of the basic principles of soap-and-water cleanliness will not only heighten the appearance and attractiveness of the theatre, but also will tend to raise the comfort, health and safety standards during the stormy winter season. It is still good business to use cleanliness as sales appeal—no matter what the season.

Exposition Plans on A. C. Show Progress

Plans for the Pacific Heating & Air Conditioning Exposition are progressing rapidly, according to a recent report from the Exposition Management. Scheduled for Exposition Auditorium, San Francisco, June 16-20, this will be the largest event of its kind ever held on the Coast, and is already attracting the interest of professional and selling organizations.

Up to January 1st 70 leading manufacturers had engaged more than 50 per cent of the exhibit space in the main auditorium, and the remaining spaces are under active consideration.

This Exposition will present a summary of the latest available equipment for heating, ventilating and air conditioning. It will be of particular interest to theatre owners, builders, contractors, engineers and operating men, industrial and commercial building owners and operators, home owners, architects, designers, dealers and distributors.

Included among the exhibits will be interesting displays of air conditioning equipment, boilers and furnaces, fans and blowers, control apparatus, registers and grilles, pumps, oil burners, insulation material, piping, unit heaters, steam traps, steam specialties, radiators, etc.

The American Society of Heating & Ventilating Engineers, who are sponsoring the event, will hold its annual summer meeting during the same week. Also meeting at this time will be the Heating, Piping & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association.



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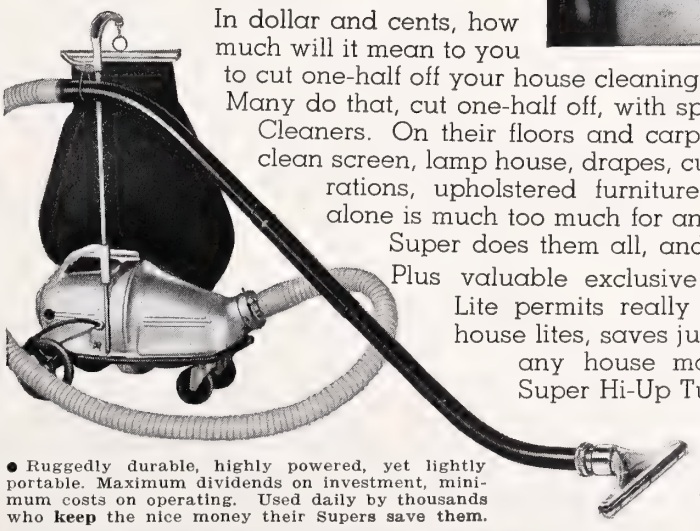
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AIR CONDITIONING

DEVOTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN THEATRES

If This Makes YOU Uncomfortable Just Think of Your Patrons

by GORDON H. SIMMONS*



WHEN I read my article in the January 4th issue of this magazine, I liked it. Even I could understand what it said when the editor got through with it. It sounded like "plain talk" to me and perhaps it will do some good. So here's some more of the same line.

"The time has come," the Walrus said (and I'm the Walrus) "to talk of other things than ships and sealing wax and cabbages and kings." And the good Lord knows that you are the Carpenters who shed briny tears over the few little two-bit oysters who don't come to see your bally show. Exhibitor after exhibitor says to me, "Simmons, *show me* how to fill up those empty seats and I'll be glad to become air conditioned."

Call the Doctor

Now it would take a better engineer than I am to air condition such a sure-shot gambler. He's so hot and bothered about poor business, the poor guy, that he can't think about much else. I could air condition his theatre but when any person runs such a high temperature, he needs a Doctor of Medicine, not one of Mechanics.

I would like to make myself think that all this talk about poor theatre business is only a stall. But I am sure it isn't. If you can't get me into your houses on a pass more often than a dozen times a year, at least I know why, even if you don't. And exhibitors tell me that the trend of the public is away from the theatres! Wouldn't you like to stop it? I don't know all of the answers, of course. But all of the trouble can't be due to lack of air conditioning.

Methinks most of the trouble is due to a "lack" of several things, including air conditioning. And the particular lack that you can supply, is the use of your own God-given powers of practical perception.

Maybe I have talked to exhibitors who were dumb on the subject of air conditioning; but what of it? They were not dumb about anything else that I could notice, and many of them made me feel that I was listening to an intellectual superior.

But what I want to know is: Are you fellows showmen? Or do you just rent some films that come in a can and run them through your machines and let it go at that with a few cheap dishes thrown in on the side?

Did you ever undertake to "air condition" your thoughts and thus get some fresh atmosphere into that stuffy think-tank? If your business doesn't suit you, then its time to radically change your thoughts about it. And it wouldn't do you a bit of harm.

Just as long as you maintain a death grapple with "things" as such, instead of ideas for improvement, just so long will you enjoy poor business. And just as long as you go to the dime store for nickel ideas, just so long will you continue to do a dime and nickel business.

Cases of Inertia

Now in the science of mechanics we encounter "inertia." Mechanically stated, "Things at rest tend to remain at rest, and things in motion tend to remain in motion and move with uniform velocity in a straight line." I learned that one in the little old red school house, many years ago.

But the mental inertia of people, both in and out of theatre industry, is simply appalling. Sometimes I have deliberately made a person mad in order to gain his undivided attention. So I may as well attempt to make all of you mad because if I do, out of it will surely grow a constructive result. Anyhow I've nothing to lose.

I'm in the family you know, so I'm a privileged character. But I'll get an unholy joy out of it if I can start a family fight. A fight means action, and that's what I'm after.

How many of you study your business as intensely as I do mine? How many of you offer to the air conditioning industry constructive suggestions? How many of you view your competition across the street with jaundiced eye instead of collaborating on ways and means to get the crowd out? Fellows, most of you don't even know the meaning of cooperation and collaboration. Some of you are merely cutting throats—mostly your own!

*Air Conditioning Engineer, Milwaukee, Wis.

I should know, if anybody does, what's your mainspring of action. You are thinking in terms of "boxoffice" all the time. That "boxoffice" is a barrier between you and your public because you make it one. I doubt if any of you have air conditioned your house TO MAKE THE PATRONS *COMFORTABLE*. You did it simply because you consider it "good boxoffice," and because your competitor had beat you to the draw.

Well, there's no "boxoffice" between you and me and simply because there isn't, I'll get under your skin and onto your hides. If ten people read me for every one that writes, then darn near 17,000 of you do because I have gotten that proportion of letters. And if I can get 17,000 people on their ear all at once, that's some achievement!

Cut Out Cussing

Just get 'em hot enough and somebody will get orders for air conditioning even in the winter time, *which is the time to do it,* by the way, as I've often yelled at you heretofore.

But if your lackadaisical interest in *real air conditioning* is any criterion, then stagnant interest in other matters pertaining to your business is likely to prevail. You can't "cuss" the public back into your houses so why don't you cut it out?

Nor can I cuss air conditioning into your houses so I'll cut that out too. Anyhow it was you theatre men who taught me how to cuss. I was a perfect little cherub before I met some of you.

I can get downright onery in these pages, as I am trying to do right now, and I'm going to get tough with the next theatre owner I meet who slaps me on the back and says, "Simmons, that sure was a warm article you wrote last month. That's right boy, give 'em hell!" I always seem to be talking about two other fellows; never about the guy who lauds me and then lets it go at that.

Sure, I'm an agitator. A fifth columnist trying to overthrow air conditioning practice as it is being malpracticed in many of your theatres. And it smells to me as tho' there are many other practices that should be overthrown. Of the firms who try to sell you, only a few of them are in my social register. Many of the firms you patronize are not and will not be patronized by me.

There are many other members of the air conditioning aristocracy, whom I like and with good reason, because they give you fellows your moneys' worth. But space and editorial policy does not permit the compilation of a trade directory here. It is hoped that sooner or later, more of them will join in our effort to

Are You Confused?

The subject of Air Conditioning explained in common, non-technical every-day terms becomes less baffling to the man who wants to buy equipment. If you are confused regarding the application of air conditioning to your theatre, write a letter to Gordon H. Simmons, 926 N. Cass Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, outlining your conditions, seating capacity, room dimension, present equipment, etc. Give him the facts. ENCLOSE POSTAGE for reply and he'll be glad to analyze your layout and give you unbiased recommendations on your requirements.

Simmons' Q & A Corner

Problems presented herein are bona fide and are not imaginary concoctions for the purpose of misrepresenting reader interest. Original signed letters are on file for examination, subject to the approval of correspondents.

Comes an interesting letter from a new confidant of mine out in Oregon. Its the frank and friendly sort of message that makes me feel good.

The Letter: "Your articles in The Modern Theatre are always a source of interest and information Someday, the good Lord willing, we hope to arrive at that place in the scheme of things, when we can afford to air condition this theatre.

"Fortunately, our climate here is such that, while air conditioning would be desirable, it is not vitally essential. Even so, it is an improvement we are eventually counting upon, to make our theatre complete in every detail, and when that time comes, it is our hope that we can employ your services to insure the finest installation possible.

"Fishing is good out here and from the articles I have read over your signature, that is a very decided inducement in getting you away from your home city.

"I note in your article in Modern Theatre of December 7, an air distribution outlet, which same, I would appreciate knowing more about. Have been looking for something of this type for sometime, and this looks as though it might fill our present needs very nicely. Any dope you can give me will be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance—M. R. H."

My Answer: "Upon receipt of your letter of December 12, it would take very little inducement for me to throw a couple of those grilles in the rear of my Zephyr and drive them out to you.

"Talking to me about fish and salubrious climate while I am slipping and sliding around in this snow and ice. It ain't fair. I have heard quite a lot about Oregon's climate and I am going to sample it some day which I hope will be soon.

"So when you finally get ready to air condition, let me know and I'll come out—no foolin'.

"In regard to the air distribution outlets I use in my practice, I invariably specify the type you inquire about. But these grilles are perfectly useless unless the total C. F. M. of air to be handled is known as well as the length, width, height of the auditorium as well as the proposed location of the grilles.

"If you care to send this information to me, I will personally see that the proper grilles are selected. The interior core or 'lattice work' must be arranged just so for each individual job. And they cost approx. $..... per sq. ft. depending upon the finish selected.

"I will say that on one job only, out of the many handled, I made a dog-fall. I eliminated absolutely all breeze and drafts which was what I deliberately tried to do, but when the job started up (it being an air-washer job), some slight air motion in the face of the customers was wanted by the theatre owner, and he blamed me for doing the job too well.

"If you sent my usual fee in the form of a postage stamp, my wife must have swiped it out of the letter. My pocket change goes the same way.—G. H. S."

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educate you by becoming regular advertisers in this journal.

But remember, these pages are open to any advertiser, and my endorsement does not necessarily go with every paid ad. But it is free to all those who merit it. If you make a practice of buying from firms whose names in air conditioning circles rate with Tiffany's on silverware, you will have less grief and my blessing.

An Accusing Finger

With only one theatre out of every six really air conditioned, the theatre industry has a l-o-n-g way to go before really tasting the benefits of it. I don't doubt but that some of you do have equipment installed that could be made into a real system by the use of proper controls. Without them you have no system. It takes controls to systematize the equipment.

Controls are no different in their function than a carburetor on your automobile, which proportions the gas to the air and delivers a proper volume of both under variable speed conditions.

In like manner, you have to proportion the fresh air to recirculated air while varying the volume of total air to the needs of the varying crowds in your house. And also while *doing this,* maintain a decent temperature and humidity.

If you think you can do all this by purchasing a $15.00 thermostat, or some other improvised gadget you've got another guess coming.

Because I've been designing "systems" of air conditioning and other systems for different purposes, I get awfully agitated when I view a procedure that has no system in it. I've never tried to devise a system for getting a crowd into a movie theatre but nobody had better shove dough under my nose and dare me to try. I might fool him badly even if at the moment I hadn't the slightest idea what I would do. All I know is that there is a right idea, and that a smart man can find it. So get busy scratching your own heads. I've scratched mine over your problems 'til its sore. All right! Call me a sorehead. I don't care.

Sometimes my correspondents take occasion to recommend me to others outside of theatre business. The following letter for example, which comes from the far reaches of Northern Canada.

The Letter: "Mr..... of the ..... Theatre, at....., Manitoba, has advised me of your facilities for air-conditioning. If you have any printed literature in connection with your work, I should be glad to receive a copy of the same.

"Our institution covers a floor space (all on one floor) of approximately 12,000 square feet. Last winter we air-conditioned the whole premises under the supervision of the.....Electric Company. All ducts and interior equipment for summer cooling are now installed, and the only part of the equipment which is incomplete is the compressors for cooling. We are told that it will cost us approximately $4,000 extra, in addition to $6,500 which we have already spent, to complete our cooling process.

"At the time of the installation it was considered advisable to hold off the air cooling until the spring of 1941, and we are advised that compressors can be installed within a period of ten days without disturbing any of our ducts which are now installed.

"Mr. ..... expressed to me that you have a system which would appear to be somewhat cheaper than the one referred to above, for cooling purposes. I should be very glad to hear about this in case the information is correct. Should you care to write me at any time, just address your letter in care of this institution.—D. F. F., President."

My Reply: "Referring to your letter to me of the 8th, in which you mentioned Mr. ..... of the ..... Theatre at ....., and suggested that you would like to save some money while cooling your building, I must advise that I wrote you promptly but have not to date had the pleasure of hearing from you.

"Am perfectly willing to give a little engineering advice when I have sufficient information to go on, but as previously written you I would need to know the maximum number of students in the building at any one time.

"It is true that I now get a sizeable discount on compressors and therefore could save you money after the proper size was selected, since I only make a 10 per cent engineering charge which includes the specification of needed equipment.

"But I fail to understand why it seems impossible to get a well drilled in Canada. We do it in Wisconsin right along, the water is amply cold for a superb result, and the operating costs are a fraction of the cost of running a compressor. I can only make suggestions to you, but if you wish to save some money you should look into this possibility.

"At any rate I would be pleased to hear from you if you care to write. I have engineered several theatre jobs in Canada and because I am rated by the manufacturers, I am familiar with proper prices for proper equipment.—G. H. S."

Army Photographic Laboratory Organized

The Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced last month the organization of a Signal Corps Photographic Laboratory organization for the Army, and the commissioning of ten officers in the Signal Corps Reserve.

These officers have been commissioned as part of the War Department's plans for utilizing the facilities of the motion picture industry in time of national emergency and has been handled under the cooperative program carried on by the Research Council for the War Department.

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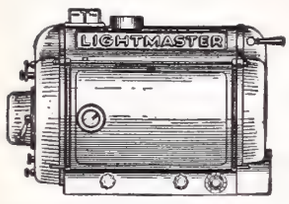
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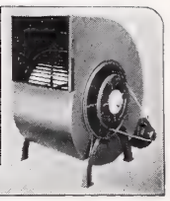
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HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Neutral Audience for Hearst-Welles Battle

A stalemate has apparently descended upon Hollywood's policy battle of the century, which finds that old warrior, Publisher William Randolph Hearst, in one corner, and Fledgling Orson Welles, RKO Radio's producer-director-writer-actor—and currently Number One headache—in the other.

The stake, as the industry well knows by now, is the issue as to whether or not Welles' four-way brain-child, "Citizen Kane," will or will not be released in its present form. The seconds of both contestants are marking time, with their eyes glued on the east, whence, they say, the next move must come. In other words, the buck is still rather firmly entrenched in the lap of George Schaefer, president of RKO Radio.

Schaefer Must Decide

In what appears to be an effort to expedite settlement of the issue, one way or the other, Welles and his general representative, Herbert Drake, have pulled out for the east to confer with Schaefer and to work out plans for the film's world premiere should Schaefer give its release the go-ahead signal.

Spokesmen for Welles are far from reticent in summing up their—and ostensibly his—views on the situation. Among sundry other points, they emphasize that:

An advertising campaign for "Citizen Kane" is going ahead apace, with full-page advertisements, announcing the pending release of the picture, to break in several national magazines—possibly in some of Mr. Hearst's—during the week of February 20.

At the same time, they also aver, an extensive newspaper advertising campaign will be launched in connection with the film. They take the attitude that their position is that of people who have made a motion picture, based on the life of no one individual, and are going ahead to advertise and show it.

Would Counter-Sue

Welles' attaches report further that they do not think any of the lawsuits at which Mr. Hearst's spokesmen have hinted as a possible part of his suppression manifesto will ever be filed. If they are, the Welles representatives declare, a counter-suit will immediately name Mr. Hearst as defendant, charging him with interference with contractual arrangements. Underneath their ostensibly brace and secure front, however, can be detected a very definite note of whistling in the dark.

When pinned down, they admit they are entirely at a loss as concerns what is happening in New York, and virtually confess they are entertaining some qualms as to what might be the ultimate results of the pressure the publisher is in a position to bring upon eastern executives of RKO Radio, and upon diverse other influential personages who figure prominently in the company's financial structure. Further, they say, they have heard rumblings of comparable pressure that is being, or might be, brought upon the larger circuits, to hamper normal bookings of the feature if, when, and as it is released in its present form.

While local RKO Radio officials are ostensibly lined up to present a solid front along with the Welles contingent, studio publicity men show a marked aversion to discussing the situation, limiting their observations to the aforementioned stalemate and reiterating the next move must come from New York. Their non-communicativeness is surpassed only by that of the local Hearst camp, which has absolutely nothing to say on the matter.

Hands Off Policy

The Welles office has compiled a rather complete dossier of press comment on Mr. Hearst's demands—which is surprisingly small. Many newspapers, wire services and other media which normally cover Hollywood activities quite thoroughly failed to touch upon the embroglio, while those reports which did find their way into print were chiefly reportorial, although the Welles crowd is prone to read reactions favoring Welles' position into them.

Aside from the Gower Street studio, where Welles headquarters, Hollywood is continuing its hands-off policy, taking the attitude that it is a strictly private fight and that the less other companies and individuals have to do with it the better for all concerned. True, here is considerable unofficial discussion, with the consensus of opinion being that Mr. Hearst is holding most of the trumps, despite the brave attitude which Welles, through his representatives, is doing his best to maintain.

"Red Pony" Will Be First Hawks-Milestone for Fox

First independent feature to be made by the unit headed by William Hawks and Lewis Milestone for 20th Century-Fox release will be John Steinbeck's "The Red Pony." The Hawks-Milestone setup with the studio also includes the services of Charles Boyer, Irene Dunne and Ronald Colman, one of whom will star.

Signal Corps Unit Is Sought by Council

Another far-reaching step toward solidifying Hollywood's participation in the national defense program has been taken by the Academy Research Council, which has posted notices in the studios calling for volunteers among picture-making personnel to enlist in a Signal Corps photographic unit now being formed. Prospective enlistees are informed they will not be required for active duty at this time, but will be called into service only in the event the U. S. army becomes completely mobilized. Those joining the unit will serve, in emergency, in the branch for which their studio work has best qualified them. Required are experienced men in such divisions as:

Animation and title supervisors, camera repair supervisors, cameramen, chemists, clerks, cooks, editors, sound men, electricians, laboratory equipment engineers, laboratory supervisors, machinists, mixers, maintenance men, boom operators and recording machine operators. Darryl F. Zanuck, chairman of the Research Council, and Major Nathan Levinson are in charge of recruiting.

Charity Front Active

On the charity front, preparations are going ahead on the Greek War Relief Fund broadcast, scheduled for February 8 at Grauman's Chinese Theatre. The motion picture permanent charities committee, headed by Samuel Goldwyn, is cooperating with a similar radio charities group in staging the affair, which will be tied into a gigantic three-way hookup with London and Athens also participating. Louis K. Sidney of M-G-M is producing the show, with George Watters, of Fox West Coast, handling the advertising. Set to appear are Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Frank Morgan, Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, Shirley Temple, the "Hardy Family," Charles Laughton, Ronald Colman, Fanny Brice, Tony Martin, Alice Faye, Mary Martin, Robert Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck, Merle Oberon, Myrna Loy, Groucho Marx, Madeleine Carroll and Robert Young. British War Relief and Assistance League leaders have pledged support and cooperation.

The annual Bing Crosby Golf Tournament, held at Rancho Santa Fe recently, netted more than $5,000 for a crippled children's hospital. The entire proceeds were donated to the charity by Crosby, who also bore the expenses of staging the affair.

Picture-a-Day Tempo Pointed by Schedules

Present schedules indicate that, on an average, at least one picture a day will go before the cameras this month, a tempo that bids fair to push productional activities up to new records for the winter season. A total of 31 features already has been announced for February starts, with 11 on schedule for March and four already set to go before the cameras during April.

Gunning six each this month, Paramount and Warner are sharing the top rung of the ladder. The former lists "Pioneer Woman," "The Night of January 16," "Little Miss Muffet," "College Mystery," "Hold Back the Dawn" and "Aloma of the South Seas." The latter has "Mother's Boys," "Sergeant York," "Bad Men of Missouri," "Highway 99," "The Gentle People" and "Flight Patrol."

Holding down second place is Universal, which will gun "Double Date," "Unfinished Business," "The Black Cat" and "Oh, Charlie." Three each will be started by M-G-M and RKO Radio. Metro lists "Lady Be Good," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "Get a Horse." RKO Radio will gun "Tom, Dick and Harry," "Before the Fact" and "My Life With Caroline."

Columbia has "Texas" and "Her First Beau," Republic plans "Rookies on Parade" and "Lady of New Orleans." Twentieth Century-Fox lists "The Great American Broadcast" and "Miami." Monogram will roll "Trail of the Yukon" and "Million-Dollar Mystery." For United Artists, Richard A. Rowland plans an early start on "The Battle of Britain."

Paramount holds the lead in plans for March, during which month it will start "Nothing But the Truth," "Dildo Cay," "Henry and Dizzy," "Two Bad Angels" and "Buy Me That Town." "Man Hunt" and "A Yank in the RAF" are on 20th Century-Fox's schedule, with Republic to roll "Puddin' Head" and an untitled musical. Alexander Korda will gun "The Jungle Book" for United Artists. Universal has "Amateur Angel" and M-G-M will launch "Get a Horse."

The four April starters are Hal Roach's "Niagara Falls," RKO Radio's "True to Form" and "Water Gypsies," and Republic's "Alibi at Midnight."

Production Pace Not Profitable for Workers

The high tempo of picture-making to the contrary, the month of December 1940, definitely was not ear-marked as one of prosperity for the great mass of studio workers.

On the one hand, the California labor statistics department revealed a drop of $14,317 in weekly payrolls during the month as compared to November, the tabulation covering technicians, backlot and office workers and all others excluding the talent and executive divisions. Studios employed 12,391 persons, only 37 less than in November, but paid them an average weekly salary of $43.87. $1.03 less than in the preceding month.

On the other hand, Central Casting reported both placements and wages of extra players also dropped in December from November, and disclosed that extras wound up the year with $594,905 less than they did in 1939. Total placements for December were 17,381, while those for November were 16,974. Daily wage dropped from $11.06 to $10.82. Total 1940 earnings were $2,529,766, compared to $3,124,671 for 1939. The year ended with a decline of 66,090 placements from the 1939 total.

Director Frank McDonald has left the Republic payroll after a year and a half with the studio, during which he piloted several Gene Autry westerns. His last assignment was "Arkansas Judge," starring the Weaver Brothers and Elviry. McDonald has announced no future plans.

Warner Sets Wayne Morris In "Parachute Jumpers"

Warner has lifted its suspension on Wayne Morris, placed on the non-active list when he turned down a proffered role in "Knockout." Morris draws the topline in "Parachute Jumpers," story by U. S. parachute troops, being written by Barry Trivers.

Academy Ballots in Hands of Voters

Preparations for the 13th annual Awards banquet sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have swung into high gear with the distribution of nominations ballots to approximately 4,000 creative artists—actors, writers, directors, producers and Academy members—who have begun voting for their candidates for best achievements in acting, writing, direction and production.

Simultaneously Walter F. Wanger, Academy president, announced the banquet will be held on the night of February 27 at the Biltmore Bowl. Mervyn LeRoy will serve again as chairman of the dinner committee, the post he has held for the past two years.

Nominations End Feb. 5

Voting on nominations will end at midnight, February 5, ballots being mailed to an auditing firm which will do the counting. Nominees will be made public February 10.

Senior members of the Screen Actors Guild will select the following candidates for Thespic awards:

Five actresses for "best actress," five actors for "best actor," five actors for "best supporting male performance" and five actresses for "best supporting female performance."

Screen Directors Guild will nominate five outstanding directorial achievements.

Screen Writers Guild will name five achievements in three writing classifications—"best original screenplay," "best original story," and "best screenplay developed from another writer's story, play, novel or idea."

While actors, writers and directors will do the nominating in their respective fields of endeavor, they, as well as producers, Academy members and technicians, will vote for the nomination of the ten best productions of the year.

12,000 to Participate

Approximately 12,000 individuals will participate in the final ballot, including junior members of the SAG, who will vote on acting honors and best production. Ballots for the final vote will be issued February 13.

Awards Rules Committee is headed by Wanger, and comprises John Aalberg, Edward Arnold, Charles Brackett, Frank Capra, Y. Frank Freeman, Paul Harvey, Henry Hathaway, Talbot Jennings, Walter Kingsford, Rod LaRocque, Grover Laube, Mervyn LeRoy, Ernst Lubitsch, Richard Macaulay, Noel Madison, E. J. Mannix, Jane Murfin, Lloyd Nolan, Jack Otterson, Frank Partos, Joe Pasternak, Robert Riskin, Allan Scott, Lesley Selander, David O. Selznick, George Stevens, Dorothy Tree, Jack L. Warner, Lyle Wheeler, Ray Wilkinson, Sam Wood and Darryl F. Zanuck.

Carolyn Lee Role

First assignment at Paramount for Carolyn Lee, five-year-old actress, under terms of her new long-term contract will be the starring role in "You Go Your Way," a story by Katharine Brush, which Edward H. Griffith will produce and direct.

Cinémarks

The Warner Club will hold its seventh annual party at the Biltmore Bowl, February 15, with Steve Trilling in charge of the entertainment committee. About 1,200 are expected to attend.

*

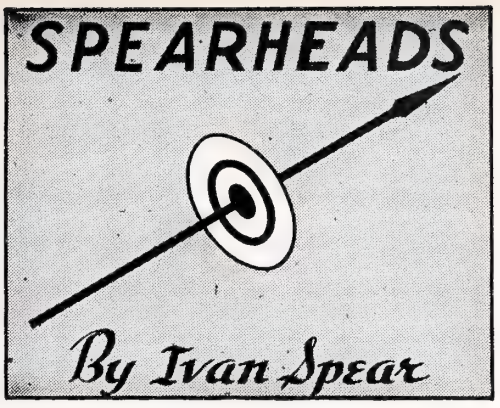
Director Leslie Goodwins of RKO Radio is recovering in Las Vegas from an influenza attack which sent him to the hospital . . . Lester Cowan has planed to New York to confer with Gilbert Miller on plans for filming "Ladies in Retirement." They will co-produce for Columbia.

*

Douglas Yates, of the Republic production staff, has returned from a four-week stay in New York . . . William Boyd and his wife, Grace Bradley, are planning a New York vacation, leaving next week when both have completed film assignments.

*

Basil Rathbone has accepted an invitation to act as master of ceremonies at the annual banquet of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, to be held February 21 at the Ambassador Hotel . . . Producer Erich Pommer of RKO Radio is the recipient of a trophy given him by Dr. Frederic M. Thrasher, director of motion picture study at New York University, the award being inscribed: "In recognition of the fine art of blending commerce and artistry in the making of films." Pommer's "They Knew What They Wanted" was a major factor in his winning the award, the producer was informed.



WITH THE return of David O. Selznick to the active production front at a time when the conducting of polls and the tossing about of sundry awards and accolades seems to be the most popular sport for the industry and its extra-curricular attaches, attention automatically focuses upon the impressive number of kudos which has accrued to the producer of "Gone With the Wind" and "Rebecca" in the past two years.

In the forthcoming annual BOXOFFICE BAROMETER, "GWTW" is given a special Merit Award, and set aside from the regular section in that issue devoted to reporting the grosses established by features during the past year, because it chalked up such an outstanding revenue record in its advanced-price roadshow engagements. It established a precedental 361 per cent of normal business at the boxoffice, BAROMETER figures revealed. This achievement, consequently, was considered significant enough to warrant individualized treatment in the annual volume. "GWTW" was given similar rating and handling in the 1939-40 edition of BOXOFFICE RECORDS, which made its appearance some months ago.

"Rebecca" won the coveted BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for April, 1940, when the National Screen Council voted it the best feature released in that month.

Further recent recognition came through the *Film Daily's* annual critics' poll, in which 546 reviewers participated, and which voted "Rebecca" first in a list of the "ten best." Canadian critics voting in an exhibitor poll named "GWTW" first and "Rebecca" second in the year's outstanding films.

Other "Rebecca" honors include:

Best picture, National Board of Review; best, North American Newspaper Alliance, in a poll conducted among screen artists by Harold Heffernan; best, San Antonio *Evening News* critic; second best, that newspaper's readers; best, St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* readers; second best, foreign correspondents representing the world press; among Louella Parsons' "ten best;" first, Philadelphia *Record;* first, Detroit *Free Press;* fifth, *Showmen's Trade Review.*

➞

The "GWTW" record:

Second place, National Board of Review poll; year's outstanding production, *Showmen's Trade Review; Photoplay Magazine's* gold medal for best picture of the year; 1939 Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences award for best production of the year.

Additionally, Selznick was voted the Irving Thalberg Memorial Award for the most consistent high quality of production in 1939, and has won three previous BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Awards, in 1934, 1935 and 1936.

The above represent just a partial list of the honors which have been heaped upon DOS and which have contributed to keeping him in the limelight as Hollywood's most important production figure, even though he has been inactive for many months.

➞

Add charter members of the They-Can-Dish-It-Out-But-They-Can't-Take-It Club (W. R. Hearst, president):

Jimmy Fidler, who easily qualifies because of his $250,000 *lawsuit against a local tradepaper, alleging libel.*

➞

At least 50 per cent of the preview announcements which reach film reviewers are Western Union telegrams.

Invitations to the debut of Fox's "Western Union," however, were printed and were delivered by Uncle Sam's mails. In order to adhere to Hollywood's propensity toward the paradoxical, they should have come through Postal Telegraph.

➞

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is reportedly seeking an account to sponsor a coast-to-coast broadcast of the annual Oscar dinner, asking a modest $25,000 for the tieup. To date there are no takers—which is easily understandable. Attending the annual function and sitting for hours to listen to prepared extemporaneous speeches by recipients of the statuettes is, in itself, a boring enough ordeal. It is hard to conceive of anything less entertaining as radio material.

➞

Perry Lieber reports that six emergency fire cabinets, each containing an all-purpose gas mask, and various other equipment, have been installed on the RKO Radio lot. The all-purpose gas masks should have no trouble in justifying their cost. They can always double in brass at a Cliff Reid preview . . . And Orson Welles might find them useful when Louella Parsons next visits the lot—if ever.

Whimsy, Whoops, Whinnies

Members of Hollywood's reviewing battalions were afforded plenty of time to brush up on their bowling, parcheesi and sundry other extra-curricular activities by a preview week which witnessed a meager three features finding their way to the critical screen. Of the trio, Metro's "Come Live With Me" was an unanimous best.

It classifies as a charming romantic comedy, clean and wholesome fun from start to finish; considerable of a triumph, too, for Clarence Brown, who not only produced and directed but also, it is reported, had a sizeable finger in the preparation of the script, credited to Patterson McNutt, from an original story by Virginia Van Upp. Brown and the writers wove sufficient whimsical and idyllic patterns into it to distinguish it from the screwball-slapstick trend characterizing so many recent humorous offerings. There is much in the offering to assure widespread audience appeal and to make it a boxoffice breadwinner. Co-starred for the first time are James Stewart and Hedy Lamarr; the former in the kind of role best-suited to him and in which he has become a marquee name. The beauteous Miss Lamarr, it might be mentioned, continues to display marked improvement as an actress. Supporting players, including Ian Hunter, Donald Meek and Verree Teasdale, are likewise very good.

* * *

To keep the boys and gals from considering life a total loss, however, Universal tossed an "army dinner," complete with the proverbial beans, as an adjunct to its showing of "Buck Privates," the greatest asset of which is its timeliness. The forerunner of an expected avalanche of films dealing with the draft and other phases of the national defense program, it is certain to strike a popular note and register accordingly on the revenue side. Assigned the task of concocting a yarn about life in Uncle Sam's newly recruited army, Arthur T. Horman fulfilled the task with tongue in cheek, successfully keeping the motivation within the established limits of musical comedy most of the time. Consequently the production—Alex Gottlieb's first as an associate producer—is topflight entertainment during its comic and musical moments, which, fortunately, predominate. To be credited for substantial contributions along this line are Abbott and Costello, the funsters, and the Andrews Sisters, singing trio. Only when the vehicle veers toward dramatic, super-patriotic and romantic interludes does it lose ground; and that is attributable chiefly to weak performances by the remaining members of the cast. In his initial "A" assignment, Arthur Lubin turned in a directorial job of high calibre. John Grant supplied special material for Abbott and Costello.

* * *

Limping in for show money came Monogram's newest Tex Ritter opus, "Rolling Home to Texas." It is probably the worst Ritter western made to date, and there have been no less than seventeen preceding it. Apparently Edward Finney, who produced it, had some difficulty in deciding just exactly what he was aiming at—a filmusical, a sagebrusher or a broad burlesque on the latter. As a result he emerged with a little of each, but not enough of any one ingredient to make much of a picture. Robert Emmett's script is extremely improbable, even for an action melodrama, because of its many motivating elements and its unsuccessful effort to avoid formula; and Al Herman's direction doesn't help matters.

Hollywood—Personnelities

Barnstormers

Freelance

ROSEMARY LANE has returned from a six-week p. a. tour to go into RKO Radio's "Hang Out the Moon."

Paramount

SUSANNA FOSTER and **DOLLY LOEHR** will check out February 2 on a month's p. a. tour plugging "The Hard-Boiled Canary." They open in San Francisco.

Richard A. Rowland

WILLIAM GARGAN pulls out for a tour of eastern and midwestern key cities in connection with showings of "Cheers for Miss Bishop." Producer Rowland will accompany him.

Blurbers

Columbia

ERLE HAMPTON, advance man for Bill Elliott's p. a. tour, has returned to the studio after three weeks on the road in Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Metro

BILL PEIRCE JR. joins publicity staff. He was formerly studio publicity director for Monogram and had been freelancing for the past several months.

Producers Association

JOCK LAWRENCE, public relations director, went to Washington, D. C., to direct the industry's participation in President Roosevelt's birthday party January 30.

Briefies

Warner Bros.

"Lions for Sale" has gone before the cameras on location at Gay's Lion Farm. Owen Crump will do the narration.

Cleffers

Metro

NAT W. FINSTON scoring "Blonde Inspiration." **CONSTANTIN BAKALEINIKOFF** is scoring "Dark River," a short subject, and **SCOTT BRADLEY** is scoring "Prospecting Bear," a cartoon.

HERBERT STOTHART doing score for "Blossoms in the Dust."

Paramount

LEO SHUKIN composing music for "The Lady Eve." **SIGMUND KRUMGOLD** will score.

IRVING TALBOT and **JOHN LEIPOLD** scoring "Border Vigilantes."

Loanouts

Columbia

MARTHA O'DRISCOLL borrowed from Paramount for a role in "Her First Beau."

Universal

PRESTON FOSTER borrowed from Paramount for a top spot in "Unfinished Business," the Gregory LaCava production starring Irene Dunne.

Meggers

Columbia

CHARLES VIDOR pinch-hitting for **JAMES WHALE** as pilot of "They Dare Not Love." Whale is out with flu.

Paramount

ARTHUR ROSSEN directing second unit on "Caught in the Draft."

A. M. BOTSFORD to produce "Aloma of the South Seas," Technicolor film to star Dorothy Lamour and Jon Hall. No director has been set. Cameras will roll this month.

20th Century-Fox

FRED KOHLMAR to produce "The Straight Left," a musical with a prizefighting background, which will team Alice Faye and John Payne. Winston Miller and Russell Rouse are scripting from their own original.

MILTON SPERLING to produce "Blind Man's House," a new novel by Hugh Walpole.

Universal

JOE PASTERNAK to produce "Hilo Hattie," musical based on the life of the Hawaiian hula dancer who has been appearing at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Honolulu for a number of years.

Warner Bros.

WILLIAM McGANN to pilot "Highway 99," starring Jane Wyman.

Options

Columbia

PATTI McCARTY given stock contract. She was Dorothy Lamour's secretary for seven months.

Metro

GAIL PATRICK draws second feminine lead in "Love Crazy," the William Powell-Myrna Loy co-starrer.

Paramount

ROD CAMERON, leading man, held for another term.

CLARENCE KOLB joins cast of "The Pioneer Woman."

ANNE SHIRLEY signed to star in "Little Miss Muffet," which Harold Wilson will produce.

RKO Radio

ANNA LEE, English actress, signed to play opposite Ronald Colman in "My Life With Caroline," which William Hawks will produce and Lewis Milestone will direct.

IRVING REIS, director, held for another term. He has just competed "Footlight Fever."

KENT TAYLOR held for another year.

20th Century-Fox

ROBERT CONWAY, featured player, held for another term. He goes next into "The Cowboy and the Blonde."

JEAN GABIN, French actor, given term contract.

Universal

BEATRICE ROBERTS given term acting ticket.

Warner Bros.

DORIS LLOYD given a character role in "Winged Victory."

THOMAS MITCHELL draws a topline in "The Gentle People."

DICKIE MOORE joins cast of "Sergeant York."

JOHN QUALEN draws character role in "The Gentle People."

JOAN LESLIE, featured player, boosted to stardom and given the feminine lead opposite Gary Cooper in "Sergeant York."

Scripters

Columbia

HARRY EDWARDS and **ELWOOD ULLMAN** to a two-reel hillbilly comedy to star Cliff Edwards. Hugh McCollum and Del Lord will produce, with the latter directing.

Paramount

FRANK BUTLER to "Aloma of the South Seas." It will be filmed in Technicolor.

MALCOLM STUART BOYLAN to "Two Bad Angels," for Producer Sol C. Siegel.

Republic

ISABEL DAWN to an untitled John Wayne starrer.

OLIVER DRAKE and **BETTY BURBRIDGE** to two untitled "Three Mesquiteers" westerns.

Stephens-Lang

PETER MILNE to an untitled "Dr. Christian" feature to star Jean Hersholt. RKO Radio will release.

20th Century-Fox

RALPH DIETRICH to "Nazi Ace in the U. S.," which he and Walter Morosco will co-produce. Nancy Kelly will star.

Warner Bros.

BARRY TRIVERS to "Parachute Jumpers." Wayne Morris will top the cast.

NORMAN REILLY RAINE to "The Man They Couldn't Kill."

ROBERT BUCKNER teamed with **FRANK WEAD** on "Dive Bomber."

Story Buys

Alexander Korda

"The Forbidden City," dealing with Nazi-occupied Paris, by Ben Hecht, who will script.

Paramount

"Among the Living," by Lester Cole and Brian Marlowe. Cole has been borrowed from Warner to script for Producer Sol C. Siegel.

Republic

"How to Die Young," story of automobile racing, by Robert Andrews.

Warner Bros.

"The Widow of Devil's Island," by Nichol Smith.

Technically

Metro

H. L. HOGUE named technical director on court scenes in "A Woman's Face."

RAY JUNE to lens "Lady Be Good."

RICHARD DUCE named unit art director on "Come Back, Miss Pipps," an Our Gang one-reeler.

BERT SPURLIN set as production assistant on "Roosty."

Paramount

LEO TOVER to lens "Hold Back the Dawn."

EARL HEDRICK designing sets for "The Pioneer Woman."

BOB USHER designing sets for "Hold Back the Dawn."

CHICO ALONSO named assistant director on "Hod Back the Dawn."

PAUL WEATHERWAX to edit "Kiss the Boys Goodbye."

SID STREET named assistant production manager on "Skylark" and "The Pioneer Woman."

JOE YOUNGERMAN named assistant director on "The Pioneer Woman."

CHARLES WOOLSTENHUME set as assistant production manager on "Hold Back the Dawn."

WILLIAM MELLOR to lens "The Pioneer Woman."

ROLAND ANDERSON named art director on "Skylark."

Pictures Corp. of America

JOHN ALTON lensing "Power Dive." **FARRELL REDD** has been named film editor on the Paramount release.

RKO Radio

WILLIAM DORFMAN named assistant director on "Hang Out the Moon."

JAMES ANDERSON assisting Director Frank Woodruff on "Repent at Leisure."

DEWEY STARKEY set as assistant to Director Alfred Hitchcock on "Before the Fact."

20th Century-Fox

OTTO BROWER, second unit director on "Miami," heads for Florida to pick up background material.

Warner Bros.

HUGH RETICKER set as art director on "Strange Alibi."

Republic Signs Arthur As Assoc. Producer

George Arthur has been signed at Republic as an associate producer. No assignment has been given him as yet and Arthur is reading scripts in search of possible material. Arthur terminated a 12-year association at Paramount recently, during which time he functioned as a writer and producer.

Clurman to Term Pact On 20th-Fox Staff

Twentieth Century-Fox has signed Harold Clurman, founder of the Group Theatre in New York, to a term ticket as an associate producer. Under the deal Clurman draws no immediate assignment but will survey production procedure and line up story material. He was at one time an advisor to Producer Walter Wanger but has been connected principally with the legitimate stage.

A Story to Paramount

Paramount has purchased the screen rights to "Dangerous Holiday," story by Sidney Shelton and Ben Roberts. The spy melodrama will be produced by Sol C. Siegel, with Albert Dekker, Patricia Morison and Robert Preston topping the cast.

"Jane Eyre" Is Initial Selznick UA Release

Just a month after incorporation of his new company, David O. Selznick Productions, was announced, Selznick has disclosed the first of three pictures which he will produce for United Artists release will be "Jane Eyre," from the novel by Charlotte Bronte. The producer is issuing invitations to those who have read the novel to write and offer their suggestions as to whether Vivien Leigh, Joan Fontaine or Katharine Hepburn should have the title role, his choice of actress to be influenced by the opinions forwarded to him. Both Miss Leigh and Miss Fontaine are under contract to Selznick.

Other Activity

Cameras will begin turning within a few days on "'My Life With Caroline," co-starring Ronald Colman and Anna Lee, which William Hawks' United Productions is making for release through RKO Radio. Lewis Milestone is the director.

Upon completion of "Broadway Limited," now near the finish line, the Hal Roach studios will shut down temporarily, to reopen in April when Roach signals a start on "Niagara Falls," a comedy, for United Artists release.

The Frank Ross-Norman Krasna independent production unit is preparing the tentatively-titled "Googer Plays the Field" as its next film-making venture, upon which it wil embark when "The Devil and Miss Jones," being made for RKO Radio, is completed. Krasna has returned from Sun Valley, where he worked out a rough draft of the script of the new film.

Westerns Exclusively Will Be New Policy

The film colony's first and, to date, only theatre screening western films exclusively, got off to a flying start when the Hitching Post opened January 24 amid gala ceremonies, including a cowboy-and-Injun parade along Hollywood Blvd.

Leading the parade astride his white horse was Monogram's sagebrush star, Tex Ritter. The "Range Busters" were represented by Johnny King, who rode in a stagecoach filled with beauties from the Earl Carroll Theatre. Chief Iron Eyes, Jack Hoxie and other western film players were also in the procession. Gene Autry and Smiley Burnette, originally scheduled to appear, were withdrawn at the last minute by Republic when studio executives changed their minds about allowing them to participate.

Manager Russell Desmond of the Hitching Post reports exceptional business is being registered with the opening program—Gene Autry in "Melody Ranch" and Roy Rogers in "Robin Hood of the Pecos." The house was previously known as the Tele-View Revival Theatre, and is operated by the Tele-View Corp.

The Hitching Post has set a deal with Monogram whereby it will book all of the films in the Tex Ritter and "Range Busters" series for 1940-41.

Korda Buys Hecht Yarn

"The Forbidden City," an original by Ben Hecht dealing with Nazi-occupied Paris, has been purchased by Alexander Korda.

Greenthal on Coast For UA Confabs

Joining other United Artists executives already in Hollywood for conferences on UA's productional future and other topics, Monroe Greenthal, publicity-advertising director, has arrived from the east. His colleagues here include Murray Silverstone, UA's head; Arthur W. Kelly, sales chief; and Charles Schwartz, UA counsel. The delegation is expected to remain for two weeks or more, discussing production plans with UA units including Hal Roach, David O. Selznick, Alexander Korda, Edward Small and others.

Twentieth Century-Fox's production conferences officially ended with the departure of Sidney R. Kent, president, and Herman Wobber, distribution chieftain. They followed Charles E. McCarthy, advertising-publicity director, who was the first to return east. Also going to New York was Francis L. Harley, managing director of 20th Century-Fox in London, who spent a few days here to give Darryl F. Zanuck and other studio officials a first-hand report on conditions abroad. Felix Jenkins and Fred Pride, company attorneys who sat in on the huddles here, left for San Francisco to begin a tour of all 20th Century-Fox exchanges explaining terms of the consent decree.

Matty Fox, Cliff Work's production assistant at Universal, left for a two-week stay in the east, during which he will attend the world premiere of "Back Street" in Miami, Florida, February 4. The balance of his time will be devoted to conferences with homeoffice executives.

Wanger to Washington

Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount vice-president in charge of studio operations, has returned from Chicago, where he attended the testimonial dinner given for President Barney Balaban, and which was followed by a conclave of homeoffice sales executives and district managers. Freeman was accompanied westward by Edwin L. Weisl, member of the company's board of directors, who will spend a few days at the studio surveying the scene.

William F. Rodgers, distribution chieftain for M-G-M, left for New York after two weeks at the studio discussing the consent decree and possible changes in sales policy on short subjects.

Walter F. Wanger planed out for Washington, D. C., to keep a long standing dinner engagement with President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Wanger attaches here asserted Wanger would probably continue on to New York for a stay of a day or two before returning to the coast.

O. Henry Briggs, new president of Producers Releasing Corp., is expected in from New York to embark on a series of production conferences with George R. Batcheller jr., recently named supervisor of PRC's picture-making activities.

Collaborate on "Ladies"

Reginald Denham and Garrett Fort are collaborating on the script of "Ladies in Retirement," which will be co-produced for Columbia by Gilbert Miller and Lester Cowan.

"Back Street" Dominates Current Premiere Scene

With activity on the premiere front otherwise at a standstill, Universal's projected debut of "Back Street" in Miami, February 4, is drawing the lion's share of attention. Matty Fox, production aide to Cliff Work at the studio, heads the Hollywood contingent which will attend the premiere, with Deanna Durbin, Producer Bruce Manning, Scenarist Felix Jackson and Director Robert Stevenson in the party. Universal is bringing newspaper critics and correspondents to the Florida city for the event.

Twentieth Century-Fox held the world premiere of "Western Union" in New York, January 31, with Robert Young, one of its stars, appearing in person following a guest-shot on the Kate Smith airshow. An additional $80,000 has been ear-marked for the advertising budget, with Western Union cooperating to the extent of a $100,000 outlay.

Noted stage and screen names formed the committee handling the January 28 premiere of Paramount's "Virginia" at the Paramount Theatre in New York. Proceeds from the opening went to the Maple Leaf Fund, Canadian organization raising funds for British war relief. Committee included Mary Pickford, Gertrude Lawrence, Diane Barrymore, Maurice Evans, Constance Collier and others. Attending from Hollywood were Stirling Hayden and Carolyn Lee, featured in the cast.

A midwest premiere of Monogram's "Her First Romance" was staged January 23 in Waterloo, Iowa, where Barney Rosenthal of the Iowa Theatre scheduled the event to honor W. Ray Johnston, Monogram president. Waterloo is Johnston's birthplace.

SMPE Demonstrates New Laboratory Equipment

Newly designed and perfected film laboratory equipment was described and demonstrated at a meeting of the Pacific Coast Section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers on the RCA Manufacturing Co.'s scoring stage. Michael Leshing, 20th Century-Fox laboratory chief, described a new waterproof tape splicer. J. H. Van Leuven discussed the new Fonda developing machine. G. R. Crane of Erpi displayed the integrating sphere densitometer. A U. S. government film, "Power and the Land," also was shown.

Uniform Lens Calibration Academy Council Goal

Major studios have been requested by Darryl F. Zanuck, chairman of the Academy Research Council, to approve adoption of a standard method of lens calibration, the lack of which, Zanuck asserts, lowers picture quality and necessitates many retakes, increasing production costs. Zanuck's recommendation came after a study of lens calibration had been completed by the Research Council's basic optical committee.

Pilots "Highway 99"

"Highway 99," Jane Wyman starrer, will be directed for Warner by William McGann.

"Thing Called Love" Is Greatest Draw

SAN FRANCISCO—Continuous rain coupled with continued runs made for a dull week at the first run boxoffices. Five of the seven first run theatres were playing holdovers, some in their third and fourth weeks. "This Thing Called Love" was the topper along Market Street keeping up the fine draw it proved in its first week. The Golden Gate, with Earl Carroll's Vanities on the stage and "Play Girl" on the screen had an excellent week. All others were below average.

Detail for week ending January 22:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Romance of Rio Grande** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 90
Golden Gate—**Play Girl** (RKO), plus **Earl Carroll's Vanities** on stage 160
Orpheum—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col), 2nd wk.....170
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Murder Over New York** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..... 90
St. Francis—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **March on Marines** (Rep) 75
United Artists—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 4th wk.. 85
Warfield—**Victory** (Para't); **Case of the Black Parrott** (FN) 90

Third Week's Stanza for "Neighbor" Forte in L. A.

LOS ANGELES—No startling records were hung up in local first-run houses, most of which reported only an average week. A bright spot was the remarkable showing turned in by "Love Thy Neighbor" in its third week at the Paramount, polling par business with "Texas Rangers Ride Again" and a stage show in support. "Kitty Foyle" and "Ellery Queen, Master Detective" managed to garner a normal second week at the RKO Hillstreet and Pantages.

Detail for week ending January 22:

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 100
Downtown—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); **Here Comes the Navy** (WB) 100
Four Star—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA)..... 90
Hillstreet—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col), 2nd wk.....100
Hollywood—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); **Here Comes the Navy** (WB) 100
Pantages—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col), 2nd wk.....100
Paramount—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 3rd wk.; **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't), plus stage show 100
State—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 110

Gracie Fields Outranks Seattle's Offerings

SEATTLE—Folks in this town will pay real money for real attractions. Gracie Fields, appearing at the Music Hall doing a "one night stand" garnered $7,500 plus a thousand dollar donation for her evening's work. The English gal gave a tremendous one-woman show. Her appearance was for funds to aid Britain. All other theatres with regular attractions did only fair business this week with nothing outstanding in the way of grosses.

Detail for week ending January 25:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Night Train** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 90
Fifth Avenue—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100
Liberty—**Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col); **Girls Under 21** (Col) 90
Metropolitan—**The Baker's Wife** (SR) 80
Music Box—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Jennie** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk. 100
Orpheum—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 90
Palomar—**Friendly Neighbors** (Rep), plus Major Bowes' Amateurs on stage 110
Paramount—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **The Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 120

Above Average Grosses Enjoyed in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY—Alternate sunshine and snow flurries here with continued brisk temperatures may have done their share in abetting the good attendance at local theatres. "Comrade X" continues strong into the third week at the Studio; "Knute Rockne—All-American" was held over at the Victory, and "Land of Liberty" is a big drawing card at the Capitol, as well as some attractive second run presentations.

Detail for week ended January 23:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Land of Liberty** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 115
Studio—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 115
Utah—**Foreign Correspondent** (UA); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 110
Victory—**Knute Rockne—All-American** (WB); **Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie** (Univ)....115

"Arizona" Ahead in a Strong Denver Lineup

DENVER—"Arizona" at the Denver was a close winner in top money for the week, winning over "Flight Command" and "Keeping Company" at the Orpheum. Business was above average at all first run houses, with the National Western Stock Show contributing.

Detail for week ending January 22:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**This Thing Caleld Love** (Col), after a wk. at the Denver 130
Broadway—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **I'm Still Alive** (RKO), after a wk. at the Orpheum.....140
Denham—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 105
Denver—**Arizona** (Col) 135
Orpheum—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 125
Paramount—**Invisible Woman** (Univ); **Behind the News** (Rep) 130
Rialto—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Her First Romance** (Mono) 130

Vinicoff Signs With AGVA For Long Beach Strand

LONG BEACH, CAL.—The Strand Theatre, film and vaudeville house owned and operated by Harry Vinicoff, has signed a union contract with the American Guild of Variety Artists.

Deal was set with Vinicoff by C. J. Hyans, AGVA representative, and establishes the Strand as a Class B theatre, with players in acts booked there to be paid a minimum of $8.50 daily.

Third Son to von Herberg

SEATTLE—Gene Dennis, famed psychic who writes for a local daily and who in private life is the wife of J. von Herberg of the Jensen-von Herberg theatres, became mother to a third son January 28. The youngster weighed in at 8 pounds 13 ounces.

Seattle Board Set For Marion Bldg.

Seattle—The address of Joe J. Monahan, named last week by the American Arbitration Ass'n as clerk of the motion picture arbitration board here, has been designated as the Marion Building.

Many Registrants for Final PCCITO Meet

LOS ANGELES—Among the some 100 independent member showmen who attended the fourth and final one in a series of meetings of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners held January 20 at the Elks Club in Los Angeles, were the following:

R. Kuhn sr., Kuhn jr., Milton Odem, Avery Combs, George Gould, Messrs. Woods, Claver, Mr. and Mrs. Dickonson, Messrs. McElroy, Gessler, Mattecheck, Bob Mattecheck, Phelps, McKevitt, Poorman, Stover, Francis.

Mrs. Rose Poole, George Roy, C. H. Smith, Ray Grombacher, Ed Niemann, Gordon Niemann, William Graeper, Mrs. Paulson, Mr. Geller, Mr. Hanzlik, Mr. Cockerline, Jessie Jones, Joe Gamble, Carl Lowe, Mr. St. Johns, Ed Boyer, Mr. Randolph, J. L. Barber, Phil Carlin, Joe Sorodka, K. A. Spears, Mrs. Edwards.

Messrs. Durkee, Bradt, B. J. Callahan, Norman Goodin, W. H. Hibbert, A. West Johnson, Art Kolstad, Leverette, Mrs. Jessie Monroe, J. D. Meyers, Bob Poole, Messrs. Bruen, Berman, Lukan, Ripley, White, George Hunt, Jim Hone, Albert Law, Levin, Harvey, Mrs. Avery Combs, Mrs. Bob White, Mrs. Gwynn, Miss Gwynn, Mrs. Hale.

SALT LAKE

"LAND OF LIBERTY" is showing at the Capitol Theatre currently. Proceeds of the Salt Lake showing will be used for war emergency welfare work . . . Recent visitors to New York were Manager Chet Price of the Victory Theatre and Harry David, general manager of Intermountain Theatres, Inc.

RKO sneak-previewed "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at Joe Lawrence's Rialto . . . G. J. Malifronte, home office auditor, is at the local Universal exchange for a few weeks . . . Lon T. Fidler, Monogram district manager who has been ill for some time, is recovering nicely and will be in California for a few weeks.

Metro Manager Sam Gardner is scheduled for an extended trip into Montana and Idaho . . . Con Murphy, former theatreman here, is a visitor from Butte for a few days . . . Clifton Pierce, former exhibitor who died last week in San Francisco, was well known here.

Lark Lind, M-G-M salesman, is the father of a baby girl . . . Jack Swanson, shipper at Columbia, recently became the father of a boy.

Employes of the local Sheffield Republic exchange are spending some bonus checks . . . Art W. Baron, salesman for Republic, is in Idaho currently, and Manager G. S. Pinnel is in outstate Utah.

Susanna Foster, young soprano who appeared in "The Great Victor Herbert," will make a personal appearance here on a benefit program for Utah's national guardsmen February 5. Harry David is in charge of the affair . . . Paramount Branch Manager F. H. Smith is working in Idaho.

"Land of Liberty" Opens In Two L. A. Theatres

LOS ANGELES—"Land of Liberty," the patriotic feature sponsored by the MPPDA, opened its first local booking, day-date, at Grauman's Chinese and Loew's State theatres, January 29. It is on a dual bill with "Come Live With Me," co-starring James Stewart and Hedy Lamarr.

Ben Levin Opens New San Francisco Avenue

SAN FRANCISCO—The Avenue, styled the city's "newest, ultra-modern theatre," opened January 30. The house, under the general management of Ben Levin, was ravaged by fire in November and was completely rebuilt. It is a subsequent run and has three changes a week.

LOS ANGELES

M J. E. McCARTHY, Monogram salesman, pulled out for the Bakersfield territory . . . George Hickey, M-G-M western district manager, off to San Francisco on a business jaunt . . . Sam Nathanson, general sales manager for Producers Releasing Corp., has been in Kansas City for the past few days.

National Screen Service has added Ralph Moore and Hubert Hendricks to its shipping crew . . . In from the New York office for business conferences with local M-G-M officials are Allan F. Cummings and Bill Brenner . . . Murray Fisher, Producers Releasing Corp. office manager, took the day off—stomach trouble.

E. C. Shriver, Altec Service district manager, and S. M. Pariseau, local branch manager, are in from San Francisco . . . Booking: Dave Rector, Ebell, Long Beach; George Harter, operator of the Arlin and Avalon theatres.

Mildred Landreau, secretary to George Hickey of M-G-M, has returned to work after a vacation in Washington . . . Murray Fisher, office manager here for Producers Releasing Corp., reports Ollie Wog has been shifted from Portland to Seattle as branch manager, replacing Joe Morrick. The Portland job is still open, as far as Fisher knows.

The question of whether the IATSE's Class B locals want to remain in that division or be classified in the A brackets, on a par with the projectionists and studio locals, was discussed at a meeting of Local B-61. A referendum vote on the subject will be taken under the guidance of Bill Ring, president of the local.

Herb MacIntyre, western district manager for RKO Radio, in New York attending a company sales meeting . . . Mrs. Jerome Safron, wife of Columbia's western district chief, is convalescing at the Good Samaritan Hospital following an appendectomy . . . Henry MacKaig, United Artists salesman, in from Bishop—last stop on his trip through the northern territory.

George Alderman, secretary-treasurer of Constance Bennett, Inc., and Harry Taylor, vice-president and sales manager, left for Chicago to begin an extensive tour through the east, which they figure will keep them on the road for three or four months.

Here on business is D. T. Gomersall, Universal division manager headquartering in Chicago . . . On one of his rare visits, Al Hanson, operator of the Vogue Theatre in South Gate, came in to do some booking . . . Also booking was Ronald Vincent of Laguna Beach.

Two newcomers have been added to the personnel of the Constance Bennett Cosmetics Co. Harry Tardy, a well-known figure along Filmrow, has been appointed office manager here, while Les Taylor has been named district manager for Southern California . . . Arthur Greenfield, Universal booker, has been transferred to San Francisco. He is replaced here by Tommy Dunphy.

George Carrington, vice-president of Altec Service, is in from New York for business conferences with local Altec officials . . . Eugene Francis, one of the "East Side Kids" in the Monogram series, dropped in to visit acquaintances along the Row . . . Booking visitors included Joe Sloate of the Maynard; Harvey Levinson, operator of the Cozy; Tommy Huntington, Seville Theatre, Chula Vista.

SAN FRANCISCO

IT WAS NICE to see the sun again this week. Rain fell during 33 days out of the last 40 and it was getting mighty monotonous. The theatres took a beating.

Roy Disney in town to make arrangements for the booking of "Fantasia." No theatre has been chosen as yet to receive the installation required for the showing of the film . . . Barbara Hill is assisting in the contract and bookkeeping departments at Warner . . . George Stamm is getting the old Casino in Antioch ready for a spring opening . . . The Egyptian is first running "Mad Men of Europe" . . . Kevin Wallace has replaced Ada Hanafin as the drama critic on the San Francisco Examiner. *Miss Hanafin leaves the newspaper after 11 years in the critic's chair.*

Lois Moran, once known as the Hollywood bombshell, is about ready to come out of her voluntary retirement. Miss Moran, now Mrs. Clarence M. Young, has resided in this city since leaving Hollywood four years ago. She does not plan to re-enter the entertainment world in either the screen or stage fields even though she left both while at the top of the ladder. Some time this year Lois Moran will make her grand opera debut!

The war raging on all fronts across the Atlantic has not prevented the Clay, San Francisco's foreign product theatre, from securing a full schedule of film for the new season. Following "Here Is Ireland," which closes a five-week run this week, the theatre will present "Queen of La Scala." Six other foreign films have been announced to follow . . . Nina Bissell, Exposition glamour girl, "Miss Pacific Coast," and native of this city, will make her screen debut in M-G-M's "Ziegfeld Girl" . . . Jimmy Myers, Republic salesman, is hospitalized for an operation.

The old Lincoln, opened and closed many times, has shuttered for keeps. A modern bowling palace opened this week where the theatre used to stand . . . Ed Beck has left his desk at M-G-M to go to Portland for three weeks as personal representative of George Hickey. E. Al Lake is up from Hollywood to hold down Ed's chair . . . Jimmy Faden, Fox shipper, on the sick list . . . Ben Stephenson is managing the Metropolitan . . . Bob Lippert saw his first prize fight this week and the boys on the Row know the contest blow by blow!

The Harvey circuit headquarters on Golden Gate Avenue have been remodeled, with the company's girls being bunched in the glass-enclosed front office, and Sid Klein, circuit booker, being given a new office.

The Chinese New Year's celebrations gave a boost to all Chinatown bars and clubs and to the Grandview, the smart little theatre showing Chinese and American films . . . Sid Weisbaum and Sid Martenstein are touring the Valley for Republic . . . The office staff at Columbia gave Barbara Cohen a farewell party this week and sent her off with a beautiful fluorescent desk lamp set . . . The Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo makes its annual call to this city next week.

Wanted: One station wagon. Since Henry Wisnia moved down the Peninsula there are enough bookers commuting to make a Booker's Special coming and going each day. The boys are toying with the idea of buying a station wagon to take them back and forth . . . Dan Noonan has sold his Turlock in Turlock to Golden State . . . "Ma" Hables is operating the theatre in King City while her son, Ike, the house's owner, goes off to Canada for military reasons . . . Charles Schlaifer is taking a short vacation from his duties at the United Artists . . . The Plumas, in Portola, lost a print of "Dancing on a Dime" in the Western Pacific train crack-up.

Arthur W. Kelly visited the UA exchange in connection with the "Arthur W. Kelly" Drive. Stephen Pallos accompanied . . . Mrs. Skidmore, sister of Joe Kane, Republic booker, suffered a broken leg while ice skating . . . Dick Crosby, Embassy house manager, is agitating for a golf tournament among local theatre employes . . . Booking on the Row: Dan Noonan, Turlock, Turlock; H. Muraki, Mission, Sacramento; Jack Ryan, Vallejo; and Jimmy Lima, Tower, Roseville.

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LOS ANGELES

SEATTLE

RKO's Eddie Lamb "sneak" previewed "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" last week. Affair, held at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, was preceded by loads of publicity. Drama critics from various cities were invited along with their wives. Seen among the gang were Wafford Conrad of the Spokane *Chronicle;* Ros McTavish, Vancouver, B. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Hal Nelson, Tacoma *Times;* Len Higgins, Tacoma *Tribune;* Ralph Daly, *News-Herald,* Vancouver, B. C. . . . This town went overboard for the personal appearance of Gracie Fields, the British songstress and comedienne. They're still talking about her number, "The Biggest Aspidestra in the World." Gracie will be back in a few days to make a "free" personal appearance at all three of the Birthday Balls being held in town for the President's infantile paralysis cause.

Special memorial services were held here last week for Anna Pavlova by Ivan Novikoff, local ballet master. Jean Yazvinsky, director general of the Ballet Russe Monte Carlo, flew in from Vancouver, B. C., for the ceremony, which was attended by many artists and local citizens . . . Word from Hollywood tells of the death of Sam Brafford, recently chief of police at the Metro studios. What makes this a local item is, that for 17 *years Sam was on the Seattle police force and was once given a medal by the merchants of Yesler Way for stopping a team of run-a-way horses at the risk of his life. He was an uncle to Buster Keaton . . . Bob Crosby, brother of Bing, hopped a plane from here this week for Hollywood where he will make a new picture, "Sis Hopkins" . . . During evening previews on the Row, a "nasty" man has been breaking into cars and getting away with a lot of fine things. Pete Higgins lost a radio, W. B. McDonald of Olympia lost luggage and booking sheets, while Tony Silvaggio lost two pair of ice skates and bowling shoes. Good news boys. The police have got the fellow and all of your property is safe. Don't say we didn't tell you.*

Frank Jenkins of the Jensen-von Herberg house in Renton has gone to California for a couple of weeks. Bob Shearer of the Ballard Roxy is looking after things while Frank is gone. Reason for the trip is that Frank's father died a short time ago and he could not get away at that time, so he is taking this opportunity to go home and get family matters settled . . . We have been informed of the following changes in the Paramount organization. Charles Reagan moves from western district manager to assistant to Neil F. Agnew; George Smith moves into Reagan's spot, while Hugh Braley is in Smith's berth. This is for the coast territory only. Denver and Salt Lake will have a D.M. of their own . . . B. F. Shearer announces he has purchased the Smith Theatre Supply in Spokane and has placed E. H. Bechtel in as manager.

Bill Forman, general manager of Sterling Theatres, out by plane for Los Angeles. At San Francisco, he will be met by Jimmie O'Neal who will be able to chinwag with Bill for about 15 *minutes . . . Roy Peacock is east of the mountains on company business . . . Vic Gauntlett back at his desk after the fight with the flu . . . John Pollock, traveling in advance of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, in town accompanied by Mrs. Pollock . . . Expected this week are Jimmy Grainger, head of Republic Pictures, and Frank Soule of the west coast offices . . . Art Kallen, Universal booker, back at his desk after the flu siege . . . Art Huot and Art Gollofon back from a very successful fishing trip . . . Ben Fish, western division head for United Artists, out for Portland accompanied by Pete Higgins, local manager . . . Al Rosenberg back from a California vacation and rest . . . Hal and Ethel Daigler sending greetings from Arizona where they are spending some time at a resort . . . Frank Newman, president of Evergreen Theatres, out to Bellingham for a looksee.*

Carl Walker, district manager for Warner Theatres, in from Hollywood and spending some time in Aberdeen and Hoquiam. He will drop in on Seattle before returning home . . . Henry Davidson of Port Angeles on the Row after spending some time in the hospital. Likewise Mickey De Leo of Port Townsend . . . Mrs. Martin Brown back to Yakima after her long visit here . . . Joe and Mrs. Kendall of Ellenburg here for the preview of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith." They were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mercy jr. . . . Bill Shartin back at his desk, but standing, after his operation . . . Al O'Keefe, division manager for Universal, writes he is enjoying a vacation in Death Valley . . . Haskell Masters, new district manager for United Artists, is expected soon on his first visit from the east.

DENVER

J. S. ABROSE, recently branch manager for United Artists in Milwaukee, has been appointed district manager for them, and headquartering in Denver, will have charge of the territories of Denver, Salt Lake City and Omaha.

John P. Bryne, recently branch manager for M-G-M in Boston, and who started in the film business 16 *years ago in Denver as a salesman for the same company, has been named district manager and will have Denver, Omaha, Salt Lake City and Des Moines in his territory. He will headquarter in Denver.*

A bill introduced in the Colorado legislature would provide an excise tax on theatres—the annual tax to be equal to one admission for every seat in the house. The bill still is in committee . . . The members of the Colorado state legislature received their usual season passes, good for all the theatres in Denver, for the length of the session.

Reports reaching Denver say that Harry Marcus, formerly owner of the Allied exchange in Denver, died at his home in Philadelphia . . . Joe Hammer, booker for JCR sanitarium, died in Denver January 10.

Fire in the booth of the Mara Theatre, Mara, N. M., owned by Albert Coppell, resulted in the closing of the house for a few weeks . . . New sound has been installed in both the Egyptian and Rex theatres, Denver, both Civic houses. A new front also has been put up at the Civic Oriental.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Hynes have gone to New York City for a two-week vacation. He is manager of the Denver Theatre . . . Charlene Davis, daughter of Dave Davis, district manager for Atlas Theatres, was elected head girl at Smiley Junior High School, Denver.

A consent decree meeting, presided over by Felix Jenkins, head of the 20th Century-Fox legal department, will be held in the exchange here February 3 . . . Mrs. Ed Mapel was seriously hurt in Los Angeles when her car overturned.

PORTLAND

PORTLAND begins to derive some benefits from the defense program. A recent announcement revealed the allocation of 57 million dollars for the construction of 31 ships in Portland harbors. A shipyard boom will no doubt make a tremendous improvement in theatre grosses.

The 7th Infantry, long stationed at Vancouver Barracks, will leave that post to make way for a regiment of engineers. The change is not expected to affect Vancouver theatre business as the engineers carry practically the same enrollment as the 7th infantry.

The town of Mossy Rock, Washington, is soon to be represented with a theatre. G. Ghosen is building a new 350-seat house to be called the "G" Theatre. Ghosen is making his initial entry into the show business with the G Theatre, but is well known around Mossy Rock, where he operates the general store.

Ralph Wood, long an exponent of 16*mm films, announced the booking of his feature-length color pictures of the Portland Rose Festival to be shown to Henry Ford and also to the New York Chamber of Commerce. Arthur B. Carlson, of the Portland C. of C., will transport the pictures in the interest of Oregon publicity.*

Talk has been started for the establishment of a Luncheon Club for Filmrowites. The idea is sponsored by Banjo Miller and Lou Amacher. The plan is for a meeting once each week for a get-together with no business discussed except under penalty. For further information see either Miller or Amacher.

Filmrow visitors were varied the past week with Ben Fish and Pete Higgins of the UA sales force; Bill McKevitt, Newport; Mrs. L. A. Moore, booking for Goldendale, Hermiston, Athena and Arlington; Harry Percy, Mr. Harrington, of Aratskanie and White Salmon, were about the Row on one business or another.

The Liberty and Kelso theatres in Kelso are shining under the finishing touches recently added to them by Basil Bashor and Bill Ripley.

The Portland city council met last week with the idea of considering ways and means of controlling stage shows. Some one felt the stage should be censored in the same way as the films, but it was decided to allow the individual theatre manager to make his own deletions.

Lead Still "Kitty's" After Four Weeks

CHICAGO—Despite cold, sloppy weather, boxoffice receipts in the Loop held up the week ending January 23, with "Kitty Foyle" continuing its smashing pace in its fourth week at the RKO Palace.

Detail for the week ending January 23:

(Average is 100)

Apollo—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't)..... 85
A terrific grosser, wound up at the Apollo on Tuesday, having completed a big loop run of three weeks and five days. "Comrade X" shifted to the Apollo on Wednesday from United Artists.

Chicago—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 125
Second week. New stage show bolstering receipts.

Garrick—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M) 100

Oriental—**Hullabaloo** (M-G-M) 115
Stage show headed by Rosemary Lane helped bring in the customers.

Palace—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 175
Biggest thing Palace has seen in ages. The Loop's pace-setter. Looks like five or six weeks.

Roosevelt—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 95
Finished week on Tuesday, same company's "Hudson's Bay" going in on Wednesday.

State Lake—**Phantom Submarine** (Col) 130
All-star stage show headed by Lou Holtz helped zoom business at this house.

Studio—**After Mein Kampf** (SR) 85
Second week did about half as well as first week's business.

United Artists—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 75
Picture was shifted to the Apollo on Wednesday after successful run of two weeks, five days. "The Philadelphia Story" opened very big on Wednesday.

Stage Show Effective Bolster in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—Week's leading grosser was the Folies Bergere of 1941 at the Riverside Theatre together with the film "Glamour for Sale." Cold and snowy weather cut into takes at other first runs.

Detail for week ending January 23:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**Arizona** (Col); **Youth Will Be Served** (20th-Fox) 110

Riverside—**Glamour for Sale** (Col), plus **Folies Bergere of 1941** on stage 200

Strand—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't); **Victory** (Para't) 100

Warner—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); **East of the River** (FN) 125

Wisconsin—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) 115

"Flight Command" Soars Highest in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS — Metro's "Flight Command" paired with "Lone Wolf Keeps a Date" at Loew's led the first runs far and away, with a take that nearly doubled the average. The balance of the show houses ran but poor seconds with grosses in all instances, somewhat below average.

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**Riders of Black Mountain** (PRC); **Chamber of Horrors** (Mono) 70

Circle—**Victory** (Para't); **Life With Henry** (Para't) 80

Indiana—**Second Chorus** (Para't); **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 90

Loew's—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col) 195

Lyric—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), plus Johnny Burke and other acts on stage 95

Revive Curfew

GRANITE CITY, ILL.—Mayor M. E. Kirkpatrick has ordered that beginning on February 1 city police must begin enforcing a quarter-century old 9 p. m. curfew ordinance. Children of the city must be off the streets by 9 p. m. Warning whistles will be blown at 8:45 o'clock nightly. Parents of violators are subject to a $1 fine.

Cooperate in Kenosha With Paralysis Drive

KENOSHA, WIS.—Theatre managers Francis Schlax at the Kenosha, Elroy Luedtke at the Orpheum and William Exton at the Roosevelt cooperated in the local drive conducted by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis by featuring special lobby displays to help collect funds for the affair.

Miss Laurinda Webb was in charge of the appeal drive at the Kenosha, while the Orpheum and Roosevelt had coin collection boxes in their lobbies. The Kenosha also sold tickets to the Crippled Children's ball at the Elks Club on January 31 and at the Eagles Club on February 1. The same tickets were also good for admission to the Kenosha Theatre if they were not used for the dances.

Stars at Benefit

ST. LOUIS — Constance Bennett was scheduled to be one of the speakers at the Aid to Britain mass meeting to be held at the Municipal Auditorium the evening of Friday, January 31. Douglas Fairbanks jr., who is president of the Los Angeles chapter of the national organization, has also signified his intention to be present at the mass meeting, according to George W. Gardner, secretary of the St. Louis chapter.

Pirtle Remodels in Jerseyville

ST. LOUIS—S. E. Pirtle, Jerseyville theatre owner, plans alterations and improvements to a two-story store building there.

Variety in St. Louis Will Aid Polio Ass'n

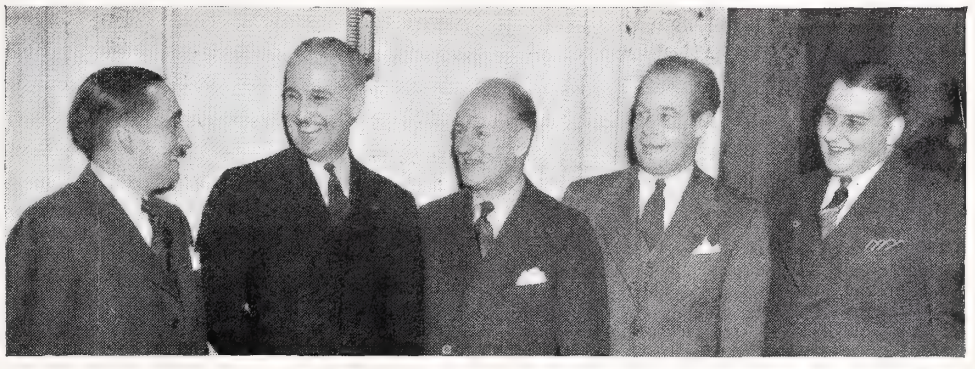
ST. LOUIS—A five-year program to raise a total of $250,000 through special entertainments and benefit shows for the erection of a building for the Midwest Polio Association has been decided upon by the St. Louis Tent of the Variety Club, of which Harry C. Arthur jr., Fanchon & Marco executive, is chief barker.

The Variety Club has adopted the Midwest Polio Association as its sole charity. The association is composed of those in Greater St. Louis who have been or are afflicted with infantile paralysis.

Louis K. Ansell, head of the Ansell Bros. circuit; Clarence D. Hill, manager for Columbia Pictures, and Fred H. Wehrenberg, head of the Wehrenberg circuit and president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of St. Louis, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois, were appointed by President Arthur to formulate plans with the Midwest Polio Association officers for the five-year program.

During this period the net proceeds of all benefits under the auspices of the Variety Club will be used to establish the proposed building. It will include a swimming pool, a work shop and other rehabilitation facilities.

The first show under the program will be a midnight performance at Fanchon & Marco's Fox Theatre, March 29.





Winners All—

In the upper photo are the top money takers in the M-G-M national exploitation contest. Left to right: Jack Albertson, Indiana Harbor, Ind., $500; Chick Tompkins, Whiting, Ind., $100; J. E. Flynn, Metro district manager, Chicago; Rex Williams, Elkhart, Ind., $750, and Roy Hanson, Goshen, Ind., $2,500. The $25.00 winners in the lower photo, are left to right: Harry Brown, Vogue; Joseph Koppel, New Ritz, Berwyn; Ted Morris, Devon; J. E. Flynn, district manager, Chicago; Edward Bertrand, Buckingham; Oscar A. Brotman, Avaloe; John Naughton, Vic Theatres, Chicago; Roy Zermain, 400 Theatres, Chicago.



They're From the Home Team—

Some of the hosts in the Chicago home team when Paramount theatre partners hosted Barney Balaban to celebrate his fifth year as president of the film and theatre company. Left to right here, all of B&K circuit in Chicago except one otherwise designated: Nate Platt, district manager and production chief; William K. Hollander, advertising chief; Dave Wallerstein, district manager; Max Schosberg, Paramount home office; Maurice L. Leonard, legal head; Walter Immerman, general manager, and Abe Kaufman, booking chief.

Greek Forces Benefited by Testimonial to Balaban

By HAL TATE

CHICAGO—Probably no happier man existed in the motion picture business the night of January 23 than Barney Balaban, president of Paramount Pictures. His theatre associates, in paying him tribute at the Drake Hotel here on his fifth anniversary as president of the theatre company, gave him two gifts that he will long remember. One was a check for a fully equipped ambulance which will shortly see service for the Greek Army; the other was an engraved silver plaque mounted on glass commemorating the gift of the ambulance, and the Barney Balaban celebration.

Making the presentations was E. V. Richards, head of the Paramount-Richards theatres. The plaque read as follows: "To Barney Balaban From Your Theatre Associates: In sincere appreciation of your exemplary character, your fine human qualities, and in commemoration of the fifth anniversary of your presidency of Paramount Pictures, we present this day to the American Red Cross in your name an ambulance, a messenger of mercy to the valiant people of Greece who are fighting for the right to live at peace with their neighbors, for democracy, for humanity."

Medallions to Winners

Balaban personally congratulated the 55 winners of the Barney Balaban drive. They were introduced by his brother, John Balaban, who presented each winner with a special victory medallion. Each winner also received cash awards.

Preceding the actual banquet was an informal luncheon held in the Grand Ballroom of the Drake Hotel. It was here that many Paramount people saw for the first time a new entertainment medium which may revolutionize the entire motion picture industry. It was television. Balaban and Katz held a special exhibit of their new television station, W9XBX at the Drake. The exhibit, which was under the direction of Bill Eddy, director of the station, amazed the onlookers who expressed great surprise at the clarity of the pictures.

Botsford Toastmaster

The entire day was given over to paying tribute to Barney Balaban. From the United States and Canada nearly 400 executives of Paramount and its theatre managers, together with the winners of the Barney Balaban drive, joined in paying tribute to Balaban.

At the beginning of the banquet, Thursday evening, A. H. Blank, chairman of the Barney Balaban celebration committee, gave the signal for the participants to take their places. As they took their seats, a burst of music from the stage heralded "To the Stars and Stripes," a stirring prologue of blended choral voices and marching feet that reached its climax in the living American flag at the opposite end of the banquet hall.

At the dinners' conclusion, A. M. Botsford, associate producer for Paramount, who acted as toastmaster for the banquet, introduced Balaban's best friends, who had come to felicitate the Paramount president.

The dramatic high-point of the evening came when E. V. Richards presented Balaban with the plaque and check for the ambulance. Balaban, in accepting the gifts, said that nothing could have made him prouder or happier, and that there was no cause more worthy than this ambulance for a people doing their utmost against great odds.

Besides Blank, Richards, John Balaban and Botsford, addresses were made by Y. Frank Freeman, Stanton Griffis, Adolph Zukor, Neil Agnew, Hugo Sonnenschein, noted Chicago attorney, and Leo Spitz, Chicago attorney, former president of RKO Radio pictures, and one of Balaban's closest friends.

Entertainment by Platt

The evening's entertainment, which had been arranged by Nate Platt, stage production manager for Balaban & Katz, started off with a community songfest entitled "Love Thy Neighbor," and pulled no punches in its ribbing. The Paramount Studio's contribution to the evening's festivities was a special studio newsreel with Jack Benny as chief "Balaban-terer." Other stars participating in satirical bits were: Bob Hope, Mary Martin, Bing Crosby, Lynne Overman, Claudette Colbert, Madeleine Carroll, Fred MacMurray, Henry Fonda, Don Ameche, Rochester, Oscar Levant and Allan Jones.

Making a personal appearance at the banquet were two new Paramount stars, Constance Moore and Stirling Haydon. From Chicago's leading show places, top name stars appeared at the banquet. These included Lou Holtz, Jane Froman, Bert Lahr, Lola Lane, the Nicholas Bros., and Tommy Bartlett.

MILWAUKEE

NINE P. M. "Sneak Previews" were staged here last week by the Warner and Palace theatres on Wednesday and Thursday nights, respectively . . . Harry Perlewitz, Milwaukee, business manager of the ITPA of Wisconsin; William L. Ainsworth, Fond du Lac, president of the association, and A. C. Berkholtz, West Bend, the organization's treasurer, journeyed to Washington to attend the Allied board meeting.

Ray Smith Co., theatre supplies, observed the formal opening of its new offices here at 710 W. State St. A representative group of exhibitors from around the state attended.

Charlie Koehler, operator of Astor Pictures exchange here, observed his birthday last week. Charlie, who has been in the business for 32 years, maintains he's "the oldest film peddler in point of service in this neck of the woods."

George D. Skinner, New York, head of the public relations department of Broadcast Music, Inc., was in town making speeches in response to talks by Robert A. Hess, Wisconsin counsel for Ascap.

Warner's Venetian in Racine is installing new earphones for the hard-of-hearing . . . The Fox in Stevens Point, which last September announced it was going to give single feature programs a trial, is back playing the duals.

Barney Balaban Dinner Notes

CHICAGO—Jimmy Savage of the B&K publicity department got up some very clever sayings to tie in with the decorative motif in the Grand Ballroom of the Drake Hotel, which was as much American as it was Balaban. The sayings were on placards between flags, and read: "It's a Great Country . . ."

Where bottoms up means "Here's How" instead of "here lies."
Where you stand up at a bar and call for a shot . . . not behind bars, waiting for one.
Where you run to a cellar for a bottle . . . not from a battle.
Where Goldwyn kills the King's English, not Goering trying to kill the English King.
Where you can hiss Hitler and still live for the feature picture.
Where the blackout means you've only blown a fuse . . . and not your top.

Part of the decorations at the luncheon preceding the dinner were huge ice carved figures of the American Eagle.

B&K prize winners divided up a $2,000 slice. First prizes to winning managers was $100 and one week's vacation; winning assistant managers received $25 and one week's vacation. Special awards varied from $25 down to $10.

All guests at the dinner received an envelope containing a badge, a special guest card and a special book of guest admissions. The guest card was good at all B&K theatres, while the booklet entitled bearer to principal places of interest in Chicago.

The Chicago committee deserves special plaudits for the perfect time accorded the guests. Chairman of the committee was A. H. Blank, with John J. Friedl, E. J. Hudson and John Balaban committee members.

Chicago *Herald-American* got out special 4-page edition on the occasion. Contained news stories, pictures and reprint of recently published story in the *American* called "Mr. Barney of the Balabans." Following items are reprinted from the "Balabanter" column in the special edition.

"You may make your own comments, but Mr. Adolph Zukor, gentleman farmer of Nyack, N. Y., couldn't show a profit on his farm until he made barn-grown fertilizer his chief crop."

Bill Hollander, B&K's ad head, just can't get mad at adverse criticisms from local scribes. Bill used to tear films apart on the editor's desk at the *Daily News*. Mr. Barney brought him over to B&K for self-protection.

Winning drives is old stuff to Carl Hermann of the Strand in Carlisle, Pa. Carl has been under the wire in every drive conducted by the Comerford organization for 16 years.

"Chesty" Price, Salt Lake's youngster, can afford to be as cocky as his nickname. Given the "problem child" of his circuit, he converted the Victory Theatre into a $3,000 profit house in five weeks. He will next attempt to balance the national budget.

The Horatio Alger influence, it seems, is more discernible in theatre operation than in any other comparative business. A survey of the drive winners reveals a huge percentage of managers who started as ushers. Among the most successful is Everett Olsen of the Orpheum in Minot, N. D. Everett used to patrol the lanes at the Lyric in Duluth.

Earl J. Hudson, Detroit's "Mister Big," is more than proud of Grant Hawkins, Varsity Theatre head coach. Grant went into the drive before recovering from an appendectomy. The winning patient claimed the hospital took less out of him than the "big push."

Bill Miskell, Tri-States veteran, was singled out by your Uncle Sam'l for the lofty job of "co-ordinator for all amusement activities throughout the United States." Which is our idea of classification A-1 in the defense draft.

Two Martins, Guy and "Scottie" of South Bend, are ready to meet any number of Coys at any time. The unrelated pair were opponents in the drive, but as tough as a pair of Notre Dame tackles when Coys are a-lurkin' in the woods.

Harry Sherman, producer of the "Hopalong Cassidy" westerns, appeared at the sales meeting and was gently twitted. "We have decided to abandon westerns," Barney Balaban told him. "But how would you like to do 'For Whom the Bell Tolls'?" Sherman didn't bat an eye. "Mr. Balaban," he answered, "I'll do THAT one for nothing!"

Bob Gillham is more heroic-appearing than many of the screen heroes he so ably publicizes.

Woody Praught, St. Cloud, Minn., Silver lining, came up with a 128 per cent increase for his blue ribbon.

Bill Eddy has televised subjects from diving bells to stratoliners. His new assignment—in charge of the magic mirrors—will be the "Comrade X" of W9XBK.

Bill Holden, B&K's flagship Commodore, was not on hand to receive his medallion as Chicago Theatre winner. Bill was personally handling the National Canners' Ass'n annual theatre party that night.

It was a return trip for A. G. Pickett all the way from Orpheum in Phoenix, Ariz. He was one of the original members of the Paramount 100 Per Cent Club when Sidney R. Kent called that body to a meeting in Chicago several years ago.

Wheeler 'Propaganda' Proposal 'Untenable'

JANESVILLE—Senator Wheeler's proposal to halt alleged propaganda films is labeled "untenable" in an editorial appearing in the *Gazette*. The newspaper says that Senator Wheeler's suggestion "plops the whole Bill of Rights squarely into the limelight."

The editorial continues: "Who is going to decide, as Senator Wheeler proposes, what amounts to presenting 'both sides' equally? Who is going to make up for what the motion picture industry loses, by offering its fans something they don't want?"

According to the editorial, "it is public opinion that engenders the propaganda, however, rather than the opposite. Show people follow public demand, they do not create it. Their income depends upon the popularity of their themes," the newspaper observes.

The editorial concludes as follows: "Senator Wheeler must know that movies and radio give their audiences the bill-of-fare they want, insofar as capabilities and subject material permit. To do anything else would be economic suicide, and for the government to insist upon anything else would be to choke democracy at its very fount."

View Public Service Film

ST. LOUIS—A motion picture, in color, "People Come First," was presented by the St. Louis Public Service Co. at a meeting of the Advertising Club of St. Louis, at Hotel Statler at noon January 28. Harry W. Kiel, thrice mayor of St. Louis and now chairman of the board of the street car company, made an introductory talk.

Assign Reilly Raine

HOLLYWOOD—Norman Reilly Raine is adapting "The Man They Couldn't Kill" for Warner.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

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THEATRICAL PRINTING



INDIANAPOLIS

VISITORS: Joe Schilling, Auditorium Theatre, Connorsville; Mrs. Hilda P. Long, Orpheum, Sheridan; Jack Van Borssum, Savoy, Terre Haute; Harry Van Noy, Paramount, Anderson; Roy E. Harrold, Princess, Rushville; Art Clark, Indiana, Bloomington; Mark Gates, Madrid, Akron; E. K. Crouch, Palace, Fairmount; Harold Reckley, Chateau, Greencastle; Trueman Rembusch, Syndicate Theatres, Franklin; Sam W. Neall, Sipe, Kokomo; Nick Paikos, Diana, Tipton; Ford Tracey, Vogue, St. Matthews, Ky.; P. H. Dickson, Eagles, Wabash.

George Settos announces the closing of the Amuzu, Oakland City, Ind., for an indefinite period. This house was recently acquired from Carl Spillman . . . Thelma Gayer, stenographer in the booking department of 20th Century-Fox here, was married to Murray Patterson. She will continue her work . . . Jerry Slutsky, assistant booker for Universal, has been transferred to Des Moines, Ia., as head booker. Morris Tobian replaces him at the bookers' desk here.

RKO held its screening of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the Circle . . . Charles F. Krieghbaum, operator of the Arc, Lafayette, crashed into a Monon train at a crossing in that city, resulting in the complete demolition of his car. He and his wife, the only other passenger in the car, were taken to the hospital immediately following the accident for an examination, but were reported not seriously injured. This will postpone their annual trip to Florida.

Eugene Cox assumes the duties of Thomas W. McKean at Warner's as confirmation clerk. McKean left for a year's training with the army . . . Two bookers are expected to leave early in February for one year's training with the Army. Jack Dowd reports to Fort Benjamin Harrison, giving up his job on the Warner booking staff. Abe Baker of Columbia's booking staff, had expected to go at the same time, but volunteers in his district's board area have pushed the date back a couple of weeks. Both are married. The Variety Club gave a party at which they were guests in the organization's club rooms.

O. E. Reynolds has reopened the Pearl in Hymera, Ind. . . . Orvin Moore, manager of the Ohio Theatre, Indianapolis, was laid up a few days with an attack of flu.

Equip With RCA

CHICAGO—Elmer Benesch has signed with RCA Photophone for new booth and sound equipment for his Lindy. Also, J. A. McCarthy, who is modernizing his Loomis. New RCA sound is likewise being installed by Edward D. Codo in the theatre he is building at Joliet, Ill., to be known as the Rio, and by the Great States circuit in their Majestic, East St. Louis, Ill.

Stanley Neskey of the State-Harrison here is also outfitting his house with RCA Photophone.

Indiana Showmen Aiding Greek Relief Campaign

INDIANAPOLIS—Contributions for the Greek War Relief Ass'n totaling $441.00 are reported by Don R. Rossiter, chairman of the committee raising the funds.

Contributors are as follows: Sam Switow, Switow Enterprises, $100; Pete Mallers, Fort Wayne, $100; P. H. Dickson, Eagles Theatre, Wabash, $100; Trueman Rembusch, Artkraft Theatre, Franklin, $50; Roy E. Harrold, Princess, Rushville, $25; A. H. Borkenstein, Wells Theatre, Fort Wayne, $25; A. H. Kaufman, Terre Haute, $15; H. L. Krieghbaum, Char-Bell Theatre, Rochester, $10; A. B. Thompson, Ritz, North Vernon, $10; J. B. Stine, Garfield, Terre Haute, $5; and John M. Woytinek, Gayble Theatre, North Judson, $1.00.

Terre Haute theatre owners have joined in an effort to accomplish a fund raising program. The downtown houses will stage midnight shows and the neighborhood theatres will have special matinees with the Greek Relief Fund as beneficiary. Participating are the Fourth Avenue Amusement Co., Abe Kaufman, J. B. Stine, Mrs. L. J. Murdock, Alliance Theatres of Chicago, and Maurice Reinking.

Two Army Draftees Are Given Farewell Party

LA CROSSE, WIS.—The La Crosse Theatres Co. gave a farewell party last week for two of its employes leaving for army service. They are Emil Mitley of the Rivoli and Ray Bender of the Strand. Two other employes—Lowell Hanson and Carl H. Eyler—have already enlisted.

The party was held in the Rivoli lobby and the company presented the boys with leather goods. Guests included Sam Segal, Minneapolis; Messrs. and Mmes. William Freise, C. L. Morrissey, L. V. Markgraf, Al Olson, Lyle Gilbert, Phil Dyer and Sylvester Busche; Mmes. L. B. Kanard, Lillian Zemlicka, and Mel Olson, Miss Anita Cameron and Charles Kramer, Misses Jeannette Wright, Mildred Fries, Lucille Katchel, Myrtle and Marie Rosendahl and Mary Jane Koppelberger, Art Frey, Ray Larson, Paul Spettel, Jim McKillip, Charles Larson, David Benrum, Jack Hall, Frank Seiger, Ray Plamador, William Reichelt, John Elstad, Jerome Roth, Jerome Spah, Ronald Lindstrom, Don Hanson, Art Hanson, Frank Pretasky and Norman Tevis.

La Crosse Theatres Hold Greek Relief Benefit

LA CROSSE, WIS.—A benefit performance at the Wisconsin Theatre, participated in by radio station WKBH, for the local Greek Relief Fund, did capacity business at a midnight show Tuesday, January 14.

The show was arranged by Manager James McKillip with the assistance of the Greek Relief Committee and Raymond Plamadore of WKBH. La Crosse Theatres Company donated the use of the house, the station provided announcements a week in advance as well as its Barn Dance unit for a stage show, and the stagehands of Local 141 donated their services.

The benefit closed with an old-fashioned country store in which local merchants gave some $100 in prizes.

ST. LOUIS

OLIVER F. LESSING has incorporated his Variety Pictures exchange under the name of Variety Pictures, Inc., with $5,000 authorized capital stock. The incorporators were Lessing, Peggy Lessing and George R. Williams. Lessing, formerly with Judell Pictures, has been operating as an independent at 3215 Olive Street.

"Truth or Consequences," one of the currently popular radio quiz shows, opened a week's engagement at Fanchon & Marco's Fox Theatre, January 24. Theatre patrons were invited to participate in the show. Cash awards were given to winners.

Funeral services were held here Friday, January 24, for Pat Garyn, independent exchange owner of Dallas, Tex., and one time sales head of the National Screen Service. He died in Dallas on January 22. His former executive posts included connections with M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and March of Time. He is survived by his wife and a sister, Mrs. Augusta Garyn Wolff of St. Louis.

The second semester of the St. Louis School of the Theatre opens this week. New courses in radio writing, makeup and dancing will be given. A new course will present a historical revue of the outstanding motion pictures since 1895. It will be offered for 15 consecutive Thursday evenings.

Nat Steinberg, manager for Republic Pictures, has purchased a new residence in Clayton, a St. Louis suburb . . . A. B. Marcus' "Continental Revue" with a cast of 75 persons opens a stage engagement at Fanchon & Marco's Fox Theatre on Friday, January 31.

Celess Cason of the local Metro exchange chalked up another birthday on Monday.

Stench Bomb Possession Brings Suit in Kirkwood

KIRKWOOD, MO.—Theodore Lending, proprietor of the Kirkwood Theatre, has applied for warrants, charging possession of stench bombs, against Ernest Brown, 37, and Herman Brawley, 27, both of St. Louis, who were arrested outside the theatre the night of January 17.

Kirkwood police reported that after the pair's arrest, two time stench bombs were found on Brawley, who asserted Brown had promised him $10 to place them in the theatre.

The theatre has been operating with a non-union projectionist since September 1. Stench bombs have been dropped there on several occasions since the management rejected the demands of Local No. 146 of the Operators Union that it employ two union projectionists.

Edward C. Bergt

ST. LOUIS—Funeral services were held Friday, January 24, for Edward C. Bergt, former alderman from the eighth ward, and one time motion picture theatre owner, who died January 22 at his home following an extended illness. He was 65.

Northwest Allied Prepares Fair Trade Practice Bill

MINNEAPOLIS — Counsel for Northwest Allied States are now preparing a fair trade practice bill to nullify important consent decree provisions and to be introduced in the present Minnesota state legislature under the organization's sponsorship.

The decision to try to obtain passage of such a measure was decided upon with only four dissenting votes at the organization's convention here. Members signed pledges to contribute to a fund to finance the necessary expense and to cooperate to the fullest extent possible with the legislative committee handling the proposed law.

The law would require distributors to offer for sale to exhibitors their entire season's product, as at present, with a minimum of 20 per cent cancellation and the right to eliminate films which are objectionable for moral, religious or racial reasons. Under its provisions, too, forced selling of shorts would be illegal.

Aimed at the consent decree provision calling for sales in groups of five, the code incorporated into the bill would not be opposed by distributors, it was declared during the convention.

Considerable discussion preceded the convention's action and at times the arguments became heated.

Field Points to Opposition

Harold Field, circuit owner, advised the members that capable counsel had advised his committee that the state has the power to enact such anti-consent decree legislation which wouldn't infringe on federal rights and the constitutionality of which undoubtedly could be upheld. He warned the members that opposition to it may come from PTA groups, the Legion of Decency and women's clubs which mistakenly believe that the consent decree eliminates block booking. He said that there was the further danger that state admission tax and censorship amendments might be tacked onto it.

Bennie Berger, another independent circuit owner and former Northwest Allied president, urged that the consent decree be given a two-year trial.

"The decree is the result of four years of work by the U. S. department of justice and it gives the independents at least one-third of the things for which Allied has been fighting," asserted Berger. "The least we can do is to give it a trial.

"Many of us are being forced out of business by the present policies. Buying in groups of five won't do us any harm and may do us some good. We've been told that the producers-distributors aren't against the nullifying law so the chances are that, if they favor it, it can't be any good for us."

Fear Film Cost Rise

One of the principal arguments in favor of getting behind the nullifying law was that the consent decree's new buying plan would raise film costs.

Ben Friedman, another circuit owner, said he had favored the code of fair trade practices which distributors proposed to Allied States and which had been rejected by that body, but he was opposed to the consent decree.

"The important things for which we have been striving and which we would have obtained in the code of fair trade practices are missing from the consent decree," asserted Friedman. "If this consent decree becomes effective, exhibitors will be in hot water constantly when it comes to buying. Exhibitors need pictures in order to operate and they'll find it necessary to buy every group of every company without having a cancellation privilege. That will be block booking with a vengeance. And our film costs will be higher than ever."

S. G. Lebedoff, Northwest Allied treasurer and executive committee member, denounced the consent decree bitterly.

"After the department of justice had accumulated enough evidence during three years' investigation to send many producers to prison for 30 years, the independent exhibitors were sold out," charged Lebedoff. "This decree is 100 per cent for the distributors and 100 per cent against independent exhibitors. It isn't good for any of us. Nobody knows who is responsible for what's happened. The producers themselves set up their own groups of five. That, in itself, is bad. We buy at wholesale now. Under the decree we'll buy at retail. It will be ruinous for all of us."

W. R. Frank, still another large circuit owner, discussing the decree, assailed exhibitors' cowardice.

Cite Affiliates' Action

"The film business is built on fear," said Frank. "Few exhibitors have the guts to fight distributors when the latter are in the wrong, but they'll run to the exchanges and tattle on courageous fellow-exhibitors. The very nature of this business lends itself to coercion. If an exhibitor has guts and determination he'd be able to leave out groups, although in the big cities, where the independents must follow the affiliated circuit first-runs, a different problem would be created."

Field said the five-group selling system isn't new, being practiced now in England where "film rental runs 60 to 70 per cent for most pictures and where exhibitors do not battle on price, but for playing time."

Kansas Independents To Meet in March

Abilene, Kas.—The next meeting of the Kansas Independent Theatre Owners is scheduled to be held the first week in March at Topeka, according to Homer Strowig, of Abilene, president.

Serving with Strowig as officers of the newly formed association are Merle Swank, Stockton, vice-president; Ralph Larned, LaCrosse, secretary; Mrs. Kate Blair, Belleville, treasurer. Directors are Ralph Winship, Phillipsburg; Roy Culley, Medicine Lodge; Warren Weber, St. John, and J. E. Pennington, Topeka.

Among the arguments against the consent decree from the floor were:

Since consent decree approval, major affiliated circuits have rushed in to complete long-term film deals with all companies. So apparently these chains, receiving the best legal advice, wish to avoid buying under the decree. And if the affiliated circuits don't want the decree provisions, or wish to circumvent them, why should the independents want to operate under it.

Will Bring Bidding

Decree will cause competitive bidding up of prices for product.

If a small-town exhibitor buys the first group and turns down the second under the consent decree, and the second is bought by his competitor, the latter will become the preferred account. Points made in the decree's behalf included:

The assertion that there's no way to tell how good or bad the decree is until it has been tried.

If decree provisions prove harmful to independents they can be modified or the entire instrument tossed out after two years.

State legislators will be averse to nullifying a governmental code until it has been tried out and interested parties can prove specifically that they've been harmed.

Civic and religious groups will be antagonized by any move to circumvent the decree.

If distributors want to charge excessive prices they'll do it, consent decree or no consent decree, Berger contended. Friedman made the point that, regardless of any attempt to nullify the decree, the exhibitors will have to fight a state admission tax and censorship proposals.

Arbitrators May Get Product Problem First in Minny

MINNEAPOLIS—With the launching of arbitration under consent decree provisions, indications were that the first cases in this territory would involve the obtaining of product.

Bennie Berger, independent circuit owner, has announced that he'll complain because major companies are refusing to service his Esquire Theatre here and World in St. Paul.

Irving Gillman, owner of the Gayety here, also has stated that he'll seek relief for his house which is encountering difficulty in securing product.

The Middle-States corporation, operating the 4,000-seat Minnesota Theatre here with a policy of stage shows and first-run pictures, also is expected to lodge a complaint with the board because major product is unavailable for the de luxe house, the Minnesota Amusement Co.-Mort Singer pool having practically all of the major companies' output sewed up for downtown Minneapolis.

Bill Taxing Distributors Is Back With Neubauer

LINCOLN—When Sen. E. M. Neubauer of Orleans, Neb., left the legislative halls of the legislature here at the conclusion of the session in 1939, two trade bills, one pleading divorcement of distributors and exhibitors, and the other, asking $1,000 a year license and $1 a reel tax on distributors, authored by him, had been killed in committee.

But, he didn't give up.

With his election to return to the state capital this year, his coming was announced to the industry in a warning that he intended to try again. So, last week, as bills were being hoppered by the handsfull, Neubauer put in two.

One is a duplicate of the 1939 try to license distributors, which says each shall pay $1,000 each year to the railway commission for permission to operate in Nebraska. Then each reel of film used to service exhibitors will have $1 assessed against it as it comes into Nebraska. This would amount to about $15,000 being levied annually against Filmrow in Omaha.

The new bill is aimed not only at theatre boxoffices, but at any amusement ticket window. It asks one cent be added to each 10 cents worth of ticket, the money to go to the state treasurer and be earmarked for relief. Neubauer's idea with this bill is to take a cent off the gas tax, making up the money needed in the treasury via the tickets. Originally, Neubauer's idea was a 1-cent tax on every priced ticket, but this bill, as sent into the records, is even stiffer.



'Philadelphia Story' Is Competition Beater

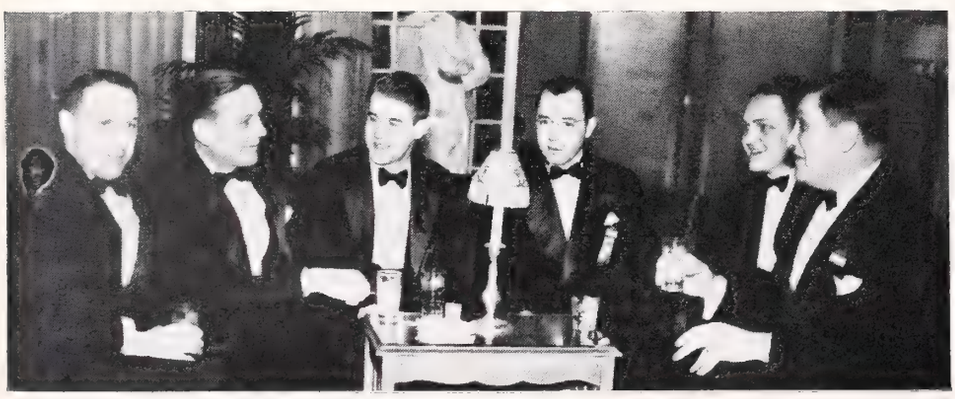
MINNEAPOLIS—The bulk of the business this week was done by "Philadelphia Story" at the straight film State and the Sally Rand show, the latter holding forth at the Minnesota. In its second week, having moved over from the State to the Century, "Kitty Foyle" also fared well. The Orpheum had a fine stage show, but returns were very disappointing.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**Dancing on a Dime** (Para't); **Pier 13** (20th-Fox) 90
Century—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd wk..... 95
Esquire—**San Francisco** (M-G-M), reissue..... 80
Gopher—**Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't).... 90
Minnesota—**Behind the News** (Rep), plus **Sally Rand** on stage 150
Orpheum—**Four Mothers** (WB), pus Simone Simon on stage 90
State—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 175
World—**Grapes of Wrath** (20th-Fox), reissue.. 85

Feeble Stand Against Weather Adverseness

KANSAS CITY—Pictures with little punch faded before weather with plenty, and left first run boxoffices quiet during the week.



At the Testimonial to Balaban—

When the Paramount theatre partners tossed a testimonial banquet in Chicago for Barney Balaban to celebrate his fifth year as president of Paramount, many midwesterners attended. At the top, A. H. Blank, head of the Tri-State Theatres, Des Moines, addresses the gathering. Below, left to right, part of the Minnesota Amusement contingent: Max Edelstein, Hibbing, Minn.; John Branton, Minneapolis; Everett Olsen, Fargo, N. D.; Ralph E. Phillips, Sioux Falls, S. D.; Woodrow Praught, St. Cloud, Minn., and Louis Deutsch, Virginia, Minn.

Northwest Allied Pledges Defense Program Support

MINNEAPOLIS—Northwest Allied members will run the M-G-M distributed "Land of Liberty" in their theatres and government defense trailers.

At the convention here last week the body went on record to advise the buying of "Land of Liberty" and members signed defense pledge cards, agreeing to cooperate with the government on the defense program.



He Adds Minneapolis—

Allen Usher, Paramount district manager, who adds Minneapolis to his Chicago and Milwaukee territories in the realignment of Paramount sales districts. The detail on Paramount shifts was reported on page 13 for January 25.

"The Son of Monte Cristo" teamed with "The Phantom Submarine" proved surprisingly strong at 90 per cent, but Nick Lucas held "The Mummy's Hand" to give the Tower 110 for tops. "Kitty Foyle" did fair in its third week.

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**The Invisible Woman** (Univ) 80
Midland—**The Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Phantom Submarine** (Col) 90
Newman—**Four Mothers** (WB) 70
Orpheum—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 3rd wk. holdover 75
Tower—**The Mummy's Hand** (Univ), plus Nick Lucas on stage 110
Uptown—**The Invisible Woman** (Univ) 75

Omaha's Top Money Is Earned by "Arizona"

OMAHA—Bad winter weather hit local takes generally but exhibitors report "satisfactory" business. Brandeis held "Arizona" and "Always a Bride" for a second stanza after a swell first week that was the town's top. "Cheers for Miss Bishop" and "Captain Caution" was helped at the Omaha by appearance here of stars who attended same picture's premiere in Lincoln. State combined a second-run picture with two first-runs.

Detail for week ended January 25:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**Arizona** (Col); **Always a Bride** (FN).160
Omaha—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA); **Captain Caution** (UA) 125
Orpheum—**Four Mothers** (WB); **Hullabaloo** (M-G-M) 100
State—**Meet the Wildcat** (Univ); **Pier 13** (20th-Fox); **Brigham Young** (20th-Fox), 2nd run..100

KANSAS CITY



—Photo by Cresswell

Paramount Manager—

Ray Copeland, new branch manager at Paramount, Kansas City, takes a moment out to study a knotty problem. Copeland formerly managed Paramount at Des Moines. He changed spots with Joe T. Manfre.

New Commonwealth Unit Set for Waynesville

KANSAS CITY—The Commonwealth Theatres announce a new theatre for Waynesville, Mo., which is near the entrance to the new Fort Leonard Wood, and about half way between Rolla and Lebanon. It will be air conditioned, have 1,000 to 1,200 seats, and will be erected by Flett Construction Co., which has recently completed the Melba for the Commonwealth at Batesville, Ark. C. A. Schultz, president of Commonwealth, said the new theatre, to be named the Fort Wood, will run stage and screen shows, on a de luxe basis; and will be in operation between March 15 and April 1.

The government establishment, which is expected to quarter between 40,000 and 50,000 soldiers, is now being built and is to be open about April 1.

Competition Ahead

MINNEAPOLIS—Weekend radio show opposition in both the Minneapolis and St. Paul municipal auditoriums is in store for exhibitors this weekend. The National Barn Dance goes into the St. Paul auditorium and the KSTP Barn Dance moves from the St. Paul to the Minneapolis auditorium.

"Know Your Money" Shown in DM

DES MOINES—Russell Daniel, United States treasury secret service agent from Omaha, presented a two-subject sound film, "Making Money" and "Know Your Money," at a meeting of the Des Moines Coin Club here January 23.

Richards Buys Out Steeg

PRIMGHAR, IA.—R. J. Richards, formerly of Yankton, S. D., has purchased the Time Theatre here from Joe Steeg.

"WHY does it always rain, or snow, or sleet on weekends?" wails an exhibitor, and is echoed by every other exhibitor in this area. It is a favorite melancholy observation of first run managers.

L. H. Pettit, owner of the Avalon at Ava, Mo., has opened a new house at Gainesville, Mo. The house, remodeled from a church building, is being managed by Howard Pettit, L. H. Pettit's son . . . E. Van Hyning opened his new Tauy at Ottawa, Kas., January 22.

H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc., is reopening the Carlton at Manhattan, Kas., dark since last spring. Manhattan isn't far from Ft. Riley . . . Fire January 12 did over $1,000 damage to the Ritz at Winfield, Kas. Fire started in the projection room . . . W. W. Leonard has remodeled and reopened the Leonard, formerly the Mystic, at Cedar Vale, Kas.

Depositions in the suit of Frank Cassil, Rialto and Uptown, St. Joseph, Mo., against Dubinskys and major distributors, were being taken last week for plaintiffs, the week previous for defendants.

Mary Fitzpatrick of the local Metro exchange counted another birthday on Wednesday. Congratulations! . . . Rube Finkelstein went to Menorah Hospital last week for an operation—painful, but not expected to be serious . . . Max Barewin, here seven years with Price Theatre Premiums, has gone to Detroit, Mich., to have charge of the Price premium setup there. The office here will be closed, at least temporarily.

Fox Midwest Theatres, Inc., has announced plans for a new 1,500-seat suburban house in Wichita . . . H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc., reopened the Cozy at Junction City, Kas. New sound has been installed, along with a new heating plant.

Glen W. Dickinson, Dickinson, Incorporated, which operates theatres at Mission and Olathe, Kas., and Macon, Mo., is extensively remodeling the Ritz and Best theatres in Topeka. New seats and sound, refinishing of lobby, foyer and auditorium, etc., at the Ritz, and complete renovation of the Best are under way. H. L. Eldridge, formerly of Olathe and Mission, is manager of the houses.

L. O. Honig of Fox Midwest Theatres has been installed as president of the Broadway Association . . . Dan James, head of Midwest Theatres of Oklahoma City, last week indicated his company will spend $45,000 remodeling the opera house at Junction City, Kas., into a modern theatre.

J. E. Pennington of the Cozy at Topeka was operating the machine the other night when fire broke out. He extinguished the blaze before the fire department arrived, and patrons didn't even know there had been a fire.

Besides the houses at Junction City, the Camp Funston-Ft. Riley area will have two theatres exactly alike built by the army. Each will have 1,038 seats, a big stage, and will be of frame construction.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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Omaha Attack Fatal To Charlie Williams

By MONTE DAVIS

OMAHA—Charles E. Williams is dead.

President of the MPTO of Nebraska and Western Iowa for two decades and one of the best known independent exhibitors in the business, "Charlie" died in an Omaha hospital where he had spent almost a week following an attack he suffered while visiting Filmrow. He was 73 years old last October.

Services were held Wednesday at a local mortuary and his body returned to Shelby, Ia., his "home town." Pallbearers were Bob Ballantyne of Scott-Ballantyne Co.; Evert R. Cummings, Tri-States Theatres district manager; Eugene Blazer, film industry attorney; Sam Epstein, circuit owner; Howard Brookings, exhibitor at Avoca, Ia., and Sherm Fitch, RKO branch manager at Sioux Falls, S. D.

To Omaha in 1915

Charlie came to Omaha in 1915 and bought the Park Theatre, a 250-seat house on the edge of Omaha's main business section. Mrs. Williams did most of the managing of the Park up to the time of her death in the spring of 1940. After Mrs. Williams' death, Charlie found his health couldn't stand the pace, and he disposed of his theatre last fall.

Charlie had spent the past 20 years fighting the small independent exhibitor's fight. He spent his time and his money in the interest of exhibitors, and nationally he personified the independent exhibitor.

Williams had been connected with the MPTO of Nebraska and Western Iowa for 22 years, starting as business agent in 1918. For a dozen years he served on the executive board of the MPTOA but was automatically suspended from the board when he sold his theatre six months ago.

Charlie was particularly friendly to the film industry press. Whenever the Omaha representative of BOXOFFICE needed a good story, it could always be found at Charlie Williams' home on the outskirts of Omaha. The last interview BOXOFFICE had with Charlie was only a few months ago. Charlie had his feet on his desk, a cigar in his mouth, his hands back of his head as he reminisced about the "old days."

"There have been a lot of changes in the film industry in the past 20 years," he said at that time. "There will probably be just as many in the next 20 years." The BOXOFFICE story at that time asked the question, "Will there be another Charlie Williams to carry the banner of independent exhibitors and theatre owners during the next 20 years?"

Williams is the man who tolled the death knell of the Brookhart bill (grandfather of the Neely Bill) over a dozen years ago. The bill was rejected by a special senate committee after Williams appeared before the group. He talked the layman's language and explained the faults of the bill in simple terms as compared with the technical phrases of "high powered" attorneys who preceded him. C. C. Pettijohn called Charlie "Abraham Lincoln" after that and Charlie was "Abe" to Pettijohn ever after.

Up to the very time of his death, Williams urged independent exhibitors to maintain an active organization for the protection of their own interests. He argued that such an organization be continued in the Omaha distribution territory. At that time he said:

"Inasmuch as I have severed my relationships with the film industry by selling my theatre, I believe some of the younger exhibitors in Nebraska and Iowa should communicate with each other for the purpose of establishing a new organization or bolstering the present group. The important thing is to have an organization to protect your interests and to promote goodwill among exhibitors."

Welworth Managers Outline a Campaign

MINNEAPOLIS—Managers of all the theatres comprising Eddie Ruben's Welworth circuit were called together here this week to make plans for a "Big Six" campaign.

The idea will be to book into each house consecutively the six best films obtainable and to sell the public the bill of goods that motion pictures today are, on the average, the best in the industry's history.

"There are many people who feel that there aren't any good pictures any more or that first-rate films are few and far between," explained President Ruben. "That's entirely wrong and we must prove it to the public."

The films to make up the "Bix Six" will, of course, vary in the different situations, but will include such offerings as "Philadelphia Story," "Kitty Foyle," "Santa Fe Trail," "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary," "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," "This Thing Called Love," etc.

"This probably is one of the first times in the industry's history that we are able to give the public six outstanding pictures in a row," declared Ruben. "This is conclusive evidence that films are improving and product attaining a quality peak."

For a gag the convention was called "a meeting in Miami," with decorations, luncheons, etc., given a tropical flavor.

Ruben Readying a Drive for Patrons

Minneapolis—Eddie Ruben, Welworth circuit president, and his staff are preparing a vast campaign plan to "bring back" the public to the theatres.

The proposal for a "vast drive," enlisting every branch of the industry, was indorsed at the Northwest Allied convention. The plan will be made public within the next fortnight.

The independent exhibitors conceded that lack of sufficient patronage is their principal trouble and they expressed determination to win their patrons away from competing forms of entertainment and back to motion pictures.

Fears a Precedent in 50 Per Cent Rentals

MINNEAPOLIS—The Northwest Allied resolution putting the members on record to reject 50 per cent pictures, was prompted by reports that M-G-M and United Artists are demanding such terms for "Gone With the Wind" and "The Great Dictator," respectively.

S. G. Lebedoff, Northwest Allied executive committee member, asserted that if exhibitors permitted a precedent to be established in these cases, 50 per cent pictures would become common and independent exhibitors would be "ruined."

He argued that because of the fact that a precedent has been established, Twin City exhibitors haven't been able to break M-G-M down yet on percentage pictures, although all other companies sell flat.

Price Boosts for "Specials" Seen as Deleterious

MINNEAPOLIS—The territory's independents claim that when admission prices are raised for such special pictures as "Boom Town" and "North West Mounted Police" there is an adverse effect on the boxoffice subsequently.

With resumption of the regular admission scale, a let-down occurs in patronage and ensuing offerings suffer, according to the independents' contention. The impression is created that the pictures exhibited at the regular prices are below par, it's declared.

This was the reason given for the adoption of a resolution at the Northwest Allied convention demanding retention on exhibitors' part of "the democratic right to maintain and set admission prices on all feature pictures until such a time as we believe that our local economic conditions warrant a change in admissions."

The resolution's preamble states "other pictures not so increased in admission price are considered of lesser merit by our patrons and grosses prior to, and following the run of such increased admission prices, are adversely affected."

Independents Cite Patron Exodus in Reduction Bid

MINNEAPOLIS—Independents in the territory are citing the loss of prospective and regular patrons as the result of enlistments in the army, the moving of National Guard units south and west and conscription, along with the exodus of mechanics, etc., to industrial sections where employment opportunities are greater. Actual figures have been supplied to Northwest Allied.

Taking cognizance of this situation, Northwest Allied at its convention here last week adopted a resolution demanding an immediate reduction in film rentals of "at least 10 per cent."

Change at Onawa

ONAWA, IA.—Roy Lepovitz of Madrid, Ia., has acquired the Iowa here from R. A. Oliver.

MINNEAPOLIS

Blotcky Appoints New Variety Committees

MINNEAPOLIS—Chief Barker Ben Blotcky of the Twin City Variety club has appointed his committees for 1941. The committees and their personnel for Tent No. 12 follow, with the chairman listed first in each instance:

House—William Elson, "Hy" Chapman, Maitland Frosch and "Bruzz" Rubel.

Charity—Joe Podoloff, Harry Dryer and M. Frank McCormick.

Publicity—Les Rees, Morris Abrahams, Cedric Adams, Lowell Kaplan, Bob Murphy, Earl Pomeroy, Merle Potter and Jules Steele.

Entertainment—Charles Rubenstein and Lowell Kaplan, A. A. Kaplan, Ben Meshbesher, "Bruzz" Rubel, Bill Volk, Sidney Volk and Charles Weiner.

Sports—Gilbert Nathanson, Fred Ableson, Don Buckley, Frank Eisenberg, Gordon Greene, Charlie Jackson, Paul Mans, LeRoy J. Miller, Joe Numero and Sol Torodor.

Law—Sam Halpern, Joe Finley, A. A. Kaplan, Sam Maslon and Eddie Ruben.

Shut-In—Harry Dryer, Bill Frank, Maitland Frosch, George Granstrom, Hiller Hoffman, Lowell Kaplan, S. Kaplan and Max Torodor.

Finance—M. Frank McCormick and Eddie Ruben, Henry Baker, Ben Berger, Ben Friedman, A. A. Kaplan, Max Torodor and W. H. Workman.

Membership—Maitland Frosch, Ben Berger, Sim Heller, LeRoy J. Miller and Gilbert Nathanson.

Atlantic City—William Elson, Maitland Frosch, A. A. Kaplan and Max Torodor.

Federal Reserve Bank Paints Bright Picture

MINNEAPOLIS—While Twin City independent exhibitors have been complaining that 1940 was one of their worst years ever, the Federal Reserve Bank report here shows that Northwest business volume during the year reached its highest level since 1929 and 1930 and that the month of December showed the heaviest activity of any similar month in 11 years.

The exhibitors believe that they suffered, instead of gaining along with other industrial lines, because the various forms of competing entertainment, including the radio, bowling, night sports, taverns, beer parlors, night clubs, etc., took many customers away from them.

In its report, the Federal Reserve Bank describes the agricultural situation as being "the best in the depression decade as 1941 opened." Inasmuch as the boxoffice and all lines of business in the territory are dependent on agriculture's welfare for their well-being, this fact is believed to augur favorably for the current year.

Abe Frankle Recuperating

DES MOINES—Abe R. Frankle, operator of the Casino Theatre here, is recuperating at his home after a 10-week illness. He was permitted to see visitors last week for the first time during the siege.

CHIEF BARKER BEN BLOTCKY of the Twin City Variety Club bacheloring it while his wife continues to vacation in Florida . . . Harold Field, Welworth circuit president, to hibernate for six weeks in the south with his wife after visiting his Iowa theatres . . . James Zimmerman, RKO home office legal department representative, explained the consent decree to the staff here. Sherman Fitch, Sioux Falls, S. D., branch manager, and Charles Snyder, his salesman there, came to listen in. And while in Minneapolis Snyder caught pneumonia and now is in St. Barnabas Hospital.

Archie Zacherl, veteran Universal salesman, suffering from heart attack . . . Charlie Weiner's "Lilac Domino," musical with Michael Bartlett, goes into the World here . . . Mother of Charlie Rubenstein, independent circuit owner, to Florida on a pleasure jaunt . . . Merle Potter, Times-Tribune *film editor and columnist, en route to Hollywood on his annual news hunting trip. He'll go via Miami this time in order to be present at the "Back Street" premiere in the Florida metropolis . . . Bennie Berger, independent circuit owner, in Florida, vacationing with his pal, W. A. Steffes, there for his health.*

Abe A. Kaplan, circuit owner and student of parliamentary law, was stationed at the side of President E. L. Peaslee at the Northwest Allied convention to wise up the latter on rules of order. There was plenty of admiration expressed over the masterly manner in which Harold Field, circuit owner, presented the case for and against the proposed law to nullify consent decree provisions and his handling of the discussion . . . R. V. Risch, veteran Appleton, Minn., exhibitor, attending the convention, was telling everybody "there's nothing like the show business to keep one young." Says it makes him sick if he has to miss one of his own shows. Everybody in town knows him and calls him by name. Has seen many boys and girls grow up and marry and now, at his showhouse, entertains their grown-up children . . . For the first time they had a quartette of singers at the convention. The boys came up from North Dakota just to entertain the exhibitors.

Gordon Greene, Minnesota Theatre former manager and present trustee, up and around again after a flu attack . . . Joe Podoloff, 20th-Fox branch manager, visited Fargo, N. D., accounts . . . A city salesman for one of the major film companies, who doesn't wish his name used, recommends bourbon to keep the flu away . . . "Nickey" Goldhammer, RKO district manager, to New York for a business conference . . . Gene Meredith at Warner Bros. happy because Lola Lane, on her visit to the exchange, autographed her photo for him.

Republic has spotted "Bowery Boy" into the Minnesota . . . M-G-M now in third place in the Film Bowling league and leads all the other exchanges. Gene Meredith of Warner and Tom Blance of the Minnesota Amusement Co., crack keglers, will bowl in both the ABC singles and doubles at the tournament in St. Paul. Blance ran up a 622 score and Meredith wound up with 608 last week . . . Max Kravets, general sales manager of Stephens-Lang productions, visited the RKO exchange, distributors of his "Dr. Christian" series and other pictures.

Dick Stahl, Universal booker, driving a brand new car. Already has initiated one of the fenders . . . Wife and daughter of Al Stern, RKO office manager, down with the flu . . . Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, making a tour of the Omaha and Des Moines exchanges . . . LeRoy J. Miller, Universal branch manager, visited southern Minnesota accounts . . . Bud Rodberg an addition to the local Warner exchange. Was transferred here from Omaha.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Everett Dilley, Northfield, Minn.; Peter Campbell, Val Halla, N. D.; John Piller, Valley City, N. D.; Ep. Parsons, Renville, Minn.; Charles Vondra, Mahnomen, Minn.; Ernotte Hiller, Crookston, Minn.; Pete and Mike DeFae, Milbank, S. D., and Oliver Roscoe, Lake Benton, Minn. . . . Bill Grant, Warner city salesman, back from a successful two-week trip to South Dakota . . . Warner Bros. mid-west district, including Minneapolis, jumped from seventh to second place in the Bill Sears drive. Bill Grant is first among Minneapolis salesmen.

John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Co. president, vacationing in Florida. He attended the testimonial banquet for Barney Balaban in Chicago along with C. B. Stiff, J. A. Branton, C. W. Winchell, C. W. Perrine and Charles Zinn of his company . . . Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, in town . . . Norman Pyle, M-G-M exploiteer, back on the job after recovery from brief illness . . . Flu epidemic finally has hit the town hard and is hurting show business plenty . . . Film notables playing personal appearance engagements here this week included Simone Simon and Isabel Jewell. Sally Rand, Minnesota headliner, also has played in a number of pictures.

Eddie Ruben was confined to his home briefly by illness, but was up and around again in time to be present at his convention of house managers and other circuit employes at the Hotel Nicollet here this week.



DES MOINES

LOU LEVY had the colossal nerve to eat the pheasant Ed Mason sent us from Osage while we were toodling around Mexico, and then forget all about us and our Mitzi when he was passing out the Sandy dolls . . . most considerate, Lou, most considerate. We'll forget all about it, though, if you'll just toss our way any old Baby Sandy who got her glass noggin cracked and you'd have to throw away anyhow . . . speaking of dolls, Joan Baxter is the new one in at Mel Evidon's place and her noggin is not cracked.

Women, it seems, will be worn this season . . . which is our way of saying that Grace Simons has been conscripted into Harry Peter Franz's chore of office managing Lou Patz's National Screen . . . and the place is well named—it's a shifting scene . . . Filmrowers are whispering that they call the roll up there every morning to find out who's missing today. We wish to publicly clear Bert Thomas of the dastardly charge that he furnished us with the jig-saw we ran a few weeks hence . . . factiz, Bert is the extra piece which didn't fit in the puzzle at all, he sez.

Le Hague (BOXOFFICE copy reader, for your information) has done it again . . . he had Harry Hiersteiner's family instead of Harry's Family (Theatre) smoking marihuana in last issue . . . all we want to do is square ourselves with Harry and family. Here's another chance we'd like to take to square ourselves with Filmrowers and exhibitors who find their names misspelled . . . tain't our fault very often, really.

Columnist Stan Mayer says he wouldn't do a chore like that for anybody but us, and that he'd like to see how easy we'd find peddling film . . . you'd probably be surprised, Stan . . . we can't deny, you've got a weigh with exhibs, but maybe we'd have a way ourselves . . . Jean Post's new theme song is "Tie Me to Your Apron Strings Again" . . . nevamind, Jean, the only reason we don't tie & Co. to our apron strings is because we don't have any apron.

Lou Levy's lost pretty Loretta Dieling . . . we couldn't get these two reports verified, so we offer both and you can take your choice: Some say she's transferred to the Washington, D. C., Universal office, and others say she's received a civil service commission . . . everybody agrees that she's in the District of Columbia, at least. Ione of Universal was married a few weeks ago. Chuck Elder's folks recently returned from Guatemala . . . Chick Friedman is rumored as hooking up with the Metro sales force in Los Angeles, lucky Los Angeles!

S. Barret McCormick, when he heard about Hotelman S. F. McGinn furnishing BOXOFFICE *& Co. with napkins to match the Hotel Fort Des Moines tablecloth Barret presented us, commented from New York as follows: "I think it was pretty nice of McGinn to equip you with napkins to go with the checkered tablecloth. Now, if he just follows through and gives you the dining room furniture, rugs and proper chinaware, it would prompt me some day to snitch a pillowcase for you in the hope that we can build it up into a fully equipped bedroom. After that I might start on ice cubes and parlay it into a modern, streamlined kitchen. Anything you want? Just ask me . . . as long as McGinn follows through."*

While & Co.'s doing a "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" review, BOXOFFICE could be writing some more of this column if there weren't so confounded many confounding items around his office to look at . . . A wire for instance: "A picture layout from 20th Century-Fox is in the mails to you crediting the photos as having come from the production, 'The Road to Rio.' This title is not correct. The correct title is 'That Night In Rio.' Thank you for making the change.—Milton Howe." . . . And over on the other end of the desk is a "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" reaction card on which is scrawled: "Think this is a slick comedy—Ken Clayton (per his unbiased secretary, Wm. Scholl.)"

And here's a penned epistle: "Dear Ken: I've just signed a contract to be a steady addition to the gang of 'East Side Kids.' I would appreciate any kind of a break in your Sunday Edition as I know everybody reads it.—Bobby Stone." . . . Which reminds us of BOXOFFICE *& Co.'s idea that Franke should invite all the Smiths in town to the "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" opening so the* R&T *could pick off a feature on what Mr. and Mrs. Smith think of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" . . . Everybody's wondering what the written comment of Wordsman Joe Smith who will not spare that adjective might look like . . . But then, anybody knows that even scholarly Joe could never go through the orthographic contortions necessitated to put his linguistic tangletongue on paper.*

Talk about fifth columns and fraternizing with the opposition! . . . Bob Snyder, who spends his working hours managing E. M. Garbett's Varsity, is spending his off time rooming in the house of Kermit Bierkamp, manager of the Tromar ballroom which on five nights a week tries to entice patrons from the Varsity . . . The room's fancy enough to overlook such a minor offense, though, or was when we saw it, housing Bob's handsome desk, but not handsome Bob . . . You can call on him at 1715 Forty-seventh, folks.

We stopped up to chat with Elmer Tilton at Warners and found him looking better than he has for a long time . . . Tilt talked a long time about what changes are likely to come about in the biz with the consent decree . . . he told us about the "Bread'n Butter" picture they used to peddle in the good old days . . . if Jimmy Winn could see that cute little body Tilt's got fixed up for his head, he'd lose it completely and mail it right in to the DM office. The sun-tanned kid, Art Anderson, is reported happy as a lark up in Minneapolis.

Everybody's so used to having Dallas Day around, and they miss him so darn much since he went to Rochester, they decided to do something about it . . . so everybody on the Row in addition to a lot of exhibitors are making up a pool to help Dallas get well a little faster.

One of our most ardent admirers, Smitty, who claimed he almost took the veil when we married & Co., is reaffirming our firm belief that all men are fickle creatures . . . Smitty blushingly admits that he's keepin' company with widow who's health is delicate. Chappy was one year old January 20 and he can do practically everything, according to Stan Mayer who'll hardly admit that the dog isn't as good as the horse who lied about running in the Derby.

Bloodhounds With Leadless Pants

NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS—Pardon me dear readers, does any one mind if a little old hick town exhibitor gets his dander up?

When I read the report "Closer Checking Is in Prospect" in the January 18th issue of BOXOFFICE I didn't know whether to laugh, cry or swear. I finally decided to do none of these, but instead, say a word or two in behalf of myself and other exhibitors.

I note that the problem is a Minnesota one; still, I know that these Kansas exhibitors get the same accusations hurled at them by "supreme beings" who sit back in swivel chairs and smugly assure themselves that they have a fairly accurate idea of what this or that picture will gross in this or that town.

Do you suppose that the major exchange mentioned was the only one irked when business went from $260 on Monday to $8 on Tuesday? And I know how the guy felt who took in $25.00 on New Year's day and evening. He beat me at that: I did a dollar more than that on New Year's Eve and night! A town 20 miles from me "stood 'em up." It seems to me those exhibitors are the guys who really took it on the chin. Yes, I believe those reports, I've turned in worse ones than that and I can whip the guy who questions them.

I'll leave names and titles out of this but here are a few freakish things that have happened to me: One big picture a couple of years ago grossed $2.20 on one Easter matinee—that night it grossed $50.10. It wasn't in the percentage bracket so it was nobody's business but mine. Had it been a percenter and I'd have turned in those figures to the exchange they'd have blown a fuse.

On another super-super I took in $26.00 in two nights. Get those eyebrows down where they belong—I was checked both nights, one night double checked. The supervisor paid a surprise visit on the checker. I expected the district manager to walk in any minute and check up on the lot of us. Some people are so "after the almighty penny (not dollar)" that they don't even trust each other. So they tour the country in a car as long as a well-rope and spend $50.00 assuring themselves of collecting $5.00 overage.

Closer checking? I don't know about all territories but I'm here to tell you there is no lead in the trousers of these bloodhound checkers out in Kansas.

Thanks folks, I feel much better.

—Anonymity Preferred.

Harry Hermann Resumes Warner Selling in Iowa

DES MOINES—With Harry Hermann back covering his old northwest Iowa territory for Warner Bros., the sale of his Fireman's Hall at Hampton to Central States becomes official.

Harry's return to the Vitagraph fold sends Gilley Wells back to the southeastern Iowa district where Gilley got his film-vending start 16 years ago.

Paul Walsh, who has been keeping the southeastern customers happy, has settled himself at the booking desk again and Paul Weatherby, who has been gladhanding the visiting exhibitors there, continues to greet 'em from the booking desk left vacant across the street at RKO by Dallas Day's illness.

To Triple Bills

DES MOINES—A change from duals to a triple feature policy on weekend changes has been announced for the suburban State Theatre by Manager Haydon Peterson. The triples will run from Thursday through Sunday. Single features will be the fare from Tuesday through Thursday.

Farband Shows Film

DES MOINES—Yiddish motion pictures were shown at the Jewish Community Center Monday evening in a program sponsored by the Nachum Sokolow Farband organization. Proceeds went to the aid of European refugees in Palestine.

LINCOLN

LAUGH in the wrong place: Exhibitors from all over Nebraska are reporting unexpected laughs in two pictures, "Arizona" and "Little Men." Both pictures have thematic music in the Stephen Foster manner, more specifically, "Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair." How did Wesley Ruggles and Gene Towne-Graham Baker know the Ascap-BMI scrap was going to make comedy of it?

Busy Guy: Gabe Yorke, the vet Hollywood press agent, is now hitting the byways and big towns in the interest of the film industry and the film, "Land of Liberty," and said this week, if he ever gets a publicity department in Hollywood again (which is likely considering his brand of workmanship), he'll always think kindly of the film salesman. Gabe said he never felt anything but happiness about the poor guy who must stand in a long line getting to the boxoffice, but standing in a long line to get into the one bathroom in these country hostelries is getting him down.

Nice Gesture: Ted Mendenhall, the Paramounter, called Capt. Barney Oldfield into his office one day last week and handed the former BOXOFFICE man a courtesy membership in the Variety Club of Omaha for the "duration" of his army hitch. Oldfield is now with the intelligence department at Omaha's corps area headquarters . . . And N. G. No. 2, Bob Huffman, for fear an audition would make her nervous, signed Mrs. B. O. on her husband's old radio program, started her off with a big hand without audition, and a vote of confidence by signing the show for another YEAR! The Oldfield name has been on the air steadily since Jan. 16, 1938, and Huffman is the man who saw it there first.

Platform to Pictures: Jan Savitt, top-hatting at the Turnpike Casino, January 24, indicated MCA is routing him to the west coast soon, probably to appear in a picture. "After all," says Jan, "if they'll settle with Artie Shaw as an actor, anything can happen."

He Relaxes: Dean Pohlenz, who ran the *Sunday Journal* and *Star's* 10 best poll, finally saw the film picking marathon ended and the prizes passed out. He was all but sued, refused, had a few mistakes to reckon with, and had the general merry time which goes with such contests. After the seven weeks it took to complete the contest and judging, he's applying for a week off to dye out the gray in his hair.

Theatre Tidbits: Harvey Traylor and Alvin Hendricks stand in the lobbies of their theatres, which are across the street from each other, and feel bad out loud for the other's business . . . BOXOFFICE *started to tell a tale of a publicity gag which went sour in Columbus, Neb., to Henry Salthun, the theatre manager there, and Francis Dishner, of the* Telegram, *but the "Philadelphia Story" press prevue in Omaha started before it could be snappered.*

.....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn— By KEN and RENE CLAYTON

NO INDEEDY, Ed, Lou Levy didn't even mention the pheasant you sent from Osage which was already down his gullet, until that woman and your letter arrived and he knew he'd get found out . . . anyhow, it was very sporting of you to send it down and we hope if you ever again happen to get lucky enough to hit one, you'll remember us . . . forward future contributions and mail to Ken at the *R&T*, since Lou threatens to charge us some of the overhead if we don't quit using the Universal address.

We must tell you, Ed, how pleased we were that you didn't call us jane, and the first time we're through your nice town, we'll search you out of the "little hive of industry" or bust . . . On the way home with the woman, we stopped in at Dave Fidler's downtown and happened to show her to him . . . he was all eyes, and will never rest 'til he gets one just like her . . . Dave's married, you know . . . polygamy, we calls it.

Iowa has its own sunkist States since Joe Joe Jacobson returned from California with a load of vitamins direct from Old Sol . . . He's still traveling, of course—between his State in Davenport and his State in Dubuque.

They're watching the westerns in Onawa now through the courtesy—and business enterprise—of Roy Lepovitz, who's expanding from his Madrid headquarters.

Joe Gerbrach's fish story (he landed two sailfish at once, as you read last week) isn't going to go unheralded. The largest of the victims is being mounted and will ogle posterity from the wall of the Elks clubroom in Ames.

Alice Johnson's Bonaparte Theatre has been purchased by R. L. McIntyre, but Alice isn't wasting any time getting back into active exhibiting. She's now remodeling a house in Memphis, Mo., according to latest reports along the Row.

Lookit, the SS—but that's just Sam Shles of the Moline Orpheum who only hits the Row once in every weeks-'n'-weeks-'n'weeks.

Four-minute men backstage at the Orpheum Theatre earned orchids from 90 exhibitors and 20 newspaper men Monday night when they repaired the inevitable "sneak preview" sound breakdown in four minutes so that "Mr. and Mrs. Smith's" guests did not go unentertained . . . The exhibitors at the preview included . . . aw, nuts . . . if you're the guy who wasn't, just figure all the rest were.

FIRST

In Style and Comfort

That's the thought that is always uppermost in the minds of those who attend you at Hotel Fontenelle. In keeping with this policy, the management is constantly adding new features for your comfort and convenience. The Amber Room Coffee Shop, the King Cole Room, and the Black Mirror-Bombay Room invite you.

HOTEL FONTENELLE



OMAHA

In a Dither Over Allied Snub of Divorce Bill

MINNEAPOLIS—Action of Northwest Allied in virtually repudiating theatre divorcement legislation at its convention has tossed a virtual bombshell into trade circles here.

In refusing to support a bill already introduced in the state legislature calling for theatre divorcement, members apparently were actuated by friendly feelings toward John J. Friedl, president of the Minnesota Amusement Co., Paramount affiliated circuit, at which the proposed measure is aimed.

The rejected resolution, which would have put the organization behind the bill, provoked a spirited debate and threatened for a time to split the body wide open. But its proponents apparently accepted defeat gracefully.

Such of the organization's leaders as President E. L. Peaslee and Sol Lebedoff, treasurer and executive committee member, strongly opposed the the resolution and argued forcibly against getting the body into a theatre divorcement fight. They and other members, including Bill Elson, defended and praised the Minnesota Amusement Co., as managed by Friedl, and, talking cold turkey, made it plain they much preferred to have the opposing chain theatres run by Friedl than in the hands of "some independents."

Making a hard fight to obtain indorsement for the bill, Bennie Berger, independent circuit owner, assailed the Minnesota Amusement Co., declared the principle of producer ownership and operation of theatres in competition with non-affiliated exhibitors is "all wrong" and pointed out "the organization is making a complete turnabout on an issue to which independent leaders have been definitely committed." W. J. Frank, also the owner of a large independent chain, took occasion to express the opinion that the Minnesota Amusement Co. is far from being "lily white."

Praise for Friedl

Donald Guttman, general manager of the Harry Dickerman circuit, doubted if it would be advisable for the body to go definitely on record for or against theatre divorcement and the members, instead of voting down the resolution, as it was indicated they would do, followed his suggestion to return it to the committee.

President Peaslee paid a tribute to Friedl in urging the organization to hold aloof from theatre divorcement.

"I'd much rather have the Minnesota Amusement Co. own this circuit than many independents whom I could name," declared Peaslee. "I think we're extremely fortunate in having a man like Mr. Friedl as the operator of our principal chain. It would be ill-advised to have a fight in the legislature at this time on such a controversial issue."

Bill Elson also emphasized how fortunate the territory's independent exhibitors are in having such a "fair and considerate" a person as Friedl as head of the big circuit.

"If we get mixed up in a fight over this bill, we'll have dissension in our organization and waste a lot of time and money in a losing effort to get the measure passed," asserted Elson. "The bill looks like a phoney to me."

Berger wondered if he was the only independent exhibitor in the territory "out of step" and "going backwards."

"Up until now we've all been clamoring for theatre divorcement legislation," Berger pointed out. "Now suddenly it isn't wanted. You really don't know what the Minnesota Amusement Co. setup is. Take my situation. Because the affiliated circuit has all the product sewed up, I don't know where I'm going to get my next picture for the Esquire here and World in St. Paul. If that's the sort of strong-arm opposition that you want it's all right with me. I'll get rid of all my theatres and land a job with the affiliated chain and hand you some of it. This isn't a matter of personalities, but of policy. I'll concede that Mr. Friedl is a fine gentleman, but the principle of having film producers operate theatres in opposition to you is all wrong.

"By turning down this resolution you're repudiating the stand which independents have taken for years against producer ownership and control of theatres. It always has been considered fundamental among independent leaders to try to keep the men making pictures from being competing exhibitors."

Ben Friedman, another independent circuit owner, felt that Berger could gain relief through the arbitration board rather than divorcement legislation.

In backing up Berger, Frank averred that the Minnesota Amusement Co. is far from spotless.

"The Minnesota Amusement Co. isn't quite so virtuous as some of the speakers would have you believe," asserted Frank. "Give it a foot and it'll take a yard, and it's doing that very thing all the time. It has every advantage over independents and it isn't relinquishing any of it."

Heart Ailment Is Fatal To Abe W. Riegelman

DES MOINES — Abe W. Riegelman, 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. salesman in southern Iowa for 14 years, died at Iowa Lutheran hospital here Monday after a brief illness of a heart ailment.

Funeral services were here Wednesday morning. Riegelman, 55, had been brought to Des Moines as a baby and had lived here since except for a five-year interval.

He is survived by a son, Dr. Ralph, Des Moines; a sister, Rae Riegelman, Des Moines; and four brothers, Henry and Charles of Des Moines, Dan of Sioux City, Ia., and Alfred of Kansas City, Mo.

Promote Two

MINNEAPOLIS — Vern Smith, assistant booker at M-G-M here, has been transferred to the Kansas City branch where he'll be head booker. Mel Turner also was promoted from cashier to the booking department to succeed him.

OMAHA

EXHIBITORS and filmites on Filmrow agreed this week they have lost a real friend and associate in the death of Charlie Williams. People along Davenport street who knew Charlie for 10, 15 and even 25 years told many stories that showed Charlie's kindness, friendliness and unselfishness. One exhibitor put the whole thing in one sentence, "He always thought of the other fellow first."

Charlie's best friend on Filmrow was undoubtedly Regina Molseed, RKO booker, and Charlie once told BOXOFFICE *how the two became acquainted. Several years ago Regina was a steno in another exchange, which was having a sales drive with all employes participating. Regina's first call was on Charlie and he helped her out by buying everything in the book, much to the surprise of Regina and her boss at that time, Harry Lefholtz. From then on, they were good friends.*

The Paramount boys went to Des Moines to attend a sales meeting of the two exchanges. Making the trip were Ted Mendenhall, Carl Weeks, Bill Haarmann, B. A. Tomte. Ike Rubin, the football fanatic, was fighting flu germs at Grand Island and was unable to get home or to Des Moines. Tough luck, Ike . . . Mrs. Henry Hower, wife of the owner of the State and Grand at Worthington, Minn., visited here with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Van Husan.

L. E. Burkey, Ritz, Deshler, Neb., is very proud of his two-year-old daughter, Beverly. He is also a ping pong player de luxe and knows how to beat Charlie Lieb, Metro peddler, we're told. Burkey's main hobby is to beg, borrow or steal pencils . . . J. V. Frank, Harvard, Neb., and Dick Lysinger, Paramount, Ansley, Neb., and Grand, Ravenna, Neb., had birthdays on the same day, February 1. Frank is nearing the half-century mark and Dick just passed the one-third-century pole.

William Dalbey, a former president of the local chapter of the musicians' union and a musician for several Omaha theatres for many years, died at his home. He was 70 years old . . . Walter Hagedone, Cozad, Neb., was in town for the first time in months . . . Harold Dunn, Jewel, Valentine, Neb., gave his wife a trip to the west coast for a Christmas present. She'll stay several weeks . . . Mr. and Mrs. Mel Smith, Akron, Ia., were on Davenport Street and reported good business.

Sol Yeager, Monogram's gift to the army, drove through a storm to get back to Omaha and was thanking his lucky stars he got home all right, when he ran into a truck on his way home from downtown. The entire front end of his car will need replacing . . . Slim Fraser, Havelock, Neb., in town right on time . . . Also Mort Troxell, exhibitor at DeWitt, Neb., and that town's suburb, Wilber, Neb.

Ray Brown, Harlan, Ia., has a birthday soon, just passing the half-century mark. Art Miller, Atkinson, Neb., will celebrate his 18th wedding anniversary on the same day . . . The Francis family—Sol, Mary and Sophie Volkert—are glad to report their mother is home from the hospital and feeling much better.

"GWTW" in Cleveland Takes National Lead

CLEVELAND—"GWTW" in its first week at popular prices at Loew's State Theatre, has outrun all other popular priced premieres at Loew houses throughout the country, it is officially reported here. Nothing daunted by its original take of $225,000 in ten weeks at $1.10 top, the picture played to 75,000 people last week at the State and added slightly over $30,000 to the boxoffice count. The picture opened cold, but within three days, a block-long queue formed at 9 a. m. and preceded each of the four daily performances. All downtown houses benefited from the crowds around the State. The Palace had a big week with "Honeymoon for Three" although the main attraction was the International Casino Revue and specialty acts on the stage. "Arizona" brought out all the western fans. "Kitty Foyle" doubled the average Allen business in a moveover after 11 big days at the Hippodrome while "Flight Command" at the Stillman came through 25 per cent more than par business. Weather was clear and there was only the usual outside competition.

Detail for week ending January 24:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 200
This was a moveover after 11 very big days at the Hippodrome. It will be held a third week.
Hippodrome—**Arizona** (Col) 125
Palace—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB) 135
Stage show was International Casino Revue with a chorus of 32, and added specialty acts.
State—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 270
First showing at popular prices.
Stillman—**Flight Command** (M-G-M) 125
This was a moveover from the State.

Detroit First Run Laurels Go to Kay Kyser's P. A.

DETROIT—General film business in the Motor City moved downward this past week, affected primarily by the prevailing wet weather which discouraged show going on most nights, and hit matinee attendance just about as severely. Fear of flu conditions was a secondary deterrent.

Contrariwise, however, was the experience at the Fox, where results proved the truth of the observation made in BOXOFFICE two weeks ago by Earl Hudson, president of United Detroit Theatres, that patronage is responding more and more directly to a good attraction. In this case, with a film of but average drawing power, Kay Kyser and his band in person drew an estimated 140,000 people in the week, breaking all records of the past ten years for any Detroit theatre.

Unfortunate experience with a revival of two horror films of several years back at the Cinema marked the nadir of the week locally. This house did record business not long ago with two new horror films, and the moral evidently is that the public in this town likes horror, but won't go for repeats, inasmuch as the limited audience has probably seen these oldtimers before.

Detail for week ending January 23:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Arizona** (Col) after 8 days at the Fox; **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col).. 90
Cinema—**Dracula** (Univ) and **Frankenstein** (Univ) revival 60
Fox—**Trial of the Vigilantes** (Univ); with Kay Kyser's band, the stage show gets the credit 260
Michigan—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M).....100
Palms-State—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) after 9 days at the Michigan; and **East of the River** (FN) 95
United Artists—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); **Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 100

"GWTW" Strong as Ever in Cleveland

Cleveland—The local run of "GWTW" is leading the Loew circuit all over the country, local officials report. At least 75,000 people saw the picture in its first week at popular prices at Loew's State. The State has approximately 3,500 seats, so it appears that some 10,000 daily admissions were sold. This comes close to selling out completely for the four daily shows. It is being held a second week at the State and then it moves to the Stillman.

"GWTW" last year played a ten-week engagement at Loew's Stillman at $1.10 top. It grossed approximately $225,000.

"Thief of Bagdad" Week's Leader in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—"The Thief of Bagdad" at Loew's Penn was the attraction of the week here, with "Comrade X" in the Warner, after nine days in the Penn, turning in a very good showing. "Flight Command" in the Ritz, after nine days in the Stanley, did only average business. Ted Weems and his orchestra helped "South of Suez" at the Stanley. Details for week ending January 17:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Girls Under 21** (Col); **Barnyard Follies (Rep)** 110
Fulton—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..... 60
Penn—**The Thief of Bagdad** (UA).....125
Ritz—**Flight Command** (M-G-M), 2nd d. t. wk...100
Senator—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox)..... 90
Stanley—**South of Suez** (WB); Ted Weems stage show 115
Warner—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), 2nd d. t. wk...140

Sneak Preview Added to Cincinnati's Strongest

CINCINNATI—RKO's sneak preview, properly heralded in all newspapers as added to "This Thing Called Love," for a final Tuesday night show, brought out an excellent audience, and pleased the exhibitors and critics, all of whom came in full force. "This Thing Called Love," topped grosses at the Palace and held over. Business zoomed slightly but the holdovers suffered and the stage and film at Shubert's fell below average.

Detail for week ending January 23:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**The Thief of Bagdad** (UA), held over..110
Capitol—**GWTW** (M-G-M), 4th and final wk... 75
Grand—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 100
Keith's—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd and final wk.. 85
Lyric—**Flight Command** (M-G-M), 2nd and final week 85
Palace—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), held....130
Shubert—**Invisible Woman** (Univ), plus stage show 95

Londons Open New Detroit Midtown

DETROIT—Opening of the new 1,000-seat Midtown by Julius D. and Milton London—father and son—was a bit of a civic event, despite the absence of a trade screening.

This is the first theatre built in the two-mile circle since the Roxy was opened eight years ago, and its construction near the center of what newspapers have for months been campaigning about as Detroit's "blighted area," gives it unusual significance. Tribute to the civic enterprise of the Londons in their venture was paid by Mayor Edward J. Jeffries in a telegram of congratulation at the opening.

Milton London will manage the house personally, and continue to control the Arcade as well. Ed DeLorme is operator.

Floral tributes were received from many friends, including: W. J. Turnbull, National Theatre Supply; Ed Long, Long Sign Co.; G. E. LeVeque, Cinema Service; Joe Lenahan, Mills Mutual Agency; Frank Lorenzen, theatrical florist; employes of both the Booth and the Arcade theatres; M. A. Tork, manager of the Booth; Ben Lefkowitz, Auto City Candy Co.; William A. London, Associated Theatres; I. J. London, circuit owner; and Bennett and Straight, theatrical architects.



They Join in Balaban Tribute—

To the Drake Hotel in Chicago went E. J. Hudson, Frank Upton, Grant Hawkins and Clark Field of Detroit United Theatres to help host Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, at his fifth anniversary banquet. Left to right, foregrounded, are Upton, Hawkins, Field, Harry Lustgarten (B&K circuit, Chicago), Harry Kalcheim (Paramount home office), and Hudson.

CLEVELAND

FRITZ VERMES is getting ready to serve in the Army, and his brother, Ted, is wearing a worried look wondering how he's going to look after both the Norwood and Yale theatres . . . Bert Schoonmaker has leased the Lyric, Delta. Former lessee was Jack Barck of Cleveland . . . The Dixie, Toledo, closed in recent months, has been reopened by Roger Scherer, who has been associated with the Pete Mallers circuit in Fort Wayne, Ind. . . . Urban Anderson, president of Midwest Specialty Co., handling distribution of Panoram, reports four Panoram installations were made last week—one of them in the Alhambra Bowling Alley operated by Martin Printz.

J. O. Guthrie of New London, George Delis of the Constant circuit, Joe Trunk and Joe Shagrin of Youngstown and Max Federhar of Akron were among the Filmrow out-of-town visitors during the week . . . Maurice Druker, pinch hitting for Everett Steinbuck, manager of Loew's State, is getting the impression that Cleveland is a great show town which it is judging from the crowds that are pouring into the State to see "GWTW."

Charles Raymond, Loew division manager, and Mrs. Raymond are both speaking before groups in behalf of aid to Britain. The Raymonds only recently returned from London where for six years he was in charge of Loew theatres . . . Harry Henderson, manager of the Lorain Fulton, has a new hobby—playing with electric trains . . . Ray Schmertz of the 20th-Fox exchange became an uncle last week for the first time . . . The Joe Lissauers of the W. N. Skirball circuit are in Florida, and the Skirballs are making arrangements to go down there for a couple of months.

"Land of Liberty," which premieres in the capital of each state, opened at Loew's, Columbus, on January 24 . . . George Holden, shipping clerk in the Cincinnati PRC office, steps out in uniform on February 8 If you have any high class art work to be done at any time, see Ed Wise, manager of the Homestead Theatre. After seeing his work on Chick Taylor's shorts book, he should be swamped with orders.

C. C. Deardourff, M-G-M exploiteer, is out in the territory arranging tieups on "GWTW" that will soon be breaking at popular prices . . . Eddie Miller is back on the job managing the Hippodrome after battling the flu . . . For straight laughs, smart dialogue and smooth acting, don't miss Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery in "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," an RKO product.

Marie Mack of Metro's local exchange observed her natal day on Saturday.

The new year has started out well insofar as the film population is concerned. So far, January has produced two new prospective femme stars and two possible leading men. Marilyn Gail arrived last Monday night to make a threesome of the family of Sanford Leavitt of the Washington circuit; Bob Richardson, RKO booker, and Mrs. Richardson welcomed Gail Louise on Sunday night; Sunday also brought a second son to George Bailey, M-G-M assistant cashier, and Mrs. Bailey and earlier in the month a son was born to the Leonard Greenbergers of the Moreland Theatre.

Leo Jones of Upper Sandusky has temporarily closed his Carey Theatre, Carey, until the flu epidemic subsides . . . Sam Stecker of Associated circuit and Mrs. Stecker are now in Florida . . . Frank Porozynski of the New Victory and Garfield theatres has postponed his trek south on account of the illness of Mrs. Porozynski.

Jimmy Circosta of the Ohio, Bellaire, is celebrating the arrival of a grandson. Father is Circosta's son who operates the St. Clairsville, St. Clairsville . . . First theatre fire to occur here in many years was reported last Monday night at the RKO Palace. It was of unknown origin and was discovered under the stage. Manager Kenneth Means refunded money to about 90 per cent of the customers. Loss was negligible.

First Runs Hold Up Despite Flu Wave

Cleveland—First run business does not appear to have suffered from the flu epidemic that is widely prevalent in mild form in this territory, but suburban theatres and houses in the small towns seem to be suffering as a consequence.

Only two towns are reported closed on account of the epidemic. They are Carey, where Leo Jones operates the Carey, and the LoNet in Wellington.

List of Lawsuits Grows in Detroit

Detroit—Detroit's series of theatrical lawsuits now before the courts have an addition in progress this week in the suit of James Cruze Productions against L. A. Young, etc., when Circuit Judge Theodore J. Richter issued an order for the production of certain books and records for examination. The case, in reality two twin suits for approximately $1,000,000 grow-out of the Tiffany-Stahl Productions, has been in court for several years.

CINCINNATI

ROBERT FITZWATER has purchased a site 160 x 100 feet at 1625 Queen City Avenue on which he will erect a brick and concrete theatre with terra cotta front. Besides a seating capacity of 690 persons, there will be a large parking lot . . . The show went on when fire attacked the Opera House, Lexington, Ky., operated by Schine. The loss is covered by insurance. The fire was confined to the dressing rooms and storage rooms in the rear of the building. A rear brick wall was torn loose by a blast. G. Lewis Hensler is manager of the house.

Ev Bennett, Palace, Dayton, was confined to the hospital by ptomaine poisoning . . . Carl Rohs has set February 6 for the opening of his new house at Cynthiana, Ky. Other new building activities concern Paul Banker and Fred Krimm, who are erecting a new house in N. Dayton, Ohio . . . Bob Urling labored, with good results, to save his Wayne, Wayne, W. Va., from destruction by fire, which carried away all adjoining property. Bob stayed on the roof with a hose fighting the fire. His break came when a wall of an adjacent building fell away from the theatre instead of upon it.

Tony Sauer, custodian of the Work House, was to throw his annual party to compliment the bookers of Filmrow, January 29. A full turnout was anticipated . . . Leonard Cohen had been added to Metro's shipping department. Their Clark Mellard is the proud father of a boy, named Clark Mellard jr. . . . Ed Salzberg is opening his new theatre, leased from Dr. B. B. Caldwell, March 1. The house, named the Monroe, was erected following the destruction by fire of the old theatre. National Theatre Supply has furnished all equipment . . . Warner's Walter McLay, shipper, has enlisted with the air corps.

Universal's Frank Schrieber was confined to his home with flu. The disease is on the wane, according to reports from the territory. Houses reopening are J. L. Crist's at W. Melton and also Nelson Muntz's Roxy in this town. The ban on children at Dayton, Ohio, has been lifted. Leesburg, Ohio, has been closed . . . The Jefferson, Jeffersonville, Ohio, formerly operated by Mrs. Pearl Sexton, is now being operated by Ray Holland . . . Queen City Variety has appointed Joe Oulahan chairman of their new charity drive committee. A meeting is to be held February 3 to discuss ways and means of increasing the charity fund.

George "Red" Holden, manager of accessories at PRC, a member of the aviation reserve, has been called to the service . . . PRC is inaugurating their "Lee L. Goldberg Drive" and the three offices—Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Cleveland—are expecting a hot contest for first place. Prizes are posted . . . Nat Kaplan announces the release of PRC's "Secret Evidence," the first of the Lone Rider musical westerns, and the advance reports on the feature are very good . . . Joe Goldberg is now representing PRC in Kentucky . . . National Theatre Supply replaced the booth of H. J. Hilling's Elm, Ludlow, Ohio.

Archie Clemons, Black Diamond Theatres, Montgomery, W. Va., will open a new theatre at Nitro, W. Va., February 10 . . . NTS has sold complete equipment for Floyd Williamson's Regal, a colored house at Dayton, Ohio . . . Hugh Gooding, National Theatre Supply representative, who recently changed his headquarters from Columbus to Cincinnati, closed Weaver Bros, for their Plaza Theatre, Miamisburg, Ohio.

DETROIT

SAM GOLDBERG is revamping the sound and projection at his Savoy . . . Rubin Miller, who recently took over Art Robinson's Odeon, is almost a twin for Alex Zesser of the Ritz . . . Mrs. Miller runs the boxoffice at the Odeon . . . Jack Dickstein, former franchise holder for the Gus Sun office, is back as Detroit manager, succeeding John W. Todd, who has gone with Jacques Cosmetic Co. Dickstein added three theatres in Detroit and Ohio to his books last week.

Bill Carlson is having the entire bench of recorders' court as guests at Variety clubrooms . . . Jack Broder is incorporating the Seville Theatre Corp., to take over the house from James Bukiwale and Severina Danswski . . . Ted Sandford is back handling booking for the Musicians' Booking and Service Bureau, reports Orville Mumford, manager . . . J. R. Grainger, Republic president, in town briefly, then flying to Buffalo . . . The Carthay is tentative name of Joseph Miskinis' new one at Puritan and Greenfield.

Abraham Sloan, builder of the Television Theatre, has a name for a new one at an undisclosed site—the Variety . . . Eddie Sligh of Chicago and Val Campbell, lately of Miami, are joining the new enlarged Betty Bryden Booking Office . . . Dave King's early days in the National were the subject of several articles in "The Old Timer's" column in the Detroit *News* . . . Donald S. Munro, 84, for 20 years treasurer of the Temple, is dead . . . Leon Arozian of Film Drugs reports his number called in the draft . . . Dick Flemion of PRC with a business-looking pipe . . . Nat Haase, Metro Premium manager, victim of a cold . . . Gene Alexander, Universal booker, back after recovery from that accident near Lansing . . . Ben Zimner, UA, plugging strong for the Arthur W. Kelly booking drive, closing April 19.

Frank Stuart, manager for the Midwest circuit, first a victim of lumbago, next came back to injure his ankle severely up in the balcony of the Colonial . . . Art Knapp, 20th-Fox city man, overlooking the new roofing being put on the exchange building from his office window . . . Floyd Keiller, Fox salesman, knows how to make the boys produce . . . Harry Levinson, RKO office manager, has a cold . . . W. R. Stebbins, Film Building owner, seriously ill, his son, of M-G-M, reports.

Lillian Ambrozy, Metro Premium secretary, enjoys the snow scenes from her window . . . Milton Jacobson, manager of Sam Mintz's Monroe (and brother of the famed Eddie), leaves downtown early these quiet evenings . . . Ben Wachnansky of the New Bijou and Columbia used to be an "idea man" for Paramount . . . Jack Hurford, manager of the Fox, found that chicken he won at Variety pretty tough eating till he found that Mrs. (Janet) Hurford had read the cooking instructions in minutes instead of hours.

Ira Kaplan, partner in the Cinema, has been honeymooning in Washington and New York after his marriage to Gertrude Winer, radio actress . . . Mac Zipperman, Kaplan's partner, proudly introducing his wife, who remained in New York until he was firmly estalished here.



He Gets a District—

Earle W. Sweigert, long Paramount's Philadelphia manager, who is upped to a newly created district embracing Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington.

Broder Expanding; Key Spot to Daly

DETROIT—Expansion of the Broder circuit was disclosed here with the appointment of Joseph Daly as general manager of the organization. Daly is temporarily directing activities from the Seville, which Broder has taken over from James Bukivale and Severina Danswski. This makes four houses for Broder.

Daly, a "young veteran," comes from the Esquire in Grosse Pointe, which will now be managed for Michael J. Chargot by his three sons. Daly was formerly Butterfield manager at Jackson, and before that manager of the Loop here for Associated Theatres.

Second expansion move of the week was acquisition of the 2,000-seat Town, intermittently operated by Sam Carver, for the past three months, and reopening of this big Woodward Avenue spot as a 15-cent house, further complicating the already confused Woodward Avenue booking situation. The Town, incidently, is in the same block as Broder's allied enterprise, the Trianon Ballroom.

Lee Goldberg's Brother Joins Him as Salesman

CLEVELAND—Lee Goldberg, PRC franchise owner, announces his brother, Joe W. Goldberg, has rejoined his organization as special sales representative in the Cincinnati territory. Joe was associated with Lee in Big Feature Rights exchanges in Louisville prior to his entering the advertising field.

PITTSBURGH

PENNSYLVANIA's primary elections this year will be September 9 and municipal elections will be held November 4 . . . Jeanette MacDonald was ill here for several days last week and her reception and recital were re-scheduled. Her new concert date at Syria Mosque is February 24 . . . McKeesport is expected to increase jukebox and pinball license fees. Duquesne, which will soon celebrate its golden jubilee, doubled its fees on these items this year and has tripled its revenues. Fees there are now $50 for pinball games and $20 for music boxes . . . Raymond Trubey, assistant to John Walsh at the Fulton, is now on duty at Ashtabula, Ohio, with the Shea circuit, and his position has been filled by Gordon Kinsey, formerly Fulton's chief of service.

George Wheeler, former local film man, was on Filmrow the other day from Washington, D. C., where he books for a large circuit, and just prior to his visit here his brother Sam, 20th-Fox branch manager of the same city, was in town . . . Vince Josack isn't going to be caught napping when the golf season opens, for he is continuing his regular "swing" sessions at the Schenley club house . . . Mark Browar is still "selling the furniture" and expects to depart around the first of March for Los Angeles where he will reside permanently . . . You cannot really appreciate Dave Kimelman's happy smiles these days unless you've seen "Virginia."

Funeral services for Mrs. Blanche Schnitzer, 75, were held here last Friday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charles Benjamin. A resident of this city for 60 years and prominently identified with charitable and philanthropic work here for a long period, the deceased was the mother of Joseph I, and Abe Schnitzer, pioneers in the film industry here who now own and operate the Western Costume Co. in Hollywood, and who returned here for the funeral. Besides her two sons and Mrs. Benjamin, she also leaves two other daughters, Mrs. Cleve Adams of Los Angeles and Mrs. Abe Lefkowitz of the north side. Mrs. Schnitzer died January 21 in Los Angeles where she had lived for the last eight years.

Sam Navari, Universal exhibitor, has been vacationing in Florida . . . Mr. and Mrs. John J. Maloney were in charge of the January 24 family night party at the Variety Club. Ira H. Cohn, recently returned from Florida, and his 20th-Fox gang, were in charge of the Variety's January 27 dinner . . . The mother of Angelo Marino, Universal exchange shipper, died last week . . . Sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Panoplos on the death of the Clairton exhibitor's wife's sister, Mrs. Minnie B. Williams . . . Jim Levine, Walt Disney representative, was here last week in connection with "Fantasia," which may get an early exhibition here at either the Fulton or Warner.

Leon Fisher Drafted

COLUMBUS—Leon "Lee" Fisher, publicity director of the Palace Theatre here, has reported for a year's service in the army. He will be stationed at Camp Shelby, Miss.

LOUISVILLE

THE hat, overcoat and wallet of Don K. Smith, Indianapolis branch manager of National Theatre Supply, were found in an automobile belonging to Smith on the Municipal Bridge Monday. Smith has been missing, and it is believed that he leaped into the Ohio River. His body has not yet been found.

Illness has taken the round of several exhibitors in this territory. James Casenilli who operates at Herman has been ill for several days with influenza. Miss Imogene Sanders, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sanders of the Alhambra at Campbellsville, is in the hospital recovering after an appendicitis operation. Sanders himself has been confined to bed for several days with influenza. Friends of A. H. Robertson, who has been operating the Majestic at Springfield, will be glad to know that he is on the mend again, having also been confined for several weeks.

Ruth Mock, daughter of Universal's Carl F. Mock, is now a member of the Aldrich Family broadcast on the NBC network every Thursday. This is her first big-time radio assignment . . . Ira B. Dyer, who recently took over the Ritz at Burksville, Ky., from Haskell E. Nivens, has sold his newly acquired theatre to the Mid-State Theatre Co.

Earl Booze has sold his Gay Theatre at Jellico, Tenn., to the Cherokee Amusement Co. of Nashville. The contract was closed Wednesday between Booze and W. H. Parrott of Lafayette, president of the Cherokee Co. The house will be closed for complete renovation. Booze and his family are leaving for Virginia where he will be connected with a chain shoe store company.

B. J. Curry has sold his Strand at Horse Cave, Ky., to C. M. Caldwell, operator of houses at Cave City, Scottsville and Munfordville. Curry is going out of the territory.

Retired Exhibitor Dies

MT. PLEASANT, PA.—J. B. Cox, pioneer exhibitor, died here last week at the age of 79. Owner and manager of the old Cox Theatre for many years, he had retired from exhibition several years ago.

On Its Way to The Lawyers

Louisville—A lawsuit is brewing over an argument between two erstwhile friends as to who is entitled to $100 won at Louis Steurle's Broadway Theatre. The one at present holding the money contends she paid the admission for her friend and the ticket stubs that brought the prize therefore are hers. Her friend counters that she paid her own way, only letting the former buy the tickets, who proceeded to hold the stubs. The case is due for police court if not settled.

Massillon to License Theatre Stimulators

Massillon, Ohio—Licensing of Bank Nights, Prosperity Clubs and similar patronage stunts at local theatres, has been approved by the city council. The ordinance sets up a $5 fee for each drawing in connection with the stunts.

Although approved a week ago, Mayor Harry Lash has not yet affixed his signature to the ordinance.

Several Shea Managers Moved in Ohio and Pa.

NEW YORK—Several changes in managers of Shea theatres have been announced by E. C. Grainger, president of the circuit, upon his return from a recent trip through Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Affected are the following: Duke Prince, manager of the Ohio and Strand in Marietta, was transferred to Zanesville, Ohio, as assistant to the general manager, E. J. Hiehle, in charge of three houses. Joe Scanlon, pinch hitting in Zanesville, assumes Prince's post in Marietta.

Raymond C. Trubey, recently pinch hitting in Pittsburgh, has been transferred to Ashtabula, Ohio, as assistant to Dan Gilhula, city manager; and Gordon Kearsey, chief of service in Pittsburgh, has been promoted to an assistant managership there.

Warner Will Operate New Unit in Sharon

SHARON, PA.—Louis Shafran, Sharon businessman, announces plans for the construction of a theatre and business block in the east side to cost $90,000. Contract has been awarded to Paul Glenn, local contractor, who will start work on the project immediately.

The theatre, to be equipped and operated by Warner Bros., will seat 938 persons. The building also will include two large storerooms and ten office suites. The contract calls for its completion on or before August 1.

Manos Remodeling Project Under Way in Uniontown

UNIONTOWN, PA. — Work started two weeks ago on the extensive remodeling of the business property here which is being converted into a large de luxe theatre for Michael Manos circuit. Downtown location is considered ideal for this project. In addition to modern designs, equipments and fixtures, the new theatre will feature a large stage. Seating capacity will be more than 1,000.

Wm. H. Steffes, Detroit Pioneer, Dead at 69

DETROIT—William H. Steffes, one of Detroit's pioneer exhibitors, is dead at 69. He owned and operated the De Luxe Theatre, one of the earliest among the larger theatres on Detroit's east side, up until the time of his death. His widow and nine children survive. Interment was in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

COLUMBUS

DUKE PRINCE, manager of the Ohio and Strand in Marietta for the past two years, Saturday was transferred to the Zanesville as supervisor for the Imperial and Quimby, all units in the Shea circuit. Joe Scanlon follows Prince in Marietta, coming from Jamestown, N. Y. Ted Hooper is Quimby house manager, while Winston Drake is at the Imperial, both but recently promoted.

Bob Pullin of the Linden is vacationing in Hollywood . . . "GWTW" is current at the Ohio. Original booking was a year ago at the Broad . . . P. W. Wood was in Washington for the Allied confab . . . The Gray Gordon orchestra stage review is making this territory . . . In Cincinnati for the "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" preview were Bill Cunningham of the Citizen *and Harold Eckert of the* Journal, *who were in the C. Harry Schreiber party.*

Congratulations to Max Stearn on the passing of another milestone . . . Gene Sheldon, Columbuson, is appearing currently on the Broad stage. That house, incidentally, and Manager Joe Sloan, deserves a pat on the back for the terrific campaign on "Land of Liberty."

Louis Wiethe, Cincinnati, announces that Milton Yassenoff will manage his new Beechwold, which will open February 12. *He attended the University of Illinois, and is the son of Leo Yassenoff, of the F&Y Theatre Division.*

Make a note: If a bill is introduced in the Ohio legislature to remove censorship from newsreels, it will pass! Inside story is that no bill of such a nature will be presented without a green light signal from Governor Bricker.

Dock Refused Refund on License Fee Payment

DETROIT—Annual license fees paid by theatre operators are paid "for keeps," according to the city council. A request for a refund—the first in many years, if not the first on record—was made by Claude A. Dock, builder of the Dox Theatre, who recently sold his house to Ambrose J. Fitzgerald. Dock felt entitled to a refund on the unexpired portion of his license payment, and asked for a prorata refund accordingly.

The council took the matter up with the police department, and concluded with the verdict that "there is no provision in the ordinance for making such a refund."

Raymond Greevey Heads DuBois, Pa., Operators

DUBOIS, PA.—Heading the new official slate of the DuBois Local No. 703 of the IATSE is Raymond M. Greevey of Reynoldsville, Pa.

Other officers recently installed include Joseph L. Beezar, Punxsutawney, vice-president; James J. Bojalad, DuBois, secretary; Charles Hamberger, Ridgway, treasurer; Kenneth Burtnett, Brockway, business agent.

Morandiere Clerk Of Boston Board

Boston — The American Arbitration Ass'n has named Henry de la Morandiere as clerk of the motion picture arbitration board here. His address is the Chamber of Commerce.

Says M&P Schedules Went to All Majors

BOSTON—Continuing testimony in the current Waldo Theatres Corp. vs. the late Joseph Dondis, et al., anti-trust suit, Al Bevan, M&P Theatres Corp. assistant booker, testified that it was not the circuit's practice to send protection schedules to independent distributors, but that the chain generally sent them out to all major companies.

Still concentrating his questioning upon the issue of protection in the form of clearance, plaintiffs' counsel, George S. Ryan, referring to the season of 1930-31, sought details as to the companies receiving copies of the protection schedule. The probing elicited the information that as far as he (Bevan) recalled, all received the schedules and that conversations pertinent to clearance followed with the recipients of the schedules.

Elaborating somewhat in the case of Universal, Bevan answered a query as to what was said about protection being given by other distributors, with "I don't recall that there was any conversation about what we get from other people, so far as Bill Kelly (branch manager for Universal) was concerned. I know I did mention it to clinch my argument, and Bill would never agree to that, because we didn't do much business with them, and they always sold different from anybody else and still do."

Bevan denied that citing what others accorded in the way of protection was his most effective argument, terming it "just one of the arguments."

An objection by John Caskey, one of the defense battery, to the question "so far as protection was concerned, have you found that no distributor likes to give more protection than the other distributor was giving" was over-ruled by Francis P. Freeman, U. S. district court appointee, as master, and was accordingly answered by Bevan: "It has been my experience that none of them like to give you much, and they try to settle for as little as possible."

Metro Sells Dual Bill To Paramount Outlet

BOSTON—M-G-M has sold two features to the M&P Theatres Corp. The Paramount-affiliated circuit has spotted the M-G-M dual, "Haunted Honeymoon" and "Go West" in the first run Paramount and Fenway.

Marty Glazer, advertising manager for the two houses, gave the two films a concentrated exploitation campaign, originating the catchline: "Buck Harpo! Buck Chico! and Pass-the-Buck Groucho!"

Film Censorial Powers Extended in Boston

BOSTON—Motion picture censorship activity was increased in the City of Boston last week following notices sent to local theatre managers by John J. Spencer, chief of the Boston licensing board.

Spencer ordered local managers planning to show any of the 34 motion picture features he named to notify him in writing not less than four days before the proposed showing. He also provided that, if he so declared it, the manager must arrange for a private showing.

The move came so unexpectedly that local theatre organizations were not aware of it until informed by this publication. They started investigations at once.

The present scope of the new move principally affects but a limited number of local houses, but it is felt that if it is allowed to gather a foothold, its power will spread, although there is no indication in Spencer's notice that any films will be banned.

The motion picture house that stands to be most concerned is the Fine Arts, a number of whose foreign importations are on Spencer's list. Other houses that may be involved include such spasmodic road-show locations as the Gayety, Globe, Beacon, Stuart, etc.

Spencer provides in his notification, which he issued under the provisions of Chapter 494, Section 1, of the Acts of 1908, and Acts in amendment thereto, that:

"No picture appearing on the appended list may be presented in Boston, without the permission of the chief of the licensing division, or assistant chief, licensing division, which can be obtained only after the foregoing regulations are compiled with."

Regulations alluded to are:

"(1) The manager of any theatre where the presentation of any photoplay which appears on the appended list is planned must, not less than four days before the projected showing, notify in writing the chief, licensing division, Mayors office, Boston, Mass., listing the title of the film, any previous titles, producer and number of reels, this notification to be in addition to the regular weekly report.

"(2) The manager must, if so ordered by the chief, licensing division, arrange for a private screening of the photoplay in question before the date of which the photoplay is scheduled for release at his theatre."

See LOD Influence

Spencer added that managers who violate the regulations face summary suspension or revocation of their theatre licenses.

The list of motion pictures that must be given special O. K.'s for Boston showings in the future seems mainly based on Legion of Decency listings, although the licensing division would not confirm that this opinion was being held as any local criterion.

A large number of the products named have already played Boston, while no attempt has been made to bring certain of the others, particularly the nudist reels, here.

Films designated by Spencer are:

"Adolph Armstrong" (Swedish) Svensk Film Industri—Scandinavian.

Talking Pictures

"Amours de Toni" (French)—Metropolis.
"Assassin of Youth"—B. C. N.
"Carnival in Flanders" (French)—Tobis.
"Children of the Sun"—Public Welfare Pictures Corp.
"Club de Femmes" (French)—S-E-L-F Production—Mayer Burstyn.
"Damaged Goods"—Grand National.
"Damaged Lives" (Reissue) — Welden Prod.
"Daybreak" (LeJour Se Leve) French—Sigman Production.
"Ecstasy" (Czech)—Eureka.
"Elysia"—Bryan Foy Production.
"Gambling With Souls"—Jay Dee Kay Prod. Kendis.
"Hotel du Nord" (French)—Imperial Sedif.
"Human Beast" (La Bete Humaine) French—Paris Film-Hakimjuon Films.
"Indiscretions" (Nouveau Testament) French—Paramount Tri National.
"Kiss of Fire" (Le Baiser du Feu) French—Solar Films of Paris-Lenauer International.
"Living Dangerously"—Gaumont British.
"L'Orage" (French)—Andre Daven-Tri National Films, Inc.
"Lucrezia Borgia" (French)—La Compagnie Du Cinema—Europena Films Corp.
"Mad Youth"—Willis Kent-Real Life Drama.
"Merry Wives" (Czech)—A. B. Film-Loyd.
"The Pace That Kills"—Willis Kent.
"Pitfalls of Youth"—H. E. R. Laboratories, Inc.
"Private Life of Henry VIII" (Reissue)—London Films.
"The Puritan" (French)—Derby Lenauer International Films, Inc.
"Race Suicide"—DeLuxe Company.
"Reefer Madness" (Tell Your Children)—G&H Production-George Hirliman.
"Sinful Daughters"—Del Frazier-Bracher & Jones.
"Slaves in Bondage" (Jay Dee Kay Prod.)—Kendis.
"Smashing the Vice Racket"—Directed by John Melville.
"Souls in Pawn"—Willis Kent.
"Time in the Sun"—Eisenstein-Marie Seton.
"Wages of Sin"—Willis Kent.
"Whirlpool"—Mayer Burstyn.
"With a Smile" (Avec Le Sourire) (French)—Malmar Production.

Legislature Busy With Organizational Efforts

BOSTON—Organizational efforts are still taking up most of the time of the Massachusetts state legislature. Full-paced action on the record number of bills introduced this year is not expected to get under way until next month, at which time a number of film matters will come up at this, the first biennial session.

HARTFORD

HENRY NEEDLES, Warner district manager, and family have returned to Hartford after a Miami Beach vacation . . . Mickey Daly, owner of the local Daly and the Plainfield, Plainfield, was in New Haven on business . . . Charlie Repass, Crown manager, at home with a bad cold . . . Elisse Frank, wife of Rudy, State publicity director, was on the sick list with the flu . . . In town to see Loew's-Poli Manager Jack A. Simons was Elliot Kronish of Loew's New Haven offices . . . Alhambra, Torrington, presented the "Three Stooges" and the "Gems of 1941" on its stage . . . Eddie Boggs, E. M. Loew's chief of service, had a cold . . . Ditto, Tommy Maller, manager of the WB's Lenox . . . Rudy Frank is chairman of the entertainment division of the WTIC-Hartford *Courant* "Mile o' Dimes" dance . . . Joe Powers, Loew's-Poli night watchman, had a cold . . . Frankie Bradskiff and Richard D. Harter, WB's Central, West Hartford, service staff members, had the flu . . . In Hartford last Tuesday afternoon was Bob "Red" Rubin, assistant manager at the Loew's-Poli Bijou, New Haven.

Strand, Norwich, showed Producers Releasing Corp.'s "Billy the Kid Turns Outlaw" at a special kiddies' matinee, at which time "Junior G-Men" and several comedies were also shown. All youngsters in attendance were given a free badge with which to gain admission to another special matinee to see "The Gay Caballero" . . . Charlie Barnett and his orchestra played at the Lyric, Bridgeport, last Sunday . . . Plaza, Waterbury, is now offering blue orchid dinnerware to patrons . . . Bernard William Levy, manager of the local Proven Pictures and also division manager of the Frederick E. Lieberman Theatres, was in Boston on business . . . Manager Jack A. Simons of the Loew's-Poli obtained a roto break on "Gone With the Wind" . . . George E. Landers, E. M. Loew's manager, was in the Boston film district . . . Mrs. M. Oakley Christoph, film columnist for the Hartford Courant, *was in New York . . . Manager Jack A. Simons of the Loew's-Poli has been working pretty hard lately on stunts for new pictures at that theatre.*

Seymour "Rosie" Rosenberg of the Proven Pictures has been attending the New York School of Foot and Fingerprinting, New York, every weekend . . . Al Cook, WB's Strand doorman, has resigned to work at Pratt & Whitney's . . . Anna Sannabro is the new relief cashier at the Proven Pictures . . . Robert Oates, former Proven Pictures assistant manager, is now working at Pratt & Whitney's . . . Jack A. Simons, manager of the local Loew's-Poli, obtained a co-op ad with Helen's Beauty Shoppe on "Gone With the Wind" . . . "Four Mothers" was held over for a second week at the WB's Regal . . . Ditto, "Gone With the Wind" at the Loew's-Poli Palace . . . Main stem Daly held an amateur night on its stage last Thursday . . . Girl's League of Weaver High School, Hartford, presented Warner's "Robin Hood" in the school's auditorium . . . Mark Larkin, MPPDA, was in this area in connection with "Land of Liberty" . . . I. J. Hoffman, Warner zone manager, and B. E. Hoffman, Warner assistant zone manager, ill . . . Robert Hamilyon of the Palace, Norwich, had a nice campaign for "North West Mounted Police."

Barney Dobrans, manager of the Crown, New London, was in Boston . . . Frankie Ramsey, assistant manager at the WB's Strand, reports that rumors linking him to marriage plans in the near future "aren't true" . . . Newspaper carrier boys viewed Republic's "Behind the News" as guests of Manager Harry Rose, Loew's-Globe, Bridgeport . . . Artie Shaw's orchestra is reportedly due at the State soon . . . Construction on new dressing rooms at the State is nearly completed . . . Hugh Campbell, manager of the WB's Central in West Hartford, reports business has been pretty good of late . . . Manager James F. McCarthy of the WB's Strand reports that RKO's "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" is due at that house soon . . . Wallace J. Cooper, Loew's-Poli assistant manager, was in Waterbury recently with the missus . . . Hillmer D. Robinson, assistant manager at the E. M. Loew's, reports that new seats are due at that theatre soon.

George Raft broke all attendance records at the State . . . Seen fox-trotting at the Hotel Bond the other night was James F. McCarthy, WB's Strand manager . . . Maurice Evans, the actor, is due at the Bushnell's Sunday evening, February 2, in his lecture recital, "Shakespeare in the News" . . . WB's Regal brought back "Here Comes the Navy" for the second time in recent months . . . David Sugarman, WB's Colonial manager, and George E. Landers, manager of the E. M. Loew's, presented the first ticket to the President's Birthday Ball to N. B. Bertolette, president of the Hartford chamber of commerce. Presentation hit the local press in the form of story and photos . . . Joe Dailey is the new projectionist at the M&P's Allyn. He succeeds the late John R. Baker . . . Valerie Rudek, cashier, Loew's-Poli Palace, has left for New York . . . Norman Beckley, WB's Regal doorman, who was away on leave of absence, is now back on the job.

Hollis Sweeney, Loew's-Poli Palace, Hartford, student assistant, will leave on February 17 for National Guard service in Jacksonville, Fla., instead of February 23, as previously reported . . . Irving Freedman is the new chief of the service staff at the State, Hartford, succeeding Jack Terrazzio, who has left for other fields.

Employment Bounds, And So Do Takes

Boston—A continued bettering of theatre grosses is held by local film men to be brought about by the rising trend of employment here.

In Massachusetts, figures just released by the state department of labor and industries show that in December the number of persons in private employ rose 2.7 per cent from November, while the total amount of their payrolls increased 7.8 per cent.

Compared with December, 1939, last month's total of employed persons was up seven per cent and payrolls were up 15.9 per cent. Nevertheless, based on the average for 1925-26-27 as 100, the index for the number of employed persons last December was only 87.6 and that of payrolls, 91.2.

Massachusetts Factory Employment Hits Top

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Employment in Massachusetts factories rose in December to its highest level since May, 1937, and payrolls to the highest point since 1929, the state department of labor and industries announces.

The department's statistics, based on a survey of 1,739 representative manufacturing firms in mid-December, showed an increase of 7,872 employes, or 2.7 per cent, an increase of $607,776 in payrolls, or 8.7 per cent over November.

Successful Theatrical Ball Held in Hartford

HARTFORD—This city's annual theatrical ball was held last week in the main ballroom of the Hotel Bond under the sponsorship of Local 84, IATSE. Charlie Obert was chairman of the affair.

Hartford's managers and their assistants and wives were in attendance en masse. Music was furnished by Sammy Kaplan and his State Theatre orchestra. In addition, there were specialty acts featured regularly with Glenn Miller's band, and a line of girls who also served as models in an advance showing of next season's furs.

Local merchants subscribed to many pages of advertising in the program, and the receipts, it was stated, "will be devoted to the sick benefit fund of Local 84."

But His Fears Were Gone When He Awoke

Bridgeport, Conn. — Nate Greenberg, manager of the Park City, did plenty of private grouching in the early hours one morning recently.

Nate felt a touch of flu coming on and left the theatre early. Reaching his bachelor apartment, he took a hot bath and a hot drink and climbed into bed. He was sleeping soundly and sweating plenty when the telephone jangled. It was 1 a. m. and a patrolman, trying doors, had found the theatre unlocked, thanks to a thoughtless usher. So Nate had to dress, go out in near zero cold, and turn the key in the lock.

He went home with dire thoughts of being lugged off to a hospital within 24 hours, but surprisingly when he awoke later from his second sleep, the flu symptoms had disappeared entirely.

: SPRINGFIELD :

NATHAN E. and Samuel Goldstein and Harry Smith represented Western Massachusetts Theatres at the Balaban dinner in Chicago . . . Al Anders of the Bijou reported SRO business with "This Thing Called Love" . . . "Baker's Wife" did fine business during its four-day run at the Arcade . . . Vincent Shumley is a new usher at the Broadway, succeeding William Bowe, resigned . . . Johnny Downs is due for a three-day engagement at the Court Square starting February 6 . . . Jimmy Hoey has been named student assistant at the Loew's-Poli Elm Street, Worcester, replacing Robert Bergin, who has been upped to assistant manager . . . Carroll J. Lawler, manager of the Lawler, Greenfield, is chairman of the Franklin County committee for the President's Birthday Ball.

Lou Brown, publicity chief for Loew's-Poli houses, was in town in behalf of "Gone With the Wind" . . . Raymond Title, manager of F&M's Art, was on Boston's Filmrow last Friday . . . John Smail, Arcade usher, on the sick list with the grippe . . . Allan Jones is due in for a concert at Springfield Auditorium on February 5 . . . James J. Bloom and Gilbert Bevan of the GB's Paramount are planning a New York visit . . . Mr. and Mrs. William B. Bouvier are expecting a visit from the Stork some time this month. Mr. B. is doorman at the Broadway . . . Charles A. McAndrews is a new usher at the Loew's-Poli . . . Manager George E. Freeman of the Loew's-Poli reported SRO business with "Thief of Bagdad" . . . Local theatres cooperated with Springfield Greek War Relief Fund to the extent of allowing girls to collect money for the cause in theatre lobbies . . . William Craven, F&M's Art usher, had a bad cold . . . Jenny Bargiel, office clerk at the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., is now back on the job, after having been sick at home with a cold.

Herman Rifkin circuit doings: In town last Monday to look over his Springfield houses was Herman Rifkin, circuit head . . . Rudy Martin, doorman at the Forest Park Phillips, will be leaving that theatre in a few weeks for a singing job in a Worcester night club . . . Richard Udler, Garden doorman, visited friends in Boston . . . Russell Parker has joined the ushers' corps at the Broadway . . . Jack Marrow is a new usher at the Broadway, succeeding Gordon Macher, resigned . . . Hollywood Doubles show is due at the E. M. Loew's Court Square February 13 for a three-day run, reports Ernest W. Whitford . . . Emil Morriseau, chief projectionist at the Court Square, is driving a new Dodge.

Harry Schaefer, Arcade projectionist, has been ill . . . Raymond Lynch, Garden doorman, has resigned . . . Charlie Harvey, WB's Capitol porter, had the grippe . . . "Kitty Foyle" was held over for five extra days at the GB's Paramount . . . Marcella Gaggies is the new full-time cashier at the GB's Paramount, succeeding Mrs. Grace Prescott, who has resigned to await a visit from the Stork . . . Forest Park Phillips observed its first anniversary under Rifkin management . . . Madeleine Cooper, GB's Paramount cashier, and a local fellow, are to be married some time in May . . . William Viau, F&M's Art doorman, had a cold . . . Ted Holt, member of Loew's-Poli, New Haven, maintenance department, is in town to fix seats at the local Loew's-Poli.



Getting Choice Spots—

Edward M. Haskins, manager of the State Theatre at Calais, Me., out advertising in his territory which covers some 30 miles. The marker behind which Haskins is standing indicates the halfway line between the Equator and the North Pole. This is situated about 20 miles from Calais.

Robert "Bob" Portle, manager of the Loew's-Poli Plaza, Worcester, had a press preview for "Land of Liberty" . . . Neal Sullivan, assistant manager at the Plaza, Fall River, has resigned . . . Eliot Preble, assistant manager at the Strand, Newburyport, has been transferred to the assistant managership at the Warner in Lynn. Otis Weed of the Strand, Newburyport, staff, has been named assistant manager of that situation. Chief of service at the Strand is now George Caron . . . Andrew A. Sette, manager of the WB's Capitol, Springfield, was in New Haven last week . . . "Minute-Man" is the new nickname for Boyd Taylor Sparrow, assistant manager of the Loew's-Poli, Springfield.

One Sitting Wasn't Enough for Him

Bridgeport, Conn.—One mother doesn't think so much of Morris Rosenthal's publicity campaign for "Land of Liberty" at Loew's Majestic. She complained that she had to sit through the picture twice because her son's teacher had ordered him to write an essay on the film. The son didn't feel he could do sufficient justice to the film after only one sitting.

: BRIDGEPORT :

JOHN BERNARD, operator at the Black Rock Theatre, is expecting an addition to his family in the spring. He now has one boy and is hoping for a girl . . . Ruth Saunders, daughter of Manager Matt L. Saunders of Loew's-Poli, was in Washington for the inauguration . . . Congratulations to Al Domian, Loew-Poli assistant, on the birth of a daughter.

Mrs. Al M. Schuman braved the winter's worst ice storm to go to New Haven for bookings. After completing her business she could not get a taxi to the railroad station and had to stand on the street corner a half hour in freezing rain waiting for a trolley car. Mrs. Schuman, who runs the Black Rock here with her husband, hails from Alabama. She suffered no ill effects and says it takes more than a Yankee sleet storm to beat her down . . . Sympathy to Arthur "Otto" Esposito, popular Loew's-Poli aide, who recently lost his father-in-law.

Robert Carney, assistant manager at the Majestic, is back after a battle with the flu . . . Business here the past year was the best in 16 years and is continually on the rise . . . "Gone With the Wind" moved from the Loew's-Poli to the Majestic for a second week and the Warner held over "North West Mounted Police" . . . Matt Saunders' son, Robert, has recovered from a serious illness . . . Horace MacMahon and his wife, Louise Campbell, were in Norwalk to see the actor's ailing aunt.

Outlook at present time indicates that summer theatre opposition in this area, usually best in the state, will be light next summer. Phil Carr says he is definitely out of Ridgefield, Frank Gaunt doesn't expect to return to Milford and the owners of the Guilford Playhouse are trying to unload the theatre . . . Walter Klavun is trying to sell the city the idea of putting dramatic stock in the Klein Memorial Auditorium while other interests are reported trying to make a deal to reopen the long-dark Park.

Morris Jacobson, general manager of the Strand Amusement Co., looks pretty happy in that snappy new automobile . . . Manager Edward Madden of the Lyric has a new rug in his office . . . Ruth Snelter, Park City cashier, is back on the job after an illness. Lydia Blaske substituted . . . Catholic church pastors are campaigning against Jacques, Waterbury burley house . . . Seen at the Tom Murphy testimonial dinner were Harry Rose of the Globe, Ed Madden of the Lyric, Matt L. Saunders and Otto Esposito of the Loew's Poli, Beatrice Sullivan of the Majestic and Marguerite O'Connor and Helen Foley of the Lyric.

William Shuran has resigned as assistant manager of the Capitol, Ansonia, and has been succeeded by William Woods. John Shields, house manager, is back after an illness . . . Gordon Bennett is the new manager at Jacques, Waterbury.

NEW HAVEN

IT WAS with the sincere good wishes of the entire district that "Dean" Morris Joseph left active duty with Universal for a well-deserved vacation. Last May, Morris celebrated his 25th anniversary as exchange manager for Universal here with a cocktail party at the "U" offices, which was attended by over 100 exhibitors, exchange representatives from New York, Boston and New Haven, and many other friends. The scroll presented to Joseph on that occasion said, "We know of no man more deserving of this tribute for his untiring efforts and energy toward the motion picture industry. A quarter of a century of progress well spent." The Josephs will take up permanent residence in Miami, it is reported . . . Sincere good wishes of the territory also go to John Pavone, the new Universal manager here, whose ability and geniality are well-known after many years with Warner and other offices on Meadow Street.

The many friends of the Maxwell Hoffmans were shocked at the sudden death of their nine-week-old daughter, Linda . . . I. J. and B. E. Hoffman back at their desks after a siege of the grippe . . . Flu list includes Earl Wright of 20th-Fox, Frank Mullen, Al Davis and Ethel Phillips of Metro, Jack Brassil of the Loew-Poli, Tim O'Toole, Columbia manager; Edward Ruff, Paramount manager; Peter Perakos, independent circuit operator; Speri Perakos of the Strand, Thompsonville; Howard Johnson, Yale senior and son of Adolph Johnson; Thomas Maller, manager of the Lenox, Hartford; Randy Maller of the Strand, New Britain, and Jack Sanson of the State, Manchester . . . John Pavone of Universal is "refluperating"; also Francis Clark of the same office, Steve Panora of New Milford, Dorcas and Nancy Jacocks of Branford, and Sid Swirsky, Columbia booker.

Hy Fine, M&P district manager, and Alexander Hamilton, manager of the Empress, Norwalk, attended the Barney Balaban dinner in Chicago . . . MPTO secretary, Herman Levy, urges large Connecticut MPTO representation at the annual MPTOA convention in April . . . Barney Pitkin back at the RKO helm after a Miami vacation with Mrs. Pitkin . . . The Ben Simons (he is 20th-Fox manager) will break up their vacation into a number of short motor trips, with reports back to the office . . . Abe Hodes, student booker at the Metro office here for the past year, has been transferred to Washington and two new student bookers are in from New York, Constantine Carpau and Victor Wallace . . . Visitors on the Loew-Poli circuit include William Jefferson of American Display, checking on the theatres for the first time in three months, Max Hershman of National Screen Service and Mark Larkin of the Hays office . . . Sam Rosen leaving for Florida soon.

Tom Connors made his first visit to the New Haven Metro exchange in three years accompanied by Maurice N. Wolf, district manager. From New Haven both were Albany bound . . . P. Dugan of the Warner Theatre department bookkeeping office is off on National Guard duty, and has been replaced by Jack Huizing . . . Turnover of ushers and doormen is so great these days that the boys hardly get to know the managers and assistants and vice versa. The new boys tried to show one of the assistants to a seat . . . Bob Russell estimates receiving a phone call of inquiry every half minute during the week of "GWTW" at the Poli. Business built up all week to a $15,000 take. Russell and Rubin used school study guides, which resulted in large group student attendance, with as many as 1,000 in one afternoon from Commercial High. Also stills of Vivien Leigh in Gamble's, book marks in the library, etc. Lobby holdouts of two hours were the rule over weekend and beginning of week. Picture may stay two weeks more at the College, and in addition is being held a second week at the Majestic, Bridgeport; Elm Street, Worcester, and Palace, Hartford. Palace, Meriden, opens with the film February 2.

Jack Brassil secured a page of co-op ads in the Milford *News* on "GWTW" . . . Ed Fitzpatrick of the Poli, Waterbury, put out a special herald on the picture, but offset the cost by selling the back page. Fitz also erected a book 5x6 feet in his lobby, with a motor-moved page inside showing stills . . . Russell Grant, Poli, Hartford, student assistant, sold a two-column co-op ad . . . Big doings on the Poli circuit on "Land of Liberty," too . . . In Bridgeport Morris Rosenthal of the Majestic tied up with the schools, the "I Am an American" Committee, churches and all factories. He spread the slogan "150 years of United States history in 150 minutes." Lou Brown and Sam Badamo securing a proclamation from the governor on the film. Three New Haven screenings took in the mayor and his staff, principals of high schools and newspaper and Yale University representatives. Yale contest has been arranged. The picture plays here with "Laddie," when "GWTW" finishes . . . Bob Portle of the Plaza, Worcester, secured the endorsement of Mayor Bennett on this picture, film rental of which goes to war relief . . . Franklyn Ferguson, who has brought more celebs to his neighborhood Whitney than any in these parts, has arranged with the New Haven Bowl of Rice Committee to stage a benefit at the theatre, with Dr. Hsia, in this country on a special mission, as speaker, various entertainers, and "Night Train," Benchley and other shorts on the screen. Admission is $1.00 over the house.

"Ice Follies of 1941" at the Arena February 3 through 9, with 65 stars and 25 acts, had a tremendous advance sale at $2.20 top . . . Teaser ads on "Kitty Foyle" received good notice . . . George Freeman, manager of the Poli, Springfield, steered the WMAS commentator to the feminine angle of turbans and such in a special 15-minute program on "Thief of Bagdad" . . . Paramount, Metro and RKO offices have already had meetings with home office representatives on consent decree procedure and others due to follow soon . . . Warner Bros. opened the Capitol, New Britain, long closed, for Sunday performances only. The house was last opened for roadshow of "GWTW" . . . Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut to meet February 4 at luncheon at the Hofbrau . . . Adolph Johnson has sold 85-week colorful fruit ovenware to Cannon's.

Excitement in the Rialto, Windsor Locks, when a woman patron climbed to the balcony, dropped into a seat and died a few minutes later . . . Ted Jacocks jr., vice-president of Connecticut MPTO, operator of the Branford, and only theatre representative in the state legislature this year, is making a hit in Hartford, report says . . . Ben Lourie is proud possessor of a natty two-tone grey Olds sedan . . . Jack Glackin of the Arch Street, New Britain, is driving a new Chevrolet . . . Last bowling honors went to Columbia in its match against 20th-Fox, but sick absences make regular bowling matches impossible now . . . Ben Simon spending some time in the library on his latest crossword puzzle mania . . . Meadow Streeters were glad to see Joseph Davis, former operator in Southington, in town recently.

NEW BRITAIN

JOHN S. P. GLACKIN, manager of the Arch Street, is driving a new Chevrolet sedan . . . Nick Marlames, co-partner of the Roxy, who has been vacationing down in Florida with his missus, is expected back about February 1 . . . Eddie Starr is the new usher at the WB's Embassy, succeeding Angelo Domecian, who has been upped to doorman. He replaces Alex Younkaskas, who resigned to work in a local factory.

I. J. Hoffman, Warner executive, was in town to see Randy Maller, WB's Strand manager . . . J. Milo, president of Roma Film Co., New York, was a visitor to Manager Phillip Demas' office at the Roxy . . . Pat McMahon's State played Monogram's "Son of the Navy."

Sick List: Mrs. Phillip Demas managed the Roxy while Mr. D. was ill with the flu . . . WB's Embassy service staff members who have had the grippe are Warren Kingsbury and William W. Walsh . . . Randy Maller, WB's Strand manager, also had the flu, while Peter Perakos, Palace owner, was laid up with the grippe.

Sense a Threat

EAST HARTFORD, CONN.—It is felt that the recreational center planned here about a half mile south of Silver Lane and near the aircraft factories, will bite deeply into theatre receipts.

BOSTON

JOE EHRLICH, former RKO and UA publicist, now managing the Gayety in Boston for E. M. Loew, concentrated heavily on the local premiere of "After Mein Kampf" with an exploitation lobby and a strong newspaper campaign . . . Ben Domingo, RKO city manager, is back at his Keith Memorial office after "Miami-ing" at a temperature of 76 degrees . . . Joe Brennan, executive secretary of Allied Theatres of Massachusetts, Inc., returned to work last week after whipping the flu . . . Roy E. Heffner, Bank Night assignee, moved up into Oklahoma last week after a month in Texas. He is expected back in Boston next month.

William S. Koster, seat renovation expert, was out of town on business last week . . . Mary Doherty of Keith's Memorial is back following the flu . . . Mona Lightowler, secretary to Harry MacDonald, local RKO divisional manager, is off the sick list . . . Fred Stone, manager for E. M. Loew in Portland, and Mrs. Stone are looking over perambulators . . . John Longo, theatre contact for the Buck Printing Co., was injured in a recent automobile accident . . . Hannah Brand, formerly with Harry Asher and now with E. M. Loew, was a recent grippe victim, but is now back on the active list.

Harry MacDonald, RKO divisional manager, produced a stage show built around local radio personalities for the floorboards of the RKO Boston . . . Florence Turner, assistant to Major Patrick F. Healey of the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety, leaves on February 14 for a month's sojourn in Florida. She plans to make the trip by boat . . . E. M. Loew has set February 1 as the day when he will transfer his circuit headquarters from 216 Tremont Street to the fifth floor of the Metropolitan Building at 260 Tremont Street.

Marty Glazer, advertising manager for the Paramount-Fenway, has been spotting a quantity of star photos in the windows of the Washington Jewelry Co. The catchline, "Are You This Type?", draws plenty of femme interest . . . Joseph Brennan, head of the theatre division of the Boston Community Fund campaign, called a "dutch-treat" luncheon of fellow committeemen this week, at which time progress of the group was favorably reviewed . . . Borrah Minnevitch was in town with his "Harmonica Rascals" on the stage of the RKO Boston . . . Louis Calhern continues here in "Life With Father," which is setting up new local boxoffice records . . . George Givot is in town . . . Helen Kane is here.

Arthur K. Howard, Frank Lydon and Nathan Yamins were in Washington for an Allied confab . . . Maurice Schwartz of the M&P advertising department returned last week following the flu . . . Grace Sullivan, secretary to Marcel Mekelberg, is also back following sick leave . . . George Kraska, operator of the Fine Arts, was in New York on business . . . Harry Aaronson, manager of the Rialto in Scollay Square and commander of the theatrical post of the American Legion, has called a special committee meeting to further plans for the Past Commander's Night, to be held February 3 at the Latin Quarters.

Burton Jones, roadshow distributor, was in from Hollywood . . . George Swartz of Northeastern Film flew to and from New York on business . . . Harry Botwick, manager of the Strand in Portland, is getting a substantial amount of air publicity, via a "Doctor I. Q." program, broadcast regularly from the Maine house . . . Jack Saef, manager of the Shawmut in Roxbury, was recently awarded a safety medal by public officials for his theatre tieins slanted in the interest of same . . . Leonard Kraska, sending out post-card invitations to Murphys to attend "Here Is Ireland" at the Fine Arts, discovered that there are some 1,200 of them listed in the telephone local. The postcards entitled recipients to 25 cent discounts.

Sam Berg called a Cinema Club meeting at which the forthcoming March 16 dinner-dance was discussed . . . George DeMatteo, son of Donato of the Ambuter Film Laboratories, died suddenly last week following a brief illness . . . Peter Levesque, manager for Max and Joseph Levenson, is now covering the circuit owners' Fairlawn . . . Max Michals, manager of the Globe, is utilizing the house organ as an added attraction . . . Phillip A. Lavine, divisional manager for Ralph Snider, is working out a number of new feats of press agentry for the chain . . . Maurice Corkery, manager of the Central Square in Cambridge, has spotted a "Kiddy College Quiz" over WCOP, Saturdays at 1 p. m., with Summerfield's, local furniture store, as sponsor. Juveniles are given numbered membership cards, and Corkery has been promoting prizes from various merchants which he distributes to the lucky numbers.

It's happy birthday for these in the Boston Metro exchange: Matthew Donohue, on the 27th; Elizabeth Foley, on the 29th; Henry Myerson, on the 31st, and Harry Pearlswig, on February 1.



At the Barney Balaban Banquet—

A part of the New England contingent to the anniversary testimonial to Barney Balaban, president of Paramount, in the Drake Hotel, Chicago. Left to right, all of M&P theatres or its affiliates: Wallace Camp, Albert Hamilton, Harry Browning, H. I. Wasserman, Nathan E. Goldstein, Adolph Zukor (chairman of the Paramount board), Sam Goldstein and Wm. E. Spragg.

For "Heaven Can Wait"

HOLLYWOOD—Seton I. Miller has been assigned to script "Heaven Can Wait" for Columbia.

Moves to Legalize Games, Bookies

CONCORD, N. H.—Following on the heels of a state lottery proposal, bills calling for the legalization of Bingo and Beano and horse race bookies have been introduced in the legislature.

The Bingo bill, sponsored by Rep. Arthur J. Lacroix of Manchester, is officially known as House Bill No. 190, and has been referred to the ways and means committee. Under its terms, the governor would be authorized to appoint a "commissioner of games." The state treasury would reap one-half the profit from the games and the other half would go to the communities in which the games were staged.

The other new measure which is watched with interest by the theatre men is the "bookie" proposal (House Bill No. 149), filed by Rep. Napoleon Dulac of Manchester and also referred to the ways and means committee. This legislation, if passed, would provide for the licensing of race bookmakers by the state racing commission at an annual fee of not more than $1,000 on condition that each bookmaker furnish a bond up to $5,000.

Set 187 Racing Days for Three Eastern Tracks

BOSTON — New England theatre owners are not cheering the fact that 187 days of horse racing have been arranged here for three eastern tracks.

Narragansett in Rhode Island is getting 67 days, while Suffolk Downs in Boston, and Rockingham in New Hampshire, have been allotted 60 days apiece.

Pari-mutuel dog racing dates, another headache to film men, have yet to be completed.

Assigned "The Uniform"

HOLLYWOOD—Clarence Brown will produce and direct "The Uniform," co-starring Clark Gable and Hedy Lamarr, for Metro.

Lydon Sets Meeting For February 11

BOSTON—Frank Lydon, president of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., has tentatively set the Allied affiliate's annual Boston meeting for February 11. Lydon is expected to be re-elected president at this time, when the election of officers will come up.

A comprehensive report will be made, also, of the results of the Washington conference held last week by Allied heads, at which Lydon, Arthur K. Howard and Nathan Yamins represented the independent exhibitors.

A Dinner-Dance to Honor Commanders

BOSTON—Past commanders of the theatrical post of the American Legion will be honored February 3 with a dinner-dance at the Latin Quarters in the Boston film district.

Those feted will include: William H. McLaughlin, Major Patrick F. Healy, Kenneth Forkey, James Sheeran, Charles Heath, Col. Joseph F. Gohn, Dr. William Basch and William J. Cotty.

There will be a brief moment of silence in memory of the late Carl Crawford, formerly Grand National manager who commanded the theatrical post.

Harry P. Smith of RKO, junior vice-commander of the post and a Cinema Club officer, is chairman in charge of the February 3 affair. Fellow committeemen include Harry A. Aaronson, Alvin Kenney, Harry Browning, Marcel Mekelburg, Dr. A. Edward Melincoff, Samuel Levine, William H. McLaughlin, Kenneth Forkey, Patrick Healey, William Cotty, Joseph Kantor, William L. Berger, Wilfred Vallee, C. F. McGerigle, James Donovan, Harry Rosenblatt, William N. Lynde, Robert Sternburg, James Sheeran, and Joe Rubin.

Film district workers are invited to attend as guests of the Legion. Reservations may be made and tickets secured from Legionnaires.

Promotion for Aronson To Strand, Westfield

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Harry Smith, director of publicity and division manager of the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., announces the appointment of Melvin M. Aronson, chief of service at the local Paramount, to assistant manager of the Strand, Westfield.

James J. Bloom, assistant chief of the Paramount's service, has been upped to the position of chief, succeeding Aronson. Robert "Mousie" Glazer, house usher, is now assistant to Bloom.

Regional Directors of Allied Will Convene

BOSTON—Frank Lydon, eastern regional vice-president of Allied, says he plans to call a meeting of regional directors some time within the next few months. He has set no specific date.

Grippe on Wane In New England

Boston—The number of grippe and flu cases throughout New England decreased last week, according to health officials from the various nearby states. Numerous schools that were closed as a precautionary measure, have been and are reopening.

Concord, N. H.—Health officials report a general decrease in influenza and grippe cases, which, at the height of the epidemic, caused the closing of many schools and a ban on admission of children to theatres in several localities.

Claim Wheeler Acts Like a Dictator

MANCHESTER, N. H. — "Few dictators would adopt a more arbitrary attitude than he displays toward the movie newsreels," the Manchester *Union* asserts editorially of Sen. Burton K. Wheeler in connection with the Montanan's charge that the industry is presenting news vital to the country in a partial manner designed to lead America into war.

"The only thing really involved is the question of editorial selection, in which we think newsreels are right, and Mr. Wheeler wrong," the editorial points out. "We can think of many issues, not now adequately treated by the newsreels, which would be more entitled than Mr. Wheeler's fulminations, to a claim on public attention.

"What this hater of dictators proposes is a dictatorial law to compel newsreels to abide by his own notion of more impartial editorial policies. It would be a short step from this, if, indeed, any step were required, to laws abridging freedom of the press altogether and requiring editors of all news media to abide by dictatorial notions of proper news judgment.

"As for the charge that the newsreels are full of propaganda, that is as meaningless as 99 per cent of all such charges. 'Propaganda' is a term that has lost every shred of communicative significance. Whatever the other fellow says that you don't agree with, is propaganda. It follows that everything written or spoken or published or displayed is propaganda, from one viewpoint or another.

"The easiest way out of the muddle is for everybody to agree to this definition. Certainly the newsreels are full of propaganda. Senator Wheeler's outburst is propaganda against the newsreels. This editorial is propaganda against the senator, and in behalf of old-fashioned Americanism, the Constitution, and freedom of the press."

Discontinue Midnighters

HARTFORD—Midnight shows at the Proven Pictures have been temporarily discontinued. Bernard William Levy is manager.

"Wind" Beats Weather To Lead New Haven

NEW HAVEN—"Gone With the Wind" at the Loew-Poli walked away with most of the downtown business, although opening day and weekend weather and driving conditions were unfavorable to all houses. Second week of "Flight Command" at the College held up well. Newspaper strike and suspension of all dailies for day and a half may have affected business.

Detail for week ended January 23:

(Average is 100)

College—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Street of Memories** (20th-Fox) 2nd wk.....190
Loew-Poli—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M)....190
To the College for a second week:
Paramount—**Victory** (Para); **Sandy Gets Her Man** (Univ) 8 days.....100
Roger Sherman—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO); **Here Comes the Navy** (WB)..... 90

Four Weeks for "Kitty" At Keith's Memorial

BOSTON—Ben Domingo, RKO city manager, has put "Kitty Foyle" into a fourth week at Keith's Memorial. The co-feature, "Saint in Palm Springs," is also here for the four stanzas, although it is a common Domingo booking practice to substitute second runs during a holdover to attract repeat business.

Charles Kurtzman, Loew's divisional manager, held the repeat booking of "Gone With the Wind" for a second week at the State and Orpheum. Repeat business has been heavy at the revival of the Gable-Leigh feature with "nothing cut but the prices." The film, when previously played at the two local houses, grossed over one half a million dollars in 95 playing days.

Support in Boston for Community Fund Drive

BOSTON—Local theatres and exchanges are coming into line very satisfactorily in support of the Greater Boston Community Fund's 1941 campaign, Joseph Brennan, local Motion Picture Operator's Ass'n executive secretary, and theatre group chairman, told this publication.

Other local film men serving with Brennan include: Edward A. Cuddy, Frank Lydon, Harry MacDonald, A. J. Munro, Howard Burkhardt, Max Finn, Al Somerby, George Ramsdell, Sam Soule, Frank McManus, Maurice Corkery, Harry Wasserman, Edward Cantor, and Hy Fine.

"Here Is Ireland" Goes Great in Boston Run

BOSTON—A 16mm feature, the first ever to play a regular motion picture house here, has held at the Fine Arts for three consecutive weeks, and at the time of publication grosses were still pyramiding. The release is "Here Is Ireland," an all-color travelogue duped and dubbed with sound.

George Kraska, theatre operator, had special equipment, including arcs, installed at the Fine Arts for the run. The picture was put in strictly as an experiment, and has caught on in such a robust fashion that Kraska is already on the trail of other 16mm specialties.

Hold Next Retreat at Campion Hall April 4

BOSTON—The next retreat group of the Catholic Motion Picture Guild will be held April 4 at Campion Hall, North Andover. Membership in the organization has reached a total of 45 film men, according to the latest report.

Attendants at the last Campion Hall retreat included: Max Burlone, Jerry Callahan, Ed Carroll, Dr. J. Carroll, Herb Colley, Maurice Corkery, Jerry Crowley, Matt Donohue, Herb Donovan, Bill Doyle, Tom Duane, Ed Fallon, Pat Gill, Chet Grenier, Ralph Gridley, Major P. F. Healey, Herb Higgins, Frank Lydon, Frank McManus, Dr. Al Moloney, Dan Murphy, Bill Murphy, Matt Moriarty, Tom O'Brien, Andrew Platt, Frank Rahilly, Joe Rahilly, Bill Sampey, and Frank Wolf.

A Committee Studying Outdoor Advertising

BOSTON—Film men are interested in special billboard action by the state public works commission, which is studying proposed changes in the rules and regulations governing outdoor advertising in this state.

John E. Dwyer, former supervisor of the division of outdoor advertising, appeared before the commission last week to offer suggestions he claimed would strengthen enforcement of the billboard law. One of the changes now under advisement is a measure that would deprive cities and towns of the right to restrict the erection of billboards in public areas.

Harry Rose Qualifies For "Dollar Club"

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—Manager Harry Rose of the Globe is the first manager in the New England division to make the Loew "Dollar Club" in 1941.

Capitol Reopened

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.—The local Capitol has reopened after a period of inactivity. Present plans call for it to play day and date with either the Embassy or Strand. House is being handled by Joseph E. Bornstein, who is also manager of the Embassy.

Home With the Grippe

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—William Powell, division manager of the Herman Rifkin theatres here, has been ill at home with the grippe. Carl A. Jamroga, manager of the Phillips, has been filling in.

Cut Flesh One Day

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The Court Square is now sponsoring vaudeville three days a week, instead of four. Motion pictures are shown at this E. M. Loew house the rest of the week.

Equipped With RCA

BRISTOL, CONN.—Joe Faith's new 700-seater here is being equipped with RCA Photophone sound.

Lease Metropolitan For Run of Opera

BOSTON—The Metropolitan, M&P Theatres key house, has been leased to the Boston Opera Ass'n for 12 performances of the Metropolitan Opera Co. The 4,332-seat theatre, the largest in New England and one of the largest in the country, has never before filled such an assignment.

The grand opera move follows proposed razing of the Boston Opera House, put on the discard list by the Schubert interests and placarded with a "for sale and to rent" sign. The structure has always been known as a "white elephant."

The Metropolitan Theatre, located in the downtown district, whereas the Opera House is a mile uptown, has a larger capacity by some 1,200 seats.

H. Wendell Endicott, president of the Boston Opera Ass'n, which brings the Metropolitan company here annually, says that this year a greater bid will be made for general public patronage and, toward this end, the public will be offered a "more attractive scale of prices."

The new house will be given over to Wagner, Verdi, Bizet, etc., from March 27 to April 5.

Uphold Labor's Right To Picket Theatre

HARTFORD—Labor's right to picket the E. M. Loew's Theatre here was upheld in a decision handed down last week by the state supreme court.

The opinion pointed out that the law passed by the 1939 General Assembly at Hartford limiting the granting of injunctions by courts, prevented the issuance of an injunction prohibiting the union from picketing.

Describing the new labor law, the unanimous opinion, written by the chief justice, declared: "The act does not deny to courts the power to hear and determine actions seeking injunctions in labor disputes, but only limits them in the exercise of that power."

Joseph X. Friedman represented the theatre; John P. Cooney, John P. Cotter and John J. Scanlan, the union.

Sammy Kaye Three Days

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Sammy Kaye and his orchestra started a three-day engagement at the Paramount Monday.

Alderman to Bat For Workingman

Northampton, Mass.—Francis P. O'Donnell, local alderman, is urging Mayor C. J. O'Connor to increase the Sunday license fee for the Calvin here if the theatre's new increase in Sunday admissions is not dropped. It is claimed that increasing prices for special features is a hardship on the workingman and his family, who, O'Donnell declared, "go to the theatre on Sunday."

Worcester Film Council Puts 7 on Adult List

WORCESTER, MASS.—The Worcester Better Films Council, of which Mrs. Howard S. Shepard is president, has announced its "movie digest" as follows:

For adults—"A Night at Earl Carroll's," "Victory," "Alias the Deacon," "Millionaires in Prison," "Seven Sinners," "Kitty Foyle," and "Remedy for Riches."

For young people (from 15 years of age) —"Gone With the Wind," "Flight Command," "Ellery Queen, Detective," "Public Deb. No. 1," "The Westerner," "Beau Geste" and "Down Argentine Way."

For the family (from eight years of age) —"Land of Liberty" and "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."

Newspapermen at Special Preview for "Smiths"

BOSTON—"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" was given a special preview at the Keith's Memorial with newspapermen present from as far away as Montreal.

Advertised to the public only as a so-called "Sneak Preview," with no names mentioned, the RKO release was sandwiched in between regular showings of "Kitty Foyle" for audience reaction.

Ross Cropper, Jack Granara and Harry Reiners later hosted a party of some 81 at the Cocoanut Grove.

Philip W. Marks Leads Laurel Cinema Club

HARTFORD—At a recent meeting of the Laurel Cinema Club, the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Philip W. Marks; vice-president, A. A. Jalbert; secretary, Kay Sargent; treasurer, Dr. David S. Ginsburg.

Two Managers Exchange

NASHUA, N. H.—An exchange of posts between the Shea manager here and in Manchester has been effected. The change places E. J. Fahey, formerly in charge of the State and Tremont in Nashua, over four houses in Manchester, and moves Fenton Scribner from the latter city to the helm in Nashua.

Plans Nearly Ready

EAST HARTFORD, CONN.—Plans for the new East Hartford theatre, which is being backed by Peter Perakos and Joe Quittner, are said to be nearing completion.

We were very well pleased with the many inquiries that came as a result of our classified advertisement in your paper."

—W. N. PETTIBONE,
Hannibal, Mo.

BOXOFFICE The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

PORTLAND

THE "FLU" epidemic which has raged throughout Maine for the past month is on the wane, according to Dr. Roscoe L. Mitchell, director of the Maine Bureau of Health. Only 18 new cases were reported January 20, compared with 73 on January 13. The total number of cases for 1941 to January 22 was 3,069. During the height of the epidemic schools were closed and health officials publicly warned the public against congregating at public places. Theatres all over the state were affected, many of them seriously.

The epidemic was virtually the "straw that broke the camel's back" to the Maine Civic Theatre. It was finally closed January 18 after the presentation of two operettas failed to bolster boxoffice grosses. Guy Palmerton opened the Civic almost a year ago and has operated under a popular price policy.

"Gone With the Wind" is scheduled to make its return engagement at the Strand Theatre January 30 . . . The war news film "Christmas Under Fire" (WB) has been added to the Strand Theatre's current program.

The first of three meetings to be held in 1941 by the Portland Motion Picture Council has been scheduled for the early part of February, according to Mrs. Elsie M. Files, president.

Buys O. Henry Story

HOLLYWOOD—"The Gift to the Magi," O. Henry story, has been purchased by 20th-Fox. Jo Swerling will script.

Lottery, Luxury Tax Bills Up in Maine

PORTLAND, ME.—During the four weeks since the legislature convened at Augusta numerous bills affecting the industry have been framed, introduced and referred to committees. Chief among these are three luxury tax bills and one state lottery bill. The purpose of these bills is to raise funds to finance old-age assistance.

The first luxury tax bill called for levies on soft drinks, tobacco, cosmetics, jewelry, candy and amusement admissions. It was presented to the house January 14 by Rep. E. Sam Farwell (R) of Unity.

Bearing emergency preambles declaring there was an "immediate necessity" for raising more revenue to pay old-age pensions, Rep. Lee C. Good (R) of Monticello on January 15 presented two luxury bills. One called for an excise tax of one mill on each cigarette sold, and the second a tax of one cent for every 10 cents on manufactured tobacco products sold.

Under Good's cigarette tax bill, both distributor and dealer would be required to be licensed, the fee for distributors set at $25 and that for dealers $1. The state tax assessor would administer the act.

The tobacco products tax would be paid by the affixing of stamps and each person engaged in the business would be required to be licensed, wholesalers bearing the brunt of the burden, their fee being set at $25. Retailers would pay $2 for each place of business maintained.

All three bills are to become effective when and if passed.

The fourth bill bearing on the trade is one which provides for the creation of a three-member state lottery commission "to establish a state lottery or state lotteries for the benefit of the state." The bill was introduced January 15 by Rep. Charles F. Dwinal (R) of Camden.

Commissioners would be paid $3,000 a year, the chairman, $3,500, and would be appointed by the governor subject to executive council approval.

Fifty-five per cent of gross proceeds received from these state-controlled lotteries would be credited to the general funds of the state "with the recommendation that it be applied to payment of old age pensions."

Ten per cent would go for administration of the lottery and 35 per cent for prizes.

Under the bill, any persons engaging in pool selling except by commission authority would be punishable by a fine of not more than $2,000 and by imprisonment for not more than two years.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

EDWARD J. RAICHE, 45, well known Manchester cornetist, is dead after an emergency operation for a ruptured appendix. He played several years under Erno Rapee at Roxy's in New York and later was connected with the National Broadcasting Co.

Ansel Sanborn's Memorial Hall in Wolfeboro showed a silent short of the first sled dog race held in the Wolfeboro section about 15 years ago. The film was a good "draw" because many of the local folks were eager to see themselves again on the screen.

ANY NEWS TODAY?

Planning a new theatre? Remodeling? Being promoted? Getting married? Got a new baby (infant)? Buying new equipment? Been elected mayor? Son or daughter graduating? Proud of a new exploitation stunt? Hired a new staff member? Solved a knotty problem?

Then Tell It To BOXOFFICE

BOXOFFICE,
4804 E. Ninth St.,
Kansas City, Mo.

NAME ..... THEATRE ..... LOCATION .....

Brisk Building Pace Maintained in Texas

DALLAS—Announcements of theatre construction here for early in 1941 indicate much activity. The latest is a deluxer at the corner of Mockingbird Lane and Greenville Avenue where W. W. Caruth jr. plans a large shopping center. Interstate Circuit is linked with this project as the new theatre operator, however no announcement or denial has been made. Plans have been drawn for a 1,250 seater, it was said. The location is over a mile from Interstate's Varsity and the same distance from the Arcadia, controlled by Lee Hanley and Bob Clemmons.

Incidentally the Arcadia has been all cleaned up from its recent holiday fire damage and a finer streamlined structure will be ready by March 15. The house seats about 1,100.

Robb & Rowley are ready to build a large deluxer in Oak Cliff at the Stevens Park section and L. L. Dunbar has announced a new house for his lot on Edgefield and Clinton.

Roy Starling, owner of the Grove, opened his new Urban Theatre, in the Urbandale section last Thursday. This house seats about 500.

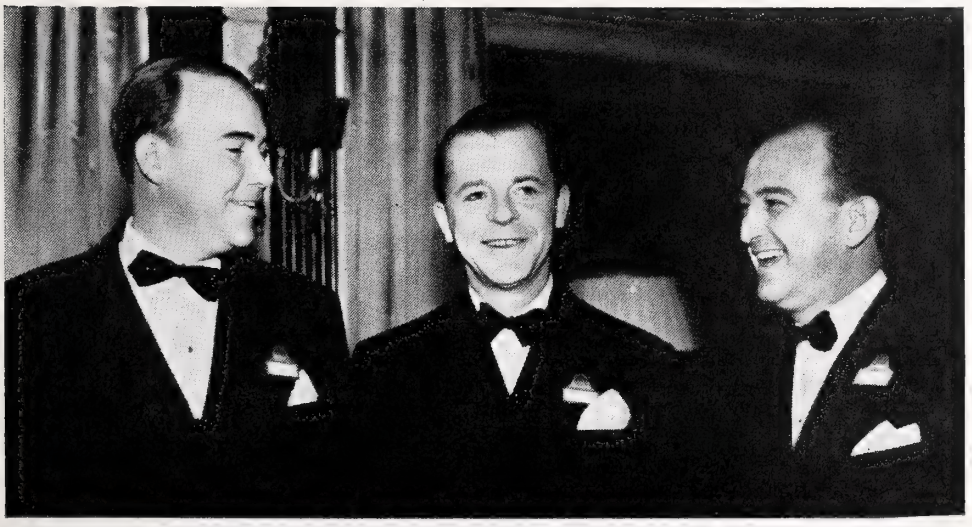
Last, but not least, are two neighborhood theatres which Underwood & Ezell plan to erect here as soon as plans are completed by Corgan & Moore, architects. The work is only a matter of a few days off, according to Claude Ezell. The locations are at Northwest Highway near the Coit Road and on the Ft. Worth Pike at the edge of Dallas' city limits.

Texans Return From Prize Trip to Chicago Fete

SAN ANTONIO—Chosen as one of the "Men of the Year" Manager J. T. Floore of the Majestic is back in San Antonio after attending the testimonial to Barney Balaban celebrating his fifth year as president of Paramount Pictures.

Other prize winners who made the jaunt were E. J. Sullivan, manager of the Majestic, Dallas; A. D. Deason, Wichita Falls Theatre manager, and Jack King, manager, Arcadia, Harlingen. Heading the party of prize winners on the tour was Robert J. O'Donnell, vice-president and general manager of Interstate Theatres, and Ray B. Willie, his assistant, both from Dallas.





Southerners Turn Out for Balaban—

At the Paramount partners' testimonial dinner in Chicago to Barney Balaban on his fifth anniversary as president of Paramount. At the top, R. J. O'Donnell (fourth from right), general manager of Interstate Circuit, with seven of his contingent that included Raymond Willie, E. D. Sullivan, Ray Beall, A. U. Deason, Hugh Owen, Jack King, I. Adelman, John Adams and John Floore. Below, left to right: J. H. Harrison, Wilby-Kincey circuit, Atlanta; Rollin K. Stonebrook, Paramount Miami circuit, and George C. Hoover, also of the Miami Paramount chain.

'Arizona' Doubles Par In New Orleans Run

NEW ORLEANS—Grosses this week as a rule exceeded expectations owing to general business conditions and the fact the flu is subsiding. In the downtown houses and the neighborhoods as well the improvement was noticed. The United Chain has materially increased its attendance by the giving away of library books for 25 cents in addition to the admission prices, in addition to Bank Night. At the Orpheum "This Thing Called Love" pleased and drew heavily during the evening hours and has been moved over to the Liberty for a continued run, being supplanted by "Arizona" which opened with a rush. The opening hour has been set to 10 in the morning instead of 10:45 as heretofore. Loew's, with the "Son of Monte Cristo" did extraordinary business.

(Average is 100)

Center—**Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ).. 95
Globe—**Mark of Zorro** (20th-Fox) 80
Liberty—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....100
Loew's—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA) 150
Saenger—**Four Mothers** (WB) 140
Orpheum—**Arizona** (Col) 200
Tudor—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M) 95

Dallas First Runs Show But Routine Record

DALLAS—Except for "Philadelphia Story" which played 10 days at the Majestic to gross about 25 per cent over normal allowing a weekend change to come on there, and with weather conditions favorable, the week's run was some above normal in the A houses but below in one of the B's. The Capitol fell off to below, possibly because the weekend booking was not a double as it was two previous weeks when doubles put that house up well.

Detail for the week ending January 25:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Dark Streets of Cairo** (Univ)..... 80
Played Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
Capitol—**Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox) 80
Opened slow on Saturday.
Majestic—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M)....125
Played 10 days ending Friday in favor of "Santa Fe Trail," but it held over at the Tower.
Palace—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA).....110
Rialto—**Escape to Glory** (Col) 100
Played three days ending Thursday.
Rialto—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M).....125
Opened big on Saturday to play through weekend.
Tower—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 2nd wk..100

Holdover Product Proves Best in Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY—It's good picture week so it's holdover week and good grosses. Both "GWTW" and "Kitty Foyle" continued to take in the shekels while some pictures in a distinctly different class didn't ring the bell so loudly. No competitive factors and weather good.

(Average is 100)

Criterion—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 150
Liberty—**Gallant Sons** (M-G-M); **Lucky Devils** (Univ) 90
Midwest—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 110
State—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd wk.....140
Tower—**Third Finger, Left Hand** (M-G-M)..... 95

Scripts Lupino Starrer

HOLLYWOOD—Heinz Herald is adapting "The Damned Don't Cry," Ida Lupino starrer for Warner.

Tourist Trek to Florida Booming Jacksonville

By A. JULES BENEDIC

JACKSONVILLE—Maybe the Brothers Warner had some other reason for building the St. John's Theatre here besides just a plain peeve because Sparks didn't buy their product. Maybe they checked up on the juicy business this town does on occasions. On occasions such as these, for example.

On Saturday night there were several "A" pictures playing local houses. This reviewer had seen them all, and accordingly we took our 44 cents down where we figured the hoi polloi would be. We waited patiently in line, a condition prevailing at virtually every other spot where the art of the cinema was doing its cellulodic damndest.

When at long last we entered the palatial pictorium, we sat through a dual programmer, two "B's"—but definitely; not a criticism, to be sure, for the audience enjoyed them thoroughly. What we're pointing out is that this man's town is a Boom Town, with tourists more plentiful than Ed Kuykendall's latest checkup on consent decree objectors.

Calmly Sacking the Shekels

A veritable Valhalla of prosperity; this Jax-town's a hummer at present, with plenty more to follow. Gateway to even sunnier surroundings, Jacksonville is the first and last chance in this tourist trek, which conservative estimates place at record-breaking figures, exceeding even the fabulous land boom of the middle twenties. Hotels are filled and rooms are things you wait for, even in the second-class joints. Anybody with money is spending it, freely; those who haven't it, figure they can starve better in the sunshine, anyway.

Folks down here, explaining this gold-rush, calmly shovel in the shekels and say "It's a triple impetus." They refer, one: to the tourists, like Florida oranges, plentiful and easy to pluck; two: the huge defense spending; three: a bumper citrus crop. Eating citrus fruit down here is like making love to a widow; you can't overdo it. It is estimated that just the loose oranges hereabouts would fill every vacant theatre chair in South Bend, Ind., the country's most badly overseated city.

What we started to say is that Sparks is erecting three new theatres hereabouts; Warner is pushing the St. John's to completion, and wishing it was already open, to catch some of the instant influx Warner and Sparks, in addition, are erecting other theatres over the state, as chronicled weekly through the columns of this useful compendium. The independents have also caught the spirit of the thing, but a general review of state-wide theatre activities will have to await our sojourn to Tampa, where Arthur Bromberg's manager (adv't.) is up on those things.

Flora and Fauna in Florida

We dislike figures as well as our dear readers, but the recitation of a few might not be amiss. The heaviest movement, seemingly, is to the "gold coast" area, from Palm Beach to Miami. Railroads and airlines are running extra sections to accommodate the influx. Tourist registrations are the heaviest on record, except at St. Petersburg, which formerly drew heavily from Canada. Tampa reports winter visitors up 10 per cent; retail sales and building activities soaring, a condition true in other centers as well.

The state chamber of commerce also has to have its inning, so here it is, briefly:

A total of 3,100,000 tourists will spend $347,000,000, more hay than even the record-breaking 1939-40 season.

As California turns positively green, the C. of C. has this to say of Florida, which is a peninsula surrounded, dear readers, by sunshine, seas, sirens (of the beach type), and, for the most part, by Sparks' theatres:

"The strategic location of the state, pointing like an extended forefinger toward South America and the vital Panama Canal, has resulted in a concentration of military and naval establishments on which huge sums are being spent, thousands of persons employed and enormous quantities of materials used."

Market, Not Fruit, Is Sour

Construction, says this modest organization, totaled $146,000,000 in 1940, with "many projects incomplete . . . and others yet to be started."

We have already made an Indianian reference to the citrus crop, which will exceed a gross take of $50,000,000, the figure of last year, even though prices are not so satisfactory as last season's. Growers insist it's the market and not their fruit that's sour.

Winding up our peroration on the flora and fauna of Florida, and at the risk of offending our peninsula playmates, we cannot help but paraphrase from the come-come-on chatter used by Southern California, the opposish:

"To those seeking employment, it is well to come heeled with a little cash, to avoid disappointments; lacking the do-re-mi, it is well to stay in your own WPA district. But to the tourist with bulges in the left rear pants section, thrice welcome, little man!"

Marching Through Georgia

By A. JULES BENEDIC

AUGUSTA—This street called Broad—so reminiscent of Canal in New Orleans—will witness in a few weeks the first anniversary of the magnificent Miller Theatre, on Miller Square, both named after the man who conceived this showplace of the south. For it was on Feb. 26, 1940, that the palatial Miller, a $600,000 structure devoted to the art of the cinema, opened its doors.



BENEDIC

This theatre, named for Frank J. Miller of Augusta Amusements brought about a tremendous quickening of trade over a block-long business area; in fact, over two blocks or more in what was labeled a dead section of town. Other businesses were remodeled to fit the tone imparted by the theatre—a modern structure with every known convenience. To name the new structure, they inaugurated a contest, associates relate, and out of 600 entries, 480 persons said the name Miller would best suffice. Then a grateful citizenry, as an additional gesture, changed the name of Herald Square to Miller Square, to conform to that of the theatre. Fitting testimonial to Frank's years of civic service in Augusta!

"Tobacco Road" Premiere Sought

F. J. Miller jr., in charge of publicity for the quintet of Miller houses here, spoke interestingly of efforts being made toward getting the world premiere of "Tobacco Road," a forthcoming 20th-Fox release. If the plans go through, the Miller's 1,780 seats will hardly handle expected crowds, as it is planned to make the showing a state-wide, or even national, event. There is much pro and con talk anent the picture itself, which brings about desired publicity. Then, too, Frank Junior says similar efforts are being made with reference to the new film, "'Benjamin Blake," with Tyrone Power, which has a local tiein with Edison Marshall, the author.

Recently the Miller interests swung Seward Fargo into the Modjeska as house manager, and Allen Gessner into the Imperial in a like capacity, a swap in jobs. Jack Johannsen is pilot at the new Miller.

Clay Constructs at Conyers

Augusta has kept pace with the quickened pulse of southern cities. There are seven theatres here, with an eighth to follow. Augusta Amusements, which has a tiein with Lucas and Jenkins, control five; George Wilby and Associates have the swanky new Drive-In, with Steve Manderson as pilot, while the Starr boys have the colored house. Eighth in the Augusta setup is the Westview, with H. B. Ram of Aiken and the Bogo brothers as operators. The Westview was to have opened some months ago, but experienced construction difficulties. The owners say the opening is set for about 60 days hence.

As we clip into Conyers for conversation with Clay—his initials being J. E.—we find that gentleman constructing the town's first real cinema. The new structure, seating 485, directly faces the new postoffice, is being erected of stone, and represents an investment of some $16,000. Mr. Clay and his wife also conduct the show at Milstead, nearby.

We pull into Porterdale, renewing ac-

quaintance with hail-fellow-well-met E. L. Butler . . . Continuing to Covington, we chat with Mrs. M. M. Osman, wife of our friend who joined the Majority some years back . . . We wangle to Warrenton for a chat with Mrs. T. B. Story, well remembered from her former connection in Thomson. (It is reported, connection and initials lacking at the moment, that Salesman Seligman of Atlanta's Filmrow will reopen the old Ritz, in Decatur, a colored house) . . . At Wrens we wing a phone call to Violet Edwards' sister, Louise. Over the instrument which any school kid can tell you was invented by Don Ameche, she tells us she looks just like Violet, which is a break for both, but no break for us, as we didn't have time for a personal visit. However, we did send an extremely personal message to Violet, to the effect that the Royal at Monticello may face a suit unless it falls in with the BOXOFFICE family. (In view of our intended visit to Violet, the suit may be avoided).

These Georgian lady exhibitors—what a trial! . . . There's Mrs. T. H. Holland of Madison for example. Five years ago she was out of town when we called. History repeats. Two weeks in Florida was the message we got over the telephone. Not that we blame her. We'll spend that time and more, maybe, in the Peninsula State, to which the whole Nation seemingly is trekking this winter . . . Maybe our cup of joy would have been complete had we time to include a call upon Mrs. F. L. Liggett at McRae.

And Into Savannah

We sashay into Savannah. We engage Hudson Edwards in conversation. He is, in a manner of speaking, L. and J.'s Man Friday. We converse concerning Variety's big shindig last year in Dallas, and learn that Hudson still is preserving his cowboy hat, autographed by numerous celebrities who attended that terrific Texas conclave . . . Freddy Weis, of the 122-year-old Savannah Theatre, still is going strong. Freddy again denied the rumor he was the original owner here. There has been at least one other setup since the opening back in 1818.

Long since we've entered the chicken dinner belt. Corn pone and turnip greens, pork chops and succulent yams, form the piece des resistance of Georgia folk hereabouts, with chicken and the State dish, grits, ever present. For 30 cents, in small joints along the highway, you get home-cooked food that puts to shame those so-called southern tables de hote for which Broadway gets 90 per cent of a dollar. Folks just live easily and well hereabouts. For instance:

In asking directions to a Georgian Umphville, you get explicit instructions interspersed with numerous yes, suhs. Up north, in contrast, you are known flippantly as Mac; the single variant being Jack.: "It's two miles further, Mac," an annoyed grease monkey replies when asked about a northern Umphville. Down here there is mentioned every intersection along the route; your windshield is wiped, and you are told little Gertrude has been kept home from school on account of the sniffles. Then you are asked if you know the guy's uncle, Silas Blithers, who lives "somewhere in Texas." Opines your informant: "You should know him, being

(Continued on page 124-B)

Two for Gainesville Planned by Sparks

JACKSONVILLE—Following a visit of E. J. Sparks and Frank Rogers to this city, announcement was made that the Sparks interests will erect two new houses in Gainesville. Sparks and Rogers were accompanied here by a full crew of executives, including Fred Kent, Architect R. A. Benjamin, B. B. Garner and others.

Conversation with Garner, general manager of theatre operations, elicits the information that the circuit has just completed two new houses and one drive-in, and in addition has embarked upon a program calling for ten new theatres and four additional drive-ins.

Three New Ones Opened

The circuit has just opened a new theatre at Tallahassee, the state capital, and at Orlando, in addition to the new drive-in at St. Petersburg. The latter operation is declared to be one of the finest of its kind in the country.

Latest compilation shows these theatres either under construction or ready to start soon:

Gainesville: Two new houses.
Fort Lauderdale: One new house.
Fort Lauderdale: A drive-in.
Lake Wales: A new house.
Jacksonville: Three new suburbans, in these neighborhoods: Pearl street, Popular Point and King street.
Fort Myers: A new house.
Ocala: A new house.
Sarasota: A new house.
Daytona Beach: A drive-in.
Tampa: A drive-in.
West Palm Beach: A drive-in.
R. A. Benjamin, Jacksonville architect, has plans for all the houses and drive-ins.

Think Million to Be Spent

Garner did not quote figures, but this reviewer estimates that $750,000 or more is involved in the 16 new operations. Other new houses doubtless are being planned for the near future, what with Florida facing the most prosperous year of its existence. In the final analysis a cool million may not cover contemplated expansions of the circuit.

Nineteen hundred and forty-one dished out to the Peninsula state a three-tined measure of prosperity: An estimated 3,000,000 tourists; soldier and sailor camps galore; a bumper citrus crop.

Making Ready for "Charter Night"

CHARLOTTE—Representatives from many Tents, including John H. Harris, national chief barker, of Pittsburgh, are expected to attend the "Charter Night" gathering of the local Variety Club on March 10, H. H. Everett, local chief barker, reports.

The Tent's clubrooms in the Hotel Charlotte are now being readied for the gathering.

Committees for the affair as announced by Everett, follow: General, Ben Rosewald, chairman; assisted by Johnny Bachman, Jim Prichard and Scott Lett; reception, H. F. Kincey; speaker's table, Everett; invitations, J. H. Dillon; program and publicity, Al Burks; reservations, J. H. Bockman; public address, Howard Marx; dinner, Jay Schrader; seating, Jack Lamont; tickets, Joe Brecheen; transportation, John H. Vickers; entertainment, Roy Smart.

Butler Adapts "Aloma"

HOLLYWOOD — Frank Butler is adapting "Aloma of the South Seas" for Paramount. The film will be treated with Technicolor.

MORE and MORE — DAY by DAY

EXHIBITORS ARE INSTALLING

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ATLANTA — DALLAS — MEMPHIS — NEW ORLEANS — CHARLOTTE
OKLAHOMA CITY

Wage-Hour Measure Up in Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK—Rep. John L. Sullivan, Little Rock, has introduced a bill in the house providing for the payment of at least a weekly pay check of $16 to all Arkansas employes of firms engaged in intrastate business.

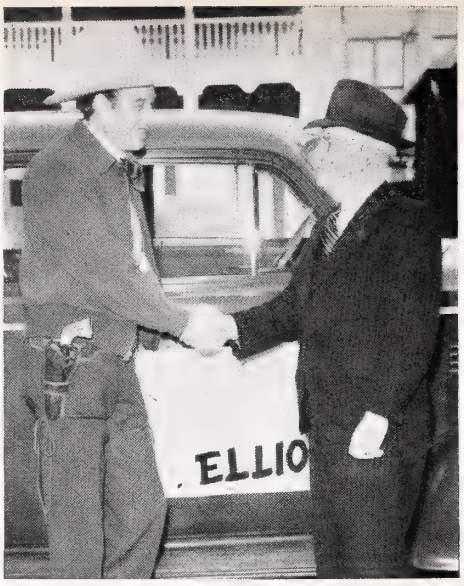
The measure, sponsored by the Arkansas State Federation of Labor, would fix a 40-hour week for intrastate business and, later, a minimum wage schedule of 40 cents per hour. Workers in agriculture, domestic servants in private homes, and operators of switchboards in public telephone exchanges with fewer than 500 stations, would be exempt.

The bill also provides for creation in the state labor department of a wage and hour division.

Rep. Edwin Dunaway, Pulaski county, offered another labor measure which would prohibit courts from granting temporary injunctions in labor disputes without a hearing.

Independent Film Exch. Marks 35th Anniversary

SAN ANTONIO—This year marks the anniversary of one of the oldest film supply houses in the country. It was 35 years ago that the Independent Film Exchange & Supply Co. was established in the Alamo City by the late Gaston Phillippe. Its present manager and owner is R. W. Barron who has been with the trade for over a quarter of a century. In that space of time the exchange has been located on Houston Street, Soledad Street, Third Street near Broadway, and now at 352 E. Commerce St.



Welcome Westerner—

Bill Elliott, Columbia western star, is greeted by Commissioner Perry Callahan of Jackson, Tenn., where Elliott is starting his personal appearance tour at the State Theatre, managed by J. R. MacEachron. The western star had a highway patrol escort from outside the city, was interviewed over WTJS, met city officials and spoke before the Exchange Club. His tour will include Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Open Eighth Unit

ATHENS, TENN.—The new Athens, eighth link in the Manning & Wink circuit which was opened here recently, is being managed by Herbert Hairrell, who is also in charge of the local Strand. James C. Sanders is the projectionist, and Mrs. Clyde Miller the cashier.

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We Are Right in the Middle of Filmrow — When in Dallas, Make Our Office Your Headquarters.

Dallas RKO Exchange Set to Corral Dates

DALLAS—Yip-ee is the word for the exploitation front in place at the RKO exchange commemorating the Ned Depinet Drive starting January 25 and going through to May 10. Exhibitors take their places in chairs in front of the round-up holes and give dates to eager bookers on the other side. This display covers the full length of the booking counter, extending up to the ceiling. The stampeding steers are named for RKO attractions and each is branded ND. A good likeness of Depinet on a cowhorse is at the head of the parade. At the left is Captain Devaney, of the roundup for dates. The novel display is credited to Sol Sachs, branch manager here and to Bud "Daniel Boone" Gray, the company's district publicity representative.

Pep Meeting Launches Drive

A pep meeting of all RKO employes started the drive moving here and attending were Leo Devaney, with RKO in Canada, and Harry Gittleson, of New York who flew in from the west coast to meet with all salesmen and accessory men. Their visit here was simultaneous with the sneak preview at the Majestic here of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith." A cocktail party and luncheon was given for newspaper men.

Dallas anticipates first place now in the Depinet Drive especially on account of Depinet's long years of service here and the fact he claims to be from Dallas.

At the sneak preview showing were representatives from Interstate, R. E. Griffith Theatres, Jefferson Amusement Company, Robb & Rowley, independent bookers, local independent exhibitors and the following out-of-town showmen: L. C. Tidball, M. S. White, Harry Fulgham, L. Richker, J. F. Hightower, L. B. Lewis, Jack Chavey, Earl Penix, all of Ft. Worth; John Stiles, Ennis; John Stewart, Kaufman; R. T. Hooks, Mineola; Will Dorbandt, Athens; H. S. Cole, Bonham; Henry Sparks, Cooper and others.

Critics at the preview and at the dinner were Mary Louise Walker, of the San Antonio *News;* Paul Hoculi, of the Houston *Press;* Mildred Stockard, Houston *Chronicle;* Jack Gordon, Ft. Worth *Press;* Ida Belle Hicks and Katherine Howard, of the Ft. Worth *Star-Telegram;* Eddie Barr of the Dallas *Journal;* Jimmie Lovell of the *Times-Herald* and John Rosenfield of the *News* here.

Collecting Garments for Distribution in Britain

DALLAS—Showmen here are sponsoring a movement to send trucks about the city to gather winter garments for the British. A short time ago $5,000 was raised by local theatremen who put on dances at downtown hotels. Success of that idea brought on the move to collect clothes. Interstate theatres have been running trailers announcing the pickup by truck and asking the public to help Britain and the United States.

See Half Billion in Defense Contracts

DALLAS—Texas industry will have been awarded a total of a half billion dollars in contracts for national defense within the next five or six months, according to the local office of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Already, Texas firms have received $221,000,000 in contract awards and the survey now of necessary plans, plants and equipment points to an additional $260,000,000 in awards.

In its recent survey of suitable manufacturing plants to turn out government defense orders, it was pointed out that in one city alone last week 52 plants were surveyed and approved.

These figures included in the C. of C. report have stepped up the prevailing optimism among showmen for a greater year during 1941.

A. G. Smith Takes Over For NTSCo. in Dallas

DALLAS—A. G. "Smitty" Smith, long in the equipment business, has been named acting manager of National Theatre Supply Co. here succeeding the late J. I. Roberts who was killed in an automobile crash on the Houston highway a few days before. Smith's appointment was made by Oscar S. Oldknow, district manager of the company.

Smith was an employe of Southern Theatre Equipment Co. here during the mid era of silent pictures. He was promoted to road selling and his record earned a series of promotions up to branch manager of National in Kansas City. Over a year ago Smith was transferred here from the New Orleans territory.

War Theatres Keeping Pace With Activity

DALLAS—War department theatres for Texas are keeping pace with the influx of soldiers and the opening of additional training camps. At Brownwood, where a 2,200-seat tent theatre was opened a few weeks ago, it is reported that two additional similar theatres will be erected at Camp Bowie there, one for whites and the other for Negroes.

A large army theatre was opened in El Paso a few days ago, it was said. Additional theatres will be opened in Mineral Wells, Abilene and El Paso, according to the report.

Long Circuit Confirms Purchase of Three

DALLAS—News was confirmed here this week that the J. G. Long circuit with headquarters at Bay City has purchased the Port, Ora and Freeport theatres in Freeport, Tex., from M. N. Busse and the Milentz interests. Long notified exchanges of the transfer effective February 1.

DALLAS

SOL SACHS, RKO branch manager, left late in the week on a plane trip to New York to attend a meeting of company executives there . . . Miss Mary Ellen Davis of the M-G-M exchange, who will wed the middle of February, was honored last Saturday at a shower given for her by friends.

Al Warner, who opened up his new popcorn distributing office here a few days ago, and became a flu victim at the same time, is back on the Row to renew active selling work . . . Col. H. A. Cole, Allied national president, left Monday for Washington with the nature of his mission there remaining unannounced.

Jack Groves, owner of the Queen, neighborhood theatre in Houston, was up for a booking trip which he wound up in very few hours . . . Will Horwitz, who operates the "Homefolks Theatres" in Houston in partnership with Interstate, is on a winter vacation in Florida.

Oskar Korn, owner of the Lisbon Theatre here, is about ready to open his new Lindale Theatre in northeast Houston, according to information received on Filmrow. The house will seat around 600 . . . C. H. Cox, Crystal and Strand at Gilmer, was here Tuesday, having cut his weekly trips recently to about one a month. He said he was just up from a very definite case of the flu.

J. W. Curley and his son, Steve, of Bridgeport, were here completing February bookings. Steve, an accountant, has shifted over to Mineral Wells on one of the army construction jobs, but continued to collaborate on bookings in the National at Bridgeport . . . Julius Gordon, chairman of the board of Jefferson Amusement Company and Clifford Porter, circuit executive, were in over the weekend as visitors to the company's booking offices on the Row here in charge of S. L. Oakley.

Al Lever, Interstate's city manager at Houston, is planning to organize a Variety Club of Texas branch there provided, of course, the idea meets approval of the national organization.

Alexander Film Co. salesmen are back in their respective territories after a sales meeting here conducted by J. Don Alexander, president, and Ken Rice, assistant sales manager. Attending were W. L. Talley, C. E. Hoxworth, J. J. DeVine, Ruth Likens, W. G. Kirkscoy, Joe B. Froehling, C. L. Clark, G. C. Berkley, Lou Schrader, L. B. Walker, F. D. Hargis and O. F. Luglan.

Under the direction of Mrs. Paul Short, the wives of men in show business here are making garments for the British . . . Dr. W. H. Frye has sold the Star at Forney to Mrs. Laura Travis. He accompanied the new owner to the Row this week, assisting her in making advance bookings and making a number of introductions at the regular trading places. Mrs. Travis immediately subscribed to BOXOFFICE *for the coming year. Dr. Frye has not announced future plans.*

C. H. Jones, here Wednesday to buy and book a few pictures, said his new theatre in Weatherford would be ready to open within the next eight or ten days . . . Hugh Marsh, R&R partner in Muskogee, and Sam Stokes, city manager in McAlester, were here Wednesday.

Mitchell Lewis, operator of three colored theatres in Houston, is planning a new one there . . . Bob Euler has returned here as booker for the R. N. Smith Theatres and Tri-State Theatres, of which B. R. McLendon is general manager.

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CHARLOTTE

ALLAN JONES appears in Charlotte at the Armory-Auditorium in concert on February 12 . . . Conrad Krebs, RKO publicist in Hollywood, was in Charlotte visiting his various friends of the press. He also spent considerable time at the local RKO office visiting Manager Joe Brecheen . . . H. F. Kincey has returned from Chicago where he attended the dinner for Barney Balaban . . . Mrs. Harry K. Lucas is in Presbyterian Hospital with a severe attack of flu. Mr. Lucas is confined at the same hospital recuperating from a tonsillotomy.

Because she developed a sore throat, the concert by Jeanette MacDonald scheduled in Asheville for Tuesday night had to be postponed until March 4 . . . Ray Corrigan, Monogram's cowboy star in the "Range Busters" series, is being booked throughout the territory by the William Morris Agency. He recently made appearances in Kannapolis and Burlington . . . Willie Day, who will be remembered as having been connected with the Hollywood and Lafayette theatres in Winston-Salem, N. C., is now in charge of the Blumenthal interests in Savannah, Ga. . . . Considerable interest is being manifested locally in the announcement that the local Tryon will open a first run engagement with 20th Century-Fox's "Night Train." This engagement will start on Saturday, February 15, for an extended run. Manager Matthews is now building an elaborate lobby and outside display for the engagement.

Al Burks, exploiteer for Metro, has returned from Winston-Salem, N. C., where he screened "Land of Liberty" at the State for the State American Legion Post commanders, the 40&8 state commander, Dave Hall of Belmont, N. C., and National Commander M. L. Warren of Toledo, Ohio . . . Health authorities have permitted W. H. Smith's Pal in Fairfax, S. C., to reopen. The theatre had been closed on account of a flu epidemic . . . Bryant Theatre Supply Co. is reseating Charlie Arrington's Cameo in Rocky Mt., N. C.; also the Watts in Williamston, N. C., which is owned by J. W. Watts. Bryant will soon reseat the Graham, Graham, N. C., and the new theatre in Elkin, N. C., which is being erected by Louis Mitchell, who also operates the Lyric in Elkin. Mitchell expects to open his new theatre about March 15.

Seen on the Row during the week: Roy Rosser, Temple and Sanlee theatres, Sanford, N. C.; also Gem and Clinton theatres, Clinton, N. C.; Boyd Horton, State, Concord, N. C.; State, Inman, S. C., and Rialto, Greer, S. C.; R. Glenn Davis, Richard, Ahoskie, N. C., and Louisburg, Louisburg, N. C.; T. L. Lassiter, Star, Star, N. C.; B. G. Reeves, Parkway, West Jefferson, N. C., and Spartan, Sparta, N. C.; George D. Carpenter of the Colonial Theatres, Inc., Valdese, N. C.; J. B. Harvey, Carolina, Clover, S. C.; P. C. Osteen jr., Carolina, Anderson, S. C.; R. A. Goodman, Oakboro, Oakboro, N. C.; H. R. Berry, Center and Temple, Hartsville, S. C.; Lyle M. Wilson, Peoples and Royal theatres, Roanoke Rapids, N. C.; C. H. Arrington, Cameo, Rocky Mt., N. C., and Dick Eason, Parr, Lancaster, S. C.

Rhea W. Ferguson, formerly of the local State Theatre and National Theatre Supply Co., has accepted a position with the advertising department of the American Tobacco Co. He will be located in Memphis . . . Mrs. Bill Lake, the former Ruby Henly of Paramount, was a visitor accompanied by her four-month-old son, Bill jr. Mrs. Lake plans to visit her parents who reside in Mt. Gilead, N. C., before returning to Memphis where her husband is connected with the Monogram office . . . Practically every salesman in for the weekend reported difficulty encountered because of the fog that has spread over the Carolinas for the past week. Many of the boys experienced difficulty in traveling in the daylight and said it was utterly impossible to travel at night.

Carl Bamford, head of Publix-Bamford Theatres in Asheville, N. C., and Canton, N. C., is in Miami for a two-month vacation . . . Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Thompson have closed the Alco in Graham, N. C., for remodeling. After completion, they will close their Graham in Graham for a complete renovation. Thompson, a hunting enthusiast, has had such bad luck lately that he's become disgusted and sold his dogs . . . Dean House, veteran Warner salesman, has returned from a three-week sojourn in the extreme eastern part of North Carolina and reports that exhibitors in that vicinity are anticipating greatly increased business due to defense activities.

Two of Carl Bamford's managers, Frank LaBar jr. of the Imperial in Asheville, N. C., and A. D. Lanning of Canton, N. C., won trips to Chicago for the Barney Balaban dinner . . . Each week we hear of another exhibitor's hobby. Fast-moving Lyle M. Wilson of Roanoke Rapids, N. C., has a penchant for Dobermans. He recently acquired Jessy v. Huffmanheim (16 months). She will be entered in the Baltimore Dog Show, January 31 to February 1. Jessy has already won 18 ribbons and numerous trophies.

D. F. Killmer, South Carolina salesman for National Theatre Supply, has reported for a year's military service at Camp Stewart, Hinesville, Ga. He is a first lieutenant in the Officers Reserve for the coast artillery.

Carolinas Organize To Aid Government

CHARLOTTE—Exhibitors in the two Carolinas are organizing themselves as a means of rendering a collective service to the government in connection with the defense program or any other future emergency.

The committee in charge includes: C. H. Arrington, Rocky Mt., N. C.; C. R. Bamford, Asheville, N. C.; Roy Rowe, Burgaw, N. C.; H. R. Berry, Hartsville, S. C.; Lyle M. Wilson, Roanoke Rapids, N. C.; George W. Parr, Lancaster, S. C.; and H. H. Everett and H. F. Kincey, Charlotte.

In a recent bulletin addressed to each operator in the two states, the committee stated in part, "It is contemplated that the theatres will be able to render service to the government by playing, in cases of emergency, terse trailer-like messages of such copy as is desirable to the government, and by showing some short subjects—that is, subjects up to three or four hundred feet in length—disseminating such information as the government thinks will be of public service.

"It is believed that this close cooperation with the government will enable its officials better to understand the limitations and problems of the theatres and therefore to ask things of the theatres with a better understanding of that which would be an imposition. It is the intention that such films as are requested to be run will first have been passed by a committee of theatre owners and, of course, that they will be non-political.

"It is proposed that the motion picture theatres cooperate in every reasonable manner with all other branches of the industry in this government cooperation, to the end that the service rendered will reflect credit upon the industry. It is the belief that such an organization will have certain value in protecting the theatres against commercial exploitation and from voluntary pressure groups."

The committee announces that to date over 50 per cent of the exhibitors canvassed for support have come through.

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During these cold winter months, odors are more noticeable and likely to be present in your theatre. Avoid letting this lower your profits—install a simple KOZONO outfit and you will be assured ALL odors will be ELIMINATED.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

OKLA. CITY

T B. NOBLE, managing director of the State, was in town over the week on another of his business trips . . . Sam Caporal expects to have his new Bison ready for the public within the next few weeks. He already has the Yale and Mayflower going nicely. The Bison is tapping virgin territory and is housed in a building which also has eight small store spaces. Caporal owns the building.

Dee Fuller, Circle manager, has two pairs of classy new shoes which he will gladly show anyone on request . . . After a slight delay, the good old Folly was opened to the public once again. Standard remodeled the house about a year ago. It is showing "oomteenth" run films. The Folly is best remembered as the home of many of the old popular serials.

This town is getting so many new theatres that every time a contractor moves in to start work on a new job word spreads around the neighborhood that a new theatre is being constructed on the spot . . . Incidentally, Paul Townsend has the Folly under his wing; while Paul is officially manager of the Liberty he also keeps an eye on the Warner too so now Paul has three houses to keep watch over. Too, Paul's the oldest manager in point of service with Standard's present staff.

Paul Ketchum, his wife and baby were recent visitors to our community. Paul will be remembered as a Standard manager and later with the Oklahoma Theatre Supply here. He's still in the business in the east somewhere.

Bob Gallman, former Pix manager, is busy as a bee these days selling burial lots and doing very nicely, too . . . And Hank Bonelli, who formerly handled theatre advertising for KOCY, is writing insurance for the Penn Mutual now.

We understand that Standard will reopen the Victoria very soon and that same outfit is making plans for building another suburban house here, but keeping the when and where part of it a deep dark secret.

Josephine Parks of the local Metro exchange added a year by the calendar on Monday. Congratulations!

Gibson Confers With Aides On Variety Golf Meet

DALLAS—B. C. "Hoot" Gibson, United Artists manager and chairman of Variety Club's annual spring golf tournament and Calcutta, has been holding meetings with his committee spurring activity for the big event which takes place here on April 5, 6 and 7.

The committee is composed of E. B. Coleman, Ted deBor, J. H. Elder, Walter Penn, Isadore Segal, Roy Thrash, Jim Webb, Elmer Zrenner, C. H. "Buck" Weaver, Joe Estes and Hugh Owen. Burt King and Duke Evans are co-chairmen of both the spring and fall annual tournaments.

"Terror" for Warshawsky

HOLLYWOOD — "Terror of the South Seas," Joseph G. Sanford production for Universal, is being adapted by Sam Warshawsky.

Arkansas Sales Tax Bill Is Submitted

Little Rock—A sales tax bill is being prepared for submission to the general assembly. The two per cent retail sales tax now in effect would continue, but changes in the system of collection would be made in an effort to add several million dollars to the state's revenue annually. Each merchant would receive three per cent of the tax collected, to pay him for the expense of collection.

O. C. Variety Club Social Welfare Building Rises

OKLAHOMA CITY—Three city social welfare agencies will move into new quarters by May 1, unless weather delays construction of the Variety Club's Health Center, being erected at Hudson Avenue and Pottawatomie Street.

Present schedules call for the completion of the building April 15, says L. C. Griffith, president of the club. The club is investing $45,000 in this home for Southtown health services.

The Oklahoma County Tuberculosis and Health Association, the dental clinic of the Salvation Army and the Maternal Health center will move into the new building. The Tuberculosis Association and the dental clinic are Community Fund agencies.

Schott Has Franchise On Standard Pictures

DALLAS—R. M. Schott, of O. K. Pictures Co., said he has recently completed negotiations for a new 1940-41 franchise on Standard Pictures which will be released through his company throughout the year as they are completed.

Record Crowds for "GWTW"

HOUSTON—On opening day, January 24, "Gone With the Wind" broke its own spectacular record and played to 900 persons more than in 1940. Sunday there was a double line for two hours before the box-office opened. Last time "Gone With the Wind" was seen by more than 125,000 patrons.

Equips Rex With RCA

OILTON, OKLA.—W. H. Martin is equipping his Rex here with RCA sound. Martin operates a number of other Oklahoma situations.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

ARKANSAS

BILL ELLIOTT, western star who is making a personal appearance tour in this territory, was the guest and principal speaker at a weekly meeting of the Lions Club in Jonesboro . . . Tommy Collins, who formerly managed the State at Stamps and later the Crystal at Lewisville, was married recently to Miss Evelyn Short of Lewisville. He is now managing the Ritz at Linden, Tex.

Rogers is to have a new theatre some time in April, according to an announcement by John I. Cooper, owner and operator, and Walter Talbott, manager of the Victory Theatre. The new house will be located in the Edwards Building, and will seat 300. Remodeling of the building will begin at once.

Frank Kennedy, former assistant manager of the Melba at Batesville, and Jack Bomar, former assistant manager of the Rialto at Searcy, now with the National Guard stationed in Little Rock, spent the weekend visiting friends at Batesville.

Son to S. L. Julian

GRAND SALINE, TEX.—S. L. Julian of the Grand Theatre here became the father of a 10-pound boy January 10.

You Can Put Off Your Creditors;
You Can Wear Last Year's Suit—
But you CAN'T PUT MONEY IN THE BANK Without PROFITS
Help Yourself to Profits by Using
SUPERB SOUTH AMERICAN CORN
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NEW ORLEANS

IN ADDITION to Bank Night, the United Chain has instituted a Book Night in which a 20 volume Encyclopedia set is given away one volume at a time for 25 cents in addition to one regular admission, ranging from 21 to 25 cents.

Miss Cecelia Kern, assistant manager of the Affiliated Producers Co., who has been suffering from a cold, is now back at her desk . . . Owing to increased business due to the number of new houses in the rural districts, both Mike Heck and the Flash Delivery will install new trucks to handle their routes.

Jeanette MacDonald will give a concert in New Orleans, February 16 . . . The Folly Theatre on the West Side is preparing for a midnight show . . . The Atlantic Films (Goodrow and Sliman) are now representatives in this area for Producers Releasing Corp.

Visitors to the Row: Louisiana—J. Gaude, Magic, Port Allen; Eugene Drake, Ponchatoula; Mrs. A. G. Barry, Edgard, Edgard; L. J. Langlois, Alamo, New Roads; A. O. Ott, Kentwood; Morris Meltz, Arcade, Ferriday; Claude Darce, Opera House, Morgan City; Vincent Currier, Amite; Manager Gordon, Westwego; G. M. Butterfield, Lafayette; Sidney Haup, Donaldsonville. Mississippi—Frank Bishop, Varsity, Ellisville; C. M. Bailey, Lumberton; Stanley Taylor, Crosby; Ed Delaney, Magnolia; F. R. Lawrence, Laurel; W. L. Mosely, Picayune; Mrs. H. M. Everett, McGee; Bill Baker, Macon; W. A. Tucker, Wisner; E. W. Illings, Ocean Springs.

THAT HUNTING CLUB:

As time goes by, the hunters, tiring of lugging heavy guns are beginning to talk of fishing when they can tell of the big ones that got away after swallowing hook, sinker, line and part of the pole—and besides it will be warmer. The Atlantic Films are fixing up their roof to be used as a reading, lounging and swimming pool for the use of the members. An aquarium will be located in the southeast corner where live specimens can be stored and speared when the owners are ready for a fish supper.

The only objector was Bob Kelly (Columbia) who claimed the "fish pond" was too small to hold his catch for a day.

Max H. Braelton (booker for Monogram) voiced his approval of the layout but suggested that leather cushions be placed on all the chairs with footstools to match with a smoking set on each side of a chair to save effort. He also suggested that Gov. Jones be asked to install a fish hatchery in the basement of the exchange that might be used by the members as a swimming pool. The treasurer threw cold water on the idea by asking who would exercise the fish. W. A. Hodges of the National Theatre Supply Co. suggested that instead of fish in the tanks they substitute mud turtles as they could make their own way up and down the street. However the entire matter was held in abeyance till the arrival of Lou Langlois of New Roads, who is said to be an authority on the subject.

Honorary members elected were: Charles Phillips, Palace, Jonesville, La.; Rene Brunet, Imperial, New Orleans; E. M. Frankel, Century, Mobile; Abe Berenson, Gretna. Morris Boos, cashier at Columbia, was elected vice-president. The treasurer still is hanging onto his job and defies anyone to oust him; likewise the janitor. The meeting was held in the banquet room of the Filmrow restaurant. Guest of the evening was Joy Houck of the Joy Shows who was warmly received.

May Act Shortly on Interstate Motion

Dallas—Judge W. H. Atwell is expected to act within a few days on a motion by Interstate attorneys to have the jury verdict in the Jorgenson damage case set aside in favor of an instructed verdict for the circuit. Jorgenson was awarded $4,500 in his suit against Interstate on availability and restrictions to 25 cent prices. He operates the local East Grand.

Indecent Film Charge Will Be Appealed

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—W. H. Merritt, manager of the Galax Theatre, has announced his intention to appeal to the circuit court the verdict of Police Judge Oliver Hall finding him guilty of showing an indecent film and of displaying vulgar billboards in advertising the film. Attendant upon the verdict was a fine of $250 and 150-day suspended jail sentence.

Judge Hall, in announcing his decision, said he had viewed the film in question, the French-language "French Girls' Club," and that the film has a "strongly suggestive Lesbian love theme" and that "it does not try to save its face by ending with a moral lesson."

When testimony was taken in the case two weeks ago, Sergeant C. N. Kicker, the police censor, testified he found nothing morally wrong with the film.

It was the showing of this film which resulted in the preferring of charges against four city officials for contempt of court for failure to obey an injunction to prevent their seizure of the film. They were tried and sentenced to 48 hours in jail. Commissioner of Public Safety E. L. Connor served his term, but the other three, including the city attorney, chief of police and assistant chief of police appealed to the supreme court, which stayed the sentence.

Brother Joins Chas. Rook In Montgomery Operation

MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Charles T. Rook, manager of the Charles Theatre, announces the association with him as associate manager, his brother, Albert E. Rook.

For the past 20 years, Albert E. Rook has been in the distribution end of the motion picture business and was with Republic Pictures for the last five.

Borrow John Hubbard

HOLLYWOOD—Columbia has borrowed John Hubbard from Hal Roach for a lead in "A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street."

ATLANTA

STIRLING HAYDEN and Carolyn Lee, who share star honors with Fred MacMurray and Madeleine Carroll in "Virginia," will make a personal appearance on the Fox stage, February 5, in connection with the opening of the Technicolor film . . . The DeSoto, a Lam house in Rome, Ga., has been completely remodeled . . . Oscar Howell, Capitol City Supply Co., is in Birmingham, installing new equipment in Waters' theatres . . . E. E. Whitaker, H. P. "Dusty" Rhodes and Willis J. Davis left this weekend for north Georgia where they will visit the Lucas & Jenkins Theatres in Athens and Elberton, Ga.

Visitors: Mack Jackson, Strand, Alexander City, Ala.; Hugh Manning, Gem, Etowah, Tenn.; Nat Williams, Rose, Thomasville, Ga.; L. J. Duncan, West Point, Ga.; O. C. Lam and Howard Schuessler, Lam Amusement Co., Rome, Ga.; Fred Jabaley, Princess, LaGrange, Ga.; Mrs. M. M. Osman, Strand, Covington, Ga.; Clyde Sisson, Roxy, Tallassee, Ala.; J. H. Thompson, Martin & Thompson Theatres, Hawkinsville, Ga.; Hugh and E. D. Martin, Martin Theatres, Columbus, Ga.; Rufus Davis, Houston, Dothan, Ala., and Oscar Oldknow of Los Angeles . . . Riley Davis, Theatrical Printing Co., is calling on exhibitors in Alabama and Tennessee.

Gus King, Capitol City Supply Co., has left for the New Orleans, Mississippi and Memphis territories . . . Max Braselton, formerly with Monogram Southern Exchanges in New Orleans, was a visitor . . . Fred Weis has taken over Lucas & Jenkins' Arcadia at Savannah, Ga. Weis also operates the Savannah there and the Bibb, Macon . . . Ike Katz, Producers Releasing Corp., is working Tennessee.

Charles Rook of the Charles Theatre, Montgomery, Ala., paid the Row a visit for the first time since he opened his theatre several months ago . . . Plans are progressing for the Atlanta Warner Club's Valentine dance, Friday night, February 14, at the Henry Grady Hotel . . . Billy Beard, the minstrel star from Atlanta, is making quite a hit in this territory with his unusual act, it is reported.

Charlie Touchon, United Artists traveling auditor, is in town for a few weeks . . . Marion Watkins, cashier at United Artists for several years, was married to Hal H. Macon of the Georgia and State theatres, Statesboro, Ga., at her home in Atlanta, Saturday, February 1. Mrs. Mamie Smarr, formerly clerk, has been promoted to cashier . . . M. E. Wyman, salesman for Monogram Southern Exchanges, became a flu victim last week when he was taken ill at his hotel in Birmingham. "Hap" Barnes and Lynn Dunn, both salesmen for United Artists, were also taken sick with this malady while out in their respective territories.

Jeff Davis, United Artists branch manager, is on a business trip to Miami . . . Riley Davis, Theatrical Printing Co., and family spent the weekend in Rome, Ga., as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Lam and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Schuessler . . . Dave Prince and Hubert Lyons of RKO are on a business trip in Miami.

"Little 3" Seek Out From Crescent Suit

NASHVILLE—A formal motion has been filed here by Columbia, Universal and United Artists, "Little Three" distributors not party to the federal consent decree, for a summary judgment in their favor in the government's suit against them, the Crescent Amusement Co. and affiliates.

The motion for such dismissal has been taken under advisement by Federal Judge Elmer D. Davies.

Several weeks ago the suit was dismissed as it involved the five signatories to the decree, Paramount, Metro, 20th-Fox, Warner and RKO Radio.

Fast Pace by "Virginia" In Southern Test Runs

NEW YORK—Paramount's "Virginia," co-starring Madeleine Carroll and Fred MacMurray, in its first five pre-release engagements in the south, has rated outstand receipts, Neil F. Agnew, vice-president in charge of distribution, announces.

In its first three days at the Paramount in Charlottesville, the Technicolor film took in more money than "North West Mounted Police" did in seven days. At the Paramount, Newport News, "Virginia," in its first three days, was running day for day 20 per cent ahead of "NWMP." In Lynchburg at the Paramount, business the first three days was within 15 per cent of the entire seven and a half days receipts accorded "NWMP" which included New Year's Day and Eve run. At the Colonial in Richmond, "Virginia," based on weekly estimates, will run ahead of "NWMP" which played at advanced admission prices, and will beat "Love Thy Neighbor," which had a New Year's Day run, by 15 per cent. In Norfolk at the Norva, "Virginia," judging on a three-day performance, will beat "Love Thy Neighbor," which had a New Year's Eve run by 10 per cent and will be within 10 per cent of the receipts of "NWMP" which played at advanced admission prices and had a Thanksgiving Day run.

"Virginia" will be released nationally on February 21.

A Boycott Follows Shift of Manager

Milledgeville, Ga.—Students of Georgia Military College and Georgia State College for Women are boycotting the Campus in protest to the transfer of Mrs. F. D. Adams, manager, and spokesmen for the students insist they will refrain from patronizing the Martin circuit house until Mrs. Adams is returned to the post.

M. H. Kress, operations manager for Martin, said Mrs. Adams was transferred under an established policy of revolving managers around the circuit. Mrs. Adams succeeded her husband as manager of the Campus on his death two years ago.

M I A M I

ATTENTION, Southbound theatrefolk. Save yourself a lot of wandering around Miami and Miami Beach looking for your particular manager friends by checking this list of recent shifts. Rollin K. Stonebrook and Howard Pettengill lead off with Rollin K. coming back from the Beach to the Paramount, following the discontinuance of stage shows at the former, and Howard going over to the Beach from the circuit's name house on Flagler Street. Both the Beach and the Paramount are now having first runs of the Paramount Enterprises, Inc., features on identical dates.

Coming in from Beaumont, Tex., where he was associated with Paramount, Erwin Waite is new manager at the Sheridan. He is remembered in this area as the manager who opened the Community on Miami Beach, the first theatre west of Biscayne Bay.

Another new face in the local managerial lineup is that of Bert Jackson, formerly with Fox in Cleveland and the Schine circuit. He's now managing the new Boulevard while Charlie Whitaker shows up at the Dade and Ralph McEntyre rates a promotion from the assistant's post at the Gables to that of manager at the Colony.

Among guests from this area flying to Chicago to attend the Barney Balaban testimonial banquet last week were Paramount's city manager, George Hoover, and Stonebrook, winner of the local Barney Balaban drive for demonstrating the greatest showmanship during the drive period. Coming on from Chicago where he also attended the testimonial banquet is James Harrison, from the Wilby-Kincey office in Atlanta. He is joining his wife who is spending the winter on Normandie Isle.

Leon Netter, vice-president in charge of operations for Paramount, returned to Miami last week. Down from Hartford, Conn., are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Needles (Warner Bros.) . . . Down from Atlanta to work on exploitation for "Virginia," to show February 8-9 at the Paramount and the Beach, is James F. Thames. Interest in this showing will be heightened by the personal appearances of Paramount's baby star, Carolyn Lee, who learned to walk right here in Miami under the admiring eyes of this BOXOFFICE representative; and Stirling Hayden, young salt water adventurer whose previous visits to Miami have been behind the wheels of several famous sea going schooners.

Out at the Flagler a two weeks' policy of musical stock is being tried out under the direction of Ches Davis . . . Packing in the youngsters at the opening of the new Flash Gordon serial at the Coral wasn't any hard job when word got around that Buster Crabbe, here to head the current water show at MacFadden-Deauville's pool, was to make a personal appearance.

Queues the like of which Miami and Miami Beach have not seen since last spring when "Gone With the Wind" was seen by more than 200,000 cash customers are forming again for blocks in the vicinity of the Colony on the Beach and the Roxy in Miami. At the request of Flagler Street merchants who complained that their noon shopping was being curtailed by the waiting line, the Roxy's first performance has been advanced from 12 to 11:30 a. m.

The Tom Mannings of the Coral can take it as a good omen that their son and heir's birth was almost day and date with the initial Flash Gordon showing . . . In the organization directing the current community chest enrollment, circuit heads are majors and all house managers are named key men.

Two celebrations, marking completion of a decade of employment with Wometco Theatres, have been celebrated recently at the main office. Comptroller Larry Johnston played host to the first of these parties while Jack Fink, manager of the Capitol during the entire period, and previously associated with Sidney Meyer when the latter was with Fox in Chicago at the old Terminal, hosted the second.

Sam Moscow, Columbia Pictures Southeastern division sales manager, is here recuperating from a long illness. He was among guests at the "So Ends Our Night" premiere . . . Louis Pollock, eastern advertising director and publicity director for Universal, and Milton Crandall are already in the vicinity and deep in the business of exploitation details for the "Back Street" premiere at the Lincoln February 4, the most expensive premiere on local books since it is costing Universal $30,000 to provide transportation and maintenance at the Miami Biltmore for a week for 150 newspaper men who will be the company's guests for the premiere and a week's vacation. Sonny Shepherd and Pollock are all ready with the answer to the assured overflow from the Lincoln: Supplementary performances at the Surf and Cameo, nearest beach houses to the Lincoln.

Managers aren't the only local theatrical personages to indulge in the good old football custom of shifting. Dramatic critics have been doing "more of the same" with Eddie Cohen, long time critic at the Miami *Daily News,* joining the staff of the Miami Beach *Daily Tropics;* with Harold Pearl, former assistant in the amusement department of the New York *Herald-American,* taking over Eddie's old desk; and Waldo Perez, former *Herald* and *Tribune* critic, back in Miami after three years in the cinema capital.

Marking the conclusion of the organization's fiscal year, 200 Wometco employes of a year or more have received extra week's salary . . . This is the month when both Paramount and Wometco have their annual credit union meetings with annual elections of officers and declarations of annual dividends.

Newest brother duo in Wometco ranks is created as Dudley Clark goes to the Lyric to be assistant to Karl Keyser. Burton Clark, Rosetta manager, is the brother. Another new assistant manager is Lloyd Chambers, promoted to that post at the Tower under Ray Toemmes, after filling service posts at the Mayfair and Plaza.

MEMPHIS

MEMPHIS Filmrow was very much in the spotlight this past Friday night when ten people appeared on the "It's A Hit" radio program over WMC at 6:30. Two teams of five members each, the Filmrow Bookers and the Film Distributors matched wits on questions and answers for a 30-minute program, pitched them by Bill Fielding, master of ceremonies. The bookers' team had as its captain, Mark Sheridan of 20th-Fox, and its players included Ed Williamson, Vitagraph; Leonard Andrews and Frances McIntyre, Universal, and Frank Heard of Metro. The distributors were captained by Walter Parham of the Royal, Memphis, and his players were Bill Lewis, Monogram; Louise Ryan, Maurice Gelders and W. G. Milwain of NTS. The bookers won three to one.

A. D. Fielder of the Rex at Lilbourne, Mo., has installed new projection equipment . . . H. C. Langford of the Folly at Marks, Miss., is out again after being confined to his home for quite some time with the flu.

A Filmrow visitor was J. Foster Bailey of the New at Coffeeville, Miss., who was busy for a couple of days advancing his bookings . . . M. A. Lightman of Malco Theatres, Inc., is off to Chicago for a combination business and pleasure trip.

W. F. Sonneman of Fayetteville was on the Row re-arranging his bookings due to the additional theatre he recently opened in the town . . . W. A. Rush of the Houston at Houston, Miss., whose mother has been seriously ill in the Baptist Hospital in Memphis for many weeks, advised on his visit this past week, there was no apparent change in her condition.

R. J. Mahan is now managing the Tutrovansum Theatre in Tutwiler, Miss., while Mrs. E. W. Gibson still retains the ownership of same . . . A. L. Coggins of the Baldwyn at Baldwyn, Miss., is recuperating at his home after spending several days in the Gartly-Ramsey Hospital in Memphis.

Exhibitors on the Row: W. F. Ruffin, Ruffin Amusement Co., Covington, Tenn.; Earl Vandiver, Vandiver, Kennett, Mo.; Nathan Flexer, Waverly, Waverly, Tenn.; G. H. Goff, Rustic, Parsons, Tenn.; Gordon Lee Hutchins, Corning, Corning, Ark.; W. O. Taylor, Uptown, Dresden, Tenn.; H. G. Brewer, Savoy, Clarksdale, Miss.; J. R. Stewart, Shelby, Shelby, Miss.; Roy Dillard, Wardell, Mo.; Norman Fair, Fair, Somerville, Tenn.; Jack Watson, Palace, Tunica, Miss.; Miss Louise Mask, Luez, Bolivar, Tenn.

G. W. Haynes of Strand Enterprises, Inc., who has been ill, was back at his office for a short time this past week for the first time in many, many months, looking fine . . . Grady Cook, who owns the Joy at Pontotoc, Miss., and also the newspaper in the town, has just purchased the paper in Ackerman, Miss. . . . Lew Andrews, office manager for Malco Theatres, is back at his desk after a week's absence due to an attack of the flu.

R. L. Smallwood, the third, arrived Sunday, January 19, he being the son of Bob and Catherine Smallwood of the New Albany Amusement Co. . . . Lyle Richmond of the Missouri at Senath, Mo., was seen "Smiling" while on the Row this past week . . . Gordon Lee Hutchins has installed new projection equipment in his State at Corning, Ark.

Virginia Verrill and her husband, James Breyley, executive with the Music Corporation of America, were recent Memphis visitors . . . W. Clyde Smith, Malco's city manager in Hot Springs, advised that Bill Elliott, Columbia's cowboy star, who was making a personal appearance at the Central Theatre, took time off and visited the Crippled Children's Hospital.

C. N. Eudy of the Ackerman at Ackerman, Miss., is back on the job after a siege with flu . . . Jess Norman, who has owned the Best in England, Ark., for the past 20 years, and last year built the Star, has been forced to give up the active management of these houses due to ill health. J. A. Poole, who was formerly connected with the theatres in Prescott, Ark., for the past 12 years, will do the booking and buying in the future.

Elsie Wagner of Film Transit, Inc., is very happy over the fact that she has been given the Merit Safety Award by the Safety Council in Washington, for the safest operation during 1940 in competition with approximately 6,000 firms . . . Bonnie McCarley, head shipper at Fox, is to be called to the colors early in February. Tommy Smith, formerly with Vitagraph, is now assistant shipper at Fox.

O. F. Craig, whose theatre in New Ark, Ark., was destroyed by fire recently, has been confined to his home with the flu. He advises as soon as he is able, work will start on the rebuilding of this house.

A. F. Decker of the American Desk Mfg. Co. was called to Dallas due to the illness of his family and shortly after his arrival there was stricken with the flu, and has not been able to return to his office. Mr. Gregg, of the home office in Temple, Tex., is now at the Memphis office carrying on in his absence.

Bob Conway, NSS, advised the early part of February two more of his boys will be serving Uncle Sam. Claude Bartley and Robert Rimer are scheduled to leave for Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. . . . Curby Smith, local manager of the Memphian, left Friday for Fort Riley, Kas., for a year's stay.

Helps Along Dimes Drive

KINGSPORT, TENN. — Jimmy Pepper, manager of Kingsul Theatres, helped the March-of-Dimes campaign along locally by giving a free ticket to each school student filling a card with dimes.

Marching Through Georgia

(Continued from page 119)

from Texas; for he spent six months in Gladewater."

We swing into Swainsboro for a confab with Bill Karrh. He's out of town, so we banter a bit with C. M. Bridges, general manager of the Dixie circuit. Previously, we called upon Woodrow Wilson, house manager of the Dixie at Wrightsville. Always under the impression Woodrow Wilson had something to do with the presidency, we realize that of late we simply haven't been keeping up . . . We stumble into Statesboro, and find our old friend, Hal Macon, getting a new marquee and a bride almost simultaneously. The marquee already is installed and Hal possibly will be married by the time this gets into print. The young lady is Marion Watkins of UA exchange in Atlanta. There'll be a honeymoon in the Crescent City . . . As we kick into Kingsland, we find Station Agent J. N. Wells with a tri-tined circuit of theatres—that town, St. Mary's and Woodbine, possibly the one that twineth. He runs a bally car between the three towns and reports business somewhat on the upgrade, especially in St. Mary's.

Savannah is Mobile and Galveston rolled into one, with a touch of Charleston. That combination augurs well for local cuisine. Which is to say that the true trencherman can do justice to Savannahian fleshpots. Flowers are blooming in almost semi-tropical lavishness. While up north the thermometer is plummeting, folks hereabouts are running around in next to nothing, particularly the dear ladies. There's so much spring in the air, our thoughts turn to things automotive, so we amble over to the Americar agency, run by Jack and Harry Ramsey with another partner. The first two gentlemen operate the Springfield Theatre in the Georgia town of that name . . . We slip out to the Star, an Ellis Blumenthal operation in the colored section, and diligently digress with Manager W. C. Daye.

"Go immediately to Florida," is the gist of an urgent dispatch from Kansas City. Since it comes from the countingroom, scene of so many Auburn headaches, it must be heeded.

A genuinely tough assignment, to be sure, but like a good soldier, we are hastening to Miami and its 70-degree salubriousness. The order comes as the west shivers in sub-zero blasts. As we write this, a glance from our hotel window shows a coatless populace hurrying hither and yon. A sunkissed cutie showing sufficient midriff to write thereon the Declaration of Independence with plenty left over, trips down the sidewalk. Incidentally, we just remembered an engagement with L. D. Joel at the Casino, so we'll have to be hurrying down the street, ending this spasm . . . (These latter paragraphs are being written in Jacksonville, incidentally).

Pretty soon we expect to snap a picture of the most southernmost theatre in the United States. That Key Westian honor belongs either to the estimable Senor J. Bezanilla or his honored competitor, the Senor Juan Carbonell.

HOUSTON

COMMUNITY outgrows seating capacity of theatre. The University Theatre, built some five years ago to fit the population of the community with some 300 seats, is to be remodeled into a class "A" neighborhood theatre with some 850 seats, a parking lot and the many other conveniences that go with an up-to-date theatre.

A birthday surprise party was an event of interest among theatre folks the past week here when a number of trade friends completely surprised Mrs. A. J. Bohne with a dinner party after theatre hours last Wednesday. Dancing and food were the main events. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Merchant, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Cotton Mullinix, Mr. and Mrs. L. Sebesta, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Hudson, and many more friends who came and left before their names could be registered.

Marie and Al Garrard of the River Oaks Theatre are spending much time arranging and buying new furniture for their new eight-room home being built in the Bellaire community.

Visitors: Henry Swanson, Motiograph dealer of Dallas; Elmer Zrenner and Burt King, Dallas; Homer Alford, Edward Jackson, Tom Powell, James Carroll of Goose Creek, Tex.

With two houses regularly using passes to get plugs and publicity, a third house entered the field for a short while. Prior to the current showing of "Gone With the Wind," Loew's State ran a series of scenes from the picture. The two persons with the best memories of each scene received $5.00. The ten next best received two tickets each.

Along with cash and merchandise, tickets to the Kirby are given away on the Royal Crown Musical Quiz program, heard Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:30 p. m. on station KTRH. Also a regular feature, a list of 20 names appears in the columns of The Citizen *(suburban paper) each week. Those whose names appear can call at the boxoffice of the Heights to receive two passes as guests of the paper.*

Although receiving no personal injuries, Jack Hooks, former Interstate man, must buy a new car as a result of his recent smashup . . . Writing from Fort Benning, Ga., Forrest Shaefer, on leave of absence from the Kirby, says that it is just like a vacation.

"The Baker's Wife" played to only better than average business during its run at the Delman. This probably proved disappointing after the deliberation and conferences Interstate had in deciding whether Houston would get it at all.

The Interstate Suburban Popeye Clubs made a special bid for increased attendance, Saturday, January 25, with cartoon fun day. Each house presented five of the year's outstanding cartoons. Seven of the houses had stage presentations.

W. L. Saunders, who knows his engine rooms, has just finished a job at the Metropolitan and has the Eastwood for a stopping place . . . The new manager of the River Oaks, Pat Daley, is very proud of his Lion's Club pin . . . George Patillo (North Main) and Maxine Gunnels (Kirby) went to Shangral Inn to escape the herd and found the herd had done the same thing.

Mr. Holmes, Interstate traveling engineer, was here for the weekend and left Monday night for El Paso . . . Mrs. Al Collins (Kirby Art Shop) came by to pick up display sheets and cheered us with the news that Al was out of the hospital and would probably be well enough to lay out his own displays now . . . Mr. Dodge, Uptown manager, took a day off to go to Port Arthur and came back with a new Buick.

Flu Petering Out Over Carolinas

Charlotte—The flu epidemic which covered the Carolinas the past two weeks, has reached its peak and is definitely on the wane, health authorities here believe.

The sickness caused many theatres to close as a precautionary measure and curtailed church services and other public gatherings. Theatres cooperated fully with health authorities in fighting the malady by closing or restricting attendance to adults. For this gesture, voluntary in many instances, the trade was applauded widely in the press.

Services for W. P. Garyn Are Held in St. Louis

DALLAS—Funeral services for W. P. "Pat" Garyn, who died last week in a local hospital, were held in St. Louis with services in the Catholic church and burial in Calvary Cemetery there. Wallace Walthall, Frank Starz, and Dickey Foy accompanied the body to St. Louis along with Mrs. Garyn and a nephew, Carl Wolff, the three acting as pallbearers. Other pallbearers were Herb Washburn and Russell Barr, branch manager and cashier of National Screen Service, and John Quinn, M-G-M branch manager, all of St. Louis.

Cooper to Remodel Rogers Building for 300-Seater

ROGERS, ARK.—John I. Cooper, owner of the Victory here which is managed by Walter Talbutt, will remodel a recently acquired building into a 300-seat theatre.

Work will start early in February and is expected to be completed the first part of April.

Invite to New Interstate Theatre in Fort Worth

DALLAS—Karl Hoblitzelle and R. J. O'Donnell sent out invitations to the trade this week to the opening January 31, of Interstate's newest neighborhood theatre, the Bowie in Ft. Worth, located on Camp Bowie Blvd.

SANTONE

FIRE destroyed the Cole Theatre and building at New Braunfels recently at an estimated loss of $50,000. Firefighters from San Antonio, Seguin and New Braunfels were called to extinguish the flames which for several hours threatened the business section of the nearby town. The loss was partially covered by insurance. G. A. Cole operated the theatre.

Title of last week's Texas stageshow was "Forward March, Buck Private C. C. Pill" which had a military air since the house is building up a steady soldier trade. New scale of prices is now 10-20-30-40 *cents . . . Hal Norfleet doing a bang-up job as publicity chairman for the President's Ball. Henry Bergman, manager of the Texas, is in charge of the entertainment committee. Jack O. Mitchell will emcee.*

Lee E. Orr, Fox Movietone newsreel cameraman and his assistant, Tony Toscano, were in the city filming the motor changing races at Randolph and Kelly fields . . . Sheila Barrett, star of screen, radio and stage, made a personal appearance at the San Pedro Playhouse here as a Town Hall guest artist . . . Clare Tree Major also a recent visitor to the city.

The regular Wednesday meeting of the Motion Picture and Visual Education committee of the San Antonio Council of Parent-Teacher Ass'ns was held in the Jefferson Senior School Building . . . "Nine Cent Show" for colored at the Cameo the other evening, drew one of the largest crowds since the Negro house opened last year. Nine reels of film were shown.

Interstate's downtown and Drive-In theatres are taking a series of spot announcements over KABC . . . "Hell's Angels," an Astor Picture release, played a subsequent run at the Prince . . . Current Azteca Film release to play the National last week was "Charro Negro" . . . Paramount's "North West Mounted Police" was given a second showing downtown at the Palace.

The newspaper serialization of "Kitty Foyle," which recently ran in the San Antonio Morning Express, *served as a dandy advance notice for the screen version which was unreeled at the Majestic last week . . . United Artists' "Thief of Bagdad" opened to better than average business at the Aztec.*

Film salesmen recently seen hobnobbing around the Row were Ed Laird, UA, Dallas; Truman Hendrix, 20th-Fox, and Henry G. Krumm, Warners, both out of the Dallas branch office . . . Nelson Eddy is advertised for a song recital at the Muny Auditorium February 20.

Two Houses Onto Bijou Amusement Co. String

WILMINGTON, N. C.—The Bijou Amusement Company of Nashville opened the new Ritz Theatre here January 20. The company is preparing to take over the Palace Theatre at Vicksburg, Miss., from Guy Adams on March 1.

Search Over Arkansas For "Miss Arkansas"

LITTLE ROCK—A state-wide beauty and talent contest to find "Miss Arkansas" will be staged by Monogram with the cooperation of prominent state officials, newspaper publishers and leading circuit and independent theatres. The contest will run from February 15 to April 1, with the winner being awarded the feminine leading role opposite Tex Ritter in a new musical western.

Ritter, who has launched on their film careers such favorites as Rita Hayworth, Joan Woodbury, Marjorie Reynolds, Louise Stanley, "Jinx" Falkenburg and Dorothy Fay, will be one of the judges of the contest, along with Monogram President W. Ray Johnston and Edward Finney, producer of the Ritter films. According to present plans, Gov. Homer Adkins will head the committee of judges of the preliminary contests and will be assisted by the mayor of each city where contestants will compete.

The winning contestant will be billed as "Miss Arkansas" in addition to her own name, and will embark on a personal appearance tour in conjunction with the film, playing important circuits and independent houses in Arkansas.

"Jules" Williamson Head Booker for Paramount

CHARLOTTE — J. L. "Jules" Williamson has been named head booker at the local Paramount exchange, according to Manager Scott Lett. His assistant will be Harold Jonasson. Betty Young and Emma Mingus are new stenographers in the booking department, and Bob Fite was recently employed as a shipping clerk.

Rosenblatt Interests in SESCo to Ben Ralston

CHARLOTTE—Sound Engineering Service Co. is now solely Ben Ralston's, he having recently acquired E. A. Rosenblatt's interest in the company. Rosenblatt has formed a new company, Theatrical Engineering with headquarters in Brevard Court.

Recently added to Ralston's engineering staff was Jones C. Tipton, formerly with Bell and Howell, Chicago.

Marquee Jobs

CHARLOTTE—Recent marquee installations reported by the Charlotte Sign Co. include those for the Palace, Thomasville, N. C.; Palace, Augusta, Ga.; Carolina, Batesburg, S. C., and the State, Kinston, N. C.

Opening Soon

NORTH CHARLESTON, S. C.—It is understood the new theatre being built here by the Legendre circuit, will be opened within six weeks. To be known as the Dixie, it will be located near the Charleston Navy Yard.

Story for Ida Lupino

HOLLYWOOD—"The Damned Don't Cry," story by Harry Hervey, has been purchased by Warner as an Ida Lupino starrer.

BOWLING

MEMPHIS—Filmrow has two full-fledged bowling leagues and on Thursday night at 9:30 at the Health Center the various teams are seen "giving their all" to defeat their opponents. Officers in the Girls League are Evelyn Hammond, president; Frances McIntyre, secretary, and Frances Phillips, treasurer. Four teams comprise this league: Universal—with Frances McIntyre, captain, with Ilene Lindsay, Mary Elinor (Willie) Williams, Thelma Shide and Juanita Johnson completing the team. Metro: with Ophelia Galding, captain; Ethelene Mayo, Evelyn Bowers, Eva Mai Butler and Mary Bedford comprise this team. Fox: with Ethel Wolfe, captain; team mates are Evelyn Hammond, Amanda Johnson, Alice Grills and Margaret Jones. Paramount's team has Frances Phillips as its captain and Celia Wells, Mary K. Larned, Lillian Tucker and Glenna Neel complete the team.

In the Men's League of which Mark Sheridan is president, Arnold Painter, secretary, and Bartie Mallory, treasurer, there are six teams, as follows: Fox, whose captain is Mark Sheridan, has Bob Ashmore, Paul Glisson, Bill Lewis, and Don Wahl on his team. Warner's team is captained by Ward Carpenter, with Arnold Painter, Ed Williamson, Joe Ries and Ray Ferguson. Paramount has Frank Neel as captain, and Fred Curd, Babe Rounsaville, Jimmy Smith and Dick Browning complete the team. Metro's team is composed of Frank Heard, Tom Kirk, Bartie Mallory, Hollis Holmes and C. H. Williams, with Bartie Mallory, captain. National Screen has Bill Bryant as captain and his crew members are Mack Jackson, Jimmy Andre, David Stevens and Glenn Woods; Columbia has booker, Herman Chrisman, captain, with Tate Baker, Jerry Kornegay, George Simpson and Jimmy Sultis on the team.

The final results of the first night's encounter ended with Universal taking the honor in the Girls' League and Warner's claiming the laurels in the Men's League.

New Sound and Chairs

MERIDIAN, MISS.—The new Royal, seating 572, has new RCA sound and American Desk Mfg. Co. chairs. A. L. Royal and W. A. Prewitt, the owners, operate a chain.

Ramblers Return

CHARLOTTE—Charlotte's Tennessee Ramblers, radio artists, have returned from Hollywood after completing a Tex Ritter feature for Monogram. Jack Lamont, with the company locally, says the subject will be released early in March.

Detlef Hansen Heads The Atlanta Board

Atlanta—Detlef H. Hansen jr. has been named by the American Arbitration Ass'n as clerk of the Atlanta motion picture arbitration tribunal. His address is the Mortgage Guaranty Bldg.

Busch Leaves Standard to Helm New Subsequent

OKLAHOMA CITY—Robert "Bob" Busch, one of the Standard Theatres' managerial staff since 1930, has resigned to become manager of the new Uptown now nearing completion at 1212 North Hudson Avenue. The Uptown is expected to open about February 1.

The building erected for it by R. G. Siever has been leased for theatre operations by Charles Ferris, local business man. Busch will serve as resident manager. He has been manager of the Midwest Theatre recently and has served at other units of the Standard chain.

The Uptown will have a seating capacity of 650. It will be air conditioned with ample parking facilities and double seats scattered throughout the house.

The house will be subsequent run with a double feature policy. RKO, Columbia, UA and M-G-M films have been contracted for. Admission scale will be 15-20 cents.

H. P. Autry to Helm of State, Florence, S. C.

CHARLOTTE—C. A. Matthews, general manager of the B&B Theatres Corp., announces the promotion of H. P. Autry from the Tryon here to the managership of the State in Florence, S. C. Matthews also reports that Barney Hohinstein is being transferred from the Star, Savannah, Ga., to the Lincoln in Florence.

Five Order Photophone

MIAMI—RCA sound has been ordered for three Sparks houses—the Florida at Ft. Myers and Ocala, and the King at Jacksonville. Orders for the equipment also have been placed by L. B. Warren for the 600-seater he is building in Oklahoma City, Okla., and by J. E. Duncan for his new 600-seat Georgia at Carrollton, Ga.

Opens De Luxe Parr

LANCASTER, S. C.—George W. Parr opened his new de luxe Parr here Tuesday. Dick Eason, formerly with the Schine and Hunter Perry circuits, has joined Parr here as an assistant.

Miller Building

LINCOLNTON, N. C.—A. E. Miller, who operates the Rivoli and Grand locally, is building a new house here to be known as the Century. On its completion, the Grand will be closed.

Fail to Crack Safe

KNOXVILLE, TENN.—Robbers hid in the Tennessee Theatre recently and after the house had closed, made an unsuccessful attempt to blow open the office safe. Manager Eugene Street, who made the discovery the next morning, said the safe was unopened.

MacGowans Adapt "County Fair"

HOLLYWOOD—Dorrell and Stuart McGowan are adapting "County Fair," from their own original, for Paramount.

Welfare Council List Of Approved Films

OTTAWA — The following recommendations are included in the official list for January of the Canadian Welfare Council for the guidance of educational authorities and women's organizations throughout the country, under the heading "Motion Pictures the Entire Family Will Like." Names and addresses of the eight leading film exchanges in the Dominion also are given.

The list comprises:

"Sandy Gets Her Man"—Baby Sandy talks a little in this picture which adds to her cuteness. The plot moves at a fairly fast pace, alternating between comedy, slapstick and thrills. The family, particularly juveniles.

"Melody Ranch"—Not only does this give the western fans the usual action they enjoy—fighting and shooting—but it presents entertainment for those to whom "Westerns" do not appeal. The family.

"Bitter Sweet"—No expense has been spared in making this musical romance. The Technicolor photography adds to the beauty of the settings and the costumes are lovely. Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy again thrill with their singing. Noel Coward wrote the play, music and lyrics. The family.

"The Son of Monte Cristo"—Those who saw "The Count of Monte Cristo" will not find this picture as exciting but it should have general appeal. The action takes place in 1865. The family.

"Second Chorus"—A pretty good comedy with music. There is an excellent cast and swing music fans should like Artie Shaw and his band. Fred Astaire has a new dancing partner in Paulette Goddard. The family.

"The Philadelphia Story"—Very good adult entertainment. The plot has been adapted from the play by Philip Barry. The dialogue is sparkling, the acting brilliant, and there is human appeal, comedy and romance. Adults and adolescents.

"Flight Command"—One of the most thrilling aviation pictures made and realistic, too, as the U. S. Navy lent its cooperation. The subject matter is timely, for it shows the work and practice manouevres done by the Navy in line with the Defense Program. The family.

"Go West"—The Marx Brothers are extremely good in this picture, which is much better than their last two. Harpo gives us some lovely bits of music and there are lots of thrills and laughter. The family.

"Convoy"—A good melodrama of present-day naval warfare, produced in England. Since the picture was made in cooperation with the British Admiralty, the action seems realistic. In fact, the battle scenes are so well done that one feels as though one is watching the actual battle. The family.

"Sailors Three"—A musical farce, starring Claude Hulbert, Michael Wilding and Tommy Trinder. A couple of catchy songs add zest to this joyous mixture, which is guaranteed to chase the blues away. The family.

"Hudson's Bay"—This picture may be disappointing to many because it lacks the excitement that one would expect in a story depicting the formation of the Hudson's Bay Company. The family.

"The Invisible Woman"—A pretty good comedy which is at no time serious. The trick photography is handled well. The family.

"Arms and the Man—U. S. A."—An up-to-the-minute survey of the progress of Uncle's Sam's first peace-time draft, emphasizing the ready response of American youth to the call to duty and the plans being made for the cooperation of industry as a further arm of defense. The family.

"Labor and Defense"—A stimulating review of Labor's fight to achieve recognition. The challenge which faces the wage-earner in today's crisis of national defense. The family.

"Goofy's Glider"—Goofy's attempts to master the technique of gliding provide laughs aplenty and earn for himself a promising notch in Disney's cartoon hall of fame. The family.

"Christmas Under Fire" Previewed in Toronto

TORONTO—A private showing of "They Spent Christmas Under Fire" was held here before a selected audience representing the Ontario Provincial Government, City of Toronto, the three branches of the active service, news syndicates, local newspapers, Canadian magazines and radio stations. Wolfe Cohen, Canadian district manager for Warner, was host.

The documentary film, with commentary by Quentin Reynolds, was set for releasing throughout Canada on Thursday, January 30.

Host School Boys

WINNIPEG—As part of an extensive campaign on behalf of "Hudson's Bay" put on by George Frazer of 20th-Fox, Harold Bishop and Jack Fitzgibbons jr. of the Capitol, a special show was presented for the safety patrol boys of the city schools, in cooperation with the Winnipeg *Free Press*.

Public Hearing Over Accident in Theatre

TORONTO—A public enquiry, ordered by Hon. Gordon Conant, attorney-general of Ontario, into the accident during a Saturday matinee at the Doric, Toronto neighborhood house, when 30 children were overcome by coal gas fumes, opened at the Ontario Parliament Buildings on Wednesday to determine the cause of the occurrence, after which prosecution will be instituted if personal negligence on the part of any person is found, it is announced.

Attorney-General Conant announced that a public investigation had been considered advisable "in order to determine whether anybody is to blame for what took place and also to prevent a recurrence of such an incident in Ontario." Likewise, O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario board of motion picture censors, announced that a special checkup of all theatres in the Province would be undertaken to insure that buildings were properly fitted and that managers were living up to the regulations.

Shortly after the accident, the Doric was ordered closed, regardless of the inquiry, until alterations had been made in the theatre. Orders had already been made for the construction of a fireproof wall in the basement and two more fresh-air ducts. Whether or not any other changes will be required depends upon the outcome of the official investigation.

An order already issued to Sam Lester, proprietor and a veteran exhibitor, by the Ontario department provides for the presence of a janitor at all performances after the theatre is reopened and for the constant attendance of other employes while patrons are in the building. It was brought out in the local newspapers that the proprietor was temporarily absent when the accident occurred. All the victims have recovered after hospital and emergency treatment.

Extend Ian Hunter

HOLLYWOOD—Ian Hunter draws a role in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" with his contract extension at Metro.



In Tribute to Balaban—

The Famous Players-Canadian circuit executives who attended the banquet to mark Barney Balaban's fifth year in the presidency of Paramount. At the Drake Hotel in Chicago, left to right: N. L. Nathanson, R. W. Bolstad, Ben Geldsaler and John J. Fitzgibbons.

TORONTO

REPRESENTING Famous Players Canadian Corp. at the testimonial dinner to President Barney Balaban of Paramount Pictures at the Drake Hotel in Chicago were J. J. Fitzgibbons, vice-president of the chain, and Ben Geldsaler, supervisor of booking, who made the trip from Toronto for the occasion, and President N. L. Nathanson who traveled to Chicago from Florida where he is spending the winter for his health.

During the past 12 *months,* 12 *men in the employ of Hanson Theatres Corp. have temporarily resigned their positions in order to join the colors for active service with the Canadian armed forces, according to H. C. D. Main, supervisor of the company which operates theatres in various cities and towns of Ontario. Employes already in uniform were formerly on the headoffice staff and from a number of the Hanson theatres. There are indications that more will enlist during* 1941 *with the official word having gone out that Canada's air, land and sea forces will be greatly augmented in preparation for the big offensive.*

W. J. Burke, manager of the Brant, Brantford, and James Simmons, manager of the Palace, London, are apparently inseparable in both romance and illness. Both become benedicts within a few days of each other some weeks ago and now both have decided to be on the sick list—simultaneously (not the fault of the bride's cooking).

Manager Fred Trebilcock of the big Uptown, Toronto, has provided a special wartime service for the public which has attracted considerable attention and publicity. He installed a huge letterbox in the lobby in which letters from relatives to soldiers on active service can be dropped, the theatre paying for the postage. Canadian warriors in any part of the world can thus receive letters from the folks back home without postal cost.

J. P. O'Loughlin, general manager of 20th Century-Fox, Ltd., traveled to Winnipeg, Man., for the premiere of "Hudson's Bay," this location being particularly important because the Canadian headquarters of the historic company are situated in the Manitoba capital. The Toronto first run was held off for a week, thus enabling O'Loghlin to return home in time for the event. The picture has played the Capitol in Ottawa.

Old-timers in Toronto have heard with regret that Charlie Berman, one of the film exchange pioneers of this city, died in Boston, Mass. The late Jake Berman, a brother, was also a prominent figure in Toronto film circles at the time when cans of films reposed on cupboard shelves in the front office from which nickel show proprietors took them as required. Charlie Berman headed the World Film Company which occupied ground floor office space on Yonge Street down near the warehouses and waterfront.

Fredric March, Hollywood star, has been vacationing in Canada, engaging in winter sports with special instructions in the art of skiing of which he has become a keen enthusiast. March has been stopping at Mount Tremblant Lodge at Lac Mercier in the Laurentians . . . Finley McRae, administrator of the theatre estate of the late Harry Brouse, once famous showman, has been elected president of the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society . . . R. E. Maynard, former manager of the Cartier in Hull, was a visitor at the head office of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

The Strand, Toronto, was the scene of a repeat performance last Sunday night of an amateur musical show, "Raisin' a Racket," in aid of the British War Victims' Fund, the first presentation having played to an overflow audience. The Strand is a unit of 20th Century Theatres . . . Immediately after "Rebecca" had been chosen the 1940 *hit in a Canadian poll, Max Starkman of the Allenby, grabbed it for immediate showing and played it up with special exploitation.*

Toronto reviewers enjoyed a special trip across the border to Buffalo, N. Y., for a pre-release screening of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the 20th Century Theatre under the joint supervision of Terry Turner of the RKO office in New York and George H. Degnon, recently appointed exploitation man for the Canadian company at Toronto. An outside member of the party was Will McLaughlin, veteran reviewer of the Ottawa *Journal.*

M. Axler of Toronto made a trip to Brantford, Ont., for the funeral of a cousin, David Axler of that city who died while with the Royal Canadian Air Force, the deceased being accorded full military honors for the burial service . . . Manager Vern Hudson has revived vaudeville at the Avalon, Ottawa, in conjunction with the double film bill.

Lloyd M. Mills, manager of the Elgin, Ottawa, organized a special patriotic stage performance for troops of the local garrison under the auspices of the Lions Club of which he is a member. Manager Ray Tubman of the Capitol, a Famous Players' unit, supervised a concert last Sunday night by the band of the Royal Canadian Air Force, a collection being taken up for the war work of the R. C. A. F. Women's Auxiliary.

Jack Chisholm returned to his office in the Toronto branch of the Associated Screen News, Ltd., after spending considerable time in the production of war films at Montreal and Ottawa. Frank O'Byrne, Toronto manager, has visited Camp Borden a number of times in connection with the making of military pictures and the providing of entertainment for the troops.

SASKATCHEWAN

A HIGH pressure drive is under way at present in Regina to sell war savings stamps. Publicity men for the drive include H. A. Bercovich, manager of the Rex, and Larry Graburn, manager of the Capitol.

Boy scouts and girl guides of Swift Current gathered in the Lyric on a recent Sunday for a memorial service to the late Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement. A similar service was held at the Hi-Art in Weburn.

The Greek War Relief Fund of Prince Albert benefited by a draw for a silver tea service. The draw was conducted on the stage of the Strand.

Three thousand children of grades five, six, seven and eight of Saskatoon public and separate schools were guests of the Hudson's Bay Company at the Capitol on two mornings during the showing of "Hudson's Bay" in Saskatoon. Premiere Canadian showing of the picture was at Saskatoon, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Victoria.

Manager Charlie Bahrynowski, of the Met Theatre, Regina, reports a terrific business with the double bill, "Little Nellie Kelly," starring Judy Garland, and "Gallant Sons," with Jackie Cooper and Bonita Granville. Booked for three days, the bill proved such a natural for Charlie's family house that he was forced to play it a week. Something unique for Regina was the lineup outside the theatre on the fifth day.

A special committee has been appointed by the collegiate board of Regina to investigate a plan for the co-ordination of visual education in all Regina schools.

Otis Bowes, manager of the Grand, Regina, was named president of the Grand, bantam hockey team.

Canadian youths are seeing the last of the comic books because of the wartime ban by the government on the importation of this type of magazine. The result has been that the kids have rushed to buy up their favorite publications. Another result was achieved by Manager Herb Nelson of the Goldfields, Timmons, Ont., when he secured the cooperation of book stores in placing stickers for "Youth Will Be Served" on the front covers of the periodicals.

Grant Garrette, manager of the Geneva, Orillia, aroused excitement when he posted "Wanted" signs around the town and countryside for "Return of Frank James" at a time when a couple of Nazi war prisoners had escaped from custody and were supposed to be somewhere in Central Ontario.

Music Guild Chartered

MONTREAL—The Composers of Canadian Music Guild has received a Dominion charter. The Guild has as its object the encouragement of the composition and presentation of Canadian music.

WINNIPEG

EFFORTS of the film industry in this center to contribute in some measure to Canada's war effort, continue unabated. Besides special shows that have been held in various centers by the Rothstein Theatres; the Recreation Hall at Great Falls contributed an additional ten cents a seat for each patron who attended the showing of "London Can Take It;" Bob Hurwitz, Main street supervisor, is working on the new drive for the sale of war savings stamps; Grand National is presenting a special dedication program, a percentage of which is to be contributed to the Lord Mayor's Fund. The sum fund received a donation of $25 last week from the musicians' union.

Don Gauld and E. A. Retalick are enjoying great success with sneak previews at the Uptown Theatre.

The latest move in the attempt to regulate attendance of children at film houses, is a request made to operators this week by the Manitoba censor board. The board has asked exhibitors to use a standardized type in newspaper ads to specify whether their films are adult or family. This type is to be eight point for one column, 12 point for two columns and 18 point for three columns. Exhibitors will put this suggestion into effect immediately.

Producers Releasing Corporation announce arrangements completed for release of their products through Grand National in Canada. The franchise is for a period of years, starting with the 1941 *product, and including the "Lone Rider" series.*

Syl Gunn at the Metropolitan and Bill Novak at the Gaiety are experimenting with rearrangements of their Saturday night shows to accommodate the crowds. Currently they are dropping the second feature on the Saturday night bill and replacing it with shorts . . . At the Metropolitan, Gunn has introduced a stage show to bolster Thursday nights, which mark the end of the show week.

E. A. Zorn, Famous Players district manager, is back on the job after his recent illness . . . Max Heppner of the Colonial is in Montreal as a representative at the Dominian Hadassah meeting . . . Meyer Gorenstein of the Star at Beausejour, Man., is refurnishing his house at Whitemouth in preparation for spring opening.

Jack Pechet of Canadian Screen Publicity is taking larger quarters in the Hargrave Film Exchange building. Pechet recently produced a number of short subjects . . . Don Swailes, secretary-treasurer of the Winnipeg Musicians Association, local 190, was elected president of the Winnipeg and District Trades and Labor council.

A. Adelman of the State, is making arrangements to increase the seating capacity of his house . . . Leslie Allen of the York at Vancouver, B. C., made boxoffice history at his house with "Laugh It Off" . . . Jack Code of the Famous Players advertising department is recovering from a case of measles.

Leslie Curtis has been promoted by a shift in the Warner office here, with Mickey Kamerofsky made head booker . . . Bob Cringan, formerly Fox booker at Winnipeg, has been promoted to the Vancouver office as booker-salesman . . . Harold Bishop has been getting in some advance licks for his coming showing of "Bitter Sweet." Recently Bishop arranged for an attractive ad in the Celebrity series program and brought his attraction to the attention of some 3,000 people.

"Bitter Sweet" Holds At Toronto House

Toronto—Even "Gone With the Wind" had to be held back at Toronto Loew's when Manager Jules Bernstein found "Bitter Sweet" so sweet with the fans. "Wind" was scheduled to open its popular-price engagement January 23 and display announcements already were being run for the feature when it was found necessary to hold "Bitter Sweet" for a second week —despite the mild enthusiasm of local reviewers.

CALGARY

G W. "GREG" JANZER, house manager of the Grand, was married recently to Dorothy Herbert of Lacombe. The ceremony, attended by a number of industry friends, was performed by the bride's father, the Rev. W. E. Herbert. The couple is now honeymooning on the Pacific coast.

"Hudson's Bay" proved to be a natural here. Week's engagement closed Wednesday at the Capitol after one of the widest and least expensive campaigns of the past few seasons. The Hudson's Bay department store heartily cooperated in all publicity.

Snow and sub-zero weather in the prairies has hit boxoffices this past week. Roads are still open in the country, but city folk are hugging firesides these cold nights and keeping close to radios. The cold spell is expected to lift soon.

Jean Malcomson of the Metro exchange in Calgary had a birthday on Wednesday.

MONTREAL

MOTION PICTURE theatres are facing a good deal of amusement competition, but are holding their own in spite of counter attractions, including hockey. In the past week they have had to contend with the "Ice Follies of 1941" at the Forum, the "Original Ballet Russe" at His Majesty's, following a violin recital by Huberman, the "Musical Madcaps" at Chez Maurice, "The Maniac Lover" at the Norgate, and "Golden Boy" at the YMCA Little Theatre.

Fredric March and his wife, Florence Eldridge, who have been skiing in the Laurentians, passed through Montreal, New York bound on the ski-plane from St. Jovite . . . The Alamo, Chateauguay Basin, Que., gave a Saturday and Sunday evening showing of "Gallant Sons." Door prizes were given and the proceeds will be used for the formation of a hockey club and construction and maintenance of a skating rink for the younger residents.

Mildred Mitchell, whom Montrealers recall as the winsome star of a stock company at the Orpheum nearly a generation ago, was leading lady in a performance of "Gaslight," melodrama by Patrick Hamilton, given in Victoria Hall by the Montreal Repertory theatre. The Orpheum, scene of Miss Mitchell's former triumphs, scored a motion picture triumph by running the "The Thief of Bagdad" for a fifth week, in response to public demand after the fourth week had been positively announced as "final."

Motion picture theatre tickets were prizes in Bingo games arranged for the youths in training at the local Wireless School of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Bingo is not permitted in the theatres, but, apparently there is no objection to the giving of theatre tickets as prizes, if the game can be played elsewhere.

Result of a deal with the Grand National Films, Ltd., a new distributing company to be known as Producers Releasing Corp. of Canada and Newfoundland has been incorporated to distribute current and future products of the corporation. There will be branches in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver and Saint John. Playdates for seven features and eight westerns are being assigned.

Succeeding George Heiber, who has been promoted to manager of the Saint John district exchange of United Artists, Sam Kunitzky, formerly a partner in Eastern Films, independent distributors, has been named office manager of United Artists at Saint John . . . Tuberculosis dangers are being fought with educational films, shown under the joint auspices of the welfare association and the City of Montreal health department.

Eight Montreal film critics were guests of RKO at the opening in Boston of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith." The Montrealers overcame the difficulties attendant on visiting the United States and found themselves housed and feted and sent back by airplane at the expense of the studio.

John Baird, inventor of television, has been demonstrating in London his new system of television in color. Colors of hair, clothes and other objects were faithfully reproduced on a small screen in the inventor's home. According to Seton Margrave, noted critic, who saw the demonstration, the screen is part of a radio-television-gramophone evolved by Baird as a de luxe model for home use.

Claire Bayard of the Metro exchange in Montreal passed a birthday milestone on Thursday.

Conway Megs "Love Crazy"

HOLLYWOOD—Jack Conway will direct "Love Crazy," co-starring William Powell and Myrna Loy, which Pandro Berman will produce for Metro.

VICTORIA

A 40-MINUTE sound and color film of British Columbia's secondary industries has been completed by the Department of Trade and Industry of the provincial government in conjunction with the B. C. Products Bureau of the Vancouver Board of Trade . . . Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne will appear at the Royal Victoria February 3 in "There Shall Be No Night." According to Cliff Denham, manager of the theatre, advance mail order sales are big.

Gordon Hilker was to bring Richard Crooks, Metropolitan Opera star, to the Royal Victoria January 29 . . . Ian Gibson, 21-year-old local youth, received a tremendous reception at the Royal Victoria as a member of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. He joined the company in Europe prior to the outbreak of war and last summer made a tour of South America and all leading cities of North America. Since leaving here last season, the company has traveled 20,000 miles.

According to word received by his mother, Mrs. Kathleen Greene, a resident of this city, her son, Richard Greene, English-born film actor, has received a commission after serving in the ranks as a private for four months and now is in training at a military college in the south of England . . . Oscar Hanson, president of Universal Films, Ltd., Toronto, visited here, accompanied by Mrs. Hanson and his business associate, P. L. Nathanson. Hanson is looking over the film distributing field and says that British-produced pictures are going over big with the Canadian public.

CBC Asks Jack Arthur to Direct Music for Series

TORONTO—Jack Arthur, district manager of Famous Players Canadian Corp., has been invited by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. to arrange and direct the music for the 12 feature programs in the "Theatre of Freedom" series over the national network from Toronto during the next three months in which outstanding stars of the screen and stage will make personal appearances before audiences in the largest CBC concert hall.

The first artists to appear in Toronto are Cedric Hardwicke and Lady Hardwicke, their scheduled engagement being February 2, for the program of which Arthur has arranged the musical background and organized a special orchestra. As manager of the Uptown and Imperial, chain units in Toronto, before his appointment to head office, and by reason of his many years as director of music for Famous Players, Jack Arthur has had much experience in orchestration and in the wielding of the baton.

Other artists who have donated their services for the series include Raymond Massey, Walter Huston, Herbert Marshall, Orson Welles, Douglas Fairbanks, Charles Laughton, Elsa Lanchester, Anna Neagle, George Sanders and Paul Muni.

North Bay Press Tieup Plugs "Escape" Run

TORONTO—One of the finest exploitation campaigns for a film attraction in a long time was the publicity tieup secured by Manager Jack Nelson of the Capitol, a Famous Players' house in North Bay, Ont., for "Escape." In cooperation with local merchants, the North Bay *Nugget* published a special eight-page section devoted to the picture, the front page of which was a display announcement in two colors with the heading, "Escape the Humdrum Ways of Living," followed by "Get in on this January Community Event—North Bay Stores Will Supply Your Every Need" and also large panels announcing the engagement at the Capitol and a contest for prizes in which readers were invited to write a sentence using the word "Escape" to encourage the sale of War Savings Stamps.

The newspaper section contained no less than 23 publicity stories on the picture and six stills from the press book, along with the display advertisements of 26 business establishments in all of which there was a reference to "Escape." These advertisements had such phrases as "You'll Escape Accidents," "Escape Useless Spending and "Escape Enslavement," along with references to the theatre. In addition the Capitol had its own three-column advertisement. The judges for the slogan competition were Mayor C. R. Harrison, Chairman F. E. Richens of the City War Savings Committee and Mrs. D. A. Campbell, convener of the Imperial Order, Daughters of the Empire.

Trains for R. C. A. F.

SAINT JOHN, N. B.—Ronald Fielding, manager of the Capitol Theatre of Digby, N. S., resigned to undergo advanced technical training in Ontario with the objective of entering the R. C. A. F. Fielding, who when he passed solo test flights four years ago, was Canada's youngest airman, is a son of A. A. Fielding, general manager of the Spencer chain of theatres in the Maritimes.

Testimonial an Ad

WINNIPEG—A letter from a prominent clergyman to Manager Gray of the Starland Theatre, commending GN's "Mein Kampf," was reproduced in full in extra large newspaper ads publicizing the film.

The letter, written by the Rev. J. W. Clarke, who only a week ago urged members of church groups to be on the lookout for operators who tried to get by with Sunday midnight showings, reads as follows:

"I attended the preview of 'Mein Kampf' and was greatly impressed with its historical exactness and with the striking manner in which the life and activities of Hitler have been dramatized.

"This should be a most powerful medium for bringing home to the people the strength of the enemy, also the demoralizing nature of the Nazi philosophy of life.

"I trust the attendance at your theatre will transcend expectations."

VANCOUVER

THE BEACON doing standout business with the personal appearance of Roy Rogers. He was accorded a civic welcome, Mayor Cornett greeting Rogers, "Trigger" his horse, Cene Haas and Spade Cooley, his henchmen . . . R. C. McCartie announces plans have been completed for a new suburban theatre in New Westminster. Upon completion, he will close the Metro and convert it into stores . . . Bob Cringan has taken over the late Eddie Teel's position at Fox. Bob was assistant booker for them at Winnipeg.

Much favorable comment is heard these days over Leon Shelly's travelogue, "Beautiful British Columbia." Now in its second week at the Orpheum, Shelly states that it is already being shown in eastern Canada and the United States, in the vanguard of 6,000 U. S. and Canadian theatres to which it will be distributed by Columbia.

Al Towriss in town on his way back to Princeton after a much needed rest. He was to reopen his Capitol on January 30 . . . Johnny Friberg returning to Wells where he is a partner in the Sunset . . . Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Hanson and Paul Nathanson have returned to Toronto . . . Russ Simpson of Paramount on a business trip.

George McEwan is back in Vancouver after successfully managing Freddie Wood on his trek with the golfing professionals . . . F. G. Stevens putting on a very extensive advertising campaign for the first-run showing of "Mein Kampf" at the Lux.

War Films Occupy ASN Throughout Dominion

TORONTO—Frank O'Byrne, Toronto manager of the Associated Screen News, Ltd., reported that the ASN had been much occupied with the production of war and patriotic films in many parts of the Dominion for the National Film Board and others, this form of war work representing a large proportion of the current program. Of special interest was the premiere of an ASN release, "Peoples of Canada," in Chicago, Ill., this picture depicting the many racial characteristics to be found in this country.

Cameramen had been taking a large number of films in military camps, air stations and munition factories to portray Canada's war effort. Associated Screen News has been finding a ready market for topical and scenic films in barracks, theatres and halls. O'Byrne is an active member of the special committee which is responsible for providing much entertainment for troops in training.

No Ontario Election For at Least a Year

TORONTO—Although this might be an election year for Ontario under the usual order of legislative events, Premier M. F. Hepburn has announced that provincial elections at this time would be an unnecessary expenditure of money which could be otherwise used for the war effort, and that the Ontario government will carry on for another year.

Recognize Kilburg's "Story" Campaign

MILWAUKEE — M-G-M has awarded an Honor Roll Button to Gene Kilburg, Wisconsin Theatre, for his outstanding campaign for "The Philadelphia Story."

Highlights follow:

Thirty-five thousand full-page announcement heralds distributed by *Liberty* magazine carriers one week in advance. Day before opening, 50,000 heralds generally distributed. Tie-up with Postal Telegraph whereby they enclosed 5,000 midget facsimile telegrams in messages. Postal also distributed 3,000 special News Letters plugging the film.

Six-day serialization planted in *Evening Post*. Twenty-five two-color 40x60 heralds posted one week in advance in downtown store windows and at street-car terminal points. Book marks distributed in public libraries. Six radio spot announcements starting four days in advance. Fashion still layout planted with leading department store for counter exhibits and lobby displays.

Bookstores Will Cooperate

NEW YORK—The publishers of Prudence Penny's cook book call attention to the willingness of bookstores to cooperate with counter and window displays on the Metro short featuring the writer, "Penny to the Rescue."



There's Magic in Display—

The specially constructed front that helped "Thief of Bagdad" do gratifyingly big business at the Madison Theatre in Peoria, Ill. The display is the work of E. G. Fitzgibbon, Great States publicist in Peoria.

Gasoline to Bring 'em In

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y.—*Scoops*, the Schine Theatre's exploitation house organ, reports successful seat selling with the furnishing of free gasoline to patrons from the rural districts when the latter attend one of the chain's theatres.

The recommended procedure: A tieup is made first with the gasoline dealer, whereby he will furnish gratis to people properly identifying themselves as patrons of the theatre, one, two, or three gallons of gasoline, depending upon the distance they traveled. The tieup is made on the strength of the person buying additional gallons or becoming regular patrons of that particular service station.

A short trailer calls attention to the gas offer as follows:

"For our out-of-town patrons! Free gasoline transportation. Enough to bring you to this theatre and home. This unusual service made possible by (name of cooperating station). No inconvenience—just present your auto license when you buy your admission ticket.

"This offer good only Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday ever week."

The patron is given a gasoline ticket, properly dated, authorizing a service station to give that particular person one, two, or three gallons of gasoline, depending upon the distance traveled.

The purpose of the plan is to build up rural attendance during the middle of the week.



Circus in the Lobby—

The lobby display for "Chad Hanna" put up by Manager G. I. Hunter in the Illinois Theatre at Jacksonville, Ill. The miniature ferris wheel, built to scale by a local firm manufacturing the wheels, is operated on a small motor. Dolls dressed to represent the various visitors to a circus are seated on the wheel and cards listing picture, cast and playdate came into view as the wheel revolved.

BINGO CARDS
Rock Bottom Prices
Box No. 1276
BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE
4804 E. Ninth St. Kansas City, Mo.



Effective Merchandising—

The Lincoln Theatre, Marion, Va., played "Dreaming Out Loud" for three days and broke all house records. One of the major contributing factors for the SRO business was the front, pictured above, decorated in country store style.

NUGGETS

ON pay envelopes he provides for the Remington Rand Co., Ronald Failes of the Capitol at Ilion, N. Y., imprinted the following copy: "Don't forget to put aside one admission price out of your pay envelope so that you may enjoy . . . Bette Davis in "The Letter" (theatre and playdate).

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Manager A. A. Sette of the Capitol at Springfield, Mass., sent out several service staff members for a few days before the opening date of "Santa Fe Trail" on this city's downtown streets to say to everyone they met: "Iron rails to Kansas . . . iron nerve from there on." When the Springfield citizens looked puzzled at such talk, the service staffers proceeded to tell the prospective customers that "'Santa Fe Trail' is coming to the Capitol soon!"

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The cashiers and usherettes of the Uptown Theatre in San Francisco were dressed in red wigs by Manager Joe Richards a week in advance of "The Lady With Red Hair." Banners across the girls uniforms announce the coming picture.

•

The 10 young men working at the Coliseum Theatre in San Francisco wore red Mountie uniforms a week in advance of "North West Mounted Police." Manager Irving Levin obtained the uniforms direct from the studio.

•

A two-column serialization on "High Sierra" is available gratis at the Warner exchange, that should prove acceptable to the daily or weekly papers.

Dates Ahead—

Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14: The old two-for-one stunt could be tried as a sweetheart night, inviting the girls to bring their sweetheart along gratis. Also promote candy or flowers for distribution.

Lincoln's and Washington's Birthday, Wednesday, February 12 *and Saturday, February* 22: Put particular stress on a kiddie show, especially on Washington's Birthday which this year falls on a Saturday. Several cartoons around a single feature, advertised as the birthday show, will make a drawing program.

Creates Furore With "Beast of Berlin"

Wichita, Kas.—Bill Huston, manager of the Crawford, started something when he hung up banners advertising "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" on a recent four-day run. The banners were, by next morning, torn to shreds, and Huston started writing a story for one of the newspapers. He included some threatening telephone calls, just to make it good, but before the story was done he actually had some! The publicity was big, and there was a lot of excitement. A county official called about the damage to banners; the other newspaper called to ask why its competitor had the scoop; first run opposition called to ask how the Crawford had the picture first run, why hadn't they? It all contributed to setting a new box-office record for the house. Exhibitors from surrounding towns came in to see if it would be safe to play the picture.

: For Industrial Towns :

LOCKPORT, N. Y.—A medium of advertising ideal for industrial towns is reported in *Scoops,* the Schine Theatres' house organ, as evolved by Seymour Morris of the Palace at Lockport.

Morris sold the payroll department of a large factory in the town on the idea of furnishing them with weekly payroll envelopes. On the back of the payroll envelope is printed the weekly program at the Palace Theatre.

The cost is more economical than a mailing list and there is the certainty of reaching a class able to buy entertainment.

Working Men's Matinee Brings a Proclamation

WEST ALLIS, WIS.—J. P. Klauzer, manager of Fox's Paradise here, promoted a full page co-operative newspaper ad and a proclamation from Mayor Delbert Miller on the inauguration of his daily matinees for night shift workers.

Mayor Miller's proclamation declared that "Whereas, a survey of the working hours of the working men indicates that a large number of working men have a great portion of their afternoons off during various days of the week, and

"Whereas, the same survey shows that a number of these same working men are obliged to return to their places of employment in the evenings during a number of days a week, and

"Whereas, the Paradise Theatre has undertaken to conduct matinees for the benefit of patrons whose work schedules do not permit them to enjoy movies in the evenings—

"Therefore, I, Delbert Miller, mayor of the City of West Allis, do hereby proclaim the opening of the seven-day matinees as the "Working Man's Matinee."

The matinee policy is the first of its kind for West Allis and the theatre invites them to "come in your working clothes." Admission prices are 20 cents from 12 to 2 p. m. and 25 cents from 2 to 6 p. m.

Invites National Guard Unit to Free Screening

MT. VERNON, IND.—An invitation to attend free a special showing of "Down Argentine Way," extended to the local National Guard battery, in the name of three employes now members of the battery, garnered front page newspaper space and considerable goodwill for Louis Davis, manager of the New Vernon.

The special preview was held on a Tuesday evening at 9:30, and was exclusive for the battery's officers and men.

Exhibitors report that playing the horror product in duos, rather than dividing time between films of different type, has brought increased business since it attracts addicts of that type of fare.

GUESS WHO'S WHO AMONG THE STARS ?

Six Weeks' Contest of Skill: 72 Star Portraits to Be Guessed by Your Patrons for Prizes or Free Tickets.

The Lenten season begins February 26 and comes to its end with Easter Sunday on April 13. That's the time boxoffices need help, and patronage-stimulation must be devised.

Hundreds of our exhibitor customers have asked Movie Time to help attract patronage by working out a weekly contest, with weekly prizes, for a six-week period and with a series of grand over-all prizes for the winning patrons holding the highest scores over the entire six-week period.

So that is what Movie Time has done. We have taken 72 pictures of popular present day movie stars and leading players of both sexes—36 male and 36 female personalities. Each week Movie Time in a half page panel will print 12 portraits—six women and six men. No name will be printed under any picture and a blank line will be provided under each for contestants to write in the proper name. When they have filled in all 12 they write their name and address in the coupon at bottom of page and deposit the half page with coupon attached in a voting or ballot box in your lobby.

2 issues will be shipped to customers Tuesday, February 18
2 issues will be shipped Tuesday, March 4
2 issues will be shipped Tuesday, March 18

These six contest issues cover the Lenten period and are to be issued in your town February 21 and 28, March 7, 14, 21 and 28. You can make your awards for the seventh week grand over-all prizes for the highest scores in the six-week period on Thursday, April 13, the day before Good Friday. This should mean business in Holy Week, which is usually one of record low patronage.

We are ready and now offer these six issues to any theatre in the United States not now using Movie Time except theatres in opposition to theatres now using Movie Time. Despite our large number of Movie Time customers there are thousands of places where theatres can have the benefit of this contest. As we say, any present non-customer can buy just these six issues without obligation to continue with Movie Time. We think, however, that many theatres will find Movie Time so beneficial that they will wish to continue using it as their regular weekly house organ newspaper.

We do not attempt in these six issues to write the terms or prizes in your contest. You use the back page [4] for all promotion, prize and publicity announcements. Write your own contest copy, decide upon your own prizes or awards, work out your own details of the tie-ins you will make with your merchants and others for prizes and how much of the back page space you will give them in connection with your publicity story and your house program. DO NOT DELAY PLACING YOUR ORDER FOR THIS SERIES OF SIX ISSUES. **Orders for the series must be in our hands at Kansas City by Saturday, February 15, 1941, at the very latest.** A master sheet with correct names PRINTED under each picture will be sent to you at end of each week to post in your lobby after your announcement of prize winners is ANNOUNCED FROM YOUR STAGE. Morning after such announcements you post printed list in your lobby . You might announce an extra cash bonus to be paid each prize winner who is in your theatre when the announcement of prize winners is made.

Present customers of Movie Time may wish to increase their weekly orders for the six weeks this contest is in force to gain wider publicity by a heavier distribution.

Prices for Movie Time remain the same as alway and are given here again for the benefit of those theatres not at present buying Movie Time.

FIXED PRICES BASED ON QUANTITY	
1,000 to 5,000 per week to a single theatre	$3.90 per M.
10,000 per week to more than one theatre	3.80 per M.
25,000 per week to more than one theatre	3.75 per M.
50,000 per week to more than one theatre	3.55 per M.
100,000 per week [and over]	3.50 per M.

We suggest your sending your order immediately.

Printing Syndicate Company

9th St. and Van Brunt Blvd.

Kansas City, Mo.

MOVIE TIME
9th and Van Brunt,
Kansas City, Mo.

☐ Place my order
☐ Increase my present weekly order

for.....copies of Movie Time for each week of the SIX WEEKS "GUESS WHO'S WHO AMONG THE STARS?" picture personality contest, shipping as indicated to

Name of Manager or Owner.....

Name of Theatre.....

Street address .....

City ..... State.....

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ○ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ◎ indicates color photography.

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JUNE 22	20 Drama 1037 **Girls of the Road** (61) Ann Dvorak Lola Lane R—June 29	21 Com. Drama 42 **Captain Is a Lady** (65) R—June 29 Virginia Grey Billie Burke Charles Coburn	18 Western 3960 **Wild Horse Range** (51) Jack Randall R—June 22	21 Mys. Com. 3938 **Ghost Breakers** (85) Bob Hope Paulette Goddard R—June 15	25 Musical Com. 908 **Grand Ole Opry** (67) R—July 6 27 Western 955 **Carson City Kid** (57) R—July 6	21 Com. Drama 034 **Pop Always Pays** (67) Leon Errol R—June 22	21 Mystery 048 **Charlie Chan's Murder Cruise** (75) Sidney Toler Marjorie Weaver R—May 4		21 Comedy 4037 **I Can't Give You Anything But Love** (61) Broderick Crawford R—May 11	22 M'drama WB424 **Gambling on the High Seas** (56) Wayne Morris Jane Wyman R—Oct. 12	
JUNE 29	27 Western 1214 **Return of Wild Bill** Bill Elliott (57) R—July 13	28 Musical 31 **New Moon** (100) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—June 22	25 M'drama 3927 **Last Alarm** (61) Polly Ann Young Warren Hull R—July 13	28 Drama 3939 **Queen of the Mob** (61) R—June 29 Ralph Bellamy Blanche Yurka Jean Cagney	29 Western 992 **One Man's Law** (57) Don "Red" Barry Janet Waldo R—July 13	28 Drama 035 **Anne of Windy Poplars** (86) Anne Shirley R—June 22	28 Outd'r Dr. 049 **Lucky Cisco Kid** (68) Cesar Romero Mary Beth Hughes R—June 1		28 Drama 5046 **The Fugitive** (77) Ralph Richardson Diana Wynyard R—July 6		
JULY 6	30 Comedy 1021 **Out West With the Peppers** (61) Edith Fellows R—July 13	5 Comedy 43 **Andy Hardy Meets Debutante** (89) Mickey Rooney R—July 6	3 Western 3956 **The Golden Trail** (52) Tex Ritter R—July 13	5 Drama 3940 **Way of All Flesh** (86) R—June 1 Akim Tamiroff Gladys George	12 Drama 903 **Three Faces West** (81) R—June 22 John Wayne Sigrid Gurie	5 Drama 036 **Dr. Christian Meets the Women** (68) Jean Hersholt R—June 29	5 Com. Drama 052 **Sailor's Lady** (66) Nancy Kelly Jon Hall R—July 6		5 Com. Drama 4007 **Private Affairs** (74) Nancy Kelly Roland Young R—June 15	13 Drama FN467 **Man Who Talked Too Much** (75) George Brent R—July 6	8 Com. Drama **Hold That Woma** (66) James Dunn R—Nov. 30
JULY 13		12 Drama 44 **Sporting Blood** (82) Robert Young Maureen O'Sullivan R—July 13		12 Western 3959 **Stagecoach War** (63) R—July 6 Bill Boyd Russell Hayden		12 Com. Drama 039 **Cross Country Romance** (68) Gene Raymond Wendy Barrie R—June 29	12 Drama 046 **Manhattan Heartbeat** (71) V. Gilmore R. Sterling R-June 8			13 Drama FN454 ○**All This, and Heaven Too** (143) Bette Davis Charles Boyer R—June 22	
JULY 20	18 Drama 1038 **Military Academy** (66) T. Kelly R-July 13 24 Adventure 1110 **I Married Adventure** (78) R-July 20	19 Com. Drama 45 **We Who Are Young** (79) Lana Turner John Shelton R—July 20	16 Mystery 3910 **Haunted House** (70) R—Aug. 3 15 Melodrama 4020 **Boys of the City** East Side Kids (63) R—Aug. 31		20 Comedy 909 **Scatterbrain** (72) Judy Canova R—July 13 15 Western 944 **Carolina Moon** (65) G. Autry R—July 20	19 Drama 029 **Tom Brown's School Days** (82) James Lydon Fred. Bartholomew Cedric Hardwicke R—June 29	19 Drama 050 ◎**Maryland** (91) Walter Brennan Fay Bainter Brenda Joyce R—July 13	18 Melodrama **South of Pago Pago** (97) Victor McLaglen Jon Hall Francis Farmer R—July 20	19 Melodrama 4057 **Black Diamonds** (52) R—July 27 26 Western 4064 **Son of Roaring Dan** (64) R—Aug. 17 Johnny Mack Brown	20 Com. with Mu. **WB407** **My Love Came Back** (85) R—July 6 Olivia de Havilland Jeffrey Lynn	20 Western **Billy the Kid O lawed** (60) Bob Steele
JULY 27	25 Comedy 1012 **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (70) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 27	26 Com. Drama 47 **Gold Rush Maisie** (82) Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	29 Melodrama 4024 **Orphans of the North** (57) R—Nov. 9 29 Western 3957 **Rainbow Over the Range** (59) T. Ritter R-Aug. 10	26 Drama 3941 ◎**Untamed** (83) Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	30 Drama 904 **Girl from God's Co'ntry** (71) R—Jul 27 Chester Morris	26 Western 085 **Stage to Chino** (59) G.O'Brien R-Aug. 24 26 Com. Drama 037 **Millionaires in Prison** (63) L. Tracy R-June 29			26 Com. Dr. 4023 **You're Not So Tough** (72) R—June 1 26 Outd'r Dr. 4006 **When Daltons Rode** (81) R—Aug. 3	27 Comedy FN474 **Ladies Must Live** (58) Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		2 Costume Com. 46 ○**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	5 Melodrama 3908 **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	2 Melodrama 3942 **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	30 Western 956 **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R-July 27	2 Drama 061 ○**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov.26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	2 Drama 101 **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		2 M'drama 4039 **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	3 Drama FN460 **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	3 Western **Gun Code** (56) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	7 Drama 1006 **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama 50 **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama 3943 **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical 910 **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama 042 **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama 104 **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy 4003 **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram WB414 **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama 1039 **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 15 Western 2201 **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy 49 **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama 3913 **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 Western 3958 **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	16 Comery 3944 **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western 071 **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama 041 **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama 103 ◎**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama WB417 **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama 1008 **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama 3939 **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama 3945 **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda 171 **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama 043 **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R-Aug. 24	23 Drama 106 **Fier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. WB412 **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama 48 **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama 3903 **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western 069 **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy 046 **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners** (101) R.Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy 109 **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama WB401 **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 Mystery **Marked Men** (70) Warren Hull R—Feb. 1—PG-18
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy 1022 **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. [redacted]	6 Drama 101 **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama 3920 **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. 4001 **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western 043 **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) **Gene Autry** R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama 101 **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix [redacted] Barrie	6 Melodrama 110 **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (92) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. 5013 **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. WB519 **Calling All Husbands** (64) [redacted]	

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
SEPT. 14	5 Melod[illegible] **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama 1024 **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama C[illegible] **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept 14	[illegible]medy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 Comedy 100 **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		**Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama 5051 **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	[illegible] **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 **The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 Mus. Com. 104 **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama 4021 **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordon R—Oct. 5	20 Drama 4002 **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western 086 **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Act. Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama 5020 **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 Western 5061 **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 Drama WB506 **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 Western 1 **Arizona Gang Busters** (60)
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 1040 **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery 105 **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama 4003 **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western 062 **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. 5001 **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 Western 1 **Billy the Kid in Texas** (57) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama 4004 **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 Western 072 **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western 181 **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama 5019 **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama WB502 **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Dr'ma 2018 **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 Drama 4005 **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 Mus. Com. 005 **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 Burl. Com. 105 **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R-Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 Mus. Com. 113 **Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 Melodrama 5017 **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 Comedy FN559 **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama 2030 **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows R—Feb. 1—PG-13		7 Com. Dr. 4010 **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 Drama 4006 **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 Mus. Com. 001 **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 Melodrama 107 **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama 114 **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 Western 5062 **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. WB511 **Dispatch from Reuters** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama 2038 **Girls Under 21** (64) R—Nov. 30 21 Western 2202 **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy 109 **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 Drama 4007 **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 25 Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	21 Western 052 **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 Melodrama 104 **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 Comedy 111 **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy 5024 **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 Drama 5007 **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	26 Com. Dr. FN561 **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy 2016 **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama 108 **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 Musical 4008 **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 Mystery 006 **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 Comedy 109 **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 Comedy 5036 **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 Melodrama 5052 **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	2 Comedy FN570 **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical 110 **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western 4051 **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 Musical 4009 **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 Mus. Comedy 007 **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 Comedy 106 **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 Melodrama 117 **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy 5021 **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 Western 5063 **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama FN562 **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	5 Western 1 **Riders of Black Mountain** (60) Tim McCoy
NOV. 16	14 Western 2210 **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama 111 **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery 4012 **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western 4050 **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western 063 **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy 111 **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama 102 **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		16 Drama 5015 **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama WB513 **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Geraldine Fitzgerald R—Dec. 21	
NOV. 23	23 Mystery 2021 **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30 28 Drama 2012 **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30	22 Comedy 112 **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 Western **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western 041 **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 22 Western 073 **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. 108 **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy 119 **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy 5023 **Meet the Wildcat** (66) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama R5048 **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama FN552 **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	30 Mystery 2024 **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 115 **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 Comedy 018 **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karns R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 113 **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama 120 **Tin Pan Alley** (94) Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy 5010 **Bank Dick, The** (72) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama WB512 **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western 2203 **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy 114 **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. 4011 **Night at Earl Carroll's, A** (63) Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western 053 **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western 182 **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama 118 **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy 5026 **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy FN571 **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	6 Com. Mys. 1 **Devil Bat** (67) Bela Lugosi

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
DEC. 14	9 Drama 2031 **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama 113 **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		13 Western 4012 **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (58) John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy 008 **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery 121 **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama 5008 **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Western 1 **Billy the Kid's Gu Justice** (..) Bob Steele
DEC. 21	20 Mystery 2033 **Phantom Submarine** (70) Anita Louise			27 Outd'r Dr. 3046 **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama 009 **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama 114 **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	20 Comedy 122 **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama 5025 **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 Reissue **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Drama 10 **Misbehaving Husbands** (65) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	25 Outd'r Dr. 2101 **Arizona** (128) Jean Arthur R—Nov. 23 31 Western 2211 **Wildcat of Tuscon** (57) Bill Elliott	27 Comedy 116 **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 Drama 4003 **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western 4052 **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) R—Feb. 1—PG-17	27 Comedy 4013 **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western 004 **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 112 **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 123 **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Com. 5018 **Invisible Woman** (72) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan 4—PG-1	28 Adv. Dr. FN551 **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Comedy 10 **You Betcha My Life** (..) Henry Armetta
JAN. 4	2 Comedy 2205 **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama 117 **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical 4014 **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama 019 **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 Drama 161 **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	3 Drama 115 **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama 5030 **Where Did You Get That Girl** (65) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama 5053 **Lucky Devils** (62)	4 M'drama WB503 **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	3 Mystery 10 **Secret Evidence** (..) 3 Western 16 **Lone Rider No. 1** (..) George Houston
JAN. 11	9 Western 2204 **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett	10 Com. Drama 118 **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (60) Range Busters	10 Western 4051 **Doomed Caravan** (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 Western 074 **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 Drama 110 **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama 124 **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western 5064 **Boss of Bullion City** (59) 10 Drama 5027 **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama FN572 **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon R—Feb. 1—PG-19	
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. 2029 **Face Behind the Mask** (69) Peter Lorre	17 Drama 119 **Philadelphia Story** (112) Katharine Hepburn Cary Grant	15 Mystery **Dead Man's Shoes** (..) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 Drama 4015 **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western 054 **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers **R—Jan. 18—PG-10**	17 Musical 115 **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama 125 **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 Comedy **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (61) Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Dr. WB510 **Honeymoon for Three** (76) George Brent Ann Sheridan	17 Comedy 10 **Glamour Girls Neve Say No** (..)
JAN. 25		24 Comedy 121 **Man of Borneo** (78) 24 Historical **Land of Liberty** (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	20 Melodrama **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 Comedy 4016 **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (82) R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western 044 **Riding on a Rainbow** (..) Gene Autry R—Feb. 1—PG-19	24 Mystery 116 **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama 128 **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (78) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 25—PG-14	24 Comedy **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carol Landis		25 Drama FN556 **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino R—Jan. 25—PG-16	
FEB. 1	3 Melodrama 2028 **The Devil Commands** (..) Boris Karloff	31 Drama 122 **Come Live With Me** (..) James Stewart R—Feb. 1—PG-17			28 Comedy 010 **Arkansas Judge** (72) Weaver Bros. R—Jan. 25—PG-14	31 Comedy 117 **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard R—Jan. 23—PG-13	31 Drama 127 **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Comedy **Buck Privates** (..) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello	1 Drama WB520 **Father's Son** (57) John Litel Frieda Inescort	
FEB. 8	13 Western 2212 **Across the Sierra** (58) Bill Elliott	7 Comedy 123 **Blonde Inspiration** (..) John Shelton Virginia Grey	6 Western **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (..) Tex Ritter	7 Musical Com. **You're the One** (83) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker	31 Comedy 020 **Petticoat Politics** (..) Higgins Family Roscoe Karnes	7 Western 183 **Along the Rio Grande** (..) Tim Holt R—Feb. 1—PG-20	7 Comedy 129 **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (..) Eugene Pallette Rita Quigley		7 Drama **Back Street** (..) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer	8 Drama **Flight From Destiny** (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	18 Drama **Adam Had Four Sons** (..) Warner Baxter Ingrid Bergman	14 Drama 124 **The Bad Man** (..) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore		14 Mystery **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone	14 Western 075 **Bad Man From Rio** (..) Don "Red" Barry	14 Comedy 120 **A Guy, a Girl and a Gob** (..) George Murphy Lucille Ball	14 Com. Drama 130 **Golden Hoofs** (..) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers	14 Drama **So Ends Our Night** (..) Fredric March Margaret Sullavan R—Feb. 1—PG-20	14 Comedy **Meet the Chump** (..) Hugh Herbert Lewis Howard	15 Comedy **The Great Mr. Nobody** (..) Eddie Albert Joan Leslie	
FEB. 22	20 Drama **Meet Boston Blackie** (..) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson	21 Drama 125 **Trial of Mary Dugan** (..) Robert Young Laraine Day	19 Air Drama **Air Devils** (..) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan	21 Drama **Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	16 Western 065 **Prairie Pioneers** (..) Three Mesquiteers	21 Com. Drama 123 **Scattergood Baines** (..) Guy Kibbee	21 Drama 126 **Western Union** (..) Robert Young Virginia Gilmore		21 Mus. Comedy **Nice Girl** (..) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone	22 Com. Drama **Strawberry Blonde** (..) James Cagney Olivia de Havilland	
MAR. 1	27 Comedy **Blondie Goes Latin** (..) 27 Western 2205 **Outlaws of the Panhandle** (59) Charles Starrett	28 Comedy 126 **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (..) Mickey Rooney	28 Drama **Sign of the Wolf** (..)	28 Western 4052 **In Old Colorado** (..) William Boyd	3 Drama **Citadel of Crime** ( ) John Wayne Frances Dee	28 Drama 118 **Citizen Kane** (..) Orson Welles	28 Mystery 131 **Scotland Yard** (..) John Loder Nancy Kelly		28 Drama 5040 **Dark Streets of Cairo** (..) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7		
MAR. 8				7 Comedy **Hard Boiled Canary** (..) Allan Jones Susanna Foster		7 Drama 121 **Play Girl** (77) Kay Francis James Ellison R—Dec. 14	7 Drama **Tobacco Road** (..) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau		7 Comedy **Mr. Dynamite** (..) Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey		
MAR. 15						14 Drama 122 **Devil and Miss Jones** (..) [redacted]thur Charles Coburn	14 Mystery **Murder Among Friends** (..) John Hubbard Marjorie Weaver		14 Comedy **Model Wife** (..) Joan Blondell Dick Powell		

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ## Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. ◐ Indicates short of the week. ⓒ Indicates color photography.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

2425..	Blondes and Blunders (16)	11-29	±	12- 7
2424..	Bundle of Bliss, A (18)	11- 1		....
2423..	Cold Turkey (16)	10-18		....
1438..	Fireman Save My Choo-Choo (18)	8- 9	+	8-31
2628..	Fresh as a Freshman (..)	1-29		....
2426..	His Ex Marks the Spot (18)	12-13		....
2421..	Pleased to Mitt You (18)	9- 6		....
1421..	Skinny the Moocher (16½)	9- 8		....
2422..	Spook Speaks, The (18)	9-20	+	10-19
9437..	Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18)	7-28		....
2627..	Watchman Takes a Wife, The (16)	1-10	±	1-25

CINESCOPES

2975..	Feathers (Cosmocolor) (..)	1-31		....
2972..	Floating Elephants (8)	10- 4	+	10-19
2971..	Hobby Lobby (11)	8-30	+	9-21
2972..	Industrial Green Island (10)	9-20		....
2973..	Nice Work If You Can Do It (9)	11- 8	+	11-23
2975..	ⓒOcean Trails (..)	1-31		....
2974..	Unusual Crafts (9)	12-25	±	1-25

COLOR RHAPSODIES (In Technicolor)

2505..	A Helping Paw (7)	1- 7		....
2502..	ⓒMr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½)	10- 4		....
2503..	Mad Hatter, The (7)	11- 3		....
2501..	Tangled Television (7½)	8-30	+	10-19
1512..	Timid Pup, The (8)	8- 1	±	8-31
2506..	Way of All Pests (..)	2-28		....
2504..	Wise Owl (7)	12- 6	∓	12- 7

COLUMBIA TOURS

2556..	Beautiful British Columbia (10½)	12-20	+	1-25
2557..	From Singapore to Hong Kong (De La Varre Prod.) (10)	1-10		....
2551..	Historic Virginia (Andre de la Varre Productions) (10)	8-16		....
2554..	Islands of the West Indies (10)	10-25	##	11-23
2553..	Old and New Arizona (Special) (9)	9-27		....
2552..	Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10)	9-13	##	10-23
2555..	Sojourn in Havana (LaVarre Prod.) (9)	11-25	±	12- 7

COMMUNITY SING

2651..	No. 1..(Jolly Tunes—D. Baker (10)	10- 2		....
2652..	No. 2..(Popular Songs—D. Baker (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
2653..	No. 3..(Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)	12-13		....
2654..	No. 4 (Gay Tunes) (..)	1- 1		....
2655..	No. 5 (10) Fun with Songs—L. White.	2- 7		....

FABLES CARTOONS

2751..	Farmer Tom Thumb (6)	9-27	+	10-19
2755..	It Happened to Crusoe (..)	3-14		....
2752..	Mouse Meets Lion (6)	10-25	∓	12- 7
2753..	Paunch 'n' Judy (6½)	12-13	±	1-25
1755..	Pooch Parade (6)	7-19		....
2754..	Streamlined Donkey (..)	1-17		....

NEW YORK PARADE

2951..	New York Parade (..)	1-24		....

PHANTASIES CARTOONS

2702..	Happy Holidays (6)	10-25		....
2705..	Little Theatre, The (..)	2- 7		....
1706..	News Oddities (6)	7-19		....
1756..	Peep in the Deep, A (6½)	8-23	+	8-31
2701..	School Boy Dreams (5)	9-24	+	10-19
2705..	There's Music in Your Hair (..)	3-28		....
2704..	Tom Thumb's Brother (..)	1-17		....
2703..	Wallflower, The (..)	11-29		....

QUIZ REELS

2601..	Take It or Leave It (9½)	12- 5	o	12- 7
2602..	Take It or Leave It No. 2 (11)	12-25	∓	1-25
2603..	Take It or Leave It No. 3 (..)	2- 7		....
2604..	Junior I. Q. Parade (..)	3- 7		....

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS

1860..	No. 10 (9) Jack Oakie.	8-10	±	8-31
2851..	No. 1 (10) Ken Murray.	9- 6		....
2852..	No. 2 (9) Don Wilson.	10-18	o	11-23
2853..	No. 3 (9) Ken Murray.	11-22	±	12- 7
2854..	No. 4 (9) Ken Murray.	12-27		....
2855..	No. 5 (9) Bob Hope.	2- 2	∓	1-25

SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)

2441..	Puss in Boots (reissue) (40)	11-21		....

SPORT REELS

2803..	Ali the Giant Killer (10½)	12-27	∓	1-25
1809..	Canvas Capers (11)	7-19		
2802..	Hunting Wild Deer (9)	11-22	=	12- 7
2804..	Ice Capers (..)	1-24		....
2801..	Master of Cue With Willie Hoppe (9)	10- 4	+	10-19
2805..	Splits, Spares and Strikes (..)	2-21		....

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

2404..	Boobs in Arms (18)	12-27	±	1-18
2403..	Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)	11-15	±	12- 7
2401..	From Nurse to Worse (16)	8-23	+	8-31
1408..	How High Is Up (16)	7-16	=	8- 3
2402..	No Census, No Feeling (16)	10- 4		....
2405..	So Long Mr. Chumps (..)	2- 7		....

WASHINGTON PARADE

Series 2

1905..	No. 5 (The Archives) (11)	7- 4	+	8- 3
1906..	No. 6 (Our Nat'l Defense) (10)	8-30		....

Series 3

2901..	No. 1 (The Mint) (10)	10-25		....
2902..	No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (10)	12-13	±	1-18
2903..	No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (10)	1- 3	+	1-25

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

P- 5..	Buyers Beware (20)	8-17	##	9- 7
P-201..	◐Eyes of the Navy (20)	10-26	##	10-26
P- 6..	Soak the Old (20)	8-24	±	9-28
P-815..	Think First (21)	9- 9		....
P-202..	◐You, the People (21)	11-30	##	1-18

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS (In Technicolor)

T-214..	Beautiful Bali (9)	11-23	∓	12-14
T-211..	Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)	9- 7	##	9- 7
T-212..	Cavalcade of San Francisco (9)	9-28	∓	9-28
T-213..	Old New Mexico (10)	10-26	+	11- 9
T-215..	Old New Orleans (9)	12-21	+	1-18

MINIATURES

M-231..	Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia)	10- 9	±	12-14

M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series) (Technicolor)

W- 90..	Bookworm Turns, The (8)	7-20	+	8-31
W- 94..	Gallopin' Gals (8)	10-26	+	11- 9
W- 93..	Homeless Flea, The (8)	10-12	##	12- 7
W-241..	Lonesome Stranger (9)	11-23	##	12- 7
W- 92..	Papa Gets the Bird (8)	9- 7	∓	9-28
W- 91..	Romeo in Rhythm (8)	8-10	±	9- 7

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY Released Twice Weekly

OUR GANG COMEDIES

C-293..	Goin' Fishin' (10)	10-26	±	11- 9
C-291..	Good Bad Boys (11)	9- 7	+	9- 7
C-294..	Kiddie Kure (11)	11-23	+	12-28
C-292..	Waldo's Last Stand (11)	10- 5	∓	12- 7

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

K-281..	American Spoken Here (Sepia) (10)	11-30	##	12- 7
K-126..	Baron and the Rose, The (11)	9- 7	##	9-28
K-128..	Dreams (10)	11-16	+	12-14
K-127..	Utopia of Death (10)	10-12	+	11- 9

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

S-113..	Football Thrills of 1939 (10)	9-21	##	9-28
S-112..	Please Answer (9)	8-24	##	9- 7
S-261..	◐Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9)	10-12	##	12- 7
S-263	◐Sea for Yourself (10)	12-21	##	1-18
S-262..	Wedding Bills (10)	11-30	##	12- 7

Paramount

ANIMATED ANTICS

H0-4..	Bring Himself Back Alive (7)	12-20	∓	12-21
H0-1..	Dandy Lion, The (7)	9-20	±	10- 5
H0-3..	Mommy Loves Puppy (7)	11-29	+	12- 7
H0-2..	Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7)	10-25	±	11-23

BENCHLEY COMEDIES

S0- 1..	Trouble With Husbands (11)	11- 8	##	12- 7

COLOR CLASSICS (In Technicolor)

C9-5..	Snubbed by a Snob (7)	7-19	+	8-31
C9-6..	You Can't Shoe a Horsefly (7)	8-23	+	8-24

FASCINATING JOURNEYS (Technicolor)

M0- 1..	◐River Thames—Yesterday (10)	11- 8	##	11-23
M0- 2..	Sacred Ganges, The (11)	12-27	+	1-18

FLEISCHER CARTOONS

FF0-1..	Raggedy Ann (19)	12-20	##	12-21
	GABBY CARTOONS			
G0- 2..	Constable, The (7)	11-15	+	11-23
G0- 1..	King for a Day (7)	10-18	+	10-26
	HEADLINER			
A0- 3..	Johnny Messner and Orch. (11)	12-13	±	12-21
A0- 2..	Listen to Larry (10)	10-25	+	10-26
A0- 1..	◐Moments of Charm of 1941 (10)	9-13	##	10- 5
A9-10..	Pinky Tomlin and Orch. (11)	7-19	+	8-31
	MADCAP MODELS (In Technicolor)			
J0-1..	Western Daze (9)	1-17	##	1-18
	PARAMOUNT NEWS Released Twice Weekly.			
	PARAGRAPHICS			
V0- 3..	◐Breezy Little Bears (11)	12-27	##	1-18
V0- 1..	Nature's Nursery (10)	10-11	∓	10-26
V9-10..	Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)	9- 9	±	8-24
V0- 2..	Seeing Is Believing (11)	11-22	+	12- 7
	POPEYE CARTOONS			
E9-10..	Doing Impossikible Stunts (7)	8- 2	+	8-17
E0- 4..	Eugene, the Jeep (7)	12-13	±	12- 7
E9- 9..	Fightin' Pals (8)	7-12	##	8-17
E8-11..	It's the Natural Thing to Do (7)	7-28	±	8-26
E0- 2..	My Pop, My Pop (7)	10-18	∓	10-26
E0- 1..	Popeye Meets William Tell (7)	9-20	##	10- 5
E0-5..	Problem Pappy (7)	1-10	±	1-18
E9-12..	Puttin' on the Act (7)	8-30	+	8-24
E9-11..	Wimmin' Hadn't Oughta Drive (7)	8-16	+	8-24
E0- 3..	With Poopdeck Pappy (7)	11-15	o	12- 7
	POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)			
J0-1..	(11)	9- 6	+	10- 5
J0-2..	(10)	11- 1	+	12- 7
J0-3..	(10)	1- 3	+	12-21
	GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS			
R0- 6..	Acrobatic Aces (10)	2- 7	+	1-18
R0- 1..	Diving Demons (10)	9- 6	##	10- 5
R0- 5..	Feminine Fitness (10)	1-10	+	12-21
R0- 4..	Marine Roundup (10)	12- 6	+	12- 7
R0- 3..	Motorcycle Stunting (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
R9-13..	Sink or Swim (10)	7-12		....
R0- 2..	Sporting Everglades, The (10)	10- 4	##	11- 9
	STONE AGE CARTOONS			
B9- 9..	Fulla Bluff Man, The (7)	8- 9	±	8-24
B9-11..	Pedagogical Institution (7)	9-13		....
B9-10..	Springtime in the Rockage (7)	8-30		....
B9- 8..	Way Back When a Razzberry Was a Fruit (7)	7-26	+	8-17
B9-12..	Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)	9-27		....
	UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)			
L9-6..	No. 6 (11)	8- 2	##	8-17
L0-1..	No. 1 (11)	9- 7	+	10- 5
L0-2..	No. 2 (11)	11-29	+	12- 7

Republic

MEET THE STARS

028-1..	No. 1 (10)	12-24	+	12-28

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS (In Technicolor)

....	Big Hearted Pluto (..)	1-24		....
04,109..	Donald's Vacation (8)	8- 9	##	8-10
04,114..	Fire Chief (..)	11-22	##	12-14
04,113..	Goofy's Glider (8)	11- 1	+	12-14
04,112..	Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8)	10-11	+	11-23
04,115..	Pantry Pirate (8)	12-27		....
04,110..	Pluto's Dream House (8)	8-30	+	9-21
04,108..	Put-Put Trouble (7)	7-19		....
04,116..	Timber (8)	1-10		....
04,111..	Window Cleaners (8)	9-20	##	10-26
	EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES			
13,403..	Drafted in the Depot (19)	12-20		....
13,401..	Sunk by the Census (18)	9- 6	±	9-21
13,402..	Trailer Tragedy (17)	10-18	+	11- 9
	LEON ERROL COMEDIES			
03,704..	Bested by a Beard (20)	7-26		....
13,703..	Fired Man, The (20)	1-10		....
13,701..	He Asked for It (18)	9-27	∓	9-21
13,404..	Mad About Moonshine (19)	2-21		....
13,702..	Tattle Talevision (19)	11-29		....
	MARCH OF TIME			
03,112..	No. 12 (17) Spoils of Conquest.	8- 2	+	8-10
03,113..	◐No. 13 (20) Gateways to Panama.	8-24	##	8-31
13,101..	No. 1 (19) On Foreign Newfronts.	9-13	##	9-21
13,102..	No. 2 (18) Britain's R. A. F.	10- 4	+	10-19
13,103..	No. 3 (19)	10-25	±	10-26

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Movietone News, No. 39

Inauguration; Manchester bombed; Greeks with Italian captives; Queen christens new warship; marines parade in San Diego; Ford trains sailors; troops sail for Newfoundland base; music on ice; skiing.

News of the Day, No. 237

Inauguration; launch English battleship; refugee children talk to parents in England; wrestling burlesqued in Boston.

Paramount News, No. 42

Entire reel devoted to Roosevelt and Wallace inauguration.

RKO Pathe News, No. 42

Inauguration; press building hit in London; 14-pound baby born in California; diving bell for tourists in Florida; launch new British battleship.

Universal Newsreel, No. 947

Inauguration; Kennedy speech; Willkie prepares for Clipper flight; Mexican army officers review marines at San Diego base; skiing.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Movietone News, No. 40

Willkie flies to England; Kennedy on lend-lease bill; Duchess of Gloucester in auxiliary air force; General Metaxas in victory celebration; army changes aircraft motors in record time; parachute troops; fashions; Sonja Henie in ice show; swimming meet in Mexico.

News of the Day, No. 238

Canadian troops on alert in Iceland; U. S. debates lend-lease bill; Willkie flies to England; parachute troops; Winthrop Rockefeller in army; Sonja Henie in ice show; racing in Mexico.

Paramount News, No. 43

Navy torpedo boats off to Florida; Rockefeller in army; Willkie flies to England; Kennedy speech; Henry Ford gives school for naval training; British troops in Iceland; British poised for blitz in Egypt; Turkish army maneuvers for British officials; British women in training; wrestling; Bob Feller signs new contract; Sonja Henie in ice show.

RKO Pathe News, No. 43

Willkie off to Britain; British army in Iceland; bumper sugar crop in Florida; Sonja Henie in ice show; Red Cross prepares supplies for Europe; flower queens crowned in Florida; Ford presents school to U. S. navy; wrestling in Florida; motorcycle troops in maneuvers.

Universal Newsreel, No. 948

Canadian troops in Iceland; parachute troops; mass production of bombers under way on coast; motorcycle troops in action; Willkie flies to England; build clippers for Britain in Seattle; Winthrop Rockefeller in army; Texas Governor O'Daniels gives inauguration barbecue; children's fashions; jaloppy derby; wrestling.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.			
13,104	No. 4 (19)	11-22	+	12- 7
	Arms and the men.			
13,105	No. 5 (19)	12-20	+	12-28
	Labor and Defense.			
13,106	No. 6 (21)	1-17	‡	1-25
	Uncle Sam—Non-Belligerent.			
	PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE			
04,212	◎No. 12 (12)	7-12	‡	7-13
04,213	No. 13 (11)	8- 9	+	8-10
14,201	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204	No. 4 (11)	11-29		....
14,205	No. 5 (11)	12-27		....
	PATHE NEWS			
	(Released Twice Weekly)			
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
14,302	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,301	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,305	Snow Eagles (9)	12-20		....
14,304	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	‡	12-14
14,303	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
04,313	Trouble Shooter (9)	8- 2	+	9-21
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404	No. 4 (10)	12- 6	+	12-14
14,405	No. 5 (10)	1- 3		....
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS			
	(New Series)			
13,501	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
13,502	Prairie Schooners (13)	1-31		....
	REELISMS			
	(New Series)			
04,613	Hats (9)	8-16		....
04,611	Streamlined (9)	8-10	∓	8-10
04,612	Week End (9)	7-19		....

20th Century-Fox

	ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN			
1201	◎Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	‡	10-19
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	‡	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
0306	Action on Ice (9)	7-19		....
1303	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1301	◎Vacation Time in Florida (8)	8-10	±	8-17
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1101	Eskimo Trails (10)	8- 2	+	8-17
1103	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS			
	Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE			
1401	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402	Tale of Butch the Parrot, The (..)	2-28		....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102	◎Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
	TERRY-TOONS			
1551	◎Billy Mouse's Akwakade (7)	8- 9	∓	8-17
1501	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		....
1503	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		....
1553	How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554	Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
0517	Love in a Cottage (7)	7-28		....
1552	Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		....
1504	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12 7
1555	◎Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
0516	Rupert the Runt (7)	7-12		....
1505	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		....
1556	◎Temperamental Lion, The (7)	12-27		....
1502	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19

Universal

	LANTZ CARTUNES			
	(Technicolor)			
5241	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		....
5243	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5245	Mouse Trappers (6¾)	1-27		....
5242	◎Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	‡	11- 9
5244	Syncopated Sioux (6¾)	12-31		....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
4365	No. 80 (9½)	8-12		....
5351	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352	No. 82 (9)	10-14		....
5353	No. 83 (9)	11-11		....
5354	No. 84 (9)	12-23		....
5355	No. 85 (9)	1-20		....
5356	No. 86 (9)	2-17		....
5357	No. 87 (..)	3-17		....
5358	No. 88 (..)	3-31		....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 8
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
4385	No. 80 (9)	8- 5	+	7-27
5371	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		....
5373	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		....
5374	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		....
5375	No. 85 (9)	1- 6		....
5376	No. 86 (9)	2- 3		....
5377	No. 87 (..)	3-10		....
5378	No. 88 (..)	3-24		....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
	Bagdad Daddies (..) Gertrude Neisen, Ambassadorettes, Fuzzy Knight, Johnson Bros.	2-19		....
5225	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (17) The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.	1-22		....
5221	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		....
5223	Congamania (17) Jose Cansino Dancers, Eddie Durant & Orch.	10-16	±	12- 7
4231	Hawaiian Rhythm (17) Harry Owens and His Royal Hawaiians.	7-17	+	7-27
4233	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		....
5224	Tickled Pinky (18) Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.	12-25		....
5223	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
4232	Varsity Vanities (17½) Six Hits and a Miss, Martha Tilton.	8- 7	+	8- 3
	UNIVERSAL NEWS			
	Released Twice Weekly			

Vitaphone

	BROADWAY BREVITIES			
6202	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6204	Dog in the Orchard (20)	1-25	+	1-18
6202	Ed Sullivan's Hollywood (20)	11-16		....
6201	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		....
6203	Love's Intrigue (20)	12-28		....
4008	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		....
6205	Take the Air (20)	2-22		....
5110	Young America Flies (20)	8- 3		....
	THE COLOR PARADE			
	(New Series)			
5410	Famous Movie Dogs (10)	7-27	+	8-17
5410	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		....
5409	Valley, The (8)	7-20	+	7- 6
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6102	Lady and the Lug (20)	3-22		....
6101	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6305	Boar Hunt, The (10)	1-15		....
6301	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6304	History Repeats Itself (10)	1-18		....
6303	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		....
6607	Haunted Mouse, The (7)	2-15		....
6608	Joe Glow, the Firefly (7)	3- 8		....
5616	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	‡	8-24
6609	Porky's Bear Facts (7)	3-29		....
6604	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6606	Porky's Snooze Reel (7)	1-11		....
6602	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		....
6605	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		....
	MELODY MASTERS			
6506	Cliff Edwards and His Buckaroos (10)	3- 8		....
6503	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	2- 1		....
6502	Joe Reichman & Orch. (10)	10-26		....
6501	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	‡	8-24
6504	Skinnay Ennis & Orch (10)	1- 4	+	12-28
5510	Woody Herman & Orch. (10)	7-27		....
	MERRIE MELODIES			
	(In Technicolor)			
6706	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		....
6713	Cat's Tale, The (7)	3- 1		....
5326	Ceiling Hero (7)	7- 6		....
6712	Crackpot Quail, The (7)	2-15		....
6709	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)	1- 4	o	12-28
5323	Egg Collector (7)	7-20		....
6710	Fighting 69th½, The (7)	1-18	‡	1-18
5325	Ghost Wanted (7)	8-10		....
6715	Goofy Groceries (7)	3-29		....
6104	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		....
6703	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11 9
6701	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		....
6708	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6711	Sniffles Bells the Cat (7)	2- 1		....
6702	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
6714	Tortoise Beats the Hare (7)	3-15		....
6705	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
5324	Wild Hare, A (7)	7-27		....
	SPORTS PARADE			
	(Color)			
6404	California Thoroughbreds (10)	1-11	±	12-28
6403	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6405	Fight, Fish, Fight (10)	3- 1		....
6401	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
6001	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002	March on Marines (20)	12-14	‡	12-28
6003	Meet the Fleet (20)	2- 8	+	1-18
5007	Pony Express Days (20)	7-13	+	7- 6
5008	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		....

Serials

	COLUMBIA			
1180	Deadwood Dick 15 Chapters. Don Douglas, Lorna Gray.	7-19	∓	7-27
1120	Green Archer, The 15 Chapters. Victor Jory,	10-25	∓	11- 9
2120	White Eagle 15 Chapters. Buck Jones.	1-31		....
	REPUBLIC			
081	King of the Royal Mounted 12 Chapters. Allan Lane.	9-20	‡	8-24
082	Mysterious Doctor Satan 15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.	12-13	+	11-23
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	Green Hornet Strikes Again 15 Chapters. Warren Hull.	12-24	+	11- 9
5681	Junior G-Men 12 Chapters. Dead End Kids, Little Tough Guys.	9- 1	+	8- 3
5881	Sky Raiders 12 Chapters.	4- 8		....

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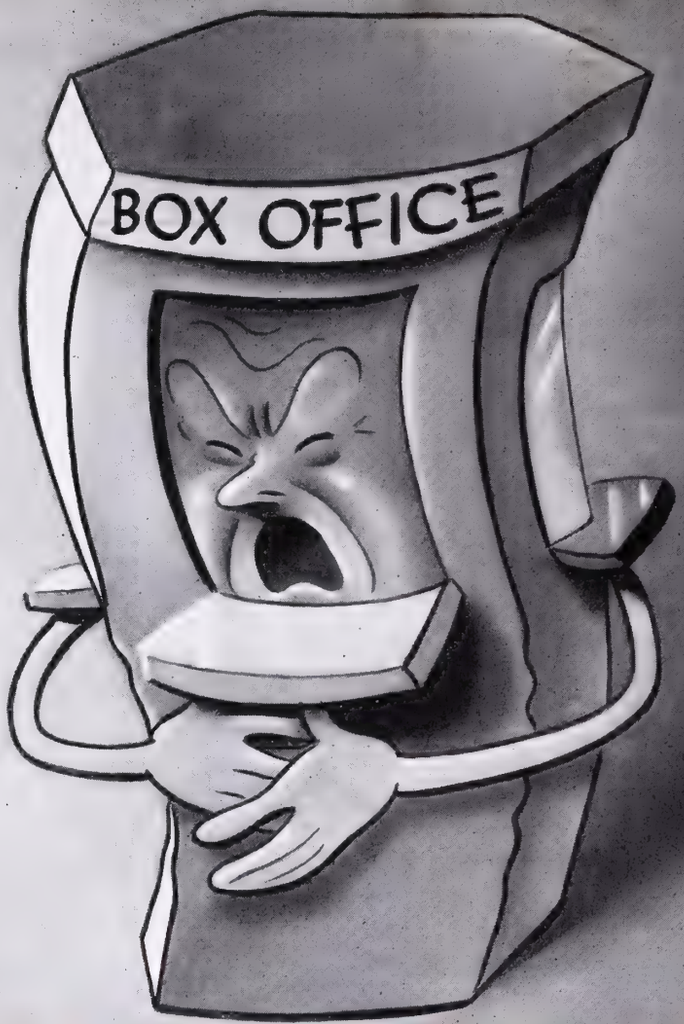
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The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

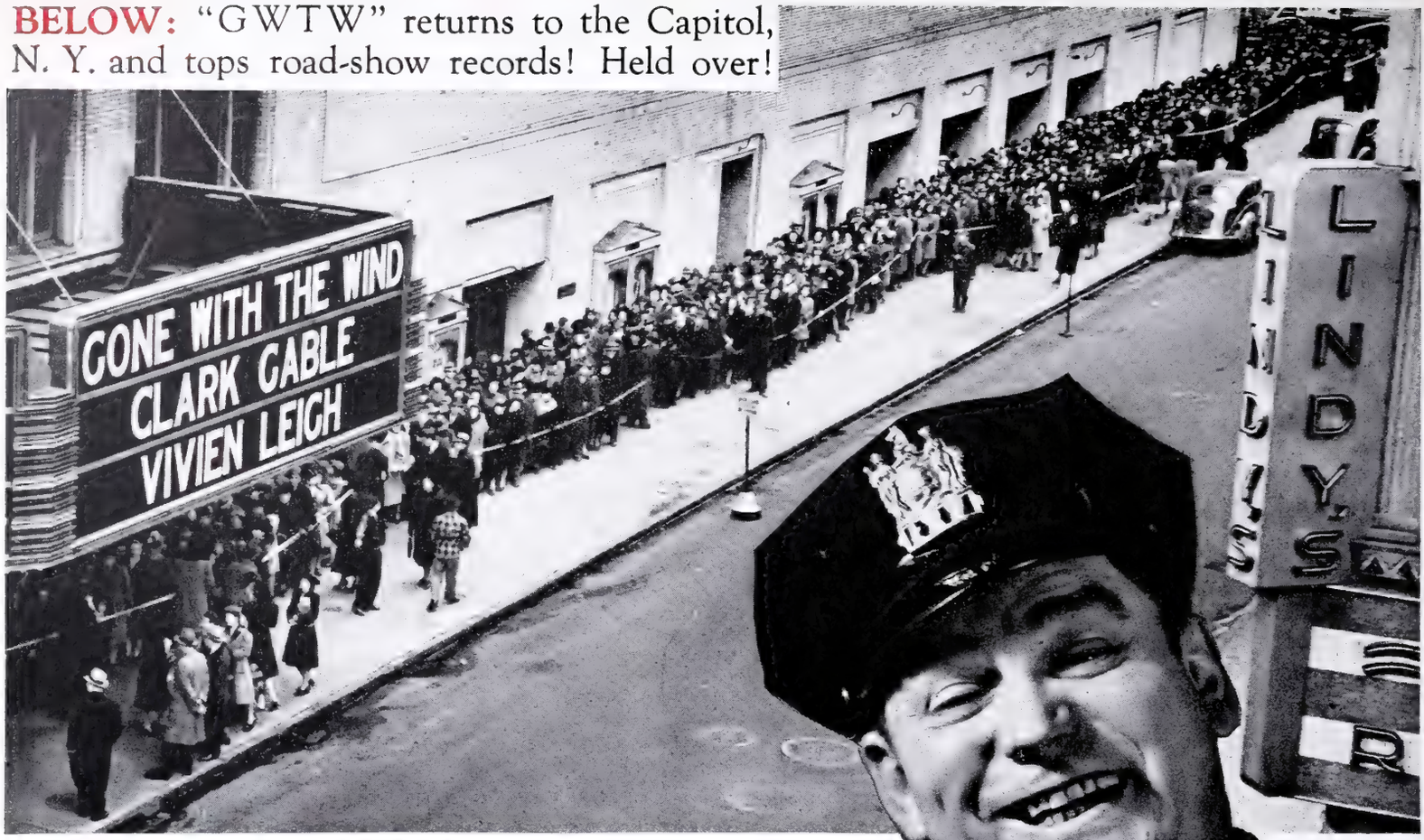
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SETTLEMENT SEEN FOR ALL GOVERNMENT SUITS

(See Page 4)

BELOW: "GWTW" returns to the Capitol, N. Y. and tops road-show records! Held over!



"THE SAME AS LAST YEAR!"

N. Y. TIMES, JAN. 27, 1941

Cut in Prices Brings Gain For 'Gone With the Wind'

"Gone With the Wind" registered 10,432 more paid admissions on the first two days, last Thursday and Friday, of its return engagement at the Capitol than in the comparable period when it first opened at the theatre in December, 1939.

Matinee receipts were $1,017 above the original receipts, notwithstanding that current admissions represent a 50 per cent reduction in the original price scale.

Attendance increases of 30 per cent and increases of from 10 to 15 per cent in receipts also were reported in Cleveland, Ohio; Worcester, Mass.; Bridgeport, Conn., and other representative cities, according to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, the distributors.

(Yes, Mr. Exhibitor. The Miracle of Show Business is exceeding even the wildest dreams in its return at reduced prices. Crowds! New records! Hold-overs everywhere! Put "Gone With The Wind" on your marquee. It's magic!)

BOXOFFICE
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

Shake Hands, Mr. Lastrun

THIS page is being written and in great and undisguised glee. Here is why:

Aside from a timid glimmer here and there, and hardly discernible, your occasionally bull-headed reporter has been maintaining a sort of lone hand campaign on behalf of the consent decree in direct opposition to the expressed and fiery condemnation of practically all of the exhibitors in all of America. That's an order in wholesale and nothing to be particularly comfortable about. It's a time, too, when a feller needs a friend, if he can find one.

The news today is that friend has been found. An old friend, too. John Lastrun is the name. He is the exhibitor who runs a single, last-run theatre in a metropolitan city. Possibly he may be remembered as the theatreman who was highly skeptical about the government suit and even more dubious about theatre divorcement. For several years, aside from whatever comfort this column might have been able to muster, he has been asking periodic questions about problems which face him, hoping against vain hope that someone in this broad land could answer him, and would.

He is back once more. "Well, here I am again—the little guy still with the last run in the metropolitan neighborhood. I've written to you from time to time concerning some of my problems and you have been good enough to print my letters, but to date no one has ever bothered to help solve my particular squawks," Lastrun writes. "However, I find that problems have a way of being solved in the course of time to make room for new headaches that seem to spring up.

Why He Gloats

"THIS time I am not writing about a problem. On the contrary, I think I am gloating. I am one of the few exhibitors who is not alarmed by the consent decree. Without knowing why, my first reaction to the decree was that it was bound to do me more good than harm. As the full import of the block of five selling dawned on me, I realized just where I was going to be better off and I am sure that you'll appreciate my optimism.

"In my situation, I need four or five pictures a week which means that about 225 pictures a year cover my requirements. In the past I could buy only the product of four major companies and sometimes five to cover my needs. The pictures of the other companies were not available to me as I was not able to contract for the entire blocks of their productions.

"Now, for the first time I'll have a chance to negotiate for all the product that is made. Of course, I won't be able to buy it all, but I'll certainly have a crack at the blocks of five I like. I won't be compelled to indulge in the seasonal guessing games I had to in the past. Heretofore, I had to determine in advance which companies I was going to pass up. Sometimes I guessed reasonably well and at other times I pulled some costly boners. I have bought what looked swell on paper and passed up what didn't look so hot. I've lost a lot of sleep bemoaning my lack of judgment.

"I sincerely believe that a lot of that grief is over. The amount of guesswork will be reduced to a minimum. I know that I'll still makes mistakes and plenty of them. However, now, I'll make them with my eyes more or less open. And what is equally important, the best pictures will be available to me and I won't be compelled to pass up a company's product because I've already bought up to my capacity.

"I hope I'm not being too optimistic."

We regard this the viewpoint of an extremely practical man and a far more constructive and helpful leap at the decree than most of the comment so indiscriminately let fly around the country. Lastrun demonstrates an ability to face the facts and, maybe, the music as well. He may not be too certain of his own diagnosis of things to come but, then, neither is anyone else and this does not exempt the men who drew up the decree.

On the Fundamental

THUS and while Lastrun indeed may be too optimistic, perhaps he will not be. What he has done, nevertheless, is to put his finger on a fundamental which the decree establishes. We hold it to be most important that blind selling is kicked out even if block booking, unwound as it will be, is not. The exhibitor may not elect to look at the product. That will become his business, but it is significant it will be there waiting for him if he so chooses it.

He will not have to buy more than five at a clip, thereby exercising the proper right of control over his own playing time. This is so new, in fact it is so startling that it occurs to us that exhibitors generally do not realize what this can mean to them. If they did, their whole approach to the decree might undergo a change. Like John Lastrun's.

Kann

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FEBRUARY 8, 1941
Vol. 38 No. 12

INSIDERS PREDICT SETTLEMENT ALL GOVERNMENT SUITS IN 1941

Say "Friendly Attitude" By Defendants Only Thing Needed Now

By BILL ORNSTEIN

(Copyright, 1941, Associated Publications)

NEW YORK—Insiders, those on the top and in the know and who have held assiduously to an optimistic picture during the trying days of the negotiating and drafting of the consent decree, see a peaceful settlement of all pending government litigation in the industry.

The attitude of the department of justice, spokesmen declare, is to cooperate with the industry now that so many other more important problems face government attention. It is felt all that is needed to bring about the full peace is a desire on the part of the defendants to show a friendly attitude and an open mind on compromise, as in the case with "The Big Five."

In Spirit of Compromise

The men actually responsible for the decree readily admit there are a number of conditions in the document which they did not want. But most of all they did not want the all-industry suit to go to trial. Hence, when they explained their position on certain demands by the government, department representatives acceded on some matters and the industry conceded others. Ultimately, a compromise was reached.

It is held that the government is continuing its same attitude in regard to negotiations now under way with attorneys for the Schine and Griffith circuits. These negotiations, exclusively reported by BOXOFFICE, were never denied.

Differ on Expansion

In the case of the Schine suit, Willard S. McKay has been to Washington on a number of occasions conferring with Robert Wright and others of the department of justice on a modified decree. The only important factor now holding up consummation of the pact is a difference on the limitations of expansion to be afforded Schine under such a decree.

The circuit does not want its activities curtailed, which the government is now insisting upon. But the indication is a compromise will be reached shortly and this may be along the lines covered in the decree for the "Big Five."

Attorneys for Griffith in Oklahoma City also have had consultations with the department and have secured a preliminary idea of what is expected from the government. This circuit's expansion activities in the last year have resulted in a number of additions which have brought complaints to the department. The compromise which is expected to develop will slow new acquisitions somewhat, but allowances will

(Continued on page 20)

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is 100 per cent.*

GONE WITH THE WIND—
- New Orleans 250
- Kansas City 250
- New Haven 225
- Pittsburgh 210

ARIZONA—
- New Orleans 200

HUDSON'S BAY—
- New Orleans 200

PHILADELPHIA STORY—
- Denver 195
- Chicago 175

THIS THING CALLED LOVE—
- Pittsburgh 180

KITTY FOYLE—
- Milwaukee (dual) 165

Exchange Unions May Vote Local Autonomy

NEW YORK—Within the next 30 days, all local film exchange unions, comprising backroom employes, are expected to vote for local autonomy, which will give them wider powers under their IATSE charters. One unit has already voted for the new plan, this being Local B-51 for the New York exchanges.

Under the local autonomy idea, the unions will have the power to negotiate their own contracts with distributors without calling in IA representatives, and also will be empowered to take whatever action might be deemed necessary to bring about their demands.

Presently, all exchange unions are classified as "B" units, which means they have no right to negotiate their own deals with distributors. However, under the new classification, the unions will become "A" units and be given additional powers. A majority of unions is needed before the IA will recognize them as "A" bodies.

Dues for the members of B-51 will be increased from $3 to $6 a quarter under the "A" classification, half of the new sum to go to the IA treasury.

Many Local B-51 members have been dissatisfied with Local 306's conduct at the strike called two years ago when the operators' union was negotiating its new deal with major circuits. Backroom employes were called out on strike for two weeks and each man was given $15 by Local 306.

The local exchange contract with distributors expires next December. By that time it is expected the local autonomy rule will be in effect and negotiations carried on without "interference" by Local 306 or the IA.

RKO Completes Plan For Decree Selling

NEW YORK—RKO executives have completed a basic plan for simplified selling under the decree and are prepared to put the system into effect "tomorrow" if the new season were to start then, it is learned.

The plan is the result of a survey of several months during which home office executives have visited the field and studied each situation. An analysis of every account has been made so that the company is in a position to know from the records how much and how little each can afford.

There is no desire to work any hardship on any exhibitor, it is asserted, but rather the sales force will make every effort to cooperate with its customers as in the past and continue the friendliest of relations.

George J. Schaefer, president, is expected to leave for the coast in a few days with Ned E. Depinet to line up new product to complete the current program and also lay plans for the new session. Indications are that most of the 1940-41 program will be delivered on schedule and that before July rolls around at least one group of five will be ready for screening.

William Zimmerman, home office attorney, has been and is continuing a tour of exchanges explaining the provisions of the decree now in effect. Leo Devaney, Depinet drive leader and Canadian division head, is completing his first tour of the country and has been discussing the decree.

No date has been set for the annual convention, but it is understood home office counsel will go over the decree sections again, stressing the important points, such as those which border on contempt of court for the company and its representatives.

It is emphasized the company and every representative will live up to the letter of the decree.

More big pictures and fewer small ones will be the tenor of the RKO program for 1941-42. Schaefer's trip to Hollywood will be for several weeks and not for a year, as has been reported.

Good Bye Blues, New Tune on RKO's Lot

Hollywood—Happy Days are Here Again on the RKO lot.

Early this week, word was received from George J. Schaefer, president, to restore pay cuts which have been in effect since October 2, 1939. The cuts ranged from 10 per cent up for persons earning $5,000 annually to $75,000 a year.


Paramount presents
BONNIE BAKER · ORRIN TUCKER AND HIS ORCHESTRA
"YOU'RE THE ONE"
with
Jerry Colonna · Lillian Cornell
Albert Dekker · Edward Everett Horton
Teddy Hart · Directed by RALPH MURPHY · Written and Produced by GENE MARKEY
"There's one you'll really get steamed up about!"
COLONNA
Paramount Pictures

Here they are! Sensational on the air
NOW . . . bigger than ever

"I always knew that if they gave me enough rope...I'd be colossal!"



Oh Johnny BON
and her "Hit Parade" maestro O

All in the first big musical smash for 'Forty-One . . .

PARAMOUNT'S

Rope T

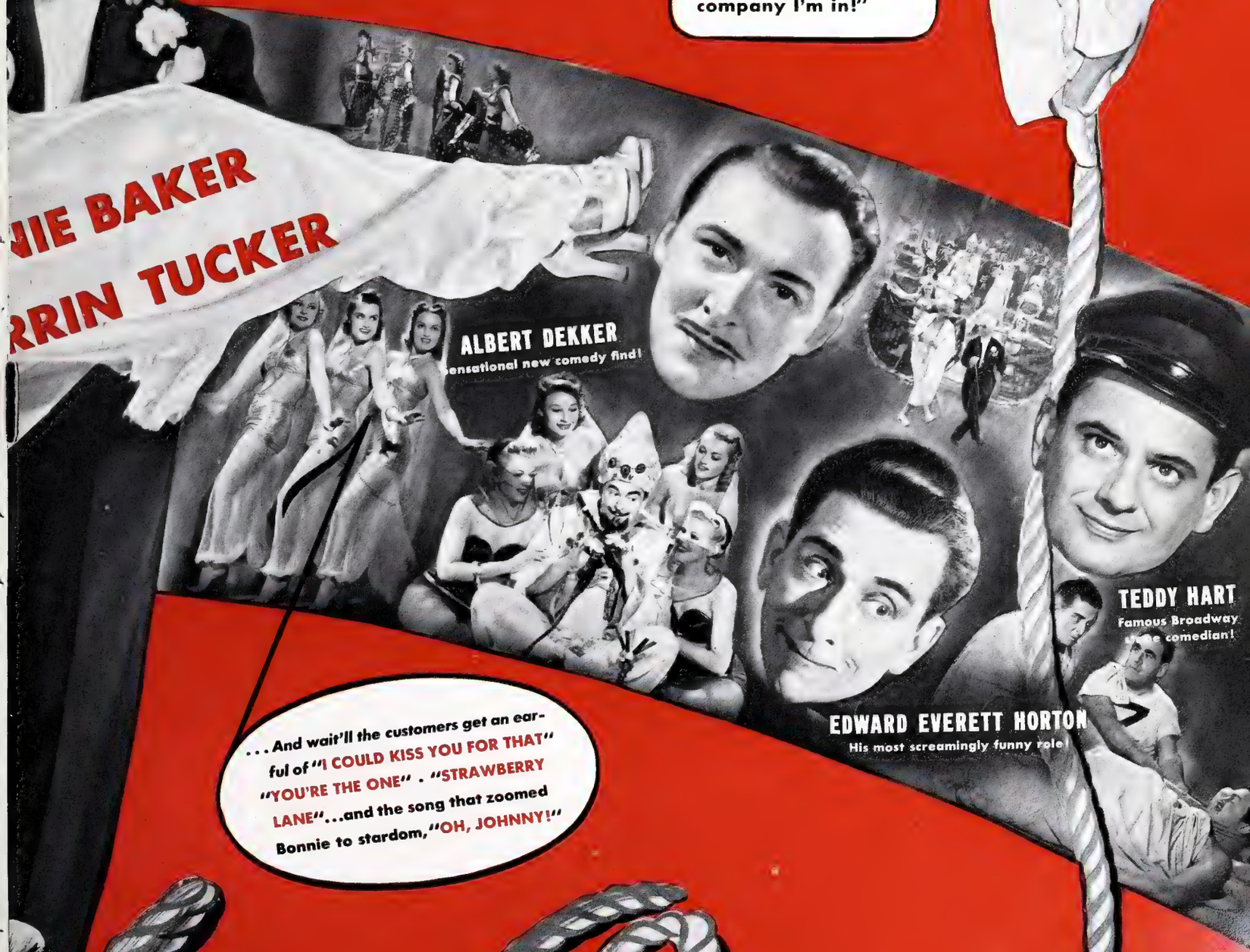
! A cleanup in personal appearance!
in their first screen hit . . .





"I'm right... but wait'll you see the swell company I'm in!"

IE BAKER
RRIN TUCKER



. . . And wait'll the customers get an earful of "I COULD KISS YOU FOR THAT" "YOU'RE THE ONE" . "STRAWBERRY LANE"...and the song that zoomed Bonnie to stardom, "OH, JOHNNY!"

No. One



PARAMOUNT'S

"YOU'RE THE ONE"

with

JERRY COLONNA · Lillian Cornell · Albert Dekker

Edward Everett Horton · Teddy Hart · Directed by RALPH MURPHY · Written and Produced by GENE MARKEY

BOARD SUBPOENA POWER "TEETH" PRECEDENTAL IN FILM BUSINESS

May Punish Witnesses Who Fail to Appear Before Tribunal

NEW YORK—Exhibitor or other witnesses who fail to comply with subpoenas issued by arbitrators of the AAA "will be guilty of contempt of court and liable to pay all losses and damages sustained thereby to the parties aggrieved, and forfeit $50 in addition thereto."

The power to subpoena witnesses which arbitrators hold is said by veteran film men never to have existed in the past, either with the Film Boards of Trade, the NRA or other voluntary groups. These observers declare the subject of the rights of subpoena had been at all times a controversial one because of the unusual nature of the industry, and therefore never were vested with earlier arbitration groups. These same sources see significance in the fact the AAA has adopted such procedure, thus giving its system of arbitration "teeth," but decline to discuss the relative merits of the move until it comes into actual operation.

The AAA's power of subpoena, which is revealed among 28 forms now available at 31 film tribunals throughout the country, is known as Form XVII, and designated as *"Subpoena Duces Tecum."* The following is the wording of the form:

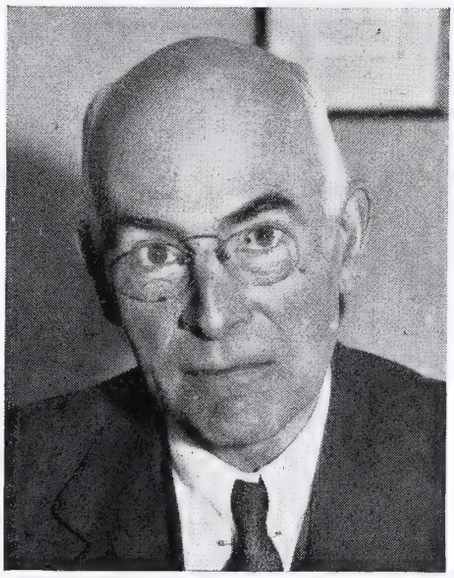
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF TO:

GREETING:—

I COMMAND YOU, that all business and excuses being laid aside, you and each of you appear and attend before....., the Arbitrator appointed in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration and Appeals, under the Motion Picture Consent Decree, at the office of the ..... Arbitration District, on the ..... day of ....., 19..... at ..... o'clock in the ..... noon, to testify and give evidence in a certain Arbitration now pending before said Arbitrator, then and there to be held between....., Complainant, and ....., Defendant, on the part of....., and that you bring with you, and produce at the time and place aforesaid a certain..... ..... now in your custody and all other deeds and evidences which you have in your custody or power concerning the premises. And for failing to attend, you will be guilty of contempt of court and liable to pay all losses and damages sustained thereby to the parties aggrieved, and forfeit $50 in addition thereto."

According to veteran film men the AAA's power of subpoena is noteworthy in still another respect. This is the right to impose a fine on witnesses who fail to comply with the subpoena, going so far as to be held liable to "pay all losses and

(Continued on page 18)



—Wide World

GEORGE W. ALGER



—Blank & Stoller

ALBERT W. PUTNAM

Appeals Board Setup Complete—

NEW YORK—Federal Judge Henry Warren Goddard completed the personnel for the arbitration appeals board with the appointment this week of Albert W. Putnam and George W. Alger, both of New York. Former Federal Judge Van Vechten Veeder was previously designated chairman by Judge Goddard.

Putnam and Alger, both well known New York attorneys, the latter familiar to the industry through his services as special master in the RKO reorganization proceedings, will serve for a period of three years at a salary of $17,500 annually.

Putnam, who has practiced law in New York since 1900, is a native of Spuyten Duyvil, where he was born in September, 1877. He received his degree from Columbia and is a graduate of the General Staff College of the Army. His military career included a captaincy in a machine gun battalion, and later was a major of field artillery.

Putnam has been identified as a vice-president of the Guardian Assets Corp., director of the Rye Trust Co., the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Co., and Tingue, Brown & Co.

Alger, who received his law degree from New York University in 1895, has practiced in New York for 46 years. Alger drafted the New York Employes Liability Act and many amendments to labor and child labor laws. He has served as chairman of the commission on the coat and suit industry of New York City, and later was director of the industry under the NRA. He is a native of Burlington, Vt.

A Man With a Formula—

New York—At least one exhibitor in the local territory is planning to break up his circuit of 13 houses, into three divisions, turning two groups of four and five over to his partners, so that he may come within the interpretation of an independent exhibitor under the decree.

According to the decree, Section X footnote, "an independent exhibitor is one wholly independent of any circuit of more than five theatres and not affiliated either by stock ownership, common buying or otherwise with a circuit of more than five theatres and whose licenses are not negotiated by a buying combine or common buying agent negotiating for more than five theatres."

The circuit involved feels it will lose certain rights under its present setup if the number is not split up.

"It's bad enough we have to operate under the decree and they're not going to fool us any more," the exhibitor involved told BOXOFFICE. "Why we should be discriminated against because we have 13 small houses, not affiliated with any booking combine, is not surprising. The small exhibitor is going to find the going tougher, and if he thinks he has had it hard up until now wait until the new selling season starts."

Watch it!

at New York's Roxy and in Boston—Schenectady —St. Louis—Providence —Milwaukee—all those key-spots where it's proving that...

BIG ONES DON'T COME ANY BIGGER!



ZANE GREY'S

WESTERN UNION

in TECHNICOLOR!

REVIEWS DON'T COME ANY BETTER!

"Orchids for 'Western Union'! Adventure, action and thrills for Americans of all ages . . . hitting the high in motion picture entertainment!"
—Walter Winchell

"'Western Union' a smash audience picture!"
—Louella Parsons

"The Zanuck crowd has turned out a big, rich, juicy Western in 'Western Union' . . . the type Western that should crack records! Entertainment plus!"
—Hollywood Reporter

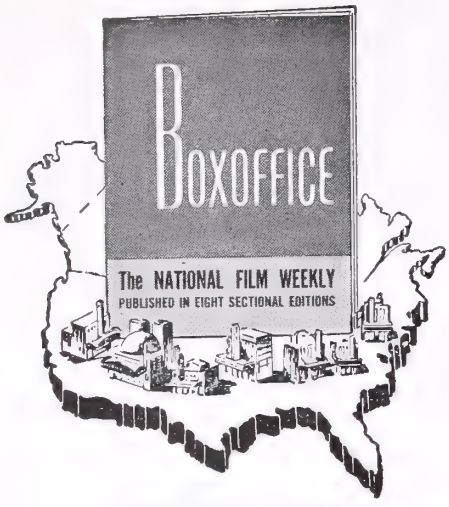
"Not since those colorful, exciting days of 'Jesse James' (the biggest hit of 1939) has 20th Century-Fox's Darryl F. Zanuck, or Hollywood, turned out such a magnificent outdoor saga as 'Western Union'!"
—Jimmy Starr, Los Angeles Evening Herald & Express

"'Western Union' smash hit for the masses! Hits all the notes in the entertainment scale! It will be a boxoffice natural . . . sell car-loads of tickets!"
—Boxoffice Digest

"'Western Union' is the best of Mr. Zanuck's recent outdoor epics! The color quite wonderful!"
—John Chapman, N. Y. Daily News

"'Western Union' a cleanup! Has about everything in the line of general entertainment to make it one of 20th-Fox's best bets of the season for both men and women!"
—Daily Variety

20th CENTURY FOX



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VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

Miami Beach

IT WAS a lush and excitement-laden atmosphere which Universal created for the premiere of "Back Street" here Tuesday evening and it served well as a setting from which a generous cross-section of invited critics from over thirty cities could draw their stuff.

Yet the salient and undeniable conclusion is that "Back Street" stands on its own, and well, as an attraction that no doubt will make its potency felt even if the sort of gala treatment determined for it here had been given the go-by.

Here, of course, is a latter day version of Fannie Hurst's widely known novel. All of the great appeal, especially for women, which dotted the history of the original has been wisely retained this time, in recognition of a procedure frequently overlooked in Hollywood. The procedure: That, once a story is good, the chances are all in its favor that it will continue to be good if the essentials of the original are not subjected to tampering in the cause of either modernizing or endeavors to make it different.

Your journeyman's recollection of the first version is the treatment in that case underlined the influence which the feminine lead wielded on the business career of the man in the drama. Therefore, she was dominant in his life on two counts. One, the manner in which she propelled him toward greater heights in the world of business. Two, her great and undying passion which proved contentment enough although the circumstances compelled her to walk constantly through the back street of his life.

The first element is subordinated, not entirely removed, in the 1941 edition to allow an even greater stress on their spiritual and emotional compatibility. In another word, the love angle is the more heavily underlined, the results stamping the new "Back Street" with all of the success attendant upon its predecessor. There might be something further to say, by way of an overall approach. It might become repetitious, too.

The atmosphere of the early days of the century is faithfully and nostalgically caught and maintained. In terms of performances, the ratings rank high. Margaret Sullavan is excellent as the understanding woman. Charles Boyer, as the man, is as good as ever he was and there probably will be some, if not many, who will view his Walter Saxel well up among the best roles he has played.

Robert Stevenson, young Englishman now happily part of the coast production colony, again emphasizes the niceties of his direction and his ability to grasp a drama carved directly out of the American scene in stride. He does very well in this instance.

•

New York

He's Not Alone

A TOPFLIGHT circuit operator, affiliated, currently wonders along these lines:

"I am tremendously concerned whether this one appeals board located in New York will be able to grasp the necessity for different lengths of clearance in different situations. For example, fifteen days may be a pretty fair clearance in that congested New York area and be almost a continuous first run in some of our smaller communities.

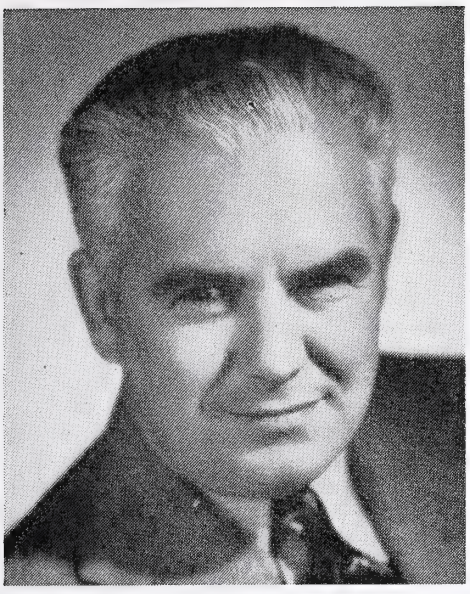
"You know, of course, that from the trouble we have had making courts understand the problems of this industry—do I need to cite the very decree itself?—I think we are in for some startling results when we get the estimable gentleman who has spent his life in maritime law trying to understand show business."

Our communicant certainly is not alone. If it's company he is looking for, and he is not, there's plenty of it despite the perennial insistence of the American Arbitration Association that its arbitrators, being smart cookies, catch on awfully fast. The point is, is awfully fast quite fast enough in a business like this which deals in perishable goods?

A final paragraph, however, is a boost. No one, it is to be supposed, will object strenuously if it is printed here:

"But I do think you are doing a fine job in keeping the matter alive and trying to get some clarification of procedure in advance."

Thanks for that.



NATE J. BLUMBERG



WILLIAM A. SCULLY



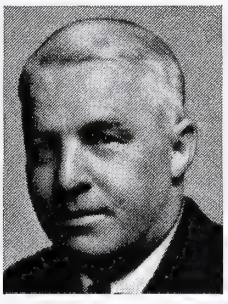
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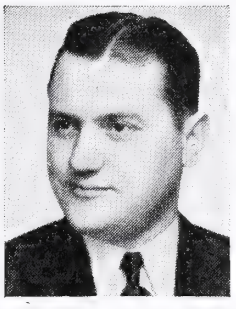
JOSEPH PASTERNAK



MATTY FOX



F. J. A. McCARTHY



W. J. HEINEMAN



J. H. SEIDELMAN



JOHN E. JOSEPH

UNIVERSAL PLANS 47 FEATURES 69 REELS OF SHORTS, 4 SERIALS

CHICAGO—Stealing the march over his competitors, William Scully, general sales manager, will announce to Universal delegates Monday, the final day of the three-day annual sales convention at the Blackstone, details of the 1941-42 lineup of 47 features, 69 reels of shorts, four serials and 104 issues of the newsreel.

The feature lineup marks an increase of two over the current season and will include, as it did this season, three special Frank Lloyd productions. These will be sold separately and apart from regular contracts. In addition, the new program will find "Hellzapoppin'," to be produced by Jules Levey. The stage show is now in its 125th week at the Winter Garden in New York and is scheduled to close shortly. Levey is now at the studio working on "Butch Minds a Baby," the Damon Runyon story which is to star Wallace Beery.

According to Scully, conducting the local sales sessions which got under way Saturday, production costs will be considerably increased next season with individual budgets contingent on the stars to be secured for top flight pictures. Deanna Durbin, Marlene Dietrich, W. C. Fields, Gloria Jean and a host of other stars will again find the spotlight on the 1941-42 Universal roster. Such producers and directors as Joe Pasternak, Henry Koster, Alex Gottlieb and Frank Lloyd will continue to play an important part in the future of the company.

In the short subject division there will be the usual 15 "Stranger Than Fiction" and as many "Going Places." Also two series of 13 single reelers, with a half dozen two-reelers and one special subject. There is no change in the number of shorts from this season.

Last year the company held a series of regionals, but this year, with five of the majors selling under the consent decree which limits groups to blocks of five, executives decided to call in all branch, district and division managers to one general session.

Flexibility will again keynote the program. With this in mind a number of pictures will not be announced by Scully. However, there will be a substantial increase in the number of "A's" indicating the greatest outlay for the company.

The sessions also cleaned up details for the balance of the present season. Every picture scheduled now has a release date.

Preliminary plans for the 1941-42 season were discussed at length at studio conferences last month when Scully, J. Cheever Cowdin and Joseph H. Seidelman went over the possibilities with Cliff Work, Matty Fox, Milton Feld and Joe Pasternak.

In attendance are:

From the home office: J. Cheever Cowdin, Nate J. Blumberg, William A. Scully, Joseph H. Seidelman, Frank J. A. Mc-

(Continued on page 16)

Continues Westerns And Action Films

Chicago—Universal will continue its series of seven action pictures and seven westerns in addition to the 47 other features scheduled. Leo Carrillo replaces Richard Arlen in the action group, with Andy Devine and Dick Foran. This series will follow the style of "The Three Mesquiteers." The second group of seven westerns continues with Johnny Mack Brown in the starring role.

"U" Goes the Limit For "Back Street"

MIAMI BEACH—There was no way to calculate the newspaper wordage, but Universal must have gathered plenty on the world premiere of "Back Street" which was held at the Lincoln and Cameo Tuesday evening.

Critics, press association and syndicate writers from 34 cities ranging from Boston on one coast to Portland on the other did what they could to make the country "Back Street" conscious.

The purpose, of course, was to bow in with the film. But it went ahead of and beyond that. In small groups, the scribes descended on Miami and the Miami Biltmore as early as Friday night. They trained in and they flew in and by Saturday evening had completed their assemblage.

Fun for All

Beach cabanas had been arranged at the Roney Plaza. There was golf on the Biltmore links and tennis for those who wanted it at both hotels. Aero cars, they called them, conveyed the visitors from Coral Gables where the Biltmore is located approximately 15 miles away to the Beach and many were the round trips made during the week.

On Sunday, there was a water carnival in the Biltmore pool and that night dinner and the floor show at the Royal Palm where Milton Berle was master-of-ceremonies. The following day called for a fishing trip in a contest between the "A.M.'s" and the "P.M.'s" battling it out from two different smacks. It wasn't much of a contest simply because the fish refused to nibble. Those who passed up fishing went for a tour around Biscayne Bay on the *Pancoast,* both schedules being timed to tie in with a cocktail party for Deanna Durbin who, while she has nothing to do with "Back Street" has a great deal to do with Universal. In the evening, the group was escorted to the Beachcomber for Hawaiian liquor, Chinese food and Spanish rhumba music. The liquor turned out to be different, the food good and the music by Cugat and Chavez tinkling and loud.

A Day at Hialeah

An honorary police cavalcade led off Tuesday's program. It was a day at Hialeah where the visitors were guests of the Stevens Brothers at luncheon in the clubhouse and, of course, the races which included a "Back Street Handicap." Followed the premiere that night, attended by socialites and exhibitors who are winter vacationing here. The Greater Miami Boys' Drum and Bugle Corps went into parade formation, official flags of the various states were unfurled, Sammy Walsh of the Carousel introduced Miss Durbin and Universal Newsreel ground away. At midnight and back at the Biltmore, professionals drawn from films, stage and radio turned out for the "Typewriter Bowl Frolics."

By this time, it had become increasingly apparent a bit of rest and quiet were in order. Wednesday, therefore, was a free wheeling proposition, spent largely in catching up on sleep. In the evening and as the finale to the partying, the visitors, en masse, attended the Hallandale Colonial Inn where Sophie Tucker, Joe Louis and Harry Richman led the floor show. Thursday officially closed the lists.

While the majority of the newspaper visitors left on that day, some arranged to stay over—on their own. Matty Fox returned to New York Wednesday and thereafter went to Chicago for Universal's sales meeting. Frank J. A. McCarthy and William J. Heineman hit for the Windy City directly from here. Joseph H. Seidelman, foreign sales manager, failed to make the grade on the trip, but Ottavio Prochet, member of the company's board, did as did Willis H. Taylor and Budd Rogers, others of the directors. Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel, remained over with his wife and returned north at the weekend.

"U" Moves Along

Louis Pollock, "U's" eastern advertising and publicity director, was in general charge of the arrangements at this end. He kept on denying he was worn out, but the more he insisted the less convincing he turned out to be. This applied equally to John Joseph, national advertising and publicity director, who had been traveling with Miss Durbin and her party.

At any rate, Universal finally had moved alongside of those other companies with a national newspaper and trade paper junket on the escutcheon and the reasonable conclusion appeared to be that "Back Street" was on its way.



Contributing—

Jack Benny, co-master of ceremonies of "America Calling," mammoth air show emanating from Hollywood, Saturday night, February 8, for the Greek War Relief Fund, starts the ball rolling with a contribution made to a volunteer worker in the Fund's New York offices. The volunteer is Nellie Rassias, an American-Greek. "America Calling" will be heard over both the NBC and Mutual networks for 90 minutes, at 11:15 p. m., E. S. T.

UA Files Answer In Goldwyn Suit

NEW YORK—United Artists has filed its answer in federal court to the suit of Samuel Goldwyn in which it seeks dismissal of the producer's action, asserting Goldwyn comes into court on his pleadings with "unclean hands."

The distributing company repeats much of the complaint in a preliminary general denial, and states that Goldwyn is bound by his contract to Aug. 31, 1945. It says that on Jan. 12, 1939, Goldwyn demanded of Pickford Corp., Alexander Korda and Charles Chaplin that each execute a voting-trust agreement for three years giving him all voting powers of their stock, and a 100 per cent right to elect directors. Unless this control was granted, Goldwyn threatened to oppose all measures and to take steps to gain this control, it is stated.

The three owners thus approached refused, and Goldwyn has continued to harass and annoy the management of UA since, the defense asserts. It is claimed Goldwyn released "false, malicious and misleading statements" about UA to the press and claimed that the defendant UA had breached a contract, whereas Goldwyn was the actual one breaching the agreement by approaching Paramount and Warner. By filing suits against UA the company has been forced to spend large sums in defending itself, UA claims in asking a dismissal.

Admits Goldwyn-UA Settlement Likely

HOLLYWOOD—An authorized spokesman for United Artists admits that settlement of the UA-Samuel Goldwyn suit is imminent and probably will be set for a definite conclusion this week following conferences between the producer and Murray Silverstone.

The deal is said to provide for acquisition of Goldwyn's UA stock by the company for a cash settlement, and withdrawal of legal action that would leave Goldwyn free to release his future product through other channels.

Grainger Coastbound; To Set Regionals

NEW YORK—James R. Grainger, Republic president, is en route to the coast. Due to arrive there February 20, he will discuss next season's production, sales plans and plans for the dates of regional meetings in Los Angeles, Kansas City, Atlanta and New York.

Assumes Whalen Duties

NEW YORK—Charles Reed Jones, advertising director of Republic, has taken on added duties with the resignation of David Whalen, publicity head. Jones will handle both posts under the new setup.

Adapting "Coney Island"

HOLLYWOOD—Dwight Taylor is adapting "Coney Island" for Producer William Perlberg at 20th-Fox.

IN THE FIRST EIGHTEEN KEY ENGAGEMENTS

18 OUT OF 18

holdovers!

ST. LOUIS	4th week	PITTSBURGH	4th week
SAN FRANCISCO	4th week	ATLANTA	3rd week
DENVER	3rd week	HARTFORD	3rd week
SPRINGFIELD, Mass.	3rd week	PORTLAND, Ore.	3rd week
NEW ORLEANS	3rd week	DALLAS	2nd week
CINCINNATI	3rd week	SPRINGFIELD, Ill.	2nd week
LINCOLN	2nd week	BUFFALO	2nd week
CLEVELAND	2nd week	BALTIMORE	2nd week
OMAHA	2nd week	DAYTON	2nd week

That's Why Exhibitors Love

ROSALIND RUSSELL · MELVYN DOUGLAS

This Thing Called Love

with BINNIE BARNES · ALLYN JOSLYN · GLORIA DICKSON
LEE J. COBB · GLORIA HOLDEN

Based upon the play by Edwin Burke, as produced by Patterson McNutt
Screen play by George Seaton, Ken Englund, P. J. Wolfson

Directed by ALEXANDER HALL · A COLUMBIA PICTURE

Produced by WILLIAM PERLBERG

COLUMBIA PICTURES

"U" Announces 47 On 1941-42 Lineup

(Continued from page 13)

Carthy, William J. Heineman, Adolph Schimel, Charles D. Prutzman, Bernard B. Kreisler, James J. Jordan, F. Thomas Murray, Andrew J. Sharick, Morris Alin and Henry A. Linet.

From the New York Exchange: Jules Lapidus, district manager; Dave Levy, branch manager. From Boston, Paul Barron; from New Haven, John V. Pavone; from Philadelphia, George E. Schwartz.

Oscar Hanson, president of Empire Universal; Paul Nathanson, vice-president of the same company; A. W. Perry, general sales manager, and Clair Hague, Universal representative, will represent the Canadian division.

Studio executives include Work, Fox, Pasternak, Feld, Dan Kelley and John E. Joseph.

District managers and branch managers include:

District Manager David Miller, Cleveland; Branch Managers Joseph R. Kauffman, Cleveland; Peter Rosian, Cincinnati; John J. Scully, Buffalo; J. J. Spandau, Albany; Pete Dana, Pittsburgh.

District Manager Harry D. Grahan, Atlanta; Branch Managers John Ezell, Atlanta; J. A. Prichard, Charlotte; H. I. Mansfield, Memphis; W. M. Richardson, New Orleans; Ed S. Olsmith, Dallas; James Hobbs, Oklahoma City.

District Manager J. E. Garrison, Kansas City; Branch Managers Grover Parsons, Kansas City; Harry Hynes, St. Louis; Lou Levy, Des Moines; Otto Siegel, Omaha.

District Manager A. J. O'Keefe, Los Angeles; Branch Managers C. J. Feldman, Los Angeles; Jack Langan, Denver; R. O. Wilson, Portland; C. R. Wade, Salt Lake; Barney Rose, San Francisco; L. J. McGinley, Seattle.

District Manager E. T. Gomersall, Chicago; Branch Managers M. M. Gottlieb, Chicago; Ed Heiber, Detroit; H. H. Hull, Indianapolis; Frank Mantzke, Milwaukee; L. J. Miller, Minneapolis; Gordon Craddock, special representative.

After the convention, Heineman and McCarthy will visit exchanges under their supervision for meetings with salesmen and branch and district managers.

Many Prominent Guests At "Back Street" Premiere

MIAMI BEACH—With hundreds turned away because of sellouts at the Lincoln and Cameo, the twin premiere of "Back Street" marked a gala event Wednesday night for Universal. Approximately 150 film critics and film executives from all over the country were among the crowds that gathered at both houses for the event. Among the prominent guests were Frank and Mrs. Gannett, newspaper publisher; Damon and Mrs. Runyon, George Ade, Paul Brown, Albert and Mrs. Warner, Mana Zucca, A. H. Blank, John C. Clark, Col. Abe Hallow, Louis Krouse, Harry and Mrs. Richman, Moe A. and Mrs. Silver, Herman and Mrs. Robbins, George Dembow, Otto and Mrs. Brower, Maxie Rosenbloom, Mrs. E. F. Valentine, Robert W. Wilby, David Milgrim, Max A. Cohen, N. B. Shanberg, Alvin and Mrs. Grief, Milton and Mrs. Chapman, N. L. Nathanson, Tom Connors, Ben Sherman, Arthur Lee, Willard McKay, Ottavio Prochet, and a host of others.

Flashes From the News Front

Gov't Files Ascap Suit

MILWAUKEE—The department of justice filed its original suit in federal court here Wednesday against the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers following breakdown of negotiations for a consent decree similar to the document recently signed by Broadcast Music, Inc. The BMI decree is conditioned upon the agreement of Ascap to a similar pact.

Would Stay Dual Fees

LOS ANGELES—The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners will file suit soon against Ascap seeking to restrain the association from collecting "dual fees" from exhibitors. The PCCITO contends Ascap is not entitled to a reproduction fee, payment having been made earlier by producers for the privilege of recording Ascap music.

Illinois Censor Bill

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Creation of a state film censorship board is proposed in a bill submitted the legislature by Rep. Clinton Searle of Rock Island.

Settle Bridges Suit

DALLAS—An out-of-court settlement has been effected in the anti-trust suit of O. B. Bridges against the Interstate circuit. Terms were not disclosed.

New Detroit Delay

DETROIT—Because of a busy court calendar, the Midwest Theatres anti-trust suit against Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan has been put over until March 4. The companion suit of Jacob Schreiber, former owner of the circuit which is now Midwest, against Midwest, has been postponed until March 18 by Judge Ira W. Jayne.

Virginia MPTO Re-elects

WASHINGTON — With Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, and Robert Barton, attorney, highlighting the annual convention with an analysis of the decree, William F. Crockett, president, and Benjamin Pitts, vice-president, were re-elected by members of the MPTO of Virginia at the Shoreham. Harold Woods is secretary and Sam Bendheim, treasurer.

Censors Cut Fee

KANSAS CITY—Reporting a surplus on hand, the Kansas board of censorship has announced a reduction of service fees from $1 to 50 cents per reel. It applies to all features and short comedies. The rate on educational, scenic and cartoon subjects remains at 25 cents. Effective February 1, the new rate will continue until the surplus has been dissolved.

Unify in Detroit

DETROIT—Theatre Owners, Inc., composed of circuits and independents alike, has been formed here to present a united industry front in city operation. Restricted to houses within the city limits, the organization is headed by William Henry Gallagher, attorney, as president, and Ray Meurer, attorney for United Detroit Theatres, as executive secretary.

LeBaron on His Own; DeSylva Successor

HOLLYWOOD—B. G. DeSylva has been named executive producer of Paramount by Y. Frank Freeman to succeed William LeBaron, who resigned this week as managing director of the studio, a post he has held since 1936.

LeBaron will organize his own production unit to make pictures for release through Paramount, his activity to be launched around May 1 after he has taken a vacation.

Announcement of his resignation was coupled with the explanation that when Freeman became vice-president in charge of studio operations, LeBaron agreed to remain in his position for two more years. That two-year term is now up and LeBaron asked, and was granted, a release from his position in order to concentrate on fewer pictures.

Loew's Quarterly Net Above Last Year's

NEW YORK—Loew's operating profits for the quarter ended November 21, 1940 were $787,774 greater than for the same period the year before, according to an interim report issued by David Bernstein, vice-president and treasurer. The amount per share dividend was $14.16 on the preferred in comparison to $10.19 the year before and $1.04 on the average common, compared with 71 cents in 1939.

Depreciation and taxes for the quarter ended November 21, 1940 were $1,369,010, as compared with $1,124,025 in 1939. Reserve for contingencies continues the same at $500,000.

Net profits amounted to $1,936,245, as compared with $1,393,456 for the 12 weeks ended November 21, 1939.

The regular board meeting was held Wednesday with routine matters discussed. A special session will be called after stockholders gather next Tuesday. All directors are slated to be reelected and Nicholas M. Schenck, president, is to be given a five-year extension of his current contract.

Directors of the Roxy Theatre declared a quarterly dividend of 37½ cents on the preferred, payable March 1, to stockholders of February 15.

"Land of Liberty" Proving Powerful

NEW YORK—What with a national exploitation campaign that is obtaining school, church, civic, patriotic, business and industrial organizations' support, "Land of Liberty," released nationally on January 24, is off to a good start in its initial engagements, 17 of which were in state capitals over the nation.

Cooperation of the various organizational bodies was and is being arranged by the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America. The Association has four men in the field cooperating with managers and the M-G-M staff—M-G-M handling the picture on behalf of the entire industry, and the campaigns being supervised by its advertising department, under the supervision of Howard Dietz, Si Seadler, W. R. Ferguson, Art Schmidt and Oscar Doob.

Schools are spotting the Hays office "Land of Liberty" posters on their bulletin boards to announce local engagements and, in many instances, dismiss afternoon classes to permit attendance at the showings.

Newspapers Generous

Newspapers have been generous with their support. For example, the Portland *Oregonian* and the St. Paul *Dispatch* each devoted an entire pictorial page to the film. The New York *Times* carried two banks of stills from the film across eight columns of its Sunday film section, together with a story on the production and the New York opening. In Richmond the picture was shown under the joint auspices of the *News-Leader* and the *Times-Dispatch*.

Because of the picture's patriotic theme, the first big booking was on January 10 in Washington, where Carter Barron supervised the engagement and Dan Terrell and Carlton Duffus handled exploitation.

The three initial shows in New England were at the Loew Poli Plaza in Worcester, Mass., managed by Robert Portle; the Loew Poli Majestic, Bridgeport, Conn., managed by Morris Rosenthal, and the Loew Poli at Waterbury, managed by Ed Fitzpatrick. In all three cities, civic groups, churches, manufacturers and others cooperated. Harry Shaw, Loew's division manager; Lou Brown, publicity chief, and Mark Larkin of the Hays office, worked with the managers on the campaigns.

Moss Handles New York

The first southern showing was in Richmond, where the Wilmer and Vincent office gave it an excellent campaign. This was handled by Frank O'Brien, city manager; Al Nowitsky, advertising manager, and Bob Egan, manager of the Park, who worked with Carlton Duffus of Bill Ferguson's M-G-M staff and Joe Shea and Gordon S. White of the Hays office.

In the midwest, Metro representatives received the help of Gabe S. Yorke and I. E. Deer, MPPDA men.

The New York campaign for the opening at Loew's Criterion was in charge of Charles Moss, manager; Phil Laufer, publicity director, and Elliot Foreman, Metro exploitation director for the New York area. The Hays office aided by obtaining school, church, club and newsreel cooperation.

What the Studios Are Doing

Labor Scene Churning Again at Studio

HOLLYWOOD—After having been restricted to more or less routine differences and their adjustment, the ever-turbulent labor scene in the film colony threatened to develop a new controversy of major proportions when the Screen Cartoonists Guild, an affiliate of the AFL's Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, lodged a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board charging Walt Disney Productions, Inc., with unfair labor practices.

The SCG contends the Federation of Screen Cartoonists, which Disney recognizes, is a "company union" which has "interfered" with efforts of the SCG to organize a unit on that lot. It has enlisted AFL support, with that organization's spokesmen asserting "steps will be taken" to place Disney product on unfair lists throughout the United States and Canada unless the SCG complaint is settled satisfactorily. Disney attaches point out, however, the FSC was recognized nearly two years ago as official bargaining agent for Disney employes.

Meantime, the Disney company held its annual stockholders' meeting, announced a $140,000 net profit for the first four months of the fiscal year, declared it would produce three more features and a short during the year, and elected the following: Walt and Roy Disney, Gunther Lessing, George E. Morris and Jonathan Lovelace, to the board of directors; Walt Disney, president; Roy Disney, executive vice-president; Lessing, vice-president; Morris, secretary-treasurer.

Minimum of 52 to Start In Next Three Months

With more vehicles being added daily to guarantee an unflagging tempo, a minimum of 52 features will go into production during the next three months. February schedules embrace 24; 17 will roll in March; 11 are set for April starts.

No Arbitration Cases Before Los Angeles Board

No cases have yet been filed with the Los Angeles tribunal of the American Arbitration Association, Clerk William H. Elliott reported, and no steps have yet been taken to organize a panel of arbiters under terms of the consent decree. This despite the fact arbitration proceedings nationally were officially opened Feb. 1.

Golden Joins Small; Litel Leaves Warner

Max Golden resigned from 20th Century-Fox's production department to become production manager for Edward Small . . . John Litel has left the Warner contract list after five years as a character player and will freelance.

Paramount Building Three New Sound Stages

To accommodate heavy production schedules, Paramount has begun construction of three new sound stages and a power house . . . Columbia has effected a commercial tieup with RCA-Victor on "Penny Serenade," embracing national magazine space, newspapers, billboards, radio time, counter display devices and throwaways . . . Paramount will screen "The Shepherd of the Hills" shortly, probably in Chicago, for field exploiteers and sales officials, after which an expanded advertising campaign will be set . . . Prerelease premiere of RKO Radio's "Scattergood Baines" is set for February 14 and 15 in Montpelier and Barre, Vermont, respectively.

Warner Buys Broadway Hit; New RKO Trademark

Warner has purchased "Arsenic and Old Lace," the Howard Lindsay-Russel Crouse stage hit . . . Joseph Poland sold "Cinderella in Washington" to Republic and "But Beautiful," by Everett Freeman, went to Columbia . . . Elliott Nugent will direct Paramount's "Nothing But the Truth" . . . Rudy Vallee, Glen Gray and his orchestra go into Columbia's "Show Business" . . . RKO Radio will soon debut a new film trademark, with two streamlined radio towers replacing the old "dot-dash" single tower . . . Harry Sherman has lined up four features—two special westerns, two "Hopalong Cassidys"—to produce for Paramount . . . Producers Releasing Corp. has added John T. Coyle as a producer . . . Larry Darmour rolls a serial, "The Spider Returns," for Columbia release February 15.

Underseas Feature Is Financed by Barton

NEW YORK—Otis Barton, who with Dr. William Beebe, developed the bathysphere, which permits greater freedom in underwater photography, is personally financing a new feature entitled "Under the Pacific." For the past fortnight he has been shooting scenes in the Hawaiian Islands. The film will take two years to shoot and will include underwater scenes from the coast of Australia and the Malay Peninsula. A leading lady is being selected to join the expedition. Release will be secured on completion with a budget of $200,000 set for the production.

UA, Columbia May Map Early Convention Plans

NEW YORK—With the return of Arthur W. Kelly from the coast, plans are being mapped for an early UA sales convention.

Columbia is also understood discussing such an idea at conferences now being held on the coast among eastern and western executives. Universal's midwest meet winds up Monday in Chicago after three days.

That the "Little Three," designation for UA, Columbia and Universal as a result of the government suit, were watching the majors and marking time for early sales meetings this year was indicated in these columns several weeks ago.

Rapid Strides Shown In Universal Report

NEW YORK — Rapid strides are being made by Universal, and for the second consecutive year operations show a net profit of more than $1,000,000. According to the latest consolidated report, the 53 weeks ended November 2, 1940 showed a net profit of $2,390,772, or an increase of 107 per cent over the previous fiscal year, J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the board, advises stockholders.

Gross income for the year ended November 2, last, totaled $27,677,627. Net income for the 12 months aggregated $2,954,467. This compares with a gross income of $23,878,868 for the previous year when a net income of $1,628,733 and a net profit of $1,153,321 were reported.

Retire 7,261 Shares of Preferred

Consolidated current working assets, other cash and accounts receivable, including restricted British sterling, totaled to $12,953,683 on November 2 while current liabilities were $4,241,774, or a ratio of 3.05 to one. Net working capital of $6,823,563 compares with $5,512,194 the year before. Since the beginning of last year, the company retired 7,261 shares of first preferred at an average price of $118.03 per share, including 4,591 shares purchased in response to a request last month for tenders. This leaves 10,739 of this class of preferred outstanding.

Taxes totaled $1,210,648, or $267,490 greater than in the 1939 period, and were equivalent to about 50 cents on each dollar of net profit, according to Cowdin who adds the tax figure for last year was 97 per cent larger than taxes in the 1938 fiscal year. Although the new excess profits tax did not apply last year, it will this year and thereby add a substantial amount to tax payments, he further observes. "Your company desires to pay its full share of taxes, but believes better profits brought about by skilled management should not be penalized by taxation aimed at war profits," he told stockholders.

Strive for Self-Sufficiency

British revenue in the period covered was 1,306,187 British pounds as against 859,084 British pounds in the 1939 fiscal year and 621,476 British pounds in the 1938 fiscal year and 600,032 in the 1937 period. Thus, a substantial gain is reflected in that direction.

The domestic market, which always includes Canada, brought a gross of $18,073,055, or an increase of $2,602,535 over the preceding period. Cowdin re-emphasizes an earlier statement in declaring all effort is being directed toward making Universal self-sufficient in the home market and hopes "that this may be accomplished this year."

Greek-Italian War Short Is En Route to U. S.

NEW YORK—A special short subject of the Greek-Italian war in Albania will be available shortly to theatres in the United States. Approximately 18,000 feet of film photographed of the struggle have reached Egypt, en route to New York. American correspondents in Athens will provide a commentary, according to Thanos Skouras, Greek representative for 20th-Fox, RKO and Paramount.

Heavy Penalties Support Board Subpoena Power

(Continued from page 9)

damages sustained" to the parties to a complaint, which, conceivably, could run into thousands of dollars if a subpoenaed witness, for whatever reason, declined to become involved.

The arbitration form which will undoubtedly become most widely known and circulated is "Demand for Arbitration," Form I. AAA sources declare reports have come in from the 31 film tribunals that copies of this form have been picked up in each tribunal. However, this is not to be construed that complaints in such volume have been filed, since it is felt at AAA that the new forms are being studied for future use as well as for immediate filing.

Hearings Not Expected Soon

In the latter respect, it is pointed out that the various phases or procedure to take place after Form I is filed consume up to 30 days prior to actual hearing before an arbitration begins, and it is now regarded as unlikely that the first hearing will be under way much before March 15. Form I is "Statement of claim and relief sought" by the complaining exhibitor. It provides also for names of other exhibitors and distributors whose property the complainant believes may be affected by an award.

Form II is known as "Complainant's Submission." This is his formal declaration that he will abide by and fully comply with the award of the arbitrator.

Form III is "Declaration of Intervention." It is designed for parties who are named in the original complaint, are named in the list filed by a defending party, or are exhibitors or distributors whose property may be affected by an award, and who wish to become interested in the proceeding as an "Intervenor." Form IV provides that such parties will abide by and comply with the award. Form V is routine; Form VI provides for the transfer of jurisdiction from one tribunal to another, while Form VII is for all parties to indicate preference of arbitrators.

Form VIII is the arbitrator's notification he has been chosen to hear a case, compensation for which is "fixed at $10 per diem for each day or part thereof that you attend a hearing or make an inspection." Form IX deals with mutual agreement of both parties to selection of an arbitrator. Form X is an "Application for Revocation of Appointment of Arbitrator," which provides for either side to submit affidavits stating its allegation for demand that an arbitrator be disqualified. Forms XI and XII are routine in connection with revocation of arbitrators; while Form XIII is "Notice of Hearing," which states the time a hearing is to start.

Form XIV is available for the reopening of a hearing in cases where an original complaint was settled before it came to arbitration, but settlement of which was not satisfactory. Form XV is routine in connection with Form XIV. Form XVI is the oath of an arbitrator. Form XVII is the "Subpoena Duces Tecum" referred to earlier, and Form XVIII is the official "Subpoena," but without the demand that "you bring with you, and produce at the time and place aforesaid a certain ..... now in your custody and all other deeds and evidences which you have in your custody or power concerning the premises."

May Inspect Premises

Form XIX is a notice that the arbitrator deems it necessary to make an inspection of certain premises in connection with an arbitration. Form XX is routine, Form XXI is for an application for extension of time, and Form XXII, the longest of all—three pages—is a record of the proceeding in condensed, office form. Form XXIII is the "Award of Arbitrator," Form XXIV is an application for the arbitration to be reopened for a specific purpose, Form XXV is routine, and Form XXVI is a "General Stipulation."

Form XXVII is "Notice of Appeal," which provides for a deposit of $25. Form XXVIII is "Record of Appeal," which takes the appeals board through each of the steps of the arbitration to an award it is being asked to review.

Arbitration Board in RCA Building

New York—The industry's national arbitration appeals board comprising Van Vechten Veeder, Albert W. Putnam and George W. Alger has selected offices on the 12th floor of the RCA Building in Rockefeller Center and expects to take occupancy on February 12. The appeals board will thus be within one block of the new headquarters of the American Arbitration Ass'n., now located on the eighth floor of the U. S. Rubber Co. Building, newest unit in the Rockefeller development.

Republic Sews Up Deal For Texas Franchise

NEW YORK—On his return from Dallas, James R. Grainger, president of Republic Pictures, revealed the company had concluded negotiations with William G. Underwood and Claude C. Ezell, Texas franchise holders, for the purchase of their interests. Both men will devote their time to theatre interests and are now understood building up a circuit of open air theatres. Lloyd Rust will continue as manager of the Dallas branch and no changes in personnel will be made, according to Grainger.

The purchase is in line with Herbert J. Yates plan announced some time ago to buy up as many franchises as possible in an endeavor to operate under a national distribution system like the major companies.



CARY GRANT
in "Penny Serenade"



IRENE DUNNE
in "Penny Serenade"



FRANCHOT TONE
in "A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street"



JOAN BENNETT
in "A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street"



VIRGINIA BRUCE
in "Senate Page Boys"
(tentative title)

Making pictures on the Columbia lot NOW!



HERBERT MARSHALL
in "Senate Page Boys"
(tentative title)



GEORGE BRENT
in "They Dare Not Love"



MARTHA SCOTT
in "They Dare Not Love"



JACKIE COOPER
in "Her First Beau"



JANE WITHERS
in "Her First Beau"



WILLIAM HOLDEN
in "Texas"



WARREN WILLIAM
in "Texas"

Predict Settlement All Gov't Suits

(Continued from page 4)

be made, as are anticipated in the Schine deal now being worked out.

As soon as these two agreements are completed, the government is slated to sit down with counsel for Tony Sudekum of the Crescent circuit whose headquarters are in Nashville where that suit is on file in the federal court.

Meanwhile, the government is not entirely abandoning hope on some arrangement with the "Little Three." While the final deal may not result in a decree, some sort of a working arrangement, or understanding, will be forthcoming, according to those who have been maintaining consistently a settlement finally would be reached.

In regard to UA, which always has held that its selling policy calls for individual agreements on each picture, the understanding probably will be that this plan be continued with no exceptions. In many instances, exhibitors have told the government block deals have been made for all of a UA producer's lineup or the entire program. The government will insist that the full block sales be discontinued.

Sources at Columbia intimate its selling policy may be changed to conform with the decree and that before the year is ended the company may offer no more than five in any individual deal.

Say "U" Will Stay Pat

Universal executives say they are not contemplating any change in marketing methods at this time, but observers feel that, if UA and Columbia change their plans, Universal will fall in line.

It is pointed out, too, that both Universal and Columbia have been selling more two and three-year franchises in the past few months than ever before. UA has not been pushing the franchise idea, having discontinued it several seasons ago because of the uncertainty of deliveries from year to year.

With Columbia and Universal satisfied over the number of their franchises, it is believed that exhibitors who have not signed such agreements may begin to demand pictures in groups of five, following the order adopted by "The Big Five." The reputed reason for this is that there will be more selectivity for the small exhibitor who will want more choice in spotting his shows.

May Demand Previews

Under the decree, an exhibitor dealing with the "Big Five" has an opportunity of bargaining for any or all of the groups of five trade shown. He is in a position to buy one or two, three or four, or none at all, after he sees the pictures. Exhibitors may even demand Columbia and Universal trade show their product before buying.

If the "Little Three" readjust their selling methods to small blocks, it is felt the government's case against them will be well nigh eliminated, for it is the block booking methods to which the department strenuously objects.

Judge Henry Warren Goddard, meanwhile, has set February 17 for hearing on the application by the "Little Three" to dismiss the amended and supplemental bill of complaint, which was filed after "The Big Five" settled on a decree. Counsel for the three distributors have persistently maintained there is no cause of action against these companies since they own no theatres and have many times sold away from the customers which have been held by the government to be "a monopoly."

Preliminary motions have been heard during the past 10 days in the Griffith and Schine cases in Oklahoma City and Buffalo. Motions and hearings will continue, as in the big suit, until compromise settlements are reached.

All of the pending cases, according to the insiders, are expected to be cleared from various court calendars by the end of the year.

Delay Schine Suit; Try for Settlement

BUFFALO—Scheduled for hearing February 3, the government's anti-trust suit against the Schine circuit has been postponed indefinitely.

The delay is the first formal admission of BOXOFFICE's exclusive story from Washington on December 21 that a settlement was in work with Willard S. McKay, New York attorney for Schine, handling the circuit's end.

Ever since the story broke in BOXOFFICE, local exhibitors have been trying to find out what disposition is being made of the suit. As matters now stand, it will be a week or so before terms of a decree are drafted in writing.

The main issues for settlement are understood to have been worked out in the past week between McKay and Robert L. Wright, government attorney, with the final drafting of the agreement now in other department hands.

Gov't Bill of Complaint Holds "Little Three"

OKLAHOMA CITY—Not unexpected, Federal Judge Edgar S. Vaught has denied motion by counsel for the "Little Three" to dismiss the government's amended bill of complaint in the Griffith Amusement case.

At the same time, the judge extended the time for defendants to answer or object to the long list of government interrogatories until March 1, with indications that unless something happened in the way of a settlement trial could be expected in the spring.

The current hearings, while regarded as important to Edward C. Raftery, counsel for Universal and United Artists, must be continued until secret negotiations now going on for a separate decree are concluded. Malcolm McKenzie of this city assisted Raftery and also acted for Columbia. J. B. Dudley, also of this city, represented the circuit defendants.

Atlas Preferred, 75 Cents

NEW YORK—Atlas has declared a 75 cents dividend on the 6 per cent preferred stock for the quarter ending February 28, payable March 1 to stockholders of record February 14.

National Theatres Delays Meeting

NEW YORK—Pressure of business has compelled Spyros Skouras to postpone the annual meeting of National Theatres divisional managers, originally scheduled for the week of February 10 at the Ambassador, Los Angeles. Tentative plans now call for the session to start either February 24 or March 3, with the latter date most likely the one to be finally set.

For the past few months Skouras has taken an intensive interest in the Greek Relief Fund drive, visiting various sections of the country and holding meetings for the cause.

At the coast meetings, new policies will be discussed as well as an analysis of the decree, as it affects theatre operation, by Richard Everett Dwight and Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, counsel for 20th-Fox and National Theatres.

Winners in the recent drive have been tabulated and will be announced at the coast sessions. Arch Bowles, northern California zone head, has returned to San Francisco after a few weeks here. David Idzal, managing director of the Fox, Detroit, made one of his periodic trips to the National home office. Edward Zabel, assistant to Skouras, is back from a week in Milwaukee, and Milton S. Hossfeld, who has been vacationing on the coast, is due back Monday.

New Cash Quiz Game Launched by Circuits

NEW YORK—A new Cash Quiz game is currently breaking in theatres in the east, including most of the first run chains, among them M&P, Fabian, Schine's, Randforce, and Loew's.

A distinguishing feature of Cash Quiz is that prizes are awarded the week following participation in the quiz, with attendance compulsory to collect the prize.

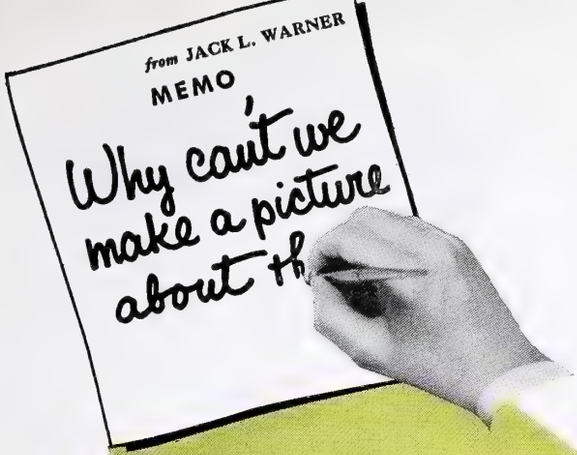
The game is run without a master of ceremonies, being shown on the screen and employing a sound track which is used in connection with a series of cartoons to ask the questions.

Patrons receive numbered cards tabbed for "yes" and "no" answers. These cards are collected by ushers and the following week the ones marked correctly are called from the stage and the week's prize sum divided among the winners. Unclaimed amounts go into a jackpot.

Second 20th-Fox Parley on Decree Set for March

NEW YORK—A second conference on the operation of the decree will be held by 20th-Fox home office and studio executives on the coast, sometime in March, preliminary to the new selling season. The session will await return from New York of Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board, now in the east on personal business. Sidney R. Kent, president, and Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel, will be among those attending.

Plans now are being made for individual handling of "The Outlaw," produced by Howard Hughes.



WARNERS HAD A GREAT IDEA...

AND NOW IT'S A GREAT MOTION PICTURE

FLIGHT FROM DESTINY

"Enthralling!"
—Damon Runyon

Opening soon Radio City Music Hall!
Now booking in selected situations after 2 months of constant radio, magazine, newspaper promotion!

Starring
GERALDINE FITZGERALD
of "Dark Victory"
THOMAS MITCHELL
of "Gone With The Wind"
JEFFREY LYNN
of "All This, And Heaven Too"
JAMES STEPHENSON
of "The Letter"

Mona Maris • Jonathan Hale
Directed by VINCENT SHERMAN
Screen Play by Barry Trivers
From a Story by Anthony Berkeley
A Warner Bros.-First National Picture





"Philadelphia Story" Takes January Blue Ribbon Award

A comedy of high society behind the scenes of the forbidden Philadelphia "Main Line" is M-G-M's screen dramatization of "The Philadelphia Story," which picture has been selected by members of the National Screen Council as the outstanding film released in January and winner of the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for that month.

Directed by George Cukor and produced by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, the trio star players comprise Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn and James Stewart, the supporting cast being headed by Ruth Hussey, John Howard, Roland Young, John Halliday, Mary Nash and Virginia Weidler.

Cary Grant has received previous BOXOFFICE Award plaques for his performances in "Holiday," which won the June, 1938, Award and in which Katharine Hepburn also appeared and for which she received an honor plaque, for "Gunga Din" (Feb. 1939), and "The Howards of Virginia" (Sept. 1940). James Stewart has received similar Award honors also for "You Can't Take It With You" (Oct. 1938), "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" (Oct. 1939), and "The Mortal Storm" (June, 1940). Virginia Weidler received two Award plaques last year for her roles in "Young Tom Edison" (Mar. 1940), and "All This, and Heaven Too" (July, 1940). George Cukor, who directed "Holiday," and Donald Ogden Stewart who wrote the screenplay for that film, have both received Award plaques for their work on that production.

This Award is given each month to the film receiving the highest number of votes by the members of the National Screen Council, whose selection is governed by outstanding merit and suitability of the film to whole-family entertainment. Members of the Council include over 200 motion picture editors of leading newspapers throughout the country, motion picture reviewing committee of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and state motion picture chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Production Staff

Executive Producer .....LOUIS B. MAYER
Producer....JOSEPH L. MANKIEWICZ
Director .....GEORGE CUKOR
Screenplay .....DONALD OGDEN STEWART
Based on Play by.....PHILIP BARRY
Produced by....THEATRE GUILD, INC.
Photography .....JOSEPH RUTTENBERG, A.S.C.
Musical Score.....FRANZ WAXMAN
Recording Director .....DOUGLAS SHEARER
Art Director.....CEDRIC GIBBONS
Associate Art Director .....WADE B. RUBOTTOM
Set Decorations....EDWIN B. WILLIS
Gowns by .....ADRIAN
Hair Styles by....SYDNEY GUILAROFF
Film Editor.....FRANK SULLIVAN

Cast of Characters

C. K. Dexter Haven....CARY GRANT
Tracy Lord....KATHARINE HEPBURN
Macaulay Connor....JAMES STEWART
Elizabeth Imbrie.....RUTH HUSSEY
George Kittredge.....JOHN HOWARD
Uncle Willie.....ROLAND YOUNG
Seth Lord.....JOHN HALLIDAY
Margaret Lord.....MARY NASH
Dinah Lord.....VIRGINIA WEIDLER
Sidney Kidd.....HENRY DANIELL
Edward.....LIONEL PAPE
Thomas.....REX EVANS

Western Union

F — Historical Western

20th Century-Fox (126) — 93 Minutes — Rel. Feb. 21, '41

Clear all wires—here's a flash of action entertainment which should be a must on Page One of everybody's motion picture theatre budget. It relates the stringing of the first trans-continental telegraph line, around which hazardous undertaking is spun such a yarn of hardship, adventure and romance as to make the film one of the all-time superest of the super-westerns. As a piece of red-blooded, he-man showmanship the film is close to perfection. The bankroll stops are pulled out to their limits to mount the production and endow it with the sweep and spectacle which have become a necessary adjunct to epics dealing with the winning of the west. The cast, although it boasts no top-flight names, was shrewdly selected and every member thereof justifies his or her (there is only one her) place on the program. Fritz Lang's direction keeps the story moving at a gallop all the way. Technicolor photography was never used to better advantage than in ensnaring the natural beauties of the western plains, mountains and forests, against which natural backgrounds the feature was staged. The screenplay is an adaptation of an original by Zane Grey and chronicles the attempts of renegades and Indians to hamper the construction of the "singing wires" between Omaha and Salt Lake City.

Robert Young, Randolph Scott, Dean Jagger, Virginia Gilmore, John Carradine, Slim Summerville, Chill Wills.

EXPLOITIPS: Prepare a giant telegram with copy concerning the picture and hang it above the marquee as a banner. In cooperation with local Western Union offices, arrange to have messenger boys wear armbands plugging the film. Install a modern teletype in theatre lobby and invite patrons to send messages to friends and relatives. Have local Western Union managers place heralds advertising the feature on all outgoing telegram envelopes. Give Robert Young and Randolph Scott the marquee credits.

CATCHLINES: Fighting Engineers of the "Singing Wires" . . . Battling With Six-Gun and Rifle to Clear an Electric Path Through the Wilderness.

The Wild Man of Borneo

F — Comedy

M-G-M (121) — 78 Minutes — Rel. Jan. 24, '41

Substantial and competent entertainment has been concocted out of the original Marc Connelly-Herman Mankiewicz play. A period piece, the story utilizes smooth laughing matter, middle age and youthful romances, an introduction to the world of the sidewalk pitchman and a smartly cast troupe that gives out creditably. Medicine Showman Frank Morgan leaves the road to find his daughter, whom he thinks has come into money. The truth is otherwise. Both go to gas-lit New York and take up residence at a theatrical boarding house run by Billie Burke. Other tenants include Donald Meek, a bird imitator; Bonita Granville and Dan Dailey jr. Marjorie Main is the scullery maid who tells everyone off, but comically. Morgan immediately senses the gullible Miss Burke's feeling for the theatre and proceeds to fill her ears with the mullarkey. He "assumes" a solo kinship with Richard Mansfield. However, in order to make some money he takes a job in Walter Catlett's freak museum where ultimately he is found by the boarding house menage. It then gets complicated, but Morgan's natural vocal gift finds a way out.

Frank Morgan, Mary Howard, Billie Burke, Donald Meek, Marjorie Main, Connie Gilchrist.

EXPLOITIPS: Work up a spiel contest among the customers with passes for the winners. Get the doorman to dress loudly, a la Frank Morgan and have him reel off a spiel on the merits of the film. Get a few oil burning carriage lamps for lobby atmosphere. Tie in with shops for Miss Howard's costumes. Distribute lollypops with the wrapper imprinted "Don't Be a Sucker, See Frank Morgan Expose All the Tricks of the Trade."

CATCHLINES: He Might Soft Soap You—But You'll Come Out Laughing and Holding Your Sides.

See the "Wild Man" in a Cage and Out . . . In Hot Water and Up a Tree.

Back Street

A — Triangle Drama

Universal (——) — 89 Minutes — Rel. Feb. 7, '41

The original version of this well-known novel by Fannie Hurst, of course, will be remembered as an important attraction. A review of the new version with Charles Boyer and Margaret Sullavan inevitably gets under way with the self-safe observation. "Back Street" is in the bag because of its predominant appeal to women. Presumably, the story is familiar, telling as it does of the Cincinnati girl who loses out on marriage through a twist of fate but who later meets the man she loves in New York. He is married, and a father; she is a designer of clothes. Their romance again flourishes and remains alive over a period of 25 years when the man's death is immediately followed by the woman's. All through their association, she walks the back street of his life, influencing him and loving him but always sharing him with his family and his worldly position. "Back Street" is a touching and tender story, very well performed by its two principals and intelligently and restrainedly directed by Robert Stevenson, young British director now in Hollywood. The supporting cast is in keeping with the whole. Production trappings are excellent and expertly applied to the dramatic thread of the drama.

Charles Boyer, Margaret Sullavan, Richard Carlson, Frank McHugh, Tim Holt, Samuel S. Hinds, Frank Jenks.

EXPLOITIPS: Emphasis on star value, of course, is important. The author is worth stressing, also. The costumes of the early part of the century suggest a fashion contest. The press book advises throwaways made up of pages of the novel, but carrying an imprint about the date of the engagement in red. For those who go in for street ballyhoos, an open book effect carrying cutouts of Boyer and Sullavan might be mounted on a truck for a tour of the neighborhood. Directional snipes, if locally acceptable with the authorities, could point to the theatre with messages reading "All Roads Lead to Back Street" and then the name of the theatre.

CATCHLINES: She Lived on the Back Street of Romance . . . The Story of a Woman Who Had to Steal Her Happiness.

Is There a Romance Like This in the Back Street of Every Man's Life?

You're the One

F — Western

Paramount (4017) — 81 Minutes — Rel. Feb. 7, '41

Fans who have dumped carloads of nickels into the juke boxes to hear Wee Bonnie Baker and Orrin Tucker's orchestra should be more than satisfied with their first film appearance. It's a nonsensical musical, giving Bonnie plenty of opportunity to display her talents, including a rendition of "Oh, Johnny," which skyrocketed her to fame among swing addicts. The vehicle, produced and written by Gene Markey, is well equipped to please most audiences. Tucker emerges as a surprisingly competent actor with personality and a singing voice. Supporting cast is headed by Jerry Colonna, whose screwball comedy enlivens the proceedings considerably. The plot is very slight and has a dance band-broadcasting background, which provides ample opportunity for the staging of five musical numbers. Colonna runs a resort catering to those wishing to lose weight. To it comes Albert Dekker, orchestra leader, who must drop 50 pounds in order to grab a sponsor. Rivalry springs up between Dekker and Tucker over the services of Bonnie as singer. Ralph Murphy did a competent directorial job.

Orrin Tucker, Bonnie Baker, Jerry Colonna, Albert Dekker, Edward Everett Horton, Lillian Cornell, Teddy Hart.

EXPLOITIPS: Play the Bonnie Baker-Orrin Tucker recording of "Oh, Johnny" over the lobby p. a. system. Music store tieups should be arranged not only on past Tucker-Baker records, but also on the five numbers in this picture. Jerry Colonna has built up quite a following via phonograph recordings, films and radio appearances. Give him supporting mention on the marquee. Distribute small heart-shaped badges as throwaways, each imprinted with the picture title. Hold an amateur contest for Bonnie Baker imitators.

CATCHLINES: It's Wee Bonnie Baker . . . The Lass With the Little-Girl Voice . . . Who Made Herself the Nation's Sweetheart With "Oh, Johnny."

She'll Be Number One on Your Heart Parade . . . When You See Bonnie Baker of the Airlanes.

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

REVIEW DIGEST AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
	A										
16	Aldrich Family in Life With Henry (Para)		+	+	±		+	+	+		6+ 1–
20	Along the Rio Grande (RKO)		+		∓		+	±	±		5+ 3–
	Always a Bride (FN)		∓	∓	∓	–	–	±	–		4+ 7–
	Angels Over Broadway (Col)		±	+	∓	+	‡	+	+	+	9+ 2–
	Ape, The (Mono)		+	–	–	+	+	+		±	5+ 3–
	Argentine Nights (Univ)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	–	7+ 3–
	Arise, My Love (Para)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	10+
	Arizona (Col)		‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡		8+
14	Arkansas Judge (Rep)		±			+	+	+			4+ 1–
	B										
21	Back Street (Univ)		‡								2+
	Bank Dick, The (Univ)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	+	+	±	11+ 1–
	Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2–
	Before I Hang (Col)		+	+	+	+	=	±	=	–	6+ 3–
	Behind the News (Rep)		±	+	±	+	‡	+	±	±	9+ 4–
	Beyond the Sacramento (Col)								+		1+
	Billy the Kid in Texas (PRC)				∓						1+ 1–
	Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		‡	+	‡	+	‡	‡	+	+	12+
	Blackout (UA)		+	+		+	+	+	+	±	7+
	Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3–
	Boom Town (M-G-M)		‡	‡		‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
	Border Legion (Rep)		+		∓	+	‡	+	±	±	8+ 3–
	Boss of Bullion City (Univ)								±		1+ 1–
2	Bowery Boy (Rep)		∓	±	–	+	±	±	±	±	7+ 7–
	Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		–		±	–	±		3+ 6–
	Brigham Young—Frontiersman (20th-Fox)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
22	Buck Privates (Univ)		‡				‡	‡			6+
	Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+
	C										
	Calling All Husbands (WB)		±	∓	+	∓	–	–	±	∓	6+ 7–
19	Case of the Black Parrot (FN)		–	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 6–
	Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2–
	Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±				±			3+ 3–
	Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum (20th-Fox)		+	±	–	+	+	+	+		6+ 2–
	Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		∓	+	–	+	‡	±	+	±	8+ 4–
9	Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡		14+
	Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		‡	+		7+ 1–
	Christmas in July (Para)		‡	+	±	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+ 1–
	City for Conquest (WB)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
	Colorado (Rep)		±		–	+			±	±	4+ 4–
17	Come Live With Me (M-G-M)		‡	±	–	‡	‡	‡			9+ 2–
	Comrade X (M-G-M)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	14+
11	Convoy (RKO)		+	+		+		+	±		5+ 1–
	D										
	Dance, Girl, Dance (RKO)		+	‡	±	+	±	±	+	∓	9+ 4–
	Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±	±	+	∓	+	∓	8+ 5–
	Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		–	±	+	±			+		4+ 3–
	Devil Bat, The (PRC)				=	±				±	2+ 4–
	Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6–
	Diamond Frontier (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	∓	–	∓	6+ 7–
	Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
	Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
	Dr. Kildare Goes Home (M-G-M)		+	‡	+		+	+	+	+	8+
9	Doomed Caravan (Para)		‡		+	‡	‡	‡	+		10+
	Down Argentine Way (20-Fox)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
	Dreaming Out Loud (RKO)		±	∓	–	±	+	+	±		6+ 5–
	Drums of the Desert (Mono)		±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4–
	Dulcy (M-G-M)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2–
	E										
	Earl of Puddlestone (Rep)		±	±	±	+		±	±	∓	7+ 6–
	East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5–
	Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
	Escape (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	15+
	Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+	±		6+ 1–

P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
	F										
	Fantasia (Disney)		‡	‡	‡	‡		‡	‡	‡	14+
	Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±			+	+	+		6+ 1–
	Father's Son (WB)			±			~	∓			2+ 3–
	Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	–	–	3+ 9–
	Fight for Life, The (Col)		+						‡	+	4+
	Five Little Peppers in Trouble (Col)		±	±	~	–	=	–	–	∓	3+ 9–
	Flight Command (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
4	Flight From Destiny (WB)		+	+	±	‡	‡	‡	+		10+ 1–
	Four Mothers (WB)		+	+	±	+	+	‡	+	+	10+ 1–
	Four Sons (20th-Fox)		‡		+	‡	‡	+	+	+	10+
	Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5–
	Frontier Vengeance (Univ)		o		–	∓			±		2+ 3–
	Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		–	±	±	6+ 5–
	Fugitive From a Prison Camp (Col)			∓	=	±			±	±	4+ 6–
	G										
	Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	‡	+	±	±	9+ 3–
	Gay Caballero, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	–	+	+	±	7+ 4–
	Girl From Havana (Rep)		±	±	–	±		±	–	∓	6+ 7–
1	Girl in the News (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+			+		5+
	Girls Under 21 (Col)		–	±	±				±	±	4+ 6–
	Give Us Wings (Univ)		–	±	±			+	±	–	4+ 5–
	Glamour for Sale (Col)		±	±	±		=	±	–	∓	5+ 8–
	Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	‡	+	‡	+	±		9+ 1–
	Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
	Great Commandment (20-Fox)								‡		2+
	Great Dictator, The (UA)		‡	‡	+	‡	∓	+	‡	+	12+ 1–
	Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4–
	Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	‡	‡	+	‡	+	±	11+ 2–
	H										
	Haunted Honeymoon (M-G-M)		+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+ 6–
	Her First Romance (Mono)		+	+		+	‡	+	+		7+
	Here Comes the Navy (WB)								‡		2+
16	High Sierra (FN)		‡	±	±	‡	‡	‡		+	11+ 2–
	Hired Wife (Univ)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	13+
	Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	‡	+	+	+		8+ 2–
	Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		–	±	+	–		±	4+ 4–
13	Honeymoon for Three (WB)		±	±			±	‡	+		6+ 3–
	Howards of Virginia (Col)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
	Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	±	+	‡	+	+	9+ 3–
	Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6–
	I										
	I Want a Divorce (Para)		+	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
	I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2–
	I'm Still Alive (RKO)		∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
1	Invisible Woman, The (Univ)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 1–
	J										
	Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+			+	+	+		6+
	K										
4	Keeping Company (M-G-M)		–	±	–	‡	‡	±	+		7+ 4–
	Kit Carson (UA)		+	+	±	+	±	‡	+	±	9+ 3–
	Kitty Foyle (RKO)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
	Knute Rockne—All American (WB)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
	L										
	Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4–
	Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	‡	+	+	±	9+ 2–
15	Land of Liberty (M-G-M)		‡	±	+				‡	+	7+ 1–
	Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+ 1–
	Leather Pushers, The (Univ)		+	±	±		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4–
	Let's Make Music (RKO)		+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4–
	Letter, The (FN)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	14+
1	Li'l Abner (RKO)		+	∓			∓	±	–		4+ 4–
	Little Bit of Heaven (Univ)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week.

The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:
‡ **Very Good;** + **Good;** ± **Fair;** ∓ **Mediocre;** – **Poor;** = **Very Poor**
In the summary ‡ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.
(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number).

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

Buck Privates

F — Musical Comedy

Universal (——) 84 Minutes Rel. Jan. 31, '41

Timeliness is this feature's greatest asset. As the first of an impending large number of pictures dealing with the draft and other phases of national defense, it will doubtlessly strike a popular chord and register revenue scores of husky proportions. The task of spinning a yarn about life in Uncle Sam's newly recruited army is undertaken with a tongue-in-cheek attitude, which keeps the motivation within the established limits of musical comedy most of the way. Consequently, during the film's comic and musical moments—and they predominate—it is very good entertainment, approaching the riotous at times. In which departments, credit goes to Abbott and Costello and the Andrews Sisters, respectively. When the story veers toward its few dramatic, super-patriotic and romantic interludes, however, it loses ground, attributable principally to weak performances by the remaining members of the cast. Arthur Lubin's direction, his first "A" assignment, is of high calibre.

Lee Bowman, Alan Curtis, Bud Abbott, Lou Costello, the Andrews Sisters, Jane Frazee, Nat Pendleton.

EXPLOITIPS: Make over theatre front and lobby to look like a recruiting post, with a "soldier" doing "sentry duty" on the sidewalk in front. Hold a special "draft" preview to which neighborhood draftees are invited at courtesy rates. Perhaps one of the R. O. T. C. units could be persuaded to present a drill team on the stage. Abbott and Costello, radio comics, and the Andrews Sisters, renowned singing ensemble, rate the marquee credits. Arrange tieups with music stores on the Andrews Sisters' recordings and on the six songs contained in the picture.

CATCHLINES: It's a Riot of Music and Laughter . . . As Abbott and Costello Become Units in Uncle Sam's Great Draft Army . . . And Nearly Upset the Whole Defense Program.

They Were Caught in the Draft . . . And Found Life as Rookie Soldiers Better Than Being Constantly Behind the Eight-Ball.

Hotel Du Nord

A — Drama

Juno Films (SR) 83 Minutes Rel. ——

Handled in the directorial tradition that created esteem for French product in this country, "Hotel Du Nord" is a compelling dramatic story, in the "Grand Hotel" manner. The existences of a group of prosaic people in a small pension in Paris are jolted into emotional heights by the affairs of a man and a girl. The girl comes with a lover to carry out a suicide pact. The man, a criminal, is hiding from gangsters out to put him on the spot for framing them. The girl survives a bullet. The lover is jailed. When she returns she finds in the criminal another soul trying to find itself. They go off to Marseilles, but she returns without having fulfilled her part of the bargain by going eventually to Port Said. Back at the pension, the girl is later reunited with her released lover and the criminal is murdered during a July 14th celebration. The girl is Annabella; the man, Louis Jouvet. Marcel Carne seems to have directed his story in real Montmartre locations. From France, another fine film.

Louis Jouvet, Annabella, Arletty, Jean-Pierre Aumont, Andre Brunot, Paulette Dubost.

EXPLOITIPS: The critics of foreign newspapers published in this country have selected this film as the finest French import of the year. Contact the distributor for the information. They awarded Arletty, one of the better French actresses, the palm for the best performance. Annabella, of course, is well known here. Louis Jouvet has a comfortable reputation by virtue of past performances. Blow up portraits of the cast for lobby display. There are English titles.

CATCHLINES: Another Fine Dramatic Offering . . . Set in the Heart of Paris.

Two Souls Find Themselves . . . At the Hotel Du Nord.

Secret Evidence

F — Melodrama

Producers Releasing Corp. (107) 63 Minutes Rel. Jan. 3, '41

Melodrama in which circumstantial evidence almost convicts an innocent man of an attempted murder, this carries a heavy enough cargo of entertainment to earn its way in the action and neighborhood houses. Further, it provides an A-1 example of how Producer E. B. Derr can squeeze the utmost out of every budget dollar. The cast is pretty light as to drawing power, but turns in satisfactory performances, with Marjorie Reynolds and Charles Quigley, in the leads, being particularly effective. Quigley portrays a rising young assistant in the district attorney's office, in love with Miss Reynolds. When Ward McTaggart, an ex-convict, is seriously wounded, her brother is arrested and tried. Quigley then is faced with the dilemma as to whether to risk losing Miss Reynolds' love or finding the true assailant. William Nigh directed.

Marjorie Reynolds, Charles Quigley, Ward McTaggart, Kenneth Harlan, Bob White, Boyd Irwin, Donald Curtis.

EXPLOITIPS: Charles Quigley has earned something of a reputation among action fans and consequently deserves the marquee credits. Hang a huge compo-board question mark above the boxoffice or marquee and snipe the neighborhood with posters containing a portrait of Ward McTaggart, captioned "Wanted—Dangerous Criminal." Ask police cooperation in arranging an anti-crime display in the lobby, including fingerprinting apparatus and an explanation of the science of ballistics. Promote an essay contest among high school students on the question of circumstantial evidence and its value and disadvantages in courts of law.

CATCHLINES: He Had to Choose Between the Woman He Loved . . . And His Professional Reputation.

The Finger of Accusation Pointed to a Man Who Was Innocent . . . But Couldn't Prove It.

The Pinto Kid

F — Western

Columbia (2204) 61 Minutes Rel. Jan. 9, '41

A smart departure from the routine story treatment of an open air saga gives this western a better than average rating. Introducing as leading lady, Louise Currie, who should go places, the story offers Charles Starrett as a rancher driving cattle from Texas to Kansas, to a railhead. His way is beset by the local bigots who still are fighting the Civil War and a deep-dyed villain who tries to frame the hero with a murder, cattle rustling and a bank robbery before he gets his due. The whole yarn dovetails neatly with action elements effectively worked in; the music by the Sons of the Pioneers humorously relieves the dramatic strain.

Charles Starrett, Louise Currie, Bob Nolan, Hank Bell, Paul Sutton, Ernie Adams.

EXPLOITIPS: This one rates a little extra attention. Utilize the standard gags and, in addition, feature the career of Miss Currie in advance publicity broadsides. She comes from Max Reinhardt's Workshop, has appeared in radio and television on the coast. She's good. The Sons of the Pioneers can be tied in locally on the radio. Line up the usual Starrett props. Consult the library for books and other material relating to the driving of cattle to railway facilities during the days when the west was young and call attention to them.

CATCHLINES: Gallopin' Hoofs Harmonize With Blazing Guns . . . As Texas Makes Friends With Kansas . . . And Cowboy Romances Cowgirl.

Fists Flash as Guns Roar . . . From Texas to the Kansas Line . . . As Brave Hearts Pound to Stirring Songs.

Action and Romance Along the Trail From Ranch to Railroad When the West Was Young.

ǂ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor

In the summary ǂ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
	Little Men (RKO)		−	±	=	±	ǂ	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Little Nellie Kelly (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 2−
	Lone Rider Rides On (PRC)								+		1+
	Lone Star Raiders (Rep)		+		±	∓			±		4+ 3−
	Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (Col)		+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
	Long Voyage Home (UA)		+	ǂ		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	13+
	Love Thy Neighbor (Para)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Lucky Devils (Univ)			±					+		2+ 1−
	Lucky Partners (RKO)		ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	13+
	M										
	Mad Doctor, The (Para)								+		1+
5	Maisie Was a Lady (M-G-M)		+	±	+		ǂ	ǂ	+		8+ 1−
	Margie (Univ)		−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
	Mark of Zorro, The (20th-Fox)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
18	Marked Men (PRC)		−								1−
	Meet the Missus (Rep)		±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
	Meet the Wildcat (Univ)		−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
	Melody and Moonlight (Rep)		∓	±		ǂ	ǂ	+	±		8+ 3−
	Melody Ranch (Rep)		+	+	+	ǂ		ǂ	+	∓	9+ 1−
	Men Against the Sky (RKO)		+	+	+		+	±	+	+	7+ 1−
	Mexican Spitfire Out West (RKO)		+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
	Michael Shayne, Private Detective (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
	Misbehaving Husbands (PRC)		+		=	+	ǂ	+		∓	6+ 3−
	Moon Over Burma (Para)		+	+	±	+	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 2−
	Mortal Storm, The (M-G-M)		+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	13+
13	Mr. and Mrs. Smith (RKO)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	±	ǂ	+		10+ 1−
	Mummy's Hand, The (Univ)		+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
	Murder Over New York (20th-Fox)		±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
	N										
	Night at Earl Carroll's (Para)		=	±	−	±	±	±	±	±	6+ 9−
	Night Train (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	ǂ		+	ǂ	9+
18	Nobody's Children (Col)		±	−	∓	±	±	±	±	±	7+ 8−
8	No, No, Nanette (RKO)		ǂ	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	No Time for Comedy (FN)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	+	±	+	+	10+ 1−
	North West Mounted Police (Para)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
	O										
	Oklahoma Renegades (Rep)		+			+			+	±	4+ 1−
	Ol' Swimmin' Hole (Mono)		+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
	On the Spot (Mono)		+		−	+	+	±	±	∓	6+ 4−
	One Million B. C. (UA)		±	±	−	+	±	∓	±		6+ 6−
	One Night in the Tropics (Univ)		±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
	Outlaws of the Panhandle (Col)								−		1−
	P										
	Passport to Alcatraz (Col)		+	−	±	+	∓	−	±		5+ 5−
	Pastor Hall (UA)		±	ǂ	±	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	11+ 2−
	Phantom of Chinatown (Mono)		±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
	Philadelphia Story (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
23	Pinto Kid (Col)		+						±		2+ 1−
	Play Girl (RKO)		+	±	±	±	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 4−
	Pony Post (Univ)		±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
	Prairie Law (RKO)		+	±	+	+		+	±	∓	7+ 3−
	Prairie Schooners (Col)		∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
15	Pride of the Bowery (Mono)		+	±	=	±	+	−	+	∓	6+ 6−
	Public Deb No. 1 (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+	+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
	Q										
	Quarterback, The (Para)		±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	Queen of the Yukon (Mono)		+	±	∓		+	+	±	∓	7+ 4−
	R										
	Ragtime Cowboy Joe (Univ)		+		±	+			+	∓	5+ 2−
	Rangers of Fortune (Para)		+	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	±	+	12+ 2−
	Remedy for Riches (RKO)		+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
	Rhythm on the River (Para)		+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	13+
	Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride (Rep)		+		+	+	··		+	∓	7+ 1−
19	Ridin' on a Rainbow (Rep)		∓		∓	+					3+ 2−
	Road Show (UA)								+		1+
10	Robin Hood of the Pecos (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	∓	+	±	7+ 4−
17	Rolling Home to Texas (Mono)		=			+	+	±			3+ 3−
5	Romance of the Rio Grande (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	S										
	Safari (Para)		±	∓	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
3	Saint in Palm Springs (RKO)		+	±	=	∓	=	+	+	+	6+ 6−
	Sandy Gets Her Man (Univ)		+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	Sandy Is a Lady (Univ)		+	∓	∓	+	+	±	+	±	8+ 4−
	San Francisco Docks (Univ)		∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
	Santa Fe Trail (FN)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
	Sea Hawk, The (WB)		ǂ	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	12+ 1−
	Second Chorus (Para)		ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
23	Secret Evidence (PRC)		+								1+
	Seven Sinners (Univ)		±	+	±	ǂ	+	+	±	+	9+ 3−
	She Couldn't Say No (FN)		+	±	±	±	∓		±	±	7+ 6−
12	Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga (Univ)		+	±			∓	+			4+ 2−
	Sky Murder (M-G-M)		±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+10−
	Slightly Tempted (Univ)		±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
20	So Ends Our Night (UA)		∓	+	±	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ		10+ 2−
	So You Won't Talk (Col)		−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
	Son of Monte Cristo (UA)		+	±	∓	±	∓	ǂ	±	±	9+ 6−
	South of Suez (WB)		+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
	Spellbound (UA)				+						1+
	Spring Parade (Univ)		ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
	Street of Memories (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
	Strike Up the Band (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	T										
	Take Me Back to Okla. (Mono)		+			ǂ	+	+	+		6+
14	Tall, Dark and Handsome (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	12+
	Texas Rangers Ride Again (Para)		+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
	Texas Terrors (Rep)		+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
	That Gang of Mine (Mono)		±	±	=	+	−	±	−	±	5+ 8−
	They Knew What They Wanted (RKO)		ǂ	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	14+ 1−
	Thief of Bagdad (UA)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
	Third Finger, Left Hand (M-G-M)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	This Thing Called Love (Col)		+	+	ǂ		ǂ		±		7+ 1−
	Three Men From Texas (Para)		+		ǂ	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
	Thundering Frontier (Col)		−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
	Tin Pan Alley (20th-Fox)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Too Many Girls (RKO)		+	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	11+ 1−
	Torpedo Raider (Mono)		∓								1+ 1−
	Trail Blazers (Rep)		+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
	Trail of the Silver Spurs (Mono)				+						1+
	Trail of the Vigilantes (Univ)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
	Trailin' Double Trouble (Mono)		∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
	Triple Justice (RKO)		+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
	Tugboat Annie Sails Again (WB)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
	U										
	Under Texas Skies (Rep)		+		±	+			+	±	5+ 2−
	Up in the Air (Mono)		+	±	±		+	+	+	∓	7+ 3−
	V										
	Victory (Para)		+	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	+		9+ 1−
	Villain Still Pursued Her, The (RKO)		±	∓	−	±	±	∓	±		6+ 7−
12	Virginia (Para)		ǂ	±	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 3−
	W										
	Wagon Train (RKO)		+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
	Wagons Westward (Rep)		+	+	±	+	−	∓	±	±	7+ 5−
	West of Pinto Basin (Mono)		±		±	+	ǂ	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
	Westerner, The (UA)		±	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	+	10+ 1−
24	Western Union (20th-Fox)		ǂ				ǂ	ǂ			6+
	Where Did You Get That Girl (Univ)		+	±		±	+	+	±		6+ 3−
	Who Is Guilty? (Mono)		−	±		±			±	+	4+ 4−
	Who Killed Aunt Maggie? (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
	Wild Horse Range (Mono)								±	∓	2+ 2−
24	Wild Man of Borneo (M-G-M)		+								1+
	World in Flames (Para)		+		ǂ	ǂ	+		+	+	8+
	Wyoming (M-G-M)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 1−
8	Wyoming Wildcat (Rep)		+			+					2+
	Y										
	Yesterday's Heroes (20th-Fox)		+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
	You'll Find Out (RKO)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	Young Bill Hickok (Rep)		±		∓	+			±		4+ 3−
	Young People (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	ǂ	+	+	+	+	9+
11	You're Out of Luck)Mono)		±	±		∓	±	±			5+ 5−
21	You're the One (Para)		+			ǂ	+	−			4+ 1−
	Youth Will Be Served (20th-Fox)		±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Yukon Flight (Mono)		+			+					2+

One Plaint Before Washington Board

WASHINGTON—Only one arbitration case has so far been filed in this area under the consent decree.

The case was brought to the board by an exhibitor almost as soon as the local agency opened for business. Formal papers, however, have not yet been filed, and the board refused to make any information public regarding the matter until it is officially before it.

Upon the filing of the formal demand for arbitration and the form acknowledging the complainant's willingness to abide by the arbitration award, notices will be sent to the party or parties named in the complaint and opportunity will be afforded interested parties to announce their desire to intervene. It is not expected that the case will be heard until late this month.

Jones and Benton Set Up Atlanta Booking Office

ATLANTA—George M. Jones and L. D. V. Benton have opened offices here as Jones & Benton for the exclusive purpose of booking pictures for independent exhibitors under the decree. There is no intention to handle the buying for any theatres, states Jones who points out exhibitors can make use of the office when in town for whatever their needs may require.

Jones has been active along Filmrow for approximately 20 years, working with major and independent exchanges. He has already contacted various exchanges on his idea and the reaction has been favorable, he says.

Reports the office would be set up as a form of buying combine are strenuously denied by Jones. However, he will make every effort to attend all trade screenings to report them to his accounts.

25 of 37 Eligibles at Equipment Convention

CHICAGO—Of the 37 independent dealers eligible for membership, representatives of 25 are attending the three-day second annual convention of Independent Equipment Dealers Protective Ass'n at the Congress here, according to Harry Graham, Denver, chairman. Election of officers for the first time is scheduled to be held Monday. Manufacturers have been invited to attend and some have put in an appearance.

Gabe Yorke May Join 20th-Fox Exploitation

NEW YORK—Gabe Yorke, now in the west handling "Land of Liberty," is reported joining 20th-Fox's exploitation staff here under Rodney Bush. He is due within the next week or so with his first assignment "Tobacco Road," for which an extensive campaign is planned.

Ask Majors to Purchase Canadian War Bonds

TORONTO—American distributors operating in Canada have been asked to purchase $1,000,000 of Canadian war bonds with eight of the majors to invest $100,000 each, the balance to be made up by the independents, such as Republic, Monogram, PRC, Alliance and others.

Canada has no restrictions on remittances, although it is pointed out in Britain last year half of the $35,000,000 was frozen, while in Australia 50 per cent of the $6,200,000 film revenue was permitted to leave the country. In Canada the gross revenue of film exchanges in recent years has averaged more than $10,000,000 per year and the excess revenue for export has averaged $6,000,000 for each of the past four years.

The inference is that unless American companies cooperate in the purchase of war bonds, restrictions may be imposed on remittances.

Remittance Hearings To Be Held Monday

NEW YORK—Arbitration hearings on allocation of the new British remittance plan, scheduled for last Wednesday, have been postponed until Monday at the Bar Association Building. Sam Cohen of the M-G-M legal staff will present his company's arguments, while Joseph H. Hazen, Warner attorney and aide to Harry M. Warner, will represent the other seven major distributors.

Milton J. Handler, Columbia University law professor, will be the impartial arbiter. M-G-M is protesting the allocation set up by the Hays group, holding its share of the remittances should be based on the plan originally adopted by the British government and not on gross business.

It is understood all of the companies have received a share of the new remittances, some as high as half of 75 per cent of the original allocation.

Shortly after the hearings, Arthur M. Loew, head of M-G-M foreign activities, will leave for the coast. He recently stated he was planning a trip to Australia which may follow after his Hollywood arrival.

Eddie Hyman Named Aide To Sam Dembow jr.

NEW YORK—Eddie Hyman, for many years identified with the Century circuit here and later with Prudential Playhouses, has been named assistant to Sam Dembow jr. and Leonard Goldenson of the Paramount theatre department at the home office. Hyman for the past six months has been buyer for United Detroit Theatres and assistant to Earl J. Hudson. He takes over his new duties March 1.

Another change is the shifting of Harry Royster, whom Hyman succeeds, to the post of operating head of Netco theatres upstate with headquarters in Poughkeepsie. Royster succeeds George Walsh who resigned over a year ago. He will make his office with Harold Greenberg, booker, effective March 1, also.

Assessment Value on Criterion Boosted

NEW YORK—While numerous theatre and theatre buildings have been reduced in assessment values by the tax commission, the Criterion and its accompanying structure has been upped $25,000 to a value of $6,725,000. Notable reductions are the Paramount by $625,000 for a new total evaluation of $11,225,000. Loew's State has been reduced $250,000 for a new estimate of $3,850,000.

The Music Hall and RKO Building are listed jointly at $11,700,000, which apparently is the same as last year.

Other valuations for Manhattan are: Palace, $1,275,000; Mayfair, $1,750,000; Roxy, $4,000,000; Ziegfeld, $1,000,000; New Amsterdam, $920,000; Times-Apollo, $1,365,000; Astor, $1,700,000; Globe, $1,050,000; Strand, $3,200,000; Gaiety, $2,150,000; Rivoli $1,600,000; Capitol, $2,300,000; Hollywood, $1,125,000; Lincoln Square, $985,000; Rialto, $2,825,000.

In the Bronx, Loew's Grand is valued at $975,000, and the same circuit's Paradise, $1,300,000. RKO's Fordham is assessed at $815,000, while Skouras' Valentine is listed at $600,000.

In Brooklyn, the following are in the higher brackets: Fox, $3,800,000; St. George, $187,000; Loew's Kings, $1,080,000; Loew's Metropolitan, $992,000; Loew's Melba, $410,000; Star, $410,000; Tivoli, $380,000; Oxford, $110,000; RKO's Albee, $1,700,000; Paramount theatre and building, $3,070,000; Strand, $525,000; Majestic $250,000.

In Queens, where the Eastern Studios are located, the property is down for a valuation of $715,000. The RKO Madison is listed at $629,000; Keith's Flushing, $770,000; Loew's Valencia, $1,060,000; RKO Alden, $430,000; Merrick, Jamaica, $875,000.

In Richmond, the St. George theatre and building, $590,000, and the Paramount, operated by Si Fabian, $350,000.

Illness Puts Off Hearings Between SPG and Majors

NEW YORK—Due to the illness of the NLRB's trial examiner, Dan Baker, hearings between the Screen Publicists Guild and representatives of six majors have been put off until February 11. To date there have been seven sessions between the SPG and majors, excepting Warner and M-G-M, the latter two having been granted adjournments until a later date. Most of the conferences have been over whether non-salaried artists, such as free-lancers, are eligible for the collective bargaining unit for which the SPG is seeking recognition.

O'Connor Again Heads Catholic Fund Drive

NEW YORK—For the third consecutive year, John J. O'Connor, vice-president of the RKO circuit, has been named chairman of the Archbishop's Committee for the Laity for 1941 appeal in the motion picture and entertainment industry.

Urges 2-Way Campaign To Return Trade Health

By LEONARD WEISBERG

NEW YORK—In what a number of executives consider to be the most important address before Ampa this season, Joseph Bernhard, general manager of Warner theatres, urged publicity men (1) "to create a public state of mind toward motion pictures which would enable us within the near future to advance admission prices at least to the 1929-30 level, and (2) "to build good will for the industry as an institution."

These were Bernhard's concise conclusions after observing the "friendly feeling" the public has felt toward theatres "is being dissipated." In connection with price tilts, he warned against periodic increases for "big attractions."

The public, he said, is presently paying an average of 75 cents per admission as compared with $1 about 10 years ago. An impediment toward raising scales, especially in the lower brackets, is the current defense tax, he added, "but despite that fact we must, to protect the financial structure of our business, get additional nickels, pennies and dimes wherever we can in a general raise of admissions . . . not an occasional increase on big attractions."

Hits Price Juggling

Bernhard declared he is against these advanced price attractions because "if this up-and-down price policy continues, and it will grow because every company will think that it has a picture that is far superior to the ordinary and prices should be raised, in no time the public will become price-conscious to a dangerous degree.

"Our customers," he declared, "will look upon prices as a trademark of quality. Unconsciously you will be telling the public that when the price goes up it is a good picture; when the price remains stationary it is not so good. Keep up the juggling of prices," he warned, "and you will shift emphasis from entertainment to price, and when the public is guided by price, the advertising man's job becomes less important." Bernhard at this point said, "I should assume that advertising men would throw the weight of their influence against the juggling of admission prices."

He was particularly outspoken in his criticism of those forces which are robbing the industry of public good will, which, he observed, "we are now in danger of losing.

"That good will is more precious than ever because of the competition which has grown up since motion pictures became the great mass entertainment . . . We don't play outstanding attractions 52 weeks in the year in a weekly change house, and surely less in a two or three change double feature house in the neighborhoods. Our steady patronage comes from the good will which keeps the people coming to the theatre during the weeks and days when we don't have major attractions. They come because they have a friendly feeling toward the theatres which we must not lose."

Bernhard gave as his opinion that "no other business" is subject to such a constant barrage of criticism from people in all walks of life, "including a United States senator," which he termed "unfair and unjust."

"No other merchandise, no other commodity that the American people buy is discounted in advance of being put on sale by the very newspapers and magazines that we support with millions of dollars of advertising every year. Before customers ever get a chance to read our advertising, commentators from Hollywood have already told them whether, in the individual opinion of that commentator, the picture is good, bad or indifferent.

"Wrong View" by Critics

"As soon as a man or woman begins to write about motion pictures," Bernhard continued, "they immediately forget that the industry is an entertainment factory, and that the men who run that industry are in the business of manufacturing entertainment to please the largest number of people." Critics are inclined to think of films as an "art," he added, while patrons are only interested in entertainment.

Among other forms of discreditable publicity are unpleasant gossip, imagined scandals and "subtle" but destructive criticism carried by fan magazines, Bernhard said. Observing he "would like to read more often of some of the good work our industry is doing," he added: "Anything printed in the papers which makes Hollywood discreditable, and the people who work there undesirable, destroys good will and encourages people to lose the instinct to say, 'Let's go to a movie'."

Faith in Average Picture

Bernhard indicated he has little patience with those who regard only big pictures as a cure of all the industry's evils. He said he is in accord to a certain degree with value of especially important product, "but if we had to live on outstanding pictures alone this business could not survive. It is the average pictures, and I am not talking for the benefit of the smaller companies, which constitute our bread and butter," he declared. "Good pictures—meaning smash pictures—are just dessert, and the kind of dessert that is not served often enough. Only a national movie habit, the faithful patronage of millions of paying for the average movie, as well as the smash hit, keeps us in business."

Hinting that average pictures are to play a more important role than ever, the circuit head declared:

"I see picture after picture with entertainment value as good as that of pictures containing magic names, pictures which occupy a great percentage of our screens, but do not gross enough money. It is these pictures which require and should receive the concentrated attention of every advertising man and every manager who is a showman.

"With the loss of foreign revenue how do we, as exhibitors, know how long Hollywood can continue to pay the tremendous salaries to those magic names? It is because of pictures with lesser names, but high entertainment quality, that I, as one exhibitor, am ready to say, 'Mr. Producer, we will help you build up new names.' And that is your job, a tough one, I admit. I just present to you the failure to sell enough tickets for these pictures, but not in the spirit of hostile criticism because I am sympathetic to all your difficulties."

Bernhard was introduced by Mort Blumenstock, eastern Warner director of advertising and publicity. Among those from the home office who took bows, were Paul Lazarus, Carl Leserman, Clayton Bond, Sam Schneider, Harry Goldberg and Ed Schreiber. Attendance was over 250.

Together in Spotting Main Feature First

NEW YORK—The RKO and Loew's metropolitan circuits are toe-to-toe in the new plan of presenting the main feature before the associate film in a switch of policy in order to get the important unit of double bills before late audiences between 9 and 9:30 p. m.

RKO started it on September 26 in sort of an experiment at nine houses. Loew's followed suit by presenting a well advertised "Nine O'clock Plan" at 31 houses Thursday. RKO opened the idea at one more house the same evening and on February 12 will bring it to 23 more units. The score now stands: Loew's, 31 out of 71 houses; RKO—as of February 12—33 out of 46 houses.

RKO Staggers Programs

However, RKO is not rigid in its changeover. About half the units will stagger the programs so that the main film of the last show goes on at 9 p. m., while the other half starts at 9:30. Loew's is set at 9 p. m., but may change the Sunday programs in a few weeks so that the top film may start at 9:30.

The RKO houses that will be on the 9 p. m. schedule are: Greenpoint, Prospect, Shore Road, Bushwick, Park, Marble Hill, 81st Street, Hamilton, Flushing, Pelham, Castle Hill, New Rochelle, Royal, Roosevelt, White Plains, 125th Street and Alhambra. Those on the 9:30 schedule are: Tilyou, Kenmore, Dyker, Madison, Republic, Strand and Columbia, Far Rockaway, 58th Street, 86th Street, Fordham, Franklin, Regent, Chester, Richmond Hill, Coliseum and 23rd Street.

Although independent chains in competitive zones with the two major circuits have taken no steps to indicate they will follow, it is known they are watching the situation to see if there is any merit to the new plan.

Extra Weekend Shows Held for "Fantasia"

NEW YORK—Extra morning shows Saturday and Sunday with admissions scaled at half price for persons under 16, have been inaugurated at the Broadway where "Fantasia" is on display. The plan was adopted, according to Walt Disney offices, at the request of student and teacher groups. Next Tuesday, the 1,000,000th patron will be entertained by the theatre, as a special attraction.

And They All Tell Stories of Their Kin

New York—Joe Hornstein's equipment office at the Film Center boasts of the following employes: Al Lyons, brother of Leonard, famous syndicated columnist whose theatrical pot pourri appears daily in the New York "Post;" Jerry Thomas, son of Harry H., local branch manager for Monogram, and Seymour Seider, son of Isador of Prudential Playhouses.

Lest we forget, Hornstein's two sons also are engaged in the same office.

Seeks Return Proskauer Payment to Loew's

NEW YORK—Ruth L. Kirby, owner of 10 common shares of Loew's, has filed an action against the directors seeking to have them return to the company's treasury $100,000 which was paid to former Judge Joseph M. Proskauer for his services in defending them and the company in the minority stockholders' suit in 1939. Her contention is that the directors, and not the company, should have paid this sum to the former jurist.

On March 31, 1939, Supreme Court Judge Louis A. Valente ruled for the plaintiffs in the amount of $527,802, but at the same time cleared all directors of any mismanagement charges, holding the errors were in the method of bookkeeping and did not reflect on any of the individual defendants.

Paramount Starting on Construction Program

HOLLYWOOD—To accommodate a heavy production schedule, Paramount has launched a construction program at its Marathon Street studio, the new buildings to include three modern sound stages and a power house. At the same time the company reiterated its intention of constructing an entirely new, $15,000,000 studio on property in West Los Angeles, a project which has been temporarily deferred because of unsettled world conditions.

The three new stages will provide 55,000 additional square feet of interior space. The power house will increase the studio's electrical capacity from 23,000 to more than 40,000 amperes. To make way for the new units, the electrical dock, sheet-metal stage and a standing set will have to be dismantled. First of the new stages is to be ready within four months, with the entire project to be completed in six months.

Osa Johnson Weds

NEW YORK—Osa Johnson, whose latest film is "I Married Adventure," took unto herself a second venture in marriage this week when she married her manager, Clark H. Getts, at the city hall. A wedding breakfast followed the ceremony at the Waldorf. Her first husband was Martin Johnson, killed in an airplane crash a few years ago.

Assign Elliott Nugent

HOLLYWOOD—Elliott Nugent will direct "Nothing But the Truth," Bob Hope-Paulette Goddard co-starrer, for Paramount.

Government Door Not Shut On Ascap Settlement

Negro Pickets Force "Nation" Withdrawal

NEW YORK—Picketing by Negroes in protest to the showing of the picture compelled Sam Cummins to pull "Birth of a Nation" from the Ambassador the day after it opened.

Similar demonstrations at the Thalia, on upper Broadway, and at an independent house in South Orange also forced cancellations shortly after opening.

Dembow Back on Job

NEW YORK—Sam Dembow jr., Paramount circuit executive, returns to his desk Monday after being confined to his home for several weeks due to an injury sustained when he was hit by an automobile while stepping off a sidewalk in the Times Square district.

REVIEW FLASHES

MAD DOCTOR, THE (Para't)—In most situations this will prove a celluloid problem child. The film is too long to function as supporting fare and is not sufficiently meritorious to grace the upper half of the bill except in the most unimportant program arrangements. Basil Rathbone, Ellen Drew, John Howard. Director: Tim Whelan.

MEET THE CHUMP (Univ)—If squirrels bought theatre tickets, this would undoubtedly smash all boxoffice records because it is nuttier than a 30-cent drugstore sundae. The amount of human patronage it will attract, however, is problematical. Had not the designation been overworked, it might be classified as a screwball comedy, taking up where all others left off. It is reasonably funny in spots and should serve satisfactorily where mirthful support material is desired. Ken Goldsmith produced; Edward Cline directed.

MONSTER AND THE GIRL, THE (Para't)—While this cannot hope for universal patronage or acclaim, it should find takers in profitable number among the horror fans for whom it will be a treat sufficient to sate the appetites of the most avid chill-seekers. Stuart Heisler directed.

ROAD SHOW (UA)—The action starts in a nut house and gets nuttier every foot of the way. There have been plenty of screwball comedies about allegedly sane people, but this is the first one in which the leading characters are admitted screwballs. There's no limit to the number of laughs it will furnish the customers who like their humor in its broadest vein. Properly merchandised, the feature should pay its way handsomely. Hal Roach produced and directed.

WASHINGTON—Filing of the government's criminal proceedings against the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in the federal district court at Milwaukee will not close the doors of the department of justice to the music organization should it still desire to frame up a consent decree, according to Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold.

As filed in Milwaukee, the information charging Ascap with being an unlawful combination in restraint of trade in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law contended, among other things, that the fees for licenses to commercial users of Ascap music are fixed arbitrarily by the society to all commercial users, and the society has discriminated as to both price and terms among various commercial users of music so that some users have received more favorable treatment than others who are similarly situated.

In the consent decree ending the case against Broadcast Music, Inc., the new organization agreed not to discriminate in either price or terms among the users of copyrighted music and to offer BMI compositions for performance to all users of the same class on equal terms and conditions, with licenses on a pay-when-you-play basis, on either a per-piece or per-program schedule.

Department of justice officials said this provision would be of value to exhibitors using copyrighted music, and that a similar provision would be incorporated in any settlement made with Ascap.

"In plain language," Arnold said in commenting on the suit, "Ascap is charged with exploiting composers by preventing them from selling their music except on terms dictated by a self-perpetuating board of directors. That board has the power arbitrarily to determine on what basis various members of Ascap shall share in the royalties from Ascap compositions.

"In addition to discriminating against composers, Ascap has been using its monopoly power to charge the users of music for songs they do not play. By this method, anyone who does not belong to Ascap is excluded from the market. These practices we consider not only illegal but unjustifiable on any ground of fair dealing.

"Our proceeding is aimed only to compel Ascap to stop such practices. Therefore, the department will continue to hold the door open to proposals from Ascap which will eliminate these abuses. It does not desire to prevent Ascap from protecting the copyright privileges of its members."

The filing of the suit revealed openly what has long been reported the government's aim—the reorganization of Ascap's internal management and policies to eliminate the "self-perpetuating board of directors" of which complaint was made.

New RKO Official

NEW YORK—William J. Merrill, vice-president and treasurer of RKO Corp., has been elected a vice-president of RKO Radio Pictures.

Rebuttal in Flynn's Suit of Publisher

NEW YORK—Court news of the week found the most important development being a rebuttal by Harcourt, Brace, Quinn and Boden, publishers, and Constancia de la Mora, authoress, to Errol Flynn's $2,000,000 libel suit in which actor claimed Miss de la Mora's book, "In Place of Splendor," used the suffering of the Spanish people during the Civil war to gain publicity for himself. The defendants pleaded an affirmative defense holding Flynn was supposedly wounded at the front while he was miles away from action, and cited stories carried by the American news services at the time to prove what was said in the book was true and not libel.

Application of Clara Dellar and Robert Louis Shayon to reopen an examination before trial of Samuel Goldwyn in connection with a $1,000,000 suit against the producer, Eddie Cantor and United Artists has been denied by federal judge Murray Hulbert. Suit claims the plaintiff's play, "Oh Shah," was plagiarised in "Roman Scandals."

Settle "Hired Wife" Suit

Producers Laboratories discontinued and settled out of court an action against Universal, Universal Film Exchanges, Big "U" Film Corp., and the Roxy Theatre. The action claimed Universal's "Hired Wife" was an infringement of the title of its picture, "A Hired Wife." An injunction, accounting of profits and damages had been sought.

20th-Fox, answering a suit by Eleanor Harris, authoress of the original on which "Brigham Young" was based, claimed Miss Harris was not entitled to more screen credit than she received, due to the fact she sold the story to 20th-Fox for $1,000, and was employed to work on the screen play at $75 weekly. The authoress seeks damages of $50,000, claiming Louis Bromfield was given screen credit while all she received was "story research" mention. She will be examined before trial in federal court by the film company.

Suit of Katherine Moog against Warner started trial in the federal court. Action seeks $75,000 damages for alleged libel in "Confessions of a Nazi Spy." Plaintiff claims the part played by Lya Lys in the film was meant to represent her.

Max Weingarten and Michael M. Wyngate lost a plea for temporary injunction pending trial against Eureka Productions' distribution of "Ecstasy," but Supreme Court Justice Louis A. Valente ordered start of trial of the action for next week. The plaintiffs claim to have acquired the second five-year rights to the film in America from the producers. Also that Eureka's rights expired in October, 1939. Damages of $100,000 are sought for failure to turn over prints and negatives. Defendant claims it still owns the rights. Other defendants are Samuel Cummins, Rose Chatkin, and Jacques Koerpal.

Russell Goldman has filed a supreme court action against Harry Gordon and Samuel K. Lackoff claiming the defendants, employes of his during 1938-40, failed to turn over a patent developed while in his employ for a projection machine. He seeks to have defendants turn it over. A counter action for $10,000 damages has been filed stating the defendants had been promised a one-third interest in anything they developed and that Goldman is seeking to deprive them of the interest.

Supreme Court Justice Aaron J. Levy, refusing to dismiss Leonard Goldstein's $25,000 suit against Mervyn LeRoy, declared that triable issues exist. Action claims LeRoy persuaded Goldstein to drop a suit against Kenny Baker and to turn over the actor's managerial contract to him, promising compensation which was not forthcoming. The producer claims Goldstein had no agent's license when he signed Baker.

Indict Three for Illegal Trafficking in Films

NEW YORK—The U. S. attorney's office has handed up a sealed indictment charging three men with illegal traffic in films and stating the defendants rented stolen or surreptitiously acquired pictures to sell to churches, schools and charitable institutions which were under the impression the defendants had leased them legally. Defendants are Louis Colasuono, known as L. D. Colson, heading Colson Motion Picture Service, Bronx; Antonio Cardillo, his alleged partner, and Sol Jaffe, a photographic technician and head of Movielab Film Labs. of 1600 Broadway.

Films involved are M-G-M's "Ben Hur," 20th Century Fox's "The Littlest Rebel" and "A Connecticut Yankee," Warner Bros.' "Dinky," and Sunray Films, Inc.'s "The Little Flower of Jesus." Defendants are accused of having acquired 35mm prints and reduced them to 16mm, which were then sold. Under the indictment they can be fined $11,000 and sentenced to three years each.

The investigation came about as a result of protests from major film companies who complained that many prints were being stolen. Over 50,000 prints are exhibited daily in 17,000 theatres. This is the first case of its kind in the history of Southern District of N. Y.

Million by Fleischer for "Mr. Bug Goes to Town"

NEW YORK—The Max Fleischer studio in Miami is working on what Paramount, the cartoonist's distributor, is pleased to characterize as the "first solidly dramatic modern story of today in feature length cartoon form." It is supposed to be a $1,000,000 production and the story is "Mr. Bug Goes to Town." It is for fall release. The story is an original depicting the fight for life by a community of little people who live in a weedy patch of earth 45 inches from Broadway. The story will be told from the insects' point of view, with humans appearing only as the insects see them.

Parry "Kane" Questions

NEW YORK—"Citizen Kane" will be released by RKO on February 28, according to current plans. Questions relating to the picture are met with a blank gaze at the home office.

Nearly Million to Operate Archives

WASHINGTON—Funds aggregating $993,340 are provided for operation of the National Archives during the coming fiscal year in the first appropriation bill to be taken up by Congress.

The appropriation was for the full amount recommended by the budget, and an increase of $60,480 over that for the current fiscal year.

Testifying before the House appropriations committee on the activities of the National Archives, R. D. W. Connor, archivist, reported that during the last fiscal year a total of 2,272,000 feet of motion picture film was deposited, giving a total of 4,352,000 feet.

While 3,800,000 feet of this total came from government agencies, 522,000 feet was acquired from private sources, much of it in the form of news reels, Connor explained. Included in the pictures received was the March of Time film, "The Ramparts We Watch," a great deal of which was composed of films in the custody of the Archives.

Aid Defense Commission

The films now on deposit are serving an important practical purpose, the archivist revealed, the National Defense Advisory Commission being interested in films of the World War period and calling for an average of five showings a week of such pictures.

One of the most important problems confronting the Archives is the preservation of pictures, Connor said. About 85 per cent of the film received is on nitrate base, which constitutes a fire hazard and has a comparatively short life—about 25 years for the average picture. The Archives is anxious to transfer these pictures to acetate base film, particularly as the vault capacity for nitrate film is practically exhausted and new vaults will have to be provided if acetate film cannot be used.

Need to Duplicate

Connor explained that it will also be necessary to duplicate much film which now is in bad condition. Some of the pictures cannot be projected because of deterioration. At the same time, the Archives have much negative film of which copies must be made before it can be projected.

At the present time an optical printer is being made, which will cost about $4,500 as compared with $15,000 if bought in the open market, and a step printer will be made this year, so that the work of copying films can be started in the near future.

To Make Yiddish Films

HOLLYWOOD—Louis Weiss and Sam Rosen have formed Hollywood Yiddish Film Corp. and will produce four features. The first will star Moishe Oysher and shooting will start in February. Release of the initial effort is expected to coincide with the Passover holidays.

RKO Sells Parkway

NEW YORK—RKO has sold the Parkway, Mt. Vernon, to an independent exhibitor.

Report Goldwyn Joins Warner

New York—Following settlement of the suit against UA and the sale of his stock for a reported $300,000 to David Selznick, Samuel Goldwyn is reported joining Warner in an independent production setup similar to that of Frank Capra. James Mulvey is expected to continue representing Goldwyn at the UA headquarters until his films have been liquidated. George Z. Medalie, Goldwyn's counsel, left Thursday by plane for Hollywood to wash up the suit and probably to confer with Harry Warner. Goldwyn's "Westerner" deal with Warner fell through because of the UA releasing contract.

United Artists and Goldwyn issued the following statement in Hollywood, Friday, confirming settlement of the suit: "Negotiations today have been completed between Samuel Goldwyn and United Artists, whereby United Artists has granted Mr. Goldwyn his immediate release from his United Artists distributing contract. United Artists has also arranged for the purchase of Mr. Goldwyn's stock in the United Artists Distributing Corp. Mr. Goldwyn's suit against United Artists will be immediately withdrawn."

"Barbara" and Shaw Occupying Pascal

NEW YORK—George Bernard Shaw's dramatization of "Major Barbara" by Gabriel Pascal for UA release is, in Pascal's own words, symbolic of the "new English spirit of solidarity and brotherhood" crystallizing the "one family" force that has been manifested since the war.

Pascal arrived from London aboard the *Exeter* with a print of the film, which stars Wendy Hiller of "Pygmalion" renown. He expects to remain about two months, during which he will go to Hollywood for further consideration of producing there. In any event, he declared, he will return to England after the film's premiere and if conditions permit will produce "Doctor's Dilemma." He also has scheduled in "Devil's Disciple" and "Saint Joan," but whether he will produce the latter two in England or Hollywood depends upon the war.

The Hungarian-born producer was munificent in his praise of Shaw, whose vitality he pictured as being consumed almost wholly with his desire to understand picture problems. In this connection Pascal revealed the famous author is writing an original story with a locale "near Panama" for a film. Pascal is authority for Shaw's "concession" that the "picture medium is the greatest medium of art today. He adores pictures today; sees the future in it, because it touches the people."

Holdovers, the Champs In Broadway Runs



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

From the War Zone—

Gabriel Pascal, who recently completed production of George Bernard Shaw's "Major Barbara," as he arrived aboard the S. S. Exeter *from Lisbon. He will stay in New York a few weeks and then visit Hollywood before his return to production activity in England.*

Kudos to Holdovers at Philadelphia First Runs

PHILADELPHIA—Holdovers dominated the picture of downtown business last week, with ticket machines clicking merrily at most of the houses. Improvement in weather, slackening of the cold and grippe epidemic, helped bring the customers out. "Gone With the Wind" continued like a cyclone at the Stanley. The Karlton stepped out of its second-run class temporarily to run "The Lady With Red Hair" first run, because of lack of other facilities.

Detail for the week:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Road Show** (UA), 2nd wk. 45
Arcadia—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 2nd run 100
Boyd—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.... 120
Earle—**Keeping Company** (M-G-M), plus "Streets of Paris" on stage 115
Fox—**High Sierra** (FN) 125
Karlton—**Lady With Red Hair** (WB) 110
Keith's—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd run, 3rd wk.. 105
In its sixth week downtown.
Stanley—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 180
Stanton—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 110
Better business than in its first week.

"Scattergood Baines" Debut at Montpelier

MONTPELIER, VT.—RKO will hold the world premiere of "Scattergood Baines" here next Thursday at the Capitol and which will be attended by Gov. William H. Wills. Guy Kibbee, who stars in the film, arrives from the coast Monday en route to the New England city for the opening.

NEW YORK — While the business on Broadway wasn't anything to get excited about, it is important because virtually all of it went into holdovers and that means less "nut" to worry about. The newcomers are at the Criterion, Music Hall, Roxy and Strand.

The staying power of "The Philadelphia Story" at the Music Hall, which wound up six record-breaking weeks Wednesday was just short of miraculous. The last stanza at about $82,000 was just under a fifth week of $85,000. "Story" played to more than 850,000 persons and outdistanced "Rebecca," the only other film to go six weeks at the theatre, by a sizeable margin in this respect, as well as in money.

"Gone With the Wind," playing a repeat engagement at the Capitol at about half the admission scale that obtained when it played the house a year ago is going great guns to hit over $42,000 in its second week, which is terrific after an opening seven days at $53,000.

The Roxy turned in a handsome $40,000 in its second week of "Tall, Dark and Handsome," a figure few expected it would reach. The Paramount, with a grand benefit sendoff for "Virginia," chalked up a profitable $58,000, which means holdover. The rest is just average.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA) 17th roadshow week..... 100
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney) 12th roadshow week..... 120
Capitol—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 2nd wk. 115
Criterion—**Land of Liberty** (M-G-M)..... 90
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox) 6th wk..... 100
Paramount—**Virginia** (Para't) plus stage show.. 110
Radio City Music Hall—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 6th wk. plus stage show.... 130
Rialto—**The Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO).... 90
Rivoli—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 4th wk..... 100
Roxy—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., plus stage show..... 110
Strand—**High Sierra** (FN) 2nd wk., plus stage show and Quentin Reynolds..... 115

Capital First Runs Notch An Above-Average Week

WASHINGTON—World premiere of "Virginia" at the Earle, Para't theme of the historical state, draws native following and tops week's card. "Second Chorus" at the Capitol, plus Hal Le Roy on the stage, popular with dance devotees. "Buck Privates," draftee comedy at Keith's timely and popular diversion. "Mounties" billeted in the Metropolitan on moveover still in canter, while "GWTW" at the Palace does excellent third week business.

Detail for week ending February 1:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Second Chorus** (Para't); Hal LeRoy on stage 125
Columbia—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), moveover from Capitol for 2nd wk..... 100
Earle—**Virginia** (Para't), plus stage show..... 150
Keith's—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 110
Metropolitan—**North West Mounted Police** (Para't) 125
Palace—**GWTW** (M-G-M), 3rd wk..... 110

KAO Corp. Increases Stock

ALBANY—Keith-Albee-Orpheum Corporation, having offices in New York, increased capital stock from $1,000 to $50,000. Attorney Louis Joffe, 1270 Sixth Ave., recorded papers with secretary of state.

BROADWAY

NATE BLUMBERG was in Boston for a few days on important Universal business . . . Bob Wolff, RKO branch manager; Charles Moses, independent circuit operator; Al Hovel, his son "Huck," Joe Springer, Arthur Baker and Harry Schwartz of Century circuit left over the weekend for Key West to spend a brace of weeks fishing . . . Bert Stearn, UA district manager with headquarters in Cleveland, was in town the middle of the week for talks with Charles Stern, local district manager . . . Joe Hornstein left Friday for Chicago and the Independent Theatre Equipment Protective Ass'n meet, which is under way at the Congress . . . Stanley Hand of Altec is back from a Miami vacation . . . Phil Engel, Warner exploiteer, was in Rochester on "Flight From Destiny" . . . Norman Elson, Film Alliance sales manager, is on a trip which includes Boston, Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit and Cleveland.

David Levy, local Universal branch manager, is back from Miami with a nut brown complexion he managed to get in 14 *sunny days . . . Bill Scully will have Jack Bowen as his Florida vacation companion when he leaves the middle of the month. They will head for Coral Gables, as usual. Incidentally, and for the first time it comes out that Bowen used to be a deep-sea diver . . . E. K. "Ted" O'Shea got back from a* 16*-day tour of new M-G-M exchanges in his division and a few hours later was at the baths with Bowen and Ben Abner . . . Herman Robbins and the twins flew to Miami over the weekend to join Mrs. Robbins in the birthday celebration of the twins . . . George Dembow is back from a siesta on the Florida beaches . . . Del Goodman, new Paramount district manager in Canada, and Bill Kupper lunched at the Hunting Room just before Goodman left to take up his new duties. He was with* 20*th-Fox in Japan before lining up with Paramount.*

J. Myer Schine spent a few days in town the early part of the week and plans to head for his winter home in Miami about February 20. His chief booker and buyer, George Lynch, left Saturday for the southern resort and two weeks of rest . . . Dave Miller, Universal district manager, was in for home office conferences. He's looking forward to another cruise soon . . . Mike Rosen of Loew's was a flu victim this week and Norma Davis, J. J. O'Connor's secretary, is back on the job after being bedded by that germ . . . Ruth Lowenthal, RKO circuit booker, had a housewarming Thursday at her Bensonhurst home with plenty of fun for the girls from the office . . . Nat Holt, Ohio RKO district manager, was in on one of his periodic trips and said business in Cleveland is picking up. He attributes this to the $190,000,000 defense orders in his towns.

Joe Vogel gave Dave Loew a party Sunday at the Warwick at which 40 *friends of the former Loew executive-turned-producer attended . . . E. M. Saunders is back from a complete swing of his territory, the first since promotions were made by Bill Rodgers . . . Dave Blum received three pairs of binoculars in one day to send to Sam Eckman, M-G-M British head. The response to the call has been gratifying and anyone else desiring to lend the glasses to a good cause may communicate with Blum at* 1540 *Broadway . . . Ray Bell, M-G-M publicity ace, will become a father for the second time next month. His wife and first child are now in Washington in advance of the blessed event . . . Bill Scully attended the farewell dinner given to Morris Joseph in New Haven Monday night . . . Ona Munson in town from the coast for a series of broadcasts.*



—Metropolitan Photos

With Ernst's First—

Louis Hyman, general sales manager for Sol Lesser and Ernst Lubitsch Productions, as he arrived in New York with the first print of "That Uncertain Feeling," the first by Lubitsch as an independent producer. UA will release.

Mrs. Spyros Skouras has turned over $5,600 to the Greek War Relief Fund, which represents pledges made at a Christmas meeting at her home in Larchmont . . . Tom Gorman, Chicago district manager for the RKO circuit, got into town Wednesday on one of his regular visits . . . Frank and Mrs. Orsatti have arrived from the coast to spend a week in these parts . . . Jack LeVien, of Pathe News contact department, will report to active duty February 11 with the Second Armored Division, Fort Benning, Ga. . . . Sidney Schwartz, traveling M-G-M auditor, is en route to South Africa on the *City of New York* . . . "Dick" Rowland was in Cleveland during the week for "Cheers for Miss Bishop" . . . Hal B. Wallis and Louise Fazenda are slated to return to the coast next week after a few weeks here and in Washington . . . Will Hays has whipped the flu and gone to the coast . . . Morris Leonard, B&K attorney, plans to head for South America next week. Vacation stuff.

Jack Cohn, A. Schneider, A. Montague and Joseph A. McConville are on the coast for Columbia studio conferences . . . Austin C. Keough, recovered from a cold, is now back in swing for Paramount . . . Lana Turner has returned to the coast after a brief vacation in the east . . . John Dored, Paramount News cameraman, has returned from the war zones with takes aplenty of behind-the-scenes action . . . Nancy Drake, South Orange model, has been selected queen of the Press Photographers Ball to be held next Friday night at the Astor . . . Albert Lewin delivered a lecture on the problems and technique of modern motion pictures at Yale Drama School Wednesday afternoon.

E. M. Saunders, western M-G-M division head, after a month on the road, left with the missus over the weekend for a three-week siesta at Coral Gables. The Miami Biltmore will be his stopping place . . . E. K. (Ted) O'Shea has plans all set to head for the south some time in March . . . Tom Connors, eastern division manager for M-G-M, is due back within the next few days from Miami and a tour of southern exchanges . . . Arthur Hirsch, Canadian exhibitor, was in town during the week on one of his usual visits . . . Floyd Odlum has returned from the coast, as has Edwin C. Weisl . . . George J. Schaefer is due on the coast any day now . . . Joe Seider is reported building a new 600-seat house at Farmingdale, L. I. . . . Now that the "Back Street" premiere is behind him, Lou Pollock is enjoying his vacation in Miami . . . Arnold Van Leer is now in Philadelphia as Paramount exploiteer for Washington, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, the district given to Earle Sweigert recently.

Rube Jackter, between plugs for "This Thing Called Love," which he claims held over in its first 14 *engagements, keeps a distant eye on Miami, where he goes to join his family early in March . . . Leonard Schlesinger left for the same resort over the weekend . . . Allan Jones will give a concert at the Mosque, Newark, Monday, after which he heads south to continue his tour . . . Harry Kalmine, Warner circuit Pittsburgh zone manager, was in town for h. o. conferences. Ditto Don Jacocks of Newark . . . "Skip" Weshner has found an effective short cut to meet up with former acquaintances by attending all Ampa luncheons . . . Lou Weinberg, doctor defier that he is, strolling along the avenue sans overcoat and hat, but jaws locked around a well filled and billowing pipe . . . Mickey Rooney has been declared leading boxoffice star in England for* 1940 *by a poll of* 4,000 *theatres. The London* Daily Mirror, *according to M-G-M, carried a page one banner line featuring the story above war news . . . Harry Shaw, Loew-Poli zone head, was in from New Haven, Wednesday, for a business meeting at the home office . . . Steve Pallos is in town again after a three-week stay on the coast for Alec Korda . . . Ben Kalmenson also has returned from a visit to southern and western Warner branches.*

Bill Heineman returned from that Miami "Back Street" junket with a beaut of a cold . . . Ed Raftery has been in Kansas City the greater part of last week and is not due back at his office until the middle of the week . . . Bill Perlberg and Jack Benny have returned to the coast after

(Continued on page 30)

Virginia MPTO Elects Officers in Capital

WASHINGTON—MPTO of Virginia gathered here last Monday at the Shoreham Hotel for their annual midwinter convention, to discuss current problems of the industry and elect officers for the year.

They were welcomed to the city by Richmond B. Keech, corporation counsel for the District of Columbia. Principal speaker was Colonel Robert Barton, counsel for the association, who explained the consent decree and urged that exhibitors give it a fair trial.

President William F. Crockett in his initial talk disclosed that the MPTOA is still hopeful of some cancellation concessions from distributors operating under the consent decree. As a possible minimum concession, Crockett mentioned 50 per cent of the rental of one feature in each block of five. He urged, also that the members give the decree a fair trial.

Ed Kuykendall, president of the MPTOA, was also present and spoke briefly mentioning that there was a possibility of a change in the minimum on the defense tax.

Next Meeting in June

All officers of the association were reelected, which included, in addition to Crockett, Benjamin T. Pitts, vice-president; Harold Wood, secretary, and Sam Bendheim jr., treasurer. New members of the board of directors are: Carter Barron, Washington; Charles Denmead, West Point; Sydney Bowden and Jack Katz, Norfolk, and R. H. Bolling, Norton.

The directors voted to hold the midsummer convention at Hotel Chamberlin, Old Point, in June.

At the banquet and ball which concluded the meeting, Crockett was presented with a brief case and traveling bag, Ben Pitts making the presentation speech. Carter Barron acted as toastmaster and introduced the special guests which included Senator Byrd, former Congressman Colgate W. Darden, Congressmen Dave Satterfield and Willis Bland, and State Senators Aubrey Weaver and W. F. Fuller.

Among those who attended the meeting were:

Sam Tabor, Mervin Ullman, J. G. Unger, Helen Ulman, Carl Thilow, C. H. Taylor, Sallie Weir, E. O. Wilschke, Sam Wheeler, C. A. Wingfield, J. B. Walsh, Frank Wolf jr., Dan Weinberg, Paul Wall, William S. Wilder, Tommy Reeves, Lloyd J. Wineland, N. Wasserman, Henry Hirsh, Jack Katz, T. W. Kelley, A. Frank O'Brien, Herman Rubin, Tommy Reeves, Jim Owens, Kopeland Ornoff, Glenn Norris, Fred Rohrs, M. E. McDonald, T. I. Martin, Hardie Meekin, C. C. Musica, Bobby Levin, George Loeffert, Ellison Loth, Albert Landgraf, Sidney Lust, Jules Lapidus, Joe Kronman, David Kamsky, Olmstead Knox, R. C. Knewer, E. G. Jackson, Hunter Perry, Ben Pitts, Emmett Poindexter, Wade Pearson, Tom Pitts, Pete Prince, Charles Roth, Harry Roth, Sam Roth, W. H. Rippard, Lyle Rippard, Ken Price, Ivan Rosenbaum.

L. W. Roberts, Fred Rippingale, Allen Sparrow, Fred Sandy, Arthur Silverstone, Charles Schulman, S. H. Schultz, Frank Storley, Frank B. Stover, Teddy Schull, Dave Peterson, Bill Smith, Jack Allen, Graham Barbee, Stanley Barr, Carter Barron, Fred Beiersdorf, Rudolph Berger, Louis Bernheimer, Oscar Blumenthal, Nat Brown, Julian Brylawski, T. G. Burch, J. E. Burns, Leo Beresin, John Caldwell, Ben Caplon, E. L. Collamer, Robert Coulter, Stewart Tucker, Max Cohen, Harry Crull, Harry Cohen, Carlton Duffus, William Hoyle, Russell Hildebrand, O. J. Hill, Richard Harrity.

U. Hollingsworth, Willie Henderson, Ed Haley, N. C. Haefele, Nat Glasser, Murray Greenfield, Jack Goldberg, Sydney Gates, Willis Grist, A. G. Goodman, Sam Galanty, Henry Gunst, Mrs. Bertha Gordon, Jerome Gordon, L. A. Flowers, John Fox, Bob Folliard, Barney Frank, Jake Flax, George Flax, J. Frank Falls, Bayliss Epps, Charles Denmead, Marjorie Dermody, Goleum Ketchum, Mrs. Charles Yerby, Pierre Boulogne, Robert Campbell, Henry Dusman, Eddie Phillips, J. E. Fontaine, Art Jacobson, Jesse Smith.



Miami Interlude—

Enjoying the sun on the beaches here are Bernard Kranze, RKO branch manager, Albany; Norman Goldstein, Globe Poster Co., Baltimore; Moe Grassgreen, branch manager in Albany for 20th Century-Fox, and William G. Mechanic, Essex House, Miami Beach.

ALBANY

FILMROW callers: Morris Slotnik, Strand, Waterville, and Oriskany, Oriskany Falls: Norman Pearlman of Binghamton, operator of Greene, Greene, and Leonard Kaufman, booker for the theatre; Dave Rosenbaum, operator of Capitol, Elizabethtown, and manager of Rex, Keesville, and New Hollywood, Ausable Forks; Harry Savett, Adirondack in Faust, Capitol in Antwerp, and Port in Port Leyden; Walter Wertime, Chester, Chestertown; Clarence Dopp, operating Strand, Johnstown, and other theatres in Mohawk Valley; Henry Frieder, Community, Star and Warren, Hudson; Harry Lamont, with theatres in Hudson, Philmont, Greenville and Athens; Walter Reade jr., Reade circuit; Kingsley Ryan, New Ausable, Ausable Forks, and State, Keesville; Irving Liner, manager of Proctor's Troy; Lew Rosenthal, manager of Fabian's State, Schenectady.

Morris Wolf of Boston, who now has Albany in his district, stopped at the local Metro exchange. He was resident manager here some years ago . . . Paul Robert is the name of new arrival in family of Herman L. Ripps, Metro manager. Baby and Mrs. Ripps are still in New York, where they have been visited by Herman and brother Ralph, an M-G-M booker . . . Morris Cohn will not for next year worry about the life of a film salesman. Cohn is in the quartemaster's department of 27th (New York) Division at Fort McClellan, Ala. . . . Lou Weinberg, Columbia circuit contact man, conferred with Branch Boss Joe Miller.

Dave Miller of Cleveland, Universal district manager, huddled with Manager Jere Spandau. John Scully, Buffalo branch manager, was here for a day . . . *Times Union* and *Knickerbocker Press* ran photographs of Critics Edgar S. Van Olinda and C. R. Roseberry boarding New York train for a week in Miami as guests of Universal at premiere of "Back Street." *Times Union* picture showed Murray Spector, of Universal's home office, Roseberry, Van Olinda, James F. Ronin, president of Albany Chamber of Commerce (shaking hands with Van Olinda), Charles A. Smakwitz, Warner Theatres district manager, and Jules Curley, Warner's Strand manager . . . "Back Street" opened at Strand two days after gala screening in Florida.

Ray Powers and Jimmy Moore, Warner-Vitagraph bookers, are working hard to win a prize in the Grad Sears Drive, which started December 22 and ends April 19. At conclusion of first four weeks, Albany exchange headed the field in Eastern district . . . "High Sierra" has been piling up sizable grosses since it broke in Albany territory. . . "Philadelphia Story" is another big grosser, according to reports from various sources.

Planning to "Teach" Board of Appeals

NEW YORK—Expressing the view that the ITOA feels "very keenly" over the appointment of personnel to the arbitration appeals board that is wholly non-conversant with exhibitor problems, Harry Brandt, president, following a meeting at the Hotel Astor, informed BOXOFFICE his organization "will immediately file every conceivable type of arbitration case permitted under the decree."

Brandt's concern over the AAA appeals board personnel was expressed this way: "We feel men with some knowledge of exhibitor problems should be on it. Why take on three men who have to be taught the business? It's a far-fetched idea, but as long as that's the way it's going to be, we will try our best to make it work."

The ITOA president is of the opinion the efficacy of the industry's new arbitration system will not be proven until it has tussled with all types of complaints. For that reason, ITOA members will file a batch of diversified cases and will have the benefit of ITOA attorneys at hearings. In the latter connection, Brandt declared the attorneys will represent members in cases only where precedents are involved.

Reminded that the AAA does not recognize precedents and that each complaint is tried on its own merits, Brandt replied: "We feel precedents mean something. They always have meant something in this business even if the AAA doesn't feel that way."

Enthusiastic response to the ITOA's eighth annual dinner-dance at the Hotel Astor on March 1 was reported by David Weinstock, chairman of the arrangements committee.

Arbitration Districts . . . New York, Albany



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The New York City board is under the direction of Charles S. Wall, U. S. Rubber Bldg., Radio City. The area includes: In New York, the counties of Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk, Kings, Richmond, New York and Bronx. In New Jersey, the counties of Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth, Hudson and Essex.

The Albany board has Robert Elliott, the Standard Bldg., as clerk. The area covers the upstate New York counties of Clinton, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Madison, Chenango, Broome, Delaware, Greene, Columbia, Washington, Saratoga, Essex, Warren, Albany, Montgomery, Schoharie, Rensselaer, Fulton, Otsego and Herkimer.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 28)

conferences here on "Charley's Aunt" . . . Robert Young has gone west, Hollywood way, after a number of days in town. He did a swell job on the Kate Smith hour when he repeated his film role in "Western Union" . . . Barney Balaban plans to head for Miami shores within the next week . . . Leon Netter back from the south and none the worse for those numerous trips to the field . . . Hyman Rachmil, Brooklyn editor, is quite elated over the promotion of his son, Lewis J., to associate producer for Harry Sherman. Up to now he had been art director for the Hopalong Cassidys . . . A. C. Bromberg, Atlanta franchise holder of Republic, has gone further south to Miami for his vacation . . . Ted Toddy of Consolidated National Film Exchange, Atlanta, is in town on a business trip.

C. C. Moskowitz celebrates another birthday February 20, and on the following day "Ma" Moskowitz will be 77, the event to be highlighted by a rousing party . . . Harry Goetz was in Washington during the week still trying to work out plans for the production of "The American Way" for RKO. He and Max Gordon will produce "Sister Eileen," current Broadway hit, on their own with releasing plans to be set later . . . Joe Lee of the local 20th-Fox exchange and Sol Kelsey, tax assessor at Perth Amboy and former partner of Dave Snaper's, left Thursday for Miami and are at the Tarrelton . . . Nat Wachsberger intends leaving for the coast in about a week on his independent production plans . . . Jack Hively, RKO director, is in town for a vacation . . . Jean Hersholt, who celebrates his 35th anniversary next month as a screen personality, departed for the coast Friday after an extended vacation in the east.

Anti-Discrimination Bill Introduced in Albany

ALBANY—An anti-discrimination bill has been reintroduced by Assemblyman Daniel Burrows, representing a Harlem district. The measure calls for suspension or revocation of licenses in places of amusement, public accommodation or resorts where the licensees do not make available to all persons equal accommodations and privileges, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable to everyone alike.

Violators would be charged with a misdemeanor and the bill calls for a fine of from $50 to $500.

Dividend Action Waits

NEW YORK—No action has been taken by the board of RKO of Delaware on the preferred dividend at its meeting January 31. As of that date dividends accumulated and unpaid on such stock amounted to $6 a share.

Cherry Valley Dark

ALBANY—The Cherry Valley Theatre, Cherry Valley, is closed. Bob Jenner, who operates the New Hollywood in Frankfort, was its most recent lessee.

PHILADELPHIA

WILLIAM GOLDMAN announces in letters to exchanges that he plans to start using films at the Erlanger with the new buying season. Pointing out the house used to run RKO pictures, he stresses its value as a downtown first run . . . "Fantasia" was screened for the press at the Aldine . . . Jimmy Jones, long the orchestra leader at the Fays, and, during the summer, at Steel Pier, died suddenly.

Nate Milgram planned a 10th wedding anniversary at the Showmen's Club Saturday night . . . Bill Fishman, who used to be a checking expert for several exchanges, is the papa of a boy . . . Florence Averell, the girl-in-the-outer-office at Metro, left for Miami Beach, Friday. Dot Burrison, whose desk is on the other side of the exchange, got the same urge, and plans to leave this week . . . Boss Bob Lynch is taking things easy at Miami . . . Nick Lloyd Metro's Southern New Jersey salesman, is reported leaving to take a job in the booming machine tool industry, and Lou Formato, former Warnerite, is said to be ready to walk into his shoes.

Joe Conway, Egyptian, has taken over the Boulevard from Joe Hebrew, the street reports . . . Murray Diamond and Lou Foxman are distributing a new game, "Lucky 13" . . . The trade is eager to get a look at William Elliot, newly appointed secretary of the local arbitration setup. He didn't show up last week, although he contracted for offices at 1420 Walnut St. The room numbers: 1305 to 1307. They'll probably be familiar numbers to exhibitors and exchange men before long . . . Morris Phillips, former owner of the Upsal, is new manager of William Goldman's Band Box.

It was a birthday party, with all the trimmings, for Oscar Neufeld at the Showmen's Club Wednesday. He was billed as "The Mayor of Vine Street" . . . Charlie Dutkin paid his first visit to the street since he took that up-state job with Dave Segal . . . This unpredictable world: Variety and Showmen's Clubs gave Cecil Felt a big sendoff into the army, and then the khaki-suited physicians, giving him a last-minute once-over, found fault with some item or other and sent him back to civil life. Maybe it was too much party.

Morris Wax has taken over the Lincoln, but hasn't announced policy yet. Previously he denied reports he would run it as a burlesker . . . Metro's "Flight Command," got a first-class preview at the Navy Yard, before Rear Admiral A. E. Watson, commandant, his staff, and a bunch of critics who felt a bit out of place among all the uniforms . . . Dick Kirsh, Aldine, Wilmington, got Catholic youth organizations to promote a model plane contest to boost "Give Us Wings."

Sandra Lydell, vaudeville dancer, is suing the Fay's management for $5,000 damages on the charge they used her picture (showing her rather undraped) to promote shows in which other girls, and not she, appeared. It was "embarrassment" and "great humiliation," she asserts, naming, as defendants, Edward Sherman, president of the corporation; Sam Stiefel, secretary; Allan Heldcraft, treasurer, and Sid Stanley, manager. Common Pleas Court Judge James C. Crumlish issued a temporary injunction against use of her pictures.

Arbitration Districts ..... Philadelphia



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The Philadelphia board is headed by William Elliot, 1420 Walnut St., as clerk. The area covers: In Pennsylvania, the counties of Tioga, Lycoming, Union, Mifflin, Juniata, Franklin, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Northampton, Bucks, Mercer, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, Adams, Cumberland, Lancaster, Perry, Dauphin, Lebanon, Snyder, Northumberland, Sullivan, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Schuylkill, Carbon, Luzerne, Montour, Lancaster, Berks, York, Columbia and Lehigh. In Delaware, the entire state. In New Jersey all counties except Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth, Hudson and Essex.

Wally Leach, Grand, Camden, boosted sales of Warner kiddie checks by holding a contest among the theatre's employes. The prizes, two tickets to New York, went to A. Pilarchik and J. Arnold . . . Sid Poppay played host to the staffs of the Strand and Majestic, Gettysburg, at a Sunday night get-together . . . Jack Goldman, winner of the Ted Schlanger watch for kiddie check sales, made local papers when he presented a set of "Kitty Foyle" volumes to the public library.

Charles Smakwitz Wins "Million B. C." Contest

ALBANY—Charles Smakwitz of the Strand has been selected winner of the exploitation contest conducted by UA for "One Million B. C." The prize is a new Buick, which is to be turned over to the winner shortly. Executives of UA comprised the committee making the selection of the best campaign turned in. There were more than 100 campaigns from all over the country.

Projectionists' Club Installs Officers

NEW YORK—The "25-30 Club," whose requirements are that members shall have been projectionists for at least 25 years, installed officers at a meeting held Friday, January 31. P. A. McGuire officiated.

Officers follow: M. Berkowitz, president; M. J. Rotker, vice-president; M. Klapholz, recording and corresponding secretary; H. Weinberger, secretary and treasurer; M. Polito, sergeant-at-arms; J. Serafine, J. Abrams, A. Kessler, trustees.

H. Griffin, vice-president of International Projector Corp., and Harry Rubin, director of projection of Publix, were admitted to membership.

Squire Closed Again

NEW YORK—The Squire on Eighth Ave. is closed again. Independent operators have been renting the house for foreign pictures for the past few years, and without success. Consolidated Amusements gave it up several years back.

Arbitration Districts ..... Washington



—Copyright American Map Co., Inc.

The Washington board has Harold Bullard Barton as clerk. His address is the Dendrike Bldg. The board covers the entire states of Maryland and Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON

THE VIRGINIA MPTO frolic at the Shoreham last Monday evening smacked of a response to an "all out" signal, with every section of the state well represented. The branch managers of both major and independent exchanges in the company of their salesmen, district managers, theatre executives and circuit representatives joined with the conventioneers from the Dominion state in making the event a rollicking success. Carter Barron, Loew zone manager, served as toastmaster, and introduced Senator Byrd, Congressman Satterfield and Flanagan of Virginia, and Ed Kuykendall, national MPTO president. Ben Pitts, Virginia circuit owner, presented President William S. Crockett with matching brief case and traveling bag, gifts from the association.

Fred Rohrs arranged a special screening of "So Ends Our Night" for the critics, the first David L. Loew-Albert Lewin production for UA . . . A gala premiere of "Queen of Destiny" was held at the Little, the proceeds going to the British Ambulance Corps . . . Under the sponsorship of the police department, the traffic department, and the AAA, the film "The Tip Off," showing the similarity between signals given in football, baseball, and basketball to warn players of impending moves by the opposing team and the warning signals given by drivers in traffic opened Friday for a week at the Trans-Lux.

The Calvert of Prince Frederick, Md., formerly the Town Hall, taken over by Ike Weiner of Hollywood, Md., was reopened January 31, with Senator Wilmer Johnson, Louis Wallman, speaker of the house of delegates, and Hon. George Owens and Hon. James P. Munroe the honored guests.

L. Garman, owner of the Pimlico, Avalon, New Reistertown, and Pike, Pikesville, Md., advises that his latest venture, the Uptown in the Pimlico area is nearing completion . . . Henry Hiser has brought "Birth of a Nation" back to the Hiser for an indefinite stay . . . Gus Lampe, Schine zone manager, was in for a few days . . . F. Van Court of the Royal, Princeton, W. Va., is basking in the sunbeams.

Jack Keyser of the Keyser, Amonate, has changed his program from three changes to two per week . . . Curt Smith of Grundy is checking the route for his Florida junket . . . Guy Flannery of Richlands reports his family is all well again . . . Vernon Carpenter of Haysi has reopened the Haysi now that the flu has flown . . . Earl Atkins of Clintwood is on the sick list . . . Spud Query is building a new home in Marion, Va. . . . Johnnie Darst of Dante, who takes charge of real estate for a local coal company, in conjunction with his projection precinct, opened the doors of same following the all clear signal on the flu epidemic.

Deanna Durbin surprised the local Universal family with a visit to the exchange . . . Columbia's Ann Snyder is writing letters in the sand . . . Quite a representative group from the Row attended the Baltimore Variety soiree last Saturday eve . . . Clarke Davis' cocktail party for the bookers was quite the mirthful event . . . Lichtman's Bill Hoyle is doubling as a medico while Mrs. Hoyle is battling the flu . . . February 10 marks the passing of another year for Malcolm Taylor of the Scott, Gate City, and George Lawson of the Arcade, Crisfield.

Milton Smith of Northeast is anxious to attend his son's graduation from the West Point of the Air in Texas . . . Johnnie Fox of Pocomoke was up for the Virginia party; likewise Jules Lapidus, Universal district manager, and Arthur Silverstone, UA district manager, both coming from the big city for the event . . . Nellie Robey, formerly a cashier at the Bernheimer circuit, entrained last week for a period of convalescence at Will Rogers Memorial; Helen Inglee's mother accompanied her and will visit with Helen for a few days.

Warner theatres' Charles McGowan made hurried trip to Philly . . . J. Connor, home office auditor, is still on the scene . . . Mrs. Mackie Smith has returned following an illness . . . Mrs. Evelyn Ortel has joined the contract staff . . . Freddie Thomas, Earle manager, is back on the job following a flu siege and opines that he will be glad when summer comes.

The traveling Thomases from Williamsburg were in our midst last week, and we mean Messrs. McCaskey and Halligan . . . Eddie Fontaine, Paramount branch manager, succumbed to the epidemic and has been confined to his home . . . Harry Willard and Don Widlund, Jam Handy representatives, visited with Monogram's Harry Brown . . . Sara Young's parents visited with her over the weekend while en route from Boston to the land of sunshine.

Metro's Phil Bobys is on a periodic swing through the Clinch . . . Dorothy Friedenburg chose New York for her midwinter vacation, and her co-worker Estelle Goldschein made the journey over the weekend to visit with her folks . . . Loretta Dieling comes from the Universal branch in Des Moines, Ia., to accept the position of secretary to Max Cohen, Universal branch manager.

Local 306 Dance Ticket Sales "Satisfactory"

NEW YORK—Satisfactory ticket sales to Local 306's dance to be held February 11, are reported by A. Kessler, chairman of the dance committee. Proceeds will go to the Sick Fund of the projectionists' union.

With Kessler on the committee are J. J. Caravella, M. Rosenberg, A. Becker, H. Garfman, G. Basson, G. Beckman, D. Garden, M. Berkowitz.

David J. Hennessy Dead

NEWARK—David J. Hennessy, pioneer theatre operator in this city, died at his home in E. Orange after a long illness. He formerly was part owner of the Empire, Paterson, and established the Rivoli and Iron Bound theatres in this city and the Broad, Elizabeth. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret Donnelly Hennessy and a brother, Edward, of Philadelphia.

Philip W. Melick Dead

ALBANY—Another pioneer in the local industry passed out of the picture this week with the death of Philip W. Melick, 65. He began his career 28 years ago when films were wound by hand. He also organized Local 324. He leaves a widow, a sister and three brothers.

Albany Bookers Plan Club

ALBANY—A movement to organize a Bookers' Club is on foot here. It would be a social organization.

BUFFALO

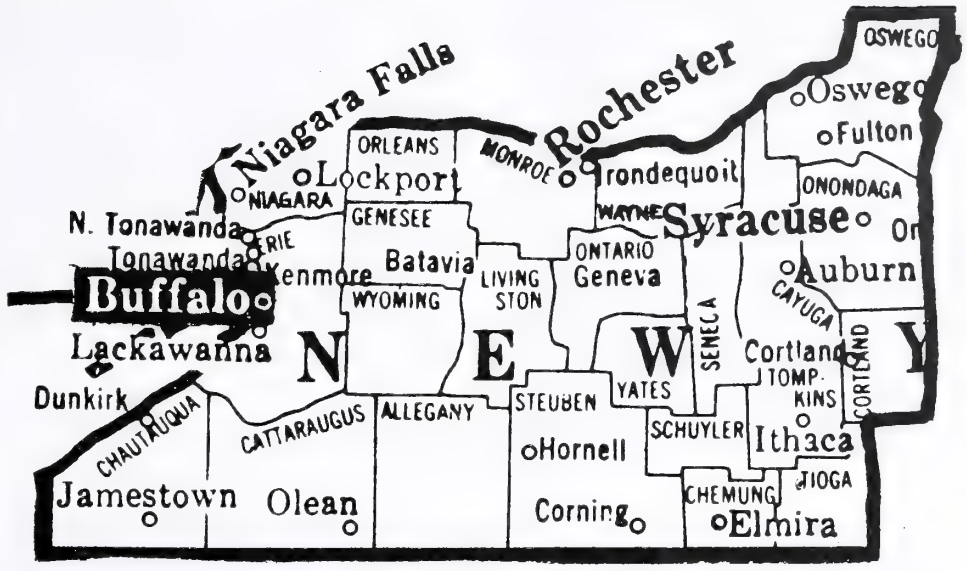
WE ARE pleased to welcome a newcomer to Buffalo's Filmrow. He is John Finley, newly appointed manager of Dipson's Twentieth Century Theatre, replacing Dick Kemper, who is now in Florida. John first started in the business for Skouras Bros. in 1929 in St. Louis. Then he worked for Harris in Pittsburgh. He joined the Dipson chain in 1936 in Wheeling, W. Va., where he hired Don Harpole, ex-manager of Dipson's Bailey in Buffalo. He was later transferred to Bradford, Pa., and managed the New Bradford for two and a half years and last week was brought to Buffalo.

Gene Gorman, also of the Century, is going to New York for a few days before leaving for camp . . . Don Baecher, same theatre, is contemplating starting a training class soon for ushers for local Dipson theatres . . . Report has it that when Dick Kemper returns to Buffalo, he will be made district manager for the Dipson's Buffalo chain . . . Edward Spitznagel, who for 27 years served as credit manager for the Jacob Dold Packing Co., is the choice of the American Arbitration Ass'n to serve as clerk of the Tribunal for the Buffalo district. His offices are in the Chamber of Commerce Building. Spitznagel was schooled in the central offices of AAA in New York before returning to Buffalo. Anyone wishing to contact him, call Wa 3277.

James F. Phillips, junior executive at Shea's Hippodrome, had a story published in the recent edition of the Canisius *Quarterly*, published by the local college which is attended by most of the younger members of theatredom . . . Stan Mittlefehldt, service manager of Shea Theatres, is now wearing a "tux" in the evenings and a business suit afternoons . . . According to reports issued by George A. Mason, manager of Shea's Great Lakes, over 100,000 patrons have witnessed the popular showing of "Gone With the Wind," which is being moved to the Hippodrome where John Carr is manager . . . We learn that Dewey Michaels, operator of the Mercury, braved an injunction against it to show "Ecstasy." It ran eight full weeks at his theatre.

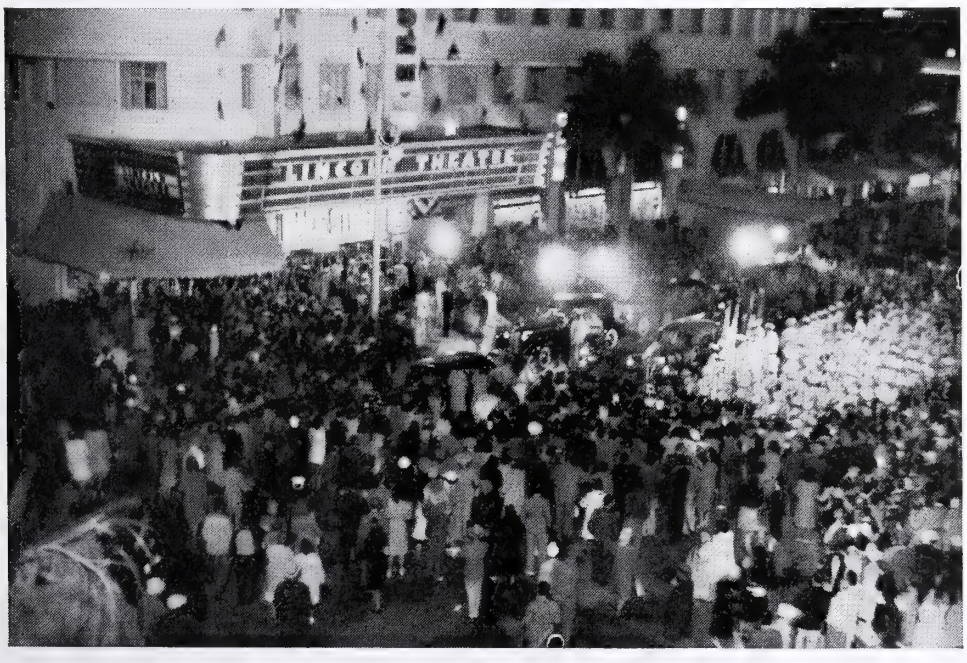
Ed Frank of Shea's is back after a brief illness . . . Ralph Maw, M-G-M branch manager, is also back at his desk and reports his secretary, Minna Lewis, is recovering from a recent operation . . . New editions to the sick list are Allene Dixon, Shea Buffalo cashier, and Viola Murphy, also of the Buffalo . . . Frank Hartnette of the service staff is confined to his home with the flu as is his mother and father . . . Bob Demming, Elmwood manager, has lost his father . . . John Thompson of the Buffalo motored to Toronto to see his uncle, who died later of injuries sustained in an accident . . . Saw George Thomas, "ex" of the Great Lakes in Niagara Falls, last week. He is now employed by Campbell Soup . . . While in the Falls, we visited Billy Gibson at the Cataract and just missed Wally Leffler at the Bellevue.

Arbitration Districts . . . . . Buffalo



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Edward William Spitznagel, with offices in the Chamber of Commerce Bldg., is clerk of the Buffalo board. The area covers the following western New York counties: Oswego, Onondaga, Cortland, Tioga, Chemung, Thompkins, Cayuga, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Yates, Steuben, Monroe, Orleans, Genesee, Livingston, Wyoming, Alleghany, Chautauqua, Chattaraugus, Erie and Niagara.



When "Back Street" Took Its Bow—

A scene in front of the Lincoln Theatre, Miami Beach, where Universal's "Back Street" had its premiere this week.

The Musicians Local 43 held its annual benefit ball Tuesday evening at the Memorial Auditorium. According to Ray Caldwell, president of the local, it was the biggest yet with 40 bands participating. Among these were Richard Bono and the Shea's Buffalo Orchestra and Edwin Glucksman and the Century Theatre pit band . . . George A. Mason and his staff will be hosts to another benefit in a few weeks. It is the British relief benefit, sponsored by the Caledonia Market, local group in charge of relief. It is officially announced that Gracie Fields, famed English comedienne, will be present with her act. B. M. I. and Ascap have buried the hatchet for that night, allowing their tunes to be broadcast over the different local stations.

H. F. Sliter Schine's Valley District Head

GLOVERSVILLE—H. F. Sliter, director of advertising and publicity for the Schine circuit, has been appointed district manager of the Valley district comprising Gloversville, Amsterdam, Little Falls, Herkimer and Ilion. Sliter will make his headquarters at the Glove here.



RICHMOND

AMONG the local folks who enjoyed themselves at the MPTO of Virginia convention in Washington were: Allen Sparrow, Frank O'Brien, Sam Bendheim, Dave Kamsky, Stewart Tucker, Robert Coulter, Elizabeth Copeland, Edith Lindeman, Thomas Pitts, Ivan Rosenbaum and Harold Wood. They all say that it was the biggest and best to date . . . Grover Finch, National projectionist, fell and sprained his hand, which forced him to a leave of about three weeks . . . Ray Corrigan, western star, made personal appearances at the Venus . . . Everett Worrell left the service staff of the State Theatre to enter Roanoke College. Anthony Lane replaces him.

Herman Rubin of Petersburg paid us a visit, also his son, Howard, and Herman Kaplon, manager of the Century there . . . George Summers, Neighborhood Theatre home office, who was out sick for several days, has now gone with the National Guard for a year's training . . . Olga Bruggeman, cashiered at the Venus during the illness of Gertrude Peace . . . Carlton Duffas, Metro exploiteer, and Joe Shea, Hays office, were here helping Bob Eagan exploit "Land of Liberty" at the Park . . . Julian Hord is the new usher at the Brookland, replacing Norvell Langhorne . . . Mrs. William Ballenger, wife of the manager of the Grand, is visiting relatives in Pittsburgh, and how Billy misses her.

Frank P. Cowardin has been re-elected president of the Richmond Musicians Association for another year. Marshall Rotella, vice-president; Carl Wallnau, secretary; William Troxell, treasurer and the board is composed of Claude Elam, Jay Kaufman, Gordon Smith, Randolph Robertson, J. R. Boykins, Nathan Oppleman, and Henry Bryan . . . Tom Jones and Claude Wilson are very busy selling ads for the program of the Theatrical Ball, to be held at Tantilla Garden on February 25 . . . Carrington Waddell and R. C. Overbey were here from South Boston.



At the Baltimore Variety Club Ball—

Scenes of the third annual dinner dance put on by the Baltimore Variety Club at the Belvedere Hotel. At the top, William C. Hicks, chief barker, presents Dr. George E. Bennett, famed bone surgeon, with title to a station wagon given by the club to transport crippled children to and from the hospital for treatment.

BALTIMORE

LEON ZELLER, Roxy, and wife are enjoying a Florida vacation . . . Raymond Shamis, Real Art, back from Philly after visiting his folks there . . . Apollo was broken into Friday, January 24 by burglars who carried away a safe containing about $240. They also broke into two candy machines strewing the contents over the floor. Bob Ashcroft now is looking for a new safe . . . Miss A. Elliott, vice-chairman of the Maryland state censor board, is out of the hospital and back on the job.

Mr. McKay, former manager of the Governor Ritchie Open Air Theatre, is manager of Bill Hicks' new Mayfair . . . Joseph C. Grant, Dunbar, is recovering rapidly from his recent operation in Florida . . . John L. Kettl, local agent of the U. S. Secret Service, advises cashiers to be on the lookout for counterfeit 50 cent coins and are urged to watch for 50 cent coins dated 1917 or 1918 which appear to be aged. The counterfeit coins are somewhat lighter in weight than the genuine.

When Bill Hicks opened his new Mayfair he had Ernie Woods make up a reel of the gala opening, of the crowds and celebrities, which will be shown there shortly . . . Lawrence Schanberger opened "Back Street" Thursday night with a special preview starting at 8:30 p. m. Schanberger stated this one performance to be for the benefit of the Maryland League for Crippled Children and advanced prices were charged.

Ted Routson, publicity chief at Hippodrome, announces that six members of his Gift-Ted Club appearing on the stage of the Hippodrome Saturday morning joined the Major Bowes Show . . . Rodney Collier, Warner's Stanley, reports that the third annual dinner dance of the Baltimore Variety Club held at the Belvedere Hotel, Saturday, February 1, was a huge success.

ROCHESTER

DOWNTOWN managers turned out in force for the first annual All-Sports banquet. At a special table were William Cadoret, Jay Golden of the Palace, Charley Freeman of the Century, Lester Pollock of Loew's, Bud Silverman of Schine's, and Lou Mayer of the Temple . . . Repair work has started on the exterior of the Temple building . . . New sign and marquee, to give added brightness to the main stem, is being planned by RKO Palace.

Dr. Walter R. Clark, Eastman technician, talked on infra-red photography before local members of the American Chemical Society . . . Louis Levitch, manager at the Riviera, has been transferred back to Buffalo, his home town. He'll be manager of the Granada and assistant in the Schine booking department . . . Lester Pollock of Loew's has been added to the M-G-M Honor Roll for his campaign on "'Philadelphia Story" . . . Palace is mapping a big campaign for "Western Union." Incidentally, the Palace has tentatively switched from Thursday to Wednesday openings.

"Grapes of Wrath" returned to the Little . . . "GWTW" is back at Loew's and playing to big business. It'll be held a second week . . . Clayt Cornell, State, has been shifted to Tupper Lake . . . Maurice Evans will give a lecture-recital at the Eastman February 16 for the benefit of British war relief . . . Tim Mix jr. and his Oklahoma Cowgirls were the stage attraction at Schine's Riviera and State over the weekend . . . Youngsters got autographed pictures of Gene Autry at a special matinee at the Temple.

Hy Gordon of the Cameo has been transferred to Amsterdam . . . Maj. George W. Goddard, chief of the photographic laboratory material division at Wright Field, was here conferring with officials of Eastman Kodak, Bausch & Lomb and Folmer Graflex.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Await "Citizen Kane" Decision by Schaefer

Spokesmen for RKO Radio locally were expecting, at mid-week, that the controversy between Publisher William Randolph Hearst and Orson Welles, producer-director-writer-star of "Citizen Kane," made for RKO Radio release, would be cleared away definitely in New York by President George Schaefer and the company's board of directors before Schaefer entrained for the coast. Schaefer was due in Hollywood over the weekend.

Company attaches here were predicting Schaefer and the directorate would decide to let the film go into release in its present form, as per schedule, although Hearst representatives had threatened court action on the allegation that many sequences in "Citizen Kane" closely parallel the publisher's own career.

Despite reports to the contrary, the ban on RKO Radio news and publicity in the Hearst press throughout the country has not been lifted, studio officials here asserted. They declared there have been a few scattered instances where publicity and news on current RKO Radio product has found its way into some of the Hearst papers, but explained this was handled by the advertising and publicity departments of various RKO and other theatres screening the company's product and which are advertisers in the Hearst newspapers. As to general news and publicity concerning the company, and emanating therefrom, however, none of it has appeared in Hearst-controlled media.

Welles and his general aide, Herb Drake, have been in New York for the past week conferring with Schaefer and other RKO Radio executives on the situation. Meantime it was reported a print of "Citizen Kane" had been dispatched to Hearst's home at San Simeon for a special screening to be witnessed by the publisher.

Prepare 50 Transcriptions For "Brotherhood Week"

With transcriptions made to be sent to more than 50 nationwide radio stations for use during "Brotherhood Week," February 22-28, Bette Davis, Pat O'Brien, David O. Selznick and Hartzell Spence, author of "One Foot in Heaven," participated in a roundtable discussion at Warner on behalf of the Conference of Christians and Jews.

Award Nominees in Five Classifications Entered

Machinery set up by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in preparation for its 13th annual Awards banquet, February 27, is rolling along smoothly. Nominations for honors in five different classifications already have been made according to new rules established this year, while nominations ballots for acting, writing, direction and production awards, mailed out last week, were returnable February 5 and the results thereof will be announced February 10.

Nominations for short subjects awards include:

Cartoons, whether in color or black-and-white:

"Snubbed by a Snob," Paramount-Max Fleischer.

"You Ought to Be in Pictures," Warner-Leon Schlesinger.

"A Wild Hare," Warner-Schlesinger.

"Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy," Paramount-Fleischer.

"Knock Knock," Universal-Walter Lantz.

"Puss Gets Boots," Metro.

"Billy Mouse's Akwakade," 20th Century-Fox.

"The Mad Hatter," Columbia.

"Western Daze," Paramount-George Pal.

"Wimmin Is a Myskery," Paramount-Fleischer.

"Early Worm Gets the Bird," Warner-Schlesinger.

"Cross Country Detours," Warner-Schlesinger.

"Recruiting Daze," Universal-Lantz.

"Milky Way," Metro.

For the first time since awards have been given for cartoons, there will be no Walt Disney films in the competition. Disney having announced recently he wishes to have emphasis placed upon his feature-length efforts.

Shorts Divided

Short subjects, of 1,000 feet in length or less, include:

"Information Please," Pathe; "The Baron and the Rose," Metro; "All About Hash," Metro; "Moments of Charm of 1941," Paramount; "Gentleman's Partner," Pathe; "The Happiest Man on Earth," Metro; "Sacred Ganges," Paramount; "London Can Take It," Warner; "Henry Busse and His Orchestra," Warner; "Nature's Nursery," Paramount; "Unusual Occupations No. 4," Paramount; "Meet the Stars," Republic; "Fight, Fish, Fight," Warner; "Quicker'n a Wink," Metro; "Popular Science No. 5," Paramount; "Old Dominion," 20th Century-Fox; "Diving Demons," Metro; "More About Nostradamus," Metro; "Night Descends on Treasure Island," Metro, and "Siege," Pathe.

Short subjects between 1,000 and 3,000 feet in length:

"The Flag Speaks," "You the People" and "Eyes of the Navy," Metro; "Service With the Colors," "Teddy the Rough Rider" and "Dog in the Orchard," Warner; "Growing Up," Pathe; "Children Must Learn," "Valleytown" and "And So They Live," documentaries from New York University, and "One-Tenth of Our Nation," American Film Center documentary. Judging has already begun in the projection rooms at RKO Radio.

Art Direction Rivals

Nominated for the art direction award for black-and-white films are:

"Arise My Love," Paramount; "Arizona," Columbia; "Boys From Syracuse," Universal; "Dark Command," Republic; "Foreign Correspondent," United Artists-Walter Wanger; "Lillian Russell," 20th Century-Fox; "My Favorite Wife," RKO Radio; "My Son, My Son," Edward Small-United Artists; "Our Town," Sol Lesser-United Artists; "Pride and Prejudice," Metro; "Rebecca," David O. Selznick-United Artists; "The Sea Hawk," Warner, and "The Westerner," Samuel Goldwyn-United Artists.

Nominees for the art direction award for color films include:

"Bitter Sweet," M-G-M; "Down Argentine Way," 20th Century-Fox; "North West Mounted Police," Paramount, and "The Thief of Bagdad," Alexander Korda-United Artists.

Nominated for awards for black-and-white cinematography:

"Abe Lincoln in Illinois," RKO Radio; "All This, and Heaven Too," Warner; "Arise My Love," Paramount; "Boom Town," M-G-M; "Foreign Correspondent," Walter Wanger-United Artists; "The Letter," Warner; "The Long Voyage Home," Walter Wanger-United Artists; "Rebecca," David O. Selznick-United Artists; "Spring

(Continued on page 33)

52 Features Await Camera Attention

No less than 52 features, running the gamut from high-budgeted comedies and dramas to the low-cost western, are slated to go before Hollywood cameras during the next three-month period, with more vehicles being added daily to guarantee an unslackening tempo.

February schedules will account for 24 of them, with 17 to roll in March and 11 already set for April production. Lineup for the balance of this month looks this way:

Columbia—"Senate Page Boys," "Her First Beau," "Bedtime Story," "Texas," "Show Business," and "North of the Lone Star."

Paramount—"Pioneer Woman," "Hold Back the Dawn," "Little Miss Muffet" and "The Parson of Panamint."

Metro—"Love Crazy," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "Lady Be Good."

RKO Radio—"My Life With Caroline" and "Tom, Dick and Harry."

Universal—"The Black Cat" and "Oh, Charlie."

Twentieth Century-Fox—"Man Hunt" and "Sun Valley."

Republic — An untitled Roy Rogers western.

Monogram—"Trail of the Yukon" and "The Million-Dollar Mystery."

Warner—"The Gentle People," "Bad Men of Missouri," "Highway 99" and "Flight Patrol."

For March, the following activity is set:

Paramount—"The Night of January 16," "Aloma of the South Seas," "Birth of the Blues," "Two Bad Angels," "Buy Me That Town" and "Nothing But the Truth."

Metro—"Get a Horse."

Universal—"Almost an Angel."

Twentieth Century-Fox—"Miami."

Republic—"Puddin' Head" and an untitled musical.

United Artists—"The Jungle Book," "The Battle of Britain" and "Strange Victory."

RKO Radio — "Horseback Hurricane," "Deadwood Days" and "Wrapped in Cellophane."

For April, these:

Paramount—"Sullivan's Travels," "Henry and Dizzy," "Reap the Wild Wind," "Dildo Cay," "Paramount on Parade," and "Secret of the Wastelands."

Metro—"The Yearling."

RKO Radio—"True to Form" and "Water Gypsies."

United Artists—"Niagara Falls."

Republic—"Alibi at Midnight."

"Community Sing" Finale For "Strawberry Blonde"

Reaction of sneak-preview audiences to an old-time song, "The Band Played On," as used in Warner's "The Strawberry Blonde," has caused the studio to include a novel "community sing" finale to the picture, which stars James Cagney, Olivia de Havilland and Rita Hayworth. Old time "song cards" will be inserted just before the fadeout, with the words of the song printed, so the audience can join with the principal characters in singing it.



In Recognition of Hits—

David O. Selznick appeared on Cecil B. DeMille's Lux Theatre radio program February 3 to receive from the Paramount producer and radio impresario another accolade hailing the maker of "Gone With the Wind" and "Rebecca" for his sustained record, established during the past nine years, as a producer with a "special consistency of high competence." Here DeMille (left) hands the award to Selznick. Judith Anderson and Ronald Colman, who starred in the radio version of "Rebecca" on the Lux show on which Selznick appeared, look on.

Cinémarks

Jack Benny and Producer William Perlberg of 20th Century-Fox have returned from New York where they glimpsed "Charley's Aunt," the venerable stage play which Perlberg is to produce for films with Benny as the star.

*

Walter F. Wanger has returned from Washington where he was a dinner guest of President Roosevelt . . . RKO Radio Studio Club's annual spring dance is set for March 8 at the Brentwood Country Club.

*

Claudette Colbert has accepted an invitation from the Glendale Ski Club to be one of three judges of a national salon of ski pictures. Winner of the annual slalom race at Sun Valley, Miss Colbert has also been requested to supply the National Hobby Museum of New York City with an action picture of her skiing.

*

Producer David O. Selznick has been spending several days in Palm Springs working out a story idea . . . Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio Artists will present their annual "Gambol of the Stars" at the Ambassador Hotel, March 17. Bette Davis heads the program committee; Porter Hall is chairman of the finance committee; Robert Montgomery heads the reception committee, and Lucile Gleason is in charge of tickets . . . Henry King, 20th Century-Fox director, flew his own plane in from the east to confer with Producer Lou Edelman on "A Yank in the RAF," King's next directorial job.

*

Leon Schlesinger, cartoon producer, has returned from a two-week business trip to New York . . . Ben Koenig, motion picture attorney, has been appointed to the state social welfare board of Governor Culbert L. Olson.

*

Studio executives and costume designers will figure prominently in the dinner and style show to be sponsored February 13 by the Los Angeles Fashion Group, with Mayor Fletcher H. Bowron as honorary chairman. Creations will be submitted by Adrian, Orry-Kelly, Travis Banton, Edith Head, Vera West, Edward Stevenson, Irene, Dolly Tree, Natalie Visart, Herschel, Milo Anderson and Howard Shoup, all studio designers. Patrons include Louis B. Mayer, Walt Disney, Darryl F. Zanuck and Walter F. Wanger.

*

Prior to their departure for China, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hemingway were luncheon guests at Paramount, which studio will produce Hemingway's new novel, "For Whom the Bell Tolls." Y. Frank Freeman was the host and the guests included William Le Baron, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Cooper, Jacob Karp, Sol C. Siegel, B. G. DeSylva, William A. Wellman, Preston Sturges, A. M. Botsford, William Meiklejohn, Frank Capra, Jack Moss, T. Keith Glennan, William H. Pine, William Dozier, Julian Blaustein, Paul Jones, Louis Lipstone, Luigi Luraschi, Edith Head, A. C. Martin and George Brown.

*

The tri-annual ball game between the Harry Sherman Cowboys and the Paramount Tigers is scheduled for the afternoon of February 16. Producer Sherman is left-fielder on his nine, which has been undefeated by Paramount in two seasons.

Freeman's Illness Delays Meeting of Producers

The annual meeting of the producers association, scheduled for February 4, with election of officers for the coming year as the principal topic of business, has been postponed temporarily because of the illness of Y. Frank Freeman, association president, ordered to bed by his doctors with influenza. Hays office attaches reported a new date for the session would be set as soon as Freeman had recovered.

Expected in from New York this week was Will H. Hays, MPPDA president, who will spend several weeks in the film colony conferring with association members here. He is scheduled to be one of the speakers at the election meeting.

Award Nominees in Five Classifications Entered

(Continued from page 31)

Parade," Universal; "Waterloo Bridge," Metro.

Nominated for awards in color cinematography:

"Bitter Sweet," M-G-M; "The Blue Bird," 20th Century-Fox; "Down Argentine Way," 20th Century-Fox; "North West Mounted Police," Paramount; "Northwest Passage," M-G-M, and "The Thief of Bagdad," Alexander Korda-United Artists.

Nominees for the film editing award:

"The Grapes of Wrath," 20th Century-Fox; "The Letter," Warner; "The Long Voyage Home," Walter Wanger-United Artists; "North West Mounted Police," Paramount, and "Rebecca," David O. Selznick-United Artists.

Nominations for best musical score:

"Arizona," Columbia; "Pinocchio," Walt Disney; "The Thief of Bagdad," Alexander Korda-United Artists; "Our Town," Sol Lesser-United Artists; "The Howards of Virginia," Frank Lloyd-Columbia; "Waterloo Bridge," Metro; "The Great Dictator," Charles Chaplin-United Artists; "North West Mounted Police," Paramount; "Dark Command," Republic; "My Favorite Wife," RKO Radio; "1,000,000 B. C.," Hal Roach-United Artists; "Rebecca," David O. Selznick-United Artists; "The Mark of Zorro," 20th Century-Fox; "The Fight for Life," U. S. Films-Columbia; "House of Seven Gables," Universal; "The Long Voyage Home," Walter Wanger-United Artists; "The Letter," Warner.

Nominated for the best score regardless of source of music:

"Arise My Love," Paramount; "Strike Up the Band," Metro; "Second Chorus," National Pictures-Paramount; "Our Town," Sol Lesser-United Artists; "Hit Parade of 1941," Republic; "Irene," RKO Radio; "Tin Pan Alley," 20th Century-Fox; "Spring Parade," Universal; "The Sea Hawk," Warner.

Nominees for the best-song award:

"Its a Blue World," from "Music in My Heart," Columbia; "When You Wish Upon a Star," from "Pinocchio," Walt Disney; "Our Love Affair," from "Strike Up the Band," Metro; "Only Forever," from "Rhythm on the River," Paramount; "Would You Like to Be the Love of My Life," from "Second Chorus," Paramount; "Who Am I?" from "Hit Parade of 1941," Republic; "I'd Know You Anywhere," from "You'll Find Out," RKO; "Argentine," from "Down Argentine Way," 20th Century-Fox; "Waltzing in the Clouds," from "Spring Parade," Universal.



It's Bennet's Birthday—

It seems that Spencer Bennet, who directs some of the Tex Ritter westerns for Monogram, had a birthday. So Tex played host at a party in Bennet's honor, and here are the guests: Top row, left to right—Paul Parry, Everett Cheatam, Edward Finney, Peter J. Friedhoff, Sam Wallace, Louis S. Lifton, Aaron Klein, William Raynor, Mrs. Louis S. Lifton, Russ Bell, Mrs. Edward Finney, Frank Sanucci and Harriet Holt. Middle row, same order—David Field, Mrs. David Field, Mrs. Jay Kline, Mrs. Russ Bell, Mrs. Bennet, Bennet and Harry Bennet. Bottom row, left to right—Ernest Miller, Ritter, George Macsas and Jay Kline.

Paramount Launches a Construction Program

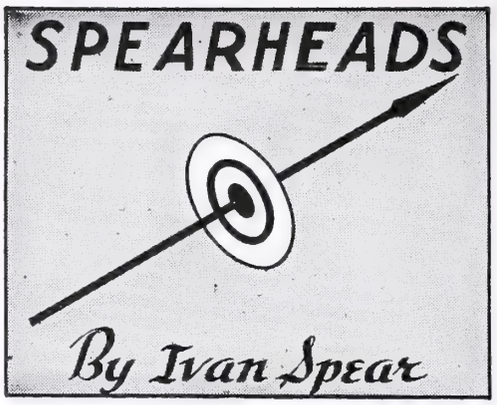
To accommodate a projected heavy production schedule, Paramount has launched a construction program at its Marathon Street studio, the new buildings to include three modern sound stages and a power house. At the same time the company reiterated its intention of constructing an entirely new, $15,000,000 studio on property in West Los Angeles, a project which has been temporarily deferred because of unsettled world conditions.

The three new stages will provide 55,000 additional square feet of interior space. The power house will increase the studio's electrical capacity from 23,000 to more than 40,000 amperes. To make way for the new units, the electrical dock, sheet-metal stage and a standing set will have to be dismantled. First of the new stages is to be ready within four months, with the entire project to be completed in six months.



A Board Director Visits—

First-hand information on production progress at Paramount was obtained by Ed Weisl (left), member of the board of directors, when he visited the Hollywood plant from New York recently. Here he is introduced to Madeleine Carroll on the "One Night in Lisbon" set by Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations.



UNEASY lies the head that wears a crown . . .

Which ancient observation—probably misquoted — apparently maintains even when applied merely to the royalty in the realm of freelance pressagentry. And it explains why the publicity proletariat has been enjoying a field day while verbally gunning for Russell Birdwell. The guillotine watchers seem to think that King Birdwell has his neck out as a result of certain phases of the publicity on Howard Hughes; his current production, "The Outlaw;" and his new star discovery, 19-year-old Jane Russell.

The shooting began when *Pic,* weekly magazine, printed in a recent issue four pages about Miss Russell, which layout attracted quick lightning because it emphasized in both word and pictures her youth and her voluptuousness. The cavilers' case was briefed by Louella O. Parsons, who termed the Russell photographs "disgusting," "indecent," and "suggestive." LOP chided the Hays office for having permitted the photographs to be released and alleged that the "League of Decency is up in arms—and rightly so."

The broadside of rebuke brought the following statement from Birdwell:

"All of the stills used by my office on the Howard Hughes' production 'The Outlaw' have been approved by Simmon Levy of the Hays office.

"As everyone should know, however, no publicity organization—or any other organization for that matter—has any control of the great American press—or the right to even question this free press—which fortunately is free to print whatever it wishes without submitting their photographs or stories to the Hays office—or any other office, other than their own editorial sanctums.

"My company will be the last ever to demand or even suggest any censorship—from the Hays office or any other body—on the rights of magazines, newspapers or any other members of the American free press."

One thing the critics seem to have overlooked is the fact that just a week or two previously, *Life* also devoted two pages to the Hughes find, which Birdwell-planted layout in that publication described and pictured her as the talented, sweet, unspoiled and charming miss she undoubtedly is.

Admitting that the shots in *Pic* which emphasized voluptuousness were unfortunate, unflattering and in bad taste, how much of the blame can be fairly laid at Birdwell's door is a matter of personal opinion. It is this department's view that his biggest mistake was in broadcasting a statement, ill-advised and illogical, which could serve only to recognize and emphasize the criticisms and innuendoes to which he is being subjected.

Whether or not the celebrated Birdwellian touch went astray in this instance, let it not be forgotten that he did manage to garner two of the most desirable publicity breaks for his client's picture. One cannot go to bat for his accounts as often as Birdwell does without hitting a foul once in a while. Which might be a thought worthy of consideration by his competitive critics who play very safe by seldom facing the pitcher.

→

Darryl Zanuck, in Sun Valley, won a silver "sun and ski" pin for zipping down the River Run in one minute, 43 *and* 3/10 *seconds.*

Some of that speed should have been applied to "Chad Hanna" and "Hudson's Bay."

→

RKO Radio has designed a new trademark which will soon grace that company's releases, supplanting the 12-year-old "dot-dash" single radio tower. A dramatic cloud effect, plus two modern streamlined towers, will highlight the new label.

Production cost can be saved by referring to Perry Lieber's department for the "cloud effect."

→

Heads of Hollywood studios' foreign departments are cooperating in the collection of binoculars requested by M-G-M's office in London to be distributed by the British government to "roof-top watchers" of air raids.

Which is a worthy cause, but they might save a few for the exhibitors—to watch for the cash customers.

Super, Syncopation, Supine

With the elite among Hollywood's reviewers basking in Florida sunshine (Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, please ignore) as guests on Universal's "Back Street" junket, the stay-at-homes experienced another meager preview week, the highlight of which was 20th Century-Fox's "Western Union."

Showmen are hereby advised that this one is the kind of action entertainment that should be a "must" item on everybody's motion picture theatre budget. Relating the stringing of the first transcontinental telegraph line, it boasts a screenplay by Robert Carson, adapted from Zane Grey's story, which so adeptly spins a yarn of hardship, adventure and romance that the film must be rated one of the all-time superest of the super-westerns. The Harry Joe Brown production is close to perfection as a piece of red-blooded, he-man showmanship. Not a penny was spared to endow it with the sweep and spectacle which have become such a necessary adjunct to epics dealing with the winning of the west. Fritz Lang's direction keeps things moving at a gallop all the way; while Technicolor photography was never used to better advantage than in capturing the natural beauties of the western plains, mountains and forests, against which natural backgrounds the film was unfurled. Among a shrewdly selected and competent cast Randolph Scott manages to take the acting honors. Virginia Gilmore is the only feminine personality accorded a role in the feature.

* * *

Another bright spot was supplied by "You're the One," Gene Markey's Paramount feature, which should more than satisfy the fans who have dumped carloads of nickels into the juke boxes to hear Wee Bonnie Baker and Orrin Tucker's orchestra. It is their first, and an entirely satisfactory, film appearance, Tucker in particular emerging as a surprisingly competent actor with personality and a singing voice. Jerry Colonna enlivens the proceedings considerably with his standardly amusing brand of screwball comedy. Markey, who not only produced but wrote the vehicle, supplied it with the kind of ingredients to please most audiences; the very slight plot provides ample opportunity for the staging of five musical numbers by LeRoy Prinz. Ralph Murphy handled the directorial reins with competence.

* * *

Rounding out the quartette were Paramount's "The Mad Doctor" and an E. B. Derr production for Producers Releasing Corporation, "Secret Evidence."

The former will prove a celluloid problem child in most situations. It is too long to serve as supporting fare and not good enough to grace the upper half of the bill save in the most unimportant program arrangements. Starting out as a chiller, it veers to the fields of psychiatry, then settles down to a routine of unmysterious, endless and useless murders. The story, as concocted by Howard J. Green, must shoulder the blame for the feature's frailties—and they are legion. An apparently hard-working cast headed by Basil Rathbone, and equally diligent direction by Tim Whelan, apparently were unable to surmount the plot's multitudinous vagaries. George Arthur receives a dubious production credit.

The latter entry, a melodrama with a courtroom background, is sufficiently entertaining to earn its way in the neighborhood and action houses, and again serves to demonstrate how well Producer Derr can squeeze the utmost out of every budget dollar. Light as to drawing power, the cast nevertheless turns in satisfactory performances; particularly effective are Marjorie Reynolds and Charles Quigley in the leads. Brenda Kline supplied the script from an original story by Edward Bennett. William Nigh accounted for a neat job of direction.

War Department Film Needs Swiftly Met

An unflagging pace is being maintained in the production of the series of short films for use by the war department in the training of Uncle Sam's new draft army. Now before the cameras under supervision of the Academy Research Council is the second in the group, on the subject of personal hygiene. It is being made at 20th Century-Fox under the personal guidance of Darryl F. Zanuck, Research Council chairman and a lieutenant-colonel in the U. S. Army Signal Corps' photographic division.

Irving Pichel is directing, with Edward Ebele as unit manager, B. F. McEveety as assistant director, Virgil Miller at the camera, A. Von Kirbach handling sound, Lou Creber as art director and Fred Sersen in charge of technical effects. William Ulman jr. wrote the script. The Research Council is being assisted by Lieut.-Col. Harold V. Raycroft of the Medical Corps and Capt. Charles S. Stodter of the Signal Corps. Films will not be made available for release to the general public.

The Warner studio is the first to meet its quota in the motion picture industry's phase of the Greek War Relief campaign. Samuel Goldwyn, chairman of the industry's permanent charities committee, was so informed via a wire from Jack L. and Harry M. Warner. The war relief fund was also expected to swell considerably following the February 8 benefit broadcast staged at Grauman's Chinese, and in which scores of film names were scheduled to participate.

Next for Sherman

Producer Harry Sherman's next feature western for Paramount will be "The Parson of Panamint." This will be followed by two Hopalong Cassidy sagebrushers, "Secret of the Wasteland" and "Contraband Cargo." J. Benton Cheney is scripting all three.

New RKO Trademark

A new RKO trademark will soon be seen on the screen, supplanting the 12-year-old "dot-dash" single radio tower effect. New preface will have two modern, streamlined radio towers, a dramatic cloud effect and a special musical introduction.

Seeking Recruits ➡

In an effort to gain recruits for the U. S. Army Signal Corps photographic unit, the Academy Research Council and its chairman, Darryl F. Zanuck, have prepared posters similar to the above and which are now on display in prominent locations around the studios and other spots where motion picture workers congregate. Men who volunteer will not be called upon to serve except in case of national emergency, Zanuck emphasizes.

For Our National Defense Program

THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Will require men experienced in still and sound motion picture production for service in event of emergency.

The basic enlisted organization of the G. H. Q. Signal Corps Photographic Unit is now in process of formation. We want to create a list of qualified men who will simply express their willingness to serve in this motion picture organization in case of complete mobilization of the United States Army.

Those who have reached their 18th birthday and those who have not yet reached their 45th birthday will be eligible to join this organization.

This presents an opportunity for men in the motion picture industry to serve, in emergency, in the branch for which they are best qualified.

THOSE INTERESTED MAY REGISTER BY WRITING THE

Research Council

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Suite 1217 Taft Bldg., Hollywood, Calif.

Giving Complete Information on Age, Education, Present Position, Studio with which Connected, Number of Years in Motion Picture Industry, etc.

We will Require Several Men in Each of the Following Classifications to Complete the Tentative Organization:

Animation and title supervisors . . . Camera repair supervisors (motion picture and still) . . . Cameramen (motion picture and still) . . .Chemists (motion picture and still laboratory) . . . Clerks . . . Cooks . . . Editors (picture and sound) . . . Electricians (motion picture) . . . Laboratory equipment engineers . . . Laboratory supervisors (motion picture and still) . . . Machinists . . . Motion picture engineers . . . Motion picture camera department supervisors . . . Negative cutters and assemblers . . . Photographers (copy and printer) . . . Developers . . . Projectionists . . . Sound recording and re-recording engineers, supervisors, mixers, maintenance men, boom operators, recording and re-recording machine operators.

YOU WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO FORMALLY ENLIST OR ENROLL AT THIS TIME

This survey is for the purpose of obtaining information on qualified motion picture men willing to serve in time of national emergency.

For further information, contact your studio Research Council Representative, as listed below:

Darryl F. Zanuck, Chairman, 20th Century-Fox

Nathan Levinson, vice-chairman, Warner Bros.

John Aalberg, RKO-Radio

Bernard B. Brown, Universal

Farciot Edouart, Paramount

E. H. Hansen, 20th Century-Fox

John Livadary, Columbia

Charles L. Lootens, Republic

Thomas Moulton, Samuel Goldwyn

Elmer Raguse, Hal Roach

Douglas Shearer, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Hollywood— —Personnelities

Barnstormers

Columbia

BILL ELLIOTT checks in from three-week p. a. tour through the south and midwest, including Memphis, Hot Springs, Little Rock and Tulsa.

Range Busters, Inc.

RAY CORRIGAN, JOHN KING and **MAX TERHUNE**, the topliners of George W. Weeks' "Range Busters" series for Monogram, will be the stars of the 17th annual midwinter Rodeo and Fiesta de Los Vaqueros, and grand marshals of the all-western parade with Gov. Sidney P. Osborn of Arizona in Tucson, February 21. The next in their film series, "Tumbledown Ranch in Arizona," will be filmed in and around Tucson.

Universal

ALLAN JONES and **DEANNA DURBIN** were guests of honor at the annual Variety Club banquet and ball in Atlanta, Ga., February 1.

Blurbers

Russell Birdwell

FLOYD SCHENCK named business manager of the Birdwell agency.

Warner Bros.

CHARLES EINFELD back on the job following a week's illness.

Briefies

Columbia

DOROTHY THOMPSON, WYTHE WILLIAMS, LINTON WELLS and **WILLIAM L. SHIRER** have been signed to co-star in "What's the Shooting For," first in a new one-reel series titled "International Forum." Production will be at the Eastern Service studios in Astoria, with William Rowland directing and Burnet Hershey as supervising editor.

Metro

ROY ROWLAND will direct "Tipsters," next Crime Does Not Pay short.

PHIL ANDERSON to edit "Adventures of a Lion Cub," a Pete Smith Specialty; **AL AKST** to edit "Ye Olde Minstrels," Our Gang comedy; **ADRIENNE FAZAN** to cut "Animal Psychology," John Nesbitt Passing Parade.

Next **CAREY WILSON** short subject, being scripted by Herman Boxer, will be "The Man Who Changed the World." It is the story of James Hargreaves, inventor of the spinning jenny.

Paramount

GEORGE PAL preparing "The Marines Are Here" and "Hoola-Boola" as the next in his series of puppetoon shorts.

STERLING PILE, vice-president of the company, is here from New York for conferences with Pal, producer of a puppetoon series for Paramount release.

Soundies Corp.

CARLOS FERNANDOS and his orchestra signed to appear in six rhumba shorts for the Panoram dime-in-slot machines.

Vis-O-Graph Corp.

RUDY VALLEE has resigned as president of the dime-in-slot automatic projection company because of conflicting film commitments entered into with Universal and Columbia. No successor has been selected.

Cleffers

Metro

GEORGIE STOLL completes recording of "Ziegfeld Girl."

Warner Bros.

ERICH WOLFGANG KORNGOLD composing musical score for "The Sea Wolf."

Loanouts

Warner Bros.

DONALD CRISP borrowed by M-G-M for a role in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

Meggers

Paramount

ELLIOTT NUGENT to pilot "Nothing But the Truth," the Bob Hope-Paulette Goddard co-starrer.

ROBERT SIODMAK, European director, to "Little Miss Muffet," starring Anne Shirley.

David O. Selznick

ROBERT STEVENSON to pilot "Jane Eyre," filmization of the Charlotte Bronte novel. United Artists will release.

Edward Small

RALPH MURPHY, on an outside commitment from his Paramount contract, to direct an untitled feature for United Artists release.

20th Century-Fox

KENNETH MACGOWAN to produce "Lewis and Clark," story of the pioneers of the northwest. Randolph Scott and Dean Jagger, featured in "Western Union," will top the cast.

Warner Bros.

SAM WOOD to direct "King's Row," the Henry Bellaman novel. Casey Robinson is scripting.

Options

Columbia

RUDY VALLEE draws a topline in "Show Business," Irving Starr production which Sidney Salkow will direct.

Metro

DARRYL HICKMAN, boy actor, given long-term contract.

Paramount

COLBERT CLARK signed as an associate producer in the Sol C. Siegel production unit. Formerly with M-G-M and Republic, Clark has been assigned the reins on "Among the Living," an Albert Dekker starrer.

Republic

PETER LORRE signed for the heavy lead in "Mr. District Attorney."

POLLY MORAN, featured in the "Higgins Family" series, held for three more pictures.

David O. Selznick

MARCUS GOODRICH given writing contract. He is the author of a new novel, "Delilah."

Dr. William Szekeley

MARION MARTIN joins cast of "New Wine."

20th Century-Fox

IRVING CUMMINGS, director, held for another term. With the studio and its predecessor, Fox Films, since 1928, Cummings' next assignment will be "Belle Starr."

NAZIMOVA given a topline in "Blood and Sand."

ARTHUR C. MILLER, cameraman, held for another term.

WILSON ASHLEY signs three-picture writing deal. He is a playwright and stage director.

FRED SERSEN, special effects department head, held for another two years.

ALICE FAYE given new one-year ticket.

Universal

BELA LUGOSI signed for a topline in "The Black Cat."

Warner Bros.

WILLIAM T. ORR, featured player, held for another term.

HOWARD DA SILVA, stage actor, given long-term contract and a role in "Sergeant York."

NOAH BERRY jr. and **WARD BOND** draw featured roles in "Sergeant York."

Scripters

Columbia

HOUSTON BRANCH to "Secret Ship," an Alex Gottlieb original, for Producer Jack Fier.

Samuel Goldwyn

JOHN WEXLEY to "MacIntosh," a South Seas story by W. Somerset Maugham.

Metro

AGNES CHRISTINE JOHNSON to an untitled entry in the "Hardy Family" series.

BRADBURY FOOTE to an untitled original.

Paramount

SAM TAYLOR to "Henry and Dizzy," an "Aldrich Family" film to star Jackie Cooper.

BERT GRANET to "Joan of Arkansas." Sol C. Siegel produces.

JAY DRATLER to "Dangerous Holiday," from a Sidney Sheldon-Ben Robert original, for Producer Sol C. Siegel.

Republic

DORIS MALLOY to an untitled Gene Autry western.

LEONARD LEE polishing "Rookies on Parade."

HERBERT DALMAS to an untitled "Three Mesquiteers" western.

Harry Sherman

GERALD GERAGHTY to "Secret of the Wastelands," a Hopalong Cassidy western for Paramount release.

20th Century-Fox

DWIGHT TAYLOR to "Coney Island," to be produced by William Perlberg from a story by Edward Van Every.

MAURICE RAPF to "Panama Blues." Lou Edelman will produce.

JERRY SACKHEIM to "The Golden Touch," from the Stephen Longstreet novel, which Kenneth Macgowan will produce.

GEORGE SEATON to "Separate Vacation," for Producer William Perlberg.

Warner Bros.

AENEAS MacKENZIE to "The Widow of Devil's Island," from a story by Nichol Smith. It will be Bette Davis' next starrer following her current "The Bride Came C. O. D."

Story Buys

Columbia

"But Beautiful," by Everett Freeman.

Republic

"Cinderella in Washington," by Joseph Poland. It is based on the true story of a 13-year-old girl, hoaxed into going to the President's Birthday Ball in the belief she had been personally invited.

Warner Bros.

"Partner Wanted," by Arthur T. Horman, as a Hugh Herbert starrer to be produced by Ken Goldsmith.

Technically

Columbia

GEORGE MEEHAN lensing "Under Age."

Metro

RICHARD DUCE named unit art director on "The Man Who Changed the World," a Carey Wilson short subject.

RAY JUNE lensing "Love Crazy."

Paramount

FRANK CAFFEY named business manager on Cecil B. DeMille's "Reap the Wild Wind."

ERNESTO ROMERO signed as technical advisor on Mexican sequences in "Hold Back the Dawn."

LE ROY PRINZ creating Polynesian dance numbers for "Aloma of the South Seas."

RKO Radio

HARRY MARKER to edit "Repent at Leisure."

FRED KNUDSEN named film editor on "Robbers of the Range."

ELMER WILLIAMS to edit "Sunny."

AL HERMAN named art director on "The Devil and Daniel Webster," a William Dieterle production.

JAMES CASEY set as second assistant director on "Robbers of the Range."

Republic

VICTOR MACKAY named art director on "Mr. District Attorney."

20th Century-Fox

BEN SILVEY, production manager, checked out for Sun Valley to line up locations for "Sun Valley."

Warner Bros.

FRANK MATTISON named assistant director on "Bad Men of Missouri."

ERIC STACEY set as unit manager on "Highway 99."

CARL WEYL named art director on "The Gentle People."

BILL GUTHRIE, location manager, checks out for Pensacola to pick up naval aviation shots for "Dive Bomber."

WILLIAM HOLMES to edit "Sergeant York."

LEE KATZ named assistant director on "Mother's Boys."

JACK SAPER named unit manager on "The Gentle People."

ELMER DECKER set as assistant director on "Highway 99."

ARTHUR TODD lensing "Mother's Boys."

JOHN HUGHES named art director on "Sergeant York."

File Labor Charge Against Disney

Walt Disney Productions, Inc., is charged with unfair labor practices by the Screen Cartoonists Guild in a complaint filed by the latter organization with the national labor relations board.

The complaint is aimed principally at the Federation of Screen Cartoonists, representing Disney employes which the SCG contends is a "company union," and through which, it is alleged, efforts of the SCG to organize its own unit in the studio have been "dominated and interfered with." The SCG has the support of the American Federation of Labor in its fight against Disney, with Aubrey Blair, Hollywood organizer for the AFL, asserting that if Disney does not agree to bargain with the SCG, "steps will be taken" to place the company's product on unfair lists throughout the United States and Canada. The NLRB is expected to set a hearing date within 90 days. Meantime Disney spokesmen point out that the Federation of Screen Cartoonists has been officially recognized by the NLRB as the exclusive and official bargaining unit for cartoonists employed at the studio.

Other Activity

The SCG, which holds a charter within the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, scheduled a mass meeting February 6 to discuss the Disney battle. Dorothy Parker and Donald Ogden Stewart were scheduled to be the principal speakers.

SCG also has an NLRB petition on file seeking certification as bargaining representative for employes of Walter Lantz Productions, a cartoon studio.

Scarcity of work for extras has caused Central Casting Corp. to inaugurate a retrenchment move in which two casting directors have been given 30-day leaves of absence. A rotating plan will be employed to keep two employes off the payroll for 30-day periods, but with none losing his job permanently. Decision was announced shortly after sponsors of a movement whereby extras were to picket Central, charging some casting directors with discriminating against certain players, canceled the plan indefinitely. Meantime the Screen Actors Guild-producer standing committee resumed its discussion of a plan whereby so-called "casual" extras are to be eliminated from the industry in an effort to alleviate the current distressing employment problem.

Class A members of the Screen Actors Guild are strongly urged, in a letter directed to them by the board of directors, to refuse any and all offers to appear on radio shows at payment below the usual standard of compensation, and declares it intends to enforce a rule adopted sometime ago prohibiting members from giving free radio performances or accepting compensation below the usual standard. Particular reference is made to the efforts of a "widely known columnist" to seek Guild approval of plans for a new radio show, which the SAG has refused to approve, and has instructed its members to refuse to appear on the program "unless such refusal jeopardizes their contractual relationships with their employing producers."

Screen Office Employes Guild held a general membership meeting to determine whether or not negotiations for a closed shop should be launched with the individual studios. Producers thus far have refused to negotiate an industry-wide contract.

The Screen Readers Guild, in a membership meeting, voted to ask wage increases for readers employed outside the studios, who are SRG members but do not, under existing conditions, come under terms of the SRG's producer contract.

The Screen Writers Guild's proposal to license all talent agents representing film scriveners was discussed at a meeting of the Artists Managers Guild. The SWG project is similar in scope to the franchise agreement reached between the AMG and the Screen Actors Guild more than a year ago.

Members of the Affiliated Property Craftsmen Local 44, IATSE, are seeking revisions in their contract with the producers, and have opened negotiations with Pat Casey, Hays office labor contact, seeking a minimum six-hour call, improved working conditions and wage increases.

Disney Reports 4-Month Net Profit of $140,000

A net profit of $140,000 was shown during the first four months of the fiscal year by Walt Disney Productions, Inc., stockholders were informed at their annual meeting here. This figure includes all charges except income taxes, while all income from "Pinocchio" and "Fantasia" were applied to reducing the film carrying value.

Walt Disney, Roy Disney, Gunther Lessing, George E. Morris and Jonathan Lovelace were re-elected to the board of directors. Walt Disney was re-elected president, with Roy Disney as executive vice-president; Gunther Lessing, vice-president; George E. Morris, secretary-treasurer; Oliver B. Johnston, assistant secretary-treasurer, and Franklin Waldheim, assistant secretary.

Walt Disney announced the production program calls for completion and release of three additional features during 1941. These include "The Reluctant Dragon," "Bambi," and "Dumbo, the Flying Elephant." A new short subject, "How to Ride a Horse," is also scheduled.

Silence Publicity Guns At Least Temporarily

Those giant publicity guns which have, with few respites during the past year or more, been firing salvos in all directions in the form of lavish out-of-town premiere and preview junkets to call attention to the film colony's new product have been, at least temporarily, silenced. Indications are the exploitation artillerymen are taking time out to replenish their supply of ammunition, with a renewal of the cannonade expected momentarily.

Last of the current crop of premieres was that of 20th Century-Fox's "Western Union" at the Roxy Theatre in New York, February 6. Robert Young, featured in the cast, made a personal appearance. Film's debut had been delayed a week from its originally scheduled January 30 opening because the playing time of "Tall, Dark and Handsome" in the house was extended an extra stanza.

Universal's "Back Street" made its bow in Miami, February 4, attended from Hollywood by Matty Fox, production aide to Cliff Work; Producer Bruce Manning, Scenarist Felix Jackson and Director Robert Stevenson. Deanna Durbin was the only star in attendance.

LeBaron Will Make His Own Pictures

William LeBaron has resigned his post as managing director of Paramount production and will formulate an independent unit to make pictures of his own exclusively for Paramount. He has held the post since 1936.

When Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations, came to Hollywood, LeBaron agreed to remain in the position he had been occupying for two more years. That two-year period is now up, and his request that he be relieved of his post in order to give his time and attention to fewer pictures was granted. LeBaron will launch his new independent unit about May 1, first embarking on a vacation.

Successor to LeBaron is B. G. DeSylva, an associate producer at the studio for the past several months, according to an announcement by Freeman.

DeSylva, a motion picture producer since 1929, worked for Fox Films, RKO Radio and Universal, then returned to Broadway to stage three smash hits which are currently running there.

Wage Restoration at RKO

Reflecting the opinion of at least one motion picture executive that business is definitely on the upswing and that continued improvement may be expected, George J. Schaefer, president of RKO Radio, has ordered restoration of all salary cuts instituted in October, 1939, and which affected every company employe earning $5,000 or more annually. News of the restored wage cuts preceded Schaefer to the coast, being received here by J. J. Nolan from Schaefer while the latter was still in New York. Schaefer made no comment in explanation of the move.

Max Golden, who has been a member of 20th Century-Fox's production staff for the past year, has resigned to become production manager for the Edward Small unit. He replaces Val Paul, who resigned some time ago.

John Litel has checked off the Warner lot to freelance after five years at the studio as a character player. He is now on loan to M-G-M in "The Trial of Mary Dugan" as his last commitment.

M-G-M has signed Milton Beecher as assistant to Kenneth McKenna, scenario chieftain, replacing David Mathews.

Jack Cohn, Montague, Arrive at Columbia

Topics pertaining to the current and future production outlook, possible changes in the sales setup because of the consent decree, although the company is not a signatory to that agreement, and other matters brought Jack Cohn, Columbia vice-president, and A. Montague, general sales manager, here from New York. Accompanied by Mrs. Cohn and Mrs. Montague, they plan to remain several weeks, conferring with President Harry Cohn and other studio executives, and also vacationing.

To set details of the release of "That Uncertain Feeling," the Ernst Lubitsch production made in association with Sol Lesser for United Artists release, Louis Hyman, in charge of distribution for the Lesser-Lubitsch unit, has checked out for New York. Hyman will confer with UA officials on plans for the world premiere, probably to be held in New York.

Also heading east was Edwin Weisl, member of Paramount's board of directors, who spent a few days here checking on production progress at the studio. He accompanied Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations, to Hollywood after both attended the recent testimonial dinner for President Barney Balaban in Chicago.

Briggs a Visitor

In for an indefinite stay is O. Henry Briggs, president of Producers Releasing Corp. He was guest of honor at a "red apple" reception given by George R. Batcheller jr., newly appointed PRC production supervisor, and attended by PRC's local staff and some 400 of Briggs' personal friends. Producer Jed Buell served as master of ceremonies. Briggs is here principally to check on progress being made in the expansion program he authorized before leaving New York.

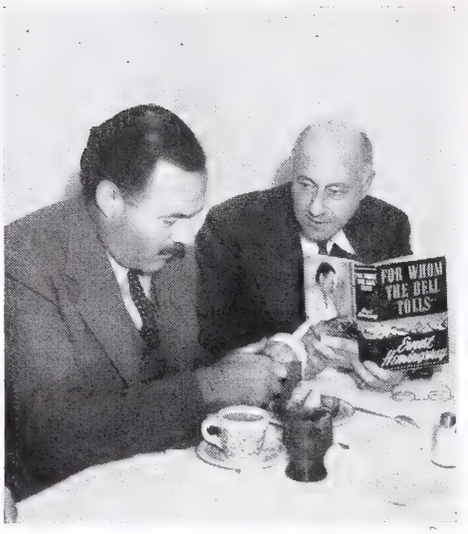
After several delays, George J. Schaefer, president of RKO Radio, was expected in from New York to embark upon production and budget huddles and check over product now in work or completed and awaiting early release.

John Coyle Joins PRC Production Roster

Further expansion of Producers Releasing Corp.'s production roster has been made with the addition of John T. Coyle to the staff. Coyle has been assigned to produce "Federal Fugitives," rolling shortly, from a script being prepared by Martin Mooney. The new PRC producer has been affiliated at various times with Pathe, Mascot and Republic, and most recently with Cathedral Pictures. PRC has also announced conclusion of a deal whereby it will distribute a series of eight two-reel subjects embracing various phases of American history, produced by Max and Arthur Alexander for the Academic Film Co.

Larry Darmour

Next serial to be produced by Larry Darmour for Columbia release, rolling about February 15, will be "The Spider Returns." Starring Warren Hull, it will be directed by James C. Horne. It is a sequel to Darmour's "The Spider," made for Columbia three years ago.



A Mutual Interest—

When Ernest Hemingway, author of the best-selling "For Whom the Bell Tolls," was feted at Paramount during a recent visit, he and Cecil B. DeMille immediately plunged into a discussion of the forthcoming production of his book, to be undertaken by Paramount.

Harry Sherman

Harry Sherman has announced the next three films he will produce for Paramount release. First to go will be "Parson of Panamint," from a Peter B. Kyne original. Following will be "Secret of the Wastelands" and "Contraband Cargo," both Hopalong Cassidy westerns starring Bill Boyd.

William Hawks

William Hawks' United Productions will roll "My Life With Caroline," starring Ronald Colman, February 10 with Lewis Milestone directing. It is destined for an RKO Radio release.

REVIEW FLASHES

MAD DOCTOR, THE (Para't)—In most situations this will prove a celluloid problem child. The film is too long to function as supporting fare and is not sufficiently meritorious to grace the upper half of the bill except in the most unimportant program arrangements. Basil Rathbone, Ellen Drew, John Howard. Director: Tim Whelan.

MONSTER AND THE GIRL, THE (Para't)—While this cannot hope for universal patronage or acclaim, it should find takers in profitable number among the horror fans for whom it will be a treat sufficient to sate the appetites of the most avid chill-seekers. Stuart Heisler directed.

ROAD SHOW (UA)—The action starts in a nut house and gets nuttier every foot of the way. There have been plenty of screwball comedies about allegedly sane people, but this is the first one in which the leading characters are admitted screwballs. There's no limit to the number of laughs it will furnish the customers who like their humor in its broadest vein. Properly merchandised, the feature should pay its way handsomely. Hal Roach produced and directed.

Product Assurances Follow UA Huddle

Announcements coming out of two weeks of executive huddles attended by such United Artists executives as Murray Silverstone, Arthur W. Kelly, Charles Schwartz and Monroe W. Greenthal have impaled on the lance of hard facts the rumors of a possible UA product shortage which railbirds have been circulating as the result of an implied producers' "sit-down strike."

Greenthal has completed his revision of UA's advertising department alignment with the appointment of George Glass as western publicity - advertising contact. Glass, vice-president of Russell Birdwell and Associates, relinquishes that position to begin his new duties February 10. Glass had been with Selznick International in that company's publicity-advertising department for three years before joining Birdwell.

$5,000,000 Small Program

Developments which indicate that plenty of UA product will be forthcoming during the next several months include:

A disclosure that Edward Small is launching a $5,000,000 production program for UA. In divulging these plans, Small added that within a week or so he will begin active production on two of the five pictures he is preparing to make and deliver during 1941. These include "The Corsican Brothers," scripted by George Bruce; "My Official Wife," by Ernest Vajda; "Sabotage," "She Was a Working Girl" and a fifth untitled vehicle of a topical nature. Small thus rescinds an earlier announcement that the shutdown of his unit would continue throughout the summer.

Previously Walter Wanger purchased "Sundown," a novel by Barre Lyndon, and engaged the author to work on the screenplay, indicating production would start shortly. Before that time it was reported Wanger probably would not resume production until August.

Another encouraging factor is David O. Selznick's activity in the preparation of "Jane Eyre," from the Charlotte Bronte novel, as the first in a group of three he will deliver to UA this season. Too, Richard A. Rowland is preparing "The Battle of Britain" as the initialer in a batch of three he is set to produce for UA during the year.

Termer for Raoul Walsh

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has signed Director Raoul Walsh for another term. His next will be "Danger Zone," a Mark Hellinger production to star George Raft.

'Flight Command' Top L. A. Day and Dater

LOS ANGELES—Top hit of the week in a day-date engagement at Loew's State and Grauman's Chinese theatres was "Flight Command," coupled in a dual bill with "Michael Shayne, Private Detective." Strongly entrenched in second place was "High Sierra," teamed with "She Couldn't Say No," at Warner's Downtown and Hollywood theatres, which made a strong enough showing to be held over for a second week. Only extended run otherwise was "Cheers for Miss Bishop," which carded a normal second stanza at the Four Star and is being held for a third.

Detail for the week ending January 29:

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Michael Shayne—Private Detective** (20th-Fox).....125
Downtown—**High Sierra** (FN); **She Couldn't Say No** (WB) 115
Four Star—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA), 2nd wk. 100
Hillstreet—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ); **The Invisible Woman** (Univ) 100
Hollywood—**High Sierra** (FN); **She Couldn't Say No** (WB) 115
Pantages—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ); **The Invisible Woman** (Univ) 100
Paramount—**Victory** (Para't), plus Russ Morgan on stage 100
State—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox).....140

Salt Lake City Grosses Hold to an Even Keel

SALT LAKE CITY—After being pelted with rain, dampened by snow and chilled by near-freezing temperatures at the end of the week just passed, Utahn's were surprised and pleased to enjoy a full measure of pre-spring weather. Theatre grosses were good generally. The new policy at the Victory seemed to top all for attendance.

Detail for week ending January 30:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (Univ); **Dark Streets of Cairo** (Univ) 95
Centre—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 100
Lake—**Forbidden Adventure** (SR) 95
Rialto—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO) 100
Studio—**Four Mothers** (WB), 2nd wk..... 95
Utah—**High Sierra** (FN); **Tug Boat Annie Sails Again** (WB) 100
Victory—**Two Fisted Ranger** (Col); **North West Mounted Police** (Para't), 2nd run 115

Public and Critics Give Approval to "Story"

DENVER—"Philadelphia Story," lauded by all critics as headed for best of the year ranks, is staying over at the Orpheum because of a huge business.

Detail for the week ending January 29:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Arizona** (Col), after wk. at Denver.125
Broadway—**Flight Command** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M), after wk. at Orpheum..110
Denham—**Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't).. 50
Denver—**Four Mothers** (WB); **Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga** (Univ) 110
Orpheum—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 195
Paramount—**Road Show** (UA); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox) 125
Rialto—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), after wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Great Plane Robbery** (Col) 125

"Philadelphia Story" and "Kitty" Share SF Honors

SAN FRANCISCO—"Kitty Foyle" and "The Philadelphia Story" finished in a dead heat as far as boxoffice honors were concerned this week. Both were far ahead of the other films showing on Market Street. "This Thing Called Love" did excellent third week business and "Comrade X" held up well in its third week. Weather was perfect.

Detail for week ending January 29:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Jennie** (20th-Fox) 150
Golden Gate—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), plus stage show 150
St. Francis—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Romance of Rio Grande** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk.....100
United Artists—**Captain Caution** (UA).....110
Warfield—**Victory** (Para't); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN), 2nd wk. 85
Orpheum—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col), 3rd wk.....110
Paramount—**Four Mothers** (WB); **She Couldn't Say No** (FN) 90

First Runs Notch Up a Fair Week in Seattle

SEATTLE—Among the regular theatres business was nothing to rave about. The Moore featuring Richard Crooks for one evening did a slam-bang business having to place a couple of hundred chairs on the stage to handle the mob. "Kitty Foyle" now on its first week at the Fifth Avenue takes top honors for the week. Other first run and holdover attractions doing just medium business.

Detail for week ending February 1:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Victory** (Para't); **Up in the Air** (Mono) 80
Fifth Avenue—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) 125
Liberty—**Escape to Glory** (Col); **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (Col) 90
Music Box—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Michael Shayne, Detective** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk..... 90
Orpheum—**High Sierra** (FN); **Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ) 100
Palomar—**Hold That Woman** (PRC); **Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga** (Univ), plus Pinky Tomlin in person on stage with vaude. 90
Paramount—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 2nd wk..... 90

Intermountain Elects New Officers for '41

SALT LAKE CITY—John Rugar of Park City, Utah, is the new president of Intermountain Theatres Ass'n for 1941. Other officers include George Smith of Magna, vice-president; and Beverly S. Clendenin, Salt Lake City, general counsel, secretary-treasurer.

On the board of directors are John Rugar, George Smith, J. J. Gillette of Tooele, Utah; I. H. Harris, Burley, Idaho; E. H. Steele, Nephi, Utah; Paul DeMordaunt, Blackfoot, Idaho; and Walter Hull, Ely, Nevada.

Role for Jeanette's Sister

HOLLYWOOD—Marie Blake, a sister of Jeanette MacDonald, has been handed a supporting role in "Caught in the Draft," Bob Hope starrer for Paramount.

Seattle Prepares For "Blackout"

Seattle—This city will be the first town of major importance to experience a "blackout." Test will be made March 7 at 10:30 in the evening. Some 7,000 men will patrol the streets while planes will zoom overhead. Theatres will continue with their performances but all marquees and fronts will be in total darkness. Whole affair will be broadcast.

No Complaints Filed As Yet in L. A.

LOS ANGELES—Insofar as this territory has always been considered an exhibition storm center, industry attaches will be surprised by the disclosure by William H. Elliott, clerk of the Los Angeles tribunal of the American Arbitration Association, that no cases have been filed with his office as yet. Arbitration proceedings were authorized to be officially opened February 1, on which date they were initiated in a number of distribution centers.

Furthermore, Elliott informed BOXOFFICE, even were a case to be filed immediately it would be unlikely a hearing could be arranged in less than 25 or 30 days because of the machinery which must be set in motion. Hence he anticipates it will be at least a month before any hearing date is definitely scheduled. To date, Elliott added, no steps have been taken even to name the panel of arbiters.

The AAA clerk here expressed surprise at the total lack of cases filed with him thus far, but indicated he expected plenty of interest to be displayed in the near future by showmen with real or fancied grievances which they may submit for arbitration under terms of the consent decree.

Portland Exhibitors and Richey Get Together

PORTLAND—H. M. Richey, director of exhibitor relations for Metro, was in town for goodwill talks last week. Lou Amacher, local Metro exchange manager, arranged a luncheon for Richey and a number of local exhibitors, including Al Finke, Mose Mesher, Herb Sabottka, Roy Brown, Joe Warren, Joe Gamble, O. J. Miller, Al Forman, William Graeper sr., Jesse Jones, M. W. Mattecheck, Bill Ripley, Joe Sorodka, Bob White and Sam Whitesides.

Among things discussed were methods of interchanging proven ideas on picture presentation and exploitation which, it was pointed out, would prove to the advantage of both the exhibitor and the exchange.

Monahan in Charge of Seattle Arbitration

SEATTLE—Joseph J. Monahan, newly appointed representative of the American Arbitration Ass'n for the Seattle exchange district, has opened offices on the fifth floor of the Marion Building. Office hours from Monday to Friday will be 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. with only a half day Saturday.

Monahan, in the role of tribunal clerk, will sit through all arbitration cases called for under the consent decree. Appeals must be brought to his attention.

"GWTW" Into Four Star For Popular Engagement

LOS ANGELES—"Gone With the Wind" will open its first popular-priced engagement in this territory at the Four Star February 12.

Arbitration Districts: Los Angeles



—Copyright American Map Co., Inc.

Headed by William H. Elliott as tribunal clerk, the Los Angeles board is located in the Van Nuys Bldg. The area includes: In California, the counties of Inyo, San Bernardino, Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Riverside, Imperial, San Diego and Orange. In Arizona, the entire state. In Nevada, Clark, county.

LOS ANGELES

OSCAR OLDKNOW, western district head for National Theatre Supply, checked out for New York to preside as vice-chairman of the company's annual meeting. Arthur de Stefano, manager of the local branch, accompanied Oldknow east . . . Eddie Cooke, Universal's office manager, spent a couple of days at home nursing a cold . . . Filmrow has just learned of the recent marriage of Leslie Harper, son of Glenn Harper, operator of the Corona in Corona, to Marilyn Huber of Pomona . . . Sidney Gillis, manager of the Cinema, will have a new potential customer some time in June. Mrs. Gillis is expecting.

Seth Perkins is back on the job at his San-Val Drive-In in Burbank after being laid up for several weeks with a serious case of the flu . . . Booking visitors included Dave Cantor, San Clemente, San Clemente; Irwin Kanowitz of the Union; and Jack Goldberg, booker for the Ben Bronstein circuit . . . Herb MacIntyre, RKO western district manager, has returned from New York where he attended a sales session . . . Al O'Keefe, Universal's western district head, and Charles Feldman, local branch manager, left for Chicago to attend the company's annual sales convention.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
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LOS ANGELES

Ruth Whitney and Kay Ronan, secretaries at M-G-M, tossed a shower for Kathleen Gannen, a co-worker, at Ruth's home. Kathleen will become a bride soon . . . Majestic exchange is being remodeled . . . Bert Lentz, Columbia salesman, checked out for a tour of his Columbia territory . . . M. C. (Mac) Sinift has opened his new Normandie. He also operates the Del Mar . . . Booking: Jenne Dodge, Mission and Mayfair, Ventura; Harvey Levinson, operator of the Cozy; Bill Kohler, Valuskis, Willowbrook.

Mrs. Jerome Safron, wife of the Columbia western district manager, is home from the Good Samaritan Hospital where she underwent an appendicitis operation . . . Tony Moreno's "Crazy Auction" has been booked into the Central Theatre. It is a new boxoffice stimulant . . . A. E. Rice of the Admiral in Hollywood came in for bookings. Ditto Mrs. Foster Jackson, Elsinore, Elsinore; Jack Berman of the Eastland circuit; and Al Galston, operator of the Hawaii and Marcal in Hollywood . . . C. J. Latta, assistant zone manager for Warner in the Pittsburgh area, was here on a combined business-pleasure trip.

Alan Cummings and Bill Brennen of M-G-M's home office planed east after spending several days at the local exchange . . . Samuel Tishkoff has booked his new "Adver-Prize," a giveaway stunt, into the Mayfair . . . Rene Amter, Universal secretary, draws one of the earliest vacations of the year—a trip to Denver . . . Here for conferences with Marco Wolf and Milt Arthur of Fanchon and Marco is Harry Arthur, F&M operator from St. Louis . . . E. T. Gomersall, Universal sales executive from Chicago, is spending a few weeks in this territory . . . Remodeling has been nearly completed at the M-G-M exchange. Bookers have been moved out from their cages into the main office.

Mike Newman is spending some time in both San Francisco and Seattle exploiting new Columbia product . . . Fred Gage, United Artists salesman, is in from a tour of his Arizona territory . . . Booking: O. W. (Ote) Lewis, Mission, San Gabriel; Boris Posner, operator of the Arlington . . . Earl Strebe has closed his Newport in Newport Beach for the winter and will reopen at the begininng of the summer season . . . A. Molina, Placentia, Placentia; Harry Vinicoff of the Vinicoff circuit; and Roy Pawley, Desert, Indio, came in to do some booking.

Fire of undetermined origin burned several rows of seats in Fox West Coast's Uptown Theatre. Extent of the damage has not been determined, but the blaze did not interrupt theatre schedules and the burned seats are being replaced . . . Checking over theatre properties in San Francisco and Oakland were Charles P. Skouras, Fox West Coast president, accompanied by George Topper, Charles A. Buckley, W. H. Lollier and Bill Lyris.

Arizona visitors included Louis F. Long, circuit operator who headquarters in Safford, accompanied by his head booker, Frank Plumlee; and Charles Alden, theatre operator from Globe . . . Phases of the consent decree were explained to Paramount exchange employes in a session conducted by Louis Phillips and Claude Lee, of the home office. Phillips and Lee are making a tour of all Paramount exchanges explaining the decree and its ramifications.

Praise Rose Keane in "As You Desire Me"

KANSAS CITY—"As You Desire Me," the Resident Theatre's production of Luigi Pirandello's play, is running a second week in its performance here which has attracted capacity crowds. Rose Keane, guest star and former Kansas City girl, is accredited as the reason for the play's exceptional success.

Of her performance Landon Laird, drama critic of the Kansas City *Star*, said:

"It is a pity that Rose Keane comes back to Kansas City so seldom to display her talents. Her undeniable acting ability has been known to this city since the days when she played 'The Deluge' and other attractions for the Kansas City Theatre. In New York she has developed from a better-than-average 'home talent' player into a person who would fit into a Theatre Guild production. Miss Keane never looked so attractive as she does now, and we never have seen her play a part so well. She makes 'As You Desire Me' a success by her own efforts."

Paramount in L. A. Is Playing a Horror Duo

LOS ANGELES—A dual horror bill is playing the Paramount, coupled with a "spook" stage show. On the screen are Paramount's "The Mad Doctor," starring Basil Rathbone, and "The Monster and the Girl," with Ellen Drew.

SEATTLE

THIS TOWN is keeping its eye on Olympia while the new gang of legislators are convening. The former mayor of Seattle, Art Langlie, is now governor and one might say he is a Republican ship on Democratic waters. Efforts of the new crop may kill the Washington blue law and give back beer parlors on Sundays. According to the real blue law, if one wanted to get real nasty, they could close theatres, stop baseball games, horse-racing and any other "annoyance," as they term it. Joe Roberts, editor of the *Amusement Guide,* and a representative, offered a five-dollar poll tax bill that drew hot editorials on the front pages of dailies. Drumheller of Spokane has asked that liquor be allowed in hotels, resorts, boats and trains in the state. The present law finds the state owning the liquor stores and only private clubs allowed to serve their members by a script system. If Sunday beer and the liquor bill should pass, local show-shops will take a worse beating than they are now despite the betterment in working conditions. Most beer parlors have small dance floors and offer entertainment which makes tough opposition.

This is getting to be a "sneak" preview town. Following up on the RKO idea at the Fifth, the Orpheum in conjunction with Universal, advertised one and sent out invites. Picture shown was "Buck Privates," and the surprised audience howled at the antics of Abbott & Costello. Tommy McLeod of the Universal publicity department aided the idea and is now staying over for the campaign on "Back Street." Is this something new? When a sneak preview is held in a theatre the invited exhibitor from out-of-town is asked to pay tax on the invite at the boxoffice. When previews are held on Filmrow, there is no charge but there was some squeaks fol-

(Continued on page 38-F)

The Boundaries

In Seattle, the clerk of the tribunal is Joe James Monahan, with headquarters in the Marion Bldg. The area includes: In Washington, all counties except Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Skamania, Clarke and Klickitat. In Idaho, the counties of Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Latam, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho, Clearwater and Shoshone.

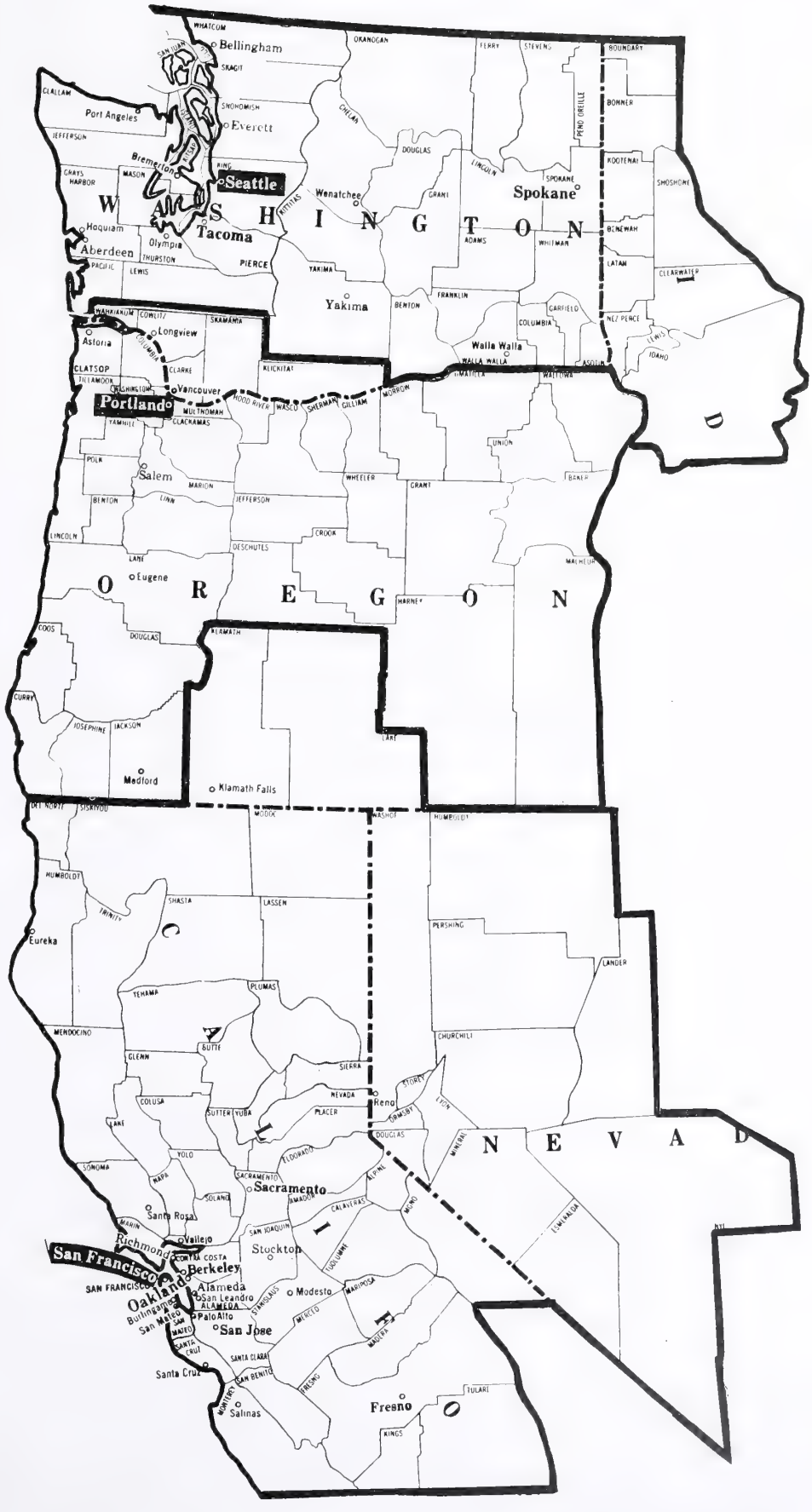
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The Portland board is located in the Pittock Bldg., with J. P. Nelson as tribunal clerk. The area includes: In Oregon except Klamath and Lake. In Washington, the counties of Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Skamania, Clarke and Klickitat.

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In San Francisco, the tribunal clerk is Charles Chambers, with offices in the Mills Tower Bldg. The area includes: In California, all counties north of the south boundaries of Monterey, Kings and Tulare. In Oregon, the counties of Klamath and Lake. In Nevada, all counties except Elko, Eureka, White Pine and Lincoln.

Arbitration Districts: San Francisco, Seattle, Portland



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SALT LAKE

THE OLYMPUS THEATRE at Holladay, just out of Salt Lake City, has been completely renovated and renamed the Holladay. It reopened under the management of Joseph Lawrence, who operates the Southeast, Murray, Rialto and State theatres.

Construction of the new Wasatch Theatre at Heber, Utah, is under way by the Intermountain Theatre Supply of Salt Lake City, successful bidders. Bliss Titus is owner and manager.

The newly inaugurated policy at the local Victory, offering a first run picture with a second run, is packing them in. "North West Mounted Police" is a holdover as one of the first offerings of this new policy . . . "The Westerner" is in its second week at the Studio after a successful week at Ray Hendry's Centre; both Intermountain houses.

A belated "Christmas Party" was held at the Rialto, due to the prevalence of colds up until now, and so more than 500 *newsboys were entertained by the picture "Little Men" and given refreshments. Members of Operators' Local No.* 250 *donated their services for the show. The postponement was at the request of the board of health.*

George D. Pyper, manager for many years of the old Salt Lake Theatre, will discuss "Old Utah Theatre Days" here at the Exchange Club shortly.

Joe Madsen, office manager for United Artists, reports the Arthur W. Kelly Sales Drive nicely under way here with all of the boys having been in to a sales meeting a few days ago, which meeting was also attended by UA's new division manager, J. S. Abrose, who came here from the east, and is in charge of Salt Lake, Denver and Omaha.

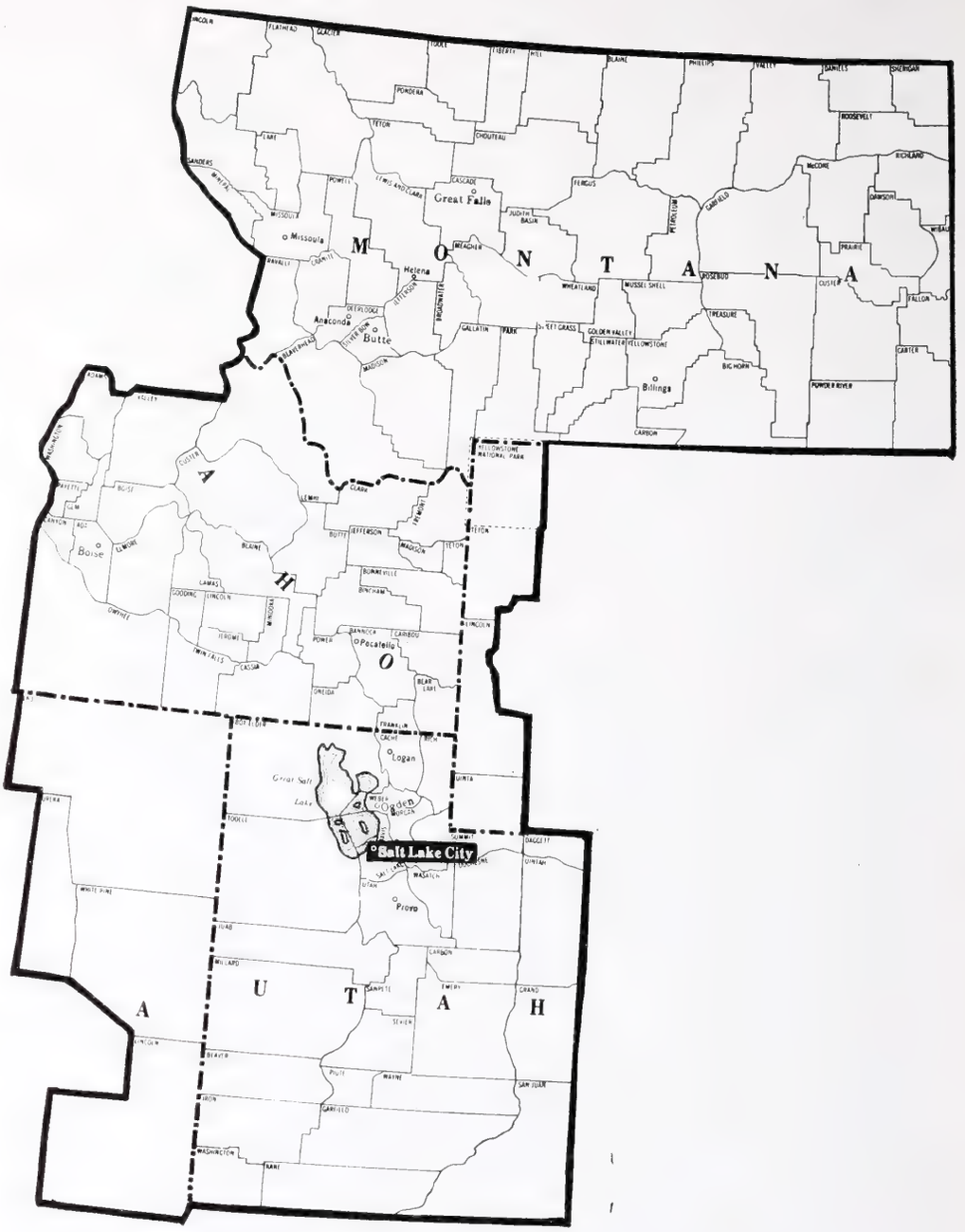
George Cloward, manager for Ross Federal Service here, reports conditions throughout the territory look promising. He is just in from Idaho and leaves for Southern Utah right away . . . Sam Gardner left the local M-G-M offices this week for a trip into Montana. M-G-M's new release, "Come Live With Me," was previewed a few days ago . . . "Buck" Wade of Universal is back from a successful trip in the territory.

Columbia's district supervisor, Bob Hill, is coming to Salt Lake from Denver for a few days this week, Bill Seib reports . . . RKO Office Manager E. S. Winward disclosed that after a sales conference held at the local exchange a few days ago, Manager H. C. Fuller left for Montana; Al Mabey for Utah; Giff Davisen for Idaho; Al Shepherd for Montana, and the new addition to the sales force, Norman Sprowl, for Montana, also.

Delivery of motion picture equipment costing $331.85 to the Salt Lake county fire department at Murray, Utah, assures a series of lecture and pictures for county schools.

Another company has pitched camp at Sun Valley, Idaho, to film background scenes for M-G-M's production "A Woman's Face."

Arbitration Districts: Salt Lake City



—Copyright American Map Co., Inc.

Located in the Continental Bank Bldg., the Salt Lake City board is headed by G. Roy Backman as tribunal clerk. The area includes: In Utah, the entire state. In Montana, the entire state. In Wyoming, the counties of Yellowstone National Park, Teton, Lincoln and Uinta. In Nevada, the counties of Elko, Eureka, White Pine and Lincoln. In Idaho, all counties except Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Latam, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho, Clearwater and Shoshone. These counties have Seattle as the tribunal.

Theatrical Federation to Meet With Employers

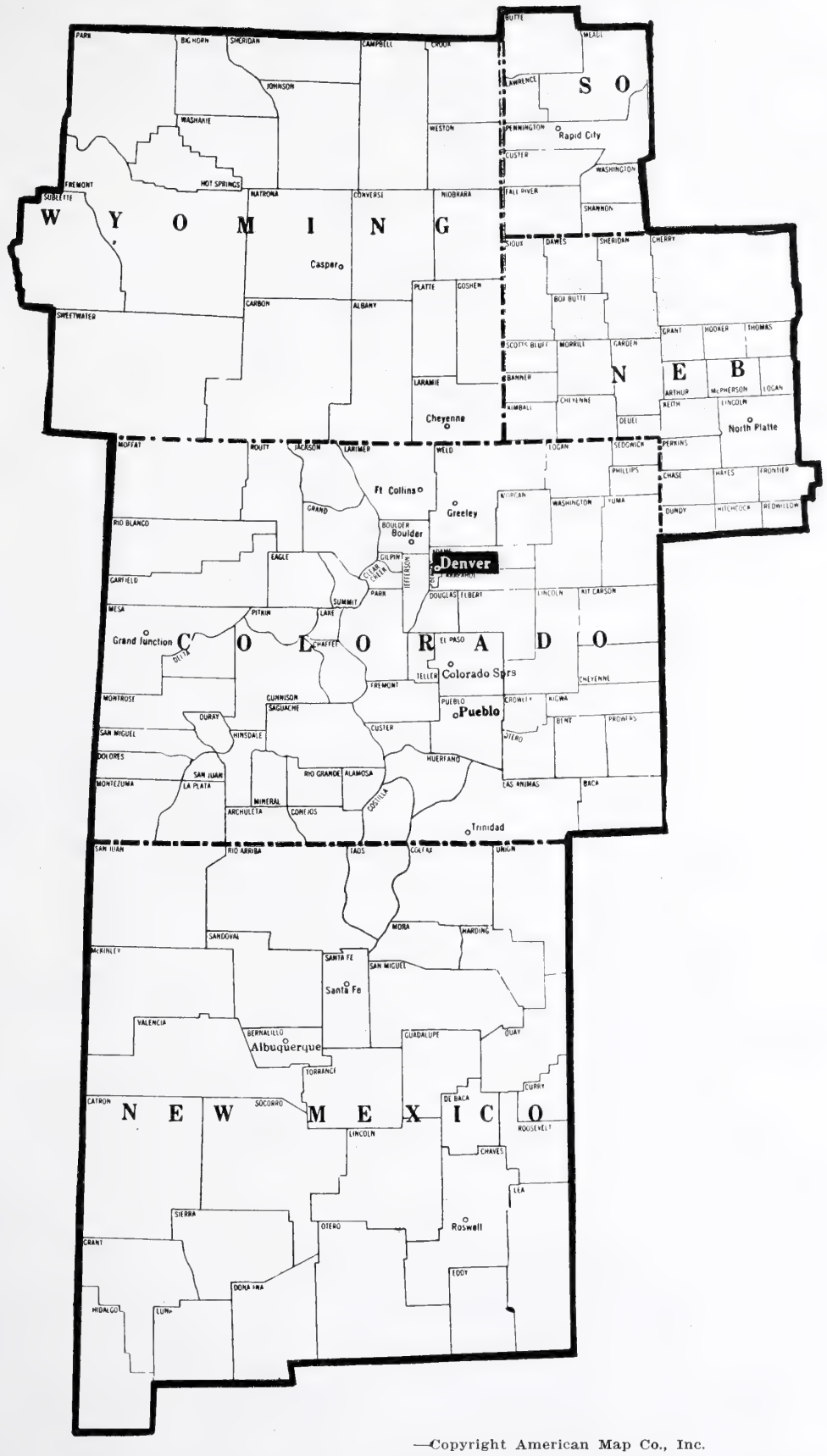
SEATTLE—Members of the Seattle theatrical federation representing unions in theatres, announced it had arranged a tentative meeting with employers for Friday to discuss further negotiations on janitors belonging to Building Service Employes' Union Local 6.

Basil Gray, labor relations representative, said upon completion of negotiations for janitors, discussion of contract for Theatre Employes Local B-22 would be taken up. This local includes cashiers, doormen, and ushers.

At San Carlos Opening

SAN CARLOS, CAL.—Many Fox West Coast home office employes from Los Angeles, headed by George Topper, treasurer, attended the gala opening of the circuit's new San Carlos here. The 1,000-seat house was constructed at a cost of $200,000.

Arbitration Districts: Denver



—Copyright American Map Co., Inc.

Headed by John B. Milton as tribunal clerk, the Denver board is located in the Chamber of Commerce Bldg. The area includes: In Colorado, the entire state. In New Mexico, the entire state. In Wyoming, all counties east of the western boundaries of Park, Fremont, Sublette and Sweetwater. In South Dakota, all counties west of the eastern boundaries of Meade, Pennington, Washington and Shannon. In Nebraska, all counties west of the east boundaries of Cherry, Thomas, Logan, Lincoln, Frontier and Redwillow.

Several Colorado Bills Focus on Industry

DENVER—A half dozen bills affecting theatres have been introduced in the Colorado legislature. All of them have been introduced by title with the body to be filled in if and when they are reported out. The bills would provide for a film censorship board, annual tax on theatre seats, license for operating a theatre, amusement tax, tax on sale and rental of films and would require a licensed operator where 16mm films are shown publicly. Another bill would declare bank and gift nights lotteries. Three bills, patterned after the Washington, Montana and Nebraska bills, would be applied to Ascap, and another would require the licensing of authors, composers and publishers of music, both vocal and instrumental.

Gibralter Enterprises Directorate Convenes

DENVER—A special meeting of the directors of Gibralter Enterprises was held in the Denver headquarters, with the principal matters under discussion being the consent decree, arbitration and war relief. Those attending were Chas. R. Gilmour, E. J. Schulte, W. H. Ostenberg, E. John Greer, E. W. Ward, T. F. Murphy and Everett Cole.

All directors returned to their homes after the meeting excepting Mr. and Mrs. Ward, who flew to Albuquerque to attend a mining convention. Schulte plans to leave early this month for Arizona and the coast to spend several months. Mr. and Mrs. Ostenberg also leave soon for a cruise to Panama, returning in April.

Extend Irving Cummings

HOLLYWOOD—Director Irving Cummings has been held for another term by 20th-Fox. His next assignment will be "Belle Starr."

DENVER

JACK BOCK, Gibralter booker, was taken to Mercy Hospital with a streptococcic infection. His condition is serious . . . Arthur Bratton is now the manager of the Ovid, Ovid, Colo., which house he has leased from the former manager, H. H. Homer.

The Denver branch of National Screen Service is determined to be in the money in the present $16,000 *"Par" sales, date and collection drive. Derek Sydney, manager, says the force is working hard on the drive, and asks the cooperation of exhibitors in the territory.*

A thousand candy bars, valued at $30, constituted the loot at the Santa Fe Theatre, for burglars who broke in.

Fox is remodeling the Rialto at Walsenburg, Colo., spending about $20,000 *on the job. The place will be given new seats, a new front and a general working over.*

Frank Culp, manager of the Tabor, is in the hospital for an operation.

(Continued from 38-C)

lowing the sneak preview. Seems the federal law says tax must be collected for any seat occupied in a place where a charge is made. Article 3 of the new consent decree says that all exhibitors must be given the chance to look at all pictures before buying. Might kill the sneak preview idea. Hope not. Audience reaction is a great barometer for the life or death of a picture.

The March of Dimes wound up in a blaze of glory here. Three "birthday balls" the same night with that English gal, Gracie Fields, appearing at all three. The formal dance was held in the Olympic Hotel, the Movie Ball at the Trianon, and the old-timers did their stuff at the Senator Ballroom. The film gang helped to swell the dimes here. An auction was held of such articles as the silk turban Linda Darnell wore in "Daytime Wife," Gene Autry's autographed ten-gallon hat worn in "Melody Ranch," "Lionel Barrymore's coat from "Dr. Kildare," a ring worn by Sidney Toler of Charlie Chan fame, and many other items. Yes folks, Seattle went over the top, thanks to you . . . To raise funds to help defray expenses of the convention to be held here next June, the Musicians Union, Local 493, will hold a jam session in the near future at the Moore Theatre. Thirty-five musicians will work free during the swing concert.

Bill Roberts, the singing star of "College Rhythm," the "Texans" and "Big Broadcast of 1939," *along with his band have opened a long-term engagement at the Olympic Hotel . . . George Blair, the one and only of the Rendezvous, announces he has taken over the cafe himself so all complaints should be directed to him (adv). For the past few months, George leased the "eating part" of his store to other people and it did not pan out as planned . . . Sir Thomas Beecham, the new conductor of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, has added a chorus of* 100 *voices to the organization. This is going to make a terrific attraction when the season opens for this type of entertainment . . . Jim Hone, executive secretary for the Independent Theatre Owners, who has been spending the last few weeks in Olympia, suddenly planed out for Los Angeles and expects to be back within a week . . . Pete Higgins to Los Angeles where he was called by the passing of his dad . . . Superior Judge Ernest Card of Tacoma, in ruling on demurrers, paved the way for the trial of radio station KIRO's* $100,000 *libel suit against the Tacoma chamber of commerce and T. A. Stevenson, manager, but eliminated the chamber directors as defendants. The suit was brought last summer by KIRO charging that statements concerning it appearing in the Tacoma* Progress, *publication of the chamber, were libelous.*

Mike Newman, publicity ace for Columbia, in town to do his chores on "This Thing Called Love" . . . Cecelia Schultz of the Moore did a grand business with the one-night appearance of Richard Crooks. Not only was the house jammed, but over 350 people were seated on the stage behind the singer. Maybe the radio does help at times . . . Herndon Edmonds, local Fox manager, has taken off for a visit of eastern Washington along with Archie Holt of the sales staff . . . Word from Ford Bratcher that he is doing nicely with another state right picture and playing around Boston . . . Events happen quick at times. Bob Sellers was offered a nice spot with an equipment house. Bob and a couple of chums drove to Vancouver, Canada, for a visit before taking the job. While there, the boys took the notion to join the Canadian Air Force. Bob, expert pilot, was made an instructor. His first trip up the plane crashed. They buried Bob in Portland, his home town. All this happened within two weeks.

Gordon Craddock (of the Portland "Tillie" fame), who has been getting well in San Antonio, Tex., writes he will be back at his desk as branch manager for Universal in Indianapolis some time in March. Good luck, Gordon . . . Harry Blatt arriving on the Row with a new car . . . Bill Keating, who for the past few years has been connected with the Paramount-Publix Theatres, is now handling the Colonial here for Sterling Theatres . . . Bill Duggan jr., manager of the Monogram office, doing a ten-day trip over the state . . . Carl Walker, in charge of Warner theatres on the coast, making the rounds of theatres in Oregon and Washington and taking time out to say "hello" to his friends on the Row . . . Morrie Segel, branch manager; Glen Haviland, Ward Pennington, Max Hadfield and B. B. George of the local Paramount office, all to Portland for meeting with Louis Phillips of the Paramount legal department in New York. The discussing was on the consent decree.

Dorothy Holland, Marjorie Cromwell and Norma Acteson all back on the job after the forced absence . . . E. M. Saunders, western sales manager for Metro, here from New York for a few days . . . Willard Coughlan, manager of the Hollywood in Portland for Fox-Evergreen, in town over the weekend . . . Ned Edris of Hamrick-Edris Theatres in Tacoma has named William Tibbetts manager of the Temple there and has transferred Theodore Kintz to the same town's Blue Mouse . . . H. Flaig here from Chicago arranging for the forthcoming appearance of "Dr. I. Q." at the Orpheum . . . Bruce Forbes, son of Doug and Mrs. Forbes, in the hospital recovering from pneumonia . . . Historic Fort Nisqually, restored recently by the Young Men's Business Club of Tacoma, will figure in newsreel shots when the National Guard, with considerable ceremony, will enact a scene from the fort's past history. A replica of the original Hudson's Bay Co. charter will be presented to the fort.

Junior and Dorothy Mercy and their three sons, Frederick, Richard and Michael, out to the ranch for the weekend . . . Fred Hansen, in charge of buying and booking for Port Gamble, in town for a few days . . . John von Herberg hosting a family dinner in honor of the birthday of his daughter, Charlotte Durham . . . Felix Jenkins of the Fox legal department in New York here for a visit with Herndon Edmonds and to advise on the consent decree . . . Wilma McNutt, former secretary to Vic Gauntlett and recently a San Francisco resident, writes she is in Phoenix, Ariz., taking a vacation with her mother and dad . . . The Hal Daiglers are also in Phoenix taking time out. Hal is in charge of theatre operation for B. F. Shearer . . . "Popcorn" Smith back in town after his visit to Kansas City and way points . . . Joe Danz of the Embassy has gone wrong, or maybe it was the influence of a film salesman. Joe was seen smoking a cigarette in company with an exchange manager. This was his first puff since the days when it was daring to sneak a smoke behind the barn.

Mercedes Harvey, chief accountant for Universal, confined to her home by illness . . . The gang around the Northwest Film Club talking of the injury to Vera Steadman and recalling many of the stars of silent days. Larry Semon, Ford Sterling, Ham and Bud, John Bunny and Flora Finch and many others were talked about and the final ending was that "all agreed that comedy features with good old hokum gags that keep the audience in stitches would help to solve part of the boxoffice problem" . . . The von Herbergs have named their new son, Jensen von Herberg, which not only honors Herberg's partner, Jensen of Portland, but also will "individualize" the pioneer firm . . . Marc Bowman, former theatre press agent and newspaper man, in town for a couple of days, guest of Mr. and Mrs. Vic Keedy of the Burien Theatre. Mrs. Bowman accompanied her hubby, who now is with a leading radio station in Portland . . . Roy Peacock getting a long distance call from Montana and rushing to get the material out by airmail . . . Jim Root, doing his stuff behind the bar at Film Club, being recognized by friends from Hollywood. Mike Newman remembered him from the Swing Club; likewise did Dorothy (Dunbar) Lawson . . . J. T. Sheffield off for a couple of visits to Butte and way points.

Apart in Seattle on Safety Proposals

SEATTLE—Before a full house, the city council public safety committee listened to men in the industry on proposals for amending the city fire hazards relating to theatres.

Theatre owners and the film operators' union differed on what should be placed in the ordinance. The union withdrew earlier proposals that better ventilation and accommodations for the operators be required, proposed that six months' experience at full-time work be required to obtain a city license to handle the latest equipment in the booth, and asked that the fire chief continue to have exclusive power to grant the licenses.

The theatre owners, through Attorney Warren Brown, objected to the six months provision as "unnecessary" and suggested the health department rather than the fire department give annual physical examinations to the operators.

The council committee did not take final action but the conference will resume some time next week.

S' FRANCISCO

CHARLIE SCHLAIFER back in town after a short vacation in Palm Springs and Hollywood. While in the film capital Charlie witnessed rushes of some of the films to play the United Artists here and he reports a big season ahead for his house. Schlaifer has been receiving the plaudits of exhibitor and producer alike for his creation, "U. A. Charley" and the type of exploitation "U. A. Charley" is used to decorate.

Susanna Foster and Dolly Loehr in town boosting Paramount's forthcoming "Hard Boiled Canary." This was the girls' first stop on a transcontinental tour . . . Margaret Quigley left the B. F. Shearer office this week to devote all her time to being a wife . . . Everett Howell has moved into his new home in Porterville . . . Barney Rose to Chicago for the Universal sales meeting . . . "Here Is Ireland" has moved to the Larkin after five weeks at the Clay . . . Jesse Lasky in town for a visit.

Ed Stelzrieve has taken over the Home Theatre in Folsom from the Moore Estate. Ed will begin operation on the 14th . . . Chan Carpenter reports that his independent booking service is meeting with approval of the trade and that he has contracted to handle several houses . . . Fine weather has been the order for the past two weeks but the boxoffice on weekends has not been so good because of the exodus to the snow country and to warmer climes down the Peninsula.

Ingrid Bergman planed into town for a conference with Ernest Hemingway about the female lead in "For Whom the Bell Tolls." Hemingway issued the statement that Miss Bergman would be ideal as Maria and hope it could be arranged. Mr. H. also cast his vote for Gary Cooper as Robert Jordan before he and Mrs. Hemingway shipped out for China.

Inez Fox took over the secretary's desk at Columbia vacated when Barbara Cohen left. Janice Cole takes Miss Fox's post at RKO . . . D. L. McNerny will leave his branch manager's position at United Artists in the near future . . . Universal screened "Back Street" for circuit heads Tuesday . . . Charley Feldman from the Universal exchange in Los Angeles, a visitor . . . Republic is preparing for the big James R. Grainger date and sales drive which starts early in March.

Morris Ott, assistant to Gerald Hardy in Fresno, got himself married this week . . . P. H. Allen has remodeled his Grand Theatre in Tracy. The house got a complete going over including a set of doors that were conceived by Allen . . . Bill Cornwall is back on the job in Merced after an illness . . . The Row is wondering about the delay on the opening of Ed Levy's new theatre in Dinubia. Rumors are flying fast and furious as to whether Ed will be the owner when the house does open . . . Louis B. Mayer came to town to meet a horse. In this case it was Mayer's importation from Australia.

Carl Scott has moved to a larger office at Columbia. It seems Carl needs more room to handle his city salesman's orders . . . Ed Nelson is now in Universal's ad sales department . . . The Embassy has contracted for Metro and UA product for subsequent runs. This gives the house all the major product . . . J. H. McIntyre visiting RKO on one of his regular jaunts . . . "Kitty Foyle" started its third week at the Gate while "This Thing Called Love" ended a four-week run . . . Harry Walsh off to the Salinas territory on Pacific Premium business.

Lloyd Ownbey planed out for New York and National Theatre Supply meetings . . . Dan Noonan is building a new home in Turlock . . . The Piedmont in Oakland will run Ten-O-Win on a one night a week basis starting this Saturday . . . Gordon Allen, Monogram salesman, underwent an appendectomy this week and is getting along fine . . . Warner previewed "Strawberry Blonde" Monday . . . Monogram starts its "Lucky Seven" playdate drive on the 22nd.

The Paramount has been getting some good free publicity by building up the local girl angle on "Tall, Dark and Handsome." Virginia Gilmore is the San Franciscan who has the femme lead . . . Booking on the Row: Joe Huff, Sierra, Stockton; Emma Moore and John Moore, Moore's, Lincoln; Bill Cook, State, Winnemucca; Charles Gray, Newman, Gustine.

Will Sue to Abolish Dual Ascap Fees

LOS ANGELES—The Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners will wage battle against the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in an attempt to rid showmen of the dual charge they must now pay for screening films containing Ascap music. A suit will be filed soon in federal court here.

Decision to war against Ascap followed a study of the situation by Albert J. Law, PCCITO counsel, spokesmen for the organization declare. Robert H. Poole, general secretary, explained the PCCITO is not interested in Ascap's battle with the networks, but is concerned only with the situation wherein exhibitors are forced to pay scoring charges to distributors on films containing Ascap music, and then are compelled to pay another charge to Ascap for screening the film.

It is understood a majority of PCCITO members favor a fight against Ascap. As yet, however, organization attaches have had nothing to say officially as to just what sentiments individual members of the group may entertain.

Monogram Contest to Find "Miss Arkansas"

Monogram will conduct a state-wide beauty and talent contest to find a "Miss Arkansas" from February 15 to April 1. State officials, newspaper publishers and circuit and independent theatres will cooperate and the winner will be awarded the feminine lead in a forthcoming Tex Ritter musical western.

PORTLAND

B W. ARDELL, branch supervisor for Altec in Seattle, stopped in at the Portland office on his way home from Denver. The local boys, Dan O'Brien and L. K. Brisbane, are about fully recovered from their Christmas rush when they had four sound installations on the same day—the Vista Theatre, the Gaiety, B. F. Shearer's screening room and Howard Mapes screening room. They're tapering off now with Jesse Jones' Roseway and Bill Ripley's theatres.

A. F. Cummings, chief statistician, and William Brenner, head of the checking system, both of Metro's home office staff, arrived Sunday and will spend a few days at the local exchange.

Pete Higgins, United Artists branch manager in Seattle, passed through on his way to L. A. to attend the funeral of his father . . . Agnes MacRae celebrated her birthday with a party at the home of her mother.

Gus Berliner, assistant manager of the Paramount Theatre, took the leap February 1, and Miss Ardyth Shephard of Salem, became Mrs. Gus Berliner.

Two location site men, one for Paramount and the other for Warner, stopped over in Portland and took time out to look over Ralph Wood's lobby displays at the Circle Theatre . . . Mr. Lamson of National Carbon Company was a recent visitor at the TUSCO offices.

Bess Erskine, senior member (in point of service) of Filmrow's inspection department, has retired from active work and will concentrate on keeping her lovely home spick and span . . . Pearl Anderson is a new addition to the Columbia staff, having taken over an inspection table there a few days ago . . . Ethel Olson, Metro telephone girl, became Mrs. Albert Anderson on February 1.

Among visitors were Kenneth Piercy, Prineville; Ray Strumbo, Salem; Al Adolph, Salem; Ray Henderson, Albany; Sam Whitesides, Corvallis, and Bob Veness, Mill City . . . Alex "Doc" Singelow, one of the old timers in local film circles and for the past three years salesman for UA in Denver, replaced Jack O'Bryan, recently transferred to Los Angeles, as salesman in the Portland office.

A group of film men gave a dinner in honor of state representative Robert S. Farrell jr., formerly associated with the Rivoli in Portland . . . The local Republic office is awaiting the visit of J. R. Grainger, president of that organization, about the middle of February.

J. P. Nelson, local tribunal clerk for the motion picture tribunal of the American Arbitration Association, comes to the office with a high rating in his past endeavors. He has been credit man and banker in his past business associations.

Roy Rogers, cowboy star, stopped over in Mill City on his way to a fishing hole. Bob Veness, local theatreman, says Rogers was impressed with Oregon and expressed a desire to make more trips into the state.

BOXOFFICE Barometer for 1941

It's the TOPS in Service to ALL of the Industry!

The splendid informative and interesting editorial content of BAROMETER makes it a "desk" and not a "bookshelf" publication. It has a year-through, almost daily utility value to our entire circulation in every branch of the industry. It is the only annual publication issued by a tradepaper—local or national—which covers the field, being the only annual publication reaching the entire industry and paralleling BOXOFFICE's wide circulation.

Not only does BAROMETER do a thorough job of coverage on product for the past year, but also on the physical phase of the theatre—inside and out. Besides there's a very good look into what is coming for the year ahead.

BIGGER *and* BETTER THAN EVER

Out This Month

Gather Support to Whip 'Fast' Time

MILWAUKEE—Exhibitors are securing the support of other interested groups in their opposition to the Murray bill in the state senate, which would permit municipalities to adopt daylight saving time if they so desired.

Those who have already gone on record against the bill include the Milwaukee Gardeners' Ass'n, the Milwaukee Co-operative Milk Producers, the Wisconsin Association of Stage Employes and Projectionists, the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture, the Madison Milk Producers' Ass'n, the ITPA of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Saxe Amusement Management, Inc., Warner Bros., Standard Theatres, the Equity Co-operative Livestock Sales Association and the Central Labor Union.

Principal proponent of the measure is the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, which is being supported in its stand by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Unions and the Independent Association of Golden Guernsey Employes.

Both sides aired their views on the measure at a public hearing February 6 before the state and local government committee of the senate in Madison.

L. F. Gran, general manager, Standard Theatres, one of the leaders of the opposition, has declared that if the measure is enacted it will mean that many theatres will be forced to close because of lack of patronage.

Jim Levine Joins Disney As Midwest Area Head

CHICAGO—Jim Levine, for 13 years with Paramount and Publix in the distribution and exhibition field, has been appointed district manager for the middle western area for Walt Disney and will make his headquarters here. Though he is currently making his temporary offices at the Sherman Hotel, Levine told BOXOFFICE that he plans on opening permanent offices shortly either in the Ashland Block Building, or the Garrick Theatre Building.

Levine said that although five local theatres were under consideration for "Fantasia," none had been definitely chosen. It is known that three of the houses are the Grand Opera House, legit located in the Loop and operated by the Schuberts; Wood's, operated by S&S, which played "Gone With the Wind" for a record-breaking Chicago run and the Apollo, B&K house.

Here to do advance work for "Fantasia," are Miss Toni Spitzer, who handled publicity for the Disney film in New York, and Ben Atwell, advance man. Atwell has been in Chicago in the past working on "Pinocchio," and on the special package of Disney hits which included "Snow White," "Three Little Pigs," "Ugly Duckling," and a "Donald Duck" short.

"Bucket" for Schaefer

HOLLYWOOD—Armand Schaefer will direct "Jason, the Bucket" for Republic. Stuart Palmer is scripting from a story by Frances Cockrell.



Swelling the Fund—

A personal contribution to the Greek War Relief Fund is handed the Hon. Demetrios Benetatos, consul general of Greece in Chicago, by John Balaban, secretary of B&K in Chicago. The occasion was the midwestern meeting of the Greek War Relief Assn. Looking on, left to right, are: John L. Manta, owner of the Thalia and Milo theatres, and chairman of the relief association's Illinois division; James E. Coston, zone manager for Warner Theatres; Balaban; Benetatos; Spyros Skouras, national president of the association and in charge of its $10,000,000 fund drive; Van A. Nomikos, national vice-chairman, and head of Ahepa (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Assn.), and Harry A. Reckas, regional director of the midwestern states for the G. W. R. A. and also president of the Halsted Theatre Co., Inc.

Censorship, Licensing Committee Proposed

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Creation of a film censoring committee in Illinois is provided in a bill submitted to the Illinois legislature last week by Rep. Clinton Searle of Rock Island, Ill.

The measure, first legislation to be introduced involving the industry, authorizes appointment of a committee of three persons to be known as the Illinois motion picture licensing committee.

Power would be given the committee to censor all moving pictures and license their exhibition. Violation of the law would carry a penalty of $200 fine or one year's prison sentence or both.

The committee would be empowered to issue license permits on pictures which are not obscene, indecent, immoral, inhuman, sacrilegious or of such character tending to corrupt morals or incite crime.

For the service of previewing films, the committee would levy a fee of $3 for each 1,000 feet of film or fraction thereof and an additional $2 for each copy of the film submitted for approval. The committee would be empowered to revoke any license within five days and no refunds would be permitted under such revocation.

The bill is similar to the New York censor law enacted in 1927.

Plan Legislation Against Triples

St. Louis—Counsel for the Better Films Council here is preparing proposed bills against triple-feature shows for presentation to the state legislature and to the St. Louis board of aldermen. A similar measure may be submitted to the Illinois general assembly.

Says U. S. Frowns on Chicago Lease Plan

CHICAGO—From reliable sources, BOXOFFICE has learned that the department of justice has written to the Metropolis Corp., New York, saying that the department would consider it an illegal act if Metropolis leased the Oriental here to Balaban and Katz.

The Oriental is being operated by Jones, Linick and Schaeffer, which is leasing the house from the 32 W. Randolph St. Corp. The Metropolis Corp. is lessor to the 32 W. Randolph St. Corporation.

Explaining the legal situation to BOXOFFICE recently, Morris G. Leonard, counsel in charge of the real estate department for B&K said: "It has been erroneously reported in other tradepapers that the offer to lease the theatre to B&K was made by the 32 W. Randolph Street Corp. That is not true. The offer was made by the underlying lessee, the Metropolis Corp., who is the underlying lessee of the Levi Mayer and the John R. Thompson estates. The latter's lease, we are advised, is impaired becauses of the default in rental by the present tenant."

Aaron Jones jr. of Jones, Linick and Schaeffer, though admitting his circuit is in arrears on rental to the 32 W. Randolph Street Corp., said recently that his company now is operating the house, and intends to continue under the terms of a 30-year lease with 32 W. Randolph Street Corp.

Buy "Panama Hattie"

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has acquired "Panama Hattie," a musical comedy by Herbert Fields and B. G. DeSylva. Arthur Freed will produce with Ann Sothern, Eleanor Powell and Shirley Temple heading the cast.

ST. LOUIS

THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE, which has been playing burlesque shows under the direction of H. K. Minsky of New York, was scheduled to close its doors after the last performance Thursday, February 6. Minsky has returned to New York. The closing notice came as a surprise as apparently the theatre had been enjoying good business. The town now has but one burley house, the Garrick.

Packages of medical supplies will be the admission fee to the special motion picture program to be given at Fanchon & Marco's Fox, Missouri and St. Louis theatres the morning of Saturday, February 8. *The proceeds will be sent to the Royal Northern Hospital near London, England, the St. Louis Bundles for Britain organization, sponsor of the show, has announced. This hospital was bombed in recent raids. Under the arrangements the Fox will be filled first. Then the Missouri will be used and if necessary, the St. Louis will put on the same show. Combined these houses seat about* 14,000.

Mrs. Mary Friedland, mother of Bess Schulter, who operates the Columbia and is also interested in the Avalon, Powhattan and Roxy theatres, died here last week. A son, Al Friedland, is an officer of Local No. 143.

Anne Gwynne, St. Louis girl, seems to be doing very nicely out in Hollywood. In her next picture "Nice Girl," she will work with Deanna Durbin under the Universal banner. She is a native of Waco, Tex. . . . Patrons of the Ambassador Theatre were asked to write RKO as to how they liked "Mr. and Mrs. Smith." Cards for the convenience of the customers were passed out by the theatre.

Harris P. Wolfberg, district manager for M-G-M, is headquartering at the local exchange . . . "Gone With the Wind" at pop prices has been held over another week at Loew's.

Theatres on South Broadway in St. Louis and in Lemay on Highway 61 *are much interested in the report from Washington that the Jefferson Barracks on the Mississippi River south of St. Louis is to house a* 10,000*-man capacity induction camp for the army's air corps . . . James Arthur, attorney for the Fanchon & Marco interests here, has been spending several days in Hollywood looking over the F&M operations there.*

Patrons at the Fox Theatre were more or less surprised when a customer arose in her seat and exclaimed loudly: "Why, there's George Hoffman!" And so it was, only George was billed as George Hayward in the player lineup for "Santa Fe." The exclaimer was Mrs. Francis Curley who formerly coached George at the Lindell School for Thespians.

The second annual Southwest Sportsmen's Show opens a nine-day run at the Municipal Auditorium on February 8. *It provided tough competition for local motion picture theatres last year.*

"The King of Kings" was shown in the sanctuary of Friedens Evangelical and Reformed Church, January 31.

Reel Fellows Play Host to Over 500

CHICAGO—More than 500 film people from Chicago and the surrounding territory attended the first annual dinner-dance of the Reel Fellows Club held in the Peacock Room of the Congress Hotel, January 31.

The affair marked the inauguration of the newly-elected officers of the recently formed club, which is Chicago's first organization of film salesmen. The one sad note of the affair was the absence of President William E. Weinschenker, Universal, who was unable to attend because of the sudden illness of his wife. All the other officers were present at the inauguration. They were: E. L. Goldberg, Paramount, vice-president; Robert Funk, treasurer; A. W. Van Dyke, 20th-Fox, secretary, and Percy Barr, National Screen, sergeant-at-arms.



WILLIAM E. WEINSCHENKER

Chairman of the dinner-dance committee was Frank Flaherty; co-chairmen were: Harry Goldman, Irving Joseph, Charles Lindau and Frank Ishmael.

Highlight of the evening was the conga and rhumba dances in which the guests participated. Another "highlight," and one which elicited much favorable comment, was the fact there were no speeches.

Willie Shore, Chicago's popular comedian, headed the all-star cast of top-notch night-club talent which entertained the guests. Music was furnished by Lou Diamond and his orchestra.

Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Eckhardt, 20th-Fox, and party; Mr. and Mrs. Manny Gottlieb, Universal, and party; Mr. and Mrs. Sid Rose, Warner Bros., and party; Mr. and Mrs. Irving Mandel, Republic, and party; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lorch, Republic, and party; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kaufman, B&K, and party; Mr. and Mrs. Lou Reinheimer, and party; Mort Goldberg, G. C. S. circuit; Julius Goodman and Carl Goodman, Goodman, Goodman & Harrison; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Trinz and party; Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Wolf; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Benesch and party; Mr. and Mrs. Oscar, Mrs. L. and Dr. David Brotman.

An unusually large number of out-of-town and downstate exhibitors attended. Among them were: Mr. and Mrs. Les Hainline, Macomb, Ill. and party; Mr. and Mrs. George Kerasotes, Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lamb, Oregon, Ill.; Mr. Ed Harris, Peoria; Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Szold, Peoria; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hurt and Mr. and Mrs. Abe Klein of the Alger circuit, Peru, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Gus Marchesi and party, Marchesi circuit, Amboy, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kirkheart and party, Lincoln, Ill.; Mr. Harry Upton and daughter, Polo, Ill.; Mr. Dominick Frisina and daughter, Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. Leo Bennis, Freeport, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. W. Weece, Galva, Ill., and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Phelps, Canton, Ill.

INDIANAPOLIS

THE IRVING was the center of a crime wave twice within a week. First, the office was broken into with about $30 in cash and several thousand tickets taken. Within the same week, a bandit held up the cashier, Miss Betty Rowe, and escaped with approximately $100 . . . Morris Horowitz, president of the Fountain Square Theatre Co., announces his retirement from the business. He will take up residence in Miami, Fla. Bennett E. Sagalowsky, former treasurer, was elected president of the company, and Earl Cunningham, manager of the three theatres operated by the company, was elected vice-president.

Mrs. Florence Wigton, operator of the Wigton at Legrange, Ind., has entered the Legrange Hospital for observation . . . Had Hull, branch manager for Universal, announces his company plans the erection of a two-story building at 517 *North Illinois St. The first floor will be devoted to the poster, shipping and inspection departments, while the second will have the booking, managers and salesmen's offices. The building will be air-conditioned and have fluorescent lighting.*

Sonja Henie's ice revue was booked for a week's engagement at the Coliseum, which resulted in an avalanche of repeat bookings of her pictures at neighborhood houses. Carl Niesse, operator of the Vogue, invited Miss Henie and her troupe to be his guests at the showing of "Happy Landing."

The "Blood Bank" established at the Indiana University Medical Center by the Variety Club of Indianapolis, has provided approximately 1,000 *transfusions in the first six months of operation . . . Roy E. Harrold, operator of the Princess, Rushville, has been named to the executive committee of Allied taking the place of Al Steffes, resigned.*

Visitors on Filmrow: C. W. Massey, State, Worthington; Harold V. Neese, Dana, Dana; Lowell T. Moore, Orpheum, Mitchell; William T. Studebaker, Logan, Logansport; Harry Van Noy, Paramount, Anderson; Trueman Rembusch, Artcraft, Franklin; Sam W. Neall, Sipe, Kokomo; Roy Harrold, Princess, Rushville; Art Clark, Indiana, Bloomington; Ike R. Holycross, Paramount, Anderson.

Arbitration Districts: MILWAUKEE, CHICAGO INDIANAPOLIS, ST. LOUIS

The Boundaries ↘

Where exhibitors will go to file and answer complaints:

CHICAGO—Room 576 (until room 519 is ready shortly) Rookery Bldg., 209 S. La Salle St., John F. Sullivan, tribunal clerk. The area includes, in northern Indiana, the following counties: Lake, Porter, La Porte, Saint Joseph, Elkhart, Lagrange, Noble, Steuben and De Kalb. In Illinois, the following counties: Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, Lake, Carroll, Ogle, DeKalb, Kane, Du Page, Cook, Will, Kendall, Lee, Whiteside, Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, Henderson, Warren, Hancock, Adams, Schuyler, McDonough, Cass, Minard, Mason, Fulton, Knox, Peoria, Stark, Bureau, Logan, Tazewell, Woodford, Marshall, Putnam, La Salle, Grundy, Livingston, McLean, Champaign, Vermilion, Ford, Iroquis and Kankakee.

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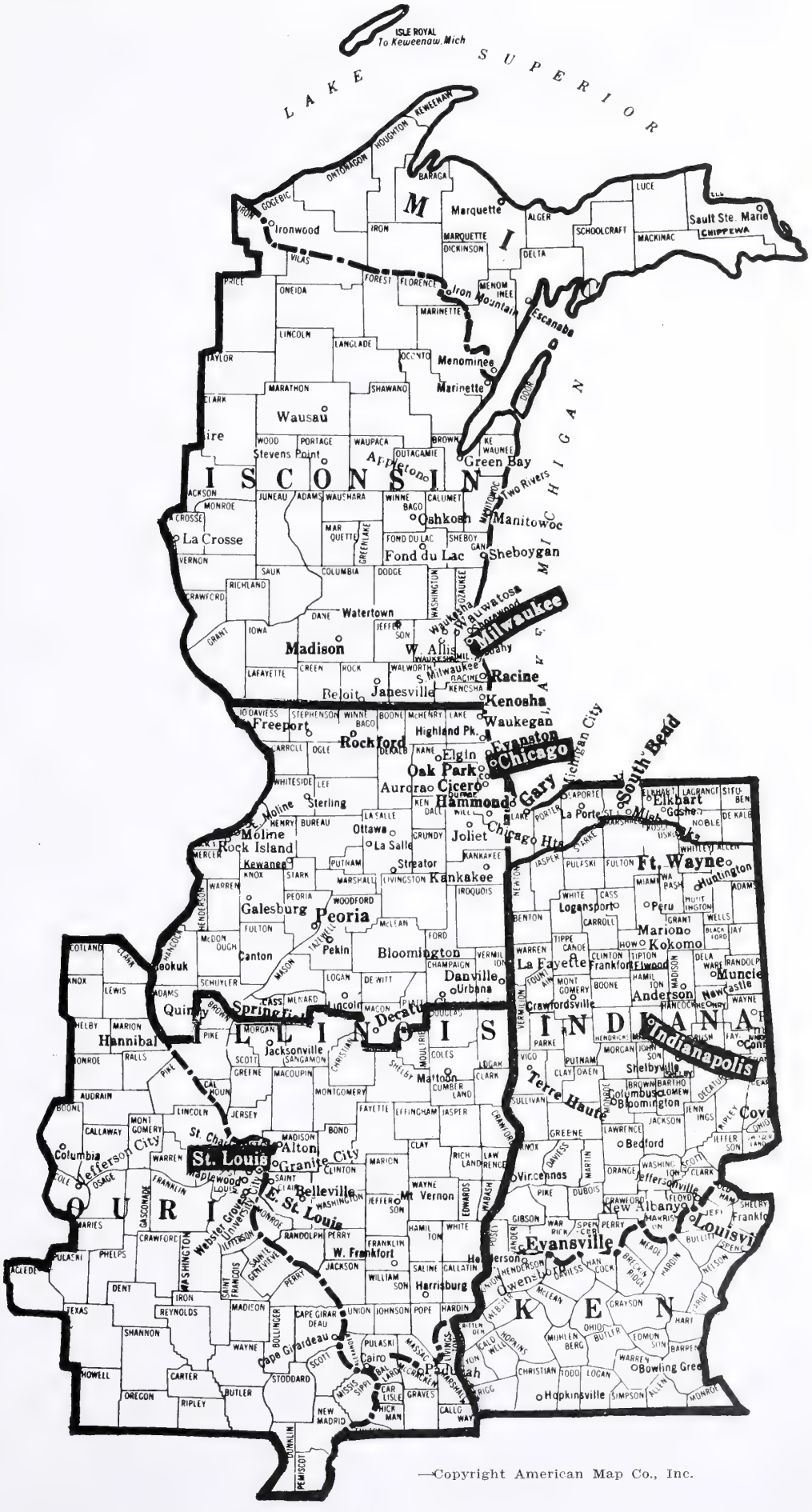
INDIANAPOLIS — Underwriters' Bldg., Lloyd W. Littell, tribunal clerk. The area includes all Indiana counties except those listed above for the Chicago board, and the following Kentucky counties: Shelby, Jefferson, Bullitt, Spencer, Nelson, Larue, Hart, Barren, Warren, Allen, Monroe, Simpson, Logan, Butler, Grayson, Breckinridge, Hardin, Meade, Hancock, Ohio, Muhlenberg, Todd, Christian, Brigg, Lyon, Caldwell, Crittenden, Hopkins, Webster, McLean, Daviess, Union and Henderson.

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MILWAUKEE—Loyalty Bldg., John L. Loell, tribunal clerk. The area includes: In Michigan, the following 15 northern counties: Gogebic, Ontonagan, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Iron, Marquette, Dickinson, Menominee, Alger, Delat, Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac and Chippewa. All of the state of Wisconsin except the following 17 western counties: Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Buffalo and Trempealeau.

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ST. LOUIS—Cotton Belt Bldg., Charles Walter Hudson, tribunal clerk. The area includes: In Illinois, all counties except those alloted above to Chicago. In Kentucky, the counties of Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, Fulton, Graves, McCracken, Calloway, Marshall and Livlngston. In Missouri, the counties of Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Audrain, Boone, Cole, Maries, Pulaski, Laclede, Texas, Howell, Oregon, Shannon, Dent, Phelps, Gasconade, Crawford, Osage, Callaway, Clark, Lewis, Marion, Ralls, Pike, Montgomery, Lincoln, Warren, Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, Perry, Cape Girardeau, Scott, Mississippi, New Madrid, Dunklin, Pemiscot, Stoddard, Madison, Wayne, Butler, Iron, Reynolds, Carter and Ripley.



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A Glittering Debut For "Fantasia"

CHICAGO—The Chicago opening of Walt Disney's "Fantasia" at the B&K Apollo February 19 will be a glittering social affair with the women's board of Grant Hospital sponsoring the premiere.

Mrs. Henry Bartholomay is chairman of the committee on arrangements. Vice-Chairmen of Mrs. Bartholomay's committee are Mrs. George T. Henneberry and Mrs. Clarence T. Seipp. The society premiere will follow the press preview scheduled for the Apollo February 18.

A clever advertising campaign is being conducted in Chicago papers in connection with "Fantasia." Opening ads in Sunday papers on February 2 were reprints of ads appearing in New York papers. No Chicago theatre or starting date was mentioned. Instead, comments from leading New York critics were played up.

To facilitate the selling of "Fantasia" in Chicago, Walt Disney has established offices here in the Garrick Theatre Bldg., with Jim Levine, for 13 years with Paramount and Publix in the distribution and exhibition field, in charge. Levine has been made district manager for the midwestern area. Working with him are Toni Spitzer, who handled the publicity campaign for "Fantasia" in New York, and Bob Montgomery, who resigned from the publicity department of Essaness Theatres, Chicago, to join the Disney office as assistant to Miss Spitzer in the handling of advertising and exploitation for the symphonic feature.

Here in Chicago to supervise the installation of the special "Fantasound" equipment at the Apollo is E. J. (Dusty) Dustin, sound engineer for RCA. Dustin said that he plans on having 60 speakers in the Apollo—30 on stage and 30 in the auditorium. In order to expedite the installation of the special equipment, it is planned to close the Apollo from February 9 until the opening, February 19.

It is planned to give two daily performances, seven days a week, with prices at $1.65 top. Prices for the special society premiere, February 19, will probably be $5.00, $3.00 and $2.50.

Some of the B&K personnel working with the Disney people in Chicago are Walter Immerman, Bill Hollander and Sam Sobel. The latter is manager of the Apollo.

Keegan Joining UDT as Assistant to Hudson

CHICAGO—Jack Keegan, associated with Warner Bros. distribution department for 16 years, more recently as district manager in charge of operations in Wisconsin, will leave February 14 to become assistant to Earl J. Hudson of the United Detroit Theatres.

Keegan leaves the Warner circuit after completing a five-week period of concentrated effort on the improvement of operations in the Racine, Wis. theatres where, according to James Coston, zone manager, his efforts have resulted in increased business.

"Philadelphia Story" Dominant in Chicago

CHICAGO—Top grosser in the loop is Metro's "The Philadelphia Story" which opened big on January 22, and has continued doing terrific business ever since at the United Artists Theatre. Still bringing in the customers is RKO's "Kitty Foyle" which started its fifth week at the Palace on Wednesday, January 29. Business generally throughout the loop is above average, even though grosses on Sunday, January 26 fell way off because of a blizzard.

Detail for week ended January 30:

(Average is 100)

Apollo—**Comrade X** (M-G-M) 125
Did good business here in its fourth loop week, after three weeks at the United Artists.

Chicago—**Second Chorus** (Para't), plus stage show 115

Garrick—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 125
Had good third loop week at Garrick after two big weeks at the Chicago.

Oriental—**Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col).125
All-star stage show headed by Larry Adler, Mitzi Green, and Milton Watson helped boost business here.

Palace—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 150
Big fifth week started January 29.

Roosevelt—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 90

State-Lake—**A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't).110
Though picture had fairly good local reviews, it was Cab Calloway's orchestra on stage that really brought in the customers.

United Artists—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M)..175
Loop's top grosser. Looks like it's in for lengthy run here.

Stage Show Helps 'Maisie' To Top in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—In a week of reasonable plumpness, due in some measure to reasonably decent weather, "Maisie Was a Lady" and Ray Noble's orchestra rated highest favor at Fox's Wisconsin at hiked admissions. "Kitty Foyle" and "Let's Make Music" fared equally well at the Warner considering the difference of 10 cents between admission tops of both houses.

Detail for week ending January 30:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (Col).....120

Riverside—**San Francisco Docks** (Univ), plus Marcus' Continental Revue on stage.....125

Strand—**Arizona** (Col); **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) 100

Warner—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Let's Make Music** (RKO) 165

Wisconsin—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M), plus **Ray Noble** on stage 180

Indianapolis First Runs Have Storm to Battle

INDIANAPOLIS—With the year's worst snow storm, later freezing to ice, even "Kitty Foyle" and "Thief of Bagdad" did little more than average business. Percentages as follows:

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**Wildcat From Tucson** (Col); **Friendly Neighbors** (Rep) 60

Circle—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Remedy for Riches** (RKO) 120

Indiana—**High Sierra** (FN); **Give Us Wings** (Univ) 80

Loew's—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **Nobody's Children** (Col) 120

Lyric—**Barnyard Follies** (Rep), plus Ezra Buzzington and other acts on stage 95

Hold Alice Faye

HOLLYWOOD—Alice Faye's 20th-Fox contract has been extended for a year.

Mature Rating for Seven by Council

CHICAGO—In films reviewed for the period from January 4 to the 25th inclusive, the Better Films Council of Chicago lists 11 in the family category, with seven classified in the mature group. Mrs. Richard M. McClure is president of the council, with Mrs. Charles R. Holton, vice-president and chairman of the previewing committee.

In the family group are: "Charlie Chan in the Wax Museum," 20th-Fox; "County Hospital," Laurel & Hardy; "The Face Behind the Mask," Films-Alliance; "Give Me a Sailor," Paramount; "Here Comes the Navy," Warner Bros.; "Lilac Domino," SR; "Round-Up Time in Texas," Republic; "Santa Fe Trail," First National; "The Singing Dude," Warner Bros.; "Sky Murder," M-G-M; "Under Western Stars," Republic.

In the mature classification are: "After Mein Kampf," Melwyn-Crystal Pictures; "Behind the News," Republic; "Beware, Spooks!," Columbia; "Comrade X," M-G-M; "Kitty Foyle," RKO; "The Saint in Palm Springs," RKO; "Schubert's Serenade," SR.

Pictures given best send-offs were: "Santa Fe Trail" and "Kitty Foyle." Commenting on the former, the council report said: "This 'must-see' film graphically shows the growth of bitter feeling over the question of slavery between the north and south . . . Raymond Massey's John Brown is a masterpiece, and the direction and work of supporting players outstanding."

Commenting on "Kitty Foyle," the report stated: "Previewers are highly enthusiastic in their praise of Ginger Rogers' characterization, Sam Wood's direction, the supporting cast, and the film as a whole."

: *Bally Field Day* :

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Springfield theatre fans had a picnic all in the same week what with three separate theatre promotion ideas in progress at the same time.

Red headed women from 16 to 60 merely by registering at a booth placed near the city square received complimentary tickets to see Miriam Hopkins in "The Lady With Red Hair" at the Roxy. This idea nearly backfired when 400 of the flame-tressed gals turned out, but all thoroughly enjoyed the show. The women also received discounts on purchases at several of the local stores.

The Orpheum, in cooperation with a local newspaper, conducted a contest to determine the outstanding "Springfield Story" told in 25 words or less in connection with the showing of "The Philadelphia Story."

A "Miss Anniversary" hunt was staged by the Orpheum in connection with the anniversary showing of "Gone With the Wind." Contestants submitted photographs. Honors went to Miss Maxine Cowan, Petersburg, Ill., who was presented to the public on the Orpheum stage prior to the first showing of "Gone With the Wind."

CHICAGO

FRED BARTOW, exploitation man for Paramount Pictures here, is in Traverse City, Mich., handling "Hard-Boiled Canary" which had its world premiere there February 2. Susanna Foster, star of the film, and Dolly Loehr, pianist, were in Traverse City for the premiere. Pair go to Detroit from Traverse City, and are expected in Chicago, February 13. Cliff Lewis is traveling with the Paramount pair.

Bernie Barr, Universal shipping clerk, and Estelle Bransky, of the Bartelstein circuit, will be married February 16 . . . Mort Singer in New York for a week . . . Lou Holtz, scheduled to play following Mort Singer Theatres: Orpheum in Davenport, Cedar Rapids, and Sioux City, Iowa . . . Reported that company of "Life With Father," now nearing the conclusion of its first year at the Blackstone in Chicago, will make a tour of midwestern theatres in spring.

Bill Gargan, leading male star of "Cheers for Miss Bishop," will be on WGN-Mutual "In Chicago Tonight" program this Thursday. Richard A. Rowland, producer of the film, also expected to guest-star on show . . . Sam Clark, former publicity director for Warner Pictures here, and now stationed on the coast, expected in town shortly on his three-month nation-wide tour in connection with "Meet John Doe."

Chicago may have another daily film critic, if report that a new morning paper will shortly be launched in Chicago comes true. Right now the Tribune *is only morning paper. Current rumor says that* PM *may establish a morning paper here to be called* AM *. . . Bruce Trinz, 23, assistant to his brother, Jim Trinz, manager of the Clark Theatre, has reported for military duty at Ft. Sheridan. Charlie Teitel has been transferred from Ft. Sheridan to the second division Coast Artillery at San Francisco.*

Erwin "Shorty" Sedlack, assistant manager of Warner Bros. Shore, was recently involved in an auto accident in which he suffered two badly bruised legs while his car was completely demolished. Another car out of control on the ice slid in front of Shorty's . . . Beth Morganstern, secretary to Jack Kirsch, president of Allied Theatres of Illinois, is in Florida on two weeks vacation.

Canners Convention held their fifth annual theatre party at B&K Chicago Theatre . . . Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel for 20th Century-Fox, in Chicago for two days to discuss consent decree with exhibitors . . . Irving Tomback, publicity director for World Playhouse did terrific exploitation job on "Night Train" . . . Talk is that first auto theatre in this vicinity will open this summer in Indiana between Michigan City and La Porte. Another drive-in might open this summer in suburban Morton Grove.

Goldie Davidson, secretary to Bill Hollander, publicity director for B&K, announces her engagement to Allan Copeland, Chicago *Tribune* copywriter. Pair plan an April 5 wedding . . . RKO's "Kitty Foyle" grossed $20,000 in its third week at the Palace . . . Gene Rich, recently back from Springfield, reports that Charles "Chuck" Brown, assistant manager of the Publix-Great States Orpheum there, is taking up golf lessons in preparation for the coming season. "Chuck" says he's playing golf to help take down his waistline and that of his boss, Mort Berman.

Nate Platt has lined up some top-notch names for the next few weeks at the Chicago Theatre. Phil Spitalny's orchestra comes in this Friday (14th), Jane Froman is booked in for the week starting the 21st, while Earl Carroll's "Vanities" show is penciled-in for week starting 28th . . . Ann Marsters is subbing for Nate Gross on "Town Tattler" column while Nate is vacationing in Florida . . . Larry Adler, who finished two big weeks at the Oriental last Thursday, guest-starred on BOXOFFICE*-Joy Candy Shoppes' "That's Show Business" radio show Sunday, February 2. Nate Caplow of station WAAF now producing the programs.*

Jack Kirsch back from Washington and New York . . . Jess Alexander writing material for Bob Hawk's "Take It or Leave It" radio show. Columbia short based on air show had initial Chicago showing at Roosevelt . . . "The Merry Wives," Czechoslovakian film, was scheduled to have Chicago premiere at the World Playhouse Saturday . . . In advertising start of the sixth and final week of record-breaking "Kitty Foyle" at Palace, Tom Gorman stated in the newspaper ads last Tuesday: "181,769 Chicagoans Can't Be Wrong!" Tom also used following three catch phrases in ad: "A bachelor girl emotionally undressed;" "She lives alone and doesn't like it;" "No woman would admit what it reveals."

Theatres playing the Chicago Tribune's *sports film, "The All-American Way," benefited by house ad* Trib *carried on its sports page. Theatres receiving free advertising were: Studio, Woods, Northcenter, Devon and Crawford. Also the Stadium in Evanston . . . "Quiz Kids," NBC show originating here, which has been made into series of Paramount shorts, scheduled to broadcast from Hollywood within the next couple of weeks so that Walt Disney can make guest appearance. Disney will plug "Fantasia" and his newest feature, "The Reluctant Dragon" . . . Dick Beck, owner of new newsreel theatre, Today, will turn over net proceeds of first day's receipts to Greek War Relief. Theatre scheduled to open within next ten days.*

John Smith, business agent of the operator's union, has moved his headquarters from the Burnham Building to the Steuben Building . . . Morrie Parfray, manager of the Vogue, Indiana-Illinois house at E. Chicago, Indiana, and winner of $750 prize in the recently concluded M-G-M exploitation contest, is now at Ft. Bragg, N. C. He's an officer in the army . . . Another military note: Melvin Rainey, secretary to Dave Wallerstein, B&K district manager, has joined army and will leave B&K late this month.

Al Bachman, manager of the B&K Harding, scheduled to return to work. Has been ill for sometime . . . H. G. Bishop, of the same circuit's Convent Theatre, back on job after couple weeks illness . . . Jimmy Shields has been ill at Presbyterian Hospital . . . Herb Elisburg's Studio being considered as No. 1 house for showing of pictures when major companies start selling their pictures in blocks of five . . . It's reported Morris Leonard of B&K will leave for a South American vacation this month . . . Si Griever is now booking Empire at McHenry, Ill. Griever also recently started booking the Essex, owned by R. J. Miller.

I. Franklin, Artkino representative here, reports "Mannerheim Line," which recently concluded successful run at Studio, is playing at the Praga and Circle theatres . . . O. H. Briggs, president of Producers Releasing Corp., conferred with Abe Fischer while in Chicago en route to Hollywood. He was very enthusiastic about future of the new company. Plans on producing 20 dramas and 18 westerns coming season . . . Much talk about Hollywood Advertising's new 10x15 feet giant display flags . . . Frank Greenland, now with National Screen general service department, has been transferred here from Des Moines.

Nick John Matsoukas is handling publicity for Greek War Relief Ass'n here in Chicago. Offices are in room 715, 77 W. Washington St. Telephone number State 2274 . . . Andy Kenney reports the following Warner people on the sick list: Harry Mintz and Ted Turrell, flu victims. Another victim was Fred Nichols, chief of service at the Paramount in Hammond. Donald McLaughlin, usher at the Frolic, suffering from an ailment affecting both legs. Warner wives also on sick list: Mrs. Ted Turrell, suffering from flu, while Bob Kennedy of the Symphony took his wife to the hospital recently for tonsillotomy. Ed Joseph, Symphony operator, who suffered broken jaw recently, is O. K. now and back at work.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

SIGNS - MARQUEES AND MAINTENANCE

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THEATRICAL PRINTING



More Giveaways in Milwaukee County

MILWAUKEE—The number of houses offering giveaways in Milwaukee county has shown an increase in recent weeks with Fox and Warner-Saxe among those joining the parade. Currently more than 30 theatres are handing out some sort of giveaway in the county at least one night a week with many of them following the policy twice a week. The giveaway policy is flourishing the heaviest on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Even in Greendale, the government's model village, the Greendale Theatre is offering "come-ons" three nights a week. The house offers 12 baskets of groceries on Tuesday nights and free dinnerware on Thursday and Friday nights.

Either vaudeville or amateur shows are being spotted in a number of houses. A program of vaudeville is being presented each Sunday night at the Colonial and Hollywood, independent neighborhood houses, who play the same bill of one show at each theatre. Fox's World amateur shows on Sunday nights while the circuit's Riviera and Plaza offer this type of entertainment on Monday nights and its Zenith on Saturday nights.

Warner-Saxe's Granada also presents amateur shows on Saturday night and the Hollywood and Colonial, Parkway and National offer this form of entertainment on Friday nights. The latter is also a Warner-Saxe house. These flesh programs are reported to help perk up business somewhat in several of the spots around town.

Variety Polio Project Triumph for Rosenthal

ST. LOUIS—The announcement last week that the St. Louis Variety Club has undertaken to provide funds for a $250,000 building for the Midwest Polio Association, the association being adopted as the special charity of the club during the next five years, culminated successfully the personal efforts of Barney Rosenthal, well known local film exchange man, on behalf of the victims of infantile paralysis.

Barney, through his connection with the Variety Club and by his personal efforts, has long been interested in the Polio movement. About a year ago, speaking at the dinner that was in the nature of a celebration of the successful 1940 campaign to raise funds for the sufferers from this disease, he expressed the hope that it would be possible to provide a special building to provide needed facilities for the rehabilitation of its victims. He indicated that it might be possible to obtain the support of the Variety Club and others in the industry.

Later when he broached the subject to Harry C. Arthur jr., chief executive here for the Fanchon & Marco interests and now Chief Barker of the St. Louis Tent, Barney found a whole-hearted supporter for the idea. The final result was the five-year program to raise funds for the $250,000 building.

SPRINGFIELD

SEVERAL of the Fox-Lincoln staff, including Ernest Denk, doorman; Orville Keirs, chief of service; Ray Coe, assistant manager, and Bill Meyer and James Smarjesse, ushers, found the tobogganing fine at the country club after the theatre closed. They had the hill all to themselves.

"Gone With the Wind" opened with a bang at the Orpheum Theatre, showing to capacity throughout the week. W. B. Potts, supervisor of Metro checking, and C. A. Oetzel, M-G-M representative, were on hand throughout the week . . . Local exhibitors are hoping that the banning of all money punchboards in Sangamon county by States' Attorney Alfred H. Greening will result in increased theatre attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kerasotes attended the "Reel Fellows" shindig in Chicago. Kerasotes is general manager of the Kerasotes chain . . . Harris Silverberg and Herbert Washburn, branch managers from Chicago and St. Louis of the National Screen Co., called at the Kerasotes office during the week.

Chris Bendsen, manufacturer of theatre marquees, was making his business rounds in Springfield . . . Whenever Max Tschauder, manager of the Roxy, isn't to be found, he's likely exercising his new bowling ball at one of the local alleys.

M. E. Berman, manager of the Orpheum, was awarded the grand prize at a banquet in Chicago in the Great-States, Balaban & Katz managers drive, for being high man in Illinois and Indiana circuit theatres.

During the "Mile o' Dimes" drive, M. E. Berman and Charles Brown of the Orpheum rigged up a booth inaugurating dime pitching. Anyone who could pitch two dimes consecutively into the cup was awarded a ticket to "The Philadelphia Story."

Chicago Arbitration Offices Are Open

CHICAGO—Offices for the Chicago arbitration board which will function under the American Arbitration Association, have been opened in the Rookery Building, at 209 S. LaSalle Street, with John F. Sullivan, an attorney, recently appointed clerk, in charge. Temporary headquarters are in Room 576, with permanent headquarters to be set up in Room 519. Latter offices are expected to be ready by March 1. Telephone number is Central 9755.

Opened on schedule on February 1, the Chicago office to date has received no complaints from exhibitors.

John F. Sullivan, the Chicago clerk, is 33 years old and a native Chicagoan. He is married and has two boys, John, age eight, and Terence, age three. He was educated at Loyola University and John Marshall Law School, both Chicago schools, and received his LL.B. degree from the latter institution in 1936.

Prior to his AAA affiliation, he was with the law firm of Orr, Sullivan and Ricks (formerly Cook, Sullivan and Ricks), for the past 12 years. For the past three and one-half years, he was an assistant attorney. He started with the law firm as legal stenographer in 1929, becoming a private secretary to Boetius H. Sullivan, one of the partners, in 1933, and in 1937, became an assistant attorney. Sullivan is a member of the Chicago Bar Association.

Organize in Indianapolis To Aid Defense Program

INDIANAPOLIS—In order to facilitate and systematize the industry's contribution to the national defense program, the following committee has been formed:

Marc J. Wolf, chairman, Theatrical Managers, Inc., whose headquarters will be in Indianapolis; William Connors, Great States Theatres, Marion; Oscar Fine, Premier Theatres, Evansville; Roy Harrold, Princess, Rushville, and president of Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, and Alex Manta, Indiana-Illinois Theatres, East Chicago.

It is the purpose of the committee to act as a clearing house for all matters pertaining to theatres and their part in the defense program.

MILWAUKEE

EJ WEISFELDT is back at his job as managing director of the Riverside after a siege of the flu and other complications . . . Joseph Rosenfield, manager of the Modjeska, tendered a farewell party at the house for Peter and Ronald Piotrowski, two lively entertainers who have left for Hollywood.

Ervin Koenigsreiter, manager of the Greendale, has been elected general manager of all Greendale Co-op enterprises for the ensuing year . . . Nelson Eddy and Spencer Tracy are on Gov. Julius P. Heil's list to receive a gift of Wisconsin cheese monthly for the next two years. Eddy was also recently named a colonel on Governor Heil's staff.

Vogue at Kenosha is now offering bargain days on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with all seats selling for a dime . . . Plans are under way for the renovation of Warner's Majestic in Sheboygan.

Showmen Help Sponsor Aid to Britain Rally

ST. LOUIS—Among the St. Louis motion picture folk included on the Committee of 100 that sponsored the rally for American Aid to Great Britain at the Municipal Auditorium January 31 were Joseph C. Ansell, Louis K. Ansell, Edward B. Arthur, Harry C. Arthur jr., James H. Arthur, C. B. Nelson, and G. L. Weigand. The Ansells are connected with the Ansell Brothers Circuit, while the others are in the local Fanchon & Marco organization.

"Wind" Unrivalled In Kansas City

KANSAS CITY—"Gone With the Wind" dominated the field last week with full houses at matinees several days, and not many seats vacant at the night shows. More people were handled the first week than during the first week of the primary engagement a year ago. The price was reduced, but, at 40 cents-56 cents, was higher than regular Midland schedules. Other first run houses did business around or below average. Weather was bad at the start of the week's runs, but mild—though wet—during most of the week, and not encouraging to theatre-going.

"Gone With the Wind" started on its second week January 31. "Santa Fe Trail" and "She Couldn't Say No," after a fair first week's business at the Orpheum, continued there.

Detail for week ending January 31:

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) 70
Midland—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 250
Newman—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 105
Orpheum—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **She Couldn't Say No** (FN) 95
Tower—**Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga** (Univ), plus stage show 70
Uptown—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) 75

"Comrade X" on Dual Bill Omaha's Top Attraction

OMAHA—Exhibitors thankful for warm, mild weather with the mercury and grosses both on the upward swing. Heavy snows first part of week hurt some, however.

Top-notcher was the duo of "Comrade X" and "Haunted Honeymoon" at the Omaha, placing a broad smile on Manager Don Allen's face. Next in line was "Maisie Was a Lady" at the Orpheum, in a stage-screen policy at tilted prices. Stage had Andrews Sisters, Three Stooges and Joe Venuti's orchestra, and Ted Emerson, Tri-States press agent, landed the best publicity in many years on a stage-screen bill.

"Arizona" and "Always a Bride" suffered from the competition in a second week at the Brandeis.

Detail for the week ending February 1:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**Arizona** (Col); **Always a Bride** (FN), 2nd wk. 90
Omaha—**Comrade X** (M-G-M); **Haunted Honeymoon** (M-G-M) 150
Orpheum—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M) 100
Stage show featuring Andrews Sisters, Three Stooges and Joe Venuti's orchestra at increased prices.

"Second Chorus" Plus Stage Doubles Par

MINNEAPOLIS—With the Andrews Sisters, Joe Venuti and his orchestra and the Three Stooges topping a stage bill and "Second Chorus" on the screen, the Orpheum had a terrific show and did deservedly sensational business. In its second week at the State, "Philadelphia Story" also continued to click in big-league fashion. "Screwballs of 1941" proved the Minnesota's best stage show since the theatre's reopening, but suffered from the tough opposition.

Detail for week ended February 1:

(Average is 100)

Aster—**One Night in Tropics** (Univ); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 95
Century—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA) 90
Gopher—**Bank Dick** (Univ) 90
Minnesota—**Melody Ranch** (Rep), stage show .. 70
Orpheum—**Second Chorus** (Para't), big stage show 200
State—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 100
World—**Pink Domino** (SR) 70

"Divorce," Licensing, Tax Bills Sight on Neb. Trade

Will Ask Circuit To Join Campaign

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Amusement, the territory's principal circuit, and film distributors here will be asked to join Northwest Allied States in a big campaign to win the public back to the theatres. This was decided upon at a dinner meeting of Twin City members this week.

Eddie Ruben is working out details of a big advertising campaign to give boxoffices the proper stimulus. It contemplates selling the public the idea that Hollywood is functioning better than ever, that the average quality of films today is the highest in the industry's history and that men and women can obtain more for their entertainment dollar now in film theatres than anywhere else.

In line with this there would be a large-scale newspaper and billboard advertising campaign, house to house propaganda work, etc., backed up by a succession of a half-dozen or more of the best releases available in every theatre throughout the territory.

"If we can enlighten the public and make it realize that pictures today are better than ever before, on the average, our boxoffice troubles will be ended," declares Ruben.

Directs "Jane Eyre"

HOLLYWOOD—Robert Stevenson will direct "Jane Eyre" for David O. Selznick. UA will release the filmization of the Charlotte Bronte novel.

Des Moines First Run Average Is Under Par

DES MOINES—Business over the week-end apparently was nothing to write home about, despite fair weather. A little left-over snow and ice which affected local patrons not at all, but may have kept a handful of out-of-town trade away, can hardly be listed as a factor at the box-office.

Detail for week ended February 1:

(Average is 100)

Des Moines—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **The Bank Dick** (Univ) 75
Orpheum—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Dreaming Out Loud** (RKO) 110
Paramount—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ); **Honeymoon for Three** (WB) 70

LINCOLN—The count is four against the industry in the Nebraska legislature now.

Late bill arrivals into the law-mill are one asking divorcement of distributor-producer partnerships with exhibitors, and the other an assessment of five cents per square foot of showing space on all billboards, money to go for relief.

Already accounted for are two bills. The first, a so-called "luxury tax" measure puts a one cent tax on each 10 cents worth of an article, be it theatre ticket, cosmetics, cigarettes, or other non-necessities. The other is aimed at distributors, asking $1,000 annual license fee, plus $1 a reel for each one distributed in the state.

Man behind the gun on these bills is Sen. E. M. Neubauer, of Orleans, Neb., and the divorcement and distributor licensing enactments were sought by him in the 1939 session, but both folded up, without support, when argued in committee hearings. They died in 1939 without reappearing on the floor.

The billboard tax is an indirect slap, but it's understood, as in all such matters, that the tax will be passed on to consumers, a great many of whom are theatre-producer advertisers. On each annual contract for boards, this would raise the annual rental about $14 a board and become a factor to think about in outdoor advertising.

May Cost $300,000

It is conservatively estimated by showmen that, aside from the divorcement ill, the other three might easily cost the industry in one way or another, about $250,000 to $300,000 a year in Nebraska. The distributor licensing and the billboard share of this would be small, but the penny tax for each 10 cents or fraction of each ticket would mount up heavily. What the distributors and producers would lose in Nebraska via a cleavage from exhibitor operations is not available for estimate but would be large.

Hardest hit by divorcement would be the A. H. Blank-Tri-States theatres, with holdings in Omaha, Grand Island, Hastings and Fairbury, as a Paramount partner. J. H. Cooper's 50-percenting with Paramount in Lincoln would feel it, and a few scattered theatres owned by Fox-Midwest and Fox-Intermountain would also have to be sold to new owners.

This is the first year in many that the industry has had no lobbyist at the state house. In past years, Bob Livingston, of the independent Capitol, associated with County Attorney Max G. Towle, has handled the job and batted 1000 every session.

Only hope for the amusement business at this time, in a rising surge of sentiment among legislators to crack the trade and hard, is that Gov. Dwight Griswold has said he'll veto any and all attempts to saddle anybody in Nebraska with new taxes.

Optimistic Attitude Growing for Decree

DES MOINES—Both exchange men and independent exhibitors in this section seem to have a favorable and hopeful attitude regarding the consent decree.

Most of them seem to feel that the new order of five-block booking will improve the business throughout as well as the product. Although many of them were reluctant to speak for the record, off-record they say they believe the decree will give the film industry the shot-in-the-arm it needs now to combat competition from other types of entertainment, and will automatically weed out inefficient personnel, from the talent on the screen to the salesmen in the territory.

The consensus seems to be that the business as a whole has reached a point similar to that of the industry prior to the advent of sound, which provided the stimulus to bring the public back into the theatre at that time.

Cooperation on Decree Is Branton's Stand

DES MOINES—The following statement by G. Ralph Branton, general manager of Tri-States Theatre Corp., is typical of the spirit with which even exhibitors originally opposing it are greeting the consent decree:

"Now that we have the consent decree, there is absolutely no question in our minds but that we must be completely co-operative and make a genuine effort to make it work. If the decree is the answer to any of the ills of the industry, we want to give it a chance to function and prove its worth; if it is not, its failure will be as obvious as its possible success. Our job now is to do everything in our power to cooperate with the government and the film industry to observe the consent decree."

Byron Pulis, Arbitration Board Sec'y in Omaha

OMAHA—Byron E. Pulis is the full-time secretary of the arbitration board that will function for Nebraska and western Iowa. Names of the arbitrators will be announced soon, he told BOXOFFICE.

Pulis, who was formerly with the Canadian Pacific Railroad in Omaha for 11 years, is headquartered at 1015 Woodmen of the World Building. His office will be open from 9 to 5 daily and from 9 to 1 p. m. on Saturdays. Questions about the board's operation should be addressed to him.

Bandits Get $1,000

MINNEAPOLIS—The entire weekend $1,000 receipts of the Franklin Theatre, an independent neighborhood house owned by the Frank-Woempner circuit, were stolen by two armed bandits. The bandits slugged and held up Fred Berg who just had picked the money up for counting and deposit.

KANSAS CITY

GEORGE SMITH, recently appointed western division sales manager, Paramount, made an official visit to Kansas City Friday, January 31 . . . J. W. Grantham, New Baxter, Baxter Springs, Kas., is leaving on an extensive vacation, through Old Mexico.

John Egli, Hickory, St. Joseph, Mo., was on the Row, where he had not been seen for a long time. But—"everybody knows him," "nobody would ever forget him," it was said. He stopped off just to say "hello" and "goodbye" on his way to Florida and Cuba for a vacation.

Vernon Smith is a new booker at M-G-M; transferred from the Minneapolis office . . . Johnny Kloppenstein, who with his brother operates the Aladdin, Mound City, Kas., is reported recovered from an attack of the flu.

A. A. Schubart, manager of exchange operations for RKO, visited the local exchange, on his way to Dallas from a field representatives' meeting in Chicago. With him was Johnny Wangberg, formerly of the Kansas City office, now an auditor for RKO.

J. W. Shreve, manager, National Theatre Supply Co., leaves shortly for his annual business trip to New York . . . C. W. Gano, office manager, National Theatre Supply Co., called to reserve service, has left for his post of duty near Washington, D. C. He is a second lieutenant.

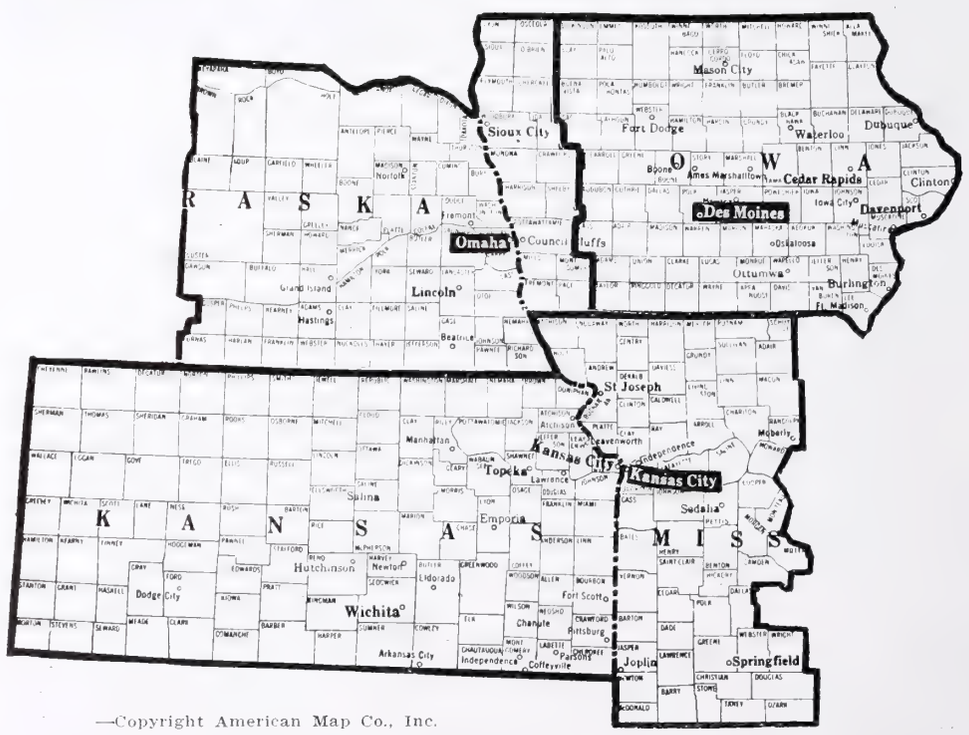
Glen W. Dickinson, remodeling the Dickinson, 50 Highway, Mission, Kas., has bought equipment from L. J. Kimbriel, Missouri Theatre Supply Co. From the same source, got sound and other equipment for the Ritz, Topeka, Kas., a colored house, which Dickinson recently bought and is remodeling.

Ray Richardson, Strand, Mt. Vernon, Mo., is sporting a new Oldsmobile; and the story is told on him that he was not aware that he had bought an "8"!

On the Row—Frank Weary, Paris, Richmond, Mo.; Bill Huston, Kansas and Crawford, Wichita, Kas.; Frank Cassil, Rialto, St. Joseph, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Ghosen, Uptown, Sedalia, Mo.; Gene Newbold, Temple, Yates Center, Kas.; Louis Griefe and son Frederick, Windsor, Windsor, Mo.; J. Ward Spielman, Gem, Baldwin, Kas.; Jim Whitted, Weston, Weston, Mo.; Hank Doering, People's, Garnett, Kas.

C. C. McCollister, Nomar, Wichita, entering the roadshow business, has taken on "Souls in Pawn" to present as he

Arbitration Districts: Des Moines, Kansas City, Omaha



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The area for Des Moines, supervised by R. Bruce Wilson from offices in the Walnut Bldg., embraces all of Iowa except for the counties of Lyon, Osceola, Sioux, O'Brien, Plymouth, Cherokee, Woodbury, Ida, Monona, Crawford, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattomie, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont and Page.

The Omaha board includes these 17 Iowa counties just mentioned, plus all Nebraska counties east of the western boundaries of the counties of Keyapaha, Brown, Blaine, Custer, Dawson, Gosper and Furnas.

The Kansas City board, located in the Waltower Bldg., under John H. Brink, takes in the whole state of Kansas and all counties in Missouri west of the eastern boundaries of Schuyler, Adair, Macon, Randolph, Howard, Cooper, Monteall, Miller, Camden, Dallas, Wright, Douglas and Ozark.

Arbitration Districts . . . Minneapolis



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The area to be served by the arbitration board in Minneapolis under the consent decree embraces the entire states of Minnesota, North Dakota and all of South Dakota except the counties of Butte, Meade, Lawrence, Pennington, Custer, Fall River, Washington and Shannon. The Minneapolis tribunal is under the direction of Sheldon M. Ostroot, the McKnight Bldg.

passes through Iowa and Nebraska with his Neon sound truck . . . Paul Hannon is booker at RKO Kansas City office, succeeding Leon Abrams who resigned last week.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Snitz (he's booker at Columbia) were reported doing well at noon February 4. She's in Menorah Hospital where a boy was born to her. Asked for an official statement, Gene said: "It's a lot easier booking pictures than having babies."

News of the death of Abe W. Riegelman spread on the Row where he had been well known. He had been salesman for 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. in southern Iowa for 14 years, his headquarters and home at Des Moines. A son, Dr. Ralph Riegelman, lives in Des Moines; one brother, Alfred, lives in Kansas City.

Catching up on the illnesses—pleasantly scarcer—C. D. Whitney, shipping clerk, National Theatre Supply Co., is reported getting along fine after his appendix operation.

"In the H. J. Griffith family"—Elmer Wald, formerly assistant at the Ritz, Chillicothe, Mo., is now that at the Kansan, Parsons, Kas., replacing Howard Stribling, who goes to the Paola, Paola, Kas., as manager and Sippi Ferguson's assistant . . . Jack Jeffrey, formerly of Paola, Kas., is assistant to John Sanders, Junction, Junction City, Kas. . . . R. V. McGinnis has taken up his duties at the Carlton, Manhattan, Kas. . . . Vernon Watkins has come from Oklahoma City to join the booking department.

W. H. and W. K. Dillon, operating the Dillon at Morehouse, Mo., announce plans

(Continued on page 48)

Draft Allied Bill Against Decree

MINNEAPOLIS—Work on drafting Northwest Allied's anti-consent decree bill is proceeding at meetings of the organization's legislative committee. Its presentation to the state legislature will await the return of President E. L. Peaslee and Harold Field, the committee chairman, from the east and south, respectively, according to announcement by Fred Strom, executive secretary.

The bill gradually is being whipped into shape with special consideration being given to the matter of constitutionality of the various provisions, Strom explains. Northwest Allied is determined that any law passed by the legislature would be surely upheld in the courts.

Clauses in the bill will provide that film companies must offer their entire season's product to exhibitors, the same as at present, instead of selling it in blocks of five accordling to consent decree provisions. The companies also would be required to grant exhibitors a minimum of 20 per cent cancellation privilege and films objectionable on moral, religious or racial grounds could be excluded. Forced buying of shorts would be prohibited, too.

Peaslee is expected back from Washington next week while Field probably will end a vacation in the south within a month. This will leave plenty of time to push the measure through the state legislature, Strom believes. Organization heads are confident the bill will become a law.

The Board Is Ready, But No Customers

MINNEAPOLIS—Although two Minneapolis independent exhibitors have announced that they're going to arbitration in quest of "relief" for product difficulties, Sheldon M. Ostroot, arbitrator for the territory, said that no complaints had been filed with him during the first three days that the consent decree provision was operative.

Ostroot has offices at 215 McKnight Building here where briefs may be filed. Thus far, he says, he has received only one inquiry—from a South Dakota exhibitor who wished to know if the arbitration for theatre owners in his state takes place in Minneapolis.

Weisfeldt Awaits Chance

In Minneapolis last week, E. J. Weisfeldt, Minnesota Theatre managing director, announced that he would resort to arbitration in an effort to obtain major product for his showhouse. All of this major product now is sewed up for the local loop by the Minnesota Amusement Co.—Mort H. Singer pool.

We'll go to the arbitration board as soon as we get properly organized," said Weisfeldt. "The illness of our house manager here has held us up in getting our case together."

Weisfeldt expressed that the Minneapolis "situation" can be "licked." The fact that the Aster, a Minnesota Amusement Company—Mort H. Singer, uses up from two to four "B" and lower classification pictures a week on double feature bills at 15c admission to 5 p. m. and 28c thereafter is what will crack the set-up here open, in his opinion.

"We don't want a lot of big 'A' pictures," explained Mr. Weisfeldt. "We'd be satisfied with a fair apportionment of the lesser major releases. But we won't stand idly by and be left entirely out in the cold."

Berger Will Seek "Rights"

Supporting the Minnesota Amusement position, however, local film men have pointed out that there is no overbuying by the circuit, that the Aster policy was established several years before the Weisfeldt interests entered the field here and that the latter were well aware of the product line-up in Minneapolis when they entered this field.

Bennie Berger is another independent exhibitor who has announced his intention to go before the arbitration board to learn if he has any "rights" at his loop sure-seater World Theatre where he has been unable to obtain major screen product. Because of his picture difficulties he says he now is forced to use reissues at the World. Berger, however, is vacationing now in Florida and the start of his case undoubtedly will await his return to Minneapolis.

The members of the arbitration board along with Mr. Ostroot will be chosen from a list of 25 Minneapolis business men.

Adapting Own Original

HOLLYWOOD—Barre Lyndon is adapting "Sundown," his own original, for Walter Wanger.

DES MOINES

FLEA CIRCUS: Howard and Hazel Dunn proudly announce that Patty can now sit up, shake hands, and bounce a balloon on her nose six times without missing—and she's only six months old! These wire-haired terriers must be a smart-alec breed . . . Bill Lansburg thinks he ought to be exempted so he can support his wire-haired pup, Tex, but if Tex is as smart as Bill says, Tex ought to be supporting Bill.

The next time the Stan Mayers and the Harry Hiersteiners come to the Colonade a-calling, there's gonna be trouble if they don't ring the Clayton buzzer . . . the A. H. Blanks are in Hollywood, Florida, again . . . they'll be back in about three weeks . . . Next time you're in Art Stolte's office up at Tri-States, take a look at those very artistic pix hanging on the south wall . . . they show some Canadian spots on the lake, as well as Art (in Silhouette) and an aquaplane.

Loretta Morris is the Tri-States tello-girl whose name always slips our mind . . . this time we wrote it down on paper and when we got home couldn't figure out for two hours who it was . . . Loretta is the girl who says she usta-was-but-isn't-anymore. DD was out getting her hair done. Harry Holdsberg was so engrossed in a note he was reading that he missed a couple of dirty cracks about himself . . . now he'll never know.

The gent sitting behind us at the Des Moines who warned us against talking in the theatre the other night was Chuck Iles . . . Chuck was showing the little woman a good time by taking her to the pictures . . . Mrs. Chuck says the McKinneys will be back home from their southern exposure by the time you read this.

Paul Shadford, Des Moines Theatre projectionist, can take a great big bow for his little gel, Virginia, who's new over at Central States . . . she seems to be a bright child and worthy to take Phyllis Cunningham's place at the Central States greetin' desk . . . Phyllis has been moved back into the bull pen . . . a dangerous place to be, Phyllis, with that pretty red hair. Edith Cohen, the pretty little brunette who used to smile at the customers who came in to see Stan Mayer at Fox, is now putting Ray Blank's syllables down on paper.

Paul Walsh got settled back in DM off the road just in time. February 4 a little boy with a red face and needing a suit of clothes came to live with the Walshes . . . Cannonball Lee tells us they call him that because he pitched a nifty game of ball for the film boys once . . . and we always thought it had something to do with that deserted look on the top of his head.

When Harry Warren left the Balaban meeting in Chicago, January 24, he went on to Cuba where he seems to be cruising around a bit . . . he's going to Panama and then home via New Orleans . . . Iola Lehman and Dora Middlesworth just hauled in from California where they are said to have spent a little time with the glamour boys . . . incidentally, one of the first cracks BOXOFFICE made when she started handling this column several years ago, seems to be sticking in a few craws even yet . . . It seems that the Central States force still resent our statement that Tri-States girls are the prettiest . . . sorry, lassies, but we've taken a second look and while you're certainly no slouches, them Tri-States babies got class!

Tri-States is trying it again—a first run at a suburban house . . . This time it's "Night Train," a British picture without a name to sell it, but one that from our screening room seat made "Foreign Correspondent" a panty-waist. The public allegedly has been waiting with bated breath for the appearance this weekend of the "Hard-Boiled Canary" kidlets, Susanna Foster and Dolly Loehr . . . But the big interest in the film and news biz is the fact that the popular Cliff Lewis, ex-publicity chief for Paramount, will be acting as herdsman.

Emil Franke made the 300-odd DM Smiths conscious of their distinction by getting 20 couples to review "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" for the *R&T* . . . Also on the Orpheum sector—Clark Allen is in the market for a mathematics textbook . . . Tom Gorman neglected to look us up last time he was in . . . If he does that again we're gonna publish the picture of the Orpheum now lying dormant on our desk . . . It was taken when some of the lights weren't working and it reads, politely: "PHEU."

Jean Post says that bird rumor isn't true, and we're inclined to think that Jean's in a position to know . . . Bert Thomas says he got that callous on the end of his forefinger from booking Columbia pix . . . other versions are rampant . . . Did we tell you that Evelyn Rosen is back in town as Max Facter's secretary at Pioneer? . . . Mel Goodman's Louella is convalescing with the flu.

Universal had a party Friday up at Lou Levy's apartment to say au revoir to Loretta Dieling (transferred to Univ. in Washington, D. C.) and bonjour to Jerry Slutzky, new booker from Indianapolis . . . Loretta received one of those cute little apartment irons . . . Cleo Current will

LINCOLN

THAT man who ran with $5 in his hand to the courthouse, and arrived breathlessly at the motor vehicle license department window just as it was being closed, January 31, was Bob Huffman. He waits and worries everybody until the very last minute of the last legal day his old auto plates can be used.

The film business now refers to former celluloid salesmen Hymie Novitsky and Joe Rosenberg as the "princes of perfume." They're busy putting the Connie Bennett line in Iowa and Nebraska theatres. Their motto: "If your business smells—it might as well smell GOOD."

Bob Livingston, of the Capitol Theatre and the capitol building, got the surprise of his life at the latter when he was discussing the Sen. E. M. Neubauer bill which asks annual distributor licensing at $1,000, and $1 a reel tax on distributed film. He thought it was due to fold by the wayside as it had in 1939, but finds a big number of the legislators this time believing it has merit.

Foresight: When Bob Huffman hired Roy Anderson around the theatres as an usher and handyman, the full import was not realized until a few days ago. Anderson, though young, is a golf pro in the summer time, and Huffman, although he doesn't look it, would rather play golf than eat.

It appears that Sonja Henie's Nebraska appearance in Omaha will find her previewing what's apt to happen shortly to her husband. Ft. Crook's 3rd Infantry battalion of some 1,400 men is going to be reviewed by her. If his low draft number hasn't been called yet, her husband Dan Topping, will be with her on the reviewing stand with post commander Lt. Col. K. M. Still. Jack Burnett, her press agent, set it with the army.

Sympathetic reaction: Did you know that Howard Federer, in Lincoln, and Hedy Lamarr, in Hollywood, came down with the flu the same day?

Stork stuff: Chuck Miller, program director of KFAB-KFOR, is due for papahood in April . . . R. H. Pauley, who runs the Turnpike Casino, local dancery, and is very much a friend of Theatrerow, drew a brand new daughter, Linda Lea, a 6-pounder, the other day. Well aware of BOXOFFICE's service, he even called the Lincoln correspondent during the waiting period and asked if she'd come to the hospital and keep him company as he paced the corridor . . . Leland Mischnick, who used to be on theatre jobs here, now in Omaha, has a tough time beating down the rumors started by Sol Yeager that he's facing fatherhood again.

Salute to Shiller: Now that the Grand Island Independent *has bought radio station KMMJ there, Harry Shiller, the theatreman, will find his newspaper friendships won't do him any harm . . . From Hollywood: When Mrs. Barney Oldfield started her radio broadcast series about pictures for the Lincoln Theatres Corp., Mary Anderson, who remembered a conversation two weeks earlier when the premiere of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" was on, sent a wire of best wishes.*

Rumor: Eddie Shafton, the Omaha Variety clubber, is fronting for gals, 30 and over, trying to get them army hostess jobs. In what department of the Variety Club's many enterprises does that fall?

replace Loretta. Jerry's young son is now out of the hospital and the Slutzky furniture has arrived in DM and been deposited at 1172 Harding Road.

You didn't know that Izzie Sokoloff who handles AAI and NSA for Lou Patz in Omaha is our DM Carl Sokoloff's brother, either, did you? Bob Fridley was working hard and all alone the other eve when we stopped up at National Screen the other eve . . . That pretty little blonde with Jean Post at the West End was his wife . . . The Kappler quads (Paul, Bill, Frances, Dick) were reduced to triplets the night we saw them, because Dick (who isn't married) was confined at home with marital trouble!

Kennie Weldon is now a student booker at Metro, they tell us . . . Bud Moran went to Davenport February 4; Mel Evidon went February 5; say, what is this? Get Jack Kennedy to tell you about the story of the little brown barrel he brought from Mexico . . . and we recommend the story with interpolations by Lois. Joe Garrison was in from Kaycee and Otto Siegal dropped around from Omaha. Did you ever lamp that red and green suit of Elmer Tilton's? Did you know that there's a minister's wife on the Row? She's Dolores Maine, and she works for Lou Patz at National Screen . . . Dolores took Grace Simons' job when Grace stepped over into the big shoes Harry Peter Franz vacated.

Spot for Connie Boswell

HOLLYWOOD—Connie Boswell has been signed for a singing spot in Paramount's "Kiss the Boys Goodbye."

Projectionist Involved in Minny Theatre Robbery

MINNEAPOLIS—Louis Cowan, Chateau Theatre projectionist, was apprehended by the police and, according to them, confessed that he was the "finger man" and one of the three participants involved in the $800 robbery of the weekend receipts of the Chateau and Franklin theatres, independent neighborhood houses.

The two theatres are part of the W. R. Frank circuit. Fred Berg, an accountant, collects their receipts. After picking up the money from the two boxoffices on January 13, he was forced at the point of a gun into an alley and slugged by the two men who fled with the money.

A tip to the police led to the arrest of a 23-year-old bandit who incriminated Cowan, who allegedly admitted he had put the "finger" on Berg and, while two of the trio attacked Berg, sat in the car in which the getaway was made.

Omaha Trade Is Allen's Guest at 'Smith' Preview

OMAHA—About 60 exhibitors and newspapermen from Omaha and the surrounding territory were guests of C. W. (Ching) Allen, RKO branch manager, at a sneak preview of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the Brandeis. It was the first event of its kind held at the Brandeis since it joined the Singer circuit seven years ago.

Arrangements were completed by Bill Scholl, RKO press agent, and Allen. A cocktail party at one of the local hotels followed the preview.

Attractive Program Outlined by Variety

KANSAS CITY—The new administration of the Variety Club of Kansas City, announced recently, got under way promptly. Jerry Zigmond, chief barker, with the board of directors and chairmen of committees, held a successful session the other day, the outcome of which was a fine program, including some changes from the routine of the past few years. For one thing, four big affairs will be distributed through the year. First will come an event in the club rooms, around the first of March. Then comes the notable outdoor event, latter part of June: the "Days of '49," with the golf tournament and picnic. Advanced to October from late November when it has usually been held, will be the film ball. Then, just before Christmas, the bowling tournament.

Social Schedule

The social schedule provides for a resumption of parties in the club rooms every other Friday, for members, their families and guests.

Regular business meetings, evenings, with dinner, are noted for the first Monday of each month. On some other Mondays, one a month if not more, there will be luncheon meetings, with speakers. The evening monthly dinner meetings will be for members only; the public is to be welcomed to the luncheon affairs.

SKY DEVILS and SCARFACE

A DOUBLE BILL BOX-OFFICE SENSATION

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AND OUTGROSSING MANY NEW FIRST RUN PROGRAMS



This Is a Real Bet — Don't Pass It Up

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Majestic Pictures - - - - - Kansas City
Elliott Film Co. - - - - - - Minneapolis
Variety Pictures - - - - - - St. Louis

Iowa Not Untouched By Defense Outlay

DES MOINES—Though business in general, including film exhibitors, has been lamenting the failure of the national defense program to hit Iowa with the same force it has some other sectors, contract statistics show the state is not entirely devoid of benefits.

Biggest boom as a result of Uncle Sam's spending is expected at Burlington where a shell loading plant is being built. A total of $44,273,384 is being spent there, and the city of 26,000 is expected to have a population of 40,000 within a few months.

Central States, with three houses under supervision of L. J. Wegener in the town, has a toe-hold on the theatre situation in what looks like a boom center.

Throughout the rest of the state, defense orders total $30,432,311. These range from orders for machine-tooled parts for machine gun units to helmet linings, canvas covers for scabbards and even nozzles for gasoline cans.

Transfer of the army's 7th Corps area training camp from Lineville, Ia., to Rolla, Mo., doesn't leave Iowa entirely out of the picture. Two Des Moines firms have combined forces to fill an order for heating ducts to be used in the camp's heating system.

Des Moines firms currently have government defense contracts totaling more than $750,000, with more expected.

You Can Put Off Your Creditors;
You Can Wear Last Year's Suit—
But you CAN'T PUT MONEY IN THE BANK
Without PROFITS
Help Yourself to Profits by Using
SUPERB SOUTH AMERICAN CORN
and
FLAV-O-NUT SEASONING
Exclusive With
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Kansas City, Mo.
Prices Are Going Up!

Must Pay Federal Tax On Student Tickets

MINNEAPOLIS—It's settled finally and probably permanently that the territory's exhibitors must collect a three-cent admission tax on special student 20-cent admissions. The U. S. bureau of internal revenue has disregarded the exhibitors' protests in making the ruling. Instructions to collect the tax have gone out from Northwest Allied here, following a conference in Washington between President E. L. Peaslee and department heads.

A large number of theatres in the territory are affected by the ruling and exhiitors fear they'll suffer at the boxoffice. The houses in question charge the 20-cent admission, instead of the regular 28-cent price, for young people between 12 and 18 who aren't eligible for the kiddies' dime admissions. It is felt that many of these young people, who attend school or are otherwise unemployed, can't afford the 28-cent adult price and the reduced price bridges the gap between children and adults.

It is held by the internal revenue department that the "student" admissions are actually "reduced" adult admissions and, therefore, taxable in the same amount as the adult 25-cent tickets.

A number of exceptions to the "reduced admissions" tax are specified in the ruling. These include bona fide employes of the management, municipal officers on official business, a child under the age of 12 and other persons whose admission to the place is required for the performance of some duty. Also, if there's a 20-cent section of seats apart and separate from the 25-cent section and such section is available to adults, too.

Sets Five Screenings in Two Weeks for "Liberty"

LINCOLN—Two screenings of "Land of Liberty" one week, and three the next, was Gabe Yorke's record in Nebraska. First two were in Omaha and Lincoln, and he followed up in Grand Island, Hastings and Columbus. He now starts west.

Best turnout for the all-industry flicker, for which, as a Hays office representative, he's fronting, was in Lincoln.



KAYCEE

(Continued from page 45)

for a modern theatre building on a lot purchased in Benton, Mo. The first theatre for colored people, in Wichita, to seat 500, is being planned.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Lowe, theatre operators of Sterling, Kas., are moving to Lebanon, Mo., where they are building a theatre . . . The Isis, Lucas, Kas., has announced "no more free shows." . . . T. C. Carter, manager of the Ellinwood, Ellinwood, Kas., is to manage the Pix at St. John and assist with the Weber chain.

At the Fox Midwest offices, Alice Leibel, secretary to Harry McClure, district manager of Kansas theatres, resigned. To her former position goes Jane Moulton, from the office of Lucius Pope, purchasing agent. To be secretary to Mr. Pope, goes Barbara Clark, from the Plaza, where she was secretary to Jim Long, manager.

Bob Hall, assistant manager of the Madrid, having had training, has been called to flying service at Pensacola, Fla. His brother, James Hall, is assistant manager at the Waldo.

On the Row—Bob Martin, Cozy, Chetopa, Kas.; Marvin Banks, Lee, Chetopa, Kas.; Oliver Williams, Civic, Brookfield, Mo.; E. O. Briles, Lyric, Emporia, Kas.; Mrs. K. M. Blair, Blair, Smith Center, and Blair, Belleville, Kas.; Ray Cook, Missouri, Maryville, Mo.; Glenn Klock, Klock, Neodesha, Kas.; F. P. Ward, Hardtner, Hardtner, Kas.; Elmer Bills, Brunswick, Salisbury, Glasgow and Huntsville, Mo.; M. B. Pressley, Globe, Savannah, Mo.; J. Ledoux, Arcadia, Holton, Kas.; R. O. Robinson, Grant City, Grant City, Mo.

The highlighted news around the H. J. Griffith offices is the arrival, January 23, of a son for the Irwin W. Tuckers—so now there is a third generation of this family about to enter the show business. Mr. Tucker is manager of the H. J. Griffith Fayette at Fayette, Mo.

Praise Rose Keane in "As You Desire Me"

KANSAS CITY—"As You Desire Me," the Resident Theatre's production of Luigi Pirandello's play, is running a second week in its performance here which has attracted capacity crowds. Rose Keane, guest star and former Kansas City girl, is accredited as the reason for the play's exceptional success.

Of her performance Landon Laird, drama critic of the Kansas City *Star*, said:

"It is a pity that Rose Keane comes back to Kansas City so seldom to display her talents. Her undeniable acting ability has been known to this city since the days when she played 'The Deluge' and other attractions for the Kansas City Theatre. In New York she has developed from a better-than-average 'home talent' player into a person who would fit into a Theatre Guild production. Miss Keane never looked so attractive as she does now, and we never have seen her play a part so well. She makes 'As You Desire Me' a success by her own efforts."

MINNEAPOLIS

FELIX JENKINS, 20th-Fox legal department head, here for a consent decree confab with the staff . . . Bill Grant, Warner city salesman, getting used to city ways again after a two-week trip into South Dakota . . . Lyceum, legit roadshow house, using Swedish films weekends again . . . Irving Gillman putting vaudeville into his Gayety three nights a week . . . Allen Usher, Paramount's new district manager, up from Chicago for his first visit with Ben Blotcky.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Peter Campbell, Val Halla, N. D.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; Ted Bolnick, La Crosse, Minn., and Paul Perizzo, Blue Earth, Minn. . . . Charlie Perizzo, who used to run a theatre in this state, but who now owns a showhouse in California, back for a visit . . . The Warner Club held a sleighride party . . . Two flu victims, J. McFarland and Joe Powers, National Screen executives, back on the job again.

Tom Nolan, RKO home office auditor, in town . . . Arch Zacherl, veteran Universal salesman, and Gilbert Nathanson, Republic branch manager, visited Iron Range accounts . . . Dorothy Piper, Warner stenographer, married . . . Walt Disney representatives in town to look over Alvin Theatre for "Fantasia," but haven't closed for house yet . . . "Nickey" Goldhammer, RKO district manager, visited Omaha and Des Moines exchanges . . . Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, spent a week in Des Moines.

Lowell Kaplan, Welworth circuit booker, recovered from flu and back on the job . . . 20th-Fox held invitation screening of "Western Union" . . . "Kelly" Evidon, Warner advertising and accessories department head, went to Chicago to bring his son home . . . Fay Dressell, RKO branch manager, laid up a couple of days by the flu . . . "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, and the wife have set March 22 as the date of their daughter's wedding.

Universal office here climbing in the Bill Scully anniversary sales drive. It's now in seventh place nationally . . . After 19 years with the company, Alta Johnson has resigned as RKO cashier to devote herself to domestic duties . . . Elynor Foley resigning from Paramount to become a bride. She and her husband will make their home in Jamaica . . . M-G-M tossed a farewell party for Booker Verne Smith who has been transferred to Kansas City as head booker.

Bob Hazleton resigned from the Harry Dickerman circuit to join the M-G-M accounting department . . . Columbia's "This Thing Called Love" spotted for the State February 14 . . . Phil Dunas, Columbia district manager, in from Chicago . . . Norman Pyle, M-G-M exploiteer, landed lots of publicity for "Land of Liberty" in two state capitals, St. Paul and Bismarck, N. D. . . . LeRoy J. Miller, Universal branch manager, visited northern Minnesota accounts . . . Looks as though Mickey Coen, M-G-M salesman, has found the fountain of youth. His choppers are winning much admiration.

M-G-M exchange entertained a team in the ABC national bowling tournament, to be held in the Twin Cities . . . Joe Numero, theatre seat manufacturer, vacationing in Florida . . . Mother of Charlie Rubenstein, independent circuit owner, to Florida on a pleasure jaunt . . . Al Peretz of Alexander Film company, in from Chicago . . . Abe Kaplan, independent circuit owner, underwent a minor operation . . . Suzanne Larson, youthful Minneapolis singing star, to appear at the Orpheum February 10-12 in conjunction with her new picture, "Hardboiled Canary."

Word from Florida is to the effect that the Twin City Variety Club's two patients there, W. A. Steffes and Theodore Hays, are getting along nicely . . . E. J. Weisfeldt, Minnesota Theatre managing director, in from Milwaukee to give the local situation the once-over.

Film on Scandinavian War

DES MOINES—Sound motion pictures of war in the Scandinavian countries were shown recently at the Des Moines Gospel Temple. The Rev. Jens Petersen of Oslo, Norway, brought the film here under auspices of the Des Moines Scandinavian churches.

Bad Weather Keeps None From 'GWTW'

KANSAS CITY—"Gone With the Wind," among its other records, may have set a new sort here in its first week. Saturday, January 25, was the second day of this engagement. The weather prediction was "snow and colder." The day turned out to be one of the worst of the year for traffic, because of snow and slush. But—shortly after 8 a. m. Manager John McManus noticing the fast increasing line, put two cashiers at the windows. There were two cashiers at all times selling tickets, from 8:17 a. m. until 6 p. m., and they worked fast. The continuance of this stream of people after noon was the more striking in that the snow made motoring and walking difficult, and reports of traffic accidents multiplied. Evidently those who were eager to see the picture did not give any thought to whether or not they would have trouble getting home.

There were numerous instances reported of people who had seen it a year ago, going this time too.

Pilots "Lewis and Clark"

HOLLYWOOD—Kenneth Macgowan will produce "Lewis and Clark," story of the pioneers of the northwest, for 20th-Fox. Randolph Scott and Dean Jagger will top the cast.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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.....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn— By KEN and RENE CLAYTON

BUD's the boss at New Hampton, now. Since Harry Hermann went back to Warner's and film peddling and Central States partnered into his Fireman's Hall at New Hampton, Bud's blossomed into a manager—yeah, Mrs. Harry Hermann's running the show.

Faye West was scheduled to be met at the airport by Dapper Don Tuesday noon . . . The Wests started the year right with a western trip. Don had to return to his Central States chores after a couple of weeks, but Faye used up another fortnight of winter before winging back to her West Des Moines Lyric.

Traveling around is another travel rumor. This time it's M. L. Dickson whose Colonial and Temple at Mt. Pleasant are operating so smoothly that M. L. is looking up timetables to California.

Renewed activity at the statehouse brings John R. Schales, the big legislature man from the Tripoli Theatre at Tripoli, in to visit pals along the DM Row.

Certainly we ducked when we heard Charlie Ricker was hitting the exchanges. The Iowa Theatre exhib from Buffalo Center used to fly the mail and he can still show you a slow roll if you're hungry . . . Our student pilot permits don't even allow us to tip our hats to guys like that.

The sailfish can sail again. Life is in tune for the tuna. The bars are down for the barracuda. Why? Joe's back!

Ike Walton, alias City Manager Gerbrach of the Central States houses in Ames, hove in from the Gulf stream with tall tales (you've been reading 'em) but no fish. Four of the piscatorial tribesmen are being stuffed and mounted down in Florida, though, and when they arrive, don't fail to stop in at Joe's office in the Collegian Theatre. You'll see finwavers prettier than the moonbeams dancing on Biscayne Bay, and bigger than the stories they inspired.

Joe visited his home office in Des Moines Monday, happy as the lark from which he'd just returned, but he confessed to & Co. sotto voce that marlin (or the lack of them) marred his trip. Don't be surprised if he corrects that situation off the west coast of Mexico next summer.

No matter how fast you whiz through Cresco, you can't miss the new marquee F. C. Ingram hooked to his Cresco Theatre . . . But you have to stop in Monona and go inside the Plaza to note how Don Wolf has clarified visibility there. No more zero-zero for him.

Another remodeler is Lee Henry, who's face-lifting his Stuart Theatre at Stuart . . . Lee was around Tuesday to inform the world he'd have the job done by Easter which is—lessee—April (gosh) 13!

It was the Washington Theatre at Davenport, but now it's the Time. It was the property of Harry Savereide but now it belongs to Jack Meyer. It was open, but now it's closed—for remodeling. And it will be reopened about March 1—with SRO business, Jack and Harry hoped during a DM trip last week.

We only hope Mike stands pat—on that invitation to stop and see him at Anita . . . We'll be out sometime to gobble popcorn and bandy words with as much of a clatter as Brother Don can raise with a can of film in front of your Anita house at 1 a. m., Mr. Roth.

If we hadn't resolved not to mention Ed Mason of the Osage Theatre in Osage this issue, we'd tell you his story about starting a traffic jam in Des Moines with a motor boat. But if we mention Ed too much, everybody'll start thinking we've got a grudge against him. (Editor's note: Well?)

Steer Clear of Fight for Minnesota Product

MINNEAPOLIS—The stage employes' union had nothing to do with the action of the Central Labor Union, the central body of all American Federation of Labor unions here, in going on record to help the 4,000-seat independently operated Minnesota Theatre obtain major film product. William Donnelly, the stage employes' business agent, says he wasn't present at the meeting and that his union is "neutral" in the fight over pictures and not taking sides.

The Minnesota allegedly isn't able to buy major releases because practically all of them are tied up by the Minnesota Amusement and Mort H. Singer pool.

In its resolution, the Central Labor Union asked for "an investigation by the authorities" of alleged "unfair trade practices." There also was a proposal for a mass meeting at the Auditorium to bring the matter forcibly to the attention of the proper authorities.

Ask Cooperation on Price Time Shift

MINNEAPOLIS—S. G. Lebedoff has been named chairman of a Northwest Allied committee to call upon the independently operated Minnesota to try to persuade that showhouse to "cooperate" in the matter of a uniform time for changing from matinee to night prices.

The Minnesota upset the applecart here by extending matinee prices to 6 p. m. in the face of the fact that for the past number of years there has been an unwritten agreement downtown and in the neighborhoods to change from the afternoon to evening scale one hour earlier, or 5 p. m. All houses have been living up to that unwritten agreement.

It is hoped that the Minnesota Amusement Co. can be made to see that it is disrupting the local situation and can be made to see the light, explains Lebedoff.

OMAHA

A SALUTE to Walt Bradley, Moon, Neligh, Neb., who held a President's Birthday Show at his theatre for the benefit of crippled children. Tickets sold for 50 cents each and every cent will go to charity. Walt dug down in his pocket and paid all operating expenses of the theatre, including film rental, himself. Walt's son is now at the hospital at Warm Springs, Ga.

Flash! Bill Youngclaus, well-known Nebraska exhibitor, and Mrs. Youngclaus are infanticipating. We're told they want a boy and if it is a boy they'll name him "Eddie." That's a tip, Bill, as to the source of this story! . . . Charlie Prokop, former exhibitor at Wahoo, Neb., and one of the veterans in the business, has been having heart trouble but is much improved, we're glad to report . . . Nate Bragg has closed the theatre at Guide Rock, Neb.

Phil Lannon, exhibitor at West Point, Neb., gets this week's honor award for the best gag. Phil closed his Nebraska Theatre for two months, January and February. The sign on the front reads, "The Dark Secret, with no light, no heat, no comedy, no drama. A two-month engagement" . . . Oscar Johnson will open his new Oil City at Falls City, Neb., on February 21 and a lot of filmites are expected to attend.

Hymie Novitsky, owner of the Filmrow cafe known as Hayes Coffee Shop, won't listen to his own advice. For days he cautioned exhibitors and filmites about jaywalking across the street to the Loyal Hotel, because of a current traffic drive. "Walk around to the intersection," says Hymie. In a hurry one day to get to the hotel barber shop, Hymie jaywalked. It cost him a $2.50 *fine!*

Now that Gene Blazer's home has been taken apart and put back together, the next thing on the Omaha Variety Club's social calendar is a Valentine Party on February 16, to be held at the club rooms. Last week's party was a huge success. Out-of-town guests included Mrs. Georgia Rasley, exhibitor at O'Neill, Neb., and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Shire from Lincoln . . . Harold Schoonover, Aurora, Neb., was on Davenport Street.

John Metzger, exhibitor at Beaver City, Neb., has been reappointed chairman of the county fair board. The event has always been a big affair under Exhibitor Metzger's direction . . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thomas, exhibitors and apple-growers at Brownville, Neb., have left for six weeks on the west coast . . . Ike Rubin, Paramount peddler, had a birthday last week.

Mrs. Henry Howes, formerly Esther Anderson, came to Omaha the day after Charlie Williams was stricken and stayed until after the funeral. She worked for Charlie when the MPTO of Nebraska and western Iowa had an office here and later worked in the RKO exchange. Now she lives in Harrisonville, Mo. . . . Sam Burrus, Crete, Neb.; R. W. Brown, Neola, Ia., and Howard Brookings, Avoca, Ia., were among exhibitors in Omaha for the Williams funeral.

Boom Business Still Holds in Cleveland

CLEVELAND—Boom times have hit the local first runs since the beginning of the year, but this past week was the biggest since 1941 made its bow. Kay Kyser at the RKO Palace and "GWTW" in its second week at Loew's State, scrambled for top honors, with "Kitty Foyle" in its third week and "This Thing Called Love" making enviable showings. Kay Kyser didn't quite hit the record he established two years ago at the Palace, but he had 'em coming in in droves. Long boxoffice lines continued for a second week at Loew's State where "GWTW" continued to do sensational business and continued in first place throughout the country. It moves to the Stillman for a third consecutive week downtown at popular prices.

Weather was average for winter, with some snow. Hanna Theatre drew only moderate attendance for "Ladies in Retirement" starring Flora Robson and Philip Merivale. Special month-end department store sales brought hordes of people to the shopping centers, to the profit of the theatres.

Detail for week ending January 31:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 150
This picture has played 3½ weeks downtown. First 11 days at the Hippodrome and the rest of the time at the Allen.
Hippodrome—**This Thing Called Love** (Col)....125
It moves over to the Allen for a second week.
Palace—**Play Girl** (RKO) 215
Stage: Kay Kyser and his crew drew the business. Two years ago he established the house record.
State—**GWTW** (M-G-M) 155
Second week at this theatre and moving over to the Stillman for a third.
Stillman—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M)..... 90
Circle—**The Baker's Wife** (Foreign).....150
Holding it a second week.

Cincinnati First Runs KO'd by Weather

CINCINNATI—Sleet, ice and bad weather over the weekend proved the knockout for the Queen City shows, and Saturday and Sunday business was at its lowest. Improved conditions during the week didn't help business which continued to drag. The new week opened with some improvement and better weather promises a return of good boxoffice. The holdovers managed a better showing than the new features.

Detail for week ending January 31:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Arizona** (Col) 85
Moved to Capitol for second week.
Capitol—**Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 2nd wk..... 85
Grand—**Road Show** (UA) 50
Keith's—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 2nd wk., held over 120
Lyric—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..... 70
Palace—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 85
Shifted to Keith's for second week.
Shubert—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M), plus stage show 90

Pittsburgh First Run Crown to "GWTW"

PITTSBURGH—Pittsburgh's David O. Selnick's epic "Gone With the Wind," in its "popular priced" engagement here, after being successfully road-showed for ten weeks a year ago in the Warner, easily led the field here where it was exhibited four times daily in Loew's Penn. Despite bitter winter weather, thousands of theatregoers stood for hours awaiting entrance, and a Penn Avenue exit was used for admittance at the "breaks" of the show. "GWTW" brought additional business to other theatres too when many of those who could not be accommodated turned toward a different show shop. It was held over, of course, and was then booked to be moved over to the Warner. Columbia's "This Thing Called Love," which won a grand newspaper "nod" for adults, turned in one of the best grosses in the history of the Senator. "Thief of Bagdad" made a good showing in the Warner after a successful engagement in Loew's Penn, and was then moved over to the Ritz. Singer's Midgets of 1941 on the stage of the Stanley and "You'll Find Out" on the screen was under average, and Universal's "Invisible Woman" and the same company's "Where Did You Get That Girl" fared badly at the Fulton.

Detail for week ending January 17:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Charter Pilot** (20th-Fox); **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col) 100
Fulton—**Invisible Woman** (Univ); **Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ) 75
Penn—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....210
Ritz—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), 3rd d. t. wk.....110
Senator—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....180
Stanley—**You'll Find Out** (RKO); Singer's Midgets on stage 90
Warner—**The Thief of Bagdad** (UA), 2nd d. t. wk. 120

Holdovers Do Better Than Newcomers in Detroit

DETROIT—Local business downtown continued in the doldrums, as the flu took a heavier toll of Detroiters over the past week. Theatres have begun to be heavily hit, after discounting the earlier drops in attendance.

Lack of strong new attractions on first run screens was one important factor, with a fair number of pictures holding over, but little new that could draw the cash customers in paying quantities. Managers generally have come to agree that a good b. o. picture is essential, regardless of weather or health conditions, and expect the continuing low grosses when they are not available. The holdover films, incidentally, seemed to be drawing the best trade.

Detail for week ending January 30:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Arizona** (Col), 2nd wk., after 8 days at the Fox; **Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ) 100
Cinema—**He, the Virgin Man** (SR); **Misbehaving Husbands** (PRC) 70
Fox—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox); **Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox) 90
Michigan—**Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (WB); **Come Live With Me** (M-G-M) 95
Palms-State—**Flight Command** (M-G-M), after wk. at the Michigan; **Keeping Company** (M-G-M), after wk. at the Michigan..... 85
United Artists—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); **Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 3rd wk.....110

Army Unit Set

DETROIT—A 1,000-seat theatre, erected by the Army at Fort Custer near Battle Creek, will shortly be ready to open.

3 Bills Affecting Trade Pending in Michigan

By H. F. REVES

DETROIT—Theatres will be adversely affected by at least three bills now before the legislature, a checkup indicates. None of the bills introduced is directed primarily at theatres or the amusement industry, but several, general in intent, will have important effects on theatres if passed.

First of these is House Bill No. 15, which would require a state license for contracting or journeymen electricians, and which provides that "any work involved in servicing, repairing, etc., of theatrical equipment, such as motion picture projection equipment, stereopticans, floodlights, spotlights, and other stage equipment" must be done or supervised by a contractor or operating engineer licensed under the act. Operators would have to become licensed electricians under the proposed amendment, while emergency repairs, such as on a burned-out transformer, would have to be made by a regular contracting electrician, and the operator would have to close the show in such a case instead of making his own repairs as at present.

This bill, aimed primarily to cover the general electrical field, is not needed in theatres, and an amendment completely excluding theatres is proposed by the operators' union and by exhibitor representatives, led by Cooperative Theatres of Michigan.

Senate Bill 44 proposes a $16-a-week minimum compensation for women and girls wherever employed, and makes no provision for part-time workers.

Senate Bill 59 would allow Bingo games to be conducted by churches and veterans and fraternal organizations.

Crowding First Runs, But Snub Subsequents

CLEVELAND—Local exhibitors want to know why first-run houses are drawing such big attendance with corresponding rise in grosses, while subsequent runs report the bottom has dropped out of their business.

The flu epidemic has no doubt hit outlying houses harder than downtowns because children go to neighborhood houses almost exclusively.

Some in local theatre circles also point out thousands of re-employed people are now attending downtown houses for the first time in many years and deserting the neighborhoods which they have been patronizing because of the lower admission scales.

Named for F. D. R.

PITTSBURGH—January 30, which happens to be President Roosevelt's natal day, was a great day for Jack Adams, doorman at the Roosevelt Theatre here. For on that day he became the father of a 7½ pound boy. The new arrival has appropriately been named F. D. R. John Adams jr.

Organize in Detroit to Meet Local Problems

DETROIT—A new exhibitor organization is taking shape here as Theatre Owners, Inc., after several weeks of quiet preparatory work. The new body now includes most of the larger circuits and exhibitors of the city including practically all first and second run houses.

The purpose of the organization is to provide local exhibitors with one central meeting place from which to approach common problems. Under the setup, exhibitors will be able to meet and go over any local problems as they arise.

"It will be a common organization representing all theatre operators in Detroit in all matters affecting the industry as a whole," a spokesman for the new body says. "The problems of individual theatres or circuits will not be considered in any case, but only those problems which affect all theatres equally."

Membership will be restricted to theatres within Detroit. Suburban houses of member organizations will not be represented. Thus, it is pointed out, the organization will be solely engaged with local problems.

Civic matters in which the trade participates, such as charity drives, will also be handled through the organization.

William Henry Gallagher, prominent Detroit attorney, has been named president, and Ray Meurer, attorney for UDT, is executive secretary of the body.

Arbitration Board Set in Auto City

DETROIT—Detroit's arbitration system under the consent decree officially got under way on Saturday, with opening of offices at 861-863 Penobscot Building by I. H. Yackness, clerk of the local tribunal. Offices were temporarily across the hall for the first two or three days while redecorating was in progress.

The setup provides a reception room where a secretary will be stationed, private office for the clerk, and a commodious hearing room which will have a large table with chairs for those immediately concerned in the case being heard, together with folding chairs for spectators. It is planned to have accommodations for about 50 persons.

Yackness had received no complaints or indications of intention to file any up to Tuesday. He states the office is ready to handle all complaints and that procedure is outlined in the rules of arbitration supplementary to the consent decree which may be secured in pamphlet form from the tribunal office. (This was also published in BOXOFFICE, Nov. 30, 1940). Telephone number of the tribunal office is Cherry 6560.

Hearing in Detroit on Proposed Sign Law

DETROIT—A new hearing on Detroit's projected sign ordinance affecting theatres was set for Thursday by the city council. The projected ordinance would ban red flashing or intermittent signs unless they are some 22 feet above sidewalk level. The city now has a new traffic engineer, and his views on the situation are expected to be presented at the hearing.

Johnny Finley to Buffalo

WHEELING, W. VA.—Johnny Finley has been moved to Buffalo from the Vic here, to manage a neighborhood house.

Impractical to Buy As Unit—Buermele

DETROIT—Buying as a unit under the consent decree might work an injustice on individual members of Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, Carl R. Buermele, general manager, said following a study of the statement issued by 20th-Fox on booking cooperatives.

Buermele said that Co-Op had never bought as a unit, and that special considerations of different member houses made such a policy "impractical or impossible."

"If we bought pictures for all houses as a unit," he points out, "we might force some of our member-exhibitors to buy pictures that they didn't want for their particular houses."

Co-Op, incidentally, usually signs with practically every major distributor, or, as last year, with only one major left out, in order to cover the houses in its membership, so that no one house could possibly use all product signed up by the organization as a whole.

Bank Night Ruled Lottery In Washington, O., Court

WASHINGTON C. H., OHIO—In a decision handed down by Common Pleas Judge H. M. Rankin, Bank Night as conducted at Hoy Simons' Fayette Theatre was declared to be a lottery. Action had been delayed for several months awaiting a decision by the Ohio supreme court on the Troy Amusement Co. case, but the high tribunal did not rule on the legality of the game. On January 15 the suit was reopened when the theatre filed a demurrer to prevent city police from interfering with the game, and it was on this petition that the court ruled.

Judge Rankin held that the chief of police could seize the equipment, but it was not to be destroyed. City Manager Edwin Ducey said that, unless the operation of Bank Night was discontinued voluntarily, action would be taken to stop it.

The Boundaries →

Where exhibitors will go to file or answer complaints. (See map on opposite page):

CINCINNATI—Chamber of Commerce Bldg., Lorenz L. Lemper, tribunal clerk. The area includes: In Ohio, the counties of Mercer, Drake, Preble, Butler, Auglaize, Shelby, Miami, Montgomery, Warren, Clermont, Brown, Hamilton, Adams, Highland, Clinton, Greene, Clark, Champaign, Scioto, Pike, Ross, Pickaway, Fayette, Madison, Franklin, Union, Fairfield, Hocking, Vinton, Jackson, Lawrence, Gallia, Meigs, Athens, Washington, Monroe, Noble, Morgan and Perry. The entire state of West Virginia, except the counties listed for the Pittsburgh board. In Kentucky, the counties of Trimble, Carroll, Gallatin, Boone, Kenton, Bell, Bracken, Mason, Lewis, Greenup, Boyd, Lawrence, Martin, Pike, Letcher, Harlan, Clark, Campbell, Pendleton, Knox, Whitley, McCreary, Wayne, Linton, Cumberland, Metcalfe, Green, Taylor, Marion, Washington, Anderson, Franklin, Henry, Russell, Adair, Lee, Wolfe, Casey, Boyle, Mercer, Woodford, Jessamine, Garrard, Lincoln, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Laurel, Clay, Leslie, Knott, Floyd, Magoffin, Johnson, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Rowan, Bath, Montgomery, Robertson, Nicholas, Owen, Grant, Scott, Bourbon, Harrison, Fayette, Powell, Menifee, Jackson, Estill, and Madison.

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CLEVELAND—Standard Bldg., Luke H. Lyman, tribunal clerk. The area includes: In Ohio, all the counties that are not alloted above to the Cincinnati board.

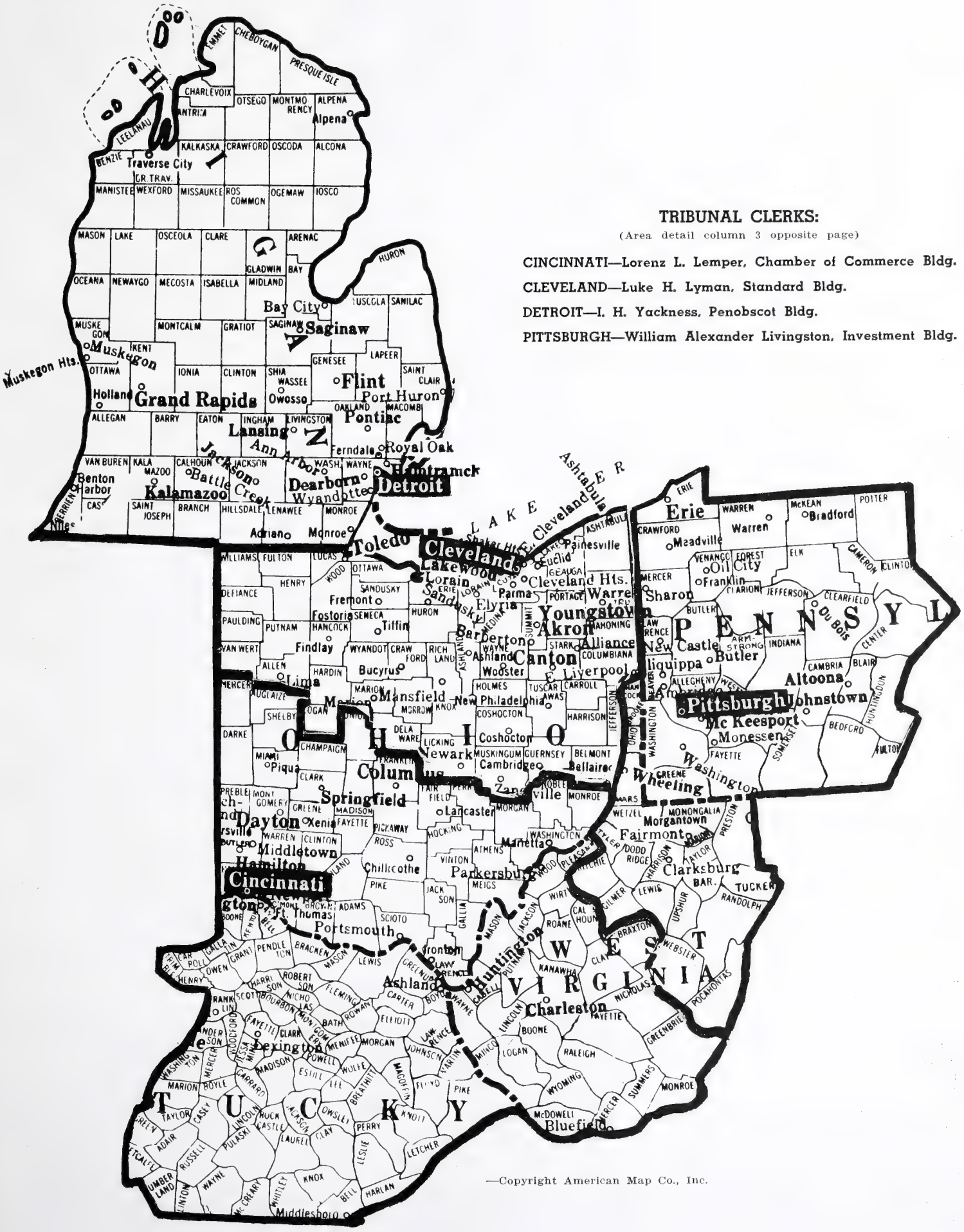
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DETROIT—Penobscot Bldg., I. H. Yackness, tribunal clerk. The area includes all the counties in Michigan except the following northern counties: Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Iron, Marquette, Dickinson, Menominee, Alger, Delta, Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac and Chippewa.

•

PITTSBURGH—Investment Bldg., William Alexander Livingston, tribunal clerk. The area includes: In Pennsylvania, the counties of Erie, Warren, McKean, Potter, Mercer, Venango, Forest, Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Lawrence, Butler, Clarion, Armstrong, Jefferson, Indiana, Clearfield, Cambria, Blair, Center, Huntington, Allegheny, Westfall, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Somerset, Bedford and Fulton. In West Virginia, the counties of Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Monongalia, Preston, Tucker, Randolph, Pocahontas, Webster, Upshur, Taylor, Barbour, Harrison, Dodd Ridge, Lewis, Tyler, Ritchie, Gilmer, Marion, Morgan and Taylor.

ARBITRATION DISTRICTS: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh



TRIBUNAL CLERKS:

(Area detail column 3 opposite page)

CINCINNATI—Lorenz L. Lemper, Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

CLEVELAND—Luke H. Lyman, Standard Bldg.

DETROIT—I. H. Yackness, Penobscot Bldg.

PITTSBURGH—William Alexander Livingston, Investment Bldg.

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UDT and W&W Will Operate Royal

DETROIT—The Royal, largest of Detroit's several new theatres of recent years, opened Friday. The house will be operated jointly by Detroit's two largest theatre circuits—United Detroit Theatres, which is a Paramount affiliate, and Wisper and Wetsman Theatres, independent circuit which is the largest unit in Cooperative Theatres of Michigan.

The Royal is a second run of 2,500 seats. Booking will be handled independently of either W&W or UDT regular bookings, although physical handling, for convenience, will go through existing facilities.

The house was set to open on December 27, and tickets were actually sold to some hundreds of a crowd estimated at 3,000 to 4,000 when it was announced the house would not open because of refusal of the management to accede to IATSE demands to employ a stagehand. This resulted in a decision of Roger M. Kennedy, IA vice-president, to order the operators out late that afternoon. The management contended that since there was no stage show, there was no room for employment of a stagehand. The union, on the other hand, contended there was sufficient maintenance work within the stagehands' jurisdiction to justify employing one man.

The situation remained at a standstill until the compromise settlement this past week following conferences between Kennedy and Earl J. Hudson, UDT president. Details of the settlement were covered in a joint statement issued by Hudson and Kennedy following the final conference:

"Through a readjustment of the maintenance of UDT, which owns a 50 per cent interest in the Royal, such maintenance work found to be necessary at the Royal and which is properly within the jurisdiction of the Stagehands' Union, will be handled by a member of that union who is employed as a regular staff member of the UDT maintenance department."

John Harris Signs Autry For the Rodeo Season

PITTSBURGH—Gene Autry has signed a contract with John H. Harris, local theatrical and sports magnate, whereby the Republic star will earn more than $100,000 during the rodeo season of March and April.

Harris, as president of the Arena Managers' Ass'n, stated that the popular cowboy will make appearances in ten or possibly a dozen cities. Autry flew from California to New York to meet Harris and conclude the deal. Republic's production schedule is being reshuffled to give Gene this leave of absence but the Autry films will not be late in release.

Autry has made various public appearances here at theatres and at the "International Rodeo." His last appearance here at the rodeo was a record-breaker, and last October when the Republic star stopped at the county airport en route to New York with "Champ," his horse, he was greeted by 5,000 fans.



Reunion—

Pictured together after many long years are the pioneers who popularized motion pictures in the Pittsburgh area. Richard A. Rowland and James B. Clark. Yes, Rowland & Clark. Their theatres, operated as one of the first important independent circuits, were absolute tops during their many years of service. The younger generation may not stir at the mention of Rowland & Clark but the oldtimers will clip this picture from BOXOFFICE *for their memory book. The happy reunion came about last week when "Dick" Rowland returned to his home town to offer a trade screening of his new production for United Artists release, "Cheers for Miss Bishop."*

Subsequents' Price Juggling Worries

DETROIT—Admission prices in Detroit, which have gone unchanged generally for a year aside from adjustments when the Michigan and Fox put in stage shows last summer and the general addition of the defense tax, are again in the limelight.

At present, focus of attention is on the subsequent runs, right down to typical last-run houses around the 15-cent level. Typical of the situation was the move of the Esquire sometime back of dropping admissions in this big new house to 15 cents, apparently because of inability to get better run preference in a competitive situation.

Disturbed by Trend

With plenty of local exhibitors thinking that prices should be raised as soon as business recovers enough to permit adjustment to rising costs of living, local industry leaders have become disturbed over threats to the existing price setup at the lower price levels.

"Some theatre interests have been taking over several small houses and operating for prices as low as five and ten cent admissions through special coupon arrangements," Carl R. Buermele, general manager of Cooperative Theatres of Michiman, says.

Although declining to name specifically houses mentioned, Buermele continues, "This price reduction is distinctly contrary to the policy of leading exhibitors, including Cooperative. We feel here, on the contrary, that a raise is called for."

Newsreel House in Cleveland Bows

CLEVELAND—Event of the week was the opening of the new 488-seat Telenews on lower Euclid Avenue by Herbert Scheftel, president of the Cleveland Newsreel Theatre Co.

Two elaborate previews preceded the formal turning over of the theatre to the public on Saturday. Members of the press, civic officials, representatives of the chamber of commerce, and other important groups, were entertained Wednesday at a cocktail party in the elaborate lounge located on the lower floor of the theatre, then were taken on an inspection tour of the house. A trade preview of both the theatre and films was held at two performances Friday night, one at 8 o'clock, the other at 9.

The Telenews was built at a cost of $200,000. Furnishings of the lounge, including a permanent modern art display, are said to have cost $25,000. The paintings—the work of leading moderns—will be changed periodically, according to Scheftel.

Admission scale is set at 28 cents, tax included, for adults at all performances and children 10 cents.

Shows consisting of specially edited newsreels and shorts of a factual nature will be confined to an hour. Programs will change weekly on Friday.

Scheftel will remain in Cleveland for several weeks to see his project properly launched. Publicity is in the hands of Elmer Wiener and Irving Ruben, formerly with Warner Bros., has been named house manager.

Other Telenews units are now being operated in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. Another is about to be built in Detroit.

Endorses Telenews' One-Hour Programs

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Cinema Club, in its most recent bulletin, officially endorses the new Telenews, which confines its program to one hour of short subjects including newsreel, travel pictures and factual subjects.

The bulletin states that the club has long urged a short reel theatre because (a) many people genuinely like a varied program of short subjects, including the latest newsreels, (b) fine shorts deserve featured advertising and library exploitation, (c) such a program is more suitable for children than the standard ones.

Warner Club's Annual Party Held in Canton

CANTON, OHIO—Annual Warner Club party was held January 26 at a night club, with more than 40 members and guests in attendance. An informal program of entertainment and a buffet supper followed the dancing. Manager William Harwell of the Ohio Theatre, entertained with several guitar numbers. Among the guests were George A. Delis, district manager for Interstate Theatres, with headquarters here; Ralph Russell, assistant manager of the Palace; R. Jay Myers jr., and others.

Adjourn Midwest Suit to March 4

DETROIT—The suit of Midwest Theatres against Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, one of several theatrical suits now before local courts, was postponed on Monday for four weeks until March 4 because of pressure of other court business.

The companion suit of Jacob Schreiber, former owner of the houses now constituting the Midwest circuit, against Midwest Theatres, was postponed until March 18 by Judge Ira W. Jayne, presiding judge of the Wayne county circuit court. A trial judge has not yet been assigned to this case.

Both suits came up last week on the same day but in different courts, and presented a slight problem for attorneys and principals until the dual postponements.

CLEVELAND

LOOKEE, you friends of Joe Minsky, Vitagraph city salesman now learning the art of marching in step. His new address is Company A, 112th Engineers Combat, APO-37, Camp Shelby, Miss. . . . Colony Theatre will host the Warner Club at its Valentine Party on the 14th . . . Leo Devaney, one-time Universal manager here, and now occupying the driver's seat in RKO's Depinet drive, was in town giving the RKO-ers a pep talk.

Mrs. Lena Stillwell, owner of the Bedford, Bedford, postcards friends from Hot Springs, Ark., where she is vacationing . . . Louis Eick of Martins Ferry drove up to Filmrow last Monday . . . The Esquire, Toledo, opened January 30. *Wally Caldwell, formerly manager of Loew's Valentine and lessee of the new Esquire, staged a "Hollywood opening" with kleig lights and lots of fanfare. Among Cleveland film folks who attended were Herbert Ochs and Col. Harry E. Long of Pioneer Pictures Co.*

From M. M. Jacobs of Imperial Pictures it is learned that four prints of "Something to Sing About" are working the territory and that he is getting representative bookings on "Murder at the Baskervilles," "I Demand Payment," "Vengeance of the Deep" and "Hell's Crossroads," the latter a King Vidor production . . . The I. J. Schmertzes of 20th-Fox are back from Florida . . . Steve Broidy, Monogram sales manager, spent a few days here getting acquainted . . . Fritz Vermes dons khaki on February 10 to join the boys at Camp Shelby.

Jane Roberts, daughter of 20th-Fox's district manager, George Roberts, and a senior at Columbia law school, was a guest of President and Mrs. Roosevelt at the inauguration . . . Meyer Fine of the Associated circuit and his family leave here February 14 *for Florida . . . The Max Lefkowiches of the Community circuit join the Florida film folk some time next week . . . John Tender of Lorain in town.*

John C. Wein, RKO, has resigned as president of Film Exchange Employes union to become business manager, succeeding Ira Beckstead . . . Maurice Druker, who is pinch hitting for Everett Steinbuck as manager of Loew's State, wonders where all the people are coming from who are crowding into the theatre to see "GWTW" . . . Ted Teschner, manager at Loew's Stillman, is delighted with his newly decorated office . . . The Scoville, Essick & Reif office in the Film Bldg. is undergoing a face-lifting . . . Mrs. Dale Capell of Findlay and Carey, and wife of the former owner of the Carey, Carey, died last week at St. Petersburg, Fla.

New Attendance Plan

CLEVELAND—Maurice Zell, who has promoted attendance plans on the west coast for some time, has arrived in Cleveland to market a new theatre stimulant proposition, designed to create a home educational desire.

CINCINNATI

RUSS EGRY and Bill Lyzott of Altec are back on the job following flu attacks which put them in bed . . . W. Conner, Altec district manager, and M. G. Thomas, district supervisor, are the latest additions to the Queen City Variety Club . . . Metro's office manager, Bill Weigel, has recovered from an attack of appendicitis, which confined him to his bed for one day.

Stanley Jacques, RKO exchange manager, and Col. Arthur Frudenfeld, general manager of RKO Theatres, headed rival teams at the opening of the Dick Bray Sports Quiz program inaugurated at the Paramount as a weekly feature. Wilbur Heatherington, Gus Boudot and Manny Trautenberg aided Jacques in carrying off the jackpot. Business perked up considerably for the innovation . . . A preview of UA's "Cheers for Miss Bishop," preceded by a luncheon with Harris Dudelson as host, was a high light of the exhibitor's calendar. Reaction was gratifying. Guests also included the local motion picture council and the press . . . "Western Union," 20th-Fox feature, was screened at the exchange for the sales force.

Leo Devaney, Depinet drive captain and RKO district manager; Charles Boasberg, and Harry Gittelson, held a pep meeting at the local exchange. The drive began January 25 and lasts until May 9. Liberal cash prizes are being offered and the local gang is out for blood. Exhibitors puleeze take notice . . . Columbia's Lee Heidensfeld is leaving next month for service with Uncle Sam as a member of the National Guard . . . Louis Wiethe has taken over MacDonald's Palace at Ada, Ohio, this being the third of the MacDonald chain to be acquired by Wiethe. He also operates the Bond here.

Tony Sauer's party for local bookers was a very successful affair. Thirty-five bookers, with several special guests, attended . . . "Back Street" was to have its local territorial showings in Dayton, Lexington, Cincinnati, Springfield and Columbus where the feature was booked to open on the 7th. Universal's Peter Rosian anticipates big business on the feature . . . Lester Rosenfeld consulted with the F&Y Construction Co. this week regarding his new theatre to be erected in Dunbar, W. Va. It will seat 650.

James E. Rogers, formerly with Park, Huntington, expects to open the Beverly at Huntington, February 11. Erected by F&Y, it has approximately 650 seats . . . Mrs. John Walters of the Walters circuit has been confined to her bed by illness . . . Maurice White, prexy of United Theatres, is contemplating a sojourn in Florida . . . E. V. Dinerman, RKO publicity, is back on the job after a Miami vacation with the Mrs. . . . Mannie Shore has completed all plans for the construction of a completely modern $65,000 theatre at War, W. Va. The house will seat 1,200 persons and is expected to be in operation in three months. Shore also operates the present house in War.



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DETROIT

DICK FLEMION, PRC booker and son of the branch manager, was rushed to the hospital for an appendectomy . . . Carl R. Buermele, Co-Op general manager, recovering from a severe case of flu . . . Jack Moss of DeVry is celebrating his third-of-a-century in motion pictures. He started in 1907 in Philadelphia . . . Henry Zapp, Co-Op booker, reminiscing of his days as a salesman.

Jack Hurford sr. of the Fox seen enjoying a lone Thursday supper at Sam Harris' . . . Ernie Forbes, supply man, and his wife are enjoying Florida breezes . . . Charlie Garner, veteran filmite of Allied Films, has recovered from intestinal flu . . . Clare Winnie, manager of the Wolverine, recovering from arthritis, has lost plenty of weight.

Eddie Jacobson, manager of the Parkside, lunching with his almost-mother-in-law . . . W. Russell Young visiting H. V. Gilbert of Allied Films . . . Don Glennie, Republic booker, has resigned to go on the road as manager for his wife, well known evangelist known as Donna Dalrymple.

A new independent exchange is in the making as soon as a couple of filmites decide to make the jump . . . Howard C. Denial, assistant manager of the RKO Uptown, lunching with his opposition-to-be, Sol Krim . . . William Scharun is representing Universal Theatre Premium Co. He has offices in the Fox Theatre Bldg.

UDT managers Clark Field, Grant Hawkins and Frank Upton were winners in the Barney Balaban Drive . . . Wisper & Wetsman will have their new Dearborn ready for opening in about three weeks . . . Maybe there's nothing in a name, but two of the three high-rollers recently in the Nightingale Club League were Bill Fouchey and Stanley Bouchey . . . Mrs. William Flemion, wife of the PRC manager, is back from the hospital convalescing from pneumonia . . . Saul Sloan, Detroit theatre builder, has registered the name of Mercury for his next one.

Mrs. John R. McPherson, wife of the National Screen Service manager who has been in poor health, has gone to California to convalesce. "Mac" has had more than his share, with his mother seriously ill as well . . . Cliff Brown and Bill Hendricks expect to be the first UDT-ites called up for service . . . Herbert Biberman, director, in town addressing the Detroit Peace Mobilization.

Tom McGuire, Co-op's publicity chief, up to Lansing for a day and busy fighting a bad cold . . . Milton Jacobson, manager of Sam Mintz's Monroe, is plugging William J. Cody and Bland Pugh for the circuit bench . . . Lou Wisper, circuit operator, has been on the sick list . . . Freddie Schader, completing a nice job on the British relief show at the Coliseum, is back captaining the Wilson.

C. V. Munz's Century had a Saturday midnight benefit for the Detroit Lions' Blind Benefit Fund . . . Ray Schreiber had a stage wedding Thursday for two members of the "American Beauties on Parade" unit as an added attraction at his Colonial . . . Rumors, unconfirmed, that Jake Schreiber, veteran Detroit showman, may soon return to active management possibly at the new house in Highland Park being built by the Krims.

Fred Strubank, Republic salesman, reports after a survey of his territory, that exhibitors are unanimous about Gene Autry drawing more customers than any other star . . . Ben Cohen, circuiteer, expects to stay in Florida a few weeks longer, cancelling his plans for an early return . . . Alice Russell, Film Building elevator girl, has left. Martha Rohder is the dark lassie who takes you up; Violet Fleming is the other vivacious newcomer.

Bill Flemion has picked his welfare committee for Variety Club from every branch of the industry . . . Frank Butterfield, manager of the Strand, Lansing, and Warren A. Slee, M-G-M exploiteer, interviewed Gov. Murray D. Van Wagoner in connection with the showing of "Land of Liberty" . . . F. E. "Swede" Ackerman, Butterfield manager at Bay City, besides being an expert at sundry dialects, he thinks, is entering Helene, his prize pussy, in the big cat show.

Ray Branch, Allied president, back from Washington . . . Pearl M. Sprott, Allied office manager, was in Lansing looking over the legislature . . . Joan Leslie of Highland Park, whom Detroiters knew in local shows as Joan Brodel, will be leading lady in the forthcoming "Sergeant York" . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schuckert, who have a house at Caro, are vacationing with Ernie Forbes down Florida way.

: With the "Smiths" :

DETROIT—The premiere of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the Michigan was one of the big industry events of the winter . . . C. E. O'Bryan, house manager, was busy handling things at the front entrance . . . Supervisor Bob Corbin officially on duty, while Asher Shaw and Joe Busic were out for a showman's holiday . . . Ralph F. Stitt also congregated at the front door . . . Bill Hendricks, UDT exploiteer, on hand and enjoying himself . . . Alice Gorham officially hostess-ing by the door for UDT—and sweetly too.

Mrs. Charlie Perry attended with "the girls"—the chief was over at Variety Club for the directors' meet . . . Milton Cohen sitting right on the center aisle . . . James F. Sharkey, RKO manager, and Mrs. Sharkey had the center front row seats, and did a nice job of hosting the whole event . . . Carmen Morales on deck among the gals from RKO . . . Freddie Bonnem also assisting with the honors . . . Among others seen: Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Heiber (Universal manager); Art Robinson of the Belle and the Mrs.; John R. McPherson of National Screen Service; Charlie Gentry, Detroit *Times* critic, and Art Koskie and Miss Bacon of the Butterfield offices.

Wheeler Was Just Too Much for Her

PITTSBURGH—Pressure groups in the industry are an old story to Florence Fisher Parry, who conducts the "I Dare Say" column in the Pittsburgh *Press*. On occasion, they have received her relatively mild attention, but Sen. Burton K. Wheeler's attack on the industry for producing "war propaganda" pictures was just too much. So she let herself go this way in stating the industry's case:

"I don't know where the movie industry draws its patience from! It has been the scapegoat for political, religious, artistic, international, civic and every-other-kind-of-persecution ever since it was born. It has spent more wealth, employed more people, circulated more money, furnished more pleasure, occupied more real estate, created more magazines, paid for more newspaper advertising, engaged more reader interest, encouraged more style trends, benefited more women by making them beauty conscious (hence health conscious), educated more children (yes EDUCATED them: the movies are the greatest supplementary education the public schools have today); increased more general knowledge, paid more taxes, solved more social problems by providing cheap entertainment, fostered more talent along every creative line, paid higher wages and salaries, developed more talent than any other one institution, industry or art on earth.

"Yet it is buffeted about in Congress at every pretext, pilloried by every 'investigation' body; it is ridiculed, defamed, belittled, misrepresented, insulted; it is attacked, censured, censored, maligned . . .

"Why? Why? Why make the movies the scapegoat?"

Condemn Drinking Scenes And War Glorification

COLUMBUS—The glorification of war and drinking scenes in films were condemned at the Ohio pastors' convention here. In a report approved at the final session, the pastors pointed out, however, that they were not handing down a blanket indictment of pictures.

Refurbish in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—The Melrose, 1,100-seat house, is getting new RCA sound in a refurbishing project.

Drive to Enforce Detroit Curfew

Detroit—A drive to enforce the curfew ordinance affecting attendance of children at theatres, is under way. Opening of the drive was fired last week by the convictions of and fines assessed against two Woodward Avenue theatre managers in traffic court.

PITTSBURGH

AMPTO OF W. PA. was represented by seven members at the annual national Allied directors' meeting in Washington last week. They included Fred J. Herrington, representative on the board, and Fred A. Beedle, local prexy; M. A. Rosenberg, William R. Wheat jr., William and Harry Walker and A. P. Way. Rosenberg, who was renamed to the national Allied executive committee, traveled to New York before returning here . . . Billy Bein of National Screen Service's Advertising Accesories, who has been devoting much of his time in the local area, is observing his 21st year in the poster exchange business. He entered this service field in Cincinnati in 1920 and was a successful operator for two-score years. Bein sold his interests to NSS-AA a year or so ago and at that time accepted an executive position with this company.

Art Levy and Joe Gins were "kings" for the Variety Club's dinner, February 3. The Tony Sterns were in charge of the January 31 family night party. Variety's national convention dates have been changed and set back to May 15-16-17. The place is Atlantic City and 20 local barkers, those showing the best yearly record for Monday dinner attendance, will receive part expenses to the resort . . . J. F. O'Donnell, Monogram auditor, has been checking the local branch accounts . . . Congressman Samuel A. Weiss, cousin of the McKeesport exhibitor, Al Weiss, who introduced the bill at Harrisburg making Pennsylvania the first state to observe Flag Day as a legal holiday, is working for a national holiday in honor of "Old Glory" . . . Theatres grosses are remaining on the same general level here, although the mills are booming . . . Cecelia Carpe has resigned her 20th-Fox duties and has joined the government as a stenographer in the Navy department at Munhall.

Local RKO gang, or "the quota wreckers" as they term themselves, last week welcomed Leo Devaney, captain in the Ned Depinet drive; Harry Gittleson, editor of RKO's house organ, *Flash,* and Nat Levy, district manager, who arrived for a special conference. Herb Greenblatt's boys bannered the exchange with "welcomes" and offered solemn pledges of loyalty and unswerving determination. Representatives of NSS-AA, who handle RKO's accessories, attended the special Depinet meeting which was held at the exchange. "Convoy" was screened at the end of the session.

Art Levy, Columbia manager, was down with the flu and absent from his office . . . M-G-M's Pep Club celebrated its 14th anniversary recently with a party at the exchange which concluded with a screening. Allan Tolley is president of the club . . . Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Wood, Apollo exhibitors for a quarter of a century, who recently retired, are wintering in Florida . . . Nick Petroska, recently re-elected business agent of the Charleroi operators' local, was killed in an auto accident near Romney, W. Va. He was an operator at the Bison, Brownsville.

Milton Golden, 22, assistant manager at the Squirrel Hill, and son of the old war horse, Mannie Golden, operator of the New McClure, has received his appointment as a cadet pilot in the U. S. army and will be called into service by mid-March . . . Tom Anas, a Filmrow booker the other day, reported that the flu epidemic has petered out and that Hancock county (W. Va.) theatres are open for business after having been closed for four days and operating for a week and a half with children not admitted . . . Steve Broidy visited here for several days last week for the first time as Monogram general sales manager. The well-known Boston film man and Mark Goldman, local Monogram manager, conferred on product and grosses.

Local educators, civic leaders and representatives of the various patriotic and service organizations attended a special preview of "Land of Liberty" last Monday evening at Loew's screening room. The Fulton feature is receiving the cooperation of newspapers and at least one radio station. AMPTO of W. Pa., by resolution, has approved "Land of Liberty" and has urged all theatres to cooperate in every way with M-G-M in the exhibition of this feature . . . Mrs. Ada C. Morgan, 77, mother-in-law of Kaspar Monahan, Press drama editor, died in Shadyside Hospital of pneumonia.

The new UA drive is being featured in Abe Weiner's office with a horse race board, which will spot the various branch exchanges with entries and which will indicate weekly progress. The Pittsburgh horse is on the outside line . . . Nixon relighted for the week of February 3 with "Tobacco Road" with John Barton in its "positively farewell tour of champion long run play." Billy House and Eddie Garr will be featured in "Hellzapoppin" the week of February 10.

Alvin Seiler has closed his Filmrow theatre supply house and is again operating at his original headquarters, the Seiler building, Greensburg, Pa. . . . Miss Meercy Braff of the M-G-M exchange is co-chairman of the "Frenesi Frolic" to be given February 10 in the El Chico restaurant by the Pittsburgh Council of Jewish Juniors.



To Youngstown—

Sid Holland, who has taken over the management of the Palace at Youngstown, Ohio, for Monarch Theatres.

NSS-NSA-AA find its quarters, the entire old Independent Display Company building, too small, and Perry Nathan, local manager, is seeking a site for a new Filmrow building . . . George Jaffe, veteran city showman and operator of the Casino, will seek a seat in city council this year . . . Don D'Carlo Entertainment Service has moved to 206 Stanwix St. Don's former office at 1723 Blvd. of the Allies has been redecorated and is being occupied by Shapiro and Fineman as circuit headquarters.

Peg O'Connell of the Paramount exchange lost her mother January 24 . . . Walter B. Urling, tri-state circuit exhibitor, and his family are vacationing in Florida . . . Stanley stage show for February 21 will be Cab Calloway and his orchestra . . . Dorothy Goldstein of the Paramount office enjoyed a fortnight vacation in the sunny south . . . Saal Gottlieb has another new DeSoto.

Abe Weiner, UA branch manager, previewed Richard A. Rowland's "Cheers for Miss Bishop" last Thursday noon at the uptown Rialto for members of the trade . . . R. J. Jeffries, "the popcorn machine man" in this area for three years, recently returned from Kansas City, Mo., where he attended the annual convention of Manley, Inc. He has a lot of new statistics on popcorn grosses which are startling . . . Dave Barnholtz has been writing "letters to the editor" appearing in the *Press* . . . Rose Schoss, former Filmrow employe, has returned to the celluloid colony and is on duty at the RKO exchange.

Finishing touches were being put on the new Urban, East McKeesport, this week for N. A. Malanos . . . Minnie Bishoff has resigned her office duties at the RKO exchange and she is now employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania . . . C. J. Latta is vacationing in California . . . Dr. and Mrs. C. P. Church of Mannington, W. Va., were Filmrow bookers this week, reporting that they had closed the Burt and were operating only the Mannington. This was Mrs. Church's first visit in several months. She is entirely well again after an illness.

Fred J. Herrington, AMPTO secretary, was in Harrisburg checking up on the legislative situation. He was present when Gov. Arthur H. James informed the general assembly that his budget for the 1941-1943 fiscal period will put the state's finances in balance for the first time since the depression. Emergency taxes, which at one time included a state theatre admission tax but which has been eliminated for several years, will be continued. It was through the efforts of the AMPTO that the state admission levy was discontinued. Herrington has been grabbing all the new legislative bills as they are introduced and he has been busy visiting members of the House and Senate.

LOUISVILLE

UNIVERSAL sneak previewed "Buck Privates" at the Strand, to a well pleased audience.

All exhibitors in the Louisville area (and elsewhere, we presume) were gifted this week with a specially designed plaster ash tray exploiting a forthcoming "Million Dollar Serial."

The Irving Theatre at Indianapolis has been purchased by William Rosenthal, operator of the Vogue here. Charles Doades continues as manager of the Irving, which is a de luxe neighborhood house.

Sammy Weinburg, who operates the Crescent and Shelmar theatres here, is confined to the hospital after an appendicitis operation. He is recovering nicely . . . A. B. McCoy of the Strand reports that thieves broke into his theatre over the weekend and tried to open a safe. Their attempts were unsuccessful, however.

"'Gone With the Wind" opened Friday at Loew's State to far above normal attendance . . . "Thief of Bagdad" was held at Brown for a second week, and "High Sierra" for a second week's run at the Mary Anderson.

Negotiations for the purchase of the Columbia as an army community center are still under way.

Panoram Machines Help In Drive on "Polio"

CLEVELAND—Panoram, the dime-in-the-slot film machine distributed locally by Midwest Specialties Co., made its first public appearance last week in the concourse of the Terminal Bldg. for the benefit of the infantile paralysis fund. Through the courtesy of Urban Anderson, president of Midwest, all dimes paid into the machine during its two-day "personal appearance" were turned over to the fund.

After that, the Panoram was moved into the lounge of the new Telenews where it is now permanently located. Anderson reports another Panoram has been installed in the Carter Hotel, as well as in half a dozen of the larger roadhouses.

Local B-5 Dinner-Dance Will Be Held Feb. 22

CLEVELAND—Film Exchange Employes B-5 will stage a formal dinner-dance in the Rainbow Room of the Carter Hotel, February 22. Charles Rice of 20th-Fox, who is chairman of the entertainment committee, estimates that the guests will number approximately 225. The union has 115 members. Each member is entitled to bring one guest. Guests of honor will include Harland Holmden and Victor Wellman of IATSE Local 160, Mayor Blythin, Lou Krause, IATSE international secretary-treasurer, and the president of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Detroit employes unions.

Wade E. Allen Variety's Installation Chairman

DETROIT—Wade E. Allen, manager of the Fine Arts, has been named general chairman for the installation and initiation banquet to be held by Variety Club in the Esquire Room, Book Cadillac Hotel, on Monday.

General committees are headed by: John Howard, Paramount manager, committee for industry guests; Edgar E. Kirchner, Family manager, tickets and arrangements; J. Oliver Brooks, Butterfield chief booker, initiation. Entertainment committee is headed by William Carlson, Carlson Studios, and includes: David M. Idzal, managing director of the Fox; Earl Hudson, UDT president, and Raymond Schreiber, manager of Midwest Theatres.

A stage revue playing Schreiber's Colonial will present their routine in the floor show at the banquet.

Spring Surprise Party For the John Lunds

CARMICHAELS, PA.—Employes of Lund theatres and friends, numbering around 150, honored Mr. and Mrs. John Lund at a surprise party in the Terrace Hotel here. The Lunds were preparing to depart for Florida, where they will spend the winter, when the party was arranged. Entertainment was furnished by the Don D'Carlo agency and the guests were presented with a radio following the banquet dinner. Werner Lund, son and partner, will be in charge of the Lund theatres during his father's absence.

LaMantia Bros. Open New Victory at Nanty-Glo

NANTY-GLO, PA.—The new Victory is now open under the ownership and management of Philip and Tony LaMantia. Seating 448, the new house features neon lighting throughout and is modernly equipped. Marquee and lobby neon lights are supplemented in the auditorium with half a dozen neon wall fixture lights on either side wall. Superior M. P. Supply Company installed all equipments and RCA furnished the sound.

Louis Ponsetta Acquires Woodies at Apollo, Pa.

APOLLO, PA.—Woodies Theatre, purchased several months ago from H. R. Wood by Joseph Cipriany, has been acquired under long term lease by Louis Ponsetta, operator of the Strand here. Ponsetta assumed operation of the Woodies February 2 and plans to operate both the Strand and the Woodies. Cipriany is interested in a merchandising business at Clarksburg, Pa.

"Fantasia" to Open at Wilson February 18

DETROIT—On February 18 "Fantasia" will open at the Wilson. The first night will be reserved as a benefit for the Detroit Symphony Society, with seats selling at $5 apiece, a new high in local annals of show business. The Wilson seats 1,400.

COLUMBUS

ADD OUR congratulations to: Harrold Eckert, dramatic critic for the Ohio *State Journal*, who was married January 29 to Thora Hoagland.

Clark Rader, operator of a smalltown circuit, has moved his headquarters from Wilmington to Newark (Arcade Theatre) . . . Reports again that a subsequent run downtown house will be converted into a store, this time passed on by WSC . . . The Palace is conducting a patron poll on stage shows.

Capitol Theatre, Delphos, has listed with securities exchange commission 250 shares no par value common stock at $25 per. The Ellet Amusement Co., Cleveland, has 50 shares no par value common stock at $100 per.

Legislative scene: House Bill 125, introduced by Ford of Fulton county (Republican) would bring theatres in which televised pictures are shown under the state building code.

Lester Rosenfeld, Dunbar, W. Va., exhibitor, is planning a new theatre there to be known as the Welcome. He has commissioned the local F&Y Theatre Division to draw the plans for the 600-seat, $50,000 project. Rosenfeld also has the Best in Kanawaka City.

Peter Mikalarias, 56, Dies In Connellsville, Pa.

CONNELLSVILLE, PA.—Peter L. Mikalarias, 56, veteran exhibitor, died here last week. He had been failing in health for some time and had been bedfast for three months. For three years he had been practically blind.

Mikalarias for many years was a partner of Gust Marakas in exhibition here. Born in Greece, Mikalarias came to this country in 1899; he sold flowers in Philadelphia and two years later he joined a carnival with his own candy concession. Later he entered the candy business in Harrisburg and Lancaster. His first experience in the theatre industry was in Lancaster. In 1905 he opened a confectionery in Cumberland, and shortly thereafter he came to Connellsville.

Surviving are a brother, John Mikalarias, of Connellsville, a sister, two half-brothers and a half-sister, all residing in Greece. Burial was in Green Ridge Memorial Park at Pennsville.

Henry S. Koppin Services Are Held in Detroit

DETROIT—Funeral services were held Tuesday for Henry S. Koppin, who died in Toledo. He founded the Woodward Theatre Co. about a quarter century ago, and developed it until he operated 26 houses, the largest circuit ever operated under one control in this city. At the time, his brother, George Koppin, also had a string of about ten houses.

The deceased is survived by his widow and three other children, including Calvin, for whom the theatre of that name in Dearborn was named.

Boston AAA Office Has "Customers"

Boston—Requests for arbitration already are up before Henry de la Morandiere, in charge of the Boston headquarters for the American Arbitration Ass'n. When the offices opened Saturday in the Chamber of Commerce Building, a number of New England theatremen were waiting for proper blank forms to enter their requests.

Bills Would Legalize Betting, Lotteries

HARTFORD—Legalization of hore-race betting in Connecticut under both bookmaking and pari-mutuel systems, and establishment of a state lottery are proposed in bills introduced in the general assembly by Rep. Edward Segar, Democrat of Colchester.

The Colchester legislator declared that his pari-mutuel bill would be modeled after one which, although unsuccessful, gained considerable support at the 1939 session of the assembly. His measure legalizing bookmaking establishments would be similiar to one now pending in the New York state legislature, he said.

Lotteries and horse-race betting take large amounts of money out of Connecticut, Segar asserts, and he believes it would be to the interests of Connecticut taxpayers to divert some of this money to the state treasury through legislation.

Eight M&P Managers Back With Balaban Medals

BOSTON—Eight M&P Theatres Corp. managers now are sporting silver medallions awarded them at the Balaban Dinner in Chicago which they attended as respective district prize winners in the local Barney Balaban Drive.

Those with the medals include Jack Goodwin of the Metropolitan in Boston, George Moffit of the State in East Milton, Al Hamilton of the Empress in South Norwalk, William Hartnett of the Embassy in Waltham, James Dempsey of the Paramount in Lynn, Morris Simms of the Olympia in New Bedford, Harry Botwick of the State in Portland, and C. J. Russell jr., city manager in Bangor.

Bally Job for Storin

HARTFORD—Ed Carroll, operator of the Riverside Amusement Park, announces the appointment of Harry Storin, formerly associated with theatres in this area, as publicity director of that situation.

Valenti Succeeds Frank

HARTFORD—Frank Valenti, usher at the Loew's Poli here, has been appointed chief of service, succeeding Jules Frank, resigned.

Show Only Mild Interest In Pending Legislation

NEW HAVEN—Thus far exhibitors as a whole are evidencing only slight interest in the current legislative bills at Hartford, and heated public hearings at the last session on two-men-in-a-booth and Bingo will probably not be repeated. Since defeat in the 1937 session of new state tax on amusements, nothing further has been proposed on this score, although exhibitors feared such a bill.

One senate Bingo bill has already been filed, however, and is referred to the judiciary committee as S. B. 60. It reads: "The selectmen of any town, the mayor and aldermen, or common council of any city, or the warden or burgesses of any borough, in which town, city or borough the playing of Bingo has been authorized in accordance with Section 155e of the 1939 supplement to the General Statutes, may, upon application, permit Bingo to be played after the hour of 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon on Sundays."

The 1939 session of the legislature made it legal for towns to approve Bingo-playing, but by and for the benefit of civic, religious and other organizations of a similar nature only. Exhibitors opposed this discrimination, but were unsuccessful, and have since complained of the competition of Bingo. Representative Faulkner has also introduced a bill calling for creation of a commission to regulate and control Bingo in the state.

Anti-Discrimination Bill

Alienage, race or color discrimination is prohibited in Senate Bill 18, also referred to the judiciary committee. The bill states that all persons are entitled to full and equal accommodations in every place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement, and specifically names inns, hotels, restaurants, railroad cars, street cars, theatres, motion picture .houses, amusement and recreation buildings or parks. A maximum fine of $100 or imprisonment for 30 days or both are provided for violation, as well as liability to the aggrieved person of from $200 to $350.

Of interest to all corporations is S. B. 2 for the finance committee, which, if passed, would affect state corporation tax payment. Section 1 of this bill provides: "In arriving at net income as defined in Sec. 417c, whether or not the tax paid is taxable under the federal corporation net income tax, there shall be deducted from gross income all items deductible under the federal corporation net income tax law effective and in force on the last day of the income year, except (1) federal taxes on income or profits, losses of prior years, interest received from federal, state and local government securities, and specific exemptions, if any such deductions shall be allowed by the federal government, and (2) interest . . . paid during the income year."

An Ascap Measure

S. B. 70 states that each person who shall employ a minor under 18 years of age must obtain a certificate from the board of education stating the age of such minor, and that such certificate must be kept on file for inspection.

H. B. 132 provides a $20,000 appropriation for improvement and maintenance of recreational facilities at the Paugnut State Forest.

H. B. 90 concerns radio advertising of alcoholic liquors, and is thus far the only radio legislation filed. It provides that no permittee shall sell, offer for sale, or dispense any brand of alcoholic liquor which has been advertised over any radio broadcasting station since July 1, 1941. A year's suspension of permit is the fine advocated

A new bill has been filed at Hartford which would oblige Ascap to pay a license fee for the use of Connecticut radio and orchestras. The bill has been laughingly branded radio's attempt to continue foisting BMI's "Jeannie With the Light Brown Hair" on the "long-suffering" radio audience.

Claims Distributor Forced Hiked Price

NORTHAMPTON, MASS.—Nathan E. Goldstein, president of Western Massachusetts Theatres, declared here following a conference with Mayor C. J. O'Connor concerning protests of increased prices at the Calvin during the showing of Paramount's "North West Mounted Police," that neither the Calvin nor any other house in his organization had any say in the matter of increasing prices for the picture, and that his contract with the distributing company made higher prices mandatory.

A strong protest was lodged with the mayor by Alderman Francis P. O'Donnell, who claimed that raising prices for special features, especially on Sunday, worked a hardship on the working man who usually had only that day with his family for rest and recreation. The alderman urged that theatres who raise prices on Sunday be subjected to commensurately stiffer license fees.

800-Seat Theatre Being Designed for Concord

BOSTON—Plans have been drawn up by Robb & Little, local architects, for a proposed new theatre in Concord. Although motion pictures occasionally have been shown in the town, zoning authorities there have in the past excluded a modern motion picture house.

Julius Meyer, associated in the deal to put up a new $50,000 house on Main Street, indicates that the theatre will seat about 800 and will be put into operation late this year.

Limitations Issue Will Be Heard in Momand Case

BOSTON—A hearing before a Master upon the issue of the Statute of Limitations has been ordered by the local U. S. District Court in the local anti-trust suits brought by George S. Ryan against major film interests in behalf of Loretta L. Momand and A. B. Momand. Ryan also is representing the plaintiffs in anti-trust actions in Oklahoma.

Federal Judge Hugh D. McClellan ruled: "Enough has been said to indicate that at sometime the issues raised by the Statute of Limitations must be considered, and that they can be determined upon much less evidence than would be involved in a trial of the whole case . . . According, it is ordered that the case be treated separately upon the issue of the Statute of Limitations, and the filing of objections to and the answering of the interrogatories propounded by the plaintiff to the defendants is to await the trial of this issue."

The Momand anti-trust actions, seeking triple damages, contain the plaintiff's motion that recites that the applicable statute is that of Massachusetts which, allegedly, provides a period of six years in this type of case.

Reference to Gov't Suit

The Court explained, "During the past ten years, a number of suits have been begun, either civil or criminal, by the United States Government against the motion picture industry. The plaintiff asserts that these have the effect of tolling the Statute of Limitations . . . whether or not they have such effect depends upon whether or not the present suit involves any 'private right of action arising upon said laws and passed in whole or in part on any matter complained of in said suit of proceedings.' No attempt can here be made to express any view as to whether some or all the items of damages alleged are barred because the determination of these questions depends in part on matters of evidence."

The Federal Court decided on a plaintiff's motion for the production of documents, to reserve determination of that motion until the preliminary issue of the Statute of Limitations shall be decided in the Court.

Decision on defendants' obligations to plaintiff's interrogatories was also reserved.

In both cases, the plaintiff's motion to strike and to require admission or denial of facts, stated in the request for admission of facts, was denied by Judge McClellan.

"This does not mean, of course," the Court added, "that a response may not be stricken as containing scandalous matter or for a like reason."

The defendants' responses, he also said, "were to constitute sworn statements which 'deny specifically the matters of which an admission is requested or setting forth in detail the reasons why he (they) cannot truthfully either admit or deny these matters,' for they do not. If they do, the facts are not admitted, and the defendants by the virtue of Rule 37 (c) may have to pay the plaintiff's reasonable expenses of their proof."

Friends in Tribute To Morris Joseph

NEW HAVEN—A large, enthusiastic group of friends made in long years of association on Meadow Street, as well as in the city and state at large, gathered to wish "Dean" Morris Joseph good health and a happy respite from his almost 29 years in the film industry at Ceriani's Restaurant Monday.

As a farewell token to the retiring Universal manager, the guests at the luncheon presented a portable typewriter with the hope that he would use it to keep in touch with the district from his new home in Miami Beach.

Harry F. Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager, m.c. par excellence, made the presentation. In charge of the luncheon were Max Tabackman, Samuel Seletsky, and Herman M. Levy.

Joseph, who was influential in having New Haven established as the only exchange center between Boston and New York, and has seen the growth of the territory and trained many of its important figures, said on leaving:

"I am happy to leave, and yet my happiness is intermingled with sadness and regret. I've spent the greatest part of my life here, and during that period I've made a great many friends and well-wishers. I hate particularly to leave Meadow Street, where I enjoyed my long record of coping with the Connecticut exhibitors. When I say 'cope,' that's saying something, because the Connecticut exhibitors are undoubtedly the smartest in the United States."

Joined "U" in 1912

Joseph's first connection with Universal was in May, 1912, when he was employed at the "U" exchange in Springfield. In 1914, with Springfield closed as an exchange center, Joseph was established in the New Haven Universal exchange as manager. His move to Meadow Street was followed by location of other exchanges on the Street, which is now the pulse of the Connecticut film industry.

Joseph's friends gave him a gala testimonial dinner at the Taft on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as Universal manager here; on his 25th he was host to hundreds of friends at a cocktail party at the Universal offices. He hopes his retirement on a pension by the Universal company will "serve as a precedent in the industry." He is succeeded here by John Pavone, who also has a long record of service in film distribution in New Haven.

BOSTON

AL SHEEHAN, manager of the Colonial in Boston, has been seriously ill . . . Phil Engel of Warner was in town . . . Norman Poretsky of Wholesome Film was on the sick list . . . James Grainger, Monogram executive, was in.

Joseph and Max Levenson celebrated the third anniversary of the Brookline in the Boston suburb. John Markle tied in on several promotions for the event.

Phillip Lavine, general manager of the Ralph Snider circuit, was out of town on business . . . Nate Yamins, Fall River exhibitor, is in Florida . . . Roy E. Heffner, Bank Night assignee, was in Kansas City last week . . . Lou Newmann, new Trans Lux manager, and Spencer Rudnick, his assistant, have been working up a number of new publicity promotions.

Al Winston, former Trans Lux manager, is reportedly connected with the Ralph Snider circuit . . . Boston film critics accepted Universal invitations to be the distributor's guests for one week in Miami and, incidentally, to preview "Back Street" there . . . Ralph Snider, circuit head, is in Florida.

Marty Glazer, advertising manager for the Paramount and Fenway, sank his teeth into two more first-runs this week when "Honeymoon for Three" and "Behind the News" hit the twin houses which generally play behind the Metropolitan . . . Dorothy Gish and Louis Calhern are still in town with "Life With Father" which has set up a new local theatrical record by going into its 19th week.

Ray Read, Heywood-Wakefield executive, is back at the home office following an extended business trip . . . Moroni Olsen, Hollywood star, is conducting a new course in the Technique of Motion Picture Acting at the Leland Powers School of the Theatre locally. One classroom has been for the use as a motion picture studio and the classes are conducted exactly as the work is done in Hollywood, according to Olsen . . . Ralph Austrian of RCA was here last week.

Jack Goodwin, manager of the Metropolitan, and his entire staff will handle the house during the 12 performances of the Metropolitan Opera Company, beginning March 27 and ending April 5 . . . Merton Carr, former Vermont exhibitor, is reportedly taking it easy at his Randolph home in the Green Mountain state.

Marie Doherty of Keith's Memorial is engaged . . . Jack Granara, RKO publicist locally, has set a fencing tournament to exploit "Son of Monte Cristo." He has also arranged for a father and son night when the feature hits Keith's Memorial . . . Granara has tied in with I. J. Fox, furriers, as a part of his campaign on "Hudson's Bay."

Clarence Finn, president of the Press Photographers Association in Boston, has announced that the organization's annual dinner-dance will be held April 14 at the Versailles Club . . . Leonard Kraska, Fine Arts house manager, disposed of over 600 souvenir programs during the run of "Here Is Ireland" at the theatre.

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AID Moves to Expand Film Buying Survey

BOSTON—Arthur K. Howard, new National Allied recording secretary and a member of the Allied Information Department, commenced lining up of the AID educational campaign last week immediately upon his return from the Allied confab in Washington. Howard stated that the aim of the new drive will be to bring information from more exhibitors under the scope of the survey, making the latter more comprehensive.

Local organizations, rather than Allied States Association itself, will support AID in the future, inasmuch as it is felt that with the buying season extended to 52 weeks of every year, the information handed out by the body is of much greater importance than it has been heretofore.

Double-Your-Money Deal For Cinema Club Dance

BOSTON—Anyone soberly not considering the Boston Cinema Club Fifth Annual Dinner Dance, the best ever sponsored by the local film fraternity, Vice-President Bill Cuddy stated last week, will be given double his admission fee.

Working to make the March 16 affair at the Cocoanut Grove the top of all times, are such Cinema Club members as Charles Wilson of Republic, Tom Fermoyle of M&P, Abe Barry of Columbia, Larry Herman of the Snider circuit, Charles Repec of M-G-M, and Dave Grover and Harry Smith of RKO.

Defense Orders For $9,743,000

Springfield, Mass.—Twenty-seven Bay State manufacturing firms have received orders totaling $9,743,000 for war supplies, the state statistics division announces. Boston firms received contracts for more than $4,000,000 of the total, Springfield $1,138,000, Worcester $1,152,000, Chicopee $42,000, and Northampton $3,500.

Birthday Ball Held for F. D. R. in Hartford

HARTFORD — The Hartford President's Birthday Ball was held last Thursday at the Hartford Club.

Chairman of the ball was Jack A. Simons, local Loew's Poli manager. Rudy Frank, publicity director for the Harris Brothers' State, and Wallace J. Cooper, assistant manager of the Loew's Poli, were in charge of entertainment.

Other committees for the ball were as follows: Reception, Morris Schulman, Schulman Theatres; George E. Landers, E. M. Loew's; and David E. Sugarman, WB's Colonial. Concessions: Walter B. Lloyd, M&P's Allyn; James F. McCarthy, WB's Strand. Personnel: Louis A. Cohen, Loew's Poli Palace; and Michael J. Daly, Daly Theatres.

Barhytd to Strand

HOLYOKE, MASS.—Don Barhytd, manager of the E. M. Loew's Court Square for about four years, has been appointed manager of the local Strand, succeeding Milton Weinstein, who has been named manager of the Victory.



Trigger "So Ends Our Night"—

Plans for launching the Dave Loew-Arthur Lewin opus in New England by the Loew Poli circuit are evolved in the New Haven offices by managers and executives of the circuit. Left to right, around the table: Harry F. Shaw, division manager; Jack Simons, manager Loew's Poli, Hartford; Bob Russell, manager Loew's Poli, New Haven; Lou Cohen, manager Loew Poli Palace, Hartford; Matt Saunders, manager Loew's Poli, Bridgeport; Joe Samartano, manager Loew Poli Palace, Meriden; Lou Brown, division advertising head, and Oscar A. Doob of New York, head of the Loew publicity and advertising department.

Russell With Poli Chain 22 Years

NEW HAVEN—For Robert E. Russell, manager of the Loew-Poli, Valentine Day has a special significance. It marks the 22nd anniversary of his association with the Poli chain as auditor for the entire circuit and right-hand man to the late Sylvester Z. Poli, auditor for subsequent regimes, and manager of the "A" house here.

In the World War, Russell served in the Navy commissary dept. It was after the Armistice that he became associated with Poli, colorful pioneer in film exhibition in Connecticut and founder of the present Loew-Poli string of houses. In a short time he took over all the Poli finances, both business and personal.

In the series of mergers, changes, and reorganizations which subsequently involved the theatres and their personnel, Russell remained as valuable employe to all operators. Under Harry F. Shaw and the Loew regime, he was first auditor and in charge of maintenance and upkeep of all 15 houses. In October, 1936, he took on the management of the 3,000-seat Loew-Poli Theatre in New Haven, and with his thorough business background and knowledge of the Elm City, has become outstandingly successful in this role as well.

Levine Opens Exchange On Meadow Street

NEW HAVEN—I. Levine, for many years on the distributing end on Filmrow here, has opened an office on Meadow St., operating as Inter-State Film Co., for the distribution of Northeastern, Imperial and Select attractions. The new product is to include two-reel Chaplins, and two-reel Shirley Temple comedies, as well as a horror duo, "Face in the Window" and "Torso Murder Case." Levine was local manager of Grand National.

Four Newsreels Covering Local Event to Bridgton

BOSTON—When four newsreels came out last week Wednesday with shots of the "Biggest Bob-sled in the World," made in Bridgton, Maine, where C. F. Millett, operator of the State is chairman of a winter carnival, Herbert Higgins, independent booker handling Millett's film schedules, rushed through arrangements with the four distributors and rushed prints of all the reels on the 12:30 train for Bridgton. Millett collected plenty of additional coin because of the timeliness.

Flesh for Two Years

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The E. M. Loew's Court Square here celebrated its second anniversary of vaudeville by offering Georgie Mae and an augmented stage show to patrons. The theatre is the only one in New England that has continuously presented stage shows over a two-year period. E. W. Whitford and W. H. McGhee have been handling the house.

: SPRINGFIELD :

JOE EGAN, GB's Paramount assistant engineer, who has been recuperating at home after an operation, is expected back at work within a week. Georgie Williams has been filling in . . . Lewis Lambert, Garden projectionist, and Simone Sirois, a local girl, are to be married some time this month . . . Charlie R. Smith, Broadway manager, was on the sick list with the grippe . . . Charlie MacKenzi is the new usher at the Loew's-Poli, succeeding B. Williams . . . Maurice Radin, Peoples' Candy Co., Worcester, in town last week to see Manager George E. Freeman, Loew's-Poli . . . James J. Bloom, chief of the service staff at the GB's Paramount, now takes his day off on Tuesday . . . Owen Holmes, Garden projectionist, filled in at the Art for Projectionist Alfred Bengle while the latter was down with the flu. Charlie Granviller handled Owen's duties at the Garden.

Dorothy "Dolly" Cianco is the new candy girl at the Loew's-Poli, replacing Katharine Hoar, who has been upped to the newly-created post of chief candy girl . . . Mary Manning, receptionist at the Broadway Theatre building headquarters of the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., has recovered from the grippe . . . James Hood is the new doorman at the Broadway, succeeding William B. Bouvier, resigned . . . Tony diCaro, assistant manager at the Capitol, reports fine business with "High Sierra" . . . Tommie Robertson, projectionist for the past 11 years at the Union Square, Pittsfield, is dead . . . Members of the service staff at the E. M. Loew's Mohawk, North Adams, are now sporting new uniforms . . . John M. Cooney of the Union Square, Pittsfield, had the grippe . . . Victor Schumway succeeds Gordon Macher as usher at the Broadway . . . Nathan E. Goldstein, president of the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., was in Northampton recently.

Herman Rifkin, circuit head, recently had a birthday . . . Ditto Manager Freddie I. Frechette of the Garden . . . William "Billy" Powell, division manager for Rifkin, is back at work after being out ill for some time. Carl A. Jamroga, Forest Park Phillips manager, filled in for Powell . . . Johnnie Appallasse, Broadway usher, has resigned . . . Broadway brought in Warner's "Here Comes the Navy" . . . Members of the Holyoke High School football squad were guests recently of Manager Paul Kessler, Suffolk, Holyoke . . . Elliott Preble, chief of service at the Strand, Newburyport, has been named assistant manager of the Warner, Lynn, succeeding Frankie Whalen, resigned.

Francis Faille, manager of the Paramount, North Adams, had bookmarks distributed in connection with "The Letter" . . . Jane Pikor of the Center, Fall River, was out on sick leave. Barbara Plante filled in . . . Henry Smith, son of Edward, GB's Paramount manager, is slated to leave Springfield on February 12 for training down in Albany, Ga. . . . Harry Schafer, Arcade projectionist, had the grippe . . . Office equipment in the main office at the E. M. Loew's Court Square has been rearranged . . . Sammy Kaye did SRO at the GB's Paramount last Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday . . . Stirling Hayden, former Gloucester boy who appears in Paramount's "Virginia," is due back in these parts in a few days . . . The Three Stooges recently appeared at the Empire, Fall River . . . Melvin M. Aronson, assistant manager at the Strand, Westfield, commutes daily to his home in Springfield . . . Ray Title, F&M's Art, Springfield, was in Boston on business.

O. D. Duchain, projectionist at GB's Paramount, is planning to visit New York in a few weeks . . . Virginia Pellin is the new assistant candy girl at the Forest Park Phillips . . . Palace, Pittsfield, tied up with Station WBRK and the Pittsfield Coal-Gas Co. for a weekly quiz program entitled "Silver Dollar Quiz." Affair is held every Wednesday evening . . . Malcolm Robichlea, engineer at the Old Colony, Plymouth, died recently of pneumonia . . . Ted Holt, Loew's New Haven maintenance department, has been here checking up on seats at the local Loew's-Poli.

Samuel Goldstein of Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., announces the engagement of his daughter, Elma Estelle, to Arthur H. Preston. Wedding will take place in the spring . . . Carl A. Jamroga, Forest Park Phillips manager, now takes his day off on Wednesday . . . WB's Paramount brought in "Victory" after an extensive advertising and publicity campaign . . . Business has been picking up along the local rialto.

Arbitration Districts . . . Boston, New Haven

Where exhibitors must go to file or answer complaints:

BOSTON—Chamber of Commerce Bldg., Henry de la Morandiere, tribunal clerk. The Boston board serves the entire states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

NEW HAVEN—Second National Life Bldg., Oliver Frederick Bishop, tribunal clerk. The New Haven board serves the entire state of Connecticut.



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NEW HAVEN

DEPARTURE of "Dean" Morris Joseph for permanent residence in the south after a long illness evoked many reminiscences on "the good old days" and the old timers . . . Joseph would have celebrated his 26th anniversary as Universal manager here in May . . . Bob Russell, who celebrates his 22nd anniversary with the Poli houses on Valentine Day, recalls Joseph as one of the first film notables he knew in the district along with Bill Scully and Lester Tobias . . . At his 20th anniversary dinner at the Taft, Joseph was still being kidded about his "Foolish Wives" deal . . . On his 23rd, he told us ". . . I can definitely feel that dark clouds usually do have their silver linings," and looked forward to entertaining his friends on his 25th . . . This he did at a gala cocktail party at the "U" offices, with a film of himself and Mike Tomasino showing the inside dope on contract-signing, as extra entertainment.

William C. deMille, Hollywood producer, speaking at the New Haven Open Forum in the First Methodist Church here, pleaded for freedom of the motion picture, as well as freedom of the press . . . He said that pictures, like plays, show the public what it is thinking, and help formulate the ideas it already has taken up; that pictures do not introduce new ideas or propaganda, or if they try these things, they fail . . . Oscar Doob of the Loew's home office came up to the Poli division office to talk about "So Ends Our Night," going into the Poli houses in New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport and Meriden February 13. *Present were Harry F. Shaw, Bob Russell, Jack Simon, Matt Saunders, Lou Cohen and Joe Samartano. An extensive campaign was outlined. Also David L. Loew and Albert Lewin, producers of the picture, were honor guests at a special press luncheon in anticipation of the opening at the Hotel Taft Wednesday. Professor Allardyce Nicoll, head of the Yale University department of drama, and Dr. William Lyon Phelps were other notables present. Lewin was interviewed from the Taft over station WELI, and later spoke to the Yale Drama students on motion picture production. Harry Shaw, Lou Wechsler, Lou Brown and Bob Russell officiated. Lewin produced "Spawn of the North" and "Zaza"; Loew, "Wide Open Faces," "The Gladiator" and "Flirting with Fate."*

Flue and other germs continue to swell the sick list . . . Morris Rosenthal, Majestic manager, Bridgeport, laid up with a strep throat . . . Lou Brown, Loew-Poli publicity chief, was out for several days . . . Harry Rose of the Globe, Bridgeport, is a patient at Bridgeport City Hospital as a result of a kidney ailment . . . Tim O'Toole, Columbia manager, and Earl Wright, 20th-Fox, just back after serious grippe attacks . . . Sid Lax, Columbia shipper, also got the bug for a few days . . . Lee Alderman, Warner contract clerk, recuperating from an operation at Grace Hospital while Katherine Bolton temporarily relieves her at the office . . . Helen Platt, Warner inspectress, out ill with an infected jaw shortly after receiving the sad news of her brother, Tom Gannon's sudden death . . . Harold Eskin a district visitor for the first time in two months after an illness in Florida . . . Mrs. Sam Badamo, wife of the College manager, another grippe patient . . . Also Morris Mendlesohn, wife of the Loew-Poli attorney . . . Bob Munzner, College assistant manager, forced to take short leave of absence . . . Morey Goldstein, new Metro manager, insists those black glasses aren't hiding something he got peeping through a keyhole, or in any altercation with an exhibitor.

Film bowling tournament at the end of the season is the plan of the committee, and the boys are shaping up . . . Loew-Poli ushers, captained by Frank Manente, are still undefeated . . . Next game scheduled is Al Pickus' Stratford team vs. Columbia at the Roger Sherman alleys . . . 20th-Fox beat Warner, Ben Simon, Sam Germaine, Sal Popolizio, Domenick Somma and Lou Wechsler playing for the former, and Larry Germaine, Bob Eliano, Budd Bachus, Morris Weinstein and Lester Saratus, for the latter . . . Although Columbia won two games out of three, a total pin fall of 1,552 *against* 1,527 *won the recent match with a Paramount-exhibition team. Tim O'Toole, Ben Lourie, Edward Canelli, Al Parizer and Al Pickus played for Columbia against Edward Ruff, Henry Germaine, Lou Schaefer, Herman M. Levy and Billy Burke.*

Local B-41 of exchange employes met for the first official 1941 meeting at the Hotel Garde Monday, with Samuel Zipkin of Universal presiding . . . Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut held a regular meeting Tuesday and reported only routine business . . . Thomas Fitzsimmons, attorney, has been registered as lobbyist for the stagehands' and operators' unions at the Hartford legislature . . . Loew-Poli ushers are dancing again, celebrating Valentine Day with their favorite girl friends at Seven Gables Inn, Milford. Committee in charge includes Marshall Blevins, Jerry DeLise, Arthur DeFrank and John Santillo. Harry F. Shaw will be guest of honor and what else but m.c. . . . Also honor guests are Lou Brown, Bob Russell, Nat Rubin, Sam Badamo and Bill Reisinger . . . Burning question is which celebrity Nat Rubin will escort . . . Bernhart E. Hoffman of the Warner Theatre department has been re-elected to the board of the Jewish Family Service . . . Dick Cohen, book premium and theatre program distributor, is father of a 7 pound 12 ounce boy, Peter Irwin, born at Grace Hospital.



Any Doubters?—

Earl Wright, 20th-Fox salesman in New Haven, here displays proof of his piscatorial prowess in the Gulf of Mexico. The catch weighed 18 *pounds.*

Jacques, new burlesque operation in Waterbury, has taken to radio advertising and fixed admissions at 25-50 *cents plus tax matinees, and* 40-77 *cents plus tax, evenings . . . Lincoln had first New Haven showing of "The Great Profile," coupled with "The Merry Wives," and mailed an attractive color program . . . "This Thing Called Love" stayed a second week at E. M. Loew's, Hartford, and "High Sierra," a second week at Regal, Hartford . . . "Land of Liberty," exploited several weeks ago by the College staff, has now been pushed back to made room for two holdover weeks of "GWTW" and one of "The Philadelphia Story" . . . Dick Cohen has sold the Pequot a* 20*-week Standard American encyclopedia deal, starting February* 10 *. . . Also the Community, Fairfield, the* 24*-week University of Knowledge Wonder Books for February* 9 *sendoff; and the Dixwell Playhouse, the Wonder Books, beginning February* 23 *. . . Harry Gibbs is handling the latest type theatre coca-cola dispenser, which is going over big in the Pickwick, Greenwich; Tower, Waterbury; State, Torrington; Capitol, Meriden; Park, Thomaston, and Conde Nast Press, Greenwich.*

Best wishes of the territory extended to Hymie Levine on the opening of his Inter State Film Co. Meadow Street office for the handling of Northeastern, Imperial, and Select attractions. Levine is a well-known figure on Filmrow where he has served in many capacities . . . William Hutchins, National Theatre Supply, is attending the national convention at the Belmont-Plaza . . . Second Lieutenant Eddie Fitzgerald, former assistant booker at the Paramount exchange, is at military school at Northfield, Vt., after which he leaves for Ft. Blanding, Jacksonville. Louis Posner of New York replaces him . . . Other Filmrow employes have low numbers and expect calls soon . . . Local Universal office is fifth in eastern division in the Bill Scully Drive . . . Perakos-Quittner building operations in East Hartford not yet started, and there is rumor of another new house in the town . . . Hymie Schwartz is still operating at the Hillcrest, Taftville . . . College, New Haven, has all new fixtures in men's and ladies' rooms, first change in the house in many a year.

Bob Bergin, former student assistant at the Elm Street, Worcester, has been promoted to assistant, succeeding Max Nesvetsky, who is now assistant manager of of the Poli, Worcester.

"Fantasia" Consensus Is All to the Good

BOSTON—"Fantasia" opened an extended roadshow run at the Majestic here last week before a society, intelligentsia, and run-of-the-mill audience under the joint sponsorship of the New England Town Hall and the Institute of Modern Art. Although critics differed on their comments, the only reaction at the boxoffice was an ever-increasing avalanche of advance orders. The opening got more front page space than usual as many newspapers sent film, music, editorial, and fashion writers to cover the event.

Alexander Williams, music critic for the *Herald,* wrote: "The whole thing has been handled with what amounts to a touch of genius," but it remained for another music critic, Warren Storey Smith of the *Post,* to give the film its heaviest and perhaps most obscure knocks.

"Blot on Disney"

Smith called it "a blot on Mr. Disney's artistic escutcheon," and added, "it is hard to condone Mr. Taylor's acquiescence and Mr. Stokowski's participation."

Wrote Smith: "A noble art, long secure in its place and position, is here forced to serve as the handmaiden of one that is still in the experimental stage, though applied in this instance with infinite ingenuity—and also with frequent lapses from good taste and with a superabundance of detail that often irritates and finally exhausts the one who would both see and hear. Moreover, in many cases the original intentions of the composers are treated with a sublime disregard."

As another paper explained it, "What sounds to the sordid soul like a drunken man beating his wife is to another like the roar of the mighty ocean beating on rocks."

The *Herald,* editorially, called Disney "a Walt Whitman of the screen" and added that Disney "has given sound and sight additional meaning . . . science has consorted with art, as mechanical accomplishments are almost as noticeable as the artistic.

"The orthodox furrowed the brow and raised the upper lip of trifle when Harvard, Yale and other institutions saw in Walt Disney far more than a funny draftsman with a roaming, entrancing fancy, and awarded him honorary degrees. These universities considered him a great creative, pioneering figure—just as many serious persons admire Fred Stone as a great clown or Charlie Chaplin as a truly superior artist. 'Fantasia' vindicates the judgment of the academic groups. Everything considered, what artistic development in the history of the stage surpasses it?"

Circuits Sign Kiddie Deals

BOSTON—Kiddie deals have been contracted for by M&P Theatres, Phil Smith, George Ramsdell, E. M. Loew, and Herman Rifkin circuits. The deals are handled by Joe Schmuck who has the Parade of Presidents giveaway and another juvenile hypo built around a racing reel.

HARTFORD

JAMES F. McCARTHY, WB's Strand manager, was in New Haven for a Warner publicity meet . . . New stage curtains and screen have been installed at the Lyric . . . Jack A. Simons, Loew's Poli manager, and Louis A. Cohen, Loew's Poli Palace manager, attended a division managers' meeting in New Haven . . . Frankie Ramsey, assistant manager at the Strand, now takes his day off every Monday . . . Dorothy Thompson will speak on "Our American Democracy" at Bushnell's, February 12, for the benefit of the Mt. Sinai Hospital . . . Alice Erickson, cashier at the WB's Strand, has been ill at home with the grippe . . . Ditto, Charlie Williams, WB's Strand porter.

"Ice Follies of 1941" *is due at the Eastern States Coliseum, West Springfield, on February* 10 *for a week's run . . . Proven Pictures brought back Columbia's "Lost Horizon" . . . Charlie Repass of the Crown and Martin Kelleher, Princess manager, were in New Haven . . . Three films, "The Flag Speaks," "Sons of Liberty," and "Lincoln in the White House" were shown at the Hartford Children's Museum last Sunday . . . "Gone With the Wind" was held for three weeks at the Loew's Poli Majestic, Bridgeport, and Loew's Poli Palace, Hartford . . . Community, Fairfield, brought back "Only Angels Have Wings" . . . Harry F. Shaw, division manager for Loew's Poli, and his wife, Flo, are reportedly planning to visit Hollywood in March . . . Palace, Stamford, is again offering flesh on Saturdays.*

Manny Kugell of the Warner, Bridgeport, was on the sick list . . . Walter Murphy, manager of the Capitol, New London, tripped to Boston . . . Syd Conn of Conrose, Inc., Hartford, has been in Miami Beach . . . Webster brought back "Dodsworth" . . . Elyse Knox, the former Elsie Kornbrath of Hartford, will appear in RKO's "Footlight Fever" . . . "This Thing Called Love" went into a third record-smashing week at the E. M. Loew's last Thursday . . . M. Frank Shaughnessy of the Academy, Northampton, is recuperating in the Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Northampton, from injuries received in an automobile accident recently outside of Northampton.

Joe Bernard, chief of the Strand service staff, had a cold . . . Ted Smalley, manager of the Garde, New London, observed his 36th birthday . . . Empress, Norwalk, will be recarpeted . . . Mark Larkin of MPPDA has been in this area in connection with "Land of Liberty" . . . Val Arms, formerly of Hartford, has sold a drawing of Mickey Rooney to M-G-M to be nationally released with "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" publicity . . . Helen Lee is the new relief cashier at the Loew's Poli Palace, succeeding Valerie Rudek, who has left for New York . . . Mrs. M. Oakley Christoph, film columnist and critic for the Hartford Courant, *spent last weekend in New York . . . Tommie Weaver, usher at the WB's Strand, has resigned . . . Paul Amadeo, usher at the E. M. Loew's, was out with the flu . . . Hy Fine, division manager of M&P Theatres, visited Walter B. Lloyd, manager of the Allyn . . . In New Haven last week on business was George E. Landers, E. M. Loew's manager.*

Many Hartford theatre managers were in attendance at the President's Birthday Ball at the Hartford Club. Jack A. Simons, Loew's Poli manager, was in charge of arrangements . . . Eddie Boggs, chief of service at the E. M. Loew's, has resigned . . . Tommie Long, part-time usher at the E. M. Loew's, has been upped to full-time . . . "The Philadelphia Story" did SRO business at the Loew's Poli.

Leonard Kraskas Present Richard, Their First

BOSTON—The gala world premiere of "Richard the First," without obligations to Shakespeare, was released here last week Sunday at 4:50 P. M., at the Fiske House in Cambridge. This, the first Georgia-Leonard production was in full natural color and starred Richard Stephen Kraska.

Producer was Georgia Robins Kraska while David Leonard Kraska was assistant producer. The director was Dr. J. L. Huntington. George Kraska, operator of the Fine Arts in Boston, was general manager in charge of exhibition.

"The mammoth production," according to Leonard Kraska, house manager of the Fine Arts, "weighed in seven pounds nine ounces. The first public showing will be February 15th at the Kraska auditorium at 53 Gardiner Road in Brookline with all seats reserved in advance."

20th Anniversary

HOLYOKE, MASS.—The Victory, managed by George Laby, is currently observing its 20th anniversary.

Sears Roebuck Limits Coupon Giveaways

BOSTON—Sears Roebuck & Co. will not extend their plan of profit-sharing coupons as giveaways into New England, Arthur Rogov, local retail sales head, informed this publication. Sears Roebuck put out one, two and five-cent coupons at face value to exhibitors in the Philadelphia territory and later redeemed them from theatre patrons in part or full payment for merchandise, the concern covering all advertising costs on the scheme.

Basic NBC Unit

NEW BRITAIN — Six-year-old WNBC, which established a branch in Hartford several years ago, has become a basic station of the NBC Blue network. General Manager Richard W. Davis is proceeding with a new transmitter to take care of the daytime power increase from 1,000 to 5,000 watts, effective April 1.

BRIDGEPORT

ILLNESS hit the managers of three downtown theatres the same week. Harry Rose of the Globe was taken to Bridgeport Hospital with a kidney ailment; Morris Rosenthal was stricken so seriously with the grippe that the services of trained nurses were necessary, and Manny E. Kugell of the Warner tore a ligament in his back. Matt L. Saunders of the Loew-Poli was the only major house manager to escape.

Jack Sidney sr., father of Jack Sidney, assistant manager at Loew's Poli, is company manager of the Arlene Judge unit show . . . William Pine, operator of the Playhouse, Darien, has been elected president of the Kiwanis Club of that town . . . John McCarthy, Loew's Poli engineer, collapsed at work and was removed to St. Vincent's Hospital. His son, James, is manager of Warner's Strand in Hartford . . . Howard Pettingell, formerly manager of the Warner here, is now in Palm Beach as advertising manager for a Florida chain.

Albert N. Hamilton, manager of the Empress, South Norwalk, is back from a trip to Chicago . . . The Strand morning shows for workers in the afternoon shifts in local factories are proving popular . . . Robert Finerty, Loew's Poli doorman, has been shifted to a like position at the Majestic, succeeding Jesse Gamwell . . . Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Haddleman of the Colonial and Capitol are back from a 12-day vacation in Miami . . . Harry F. Shaw, Loew's New England division manager, was called here by the serious illness of his brother-in-law, Harry Rose, Globe manager.

Lou Carroll of the Alhambra, Torrington, booked in "Birth of a Nation" and "The Shark Woman" as a double feature and did nice business . . . The Roxy, New Britain, gives away ice cream to the children on Saturday while the Palace, Torrington, hands out comic books . . . Morris Haddleman of the Shelton donated his theatre for the March of Dimes drive in that town and ran a benefit matinee . . . Manny Kugell of the Warner was in Stamford for a wedding.

A high truck backed into the marquee of Mike Carroll's American and knocked off a cornice . . . William Hatkoff, who has been manager of the Capitol, Danbury, and the Rialto, Norwalk, has opened a real estate office in the latter city . . . William Fash of Hackensack, N. J., has been named manager of the Playhouse, Ridgefield, succeeding Gerald Mangone, who has been transferred to Larchmont, N. Y.

The Rialto, Norwalk, has launched a bouquet household ensemble deal . . . The Empress, Norwalk, plans to recarpet . . . Manager Matt Saunders and Otto Esposito of the Loew-Poli and Julia Farnam, Central High School dramatic teacher, were in New Haven for the David L. Loew-Albert Lewin luncheon at the Hotel Taft . . . The interior of the Playhouse, New Canaan, has been repainted.

Michael Carroll of the American entertained the *Times-Star* carrier boys . . . Arthur McCloud, Capitol projectionist, is back in the booth after an illness . . . Louis Levy, Warner projectionist, is back from a Florida vacation.

"GWTW" Earns Third Week in New Haven

NEW HAVEN — The invisible flu germ made visible dents in business this week as it hit whole families and confined them to their homes. "GWTW," in its second week at the College, withstood all odds, however, and almost halved the first week's business at the "A" house on this picture. It will be held a third week. "Kitty Foyle" and the "Case of the Black Parrot" at the Roger Sherman also piled up good business. Other downtowns went under the line.

Detail for the week ended January 30:

(Average is 100)

College—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 225
Loew-Poli—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M) 80
Paramount—**Life With Henry** (Para't); **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 90
Roger Sherman—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 150

"Wind" Hub's Top Grosser; "Kitty" to Fifth Week

BOSTON—The biggest first-run noise of the week was that "Kitty Foyle" went into a fifth week at the Keith's Memorial in combination with "The Saint in Palm Springs." Snow storms were no aid to the boxoffice.

Details for the week ending January 31:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**Haunted Honeymoon** (M-G-M); **Go West** (M-G-M) 105
Keith's Memorial—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 4th wk.; **The Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 60
Orpheum—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), repeat run, 2nd wk. 165
State—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), repeat run, 2nd wk. 140
Metropolitan—**Victory** (Para't); **Life With Henry** (Para't) 100
Paramount—**Haunted Honeymoon** (M-G-M); **Go West** (M-G-M) 115

Gordon, Lockwood Get The State in Calais

BOSTON—Louis Gordon and Arthur Lockwood, heads of the rapidly enlarging Gordon & Lockwood circuit, extend their holdings into northern Maine with the acquisition of the State in Calais from Charles Staples.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

SIX new bills have been introduced in the legislature proposing laws fixing minimum wage and maximum hour standards and otherwise governing the relationship between employes and employers.

Employes of the Crown and Strand theatres sent floral tributes to the funeral of John J. Young at St. Anne's Church in Manchester.

"Hoot" Gibson and his wife were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Bell at Reed's Ferry.

The Town Hall of the new model village of Hill, replacing a community of the same name wiped out in a flood control project, has been formally accepted by the board of selectmen.

NEW BRITAIN

NICK MARLAMES of the Roxy was to have returned this week from a St. Petersburg vacation . . . More than 1,800 persons, most of them children, attended a show at the local Strand for the benefit of infantile paralysis sufferers. Total proceeds of the show were approximately $190.

Pattie McMahon, manager of the State, is planning the construction of a new home . . . Peter Perakos, Palace owner, reports business pretty good of late . . . Al Ireland, Roxy doorman, is quite a winter sports enthusiast.

John S. P. Glackin, Arch Street; Phil Demas, Roxy; Pattie McMahon, State; and Peter Perakos, Palace, all were in New Haven last week on business.

Pin Newsreel Wrestling Clip on Censor's Floor

BOSTON—Scenes of wrestling, dancing and carrion were clipped from three of the 59 films licensed last week for Massachusetts Sunday showing by the State Bureau of Sunday Censorship.

A wrestling clip was excluded in its entirety from Loew's, Inc. News of the Day No. 237. Scenes showing dead horses were cut out of the first reel of "Poland Is Not Lost," while censors excluded third reel scenes of dead women lying on the ground. In M-G-M's "Wild Man of Borneo" fourth reel scenes showing girl dancing were given the shears.

Harry Smith in Charge of Legion Post Banquet

BOSTON—Harry P. Smith of RKO was chairman in charge of the successful Past Commanders and Ladies Night held by the Theatrical Post of American Legion at a film district nitery here Monday.

Among the former commanders honored at the well-attended affair were Dr. William Basch, William J. Cotty, Kenneth Forkey, Col. Joseph F. Gohn, Patrick F. Healey, Charles E. Heath, William H. McLaughlin and James H. Sheeran.

"Philadelphia Story" Is Put on "Adult" List

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The Springfield M. P. Council classifies "The Philadelphia Story" as a film for "adults only," in its latest analysis of product.

The following are listed for the family: "Honeymoon for Three," "High Sierra," "Kitty Foyle," "Victory," "Gone With the Wind," "Invisible Woman," "South to Karanga," "This Thing Called Love" and "Let's Make Music."

Charlie Brennan

HARTFORD—Charlie Brennan, manager of the local Loew's Poli about seven years ago, died recently in Walter Reid Hospital, Washington, D. C., according to word reaching here.

Interstate Settles With O. B. Bridges

DALLAS—The Interstate circuit has effected a settlement out of court in the O. B. Bridges anti-trust suit against it and the eight majors.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but were described as "a figure satisfactory to Mr. Hoblitzelle and Mr. Bridges."

The Bridges suit had been pending for some time and was instituted by the independent exhibitor when he operated the Palace in Houston. It charged price fixing on the part of the circuit to the detriment of Bridges' operation.

The settlement winds up all pending damage suits against the circuit.

Hear Interstate Motion in Jorgenson Suit Monday

DALLAS—Hearing on Interstate's motion before Judge W. H. Atwell in federal court to have the jury verdict in the Jorgenson damage suit set aside in favor of an instructed verdict for the defendants, has been delayed until Monday. In case the instructed verdict is not realized, Interstate will ask for a new trial, it is believed.

Jorgenson recently was awarded $4,500 damages in a suit involving price restrictions and availability.

Robb & Rowley Transfer Two Operating Heads

DALLAS—Shifts of operating heads in two Robb & Rowley-United towns have just been made. Sam Stokes, after many years as manager in McAlester, Okla., goes to Corpus Christi where he will relieve Bruce Collins as city manager. Collins, it was said, will devote his time to R&R real estate in the boom city and will also look after personal holdings. He remains, however, as partner of the circuit in Corpus. To McAlester goes Alex Blue, formerly assistant to J. F. Jones in Palestine. Blue's place is filled by John Callahan, a brother of Dave Callahan, who is the R&R manager in Waxahachie.

Shorthose and Interstate Building in Paris, Tex.

PARIS, TEX.—W. F. Shorthose, local business man, is starting remodeling work on a new independent theatre here which he expects to open within the next few weeks. He secured a lease on the location a short time ago and has purchased equipment for it.

Last Monday, however, the Interstate circuit started remodeling of a store location they recently acquired which will make their fourth theatre here. The Shorthose show will make the total five.

Thurman Lumpkin Promoted

FORT WORTH, TEX.—Thurman Lumpkin, formerly of the Palace service staff here, has been named assistant manager of the Camp Bowie Theatre at Brownwood, Tex.

"Wind," "Hudson's Bay," "Arizona" Smashers

NEW ORLEANS—Decree or no decree, the public is tearing down the doors over the excellence of the films shown in all houses. "GWTW" came back to Loew's after a seven-and-a-half week run at more than top prices—but this time at 50 cents top and packed them in. It will go to the neighborhoods at a slight advance after the protection period. "The Philadelphia Story" is underlined. At the Orpheum, "Arizona" proved that Southerners go strong for the westerns. "This Thing Called Love" is being held for a third week at the Liberty, another Mort Singer theatre. Over at the Saenger, "Hudson's Bay" brought a touch of snow and ice, saved a new world and reunited two lovers to be followed by "Second Chorus," with "Victory" as a midnight show. Business has been good all over the city.

(Average is 100)

Globe—**Bitter Sweet** (M-G-M) 95
Liberty—**That Thing Caled Love** (Col), 2nd wk..100
Loew's—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 250
Orpheum—**Arizona** (Col) 200
Saenger—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 200
Tudor—**Escape** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 90

"Santa Fe Trail" Is Most Potent Draw in Dallas

DALLAS—Grosses held up on Elm Street with "Santa Fe Trail" taking the honors for the week. However "GWTW" opened Friday at the Palace and this was given credit for bringing them downtown during the weekend rain, the first part being fair, however. The Capitol put in another double, including an Autry, after trying it single the previous Saturday.

Detail for week ending February 1:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Phantom Submarine** (Col) 90
Played Tuesday and Wednesday.
Capitol—**Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox) 90
Played Thursday and Friday.
Capitol—**San Francisco Docks** (Univ); **Ridin' on a Rainbow** (Rep) 115
Starting Saturday going through Monday.
Majestic—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN) 125
Held over at the Tower.
Palace—**Second Chorus** (Para't) 100
Rialto—**Lady With Red Hair** (WB) 100
Played three days ending Thursday.
Rialto—**No, No, Nanette** (RKO) 110
Played four days through Monday.
Tower—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 2nd wk ..110

Rain Dampens Attendance For O. C. First Runs

OKLAHOMA CITY—Rain for almost the full week cut grosses down last week with indications of attendance having forecast exceptionally good business had it not been for the dripping weather.

Detail for week ended February 1:

(Average is 100)

Criterion—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M).....135
Liberty—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB); **The Great Profile** (20th-Fox), ... 95
Midwest—**The Son of Monte Cristo** (UA)..... 90
State—**Foreign Correspondent** (UA) 130
Tower—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....110
Fourth local week on this run; two at Criterion.

Underwood and Ezell Sell Republic Texas Franchise

DALLAS—Republic Pictures Corp. of New York has purchased their Texas franchise from W. G. Underwood and C. C. Ezell, who thereby retire from distribution after being in that end of the game since its earliest days.

James R. Grainger, Republic president; J. E. McMahon, company attorney, and Frank Soule, special representative for Herbert Yates, were here several days at the Adolphus Hotel working on the deal which was finally closed Monday night.

Lloyd B. Rust, who continues as local Republic manager, said there would be no changes whatever in the Dallas branch in either personnel or service.

Underwood operated Specialty Film Co. here for many years. In June, 1935, he joined forces with Ezell and as a team they built up a prospering business. When Bank Night came along, they added vastly to their coffers.

Today they are devoting their full time to building drive-in theatres in Texas and to other theatre interests.

Isley Builds in Mineral Wells and Brownwood

DALLAS—Theatre activities of Phil R. Isley continue to attract attention here.

He started construction Monday on a 1,000-seater in Mineral Wells across the street from where Resort Amusement Co. (Robb & Rowley), have a new theatre under way. Isley also started construction Monday on a new theatre in Brownwood where he opened the new Plaza about 90 days ago. On February 6, he opened the new Bobby Walker in Abilene. The house was named for his grandson.

Hear Boyce House

WACO, TEX.—Boyce House, widely-read Texas newspaper columnist who served as technical director for M-G-M's "Boom Town," addressed the Junior Chamber of Commerce membership on the subject, "How I Took Hollywood by Storm." His speech was a humorous take-off on his experiences while in the film capital.

Desguin Installs Sound

PUNTA GORDA, FLA.—L. V. Desguin is installing RCA sound in his New Theatre.

Arbitration Office Open in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — The arbitration tribunal serving the two Carolinas as provided by the consent decree governing industry relations is now open here at 1315 Liberty Life Building.

In charge is Joseph C. Wright who before assuming the duties was connected with the local office of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co. He also has been active in the junior chamber of commerce and other civic groups.

Arbitrators of complaints, Wright points out, will be chosen from fields outside the industry and announcement of appointees will be made within two weeks.

Would Legalize Betting On Horses in Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK—A bill has been introduced in the House to legalize the placing of bets on horse races with licensed bookmakers. The license fee would be $50 annually. A tax of seven per cent would be levied on the total amount of bets accepted. Revenue would pay the cost of administering a proposed federal food stamp plan in Arkansas counties.

Another bill introduced in the House would increase the privilege tax on money wagered in pari-mutuel machines at horse race tracks from the present five to 15 per cent. The additional revenue would be allotted to payment of old-age pensions.

New Daytona Beach Unit To Show Warner Product

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.—A permit for the construction of a $50,000 theatre in the Burgoyne Block on North Beach Street, has been signed by George W. Steele, local contractor. The new house will be air conditioned and accommodate about 1,000 patrons.

The property is owned by W. R. Lovett, Jacksonville business man, who will finance the structure and lease it to a New York group. The new theatre will feature Warner pictures, which have not been shown here in more than a year.

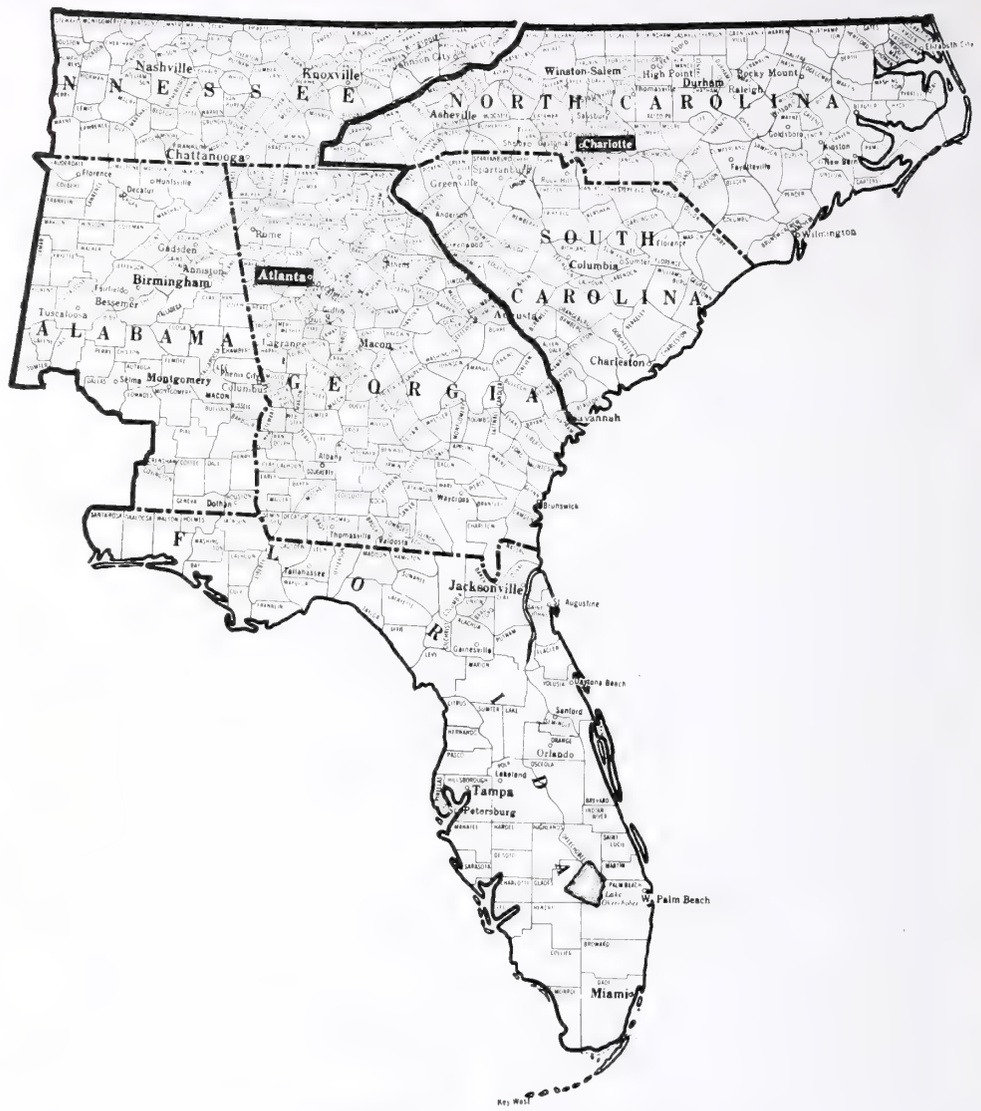
The Fire at Norton

BRISTOL, TENN.—Recent mention of a fire in Bristol, Tenn., was erroneous. The first was not in Bristol, but in Norton, Va., 60 miles northwest. The New Norton was destroyed with a loss of $50,000 to $60,000. The theatre was owned by the King Cole Theatre Corp., which operates out of Marion, Va.

Book "Outsider"

DALLAS—"The Outsider," English-made film starring George Sanders and Mary McGuire, is booked for its first run here February 23-25 at the Varsity.

Arbitration Districts . . . Atlanta, Charlotte



—Copyright American Map Co., Inc.

ATLANTA—*Mortgage Guarantee Bldg., Detlef H. Hansen jr., tribunal clerk. The area includes: In Georgia, the entire state. In Florida, the entire state except for Escambia county. In Alabama, all counties except Marengo, Choctaw, Washington, Mobile, Clarke, Wilcox, Butler, Conecuh, Baldwin, Escambia and Monroe. In Tennessee, all counties east of the western boundaries of Stewart, Houston, Humphreys, Perry and Wayne.*

CHARLOTTE—*Liberty Life Bldg., Joseph C. Wright, tribunal clerk. The area includes the entire states of North Carolina and South Carolina.*

Connors and Berger Visit in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE—Visitors here last week were Thomas J. Connors, Metro's eastern sales manager, and Rudolph Berger, formerly manager of the local branch, but more recently in charge for the company in Washington. Berger recently took over his new duties as district manager of a territory embracing Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, the Carolinas and parts of West Virginia.

Connors and Berger, accompanied by Manager Benn Rosenwald and Al Burks, publicist in the local office, spent some time inspecting the new exchange building being constructed at Church and Third streets which will be opened about March 1. They also visited with independent and chain operators.

Dismissal Motion Denied "Little 3"

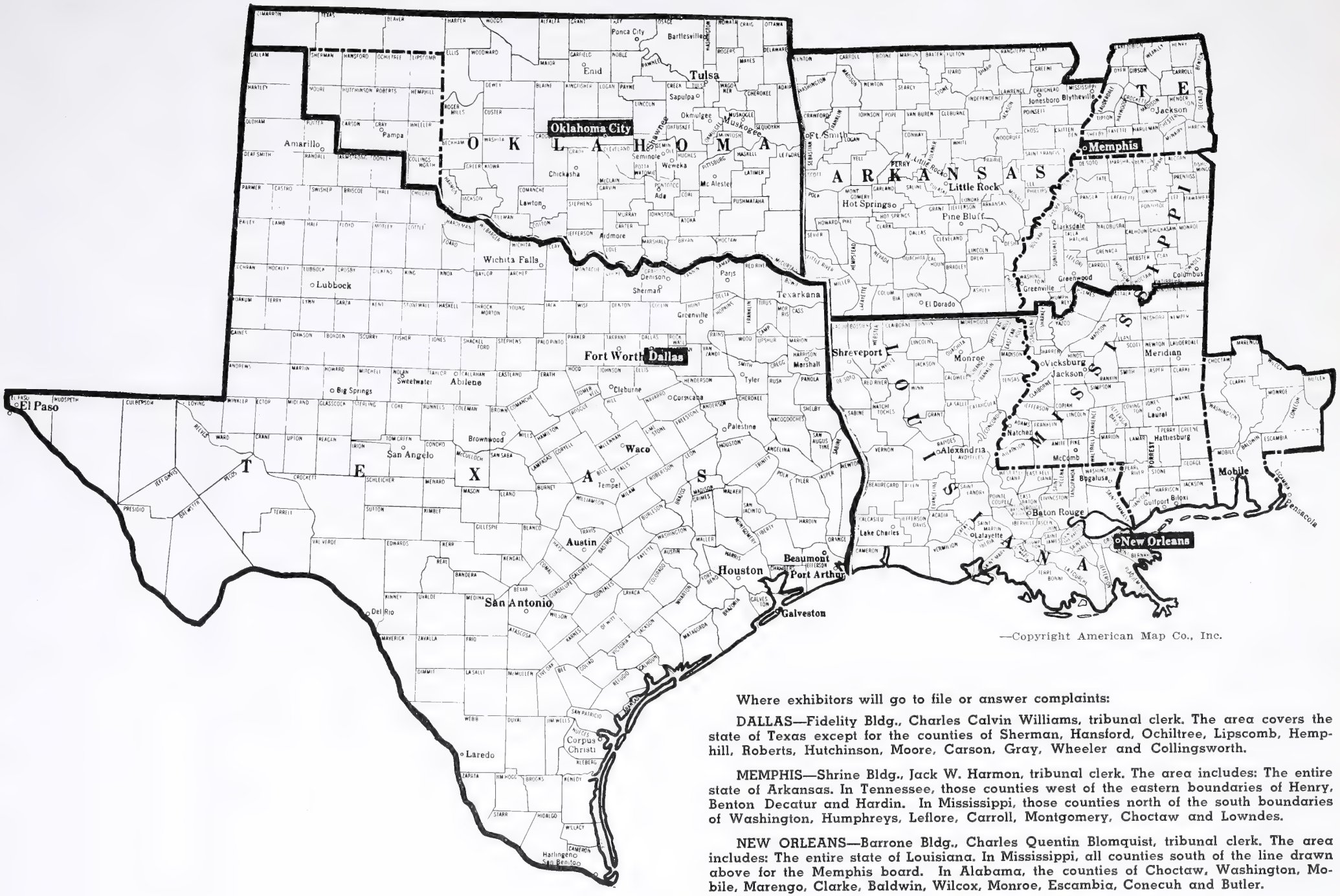
OKLAHOMA CITY—An order overruling a motion for summary judgments of three motion picture distributors, Columbia, United Artists and Universal, has been issued by Edgar S. Vaught, federal district judge.

The motion sought dismissal of the three companies from a government suit filed principally against the Griffith companies here under the Sherman anti-trust act.

Legnon Re-equips Smyles

WEEKS ISLAND, LA.—A. Legnon has re-equipped his Smyles here and reports patron response has been most encouraging.

ARBITRATION DISTRICTS: Dallas, Memphis, New Orleans, Oklahoma City



—Copyright American Map Co., Inc.

Where exhibitors will go to file or answer complaints:

DALLAS—Fidelity Bldg., Charles Calvin Williams, tribunal clerk. The area covers the state of Texas except for the counties of Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hemphill, Roberts, Hutchinson, Moore, Carson, Gray, Wheeler and Collingsworth.

MEMPHIS—Shrine Bldg., Jack W. Harmon, tribunal clerk. The area includes: The entire state of Arkansas. In Tennessee, those counties west of the eastern boundaries of Henry, Benton Decatur and Hardin. In Mississippi, those counties north of the south boundaries of Washington, Humphreys, Leflore, Carroll, Montgomery, Choctaw and Lowndes.

NEW ORLEANS—Barrone Bldg., Charles Quentin Blomquist, tribunal clerk. The area includes: The entire state of Louisiana. In Mississippi, all counties south of the line drawn above for the Memphis board. In Alabama, the counties of Choctaw, Washington, Mobile, Marengo, Clarke, Baldwin, Wilcox, Monroe, Escambia, Conecuh and Butler.

Atlanta Variety Club Holds Gala Banquet

By HELEN HARDY

ATLANTA—The annual banquet of the Atlanta Variety Club Tent No. 21, was held in the Henry Grady Hotel, Saturday, February 1, and was indeed a spectacular piece of showmanship. It was a thrill-packed evening of entertainment headed by such celebrities as Deanna Durbin, Allan Jones, and Bob Hawk, quizmaster of "Take It or Leave It" radio fame.

Dean Raimundo De Ovies, chaplain of Atlanta Tent No. 21, opened the banquet with the Variety prayer and Allan Jones sang "God Bless America."

William K. Jenkins, Chief Barker, spoke on the origin of the Variety Club, and gave a report of the past year's work. Bob O'Donnell of Dallas, Tex., first assistant chief barker of the Variety Clubs of America, inducted the roster of officers and directors for 1941, which is composed of William K. Jenkins, chief barker; Harry G. Ballance, first assistant; Charles E. Kessnich, second assistant; Robert B. Wilby, dough guy; Egbert E. Whitaker, property master, and the directors, John Ezell, R. L. McCoy, Paul S. Wilson, Dave Prince, J. F. Kirby and Willis J. Davis.

The following notables were introduced by Jenkins: T. J. Conners, southern division manager for M-G-M; Mrs. James Durbin, Deanna's mother; Troy Chastain, chairman of the Fulton county board of commissioners; Lindley Camp, secretary of the state senate; Major Clark Howell; James Grizzard, executive secretary to Mayor Roy LeCraw; Herman Talmadge and his mother, Mrs. Gene Talmadge, wife of the governor of Georgia; Randall Evans jr., speaker of the house of representatives; Charles Redwine, president of the state senate; Mitchell J. Hamilburg, Miss Durbin's manager; John Joseph, director of publicity and advertising for Universal; George Thomas of Universal's publicity department; Harry Graham, district manager and John Ezell, branch manager of Universal in Atlanta, and presidents of the Atlanta civic clubs.

The evening reached a spectacular climax when Jenkins, on behalf of the Variety Clubs of America, presented the Berry Schools of Rome, Ga., with a check for $1,000 as a tribute from the organization to Miss Martha Berry, founder of the institution, who was awarded Variety's Humanitarian Award for 1940, at the annual convention in Dallas last spring. Miss Berry, had planned to attend but was unable to be present due to illness. Miss Inez Henry, who accepted the check in behalf of Miss Berry, came forth to "steal the show" from all with her touching story of the mountain children and how the $1,000 check would keep six children in school for one year.

Dean De Ovies made the formal address of the evening on "What Variety Can Mean to This Community."

An evening filled to the brim with entertainment that lasted for three and one-half hours (and seemed like 30 minutes) ended in a grand finale with Allan Jones and Deanna Durbin leading the audience in the national anthem.

Richardson Is Atlanta Universal Manager

ATLANTA—S. W. M. Richardson, currently manager of the New Orleans exchange for Universal, has succeeded John T. Ezell, resigned, as manager of the Atlanta branch. Ezell's plans were not announced.

No successor has yet been designated for Richardson in New Orleans.

Neeley Installs New Sound

WEST BLOCTON, ALA. — Lester Neeley, operator of a number of theatres in Alabama, is installing new sound and a screen in his Strand here.

Your SIMPLEX projector Is GENUINE — keep it that way by using GENUINE SIMPLEX replacement parts.

They are made only in the factory which built your SIMPLEX.

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

Dallas, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Charlotte and Oklahoma City

Braly and Owen Are Feted at a Party

DALLAS—Paramount's southwestern district bade god-speed to departing District Manager Hugh Braly and welcome to their new boss, Hugh Owen, with a gala dinner-dance at the Jefferson Hotel, last Saturday night.

C. H. Weaver, sales manager, was toastmaster, and his first act was to call in the photographer for a group picture. Shortly afterward, Mrs. Willie Simmons presented Mrs. Hugh Braly with an arm bouquet of roses, a going-away gift from the girls of district three.

With dessert out of the way, the boys from the Oklahoma City and Memphis exchanges were introduced. Branch Manager C. L. Dees led the Oklahoma City contingent with Booking Manager Sam Brunk and Salesmen Nichols, Rau and McKean present. Mrs. Dees, Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. McKeen accompanied their husbands. From Memphis were Branch Manager Bugie, Booking Manager Neel and Sales-

Weaver introduced Braly, who expressed his appreciation for the cooperation he had received from members of the district. Braly in turn introduced Owen, who spoke of his happiness at once again becoming a Paramounteer.

Braly was presented a set of Hartman bags as a token of esteem from the boys of the district. He departed for the west coast immediately following the party.

Credit for the affair goes to Toastmaster Weaver, George Gaughan, Mrs. Willie Simmons, Lloyd Hendrich, Alene Webb and Sebe Miller, who had charge of preparations.

Awarded Contract for Theatre in Sheffield

SHEFFIELD, ALA.—Muscle Shoals Theatres, Inc., has awarded a contract to Daniel Construction Co. of Birmingham, for construction of a new $75,000 theatre here to seat 1,000 persons. Work is due to start in a few days and to be completed some time next summer. It will be named the Colbert in honor of the county in which it is located.

J. G. Long Remodeling Queen in Palacios

PALACIOS, TEX.—The J. G. Long circuit is remodeling its original theatre here, the Queen. It will get a new front and be reseated. The Queen only seats 500. A few months ago, however, Long opened their new 1,000-seat Capitol to take care of the many thousands of soldiers in training here.

Reissues Click

DALLAS—Propelled by Louis Charninsky's unique showmanship, Astor's "Sky Devils" and "Scarface" in their streamlined versions grossed above average business at the Capitol here.

ATLANTA

A C. BROMBERG, president of Republic Pictures Corp. here, left Sunday for Miami, for a three-week vacation . . . Lee Castleberry of the Fifth Avenue Theatre, Nashville, Tenn., has left the hospital, where he spent the past four weeks, and is now recuperating at his home.

Muscle Shoals Theatres is building a new house in Florence, Ala. They recently completed one house in Tullahoma, Tenn. . . . Manning & Wink are building a 1,400-seater in Dalton, Ga.

Chas. A. Adams, manager of the Peachtree Theatre, lost his grandmother . . . Mrs. Solomon Miller, wife of Solomon Miller, Peachtree Theatre Co., is very ill at Georgia Baptist Hospital . . . Ted Toddy, Consolidated National Film Exchanges, Inc., has left for a trip to New York.

Offices of Consolidated National Film Exchanges, Inc., have been completely redecorated at 141 Walton St., N. W. John Jenkins has left for a trip through Florida, while Mrs. Jenkins will carry on in the Atlanta office . . . Consolidated advises that many contracts and play dates have been accepted for the new version of "Birth of a Nation," which is doing sensational business throughout the south and has just opened a New York run.

Miss Julia Iverson Cowles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Cowles, National Screen Service, was married Sunday, January 26, at the famous Little Church Around the Corner in New York City, to Lee Geithman . . . Ike Katz, P-R-C district manager, is back from a visit to his home office in New York, where he attended a special conference regarding forthcoming productions.

Jim Young and B. S. Bryan, Atlanta salesmen for P-R-C, have returned home from the territory and report excellent business for their organization. Young is now covering eastern Tennessee and northern Alabama and Bryan has left for a tour in northeast Georgia.

J. E. Duncan's Playhouse Theatre at Carrollton will have its formal opening Friday, February 14. All equipment was purchased from Capitol City Supply Co. Capitol City also reports the sale of new equipment to James E. Clay for his house at Conyers, Ga., to be opened in the very near future.

Visitors: W. R. "Bill" Griffin, Strand, Cullman, Ala., (who always gets in a little golf—with his booking); Joe Hackel, Ritz, Jacksonville, Fla.; Nat Williams, Rose, Thomasville, Ga.; Glover Johnson, Cherokee, Center, Ala.; Mrs. Willingham Wood, Strand, Washington, Ga.; Mrs. M. M. Osman, Strand, Covington, Ga.; L. J. Duncan, West Point, Ga., and J. H. Thompson, Martin-Thompson, Hawkinsville, Ga.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Woodward, Strand, Winder, Ga., will leave this weekend for a two-week vacation in Miami . . . Employes of Republic Pictures Corp., presented George Jones, office manager, who has resigned to form the Jones-Benton Booking Service, with a traveling bag . . . Johnnie Cummings, salesman for Monogram Southern Exchanges, has been transferred to the New Orleans territory.

SENSATIONAL BARGAINS

IN NEW — USED — FACTORY RECONDITIONED THEATRE EQUIPMENT

Factory Reconditioned Simplex Projectors complete with front shutter mechanisms Double Bearing Intermittent movements—16" upper and lower magazines—new 5 point pedestals complete with switches	Per Pair	$500.00
Simplex Double Bearing Mechanisms, completely rebuilt (Front Shutter)	Each	195.00
Simplex Single Bearing Mechanisms, completely rebuilt (Front Shutter)	Each	165.00
Five Point Pedestal Stands, complete—NEW	Each	45.00
Three Point Pedestal Stands, complete—REBUILT	Each	39.00
Single Bearing Movements (excellent condition) (order for spare)	Each	12.00
New Powers Heavy Duty Gates	Each	27.00
Powers Type 6-B Mechanisms with New Cast Iron Center Frame Roller Pin Cross movement (1 year guarantee)—NEW	Each	105.00
Regular Powers 6-B Mechanisms completely Rebuilt like New, Roller Pin Cross movement (1 year guarantee)	Each	95.00
Powers 6-A Mechanisms completely rebuilt	Each	75.00
Powers 6-B Stands complete with upper magazines	Each	45.00
Powers 6-A Stands complete with upper magazines	Each	25.00
Strong Utility Suprex Arc Lamps in A-1 condition	Per Pair	300.00
Ashcraft Suprex Arc Lamps, completely rebuilt (good as new)	Per Pair	320.00
Low Intensity Peerless Arc Lamps with regular 7⅝" Reflectors, completely rebuilt	Per Pair	168.00
Low Intensity Peerless Arc Lamps with 10¼" conversion Reflectors, completely rebuilt	Per Pair	180.00
Low Intensity Strong Arc Lamps, completely rebuilt	Per Pair	175.00
Low Intensity DeLuxe Morelite Arc Lamps, 7⅝" Reflectors, completely rebuilt	Per Pair	135.00
Forest 30 Ampere Rectifiers, like new—30 Ampere Capacity	Per Pair	100.00
Brandt Automatic Coin Machines, like new	Each	80.00
Gold Seal 2 Unit Drop Key Automatic Ticket Machine, 1 year guarantee	Each	90.00
Rewinders (hand)	Each	7.20
Rewinders (automatic)	Each	45.00
Griswold Film Splicers	Each	14.50
8-Reel Film Cabinet, good as new	Each	14.50
35 Amp. Arc Spots	Each	42.00
75 Amp. Arc Spots	Each	78.00
Small 500-1000 Watt Spots	Each	22.50
Small Pyrene Fire Extinguishers for Booths	Each	7.20
Automatic Curtain Controls—NEW	Each	70.00
Portable Film Cleaning Machines—NEW	Each	13.50
Thide Change Overs with Foot Switches	Each	42.00
Rewinding Booth Tables	Each	21.00
G. E. Mazda Lamps with Transformers	Each	30.00
Simplex Mazda Lamps with Transformers	Each	24.00
New Aisle Lights	Each	2.00
Used Simplex Portable Projector, complete with 15-watt Amplifier, Speaker and 1000-watt Mazda Lamp	Each	350.00
R. C. A. P. G. 13 Sound Equipment, complete with Amplifier and Speakers, completely rebuilt for 2 machines (Simplex)		330.00
1—Western Electric Universal Base Sound System, complete with Amplifier and Speaker. Completely rebuilt for 2 machines (Simplex)		480.00
1—Syncrofilm Sound System, complete for 2 machines (Powers)		250.00
1000 American Seating Company 19", 20" and 21" wide Spring Cushion Chairs, inlaid panel in back, cast iron standards (exceptionally good chairs)	Each	2.50
375 Spring Cushion Chairs, inlaid panel in back, covered with plush cast iron standards, 18", 19" and 20" wide	Each	2.35
375 Spring Cushion Chairs, with leather covered seat and back, pressed steel standards, 18", 19" and 20" wide	Each	2.35
500 Plain Veneer chairs (very good condition)	Each	1.50
1000 Used All Steel Folding Chairs	Each	1.25
Front Draw Curtains made of Cardinal Red Studio Quality Velour with 50% fullness sewed in, trimmed with two rows of 2" gold braid across bottom-webbing, grommets and tie lines at top and chain-weighted at bottom (13' high by 17' wide each half). Based on stage opening 18' high by 30' wide	Per Pair	75.00
Used Portable Machine Stands, complete (made of 1½" pipe adjustable) for RCA, Simplex, Simplex-Acme, and other makes of portable projectors	Per Pair	25.00

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Concerning Florida

By A. JULES BENEDIC

HAINES CITY, FLA.—We hie to Haines City and harangue with Carl Floyd, one-time Republic manager at Tampa, who resigned recently to become a full-fledged exhibitor in a tiein with L. A. Stein at Jacksonville. The company controls a score of theatres in small towns equally divided between Florida and Georgia.

Carl puts us straight on this prosperity talk being linked with the Peninsula State. He says that some towns have their full measure of prosperity, namely Starke, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Tampa, Orlando, etc., but that other sections seemingly are resigned to a humdrum Floridan existence, with booms conspicuous by absence.

New Theatre for Sebring

Mr. Floyd tells us of a new theatre being erected by the circuit at Sebring. It's to be called the Florida and efforts will be made to get open by June 1 of this year. The company already has one house at Sebring, the Circle.

This Haines City exhibitor spent many years in the exchange end before embarking on a theatre career, after he and the Stein interests had purchased the circuit formerly owned by F. O. Mullen. In his office here Carl has hung up on the wall a scroll signed by every employe of Republic's southern branches, testifying to their good will.

Green Cove Springs Expansion

We leap to Leesburg, Florida's famous fishing town, despite its inland location, and have an interesting chat with Earle M. Fain, head of the independent theatre circuit of that name. Earle has theatres scattered over approximately a dozen Florida towns, making headquarters in Leesburg. He tells us of the new theatre he is erecting in Green Cove Springs, near the soldier excitement at Fort Blanding. This will be the second house for this rapidly-growing town, the other, the Clay, being also controlled by the Fain circuit.

We stumble into Starke, once a sleepy village of 1,600, now a transformed city of thousands, all due to Uncle Sam's proximity at Camp Blanding. Folks hereabouts are of differing opinions concerning the eventful fate of the present boom with which Starke and area is being blessed, in view of the fact other and larger towns are nearer the camp, which, by the way, may train 70,000 soldiers. A small theatre here is filled nightly, while a Mr. Carnasion, formerly of Lake Wales, is rushing to completion a competitive theatre that will seat approximately 700. Out on the busy highway, in the vicinity of the camp, the American Theatre will open soon, while there is also nearby, a tent show.

We hurry to Hawthorne and have a go with J. P. Grimes, who has a portable circuit taking in this and surrounding small towns, then we jump again into Jacksonville. In the manner of Pepys, this would be our Jacksonville diary:

Jaxon's Diary a la Pepys

Up betimes and hurry to Riverside for enjoyable luncheon with Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Moore; he being skipper of the Riverside Theatre and perennial prexy of the Southeastern Theatre Owners Ass'n. There's been an addition to the family since our last visit, one Duke, a canine critter whose cunning habits have endeared him to the Moore menage . . . Out then to the Cinema Ritz, for local colored, an establishment headed by Joe Hackel, who has still another show in Jax, and a pair additional in nearby Georgia . . . Then to the Seligmans, brothers two, veterans in the operation of theatres devoted to colored patronage, and both of whom were, unfortunately, out at the moment.

We bustle into Baystrasse, a thoroughfare upon which the veteran L. D. Joel has projected celluloids for three decades and more; in fact, L. D. is rated one of the oldest exhibitors, in point of service, in all of Florida . . . We flit to the Florida Theatre and after so long a time confer with Guy Kenimer, possibly the busiest executive on all of E. J. Sparks' staff . . . While we wait, we're guest of Manager Robert Heekin at the initial showing of "Philadelphia Story," a cinematic yarn that had us all in proverbial stitches, and which left us flabbergasted when Hepburn didn't marry Jimmy Stewart . . . We learn that R. A. Yockey of the Casino, confined to the hospital for a week, is much better and has been removed to his local domicile, with expectation of being up and about before long.

Fred Weis and Associates Get Arcadia in Savannah

SAVANNAH—A telegram from this Georgia city advises that Fred G. Weis and associates, under the name of F&W Amusement Co., have taken over operation of the Arcadia on East Broughton, the town's "main street."

The Arcadia was under lease to Lucas & Jenkins until the end of 1940, when it was dropped. Weis is remodeling, putting on a new roof, installing new chairs, sound equipment and air conditioning.

Freddie is owner and manager of the Savannah Theatre, 122-year-old establishment, and operates also the Bibb in Macon, Ga., another L&J stronghold.

Price range of 10 and 15 cents, the same as at the Savannah, will prevail at the Arcadia, which may get a new name.

This marks the first time in years that the downtown section of Savannah will be a competitive field.

NEW ORLEANS

CHARLES BLOMQUIST is in charge of the local arbitration tribunal which has opened offices in the Barrone Building. He was formerly a resident of New Orleans, but for the past year and a half has been with the U. S. census bureau in Ohio . . . Harry Spann, Monogram manager, has been transferred to Atlanta, and Harold Cowan, salesman, was elevated to the local helm. A farewell party was tendered Spann by the Monogram staff which also evolved into a welcome for the new manager.

F. M. Hartley, manager of the London office of 20th Century-Fox, accompanied by his wife, is in New Orleans for a month's vacation . . . Jimmie Fidler, the Hollywood gossiper, was in the city last week en route to Miami . . . "The Big Drive," an official film of the First World War, was shown at the Orpheum . . . On February 13, "Back Street" will have its initial local showing at the Orpheum. Bruce Manning, the author, will be here for the occasion with his wife . . . Warren Salles of the Garden has a new motto: "No Blackout at the Garden Ladies Lamp Night." He is giving away a table lamp for ten consecutive admissions.

Visitors to the Row: Louisiana—Roy Saxon, Frankelton; J. O. Gaudet, Port Allen; Gordon Ogden, Baton Rouge; O. J. Barre, Edgard; Jeff Rebstock, Golden Meadows; L. W. Watts, Oil City; W. A. Tucker, Wisner; C. K. Phillips, Jonesville; Waite Kerr, Sulphur; C. W. Butterfield, New Iberia. Mississippi—S. D. Lawrence, Laurel; James Mason, Purvis; C. D. Hatcher, Stonewall; A. L. Royal, Gulfport; Stanley Foster, Crosby; Bill Baker, Macon and W. L. Moseley, Picayune.

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ATLANTA, GA.

DALLAS

IN HIS NEW role as administrator of the Homer Mulkey estate and operator of the Pastime and Cozy theatres in Clarendon, Lee Bell made his first trip to the Row this week booking and ordering a few miscellaneous supplies . . . With Lee Bell's visit here, comes word that Mrs. Mulkey continues at the theatres where she has sold tickets, mainly at the Pastime, for many years.

Herman Young, who recently opened the Joy for Negroes in Greenville, was here Tuesday along with the McNatts of Naples. He is their son-in-law . . . W. S. "Bill" Hurst, owner of the Plaza at Denton, was in town with the same enthusiasm he had when he was Columbia's east Texas representative for a number of years . . . Harold Cunyus, owner of the Gem for colored in Waco, finished up a hurried booking trip and on another walk to the corner, we saw Johnny Blevins of Dublin going in and out of exchanges.

Current theatre activity in Texas gets a boost from the fact that G. A. Cole is planning to rebuild the new Cole in New Braunfels which is practically a total loss from a recent fire . . . Knox Riley, a brother of Mack Riley of Logansport, is reopening the Queen at Tenaha. He was here completing arrangements along with Mack and L. G. Tomlinson of Timpson. Knox is associated in Tenaha with Mack, who, in turn, is in partners with Tomlinson. On his own, however, Mack operates the Castle in Logansport . . . Theo Routt, general manager of the J. G. Long circuit with headquarters at Bay City, was here and in a round of the exchanges, dropped in to order a BOXOFFICE renewal for the Capitol at West Columbia.

Karl Hoblitzelle, Interstate president, was on a trip through the Rio Grande Valley this week, in which territory his company is well spotted with theatres. As he left town, R. J. O'Donnell arrived from a trip to New York. He also attended the Balaban testimonial dinner in Chicago . . . In with many reports of new theatres contemplated over almost all areas of Texas, comes one that a new house is about to go up in East Waco. No names, however, could be definitely linked with the project.

A committee of Dallas showmen met Tuesday to decide winners in a contest naming two short subjects for the State Fair. The judges were Mrs. Besa Short, Interstate's short subjects expert; R. I. Payne, official of the R. E. Griffith Theatres; S. L. Oakley, manager of Jefferson Amusement Co.'s Dallas branch office; C. V. Jones, Robb & Rowley circuit officials, and Curt Beck of the State Fair.

Walter R. Smock, who took over the Ritz at Hale Center early in December, was on the Row Tuesday along with his projectionist, Odell Walls. They were attending mainly to some equipment repairs, and booking, of course. Smock took time out while in town to renew his subscription to BOXOFFICE *. . . Mrs. C. F. Moeller and her son, Walter of the Palace in Muleshoe who are building a new theatre there, were here calling on exchanges. The Palace will run probably on Fridays and Saturdays when the new house is ready.*

H. R. and Mrs. Bisby of the Garland in Garland plan to open their second theatre there the first week in March, work on it now being well under way. Their town is about 12 miles northeast of this city where a large airplane factory is nearing completion . . . Mart Cole of Rosenberg was in Tuesday to do some advance booking . . . A. G. "Smitty" Smith, newly appointed Dallas manager of National Theatre Supply, left Thursday for New York to attend the company's annual sales convention, February 9-14, at the Belmont Plaza.

C. D. Leon of the Palace, Graham, is moving his family to Dallas where he will be associated with his brother, H. S., in an undertaking said to be the manufacture and sale of a special type peanut roasting machine . . . Word is received that Martin Lamour has reopened his newly rebuilt National in Graham. The house was partially destroyed by fire several months ago and rather than merely replace the damage, Lamour decided to rebuild the entire show into a modern and streamlined theatre.

P. G. Cameron has added a few more modern touches here and there to his Peak in East Dallas. More color and lighting were added to the marquee and the cornice over the front entrance has been dolled up with several blue art ornaments which lend to the streamlining. Cameron recently enlarged the Peak's parking lot . . . Hugh Owen, Paramount's new district manager, entertained a large group of his salesmen and office staff at the Variety Club luncheon Monday.

Pete Blackshear, owner of the Queen at Aspermont, was here the other day purchasing equipment for the house which is scheduled for reopening early next week. The Abernathy show burned a short time ago and Blackshear rebuilt the house.

Interstate to Build 14th Houston Unit

HOUSTON—Interstate's 14th theatre in Houston, a $100,000 showplace to seat 1,000, will be built in the 2400 block on University Boulevard, it is disclosed following leasing of a site by the circuit for 50 years from Realty Servicing Corp.

Interstate's University Theatre, two miles west, will be remodeled and enlarged, circuit heads advise.

Deanna Honor Guest At Ladies' Luncheon

DALLAS—Deanna Durbin will be honor guest at the first annual Variety Club Ladies Day Luncheon in the Grand Ballroom of the Adolphus Hotel at noon, Monday. Paul Short, chief barker, and Edward "Dutch" Olsmith, branch manager of Universal, are handling arrangements.

Judge Sarah T. Hughes of the 14th district court will be the chief speaker, and the affair is expected to be attended by leading theatrical and film executives and their wives in this section.

At a special meeting of the club on February 3, it was voted to assume financial responsibility of equipping the Eye Conservation Clinic of the Freeman Memorial Clinic for under-privileged children in Dallas.

"MacIntosh" for Wexley

HOLLYWOOD—John Wexley is scripting "MacIntosh," a South Seas story by W. Somerset Maugham, for Sam Goldwyn.

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HOUSTON

ABOUT 8,000 persons attended the President's Ball at the Auditorium. Eddie Bremer, Kirby manager and chairman of the entertainment committee, came through with his promise to present a sterling program of variety acts. Music was by the Torres-Waters combo. Buster Dees was emcee. Acts included Vocalist Libbie Palla, Dancer Thelma Gregg, Bobby "Rubber Legs" Bixley, Imogene Sappington and Merle Irwin, song duo; T. J. Ellis, singer; Bill Fleet, imitations; Kless sisters, dancers, and Howard Hartman, singer.

In a novel contest designed for children, Interstate neighborhood managers have given away 90 guest tickets to suburban houses. Using the Houston Post's *Saturday's comic book, boys and girls were asked to give the correct count of either A's, B's or C's (depending on which week the contest was entered) and submit the best 10-word statement telling which comic book character they liked best.*

Aline Muller, Kirby cashier, and "Hank" Hannington, Bluebonnet, are back from their honeymoon . . . Friends of Jim Meador, former Rice Institute man, recognized him in the picture "Kitty Foyle" in spite of his screen name, James Craig. This is his first important role and critics agree he made the most of it . . . Johnnie Andrew, Houston cotton man and producer of amateur shows, will replace Al Irwin on February 15 as manager of the Coliseum and the Auditorium.

Houston's newest theatre, the Lindale, opened January 30. The 800-seater is owned by Oskar Korn and will be managed by Jimmie Dezendorf. There will be matinees only on weekends and holidays. Admission is scaled at 10 and 20 cents . . . J. A. Hudson and family spent a few days visiting relatives in Denton, Tex. . . . Jack Groves was in Dallas buying pictures.

Ray Wilson, Alabama, has moved into his new home in West University Place. The event was marked with a housewarming for a group of friends . . . Virginia Cloud, the ever-smiling candy girl at the Uptown, is planning a trip to Mexico.

New Metro Film Based On Noted Texan's Life

FT. WORTH—Information comes from the Metro studio that "'Blossoms in the Dust," starring Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon, has been placed in production. The original by Ralph Wheelwright is based upon incidents in the life of Edna Gladney, founder of the Children's Home and Aid Society here.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Paper Recognizes Variety Project

OKLAHOMA CITY—Here's another tribute to the local Variety Club, this time in an editorial by the Oklahoma City *Times* which reads as follows:

"Theatre owners and operators and the show people of the community, long organized as the Variety Club, are building a health center to serve the unfortunates and underprivileged. The spirit back of the movement is praiseworthy indeed and the health building itself with its equipment and service is one of the best contributions made to the city in a long time.

"We like the way in which Mr. Griffith and the Variety Club went about establishing the health center. Instead of going into it blindly and independently, they sought cooperation of the welfare and charitable groups already functioning. The health center will dovetail right into the work of organized, community-supported welfare maintained to lighten the way for poverty-darkened lives. It will be a valuable addition to the community's program of help for the other half."

Caporal Opens Bison As a 10-15 Center

OKLAHOMA CITY—Sam Caporal's third suburban house, the Bison, at 1314 Northeast 23rd Street, was opened last Sunday, under a 10-15 cent admission scale. Caporal also operates the Yale in Capitol Hill and the Mayflower on Northwest 10th Street.

Bob Busch at Helm of Oklahoma City Uptown

OKLAHOMA CITY—Charles "Chuck" Ferris' new Uptown was scheduled to open Thursday, with Bob Busch, former Standard manager, in charge. Double features second and third run at popular prices will be the policy.

OKLA. CITY

TWO more suburbans opened this week and the old Victoria is supposed to be reopening shortly. Pretty soon one will have to wear shin guards to keep from stumbling over the neighborhood houses in and around Oklahoma City . . . Ted Lewis and his band are coming to the village for a one-night stand February 8 at Blossom Heath and there should be a lot of show people on hand for that date.

Joe Wallace, former State assistant manager, is new house manager for Standard's recently reopened Folly, which is under Paul Townsend's direction . . . Gene Hudgins, Rialto usher and son of Jim of Columbia, is the town's newest amateur film fan, having procured for himself an 8mm outfit.

E. Frank Roberts has replaced Julius Krish as booker at the Standard offices. Krish moves over to the Midwest as manager following the resignation of Bob Busch, who became manager of the Uptown, new neighborhood house . . . Bert Stern is scheduled to leave Standard as advertising manager as soon as Joe Cooper returns to O. C. . . . The State put on a heavy campaign for "Foreign Correspondent."

Bill Elliott, Columbia western star, made personal appearances in Tulsa last week. He's making an airplane trip through Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Elliott spent two days at the Lyric and Circle and the Rita, the latter in West Tulsa.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Eddie Holt admitted draftees of Coal county free to their Wigwam at Coalgate upon their induction last week. Mrs. Eddie brought a cake to the city's party for the boys. It was beautifully decorated and topped with 16 miniature flags which brought $22.50 of the $45.05 raised for the boys and split up among them as a going-away present. Holt is commander of the Coal county American Legion.

SANTONE

BUDDY WELKER, Empire manager, fell off of the second stage over the orchestra pit last Wednesday night while conducting "Buzzo" . . . Alfred W. Rohde jr., March of Time cameraman, flew in from Quantico, Va., to attend his grandmother's funeral. Rohde is the San Antonio boy who is making good in the U. S. Marines as an instructor of photography . . . Helen Morley, daughter of Christopher Morley, author and novelist, was a one-day visitor.

Film Reviewer Mary Louise Walliser of San Antonio Evening News *attended the "Back Street" premier in Miami . . . Adkins "Butch" Lenoir, San Marcos theatreman, is a proud pappy. It's a boy. Name: Clinton Adkins Lenoir jr. And he has all of the earmarks of becoming a showman some day they say . . . Joe Abreu has opened here a Cuban show under canvas . . . Lola Flugrath is the new popcorn machine girl at the State, and Peggy Norby has taken over the candy counter at the Texas . . . The President's Birthday Ball at the Auditorium netted* $3,500.

Bob May, Texas chief usher, has changed his mind about becoming a benedict this month . . . Peter C. Ramirez doing some deep-sea fishing down Florida way . . . Beulah Greene, State cashier, all set to tickle the ivories for the forthcoming K. of C. Minstrel Show . . . Lorraine Meeks, the constable's daughter, writes back from California where she is vocalizing with a Fanchon & Marco unit . . . "The Man Who Came to Dinner" has been set for the Texas, February 18, one evening performance only . . . Billy Corder, the red-head, denies all rumors he has ever been married . . . Corpus Christi theatremen look forward to a big increase in boxoffice receipts when 26,000 sailors move in for training maneuvers.

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
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MEMPHIS

UNCLE MIKE CIANCIOLO of the Rosemary in Memphis, who became a full fledged member of Variety Club this past week, was honor guest at the luncheon Monday . . . Earl Hartzog, former booker at Vitagraph, who now is in training at Ft. Oglethorpe, spent part of this three-day leave seeing his friends on the Row.

Roy Dillard of the Dillard in Wardell, Mo., was on the Row Monday and reported a fire in his booth Saturday night did very little damage . . . W. F. Ruffin of the Ruffin Amusement Co., advises he has opened a theatre at the Kentucky Dam, which is located near Benton, Ky., and is now operating three days per week.

L. F. Haven, president of the Imperial Theatres, Inc., is recuperating at his home in Forrest City, following a recent operation at the Baptist Hospital in Memphis . . . Ben Robbins, UA branch manager in St. Louis, together with Jack Goldhar, special representative out of Detroit, spent several days in Memphis last week calling on their nearby accounts.

Norma Williamson is the new biller at Columbia, replacing Virginia Raiford, resigned. Norma was with Columbia for several years prior to her marriage . . . Jeannette Billings is the latest addition to the Malco Theatres staff, replacing Louise Holland, resigned.

W. H. Kaver of the Von at Booneville, Miss., was on the Row for the first time in several weeks following a siege of the flu . . . Bill Bugie, skipper at Paramount, together with Howard Dean, Joe Young and Frank Neel, are back on the job after a two day district meeting in Dallas, which was climaxed as a "going away" party for Hugh Braly who is leaving for the coast, and initiation for Hugh Owen, new southern district manager.

Among exhibitors along the Row: J. J. Rhodes, Crittenden, West Memphis, Ark.; Harry Shaw, Ritz, Aberdeen, Miss.; R. X. Williams, Lyric, Oxford, Miss.; Charles Collier, Globe, Drew, Miss.; J. W. Wofford, Eupora, Eupora, Miss.; C. M. Mounger, City, Calhoun City, Miss.; J. F. Wofford, Union, Union, Miss.; B. F. Jackson, Delta, Ruleville, Miss.; Bernard Haberfeld, Varsity, Amory, Miss.; Raymond Kinkle, Joiner, Joiner, Ark.; George Hale, Globe, Drew, Miss.; A. L. Coggins, Baldwyn, Baldwyn, Miss.; Ned Greene, Legion, Mayfield, Ky.; Whyte Bedford, New, Hamilton, Ala.; Gordon Lee Hutchins, State, Corning, Ark.

Dr. S. E. McDonald's wife, ill for some time, died Saturday, January 25. Dr. McDonald owns and operates the Bells in Bells, Tenn. . . . Buster Clark of the Alamo, Pine Bluff, Ark., reports a booth fire Saturday night, when several reels of film were destroyed.

Lew Andrews, office manager for Malco Theatres, who has been battling the flu for some time, now is in the Gartly-Ramsey Hospital, where he has spent the last several days in an effort to avoid pneumonia . . . Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Azar of the Lincoln, Greenville, Miss., were recent visitors.

The members of the local Fox office gave Bonnie McCarley a going away party at the Chisca Hotel, Friday, prior to his departure for a year's training . . . Addys Brown and Jimmy Nichols of the Gem and Nevada in Prescott, Ark., were recent visitors . . . Maurice Olds, short subject booker for the Richmond and Mohrstadt circuit, was in booking.

J. Frank Willingham of the local Leo office was "King for the Day" at the regular monthly Ladies' Day luncheon at the Variety Club this week. A record crowd was there, and a novel program was enjoyed by all, except Willingham, who at the last minute was unable to attend due to an attack of the flu. M. A. Lightman, chief barker, carried on for him.

"Mary Elizabeth" arrived Thursday, January 30, at the hospital in El Dorado to the Bob Clarks. All are reported doing nicely. The Clarks have another little girl seven years old. "Papa" Bo owns the Rialto and Majestic in El Dorado, Ark.

Loyd Hutchins of the Ozark Amusement Co., Hardy, Ark., spent a couple of days advancing his circuit bookings . . . G. A. Smith, Paramount's division manager and Hugh Owen, district manager, spent sometime in Memphis recently with Bill Bugie of the local office . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Richmond were in town, Lyle doing his booking and Mrs. Richmond shopping.

Barney Woolner, who built several Drive-In theatres in this territory last year, was back in Memphis for the first time since last fall, making arrangements to reopen his Drive-Ins the latter part of February if the spring weather continues. Otherwise, he advised he would open by the first of April.

Messrs. Rochelle and Voorhies are opening the Capitol in Linden, Tenn., on or around February 10. This theatre, formerly known as the Linden, was destroyed by fire several months ago.

Jack W. Harmon is manager of the Memphis tribunal of the arbitration system, which will serve the tri-states. Harmon's office is in the Shrine Bldg.



Unique in the U. S.—

Is the claim put forth by Jimmy Adams, manager of the above pictured theatre, the Log Cabin, in Oklahoma City.

Live-Wire Jimmy Adams Tells Of His "Unique" Log Cabin

DALLAS—A recent Filmrow visitor was live-wire Jimmy Adams of Oklahoma City, who is manager there of the Log Cabin which boasts as a slogan, "The most unique theatre in the United States."

Formerly with Warner Bros. and Standard Theatres, Adams is piloting the Log Cabin for Chester Humphrey, an oil man who also owns the Ritz at Britton and the Pix in Wewoka.

After questioning Adams about the novel house, BOXOFFICE came away convinced its slogan had some basis in fact. Firstly, it changes programs twice weekly with the bill of fare double features and all "A" product. A color cartoon, or the equivalent, is included. Also it offers circus rides free for kiddies. On hand is a trained attendant with six ponies.

Two attendants guide cars to an 800-car parking lot which surrounds the theatre. Cars are brought to the theatre door after the show.

The theatre has two entrances, the main one and another for families at the rear to circumvent walking around the lot. A well equipped "cry" room is provided and also a recreation room with ping-pong, bridge tables, etc.

The Log Cabin claims to be the first theatre to have installed rocking chairs. It boasts 450 of them and they are 35 inches apart. It also has 50 "love seats," all in stagger formation.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

CHARLOTTE

GORDON WHITE, special representative for the MPPDA, was in the territory in connection with showings of "Land of Liberty." He was accompanied by Al Burks, Metro exploiteer. The picture opens February 9 at the State in Raleigh, N. C., and on February 17 at the State in Salisbury, N. C. . . . Worth Stewart has opened his new Drake in Wilson, N. C. . . . Sam Hammond, manager of A. B. Huff's Carolina in Kinston, N. C., won a Metro award in the independent exhibitors' exploitation contest. Another Carolinian winning was E. L. Carter, manager of the Playhouse, Statesville, N. C.

Warner's district manager, Ralph McCoy, and Jack Goldsmith, district publicity representative, were visitors for several days at the local office. McCoy was formerly manager of the Charlotte branch and has many friends in the territory . . . J. H. Wheatley, booker for RKO, has resigned. He is being replaced by H. M. Sykes of North Carolina Theatres, Inc. Sykes has been in the booking department of the Kincey circuit for several years . . . B. B. Anderson of the Anderson circuit is building a home in Mullins, S. C.

Mrs. Elma Watson, Republic employe who was severely injured December 15, is improving slowly . . . The engagement of David Katz, official of Producers Releasing Corp., to Miss Sara Copeland of Birmingham, Ala., has been announced . . . E. E. Heller, local manager of PRC, has returned from a successful road trip in eastern South Carolina . . . Harry Katz, brother of Dave and Ike, visited the local PRC office en route to Washington, D. C.

John V. Robinson, North Carolina's youngest mayor and owner of the Old Fort Theatre in Old Fort, N. C., has applied for government service in the aviation division. The theatre will be operated by W. A. Ashley . . . Sam Hammond has resigned his managerial post at the Carolina in Kinston, N. C., to assume a like post at Watt Parker's West End in High Point, N. C. He replaces Gilder Craver . . . Charles Hammond Arrington jr., a student at Duke University and son of Charles H. Arrington, president of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina and owner of the Cameo in Rocky Mount, N. C., is seriously ill with pneumonia. Arrington is at his son's bedside.

Ken Rice, assistant to M. J. McInaney, sales manager of Alexander Film Co., Colorado, spent the past week in Charlotte conferring with D. B. Kizziah, R. L. Simpson and the entire sales force of the Charlotte district . . . E. E. Wade, owner of the Iris and Gem theatres in Belmont, N. C., and the State in Orangeburg, S. C., visited Florida recently for the first time. He spent two days in Miami fishing, and his catch was two sailfish—one seven feet, six inches and the other seven feet, four inches. Wade is quite proud of the certificate hanging on his office wall and his membership in the Sailfish Club.

E. E. Heller, manager of PRC's local office, had a bad cold . . . Albert Sottile of the Pastime Amusement Co., Charleston, S. C., announces plans are being drawn for a new theatre there . . . M-G-M's Pep Club prize very highly a swell note received from Katharine Hepburn acknowledging red roses sent her during her recent local appearance . . . Harry K. Lucas has returned home from the hospital where he has been confined for the past several weeks after undergoing a tonsillotomy and later developing flu . . . Howard Marx, local manager of National Theatre Supply, is attending a sales convention in New York . . . "Buffalo" Boling of National Theatre Supply announces the installation of new Simplex machines in Mrs. Jane Gregson Paradis' Oasis, Wilson, N. C.

Mrs. Thelma Harris, Miss Aileen White and Mrs. Florence Hargett of Affiliated Producers Co. have returned to their duties after being out with flu . . . S. P. Robinson of the Atlantic, Atlantic, N. C., and Mrs. H. T. Green of the Hollywood, Manning, S. C., have flu. Ditto Benn Rosenwald, local manager of Metro . . . Charles B. Floyd, who operates the Colulmbus and Madison theatres in Whiteville, N. C., was recently conscripted to manage the President's Birthday Ball for Columbus county. Being a good showman, naturally the affair was a huge success. C. B. is a director of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina . . . The town of Conover, N. C., located between Hickory and Newton, will get a new theatre. George D. Carpenter and J. V. Benfield of Colonial Theatres, Inc., with headquarters in Valdese, N. C., will build. Carpenter and Benfield now operate theatres in Valdese, Madison and Granite Falls, N. C.

Recently appointed Metro district manager, Rudolph Berger, formerly chief barker of the Washington Tent of Variety, addressed the charter membership of the local Tent which will receive its charter on March 10 . . . H. E. Wessinger of the Carolina in Lexington, S. C., is now up and around after a lengthy illness. He's causing much comment in his home town by carrying a cane equipped with a little peep-peep horn . . . Stirling Hayden, handsome young star whose first picture, "Virginia," puts him near the top, made personal appearances at the local Imperial Monday and Tuesday. The Paramount feature will open at the Carolina for an extended engagement on February 15.

Visitors on the Row: Mr. and Mrs. Ben L. Strozier, Stevenson and Carolina theatres, Rock Hill, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fleming, Sylvia, York, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. William Conn, Webb, Gastonia, N. C.; W. P. Erwin, Marion, Marion, N. C.; G. Frank Lundy, Dulamae, Denmark, S. C.; Albert Powell, Rainbow, Marion, S. C.; J. B. Harvey, Carolina, Clover, S. C.; George W. Parr, Imperial and new Parr theatres, Lancaster, S. C.; W. D. Joyner, Gay, Gibsonville, N. C.; Pete Webb, Webb, Shelby, N. C.; Claude Webb, Imperial, Kings Mountain, N. C.; Bill Webb, Rogers and Carolina theatres, Shelby, N. C., and Mrs. R. A. Goodman of the Oakboro, Oakboro, N. C.

"Sundown" for Wanger

HOLLYWOOD—Walter Wanger has purchased screen rights to "Sundown," a story by Barre Lyndon dealing with white men in Africa. UA will release.

Three at Once for R&R in Corpus

DALLAS—Simultaneous construction of three theatres in Corpus Christi is being started by the Robb & Rowley-United circuit as additional units to the eight houses they now operate in that booming metropolis.

One will be an "A" theatre, another will be a neighborhood house, and the third will be for colored patronage. The Corpus theatres are all in the Corpus Christi Theatres, Inc., operating company in which Bruce Collins is resident partner with the circuit.

Robb & Rowley are now starting construction here on a new de luxe neighborhood theatre in the Stevens Park section of Oak Cliff.

Drapery Leads Equipment Sales for Wil-Kin Co.

ATLANTA — A considerable number of equipment and furnishings installations, led by 31 drapery sales in the past two months are reported by Wil-Kin Theatre Supply, Inc., of this city.

Sales of the drapes, which are manufactured by Wil-Kin, were made to the following:

W. N. Carnasion, Park, Starke, Fla.; Paramount Enterprises, Inc., Coral, Coral Gables, Fla.; Eton Amusement Co., Ritz, Elizabethton, Tenn.; Lucas & Jenkins' Ritz at Brunswick and Roxy at Atlanta, Ga.; Pal Amusements, Inc., Pal, Lyons, Ga.; J. W. Prens, Palace, Thomasville, N. C.; Juan Carbonell, Strand, Key West, Fla.; Gold & Dobrow circuit, Prince, Pahokee, Fla.; J. B. McIntyre, Raeford, Raeford, N. C.; Carolina Amusements, Inc., Playhouse, Spartanburg, S. C., and Rex, Sumter, S. C.; Mion & Murray, Decatur at Decatur, Ga.; East Point, East Point, Ga., and Little Five Points, Atlanta.

Palmetto Amusements, Inc., Strand, Columbia, S. C.; University of Tennessee, Sewanee Union, Sewanee, Tenn.; Eton Amusement Co., Liberty, Johnson City, Tenn.; Alabama Theatres, Inc., Pantage, Birmingham, Ala.; North Carolina Theatres, Inc., Ambassador, Raleigh; Carolina, Goldsboro, N. C.; L. L. Overton, Levon, Weldon, N. C.; Sparks Theatres, Florida, Tallahassee, Fla.; Wilmington Theatres, Inc., Bailey, Wilmington, N. C.; Fain Theatres, Inc., Wildwood, Wildwood, Fla.; Apopka, Apopka, Fla.; J. S. Tankersley, Royal, Summerville, Ga.; Fort, Chatsworth, Ga.; Pal Amusements, Inc., Liberty, Hinesville, Ga.; Paramount Richards Theatres, Loop, Mobile, Ala.; Boswell & Reynolds, Greenland, Greensboro.

Other equipment sales in the Atlanta and Charlotte territory included projectors and sound to the Dominion Theatres' Paramount at Newport News, Va.; sound to the Florence Theatres' Colonial, Florence, S. C.; screen, chairs, ventilation and carpet to W. J. Steward, Midway, Bluff City, Tenn.; screen and carpet to R. H. Brannon, Roswell, Roswell, Ga.; and screens to A. B. Huff Enterprises for the Carolina at Kingston, N. C., and the North Carolina Theatres, Inc., for the Capitol at Raleigh, N. C.

Ventilation equipment and chairs were purchased by J. I. Sims for the Reliance at Orangeburg, S. C.; chairs by Steward & Drake, Drake, Wilson, N. C.; Macon Bros., Georgia, Statesboro, Ga., and North Carolina Theatres, Inc., Carolina, Burlington, N. C.

Ventilation sales also were made to the following: Waters Theatre Co., Imperial, Tarrant City, Ala.; Trianon, Central Park, Ala.; Sparks Scenic, Lake Wales, Fla.; Brentwood, Jacksonville, Fla.; Garden, Sarasota, Fla.; North Carolina Theatres, Inc., Carolina, Hendersonville, N. C.; Center, Lenoir, N. C. Chairs, carpet, rectifiers, lamps and projectors went to W. N. Carnasion, Park Theatre, Starke, Fla.

Move Martin Managers

ATLANTA—The following changes in managers for Martin Theatres have been made: J. E. Van Derburgh, Pastime, Columbus, Ga.; J. H. Luter, Grand, Fitzgerald, Ga.; J. N. Morgan, Campus, Milledgeville, Ga.

His Staff Learns of Crime First-Hand

Oklahoma City—While Bert Stern, manager of the Criterion, was away at the screening room previewing a crime picture, three young men held up his assistant manager, a cashier and head usher, bound them and escaped with $425.

"Jack" Shealy Is Dead; End Comes Suddenly

CLINTON, S. C.—O. I. Shealy, known to his many friends as "Jack," died suddenly at his home here on February 2. Shealy was manager of the Casino and Broadway theatres in Clinton and was associated with A. I. "Gus" Mason in the operation of the Capitol and Echo in Laurens, S. C. A resident of Clinton for 34 years, he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Gertrude Fowler Shealy; a daughter, a sister, and two grandchildren.

Shealy was a director of Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina until the last meeting in December at which time he was succeeded by his associate, Gus Mason.

Exams Are Over

COLLEGE STATION, TEX.—Ben S. Ferguson, manager and part owner of the Campus Theatre near Texas A. & M. College, is as glad as any of his 6,500 cadet-customers that final examinations are over. Cramming of students cut heavily into business, he says.

O. E. Easter Weds

DALLAS—O. E. Easter, now a real estate developer in Corpus Christ and former owner of the Peak Theatre here, was married in Dallas, Monday, to Miss Mary Elmo Rowland. After the ceremony and reception, the couple left on a wedding trip to Mexico City.

Borrow Jan Fortune

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has borrowed Jan Fortune from Samuel Goldwyn to script "The Vanishing Virginian," from a novel by Rebecca Yancey Williams. Edwin Knopf will produce.

Eberson Will Manage Daytona Beach Unit

Jacksonville—Drew Eberson, New York architect for the Brothers Warner, will be resident owner-manager of a new 1,000-seat theatre at Daytona Beach, according to announcement here by W. R. Lovett, Jacksonville financier and owner of the property upon which the theatre will be erected.

The project involves some $50,000 and the site is the Burgoyne Block, on North Beach Street. A building construction permit has been taken out by George W. Steele, Daytona Beach contractor. Warner pictures will be shown almost exclusively, a Jacksonville announcement reads.

AUSTIN

"JOHNNY," central figure of a cigarette radio program, made a personal appearance at the Capitol in connection with the showing of "Bitter Sweet" . . . Same theatre has booked an all-girl revue, as an added attraction for the weekend . . . Mac Roy Rasor is doing a Sunday amusement column in the *American-Statesman* called "Trailing the Trailers," which is a preview of coming films.

The Varsity mob was seen at the Avalon Night Club, celebrating the end of final exams. Diaz Callahan jr., Jimmy Brown, Stanley Fisher, Clyde Lake were among the celebrants . . . Gerald Raines, skipper of the Texas, burned his face when a roman candle backfired . . . The crowd of nearly 25,000, here to watch the governor's inauguration, boosted local boxoffices the same day.

Frank Bruner, the United Artists representative, in town to beat the drums for "Pastor Hall," slated for a mid-week stand at the State . . . Kenneth Francis of the Queen and Weldon Dryden of the State exchanged jobs . . . P. B. X.'er, Dorothy Warren, has moved again . . . Charlie Root, bossman at the Queen, is mighty proud of that new Buick convertible.

Alfred Rosenthal, cameraman-journalist who was connected with UFA and Paramount newsreel on the other side of the Atlantic, is plying his various trades in Austin now where he shares the darkroom of Harold Eichenbaum, Interstate's art department chief.

Borrow Donald Crisp

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has borrowed Donald Crisp from Warner for a role in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

Prescribes One Sixth Of a Dual Bill

Austin, Tex.—If students persist in attending motion pictures to relax their minds between final examinations, they should stay about 30 minutes, then leave.

That is the sage advice given collegians by Dr. David Brace, professor of physical and health education, of the University of Texas.

Johnstone Will Again Lead Local No. 293

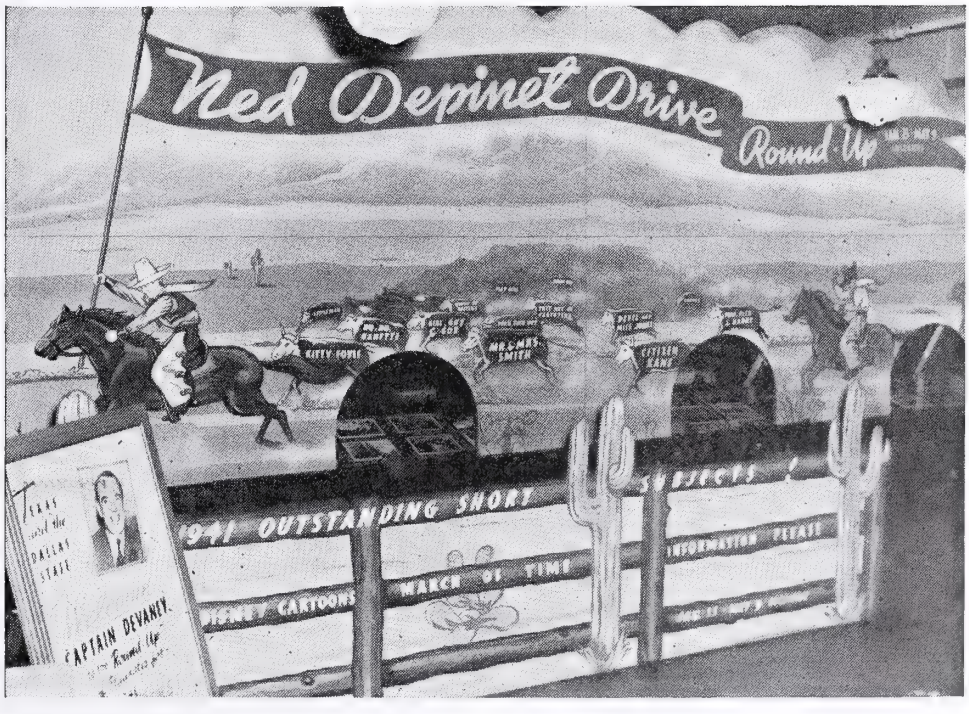
NEW ORLEANS—A. S. Johnstone has been re-elected president of the operators' union, Local 293. Other officers named for 1941 are: J. C. Miranne, vice-president; E. B. Beaud, recording secretary; J. E. Skelly, financial secretary; S. Picnich, treasurer; B. L. Beaud, business agent; and H. Maitre, sergeant-at-arms.

Dallas Arbitration Unit Is Set for Operation

DALLAS—C. C. Williams, clerk of the local arbitration tribunal, is set for operation in his offices at the Fidelity Building. No cases have been filed to date. Arbiters for the Texas territory are undisclosed at this time.

"Your Way" for Griffith

HOLLYWOOD—Edward H. Griffith will produce and direct "You Go Your Way" for Paramount. Frank Partos is adapting the Katharine Brush story.



Round Up Time on Filmrow—

The display that greeted exhibitors who brought dates to the RKO exchange in Dallas, as their all-important contribution to making the current Ned Depinet Drive a success.

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

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MT102 Cut-Out Machines
MT103 Display Frames and Cases
MT104 Flashers, Sign
MT105 Insert Frames
MT106 Lamp Coloring
MT107 Letter Mounting Units
MT108 Marquees
MT109 Poster Projectors
MT110 Signs, Admission
MT111 Signs, Electric
MT112 Signs, Neon, Zeon

AIR CONDITIONING

MT120 Air Circulators
MT121 Air Conditioning Motors
MT122 Air Conditioning Systems
MT123 Air Filters
MT124 Air Washers
MT125 Blowers
MT126 Boilers and Furnaces
MT127 Coils, Cooling
MT128 Compressors
MT129 Condensers
MT130 Cooling Equipment
MT131 Cooling Towers
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MT140 Spray Nozzles
MT141 Stokers
MT142 Temperature Control Devices
MT143 Thermostats and Humidistats
MT144 Unit Heaters
MT145 Ventilating Systems
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DECORATIONS & FURNISHINGS

MT155 Acoustical Materials
MT156 Aisle Lights
MT157 Boxoffices
MT158 Carpets
MT159 Carpet Cushion
MT160 Design Service
MT161 Directional Signs
MT162 Door Controls
MT163 Draperies and Curtains
MT164 Drinking Fountains
MT165 Exit Signs
MT166 Foam Rubber Seat Cushions
MT167 Interior Decoration
MT168 Interior Wall Finishes
MT169 Lounge Furniture
MT170 Matting, Rubber
MT171 Mirrors
MT172 Ornamental Metal Work
MT173 Paint Products
MT174 Railings, Lobby
MT175 Sand Urns
MT176 Seating, Auditorium
MT177 Slip Covers
MT178 Speaking Tubes
MT179 Ticket Choppers and Boxes
MT180 Theatre Chairs
MT181 Upholstery Materials
MT182 Wall Coverings, Fabric

LIGHTING

MT190 Dimmers and Controls
MT191 Effect Lighting Devices
MT192 Elec. Measuring Instruments
MT193 Engines, Diesel
MT194 Fluorescent Lamps and Fixtures
MT195 Gelatine Sheets
MT196 Incandescent Lamps
MT197 Lighting Fixtures
MT198 Lighting Plants, Emergency
MT199 Cove Lighting
MT200 Reflectors
MT201 Reflector Lamps
MT202 Spot and Flood Lamps
MT203 Spot and Flood Lights
MT204 Storage Batteries
MT205 Switches, Safety
MT206 Switchboards
MT207 Transformers, Neon

MAINTENANCE

MT210 Bolts, Expansion and Toggle
MT211 Carpet Spotting Compounds
MT212 Drills, Rotary
MT213 Fire Extinguishers
MT214 Fireproofing Compounds
MT215 Gum Removers
MT216 Safety Ladders
MT217 Seat Patching Kits
MT218 Seating Repairs
MT219 Vacuum Cleaners

MISCELLANEOUS

MT225 Coin Changing Machines
MT226 Fireproof Safes and Files
MT227 Music Stands
MT228 Organs, Electric
MT229 Popcorn Machines
MT230 Popcorn & Confection Supplies
MT231 Staff Uniforms
MT232 Tickets
MT233 Ticket Machines
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MT258 Projection Arc Lamps
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MT260 Projection Slides
MT261 Projector Carbons
MT262 Projector Parts
MT263 Projector Pedestals
MT264 Rectifiers, Bulb Type
MT265 Rectifiers, Copper-Oxide
MT266 Rectifiers, Copper-Sulphide
MT267 Reel-End Signals
MT268 Reflector Equipment
MT269 Rewind Tables
MT270 Rheostats
MT271 Safety Devices
MT272 Slide Projectors
MT273 Sound Projectors, 35mm
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MT275 Stereopticons
MT276 Tool Kits

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MT313 Photoelectric Cells
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MT317 Record Reproducers
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MT319 Sound Heads
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MT333 Stage and Effect Lighting
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MT344 Glass Blocks
MT345 Insulation Materials
MT346 Metal Trim and Mouldings
MT347 Pipe Hangers and Brackets
MT348 Plate Glass
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MT353 Theatre Fronts, Structural Glass
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Call Upon Showmen to Aid War Bond Sales

CALGARY—Theatre and film men of the Canadian Prairie, who have donated so generously of their services and cash to patriotic purposes since the war started, are to the fore again. The current campaign for the sale of War Savings Bonds has been taken up by prominent industrialists of the prairies, who have started an energetic drive for their sale. Quota for the Province of Alberta is $600,000 monthly.

Calgary theatre exhibitors and branch managers have been formed into a publicity and stunt committee for the Province. Chairman appointed is Frank Kershaw, district manager of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, with Ken Leach, exhibitor, as vice-chairman. The two committeemen representing exhibitors are Pete Egan of the Palace and Al Gold of the Tivoli while Vernon Skorey, 20th-Fox and Harvey Harnick of Columbia, represent Filmrow.

A meeting of the officials appointed and all the staffs of city theatres and the film exchanges, was held in the Capitol Theatre Sunday. Various publicity plans were arranged for the district and a number of local stunts will be pulled during the month of February. This theatrical committee promises to put some life and punch in the War Savings Campaign and raise the languishing bond sale to the desired quota.

Rag Matinees for Salvage Corps Set for Feb. 15

WINNIPEG—At a meeting of the Manitoba Motion Picture Exhibitors it was decided to stage special children's shows on February 15 with rags accepted as admission.

The purpose is to collect rags which will be turned over to the Patriotic Salvage Corps, the proceeds to be used in Canada's war effort.

The meeting, which was presided over by J. Pearson, president, was addressed by George Wood, manager of the corps, who thanked the industry for the speed and enthusiasm with which it cooperated.

The committee in charge of the show includes Don Gauld, Misha Triller, Bob Hurwitz, Sam Rosenblatt, Claire Fallis and A. M. Knowles.

Calgary Theatremen Form War Fund Committee

CALGARY—Theatre and exchange managers were organized by W. Anderson of the War Savings Campaign personnel staff into a committee whose objective will be to aid in the promotion of the campaign.

Officers of the committee are Frank Kershaw, chairman; and Ken Leach, vice-chairman. Pete Egan and Al Gold represent the theatres and Vernon Skorey and Harvey Harnick the exchanges.

Would Sell Producers a Million in War Bonds

TORONTO—Canada will shortly float its largest war loan in history—a minimum of $500,000,000, according to advance information from a reliable source—and the suggestion is made that American moving picture producing companies should give immediate consideration to investment in Canadian war bonds on a substantial scale.

The "tentative allotment" for the U. S. film producers, doing extensive business in the Dominion, is $1,000,000 collectively, this amount being divided into suggested $100,000 lots for each of the eight major Hollywood producers, with the balance of $200,000 to be shared by several other important companies. The major producers are listed as follows: Paramount, Columbia, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Warner Bros., 20th Century-Fox, United Artists, RKO and Universal, for each of whom the suggested investment is $100,000 or more. Republic, Monogram, Producers Releasing Corp. and Alliance are among those who can absorb the balance of the million-dollar investment in Canada.

"It would be a judicious move on the part of the moving picture producers of the United States," was the declaration of Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the board of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada, when the subject was brought to the attention of the administrative head of the distributors' organization in the Dominion. This comment will find reflection in the eventual attitude of U. S. producers toward the "proposal."

Cite Revenue Freedom

Several reasons have been advanced from semi-official sources for the prospective guidance of the American producers in considering the Canadian war loan. Reference has been made to the fact that Canada has not yet made any move to prevent the flow of revenue of film distributors to home offices in the States, although Great Britain and Australia have done so because of the foreign exchange situation and the desirability of retaining funds. In Britain last year half of the $35,000,000 revenue of U. S. producers was "frozen" while in Australia 50 per cent of the $6,200,000 film revenue was permitted to leave the country. In Canada, the gross revenue of film exchanges in recent years has averaged more than $10,000,000 per year and the excess revenue for export has averaged $6,000,000 for each of the past four years. This net is being sent out of the Dominion under permit regulations of the foreign exchange control board but it is known that some thought has been given to the restriction of money movement for sake of exchange conservation which is extremely important during the war period. A broad hint has been given that some restrictive policy is contemplated and if a 50 per cent limit is prescribed the film revenue to the States will be reduced to approximately $3,000,000.

Have 90% of Market

It has been pointed out that American companies control over 90 per cent of the Canadian moving picture market and goodwill for American product would be enhanced by important subscriptions in Canada's war loan by the U. S. producers. The Canadian loan will produce three or 3⅛ per cent interest, which is higher than the rate of interest for similar U. S. bonds, it is stated. Canadian funds are at 11 per cent discount in relation to U. S. money and there is the prospect that this exchange difference will be wiped out in due course, thus adding to the attractiveness of the Canadian issue. There is also the fact that the Canadian government will be appreciative of substantial financial help from the U. S. film industry at this juncture.

Investment in the approaching Canadian war loan by the film producers of the United States would be a splendid gesture on a voluntary basis. At the same time, the film industry has a substantial stake in the Dominion and its future in a business way while the revenue from the Canadian market has become relatively important in the face of trade difficulties in Europe, the Middle East and the Orient which cannot be righted for some years. It is contended that the future of both the United States and Canada follows at least a parallel path, apart from the possibility of an early move on the part of the Dominion which might freeze a portion of the funds, which might be diverted to another country, because of immediate needs. In a word, it would be good business for the film industry of the United States to invest in "Canada Preferred."

Lavish in Praise for "Peoples of Canada"

MONTREAL—National Film Board's "Peoples of Canada," which has just been completed by Associated Screen Studios, has been voted by those who witnessed the test screening, one of the greatest documentary films yet produced in Canada. Script writers, cutters, sound recordists, cameramen and a host of technicians attended the test. Gordon Sparling directed the picture.

Help Stamp Sales

SELKIRK, MAN.—To help launch the further sale of War Savings stamps, N. Rotshtein donated the use of the Roxy for a meeting of the Selkirk committee. Pictures were presented and the audience was addressed by the head of the local War Savings committee.

Eire Censors Ban "Great Dictator"

Montreal—Eire censors have banned "The Great Dictator," which is now showing in English and Scottish provincial cities. A Belfast theatre manager wished to advertise the film in Dublin newspapers, but his advertisements were returned with a note that the Eire censorship would allow no publicity regarding the picture.

TORONTO

N L. NATHANSON, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., returned to Toronto after a month's rest in Miami . . . Jack Arthur, district manager of Famous Players, was conductor of the 40-piece orchestra at the Toronto studios of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. for the first program of "The Theatre of Freedom" over the national network, February 2, in which Cedric and Lady Hardwicke appeared as guest artists in a special play. Arthur organized all of the musical arrangements for the feature . . . Lieut. Frank Justin, on leave of absence from Famous Players' head office for the duration of the war, is in charge of training at the Canadian Army Depot No. 21, Long Branch. Members of the head office staff made a trip to the camp Saturday afternoon and enjoyed a tour of inspection under his direction.

Major Ted Doney, former manager of the Capitol, St. Thomas, Ont., who was one of the first to join the colors at the outbreak of war, has written a letter to his former associates in Toronto to advise that he is busy and in the best of health somewhere in England where he has been on duty for more than a year . . . James Davidson, former salesman with Colonial Pictures, Ltd., Toronto, of which the late Boris Silver was president, has joined the Consolidated Theatres Ass'n where he is assistant to General Manager Harry S. Dahn . . . H. M. Masters, divisional sales manager of United Artists home office, to which he was promoted a month ago, was a visitor in Toronto from New York when he conferred with Sam Glazer who succeeded Masters as Canadian district manager. The Canadian zone is a part of the territory under the charge of Masters.

Neil F. Agnew, vice-president of Paramount and director of distribution, spent several days in Toronto from New York with J. J. Fitzgibbons, vice-president of Famous Players, to discuss the Canadian situation . . . Jack L. Hunter, Toronto branch manager for many years, will be acting general manager of Paramount Film Service, Ltd., during the absence of M. A. Milligan, general manager, for several weeks because of his health . . . A. E. Rolston, proprietor of the Princess, Little Current, Northern Ontario, was responsible for the raising of $25 for the British War Victims' Fund through the holding of a special show in the theatre which seats 250. The Bradford, Ont., unit of the Canadian Corps Ass'n held a theatre party at the Holland, Bradford, through the courtesy of Manager Hobberlin which resulted in the raising of $160.13 for the same fund.

The son of Manager Al Ritchie of the Alhambra, Toronto, is making excellent progress in his training as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Forces. Ralph Hughes, assistant manager of the Regent, Ottawa, a Famous Players house, has joined the Royal Canadian Engineers and has gone to a training camp . . . Finley McRae, trustee of the Harry M. Brouse Theatres, Ottawa, has been appointed chairman of the Mothers' Allowance Board. He was recently elected president of the Ottawa Red Cross Society. Manager T. R. Tubman of the Ottawa Capitol has been appointed a chairman of the Ottawa War Savings Stamp Campaign Committee . . . Manager T. A. Boyd of the Granada, Toronto suburban house, is cooperating with the John Knox Lodge in the organizing of a theatre night March 8 for patriotic charity purposes, the objective being the sale of 2,000 admission tickets.

Charlie Querrie, manager of the Toronto Palace for 20 years, officiated at the installation of officers of the Danforth Business Men's Ass'n of which he was one of the founders . . . Through the holding of a special midnight show at the Toronto Eglinton, under the supervision of Manager Bob Eves, 129 boxes of smokes, treats and apparel were shipped to soldiers of the Eglinton District who are now on active service across the Atlantic, and an entertainment was provided for the airmen at the Eglinton Training School . . . Manager Al Sedgwick of the Belsize, Toronto, was busy one day last week for the wedding of his sister. Ambrose Pheurer, salesman of Paramount Film Service, Ltd., has thawed out after returning to Toronto from a tour of theatres in the north mining country.

Paul Nadlen, who has reopened the Belmont, Toronto, on a five-year lease, formerly operated a theatre in Copenhagen, Denmark, where he was born. He has introduced dinnerware gift nights at the Belmont which has accommodation for 320 persons. The Paradise, on Bloor Street, is now offering premiums every night in the week including Saturday . . . Syd Taube, Canadian film trade pioneer, and Mrs. Taube have been spending some time in the United States and recently visited former Toronto residents in Hollywood, one of whom was Sam Goldstein at M-G-M who was formerly in the theatre business with Jake Smith in the Ontario Capital . . . H. Sabblut, formerly with Grand National Films, has gone into the retail business at Beardmore, Ont., a North Country town.

Richard A. Rowland was in Toronto for the pre-release screening of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" which took place at the Embassy before invited exhibitors and critics . . . Abe Polakoff, proprietor of the Manor, Toronto, is able to hang up quite a roll of honor for present and past members of the staff who have joined the colors. William Taylor, former manager, Frank Covert and Elliott Steinhart are in the army while Frank Polakoff and Irving Steinhart are in the Navy. Joseph Polakoff is in the Sea Cadets . . . Max Heppner, Winnipeg exhibitor, passed through Toronto on his way to New York for a business trip.

J. P. Bickell, head of United Theatres, Ltd., and associated with Famous Players in a financial way, is maintaining an open house for Canadian officers in London, England, where he is on a permanent mission in connection with the munitions industry . . . Ray Lewis, proprietor of the Pylon and Avenue, Toronto, has been elected president of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Jewish Post No. 256 of the Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League . . . The 12th special Sunday night show for troops in the Ottawa garrison at the Elgin was held last Sunday night by Manager Lloyd Mills under the auspices of the Lions Club of Ottawa, of which he is a member.

Asks Suspension of Doric's License

TORONTO—The suspension of the operating license of the Doric, Toronto neighborhood house seating 527 persons, for a period of one month has been recommended by Fire Marshal W. J. Scott as a result of the public inquiry into the cause of the accident January 18 when 35 juvenile patrons were affected by coal gas during the matinee performance, more than 12 children requiring emergency hospital treatment.

It was brought out in the evidence at the official investigation that no adult employe of the theatre was on the floor of the theatre when the condition of the children was discovered by two parents who had entered the Doric to take their family home; that the heating equipment had been repaired two weeks before the accident and that cracks in the furnace had been filled two days after the incident, and that the projectionist, Fred Harcourt, who had been employed at the Doric for 30 years, had stopped the show and turned on the house lights and, according to his own statement, had walked out of the theatre without knowing about the mishap until he read about it in the newspaper the following Monday.

Recommends Amendments

The fire marshal recommended that the government regulations governing the admission of children be amended at the approaching session of the legislature to require the theatres of Ontario to have one matron for each 100 children present at a show and to provide that air conditioning plants and heating furnaces must be in entirely separate rooms, theatres already having the two pieces of equipment to be compelled to make alterations to conform with the specific requirement.

With respect to the Doric, a number of improvements in equipment were ordered, the fire marshal declaring that neither the air conditioning system nor the furnace was in completely good repair. Scott ordered the boiler attendant to be in constant duty during all performances in future. The fire marshal intimated that he would suggest a legislative amendment to require an adult to accompany each juvenile under seven years of age for any performance, even on Saturdays and legal holidays. Under present rules, unaccompanied children may be admitted at matinees on these days provided a matron is in attendance within the theatre.

One for Hugh Herbert

HOLLYWOOD—"Partner Wanted," story by Arthur T. Horman, has been purchased by Warner as a starring vehicle for Hugh Herbert.

MONTREAL

THE audience at an evening show in the Granada sat undisturbed and enthralled by the picture while firemen labored to extinguish an outbreak of fire in the cellar, about which no one but the theatre officials knew . . . George Degnon, field representative of RKO, hints at a few previews to be given in Montreal on the lines of the recent advance showing of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" in Boston.

Roy Tash, ace cameraman of Associated Screen News, journeyed to Ottawa to cover the ill-fated conference of premiers of Canadian provinces studying the Rowell-Sirois report, and then went to "Little Norway" near Toronto and filmed the visit of Crown Prince Olaf and Princess Martha who inspected Norwegian aviators in training there . . . Lucien Roy, ASN cameraman, interviewed and pictured Sir Walter Citrine, secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, when he arrived at Vancouver.

Eric Byrne, assistant manager of the Monkland, who joined the active service forces, has reached England, and in a letter to Gaston Fauteux, manager, tells how disconcerting he finds the blackouts . . . Dr. Dafoe, physician to the Dionne Quintuplets, reports that 250,000 persons saw the Quints last year, but that only 25 per cent of the visitors were Americans, reversing the customary percentage.

Wilfred Lawson, British film star, has been refused permission to accept a Hollywood contract, the British home secretary announces . . . 20th-Fox has already started its 1941-42 *Canadian selling campaign for which plans were laid recently at a meeting in Toronto presided over by William C. Gehring, manager of the Central division. First Canadian contracts received are said to have come from Winnipeg . . . The British Cinematograph Exhibitors' Ass'n Council is aiming at unrestricted Sunday shows in* 5,000 *cinemas in London and provincial centers.*

Willie Eckstein, pioneer motion picture pianist of Montreal, is receiving the sympathy of the film community on the death of his brother, George Peter Eckstein . . . British motion picture censors have passed, without a cut, the $250,000 film "Spellbound," for which a certificate was originally refused on the ground that it deals with spiritualism . . . L. W. Payne, manager of the Capitol, Listowel, Ont., sponsored two children's matinees to raise funds for the Toronto *Evening Telegram* British War Victims' Fund, to which a substantial check representing the receipts was forwarded.

Mayor LaGuardia of New York was the subject for ASN still pictures as Fred Egan covered the mayor's visit to Montreal to attend sessions of the Joint Defense Board . . . "Skyway Over Canada," new 16mm *three-reel Trans-Canada Air Lines picture, for which the musical score was written by Lucio Agostino, and narration handled by Corey Thompson, was in Associated Screen Studios laboratories last week for recording of sound track . . . W. J. Singleton, sales manager of Associated Screen News, and S. T. Tait, manager of the company's* 16mm *department, have returned from a trip to Chicago.*

Ontario Considers No New or Added Taxes

TORONTO—According to announcement by Premier M. F. Hepburn, the Province of Ontario is expected to balance its budget for the fiscal year ending March 31 with the main sources of revenue being the corporation and income taxes, gasoline tax and licenses, succession duty and liquor profits. Hepburn declared that no new taxes would be imposed and there would be no tax increases. There has been specific intimation that no move would be made to revive the amusement tax in Ontario and the schedule of Provincial license fees for theatres will remain unchanged.

At the same time, it is understood that the federal government will invade the field of provincial taxation in order to gain additional revenue for the war effort. A great deal depends upon the voluntary response of the people in contributing by the purchase of war bonds and war savings stamps.

It is understood that the Dominion government will extend the list of prohibited articles for import as a further step toward retaining funds. Motion pictures are not likely to be restricted but there may be a ban on the purchase of theatre equipment and of some advertising accessories.

Neil Agnew Confers With Fitzgibbons in Toronto

TORONTO—Neil F. Agnew, vice-president in charge of distribution for Paramount, was a visitor last week here for a conference with J. J. Fitzgibbons of Famous Players Canadian, on sales.

Del Goodman, newly appointed Canadian district manager who was at the home office familiarizing himself with the company sales methods, is due back in Toronto.

: SASKATCHEWAN :

ONE-TIME manager of the Ritz Theatre, Saskatoon, which his father owned, Lieut. Donald Hoar, who went to England in 1936 to join the Royal Air Force, has been reported missing after action with the fleet air arm in which he served.

Marjorie Hawe, secretary of the Met, Regina, is back on the job after an attack of measles. June Derbyshire, cashier, is at home with the flu. A new usher is Mel Brown.

Frank Kershaw, district manager of Famous Players, Calgary, was a recent Regina visitor. He was on his usual routine inspection trip.

Foyer alterations, expected to cost between $1,800 *and* $2,000, *are now under way at the Roxy, Regina. I. Reinhorn is manager.*

New usher at the Capitol Theatre, Regina, is Harry Todd who replaces Mel McElree who left to join the elementary flying training school in Regina.

WINNIPEG

INTRODUCED here last week, following a suggestion made by Syl Gunn, the Capitol, Metropolitan, Lyceum and Gaiety have put into effect a new Saturday night policy. Those houses which play double bills during the week are omitting the second feature on Saturday night and replacing it with shorts. The move is intended to do away with the inordinate running time of the usual double bill, make for a much quicker turnover, and eliminate as far as possible the turning away of patronage.

Warner's "Christmas Under Fire" is playing local houses this week and earning warm commendation from theatre patrons. Eddie Newman at the Lyceum again stole a march on the rest of the trade, with his Wednesday opening giving him a day's advantage over his competitors. Warners, too, are coming in for some fine praise on the efforts this company is making with these contributions.

At the Capitol, Harold Bishop publicized "Bitter Sweet" through the medium of an air trailer over station CJRC, plugging story and songs. In addition he made extensive use of music store tie ups. Don Gauld's sneak previews at the Uptown are attracting crowds from all over the city.

For the second time in two weeks, thieves broke into the Elm and made their getaway with a considerable haul of silver, although they left the house safe intact. The usual custom at the house is to present each guest weekly with a single piece of silver, but apparently this routine is not fast enough for some.

Two British films, both starring the comedian, George Formby, are doing very well here. "Leave It to George" is doing fine at Syl Gunn's Metropolitan while the other, "It's in the Air," has been held for a second week at Garnet Wright's Bijou.

Industrial shorts turned out here by Jack Pechett of Canadian Screen Publicity are earning praise from theatre managers and the public as good screen entertainment.

E. A. Zorn, Famous Players district manager, has left for an inspection trip to the head of the lakes . . . J. Miles, president of Western Theatres, Ltd., has gone to Florida on holiday . . . Sim Rost, Garrick manager who has been on the sick list for some time, is recovering at home.

Henry A. Morton of Morton theatres made a substantial contribution to Canada's war effort . . . Leon Toraldo, Crescent manager, is on the sick list . . . "Arizona" goes into its second week at the Garrick.

The Best in Film Fare For British Troops

MONTREAL—British army chiefs and executives of the British film trade have reached an agreement for full cooperation in presenting the best films to the troops in all parts of the United Kingdom.

EDMONTON

W LONG, former manager of the Rialto, was a recent visitor to Edmonton from Vancouver where he is now manager of the new Vogue. On a business trip, Long traveled by plane both ways . . . Charles Frost and Bill Ross, both formerly employed at the Rialto, have left Edmonton for Vancouver where they have accepted positions with Long.

Visitors to Edmonton recently included W. Blankstein, Universal; George Lynch, Paramount, and Reg Dodderdige, RKO, all of Calgary . . . Opening date for the new "Public Opinion" contest at the Capitol was February 6.

Manager Fred Tickell of the Princess has commenced a new series of amateur contests. Applications for entry are made in advance and contestants may sing, dance or play an instrument. Special shows for children will be held on Saturdays while the regular show will be a weekly event. Enlargement of the stage preparatory to the opening contest, has already been completed.

The "Jitterbug Contest" held at the Strand proved to be such a drawing card that hundreds were unable to obtain admission. The management found it necessary to repeat the contest the following night. Open to couples, the contest was accompanied by a 17-piece band.

Establishing a record in the annals of theatre history, the Capitol was filled continuously from door-opening at 9 a. m. until the show closed at 12:15 a. m. the following morning when "Hudson's Bay" was shown on Saturday, third day of its run, reports Manager Walter Wilson. With its close association to Edmonton, one of the company's most historic outposts, the picture had a tremendous popularity with city theatregoers. A broadcast was a feature of the premiere of "Hudson's Bay" when the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta, Hon. John Campell Bowen, was presented with a pair of the famous Hudson's Bay point blankets on the stage of the Capitol and introductions were made by Manager Walter Wilson.

Under the direction of Fred Tickell, newly appointed manager, the Princess will undergo extensive alterations. Chief of these will be the enlargement of the stage to facilitate a new program of feature contests.

Following announcement that a jitterbug contest would be held at the Strand, one of the Entwisle chain, the office was flooded with applications, according to Arnold Entwisle. The contest, promoted chiefly among high school teams, will be aided by a 17-piece band. The musi-quiz contest held weekly at the same theatre and at which cash prizes are distributed, is proving particularly popular with members of the armed forces in training here.

W. O. Kelly of Paramount, Calgary, was a recent visitor in Edmonton. Following an illness, Kelly now is reported to be in the best of health.

Gets Building Contract For Longueuil House

MONTREAL—L. P. Theriault has been awarded the general contract at about $45,000 for the construction of a theatre block and stores in Longueuil, Que. A separate contract for electrical work has been awarded to William Rochon. George A. Duclos is the owner. Work is to start immediately.

Plans by L. J. T. Decary call for an ultra-modern fire-proof structure. The theatre will have a seating capacity of 640 persons. The theatre front will have a facing of block vitrolite and snowcrete stucco.

With brick work completed, interior work is proceeding on an 800-seat theatre at Sherbrooke Street and Hingston Avenue in the west end. Another theatre is well advanced in construction on St. Denis, near Jarry Street, with a capacity slightly less than that of the Sherbrooke Street building. Both were being designed by Eliasoph & Greenspoon, architects.

Allen Silent on Report He Has PRC Franchise

TORONTO—Regarding a report from Hollywood that Grand National Films, Ltd., Toronto, had taken the Canadian franchise for the product of Producers Releasing Corp., comprising 39 features, Harry J. Allen, general manager of the Canadian company, declared that he had no announcement to make for the present and preferred to give no information. A statement might be possible in due course, he intimated.

Allen has returned from a business trip to Winnipeg, where he formerly resided and where he lined up new bookings in conjunction with his brother, I. H. Allen, who is manager of the Winnipeg branch of Canadian Grand National.

Two Ontario Exhibitors, Delaney, Simpson, Die

TORONTO — The death has occurred of two more Ontario exhibitors. Sanford Delaney, proprietor of the Delaney at Ganonoque for many years, died after a long illness. The theatre will continue to be operated by his son.

Milton B. Simpson, manager of the O'Brien at Almonte, died suddenly at the age of 56 years, leaving a widow and three sons. A native of Ottawa, the deceased became operator at the Almonte Theatre a quarter of a century ago and eventually took over the management of the house which is a unit of the Ottawa Valley Amusement Co.

Move on Carnivals

TORONTO—The city council of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., has adopted a move to prohibit the local appearance of any carnival, midway or circus for the duration of the war because of the opposition which is provided permanent amusement operators and because of the money which is taken from the community by carnival engagements. Further carnivals are banned even though they are to be staged under the auspices of local patriotic organizations or for some charity society.

CALGARY

RICHARD (REDHEAD) BARRON, genial young man in charge of the premium department at the Grand Theatre, left Calgary last Saturday to join the Canadian Air Force. He goes to Toronto to start his initial training. Richard is the youngest son of J. B. Barron, who controls the Grand.

Harvey Harnick, local manager for Columbia, put on a stag last Saturday to celebrate the birth of a son born to his wife the day before. Master Martin Barry Harnick and his mother are both doing well.

Abe Feinstein, local manager of United Artists, has been confined to his home for the past week, but is reported to be improving.

Visitors to Filmrow from country points this week: W. Stewart, of the Empress at Nordegg; Russ Robson (who expects to be in the army this month), of the Opera Theatre at Vulcan; S. Glazer of the Fox Valley at Fox Valley; Mark Jenkins of the Rex at Claresholm and Danny Boyle controlling the Empress at Macleod.

: VANCOUVER :

IT IS reported S. V. Henn has very nearly completed his theatre at Sidney, B. C. Sidney is the nearest town to the R.C.A.F. base at Patricia Bay . . . Ben Plottel just returned from up country and advises the weather extremely mlid for this time of the year.

Excellent exploitation was secured by Roy Rogers, Republic's western star, when he rode his horse, Trigger, into the lobby of the largest hotel in this city where the newspapers took pictures of the horse registering at the desk. Further pictures were taken of them in the Panorama Room, the hotel's largest ballroom. All of this publicity is to be used in conjunction with the drive of the American Western Division of the British War Relief, of which Rogers is chairman.

It is understood J. E. Archer will again assume command of the local office of Sovereign Films . . . Nat Levant returned from a quick trip to the Island . . . J. I. Foy, general manager of Sovereign Films, in Vancouver for a short stay . . . C. D. Hoy of the Sunset, Wells, in town booking.

$173,880 Nolan Estate; Bulk to His Daughter

OTTAWA—The net estate left by Patrick J. Nolan, noted independent theatre owner and former mayor of Ottawa, was $173,880, according to the details of the probate in surrogate court and all but a small portion of the assets have been bequeathed to one daughter, Miss Maryan Nolan, who has been in charge of the Rexy and Nola in Ottawa for several years. The sum of $2,000 in cash is left to Mrs. Agnes McCarthy, another daughter, while a sister, Elizabeth Nolan, receives $25 per month.

Selling Late Shows

CHICAGO—Some of the measures John P. Field, manager of the Ogden Theatre, took to popularize late Saturday night shows:

1. One card trailer on the screen.
2. "A" board on sidewalk, morning, afternoon and night.
3. Two special cards at the side windows of the boxoffice with late Saturday night copy on same.
4. Front page of two-week program. (Program paid for by merchants' ads).
5. Stencil on sidewalk "Late show every Saturday night at the Ogden."
6. Writeup in the neighborhood paper.
7. Bottom of available billboards and the back wall of the theatre bore "late show" copy.
8. Ushers to tell as many friends in the neighborhood as possible (at least 10 each).
9. New Year's Eve high top hat in loud colors, with sign in front of same: "Late Show Saturday Night."



Show Your Leading Grocer—

The above window display was arranged by Dee Fuller, Circle Theatre manager in Oklahoma City, in a nearby chain store. Built around the Ginger tieup, it is a natural where a Ginger Rogers picture shows. Ten passes were given to the store patrons who guessed nearest to how many ginger snaps were in the jar. It both sold the picture, in this case, "Lucky Partners," for the Circle, and the cookies for the store.

Weekly Newspaper Sells Shows for Two Theatres

LEVELLAND, TEX.—The Rose and Wallace theatres here issue a weekly newspaper called *The Reminder*, 11x18 inches in size that is distributed house to house or mailed if a patron leaves his name and address at the theatre.

The paper, which is of a different color each week, is planographed, a process of printing which permits the use of an abundance of cuts without being too costly. A week's product is listed on the paper which is printed on both sides.

Special show information, quotations and jokes fill out the paper and are prepared on typewriter.

Generally each issue carries a name or two of a regular patron somewhere in its text, and bringing the copy with one's name thereon entitles to a free admission.

Good for newspaper stories and pictures is the donation to the public library of several copies of a book from which a picture has been made.

"The Letter" By Card

Baxley, Ga.—A variation upon the letter used in some instances to advertise "The Letter" made a clever mailing piece for the Roxy Theatre here.

On a 3x5 card was written by hand the message: "Robert will be away for the night. I absolutely must see you. I shall expect you at eleven. I am desperate—and if I don't see you I won't be responsible for the consequences. Bette."

In the upper right hand corner, in quite small type, and printed upside down to the message itself was a box, saying:

"What were the consequences? Learn and see Bette Davis at her best in 'The Letter.' Roxy Theatre, Baxley, Ga., January 27-28."

Front Page News Leads To Classified Page Ad

BALTIMORE—Swift to capitalize on current events is the management of the Times Theatre. Close on the heels of Senator Wheeler's diatribe against the industry as leaning to war mongering, came the following ad in the classified section of the Baltimore *Sun*.

Filling one column, eight inches, it read:

"A Free Screen! An open letter to Senator Wheeler. Your charge of propaganda in films is very unfair. Your statement that the picture companies are attempting 'to incite the American people to the point where they will become involved in the war' is unfounded. Your threat of censorship legislation is uncalled for."

Then this in large letters:

"'Phantom Submarine' with Anita Louise and Bruce Bennett is a Columbia film in the interest of national defense."

And continuing:

"It is a tense, dramatic story of America's defenses threatened by a secret submarine base! 'Phantom Submarine,' the second big defense picture, follows in the footsteps of 'Flight Command.' Certainly 'Phantom Submarine' whoops it up for Uncle Sam . . . and we're proud of it. We leave the verdict to defense-minded Baltimoreans."

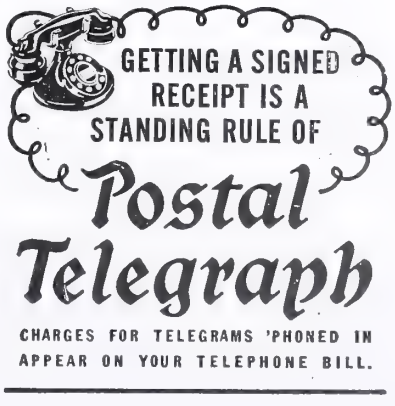
Playdate copy and sig cut concluded the ad.

Full Page Coop Ad for "Land of Liberty"

WINCHESTER, IND.—A full-page cooperative ad, and the contribution by the newspaper of 25 per cent of the proceeds from the ad itself was promoted by Fred C. Doughty, manager of the Lyric Theatre here, for "Land of Liberty."

The bulk of the ad was devoted to selling the picture and the cooperating merchants took signature spots thereon.

A front page story called attention to the fact that the distributor was turning over all proceeds from the picture to war relief agencies.







Double Barrelled Publicity—

Stunts that Barnes Perdue, manager of the Ritz and Grand in Chillicothe, Mo., sprang on his patrons for "Love Thy Neighbor" and "Li'l Abner" respectively. In the upper photo is pictured a checker marathon held in the Ritz lobby that netted pictures in the paper. A $15 prize was offered for the nearest correct guess as to how many games would be played. The marathon got under way a week in advance. The lower photo shows the staff as Daisy Maes and Li'l Abners. The barrel of corn in the center also made a street display, with the placard reading: "The corniest and funniest picture you'll see this year."

Horror Duo Results in Record Mid-Week Take

MONTEREY, CAL.—John Wyatt, manager of the Monterey, reports record mid-week business with the duo "The Mummy's Hand" and "Before I Hang" played up as a horror show.

Wyatt's experience confirms exhibitor opinion that horror bills are best kept in pairs thus drawing their devotees full strength, rather than divided with diversified product and so only partially satisfying the patron who favors a particular type of fare.

Shows Slides in School Assemblies

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Manager George E. Freeman of the Loew's Poli here, in connection with "Thief of Bagdad," made arrangements with the board of education to show stereoptican slides of "Thief of Bagdad" at school assembles.

Quiz Broadcast From Theatre

NEW YORK—A quiz broadcast over WWRL emanates from the stage of RKO Keith's Theatre, Richmond Hill, every Tuesday evening from 9:00 to 9:30 with participants for cash prizes being selected from the audience.

NUGGETS

ADAPTABLE to many pictures is Clyde Anderson's stunt for "Barnyard Follies" preceding its run at the American in Butte, Mont. Anderson placarded several hayracks which cruised about town inviting patrons to call the theatre for a free ride to the house to see the picture.

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Novel throwaways for both "Seven Sinners" and for "Scatterbrain" were utilized by L. W. Shuppert, manager of the Tipton in Tipton, Mo. For "Seven Sinners" Shuppert inserted an ordinary match in two slots cut to hold it on a 4x6 card. Copy read: "They're a perfect match—Marlene (Destry) Dietrich and John (Stagecoach) Wayne in (picture and playdate copy.)" For "Scatterbrain" the same size card had a peanut glued to it with a caption "Nuts to you from 'Scatterbrain'." A line cut dressed up the throwaway.

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The cover of the press sheet on "The Howards of Virginia," under the title of "Meet the Howards of Virginia," was put up in the side window of the cashier's cage, by Manager John Maloney of the Grove Theatre in Chicago.

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Following a suggestion in the press book Manager Al Blasko of the Parthenon in Chicago placed a typewriter on a small table in the lobby evenings from 6 to 10 p. m. A small lamp lighted the typewriter and in the roller was left the message: "Tom—dear! Please comes over early Friday. I want you to take me to see 'Arise, My Love' . . . etc., at the Parthenon Theatre."

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Newsboy aprons, imprinted with "Behind the News' Globe Now" were distributed among several boys to wear at busy corners and in front of factories, thus advertising "Behind the News" for Harry Rose of Loew's Globe in Bridgeport, Conn. A six-sheet pasted on the lobby floor, was another attention-getter.

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Two ushers, dressed in cap and gown outfits, each carried a banner front and back. Banner on front read: "What's it all about?" Banner on the back read: "'You'll find out' at the Stratford Theatre now." The stunt was Manager Steve Fitzgerald's of the Stratford in Chicago.

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A round mirror placed in the lobby with a circular picture of Myrna Loy and Melvyn Douglas placed in center, and title and playdates around edge of mirror plugged "Third Finger, Left Hand" for Manager E. R. Erickson of the Rhodes in Chicago. A spotlight in front of this gave a reflecting effect.

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Securing permission from the Civil Aeronautics Authority, Maynard Nelson, World, Kearney, Neb., arranged for a plane to fly over that and eight surrounding towns, releasing thousands of small imprinted envelopes containing candy and a plug for "Flight Command."

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A ballyhoo man attired in flying togs was sent through Harrisburg streets as part of the "Flight Command" campaign arranged by Bill Elder, Loew's.

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Stills from "This Thing Called Love" were placed in a large box, lighted from within, and the top of the box had three peep-holes, each fitted with a magnifying glass. Copy invited passersby to "take a peek." Display around the box was made up of recent newspaper articles publicizing an argument between Binnie Barnes and the studio over scenes in the picture. The successful stunt was William "Bill" Bryan's of the Manos at Vandergrift, Pa.

Stranger Than Fiction, No. 86

Universal 9 1/3 *Mins.*

The usual. Japanese stenography and typing with an alphabet that has over 20,000 characters; a lifeboat launching device; a tree that grew although planted upside down; a miniature city in a Michigan town; a water-going locomotive and a paralyzed young man who draws by holding a pencil in his teeth.

Picture People, No. 5

RKO 10 *Mins.*

Average. Irene Rich and her daughter go on a picnic; Tim Holt, in cowboy attire, puts his horse through a few stunts and John Barrymore and Rudy Vallee horse around over a script and scrambled eggs. Last named tops the reel's content.

The Fired Man

RKO (Leon Errol Comedy) 20 *Mins.*

Familiar, but funny. Leon Errol is the stooge in a store who gets fired every time a customer complains. He gets himself involved plenty when invited by a customer to bring his wife and non-existent children to a beach house weekend. Bedroom farce-nightwalking ensues.

Pantry Pirate

RKO (Disney's Pluto) 8 *Mins.*

Average Disney. Technicolored Pluto, booted out of the house, returns when the aroma of a baked ham reaches him. Then he gets himself tangled up with a box of soap suds, misses out on the ham but reaches the doghouse in furious retreat before the colored cook returns.

Mouse Trappers

Universal (Andy Panda Cartoon) 7 *Mins.*

Entertaining. Andy Panda's pa is quite a hunter in this colored tidbit but he bogs down horribly when he sets out to catch a mouse. His attempts to corral the rodent however, are responsible for clever animation devices.

Snow Eagles

RKO (Sportscope) 8 *Mins.*

Interesting, timely. The Sawtooth Range in Idaho is the scene and the action concerns skiing by experts, and photographic interpretation of various maneuvers. Like most skiing reels it is dramatically filmed, full of action.

New York Parade

Columbia 10 *Mins.*

Interesting. Bridges, churches, skyscrapers, contrasts and the people who inhabit, utilize and effect them are interestingly caught and presented herein.

They Spent Christmas Under Fire

Warner **10½ Mins.**

Splendid. A sequel to the powerful "London Can Take It," Quentin Reynolds, war correspondent for "Collier's," this time shows and tells the kind of Christmas London's millions spent. There are no war planes and no alerts, but gripping depiction in short and staccato-like scenes of how the average Londoner took the blitz in his stride, made the best of it and managed to enjoy something, at least, of the "peace on earth" holiday in traditional British manner. Narration is intelligent and dramatically delivered. All profits go to English war relief.

The Great Meddler

M-G-M (Miniature) 11 *Mins.*

Excellent. Unusual care in the preparation and material that has gone into this subject makes it one that should appeal to every type audience. Especially because it espouses the cause and background responsible for the American Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Animals and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Full credit is given one Henry Bergh, who, from his return to America after a legation post to Russia in 1864, single-handedly combats powerful opposition to establish his concepts of humanity. A fine script and expert handling make it outstanding.

Information Please, No. 5

RKO 11 *Mins.*

Up to snuff. Levant, Adams and Kieran are about to help Wendell Willkie make his return engagement with the quiz sheet. They tangle with posers on baseball, poetry, booktitles and the identification of presidential cabinets, lose 50 bucks to the Will Rogers Fund.

Bagdad Daddy

Universal (2-Reel Musical) 17 2/3 *Mins.*

Fair. Fuzzy Knight, surrounded by Gertrude Niesen and a number of tumbling girl singing and dancing acts, in a Larry Ceballos harem, waves the magic wand and the entertainment ensues. It doesn't quite come off.

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The Happiest Man on Earth

M-G-M (Miniature) 11 *Mins.*

Very good. Adapted from a story appearing in the O'Henry Memorial Award volume, this capsule drama is played to perfection in one sequence that is as compellingly dramatic as the potency of the nitroglycerine which figures prominently. Paul Kelly and Victor Kilian carry the story which tells of a down-and-out family man who just about forces a relative to give him a dangerous job in the oil fields so he can give his wife and children the necessities of decent living. It is all dialogue, the heart-touching kind.

Going Places, No. 86

Universal 9 *Mins.*

Average. This is a mediocre sightseeing tour of a few Mexican provinces with cathedrals, landmarks, relics of past grandeur, a snatch of agricultural progress, tourist attractions and the like.

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TOLEDO

ONE OF THE ALBERT PICK HOTELS

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ✪ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JUNE 29	27 Western 1214 **Return of Wild Bill** Bill Elliott (57) R—July 13	28 Musical 31 **New Moon** (100) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—June 22	25 M'drama 3927 **Last Alarm** (61) Polly Ann Young Warren Hull R—July 13	28 Drama 3939 **Queen of the Mob** (61) R—June 29 Ralph Bellamy Blanche Yurka Jean Cagney	29 Western 992 **One Man's Law** (57) Don "Red" Barry Janet Waldo R—July 13	28 Drama 035 **Anne of Windy Poplars** (86) Anne Shirley R—June 22	28 Outd'r Dr. 049 **Lucky Cisco Kid** (68) Cesar Romero Mary Beth Hughes R—June 1		28 Drama 5046 **The Fugitive** (77) Ralph Richardson Diana Wynyard R—July 6		28 Com. Drama 1 **Hold That Woma** (66) James Dunn R—Nov. 30
JULY 6	30 Comedy 1021 **Out West With the Peppers** (61) Edith Fellows R—July 13	5 Comedy 43 **Andy Hardy Meets Debutante** (89) Mickey Rooney R—July 6	3 Western 3956 **The Golden Trail** (52) Tex Ritter R—July 13	5 Drama 3940 **Way of All Flesh** (86) R—June 1 Akim Tamiroff Gladys George	12 Drama 903 **Three Faces West** (81) R—June 22 John Wayne Sigrid Gurie	5 Drama 036 **Dr. Christian Meets the Women** (68) Jean Hersholt R—June 29	5 Com. Drama 052 **Sailor's Lady** (66) Nancy Kelly Jon Hall R—July 6		5 Com. Drama 4007 **Private Affairs** (74) Nancy Kelly Roland Young R—June 15	13 Drama FN467 **Man Who Talked Too Much** (75) George Brent R—July 6	
JULY 13		12 Drama 44 **Sporting Blood** (82) Robert Young Maureen O'Sullivan R—July 13		12 Western 3959 **Stagecoach War** (63) R—July 6 Bill Boyd Russell Hayden		12 Com. Drama 039 **Cross Country Romance** (68) Gene Raymond Wendy Barrie R—June 29	12 Drama 046 **Manhattan Heart-beat** (71) V. Gilmore R. Sterling R-June 8			13 Drama FN454 ✪**All This, and Heaven Too** (143) Bette Davis Charles Boyer R—June 22	
JULY 20	18 Drama 1038 **Military Academy** (66) T. Kelly R-July 13 24 Adventure 1110 **I Married Adventure** (78) R-July 20	19 Com. Drama 45 **We Who Are Young** (79) Lana Turner John Shelton R—July 20	16 Mystery 3910 **Haunted House** (70) R—Aug. 3 15 Melodrama 4020 **Boys of the City** East Side Kids (63) R—Aug. 31		20 Comedy 909 **Scatterbrain** (72) Judy Canova R—July 13 15 Western 944 **Carolina Moon** (65) G. Autry R—July 20	19 Drama 029 **Tom Brown's School Days** (82) James Lydon Fred. Bartholomew Cedric Hardwicke R—June 29	19 Drama 050 ⊙**Maryland** (91) Walter Brennan Fay Bainter Brenda Joyce R—July 13	18 Melodrama **South of Pago Pago** (97) Victor McLaglen Jon Hall Francis Farmer R—July 20	19 Melodrama 4057 **Black Diamonds** (52) R—July 27 26 Western 4064 **Son of Roaring Dan** (64) R—Aug. 17 Johnny Mack Brown	20 Com. with Mu. WB407 **My Love Came Back** (85) R—July 6 Olivia de Havilland Jeffrey Lynn	20 Western **Billy the Kid Ou** lawed (55) Bob Steele
JULY 27	25 Comedy 1012 **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (70) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 27	26 Com. Drama 47 **Gold Rush Maisie** (82) Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	29 Melodrama 4024 **Orphans of the North** (57) R—Nov. 9 29 Western 3957 **Rainbow Over the Range** (59) T. Ritter R-Aug. 10	26 Drama 3941 ⊙**Untamed** (83) Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	30 Drama 904 **Girl from God's Co'n-try** (71) R—Jul 27 Chester Morris	26 Western 085 **Stage to Chino** (59) G.O'Brien R-Aug. 24 26 Com. Drama 037 **Millionaires in Prison** (63) L. Tracy R-June 29			26 Com. Dr. 4023 **You're Not So Tough** (72) R—June 1 26 Outd'r Dr. 4006 **When Daltons Rode** (81) R—Aug. 3	27 Comedy FN474 **Ladies Must Live** (58) Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		2 Costume Com. 46 ✪**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	5 Melodrama 3908 **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	2 Melodrama 3942 **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	30 Western 956 **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R-July 27	2 Drama 061 ⊙**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov.26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	2 Drama 101 **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		2 M'drama 4039 **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	3 Drama FN460 **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	3 Western **Gun Code** (55) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	7 Drama 1008 **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama 50 **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama 3943 **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical 910 **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama 042 **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama 104 **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy 4003 **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram WB414 **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama 1039 **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 15 Western 2201 **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy 49 **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama 3913 **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 Western 3958 **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	16 Comery 3944 **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western 071 **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama 041 **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama 103 ⊙**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama WB417 **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama 1006 **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama 3939 **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western RB-1 **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama 3945 **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda 171 **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama 043 **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R-Aug. 24	23 Drama 100 **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. WB412 **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama 48 **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama 3903 **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western 068 **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy 046 **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners** (101) R.Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy 109 **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama WB401 **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 Mystery **Marked Men** (69) Warren Hull R—Feb. 1—PG-18
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy 1022 **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama 101 **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama 3920 **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. 4001 **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western 043 **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama 101 **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	6 Melodrama 110 **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (92) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. 5013 **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. WB519 **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama 2032 **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama 1024 **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama 017 **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept 14	13 Comedy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 Comedy 105 **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. 5006 **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama 5051 **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 Comedy FN554 **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 **The Howards of Virginia (117)** Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 Mus. Com. 104 **Haunted Honeymoon (83)** Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama 4021 **That Gang of Mine (62)** Bobby Jordan R—Oct. 5	20 Drama 4002 **I Want a Divorce (92)** R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado (57)** Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western 086 **Triple Justice (66)** Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes (65)** Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Act. Drama **The Westerner (99)** Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama 5020 **The Mummy's Hand (67)** R—Aug. 31 20 Western 5061 **Ragtime Cowboy Joe (58)** R—Oct. 5	21 Drama WB506 **City for Conquest (106)** James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 Western 15 **Arizona Gang Busters (60)** Tim McCoy
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 1040 **Glamour for Sale (59)** R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway (80)** R-Oct 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band (120)** R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery 105 **Sky Murder (72)** R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape (62)** Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama 4003 **Rangers of Fortune (80)** Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western 062 **Under Texas Skies (57)** Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive (72)** Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman (113)** R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The (76)** R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. 5001 **Spring Parade (89)** Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 Western 15 **Billy the Kid in Texas (55)** Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners (58)** R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy (73)** Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama 4004 **Quarterback (74)** Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 Western 072 **Frontier Vengeance (57)** R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western 181 **Wagon Train (59)** Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The (57)** Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama 5019 **Diamond Frontier (71)** Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama WB502 **Knute Rockne, All American (98)** Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Dr'ma 2018 **So You Won't Talk (69)** R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand (93)** Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western RB-2 **Trailin' Double Trouble (58)** Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 Drama 4005 **Cherokee Strip (86)** Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 Mus. Com. 005 **Melody and Moonlight (73)** Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 Burl. Com. 105 **Villain Still Pursued Her (67)** R-Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 Mus. Com. 113 **Down Argentine Way (88)** Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 Melodrama 5017 **A Little Bit of Heaven (86)** Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 Comedy FN559 **Father Is a Prince (56)** Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama 2030 **Nobody's Children (65)** Edith Fellows R—Feb. 1—PG-18		7 Com. Dr. 4010 **Ol' Swimmin' Hole (75)** R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 Drama 4006 **Moon Over Burma (76)** Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 Mus. Com. 001 **Hit Parade of 1941 (88)** Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 Melodrama 107 **Laddie (70)** Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama 114 **Night Train (93)** Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 Western 5062 **Law and Order (57)** Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. WB511 **Dispatch from Reuters (90)** Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama 2038 **Girls Under 21 (64)** R—Nov. 30 21 Western 2202 **West of Abilene (57)** R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy 109 **Hullabaloo (77)** Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 Drama 4007 **Christmas in July (72)** R—Sept. 21 25 Documentary **World in Flames (61)** R—Oct. 26	21 Western 052 **Young Bill Hickok (60)** R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 Melodrama 104 **They Knew What They Wanted (90)** Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 Comedy 111 **The Great Profile (71)** John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy 5024 **Slightly Tempted (60)** R—Aug. 3 25 Drama 5007 **Seven Sinners (86)** R—Nov. 2	26 Com. Dr. FN561 **Tugboat Annie Sails Again (77)** Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy 2016 **Blondie Plays Cupid (68)** Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama 108 **Escape (104)** Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 Musical 4008 **Dancing on a Dime (74)** Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 Mystery 006 **Who Killed Aunt Maggie? (70)** Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 Comedy 100 **Li'l Abner (78)** Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 Comedy 5036 **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (63)** R—Aug. 10 1 Melodrama 5052 **Devil's Pipeline (65)** R—Nov. 30	2 Comedy FN570 **Always a Bride (60)** Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical 110 **Bittersweet (92)** Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western 4051 **Take Me Back to Oklahoma (64)** Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 Musical 4009 **Arise My Love (113)** Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 Mus. Comedy 007 **Friendly Neighbors (67)** R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 Comedy 106 **Too Many Girls (85)** Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 Melodrama 117 **Mark of Zorro (93)** Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy 5021 **Sandy Gets Her Man (66)** R—Nov. 16 8 Western 5063 **Pony Post (59)** R—Dec. 14	9 Drama FN562 **East of the River (73)** R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	
NOV. 16	14 Western 2210 **Beyond the Sacramento (58)** Bill Elliott	16 Drama 111 **Gallant Sons (76)** Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery 4012 **Phantom of Chinatown (62)** Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western 4050 **Three Men From Texas (70)** William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western 063 **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy 111 **Mexican Spitfire Out West (76)** Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama 102 **Street of Memories (70)** R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		16 Drama 5015 **One Night in the Tropics (82)** Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama WB513 **South of Suez (87)** George Brent Geraldine Fitzgerald R—Dec. 21	11 Western 15 **Riders of Black Mountain (59)** Tim McCoy
NOV. 23	23 Mystery 2021 **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (63)** R-Nov. 30 28 Drama 2012 **Escape to Glory (74)** R—Nov. 30	22 Comedy 112 **Little Nellie Kelly (100)** Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 Western RB-3 **West of Pinto Basin (59)** Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western 041 **Melody Ranch (85)** R—Nov. 30 22 Western 073 **Texas Terrors (57)** R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. 108 **You'll Find Out (97)** Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy 119 **Youth Will Be Served (66)** Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home (105)** Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy 5023 **Meet the Wildcat (65)** R—Nov. 2 22 Drama R5048 **Next Time We Love (87)**	23 Drama FN552 **Letter, The (97)** Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	30 Mystery 2024 **Ellery Queen, Master Detective (69)** Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 115 **Dr. Kildare's Crisis (75)** Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 Comedy 018 **Meet the Missus (68)** Roscoe Karns R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 113 **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama 120 **Tin Pan Alley (94)** R—Nov. 30 Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable	29 Drama **Black Out (80)** Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy 5010 **Bank Dick, The (72)** W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama WB512 **Lady With Red Hair (81)** Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western 2208 **Thundering Frontier (57)** Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy 114 **Go West (82)** Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. 4011 **Night at Earl Carroll's, A (63)** Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western 053 **The Border Legion (58)** Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western 182 **Fargo Kid, The (63)** Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama 118 **Charter Pilot (70)** Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy 5026 **Margie (59)** Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy FN571 **She Couldn't Say No (63)** Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	
DEC. 14	9 Drama 2031 **Great Plane Robbery (53)** Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama 113 **Comrade X (89)** Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		13 Western 4012 **Texas Rangers Ride Again (68)** John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy 008 **Barnyard Follies (68)** R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery 121 **Murder Over New York (65)** Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama 5008 **Trail of the Vigilantes (75)** Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Com. Mys. 10 **Devil Bat (69)** Bela Lugosi

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
DEC. 21	20 **Mystery** 2033 **Phantom Submarine** (70) Anita Louise			27 Outd'r Dr. 3046 **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 **Drama** 009 **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 **Drama** 114 **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	20 **Comedy** 122 **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 **Drama** 5025 **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 **Reissue** **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Drama 10 **Misbehaving Husbands** (66) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	25 Outd'r Dr. 2101 **Arizona** (128) Jean Arthur R—Nov. 23 31 **Western** 2211 **Wildcat of Tuscon** (57) Bill Elliott	27 **Comedy** 116 **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 **Drama** 4003 **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 **Western** 4052 **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) R—Feb. 1—PG-17	27 **Comedy** 4013 **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 **Western** 064 **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 **Drama** 112 **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	27 **Drama** 123 **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 **Fantasy** **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Com. 5018 **Invisible Woman** (72) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan 4—PG-1	28 **Adv. Dr. FN551** **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Western 15 **Billy the Kid's Gu Justice** (63) Bob Steele
JAN. 4	2 Comedy 2205 **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 **Drama** 117 **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical 4014 **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 **Drama** 019 **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 **Drama** 161 **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	3 **Drama** 115 **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama 5030 **Where Did You Get That Girl** (65) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama 5053 **Lucky Devils** (62)	4 **M'drama WB503** **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	31 Mystery 10 **Secret Evidence** (65) R—Feb. 8—PG-22
JAN. 11	9 **Western** 2204 **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett R—Feb. 8—PG-23	10 Com. Drama 118 **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western **RB-4** **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (60) Range Busters	10 **Western** 4051 **Doomed Caravan** (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 **Western** 074 **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 **Drama** 110 **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 **Melodrama** 124 **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 **Melodrama** **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 **Western** 5064 **Boss of Bullion City** (59) 10 **Drama** 5027 **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 **M'drama FN572** **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon R—Feb. 1—PG-19	10 Western 16 **Lone Rider Rides Or** (64) George Houston
JAN. 18	16 **Mys. Dr.** 2029 **Face Behind the Mask** (69) Peter Lorre	17 **Drama** 119 **Philadelphia Story** (112) Katharine Hepburn Cary Grant	15 **Mystery** **Dead Man's Shoes** (..) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 **Drama** 4015 **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 **Western** 054 **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers **R—Jan. 18—PG-10**	17 **Musical** 115 **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 **Act. Drama** 125 **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 **Comedy** **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (62) Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Dr. **WB510** **Honeymoon for Three** (76) George Brent Ann Sheridan	17 Comedy 10 **Caught in the Act** (62) Henry Armetta
JAN. 25		24 **Comedy** 121 **Wild Man of Borneo** R—Feb. 8—PG-24 24 Historical **Land of Liberty** (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	20 Melodrama 4014 **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 **Comedy** 4016 **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (82) R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 **Western** 044 **Riding on a Rainbow** (79) Gene Autry R—Feb. 1—PG-19	24 **Mystery** 116 **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 **Drama** 128 **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (78) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 25—PG-14	24 **Comedy** **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carol Landis		25 **Drama FN556** **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 **Western** 160 **Billy the Kid's Range War** (..) Bob Steele
FEB. 1	3 Melodrama 2028 **The Devil Commands** (..) Boris Karloff	31 **Drama** 122 **Come Live With Me** (85) James Stewart R—Feb. 1—PG-17			28 **Comedy** 010 **Arkansas Judge** (72) Weaver Bros. R—Jan. 25—PG-14	31 **Comedy** 117 **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard R—Jan. 23—PG-13	31 **Drama** 127 **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Comedy **Buck Privates** (84) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello R—Feb. 8—PG-22	1 Drama **WB520** **Father's Son** (57) John Litel Frieda Inescort	1 Western 16 **Lone Rider Crosses the Rio** (..) George Houston
FEB. 8	13 **Western** 2212 **Across the Sierra** (58) Bill Elliott	7 **Comedy** 123 **Blonde Inspiration** (..) John Shelton Virginia Grey	6 Western 4053 **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (..) Tex Ritter	7 Mus. Com. 4017 **You're the One** (81) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker R—Feb. 8—PG-21	31 **Comedy** 020 **Petticoat Politics** (..) Higgins Family Roscoe Karnes	7 **Western** 183 **Along the Rio Grande** (64) Tim Holt R—Feb. 1—PG-20	7 **Comedy** 129 **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (..) Eugene Pallette Rita Quigley		7 **Drama** **Back Street** (89) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer R—Feb. 8—PG-21	8 **Drama** **Flight From Destiny** (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	18 **Drama** **Adam Had Four Sons** (..) Warner Baxter Ingrid Bergman	14 **Drama** 125 **Trial of Mary Dugan** (..) Robert Young Laraine Day		14 **Mystery** 4018 **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone	14 **Western** 075 **Bad Man From Rio** (..) Don "Red" Barry	14 **Comedy** 120 **A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (..) George Murphy Lucille Ball	14 Com. Drama 130 **Golden Hoofs** (..) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers	14 **Drama** **So Ends Our Night** (121) Fredric March Margaret Sullavan R—Feb. 1—PG-20	14 **Comedy** **Meet the Chump** (60) Hugh Herbert Lewis Howard	15 **Comedy** **The Great Mr. Nobody** (71) Eddie Albert Joan Leslie	15 Western 15 **Outlaws of the Rio Grande** (..) Tim McCoy
FEB. 22	20 **Drama** **Meet Boston Blackie** (..) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson	21 **Comedy** 126 **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (..) Mickey Rooney	19 Air Drama **Air Devils** (..) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan	21 **Drama** 4019 **Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	16 **Western** 065 **Prairie Pioneers** (..) Three Mesquiteers	21 **Com. Drama** 123 **Scattergood Baines** (..) Guy Kibbee	21 **Drama** 126 **Western Union** (93) Robert Young R—Feb. 8—PG-24		21 **Mus. Comedy** **Nice Girl** (..) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone	22 **Com. Drama** **Strawberry Blonde** (..) James Cagney Olivia de Havilland	22 Western 16 **Billy the Kid Trails West** (..) Bob Steele
MAR. 1	27 **Comedy** **Blondie Goes Latin** (..) 27 **Western** 2205 **Outlaws of the Panhandle** (59) Charles Starrett	28 **Com. Drama** **Free and Easy** (..) Ruth Hussey Robert Cummings	28 **Drama** **Sign of the Wolf** (..) Grace Bradley	28 **Western** 4052 **In Old Colorado** (..) William Boyd	3 **Drama** **Citadel of Crime** ( ) John Wayne Frances Dee	28 **Drama** 118 **Citizen Kane** (..) Orson Welles	28 **Mystery** 131 **Scotland Yard** (..) John Loder Nancy Kelly		28 **Drama** 5040 **Dark Streets of Cairo** (..) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7	1 **Mys. Drama** **Shadows on the Stairs** (..) Frieda Inescort Paul Cavanagh	28 **Drama** 10 **Emergency Landing** (..)
MAR. 8		7 **Drama** **Rage in Heaven** (..) Robert Montgomery Ingrid Bergman		7 **Comedy** 4020 **Hard Boiled Canary** (..) Allan Jones Susanna Foster		7 **Drama** 121 **Play Girl** (77) Kay Francis James Ellison R—Dec. 14	7 **Drama** **Tobacco Road** (..) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau		7 **Comedy** **Mr. Dynamite** (..) Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey	8 **Mys. Drama** **Footsteps in the Dark** (..) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall	
MAR. 15		14 **Drama** 124 **The Bad Man** (..) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore				14 **Drama** 122 **Devil and Miss Jones** (..) Jean Arthur Charles Coburn	14 **Mystery** **Murder Among Friends** (..) John Hubbard Marjorie Weaver		14 **Comedy** **Model Wife** (..) Joan Blondell Dick Powell	15 **Comedy** **Here Comes Happiness** (..) Mildred Coles Edward Norris	14 **Drama** 10 **South of Panama** (..)
MAR. 22		21 **Musical** **Ziegfeld Girl** (..) Judy Garland James Stewart [redacted]edy Lanarr		21 **Comedy** **Lady Eve** (..) Barbara Stanwyck Henry Fonda		21 **Musical** 119 **Footlight Fever** (..) Alan Mowbray [redacted]McBride	21 **Drama** **The Outlaw** (..) Walter Huston Thomas Mitchell			22 **Drama** **The Sea Wolf** (..) Edw. G. Robinson Id[redacted] John Garfield	

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ## Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. ◐ Indicates short of the week. ◎ Indicates color photography.

Columbia

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd
	ALL-STAR COMEDIES			
2425..	Blondes and Blunders (16)	11-29	±	12- 7
2424..	Bundle of Bliss, A (18)	11- 1		....
2423..	Cold Turkey (16)	10-18		....
1438..	Fireman Save My Choo-Choo (18)	8- 9	+	8-31
2628..	Fresh as a Freshman (..)	1-29		....
2426..	His Ex Marks the Spot (18)	12-13		....
2421..	Pleased to Mitt You (18)	9- 6		....
1421..	Skinny the Moocher (16½)	9- 8		....
2422..	Spook Speaks, The (18)	9-20	+	10-19
9437..	Trouble Finds Andy Clyde (18)	7-28		....
2627..	Watchman Takes a Wife, The (16)	1-10	±	1-25
	CINESCOPES			
2975..	Feathers (Cosmocolor) (..)	1-31		....
2972..	Floating Elephants (8)	10- 4	+	10-19
2971..	Hobby Lobby (11)	8-30	+	9-21
2972..	Industrial Green Island (10)	9-20		....
2973..	Nice Work If You Can Do It (9)	11- 8	+	11-23
2975..	◎Ocean Trails (..)	1-31		....
2974..	Unusual Crafts (9)	12-25	±	1-25
	COLOR RHAPSODIES (In Technicolor)			
2505..	A Helping Paw (7)	1- 7		....
2502..	◎Mr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½)	10- 4		....
2503..	Mad Hatter, The (7)	11- 3		....
2501..	Tangled Television (7½)	8-30	+	10-19
1512..	Timid Pup, The (8)	8- 1	±	8-31
2506..	Way of All Pests (7)	2-28		....
2504..	Wise Owl (7)	12- 6	∓	12- 7
	COLUMBIA TOURS			
2556..	Beautiful British Columbia (10½)	12-20	+	1-25
2557..	From Singapore to Hong Kong (De La Varre Prod.) (10)	1-10		....
2551..	Historic Virginia (Andre de la Varre Productions) (10)	8-16		....
2554..	Islands of the West Indies (10)	10-25	##	11-23
2553..	Old and New Arizona (Special) (9)	9-27		....
2552..	Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10)	9-13	##	10-23
2555..	Sojourn in Havana (LaVarre Prod.) (9)	11-25	±	12- 7
	COMMUNITY SING			
2651..	No. 1..(Jolly Tunes—D. Baker (10)	10- 2		....
2652..	No. 2..(Popular Songs—D. Baker (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
2653..	No. 3..(Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)	12-13		....
2654..	No. 4 (Gay Tunes) (10)	1- 1		....
2655..	No. 5 (10) Fun with Songs—L. White.	2- 7		....
	FABLES CARTOONS			
2751..	Farmer Tom Thumb (6)	9-27	+	10-19
2755..	It Happened to Crusoe (..)	3-14		....
2752..	Mouse Meets Lion (6)	10-25	∓	12- 7
2753..	Paunch 'n' Judy (6½)	12-13	±	1-25
1755..	Pooch Parade (6)	7-19		....
2754..	Streamlined Donkey (6)	1-17		....
	NEW YORK PARADE			
2951..	New York Parade (10)	1-24		....
	PHANTASIES CARTOONS			
2705..	Little Theatre, The (..)	2- 7		....
1706..	News Oddities (6)	7-19		....
1756..	Peep in the Deep, A (6½)	8-23	+	8-31
2701..	School Boy Dreams (5)	9-24	+	10-19
2705..	There's Music in Your Hair (..)	3-28		....
2704..	Tom Thumb's Brother (..)	1-17		....
2703..	Wallflower, The (..)	11-29		....
	QUIZ REELS			
2601..	Take It or Leave It (9½)	12- 5	o	12- 7
2602..	Take It or Leave It No. 2 (11)	12-25	∓	1-25
2603..	Take It or Leave It No. 3 (..)	2- 7		....
2604..	Junior I. Q. Parade (..)	3- 7		....
	SCREEN SNAPSHOTS			
1860..	No. 10 (9) Jack Oakie.	8-10	±	8-31
2851..	No. 1 (10) Ken Murray.	9- 6		....
2852..	No. 2 (9) Don Wilson.	10-18	o	11-23
2853..	No. 3 (9) Ken Murray.	11-22	±	12- 7
2854..	No. 4 (9) Ken Murray.	12-27		....
2855..	No. 5 (9) Bob Hope.	2- 2	∓	1-25
	SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)			
2441..	Puss in Boots (reissue) (40)	11-21		....
	SPORT REELS			
2803..	Ali the Giant Killer (10½)	12-27	∓	1-25
1809..	Canvas Capers (11)	7-19		....
2802..	Hunting Wild Deer (9)	11-22	=	12- 7
2804..	Ice Capers (..)	1-24		....
2801..	Master of Cue With Willie Hoppe (9)	10- 4	+	10-19
2805..	Splits, Spares and Strikes (..)	2-21		....
	THREE STOOGES COMEDIES			
2404..	Boobs in Arms (18)	12-27	±	1-18
2403..	Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)	11-15	±	12- 7
2401..	From Nurse to Worse (16)	8-23	+	8-31
1408..	How High Is Up (16)	7-16	=	8- 3
2402..	No Census, No Feeling (16)	10- 4		....
2405..	So Long Mr. Chumps (..)	2- 7		....
	WASHINGTON PARADE			
	Series 2			
1906..	No. 6 (Our Nat'l Defense) (10)	8-30		....
	Series 3			
2901..	No. 1 (The Mint) (10)	10-25		....
2902..	No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (10)	12-13	±	1-18
2903..	No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (10)	1- 3	+	1-25

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd
	CRIME DOESN'T PAY			
P- 5..	Buyers Beware (20)	8-17	##	9- 7
P-201..	◐Eyes of the Navy (20)	10-26	##	10-26
P- 6..	Soak the Old (20)	8-24	±	9-28
P-815..	Think First (21)	9- 9		....
P-202..	◐You, the People (21)	11-30	##	1-18
	FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS (In Technicolor)			
T-214..	Beautiful Bali (9)	11-23	∓	12-14
T-211..	Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)	9- 7	##	9- 7
T-212..	Cavalcade of San Francisco (9)	9-28	∓	9-28
T-213..	Old New Mexico (10)	10-26	+	11- 9
T-215..	Old New Orleans (9)	12-21	+	1-18
	MINIATURES			
M-231..	Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia)	10- 9	±	12-14
	M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series) (Technicolor)			
W- 90..	Bookworm Turns, The (8)	7-20	+	8-31
W- 94..	Gallopin' Gals (8)	10-26	+	11- 9
W- 93..	Homeless Flea, The (8)	10-12	##	12- 7
W-241..	Lonesome Stranger (9)	11-23	##	12- 7
W- 92..	Papa Gets the Bird (8)	9- 7	∓	9-28
W- 91..	Romeo in Rhythm (8)	8-10	±	9- 7
	M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY Released Twice Weekly			
	OUR GANG COMEDIES			
C-293..	Goin' Fishin' (10)	10-26	±	11- 9
C-291..	Good Bad Boys (11)	9- 7	+	9- 7
C-294..	Kiddie Kure (11)	11-23	+	12-28
C-292..	Waldo's Last Stand (11)	10- 5	∓	12- 7
	PASSING PARADE (New Series)			
K-281..	American Spoken Here (Sepia) (10)	11-30	##	12- 7
K-126..	Baron and the Rose, The (11)	9- 7	##	9-28
K-128..	Dreams (10)	11-16	+	12-14
K-127..	Utopia of Death (10)	10-12	+	11- 9
	PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES			
S-113..	Football Thrills of 1939 (10)	9-21	##	9-28
S-112..	Please Answer (9)	8-24	##	9- 7
S-261..	◐Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9)	10-12	##	12- 7
S-263..	◐Sea for Yourself (10)	12-21	##	1-18
S-262..	Wedding Bills (10)	11-30	##	12- 7

Paramount

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd
	ANIMATED ANTICS			
H0-4..	Bring Himself Back Alive (7)	12-20	∓	12-21
H0-1..	Dandy Lion, The (7)	9-20	±	10- 5
H0-3..	Mommy Loves Puppy (7)	11-29	+	12- 7
H0-2..	Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7)	10-25	±	11-23
	BENCHLEY COMEDIES			
S0- 1..	Trouble With Husbands (11)	11- 8	##	12- 7
	COLOR CLASSICS (In Technicolor)			
C9-5..	Snubbed by a Snob (7)	7-19	+	8-31
C9-6..	You Can't Shoe a Horsefly (7)	8-23	+	8-24
	FASCINATING JOURNEYS (Technicolor)			
M0- 1..	◐River Thames—Yesterday (10)	11- 8	##	11-23
M0- 2..	Sacred Ganges, The (11)	12-27	+	1-18
	FLEISCHER CARTOONS			
FF0-1..	Raggedy Ann (19)	12-20	##	12-21
	GABBY CARTOONS			
G0- 2..	Constable, The (7)	11-15	+	11-23
G0- 1..	King for a Day (7)	10-18	+	10-26
	HEADLINER			
A0- 3..	Johnny Messner and Orch. (11)	12-13	±	12-21
A0- 2..	Listen to Larry (10)	10-25	+	10-26
A0- 1..	◐Moments of Charm of 1941 (10)	9-13	##	10- 5
A9-10..	Pinky Tomlin and Orch. (11)	7-19	+	8-31
	MADCAP MODELS (In Technicolor)			
J0-1..	Western Daze (9)	1-17	##	1-18
	PARAMOUNT NEWS Released Twice Weekly.			
	PARAGRAPHICS			
V0- 3..	◐Breezy Little Bears (11)	12-27	##	1-18
V0- 1..	Nature's Nursery (10)	10-11	∓	10-26
V9-10..	Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)	9- 9	±	8-24
V0- 2..	Seeing Is Believing (11)	11-22	+	12- 7
	POPEYE CARTOONS			
E9-10..	Doing Impossikible Stunts (7)	8- 2	+	8-17
E0- 4..	Eugene, the Jeep (7)	12-13	±	12- 7
E9- 9..	Fightin' Pals (8)	7-12	##	8-17
E8-11..	It's the Natural Thing to Do (7)	7-28	±	8-26
E0- 2..	My Pop, My Pop (7)	10-18	∓	10-26
E0- 1..	Popeye Meets William Tell (7)	9-20	##	10- 5
E0-5..	Problem Pappy (7)	1-10	±	1-18
E9-12..	Puttin' on the Act (7)	8-30	+	8-24
E9-11..	Wimmin' Hadn't Oughta Drive (7)	8-16	+	8-24
E0- 3..	With Poopdeck Pappy (7)	11-15	o	12- 7
	POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)			
J0-1..	(11)	9- 6	+	10- 5
J0-2..	(10)	11- 1	+	12- 7
J0-3..	(10)	1- 3	+	12-21
	GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS			
R0- 6..	Acrobatic Aces (10)	2- 7	+	1-18
R0- 1..	Diving Demons (10)	9- 6	##	10- 5
R0- 5..	Feminine Fitness (10)	1-10	+	12-21
R0- 4..	Marine Roundup (10)	12- 6	+	12- 7
R0- 3..	Motorcycle Stunting (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
R9-13..	Sink or Swim (10)	7-12		....
R0- 2..	Sporting Everglades, The (10)	10- 4	##	11- 9
	STONE AGE CARTOONS			
B9- 9..	Fulla Bluff Man, The (7)	8- 9	±	8 24
B9-11..	Pedagogical Institution (7)	9-13		....
B9-10..	Springtime in the Rockage (7)	8-30		....
B9- 8..	Way Back When a Razzberry Was a Fruit (7)	7-26	+	8-17
B9-12..	Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)	9-27		....
	UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)			
L9-6..	No. 6 (11)	8- 2	##	8-17
L0-1..	No. 1 (11)	9- 7	+	10- 5
L0-2..	No. 2 (11)	11-29	+	12- 7
L0-3..	No. 3 (11)	1-24		....

Republic

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd
	MEET THE STARS			
028-1..	No. 1 (10)	12-24	+	12-28

RKO Radio

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd
	DISNEY CARTOONS (In Technicolor)			
	Big Hearted Pluto (..)	1-24		....
04,109..	Donald's Vacation (8)	8- 9	##	8-10
04,114..	Fire Chief (8)	11-22	##	12- 7
04,113..	Goofy's Glider (8)	11- 1	+	12-14
04,112..	Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8)	10-11	+	11-23
04,115..	Pantry Pirate (8)	12-27		....
04,110..	Pluto's Dream House (8)	8-30	+	9-21
04,108..	Put-Put Trouble (7)	7-19		....
04,116..	Timber (8)	1-10		....
04,111..	Window Cleaners (8)	9-20	##	10-26
	EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES			
13,403..	Drafted in the Depot (19)	12-20		....
13,401..	Sunk by the Census (18)	9- 6	±	9-21
13,402..	Trailer Tragedy (17)	10-18	+	11- 9
	LEON ERROL COMEDIES			
03,704..	Bested by a Beard (20)	7-26		....
13,703..	Fired Man, The (20)	1-10		....
13,701..	He Asked for It (18)	9-27	∓	9-21
13,404..	Mad About Moonshine (19)	2-21		....
13,702..	Tattle Talevision (19)	11-29		....
	MARCH OF TIME			
03,112..	No. 12 (17) Spoils of Conquest.	8- 2	+	8-10
03,113..	◐No. 13 (20) Gateways to Panama.	8-24	##	8-31
13,101..	No. 1 (19) On Foreign Newfronts.	9-13	##	9-21
13,102..	No. 2 (18) Britain's R. A. F.	10- 4	+	10-19
13,103..	No. 3 (19)	10-25	±	10-26

: WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS :

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Movietone News, No. 41

Lord Halifax arrives; Italian prisoners at Bardia; British navy in Mediterranean battle; Hopkins in London; King and Queen visit Sheffield; Nazi prisoners in Canada; skating; bob sledding.

News of the Day, No. 239

British fleet in Mediterranean scrap; fall of Bardia; London cleans up after raid; launch ship with banana peels; Halifax arrives; bob sledding; skiing.

Paramount News, No. 44

German prisoners in Canadian camp; probe plane crash; Texas quads have second birthday; Halifax arrives; Lindbergh testifies on lend-lease bill; Hopkins sees Churchill; London after raid; Greeks advance in Albania; sea battle; Bardia falls; skating train to New England; Boston track meet; bob sledding.

RKO Pathe News, No. 44

Bardia in British hands; sea battle in Mediterranean; Hopkins visits Churchill; Halifax arrives; Nazi prisoners in Canada; bicycling under water; basketball; bob sledding.

Universal Newsreel, No. 949

Halifax arrives; Bardia falls; Hopkins in London; prisoners in Canada; launch ship with banana peels; fiesta in Texas; rodeo in Florida; sledding in Maine.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Movietone News, No. 42

War scenes from Australia, Ireland, England; March of Dimes campaign; war personalities; Allison motors; commission submarine "Gudgeon;" Florida has aquaplane night club.

News of the Day, No. 240

Britain ready; Greeks hail victories; speed airplane engine output; commission new sub; President gets birthday cake; spring hat fashions; coast crew team in workout; aquaplane nitery in Florida.

Paramount News, No. 45

Aquaplane nitery in Florida; Washington "Huskies;" smelt fishing; President gets birthday cake; Metaxas obituary; Hearst art on sale; aid bill; Bundles for Britain; test civilian aircraft warning service.

RKO Pathe News, No. 45

President gets birthday cake; minesweepers patrol Australian coast; Hearst art on sale; English girls train; Texas quads have second birthday party; Allison engines; Crosby golf tournament; Washington "Huskies;" blizzard in Sierras; Florida has aquaplane nitery.

Universal Newsreel, No. 950

President gets birthday cake; speed output of plane motors; launch new submarine on coast; farmer gets million dollar "mistake" check; Hearst art on sale; smelt fishing in Michigan; hat styles; "Huskies;" Aquacade; Crosby golf tourney.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd
	Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.			
13,104	No. 4 (19)	11-22	+	12- 7
	Arms and the men.			
13,105	No. 5 (19)	12-20	+	12-28
	Labor and Defense.			
13,106	No. 6 (21)	1-17	‡	1-25
	Uncle Sam—Non-Belligerent.			
	PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE			
04,212	⊙No. 12 (12)	7-12	‡	7-13
04,213	No. 13 (11)	8- 9	+	8-16
14,201	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204	No. 4 (11)	11-29		....
14,205	No. 5 (11)	12-27		....
	PATHE NEWS			
	(Released Twice Weekly)			
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
14,302	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,301	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,305	Snow Eagles (9)	12-20		....
14,304	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	‡	12-14
14,303	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
04,313	Trouble Shooter (9)	8- 2	+	9-21
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404	No. 4 (10)	12- 6	+	12-14
14,405	No. 5 (10)	1- 3		....
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS			
	(New Series)			
13,501	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
13,502	Prairie Schooners (13)	1-31		....
	REELISMS			
	(New Series)			
04,613	Hats (9)	8-16		....
04,611	Streamlined (9)	8-10	∓	8-10
04,612	Week End (9)	7-19		....

20th Century-Fox

	ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN			
1201	⊙Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	‡	10-19
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	‡	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
0306	Action on Ice (9)	7-19		....
1303	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1301	⊙Vacation Time in Florida (8)	8-10	±	8-17
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1101	Eskimo Trails (10)	8- 2	+	8-17
1103	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS			
	Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE			
1401	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402	Tale of Butch the Parrot, The (..)	2-28		....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102	⊙Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
	TERRY-TOONS			
1551	⊙Billy Mouse's Akwakade (7)	8- 9	∓	8-17
1501	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		....
1503	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		....
1553	How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554	Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
0517	Love in a Cottage (7)	7-28		....
1552	Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		....
1504	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12 7
1555	⊙Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
0516	Rupert the Runt (7)	7-12		....
1505	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		....
1556	⊙Temperamental Lion, The (7)	12-27		....
1502	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19

Universal

	LANTZ CARTUNES			
	(Technicolor)			
5241	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		....
5243	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5245	Mouse Trappers (6¾)	1-27		....
5242	⊙Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	‡	11- 9
5244	Syncopated Sioux (6¾)	12-31		....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
4365	No. 80 (9½)	8-12		....
5351	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352	No. 82 (9)	10-14		....
5353	No. 83 (9)	11-11		....
5354	No. 84 (9)	12-23		....
5355	No. 85 (9)	1-20		....
5356	No. 86 (9)	2-17		....
5357	No. 87 (9)	3-17		....
5358	No. 88 (9)	3-31		....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 3
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
4385	No. 80 (9)	8- 5	+	7-27
5371	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		....
5373	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		....
5374	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		....
5375	No. 85 (9)	1- 6		....
5376	No. 86 (9)	2- 3		....
5377	No. 87 (9)	3-10		....
5378	No. 88 (9)	3-24		....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
5226	Bagdad Daddy (17) Gertrude Neisen, Ambassadorettes, Fuzzy Knight, Johnson Bros.	2-19		....
5225	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (17) The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.	1-22		....
5221	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		....
5223	Congamania (17) Jose Cansino Dancers, Eddie Durant & Orch.	10-16	±	12- 7
4231	Hawaiian Rhythm (17) Harry Owens and His Royal Hawaiians.	7-17	+	7-27
4233	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		....
5224	Tickled Pinky (18) Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.	12-25		....
5223	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
4232	Varsity Vanities (17½) Six Hits and a Miss, Martha Tilton.	8- 7	+	8- 3
	UNIVERSAL NEWS			
	Released Twice Weekly			

Vitaphone

	BROADWAY BREVITIES			
6202	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6204	Dog in the Orchard (20)	1-25	+	1-18
6202	Ed Sullivan's Hollywood (20)	11-16		....
6201	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		....
6203	Love's Intrigue (20)	12-28		....
4008	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		....
6205	Take the Air (20)	2-22		....
5110	Young America Flies (20)	8- 3		....
	THE COLOR PARADE			
	(New Series)			
5410	Famous Movie Dogs (10)	7-27	+	8-17
5410	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		....
5409	Valley, The (8)	7-20	+	7- 6
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6102	Lady and the Lug (20)	3-22		....
6101	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6305	Boar Hunt, The (10)	1-15		....
6301	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6304	History Repeats Itself (10)	1-18		....
6303	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		....
6607	Haunted Mouse, The (7)	2-15		....
6608	Joe Glow, the Firefly (7)	3- 8		....
5616	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	‡	8-24
6609	Porky's Bear Facts (7)	3-29		....
6604	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6606	Porky's Snooze Reel (7)	1-11		....
6602	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		....
6605	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		....
	MELODY MASTERS			
6506	Cliff Edwards and His Buckaroos (10)	3- 8		....
6503	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	2- 1		....
6502	Joe Reichman & Orch. (10)	10-26		....
6501	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	‡	8-24
6504	Skinnay Ennis & Orch (10)	1- 4	+	12-28
5510	Woody Herman & Orch. (10)	7-27		....
	MERRIE MELODIES (In Technicolor)			
6706	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		....
6713	Cat's Tale, The (7)	3- 1		....
6712	Crackpot Quail, The (7)	2-15		....
5323	Egg Collector (7)	7-20		....
6709	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)	1- 4	o	12-28
6710	Fighting 69th½, The (7)	1-18	‡	1-18
5325	Ghost Wanted (7)	8-10		....
6104	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		....
6715	Goofy Groceries (7)	3-29		....
6703	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11 9
6701	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		....
6708	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6711	Sniffles Bells the Cat (7)	2- 1		....
6702	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
6714	Tortoise Beats the Hare (7)	3-15		....
6705	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
5324	Wild Hare, A (7)	7-27		....
	SPORTS PARADE (Color)			
6404	California Thoroughbreds (10)	1-11	±	12-28
6403	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6405	Fight, Fish, Fight (10)	3- 1		....
6401	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
6001	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002	March on Marines (20)	12-14	‡	12-28
6003	Meet the Fleet (20)	2- 8	+	1-18
5007	Pony Express Days (20)	7-13	+	7- 6
5008	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		....

Serials

	COLUMBIA			
1180	Deadwood Dick 15 Chapters. Don Douglas, Lorna Gray.	7-19	∓	7-27
1120	Green Archer, The 15 Chapters. Victor Jory,	10-25	∓	11- 9
2120	White Eagle 15 Chapters. Buck Jones.	1-31		....
	REPUBLIC			
081	King of the Royal Mounted 12 Chapters. Allan Lane.	9-20	‡	8-24
082	Mysterious Doctor Satan 15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.	12-13	+	11-23
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	Green Hornet Strikes Again 15 Chapters. Warren Hull.	12-24	+	11- 9
5681	Junior G-Men 12 Chapters. Dead End Kids, Little Tough Guys.	9- 1	+	8- 3
5881	Sky Raiders 12 Chapters.	4- 8		....

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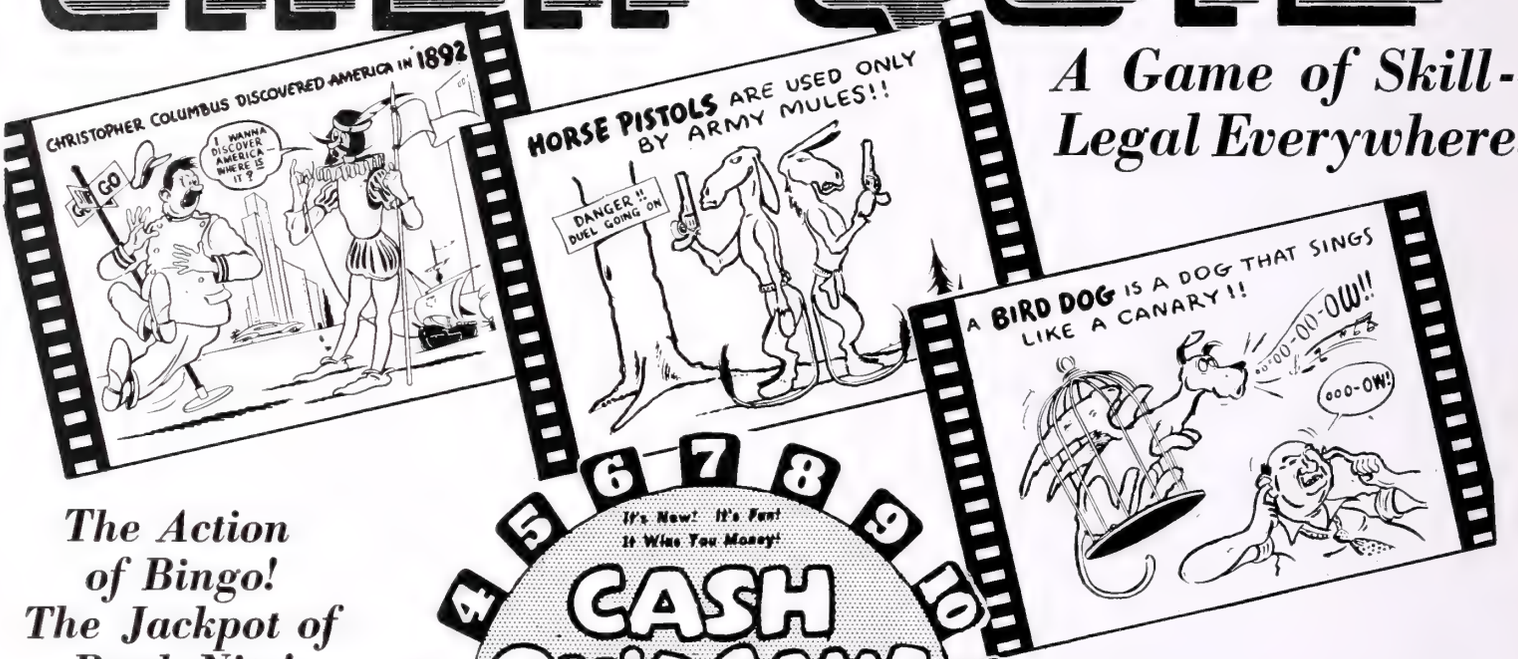
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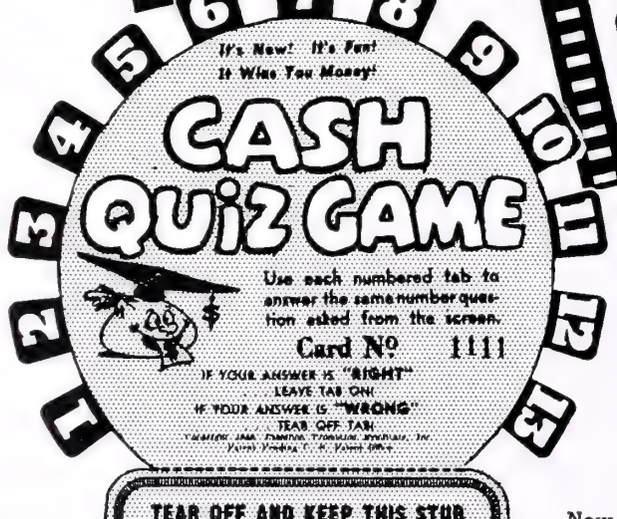
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The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

In Two Sections — Section One

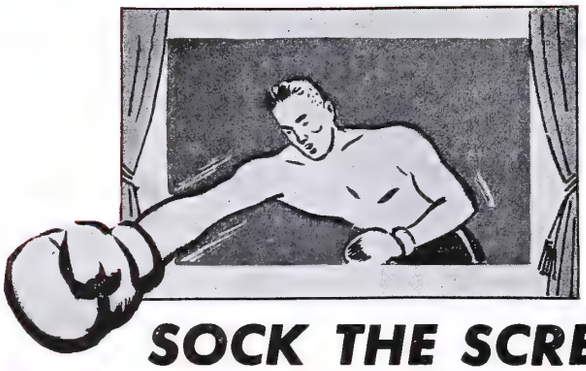
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BAROMETER

This Issue—Section Two



"HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!"



THE BIGGEST SOCK THE SCREEN CAN GIVE!

METROSCOPIX!

(new and improved successor to Audioscopix)

As usual that gang of live-wire M-G-M Shorts Specialists is thinking up new ways to fascinate and intrigue your patrons. You got a big kick out of hearing your audiences scream and howl at M-G-M's two previous third-dimensional Audioscopix shorts, action that leaps right out of the screen! Now they've given the idea a *new* sock (hereafter called Metroscopix) and they've concocted a real old-fashioned mystery meller-drammer with spooks, spiders and skeletons that come right at you. Get set for the greatest novelty in show business!

PETE SMITH's

"THIRD DIMENSIONAL MURDER"

Be first with the first *Metroscopix* — Book it now for MARCH 1st RELEASE

BOXOFFICE
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

This Thing Called Censorship

FIRST major studio release since "Strange Cargo" to be condemned by the Legion of Decency, the industry is entitled to know more about the situation confronting "This Thing Called Love" than merely that it has been banned.

In the censorship states, the film was passed without cuts. In script and final form, it went through the production code bath and must have come out clean and shiny because it has a seal of approval tied around its neck. A print had been in New York almost a month before the Legion took a look. Meanwhile, approximately forty first runs were booked in and around Christmas and New Year's, and played. Bought by the Music Hall, sight unseen, the New York run was set back by six weeks of "The Philadelphia Story" and an agreement to spot "Arizona" immediately after "Story."

Representatives of the Legion first saw the film in the projection room along with a Hays office committee representing women's clubs. Later, the Legion reviewing body sat through it a second time when a militant minority struck for a "condemned" rating. Subsequently came a third showing out of which emerged such a listing. The Legion states the film never had any other rating and offers its official records to prove the point. Yet various interested parties on the other side stand stubbornly by their impression the picture was heading for a "B," or objectionable in part, classification. This impression, by the way, seems not to have given birth through wishful thinking, but through conversation and discussion. At any rate and regardless of impression no matter how created, "This Thing Called Love" stands condemned by the Legion.

Case of the Seven

SEVEN other attractions play a necessary part in this discussion, although there could be more.

In "Vivacious Lady," the general idea, having to do with a married couple, was to get them started on their honeymoon. The plot threw obstacles in the way until time came to end the film, just as in "This Thing Called Love." Legion rating on "Vivacious Lady," "A-2," or unobjectionable for adults.

In "My Favorite Wife," two wives and one husband were the principals under the same roof.

In "Too Many Husbands," there were two husbands and one wife, the same general obstacles, the same objective. Legion ratings in both cases, "B," or objectionable in part.

In "The Philadelphia Story," the audience never knew, and certainly the principals did not, whether Katharine Hepburn had an affair with James Stewart by the swimming pool. In fact, Miss Hepburn expressed regret over the uncertainty. Legion rating, "B."

In "Arise My Love," Claudette Colbert and Ray Milland spent days in the country and they were not married.

In "Back Street," Margaret Sullavan lived with Charles Boyer for twenty-five years, while Boyer was married to, and had children by, another woman. Legion ratings, in both cases, "B."

In "They Knew What They Wanted," Carole Lombard, while engaged to Charles Laughton, has a child by William Gargan. All, finally, was forgiven. Legion rating "A-2," or unobjectionable for adults.

In "This Thing Called Love," Rosalind Russell and Melvyn Douglas are married. Theirs is a bedroom farce, certainly on the risque side, but involving no other man and no other woman. Yet this picture is condemned without reservation.

And Now —

IT IS OBVIOUSLY time now to put the question. Was this attraction condemned by the Legion because of content not widely dissimilar from plot and treatment characterizing, let us say, the seven films already outlined? Or was it condemned because the Legion, having warned producers some time since to watch their step, was on the lookout for a guinea pig and pounced upon the first likely candidate to stroll across its line of vision?

This, then, is the possibility about which the industry is entitled to know. It ought to be of considerable interest to those who realize surface markings do not always, or necessarily, present a complete picture.

There, and for this day at least, the discussion rests.

Kann

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FEBRUARY 22, 1941
Vol. 38 No. 14

NO SLIDE IN PRODUCT SEEN; MAJORS FOR '42 SAME AS '41

To Walk Cautiously for First Year; Shorts in For Tossing Around

NEW YORK—Although there were some doubts about it months ago, the impression now prevails in distribution quarters majors will pretty well hold to the same numerical lineups next season as prevails for 1940-41.

The reason for the change in prospective is that, with increased manpower in the field under the decree's system of "five-block" selling, it would be unwise to reduce the number of pictures.

Also, there is a feeling each company will continue to make a substantial number of lesser important pictures, as in the past, to absorb as much of each account's playing time as is possible.

To Step Up Quality

There seems to be no doubt, according to observers, that shorts will be given a tossing around and that the main problem will be to concentrate on feature selling. After the first year, it is believed majors will make every effort to further step up quality product with an eye to securing even more extended playing time and eliminating the need for a second feature on any program.

The elimination of duals will be gradual, if it is achieved at all, it is felt, with the theatres, particularly the major circuits, discarding the second feature on the long half and doubling up on the weaker product for the short half. The latter usually is a two or three-day booking, while the long half runs from four to six days.

Year for a Test

In some quarters it is believed the first year of decree operations will be more in the line of laboratory endeavor for the producer, exhibitor and distributor.

The producer, it is held, must be given a chance to readjust himself and concentrate on as many big pictures as the studio can handle without getting too involved and too concerned about release dates. Meeting releasing schedules will be a thing of the past under the decree, it is argued.

Next, it will be up to the distributor to spot the pictures as they come through, demanding more playing time and better admissions. If successful, this is seen eliminating the use of an accompanying picture and building the demand for shorts.

Third, the major circuits will be the first to be called upon to follow through on the extended-playing-time, increased-admission idea so that independents can pick up from there. If the larger houses do not resolve to go for this plan, certainly subsequent houses would not be expected to inaugurate or adopt policies which the more powerful interests are afraid to tackle.

In all, the general impression seems to be that as soon as the new selling season gets under way the industry is in for a year of experimentation in all its branches. Hence, it is assured, production budgets will be increased and, in some cases, like Universal, numbers of pictures may be hiked over the current season.

Seek Film Backlog; Reissue Wave Looms

NEW YORK—Further confirmation of an earlier and exclusive report in BOXOFFICE that the "Big Five" will undoubtedly offer a number of reissues toward the summer in order to concentrate production energy on the first blocks of films under 1941-42 consent decree selling is seen in the admission by an RKO spokesman that "Top Hat" and "Bringing Up Baby" are "under consideration" for such treatment.

"Bringing Up Baby" is regarded as a "natural" because the leads are held by Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant, two stars who are gaining further national prominence at present through their presence in "The Philadelphia Story." However and although the impulse is to capitalize on this factor immediately is present, the company feels "Story" is too potent competition to gain "Baby" its greatest possibilities, while the release of the latter after the M-G-M film has more or less dissipated itself would be of far greater value.

The company is represented by a spokesman as having mulled over reissue on a national renewed scale of "Top Hat" for some time because "this picture hit grosses that were never dreamed of when it was first released and there is plenty of business yet to be had." Again, the impulse to cash in on this sentiment is checked through the fact that Ginger Rogers, who plays the lead in the film opposite Fred Astaire, is currently doing very well by herself in "Kitty Foyle," also an RKO release and simultaneous showing of both would only conflict.

Self-Contained Era Seen Close at Hand

NEW YORK—Reports the *Wall Street Journal*, authoritative financial newspaper:

"The American film industry has already suffered the worst of the decline in revenues from abroad and any further drop from this point will be relatively unimportant in comparison with large domestic revenues. In other words, the industry may be considered very nearly on a domestically self-contained basis."

Columbia Considers Blocks-of-5 Sales

NEW YORK—Probability that Columbia will soon be selling in blocks of five which may terminate the government's anti-trust suit against it was disclosed during the week when, at the conclusion of an argument held before Judge Henry Warren Goddard in the federal court, Louis Frohlich, attorney for the company, told the court his company was being forced into an acceptance of such blocks against its will. The argument, with Columbia, UA and Universal seeking a dismissal of the government's anti-trust suit against them or a restatement of the complaint with all items referring to the five producer-exhibitors eliminated, was a complete loss for the film companies.

Sees Issues for Trial

Judge Goddard, at the conclusion of two hours of argument, told Robert L. Wright, special assistant to the attorney general who argued for the government, "I am convinced there are issues here for trial and the motion should be denied." Frohlich then asked for 30 days to file an answer, stating that later in the week he was arguing the dismissal of the Crescent suit in Nashville. The court granted him only 20 days.

At the outset, Frohlich repeated his reasons for asking a dismissal which had been denied to him before. The reason for the repetition was that in the previous plea he had asked the government be denied the right to file an amended complaint. Judge Goddard asked the Columbia attorney if he expected him to reverse his former ruling and Frohlich replied, "Frankly, no."

Floor to Pepper

Then Benjamin Pepper took the floor for UA and repeated some of the history of the case before getting to his main argument which was that there is no statement in the complaint which states how in any manner Universal, UA, or Columbia violated the anti-trust laws. The attorney mentioned the suit is being brought under the Sherman act, but does not contain allegations of an anti-trust character. He remarked that the three companies in combination did not have sufficient power to disturb the industry or, more importantly, the power to restrain interstate trade or commerce.

He told the court that in the beginning the government had a case under the Sherman laws when it sought divorcement, but now had authorized and sanctioned the control of theatres by the "Big Five" and was trying to force the "Little Three" into a selling agreement which would put them out of business.

...nk You, Jay Emanuel!

We doff our HAT to BOXOFFICE!



• for having effectively taken over the National Leadership in the PAID CIRCULATION coverage of the entire Trade Press.

With Foreign Markets closed, this Domestic or National Leadership takes on new importance.

Nice goin', guys!

We can't talk NATIONAL figures . . . but we also have a LEADERSHIP that is important when you're selling Theatre Owners. It's the 1120 important Metropolitan Exhibitors who subscribe ONLY to THE EXHIBITOR . . .

Reproduced from A Mailing Piece Issued by Jay Emanuel Publications

MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

Theatre Attendance Down Five Million

NEW YORK—Approximate weekly theatre attendance during 1940 dropped for the first time since 1937 to 80,000,000, or 5,000,000 less per week than had been estimated for the prior three years, according to *Film Facts*, annual statistical compilation issued by the MPPDA.

Approximate annual payrolls are estimated at $406,560,000, of which $250,000,000 represents payrolls for theatres, $129,000,000 for production, and $27,560,000 for distribution. The 1940 figures compare with an aggregate annual payroll in 1939 of $370,060,000, of which $250,500,000 went to theatres, $27,560,000 went to distribution, and $92,000,000 for production—a difference and increase in the latter category of $37,000,000 during 1940.

Feature films approved in 1940 by the Production Code Administration totaled 523, which included 44 of foreign origin. The PCA also approved seven reissues and 707 short subjects. This compares with 1939 figures of PCA seals given 596 features and 715 shorts.

Drop in Employment

Employment in exhibition and production dropped during the year in the tabulation that shows: exhibition, 241,000 compared with 245,500 in 1939; production, 28,500 compared with 29,500 last year. Distribution employment remained at the same level of 12,500. Grand total for 1940 is 282,000; with 287,500 for 1939.

Estimated capital investment is unchanged at $2,050,000,000. Broken down, it is estimated at $1,900,000,000 in theatres; $125,000,000 in studios and $25,000,000 in distribution.

Among the new facts brought out in the compilation are that there are 10,031 theatres showing double feature programs, while 6,972 show single bills. In percentage equation it means that duals are shown in approximately 59 per cent of all theatres—30 per cent every day, 29 per cent part of the time.

Average Admission Is 23 Cents

Estimated average theatre admission is given as 23 cents. A further explanation in respect to attendance states the average theatre is open for business about 10 hours a day and takes in 60 to 85 per cent of its daily receipts in one hour, usually between 7:30 and 8:30 p. m. Daily average attendance is estimated as follows: Monday, 10 per cent; Tuesday, 10 per cent; Wednesday, 10 per cent; Thursday, 10 per cent; Friday, 15 per cent, Saturday, 20 per cent; Sunday, 25 per cent.

As has been the case in the last few years, 35 per cent of every dollar received at a theatre goes for film rental, with the remaining 65 per cent left for local theatre expense.

Stage plays, as a trend, passed through their peak year in 1940 as a production source, when 51 films of this type were made as compared with 34 in 1939. Other statistics reveal short stories receded from 59 in 1939 to 21 last year; biographies dropped from 17 to eight; novels decreased from 127 to 109 and original screen stories were at 323, four less than 1939.

Titles registered during 1940 were 3,124, bringing the number in the release index up to 42,866, the latter figure representing the title of pictures released since the industry records have been maintained.

The 1940 record of the Advertising Advisory Council is represented as follows: Out of 98,333 stills submitted, 1,217 were discarded or retouched to meet code standards. Of 9,011 exploitation ideas, only eight were unsuitable. Out of 1,759 posters submitted, but 25 were changed and there were but six revisions in 1,027 trailers. Of 11,256 advertisements, only 240 were rejected or revised. No revisions were necessary in the 10,646 publicity stories submitted. A total of 4,796 miscellaneous advertising accessories cleared through the council with changes in only 16.

Introduce Anti-Decree Bill

ST. PAUL, MINN.—*Sponsored by Northwest Allied, a bill compelling distributors to license a full season's product and granting exhibitors a 20 per cent cancellation clause has been introduced in the legislature. The first of its kind, the text follows:*

Whereas, the motion picture industry is made up of three branches, namely, production, distribution and exhibition; and

Whereas, the production and distribution branches are dominated and controlled by eight major companies with great economic power and exhibition is accomplished through two classes of theatre owners, namely, those wholly owned or affiliated with the producer-distributors and the independent exhibitors; and

Whereas, the major producer-distributors lease and distribute substantially all of the feature motion pictures exhibited in the state of Minnesota and the other states of the union; and the needs of the independent exhibitor require that he license or lease feature motion pictures from substantially all the major-producer-distributors; and

Whereas, by reason of arbitrary terms and conditions imposed by the producer-distributors, the independent exhibitor has been:

(a) compelled, as a condition precedent to licensing feature motion pictures, also to license short subjects, newsreels, trailers, serials, re-issues, foreign and western pictures far in excess of his needs or requirements;

(b) unable to cancel feature motion pictures injurious and damaging to his business, and therefore compelled to play pictures undesirable and harmful to the public and

Whereas, the long established trade practice of licensing feature motion pictures for a full season (one year) is essential to the best interests of the producer-distributors, exhibitors, and the public; but the above conditions imposed by the producer-distributors have subjected the independent exhibitors to unfair disadvantages, preventing him from responding to the community and local public influences and preferences with respect to the selection of desirable feature motion picture films and are inimicable to public welfare and against public policy, now therefore,

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Minnesota:

Section 1.—Definitions, for the purpose of this act.

Section 2.—No distributor shall license feature motion picture films to an exhibitor in this state unless the license provides:

(a) that all the feature motion picture films, which such distributor will license during the exhibition season or the unexpired portion thereof shall be included;

(b) that the exhibitor shall have the right to cancel a minimum of 20 per cent of the total number of feature motion pictures included in such license. Such cancellation shall be made proportionately among the several price brackets, if there be such price brackets in the license agreement. Any number of cancellations to which an exhibitor is entitled may be made from the lowest price bracket at the exhibitor's option. The right to cancellation shall not be effective unless the exhibitor exercises such right by giving notice thereof, to the distributor, within 15 days after being notified of the availability of a feature motion picture. The right to cancellation may be waived by the exhibitor before or after the making of a license agreement, but such waiver shall be in writing.

Section 3.—No distributor shall license feature motion picture films to an exhibitor in this state upon the condition that the exhibitor must also license short subjects, newsreels, trailers, serials, re-issues, foreign and western motion picture films.

Section 4.—Any provision of any license which is contrary to any of the provisions of this act is hereby declared to be against public policy and void.

Section 5.—Every person violating any provisions of this act or assisting in such violation, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $1,000 or by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than one year, or both. In the case of a corporation, the violation of this act shall be deemed to be also that of the individual directors, officers or agents of such corporation who have assisted in such violation, or who have authorized, ordered or done the acts or omissions constituting in whole or in part such violation, and upon conviction thereof, any such directors, officers or agents shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, as in this section provided.

Section 6.—If any provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the act and the applicability of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

The term "exhibition season" shall mean a period of 12 months as may be selected by the producer-distributor; provided, however, that there shall be no lapse of time between the termination of one season and the beginning of the next.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH, BOYS...

"BACK STREET" SETS RECORD AT RIVOLI... HEADLINES N. Y. TIMES

"I'd like to own a slice of it... it's going to clean up" says Louella O. Parsons... HOLDOVER DAY AND DATE LINCOLN & CAMEO, MIAMI..."Powerful!" says *Film Daily*... SECOND WEEK TERRIFIC IN ROCHESTER..."More box office than original" says "Chick" Lewis editorial... OUTSTANDING SECOND WEEK DAY AND DATE TWO THEATRES KANSAS CITY..."Deeply moving," Kate Cameron, *N. Y. Daily News*... HOLDS OVER BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON..."A masterpiece on the screen" says Yale University Wm. Lyon Phelps..."NEW YORCHIDS" from WALTER WINCHELL ...SECOND DAY BEATS FIRST, THIRD DAY BEATS SECOND at Rivoli, New York... "Strong feminine appeal" says Frank P: Gill, *Detroit Free Press* — DETROIT HOLDS OVER FOR SECOND WEEK..."Tops original version," says Dorothy Kilgallen, *N. Y. Journal & American*... NO LET UP IN SECOND WEEKS IN SYRACUSE AND CINCINNATI... It's "Boxoffice riches" says *Daily Variety*... HOLDING OVER COLUMBUS, DAYTON, LOUISVILLE, PORTLAND, WORCESTER, LEXINGTON, and more coming in as house records get smacked all over the country!

"BUCK PRIVATES" FUNNIEST PICTURE EVER MADE... says Los Angeles News

"Hilarious," says *Providence Bulletin*... AND PROVIDENCE HOLDS FOR SECOND... "Abbott and Costello have few equals" says *N. Y. Tribune*..."Never a dull moment," *N. Y. Daily News*... TERRIFIC WEEK END AT LOEW'S STATE N. Y., NO LET DOWN IN SIGHT..."Grand Slapstick" says *N.Y. World-Telegram*..."Abbott one of top comics on screen," *N.Y. Journal & American*... SOCK BUSINESS IN CHICAGO... where Rob Reel, *Chicago Herald-American* says it's "The Laugh of a Life-time"... HOLD OVER IN JOHNSTOWN, Pa..."Universal has a winner," *Daily Variety*... Millions read that it had "AUDIENCES HYSTERICAL" in Jimmie Fidler's column... SECOND BIG WEEK IN READING, Pa... Audience "Convulsed with merriment," reports *Motion Picture Herald*..."Ringing the rafters with laughs" says *Baltimore News-Post*... and BALTIMORE HITS TOP BUSINESS..."Will register revenue of husky proportions" says *Boxoffice*... AND DENVER, MIAMI, ATLANTA, SEATTLE, SCRANTON, HARRISBURG, CHARLOTTE PROVE IT!

Here we go again...


AMERICA'S
To the millions who loved her as the impish little 'smart girl' ...now add the millions more who will adore her as the screen's most beautiful, most talented actress ... in a romantic role that makes her sparkle like new wine...!

BOXOFFICES WILL CHEER

the new, charmingly "misbehaving"

DEANNA DURBIN

in

Nice Girl?

with her grandest cast

FRANCHOT TONE

Walter BRENNAN • Robert STACK

Robert BENCHLEY • Helen BRODERICK

Ann Gillis • Anne Gwynne • Elisabeth Risdon • Nana Bryant

Screen Play by Richard Connell and Gladys Lehman
Based on the play "Nice Girl" by Phyllis Duganne

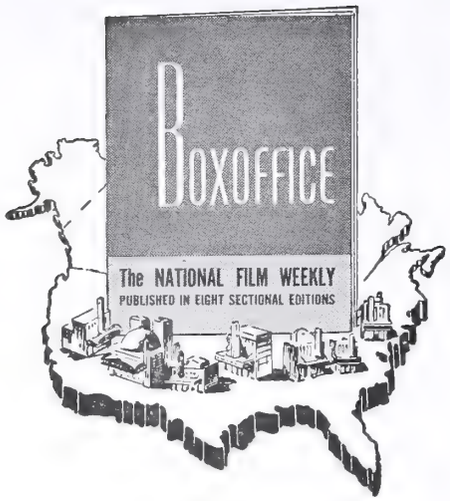
Directed by WILLIAM A. SEITER

A JOE PASTERNAK Production



NATIONAL RELEASE
FEBRUARY 21

A UNIVERSAL PICTURE



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PITTSBURGH—1701 Blvd. of the Allies, R. F. Klingensmith. ATlantic 4858.
PORTLAND, ORE.—925 N. W. 19th St., Harold Donner. Broadway 0136.
ST. LOUIS—5149 Rosa Ave., David F. Barrett. Flanders 3727.
SALT LAKE CITY—167 South State St., Viola B. Hutton. WAsatch 165.
SAN FRANCISCO—1095 Market St., Al Scott. Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2418 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Seneca 2460.
WASHINGTON—1426 G St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
HAMILTON—20 Holton, N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON—97 Adelaide St., S., John Gore.
MONTREAL—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Walnut 5519.
REGINA—The Leader-Post. Bruce Peacock.
ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings., C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

THIS turns out to be a sequel to "Script for a Happy Ending," editorial which ran on neighboring page a few weeks ago.

Pete Harrison was again deploring "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" on the basis, you may recall, of a statement made by Nelson A. Rockefeller, coordinator of commercial and cultural relations among the American republics, before the New York Chamber of Commerce. Rockefeller endeavored to illustrate "the decay of democracy" by pointing out the Axis powers were employing Hollywood-made films to discredit procedure by majority rule.

Your observer, in rebuttal, thought the contrary on two counts. One was an awareness which must prevail in other countries that all political systems have their failings and, in some regard or another, are to expect an occasional booting because of them. The other was a warning that colorations should not be applied to festers, actual or potential, internally because of external opinion and that important is the need to protect and safeguard what we have while we have it.

On Pete's approach if it is carried to its ultimate conclusion, the theatres of America finally will be loaded down with butterflies and sunsets. Could it be argued, for instance, that "The Great McGinty" should not have been made because exposure of machine politics and stuffed ballot boxes will give the totalitarian powers another opportunity to place thumbs against their noses and extend the other four digits in the direction of America?

Could it be argued, furthermore, that "Jesse James" was improper material because it showed railroads in a pilfering land campaign with government sanction?

What about that old one, the gangster cycle, currently climaxed in a fashion by "High Sierra"? Should this type of film, reflecting a true, if unfortunate, segment of the American scene, be verboten because it may implant ideas overseas about the kind of a country this is?

In "Hudson's Bay," the British business class, as of that day, was shown ready to rob the Indians until Paul Muni put a stop to it. But what of it and why not?

"The Philadelphia Story" showed the Main Liners out of Philadelphia to be drinkers, wastrels and snobs and "Kitty Foyle" did the same thing on behalf of the Quaker City's bluest blue bloods. Would Harrison suggest these important attractions not be made or these essential dramatic overtones be eliminated in the cause of overpowering honey and light?

If he does, he's apt to face a lot of letters from his subscribers.

"Night Train"

SLIGHTLY on the tardy side in making "Night Train" so late. Already and regularly reviewed, the purpose now is to spotlight brief attention here on this British-made spy melodrama. In the Hitchcock manner, Carol Reed directed with a degree of suspense and thrills that makes "39 Steps" and "The Lady Vanishes," which are of the same school, clutch to their undeniable laurels.

Even 20th-Fox admits it had a sleeper on its hands with this one, which is so good, it becomes very good. Having seen it once, it is the column's intention to see it again. And, whether this design influences exhibitors and playdates or not, at least it doesn't happen often.

Finally

FROM behind the bushes or wherever he may have been in retirement and without warning emerges Ali Gaga. Writes he:

"I read a biography of Sam Marx in one of the trade papers the other day. According to this account, he was born in 1920. His first job after leaving Columbia, University not Pictures, was with Universal. A year later, he joined the late Irving Thalberg. By 1930, and at the age of ten by my reckoning, he was story editor for M-G-M and remained in that post seven years.

"This tells me all I ever needed to know what's wrong with the business."

Reaction

NO DOUBT, you will remember the recent one on Thurman Arnold—how he got into his berth in New York expecting to wake up in Washington the following morning only to discover it was Boston.

This has induced the following sort of comment:

"It looks to me as if Mr. Arnold had gone and done it again."

From an anti-decree guy, of course.

ALL AMERICA APPLAUDS PARAMOUNT'S NEW SINGING YOUNGSTER SUSANNA FOSTER



AS "THE HARD-BOILED CANARY!"



Millions thrilled to Susanna as she hit B Flat above High C in "The Great Victor Herbert"...and millions more will love her as the little hard-boiled canary of "America's Music Town!"



Sweet Music?

Turn the page . . .

IT'S THE BIG YOUTH SHOW FOR SONG-THRILLED AMERICA!



SOCK!

SWING!

"THE HARD-BOILED CANARY"

with **Allan Jones · Susanna Foster**
Margaret Lindsay · Lynne Overman

GRACE BRADLEY · WILLIAM COLLIER, Sr.

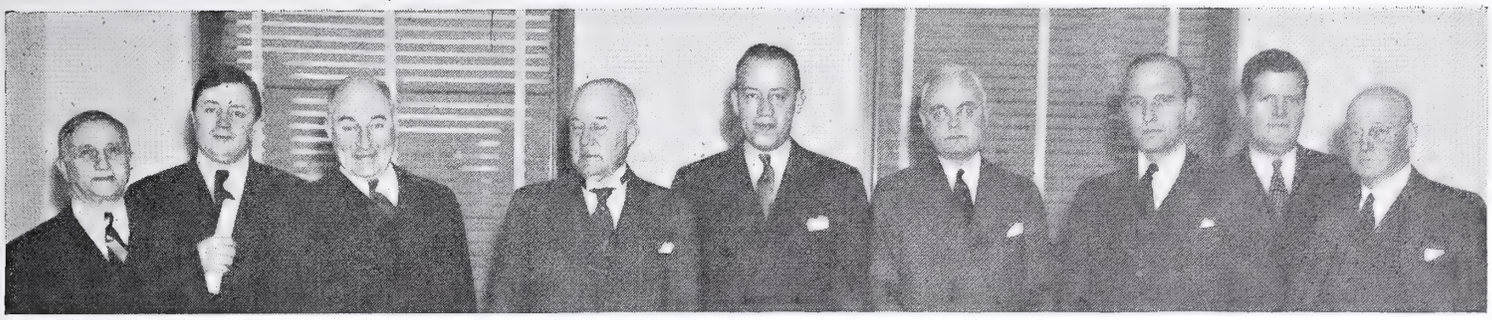
Produced and Directed by Andrew L. Stone · Screen Play by Frederick Jackson · From a Story by Andrew L. Stone and Robert Lively · Based on an Idea by Ann Ronell





SING!

. . . and Susanna Foster leads those famous kids from "America's Music Town", Interlochen, in the big parade right up to your box office!



—Metropolitan Photos

What Do Arbitrators Look Like? Here's the Answer—

In all cities but four, the AAA has partially named its panels. Non-film men entirely, this is a sample. The nine individuals here are members of the New York group, now totaling 53 and more to come. Left to right they are Morris B. Moskowitz, attorney; Victor Weybright, magazine editor; Roscoe S. Conkling, attorney; the Hon. William H. Wadhams, former jurist; George A. Spiegelberg, broker; William T. Van Atten, credit executive; Robert Buechner, broker; Robert Emmet Connolley, attorney, and Henry J. Fuller, munitions executive.

Arbitration Dubbed 'Unique Experiment'

NEW YORK—The 53 business and professional men who were formally appointed arbitrators of the New York film tribunal panel at a brief ceremony at AAA headquarters were told they are part of a "unique experiment" by Van Vechten Veeder, chairman of the appeals board, and urged by him to familiarize themselves with "this great industry."

"The more you know about this industry the better able you will be to perform your duties," Veeder declared. He expressed "great expectation" that the system will perform what is contemplated for it in the decree. The former judge said he could see no reason "why it should not make the act effective."

AAA Names 433

The ceremony was a local manifestation of a nation-wide move dealing with release of the first panels of arbitrators who will sit on cases developing under the decree. The AAA named 433 of what ultimately will be a national total of between 1,100 and 1,200. The men, who they are and their addresses appear in various editions of this issue of BOXOFFICE.

Veeder was preceded by C. V. Whitney, AAA president; Frances Kellor, first vice-president, and Paul Felix Warburg, chairman of the administrative committee. All spoke briefly. Whitney confined himself to a resume of the pertinent facts that were responsible for the AAA administration of arbitration, while Miss Kellor outlined the background of the organization and the various types of tribunals it conducts. She asserted the film tribunals represent to the AAA "a great adventure" and observed it may set a pattern for other industries to follow.

Six Plaints First Two Weeks

Warburg remarked that in the first two weeks of nation-wide operation but six complaints were filed at tribunals and that one of these may never reach the hearing stage because parties to the complaint were attempting to settle their differences. He made the point, however, that once the new season selling gets under way more numerous complaints are to be expected.

Even a Funeral Director---

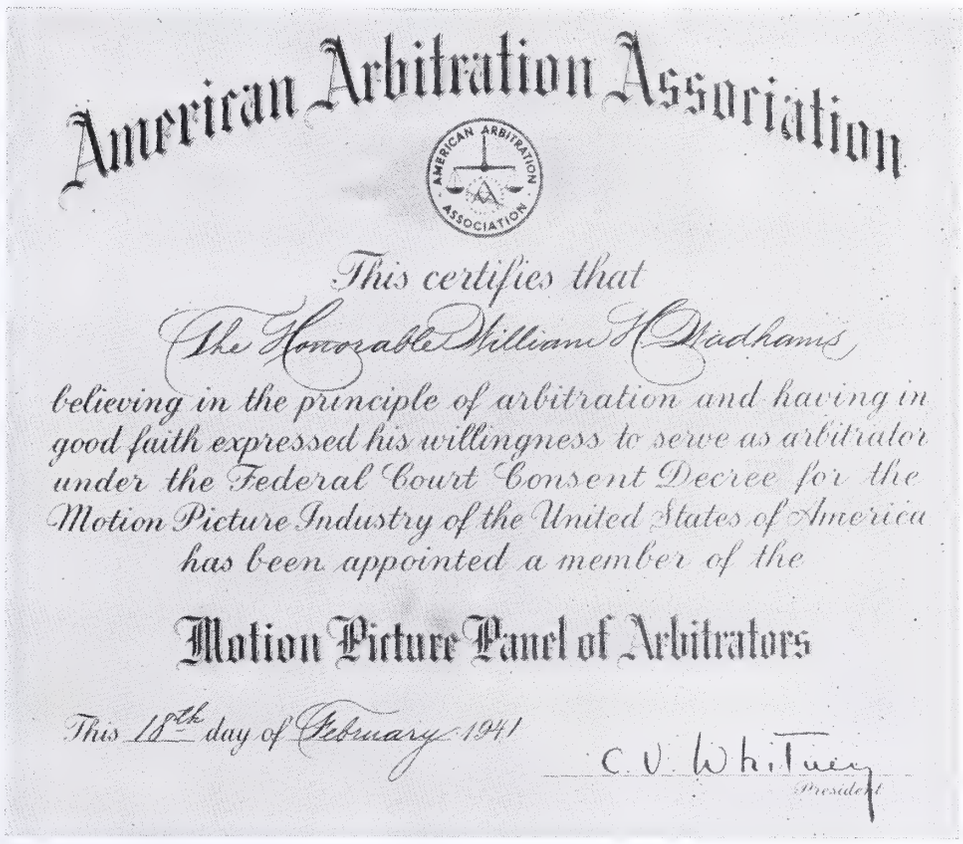
NEW YORK—Who are the 433 arbitrators thus far selected by the AAA to handle arbitration under the decree, and what manner of men are they?

It runs something like this:

There are attorneys—lots of them. There are retail credit men, and plenty of those. Several are certified public accountants and some are retired from business. There are professors and assistant professors of economics, a convention and tourist bureau manager, a jeweler, at least one editor, geologist, motor car sales manager, commissioner of public utilities, insurance man, member of a state railroad commission, university president, banker, bookstore owner, president-elect of a bar association and head of a lumber company.

And more. The list includes at least one civil engineer, bridge designer, dean of a law school, president of a company dealing in antiques, professor of marketing, member of the board of a nationally known munitions firm, coal man, architect, food executive and telephone executive.

And, finally, the head of a mortuary. He is Mark A. Pierce, and he'll sit on cases developing before the Los Angeles tribunal.



American Arbitration Association

This certifies that

The Honorable William H. Wadhams

believing in the principle of arbitration and having in good faith expressed his willingness to serve as arbitrator under the Federal Court Consent Decree for the Motion Picture Industry of the United States of America has been appointed a member of the

Motion Picture Panel of Arbitrators

This 18th day of February 1941

C. V. Whitney
President

—Metropolitan Photos

And Here Is an AAA Certification—

Each arbitrator gets this formal acknowledgement of his acceptance. The owner here is the Hon. William H. Wadhams, member of the New York panel and former jurist.

Two More Demanding Arbitration Action

NEW YORK—The American Arbitration Ass'n reports the following complaints were filed during the week:

New York—Hilary Theatre Corp., operating the Regent, 1215 Fulton St., Brooklyn, complaining against Paramount, Warner, 20th Century-Fox, RKO and M-G-M. Albert Margulies, secretary of Hilary, charges the Apollo, purportedly one mile from the Regent, holds seven days clearance over the Regent. Margulies seeks equal availability. He claims that the Regent held seven days clearance ahead of the Apollo years ago, but this was upset during the NRA. He also claims the Regent at present charges five cents higher admission than the Apollo.

New Orleans — The Modern Theatre Corp., of which Charles F. Woolner is president, operating a Drive-In theatre at 7201 Canal Boulevard, complaining against Paramount. Woolner seeks "some run," charging Paramount with refusal to license.

NT's Coast Convention Is Set for March 10

NEW YORK — Spyros Skouras has set March 10 as the starting date of the week's annual convention of National Theatres divisional heads on the coast. The date, it is pointed out, is subject to change although home office executives believe it will be the final one. March 6 had previously been set.

While winners of the recent National Theatres drive in honor of Skouras will not be officially made public until the annual get-together, it is learned Harry Huffman's district under Rick Ricketson, Denver division head, is the leading zone while Charles Thall, who supervises a district in San Francisco under Arch Bowles, reached number two spot.

Hughes Names Bob Savini Eastern Representative

NEW YORK—Robert M. Savini, head of Astor Pictures, has been named eastern representative for Howard Hughes, producer of "The Outlaw" for 20th-Fox. The first of two pictures Hughes will make for the company will be ready for sale as a special next month.

And Many More Are Yet to Be Named

NEW YORK—In most instances, arbitration panels made public by the AAA during the week are not complete. Furthermore, four cities—Albany, Indianapolis, New Haven and Seattle—are currently among the missing. But as far as it goes, panels to the appended totals have been named in the following cities:

Atlanta	11
Boston	12
Buffalo	23
Charlotte	21
Chicago	12
Cincinnati	13
Cleveland	17
Dallas	9
Denver	14
Des Moines	15
Detroit	15
Kansas City	9
Los Angeles	18
Memphis	8
Milwaukee	19
Minneapolis	10
New Orleans	10
New York	53
Oklahoma City	10
Omaha	14
Philadelphia	28
Pittsburgh	9
Portland	20
St. Louis	21
Salt Lake City	18
San Francisco	10
Washington	14
Total	433

Jack J. Sullivan Rites Held in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—Funeral services were held at St. Paul's Cathedral here for Jack J. Sullivan, 56, chief film buyer for National Theatres. He had been ill on and off for the past 10 years and inactive for the past few years. He made his last trip east about two years ago and on his return was confined to a local hospital, from which he had been discharged a few months ago, living thereafter in seclusion except for visits by his wife, two sons and two daughters who survive him.



His death had been more or less expected. Recent reports had him seriously ill with little hope for recovery.

Business kept Spyros Skouras in New York, but Milton S. Hossfeld, home office booker, attended the services. Hossfeld has been here several weeks on vacation and business. No successor is expected to be named. Larry Kent has been handling most of Sullivan's duties with Fred Stein assisting.

What the Studios Are Doing

Schaefer Coast Stay Plans Promote Talk of Changes

HOLLYWOOD—Possibility that changes in RKO Radio's studio executive setup may be impending, although neither officially confirmed nor denied, is being voiced following an announcement by George J. Schaefer, company president, that he has assumed full charge of all studio activity and will remain in Hollywood indefinitely, with J. J. Nolan as his assistant . . . Schaefer's declaration closely followed an earlier denial by him of rumors that Ned E. Depinet, distribution head, was to be placed in charge of the studio, and was made just prior to the launching of product and sales parleys in which he, Depinet, Nolan and Harry E. Edington, executive producer, were to participate . . . RKO Radio head also expressed optimism as to prospects for the coming year.

Y. Frank Freeman Again Heads Producers Ass'n

Producers association has elected Y. Frank Freeman, Paramount vice-president, as its president for a second term. E. J. Mannix, Cliff Work and Fred Beetson, other officers, were also re-elected . . . Will H. Hays, MPPDA president now here, spoke briefly on the foreign and domestic situation at the organization's annual meeting and various industry problems were also discussed.

Record Production Pace Shows No Letup Sign

With 48 features now before the cameras, all signs point to a continuation of this blistering film-making pace during the balance of this month and in March. A minimum of 35 films are scheduled for camera work before April 1 . . . Universal is launching the most sustained production drive in its history, with a minimum of seven pictures to be rolling continuously until November . . . 20th Century-Fox has added 12 more musicals to its schedule for early production, in addition to three already in work.

Roosevelt Is Headliner For Academy Banquet

Headliner at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' 13th annual Awards banquet February 27 will be President Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaking by radio over the three national networks on a 15-minute hookup . . . Walter F. Wanger, Academy president, made the arrangements during a recent trip to Washington . . . Bob Hope will emcee the banquet and Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne will present best-actor and best-actress awards.

Monta Bell to Paramount; Extras' Earnings Dwindle

Monta Bell, veteran producer-director-writer, has joined Paramount as an associate producer . . . Jobs and earnings for extra players reached a new low in January, dropping $35,000 under January, 1940, Central Casting reported . . . Warner signed Marlene Dietrich to co-star with George Raft in "Hard to Get" . . . Michael Curtiz will direct that studio's "Dive Bomber," starring Errol Flynn . . . Bob Hope's next for Paramount will be "Back Home and Broke" . . . Columbia loaned Rita Hayworth to 20th Century-Fox for a topline in "Blood and Sand" . . . David Hempstead will produce "Joan of Paris," starring Michele Morgan, for RKO Radio . . . Same studio signed Adolphe Menjou for a major role in "The Father Takes a Wife."



SOMETHING BIG COMING!

IT'S M-O-D-E-R-N! A big story change for Errol Flynn but no change in quality! It's the Sea Hawk as a modern Hawkshaw—a great mystery, a terrific romance —a brilliant new box-office number from WARNERS

ERROL FLYNN
in
'Footsteps in the Dark'

with
BRENDA MARSHALL
RALPH BELLAMY · ALAN HALE
LEE PATRICK • ALLEN JENKINS • LUCILE WATSON
Directed by LLOYD BACON
Screen Play by Lester Cole and John Wexley
From the Play by Lazlo Fodor, Bernard Merivale and Jeffrey Dell

"A Dither in a Demi-Tasse"

NEW YORK—"It strikes me that the Legion is stirring up a dither in a demi-tasse," observes Howard Barnes, film critic of the conservative New York *Herald-Tribune*, in his review of "This Thing Called Love" which has been condemned by the National Legion of Decency. *(See page 3.)*

While New York critics analyzed the film alternately, virtually no attention was paid by them to the Legion rating. Barnes dipped in more deeply than the others. He said:

"To my mind there is nothing objectionable about the proceedings . . . the farcical foolings . . . are never vulgar. If Hollywood cannot handle subject matter such as that in 'This Thing Called Love' it might just as well shut up shop." He also thought the film is "bright when the situations are deftly articulated and the lines have bite; it lags when the script flounders, as it so often does."

Kate Cameron, reviewer for the Daily *News*, gave the picture three stars and this: "A lively and comic romp that occasionally comes close to the brink of indecency but never really goes overboard. At every close call, the situation breaks up with a genuine bit of comedy that sends the audience into stitches of laughter. The picture is for adults only. Children will be bored by it and adolescents suffer embarrassment at the antics of their elders."

Boildown excerpts from the other critics follow:

Lee Mortimer, Daily Mirror—...grand, gay comedy...races along with funny situations that bring thunderous laughs...

Rose Pelswick, Evening-Journal—...geared for laughs, and getting them...mood is one of lighthearted gaiety...It's smartly turned out and the pace is brisk.

Archer Winsten, Post— . . . won for itself a "condemned" rating . . . thus causing us to approach it with lurid anticipations ready to be disappointed. But don't worry...is one of the most hilarious films of the year...It cannot be called a dirty or degrading film. The worst that can be said by a moralist is that it deals with a subject forbidden to the young.

Cecilia Ager, PM—...one of the more comical ones, gracefully handled and lightly spun. There's invention in its script, more winking than leering...

Eileen Creelman, Sun—...an uproarious piece... and revolving so fast and so constantly that it leaves the audience slightly dizzy...The script goes haywire at times...The comedy is often strident, often repetitious. More often, it is funny.

Bosley Crowther, Times—...the picture is just a series of farce episodes in which Mr. Douglas tries manfully to assert his prerogatives and then Miss Russell, apprehensive, attempts to lure him on to the chase...For persons with delicate sensibilities, might be boldly risque.

William Boehnel, World-Telegram — After a lively beginning...bogs down in the middle and limps feebly to a disappointing ending. But the first third is light-hearted, scampish, tasty fun full of good, loud guffaws in the old-fashioned bedroom farce tradition.

Flashes From the News Front

Odeon "Invades" Canada

VANCOUVER — The Odeon Theatres of Canada, closely allied with the British firm of the same name, has launched its long-rumored invasion of Canada with the acquisition of four local theatres and the admission of intentions to acquire a coast-to-coast circuit.

Tax Exemptions in Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.—A ruling that a law exempting opera houses in counties, villages and towns of less than 5,000 population from license or other tax, applied to present day theatres as well, has been made by the Missouri supreme court. The decision was the outcome of an appeal made by the St. Louis Amusement Company for four houses in the county.

Drive on Games Looms

FRANKFORT, KY.—In what may prelude a state-wide drive against the games, the attorney-general's office has declared that "Bank Night, Bingo and other similar schemes are violative of the laws of Kentucky." Local prosecution of gambling law violations, it declared, however, is the "statutory duty of local law enforcement officials."

LeBaron to 20th-Fox

HOLLYWOOD—William LeBaron, former Paramount executive producer, has been signed by 20th Century-Fox to head a production unit. LeBaron was succeeded at Paramount by B. G. DeSylva.

Seeks End to Bank Night

PITTSBURGH—The Better Business Bureau is urging local exhibitors to voluntarily discontinue Bank Night because it encourages the "widespread promotion of other types of commercial lotteries, including Bingo and other forms of gambling."

Out of American Display

NEW YORK—Charles L. Casanave has been retired as general manager of American Display, accessory manufacturing unit of National Screen Service, by vote of the former company's board. Casanave's positions with other NSS affiliates and subsidiaries are unchanged.

Ticket Tax Returns Boom

WASHINGTON—An additional revenue of not less than $55,000,000 annually will accrue to the federal government in the reduction of admission tax exemption from 40 cents to 20 cents, it is indicated by current ticket tax returns.

Early With Banquet Plans

PITTSBURGH—Tent No. 1 of the Variety Clubs will stage its 13th annual banquet the evening of Sunday, November 2, in the William Penn Hotel. The date was set by C. C. Kellenberg, chief barker.

First Capra Warner At Fifty Per Cent

NEW YORK—Warner is asking "Boom Town" prices and playing time for "Meet John Doe," latest Frank Capra film. Sales executives are asking 50 per cent of the gross with an increase in admissions along the lines which prevailed for M-G-M's special.

First day-and-date premiere has been set for March 6 at the Hollywood and Downtown in Hollywood and Los Angeles. The picture is set to go into the Rivoli and 51st St. theatres on Broadway about the same time, depending on the run of "Back Street" at the Rivoli.

Negotiations with the Music Hall had been under way for some time but were called off when Warner could not get an early date. The Hall is booked solid for many weeks and refused to make an exception for "Doe."

Warner has sneaked the picture at White Plains and Connecticut within the past few weeks at which circuit executives got their first glimpse.

While the Warner press release states the Rivoli will increase its prices, the theatre seems to be unaware of any such arrangement and advises it will maintain the top evening scale of 99 cents but step up the matinee price slightly.

The 51st St. Theatre was formerly the Hollywood and has been featuring ballet. It is a Warner house, the same as the Hollywood and Downtown on the coast.

Traveling Theatre Car Builds Dodge Goodwill

NEW YORK—The original Dodge car used by the Denis-Roosevelt Expedition in filming "Wheels Across India," has been put into service to assist Dodge dealers in planning and executing free motion picture programs. The motion-picture automobile is proceeding on prearranged schedules established by the company's district representatives who contact car merchants and with their aid act as advance men and booking agents in laying out routes and show dates.

Films carried by the traveling unit include "Army on Wheels," "Land of the Free," "Years of Progress," "A Chance to Lose," "Highway Bound," "Major Bowes," and "Thrill Hunters."

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from the first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is* 100 *per cent.*

GONE WITH THE WIND—
- Lincoln 250
- Dallas 225
- New Orleans 200
- Pittsburgh 200

BACK STREET—
- Kansas City 200

PHILADELPHIA STORY—
- Pittsburgh 185
- New Haven (dual) 185

Adam Had Four Sons

F — Drama

Columbia (——) 80 Minutes Rel. Feb. 15, '41

Robert Sherwood's first production under the Columbia aegis is a finely made and impressive motion picture, incorporating sufficient proven entertainment elements to indicate profitable patronage. It appears probable that the feature will require smart merchandising to garner, in initial showings, the grosses to which it is entitled. Once it begins to receive the benefits of the word-of-mouth acclaim that obvious merit will engender, the film should have no difficulty in hitting its full stride. For the acute sentimentalists and romanticists the picture is irresistible bait, since it specializes in love of various varieties—the love of a man for his motherless sons, the suppressed and undeclared tender passion which two fine characters feel toward each other over a long period of years, and the impetuous love of youth. The cast, although light on established names, is splendid throughout. Warner Baxter, in a part ideally suited to his matured talents, re-establishes his position as one of filmdom's better actors. Ingrid Bergman, who shares top honors with him, appears to incalculably greater advantage than in her previous roles. The story, an adaptation of Charles Bonner's novel, "Legacy," deals with the raising of four boys by a father and beloved governess during the turbulent period between 1907 and the end of World War I. Gregory Ratoff's effective direction displays understanding.

Ingrid Bergman, Warner Baxter, Susan Hayward, Fay Wray, Richard Denning, Helen Westley, Robert Shaw.

EXPLOITIPS: The fact that this was made from a best-selling novel, "Legacy," should not be overlooked in the exploitation campaign. Make the obvious tieups with bookstores and public libraries. Warner Baxter is the top marquee and advertising name. Stills showing Baxter driving an antiquated "horseless carriage" can be worked into tieups with automobile dealers. Use the picture title as the basis of a stunt whereby every father with four sons is admitted, with his offspring, free.

CATCHLINES: It Was a Stirring Novel . . . This Story of a Man Who Fought to Keep His Family Together . . . And It Makes a Great Picture.

Blondie Goes Latin

F — Comedy Musical

Columbia (——) 70 Minutes Rel. Feb. 27, '41

What may well be the savior of the Blondie series is this effort, which takes the edge off the domestic tomfoolery of the Bumsteads and puts a great deal of the emphasis on music—three pop tunes, and three Latin rhythmsessions. Blondie (Penny Singleton) finds it an excuse to dance, which was her forte before pictures. Tito Guizar sings a couple of pampas specials, and Ruth Terry does the others. Story starts the Bumsteads for a South American vacation, but Dagwood (Arthur Lake) is sent off the boat at the last minute. He sneaks back, unknown to his wife, and tries to hide from her as drummer in the ship's orchestra. By choosing Ruth Terry's stateroom to hide in, the possibilities for comedy and misunderstanding are easily evident. This Blondie has some snap to it, without losing touch with the family trade which has followed the series.

Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms, Tito Guizar, Ruth Terry, Jonathan Hale, Danny Mummert, Irving Bacon.

EXPLOITIPS: Build up interest here by outfitting the theatre staff in the motif of the film, bannering the bosoms of the cashiers with notice that "Blondie Goes Latin" is coming up. Strolling lobby musicians, in full regalia, doing the Latin tunes from the picture will serve to instill the idea both before arrival of the film and after it gets going on the screen. Calling attention to the fact that it is Blondie's first musical should be imperative, and the music stores should not be forgotten in tieups.

CATCHLINES: The Bumsteads Set to Music Is Something . . . Especially When Dagwood Doesn't Like the Arrangements.

Tap Your Feet, Hold Your Side! See Blondie Off on Her Boatride!

The Strawberry Blonde

F — Comedy Drama

FN (559) 91 Minutes Rel. Feb. 22, '41

A full measure of laughs, a few tears, a large helping of romance and a dash of bittersweet nostalgia are expertly blended against authentic backgrounds, atmosphere and music of the Gay Nineties to compound a story, which, entrusted to a sterling cast, emerges as a film treat for which great popularity and profit may be confidently prophesied. The picture is considerable of a triumph for the Cagney family. William, of that clan, turned out his second productional assignment, and delivered a topnotch job in mounting the vehicle. James, sharing star billing with Olivia de Havilland and Rita Hayworth, romps home with the acting honors in a part which fits his talents like a pair of hand-made boots, although the aforementioned Misses both score effectively. The supporting cast, ideally typed throughout, adds its sizeable bit to the gay proceedings. Cagney is cast as a struggling dentist who married Miss de Havilland on the rebound after Miss Hayworth, in the title role, and with whom he fancies himself still in love, was stolen from him by his arch-enemy, Jack Carson, who further framed him into serving a term in prison. Carson comes to him for emergency dental work and Cagney sees his opportunity for revenge. The story is then told through flashback technique which brings to Cagney a realization that he has been the more fortunate and happier of the two. Raoul Walsh's direction is noteworthy.

James Cagney, Olivia de Havilland, Rita Hayworth, Alan Hale, Jack Carson, George Tobias, Una O'Connor.

EXPLOITIPS: Stage a "Gay Nineties" party on opening night, requesting patrons to come in costumes of the period, and serving beer and pretzels. Try to locate a tandem bicycle and have it ridden around the streets. For throwaways use cutouts of "handlebar" mustaches with picture billing imprinted on the back. Also distribute buttons saying "Oh, You Kid" and similar turn-of-the-century witticisms. Spot a "barbershop quartette" in the lobby or have it do a turn on the stage.

CATCHLINES: Come on Back to the Good Old Days . . . And Waltz Once More With the Strawberry Blonde.

Golden Hoofs

F — Comedy Drama

20th-Fox (130) 68 Minutes Rel. Feb. 14, '41

Considerable of an improvement over the last two or three Jane Withers vehicles is reflected in this treatise on the sport of harness-racing, which should slide nicely into the program groove, particularly in those sectors where the Withers name is a marquee magnet. It is designed to appeal to horse-lovers and features some spectacularly-handled shots of sulky races. Jane, now virtually full-grown, has dropped most of her ebullient antics, carrying herself with a more subdued and pleasing demeanor. Worthy of mention is the screen return of Charles (Buddy) Rogers, acquitting himself very creditably; while the comedy honors are garnered by a little colored lad, Phillip Hurlick, in the role of a stable boy. The breeding farm where Jane is a trainer of trotting horses is purchased by Rogers, who is in the game for profit and wants to discard the trotters in favor of saddle horses. The animosity between him and Jane is lessened when, under her tutelage, he learns to drive the trotters and finally becomes a full-fledged harness-racing fan. Lynn Shores directed.

Jane Withers, Charles (Buddy) Rogers, Buddy Pepper, George Irving, Phillip Hurlick, Cliff Clark, Katharine Aldridge.

EXPLOITIPS: Ideal ballyhoo would be a sulky and harness horse, walked around town by a girl resembling Jane Withers. At strategic spots around the neighborhood place big pairs of gilded hoofs. Advertise the film on the sporting pages of newspapers. Prepare heralds and throwsheets in imitation of racing forms. Check with your 20th Century-Fox exchange on commercial tieups made for the film.

CATCHLINES: Something New Is Thundering Down the Home Stretch . . . The Story of a Youngster and Two Gallant Horses.

Here They Come . . . America's Champion Pacers and Trotters . . . Breaking All Excitement Records.

REVIEW DIGEST
AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary	
		A											
2..		Adam Had Four Sons (Col)		##								2+	
6..		Aldrich Family in Life With Henry (Para)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+	2—
0..		Along the Rio Grande (RKO)		+	±	∓		+	±	±		6+	4—
		Always a Bride (FN)		∓	∓	∓	—	—	±	—		4+	7—
		Angels Over Broadway (Col)		±	+	∓	+	##	+	+	+	9+	2—
		Ape, The (Mono)		+	—	—	+	+	+		±	5+	3—
		Arise, My Love (Para)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	##	15+	
		Arizona (Col)		##	##	+	##	##	##	##	+	14+	
4..		Arkansas Judge (Rep)		±	±		+	+	+	+		6+	2—
		B											
1..		Back Street (Univ)		##	+	##	##	##	##		+	12+	
		Bank Dick, The (Univ)		##	+	+	##	##	+	+	±	11+	1—
		Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+	2—
		Before I Hang (Col)		+	+	+	+	+	=	±	—	6+	3—
		Behind the News (Rep)		±	+	±	+	##	+	±	±	9+	4—
		Beyond the Sacramento (Col)								+		1+	
		Billy the Kid in Texas (PRC)				∓						1+	1—
		Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		##	+	##	+	##	##	+	+	12+	
		Blackout (UA)		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+	
0..		Blonde Inspiration (M-G-M)		±								1+	1—
2..		Blondie Goes Latin (Col)		+								1+	
		Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+	3—
		Border Legion (Rep)		+		∓	+	##	+	±	±	8+	3—
		Boss of Bullion City (Univ)								±		1+	1—
3..		Bowery Boy (Rep)		∓	±	—	+	±	±	±	±	7+	7—
		Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		—		±	—	±		3+	6—
		Brigham Young—Frontiersman (20th-Fox)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	+	13+	
2..		Buck Privates (Univ)		##	##	##	##	##	##		+	13+	
		Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+	
		C											
9..		Case of the Black Parrot (FN)		—	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+	6—
		Caught in the Act (PRC)				±					∓	2+	2—
		Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+	2—
		Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±					±		3+	3—
		Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		∓	+	—	+	##	±	+	±	8+	4—
9..		Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##		14+	
		Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		##	+		7+	1—
		Christmas in July (Para)		##	+	±	##	##	##	+	+	12+	1—
		City for Conquest (WB)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+	
		Colorado (Rep)		±		—	+			±	±	4+	4—
7..		Come Live With Me (M-G-M)		##	±	—	##	##	##	±		10+	3—
		Comrade X (M-G-M)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	##	14+	
1..		Convoy (RKO)		+	+		+			+	±	5+	1—
		D											
		Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±	±	+	∓	+	∓	8+	5—
		Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		—	±	+	±			+		4+	3—
		Devil Bat, The (PRC)				±	±				±	2+	4—
1..		Devil Commands, The (Col)		±			+				∓	3+	2—
		Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	—	±	+	+	±	±	7+	6—
		Diamond Frontier (Univ)		∓	±	—	±	+	∓	—	∓	6+	7—
		Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+	
		Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+	
9..		Doomed Caravan (Para)		##		+	##	##	##	+		10+	
		Down Argentine Way (20-Fox)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	+	13+	
		Dreaming Out Loud (RKO)		±	∓	—	±	+	+	±		6+	5—
		Drums of the Desert (Mono)		±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+	4—
		Dulcy (M-G-M)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+	2—
		E											
		East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+	5—
		Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+	5—
		Escape (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	+	##	##	10+	
		Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+	±		6+	2—
		F											
26..		Face Behind the Mask (Col)		+	±	∓	±				±	5+	4—
		Fantasia (Disney)		##	##	##	##			##	##	14+	
		Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±	±		+	+	+		6+	2—
31..		Father's Son (WB)		##	±			—	∓		∓	4+	5—
		Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	—	—	3+	9—
		Fight for Life, The (Col)		+						##	+	4+	
		Flight Command (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+	
4..		Flight From Destiny (WB)		+	+	±	##	##	##	+		10+	1—
		Four Mothers (WB)		##	+	±	+	+	##	+	+	10+	1—
		Four Sons (20th-Fox)		##		+	##	##	+	+	+	10+	
		Freedom Radio (Col)				+						1+	
		Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+	5—
		Frontier Vengeance (Univ)		o		—	∓			±		2+	3—
		Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		—	±	±	6+	5—
		Fugitive From a Prison Camp (Col)			∓	=	±			±	±	4+	6—
		G											
		Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	##	+	±	±	9+	3—
		Gay Caballero, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	—	+	+	±	7+	4—
		Girl From Havana (Rep)		±	±	—	±		±	—	∓	5+	7—
1..		Girl in the News (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	##	+	+		8+	
		Girls Under 21 (Col)		—	∓	±			±	±	±	5+	6—
		Give Us Wings (Univ)		—	±	±			+	±	—	4+	5—
		Glamour for Sale (Col)		±	±	±		=	±	—	∓	5+	8—
29..		Golden Hoofs (20th-Fox)		+				+	+			3+	
		Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	##	+	##	+	±		9+	1—
		Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	18+	
		Great Commandment (20-Fox)								##		2+	
		Great Dictator, The (UA)		##	##	+	##	∓	+	##	+	12+	1—
		Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+	4—
		Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	##	##	+	##	+	±	11+	2—
		H											
		Hard Boiled Canary (Para)								+		1+	
		Haunted Honeymoon (M-G-M)		+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+	6—
		Her First Romance (Mono)		+	+		+	##	+	+		7+	
		Here Comes the Navy (WB)								##		2+	
16..		High Sierra (FN)		##	±	±	##	##	##		+	11+	2—
		Hired Wife (Univ)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	+	13+	
		Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	##	+	+	+	∓	9+	3—
		Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		—	±	+	—		±	4+	4—
13..		Honeymoon for Three (WB)		±	±	±	±	±	##	+	±	9+	6—
		Howards of Virginia (Col)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+	
		Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	±	+	##	+	+	9+	3—
		Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+	6—
		I											
		I Want a Divorce (Para)		+	##	+	##	##	##	+	+	12+	
		I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+	2—
		I'm Still Alive (RKO)		∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+	5—
1..		Invisible Woman, The (Univ)		##	+	+	##	##	##	+	±	12+	1—
		J											
		Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+			+	+	+		5+	
		K											
4..		Keeping Company (M-G-M)		—	±	—	##	##	±	+		7+	4—
		Kitty Foyle (RKO)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+	
		Knute Rockne—All American (WB)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+	
		L											
		Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+	4—
		Lady Eve, The (Para)								+		1+	
		Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	##	+	+	±	9+	2—
15..		Land of Liberty (M-G-M)		##	±	+				##	+	7+	1—
		Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+	1—
		Leather Pushers, The (Univ)		+	±	±		+	+	±	∓	7+	4—
		Let's Make Music (RKO)		+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+	4—
		Letter, The (FN)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	##	14+	
1..		Li'l Abner (RKO)		+	∓			∓	±	—		4+	4—
		Little Bit of Heaven (Univ)		##	+	+	##	##	##	+	+	12+	
		Little Men (RKO)		—	±	=	±	##	+	±	±	7+	7—

The plus and minus signs indicate the **degree** of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week. The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:

Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; — Poor; = Very Poor.

In the summary ## is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number.)

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

Blonde Inspiration F

Comedy

M-G-M (123) 72 Minutes Rel. Feb. 7, '41

Once preliminary sequences establish the basis for ensuing action, the pattern of "Blonde Inspiration" is clear and comes off without making an important strike. A cast of competents deal out the various roles in the manner expected. John Shelton gets $2,000 from his uncle and sets out on a literary career. He falls into the clutches of Albert Dekker and Charles Butterworth, publishers of a western pulp magazine. They must print four issues to sell the book to a syndicate. They give Shelton a merry whirl. Virginia Grey, secretary to Dekker-Butterworth, keeps Shelton inspired. They fall in love. The Dekker-Butterworth plotting brings on the romantic complications. Through it all Donald Meek, prize hack in the Smoky Trails stable, roams in alcoholic confusion. In the end, boy gets girl and a contract calling for four cents a word.

John Shelton, Virginia Grey, Albert Dekker, Charles Butterworth, Marion Martin.

EXPLOITIPS: A good display of stills will help this one. The prepared advertising features the blonde inspiration of Marion Martin who has little or nothing to do with the story's motivation. She merely sits around and moves only on signal—from Butterworth. This might be exploitable. Have a blonde lovely sit in a restaurant, hotel lobby, theatre lobby. Put a small sign nearby with a list of words which interested spectators might call out to get the blonde to talk, move on, etc.

CATCHLINES: When a Girl Is the Inspiration . . . Love Stories Come True.

Wildcat of Tucson F

Western

Columbia (2211) 64 Minutes Rel. Dec. 31, '40

Trouble with the Wild Bill Hickok series with Bill Elliott is that the stories are gradually slowing down to the point where they're almost outside "action" limits. This one is no exception, Elliott's lines claiming him to be a peaceable man, and he living up to classification. In this adventure, he is called from his whittling to help save his brother (Stanley Brown), a hothead, who has run afoul of some law twisting homestead-jumpers. The gang, headed by Kenneth MacDonald, is well along the route to successful grabbing of all choice land by fixing judges, buying sheriffs and terrorist tactics, when Elliott arrives. He clips one guy on the chin, outdraws a couple, and the picture is over.

Bill Elliott, Evelyn Young, Stanley Brown, Dub Taylor.

EXPLOITIPS: Sell this along series lines, because the others in the packet of Wild Bill Hickok stories have been better than this one. Dating copy from the established past, with a pat and a promise for "Wildcat of Tucson" is the honest approach to the selling problem.

CATCHLINES: Wild Bill Hickok, the Gentleman of the West. He Allowed His Enemies to Draw First . . . And Die First!

Phantom Submarine F

Action

Columbia (2033) 69 Minutes Rel. Dec. 20, '40

Considering the heft of headlines working in aid of exploitation for "Phantom Sub," here's an opus with possibilities in the duals. Nothing in itself to stand alone, the film can do more than its share of toting the marquee load if used for the magnet, the other portion to do the entertaining. Anita Louise is a femme reporter, hired by Uncle Sam to go on a salvage cruise arranged by Bruce Bennett, that she may see whether rumors of an enemy sub in the West Indies is true. The story moves quietly along, and only the trouping of ship's captain Osar O'Shea and enemy agent Pedro De Cordoba makes any kind of a showing.

Anita Louise, Bruce Bennett, Oscar O'Shea, John Tyrell.

EXPLOITIPS: Recent files of newspapers, calling attention to Axis promises of breaking the blockade with sub warfare, will provided plenty of color and current events timeliness for a theatre lobby. Scareheads about uncovering the plot to mine the entrance to the Panama Canal, the truth about what's going on in the area of United States acquired island bases in the Atlantic, with a display of diving equipment, if available, exciting another interest angle.

CATCHLINES: A Salvage Ship Sets Out to Find Sunken Gold in the Caribbean Sea But Finds an Enemy Minefield!

Father's Son F

Comedy Drama

WB (520) 57 Minutes Rel. Feb. 1, '41

Translated into a film Booth Tarkington's story is fair lower case entertainment, varying from the usual minor feature. If Tarkington readers turn out, neat business should result. The author's "bad boy" is the son of a small-town lawyer. Papa is a stuffed shirt. Between the two there exists a state of nerves caused by the boy's innocent pranks. Mother understands the situation. The youngster runs off to a series of juvenile adventures. He thinks he can bring things around properly. But on his return, papa again bulges in his stuffed shirt. In order to forestall imminent family disintegration, the youngster stages a phoney kidnapping, himself the victim. It does the trick. The accent is on comedy, generally; drama is secondary.

John Litel, Frieda Inescort, Billy Dawson, Christian Rub.

EXPLOITIPS: Sell the Booth Tarkington name along literary lines by tying up with bookstores—window and poster displays, notices in libraries and schools, specially printed bookmarks. Plant passes in Tarkington books in various public libraries and get up a hunt for them. Stage a father-and-son performance. Run a resemblance contest.

CATCHLINES: Bill's Latest Antic Has Made Father Frantic . . . But Mother Doesn't Mind, They're Two of a Kind.

Booth Tarkington's Best Bad Boy . . . He Looks Like an Angel . . . But Raises the Devil.

The Devil Commands F

Mystery Drama

Columbia (2028) 65 Minutes Rel. Feb. 3, '41

Still pursuing weird science, Boris Karloff is up to his cadaver snatching again. Discount obvious implausibilities and you have fair horror—a la Karloff. There are a few chills between dull moments, but not too many. Professor Karloff devotes his experiments to recording patterns made by the human brain, in an endeavor to read minds. His feverish pursuit soon causes him to be dismissed from the faculty of a college. He goes to a New England town with a spiritualist whose living brain is an excellent "control." There the grave robbing occurs. Karloff conducts his horrible experiments with the cadavers costumed in outfits resembling diving suits and an array of electrical equipment that purrs, crackles and sparks menacingly. His last test wrecks the place, saving him from an irate populace.

Boris Karloff, Amanda Duff, Richard Fiske, Anne Revere.

EXPLOITIPS: Publicity on Boris Karloff is plentiful, interesting and easily planted. Rig up a mechanical figure, similar to the props in the film. Utilize buzzers, spark coils and flashing lights. Show the thing in the lobby or in a store window. Dare individuals to sit alone in the theatre while viewing the film. Costume usherettes as nurses.

CATCHLINES: Karloff . . . Monstrous Master of Horror . . . See Him Enter the Service of Satan.

See the Demented Wizard of the Weird . . . And Peer With Him Beyond the Grave.

Petticoat Politics F

Comedy

Republic (020) 67 Minutes Rel. Jan. 31, '41

Joe Higgins retires on his annuities. Mrs. Higgins and her women's political club need a candidate for mayor on the reform ticket. So they nominate Joe. And Joe proceeds to get funny. However, he is not funny enough, the comedy sequences that come his way being all too familiar. Another excursion into the middle class didoes of the Higgins Family, "Petticoat Politics" is just something for the followers of this series to observe, mark time with and await the next production for comparison. This can be said for the new cast of the Higgins Family cycle: They perform better than the former players.

Roscoe Karns, Ruth Donnelly, Spencer Charters.

EXPLOITIPS: Get a ballyhoo man to don a barrel adorned with a sign reading: "My name is Mr. Taxpayer, the forgotten man. Join me at the ..... Theatre, and we'll see what the ladies can do about the political situation in 'Petticoat Politics'." A still promotion campaign could be worked up with book stores on "Life Begins at Forty."

CATCHLINES: Fearless Joe Higgins Faces the Mailed Fist of Crooked Politics.

‡ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor — In the summary ‡ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		Little Nellie Kelly (M-G-M)		‡	‡	+	±	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 2−
		Lone Rider Rides On (PRC)								+		1+
		Lone Star Raiders (Rep)		+		±	∓		+	±	∓	6+ 4−
		Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (Col)		+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
		Long Voyage Home (UA)		+	‡		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	13+
		Love Thy Neighbor (Para)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Lucky Devils (Univ)			±					+		2+ 1−
		M										
26		Mad Doctor, The (Para)		∓	+			+	±	+		5+ 2−
5		Maisie Was a Lady (M-G-M)		+	±	+	∓	‡	‡	+	+	10+ 2−
		Margie (Univ)		−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
		Mark of Zorro, The (20th-Fox)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
28		Meet the Chump (Univ)		±	−	±		+	+			4+ 3−
		Meet the Missus (Rep)		±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
		Meet the Wildcat (Univ)		−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
		Melody and Moonlight (Rep)		∓	±		‡	‡	+	±		8+ 3−
		Melody Ranch (Rep)		+	+	+	‡		‡	+	∓	9+ 1−
		Mexican Spitfire Out West (RKO)		+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
		Michael Shayne, Private Detective (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Misbehaving Husbands (PRC)		+	±	=	+	‡	+		∓	7+ 4−
27		Monster and the Girl (Para)		+				+	±			3+ 1−
		Moon Over Burma (Para)		+	+	±	+	‡	+	+	±	9+ 2−
		Mortal Storm, The (M-G-M)		+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	+	13+
13		Mr. and Mrs. Smith (RKO)		‡	+	+	‡	±	‡	+		10+ 1−
		Mummy's Hand, The (Univ)		+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
		Murder Over New York (20th-Fox)		±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
		N										
		Night at Earl Carroll's (Para)		=	±	−	±	±	±	±	±	6+ 9−
		Night Train (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	‡		+	‡	9+
18		Nobody's Children (Col)		±	−	∓	±	±	±	±	±	7+ 8−
8		No, No, Nanette (RKO)		‡	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		No Time for Comedy (FN)		‡	+	+	‡	+	±	+	+	10+ 1−
		North West Mounted Police (Para)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
		O										
		Ol' Swimmin' Hole (Mono)		+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
		On the Spot (Mono)		+		−	+	+	±	±	∓	6+ 4−
		One Million B. C. (UA)		±	±	−	+	±	∓	±		6+ 6−
		One Night in the Tropics (Univ)		±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
		Outlaws of the Panhandle (Col)								−		1−
		P										
		Passport to Alcatraz (Col)		+	−	±	+	∓	−	±		5+ 5−
31		Petticoat Politics (Rep)		∓	−	∓	+	−	+			4+ 4−
		Phantom Cowboy (Rep)					+					1+
		Phantom of Chinatown (Mono)		±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
30		Phantom Submarine, The (Col)		±			±			±	±	4+ 4−
		Philadelphia Story (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
23		Pinto Kid (Col)		+		±	+			±	±	5+ 3−
		Play Girl (RKO)		+	±	±	±	‡	+	+	±	9+ 4−
		Pony Post (Univ)		±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
		Prairie Law (RKO)		+	±	+	+		+	±	∓	7+ 3−
		Prairie Schooners (Col)		∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
15		Pride of the Bowery (Mono)		+	±	=	±	+	−	+	∓	6+ 6−
		Public Deb. No. 1 (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+	+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
		Q										
		Quarterback, The (Para)		±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		R										
		Ragtime Cowboy Joe (Univ)		+		±	+			+	∓	5+ 2−
		Rangers of Fortune (Para)		+	±	‡	‡	‡	‡	±	+	12+ 2−
		Remedy for Riches (RKO)		+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
25		Ride, Kelly, Ride (20th-Fox)		±	−	−		=	−			1+ 6−
19		Ridin' on a Rainbow (Rep)		∓		∓	+	+	+			5+ 2−
25		Road Show (UA)		+	−	∓		−	+	+		4+ 3−
10		Robin Hood of the Pecos (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	∓	+	±	7+ 4−
17		Rolling Home to Texas (Mono)		=			+	+	±			3+ 3−
5		Romance of the Rio Grande (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		S										
		Safari (Para)		±	∓	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
3		Saint in Palm Springs (RKO)		+	±	=	∓	=	+	+	+	6+ 6−
		Sandy Gets Her Man (Univ)		+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		Sandy Is a Lady (Univ)		+	∓	∓	+	+	±	+	±	8+ 4−
		San Francisco Docks (Univ)		∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
		Santa Fe Trail (FN)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
		Scattergood Baines (RKO)		+		+	+	‡	+			6+
		Second Chorus (Para)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	14+
23		Secret Evidence (PRC)		+			+	+	−			3+ 1−
		Seven Sinners (Univ)		±	+	±	‡	+	+	±	+	9+ 3−
		She Couldn't Say No (FN)		+	±	±	±	∓		±	±	7+ 6−
12		Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga (Univ)		+	±			∓	+	±		5+ 3−
		Sky Murder (M-G-M)		±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+ 10−
		Slightly Tempted (Univ)		±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
20		So Ends Our Night (UA)		∓	+	±	‡	+	‡	‡		10+ 2−
		So You Won't Talk (Col)		−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
		Son of Monte Cristo (UA)		+	±	∓	±	∓	‡	±	±	9+ 6−
		South of Suez (WB)		+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
		Spellbound (UA)				+						1+
		Spring Parade (Univ)		‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	14+
29		Strawberry Blonde (FN)		‡			‡	+	‡			7+
		Street of Memories (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
		Strike Up the Band (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		T										
		Take Me Back to Okla. (Mono)		+			‡	+	+	+		6+
14		Tall, Dark and Handsome (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	12+
		Texas Rangers Ride Again (Para)		+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
		Texas Terrors (Rep)		+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
		That Gang of Mine (Mono)		±	±	=	+	−	±	−	±	5+ 8−
		They Knew What They Wanted (RKO)		‡	±	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	14+ 1−
		Thief of Bagdad (UA)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
		Third Finger, Left Hand (M-G-M)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
		This Thing Called Love (Col)		+	+	‡		‡		±	+	8+ 1−
		Three Men From Texas (Para)		+		‡	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Thundering Frontier (Col)		−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
		Tin Pan Alley (20th-Fox)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Too Many Girls (RKO)		+	±	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	11+ 1−
		Torpedo Raider (Mono)		∓								1+ 1−
		Trail Blazers (Rep)		+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
		Trail of the Silver Spurs (Mono)				+				+		2+
		Trail of the Vigilantes (Univ)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		Trailin' Double Trouble (Mono)		∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
28		Trial of Mary Dugan (M-G-M)		+		+	‡	‡	+			7+
		Triple Justice (RKO)		+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
		Tugboat Annie Sails Again (WB)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		U										
		Under Texas Skies (Rep)		+		±	+			+	±	5+ 2−
		Up in the Air (Mono)		+	±	±		+	+	+	∓	7+ 3−
		V										
		Victory (Para)		+	+	±	‡	‡	+	+	‡	11+ 1−
		Villain Still Pursued Her, The (RKO)		±	∓	−	±	±	∓	±		6+ 7−
12		Virginia (Para)		‡	±	±	‡	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 3−
		W										
		Wagon Train (RKO)		+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
		Wagons Westward (Rep)		+	+	±	+	−	∓	±	±	7+ 5−
		West of Pinto Basin (Mono)		±		±	+	‡	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
		Westerner, The (UA)		±	+	+	‡	‡	+	+	+	10+ 1−
24		Western Union (20th-Fox)		‡		‡	‡	‡	‡		+	11+
		Where Did You Get That Girl (Univ)		+	±		±	+	+	±		6+ 3−
		Who Killed Aunt Maggie? (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
		Wild Horse Range (Mono)								±	∓	2+ 2−
24		Wild Man of Borneo (M-G-M)		+	−					+		2+ 1−
30		Wildcat of Tucson (Col)		o								0+ 0−
		World in Flames (Para)		+		‡	‡	+		+	+	8+
		Wyoming (M-G-M)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 1−
8		Wyoming Wildcat (Rep)		+			+			+		3+
		Y										
		Yesterday's Heroes (20th-Fox)		+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
		You'll Find Out (RKO)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Young Bill Hickok (Rep)		±		∓	+			±		4+ 3−
11		You're Out of Luck (Mono)		±	±			∓	±	±		5+ 5−
21		You're the One (Para)		+	∓	∓		‡	+	−		6+ 3−
		Youth Will Be Served (20th-Fox)		±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
		Yukon Flight (Mono)		+			+					2+

Newsreels Are Fair, Hays' Message Says

NEW YORK—Without departing from the canons of scrupulous fairness and good taste, the newsreels have "brought home to us the horrors of war and I think they have contributed in no small measure to America's determination to support right and justice, but to remain at peace unless we are attacked. By bringing us news and information and knowledge, they have greatly widened our horizons and better equipped us to fulfill our responsibilities as thoughtful citizens. This is one of the great merits of a free screen."

Will H. Hays is speaking of "Motion Pictures in 1940-41." It is the MPPDA president's annual message to the industry in *Film Facts*, annual statistical publication of the MPPDA.

Discussing some of the current economic aspects of the industry in the American scene, Hays declares there are 9,187 towns with theatres in operation and out of each quarter paid at the boxoffices of about 17,000 houses an average of almost 17 cents remains in the community. "In total," he states, "this means that movies are responsible for the expenditure of $650,000,000 annually in American cities, towns and hamlets everywhere. This is $2,000,000 every business day."

In Detail on Investments

Hays dwells in detail on the industry's investment in theatres and the position it occupies as a customer for steel, stone, lumber, furniture, printing, etc., and points out it is one of the heaviest taxpayers of the nation, contributing levies annually of approximately $250,000,000. He also observes science has found the motion picture a useful adjunct, that education has discovered the film is "an animated blackboard," and that "all business recognizes it as a salesman without limits of territory."

In conclusion, Hays has this to say:

"During the season the industry took its place with all others in our land to promote and expedite national defense so that we shall be ready, if such a tragic attempt ever should be made, to defeat any attack on our free institutions. This voluntary cooperation between all of us, between government and industry, transcends any selfish or partisan interest. It is another manifestation that our nation stands resolute and united. This spirit and this active participation in the defense efforts are our soundest security for the future."

WASHINGTON—While Will H. Hays places theatre grosses at $650,000,000 annually preliminary figures of the census bureau released this week place the 1939 total at $673,045,000.

Approves "Lash"

NEW YORK—"The Lash of the Penitentes" has been approved by the National Board of Review. After previously being rejected, Imperial Pictures of Boston complained, and a revision was ordered and then approved. Arthur J. Homans and Vincent Hart represented Imperial.

Moves and Counter Moves Mark Posen "U" Suit

NEW YORK—Two applications in Samuel I. Posen's stockholder suit against Universal featured the court news of the week, with ten officers and directors of the company first filing an appeal to the appellate division of the supreme court from an order of Justice Charles B. McLaughlin of the supreme court ordering their examination before trial. Second move was an application by Posen, a director of the company as well as the plaintiff stockholder, to examine Willard S. McKay, former general counsel of Universal before trial.

The company, its officers and directors are being sued for an accounting, with Posen charging that over $2,000,000 was lost through waste and mismanagement. Removal of the responsible officers is also sought.

Federal Judge William O. Bondy ordered the examination before trial of Charles Rogers and Mary Pickford in connection with a $300,000 breach of contract suit against them by Arthur T. Michaud and James V. Peppe, Rogers' former managers. It is claimed the orchestra leader breached a ten-year managerial contract at the insistence of his wife, Miss Pickford, who offered to secure him either an acting or a directorial position in Hollywood.

Seek $75,000 From Warner

Alvin R. Harnes, physician, and Howard A. Gray, film research man, filed suit in the federal court against Warner seeking damages of $75,000 for allegedly misappropriating an idea of theirs for a picture. The Warner film involved is "Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet." The company has filed a general denial to the suit and asked for a dismissal.

RKO filed a general denial in the federal court to a $100,000 action against it by Helen Twelvetrees in which the actress seeks an injunction against "I'm Still Alive," claiming the film is based on the story of her life with her former husband.

Freeman H. Owens, inventor, filed a federal court suit against Bell & Howell Co., claiming infringement of a patent for photographic cameras. An injunction, accounting of profits and damages are sought.

Warner filed a denial in the federal court to Thomas Carlton Upham's suit in which the plaintiff claimed "Mayor of Hell" was based on a story of his. The company states the film was based on a story by Islin Austen, called "Junior Republic," and the screenplay was written by Edward Chodorov. Warner also claims that, since the film was made in 1933, plaintiff is guilt of laches. A dismissal is asked.

The circuit court of appeals upheld Federal Judge Edward A. Conger and denied a plea of Harry G. Fromberg, trustee in bankruptcy of Grand National, to remove James A. Davidson, trustee of Educational Pictures. Fromberg claimed Conger erred in refusing to allow him to vote Grand National's claim of $966,745 in favor of Sidney Abrams as trustee.

Trial of Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board of 20th-Fox, and Joseph H. Moskowitz, eastern representative of 20th-Fox for alleged income tax errors was postponed to March 3 by Federal Judge Alfred C. Coxe. Matthias Correa, newly appointed U. S. attorney for the southern district of New York, will try the case, which is presently being revised with several of the charges being dropped in accordance with recent decisions of the treasury department.

The AAA Gets Going: Names Arbitrators

New York — While not complete, the AAA has named partial arbitration panels in most of the 31 tribunal centers.

Buffalo, New York, Philadelphia and Washington panels appear on pages 21 and 22. Here is where the interested reader will find the others:

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Cincinnati	59
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Milwaukee	38
Minneapolis	46
New Orleans	72
Oklahoma City	72
Omaha	46
Pittsburgh	59
Portland	36-A
St. Louis	38
Salt Lake City	36-A
San Francisco	36-A

Producer Seeks Revision Of "Baker's Wife" Pact

NEW YORK—Phillips & Nizer, representing Raphael Hakim, French producer, has filed suit in federal court against "The Baker's Wife, Inc.," for a revision of contract, an accounting and return of all prints and advertising matter outstanding. Other defendants are Joseph Malcolm, Nat Sanders and Joseph Gilbertson.

The plaintiff, who produced "The Baker's Wife" and sold it to the defendants in December, 1939, says he modified the contract in July, 1940 and again in November of the same year. There have been a number of breaches in the modified contracts, the plaintiff holds. The court is asked to terminate the deal as of February 1 when Hakim, through counsel, notified sub-distributors of his desire to regain control of the film.

15,115 Theatres in 1939 Did $673,045,000 Gross

WASHINGTON—Exhibitors took in a total of $673,045,000 at the boxoffices of 15,115 theatres in 1939, compared with a business of $508,196,000 at 12,024 theatres in 1935, according to preliminary figures compiled by the census bureau.

The increase over 1935—25 per cent in the number of theatres and about 29 per cent in revenue—compared with an increase of 22.2 per cent in establishments and 43.4 per cent in receipts for the amusement industry as a whole, in which 44,917 establishments took in $998,079,000 compared with 36,745 establishments and receipts of $696,012,000 in 1935.

A statistical analysis of the industry, prepared by the MPPDA, appears on page 6.

The bureau pointed out that theatres, whose 1939 receipts were but $23,000,000 under the entire "take" of the whole amusement industry in 1935, accounted for 33.7 per cent of the total number of establishments and 67.4 per cent of the total volume of business of the amusement industry. The film theatres also accounted for 56.2 per cent of the total employment in the industry and 58.4 per cent of the total pay roll.

Bowling Big Competitor

The most important branches of the industry following the motion picture theatres, in point of revenue, were: Billiard and pool parlors and bowling alleys, $87,450,000 reported by 17,644 establishments; horse and dog tracks, $43,507,000 reported by 56; ligitimate theatres, operas and theatrical productions, $32,461,000 reported by 231, against $19,630,000 reported by 158 in 1935; amusement parks, $10,123,000 reported by 245; riding academies, $2,875,000 reported by 840; and swimming pools, other than municipal, $2,815,000 reported by 668.

Little detail regarding exhibition was given in the bureau's initial report, but figures showing the number of theatres in each state and their receipts will be issued in the near future.

Operators Increase

The preliminary summary did show, however, that the number of individuals actively engaged in the operation of unincorporated theatre businesses increased from 6,104 in 1935 to 6,717 in 1939, but no indication was given of the number of houses so operated.

The average number of persons employed in theatres increased from 93,052 in 1935 to 125,684 in 1939, and the total pay roll increased from $102,804,000 to $131,583,000 in the same period. The 1939 figures represented 103,879 full-time employes who were paid a total of $124,165,000, and 21,805 part-time workers paid $7,418,000.

Conn. Mutual Mortgage Phase in Refinancing

JERSEY CITY—The issuance by the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. of a $4,500,000 mortage to the Stanley Co. of America covering a group of properties in Hudson county is in line with recent refinancing of certain Warner theatre properties that have netted a lowered rate of interest as well as the acquisition of new cash, according to a circuit spokesman.

The Mutual mortgage covers six theatres and calls for four and one-half per cent interest, quarterly payments of $52,500, and extends to Feb. 15, 1956. It covers the Stanley, Ritz and Central in Jersey City; Judson, Kearny and Lincoln and Roosevelt, Union City.

Moss Closes One, Opens Another in Cedarhurst

NEW YORK—B. S. Moss has closed the Playhouse, Cedarhurst, L. I., and reopened the Central, same town. Abe Levy has darkened the New United, Brooklyn. Henry R. Sandor and George Miller have taken over the Cameo, New Rochelle, at one time operated by RKO. Miller manages the Lakeland, Brooklyn, and will continue in that post.

Joelson Negotiations For String Continue

NEW YORK—Despite reports and denials, Julius Joelson, former local independent circuit operator, is understood continuing negotiations for the acquisition of the Consolidated string of 20 houses in the metropolitan area.

Several hitches have come up since discussions got under way several months ago, it is stated, but these are being ironed out as rapidly as possible.

Joelson last operated a string in New England which he sold to Mullin & Pinanski. Several months ago and before he began to be interested in the Consolidated circuit, Joelson almost made a deal with Dave Snaper for four New Jersey theatres.

It is expected, according to one source, several weeks will elapse before anything definite materializes on the Consolidated situation.

Dismiss Minority Suit Against Interboro

NEW YORK—Sam Strausberg and other executives of Interboro circuit were given a clean slate in the minority stockholders suit filed by Abraham Werbelovsky, father-in-law of Sam Small, and later joined by Sam Small, William and August Small, Mendel Lerner and Harry Gross. Former Judge Joseph M. Proskauer represented the defendants while I. Gainsburg acted for the plaintiffs. The action had been pending three years before Supreme Court Judge Hofstadter dismissed it.

RKO, Skouras Build Forest Hills House

NEW YORK—RKO and Skouras circuits are jointly interested in building a new 2,000-seat house at Forest Hills, L. I., in back of the Skouras Forest Hills. The entrance to the new house will be located on the boulevard instead of on a side street, as in the case of the other.

B. S. Moss is understood to have acquired a site across the street from the Forest Hills for an amusement project and, while he has announced a theatre to be included in the plans, it is believed the RKO-Skouras project will alter the situation.

Loew's also was believed interested in building a new theatre there in view of the new housing development, but has dropped the idea.

No date for the new RKO-Skouras theatre building program has been set as final plans are now being worked out between operating heads of both circuits.

Asks $140,000 Greek War Relief From Two Areas

NEW YORK — Spyros Skouras, national chairman of the Greek War Relief Drive, has set a quota of $140,000 for the New Jersey and New York area. He so announced at a meeting of his committee Tuesday at the Astor. Society women, debutantes and other interested in this cause will make collections in 1,100 local theatres during the week of March 25.

Arrangements have been made to hold midnight shows in practically every city sometime during the week of March 25 which marks the date of Greek independence. A two-minute subject is being prepared in Hollywood for theatres in connection with the drive.

Vogel Appoints Committees For Greek War Relief Aid

NEW YORK—Joseph R. Vogel, division chairman for the amusement division of the Greek War Relief Ass'n, has appointed the following committees to work with him on the drive.

Buffalo, Vincent McFaul; *Albany,* Moe Silver; *New Jersey,* Don Jacocks; *New York* and *Brooklyn,* Harry Brandt, J. J. O'Connor and A. A. Hovel.

Other committee members include Sam Rinzler, Joseph Seider, Si Fabian, Irwin Wheeler, Robert Weitman, Sam Strassberg, Fred Schwartz, Laurence Bolognino, Guy Eyssell and Leo Brecher.

Oscar A. Doob of Loew's is chairman of publicity, and Marvin Schenck heads the entertainment committee.

The first meeting was held Tuesday at the Astor at which time every theatre in the Greater New York territory was asked to join the drive.

Revokes an O. K.

COLUMBUS—The Ohio film censor board revoked without comment the approval given last week to "Birth of a Nation."

Consolidated Will Finance PRC

Hollywood—In a trade pact involving more than $1,000,000, Consolidated Film Industries will finance Producers Releasing Corp.'s 1941-42 schedule of 63 films and will handle PRC's entire laboratory contract. The deal covers 37 features and 26 westerns.

Herbert J. Yates, president of Consolidated, further announces a large advertising campaign for this year for Republic, of which he is board chairman. It calls for an outlay of $100,000 in fan magazines, which will be used by the company for the first time, and $400,000 in trade papers.

Arbitration Cases Sprout Up Over the Country

NEW YORK—Initial arbitration case filed in this area is that of the Hilary Theatre Corp., operating the Regent, Brooklyn, on equal product availability with the Apollo. It is alleged the Regent, about one mile from its competitor, charges five cents more in price. The complaint is aimed at Warner, 20th-Fox, Paramount, RKO and M-G-M.

BALTIMORE—Second complaint under the decree here, and filed in Washington, concerns the Westway, which alleges the Edgewood, a Durkee theatre, exercises unreasonable clearance. Distributors involved this time are M-G-M, 20th-Fox, Warner and UA.

DETROIT—Two cases lead off the complaints to the arbitration board here. Both are filed by Circuit Operator Julius D. London, one for the Booth Theatre and the other for the newly opened Midtown. The Booth, London claims, is refused reasonable clearance by Vitagraph and Paramount over Komer and Goldberg's Whittier and the Delodder circuit's East End. In the case of the Midtown, unreasonable clearance again is the count and Paramount, Loew's, RKO and Vitagraph are the distributors named. The competitive houses involved in the latter case are the Coliseum, operated by London's brother-in-law, Jack Krass; the Mayfair, operated by Cohen Brothers; Majestic, operated by the Schreiber circuit, and the Globe, operated by William Schuttenhelm. Cooperative and Mutual theatres, both local booking organizations, are named as affected in this case.

DENVER—Initial complaint here was filed by Joseph J. Goodstein, operating the Longmont, Longmont, Colo. Aimed at Fox Intermountain Theatres, operating the Fox in the same city, Goodstein charges his competitor is overbought. He wants a redistribution of the product.

CLEVELAND—First complaint on tap here is that of Louis Isreal of the Ellet, now in construction on the outskirts of Akron, seeking some run and an end to the seven day protection currently enjoyed by the Norka and Rialto, owned by W. L. Hart.

CHICAGO—The Ken, now running product 13 weeks after "Loop" openings, has filed the first clearance complaint affecting Chicago. The theatre seeks to run 20th-Fox, Paramount and RKO day and date with the Shakespeare and ahead of the Pix, both operated by the Schoenstadts.

NEW ORLEANS—Arbitration complaints got under way here with an appeal for "some run" sought by Charles K. Woolner, president of Modern Theatres, Inc., operator of a drive-in house on Canal Drive. He names Paramount as the solitary defendant.

Attaches Positives In DuWorld Suit

NEW YORK—Daniel E. Finn jr., sheriff of New York, has attached positive prints of "Legong" and "Kliou" at the Lloyd Film Storage Co. in connection with an action by J. S. Rex Cole against Du World Pictures, World Pictures, Martin Mermelstein, Irwin S. Shapiro, Archie Mayers, and Lloyd Film Storage. The plaintiff, the assignee of Bennett Pictures Corp., Ltd., claims the defendants' license to exhibit the films in the U. S. has expired but they refuse to part with the prints.

Supreme Court Justice Aaron Steuer has denied a plea of Marlene Dietrich to strike out portions of a suit against her by Forrester Parant Productions. The action seeks $98,750 and claims she failed to go through with a contract to make a picture in France. Miss Dietrich had complained parts of the complaint showing the elaborate preparations and expenses of the plaintiff and the rejecting by her of scripts would prejudice her, create sympathy for the plaintiff and show her as arbitrary and capricious besides, obscuring the real issues.

Suit of Carl Field, Henry Clarkson, and Jeff Clarkson, song writers, against 20th Century-Fox, Con Conrad, Herb Magidson, and the Sam Fox Publishing Co. has been settled out of the federal court. It sought damages of $525,000 claiming the defendants plagiarized plaintiffs' song "Goodby to Love" in "Here's to Romance," used in the 20th-Fox film of the same name.

Wilhelm Karol, former Paris representative of Universal, will have to be examined before trial and his action against Universal will not be tried for 20 days after the examination, Justice Bernard L. Shientag in the supreme court has ruled. Karol is suing for $60,000 claiming that amount is due on commissions for having sold Universal's product in Italy to Giuseppe Musso for $400,000. Universal claims it paid Karol $75 weekly and deposited 43,108 lira for him in Italy in full payment for services.

Roxy Becomes Grind For 'Tobacco Road'

NEW YORK—The Roxy, in a stunt believed never before attempted, was out to attract a new high attendance-and-money total in a 42-hour grind for the opening of "Tobacco Road." The film got under way 8 a. m. Thursday morning and the 6,000 seat theatre did not close until 2 a. m. Saturday morning. There were 22 showings of the film and 11 of the stage show in the marathon.

The 20th-Fox production did an estimated $12,192 in the first 24 hours of its "non-stop" grind.

The management attracted unusual advance word-to-mouth through sending out 1,500 invitations to persons that rarely, if ever, get an opportunity to attend film theatres because of their unusual working hours. Invitations went to 500 taxicab drivers, 500 milkmen and 500 letter carriers. They were admitted only between the hours of midnight and seven a. m. The theatre served doughnuts and coffee all night for the asking. The largest service staff in the theatre's history was on hand through the stretch, numbering about 125. An outside loudspeaker was employed to direct pedestrian traffic.

55 Millions More From the Trade

WASHINGTON—Reduction of the admission tax exemption from 40 to 20 cents and generally improved amusement business, will give the federal government an additional revenue of probably not less than $55,000,000 a year, it is indicated by current admission-tax returns.

For the first seven months of the current fiscal year, six of them at the lower exemption, collections reached $38,898,-819.28 compared with $12,206,619.11 for the corresponding period a year ago, an increase of $26,692,200.17, it was reported this week by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

January collections, showing the effect of the year-end drag, were $6,583,277.97, the lowest figure in four months. However, although the total was $70,693.03 under the $6,653,971 reported for December, it was $5,096,743.33 above the $1,486,-534.64 of January, 1940, records show.

Payment on Accumulations

NEW YORK — Consolidated Film Industries, Inc., has voted an accumulations distribution of 25 cents a share on its $2 preferred, payable April 1 to stockholders of record as of March 10.

Demand Proof on Non-Theatricals

NEW YORK—Warner's answer to Allied's charge of offering recent releases for non-theatrical showings in competition with independent subsequent exhibitors is a blanket denial that there is any conflict in bookings, coupled with the challenge that Allied produce an instance to substantiate its claims.

Allied, in a recent bulletin, stated Warner has issued an advertising folder "that constitutes the most flagrant disregard for the welfare of the exhibitors that has yet come to our attention. It offers recent releases of feature pictures on 35 mm. film for performances by clubs, lodges, churches, etc. The folder assures these potential customers that projectors and sound apparatus are available. The films listed in the folder included some that had not yet reached the subsequent runs in Pittsburgh."

A Warner spokesman ridiculed the allegations this way:

"The booklet we sent out is the same one we have been sending out for the past 10 years, except that the titles of pictures are brought up to date. Secondly, there is positively no mention of anything that has to do with the obtainment of equipment for showing these films.

Check Competition

"State institutions and other such organizations are the only ones that are solicited and we make it very clear they must not be in competition with our regular accounts. The booklet states potential customers must advise our branch managers where the screening is to take place, the approximate size of the audience and the price of admission. Our branch managers must be satisfied these showings will not conflict with our regular customers."

This spokesman also claims the films listed for rental by the institutions are, as a rule, at least two seasons old, citing "The Fighting 69th," "The Old Maid," and "My Love Came Back" as examples. He also enumerated a list of short subjects, that upon checking, turned out to be 18 to 24 months old from original date of national release. In the latter respect, this source declares a number of requests for rental of patriotic two-reelers of a few seasons back were rejected because of the popularity of subjects of a similar theme of current vintage now in release at theatres.

"Let's assume," the spokesman added, "that a fairly recent film was listed as available to these non-theatrical customers. On the face of it Allied should know we would not consciously jeopardize our normal, 52-week a year customer if there is one in that area. Every one of our non-theatrical bookings is bonafide and above board."

Joins Army Picture Service

ALBANY—John Babbitt, assistant booker at RKO, has resigned to take a job under Tommy Martell in the U. S. Army Motion Picture Service, New York. He succeeds Lee Beecher, transferred to Boston.

See Extension of Agency Efforts to Crash Trade

NEW YORK—The demonstration of a new theatre game is seen by observers as further evidence of the extension of efforts on the part of advertising agencies to crash the desirable theatre market. Aside from that obvious fact, plus the noticeable and substantial production effort behind the subject, the screening of one of a series of Minute Mysteries by Roy Post and Austin Ripley for the benefit of the William Esty & Co. advertising agency, which handles Camel cigarettes, carries little news value to exhibitors who are aware of the trend.

In the background is said to be Jam Handy, which is no small factor in the development, production and distribution of commercial product. It is to be admitted the company is utilizing a new and spirited approach in the new series. Rather than have the footage carry an outright or subtle plug for a given product, Minute Mysteries is straightforward drama which lasts about 60 seconds, plus about eight more for an introduction trailer.

The audience is given cards with 15 "Yes" and "No" spaces to be torn out after it has seen the reel. The idea is to see how many questions can be correctly answered in connection with the action that took place in the subject. The reels, plus all material necessary for operation of the game, would go to exhibitors gratis. The plug for the advertiser comes in via the credit on the title, plus using the name in lobby posters, advertising and theatre programs. Prizes would be at the discretion of the theatre.—L. W.

Financing Negotiations Bring Johnston East

NEW YORK—W. Ray Johnston's trip east from the coast is understood to be in regard to new financing negotiations for Monogram.

There will be no numerical change in the program for 1941-42, 26 features and 16 westerns again prevailing. It is planned to hold the annual sales meeting of franchise holders on the coast sometime in April.

Trem Carr, vice-president of Monogram, is in the east on financing. It is reported the studio is after $250,000 which will in all probability be forthcoming from Pathe, which has been financing the company over the years.

Both Carr and Johnston are due on the coast in a few weeks.

Jack Reiger Produces Stereoscopic Reel

NEW YORK—Jack Reiger, producer of fight pictures, has completed production on a one reel third dimensional stereoscopic short called "Stereo Laughs" which will be released within two weeks. The film cost $20,000 and has a commercial tieup with the makers of the colored glasses through which the picture is seen.

Cleveland Operation A Test by Brandt

CLEVELAND — Acquisition of the Lake, formerly operated jointly by Warner and RKO in a pooling arrangement, by Harry Brandt and his nephew, Marty Levine of New York, is for a minimum of six weeks and a maximum of two months.

The pool which operated found the $400 weekly projection booth cost too much and therefore had the house closed 40 weeks out of the year. Brandt is experimenting with the theatre with a policy current at the Central in New York where "Virgin Bride," a non-Hays approved picture with Danielle Darrieux, and "School for Husbands" with Rex Harrison are double featured.

Brandt is expected to book in "Night Train" later and then pencil in some of the English pictures he is distributing through Alliance Films of America.

Oscar Morgan Rounding Out Paramount Staff

NEW YORK—Rounding out his staff under the new shorts subject activities at Paramount, Oscar A. Morgan has appointed Monroe R. Goodman, who was associated with Morgan in the southern division for several years, as his assistant, and Manny Reiner has been named publicity and advertising manager for the department. Reiner has been identified with Warner, M-G-M, Monogram and lately publicity director for the "Quiz Kids," which Paramount is using for a series of shorts.

New In-Car Loudspeaker For Drive-Ins by RCA

CAMDEN—RCA Photophone has developed a new in-car loudspeaker for drive-in theatres that hangs inside the door of the car and connects by means of a 15-foot heavy weatherproof cable to the plug-in receptacles of the theatre's loudspeaker system. An important feature of the new unit is said to be a volume control located atop the speaker housing. Overall diameter of the speaker housing is eight inches with a depth of five.

"This Is England" With Murrow to Columbia

NEW YORK—"This Is England," a short in which Edward Murrow, CBS correspondent in London, does the narration, will be released here by Columbia, using the sales model drawn by Warner for "So This Is London." Harry Hopkins, the President's special envoy, brought the print with him.

Graff Installs Sound

ANGOLA, N. Y.—S. J. Graff has new booth equipment, including RCA sound, at the New Angola.

Eastern AAA Panels Partially Set Up

NEW YORK—Making it clear that the panels are not fully rounded out, AAA now divulges the names of arbitrators who will figure in the adjudication of cases filed before eastern tribunals under the provisions of the decree.

Twenty-three have been named for Buffalo, ranging alphabetically from Frank M. Barker, former president of the Rotary Club of that city, to Henry P. Werner, chairman of the board of Best Foods, Inc., which headquarters in New York.

The New York City list totals 53, alphabetic precedence going to Johnfritz Achelis, president of the Commercial Factors Corp., to include Jules Glaenzer, vice-president of Cartier, international jewelers and an habitue of "21," and end with William Gamble Woodward, treasurer of Will Harston, Inc., and a broker with the Pershing Co.

For Philadelphia, 28 men have been selected, alphabetically led by John R. Abersold of the Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania, and terminating with Edward W. Wright, assistant professor of accounting at the same university.

So far only 14 have been lined up for Washington. One is a man named E. Barrett Prettyman. He's an attorney.

Who they are, a key to their business or professional activities and their addresses follow:

Buffalo

Frank M. Barker, former president Rotary Club of Buffalo, 109 Ashland Ave.

William E. Barrett, attorney, 1315 Liberty Bank Bldg.

Lincoln W. Beale, executive vice-president Tiernon & Co., 501 Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

Joseph M. Boehm, general constructor, Boehm Brothers, 245-261 Colorado Ave.

Donald D. Bradley, president Rolls Chemical Co., Inc., Ellicott Square Bldg.

Prof. Ernest Brown, University of Buffalo School of Law.

Charles H. Everitt, general contractor, E. H. Everitt, Inc., 295 Auburn Ave.

Joseph E. Fronczak, architect, Fronczak & Whitman, 17 Court Street Bldg.

Philip Halpern, lawyer, Prudential Bldg.

Edward W. Hamilton, lawyer, 508 Walbridge Bldg.

Norman J. Lenahan, secretary-treasurer Frank Lenahan & Sons, Inc., 283 Perry St.

Regis O'Brien, attorney, Erie County Savings Bank Bldg.

Philip W. Ransom, realtor, 17 Court St.

Thomas J. Reese, president International Printing Ink Corp., 559 Ellicott St.

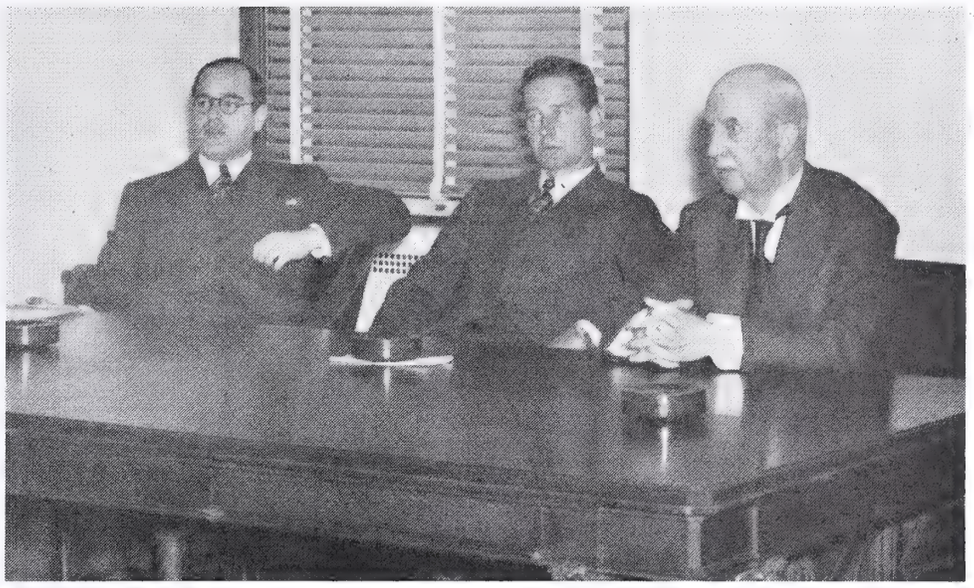
Nathan Rovner, lawyer, Liberty Bank Bldg.

Merrill E. Skinner, vice-president Buffalo-Niagara & Eastern Power Corp., 600 Electric Bldg.

Weldon D. Smith, treasurer Adam Meldrum & Anderson Co., 400 Main St.

Harris N. Snyder, secretary-treasurer Buffalo Slag Co., Federal Portland Cement Co., Inc., Ellicott Square.

Richard H. Templeton, attorney, 519 White Bldg.



—Metropolitan Photos

Parties to the N. Y. Induction—

It was quite a ceremony staged by the AAA to officially launch its arbitration panel for the area served out of New York City. Among others who participated were these three. Paul Felix Warburg, chairman of the administrative committee, is on the left. Next is Cornelius V. Whitney, president of the AAA. Finally, Van Vechten Veeder, chairman of the appeals board.

Robert C. Van Amringe, attorney, 177 State St.

Howard L. Volgenau, assistant secretary Buffalo Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

George W. Wanamaker, attorney, Liberty Bank Bldg.

Henry P. Werner, chairman of board Best Foods, Inc., 88 Lexington Ave., New York City.

New York City

Johnfritz Achelis, president Commercial Factors Corp., 2 Park Ave.

Prof. Willard E. Atkins, chairman of department of economics, New York University, Washington Square.

Francis Bancroft, vice-president Pease & Elliman, Inc., real estate, 660 Madison Ave.

Andre L. Benel, vice-president, director of executive committee of Brown, Wheelock, Harris, Stevens, Inc., building and real estate, 22 E. 40th St.

James G. Blaine, president Marine Midland Trust Co., 120 Broadway.

William T. Bostwick, vice-president Manhattan Storage & Warehouse Co., 801 7th Ave.

Robert R. Bruce, attorney, McLanahan, Merritt & Ingraham, 40 Wall St.

Robert Buechner, broker, Wainwright, Luce & Willetts, 52 Wall St.

Frederick R. Cantzlaar, secretary and treasurer Binney & Smith Co., accounting and financial, 41 E. 42nd St.

William Peter Cavanaugh, attorney, 49 Wall St.

Julius Henry Cohen, general counsel, N. Y. State Chamber of Commerce, 111 8th Ave.

Roscoe S. Conkling, attorney National Food, Drugs and Cosmetics, Board of Trade, 50 E. 42nd St.

Robert Emmet Connolley, attorney, 36 W. 44th St.

C. Frank Crawford, retired business man, ex-president New York Master Printers Ass'n, 415 Washington Ave., Brooklyn.

Edward F. Darrell jr., advertising executive N. W. Ayer & Son, Inc., 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

Eli Whitney Debevoise, attorney, 20 Exchange Place.

Roy Dickinson, president *Printers Ink* Magazine, 185 Madison Ave.

W. Palmer Dixon, broker, Carl M. Loeb, Rhoades & Co., 61 Broadway.

Lucius R. Eastman jr., importers, Hills Bros., 110 Washington St.

Guy Emerson, vice-president Bankers Trust Co., 16 Wall St.

George H. Engelhard, attorney, Engelhard, Pitcher & Amann, 70 Pine St.

Benedic Erstein, president Erst Co., Inc., 349 E. 49th St.

Paul L. Fitzpatrick, director of policy and sales development, General Motors Corp., 1775 Broadway.

Osmond K. Fraenkel, attorney, Goldsmith, Jackson & Brock, 76 Beaver St.

(Continued on page 22)

Advice on Arbitration Is Offered by Allied

NEW YORK—Allied of New Jersey has appointed a committee of five to act in an advisory capacity to members who contemplate the filing of complaints before the American Arbitration Ass'n. They are Harry M. Lowenstein, Irving Dollinger, George Gold, Sam Frank and Maury Miller, the latter chairman.

The organization also is on record as condemning the practice of all majors, except M-G-M, in servicing non-theatrical organizations for what is claimed to be "unfair competition to legitimate motion picture theatres." Discontinuance of the practice is urged.

Eastern AAA Panels Partially Set Up

(Continued from page 21)

Henry J. Fuller, director Savage Arms Co., Lincoln Building, 60 E. 42nd St. and 40 Wall St.

James P. Gifford, professor of law, Columbia University.

Roswell L. Gilpatric, attorney, Cravath, de Gersdorff, Swaine & Wood, 15 Broad St.

Jules Glaenzer, vice-president Cartier, Inc., jewelers, 653 5th Ave.

I. Edwin Goldwasser, vice-president Commercial Factors Corp., 2 Park Ave.

William J. Graham, vice-president and director Equitable Life Assurance Society of U. S., 393 7th Ave.

Daniel H. Haynes, vice-president and director American Machine & Foundry Co., 511 5th Ave.

S. Marshall Kempner, broker, Heidelbach, Ickelheimer & Co., 49 Wall St.

Milton P. Kupfer, attorney, Kupfer, Silberfeld, Nathan & Danziger, 29 Broadway.

Warren Leslie, president, director and chairman of board Jamaica Water Supply Co.,161-20 89th Ave., Queens.

Warren Leslie jr., attorney, 110 E. 42nd St.

John T. McGovern, general counsel Photo Engravers Board of Trade of New York City, 60 E. 42nd St.

Thomas S. McLane, president Skidmore Coal Co.; director Douglas Gibbons & Co., 580 5th Ave.

Joseph Mayper, chairman and counsel Transatlantic Passenger Conference, 80 Broad St.

Morris B. Moskowitz, attorney, 51 Chambers St.

Major B. H. Namm, president Namm Department Store, 452 Fulton St., Brooklyn.

James A. O'Gorman jr., attorney, O'Gorman, Brophy, Roepe & Ring, 522 5th Ave.

John C. Pemberton, attorney, 36 W. 44th St.

Lionel S. Popkin, attorney, Hess, Mela & Popkin, 20 Pine St.

John Raiss, broker, 52 Wall St.

George A. Spiegelberg, broker, McCauley, Spiegelberg, Davis & Gallagher, 70 Pine St.

J. Raymond Tiffany, general counsel Interstate Sanitation Commission, 25 West 43rd St.

Francis Adams Truslow, attorney, Morgan & Lockwood, 44 Wall St.

William T. Van Atten, vice-president Dun and Bradstreet, 290 Broadway.

Hon. William H. Wadhams, former justice city court of New York City; former judge Court of General Sessions, 530 5th Ave.

John K. Watson, attorney, 61 Broadway.

Frank L. Weil, attorney, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, 60 E. 42nd St.

Victor Weybright, managing editor *Survey Graphic Magazine*, 112 E. 19th St.

William Gamble Woodward, treasurer Will Harston, Inc.; broker, Pershing Co., 120 Broadway.

Philadelphia

John R. Abersold, Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania.

J. N. Aitken jr., certified public accountant, Packard Bldg.

A. M. Boyd, director of personnel Philadelphia Electric Co., 9th & Chestnut Sts.

John Lord Butler, sales promotion counselor, Packard Bldg.

Robert J. Callaghan, attorney, 1500 Walnut St.

Clarence N. Callender, professor of business law, University of Pennsylvania.

Bernard F. Cataldo, business law department, Wharton School of Finance.

Roland J. Christy, certified public accountant, 2340 Lincoln Liberty Bldg.

Frederick N. Curley, finance department, Wharton School of Finance.

C. J. Dexter, 213 S. Broad St.

Mapping Production Schedule at RKO

HOLLYWOOD—Plans for RKO's schedule next season are now being discussed here by George J. Schaefer, president; Ned E. Depinet, vice-president in charge of distribution, and studio executives with a tentative program of 35 top-bracket features being considered.

Schaefer has indicated previously the company will make a greater number of "A" pictures than before and at the same time cut the output of "B's." He has also intimated the RKO schedule will be less than the current season's.

Emphatic denial was given reports that Depinet, who accompanied Schaefer west, would assume active charge of studio operations. Schaefer has been anxious to keep a fatherly eye on the production end himself, spending as much time as he can spare here in that endeavor.

Eastern reports have it the company's new selling system under the decree is set under a simplified plan which could be put into effect tomorrow if the new season were that close. However, sales forces are now cleaning up all possibilities outstanding.

From accounts, the company is far ahead now than at the same time last year.

Herman Starr Recuperates Following Appendectomy

NEW YORK—Herman Starr, New Jersey division head for the Skouras circuit, is recuperating at Murray Hill Hospital here following an emergency appendectomy. Notis Komenos, his assistant, is taking over until Starr returns to his post. Starr had complained of a stomach ailment at first and this was diagnosed as gallstones, but after a second going over it was found to be his appendix.

While few know it, Starr's appendix burst while he was on his way to the hospital in an ambulance. After his arrival, he had to wait two hours before the surgery was performed. According to his coworkers, it is a miracle he is alive.

From Many Trades And Professions

Paul J. Furnas, treasurer Sandura Co., Finance Bldg.

John H. Haire, certified public accountant, 123 S. Broad St.

Edwin W. Hart, certified public accountant, 1616 Walnut St.

Clarence Kaeber, president Electrical Credit Ass'n, 19th & Allegheny Ave.

J. Cyril McGarrigle, certified public accountant, Packard Bldg.

Dr. Ernest Minor Patterson, professor of economics, University of Pennsylvania.

Fayette R. Plumb, president Fayette R. Plumb, Inc., 4837 James St.

Calvin H. Rankin, accounting department, Wharton School of Finance.

J. H. Robins, president American Pulley Co., 4200 Wissahickon Ave.

Charles C. Rohlfing, professor of political science, University of Pennsylvania.

Rupert C. Schaeffer jr., lawyer, instructor of business law, Wharton School of Finance.

Smith Simpson, Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania.

Francis Small, certified public accountant, 2616 Girard Trust Bldg.

S. Morris Snyder jr., banker, Fidelity Philadelphia Trust Bldg.

A. E. Southgate, executive Philadelphia & Reading Coast & Iron Co., Reading Terminal.

H. Eugene Wheeler, treasurer N. W. Ayer & Son, Inc., 210 W. Washington Square.

W. A. Widdersheim, attorney, 2026 Land Title Bldg.

Edward W. Wright, assistant professor of accounting, University of Pennsylvania.

Washington

William Gordon Buchanan, certified public accountant and professor of business administration, Georgetown University.

J. Edwards Burroughs jr., attorney, Cummings & Stanley, 1626 K St., N. W.

Brice Claget, attorney, Southern Bldg.

Robert F. Cogswell, attorney, Hibbs Bldg.

Sefton Darr, attorney, 1037 Woodward Bldg.

Charles D. Drayton, attorney, 1001 15th St., N. W.

Dr. Alexander V. Dye, doctor, 2500 Massachusetts Ave.

Norman B. Frost, attorney, Frost, Myers & Towers, Hibbs Bldg.

Prof. H. F. Harding, associate professor of public speaking, George Washington University.

Francis W. Hill, attorney, Woodward Bldg.

Edgar Morris, 718 13th St., N. W.

Henry S. Owens, accountant, 910 17th St.

Julius I. Peyser, attorney and banker, Investment Bldg.

E. Barrett Prettyman, attorney, 888 Connecticut Ave., N. W.

BROADWAY

THERE were two big days last week for the Moskowitz clan. On Thursday it was C. C.'s birthday and on the following day "Ma" celebrated her 77th . . . Walter Reade sr. and jr. are back from Palm Beach. Senior spent a month in the Florida resort, while Junior was there exactly eight days . . . Julius Allen, Canadian exhibitor, was in town the other day . . . Harry Egert of Advertising Accessories was in New Haven the middle of the week . . . Charles Stern, UA district manager, paid the Schines another visit at Gloversville the other day. When he got back Bert Stearn, Mideast district manager for the same distributor, was in town . . . Jack Shea visited Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Cleveland last week on behalf of Feiber & Shea . . . Charles Sonin of M-G-M got back from Miami with a color that belies all those pessimistic reports.

Ben Knoble, who has been ill of late, is recuperating on Miami beaches . . . Ed Hatrick, Hearst film general manager, spent a month at the Tower, Miami Beach, and is back on the job again . . . Seymour Mayer, Loew district manager, says he dropped 40 pounds recently. Those vests he wears are something to look at, by the by . . . Arthur Rothafel, son of the late S. L., better known as "Roxy," has resigned as manager of Skouras' Glen Cove, Glen Cove, L. I., and enlisted in the army . . . A. Montague and Leo Jaffe of Columbia's home office executive staff returned from the coast early in the week after holding a series of production conferences . . . Jack Cohn and A. Schneider remained a while longer at the studio on other matters . . . Henry Reiner is proudly displaying that initialed ring Herman Robbins gave him as one of the honorable mentions in the recent National Screen drive honoring Robbins' 20th year in the industry.

Henry Danziger celebrated his 21st anniversary Washington's Birthday . . . Nicholas M. Schenck returned from a week's trip to the coast with a bad case of the flu . . . Laudy Lawrence is in from Europe and now plans to roost at the M-G-M office until things quiet down abroad . . . Norman Moray, back from a suntanning, be that what it was while he sojourned in Miami, left Tuesday for a swing of eastern Warner branches. He was followed by Roy H. Haines who made Cincinnati, Cleveland and Pittsburgh on this trip . . . Max A. Cohen is back from Hollywood, Fla. While he didn't get much sun he got a little rest, for which he is thankful . . . Eddie Schnitzer is down Miami way, now that Sam Lefkowitz is back from those parts . . . Bob Benjamin insists he will fly to the coast next week . . . Henny Youngman will m. c. at the charity ball March 3 at the Waldorf for the Greek relief. A stack of entertainment is being lined up to round out the program.

Sam Meinhold celebrated his 74th birthday February 14. He's still on the job at Loew's, chipper as ever . . . Frank Jarticola, Loew auditor, eloped the other day and is spending his honeymoon in Miami . . . Lester B. Isaac, head of Loew's projection, on February 16 marked his 25th year with the company. He is honorary president of the American Projection Society, having been its first president . . . Irving Snyder of Sterling Sign will become a father this summer. He is well known to Loew-ites . . . Louis J. (Bud) Alleman of RKO's publicity department has resigned and volunteered for service in the 101st Cavalry, Troop C of the National Guard. He is now at Camp Devens, Mass. . . . Alexander Korda arrived late in the week from Hollywood with a print of "That Hamilton Woman" . . . A. W. Alexander of Altec's Asheville, N. C., staff has celebrated his silver wedding anniversary . . . Arthur Knorr of the Roxy production staff has two of his latest original water colors on exhibition in the National Water Color Club.

Mitchell S. Bernstein, St. Johns, New Brunswick, exhibitor, was in town during the week and given a taste of Lindy's food by Haskell Masters . . . Joe Lee is due back next week from Miami, which means Harry H. Buxbaum will be flying south in his own plane shortly . . . Bill Murray, 20th-Fox Movietonews cameraman, is back from the war zone . . . W. C. Gehring is back after visiting 20th-Fox exchanges in Minneapolis, Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit and Indianapolis on the decree . . . Fred Pride and Felix A. Jenkins will wind up their legal discussions on the document before 20th-Fox sales forces next week . . . Francis L. Harley is back from Miami and sails March 1 for his headquarters in London . . . Harry C. Arthur jr. is vacationing at Palm Springs.

Tony DiLorenzo of the New Paltz, New Paltz, was in booking the early part of the week . . . Alec Moss finally got away for a vacation in Miami Friday. He says if the weather continues cold he'll head for Havana . . . J. J. Unger is slated to head south on vacation business the end of the week . . . Irving Cohen of the Paramount legal staff was in Erie, Pa., on another one of those anti-trust actions . . . Phil Engel of Warner's exploitation staff has been in the New England territory during the week . . . Roy

(Continued on page 24)



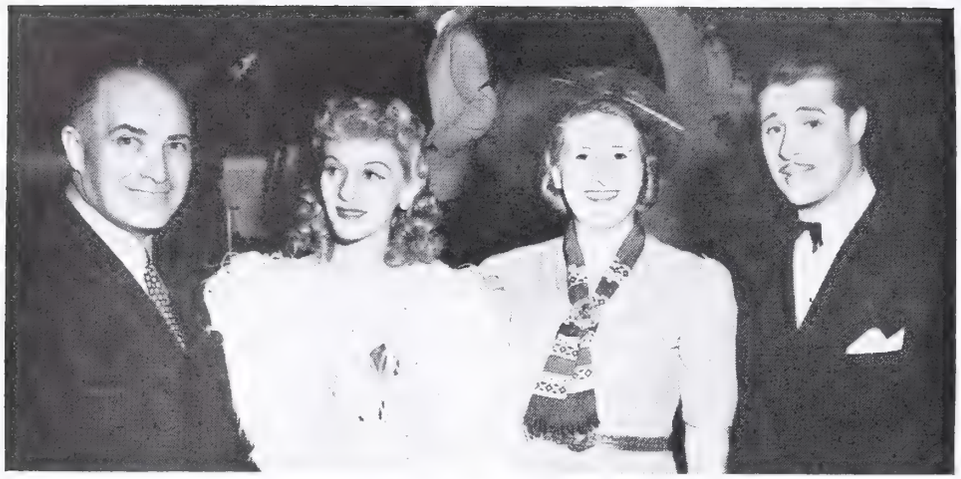
Off for Hollywood—

Joan Merrill leaves night clubs, where she sang, for Columbia and the coast. Her first assignment will be one of the leads in a forthcoming musical. She's from Baltimore and, latterly, from Rudy Vallee's show.



They Clashed; They Also Smiled—

The idea was a quiz program conflict over NBC. Opposing teams were composed of men and women who do the commentating in the newsreels. Described as "Battle of the Sexes," Julia Sanderson and Frank Crumit conducted and used these photographed individuals, in left to right array: Arlene Francis, stage and radio actress and in private life Mrs. Neil F. Agnew; Miss Sanderson; Sue Reed, radio and television actress; Adelaide Hawley, women's commentation for News of the Day; Vyvyan Donner, fashion editor of Fox Movietone News; Crumit; Jim Clemenger, Pathe News announcer; Gregory Abbott, commentator; Jack Haney, Fox Movietone News commentator, and Andre Baruch, Pathe News commentator.



On the Occasion of a Visit—

Renewing Hollywood acquaintances on the Paramount lot while visiting the film capital, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Britwar, of Associated Playhouses, Inc., of New York City, paused to exchange the time of day with Mary Martin and Don Ameche on the "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" set. Britwar is at the left, with Mrs. Britwar standing beside Ameche.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 23)

H. Haines plans to take his vacation after those studio conferences next month.

William A. Scully, Universal's general sales manager, and Jack Bowen, New York district manager for M-G-M, are losing themselves among the palms of Coral Gables and prepared to stick it out until about March 2 . . . Among a Paramount home office contingent supposedly sunning themselves in and around Miami Beach are Barney Balaban, Austin Keough, Stanton Griffis, Leonard Goldenson, Monty Gowthorpe and Walter Gross, circuit attorney . . . Aldyth Reichenbach, Balaban's secretary, is vacationing at Umatilla, Fla. . . . Marge Leiczer, secretary to William F. Rodgers, flew to Havanna for a holiday. She decided on the plane because she has already made the same trip via boat and car, the latter as far as Florida, of course.

Joe Hornstein is Miami-bound again, this time by car . . . Oscar Levant is back from the coast where he appeared in "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" . . . Jane Seymour has deserted the Broadway footlights for a role in "Tom, Dick and Harry" . . . Marcel Rebiere and H. Maurice Lancaster, March of Time war correspondents, are here from abroad . . . Wendy Barrie flew in from the coast in time to make the State opening engagement. Lola Lane of the Lane Sisters also is on the bill . . . Dee Lowrence has left Paramount's coast publicity setup to do a fashion column for NEA . . . Latest reports have it the RKO deal for the contemplated second Parkchester house is colder than Wednesday's temperature, which was cold enough . . . J. J. ("Fitz") Fitzgibbons of Famous Players Canadian was around during the week.

Leo Cohen, head of WHN's artist bureau, has written the lyrics to "With Your Permission" and Abner Silver aided in the music. Belle Baker, appearing at the State, Benny Fields and Mark Plant have been plugging the song which has been sent out to the M-G-M studio for possible inclusion in a forthcoming attraction . . . J. S. McLeod, head of M-G-M exchange operations, has returned from St. Louis, Cincinnati and a couple of other exchanges on the decree . . . Major Leslie E. Thompson is another homecomer from Palm Beach where he spent a few weeks' vacation . . . Harry Brandt is practically packed for his departure for Miami soon . . . Oscar Morgan is planning a tour of Paramount southern branches, the first since he took over his new post of shorts subject sales manager. Norman H. Moray, Warner short subject sales manager, is off on his annual trip to exchanges to discuss plans for '41-42. He will be gone eight weeks and end up at the studio where he will report findings to Jack L. Warner.

George Burns, Gracie Allen, Fred Allen, Jack Benny, Edward Everett Horton, Martha Raye, Phyllis Brooks, Martha Sleeper, Ezra Stone and Al Jolson are among the film folk who have contributed toward the support and "financial adoption" of 73 British refugee children in England, according to the Foster Parents' Plan for War Children . . . Headed by Harry Hershfield as master of ceremonies, an array of Broadway talent provided entertainment for the 11th annual dinner dance of the Columbian Club of Columbia at the Waldorf-Astoria on Saturday evening . . . Leon Fromkess of PRC has closed his lineup with British Empire Films, Ltd., for Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania . . . Lucille Watson is in town from the coast where she played a role in "Model Wife" . . . Lynn Farnol, getting set on his own public relations service, has closed for the Sam Goldwyn representation in the east, thereby renewing an old association.

Morey Marcus, general manager for M-G-M in Japan, is back from a Havana vacation. He says plans to return to the Orient are indefinite . . . June Keller of National Screen has left to become the bride of Louis A. Salander the middle of next month. She plans a Washington honeymoon and will live in Vermont . . . E. K. "Ted" O'Shea has returned from a brief visit of exchanges under his supervision . . . Dan Frankel, who is in business for himself, is due to return from the coast early next week . . . Gracie Fields appeared on the Music Hall special midnight show Friday. It was called "Carnival for Britain" . . . Harry Gold has not appointed a successor yet to Hugh Owen, southern UA district manager . . . Hal Horne and Dick Condon were in Chicago for the opening of "Fantasia" . . . Charles Kellenberg of 20th-Fox in Pittsburgh is vacationing in Miami . . . Bob Rubin plans to leave on a vacation very shortly . . . Tyree Dillard of M-G-M's legal department is trying to make up for the vacation he spent down home in the Carolinas with the flu. He's quite a horseman and fisherman.

Homer Harmon and most of the Roxy publicity staff are beating a luncheon path to House of Chan . . . Robert Sherwood, 29-year-old Columbia producer who has just completed "Adam Had Four Sons," is here from the coast . . . Ditto George Marshall, who has been signed by the same company to direct "Texas" . . . Joe Shea, who had been active in publicity for the Greek War Relief Ass'n, has left to take a post in the public relations department of the motion picture division of General Motors . . . Bill Grady, M-G-M talent scout, is in town from the coast for a look-see at the new shows . . . Susanna Foster, Dolly Loehr, another young Paramount player, a school-teacher and studio representative were here long enough for Miss Foster to take part in Kate Smith's radio show . . . Ray Middleton has signed a long-term contract with Republic and left over the weekend for a lead role in "Lady From New Orleans."

Move for Allied Unit In New York State

ALBANY—Steps for setting up a New York State organization, to be affiliated with National Allied, were taken at a meeting of independent exhibitors held in the DeWitt Clinton Hotel. A committee of four, entrusted with powers to name other committees, to fix a scale of dues, etc., was selected. Named to the committee were: Abe Stone, Eagle, Albany; Leonard Rosenthal, State, Troy; Morris Goldblatt of Tarrytown, and Max Cohen, Lydo, Brooklyn. About 25 exhibitors attended the meeting.

A meeting in the Buffalo territory is to be held next month. At that time, representatives from Buffalo will be added to the committee. Formation of the temporary executive committee is to be followed by a statewide convention of exhibitors within a specified period.

Power in Advertising, Robbins Tells Ampa

NEW YORK—More than 250 members and guests of Ampa heard Herman Robbins, president of National Screen, urge that "exhibitors must be made conscious of their powers to swell receipts through constant advertising."

"Don't let the story die," is the slogan he intoned when he observed that "only advertising will make a theatre alive." Robbins was honored on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as head of NSS. Most of his official family was with him at the dais as he touched on his company's varied activities.

Robbins declared material improvement has been shown in the development of screen trailers, not the least of which has been the subjugation of "super-super superlatives." He suggested the customary four-minute trailer is best suited to houses with single or double bills; that they be shorter for theatres with longer programs. He also advocated shorter trailers for subsequent run houses.

Robbins was introduced by Red Kann, editor-in-chief of BOXOFFICE. Among NSS executives who were introduced were Vincent Trotta, Charles Casanave, Ed McNamee, Paul Benjamin, Milton Silver, George Dembow, Toby Gruen and Harry Samwick. Other guests who took bows from their tables were Herman Wobber, A. W. Smith jr., John J. O'Connor, H. M. Richey, Major Leslie E. Thompson and Jack Fuld.

Keough, Phillips Halting Paramount Decree Talks

NEW YORK—Austin C. Keough, general counsel, and Louis Phillips, his assistant at Paramount, have halted legal discussions with the sales force on the decree, for the time being.

None of the western exchanges had been covered by the two lawyers during their trips to the field. Keough is vacationing in Miami, and Phillips has gone to Madison, Wis., on the La Crosse anti-trust action against Paramount and its theatre affiliates. He expects to remain in the midwest about a month.

It is likely field meetings will be resumed in the spring. The general feeling in Paramount is that the men should be instructed on how to operate under the decree now and in the future. Keough and Phillips undoubtedly will speak to the sales forces at the annual convention, stressing the need for observing the decree provisions.

Columbia Is Interested In Broadway Stage Hit

NEW YORK—Columbia is interested in "Sister Eileen," current Broadway stage success. One of the reasons for Sam Briskin's arrival Friday from Hollywood was to view the play for possible production. Max Gordon, who produced with Harry Goetz, is understood asking $250,000, plus a contract whereby he will produce and his writers will work on the script.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

ANDY HARDY'S PRIVATE SECRETARY (M-G-M)—In which the youngest of the Hardy clan, in the person of Mickey Rooney, very nearly doesn't graduate from high school, but scrapes through after the expected romantic, hilarious and academic complications. The feature, up to par for the series, otherwise is notable because it marks the debut of Kathryn Grayson, youthful actress and singer, who looks to be of star calibre. George B. Seitz directed.

COMPLIMENTS OF MR. FLOW (Hoffberg)—A smart cast of Gallic worthies plays this risque crook farce ably but fails to make the effort result in anything more than sketchy entertainment. A French import, it was probably made about seven or eight years ago. Fernand Gravet, Louis Jouvet.

ELLERY QUEEN'S PENTHOUSE MYSTERY (Col)—Second in the series being produced by Larry Darmour from the popular detective novels, this incorporates suspense, intrigue, comedy and thrills in sufficient quantities to insure its popularity among action seekers. Ralph Bellamy repeats in the title role. James Hogan directed.

HARD-BOILED CANARY, THE (Para't)—An experimental sally into the field of culture, the picture has many moments of rare entertainment to offer music lovers and, because of its preponderantly juvenile cast, may possess an appeal to youngsters. Andrew L. Stone produced and directed.

IN OLD COLORADO (Para't)—Although Hopalong Cassidy gets away from his usual stomping grounds, geographically, he doesn't deviate one bit from his well established system for delivering top notch action entertainment to the sagebrush fans. This is the third in the current series and in every department it compares favorably with its many predecessors. William Boyd, of course, portrays "Hoppy." Harry Sherman produced. Howard Bretherton directed.

OUTLAWS OF THE RIO GRANDE (PRC)—Surely as the kids like swimmin' holes, bread and jam and ice cream will they go for handsome, virile Tim McCoy as he wades through a band of counterfeiters in this stock, but sure-footed, western. There's no pretention to go beyond the prerequisites of outdoor action, and of that there is abundance. In fact, there's little else, not including much of a story, feminine relief or production values.

TOBACCO ROAD (20th-Fox) — Darryl F. Zanuck's screen version of the record-breaking stage hit is an expertly-produced, magnificently-enacted feature. The obscenity and objectionable sex sequences of the original have been eliminated, but the screenplay retains and accentuates its pathos and scattered humorous situations. Among those who are prepared to judge it solely on its merits as an example of better motion picture making, the film should win wide patronage. John Ford directed.

Complete Reviews of These Pictures Will Appear in an Early Issue.

Hayes and Sher Quit Government; On Own

WASHINGTON—James V. Hayes and Robert E. Sher, both special assistants to the attorney general, have resigned to enter private practice together in this city. Hayes had replaced Paul Williams as nominal head of the prosecution of the all-industry suit, but had turned over the prosecution of the case against Columbia, UA, and Universal to Robert L. Wright.

When the suit against the "Little Three" goes to trial, Wright, Seymour Simon and J. Stephen Doyle will be all that is left of the original staff. Government attorneys expect the trial to get under way in late May or June. Should it be impossible to hear the case then, a postponement will probably be taken until the October term.

Little Light on Purposes Of New Theatre Group

NEW YORK — Curiosity about National Theatre Owners' Ass'n remains unrequited. M. Walter Solomon, attorney who filed incorporation papers in Albany, refuses to divulge principals or purposes at this time. The association has organized as a membership corporation under state laws.

Three-Fold Purpose in Debenture Sale Plan

NEW YORK—The contemplated sale by Paramount of approximately $2,500,000 of 3¼% debentures to five banks has as purposes (1) the saving of a substantial amount that would normally go to SEC if the sale was in the open market, (2) the additional saving between retirement of first preferred at a rate of five per cent and the new rate of 3¼ per cent and (3) the prestige that goes with the ability to secure the face amount from banks who would not consider it unless the deal reflected a "good risk." These are observations of financial men.

It is presumed some action will crystallize once Barney Balaban and Stanton Griffis return from southern vacations. It is considered most likely the sum realized from the sale of the debentures will go toward retirement of first preferred, although it is not inconceivable the company may elect to throw at least a portion into production. Regardless of which course is pursued, the company is said to be anxious to consummate the deal if only to establish itself as a good risk in financial circles, which the purchase of the debentures by five banks is viewed as accomplishing.

Expect Decision Next Week on Remittances

NEW YORK—Oral arguments have been completed and attorneys have filed briefs on M-G-M's protest on the method of allocation of remittances from England under the plan which went into effect November 1, 1940. Milton J. Handler, Columbia law professor, acted as arbiter with Sam Cohen of M-G-M's legal department handling the company's protest. Joseph H. Hazen of Warner represented the other seven majors.

A decision is expected next week, after which Arthur Loew, head of Loew's foreign activities, will leave for the coast.

M-G-M's contention is that Great Britain never intended to allow remittances on the turnover of the distributors, but each company was to be treated on an equal basis. Hazen held the new remittances were based on the original agreement which began the year before. In rebuttal, M-G-M argued that, when it accepted the original agreement, it was because it was the simplest form then and, secondly, that it was aware of the fact no funds would be left over in England on which any dispute would arise.

The first year's agreement with England permitted $17,500,000 to be remitted to American companies in New York. This was reduced to $12,900,000 for the year starting November 1, 1940.

Para't Partners May Meet Late in March

NEW YORK—Paramount's annual meeting of all theatre partners, the first in several years, may be held in Hot Springs, Va., March 27-29, but it is still possible the dates may be pushed back a week. It is expected Y. Frank Freeman, studio production head, will attend as well as Barney Balaban. Plans will be developed on the three-day schedule within the next few weeks.

With National Theatres now drafting a consent decree manual relating entirely to exhibition problems under the new law, Paramount counsel is understood planning something along the same line for its partners.

"Everything relating to current problems will be discussed at the sessions," a home office executive states.

"Daily News" Star Ratings Return to Picture Ads

NEW YORK—Although it has been discreetly infringed upon from time to time, the "gentlemen's agreement" purportedly in effect for the past few years in respect to quoting the star ratings on film reviews from the *Daily News* is officially off. Henceforth, major distributors and theatre affiliates, as well as their Broadway showwindows, are to be free to use the star ratings either on their marquees or newspaper advertising. The difficulty in controlling the ban is given in some quarters as responsible for the lifting of the original restraint.



New Press Stunt—

If the above photo was wired for sound, you'd probably hear something like: "Boy, what these Paramount fellows will do for publicity." What the Paramount fellows will do, and did, is amply demonstrated here, in behalf of "The Lady Eve." The three young women are presumably reasonable facsimiles of various conceptions of what Eve, of apple fame, looked like. They are fondling a reasonable facsimile of Emma, the King snake that appears in "The Lady Eve."

Dr. Wortis Chairman on Exceptional Photoplays

NEW YORK—Dr. S. Bernard Wortis is new chairman of its Committee on Exceptional Photoplays, the National Board of Review states. Dr. Wortis acts as consultant and attending neuropsychiatrist in several government services and was formerly associate psychiatrist to the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Medical College.

Cooperation between exhibitor and public was the keynote of a regional discussion of community Motion Picture Council representatives held by the national board at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Among the speakers was Herman M. Levy, secretary of the MPTO of Connecticut. In answer to the group's questions regarding theatres, booking and the decree, as applied to their work with the theatres of their communities, Levy declared:

"Make yourself a part of the theatre man's program all year 'round, instead of just for special favors. The exhibitor welcomes suggestions from you community groups about the pictures he shows—provided you come to see them after he books them."

Columbia Sales Drive

NEW YORK—Columbia launches its annual sales drive March 1 as the "Columbia Exhibitors' Goodwill Campaign." It winds up May 30.

Triple Billing Reaches The Garden of Eden

By LEONARD WEISBERG

NEW YORK—The personnel of Paramount's eastern publicity staff has never impressed this department as being imbued with the sort of serious attitude expected of a group of educators, historians or archaeologists.

Maybe we've had the wrong slant on the praise boys all along; figuring all along as we have that they'd sell their mothers-in-law's soul for a front page story or picture break. But a mere look at the record will demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt how serious they are about zoology, for instance. Reams of copy centered about dogs in behalf of "The Biscuit Eater." Then such an intense interest in lion cubs, as associated with "Her Jungle Love." You may remember the glorification of the flea for "Zaza." Who can forget the sendoff the seals got when that Gladys Swarthout picture rolled around? Ducks came in for the spotlight when Dorothy Lamour's film was ready for release. And then Jiggs, the chimpanzee, was almost immortalized for "Typhoon."

At the moment we're down to Emma, the snake. It seems no accurate record exists over whether Eve, of Adam fame, was a blonde, brunette or red head; whether she was short, medium or tall. Tom Waller and Herb Berg undertook to find out, just for the record, of course. So they invited the leading newspaper syndicates to witness the event and chose the Copacabana club for the testing. Emma, it seems further, was flown in from the coast for the occasion. She was uncaged at the night club in a setting possibly reminiscent of what Eve saw when she was linked to that apple tree. Maybe.

Emma, all 30 inches of her, had the privilege of being attended by Dr. Raymond Ditmars, curator of reptiles and insects; Dr. Lawrence Gould, consulting psychologist, five comely lassies, one seven-foot-seven man, 10 cameramen and representatives of leading newspaper syndicates, wire services and trade press representatives. The five comely misses were appropriately dressed as Eves, and the man as Adam. The apples on the tree were genuine. Emma was as docile as a kitten. It all made sense, Dr. Ditmars meekly declared, becauses snakes and apple trees are symbolic of Adam and Eve.

This explanation is accepted by this observer because it bore the mark of authenticity. As we left the Copacabana, though, we kept wondering if anyone else —say, the cameramen—believe it. Because, as we all know, Paramount is about to release "The Lady Eve."

Screen Readers Re-elect

NEW YORK — Officers of the Screen Readers Guild of N. Y. have been re-elected unanimously. More than 90 per cent of the readers in the east are members. The unit is awaiting a date for an NLRB hearing which is to be set following the NLRB hearings with the Screen Publicists Guild.

WASHINGTON

DAVID LOEW and Albert Lewin, co-producers of "So Ends Our Night," were guests of honor at a luncheon at the Carlton, with the critics in attendance, and Carter Barron, Loew zone manager, as host . . . Bob Bertschey of the Bijou, Mathews, has been appointed Virginia salesman for PRC . . . The Lincoln Theatre Corp. of Marion, Va., has acquired the Bolling interests in Norton, Va. . . . Charlie Goldsten, exploiteer for the Alexandria Amusement Corp., is now carrying a "bix." In other words, has answered the call to the colors . . . The Ideal, Berkley Springs, W. Va., has been taken over by the Alpine Theatre Corp.

The Variety Valentine luncheon enjoyed the largest attendance ever and not only served as the medium of introduction for the new members, but also brought to light the hidden talents of Paramount's Jack Fruchtman, who joined with Earle Roxyette Eileen Ritter in a rendition of "When Irish Eyes," followed by an impromptu quartet consisting of Carter Barron, Adlai Mann, Julian Brylawski and Charlie Stofberg . . . The Gem, Petersburg, a 450-seater completed five months ago at a cost of $35,000, has been taken over by the Lichtman circuit, which now numbers 23 situations, with three others in the offing; the Bland in Portsmouth, Va., due for opening in ten days, the partly constructed Moten in Newport News, and a new house to be built in Bennings, D. C.

Mrs. W. Spates of Frostburg, Md., weekended here . . . Bob Stauch of the Maryland, Cumberland, has returned from southern climes . . . Grace Fisher of Cumberland is back on the job, thoroughly recuperated, and looking her best in months . . . J. C. McCoy of Moorefield, W. Va., returned from a visit to Harrisonburg, Va. . . . Clara Wachter of Henry's, Hagerstown, is convalescing from the flu . . . Monogram's Harry Brown is back and brown as a berry, compliments of Ole Sol, and his record-making Jacksonville-to-Washington non-stop motor trip is one for Esso-extra.

Four Star Row-mance: Marge Stinette, former secretary to Harry Brown, supposedly en route to the coast, fell victim to one of Dan Cupid's arrows in the vicinity of Granville, N. C., the station of her G-man, and her station until further notice . . . Columbia's Freddie Sapperstein, a flu victim, giving demon flu a perfect score in Columbia's booking department . . . Republic's Morris Oletsky, ideal for Latin-American typing, with his Miami blend . . . Reports Brother Ben is on the mend . . . Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Lust, a Miami twosome . . . Universal's Herb Blumenthal's cake cutting on the 17th . . . 20th-Fox's Marion Blaker, a flu quaker.

Rudy Berger, Metro district manager, was bedded with the flu for a spell; his recovery making possible his scheduled departure with Mrs. Berger for the Miami shores where they will join Mr. and Mrs. Abe Lichtman for a fortnight . . . Bob Sargent, formerly associated with the Metro staff and now of New Rochelle, was a visitor with his recent bride . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jack Goldberg celebrated an anniversary on the 21st . . . Robert Rubin of the Metro legal staff was a visitor . . . Estelle Goldschein a birthday celebrant on the 19th.

Bonus Checks to Republic For Outstanding Films

NEW YORK—Within two days, exhibitors of Buffalo and Koppel, Pa., have voluntarily tendered bonus checks to Republic in "appreciation" of unusual boxoffice returns on two recent releases. It is safe to assume the incident evoked no little surprises among Republic executives.

Anyhow, Nicholas J. Basil, general manager of Basil Bros. Theatres in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, sent Jack Bellman, branch manager at Buffalo, a check on account of the "nice results" of "Hit Parade of 1941." Basil wrote he hoped the check "will be accepted in the spirit in which it is given."

The other check was sent by John B. Wilson, manager of the Koppel, Koppel, who said the bonus was for the "exceptional business" done by "Wagons Westward."

Republic Sales Meeting Series Starts Feb. 27

HOLLYWOOD—First of five in a series of regular quarterly sales meetings planned by Republic will get under way at the North Hollywood studio February 27. The three-day session, over which Herbert J. Yates, M. J. Siegel, production head, and James R. Grainger, distribution chieftain, will preside, will be attended by approximately 50 western franchise holders, branch managers, bookers and salesmen.

Other parleys will follow in the east, south, midwest and Canada.

A Special Week's Drive For Gus J. Schaefer

NEW YORK—Gus J. Schaefer, RKO northeastern district manager, was honored with a special drive last week. Those participating were Bernard Kranze, Albany; R. C. Cropper, Boston; Elmer Lux, Buffalo; Barney Pitkin, New Haven.

Schine Renews Altec

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y.—The Schine circuit has renewed an agreement under which Altec provides sound service, repairs and replacements, and theatre inspection for the 117 Schine houses.

"Back Street" Takes Honors on Broadway

NEW YORK—"Back Street" at the Rivoli, garnering a very profitable $38,000 the first week, is the standout along an otherwise average Broadway. The film was the recipient of a swell advance campaign by Universal and the management. Universal scored another ace with "Buck Privates," playing first run at the State, customary secondary film, vaudeville house. It was heavily backed by the critics and brought in more cash than some of the more expensive opposition offerings, although the bulk of the latter were holdovers.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 19th roadshow wk. 100
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 14th roadshow wk. 125
Capitol—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 4th wk. 110
Criterion—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M) 110
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 8th wk. 100
Paramount—**Virginia** (Para't), 3rd wk., plus stage show 100
Radio City Music Hall—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), plus stage show 100
Rialto—**The Devil Commands** (Col) 85
Rivoli—**Back Street** (Univ) 125
Roxy—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., plus stage show 100
Strand—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB), 2nd wk., plus stage show 85

Newcomers are "Go West" at the Capitol; "You're the One" at the Paramount; "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the Music Hall; "Road Show" at the Rialto; "Tobacco Road" at the Roxy, and "Strawberry Blonde" at the Strand.

Three Run Neck-and-Neck At Capital First Runs

WASHINGTON—This week's chart shows photo finish for romantic and outdoor entries on local sound tracks, despite variable weather. "Back Street," "Philly Story," and "Virginia" neck and neck in second heat, with "Arizona," in fresh start, accepting the challenge. "Son of Monte Cristo" with Meroff on the stage under par at the Capitol.

Detail for week ending February 20:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA), plus Benny Meroff on stage 90
Columbia—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), final week. 100
Earle—**Arizona** (Col), plus stage show 150
Keith's—**Back Street** (Univ), 2nd wk. 150
Metropolitan—**Virginia** (Para't), moveover from the Earle 150
Palace—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 150

A. M. Taylor

PHILADELPHIA—A. M. Taylor, manager of the Great Northern Theatre, died after a brief illness. Taylor, known to hundreds of theatre men as "Pop," was a veteran of the industry in Philadelphia.

We are operating the

TOWN THEATRE, DETROIT

(Formerly known as ORCHESTRA HALL)

2200 Seats — Centrally Located

FOREIGN — RELIGIOUS — UNUSUAL

Pictures WANTED — Write or Wire

Jack Broder 3747 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich.

ROCHESTER

HARRY STEARN is the new manager at the Riviera, succeeding Louis Levitch who has been shifted to the Granada, Buffalo. He also handles the advertising for local Schine houses . . . Century offered plenty of horror last week when Charley Freeman's house had "The Mad Doctor" and "The Monster and the Girl" on the same bill . . . Front-of-the-house employes in downtown theatres have organized as an affiliate of the Stagehands' Union. Michael Mungovan, head of the stagehands, is now mapping a drive to organize similar employes in the neighborhoods. Officers of the new union are Henry Lemeraux of the Palace, president; Edward Reynolds, Regent, vice-president; Millie Garrison, Palace, treasurer, and Mary Fink, Loew's, secretary.

Madison promoted a "Valentine Sweetheart" party and dance. Patrons saw a double feature, then went upstairs to the ballroom for dancing . . . Schine's Madison, Monroe and Riviera have abandoned Super-Bingo . . . Construction is slated to start in four weeks on a new 1,000-*seat house in suburban Brighton . . . Dividends of* $1.50 *per share on common and preferred stock have been declared by the directors of Eastman Kodak . . . A* $727,000 *army contract for cameras has been awarded to Folmer-Garflex . . . Jay Golden of RKO Palace staged a cocktail party at the Rochester Club for civic leaders and newspapermen in connection with the preview of "Western Union."*

Carl S. Hallauer, vice-president of Bausch & Lomb, has been named a director-at-large of the National Association of Manufacturers . . . Rochester's 209th Coast Artillery, which went on active duty last week, packed the Monroe Theatre every day—for lectures on their duties . . . Niles Bouveng, liaison officer between Eastman Kodak and associated Kodak companies in Europe, died in Stockholm, according to word received here. He helped form a motion picture company in Sweden before becoming associated with Kodak . . . All but two Schine theatres helped Scouts celebrate National Boy Scout week by featuring stage programs put on by the boys.

RKO Palace, Century and Regent have adopted the "9 O'Clock Plan." One of the daily papers, in an editorial, called it "an admirable scheme and we are for it. It ought to satisfy both those who like a lot of movie and those who prefer to see one good picture from its beginning and get home at a reasonable hour" . . . Marion B. Folsom, treasurer of Eastman Kodak, has resigned from the executive post he has held on a part-time basis with the National Defense Advisory Commission. Dr. Grenville R. Holden, Kodak economic advisor, stays on with the commission on a full-time basis.

Frank W. Lovejoy, Eastman prexy, received the Civic Medal of the Rochester Museum at a dinner Wednesday night in "recognition of eminence in the field of industrial science and community leadership" . . . Inter-theatre bowling matches are being held by Schine employes . . . On the local Overcoat for Britain committee are Col. Oscar N. Solbert, Charles Z. Case and Charles K. Flint of Eastman Kodak, and Carl Hallauer of Bausch & Lomb . . . Alvin Leonard, assistant manager at Loew's, has completed his secondary flight training course at the local airport, is now eligible for a commercial pilot's license.

Ed Blaze, Riviera assistant, has resigned . . . Eugene Chrystal, public relations counsel for Eastman, has retired. He's a Class E member of the executive committee of the MPPDA . . . Lester Pollock, Loew's manager, had about $25,000 *worth of orientals hanging in the lobby for "Thief of Bagdad" . . . Tax refund of* $84,881 *went to Eastman Kodak for income and sales refunds to the parent company and subsidiaries . . . Lowell MacMillan, WHEC announcer, who gave up a singing career for radio work, will return to his first love when he appears as soloist with the Rochester Civic Orchestra at the Eastman . . . Mike Mungovan says there's nothing to the rumor that stagehands will take over the Embassy . . . Clayt Cornell has left the State to go to Tupper Lake.*

Charter Association

ALBANY—National Theatre Owners Ass'n, Inc., was granted authority by the secretary of state to operate as a membership corporation. Attorney M. Walter Solomon, 1441 Broadway, recorded the papers.

Capital College Students Addressed by Lewin

WASHINGTON—Students of Trinity College, Dumbarton College, Immaculate College and Catholic University heard Albert Lewin, producer with David L. Loew of "So Ends Our Night," lecture at the latter school.

The talk was preceded by a luncheon at the Carlton Hotel, attended by officials of the schools. The event was under the sponsorship of Father Hartke, head of the drama department at Catholic University.

See Little Likelihood Loew's Will Drop Rio

NEW YORK—There is little chance Loew's will drop the Rio, on upper Broadway. While the circuit is operating currently on a short term arrangement, following a long term lease, it is pointed out no extended lease can be made until the lessor makes another commitment with the landlord first. This is expected shortly.

Six for Select

NEW YORK—Myron C. Fagan has left for Hollywood to produce a series of six features in association with Celebrity Productions for release through Select Attractions. Production on the initial effort, "City of Missing Girls," will get under way immediately with release for May 1.

ALBANY

MAKING the exchanges: Pete Vournakis, Strand and Liberty, Watertown; Carl Nilman, Valatie, N. Y., and Wilmington, Vt.; George Thornton, Orpheum, Saugerties; Jerry LaRocque, Fairyland, Warrensburg; Sid Dwore, Cameo and Lincoln, Schenectady; Harry Savett, Faust, Antwerp and Port Leyden; Henry Frieder and Henry Grossman, Community, Warren and Star, Hudson; Neil Hellman, Hellman circuit, Albany and Troy; Grover Woodard, Burt's, Luzerne; Mrs. Frieda Klein, Hunter, Hunter; Morris Slotnik, Waterville and Oriskany Falls; Frank Wieting, Park, Cobleskill; Deicher & Bernstein, Palace, Schenectady.

Joe Sternberg, Franjo, Boonville, is vacationing in Miami . . . Eleanor Paradies, owner of the Hollywood exchange, Buffalo, was in Albany for a day . . . Clayton Cornell, manager of Schine's State, Tupper Lake, and former manager of the circuit's State in Rochester, married Helen Ellison, until recently cashier of Schine's Rialto, Rochester . . . Scott Lester, 20th *Century-Fox ad sales manager, is enjoying the tropical climate of the Bahamas . . . Edward J. Wall, new Paramount exploiteer in Albany and Buffalo territories, made his first visit to the local exchange.*

Tom Murray, supervisor of exchange operations for Universal, stopped at the local office . . . Universal Manager Jere Spandau returned from the convention in Chicago and then hopped to Cleveland with Salesman Charles Weil and Irving Shiffman for a district sales confab . . . Mrs. Rita Fiordilino, who answers the phone in such a pleasant voice at Universal, and Mrs. Catherine Burke, cashier, recently celebrated birthdays.

Paul Bimstock is in the territory selling a quiz game as well as an encyclopedia set feature. Max Levine, who formerly had prize fight films, is also reported drumming up a quiz game. He once operated theatres in Buffalo . . . Columbia bunch received a cheery letter from Morris Cohn, now with quartermaster's department, 27*th Division, at Fort McClellan, Ala. After three months of physical training, Morris will drive a truck, 'tis said. Two other Albanians now in khaki are Carl Hovey, former assistant manager at the Strand, and Irving Rosenstock, formerly of the Ritz and Strand.*

Christopher H. Buckley, Bennington, Vt., theatre owner, and Mrs. Buckley announced the engagement of their daughter, Jane Patricia, to Arnold G. Chapman jr. of Albany. Miss Buckley teaches at Bennington College of which she is an alumnus. Her dad, a few years ago Albany's biggest independent operator, still owns the Harmanus Bleecker Hall site, on which Fabian circuit holds a long lease . . . Knickerbocker *News* ran two paragraphs on BOXOFFICE award to "The Philadelphia Story" as outstanding film released in January.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

New Low in Jobs and Earnings for Extras

Steadily declining over the past few months, job placements and earnings for Hollywood's extra players reached a new low in January, according to disclosures from Central Casting Corp.

Tabulation revealed earnings for the month were less than $130,000, nearly $100,000 under January, 1939 and $35,000 under January, 1940. Decrease in job placements is affecting Central in addition to the extras themselves, the low pitch of activity having forced officials of the casting agency to introduce a staggered system whereby two casting directors, in rotation, will be given 30-day leaves of absence. A thorough discussion of the entire situation is expected to be made when Screen Actors Guild representatives meet with the producers shortly, in an effort to have certain groups of extras reclassified and given wage increases.

Two Quit Paramount

Both Jack Moss and A. M. Botsford, Paramount producers, have resigned. Botsford, for the past several years production assistant to William LeBaron, executive producer who terminated his contract recently, announced he will continue his association with LeBaron. Latter is forming an independent unit to make films for Paramount release. Moss has signed a term contract with Walter Wanger, United Artists producer, as a production executive, taking over his new duties early in March after an eastern vacation. His first assignment will be supervision of Wanger's "Sundown," to be directed by Henry Hathaway, who secured a release from his Paramount contract recently.

Also leaving Paramount is LeRoy Prinz, dance director on the lot for the past eight years. Now staging the musical numbers for Columbia's "Show Business," Prinz is expected to return to Paramount on a one-picture deal for "Aloma of the South Seas."

Orville O. Dull, associated for more than ten years with Producer John W. Considine of M-G-M, has been made a full-fledged producer at the studio. His first assignment will be to co-produce, with Robert Z. Leonard, "Two Women." Dull acted as Considine's aide on "Men of Boys Town," "Edison the Man" and "Young Tom Edison."

An Array of Entertainment For Academy Banquet

An array of entertainment features never before equalled, with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, via radio, to be the principal speaker, has been lined up for the 13th annual Awards dinner of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences February 27.

As arranged for by Walter F. Wanger, Academy president, during a recent trip to Washington, the nation's chief will deliver an address on a 15-minute, two-way hookup in which all three national networks—Mutual, NBC and Columbia—will participate by running direct lines into the Biltmore Bowl, where the banquet is to be held. The program will get under way at 8:45 Pacific Standard Time, with the President to deliver his speech from the White House. Arrangements have been worked out by Academy executives with network officials whereby sponsors of the air time which will be devoted to the President's address have given up their commitments. Thanking the President from Hollywood and extending him the industry's greetings and best wishes will be a representative collection of motion picture notables headed by Wanger.

Mervyn LeRoy, chairman of the dinner committee, has announced, additionally, that Bob Hope will be master of ceremonies, with Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne to present the best actor and best actress awards. LeRoy's committee includes Edward Arnold, Charles Brackett, William Goetz, Hope, John LeRoy Johnston, Robert Riskin, Hal Wallis, Lyle Wheeler, Frank Whitbeck, Don Gledhill.

Meantime the following short subjects have been named for final consideration by members of the awards rules committee and the Academy board:

One-reel subjects—"Quicker'n a Wink," Pete Smith Specialty, M-G-M; "London Can Take It," Vitaphone Varieties, Warner; "More About Nostradamus," Carey Wilson Miniature, M-G-M; "Siege," Pathe.

Two-reel subjects—"Eyes of the Navy," produced by Frank Whitbeck, M-G-M; "Service With the Colors," Warner, produced by Gordon Hollingshead; "Teddy the Rough Rider," produced by Hollingshead, Warner.

Cartoons — "Puss Gets the Boot," M-G-M; "Milky Way," M-G-M; "A Wild Hare," Leon Schlesinger, for Warner.

Further, Wanger has appointed a Special Effect Award Committee which will select the one production to be recognized as the outstanding special effect achievement of the year. With Farciot Edouart as chairman, committee includes: Lionel Banks, Jack Cosgrove, Arnold Gillespie, Alexander Golitzen, Byron Haskin, Bernard Herzbrun, Stanley Horsley, Kenneth Lambert, Harry Leonard, Louis Mesenkop, Jack Otterson, Elmer Raguse, Roy Seawright, Fred Sersen, Hal Shaw, James Stewart, S. J. Twining, Vernon Walker and Fred Wilson.

Monta Bell Joins Para't As Associate Producer

Monta Bell has joined Paramount as an associate producer. An industry veteran, he was an associate producer at M-G-M and executive producer of the old Paramount Eastern studio in Astoria, Long Island. Bell is now reading scripts, announcement of his first assignment to be made shortly. At the same studio Harold Wilson has been appointed assistant to B. G. DeSylva, new executive producer, moving over from the Sol C. Siegel production unit.

7-Year Pact for Jane

Twentieth-Fox has given Jane Withers a new seven-year contract.

Screen Stars in Ascap's Musical Show in Hemet

Film stars were well represented in the musical show staged in Hemet February 19 by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in conjunction with that town's annual Ramona Pageant.

First in a projected series of barnstorming trips, the junkets itinerary included Edward G. Robinson, Betty Grable, Jack Oakie, Mary Healy, Frank Fay, Constance Moore, Ray Bolger and Mary Whiting. Ascap songwriters attending included Gus Kahn, Hoagy Carmichael, Sam Coslow, Arthur Schwartz, Clarence Muse, Wolfe Gilbert, Harold Arlen, Ned Washington and Harry Akst.

RKO Executive Setup May Get Revamping

That changes in RKO Radio's studio executive setup may be impending is seen as a possibility, although neither confirmed nor denied by those authorized to voice opinions, as the result of a statement issued by George J. Schaefer, president of the company, declaring he has assumed full charge of all studio activity and will remain in Hollywood indefinitely. Schaefer's statement read:

"My stay on the coast is for an indefinite period. While here I will take complete charge of the studio. J. J. Nolan will continue to act as my assistant."

This declaration came on the eve of the launching of product and sales parleys in which Ned E. Depinet, vice-president in charge of distribution; Schaefer, Nolan and Harry E. Edington, executive producer, were to participate. It closely followed an earlier statement by Schaefer denying emphatically rumors which had been circulating to the effect Depinet would be placed in charge of the studio.

On Wednesday the company officially announced that J. R. McDonough, a vice-president, would assume the executive duties formerly held by Lee Marcus. Marcus will serve as associate producer under McDonough who will continue to handle, as in the past, the company's relations with independent producers. It was also announced that Dan Winkler, who joined the company a year ago, would continue in charge of studio commitments.

Lauds Financial Condition

Schaefer is expressing optimism as to prospects for the coming year, having asserted upon his arrival that, despite chaos abroad and the loss of foreign markets, the company which he heads has weathered one of the severest crises in the industry's history, without borrowing from the banks, and is not indebted to its parent company for current production. This is true, Schaefer pointed out, despite reduction in foreign currencies and serious restrictions on the flow of foreign funds. The RKO Radio president stated that two new releases, "Kitty Foyle" and "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," are among the biggest money-makers in the company's history.

Following their attendance at Universal's recent annual sales meeting in Chicago, Cliff Work, in charge of studio operations; Dan Kelly, chief of the talent-scouting division; and Milton H. Feld, executive producer, are back at the studio. John Joseph, advertising-publicity director, was expected to return later in the week, having spent a month away from his desk. During that time he accompanied Deanna Durbin to the President's Birthday Ball in Washington and to the Miami premiere of "Back Street," then went to Chicago for the sales session and on to New York for homeoffice conferences.

Terminating conferences on future production and budgets, A. Montague, Columbia's general sales manager, and Leo Jaffe, assistant to the treasurer, have returned to New York. Remaining here a few days longer to wind up their huddles are Jack Cohn, vice-president, and A. Schneider, company treasurer.

Also going east, after a week at the Culver City studio, was Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's, Inc. He huddled with Louis B. Mayer, E. J. Mannix and other local executives on new productions planned for spring and early summer.

Trem Carr, member of the Monogram board of directors, has followed President W. Ray Johnston to New York, where they are conferring with other company executives on plans for future product. Johnston will remain away from his local headquarters for several weeks, as he plans to stop off at various key centers en route back to Hollywood for conferences with district managers, franchise holders and other exchange officials.

March Start Scheduled For "Strange Victory"

For United Artists, Sol Lesser has pegged a March starting date on "Strange Victory," from a story by Rose Franklen and William Brown Meloney. A UA release has also been set for "The Eagle Squadron," which Argosy Corp. will launch in March in an affiliated deal with Walter Wanger. Wanger himself is preparing "Sundown" for an early getaway.

Other independents with UA releases planning early production starts include Edward Small, who recently announced a $5,000,000 program of five pictures; Richard A. Rowland, preparing "The Battle of Britain;" Hal Roach, soon to roll "Niagara Falls" and David O. Selznick, readying "Jane Eyre."

Freeman Will Again Lead Producers

Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of Paramount's studio operations, has been re-elected president of the Producers Association. He was unanimously selected for a second term at a meeting of the board of directors on the occasion of the seventeenth anniversary of the organization.

Also re-elected for a second term were: E. J. Mannix, M-G-M, first vice-president; Cliff Work, Universal, second vice-president; and Fred W. Beetson, executive vice-president.

Attending the session, in addition to the elected officers, were Will H. Hays, Harry Cohn, J. R. McDonough, William Goetz, Walter Wanger, H. M. Warner, Maurice Benjamin, George Cohen, George Wasson, Alfred Wright, Jack Karp, Homer Mitchell, Herbert Freston and Mendel Silberberg.

Following election of officers association members voted to resume negotiations February 20 with the Screen Actors Guild on that organization's demands that extra players be reclassified and given wage increases. Approval was also given for a wage increase requested by Studio Scenic Artists. Hays, here from New York on one of his periodic visits, spoke briefly on the foreign and domestic situation.

Produce "Pioneers"

Monogram will produce "The Pioneers," from the James Fenimore Cooper novel, as a special feature starring Tex Ritter. It rolls late in February with Edward Finney producing from a script by Charles Anderson.

Link Herbert Yates With PRC Setup

Possibility that Herbert J. Yates, through his Consolidated Film Industries, may indirectly enter into the Producers Releasing Corp. setup insofar as its financial destinies are concerned, is indicated in disclosures by PRC spokesmen that the company may switch its laboratory contract away from Pathe to Consolidated or another processing firm. Officials assert, however, that to date there has been no decision on the matter, although admitting that one deal with Consolidated has already been set whereby the laboratory work on "Federal Fugitives," forthcoming film to be produced by John T. Coyle, will be done by the Yates company.

Meantime "Laddie's Loyalty," script by Martin Mooney, has been added to Jed Buell's schedule for PRC. Built around the truelife story of the Airedale who died when his master left his home in Kansas to join the draft army, it will roll March 4 with William Beaudine directing. Buell will follow this with "Emergency Landing," also written by Mooney.

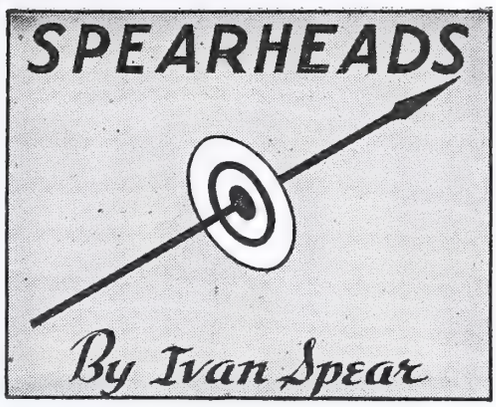
Now in production on location in Tucson, Ariz., is "Tumbledown Ranch in Arizona," newest in the "Range Busters" western series being produced by George W. Weeks for Monogram release. Feminine lead has been handed to Sheila Darcy.

For RKO Radio release, William Hawks' United Productions has rolled "My Life With Caroline." Lewis Milestone is directing Ronald Colman and Anna Lee in the leads. Following its completion, the Hawks unit moves to 20th Century-Fox to prepare "The Red Pony" from a John Steinbeck story.

With camera work pegged to begin in April, Orson Welles has dispatched Cinematographer Gregg Toland to Mexico to pick up background footage and scout locations for Welles' next film for RKO Radio.

Talk Plans for Second "Gambol of the Stars"

Plans for the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Radio Artists' second annual "Gambol of the Stars," to be held March 17 at the Ambassador Cocoanut Grove, were discussed at a press luncheon at which Edward Arnold, George Murphy, Bette Davis, Lucile Gleason, Porter Hall and Robert Montgomery were hosts. They are committee chairmen for the affair. Representatives of the trade, metropolitan and syndicate press attended.



MARK Twain's classic observation, "everybody talks about the weather but nobody ever does anything about it," might also be applied to that nebulous industry panacea—New Blood.

During the past week, however, came a demonstration that Hollywood, probably in spite of itself, has apparently done something about it. The "something" was reflected in two new features shown to the reviewing press. They are RKO Radio's "Scattergood Baines" and Columbia's "Adam Had Four Sons." Each is the initial productional effort of a young fellow with virtually no previous experience in motion picture making. Each, in its respective budget class, is a highly commendable accomplishment, for which any more-seasoned, established and high-salaried production executive would be happy and proud to take bows.

"Scattergood Baines" is brought to the screen by Jerrold T. Brandt, son of the late Joe Brandt, former Columbia executive. Young Brandt, now only 27, incorporated Pyramid Pictures last July; went out and paid a cold $100,000 for the rights to 104 of Clarence Budington Kelland's "Scattergood" stories; and with those under his arm set a three-year deal to produce three films yearly for RKO Radio. It was his first sally into the production field, his previous experience in motion pictures having been limited to work as a film cutter.

One Robert Sherwood produced the Columbia film. He, 29 years old, had been a jack-of-all trades before deciding to take a fling at Hollywood—having pursued such professions as radio announcing, stage acting, singing and even playing the oboe—on which instrument he became proficient enough to last a season with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Having secured an option on what he considered promising film material, Charles Bonner's novel, "Legacy," Sherwood trekked to New York and diligently applied himself until he secured financial backing, in the process of which his earnestness apparently overcame any qualms his backer might have entertained because of Sherwood's complete inexperience in picture production. Then he went out and signed Warner Baxter for the male lead, succeeded in borrowing Ingrid Bergman from David O. Selznick for the top feminine role, and set a releasing deal with Columbia.

When a new producer is born in Hollywood, which generally admits its constant and crying need for new blood transfusions, it is noteworthy. When a pair of them put in an appearance in the same week it is nothing short of an event.

Especially is it an event worthy of the attention of the graybeards who delight in creating the impression, probably to help in justifying their princely salaries, that nothing but a rare blend of genius and nerve-racking experience can make a producer.

More power to young Messers. Brandt and Sherwood, and may the near future uncover more like them.

An interesting sidelight in connection with the Brandt film is the immediate and obvious conclusion that well-made motion pictures are still far superior to the radio in capturing the true atmosphere and character of a fictional figure. Countless thousands of readers are familiar with the down-to-earth philosophies and shrewd Yankee operations of Kelland's Sage of Coldriver. Guy Kibbee's interpretation of "Scattergood" comes miles closer to fitting the popular conception of the character, his associates and his environment, than does the radio program based on the same stories.

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An ominous, status quo silence has descended upon the William Randolph Hearst-Orson Welles controvery concerning whether or not the boy wonder's quadruple-threat production, "Citizen Kane," is to be released and, if so, when and in what form. Contending that the film story parallels his own life, and in none-too-flattering vein, the publisher demanded that it be shelved. The ticklish problem was dumped into the lap of George J. Schaefer, RKO Radio president, and repeated promises have been forthcoming during the past few weeks that a final decision would be made and announced by him following huddles with board members in New York. The pow-wows have come and gone, Mr. Schaefer is now in Hollywood, where he announces that his stay on the coast is for an indefinite period and that, while here, he will take complete charge of the studio.

But there is still no word about "Citizen Kane," when it will be previewed and when, if ever, it will be released. In the meantime, "Look," picture magazine edited by the Clan of Cowles, itself no small potatoes in the publishing world, breaks forth with three pages of action stills from the production and a review of the picture. Which brought a confession from the artful dodgers in RKO Radio's studio publicity department that "Citizen Kane" has been shown to a handful of favored reviewers in addition to Louella O. Parsons, Hearst's motion picture editor, who demanded to see it many weeks ago so she could decide whether or not it did her boss wrong. The "Look" layout and review certainly belies the glib statements from studio spokesmen that the Welles production "is not a story of Hearst's life but, rather, a composite of the careers of several prominent fourth-estaters." It can do nothing but add further fuel to the fires, assuming that the Sultan of San Simeon was not sufficiently burned before its appearance. Perry Lieber's department passes the buck to Herbert Drake, Welles' personal publicist and currently the fattest fly in Lieber's ointment.

Regardless of where the blame falls for woeful and continued mishandling of public and trade relations in the deplorable situation, it becomes increasingly obvious that RKO Radio has a celluloid bear by the tail, with every indication that further procrastination, equivocation and buck-passing will add to the bruin's ferocity. The press, the trade and the public are entitled to know what is going to happen.

Nostalgic, Neophytes, Nags

The long dry spell which had Hollywood reviewers talking to themselves came to a sudden end with six pictures combining to bring the weekly preview catalogue up to normal. Four were topnotch offerings in their respective fields and two of them were debuted with an accompaniment of free viands and vitamins.

In "The Strawberry Blonde" Warner expertly blends a full measure of laughs, a few tears, a large helping of romance and a dash of bittersweet nostalgia against authentic backgrounds, atmosphere and music of the Gay Nineties. Compounded as a result is a story which, in the hands of a first-rate cast, is a film treat for which great popularity and profit may be confidently predicted. The film is quite a triumph for the Cagneys; William, of that family, having turned in a topnotch job as producer, his second assignment, while James, sharing star billing with Olivia de Havilland and Rita Hayworth, grabs all the acting honors in a part which fits his talents like a pair of hand-made boots, even though his co-stars score effectively. The well-typed supporting cast, headed by Alan Hale and Jack Carson, adds its sizeable bit to the excellence of the entry. Julius J. and Philip G. Epstein concocted the script, using as its basis a play by James Hagan. To his growing list of directorial successes, Raoul Walsh adds another winner with his top-flight piloting job.

"Adam Had Four Sons," Robert Sherwood's first production, being released by Columbia, is a finely-made and impressive vehicle into which has been incorporated enough entertainment elements to indicate profitable patronage. The feature may require smart merchandising to garner the grosses to which it is entitled in its first runs, but when once it begins to benefit from the word-of-mouth acclaim that obvious merit will engender, it should hit its

(Continued on next page)

Spearheads

(Continued from preceding page)

full stride with no difficulty. Acute romanticists and sentimentalists probably will find it irresistible, since the script by William Hurlbut and Michael Blankfort, from Charles Bonner's novel, "Legacy," specializes in love of several varieties. Gregory Ratoff displays understanding and restraint in an effective piece of direction. Furthermore, the cast is a splendid one. Warner Baxter re-establishes himself as one of filmdom's better actors in a part ideally suited to his mature talents; while Ingrid Bergman, sharing top honors, appears to incalculably greater advantage than in her previous Hollywood assignments.

Spiced with dry humor, the required rustic backgrounds and romance, RKO Radio's "Scattergood Baines" should prove a solid hit, in its own unassuming way, with the millions who are fans of Clarence Budington Kelland's famous fictional character. First in a proposed series to be produced by Jerrold T. Brandt's Pyramid Pictures, it is a distinct triumph for him. Brandt, together with Frank Melford, his production executive, merit praise for the successful manner in which they ensnared the atmosphere of Coldriver, "Scattergood's" home town, and for delivering a package of well-made, wholesome entertainment. Christy Cabanne directed; Michael L. Simmons and Edward T. Lowe wrote the script. The title role was made to measure for Guy Kibbee, and his delineation of the shrewd Yankee philosopher should delight all who have read the Kelland stories and listened to the radio program.

Metro's "The Trial of Mary Dugan," remade after 12 years, remains effective dramatic entertainment, well written, performed and directed. Deftly handling the top roles are Laraine Day and Robert Young, while supporting assignments are pleasingly fulfilled by Tom Conway, John Litel and Marjorie Main. Edwin Knopf, who produced, also contributed the major portion of the script, written from the Bayard Veiller play. Norman Z. McLeod handled the directorial reins with his accustomed competence.

* * *

Quite an improvement over the last two or three Jane Withers vehicles is 20th Century-Fox's "Golden Hoofs," a treatise on the sport of harness-racing, which should exert considerable appeal in those sectors where the Withers name is a marquee magnet. Jane, now virtually full-grown, has discarded most of her ebullient mannerisms and carries herself with a more subdued and pleasing demeanour. Worthy of mention is the screen return of Charles (Buddy) Rogers, acquitting himself very creditably; while comedy honors go to a little colored lad, Phillip Hurlick. Produced by Walter Morosco and Ralph Dietrich, it was directed by Lynn Shores. Ben Grauman Kohn scripted from a story by Roy Chanslor and Thomas Langan.

* * *

Tex Ritter returns to the time-honored formula for crooning cowhands in "Ridin' the Cherokee Trail" and his new adventure, consequently, is much better than the chapter which immediately preceded it. As middle-scale western fare, the Edward Finney production, released by Monogram, will serve in the market for which it was made. Musical moments are supplied by Ritter and the Tennessee Ramblers. Spencer G. Bennet directed from a script by Edmond Kelso.



An Aim to Please—

Whenever corpulent Director Alfred Hitchcock feels in the mood to drop into the Hawaii Theatre in Hollywood this specially built, streamlined and tailor-made seat will be waiting for him. Nearly three times the size of the ordinary theatre seat, it was reserved for Hitchcock when "Rebecca," which he directed for David O. Selznick, opened at the theatre recently. Seat, built by Kroehler, has a reinforced steel back, reinforced cushions on steel supports, and the parts are electrically welded instead of bolted.



With New York Behind—

After broadcasting from the east for four weeks, Edward G. Robinson (right), star of Rinso's "Big Town" program, and Ona Munson, his leading lady, arrive back in Hollywood to resume ether activities from the west coast.

Cinémarks

Producer Robert C. Sherwood has planed out for New York to launch preparations for his second film effort. His initialer, "Adam Had Four Sons," is being released by Columbia.

*

After a week of conferences here with Samuel Goldwyn in which the possibility of his handling the producer's advertising-publicity account was discussed, Lynn Farnol, former United Artists exploiteer, has returned to New York.

*

Billy Grady, Metro talent scout, is in New York looking at the new shows and players.

*

Frank Donovan, producer of the "Picture People" and "Information Please" shorts for RKO Pathe, planed in from New York for conferences with local executives.

Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of Warner production, has left for a long vacation in Arizona. He returns some time in March to attend studio meetings for which home office executives will come west.

*

Charles Coburn planed to Seattle to attend a two-day session of the annual University of Washington Theatre Conference.

*

Frank Freeman jr., now in active service with the navy and stationed at San Diego, has been assigned to the first organized division for local defense. Previously he was in the Jack Moss production unit at Paramount . . . Mickey Rooney has checked out for a three-week vacation in Honolulu.

See Central Casting Service Relegated

Another phase of the unemployment situation confronting extra and bit players is being subjected to official scrutiny with the disclosure by Howard R. Philbrick, general manager of Central Casting Corp., that in the majority of instances his organization is not being utilized to the fullest advantage by the studios seeking extra players. During January, his figures reveal, out of a total of 12,114 assignments only 4,681 were handled through Central, with the balance coming through direct hiring of the extras by the studios themselves. Earnings were $132,636.90, nearly $90,000 under January, 1939.

Philbrick is expected to confer with Screen Actors Guild and producer association officials with a view to urging that studios use Central to a greater extent, while he and other Central officials will also participate in scheduled SAG-producer conferences out of which it is expected several hundred so-called "casual" extras, who worked 20 days or less in 1940, will be dropped from the list of eligible players. The resultant decrease, it is believed, will increase placements and earnings for the remaining extras.

"Speculative" Writing Frown

With their next meeting scheduled for February 26, members of the producer-Screen Directors Guild conciliation committee met to discuss the SDG's demands for establishment of minimum wage scales, a 90 per cent Guild shop and other adjustments in its current studio contract. Phil Rosen and George Stevens are sitting in for the SDG, with B. B. Kahane and Roy J. Obringer representing the producers.

Motion Picture Set Electricians, Local 728, has filed demands with producers for a minimum six-hour call, improved wages and working conditions, as have the Motion Picture Studio Grips, Local 80. Now being readied by the Photographers Local 659, IATSE, are demands for a shorter work-week and wage increases.

Screen Writers Guild is drafting demands for a ban on so-called "speculative" writing, to be included in the new contract it is seeking when its current agreement with the producers expires in April. The SWG will also seek a minimum wage scale for "flat" and "package" deals and a readjustment of the present method of allocating screen credits. Negotiating committee, headed by President Sheridan W. Gibney, will meet with producers within a week.

Unit at Disney Plant

Completion of a unit at the Walt Disney studio has been announced by the Screen Cartoonists Guild, which recently filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board charging the Disney plant with "unfair" labor practices and seeking to supplant the Federation of Screen Cartoonists, which it alleges is a company union, as bargaining representative for cartoonists at the studio. Meantime the NLRB has ordered a consent election of firemen and policemen at 20th Century-Fox to choose a bargaining representative. Voting is set for February 26 with George Yager, NLRB field examiner, in charge. Studio organizations of firemen and policemen will compete in the balloting against the Building Service Employes, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

To discuss the Screen Office Employes Guild's efforts to negotiate an industry-wide agreement for clerical workers, the Hollywood Guild Council held a meeting with President Ed Gilbert as chairman. The HGC is cooperating with the SOEG in the latter craft's drive to obtain a contract.

Replacing Gloria Stuart, absent from California, Walter Pidgeon has been named an alternate member of the Screen Actors Guild's board of directors. The SAG has been named defendant, together with Central Casting Corp., in a suit filed in municipal court by Jose Luis Rodriguez, bit player, seeking $1,697 in damages on the contention the SAG denied him a "leniency work permit" because he was delinquent in dues. This refusal, he alleges, has lost him several weeks' employment.

"Hard-Boiled Canary" to Bow in Dallas March 8

Ending a short lull in the out-of-town premiere cycle, Paramount has announced plans to debut "The Hard-Boiled Canary" in Dallas, Tex., March 8, with proceeds going to the British War Relief Fund.

Civic and business leaders of the city are aiding in the arrangements. The 3,800-seat State Fair Auditorium is being wired for sound under the direction of Interstate Theatre circuit engineers and the price scale has been set at $2.00 for the matinee performance, $2.50 for the evening show.

Allan Jones, Susanna Foster and Dolly Loehr, who star in the film, will make stage appearances, doing musical numbers accompanied by the 80-piece Dallas symphony orchestra. The stars will also attend a $10-per-plate banquet March 7.

Here to negotiate with prominent British actors to make the trip is Gordon Guiberson, Dallas oil man, who heads the committee of sponsors for the event.

Hedy Out of "Uniform" Because of Illness

Illness of Hedy Lamarr, as a result of which she is scheduled for a session with the dentist, has forced her withdrawal from the cast of M-G-M's "The Uniform." She has been replaced by Rosalind Russell, playing opposite Clark Gable in her first role for her home studio since "The Women." Hunt Stromberg is producing and Clarence Brown is the director.

Set New Arlen Vehicle

Picture Corp. of America will gun "Forced Landing," April 15 for release through Paramount. Starring Richard Arlen, it will be the second in a series of three aviation melodramas being produced by William H. Pine and William C. Thomas.

48 Films Shooting; No Letup in Sight

With a total of 48 features—almost a record in itself—now in production, every indication points to a continuation of this blistering pace throughout the balance of this month and in March in Hollywood's picture-making studios. Ten more films will be fed into the hopper in February and 24 have already been lined up for camera work next month.

Studio by studio, the schedules look like this:

Columbia—"Chain Gang" and "Texas." Metro—"The Uniform" and "Smilin' Through." Monogram — "Tumbledown Ranch in Arizona," "Widows of the Press" and "The Pioneers."

Paramount—"Aloma of the South Seas," "Two Bad Angels," "Buy Me That Town" and "Little Miss Muffett." Republic—"Rookies on Parade," "Angels Without Wings" and "The Lady From New Orleans."

RKO Radio—"True to Form," an untitled Kay Kyser musical, "Horseback Hurricane" and "Water Gypsies." In April it will launch "Father Takes a Wife." Twentieth Century-Fox—"Miami," "Man Hunt," "Private Nurse," "Last of the Duanes" and "Man Alive." United Artists—"The Battle of Britain," "Jungle Book," "Strange Victory," and "Jane Eyre." "Niagara Falls" rolls in April for UA.

Universal—"Hit the Road," "The Black Cat" and "Mutiny in the Arctic." Warner—"Bad Men of Missouri," "Hard to Get" and, in April, "Navy Blues."

Plan Another Broadcast For Greek War Relief

Having enrichened the coffers of the Greek War Relief Fund by an approximate $150,000 through its all-star broadcast from the stage of Grauman's Chinese Theatre February 8, the Motion Picture Permanent Charities Committee, with Samuel Goldwyn as chairman, is now engaged in planning another broadcast for benefit of the same organization.

Program will be staged at the Shrine Auditorium February 25 and will be an all-musical affair titled "Cavalcade of American Music." Ascap officials, including President Gene Buck, will participate, and George M. Cohan will be on hand. Screen tunesmiths including Hoagy Carmichael, Jimmy Van Heusen, Walter Donaldson, Gus Kahn, Mack Gordon, Bert Kalmar, Harry Ruby, Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger, and others, are scheduled to participate. Alfred Newman, 20th Century-Fox musical director, will conduct a 75-piece orchestra. Program will be heard locally over Station KFWB.

Rudy Vallee and Alan Mowbray were co-masters of ceremonies at a British War Relief benefit performance held in Palm Springs February 15.

Lead in "Chain Gang"

Gloria Dickson will play the feminine lead in Columbia's "Chain Gang."

Hollywood—
—Personnelities

Barnstormers

Loew-Lewin

ALBERT LEWIN, co-producer with David L. Loew of the United Artists release, "So Ends Our Night," addressed the students of four colleges and five high schools in Washington, D. C., tracing the making of a picture from story conception to release. Lewin has, for the past several weeks, been making a lecture tour of major eastern universities.

Paramount

STIRLING HAYDEN has checked in from p. a. tour through New England to prepare for his next assignment, "Dildo Cay."

Blurbers

Globe

JOHNNY MILES returns from San Diego, where he spent the weekend conferring with President James Roosevelt on exploitation plans for "Pot O' Gold."

United Artists

LEW MAREN checks out for San Francisco and Oakland to work out campaigns on several forthcoming releases.

Warner Bros.

MARTY WEISER has checked out for San Francisco to handle special exploitation on "Strawberry Blonde."

Briefies

Metro

JAMES FITZPATRICK given new contract, beginning his twelfth year with the studio, and will produce a dozen more Traveltalks in Technicolor.

Neil McGuire

COBY NEAL signed to appear in five musical brevities for dime-in-slot projection.

Pathe

LOUISE ROUSSEAU is including shots of the "Moon Gates" of Anna May Wong's Santa Monica home in the next episode of "Picture People."

Warner Bros.

CARL HOFF and orchestra starring in a "Melody Master" short which Jean Negulesco is directing.

Cleffers

Metro

EARL BRENT has completed a comedy song-and-dance routine for use in night-club sequences in "Washington Melodrama."

HERBERT STOTHART directing musical score for "The Uniform."

RUDY KOPP conducting score for "The Trial of Mary Dugan."

CONSTANTIN BAKALEINIKOFF named musical conductor on "Free and Easy."

Paramount

VICTOR YOUNG composing musical score for "Caught in the Draft."

Loanouts

Metro

JACK CARSON borrowed from Warner for a topline in "Love Crazy," the William Powell-Myrna Loy co-starrer.

Picture Corp. of America

EVE GABOR, borrowed from Paramount, given feminine lead opposite Richard Arlen in "Forced Landing," which Paramount will release.

20th Century-Fox

RITA HAYWORTH borrowed from Columbia for a topline in the Tyrone Power starrer, "Blood and Sand."

Meggers

Metro

JOE NEWMAN piloting "Watchdog of the Nation," a Carey Wilson short.

S. SYLVAN SIMON piloting "Washington Melodrama," an Edgar Selwyn production with Frank Morgan, Ann Rutherford and John Shelton in the toplines. Story is by L. Du Rocker Macpherson.

Pyramid Pictures

CHRISTY CABANNE to pilot "Scattergood Pulls the Strings," second in the series of "Scattergood Baines" stories which Jerry Brandt is producing for RKO Radio. Michael Simmons is scripting from a Clarence Budington Kelland story.

RKO Radio

DAVID HEMPSTEAD to produce "Joan of Paris," original by Jacques Thiery and Georges Kessels, to star Michele Morgan, French stage and screen player, in her American film debut. Thiery and Kessels are scripting.

Republic

JOSEPH SANTLEY to direct "Rookies on Parade."

Stephens-Lang

ERLE C. KENTON to direct the next "Dr. Christian" feature, starring Jean Hersholt, for RKO Radio release.

Warner Bros

MICHAEL CURTIZ to pilot "Dive Bomber," next Errol Flynn starrer. Backgrounds are being filmed at Pensacola, Fla.

Options

Columbia

JOAN MERRILL, night club singer, and **WILLIAM GARGAN** draw toplines in "Show Business," Irving Starr production.

GENE REYNOLDS given juvenile lead in "Senate Page Boys."

GLORIA DICKSON given feminine lead in "Chain Gang."

EDWARD DMYTRYK given new four-picture directorial contract. He is currently piloting "Under Age."

BRENDA and **COBINA,** comedy duo on the Bob Hope radio program, given featured roles in "Show Business."

Metro

LEON GORDON, writer, held for another term.

CLARENCE MUSE draws a role in "Love Crazy."

Paramount

RICHARD CARLSON signed for the male lead opposite Anne Shirley in "Little Miss Muffett."

JIMMY LYDON and **CHARLES PECK** signed for the leads in "Henry and Dizzy," next in the Aldrich Family series. They replace Jackie Cooper and Eddie Bracken.

Range Busters, Inc.

EDWIN BRIAN signs four-picture acting commitment to appear in the "Range Busters" westerns for Monogram.

RKO Radio

JANE SEYMOUR, stage actress, draws featured role in "Tom, Dick and Harry."

DOROTHY LEE given a topline in "Repent at Leisure."

HARRY CAREY joins cast of "Parachute Battalion."

Republic

VINCE BARNETT given comedy role in "Mr. District Attorney."

Universal

BUD ABBOTT and **LOU COSTELLO** held for two more pictures. They are now co-starring in "Oh, Charlie."

Warner Bros.

SLIM SUMMERVILLE joins cast of "Highway West."

ROBERT PORTERFIELD, founder, producer and director of the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, given featured role in "Sergeant York."

EDDIE ALBERT boosted to star rating and given role in "The Gentle People."

MARLENE DIETRICH signed for the feminine starring role in "Hard to Get," with George Raft and Humphrey Bogart in the other top spots. Raoul Walsh will direct for Producer Mark Hellinger from a script being prepared by Jerry Wald and Richard Macaulay.

FRITZ FELD draws comedy lead in "Three Sons O' Guns."

MORONI OLSEN given a topline in "Three Sons O' Guns."

Scripters

Columbia

FRANCIS MARTIN to "Pack Up Your Troubles" for Producer Robert Sparks.

HENRY K. MORITZ to "Eadie Was a Lady," forthcoming Gene Markey production.

MICHAEL BLANKFORT and **LEWIS MELTZER** to "Texas," William Holden starrer which George Marshall will direct.

E. B. Derr

STANLEY WALLACE to "Confession," from a play by James Halleck Reid. Production start is scheduled for April 15.

Alexander Korda

SAMUEL HOFFENSTEIN teamed with **JULIEN DUVIVIER** on an untitled Merle Oberon starrer.

Metro

JULIAN HOCHFELDER to an untitled John Nesbitt Passing Parade short subject.

DALTON TRUMBO to "Somewhere I'll Find You," from a Charles Hoffman original, which Pandro S. Berman will produce.

HUGO BUTLER and **JACK JEVNE** to an untitled Wallace Beery starrer.

Paramount

SIDNEY BIDELL joins writing staff on term contract.

BEN HOLMES to "Birth of the Blues," Bing Crosby-Mary Martin co-starrer, which Mark Sandrich will produce and direct.

JONATHAN LATIMER to "Sing a Song of Homicide."

Pyramid Pictures

MICHAEL SIMMONS to "Scattergood Pulls the Strings," second in the "Scattergood Baines" series which Jerrold Brandt will produce for RKO Radio release. Cameras turn in March.

Republic

DORRELL and **STUART McGOWAN** to "Old Grey Mare," an Armand Schaefer production.

RKO Radio

PAUL GERARD SMITH to "Lord Epping in Scotland," forthcoming Leon Errol comedy which Cliff Reid will produce.

David O. Selznick

PETE VIERTEL given term writing contract. He is the son of Salka Viertel, M-G-M contract writer.

20th Century-Fox

HORACE McCOY to "Sioux City," for Producer Harry Joe Brown.

JOHN LARKIN to "Nazi Ace in the U. S. A.," from a Ralph Dietrich original.

CARL KRUEGER teamed with **HORACE McCOY** on "Sioux City" for Producer Harry Joe Brown.

DUDLEY NICHOLS to "Swamp Water," from the Vereen Bell novel.

Warner Bros.

FRED NIBLO JR. to "Man Killer," from a story by Raoul Whitefield.

Story Buys

Metro

"Odor of Violets," by Baynard Kendrick.

Paramount

"Cupid With a Beard," by Michael Uris, as a Bing Crosby starrer. It has a Latin American background.

Republic

"Newspapermen Are Human," by Michael Fessier. George Arthur will produce.

"Hell on Wings," aviation story by Martin Williams.

RKO Radio

"The Play's the Thing," play by Ferenc Molnar, as a Charles Laughton starrer which Robert Sisk will produce. Sam and Bella Spewack will script.

Warner Bros.

"Two Steps to Heaven," by Arthur Strawn and Jan Leman.

Technically

Columbia

ED ZIEGLER replaces **LES WHITE** as lenser on "Senate Page Boys." White has been called back to M-G-M, his home lot, for another assignment.

GENE ANDERSON named assistant director on "Show Business."

GEORGE MONTGOMERY named art director on "Senate Page Boys."

Howard Hughes

GREGG TOLAND, completing the lensing of "The Outlaw," has left for Mazatlan, Mexico, to join Director John Ford on a combined vacation and location-scouting expedition.

Metro

BILL DANIELS lensing "The Uniform."

GEORGE FOLSEY to lens "Lady Be Good."

HENRY JAFFE named Technicolor expert on "Blossoms in the Dust" and "Billy the Kid."

RKO Radio

A camera and special effects unit has trained out for Miami Beach to pick up backgrounds and atmosphere for "My Life With Caroline," the William Hawks production which Lewis Milestone is to direct.

Warner Bros.

HUGH NETICKER named art director on "The Smiling Ghost."

JACK KILLIFER to edit "Highway West."

GEORGE HOPKINS named art director on "The Gentle People."

WALTER TILFORD set as art director on "Three Sons O' Guns."

DOUG GOULD to edit "The Nurse's Secret."

TERRY MORSE to edit "Three Sons O' Guns."

Exhaustive Survey To Improve Sound

LOS ANGELES—Out of a total of 200 theatres scattered throughout the nation, ten houses in the Southern California exhibition area will, within the next week or ten days, be offered as guinea-pigs in an exhaustive survey of acoustical qualities and measurements being undertaken by the Academy Research Council with the cooperation of Altec Service Corp.

From this survey, according to Gordon S. Mitchell, chairman of the Academy group, it is hoped a standard system of acoustical measurements can be worked out which eventually will vastly improve sound quality and strongly effect the design of new motion picture theatres.

Representing Altec on the committee which will conduct the local analysis are G. L. Carrington, vice-president in charge of the engineering department, and Stanley Pariseau, manager of the Los Angeles branch. As yet, Pariseau declared, just which theatres will be used has not been decided, although Fox West Coast and many independent operators have offered their houses for the experiment.

Committee here, in addition to Carrington and Pariseau, includes Jack Durst, Lloyd Goldsmith, John Hilliard, Homer Tasker and M. C. Rettinger, all studio sound engineers.

A tentative system of acoustical measurements was first worked out by this group over a period of a month or more, using a Columbia Broadcasting System theatre turned over to it for that purpose. It is expected that the 200-theatre survey, which has already been launched in some territories, will take at least another month to complete.

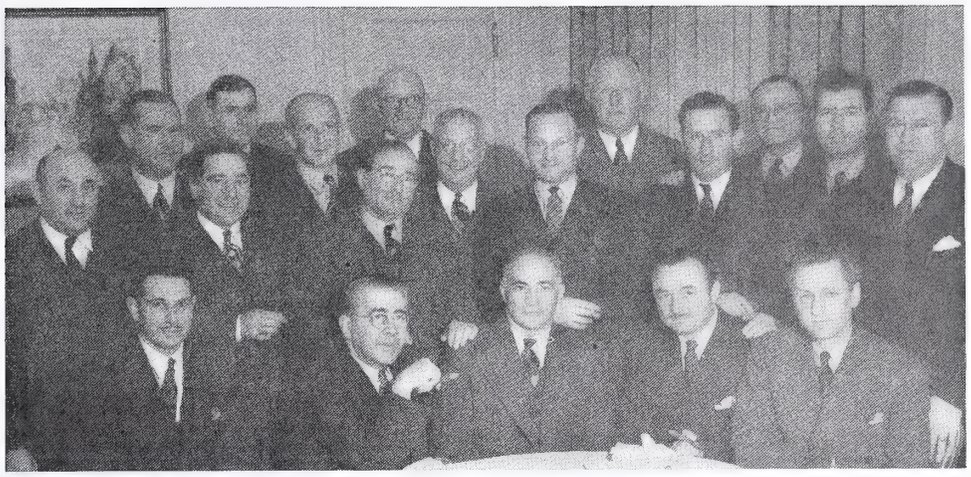
Money and Goodwill in A Boy Scout Program

GLENDALE, CAL.—Extra business and customer good-will was the reward when Ed Harris, manager of Fox West Coast's Glendale, presented a special "Boy Scout Anniversary Program" on a Saturday matinee in observance of National Boy Scout Week.

Harris piped in the broadcast of President Roosevelt's address to the Boy Scouts as the program's finale. Preceding the broadcast, Scouts participated in a stage show demonstrating their activities, presenting merit badges, community singing and a short address by the local Boy Scout commissioner. Local schools cooperated and the stunt received considerable publicity in newspaper columns.

Mrs. Helen E. Berry

SEATTLE—Mrs. Helen E. Berry, owner of the Princess Theatre in Edmonds, just 15 miles from Seattle, died suddenly last week at her home. She had lived in Edmonds the past 20 years. Her husband died last May. Mrs. Lionel Brown, a daughter, will carry on at the theatre. Every exchange on Filmrow was represented at the funeral as well as many exhibitors from the Northwest.



San Franciscans Fete George Smith—

Standing, left to right: Herman Cohen, manager United Artists Theatre; Hugh Braly, newly appointed district manager; George Nasser, Nasser Brothers theatres; Gerald Hardy, Hardy circuit; George Smith, newly appointed western division sales manager, Paramount Pictures; Sam Levin, S. F. Theatres, Inc.; Arch Bowles, FWC Theatres; Charles Thall, FWC Theatres; Abe Blumenfeld, Blumenfeld circuit; George Mann, Mann circuit; Vern Taylor, McNeil & Naify circuit; Neal East, Paramount branch manager, S. F.; Jack Curry, district short subjects manager, Paramount; Roy C. Cooper, McNeil & Naify Circuit. Seated, left to right: William David, George Mann circuit; Robert McNeil, Mike Naify, McNeil & Naify circuit; Fred Williams, Consolidated Amusement Co., Honolulu; Rotus Harvey, Harvey circuit and president S. F. Theatre Owners Ass'n.

Luncheon for Grainger On Visit to Seattle

SEATTLE—A luncheon was tendered J. R. Grainger, president of Republic, on his arrival here Wednesday, by J. T. Sheffield, franchise owner of Republic Pictures in the northwest.

Forty prominent exhibitors and newspaper men were present, among them Frank Newman, Al Rosenberg and Frank Christie of the Fox-Evergreen Theatres Corp.; John Danz, president of the Sterling Theatres Corp., and William Forman of the Sterling Theatres; J. Von Herberg, president of the Von Herberg circuit; Fred Murphy sr. and Fred Murphy jr. of the Murphy Washington and Oregon Theatres; Ben Shearer of the B. F. Shearer circuit.

Grainger Sets Deal With J. J. Parker for Portland

PORTLAND—James R. Grainger stopped over in Portland as a part of his itinerary to the Republic convention in Los Angeles. He spent a great deal of his time with J. J. Parker who will exhibit Republic pictures first run in Portland.

Contracts were signed by Parker and Grainger covering product for Portland and Astoria.

"Wind" Showing Seven Times Daily in L. A.

Los Angeles—In its first popular-priced run in this area, M-G-M's "Gone With the Wind" is being screened four times daily at the United Artists downtown, and three times daily at the Four Star.

George Smith Feted By Oregon Trade

PORTLAND — Friends of George Smith, newly appointed western sales manager for Paramount, gave a dinner party in his honor at the Benson Hotel last Wednesday evening. Exhibitors from all over the state attended the affair along with film men and representatives of the press. Jack Curry of the Paramount organization in Oklahoma City, and Hugh Braly, George Smith's successor as western district manager, also attended.

Representing the theatres were Dutch Stover, Carl Porter, Walter Leverette, Bill Ripley, Loring Schmidt, Dude Smith, Frank Newman jr., Banjo Miller, Joe Bradt, Kenny Ames, Bob White, Jesse Jones, Mose Mesher, Roy Brown, Herb Sabottka. Bob Farrell, speaker of the house of representatives at Salem, was there and from the Row, Lou Amacher, Mark Cory, Howard Mapes, Al Anderson, Jack Flannery, Joe Warren, Jack Kloepper, Glenn Broger, Lou Stang, George DuWade, and Tom Shearer. Palmer Hoyt, publisher of the *Oregonian*, also attended.

Al Finke officiated at the presentation of a brief case to Smith, and Ted Gamble was master of ceremonies.

"Huskiest Engineer"

LOS ANGELES—Russ Holcomb, Altec engineer, claims to be the father of "the world's smallest engineer." His son, who weighed two pounds, seven ounces at birth, has just emerged from an incubator, and is now, Russ says, on his way to becoming "the world's huskiest engineer."

SEATTLE

THIS city is being bombarded with radio talks and outdoor advertising calling attention to the forthcoming election for mayor of Seattle. The field has now dwindled down to a mere 14. A few of the group have political background, but the rest are newcomers. One candidate is employing the showmanship of placing pretty girls on downtown street corners handing out cards. Only thing wrong with this gag was that the merchants got peeved because their doorways and corners are cluttered with cards. Betting among the "know-alls" favor a dark-horse, that is, as far as publicity is concerned, but the race will be nip and tuck. Show business is happy that the two strongest candidates have been close to it for years.

Due to the welcome given concert artists in this town, and what a welcome they receive, many have made bookings for the next few weeks. First will be Rachmaninoff, followed by Lawrence Tibbett, Kirsten Flagstad, Dorothy Maynor, Alec Templeton, Marian Anderson, Zino Francescatti, Arthur Rubenstein and other bookings still coming in . . . An oldtimer came to town last week, but he is of the sporting world. None other than Tommy Burns, former heavyweight champ. Tommy will reminiscence across a bar, having been granted membership in the bartenders union here . . . Technicolor pictures of Washington showing fishing and lumber industries, have been shown in 15,000 *theatres and to* 15,000,000 *people, it is reported by Charles Larabee, chairman of the state progress commission. Four reels of the pictures were previewed by the senate and house in Olympia this week.*

Biggest gathering of the week was for the one-day visit of Jimmy Grainger, general sales manager for Republic. Jimmy arrived by plane, was rushed to the Washington Athletic Club to be greeted by 30 some odd exhibitors and friends. Party was hosted by J. T. Sheffield, president of Republic of the Northwest, while Eddie Walton did the greeting. Reporters and photographers from all papers were on hand. Among those at the luncheon were John Danz, Frank Newman sr., Fred Mercy sr. and jr., J. von Herberg, Leroy V. Johnson, Bill Forman, Al Rosenberg, Frank Christie, Jack Rosenberg, B. F. Shearer, Clarence Innis, E. Blaine, Tommy Tomlinson, Joe Cooper, Paul McIlhinney, Al Baker, Ed Halberg, Sid Dean, Lee Kirby, Jack Sampson, Paul Bangasser, Dick Hays, Gil Brown, Fred Carter and Doug Welsh.

George Giroux, field representative for Technicolor Motion Picture Corp., on the Row from Hollywood . . . Morrie Segel back from the east of the mountain trip . . . Howard Taylor in from Sequin and plenty busy . . . Jimmy Ewing in from Auburn and toting a transformer . . . Visitor this week is Charles Coburn, noted character actor. He came to give the talent at the University the once-over . . . Word from Chicago and the Universal sales meet tells that Gordon Craddock has been named assistant to Bill Heineman. This is the same Craddock of the "Tillie" fame of Portland. Good luck to you Gordon. H. H. Hull will succeed him as branch manager of the Indianapolis office.

Bill Shartin, head of the local Warner branch, is back in the hospital but not from the last complaint. This time Bill got a sore foot and blood poison set in the leg. Nothing to report as yet . . . Howard Stubbins, president of Monogram of California, after spending several days here with Bill Duggan jr., local manager, has left for Portland and way points . . . Henry Kaufman, manager of Metro exchange operations, also off for Portland after doing his chores in the local exchange. Kaufman is from the New York office . . . Jack Burk and Louie Goldsmith of RKO back from the Spokane and way points . . . Rachael Caraco and June Pritchard lunching on the Row. 'Member June for many years with Metro?

Word from Denver that Jimmy Morrison, branch manager for Fox, is coming along nicely after that flu attack . . . Ray Grombacher visiting the Row from Portland; also Ollie Hartman from Grand Coulee. Ollie looks great following an illness . . . Sue Perunko over from Tacoma for the Valentine Party . . . Don Glover and wife along with the Washington State basketball team getting a real kick out of the double bills . . . Sid and Mrs. Dean enjoying the whole evening . . . Prize winning double features, "Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga" and "I'm Still Alive;" "She Couldn't Say No" and "He Stayed for Breakfast' and loads of others . . . One sheets will be left hanging in the club quarters and titles changed each week. Best suggested title will be given a special award . . . If you belong to a local service club, this is not a bad idea for something different if you are on the entertainment committee.

The eighth annual theatre conference under the direction of the University of Washington division of drama has officially opened. Over 200 delegates are on hand. Milton Lewis, talent scout for Paramount, is guest of honor . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ed Davis, brother-in-law and sister of Alys Johnson, who have been visiting here for a few days, off to their home in Helena, Mont. . . . With the slogan "Our Symphony Marches On," the Seattle Symphony will soon hold its annual sustaining fund campaign. Goal this season is $30,000.

Goodstein Brings Case To Denver Arbiter

DENVER—The first case to come before the Denver arbitration board is one in which the Jos. J. Goodstein Enterprises, Inc., are seeking relief under Sec. XXII, Sub. 9. He claims that his Longmont Theatre at Longmont, Colo., is at a disadvantage in buying product in competition with the Fox Longmont in the same town. Goodstein claims that seven companies, three of them signers of the decree, refuse to sell him films, leaving him only the product of RKO, Vitagraph and Republic. The three decree-signing companies against whom the complaint is filed are 20th Century-Fox, Loew's (M-G-M) and Paramount. Also named as refusing to sell him product are Universal, Columbia, United Artists and Monogram.

The Fox Longmont, named in the complaint, is operated by Fox Intermountain, while Goodstein operates the Longmont Theatre.

DENVER

RICK RICKETSON, manager of the Fox Intermountain theatres, has made the following managerial changes: Sterling Way has been moved from the Lotus and Orpheum at Sheridan, Wyo., to the Boulder at Boulder, Colo.; Charles Morehead moves from the America at Ft. Collins, Colo., to the Sheridan position; Harry Ashton, formerly at the Boulder, is now manager of the America at Ft. Collins; Don Smith, acting manager at the Boulder, Boulder, goes to Cheyenne to assist Fred Glass; L. C. Snyder, formerly owner of the State, Ft. Collins, has gone to work for Fox as manager of the Lyric there.

Bob Dane, former assistant manager at the Ogden Theatre here, has been signed by 20th Century-Fox as a stock player. Dane was urged to take a screen test by Tyrone Power, when Power was in Denver last summer on vacation . . . The Denver Theatre is getting new lighting in its vertical sign together with a new front. And a new uniform for their seven-foot doorman. Bernie Hynes, manager, says it costs almost as much to outfit him as it does the rest of the staff.

Buzz Briggs, manager of the State Theatre, in company with Dan Lehrburger, a former theatreman, and Dr. Arthur Clark, have gone to Phoenix, Ariz., for a short vacation . . . Duke W. Dunbar, for years formerly secretary of the Denver film board of trade, has been appointed an assistant attorney general, and now makes his headquarters at the state capital.

Ralph W. Abbott of the Jam Handy Productions in Denver for a week from his Los Angeles headquarters. He is making his headquarters at their Denver representative—the Monogram exchange.

Lon T. Fidler writes from California, where he is vacationing, that anyone who envies him his vacation should take a look at the pictures he sent his secretary and office manager, Miss Rose Agren. They show the results of the heavy "dew"—one where an automobile is half covered by flood waters.

Fred Footman of the Peak and Chief theatres, Colorado Springs, was seen on the Row dating films and buying supplies . . . The Palace Theatre, grind house on Curtis Street, is shining with a new redecorating job along with new leather upholstered seats, and a complete overhauling of booth equipment.

Western Arbitration Panels

The American Arbitration Ass'n has announced members of arbitration panels for the motion picture tribunals in Denver, Los Angeles, Portland, Salt Lake City and San Francisco. Those on the Seattle tribunal were unavailable at press time. The panels listed below will probably be augmented in the future.

Denver

George D. Begole, secretary Waldo-Begole, Inc., 1575 Monrose St.

James E. Cartwright, president Cartwright Realty Co., 1550 Glenarm St.

Clem W. Collins, CPA, First National Bank Bldg.

C. E. Eddleblute, general agent Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., Patterson Bldg.

Clarence Eynon, attorney, First National Bank Bldg.

William W. Grant, attorney, Equitable Bldg.

Judge George A. Luxford, attorney, Symes Bldg.

Max D. Melville, attorney, Equitable Bldg.

Samuel Priess, retired, 645 Madison St.

Charles M. Reed, general manager Retail Credit Men's Ass'n, Denver National Bank Bldg.

Charles A. Shinn, vice-president Denver Dry Goods Co., Denver Dry Goods Co.

John H. Singleton, vice-president and manager Crosta, Inc., 1830 Market St.

Barry Morey Sullivan, treasurer Morey Mercantile Co., P. O. Box 5150 Terminal St.

Lester C. Thomas, president Thomas-Hickerson Motor Co., 1000 East 18th Ave.

Los Angeles

Stanley M. Arndt, lawyer, 458 S. Spring St.

Herbert Cameron, railroad commission of California, California State Bldg.

F. J. Carpenter, assistant treasurer National Supply Co., 147 N. Los Angeles St.

W. R. Fawcett, investment counsel, 634 S. Spring St.

Frank Gautier, executive Consol Rock Prod. Co., 2730 S. Alameda St.

Prof. Morrison Handsaker, department of economics and sociology, Occidental College.

Capt. Robert Henderson, Southern California Association of Newspapers, Security Bldg.

Shirley E. Meserve, attorney, 555 S. Flower St.

Oscar Moss, CPA, 505 Title Insurance Bldg.

Mark A. Pierce, mortician, 720 Washington Blvd.

James M. Rust, 268 S. Lorraine Blvd.

Maurice Saeta, attorney, 403 W. 8th St.

A. Carman Smith, president Smith & Drum, Inc., 650 S. Grand Ave.

Irvin Stalmaster, attorney, 608 S. Hill St.

W. B. Stewart, executive Globe Mills, 907 E. 3rd St.

C. J. Thorson, financial analyst and counsel, 417 S. Hill St.

H. F. G. Pelsue, vice-president Graham Bros., Inc., 3425 Fowler Ave.

Carl G. Grimes, executive Grimes Stassforth Stationery Co., 737 S. Spring St.

Portland

Abraham Asher, attorney, Corbett Bldg.

Ormond R. Bean, commissioner public utilities, Oregon Bldg.

Rupert R. Bullivant, attorney, Pacific Bldg.

Joseph K. Carson, attorney, Yeon Bldg.

Thomas K. Carstensen, CPA, Pittock Bldg.

Philip Chipman, attorney, Yeon Bldg.

Ralph A. Coan, attorney, Pittock Block.

Roland Davis, attorney, Porter Bldg.

Verne Dusenberry, attorney, Spalding Bldg.

Dr. Donald M. Erb, president University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore.

Hopkins Jenkins, principal emeritus Jefferson High School, Lewis Bldg.

Irving Rand, attorney, Public Service Bldg.

E. D. Ross, president Irwin-Hodson Co., 439 N. W. 15th Ave.

George W. Schoeffel, Oregon Mutual Life Insurance Co., Box 711.

Richard Sherwood, manager Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co., Public Service Bldg.

James Gerald Swindells, attorney, Yeon Bldg.

Charles A. Tomassene, insurance broker, Wilcox Bldg.

Harold Wendel, president Lipman, Wolfe & Co., 5th & Washington.

Elmo S. White, attorney, Railway Exchange Bldg.

I. D. Winslow, district manager Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., 730 S. W. Oak St.

Salt Lake City

Thomas A. Beal, dean school of business, University of Utah.

H. M. Chamberlain, vice-president Walker Bank & Trust Co., Walker Bank Bldg.

Earl J. Glade, vice-president and manager KSL Radio Station, Tribune-Telegram Bldg.

Mark H. Greene, professor of business, University of Utah.

E. O. Howard, president Walker Bank & Trust Co., Walker Bank Bldg.

Walter C. Hurd, attorney, 700 Utah Savings & Trust Bldg.

Robert L. Judd, attorney.

C. Vernon Langlois, attorney, 409 Boston Bldg.

William J. Lowe, attorney, Walker Bank Bldg.

Bernard F. Musser, attorney, 507 Utah Oil Bldg.

Henry J. Plumhof, retired railroad man, 1351 Normandy Circle.

Ivor Sharp, KSL (Radio Service Corp. of Utah), Union Pacific Bldg.

Wendell M. Smoot, assistant vice-president Utah State National Bank, 102 South Main St.

Clarence E. Wright, retired, Highland Drive & Walker's Lane.

Albert Bowen, 47 East South Temple St.

Lincoln G. Kelley, president Lincoln G. Kelley Co., Walker Bank Bldg.

Lawrence H. Pierce, president Utah Society of CPA's; Peat, Marwick Mitchell & Co., Continental Bank Bldg.

F. Henri Henriod, attorney, Continental Bank Bldg.

San Francisco

P. M. Downing, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., 245 Market St.

William Fisher, importer-exporter, 216 Pine St.

Robert B. Gaylord, attorney, Gaylord & Gaylord, 1332 Russ Bldg.

Bauer E. Kramer, attorney, Aiken, Kramer & Aiken, 1203 Central Bank Bldg., Oakland, Cal.

William P. Hubbard, attorney, 486 California St. and 1018 Meher Bldg.

Wallace E. Hyde, attorney, Crocker First National Bank Bldg.

Donovan O. Peters, attorney, Sherman & Peters, Mills Tower.

Col. Robert A. Roos, Roos Bros., Inc., 798 Market St.

Albert A. Rosenshine, attorney, 111 Sutter St.

Herbert S. Shuey, secretary-treasurer Merrill Co., 343 Sansome St.

Curbs on Censorship Measure Discussed

Los Angeles—Ways and means of lessening the severity of the proposed censorship ordinance which would give the police commission authority to close any show, legit or screen, which it might consider indecent, were discussed by producer representatives, members of Hollywood's three largest talent guilds and other interested parties at a meeting over which Norris J. Nelson, councilman for the Hollywood district, presided.

The Screen Actors Guild already has gone on record as opposing passage of any such measure, on the ground it violates the right of free speech. The SAG contends the present censorship ordinance, providing for a trial by jury, could be made to work satisfactorily if properly enforced, and would give the producer or theatre operator an opportunity to defend himself. Under the proposed new legislation, however, police could step in and close any show arbitrarily.

First drafted more than a year ago, the measure was tabled, only to be revived recently. Those connected with film production and exhibition have been assured, however, by proponents of the legislation that it is not directed toward theatres or producers working under the Hays office's Production Code administration, but is aimed at "fly-by-night" stage impresarios presenting lewd and immoral productions.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
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LOS ANGELES

SAN FRANCISCO

RAIN dealt a severe blow to theatres in this territory. Business was off at all boxoffices as rain fell continually throughout the week. Occasionally the downpour ceased, but most people stayed close to home. The rainfall for this area is double the average for this time of a normal year . . . Ted Lewis and his show of 25 opened an engagement at the Bal Tabarin . . . Universal sneaked "Buck Privates" at the Orpheum on Tuesday. All western managers, in for a one-day meeting, attended the preview.

Jack Redmond won his suit against Lawrence Goldsmith, owner of the Hopkins and Allendale theatres in Oakland. Redmond had a two-year contract to manage both of these houses and sued when Goldsmith attempted to slash Redmond's salary. The court ruled for Jack and he collected . . . The dance team of Jeanne and Jene Edwards have inked a contract to appear in a forthcoming Paramount picture. The act came here recently from Chicago and will fulfill local dates before going to Hollywood.

Paramount sent up a studio cameraman and a few assistants to get shots of San Francisco for backgrounds. Jury Commissioner Tom Mulvey suggested the Hobart Building in the center of the downtown district, as the view from there is pretty good. The Hobart manager stated that permission would have to be obtained from a real estate firm that handles the building. The real estate office directed troupe to the office of their attorney. The lawyer said O. K.—for $250! Paramount paid and then found they couldn't even get cooperation from the weather, having to sit around for several days until the rain let up.

Producers Releasing Corp. is moving March 1 to larger quarters. The company is taking the entire first floor at 125 Hyde with the exception of the space occupied by G. Karski. Alexander Film Co. is moving its office from this address to Los Angeles . . . Five East Bay theatres have contracted for Ruth Rogers cosmetics, introduced in this territory by Pacific Premium . . . Mickey Rooney and Les Peterson of M-G-M in town previous to sailing for Honolulu for a vacation . . . Harry Hollinsworth absent from his desk at RKO due to illness . . . William Huntington will open the Fowler in Fowler on the 28th.

Forty soloists from the major studios will compose the Werner Janssen Symphony Orchestra which will present a concert at the Curran, March 30. This is one stop on the tour that will take the studio musicians around the west . . . R. C. MacDonald, National Screen Accessories service manager, on vacation . . . Bill Heineman and Al O'Keefe in town for the Universal western district managers' meeting at the St. Francis . . . D. J. McNerny, UA manager, off on a four-week jaunt that will take him to New Orleans, Miami and New York . . . Fred Budde has taken Russell Clifton's doorman spot at the Embassy.

Harvey Amusement has taken over the American in Winnemucca from Harry Oastler. Kenny Udell moves over from Sonora to manage the American and C. Macway goes into Sonora . . . Hank Kaufman, manager of exchange operations out of New York, and Pete Dailey from Hollywood, visitors at Columbia . . . Ruth Chatterton comes back to San Francisco after a long absence when she opens at the Curran, February 24, in the Shaw comedy, "Pygmalion" . . . Dave Nathanson checked into town after a trip through the Valley for Producers . . . Harry Rice is now sporting a membership card in the Press Club. The membership is a gift from Harry's boss, Dan McLean.

Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney will be among Hollywood visitors who will participate in the big program to promote national unity to be sponsored by the Shriners. The doings will take place at the Civic Auditorium on March 15 and will coincide with the Shrine annual St. Patrick's luncheon. Louis B. Mayer will be the principal speaker . . . Edith Roger Dahl, wife of the famous flyer, is scoring a hit at the Club Moderne . . . The Deauville Club, which was one of the city's outstanding spots for many years during the 30's, has reopened as Lindy's.

The National Theatre Supply has installed new projection equipment and seats in both the El Campinil and the Casino in Antioch. The Casino, long dark, will reopen in the near future. George Stamm owns and operates both theatres . . . Clay Robinson and Bob Hale are new faces in the National Theatre Supply office. Lois English replaces Miss Fox in the same office on March 1 . . . Frank R. Stubbe, oldtime roadshow operator, is back in town looking for product . . . Marty Weiser, Warner exploiteer, in town.

The Fox held a "Western Union Night" on Monday. James G. Decatur, oldest living telegraph operator and for years manager of the San Francisco Western Union office, was guest of the theatre together with Mrs. Henrietta Gardner, world's champion telegraph operator. You guessed it, the feature picture was "Western Union" . . . Doc Henning back from Seattle with Pacific Premium contracts . . . Booking on the Row: Ray Kelsall, Victory, San Jose; Leo Reese, Lakeport, Lakeport; W. G. Allen, Sunset, Riverdale; Walter Morris, Tower, Santa Rosa.

Theatre Throws a Draftee Party

San Francisco—The Golden Gate threw a "Draftee Party" this week. Learning that 75 men had been called by draft board 98, Charlie Huy, Gate publicist, had 12 girls from the Peggy O'Neil dancers draw the names of 12 of the men from a hat. The 12 were taken by the girls for a swell evening—the last night before leaving for camp. The routine included the show at the Gate and stepping at the Bal Tabarin, all bills footed by the girls (backed by the Gate management). The exploitation, which received considerable local space, is expected to break soon in a national pictorial magazine.

Stunning is the word for the new offices of the Golden State Theatres, that occupy an entire floor in the Insurance Bldg. across the street from the former headquarters . . . John O'Leary, 20th-Fox traveling auditor, checked out after a week on the local books . . . Jesse Wright, son of Mildred Daly, is learning the exchange business. He is working in the Warner shipping and ad sales departments . . . M-G-M previewed "The Trial of Mary Dugan." However, at the time of the preview, the picture was called, "Crime of Mary Andrews" . . . Lester Hamilton, office manager at Pacific Premium, has been called by the Army and will report for duty the end of the month.

Ben Fisher, United Artists far western manager, off to Honolulu . . . Columbia is installing fluorescent lighting in the exchange here . . . Mike Newman has started an exploitation campaign on the serial "White Eagle." Exhibitors can win part of $100, personally put up by Newman, for their ideas . . . The Tower in Klamath Falls opens the first week in March . . . The theatre is owned by George Mann . . . "The Son of Monte Cristo" premiered here at the United Artists . . . George Page has started building at Vallejo. George was supposed to turn over his Ritz in Calistoga to Lawrence Borg on July 1, but the transfer will take place March 1.

"Gone With the Wind" has returned here at the Warfield at popular prices . . . James McArthur, Monogram shipper, is taking a vacation . . . Howard Stebbins, Mono prexy, was in town twice last week—once on the way north and again on his way back to Hollywood . . . Rumor has it that M. L. Markowitz is dickering for the President Theatre, dark now for a year. Markowitz sold his last house, the Davies, to the Blumenfeld circuit about four months ago . . . Roy Palmer of the Del Rio in Cloverdale is in Veterans' Hospital here.

The Tivoli is dark again. Joe Meyers' attempt to make it a film house ended after six weeks . . . Alvin Hatch is now operating the Princess at Half Moon Bay one day a week . . . Horror evidently pays. Three houses, one first run and two subsequents, all on Market Street, featured double bills, both ends being chillers. Boris Karloff was the man of the hour being featured at all three theatres . . . Ed Bauer, who left National Theatre Supply for an architect's job in Honolulu, writes he is settled and living the life of Riley . . . Warner previewed "Footsteps in the Dark" . . . The S. F. Art Commission is planning to bring outstanding musical comedies from Broadway to be staged in the Opera House . . . "Fantasia" is set for the Geary on a two-a-day basis. Hal Neides, formerly of the Orpheum, will handle the film.

Horror Duo Does Best Among L. A. Runs

LOS ANGELES—Apparently the first-run customers were in the mood to be horror-struck during the past week, for the outstanding business was chalked up by "The Monster and the Girl" and "The Mad Doctor" at the Paramount, coupled with a stage show headlining Andy Kirk and his orchestra. Warner's Hollywood and Downtown houses did slightly over average with "Road Show" and "Behind the News." At the Hillstreet and Pantages "This Thing Called Love," dualed with "San Francisco Docks," held up well in its second week. "Cheers for Miss Bishop" continued to exert a normal pull in its fourth stanza at the Four Star.

Detail for week ending February 12:

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 90
Downtown—**Road Show** (UA); **Behind the News** (Rep) 110
Four Star—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA), 4th wk. 90
Hillstreet—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **San Francisco Docks** (Univ), 2nd wk. 100
Hollywood—**Road Show** (UA); **Behind the News** (Rep) 110
Pantages—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **San Francisco Docks** (Univ), 2nd wk. 100
Paramount—**The Mad Doctor** (Para't); **The Monster and the Girl** (Para't), plus stage show with Andy Kirk and Orchestra 130
State—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 90

Seattle First Runs Still Seeking to Find Stride

SEATTLE—This town still needs a good shot of "something" to get it show minded. Store business is great, more autos jamming the streets, beer parlors and other spots doing fine but the show-shops are still not drawing what they deserve. "Gone With the Wind" returned to town at what is termed popular prices but it did not cause any riot although business was better than normal. "Buck Privates" proved that hokum comedy will go any time with the amusement loving public. Other business average or less.

Detail for week ending February 15:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Little Men** (RKO), 2nd wk. 90
Fifth Avenue—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M) .. 90
Liberty—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 2nd wk. 100
Music Box—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Michael Shayne, Detective** (20th-Fox), 5th wk. 90
Orpheum—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 120
Palomar—**The Great Mr. Nobody** (WB); **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (Rep), plus vaude 90
Paramount—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) ... 120
Roosevelt—**High Sierra** (FN) (move over from Orpheum), 3rd wk. 90

San Francisco First Runs Make Mediocre Showing

SAN FRANCISCO—The clouds opened up on this territory again this week and rainy weather kept the boxoffices quiet. The weekends find great numbers of people heading out of town—either for the snow country or for drier and warmer climes. "Come Live With Me" led the first runs but even this film was only a shade above Paramount's average business. The rest of the Market Street theatres struggled along.

Detail for week ending February 12:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**High Sierra** (FN); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox) 100
Golden Gate—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), plus stage show, 3rd wk. 85
Orpheum—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ); **Invisible Woman** (Univ) 100
Paramount—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **The Mad Doctor** (Para't) 115
St. Francis—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); **Night Train** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 95
United Artists—**The Long Voyage Home** (UA), 2nd wk. 85
Warfield—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Jennie** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk. 85

REVIEW FLASHES

ANDY HARDY'S PRIVATE SECRETARY (M-G-M)—In which the youngest of the Hardy clan, in the person of Mickey Rooney, very nearly doesn't graduate from high school, but scrapes through after the expected romantic, hilarious and academic complications. The feature, up to par for the series, otherwise is notable because it marks the debut of Kathryn Grayson, youthful actress and singer, who looks to be of star calibre. George B. Seitz directed.

COMPLIMENTS OF MR. FLOW (Hoffberg)—A smart cast of Gallic worthies plays this risque crook farce ably but fails to make the effort result in anything more than sketchy entertainment. A French import, it was probably made about seven or eight years ago. Fernand Gravet, Louis Jouvet.

HARD-BOILED CANARY, THE (Para't)—An experimental sally into the field of culture, the picture has many moments of rare entertainment to offer music lovers and, because of its preponderantly juvenile cast, may possess a dramatic appeal to youngsters. Andrew L. Stone produced and directed.

IN OLD COLORADO (Para't)—Although Hopalong Cassidy gets away from his usual stomping grounds, geographically, he doesn't deviate one bit from his well established system for delivering top notch action entertainment to the sagebrush fans. This is the third in the current series and in every department it compares favorably with its many predecessors. William Boyd, of course, portrays "Hoppy." Harry Sherman produced. Howard Bretherton directed.

"Mr. & Mrs. Smith" on Dual Is Denver Pace Setter

DENVER—"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" with "Let's Make Music" at the Orpheum topped the town with the Denver double bill, "Chad Hanna" and "Tall, Dark and Handsome," a close second. Both double bills were moved, the first to the Broadway and the second to the Aladdin.

Devote All Energies To Drive on Ascap

LOS ANGELES—Devoting all its energies to its projected suit against the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, for which a bill of complaint is now being drafted, the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners reports no other activity on schedule, at least for the time being.

Completion of the bill of complaint is expected early next week, according to spokesmen for Albert J. Law, PCCITO general counsel. Announcement that the federal court suit was to be filed was made some time ago, at which time it was asserted the attorney was uncovering several "interesting new angles" in the contemplated action, which seeks to kill the "dual scoring" charge which exhibitors must now pay for the privilege of screening films containing Ascap music.

It was indicated several weeks may elapse before federal court passes on the complaint and sets a date for trial.

Los Angeles Delegation to "U" Convention in S. F.

LOS ANGELES—Those attending Universal's two-day sales meeting in San Francisco from the local office included: Charles R. Feldman, branch manager; Eddie Cooke, Lon Hoss, Foster Blake and Sam Milner, salesmen; and Al O'Keefe, western district manager. Presiding at the session was W. J. Heineman, western divisional sales chief.

Gets Next "Dr. Christian"

HOLLYWOOD—Erle Kenton will direct the next "Dr. Christian" feature for RKO starring Jean Hersholt.

Detail for week ending February 13:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), after a wk. at the Denver 125
Broadway—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), after 2 wks. at the Orpheum 115
Denham—**Hard-Boiled Canary** (Para't) 40
Denver—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) 120
Orpheum—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Let's Make Music** (RKO) 125
Paramount—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 120
Rialto—**Four Mothers** (WB), after wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Lucky Devils** (Univ) 115

Salt Lake Houses Profit By Pleasant Weather

SALT LAKE CITY—Salt Lake enjoyed the warmest day of 1941 this week with the mercury at 55, and pre-spring activity is evident with the theatres enjoying a good portion of the added business.

Detail for week ending February 13:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**South of Suez** (WB); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 115
Centre—**Western Union** (20th-Fox) 105
Lake—**Chamber of Horrors** (Mono); **Human Monster** (Mono) 100
Studio—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 100
Utah—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ); **Invisible Woman** (Univ) 100
Victory—**No Time for Comedy** (FN); **Rangers of Fortune** (Para't), held over 110

LOS ANGELES

BURIAL at Forest Lawn was held Wednesday for J. O. Van De Bergh, 72, veteran exhibitor, who died at Inglewood Hospital of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son, Guy, who until recently operated the Forum in Ontario. The elder Van De Bergh operated the Victoria here from 1919 to 1928 . . . Ruben A. Calderon, manager of the Azteca exchange, checked out for Lower California on a business trip.

Altec Service Corp. has closed contracts with the Selma Theatre in Selma; the Casino, San Diego; the Piedmont, Oakland; the Esquire, San Francisco, and the Picfair, local showcase . . . B. Aranda, Eureka Theatre, Brawley, and Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Araiza, Iris, Carlsbad, came in on booking expeditions . . . Katherine Johnson has replaced Virginia Divver in the billing department at M-G-M. Katherine was a temporary relief worker. Virginia left to accept a position in the personnel department of the Lockheed Aircraft Co. in Burbank.

Stanley M. Pariseau, Altec Service branch manager, left for Salt Lake City on a business trip . . . In for bookings: Phil Greenbaum, Castle and Mecca theatres; Mrs. Foster Jackson, in from Elsinore; Ben Peskay, Banner and Palms; Jack Goldberg, booker for the Ben Bronstein circuit.

Fully recovered from the nervous breakdown which sent him to the Burbank Hospital for two months, Al Minor, Burbank exhibitor, was a Filmrow visitor . . . Jack Allender has been appointed Film Alliance representative for Seattle and Portland, according to word received here.

In for conferences with his brother, Milt Arthur, is Harry, president of Fanchon & Marco with headquarters in St. Louis. They are huddling on matters concerning local theatre properties . . . Isaac Victor, operator of the Victor in Long Beach, came in to book . . . Universal booked "Buck Privates" into the Paramount downtown for its first run. The RKO Hillstreet and Pantages theatres, regular outlets for U's product, are booked up so far in advance that another outlet must occasionally be sought for some pictures.

Back on the job after a three-day siege with the flu is Howard Perretz, M-G-M booker. He and Ralph Carmichael, office manager, have resumed their noon-hour boxing sessions . . . Booking: Frank Ullman, Broadway Theatre, El Centro; Art Brick, operator of the Palace in Las Vegas; Harvey Levinson of the Cozy.

Funeral services, followed by burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, were held Monday for John J. "Jack" Sullivan, 56, vice-president of Fox West Coast and for 13 years a film buyer for the circuit. Sullivan came to this territory 25 years ago and was branch manager of the old Fox Films exchange for 12 years. Ill for the past two years, he is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters . . . Howard Stubbins, Pacific Coast franchise holder for Monogram, is in from a two-week tour of his exchanges.

Louis Rutstein, Producers Releasing Corp. executive, planed to New York on business . . . Mike Newman, Columbia exploiteer, checked out for San Diego to handle the advance campaign on "This Thing Called Love" . . . Kathleen Gannon, M-G-M secretary, is now the bride of Frank Gaskall following a wedding ceremony performed February 20. They are honeymooning for a week.

Fox West Coast has booked "Her First Romance," Monogram release starring Edith Fellows, into houses in Santa Barbara, Long Beach, North Hollywood, San Diego, Riverside and other spots . . . The Hitching Post, theatre devoted exclusively to western films, has booked Monogram's "Trail of the Silver Spurs" for February 28, and Monogram's "Ridin' the Cherokee Trail," March 14.

Lincoln's birthday found most exchanges closing along the Row for a half-holiday . . . A. J. O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, has returned from Chicago where he attended the company's recent annual sales convention . . . A. Montague, Columbia's general sales manager, who has been huddling here with studio executives, stopped in at the local exchange for a visit . . . Lane Nicholas, M-G-M office clerk, has joined Uncle Sam's draft army.

Lew Marin, United Artists exploiteer, has returned from a junket to San Diego and Phoenix . . . Dick Pritchard, manager of the Ambassador Hotel Theatre, is resting comfortably at the Methodist Hospital after a major abdominal operation and appendectomy . . . Salesman Bert Lentz of Columbia is in from a periodic tour of the San Diego territory . . . L. W. Conrow, president of Altec Service, checked in from New York on the *S. S. America's* maiden voyage as a unit in the U. S. merchant marine. He is headquartering at the Ambassador Hotel while here.

PORTLAND

EARL BALTAZAR has added another hundred seats in the auditorium of his Rainier Theatre. E. A. Doyle of RCA made a trip recently to Elkton and overhauled the booth equipment for Mrs. Harriet Edwards.

The spring salmon run has begun in earnest and fishing at Astoria has been excellent. The horde is rapidly pushing up the river and filmites are polishing their tackle in anticipation of many juicy salmon fries.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bradt gave a Valentine party for their employes at their home . . . Universal screened "Buck Privates" for the trade last week.

Maxine Harder is resting easily at the Good Samaritan Hospital following an operation . . . Carl Adams returned to the Row for a visit . . . Republic welcomed J. R. Grainger, president of the company, and J. T. Sheffield to the Portland office last week.

SALT LAKE

BUSINESS in Salt Lake City, as of February 1, stood at four per cent above normal representing a gain of four per cent during January. Tax collections from July 1, 1940, through January 31, were 5.92 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1939 . . . City Judge Joseph Jeppson was elected president of the Utah Amateur Movie club.

The local Fox district finished the Spyros Skouras National Drive in 12th place. There were 27 districts in the contest. The local Fox unit will receive a prize of $400, which will be distributed to Fox managers in the Salt Lake area, according to Joyce Tiano, secretary to Herschel Stewart of Fox West Coast here.

Bill Steege, Great Falls city manager, has returned to Great Falls after a ten-day vacation at Salt Lake, Denver, and Rock Springs, Wyoming . . . Lloyd Boreing, manager of the Babcock Theatre, Billings, Mont., underwent an appendectomy at the L. D. S. Hospital in Idaho Falls, a few days ago. He is convalescing and will be back on duty within another week.

Hall Baetz, district manager; Herschel Stuart and Dan Driscoll, bookers, are back from Fox Theatres' regional meeting at Idaho Falls . . . Fox will return "Gone With the Wind" at the Marlow Theatre, Helena, Mont., March 5. It will play in the remaining 11 Fox situations during the month of March. M-G-M Branch Manager Sam Gardner states that "Gone With the Wind" will open at the Paramount in Salt Lake, February 26, for an indefinite period . . . John P. Byrne, division sales manager for M-G-M, is coming to this city for a few days to confer with Manager Gardner.

M. S. Gowthorpe, president of Intermountain Theatres, Inc., is here from New York City for several days, on his way to the Pacific Coast, conferring with Harry David, vice-president and general manager.

Manager Bill Seib of Columbia is in working nearby situations for a few days. Bob Hill, district supervisor for Columbia, was in this city for a few days and has returned to his Denver headquarters . . . J. S. Abrose, United Artists official from headquarters, left here after several days' visit anent the Arthur W. Kelly Sales Drive. Abrose is in charge of operations of Salt Lake, Denver and Omaha.

Frank H. Smith, Paramount exchange manager here, is back from Idaho, and expects big things from the new Paramount Technicolor picture, "Virginia," which opens at the local Centre within a few days.

J. T. Sheffield of Sheffield Republic exchange, spent several days here before leaving for Seattle. He also visited the Butte and Denver exchanges this trip. Republic Branch Manager G. S. Pinnell is due in from the territory shortly . . . Manager H. C. Fuller of RKO is heading into the territory . . . "The Trial of Mary Dugan," M-G-M, was screened for the trade here this week.

Hear Van Derveer Plaint Shortly

CHICAGO—The initial complaint filed with Clerk John F. Sullivan here on February 13 by E. F. Van Derveer, operator of the independently owned State in Morris, Ill., against Loew's, Inc., Chicago, is expected to be heard shortly.

In his complaint, filed under Section 6 of the consent decree, Van Derveer claims inability to obtain second run Metro product. Indirectly affected by the complaint is the Anderson circuit with headquarters in Morris, who operate about a dozen theatres in downstate Illinois. The circuit owns the Morris and Times, competing houses to Van Derveer's State.

Morris, Ill., which is a town of 6,000 located 60 miles from Chicago, has three theatres. The Morris is a 690-seat house with a 33 cents admission, the Times a 350-seat house with a 20 cents admission while the State, a 540-seat house, has a 20 cents admission.

The complaint, filed personally by Van Derveer, no lawyer being involved in the proceedings, read as follows:

"E. F. Van Derveer claims that Loew's, Inc., has arbitrarily refused to license second run pictures for exhibition at the State Theatre, Morris, Illinois, despite the fact that said exhibitor can satisfy reasonable minimum standards of theatre operation and is reputable and responsible.

"Van Derveer asks that the arbitrator direct Loew's, Inc., to offer its pictures for license to him for exhibition in said theatre on a run to be designated by Loew's, Inc., and upon terms and conditions fixed by Loew's, Inc., which are in accordance with the consent decree."

On March 1, 16 days following the filing of the initial complaint, Loew's, Inc., is to receive a list of arbitrators from Clerk Sullivan from which they can make their choice. It is understood they must return their selection of arbitrators immediately upon receipt of the list.

William Crouch Resigns UTOI Secretaryship

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—William F. Crouch has resigned as executive secretary of United Theatre Owners of Illinois. The association will continue under the direction of President Edward G. Zorn of Pontiac. No successor to Crouch will be named, it is reported.

Crouch experienced his second car crash in four weeks near Bloomington. His car was demolished in a head-on collision on a slippery highway, but he escaped with cuts and bruises. The other crash occurred in the northern part of the state.

Reider Strives for Shubert

ST. LOUIS—Sam Reider, veteran burlesque theatre operator, who made an unsuccessful attempt to reopen the Shubert Theatre with a girl show several weeks ago, is reported to be organizing a stock dramatic troupe. He hopes to reopen the Shubert with stock drama at an early date.

Clearance Complaint Filed in Chicago

Chicago—Landis and Landis, law firm, in behalf of the Ken Theatre, Chicago, filed a complaint against Paramount, 20th-Fox, and RKO on Tuesday, February 18, over clearance. The theatre claims the companies are giving clearance to Schoenstadt's Shakespeare Theatre and are not giving Ken clearance over Schoenstadt's Pix Theatre.

Racing Legalization Measure Up in Wis.

MADISON, WIS.—Latest measure introduced in the state legislature to cause exhibitors some concern is a bill to legalize horse racing authored by Assemblyman Nicholas J. Bichler, Ozaukee.

In commenting upon the measure, Bichler said: "There have been similar bills in the past which failed of passage because of the setup backing them. This time a reputable group, composed almost exclusively of Wisconsin citizens, is sponsoring the measure."

Bichler said that when racing is illegal, the people of the state send huge sums elsewhere in race horse bets. He believes that Wisconsin ought to be getting "a legal tax on that money."

The Murray daylight saving proposal has not yet been reported out of committee.

Illinois Allied Unit Re-elects Officers

CHICAGO—All officers were re-elected at the luncheon-meeting of Illinois Allied Wednesday at the Congress Hotel, including Van Nomikos, vice-president; Richard Salkin, secretary-treasurer, and Harry Nepo, sergeant-at-arms. Jack Kirsch heads the group, he having been elected president last year for a three-year term.

A regular business meeting was also on the agenda with the following subjects slated to be brought up for discussion; the consent decree, the Ascap-BMI situation and theatre-cooperation with national defense.

Kirsch, when interviewed by BOXOFFICE prior to the meeting, said business among the Allied members the first month this year has been ahead of 1940. He attributed this, in part, to the Ascap-BMI fight but mainly due to the fact that member-theatres had a month of top-notch films to play in January. Kirsch said he was planning on leaving for Miami Beach, Fla., on Sunday to join his family currently vacationing there.

Four Chicago theatres have joined Allied the past couple weeks and were expected to be represented at the February 19 meeting. Theatres, together with their owners, are: Oakley—Lester Retchin; Ken—Bennie Banowitz and John Landis; Rockne—Saul M. Meltzer, and the Louis—John Welsh.

Joins "Parachute Battalion"

HOLLYWOOD—Harry Carey has joined the cast of RKO's "Parachute Battalion."



—Loop Photo Service

Hollywood Duet in Windy City—

Susanna Foster, 16-year-old singing star of Paramount's "Hard-Boiled Canary," and Dolly Loehr, 14-year-old pianist who is also featured in the film, entertain a Chicago trio during the starlets' recent visit. Directly behind the piano are: Jim Donohue, Paramount branch manager in Chicago; Geraldine Hamburg and Geraldine's father, Harry Hamburg, Paramount sales manager in Chicago. Geraldine may be featured in the Paramount "Quiz Kids" shorts which will probably be released this fall.



Checks to Bills—

John Balaban of B&K presents checks to the winning loop manager and assistant manager in the recently concluded Barney Balaban drive conducted by the circuit. On the right is William (Bill) Holden, manager of the B&K flagship, the Chicago, who is getting $100, *and on the left is William (Bill) Bader, assistant manager of the same house, to whom goes* $50.

Central Arbitration Panels

While the Indianapolis list was unavailable at press time, the following members of arbitration panels for the industry tribunals in Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Louis, which will probably be augmented in the future, have been announced by the American Arbitration Ass'n:

Chicago

William Bachrach, president Dearborn Co., 666 Lake Shore Drive.

Samuel G. Clawson, attorney, 105 West Adams St.

James Cunningham, executive Peoples Gas, Light & Coke Co., 122 S. Michigan Ave.

Arthur J. Goldberg, attorney, 39 South LaSalle St.

Charles Zane Henkle, vice-president Continental Illinois National Bank, 231 S. LaSalle St.

Adolph Kroch, Kroch's Bookstores, Inc., 206 North Michigan Ave.

Hayes McKinney, attorney, 105 West Adams St.

William A. McSwain, attorney, 38 South Dearborn St.

Charles P. Megan, ex-president Chicago Bar Ass'n, 30 North LaSalle St.

E. Milton Pashkow, attorney, 100 North LaSalle St.

Benjamin Wham, president-elect Illinois Bar Ass'n, 231 South LaSalle St.

George K. Bowden, lawyer, 105 W. Adams St.

Milwaukee

Dr. Henry L. Banzhaf, business manager Marquette University, 615 N. 11th St.

J. H. Budde, manager Standard Oil Co., 414 N. Michigan St.

Harry E. Christiansen, president General Lumber Co., 757 North Broadway.

William Doll, president Wisconsin Bar Ass'n, 208 East Wisconsin Ave.

Walter Dunlap, president Klau-Von Pieterson Dunlap Associates, Inc., 744 N. 4th St.

H. S. Garness, executive manager Milwaukee Ass'n of Credit Men, Milwaukee Gas Light Co. Bldg.

Ced Logan, credit manager Doerman Shoe Co., South Milwaukee.

Jeremiah L. O'Sullivan, dean college of journalism, Marquette University.

J. F. Pyle, dean Johnston college of business administration, Marquette University.

Ray S. Shannon, credit manager Weyenberg Shoe Manufacturing Co., 234 East Reservoir Ave.

Carl B. Rix, member board of governors, American Bar Ass'n, Wells Bldg.

Paul J. Stern, retired, 757 N. Broadway.

Fred F. Stuckert, credit manager Hansen Glove Corp., 539 W. Wright St.

John S. Walbridge jr., secretary-treasurer Niedecken-Walbridge Co., 767 North Jefferson St.

John Warner, attorney, 213 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Thomas P. Whelan, professor Marquette University, 110 E. Wisconsin Ave.

H. O. Wolfe, attorney, 735 North Water St.

H. V. Zeidler, credit manager L. J. Mueller Furnace Co., 2005 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Fred H. Zens, credit manager Standard Oil Co., 414 W. Michigan St.

St. Louis

Fred Y. Armstrong, attorney, 705 Olive St.

R. S. Brooks, consulting civil engineer, 1501 Mart Bldg.

J. S. Calfee, investments, 611 Olive St., Railway Exchange Bldg.

J. Lionberger Davis, board chairman Security National Bank Savings & Trust Co., 316 N. 5th St.

Victor Cullis, assistant secretary Mississippi Valley Trust Co., 506 Olive St.

Harry G. Erbs, secretary-treasurer Missouri Institute of Accounting & Law, 711 St. Charles St.

James L. Ford jr., vice-president First National Bank, 325 N. Broadway.

Benj. F. Frick jr., partner Stix & Co., Investments, 509 Olive St.

Thomas C. Henning, attorney, Hennings, Green, Henry & Evans, Boatmen's Bank Bldg.

Charles M. Huttig, president St. Louis Lumber Co.

Harold T. Jolley, vice-president Boatmen's National Bank.

C. M. McDonald, president McDonald Real Estate Co., 823 Chestnut St., and 2320 Marconi St.

John P. Meyer, president Northwestern National Bank of St. Louis.

Joseph A. McLain, dean of Washington University school of law, Lindell and Skinner.

Eugene J. Mudd, vice-president Mercantile-Commerce Bank & Trust Co., 721 Locust St.

M. H. Rodemeyer, realtor, 408 Pine St.

B. G. Schackelford, principal Clark School, 4515 Maryland Ave.

Ethal A. H. Shepley, attorney, 319 N. 4th St.

William H. Stead, dean school of business and public administration, Washington University.

W. Stuart Symington, president Emerson Electric Co., 1824 Washington Ave.

Kenneth Teasdale, attorney, Boatmen's Bank Bldg.

John Joseph Confers on Opening of "Nice Girl"

CHICAGO—John E. Joseph, Universal advertising and publicity chief, stopped here for conferences anent the local opening of Deanna Durbin's next, "Nice Girl?" before continuing his trip to Hollywood to set campaigns for Universal pictures ready for March and April release, including "Model Wife," starring Joan Blondell and Dick Powell; the Frank Lloyd production, "The Lady From Cheyenne," starring Loretta Young with Robert Preston and Edward Arnold; the Rene Clair production, "The Flame of New Orleans," starring Marlene Dietrich and produced by Joe Pasternak; and "The Man Who Lost Himself," starring Brian Aherne and Kay Francis.

Mrs. Karsch Will Take Bids for Rolla House

ROLLA, MO.—Mrs. Mildred Karsch of Farmington, Mo., plans to receive bids about February 25 on the superstructure of the new 700-seat theatre she plans to erect here.

Plans for the house have been prepared by Fred S. Sternberg, 8015 Forsythe boulevard, Clayton, St. Louis, Mo. It will be one-story, 51x106 feet, and is to be erected on a foundation already in place. It will be of brick with concrete floor, asphalt tile, Celotex, structural glass and a built-up roof. Modern heating and air-conditioning will be installed.

CHICAGO

TWO BIG screenings on Filmrow last Tuesday. Jim Donohue screened Paramount's "The Lady Eve" at the Esquire, while Clyde Eckhardt had "Western Union" shown at his 20th Century-Fox screening room . . . Saul Goldman at Variety Pictures has two Warwick Productions, "Murder Is News" and "Death Goes North," both of which are expected to go into general release shortly. Goldman recently smashed his car in an accident at Angiers, Ohio. He emerged unscathed but minus his Oldsmobile.

Herman Saperstein reports selling his "Three Stooges" kid giveaway to Armitage, Plaza and Marshall Square theatres and houses operated by Bartelstein circuit . . . Joe Goldberg says he furnished complete line of Brenkert projectors for "Fantasia," currently doing two-a-day at Apollo. Disney music-film opened Wednesday night following press-showing Tuesday evening . . . "Gone With the Wind" scheduled to open at B&K Roosevelt, Friday.

Jack Moss, Paramount film producer, and wife came through town last Tuesday en route to New York . . . Also in town for day recently was Clarence Nash, "voice" of Donald Duck . . . Janitors' Union asking for 20 per cent increase. If they get it, it's retroactive from first of year. Minimum weekly wages now is $27.50 . . . Amusement Division of Jewish Welfare Fund has $45,000 of necessary $60,000. Co-chairmen are: Jack Kirsch, John Balaban and Eddie Silverman. Latter is currently vacationing at Palm Springs, Cal., and is occupying Joe Schenck's mansion there.

Elmer Balaban taking much-needed rest at Mexico City . . . Archie Herzoff, publicity man for B&K's flagship, the Chicago, is recuperating from a tonsillotomy . . . Don Foster, formerly manager of the personal service bureau at Chicago Daily News *and until recently in the sales promotion department, has succeeded Dorothy Nessel in the* News' *movie and legitimate advertising department. It was Dorothy Nessel who was married recently and not Dorothy Peschel. Miss Peschel is with another paper, the* Trib, *as assistant to Movie Critic Mae Tinee.*

Advance dope: Look for the circuits now headquartering at 910 S. Michigan Ave. to move closer to BOXOFFICE headquarters at 332 S. Michigan Ave. about April 1. Four circuits will occupy entire sixth floor at 600 S. Michigan Ave. Firms include: Indiana-Illinois Theatres, Joe Stern Theatres, Simansky and Miller, and Lou Reinheimer. Firms, now screening at Universal, may have their own projection room.

Evelyn Oxenham has been appointed secretary to John F. Sullivan, American Arbitration clerk here . . . Jack Kirsch and John Balaban, co-chairmen of the Illinois-Indiana division of Motion Picture Committee cooperating for national defense, report pledges of cooperation are being received daily from the two "I" states . . . For their good work in handling promotion on the Barney Balaban-B&K drive, Ed Seguin and Jack Garber received $100 *and* $50 *checks, respectively. Winning managers received* $100, *their assistants* $50 *while second place managers got* $25 *and their assistants* $15. *All winning managers and assistant managers also received a week's vacation with pay. Awarding of prizes was held up until Walter Immerman, who had touch of flu, returned to work.*

Lloyd Nolan and his wife arrived in town last Monday. Star said he's taking a month's vacation between pictures. He was en route to Detroit to pick up a car, then planned on driving to New York, to wife's hometown in North Carolina and then back to Hollywod via New Orleans . . . Blanche Steadman and Karl Heyl, both in Warner's contact department, back at work after honeymooning at Chain O' Lakes, Wisconsin.

Warner Notes: Larry Stein reports a batch of "big name" attractions have been booked into the Paramount in Hammond. Thurston's "Mysteries of India" played there last Sunday, Ted Weems' orchestra is booked for this Sunday, "Tiny" Hill's band is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, *and Henry Busse's orchestra will play the Paramount on March* 22 . . . *Al Blasko, now managing the Parthenon, Hammond, reminiscing about the days gone by when he was* BOXOFFICE *man here.*

Leo Jaffee, assistant to the treasurer of Columbia Pictures, came through town en route east last Monday. On the same train was Abe Montague, general sales manager . . . Jack Thoma, publicity man for Columbia here in Chi, went to Kankakee to work on "This Thing Called Love."

Megs "Washington Melodrama"

HOLLYWOOD—S. Sylvan Simon is directing "Washington Melodrama," an Edgar Selwyn production for Metro. Frank Morgan, Ann Rutherford and John Shelton draw the top acting assignments.

SPRINGFIELD

C. C. MURRAY, manager of the Fox-Lincoln Theatre, made a business trip to St. Louis during the week . . . "Gone With the Wind" did the best business it has done anywhere in Illinois thus far during its week's run at the Orpheum, Manager M. E. Berman announced.

James Frisina, with the Frisina chain in Taylorville, is vacationing in Florida and getting in a little golf . . . James Smarjesse, usher at the Fox-Lincoln Theatre, went to Chicago with the Springfield Junior College basketball team.

Pete Nepote, manager at Robinson; K. C. Whetstone, city manager at Keokuk, Ia., and Tom Tobin, city manager of the chain's East St. Louis theatres, were visitors to the Frisina home office here during the week . . . Mrs. Pauline Drury, cashier at the Fox-Lincoln, visited friends in Jacksonville over the weekend.

The Orpheum Theatre was host Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to the Illinois State Journal's *annual cooking school. Packed houses were on hand at each of the morning sessions. Following awarding of prizes, many of the women remained to see "Kitty Foyle" in the afternoon. It has been Manager M. E. Berman's policy to have his theatre used for the school, so that it would not detract from theatre attendance were it held at a conflicting hour in the afternoon or evening elsewhere.*

Max Tschauder, manager of the Roxy Theatre, reports that "Back Street" did big business during a week's run . . . William E. Kilgore, manager of the Kerasotes Modernistic Theatre at Onarga, Ill., will be married February 24 to Lona Betzer, an organist from Milford, Ill.

"Western Union" in its midwest premiere at the Fox-Lincoln Theatre was doing far above average business, according to C. C. Murray, manager . . . Edmond Metzger, manager of the Kerasotes-Strand Theatre, and his wife went to Chicago for a couple of days. It's rumored he took in seven pictures and three stage shows.

The Roxy Theatre bowling team of Shelbyville defeated the Springfield Roxy Theatre Rockets three games by 85 pins. Charles Beninati is captain of the Shelbyville team. On the Springfield team are: J. B. Giachetto, Dominic Giachetto, Bill Feldstein, Ciro Pedrucci and Joe Pedrucci.

"Star-O," new screen game, will make its debut at the Strand Theatre.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

SIGNS - MARQUEES AND MAINTENANCE

White Way Electric Sign & Maintenance Co.
Tom Flannery, President
315-17 W. Walton Street
Phone DELaware 9111

THEATRICAL PRINTING



ST. LOUIS

THE 2,500 soldiers now stationed at Jefferson Barracks were invited by Fanchon & Marco to be their guests at the Fox Theatre, February 18, for a special preview of "Buck Privates." The preview was at 8:45 p. m.

Johnny Perkins, popular emcee and proprietor of Perkins Paladium in East St. Louis, Ill., was released from St. John's Hospital after a 12-day stay for a complete checkup. He returned to head a special show booked to celebrate his homecoming.

A "knot-hole gang" of the theatre, organized along the lines made famous by the St. Louis Cardinals of the National League Professional Baseball Clubs, to make it possible for boys and girls to attend plays without charge, so as to develop an early interest in the stage, was suggested by speakers on the KSD Community Forum program.

Word comes from Jefferson City that the state's lawmakers now plan to make the present two per cent sales tax permanent and perhaps kick the rate up to three or four per cent. The present sales tax law expires on December 31, 1941.

Military police armed with stout billies and wearing arm bands marked "M. P." now give the joy spots of St. Louis and St. Louis county their official attention on Saturdays and Sundays to see that the soldiers from the Barracks, Scott Field, Ill., frequenting such spots behave themselves.

Richard A. Rowland, veteran producer, was a luncheon guest of local exhibitors here February 11 *in connection with a showing of his newest picture, "Cheers for Miss Bishop," at the Esquire Theatre . . . Barney Rohr, an usher at Loew's, participated in the recent Golden Gloves boxing tournament here.*

Cliff Johnson, one of the operators of the Lyric Theatre, is very proud of that son and heir, James Louis Johnson, born to his wife at St. Anthony's Hospital recently . . . Frank Sully of the films has been visiting with his folks, the Sullivans, in his native Wellston . . . The St. Louis Theatre is now working on a twice-a-week change policy.

Defense Maneuver In a Lobby

St. Louis—A young man who chose to applaud Hitler during the latter gent's appearance on the screen of the F&M Fox can thank the alert staff of the theatre for his escape from a very likely pummeling. Seeing the Hitler admirer cordoned by a group of other young men who arose to leave along with him, several ushers shoved him into a first floor office and notified Manager Clyde Brown. Brown in turn notified police who dispersed the crowd and turned over the erstwhile fuehrer fan for FBI questioning.



—Bill Hughes

Keeping Posted—

Looking over their copy of BOXOFFICE *at the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago during the Universal convention are, on the left, M. M. (Manny) Gottlieb, Chicago branch manager, and E. T. (Peck) Gomersall, district manager.*

INDIANAPOLIS

AMONG several bills passed by the Indiana State legislature was one legalizing Sunday night baseball and hockey games. The former time limit on baseball games on the Sabbath was 6 o'clock, which eliminated any threat of competition from that source to exhibitors.

B. N. Peterson, former salesman for National Theatre Supply Co., in both their Cincinnati and Indianapolis branches, has been made the manager of the local branch . . . Pete Mallers, Fort Wayne exhibitor, takes over the operation of the Riley Theatre there. The house was formerly a unit of the Quimby circuit . . . Frank Reimer, who was connected with the Quimby circuit, and lately with Universal Film Exchange as a salesman here, resigned to join Warner's staff at Milwaukee.

Miss LaVerne Williams of the Universal exchange was married to Kenneth Enzor, and their honeymoon was spent in Washington, D. C.

Universal Film Co.'s home office confirmed Had Hull as branch manager at Indianapolis. He has been acting branch manager in place of Gordon C. Craddock, who was named assistant to William J. Heineman, western sales manager of the same company.

Aaron Gentry, manager of the Ritz Theatre, Boonville, Ind., has been transferred to Linton, Ind., as city manager for Settos Theatres there, succeeding W. R. McCormack, resigned.

Indianapolis, which has not had a magician's show in years, suddenly found itself with two running simultaneously. Dante made a one-week stand at the English Theatre while Will Rock interlocked his engagement at the Lyric.

MILWAUKEE

SUSANNA FOSTER and Dolly Loehr made two personal appearances at Fox's Palace here February 15 in connection with the showing of "The Hard Boiled Canary." They were feted at a tea at the Schroeder Hotel in the afternoon . . . Pat O'Brien is scheduled to make a personal appearance at the Riverside here the week of February 23 with the Merry Macs.

Jack Keegan, who has become associated with the United Detroit Theatres, was feted at a farewell party here last week by the Variety Club. Keegan has been associated with Warner in Wisconsin for more than ten years.

Harry Perlewitz, business manager of the ITPA of Wisconsin here, advises exhibitors that his office is ready to assist those wishing to file arbitration complaints and furnish them with the necessary blanks and information for proper filing.

Walter E. Holfman of South Bend, Ind., has reopened the State in Sheboygan . . . United Artists presented an exhibitor showing of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" at the Tower here last week.

The Grand at Wausau was a recent host to boys and girls of the school traffic patrol . . . To enable everybody, including school children, to see "Strike Up the Band," the Mainstreet in Racine presented the first evening show at 5:45 p. m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Recent Racine visitors were Nate Blumberg, president of Universal Pictures, and his assistant, Matty Fox. Blumberg's wife is the former Vera Fox of Racine and both Blumberg and Fox were formerly associated with Racine theatres.

Valentine parties for kids were in order February 15 at the Retlaw in Fond du Lac, the Strand in Manitowoc and the Fox in Stevens Point. First named house offered free ice cream and cookies and the second bags of popcorn to the first 300 kids . . . "Gone With the Wind" at regular admissions around the state is reported doing a big business with holdovers in a number of spots.

Earl Carroll's Vanities is scheduled to open at Fox's Wisconsin February 21 *for a week's run . . . The Juneau featured a quartet on its stage in connection with the showing of "The Villain Still Pursued Her."*

Lambert Succeeds Keegan For Warner in Racine

RACINE, WIS.—Stanley Lambert, manager of Warner's Rialto here, has been named manager of the circuit's Venetian succeeding Jack Keegan, who has resigned to become buyer for the United Detroit Theatres, Detroit. Lambert in turn is succeeded by George Gross, former assistant manager of the Avalon in Chicago. Keegan had been associated with Warner for nearly 15 years and served as district manager for the circuit in Milwaukee before being transferred to Racine several months ago.

BOWLING

CHICAGO—By taking all three games from the last-place Universal quintet, the Paramount boys tightened their grip in the Chicago Filmrow Bowling League at the conclusion of the 18th week. Leading scorers to date are: Abe Fischer, Fox, 174; Max Dreifuss, Republic, 174; Johnny Knaffle, UA, 173; Mike Fahey, Para't, 172, and Jack Kirsch, Republic, 172. Team standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Paramount	35	22
20th Century-Fox	32	25
Metro	31	26
United Artists	28	29
Film Chauffeurs	28	29
Republic	27	30
National Screen	25	32
Universal	22	35

CHICAGO—In the 23rd week of Warner Bros. Bowling League, the Avalon Cubs proved worthy of representing the league at the ABC Tournament in St. Paul March 26 by retaining a one game margin over the second place Yannigans. Latter quintet will go to St. Paul at their own expense on March 12. Leading scorers to date are: Tom Jones, 183; Ted Turrell, 180; Morty Ayers, 177; Whitey Graf, 175; and George Heiss, 172. Team standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Avalon Cubs	43	26
Yannigans	42	27
Stratford	40	29
Capitol	38	31
Grove	38	31
Hammond	37	32
Avalon	36	33
Cosmo	34	35
Beverly	32	37
1000 Pounders	30	39
Ogden	30	39
Jeffery	28	41

Two Youths Confess to Robbing St. Louis Fox

ST. LOUIS—The police have reported that Andrew Gruen, 23, and Neal Tesson, 23, arrested in Wellston Loop, have confessed to the $1,300 holdup of the Fox Theatre on Christmas night.

The young men were picked up on suspicion and were not connected up with the Fox robbery until Elmer Esrock, a doorman at the theatre, identified Gruen as one of the robbers.

On Christmas night two men followed Lowell Smith, treasurer of the theatre, from the boxoffice to Smith's office. As Smith opened the office door, one of them "covered" him with a revolver, while the other took the money Smith was holding and an additional sum from the office safe.

"Come Live With Me" Finds Many Willing

Bloomington, Ind.—Arthur B. Clark, manager of the Indiana, advertised for a young man to become a "husband of convenience" for a beautiful young refugee, promising an income and residence to the one selected. Volunteers, to what was an exploitation gag, were so numerous that it has become a major problem to get away from the telephone.

Copyright Pooling Would Be Banned

Jefferson City, Mo.—Representative Paul E. Turner of St. Joseph has introduced a bill to do away with "monopolistic practices" of copyright music pools. It would make it unlawful for two or more persons holding copyrighted works to pool their interests for the purpose of collecting fees or issuing blanket licenses for the right to use such music commercially. Violators of the bill would face confiscation of their music.

"Four Mothers" Plus Stage Show Best in Chicago

CHICAGO—Warner Bros.' "Four Mothers" at the Chicago Theatre, aided by Gene Krupa's band and Andrews Sisters on the stage did best business in loop with Columbia's "This Thing Called Love" holding down the number two spot at the Garrick. The Oriental Theatre on Friday, February 21, changed from the Jones, Linick & Schaefer banner to a group headed by Michael Todd. A combination film-stage show policy is being continued.

Detail for week ended February 13:

(Average is 100)

Apollo—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA), 3 days..... 85
B&K house closed Sunday, February 9 in order to facilitate installation of equipment for "Fantasia" which began a run Feb. 19.
Chicago—**Four Mothers** (WB), plus stage show.135
Garrick—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....130
Following week at the Chicago, film is continuing doing fine business.
Oriental—**Hit Parade of 1941** (Rep), plus stage show 105
Palace—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), first 4 days 125
Palace—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Play Girl** (RKO), second three days 120
"Kitty Foyle" finished six big weeks at the Palace piling up best receipts house has had in years. "Buck Privates" opened strong February 11.
Roosevelt—**Flight Command** (M-G-M) 80
Second week, fell off.
State-Lake—**South of Suez** (WB), plus stage show 120
"Screwballs of 1941" stage hit helped.
Studio—**Rebecca** (UA), return engagement....125
United Artists—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 110

"Wind" and "Back Street" Dominate Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS—Second week of "GWTW" held up well at Loew's. "Back Street" at the Indiana had terrific appeal for woman.

Detail for week ending February 14:

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**You're Out of Luck** (Mono); **Doomed Caravan** (Para't) 90
Circle—**Invisible Woman** (Univ); **No, No Nanette** (RKO) 80
Indiana—**Back Street** (Univ); **Six Lessons from Madame LaZonga** (Univ) 110
Loew's—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 2nd wk. 145
Lyric—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); Simone Simon Act on stage 95

"Western Union" on Dual Bill Milwaukee's Top

MILWAUKEE—Best bet in what turned out to be only slightly better than an average week was "Western Union" and "Blonde Inspiration" at Fox's Wisconsin. The Mills Brothers on the stage of the Riverside with the flicker, "Behind the News," finished in second money.

Detail for week ending February 13:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**You're the One** (Para't); **The Mad Doctor** (Para't) 110
Riverside—**Behind the News** (Rep); plus Mills Brothers on stage 120
Strand—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 85
Warner—**High Sierra** (FN); **One Night in the Tropics** (Univ) 115
Wisconsin—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Blonde Inspiration** (M-G-M) 125

RACINE

AT THE February meeting of the Better Films League of Racine, plans were made for a benefit show later in the month, with "Land of Liberty" the chosen film. Profits will go to the Racine Red Cross for war relief work. Four new groups joined the league, which has as its slogan "Patronize good movies and you will get more of them."

Nate Blumberg, president of Universal Pictures, and his brother-in-law, Matty Fox, vice-president of Universal, spent several hours in Racine February 7 visiting relatives, friends and former associates. Fox, who was formerly associated with the State Theatre here, had just returned from the premiere of "Back Street" in Florida. Blumberg was at one time manager of the Venetian when it was first opened.

That drummer man, Gene Krupa, and his band, made a stage appearance at the Venetian Wednesday, February 19. A contest for amateur drummers of Racine preceded his appearance here, with the winners being privileged to play with him and his band on the local theatre stage. A set of drums, given by a Racine music store, was awarded the lucky individual as a post-Krupa appearance feature. An interview over WRJN and a jam session following the stage performances were features of Krupa's day in Racine.

Critic Takes to Paeans In Reviewing of Two

CHICAGO—Mae Tinee, film critic of the Chicago *Tribune*, picked two Metro pictures in her list of seven best films for January. They were: "Philadelphia Story" and "Flight Command." Other films chosen by Miss Tinee were: RKO's "Kitty Foyle," Warner's "Santa Fe Trail," Paramount's "Second Chorus," 20th-Fox's "Night Train," and "Schubert's Serenade."

Commenting on "Philadelphia Story," Miss Tinee poetically wrote: "Yep— in 'Philadelphia Story' Hepburn crowns herself with glory, 'comes back' in a great big way, as all who have seen her say . . . Plays with touch that's sure but light. All she does and says is right. Well, she had no little worries. Cast, director, yarn—the berries!"

In commenting on "Kitty Foyle," the *Tribune* reviewer said: " 'Kitty Foyle,' now as a picture, had the Morley novel licked, sure! Ginger Rogers went to town. Did the title role up brown! Naught her grand performance marred. Will she get this year's award . . .?"

Indiana Exhibitors Aid Greek War Relief Fund

INDIANAPOLIS—Indiana exhibitors have been making an effort toward aiding as much as possible in the Greek War Relief cause, and have reported these accomplishments:

From Fred C. Doughty, manager of the Lyric and Cozy theatres, Winchester, Ind., comes information of a special one page cooperative ad on the feature "Land of Liberty," whereby the newspaper agreed to donate a percentage of the ad revenue to the Greek War Relief Fund. Doughty sent in the theatre employes' contribution together with the newspaper's.

At Washington, Indiana, A. J. Kalberer, city manager for the Switow circuit, operating the Indiana and Liberty there, announced the formation of a Citizen's Committee among the leading business men of the city. They set aside February 2 to 9 as Greek War Relief Week. Containers for the receiving of donations were placed in the theatres, as well as in other business establishments.

Indiana theatremen have contributed approximately $1,150.00. Those lately received are as follows: Indianapolis Cooperative Theatres, Inc., $100.00; Fourth Avenue Amusement Co., Louisville, Ky., $100.00; Circle Theatre, Indianapolis, $50.00; Indiana Theatre, Indianapolis, $50.00; A. H. Borkenstein, Fort Wayne, $25.00; Ansted, Pearson & Schilling, Connersville, $15.00; J. M. Dixon, Flora Theatre, Flora, Indiana, $10.00. Tivoli and Astra theatres, Jasper, $5.00.

Mike Todd Takes Over Oriental

CHICAGO—In "show business" all his life, although he has had no actual experience operating a theatre, Mike Todd, on Friday began operating the 3,900-seat loop Oriental, succeeding Jones, Linick & Schaefer, who had managed the house the past couple years.

It is understood Todd is managing the house for the 32 W. Randolph Street Building Corp., the latter having requested Todd to do the job following an impasse caused by Jones, Linick & Schaefer's inability to make payments on rental past due. It is reported JL&S were about $40,000 in arrears.

Todd told BOXOFFICE he is retaining Jack Hunt as manager. William F. Crouch has resigned as executive secretary of the United Theatre Owners of Illinois to handle publicity for the Oriental. Crouch, a trade-paper reporter for years, is now associated with the Howie Mayer publicity office which handles the Todd account locally.

In his initial week's bill, Todd is presenting a "Gay 90's Revue" on the stage and "Hell's Angels" on the screen. It is understood he is planning on concentrating on his stage presentations since the Oriental, under its present price policy, has had difficulty obtaining suitable product.

Todd, a native Chicagoan, rose to fame in recent years on Broadway. He first struck the critics' eyes when he dazzled Broadway with a colored swing version of "The Mikado" starring Bill Robinson. Subsequently, Todd and Billy Rose became the most successful showmen at the New York World's Fair. A few months ago, Todd returned to Chicago to open his north-side "Theatre-Cafe" which has proven to be a successful venture. It can best be described as "a poor-man's night club."

Filmack Into Larger Quarters Next Month

CHICAGO—Irving Mack, sales manager for the Filmack Trailer Co., announces that headquarters of the firm will be moved from 843 S. Wabash Ave. to the one-story building formerly occupied by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at 1325 S. Wabash Ave. The change is expected to take place sometime next month.

Filmack will occupy most of the 20,000 feet of floor space at the new quarters, although a portion of the one-story building is being sub-leased to the Alexander Film Co., which will move from its present quarters at 839 S. Wabash. The move next month by Filmack is the fifth time the company has had to take larger quarters in the past 22 years.

Adapt Bette Davis Vehicle

HOLLYWOOD—Aeneas Mackenzie and Wally Klein are collaborating on the script of "The Widow of Devil's Island," forthcoming Bette Davis starrer for Warner.

ANY NEWS TODAY?

Planning a new theatre? Remodeling? Being promoted? Getting married? Got a new baby (infant)? Buying new equipment? Been elected mayor? Son or daughter graduating? Proud of a new exploitation stunt? Hired a new staff member? Solved a knotty problem?

Then Tell It To BOXOFFICE

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NAME ..... THEATRE..... LOCATION .....

NORTHWEST ALLIED FILES BILL TO PRESERVE BLOCK BOOKING

Proposed Law Counters 5-Block Plan Under Consent Decree

MINNEAPOLIS—The die is cast. Introduction into the state legislature this week of a proposed law to contravene the consent decree's plan for the sale of films in groups of five has embarked Northwest Allied, sponsoring the measure, in a fight to the finish to preserve the present block sale system.

The bill requires distributors to offer for sale their entire season's product to exhibitors, as now is customary, with a minimum 20 per cent cancellation privilege.

Under the bill, however, forced buying of shorts, serials, newsreels, foreigns, trailers, westerns and reissues, as a condition to the purchase of features, would be illegal.

Penalty for conviction of violating the law would be a maximum fine of $1,000, or a year in state prison, or both.

Confident It Will Pass

Expressing confidence in the proposed law's passage, Fred Strom, Northwest Allied executive secretary, has asked every theatre owner to give it his "wholehearted support and indorsement." No time will be lost, he says, in the vigorous effort to obtain favorable legislative consideration, he says. No opposition is anticipated from the film distributors, according to Strom.

In a statement issued prior to the bill's introduction, Strom asserted "Northwest Allied is firm and unalterable in its opinion that out-of-town situation, many of which are removed hundreds of miles from the Minneapolis exchange center, as well as Twin City subsequent-run exhibitors will be infinitely better off buying an entire season's output, with a cancellation privilege of 20 per cent, and with no forcing of shorts, than in attempting to operate the consent decree's terms."

The term "season," as applying to an entire output, is defined in the bill as "a period of 12 months, as may be selected by the producer-distributor, provided, however, that there shall be no lapse of time between the termination of one season and the start of the next."

(Text of the bill appears on page 6 this issue)

A thorough canvass, made prior to the bill's introduction, has convinced Northwest Allied that the law's constitutionality, involving the commerce and due process clauses of the Constitution, can be upheld, according to Strom.

Preamble Defines Terms

A lengthy preamble not only defines the bill's terms, but also describes certain alleged conditions within the industry.

One charge in the preamble is that "producer-distributors impose arbitrary terms and conditions and Minnesota independent exhibitors have been compelled as a condition precedent to licensing feature pictures also to license short subjects," etc., far in excess of their needs and requirements.

It also is charged that Minnesota independent exhibitors "have been unable to cancel feature motion pictures injurious and damaging to his business and have had to play pictures undesirable and harmful to the public."

While "the long established trade practice of licensing feature motion pictures for a full season is essential to the best interests of the producer-distributors, exhibitors and the public," according to the preamble, "producer-distributors' conditions have subjected independent exhibitors to unfair disadvantages, preventing him from responding to the community and local public influences and preferences with respect to the selection of desirable feature motion picture films and are inimicable to public welfare and against public policy."

Under the measure's terms, cancellation would be made proportionately among the several price brackets, if there be such price brackets in the license agreement. It is specified that any number of cancellations to which an exhibitor is entitled may be made from the lowest price bracket at his option. However, if the law is enacted, the right to cancellation would not be effective unless the exhibitor would exercise such right by giving notice thereof to the distributor within 15 days after being notified of the picture's availability. The right to cancellation could be waived by an exhibitor before or after the making of a license agreement, but such waiver would have to be in writing.

In case of a violation of the act by a corporation, it is provided that such violation shall be deemed also to be that of the individual directors, officers or agents of such corporation who have assisted in such violation, or who have authorized, ordered or done the acts of omissions constituting in whole or in part such violation, and upon conviction thereof any such directors, officers or agents shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, as previously specified.

The bill also sets forth that "any provision of any film contract, which is contrary to any of its provisions is hereby declared against public policy and void." Under its terms, too, the holding invalid or unconstitutional of any of its provisions or the setting aside of its applicability thereof to any person or circumstances, would not affect the act's validity or the applicability of such provision to other persons and circumstances.

Fate of Measure Seen Dependent on What Opposition Arises

Determined on Success

The bill went into the lower house last Tuesday and into the state senate two days later. In trade circles the feeling is that its chances for success depend upon whether much, if any, opposition is marshaled against it. Where this opposition will emanate from—if it does develop—cannot be foreseen at this time. It may come from film distributors—although Northwest Allied leaders say they have been assured otherwise—from the federal government, civic groups and women's organizations opposed to block booking and believing that the consent decree selling plan abolished it. There even may be circuits or individual exhibitors who will try to defeat it, although as yet there is nothing definite in the air, as far as can be learned. Allied is determined to put it over.

Life for Independents

Minneapolis—One effect of the consent decree will be to boost such independent producers as Republic to a new prosperity peak, in the opinion of James R. Grainger, president of that company. Here to visit his local branch manager, Gilbert Nathanson, Grainger expressed the belief that those independent companies which always have maintained a steady product flow, now are sitting pretty.

"More than ever before exhibitors now will need a guarantee of sufficient pictures to keep their houses open even if they pass up some of the groups of five," said Grainger. "Republic and similar companies will be the same as an insurance policy for those exhibitors and that will mean peace of mind for the theatre owners."

Big gains over the preceding year were shown by every Republic exchange in 1940, Grainger said. He is now on his way to meet Herbert J. Yates in Hollywood to set up the 1941-42 production schedule. The program budget will be increased, he announces.

Korda's Stephen Pallos Confident in Britain

DES MOINES—A mountain of optimism was Stephen Pallos, Alexander Korda's representative from England, who visited the Tri-States Theatres Corp. here Tuesday.

Pallos, who is in the United States to work out Korda's production schedule, says he is confident England will win the war. The war has interfered little if at all with production in England, he states. He plans to return to London next month.

Minnesota Case May Be Taken to Court

MINNEAPOLIS—Middle States Corp. heads have let it be known they may carry a fight for film product for the 4,000-seat Minnesota Theatre, which they are operating with vaudeville and pictures, into the law courts, instead of to the consent decree's arbitration board. A large damage suit may be brought against the major film distributors and the Minnesota Amusement Co.—Mort H. Singer pool which has virtually all of the major product sewed up in the Minneapolis loop.

In this connection, the company had Joe Rosenberg, noted Chicago theatre attorney, here to make a survey of the local situation to determine what action should be taken. His law concern has been retained by the company to help it to obtain "relief."

The Minnesota Theatre situation is nothing new to Rosenberg. He was also retained by the Benzes, previous operators of the Minnesota, who also were unable to obtain major screen product and who blamed this for their unsuccessful operation. A conspiracy damage suit was threatened, but the matter was dropped after the Benzes made a deal with the Minnesota Amusement Co. for the latter to lease their local loop theatre, the Palace, for a long term.

E. J. Weisfeldt, Minnesota managing director, has expressed the opinion the situation here can be "beaten." He points out that the Minnesota Amusement Co.'s Aster, scaled at 15 cents to 5 p. m. and 28 cents thereafter, is using up with a double feature policy many of the types of pictures which he is anxious to obtain. However, the Aster policy has been in effect for several years and local film people declare there is no overbuying by the Minnesota Amusement Co.

All Funds Nearly In for Variety Music Project

KANSAS CITY—The Cinema Club, junior affiliate of the Variety Club, having undertaken a project in behalf of the music room of the Variety Club, is expected to complete this project within a week or so. The funds are nearly all in now, it was said. They will be used to buy a combination radio-phonograph and a library of records. Alex Schneiderman, with Quality Premium Co., is conducting the drive in behalf of the Cinema Club, assisted by Ward Scott of the 20th Century-Fox branch as representative for Variety. Joe Lysowski, with Altec Service Corp., is president of the Cinema Club.

Stern Buys House

MINNEAPOLIS—J. L. Stern, owner of the Majestic exchange and "Bank Night" distributor, has become an exhibitor. He acquired the Mohawk Theatre, St. Paul, from Charles Christians.

Midwest Arbitration Panels

While additional names probably will swell the total later, the following members of arbitration panels for the motion picture tribunals in Des Moines, Kansas City, Minneapolis and Omaha have been announced by the American Arbitration Ass'n:

Des Moines

John D. Adams, general secretary chamber of commerce, Savery Hotel.

John E. Bemis, accountant, Insurance Exchange Bldg.

C. A. Bland, superintendent of production Iowa Power & Light Co., 106 S. E. 1st St.

E. S. Boudinot, engineer, 3438 University Ave.

Donald Evans, attorney, Equitable Bldg.

A. N. Heggen, general manager Des Moines Cooperative Dairy.

Percy Hoak, president Wheeler Lumber Bridge & Supply Co.

B. F. Kauffman, president Bankers Trust Co., 6th & Locust St.

F. H. Mackaman, attorney, Register & Tribune Bldg.

Dale L. Maffitt, manager Des Moines Municipal Water Co., 10th & Locust St.

Elmer E. Miller, secretary Des Moines Bldg. & Loan Ass'n, 411 Sixth Ave.

Harry E. Russell, president Office Equipment Co., 416-18-29 W. 10th St.

Harold B. West, president O. B. West Co., 216 W. Court Ave.

R. H. Young, secretary F. W. Fitch Co.

Martin Tollefson, dean Drake University law school.

Kansas City

Parry Barnes, CPA, Lunsford, Barnes Co., 21 West 10th St.

Benjamin F. Boyer, dean of law, University of Kansas City.

Wallace Brown, chairman of department of English, University of Kansas City.

Thornton Coake, Columbia National Bank, 10th & Grand Sts.

Powell C. Groner, president Kansas City Public Service Co., 728 Delaware.

Ernest E. Howard, bridge designer, Howard, Needles & Tammen, 1012 Baltimore Ave.

Morton T. Jones, insurance, R. B. Jones & Co., 301 West 11th St.

John F. Rhodes, attorney, 2500 Fidelity Bldg.

Henry M. Shugart, attorney, 410 Commerce Bldg.

Minneapolis

Lewis L. Anderson, attorney, 2681 First National Bank Bldg.

M. D. Chandler, vice-president Northwestern National Bank & Trust Co., 6th & Marquette Ave.

Hiram A. Douglas, president Citizens Morris Plan, 710 Marquette Ave.

Lloyd Hale, vice-president and sales manager G. H. Tennant Co., 2530 N. 2nd St.

J. D. Holtzermann, president Holtzermann's Antiques, Importing, 415-429 Cedar Ave.

George W. Irwin, manager Air Reduction Sales Co., 327-25 Ave. S. E.

Arnett W. Leslie, president John Leslie Paper Co., 301 S. 5th St.

Ellis B. Southworth, executive vice-president Title Insurance Co. of Minn., New York Life Bldg.

Oscar C. Strand, Strand & Roe, 1010 Foshay Tower.

Arthur J. Walker, president Farnham Stationery & School Supply Co., 104 Lumber Exchange Bldg.

Omaha

H. M. Baldridge, attorney, Omaha National Bank Bldg.

Thomas B. Coleman, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., 14th & Jones Sts.

Gerald E. Collins, attorney, 4838 South 24th St.

D. P. Hogan, Loyal Hotel.

G. P. Horn, executive manager Omaha Ass'n of Credit Men, Sunderland Bldg.

John W. Hughes, president Guarantee Mutual Life Insurance Co., 1805 Douglas St.

Harry E. Judd, CPA and attorney, Omaha National Bank Bldg.

E. F. Leary, attorney, First National Bank Bldg.

Elton C. Loucks, accountant, John M. Gilchrist Co., Omaha National Bank Bldg.

Francis P. Matthews, attorney, Insurance Bldg.

Henry C. Moeller, CPA, Omaha National Bank Bldg.

George W. Pratt, attorney, Omaha National Bank Bldg.

Walter F. Sprengel, credit manager Paxton & Gallagher Co., 9th & Jones Sts.

Samuel L. Winters, attorney, 4811½ S. 24th St.

No Sioux City Sale

SIOUX CITY, IA.—Odes A. B. Hilton of the Park Theatre here denies a report published last week that his house has been purchased by Ralph Green of Minneapolis.

Sign for Altec Service

KANSAS CITY—Altec has signed service contracts with the Lake Theatre, Buffalo, Minn.; Robin, Robbinsdale, Minn.; Granite, Granite Falls, Minn.; Falls and Camden, Minneapolis; Star, Stanley, N. D., and the Plaza, Potosi, Mo.

Kappler Joins Republic In Booking Department

DES MOINES—Francis Kappler stepped from the Iowa Film Depot over to Republic Pictures this week to go to work for F. R. (Bud) Moran as booker. Kappler took the berth left vacant by Jean Post who went up the street to Universal where he replaces Chuck Elder as one of Lou Levy's bookers.

As a shipper, Kappler was president of the local union. He resigned before taking over booking chores.

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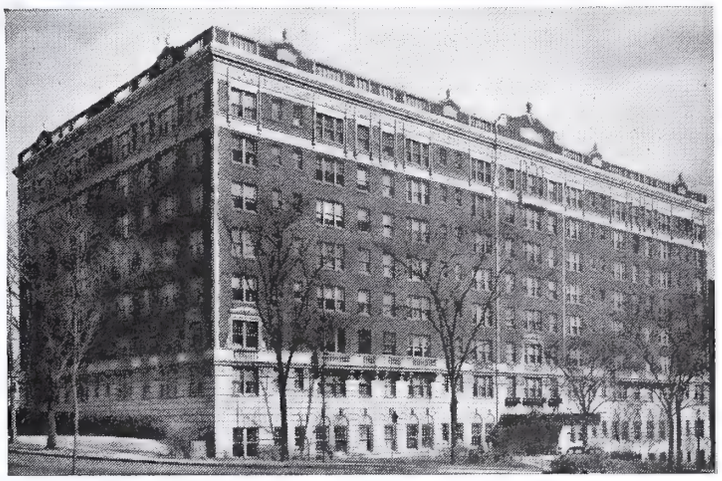
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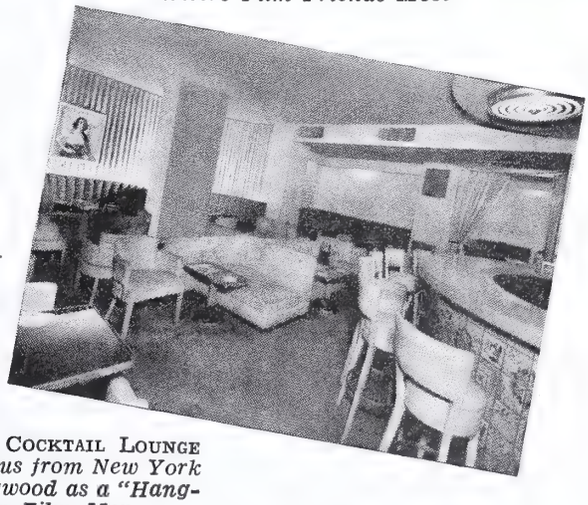
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"Back Street" Doubles Average in Kaycee

KANSAS CITY—Three first run houses did way over average for the week, two with "Back Street," and one crediting Clyde McCoy and his orchestra. The Midland and the Orpheum had held over their pictures for a third week—"Gone With the Wind" at the former still pulling well enough on its return engagement to make an average week for the house. There was a lot of competition, chiefly from basketball and other athletic events—but these were at the Municipal Auditorium which at least, some downtown exhibitors say, helps to keep people in the habit of coming downtown for entertainment.

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Back Street** (Univ) 200
Midland—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. holdover 90
Newman—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB)..... 110
Orpheum—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **She Couldn't Say No** (FN), 3rd wk. holdover..... 95
Tower—**Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox), plus **Clyde McCoy** on stage 160
Uptown—**Back Street** (Univ) 180

Ice Revue and Weather Holds Omaha Below Par

OMAHA—The theatre business was in the doldrums here for the week ending February 15, with competition and heavy winter weather ganging up on exhibitors.

"Thief of Bagdad" and "A Little Bit of Heaven" at the Omaha grabbed the week's only average business. The rest of the first-runs were using red ink. The State combined two second-runs with a first-run.

Sonja Henie and her ice revue were the big competition, drawing about 40,000 persons for a week at the Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum. Unpleasant wind and snow did their share to keep grosses down.

Detail for week ending February 15:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Escape to Glory** (Col), 2nd wk. 85
Omaha—**The Thief of Bagdad** (UA); **A Little Bit of Heaven** (Univ) 100
Orpheum—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ); **Honeymoon for Three** (WB) 90
State—**Melody Ranch** (Rep); **Dulcy** (M-G-M); **Blondie Plays Cupid** (Col) 90

"GWTW" Does Better On Return to K. C.

Kansas City—"Gone With the Wind" ran three weeks on its return engagement at the Midland. In that time it showed to around 10,000 more people than saw it during the first three weeks of its month's run when it was here a year ago.

"Chad Hanna" Plus Stage Show Leads Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—Another big stage show, Earl Carroll's "Vanities," plus "Chad Hanna" on the screen, had the Orpheum out front this week. "This Thing Called Love" also was a smash boxoffice hit at the World. The Minnesota had the Merry Macs and a strong vaudeville bill on the stage and "Drums of the Desert" as its screen attraction.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**San Francisco Docks** (Univ); **Youth Will Be Served** (20th-Fox) 90
Century—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN), 2nd wk..... 90
Gopher—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ).....100
Minnesota—**Drums of the Desert** (Mono), stage show 80
Orpheum—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox), stage show.150
State—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....110
World—**Long Voyage Home** (UA), 3rd wk..... 90

Grocery Gift Quiz Awaits a Verdict

LINCOLN—The case against R. W. Huffman, Gene Shanahan and the Nebraska Theatre for the operation of "Abner Askit Basket," a grocery giveaway quiz program, was submitted last week in district court to Judge E. B. Chappell.

The judge says he hasn't made up his mind about the element of chance in the plan for the game, which will be the deciding factor in whether or not it conflicts with the state's anti-lottery law.

The theatre staff claims it's a game, which can be played, or let alone, as the theatre patrons so desire. Basis of their side of the scrap is that it's a pay off to intelligence in their quiz, not on chance.

Meantime, the temporary injunction against its use in the theatre is still in effect.

"Wind" the Unrivalled Leader in Lincoln

LINCOLN—"Gone With the Wind" took the bows for Filmrow during the past week, and is being held over for a second stab at amusement money. First week saw the house into figures which were 150 per cent higher than the normal tally.

Detail for week ending February 14.

(Average is 100)

Colonial—**Wildcat of Tucson** (Col); **Two Thoroughbreds** (RKO) split with **Rolling Home to Texas** (Mono); **Millionaires in Prison** (RKO) 95
Lincoln—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) 65
Nebraska—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); **San Francisco Docks** (Univ) 105
Stuart—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....250
Variety—**Virginia City** (WB); **Phantom Submarine** (Col) 110
Varsity—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO).....130

"High Sierra" Tops Par Among DM First Runs

DES MOINES—"High Sierra" dominated the boxoffice scenery among Des Moines first run theatres by holding the Orpheum totals above the house average for the eighth consecutive week. The heavy run, aside from Screeno day Tuesday, was the weekend with lockout business Sunday afternoon and evening. Tickets good at a later date prevented a heavy refund to patrons unable to wait long enough to get seats Sunday. With a double feature and an astrology stage act, the Des Moines could muster only 75 per cent against "High Sierra."

Detail for week ending February 20:

(Average is 100)

Des Moines—**Back Street** (Univ); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M); stage act 75
Orpheum—**High Sierra** (FN); **Play Girl** (RKO).110
Paramount—**Victory** (Para't); **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 60

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KAYCEE

TRIPLETT & DUCKWORTH of the Licking, Licking, Mo., are installing new projection and sound equipment. Licking is near the southern border of Fort Leonard Wood . . . On the Row were George Hayob, Mary Lou, Marshall, Mo.; John L. Whiting, Lido, Downs, Kas.; Glenn Newbold, Temple, Yates Center, Kas.; Mrs. R. J. Booth and the grandson who helps run the theatre, Booth, Rich Hill, Mo.; A. E. Jarboe, Ritz, Cameron, Mo.; R. O. Robison, Grant City, Grant City, Mo.; Gus Diamond, Vogue, of the circuit including Salina and Arkansas City, Kas.; Jim Russell, Strand, Lancaster, Kas.; Lester McCormick and Preston Greer, partners, Majestic, Green Forrest, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Cook, Ideal, Halstead, Kas.; Paul Oetting, Lyric, Concordia, Mo.

Charles Coburn, Paramount home office auditor, is here for a few weeks . . . H. J. Griffith, H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc., and Harold Harris, general manager, went to Tulsa for the opening of the new Griffith-Southwestern theatre there. Jack Gregory of Altec also went to the opening . . . The Universal branch office sprang a surprise on Larry Klein, office manager, putting on a birthday party in his honor; buffet luncheon was brought into the office, including a birthday cake —no candles on it—no indication of how many would have been there if his number of birthdays were thus publicized.

Universal salesmen of the Kansas City branch were in Chicago for a day attending a regional meeting . . . J. E. Garrison, district manager, Universal, and Mrs. Garrison, left February 17 for a vacation in Florida . . . Otis Cowan, formerly with Griffith Amusement Corp., Oklahoma City, has replaced Vernon McGinnis at Manhattan, Kas., in charge of the three H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc., theatres there. McGinnis returns to Griffith-Southwestern Corp. in Tulsa.

"Doc" and Mrs. Lowe were in recently. They are preparing to open the new Star at Lebanon, Mo. . . . The staff of 20th Century-Fox here had a meeting at the Muehlebach February 14, when Felix Jenkins, head of the company's legal department, spoke. Present were George W. Fuller, branch manager here; W. E. Scott, district manager; W. J. Kubitzki, sales manager, with Salesmen H. B. Kinser, Jack Woodward, Charles Knickerbocker; M. A. Tanner, head booker, and Bookers C. W. Decker and R. L. Conn; Cashier C. P. Palermo and C. D. Crawford, advertising sales manager. The general counsel, coming from New York, is visiting all offices, explaining the workings of the consent decree.

Robert E. Lee, formerly with the Fox Theatre, Pittsburg, Kas., has gone to Olathe as assistant to Mrs. S. C. Andrews, owner and manager of the Andrews . . . Ed Allison, Fox Midwest Theatre Corp., manager at Ottawa, Kas., spoke on the motion picture business to the Rotary Club at a recent luncheon meeting . . . Erskine Caldwell, author of the novel "Tobacco Road," was in Kansas City recently on a trip through the agricultural regions.

John McManus, manager of the Midland, and Norman Frescott, advance man for "Ice-Capades of 1941," became acquainted, discovered that they had a common interest in that the families of both lived in Los Angeles; and, further, that they had daughters about the same age. The next chapter of the story was the disclosure, through correspondence, that Dolores Frescott and Daphne McManus were in the same classroom at school.

W. O. Stevens, theatre decorator with Commonwealth Amusement Corp., has had his touch of the flu, and is on the job again . . . It is reported that "Western Union" doubled for the first two days of its run at the Jayhawk, Topeka, the results of anything since "Jesse James."

The mayor of Topeka issued a proclamation for national defense week, February 12 to 22; and the Gem there tied in with "Extra—March of Time 'Arms and the Men, U. S. A.' See Uncle Sam's Gigantic Defense Program" . . . Mike Amrine has a story in the Journal *telling how boys are fencing all over Kansas City, now, with foils or wooden sticks—since the showing here of "The Mark of Zorro," and Tyrone Power as the valiant swordsman.*

Mo. High Court Exempts Some Houses From Taxes

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—The decision of the Missouri supreme court that modern motion picture theatres are in the same legal category with the opera houses which flourished in 1885 and later, is expected to have far reaching effect throughout the state.

The decision was handed down in a case involving four theatres of the St. Louis Amusement Co. in St. Louis county.

When St. Louis county attempted to impose a tax on the theatres, the company claimed exemption under an old statute, dating back to 1885, relating to the performances in opera houses. When the St. Louis county circuit court at Clayton, Mo., ruled against the company, an appeal was taken to the supreme court.

The high court now reverses the circuit court and directs it to enter a declaratory judgment granting the company the tax exemption it claimed under the 55-year old law.

The statute in question is Section 15,450 of the revised laws of 1939. It provides that no license or other tax shall be levied in any county, village or town of the third or fourth class, or special charter cities with less than 5,000 population, "upon any theatrical or minstrel performance when held in an opera house."

Supreme Judge James M. Douglas, who wrote the opinion, explored at some length the history of the opera house in great cities and small communities, in arriving at the conclusion that the term "opera house" in the statute, was used as a synonym for the word "theatre."

While the case at bar involves only the four houses of the St. Louis Amusement Co. in St. Louis county, the ruling is so sweeping in character it may be possible for all other motion picture theatres in Missouri that are not located in cities of first or second class to claim and obtain similar tax exemption.

About 300 or 400 theatres in Missouri may be affected by the ruling.

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LINCOLN

ORVILLE Rennie (remember him?), manager of Hastings, Neb., radio station KHAS since it opened last fall as the state's 13th broadcasting link, has resigned and is looking around for a place to settle. He was formerly city manager of Tri-States Theatres in Hastings and Omaha, before radio. Reason for the resignation, it's understood, was a row about commissions . . . News that Hymie Novitsky was fined for jaywalking was a source of amusement to Bob Livingston, whose Capitol is still being host to a policeman and his family every week (it's gone on for 57 weeks now), because Bob used him to fix a ticket for Hymie here . . . News that Evert Cummings is a vice-president in the Greek War Relief campaign.

Down Miami way are the George Monroe Srs., there for two reasons—it's warm, and Hialeah . . . When Eddie Shafton heard that 3,000 *applicants for the jobs of army hostesses were turned down because they "misunderstood" the qualifications, he, big man that he is, took the blame for misleading a third of them . . . Some guy was bragging to Sol Yeager about having a car so big he couldn't see his radiator cap. Sol put the gent in his place by saying he couldn't see his either, after he cracked into somebody who horseshoed his auto hood . . . Speaking of auto accidents, there's also Dean Pohlenz, the* Journal's *film editor, who had one and got booked by the police for an improper turn . . . And also, there's Barney Oldfield, the army man, who was just sued for* $2,500 *on an auto crash he had in Minnesota way last August.*

In case Wally Johnson wondered, nobody heard Sonja Henie asking about him . . . Alvin Hendricks used to be afraid to open his mail for fear he'd find out he was fired, and now he's afraid to open it for fear he'll find he's hired—by Uncle Sam! . . . The Lincoln Theatres Corp. basketball team is getting better, and will continue to improve, Paul Anderson says, if the "Gone With the Wind" type of bookings let up. Boys were so busy ushering last week, they couldn't get in their practice.

Nobody has been able to pin marriage on Vinnie DiFiore yet, and two or three time now, his gals have had him doubled, re-doubled and vulnerable . . . Bob Huffman says Milton Berle is pretty with his new nose, but he'll never be a romantic threat. A romancer, Bob estimates, is one who uses his mouth to gag another, not as the avenue by which a gag becomes articulate.

Probably one of the loudest femme laughs you hear via the Jack Benny program each week comes from Mrs. Bob Livingston, wife of the Capitol manager, because she's on the coast and a good friend of Phil Harris . . . Gus Arnheim, the orchestra leader, has been playing Nebraska, and amazed himself by finding it's the birthplace of one of his most famous one-time girl singers, who went to the films as Shirley Ross . . . Joe Scott, the 20th-Century-Foxer, wondered who got those soldiers to give that 105-pound Valentine made of ice to Sonja Henie.



Start a New One—

F. L. (Doc) Lowe, left, and W. A. Snell, his partner, at the site for their new theatre in Lebanon, Mo. Sidewalls are starting on the 600*-seater, which is scheduled for opening the latter part of March. That gadget with the microphone complexion atop the sign is an RCA insignia, whose Don (Hi-Fi) Davis couriered the photo for* BOXOFFICE.

Grove, Kinsky Upped Following Cummings

DES MOINES—H. D. Grove, manager of the Fort Theatre in Rock Island, Ill., this week was promoted to a Tri-States Theatres district managership following resignation of Evert Cummings.

Cummings, veteran district chieftain in the Omaha area, is dropping out of the Tri-States organization to head a circuit of his own houses in the Pacific northwest. Joseph Kinsky is the new district manager in Omaha for Tri-States Theatres, succeeding Cummings.

Kinsky comes to Omaha from Davenport, Ia., where he has been head of the eastern Iowa district for Tri-States for the past seven years. Grove takes his place, and A. G. Stolte, Tri-States third district manager, continues to head houses in the Des Moines district.

Prior to joining the A. H. Blank interests, District Manager Kinsky was with the Fox Midwest circuit and during his theatre career managed several of the larger theatres in the Chicago loop area.

Grove has been associated with A. H. Blank in theatre enterprises since before the first world war. He was an operator at the Casino Theatre here when Blank had an interest in that house and handled the Garden Theatre at Davenport for A. H. later.

While managing the Fort at Rock Island, he has filled in for Kinsky at times when the district manager was out of the city. The first move on his program in his new position will be the transfer of Tri-States district offices from the Capitol Theatre in Davenport to the Fort in Rock Island.

OMAHA

GOOD LUCK and farewell to Evert R. Cummings, district manager for Tri-States Theatres in Omaha for a dozen years. Among his many attributes is the fact that he is one of the best dressed men in the film industry. The fellows that worked under Evert in the Omaha district are sorry to see him go, and that's a real tribute to a boss. The only thing Cummings and BOXOFFICE ever disagreed on was the proper tobacco mixture for a pipe.

Carl Kozlik of Alexander Film says business has been very good, in fact January was a record month. Carl lives in Omaha and has the Nebraska territory for Alexander . . . Slim Fraser, the smiling exhibitor from Havelock, Neb., was in town. Also the two cigar-smoking lads, Frank Good of Red Oak, Ia., and Lou Ireland of Logan, Ia. . . . Mike Roth is having the front of his theatre at Anita, Ia., repainted in readiness for spring business.

Exhibitor Shoecraft, the new theatre owner at Walnut, Ia., also owns the town's leading cafe . . . Mary Francis is wearing a pin from one of the Third Infantry lads stationed at Fort Crook. What about the army boy that went to the west coast, Mary? . . . Frank Pace, exhibitor at Malvern, Ia., has acquired a filling station at the north end of the town. Pace has finally found a way to get back at the film peddlers, according to our scouts. He's going to trade gas and oil for films!

Wally Johnson, the fair-haired exhibitor at Friend and Exeter, Neb., is back in these parts after a pleasant six weeks on the west coast. Wally and his girl spotted in one of the larger department stores, and in the household department, too . . . Sid McArdle, United Artists booker, wants to buy a home in the west end of Omaha. A petition against the plan probably will be presented to the city council or somebody by Frank Pavelec, Brandeis operator, and BOXOFFICE, *who live in that section of the city.*

Herman Fields, Clarinda, Ia., was trying to eat lunch and at the same time listen to the Monogram cutups, Sol Francis and Sol Yeager . . . Bruce Holdrege, exhibitor at Shenandoah, Ia., has had a bad cold, but is recovering . . . Harold Stewart, former operator at Shenandoah, Ia., at the State, is now working at the new Our Theatre at Hawarden, Ia.

George Blackwell, Buddy Harris in New Company

KANSAS CITY—George C. Blackwell of the Kansas City Poster Exchange and Buddy Harris of the Buddy Harris Poster Exchange in Dallas, Tex., have formed a partnership for the operation here of the Bhasco Poster Service.

Blackwell will manage the company's affairs here, while Harris will remain in charge of the Dallas firm.

Organized approximately eight months ago, the Kansas City Poster Exchange has been under the joint management of Blackwell and Jim Weakley.

DES MOINES

GIRL-OF-THE-WEEK: Theresa Sandler at National Screen . . . Theresa tells Joosh stories with a divine accent . . . She credits her talent to her home environment . . . says Theresa: "Mom'n Pop came to this country and they couldn't speak English. They went to school, and when they got out of school, they still couldn't speak English." Theresa says when she telephones home, she can depend on her grandfather, who can't hear so well, to answer, and it goes like this: "Hello, this is Theresa." "What?" "This is Theresa." "Theresa? Theresa ain't home, goodby." Bang!

Chic Sale will soon be asking Elmer Tilton where he wants that privvy put . . . Tilt's bought himself some acres out west of town. Doug Pratt, Columbia's home office representative, was here from NY . . . Dorothy Pratt came along. Gene Melone's father-in-law died week before last. We thought we couldn't mention seeing Joe Smith and Ralph Olson in Chicago one Thursday, but found out later it was on the up'n up . . . Universal was having a sales meeting there.

Down Mexico way Metro is ballyhooed as "Su Compania Amiga" with "Miles De Clientes—Miles De Amigos" . . . at least that's what it says on the letter & Co. received from Branch Manager Carlos E. Niebla regretting that we had failed to look him up when we were in Mexico City. Art Thiele's back from that supply dealers' convention in Chicago. BOXOFFICE seems to be upsetting the Kappler Quads' lives no end . . . Francis refuses to converse with Bert Thomas unless there's a witness present, and Bill got in trouble with Dick for getting Dick in trouble with his girl by bringing BOXOFFICE (the mag, not us) home.

Quoting Mrs. Sy Harlan: "Some anniversary. Sy got a telephone call at midnight and had to spend the whole night at the office." Mary Benjamin has Bert squelched and he won't talk any more—at least not about Mary. Bert says even the Law's picking on him now . . . a squad car followed him all the way home and into his driveway the other night so the cop could threaten Bert with a fine if he didn't mend his driving habits.

BOXOFFICE hears two of the girls down at the office telling how they waited in line at the Orpheum for 30 minutes Sunday and then couldn't get in to see "High Sierra" because of the crowd . . . when she gets home, & Co. pulls this one with the superior cynicism of the all-knowing press: "Heh, heh, heh, Emil tried to tell me today he couldn't get all the customers in Sunday and that for the eighth consecutive week, he's had above-average business. Heh, heh, heh." But Emil gets the last heh, heh, which is reputed to be the best.

Morris Smith, who has just returned from California with his wife and family, has sealed the mouths of his staff . . . the Film Transportation boys have been instructed to be as silent as the tomb . . . Morris, our word of honor, you're fretting up the wrong tree . . . it's not your boys who give out about your doule dealing pitch . . . and Morris, where've you been hiding that pretty Smith girl, Ruth?

Since Bud Moran got back from his Oklahoma holidaisy, it's just been one derned thing after another . . . First there was that 10-day wrestling match with flu bugs and then came the booking department changes . . . But Bud can still say "Sis Hopkins" and smile—plenty. Max Gallin's the guy who'd like to get the Iowa Film drivers and Pan American Follies chorus gals together . . . Max was here advancing the Follies stage show and trying to get his chorines on the coattails of a truckers' convention in order to squeeze an extra picture or two into the news columns.

Memo to Gabe Yorke: When the Minneapolis Star-Journal *saw the double page "Picture Story of America" & Co. developed out of your "Land of Liberty" stills for the* R&T *they wired for permission to use the same layout . . . and the* R&T *syndicate grabbed for the prints and layout, too, which makes that some punkins of a plant.*

As a gesture to BOXOFFICE's recent burst of Americanism, & Co. bought her a book of flag-stamps for letters when he was in Chicago (price, 5c) . . . he forgot she's so busy writing letters she gets paid for that she's no time for personal billeting . . . so that explains, Dear Editor, why we give your plant a treat with a couple of "God Bless America" stamps on our this week's NEWS RUSH . . . Quittin' time scenes around Tri-States: DD on the verge of relaxing . . . Madge Ward administering some salve to Hazel Dunn's eye . . . Virginia Orr taking some last-minute dictation from G. Ralph . . . Georgia Bricker eating peanuts . . . that so-blonde switchboard gal walking out without a word . . . Mrs. Sandquist sitting on a stack of newspapers in DD's office . . . Art Stolte getting be-coated and all ready to go and then stopping to fuss about this'n that first.

Madge Ward's birthday (now don't be like that, we don't know which one) was February 17 and the gals abandoned their Tri-States traditional hanky shower to add a cup and saucer to the Lenox set Madge is promoting . . . Madge will welcome any contributions to this new project at any time. Rose Stolte is fresh back from California where she's been visiting . . . Harry Holdsberg ain't been a-feelin' so good lately . . . he just don't know what's a-ailin' him.

Loudest rumor on the Row: That Speed Lambert, ex-exploiteer for this Metro in this territory, is going to work for Frank Rubel out in California. Sil Vogl, who went to Cedar Rapids recently to bowl, and Virginia Calhoun are the two hot-shots around which the Tri-States Trixies would like to build a bowling team. Wonder if Bob Gottlieb, who is blond like mama but looks like papa, has the DD pep and Hershey Bar's enviable sweet disposition?

Good old Nate Sandler does give a fig for the National Screen kiddies . . . he proved it by sending them a whole box from California. We never visualized Adam as being a red-head but, Adam Marchek at Film Transportation is . . . Adam had to lay the law down to a flat-foot who tried to tell him he couldn't do that when he was unloading film at the Highland Theatre the other day . . . Adam just quoted from Sec. 385 of the drivers' little blue handbook which say you CAN do that.

Cesteen Naylor has been missing his wife ("Dimples") and Judy Ann who was three June 16 . . . they've been in St. Paul and Minneapolis for about six weeks visiting "Dimples'" sister. Kenneth Watson is what's new at Film Transportation in the way of drivers . . . he has the Dubuque route. Morris' gang have had two new Chevie trucks since January . . . they acquired Carl Iserman, the new steno, about the same time . . . We haven't seen Mike Riley for nearly a year, and we were glad to note that he's still got that sunny Riley smile. Robert Van Houten is awfully big to be so bashful.

Lou Patz made the girls make room for him at their table at the Old Colony Luncheonette the other noon, so they let him have the checks . . . now Lou's claiming they rung their week's bill in on him too. Grace Simons is bragging because she has climbed up and down the National Screen steps for so long and all she's done is nearly fall down them so far.

After sobbing his little heart out over being transferred to Cleveland, Bill Scholl received a blue towel and a copy of "Oh Dry Those Tears" from Emil Franke, and the Claytons . . . Bill wrote a right techin' note about how sorrowful he was over leaving DM, considering he wasn't asking for an inch of space. This reminds us of a note we should put down for our pick-up man, Bev (for Beverly, not beverage) Mahon: That man who lives with us is a great admirer of astounding ideas, but the trouble is, he thinks there aren't any . . . we, who have tried to sell him a few of our own now and then, wish to warn you that it's virtually impossible . . . but you can try. (Editor's Note: He went for one didn't he?).



MINNEAPOLIS

ALLEN USHER, Paramount district manager, a visitor . . . Columbia preparing for Exhibitors' Goodwill Playdate campaign, starting March 6 . . . Norman Pyle, M-G-M exploiteer, had Bert Wheeler and other members of the Earl Carroll's "Vanities" cast in tow after the show at the Orpheum last Saturday night. James McKechnie, manager of the troupe and brother of the famous Bill who has led the Cincinnati Reds to a National League pennant twice, was among those present. Earl Carroll himself spent several days in town, coming with the company from California, and on one evening visited the Minnesota Terrace with Manager Bill Sears of the Orpheum.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Film Row included Klug and Klug, Zumbrota, Minn.; Weslie Faulkner, Plum City, Minn.; H. C. Carlson, Big Lake, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis., and Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn. . . . Universal exchange here making nice showing in Bill Scully anniversary drive. It's in eighth place nationally and climbing . . . Ruth Evans, World Theatre secretary, went to Devils Lake, N. D., to help John Piller, veteran exhibitor, and Mrs. Piller celebrate their thirty-third wedding anniversary.

Abe Kaplan, independent circuit owner, out and around again after fully recovering from his minor operation . . . Norman Bieranger, Warner's special exploiteer, in town . . . Earl Tetting, Minnesota Theatre publicity man, continuing to hold the managerial post there, while Hale Kavanaugh, who handled the exploitation during the Gordie Greene regime, is taking over Tetting's publicity duties . . . Jack Thoma, Columbia exploiteer, in town for a day . . . These are tough days for Warner salesmen, two of them having had their new automobiles smashed in accidents. Charlie Jackson and Ernie Hill were the unlucky ones, but both escaped injury.

Rose Witzman, M-G-M booker's secretary, vacationing in New Orleans . . . Bill Smith, Menominee, Minn., exhibitor, reported home ill with the flu . . . George Miner of Chippewa Falls., Wis., independent circuit owner, passed through en route to Florida where he'll vacation for two months . . . Rud Lohrenz, Warner district manager, a visitor . . . Joe Wolf, Paramount city salesman, had a good year 1939-40, *but the current one is even better, he says.*

Allen Usher, Paramount district manager, in town . . . Susanna Foster and Dorothy Loehr, the former a Minneapolis girl, at the Orpheum for a personal appearance to exploit their picture "Hard Boiled Canary," visited the Paramount exchange . . . "Nickey" Goldhammer, RKO district manager, visited South Dakota accounts . . . Joe Podoloff, 20th-Fox branch manager, accompanied his new South Dakota salesman, Warren Branton, on a trip through the territory. The latter resigned from National Screen to take the post. He succeeds Harold Lyons who was transferred to the Des Moines branch.

LeRoy J. Miller, Universal branch manager, back from a week in Chicago at his company's sales meeting . . . Harry Dryer off to Florida to visit with W. A. Steffes. His wife already is there . . . "Western Union," highly acclaimed 20th-Fox picture, goes into State March 7 . . . *Another eagerly awaited picture, "Andy Hardy's Secretary," is scheduled for the same theatre March* 14 . . . *Ray Pearce, Fox theatres' city manager in Milwaukee, in town to catch the Earl Carroll's "Vanities" which he plays at the Wisconsin the ensuing week.*

Harry Hirsch and Harry Katz bringing back burlesque to Minneapolis at the Alvin, starting February 28. They have Ann Corio as their initial star . . . The Lyceum expects to get the big musical show, "Du-Barry Was a Lady" next month . . . Bennie Berger, independent circuit owner, back from Florida, where he visited with W. A. Steffes. He reports the latter greatly improved in health—in fact, on the road to complete recovery.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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Hollywood Advertising Offers New Service

KANSAS CITY—Nat Hechtman announces that his flag and valance business has been absorbed by the Hollywood Advertising Co. of New York. Hechtman is now regional representative, temporarily headquartering at the old address, 118 Southwest Blvd. Samuel D. Steinberg, president of the Hollywood Advertising Co., was here from New York last week to conclude the deal.

The same service will continue except for 40x60 posters from California, according to Hechtman. Orders will be filled from the Chicago office.

"Sky Devils," "Scarface" Combination Clicks

KANSAS CITY—The reissued dual combination of "Sky Devils" and "Scarface" is doing a big volume of business in this territory, according to William Wintroub, manager of Majestic Pictures.

The films are playing the Fox Midwest and Commonwealth theatres. The Fox Apollo doubled its average with a two-week run. Also outstanding business is reported at the Fox theatres in Topeka and Pittsburg.

Lee Sproule Disposing Of Kansas Theatres

WINFIELD, KAS.—Impelled by ill health to retire, Lee Sproule, prominent Kansas exhibitor, has sold his Ritz Theatre here and leased three others.

The Winfield house has been sold to C. H. Zile, a former Fox manager. The houses leased are the Rex at Newton, to Ray Roberson, formerly of Winfield; the Isis at Marysville, to Leonard Smith, and the Mac at McPherson, to George Sproule.

Sales Tax Reduction Proposed in Ohio

COLUMBUS—Good news from the ITO headquarters is contained in the latest service bulletin in which Secretary P. J. Wood informs members that a bill has been introduced into the state legislature providing for a reduction of the state admission tax from the present three per cent, to two per cent. Such a reduction, estimates Wood, would save the theatre owners of Ohio approximately $500,000 annually.

This bill, known as House bill No. 532, was introduced by Representative John T. DeRighter of Cleveland.

The bulletin comments upon the proposed bill in these words: "In view of the splendid financial condition in which the state finds itself, there is considerable sentiment among the business interests of Ohio for a reduction of taxes, and it is our feeling that we are entitled to a lot of consideration because the amusement industry was the first to suffer from emergency taxes, first enacted by the legislature in 1933 when the initial admissions tax of 10 per cent was imposed."

Wood further points out that the motion picture industry is carrying the load of the National Defense Tax upon all admissions above 20 cents and thinks it quite likely that the present Congress will increase this tax to include all admissions of 10 cents or even less.

McDonald Sunday Show Vote Is Invalidated

PITTSBURGH—The November 5 referendum on the question of permitting Sunday shows at McDonald was invalidated by Judge Robert E. Burnside of Washington county. The issue had been defeated at McDonald but the vote was illegal because 364 voters were not given the opportunity to express their desires in the matter.

McDonald is in Washington county, with the exception of one ward which is in Allegheny county. Commissioners of Washington county furnished ballots for the Sunday motion picture issue, but the Allegheny county ward was forgotten. Judge Burnside ruled that this oversight constituted a violation of the Constitution.

Another referendum will be taken in which all municipal voters will be given the privilege of their franchise.

Sunday Shows Win by 12 Votes in Greensburg

GREENSBURG, PA.—By a slender 12-vote margin Sunday motion pictures were approved here, it was disclosed on completion of a recount conducted before Judge J. Hilary Keenan. The issue lost by 57 votes in the count following the referendum last fall. During the recount, 139 ballots were ruled out because of improper markings. Final count showed 3,616 in favor of Sunday shows and 3,604 against.

All Greensburg theatres are controlled by Warner Bros.

Bank Night and Bingo Are Under Fire in Kentucky

FRANKFORT, KY.—In what may prelude a state-wide drive against the games, Jesse K. Lewis, an assistant to Attorney-General Hubert Meredith, has declared that "Bank Night, Bingo and other similar schemes are violative of the laws of Kentucky."

The promotion of the games by "commercial organizations and religious institutions" has made a "mockery and a farce" of the state's gambling laws, Lewis asserted in a letter to a member of the legislature, Rep. William A. Lamkin jr. of Ekron. Either the laws ought to be enforced or repealed, he said.

In 1938 the general assembly passed a bill legalizing Bank Night after a similar bill had been vetoed earlier by Governor Chandler. Two years later the assembly placed a 15 per cent tax on Bank Night prizes, at the same time taking the stand this did not legalize them.

Lewis, who also hit federal officers for permitting the mailing of punch boards which he likewise classified as a gambling device, said the attorney general lacks power to initiate or order local prosecution of gambling violations. That he said was the "statutory duty of local law enforcement officials."

BBB Asks Pittsburgh Trade To Abandon Bank Night

PITTSBURGH—Exhibitors here are being urged to voluntarily abandon Bank Night by the Better Business Bureau.

G. H. Dennison, BBB general manager, petitioned theatre owners and managers, "Re: Bank Night, Bingo, Commercial Lotteries," as follows:

"A recent survey conducted by the Better Business Bureau discloses that Pittsburgh is the only major city in Pennsylvania wherein Bank Night continues to be operated.

"Unfortunately, the continued operation of this lottery has had the effect of encouraging the widespread promotion of other types of commercial lotteries, including Bingo and other forms of gambling.

"Many law-abiding businessmen, theatre operators and retailers have, therefore, been placed at a competitive disadvantage by those who resort to illegal devices to attract patronage and trade.

"Another inevitable by-product of this condition is that the substitution of 'chance' for 'merit' in modern merchandising has encouraged lower standards of business ethics and lower standards of merchandise and service. These things are contrary to the best interests of the buying public.

"To those theatre owners and managers in Allegheny county who are now operating Bank Night or other forms of lotteries, we submit the following important data.

"'On April 14, 1938, the Post Office Department issued a fraud order against the originators of Bank Night (Affiliated Enterprises, Inc.) and its officers and agents as such, at Denver, Colo., and declared Bank Night to be a lottery.

"On October 8, 1940, the superior court of Pennsylvania (Journal Page 7—No. 68—April, 1940) at Philadelphia, affirmed the judgment of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Beaver County, 104, March Term, 1940 (Commonwealth vs. Lund) that Bank Night was a lottery, and on October 28, 1940, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania refused an appeal on this case.

"This information is furnished in the belief that those Allegheny county theatres now operating lotteries will not desire to violate the Pennsylvania Lottery Law, and will take immediate action to end further operation of Bank Night, Lucky Night or other variations of lotteries which may now exist."

Lefton and Leiberfarb Into Military Service

PITTSBURGH—Filmrow's first to sign up with the army are S. David Lefton and Stanley Leiberfarb. They are from the office of Producers Releasing Corp. The former is the oldest of the sons of the Lew Leftons, and the latter is the PRC branch cashier.

Tom Long First Akron Manager to Join Army

AKRON—First of Akron's theatre managers to join the army is Tom Long of the Palace.

Long who came here from Youngstown's Palace two years ago, enlisted under the Selective Service Act and has already been inducted into the service. He visited with relatives in Indianapolis before joining Uncle Sam's fighting forces.

Sid Holland comes to Akron from New York to take over Long's managerial duties.

"Fantasia" Bows in Auto City at $5

DETROIT—"Fantasia" opened on Tuesday at the Wilson in a special showing sponsored by the Detroit Symphony Society at $5 per seat.

The regular opening was preceded by a press preview on Friday, attended by about 1,200 persons, and constituting, in the opinion of publicity men present, the largest turnout of working press representatives ever seen at a local preview.

Critics of local papers and a good representation of leading exhibitors and film men were among those present.

Comment on the picture was the outstanding topic of conversation the next day on Filmrow.

Film Product Piling Up In Pittsburgh Vaults

By ROBT. F. KLINGENSMITH

PITTSBURGH—Product is piling up in film vaults here due to long runs and move-overs of a number of attractions in first-run theatres.

The start of this accumulation dates back to November 14 when the ceiling of the Alvin collapsed, resulting in a product surplus for the Senator and Fulton. This was a rather new experience for the latter house. Meanwhile, holdovers increased.

The Fulton, now showing "Back Street," is scheduled to close around February 26 for the final installations necessary for the "Fantasia" reopening shortly thereafter. The Barry, which formerly offered only independent product, in recent months has been exhibiting productions from RKO, 20th-Fox, Universal, Republic, Monogram, Producers Releasing Corp., state rights films and Paramount reissues.

Monogram, it is understood, will not hold up release on "Her First Romance," starring Edith Fellows, and will book it in the city without a first run. Originally it had been set for the Fulton, but with the "Fantasia" engagement now being prepared and other films awaiting exhibition, Monogram will put its "singing Cinderella" picture into release without the build up of a down town showing.

The Fulton in recent months has used product from Universal, 20th-Fox, M-G-M, Warner-First National, United Artists, Republic, Film Alliance and other state rights distributors. The Senator used only three pictures during the first seven weeks of the year. The Warner has used only one double bill of clear product this year, the other weeks having offered moveover films. The Ritz has offered only two double bill shows with four moveovers. "GWTW" and "Philadelphia Story" have been holdovers at Loew's Penn.

"Duddy" Lefton to Get Bachelor Dinner

Pittsburgh—Friends of Godfrey "Duddy" Lefton, PRC salesman, will honor him at a bachelor dinner, March 10. Arrangements for the event have been made with the management of the William Penn Hotel. The young film man and Miss Iris Spitalny, daughter of the Maurice Spitalnys, will be married March 23.

PITTSBURGH

RAY ALLISON, circuit exhibitor of Cresson, is recuperating in Florida after a three-week illness . . . Bill Clark of the Warner circuit booking department, resigned last week . . . AMPTO has spiffy new letterheads in which the association name is printed on a strip of film . . . The Joseph Gellmans are vacationing in Miami. Allied exhibitor treasurer says "it's a three-week rest" . . . John Finley, formerly of the Harris circuit here, later of the Dipson organization in Wheeling and more recently stationed at Bradford, is the new manager of Dipson's 20th Century, Buffalo, having succeeded Dick Kemper, now vacationing in Florida, who is expected to return to Buffalo as district manager for this circuit.

Charlie Kosco, exhibitor and former film salesman, states our Review Digest, Picture Guide and Index and Shorts Chart is the best in the field. We think so too, Charlie, and we find more members of the trade agreeing every week . . . Joe Zangrelli, formerly of the accessory department at the Warner exchange, is the new assistant booker there, succeeding Milton Frankel, who was recently promoted to a sales post. Frankel, now covering the main line, was involved in an auto accident on his first sales trip; he was uninjured but his car was damaged.

M. N. Shapiro has succeeded Burtus Bishop jr. as assistant chief barker of the Variety Club; Brian McDonald is the second assistant, and Art Morrone is now a member of the board of directors . . . Art England departed last week for Miami and a month's vacation . . . George Jaffe is "reconditioning" at Hot Springs . . . The Andrews Sisters will top the Stanley stage show the week of March 7.

Ed Siegal, local exploiteer for Universal, after closing his advance campaign here for "Back Street" at the Fulton, departed for Cincinnati to introduce "Buck Privates" at the Grand there . . . Mr. and Mrs. William R. Wheat jr. and Mr. and Mrs. William Walker vacationed last week in New Orleans and will spend several weeks motoring through the south . . . Danny Davis has added his amateur shows at the State, Aliquippa; Mary Ann, Burgettstown, and the NuLuna, Sharon . . . Mrs. H. H. Baldensperger, wife of the Sheffield exhibitor, is recuperating after undergoing an operation in Warren General Hospital . . . It's a son for John Lengyel, local projectionist, named Patrick Harry, and a daughter for Joe Mazzei, Gabe Rubin's assistant at the Art Cinema, named Mary Ann.

Joe Gins, Columbia city salesman, is himself again after licking pneumonia. He had been hospitalized for several weeks . . . Archie Fineman contracted a bad cold which all but developed into pneumonia while fighting a fire early Monday-a-week ago when a building adjoining the Paramount, Braddock, was gutted by flames. The theatre was damaged by smoke and water. Fineman was improved this week . . . The French extravaganza, "Folies Bergere," which played a fortnight engagement in the Stanley several years ago, has been booked for a return date at this house opening February 28 . . . A second M-G-M gold button award in the local area for "Escape" showmanship has been pinned on Bill Bryan, of the Casino, Vandergrift, a Manos-Lipsie house.

Warner is adding new steel supports at the Schenley. The circuit's Strand in the Oakland-Schenley district has a new glass front. A new marquee was being erected there this week. The circuit plans some modernization at the New Oakland, which was acquired recently . . . Leo Abernathy, international president of the AFL Billposters' Union, has been assured a fourth term as president of the Pittsburgh Central Labor Union by the retirement of his only opponent, Hunter P. Wharton . . . Lawrence W. Davee, Century projector executive, and William Fannin of International Seating Co., were here on business with Art Morrone . . . Louis J. Bender, Millvale exhibitor, has been ill at his home for several weeks.

Lt. J. M. Roth, son of the Isreal Roths, and formerly stationed at Schuylkill Arsenal, Philadelphia, is now on duty at Camp Lee, Virginia. Lieutenant "Jerry" has ordered BOXOFFICE to keep in touch with the industry . . . Miss Reva Rosenberg, daughter of the M. A. Rosenbergs, has vacationed in Miami Beach for a month . . . Jerry Castelli, Library exhibitor, recently visited in North Bay, Canada . . . Marion Hartner, secretary to Larry Kent at the IATSE office, was a victim in a holdup . . . Etna council is slapping on a $25 annual pinball machine license tax . . . Lowell Calvert, Selznick International representative, was a recent visitor . . . Max Shulgold's Crown Film Co. is distributing a new dual horror show, "Torso Murder Mystery" and "Face at the Window" . . . Miss Lynne B. Monroe was a Filmrow booker the other day from Shinnston, W. Va. . . . A. Sam Marchando, Isabella exhibitor, will take a wife early in March.

Sun-Telegraph *has heartily approved proposed legislation which would legalize by local option Sunday bowling and basketball in Pennsylvania. These bills were introduced by Rep. John J. Baker, of the South Side, who this week threw into the hopper another measure permitting ice hockey on Sunday. Rep. Thomas Heatherington of Versailles is co-sponsor of the basketball and bowling measures . . . In* 1933, *Sunday afternoon baseball and football, subject to community referenda, were legalized, and musical concerts also were authorized. Sunday tennis, polo and motion pictures got the "go" signal in* 1935 *and two years later Sunday fishing was approved. Baker first introduced his basketball bill in* 1937 *and it died in committee; an ice sports measure last year also was pickled.*

State Legislator Elmer Holland, from the local sixth district, plans to take wrestling out of sports. That is, he has framed a bill which would remove the grunters and groaners from the authority of the state athletic commission. He states: "Professional wrestling isn't a sport. It's a form of entertainment just like the movies, flea circuses and vaudeville" . . .

Aaron Copland, composer-author, who wrote scores for "Of Mice and Men" and "Our Town," lectured here last week on "Music in the Films."

Douglass Montgomery will appear at the Nixon the week of March 3 as "Danny" in "Night Must Fall." A revival of "Blossom Time" is scheduled for the following week and a return engagement of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" opens St. Patrick's Day. Opening March 31 at the Nixon will be Helen Hayes and Maurice Evans in "Twelfth Night."

Pete Dana, Universal manager, and his salesmen, Dave Barnholtz, Lou Hess, Bill Satori and Leo Cantor, were in Cleveland over the last weekend attending the company regional sales conference presided over by Dave Miller, district manager . . . Tommy Beedle, son of Eddie Beedle, was a Filmrow visitor the other day with his dad and Uncle Fred . . . Al Schwalberg and Herman Goldberg of the Warner home office were here this week inspecting progress made to date on the construction of the new exchange building which this company will occupy at the corner of the Blvd. of the Allies and Miltonberger St. in early spring.

Harry M. Kalmine, local chairman of the Greek War Relief Ass'n, met with members of the Pittsburgh area committee Wednesday morning to formulate plans for the drive which is dated for March 25 to 30. All exchange managers are members of the committee under the chairmanship of Harry A. Seed, Warner branch manager.

Construction Restrainer Outgrowth of Contract

DETROIT—Detroit's perennial problem of overseating and over-construction of new theatres, received a history-making solution here when Circuit Judge Guy A. Miller handed down an injunction restraining completion and operation of the new Carmen until February 16, 1945.

The house, being built in Dearborn, was nearly finished and its opening was being discussed for about two weeks hence, with equipment partly installed.

Earlier history of this situation has been reported in detail in BOXOFFICE as it occurred. Briefly, Joseph Stoia and Joseph Miskinis were partners in the Midway and Circle theatres, splitting up in 1939 with Stoia purchasing the property for $135,000. The agreement provided that the partner selling out (Miskinis) would not operate in any way a theatre within four miles of the Circle and Midway for five years, from February 16, 1940.

Stoia complained that Miskinis was building the Carmen within the prohibited area—about four blocks from the Midway. The court found that it was located upon properties acquired by Miskinis and wife. An earlier injunction was granted and Miskinis, as well as Joseph Miskinis jr., who was involved at the time, withdrew from the Carmen project, leaving Gorelic and Marshall as the builders.

In a highly involved series of corporation and other moves elaborated in the decree, Miskinis started two other theatre projects elsewhere—the Carthay and Civic theatres, both under construction, with Gorelic building both for Miskinis. The court therefore concluded:

"It is a normal probability that the Miskinises have somewhere, somehow, an interest in the Carmen . . . It seems very improbable that Miskinis would have advanced in connection with the Carthay and Civic $9,000 or $10,000 more money than enough to pay for the work that had been done upon them. It is much more likely that $9,000 was advanced to pay for work that had already been done somewhere. That amount of work had already been done on the Carmen. It seems a fair conclusion that its apparent advancement was only for the purpose of covering up its true destination.

"I think testimony establishes that Gorelic participated knowingly in Miskinis' scheme by underhand means to evade his solemn contract obligation."

JIM ALEXANDER'S

21st Annual "Round-Up"

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During Our "Round-Up" We Will Release Such Outstanding Pictures as

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Brandts Acquire Lake From Warner Bros.

CLEVELAND—The Lake, 800-seat downtown Euclid Ave. house, has passed from the Warner circuit into new hands. Harry and William Brandt of New York, in association with Marty and Louis Levine, leased the house and opened it last Saturday with a double feature foreign picture policy.

Following the example of other Brandt houses, the Lake will play continued runs, holding pictures as long as they have the public's support.

Opening program consisted of "The Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands."

Louis Levine has been named house manager. His assistant is Jerome Lamm.

Present for the opening were Marty Levine and Oliver Unger, sales manager for Hoffberg Productions. Admission scale is the same as other downtown straight picture houses, namely 35 cents and 55 cents.

The Lake has played an intermittent role in the local motion picture scene for the past ten years. It was built by Louis Isreal, independent local exhibitor. Isreal leased it to Warner Bros. who have opened it for short periods every year, but have never kept it open for any continuous length of time.

New lessees of the Lake are confident that Cleveland will support the type of programs they will show. This will consist of both English language foreign-made pictures and foreign language pictures.

Two Socials in February By Cincinnati Variety

CINCINNATI—Variety Club activities for the month of February include two social events.

According to Chief Barker Bill Onie, Saturday, February 22, the club quarters will be turned over to the "Barkerettes," wives and daughters of the members, who will have charge of the evening's entertainment.

On Monday, March 3, a stag indoor picnic will be held in the club rooms at the Netherland Plaza, and from all indications, this will be one of the outstanding socials of the season.

Reservations for both events are particularly gratifying.

"Birth of a Nation" Not for Ohio

Cleveland—The Ohio censor board revoked without comment the approval it last week accorded "The Birth of a Nation," which, for the past 25 years, has met with consistent refusal in its endeavors to gain distribution in Ohio. The board, in previous turndowns, contended that the picture might give rise to race riots.

DETROIT

JAMES M. GAMBLE, stagehand at the Colonial, is a newly-wed; bride is the former Dorothy Gearing . . . J. Stuart Blackton, oldtime Vitagraph head, was in town Sunday with his "Movie Hit Parade" . . . Marshall Templeton is rejoining Jam Handy, specializing in slidefilm production.

Joseph Calleia, of the films, was in town for the Maltese War Relief Ball . . . Mrs. Edgar E. Kirchner came downtown Sunday for the first time in months, to celebrate Ed's birthday . . . Dave Newman, coming to join the gang at lunch, stopped by all the judges he meets en route.

Jim Sharkey, RKO manager, drew record crowd for the season on RKO night at Variety. Lucille Ball and her husband, Desi Arnaz, both RKO players, were guests of the evening. Harry Cecil, the candy-man-magician, put on a big show, aided nobly by Charlie "Oswald" Perry, manager of the Adams . . . Eugene Coen, who formerly operated his own travel bureau in New York City, is new student salesman here for M-G-M, covering the state under Floyd Chrysler.

Father Harold J. Markey, who heads the CYO Boys' Home which was partially sponsored by Variety Club, is new pastor of the Detroit Tent . . . Louis Kirchner has a brand new idea in card indexes for Variety . . . Ruth Johnson, for many years telephone receptionist at UDT, is leaving this summer to marry C. Franklin Funk of Ridgewood, N. J.

Ed F. Hyman, film buyer for UDT, was director of the picture division for the war department in the World War—and two of his associates were J. Oliver Brooks of the Butterfield circuit, and Howard Pierce, former program director at UDT . . . Robert H. "Bobbie" Cohn, who was emcee at the Michigan years ago, volunteered for his year in the army (he's running a night club at Miami, but flew here to join up).

N. Rowe, Cohen circuit auditor, is studying road maps . . . Lou Wisper, off the circuit and off to Florida . . . Lucille Ball, RKO star, accompanied by RKO Manager Jim Sharkey, made a series of personal appearances in about a dozen Detroit houses during her stay here.

W. J. Turnbull, National Theatre Supply manager, off for the annual managers' meet in New York . . . Joe Reich has bought a hotel at Miami . . . Ed Long, Long Sign Company, was busy working on one for the Carmen Theatre.

Bryan Warman, formerly ad manager of Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass, is joining Jam Handy's sales development staff . . . H. Vinton Gilbert of Allied Film Exchange is handling his shipping and inspection in General Film Laboratories—the old Fox exchange building . . . Mac Krim busy showing pictures of himself and sundry gals, on his interlude from Miami.

Ralph Raskin, Robinson Theatre Premiums, can't carry a watch—he's got too much electricity . . . W. S. Scharun, Universal Theatre Premium Co., met on his busy rounds . . . William B. Chatman, formerly with Columbia Premiums, has joined R. Allender Co., making upholstery and carpeting for theatres.

Eddie Heiber, Universal manager, so busy selling that he can't get to Florida this year . . . Corine Lueders is putting a six-act stage show into UDT's Ramona for three days a week, adding to Chuck Stanley's shows on Saturday at UDT's Annex and Regent . . . Max Bluegrind of Film Exchange Drugs has left to join the Canadian Royal Air Force at Toronto . . . Nat Bregstein back in town over the weekend.

"Fantasia" Overtones—Freddie Schader very actively on the front gate at the Wilson . . . Art Robinson almost lost in that big car . . . Alex Schreiber of Associated Theatres, had to be taken home during the intermission because of illness . . . Jack Ferentz, president of the Musicians' Local, drove clear in from Lansing for the press preview.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Ernest Wooster, a new name in Michigan show business, is opening the Kinde at Kinde, long closed . . . Gus Bentley is new owner of the Reading at Reading, formerly operated by E. F. Vetter.

W. E. Lyon, who built the Burton, just outside of Flint, about three years ago, has sold the house to Joseph P. Uvick, who also has a house at Deckerville.

Herman A. Bird has sold the Our at Standish to W. A. Forsythe, owner of the Temple there, and is moving to Evart, where he has taken over the Lyric from F. A. Graham, and is renaming it the Evart and completely remodeling the house.

The army opened the first of their 1,000-seaters at Fort Custer, near Battle Creek, on Thursday.

Shift of Change Dates Builds Up Weekends

DETROIT—Building weekend business has definitely resulted from shifting change dates a month ago at the De Lodder circuit's Aloma. The Wednesday and Friday change days at this neighborhood were moved ahead to Tuesday and Thursday, giving a bigger play for the Thursday-Friday-Saturday bill, with the Sunday change losing one day. This enabled the house to book in stronger pictures for the weekend bill, ten days after the key run, and built patronage among neighborhood patrons who missed a feature at the key house.

To strengthen the shorter Sunday-Monday bill, Book Night has been placed on these two nights, with Enamelware Night on Tuesday and Wednesday. The show starts an hour earlier on Enamelware Night to handle the extra crowd.

Adapt "Old Grey Mare"

HOLLYWOOD—Dorrell and Stuart McGowan are adapting "Old Grey Mare," an Armand Schaefer production for Republic.

CLEVELAND

I J. SCHMERTZ, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, and John D. Kalafat of the Associated Theatres circuit, have been named co-chairmen for the Greek War Relief campaign. They are now formulating plans whereby every theatre in the Cleveland exchange district will be able to share in the raising of funds. The date of the drive is March 25-30.

Charles Albert, Warner theatre department booker, left on Valentine's Day for New Orleans, Dallas and other ports in the south, for a two weeks' vacation . . . Julius Lamm, manager of Warner's Uptown, has been elected vice-president of the Glenville Corner Club, an organization composed of the merchants in the neighborhood.

Oliver Unger, sales manager for Hoffberg Productions, and Marty Levine of New York, were both here for the opening of the Lake Theatre under the banner of Harry and William Brandt . . . "The Baker's Wife," distributed locally by Nate Gerson, was held for a three-week run at the Circle . . . Jerome Lamm has resigned from National Screen Service to take up his duties as assistant manager at the Lake . . . The Tivoli, Akron, came back to H. E. Bickel, owner, last week when Jack Flemm, lessee, presented him with the front door key. Bickel is not opening the house at present.

It is now announced that Martin Smith and J. A. Beidler have taken over the Pantheon Theatre, Toledo, including all present contracts . . . It is assumed that John F. Kumler, former owner, is retiring from business . . . Private Joe Minsky writes his former Vitagraph associates that he is getting used to arising at 5:30 a. m. and going to bed at 10 p. m. and building bridges in between time. Minsky is in the engineers corps.

Bill Dworski, former Warner city manager in Mansfield, has been named manager of the Palace Theatre, Canton. He succeeds Louis Lamm, manager of the Palace for the past six years who resigned to become affiliated with the Associated Theatres circuit as manager of the Capitol in Cleveland.

Bunny Somers, former manager of Warner's Ohio, Sidney, is now managing the Liberty, Cleveland, an Associated circuit house. He takes the place of Bert Diener who resigned on account of poor health.

"Kitty Foyle" and Toledo got on so well together that she extended her stay at the Rivoli to two weeks . . . James Frew, Universal salesman here, has been appointed Universal branch manager in New Orleans. His successor in Cleveland has not been named as yet. Frew came to Cleveland two and a half years ago from Washington, D. C. . . . St. Clairsville Theatre, St. Clairsville, is closed.

Visitors of the week included Jack Shea, booking for the Shea circuit and George Fetig, booking for the Publix circuit . . . Joe Koliski arrived in town last week to fill Private Joe Minsky's shoes as Vitagraph city salesman . . . Samuel D. Shia of the Old Trail Theatre, St. Clairsville, his wife, son and daughter, have all been down with the flu, so last week he packed up and went down to Texas to forget all about it . . . Henry Hellriegel, building contractor, has just completed redecorating the Liberty.

Loew's Stillman lobby is in the hands of an artist who is reviving the beauty of its ceiling . . . Wally Caldwell has booked the PRC comedy feature "Caught in the Act" starring Henry Armetta, into his Esquire, Toledo . . . "GWTW" has closed a four-week run downtown at popular prices and now goes into general release . . . J. J. Maloney, M-G-M district manager, was in town conferring with Branch Manager Frank Drew.

Olympia Theatre has completed installation of 1,000 new chairs . . . Tom Long, manager of the Palace, Akron, has responded to an invitation from Uncle Sam to join his army and Sid Holland has come from the Pittsburgh territory to take over where Long left off . . . Urban Anderson, president of Midwest Specialties Co., distributors of Panoram, announces that his office has placed 20 machines in the northern Ohio territory and they are being contracted for at the rate of four a week. Midwest Specialties Co. has established a service department with an RCA engineer in charge to service the machines.

After seeing the new Telenews Theatre off to a flying start, Herbert Scheftel, president of the company operating Telenews theatres, has returned to New York . . . Three of the local Loew houses last week plugged the picture playing at the fourth Loew house when they substituted for their regular "Goodnight" at the conclusion of the show the phrase "So Ends Our Night." This was the picture playing at the State.

Nate Schultz, Monogram franchise owner, announces that on March 1 reissues of "The Hoosier Schoolboy," starring Mickey Rooney and "Boy of the Streets" starring Jackie Cooper, will be available.

Cleveland Telenews to Conduct Broadcasts

CLEVELAND—Following the successful pattern of the Telenews Theatre in San Francisco, the Cleveland Telenews Theatre on March 3, will start a series of daily broadcasts to originate in the lounge of the theatre.

The first program is called "Speak Up." It will be heard Monday through Friday from 6:15 p. m. to 6:30 p. m. over WCLE. This program is sponsored by the Burt Department Store, which will provide a moderator to handle the questions and answers propounded by the audience.

A special studio is being constructed adjacent to the lounge from which all Telenews broadcasts will be handled. Arrangements have been made to air other Telenews programs over WTAM and WGAR.

Ellis Levy, manager of the San Francisco Telenews, is here to supervise construction of the radio station and assist in arranging for hourly news broadcasts to supplement the news depicted on the screen.

Holden Swiger, formerly manager of de luxe theatres in the Paramount-Publix chain, has been named manager of the Telenews Theatre. Swiger is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University and joined Paramount in 1927. He directed Paramount theatres in Chicago, Indianapolis, Denver and other larger cities. He came to Cleveland from Elyria where, for the past six months he was associated with the Max Greenwald chain.

"Federal Fugitives" Next

CLEVELAND—Lee Goldberg, PRC franchise owner, announces "Federal Fugitives" as the next PRC release. Top roles in the picture are portrayed by Neil Hamilton, Betty Blythe and Victor Varconi.



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Text of Ellet Complaint

CLEVELAND—*Following is the text of the demand by the Ellet Amusement Co. for arbitration, the initial complaint to come before the local motion picture tribunal:*

To: LUKE LYMAN, Clerk of the Tribunal:

The undersigned, in accordance with the rules of Arbitration and Appeals, demands that the controversy hereafter described be submitted to arbitration under the Motion Picture Decree, and files herewith a submission dated February 15th, 1941, in accordance with the provisions of Section XXII, subdivision 9, of said Decree.

1. *Statement of Claim and Relief Sought:*

Complainant plans to operate as an exhibitor of motion pictures for profit in a moving picture theatre house now under construction, located on the west side of the Akron-Canton Road between Albrecht Avenue and Triplett Boulevard, in the City of Akron, Ohio, to be known as the Ellet Theatre. The theatre will commence operations immediately upon completion of the building on or about March 15, 1941. When completed, the building will constitute a modern stone and brick construction moving picture house with eight hundred (800) seats all located on the main floor.

Complainant desires to operate the Ellet Theatre as a twenty-eight cent (28c) neighborhood house exhibiting moving pictures on an irrespective Akron run basis, namely with the right to exhibit feature moving pictures commencing with the forty-second day after the completion of the Akron first run of the given feature. The Ellet Theatre will exhibit double features from time to time, but its policy of operation will not include gift nights, giveaways, premiums, cut rate tickets, lotteries, et cetera.

Complainant has requested Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Distributing Corporation, Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., and Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation, the distributor-defendants herein, to respectively grant to complainant a license to exhibit feature moving pictures owned by said distributor-defendants in the Ellet Theatre, commencing on or about March 15, 1941, upon such an irrespective Akron run 28c-house basis. The request of complainant has been denied by said distributor-defendants upon the ground that they each entered into a license for the current motion picture season with exhibitor-defendant Hart, together with defendant Co-Operative Theatres of Ohio, Inc., and/or defendant Milton Mooney, acting as booking agents for Hart, with respect to the exhibition of feature moving pictures in the Norka Theatre, 1095-99 East Market Street, Akron, Ohio, and the Rialto Theatre, 3-9 Goodyear Boulevard, Akron, Ohio, each operated by Defendant Hart, whereby there is granted to each of said theatres a seven-day clearance against complainant's Ellet Theatre. The effect of this clearance is to deny to the complainant the right to exhibit a given feature moving picture owned by one of the defendant-distributors until at least seven (7) days after the close of the run of such feature picture in either the Norka or the Rialto Theatre.

Complainant believes that the clearance as granted to the Rialto and Norka Theatres against the Ellet Theatre is an unreasonable one, judged on the basis of each and all of the factors listed in the provisions of Section VIII of that Consent Decree upon which this demand for arbitration is founded.

THEREFORE, complainant asks that the Motion Picture Arbitration Tribunal find:

1. That the said clearance is unreasonable, both as between the Norka Theatre and the Ellet Theatre and as between the Rialto Theatre and the Ellet Theatre;
2. That the Tribunal further find that neither the Norka Theatre nor the Rialto Theatre is entitled to any clearance with respect to the Ellet Theatre;
3. That the Tribunal therefore declare inoperative that provision of the presently existing licenses between the distributor-defendants and defendant Hart, Co-operative Theatres of Ohio, Inc., and/or Milton Mooney, which grants to the Rialto and Norka Theatres any right of clearance with respect to the Ellet Theatre during the life of said licenses;
4. And that the Tribunal further order that no clearance shall be granted by any of the distributor-defendants to either the Rialto or the Norka Theatre against the Ellet Theatre in any licenses which may hereafter be granted by said distributor-defendants for the exhibition of feature moving pictures in either the Norka Theatre or the Rialto Theatre.

Louis Isreal Takes Issue to Arbiters

CLEVELAND—The first complaint of an exhibitor seeking relief from alleged unfair trade practices in this district has been filed with the clerk of the American Arbitration Ass'n.

Louis Isreal, owner of the 800-seat Ellet Theatre now under construction on the outskirts of Akron and president of the Ellet Amusement Co., asks, in his petition, for an irrespective run. At the same time he asks that existing contracts between W. L. Hart, owner of the Norka and Rialto theatres and the distributor-defendants granting seven days' protection to these theatres, be declared inoperative.

Clearance in Akron is by custom established by admission scales. Pictures are generally available to subsequent runs charging 28 cents on the 42nd day after the completion of the Akron first run. Isreal declares that he will charge 28 cents at the Ellet—the same price as prevails at the Norka and Rialto—and therefore, he contests the seven day protection granted these two theatres.

Furthermore, he contends it is unreasonable for the Norka and Rialto to claim protection over the Ellet, which is more than three miles distant, while claiming no protection over nearer theatres.

Defendants in the first arbitration case filed in this district are Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Distributing Corporation, Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., Twentieth Century-Fox Corporation, W. L. Hart, Co-operative Theatres of Ohio, Inc., Milton Mooney.

Universal Branch Heads Meet With Dave Miller

CLEVELAND—Dave Miller, Universal district manager, held a meeting of the branch managers and salesmen of his district here on Saturday at the Statler Hotel. F. J. McCarthy, eastern sales manager, was present.

Branch managers attending were Joe Kauffman, Cleveland; Pete Dana, Pittsburgh; John Scully, Buffalo; Jere Spandau, Albany, and Peter Rosian, Cincinnati. The meeting was called to discuss new product and to carry out details of matters discussed at the recent Universal sales meeting in Chicago.

Martin Printz Books Three From Pioneer

CLEVELAND — Herbert Ochs and Col. Harry Long, operating Pioneer Film Exchange, have closed a contract with Martin Printz to play three of their pictures first run in Cleveland. They are "Pirate of the Seven Seas," "Among Human Wolves" and "I Met a Murderer."

"Let George Do It," another Pioneer release, played last week at the Palace, Akron, and is booked into the Esquire, Toledo.

Detroit Booking Agents Organize Association

DETROIT—Detroit booking agents have organized the Michigan Theatrical Agents and Bookers Ass'n, a non-profit association. Practically all local bookers are members. Sol Berns is president; Corine Muer, vice-president; Betty Bryden, secretary, and Del Delbridge, treasurer. Directors are Peter J. Iodice, Henry Lueders and Ken Conroy.

Jacobs Distributing Two Novelty Shorts in Ohio

CLEVELAND—M. M. Jacobs of Imperial Pictures has acquired two novelty shorts for northern Ohio distribution. They are "Synchrony No. 2" and "Rhythm and Light." Without the appearance of human beings, these pictures, produced by Mary Ellen Bute, achieve effects through the manipulation of geometrical figures, jewelry and other objects.

Detroit's Variety Inducts Officers

DETROIT—Variety Tent No. 5 inaugurated its new officers, headed by Chief Barker John Howard, who presided, in a ceremony following a banquet in the Esquire Room, Book-Cadillac Hotel.

Charles C. Perry, as national canvassman, inducted the officers, with David Newman, property master, calling upon John E. Flynn, M-G-M district manager at Chicago and first chief barker at Detroit, to initiate the new members taken in.

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries spoke, referring eloquently to the golf prowess of Howard, and Val Clare of CKLW took the stand as toastmaster. Major speech was by S. L. A. Marshall, author of "Blitzkrieg," which was published a week ago. It deals with national defense.

Others introduced, some giving brief talks, included: Harry F. Kelley, Michigan secretary of state; Judges Harry Keidan, John P. Scallen and Guy A. Miller; Ted O'Shea, M-G-M division manager; J. J. Maloney, M-G-M district manager; Louis Phillips, Paramount legal department; Harry Goldstein, Paramount district manager; Fred Mandell, owner of the Detroit Lions, and Bob Hall, singing rimester, who pinch-hit for David M. Idzal, assistant chief barker.

A show from Ray Schreiber's Colonial was presented for an hour's entertainment to conclude the evening.

Tablecloth Notes

Charles D. Kidson, who is managing energetic Judge John P. Scallen's campaign, was at our table . . . The judge, incidentally, has a show record way "back when"—he used to represent Bert C. Whitney and other old-timers . . . Adolph and Irving Goldberg seen at separate tables . . . Freddie Bonnem was long on the java . . . Professor Bob Corbin, UDT supervisor, was very impressive in that costume . . . Phil Brestoff, Michigan musical boss, had the jitters over the initiation . . . Retiring Chief Barker Harold C. Robinson surrounded by son Bill, his assistant, Andy Pasananen, and Bill Rick.

Twin Department—Lou Lobar of M-G-M and L. C. Becker, American Seating, are almost twins—till you compare height . . . Ed Carlson and Lou Mitchell of the Kilbride houses exhibited a fondness for romantic songs . . . Jack Hurford of the Fox was about the last to arrive . . . Sol Berns efficiently handling the show for which he was responsible . . . John R. McPherson, National Screen manager, has transferred Variety membership here from St. Louis.

J. Oliver Brooks, Butterfield booker, at the salesmen's table with Ray Cloud, Eddie Westcott, Col. George McCoy and Claire Townsend . . . Assisting the show were Cem Merritt, Jack Broder and Charlie Schneider.

11 Members Are Added By Detroit Variety

DETROIT—The Variety Club is boosting its membership by 11. They include: Paul David Bromberg, accountant, Wisper & Wetsman Theatres; James E. West, theatrical photographer; Clark C. Coulter, Coulter Premiums; Edward Bellew, United Artists exploiteer; Robert Bernstein, M-G-M salesman; Carl L. Krueger, Jam Handy Picture Service; Edward L. Hyman, operating assistant to the president, UDT; Jack Broder, circuit owner; Lester Gruber, night club operator; Robert P. Corbin, UDT supervisor; Clifford E. Giesseman, Altec; and Philip F. Brestoff, musical director, Michigan Theatre.

Mideast Arbitration Panels

While additional names probably will swell the total, the following members of arbitration panels for the motion picture tribunals in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit and Pittsburgh have been announced by the American Arbitration Ass'n:

Cincinnati

Jerome Clark, vice-president, Union Central Life Insurance Co., 1514 Union Central Bldg.

Philip A. Cohen, attorney, Cohen, Hurtig & Cohen, 6 East Fourth St.

Sterling B. Cramer, first vice-president, Union Trust Co., Fourth & Walnut St.

P. T. Ellsworth, assistant professor of economics, University of Chicago.

Frederick W. Garber, architect, 616 Walnut St.

W. W. Hewett, professor of economics, University of Cincinnati.

A. R. Jaqua, associate editor, *National Underwriter*.

Bert H. Long, attorney and vice-president Cincinnati Bar Ass'n, Atlas Bank Bldg.

Hon. Thomas H. Morrow, attorney; judge of the common pleas court, Hamilton county Court House.

Herbert Shaffer, executive of Waite, Schindel & Bayless, 1318 Union Central Bldg.

Lawrence Smith, attorney, 1015 Provident Bank Bldg., Seventh & Vine Sts.

Louis J. Stricker, attorney, Union Trust Bldg.

Alfred J. Fiedlander, executive, 313 Vine St.

Cleveland

A. C. Arbuthnot, professor, Western Reserve University.

Percy Brown, resident partner, Hornblower & Weeks, 1040 Union Commerce Bldg.

Charles M. Buss, law, Niman Buss, 1010 Leader Bldg.

Hon. Dan B. Cull, executive, Cull & Fuller, 1044 Hanna Bldg.

Prof. W. W. Dawson, professor of law, Western Reserve University Law School.

Prof. Walter T. Dunmore, dean of the law school, Western Reserve University.

William R. Fairgrieve, attorney, Scott & Fairgrieve, 1106 Standard Bldg.

W. A. Goldsmith, president, Walter A. Goldsmith Co., 1900 Superior Ave.

James H. Herron, president, James H. Herron Co., 1360 West Third St.

Ralph B. Hunter, assistant manager, Equitable Assurance Society, 900 Union Commerce Bldg.

Judge George Kerr, attorney, 700 Union Commerce Bldg.

John D. Marshall, attorney, 300 Engineers Bldg.

George Roudebush, attorney, Snyder, Seagrave, Roudebush & Adrion, 915 Williamson Bldg.

Prof. Earl L. Shoup, professor of political science, Western Reserve University.

Birkett L. Williams, auto dealer, 4801 Euclid Ave.

Lewis Wintersute, certified public accountant, 509 Terminal Tower.

William B. Woods, attorney, Woods & Japper, 1814 Terminal Tower.

Detroit

W. F. Austin, building construction (W. E. Wood Co.), 4649 Humboldt Ave.

Wilber M. Brucker, lawyer, 2850 Penobscot Bldg.

L. J. Carey, general counsel, 163 Madison Ave.

Eugene A. Casaroll, president Automobile Shippers, Inc., 9760 Van Dyke.

Ivan E. Chapman, supervising director of high schools, 1354 Broadway.

Hugh Ferry, secretary-treasurer Packard Motor Car Co., 1580 East Grand Blvd.

Samuel Fitzpatrick, export manager Federal Motor Truck Export Autos, 3444 Three Mile Drive.

Harry J. Fox, Detroit Trust Co.

John Lovett, secretary-general manager Michigan Mfg. Ass'n, 1001 National Bank Bldg.

James McEvoy, attorney, 3266 Penobscot Bldg.

H. L. Newman, vice-president Detroit Insurance Agency, 510 Fisher Bldg.

H. M. Robins, president H. M. Robins Co., 120 Madison Ave.

Jerome G. Thomas, department head of business administration, Wayne University, 457 Putnam Ave.

T. C. Hanson, professor University of Detroit, McNichols Road at Livernois.

J. Lee Barrett, vice-president Detroit Convention and Tourists Bureau, 1005 Stroh Bldg.

Pittsburgh

Charles F. C. Arensberg, attorney, Patterson, Crawford, Arensberg & Dun, 1404 First National Bank Bldg.

W. C. Arther, president and board chairman Pittsburgh Academy. Address: Pittsburgh Academy, Pittsburgh.

Horace F. Baker, attorney, 1128 Union Trust Bldg.

Jacob J. Blair, assistant professor of economics University of Pittsburgh. Residence: 765 Gypsy Lane, Lebanon, Pa.

Glen U. Cleeton, head of the department of printing, Carnegie Institute of Technology.

Henry Ernest Cole, Allegheny county Sabbath School Ass'n, 714 Investment Bldg.

Dr. James H. Greene, chamber of commerce. Address: Chamber of commerce.

Thomas N. Griggs, attorney, Oliver Bldg.

A. V. Murray, treasurer William B. Scaife & Sons, Oakmont, Pa.

"Wind" Doubles Pitt Par; "Story" a Swell 185%

PITTSBURGH—"The Philadelphia Story" was told to the tune of a very happy jingle at Loew's Penn boxoffice. Opening an extended run here, the M-G-M hit scored at close to double average for the deluxer. "GWTW" and "This Thing Called Love" continued as strong attractions in their respective third weeks here. The Selznick epic had been moved into the Warner after two big weeks in the Penn, and the Columbia comedy roared ahead in the Senator. "East of the River" was a weak attraction at the Fulton. Ritz showed one of its best grosses in the presentation of a new double bill with Paramount's "Texas Rangers Ride Again" and "A Night at Earl Carroll's." Weather was miserable, cold, slippery, dark and smoggy.

The details:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Devil Bat** (PRC); **Chamber of Horrors** (Mono) 95
Fulton—**East of the River** (FN)..... 60
Penn—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 185
Ritz—**Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't); **A Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't).....110
Senator—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 3rd wk. 125
Stanley—**Four Mothers** (WB), plus Larry Clinton orchestra on stage 95
Warner—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 3rd d. t. wk. 200

"Back Street" Stands Out In Spotty Cincy Week

CINCINNATI—"Back Street," after an exceptionally good opening, settled in for a second week. Business was well above average. Other features suffered from lack of interest. The weather was open and mild. Shubert's went over the top with their stage show and film fare, which is increasing steadily in popularity.

Detail for week ended February 13:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Back Street** (Univ) 120
Held over and shifted to Capitol.
Capitol—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO) 100
Second week, held for third.
Grand—**Four Mothers** (WB) 90
Keith's—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox). 70
Lyric—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB)..... 60
Palace—**High Sierra** (FN) 90
Held over, shifted to Keith's.
Shubert—**Play Girl** (RKO), plus stage show...120

Dopesters Given Setback By Detroit First Runs

DETROIT—Local wiseacres who have banked on the theory that a picture with strong feminine interest is a surefire boxoffice attraction got a minor jolt when two of the strongest bids of the season in this class failed to stay at their big opening houses for more than one week, although both "Kitty Foyle" and "Back Street" switched to other theatres for a continued first run.

Aside from a prevailing slump, attributed to flu and a puzzling atmosphere of industrial uncertainty locally, the lowdown on the double shift appears to be that both pictures were excellent draws for openers, but exhibitors felt it best to switch them to the smaller supporting houses and bring in fresh film fare, rather than risk another week in the largest theatres.

Thursday opening of "GWTW," which set the all-time record of 21½ weeks here a year ago, at the United Artists, was another important factor making readjustment of booking schedules necessary. Film is considered likely to last several weeks at this writing.

Detail for week ending February 13:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Night Train** (20th-Fox) after week at the Fox.....90
Cinema—**The Villain Still Pursued Her** (RKO); **I'm Still Alive** (RKO)..... 80
Fox—**Back Street** (Univ); **Youth Will Be Served** (20th-Fox) at matinee only.....105
Michigan—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 115
Palms-State—**South of Suez** (WB); **Here Comes the Navy** (WB)..... 90
United Artists—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M).....100

"Philadelphia Story" New Cleveland Exemplar

CLEVELAND—It's getting to be an old story, but again "GWTW" was the top percentage picture of the week. In cold cash, however, it was "The Philadelphia Story" that was the winner. The picture caused a mild furore, and fans compared it with "GWTW" in terms of entertainment.

The town's only stage show, "Folies Bergere" with "Tall, Dark and Handsome" on the screen made an excellent showing. "This Thing Called Love" runs on and on and in its third week downtown, taking in more admissions than many new pictures do in a first week. "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" also clicked and wins a move-over run.

The Hanna, only legit house was dark so that the only unusual competition was the Al Sirrat Grotto Circus.

First run business, while not as big as in some recent weeks, was still in the high brackets. Neighborhoods, however, are not getting any tangible results, as yet, from increased employment.

Detail for the week ended February 14:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....110
Third week downtown.
Hippodrome—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO)..... 80
To the Allen for another week.
Palace—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox).. 90
Folies Bergere on the stage was the big draw, although the picture was unanimously praised.
State—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M).....135
Moves to the Stillman for continued run.
Stillman—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....160
Fourth week.

Cause of "Decency" Hampered by Radio

Pittsburgh—The "Catholic" on February 13 stated editorially:

"A sharp decline in radio listening interest is reported, as a result of the broadcasters' decision to inflict upon their customers the sort of music they can get most cheaply; plans for 'a quiet evening at home' are being changed to 'let's go to the movies' after work, with the dials proving hopeless in finding the kind of entertainment that was once available.

"Good fortune for the film houses; but it is a matter of grave concern that this situation finds more objectionable movies being offered than in several years."

CINCINNATI

ROBERT SMELTZER, division manager for Warner, spent several days in Cincy with Robert Dunbar, local manager, rounding out plans on the current Sears drive . . . West Virginia friends of Bill Kerr will welcome him as new sales representative in that territory for Warner's. Kerr, formerly with RCA, succeeds George Dillon, resigned . . . West Virginia exhibitors calling this week included Mannie and Louie Shore, from Williamson and War; Eddie Salzberg of Union; J. Crissman, Barboursville, and Gene and Jack Custer, Charleston. Also, Messrs. Keesling and Newbold.

Report comes that W. H. Rogers, Community, Keystone, W. Va., is at the Welsh Clinic for a checkup . . . Mrs. Fon Sexton and her son, A. J. jr., visited. They report an uptrend in business in their Ashland, Ky., houses . . . Maury White, Libson-White interests, returned from a business trip over the weekend in New York . . . Mrs. John Crone is remodeling the Ideal, Columbia Parkway, Cincy, for an early reopening. This marks her return to exhibition after a lapse of several years.

Virgil Jackson is rumored planning a new neighborhood house in the new housing project district at Dayton, Ohio . . . Ralph Kinsler announces the new Shard to be opened in memory of Elmer Shard, prominent Cincinnati exhibitor, and which will be erected in Lockland, Cincinnati suburb, will get under way in April. Kinsler was formerly branch manager for Warner . . . Warren Shafer is adding to his Morehead and Grayson, Ky., houses with a new theatre at Olive Hill. J. Frank Carnahan is expecting to open his new house at Ervine, Ky., in April.

Warner Publicist Bill Bromberg is filling quite a few radio engagements in Cincinnati and Dayton . . . Universal rings the bell again with two salesmen having made 100 per cent sales possibilities in the Bill Scully Drive. Nate LaVene and George Gomersal are leading the nation. For the first time in the history of the company, two leaders come from the same office. Harry Young was awarded a pen and pencil set for the greatest number of sales on "Fugitive" and the reissue, "Next Time We Love."

Columbia bows in "The Exhibitor's Goodwill Campaign, to Do the Damndest Best Business in Thirteen Weeks You Ever Dreamed Of," to quote their attractive folders . . . Lloyd Johnson is constructing a new house at Hyden, Ky., the first theatre for this town . . . Mrs. Carolyn Ducker is the new owner at Butler, Ky., having acquired the house from Max Goldberg . . . "Western Union" opened to terrific business at the RKO Albee.

Metro's Woody Bressler is passing the Perfectos. It's a valentine in the form of a baby girl . . . M-G-M Pep Club entertained with an office social and buffet luncheon . . . Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller are the proud parents of a boy. Mrs. Miller is the daughter of Jack Goldman, proprietor of the Lincoln and Roosevelt theatres, Cincinnati.

Gold Arbitration Bid Seen as Forerunner

BOSTON—The first of a series of complaints to be filed with the motion picture division of the American Arbitration Ass'n under the guidance of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., was entered last week when Ben Gold, Nashua, N. H., independent, sought to invoke Section 6 of the Code. Gold, as reported by this publication last week, thus became the first New Englander to bring a case before the local board.

Arthur K. Howard, business manager of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., who aided and counselled Gold in his move, declined to state what further steps the local Allied States Ass'n segment plans to take under the American Arbitration Ass'n set up but indicated that he already is assisting a number of other member theatre owners in preparing complaints for filing.

Nashua in Limelight

Gold's complaint again brings up the Nashua, N. H., situation which was thoroughly aired during the three-year hearings of the Morse & Rothenberg Anti-trust Suit in which George S. Ryan, plaintiff's counsel, contended that two Shea houses in Nashua were the only theatres in the New Hampshire city that could buy major product. Morse & Rothenberg was recently able to purchase a run of Columbia, according to Gold, but Gold himself contends that he has been confined exclusively to independent product.

Gold, a member of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., and a newcomer to independent ownership ranks, was formerly 11 years with Morse & Rothenberg circuit interest. He spent the past ten years with the chain in Nashua.

Applications for Two Theatres Rejected

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—Applications for two neighborhood theatres have been turned down by the board of appeals on zoning. Three hundred men and women filled the hearing room to voice their opinions for and against the petitions.

For the third time within three months George H. Griffen was denied permission to erect a theatre with stores in the north end. A large delegation of surrounding property owners opposed the petition. Joseph Frouge asked the right to erect a theatre a few blocks away from where the Griffen house was to be located, but after lengthy discussion his application was denied.

Mullin Heads Greek Aid

BOSTON—Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres Corp. partner, has been appointed local head of the Amusement Industries Division of the Greek War Relief Ass'n. Adolph Zukor, Paramount executive, is national head of the division.

Several Measures Concern Trade in Massachusetts

BOSTON—Massachusetts legislative business is picking up. A measure to forbid the selling of SRO facilities in Boston motion picture houses has been unofficially tossed, following the recommendation of industry spokesmen. Officially, the measure will have to undergo several routine considerations by both the house and senate, as will the potentially current measure that would necessitate playing of "Star-Spangled Banner" between performances, before being definitely dead.

Numerous public safety measures affecting the industry, including one filed by Eugene McSweeney, head of the department of public safety, are in the works. Also in this year's record lot of bills, mountained by the fact that last year there was no legislative session because of the newly enacted biennial law, included a number of holiday and outdoor advertising measures.

Perhaps the most dangerous bill from an industry standpoint is one brought by Leo J. Sullivan and Thomas P. O'Neill jr., that would set up a film censorship in the state. A hearing on this measure has been tentatively set for March 12.

Wants Beano Licensed

George Solomon, operator of the Columbia in Boston, has petitioned that "the department of public safety be authorized to issue licenses to theatres . . . to conduct Beano and similar games in addition to their regular performances."

This particular bill is assured of industry pros and cons.

"Legislation to further regulate the sale and re-sale of tickets of admission to certain theatrical enterprises, shows, or other public amusements," is being sought by Charles P. Huse jr.

"Legislation relative to the licensing of public entertainments, theatrical exhibitions, amusements, and enterprises on the Lord's Day" is sought in a bill filed by Thomas J. Lane.

Motion picture houses would not be able to sell tickets "for more than the price set forth on the tickets" in a bill brought by George T. Walsh.

Aimed particularly at Shubert interests, Paul McCarthy has brought three bills that would provide "that annual licenses first for theatre ticket agencies be increased and for requiring such agencies to post a bond:" so that, "ticket agencies shall not be connected in any way with theatre ticket agencies selling tickets at a premium:" and, finally, "for legislation to abolish licensing ticket agencies engaged in the re-selling at a premium of tickets for admissions to theatres . . ."

Also of interest to the film sector are numerous measures that would set up lotteries and sweepstakes for the avowed purpose of reducing taxes, financing old age assistance, etc.

Gather at Booth Bill Hearing

New Haven—Unexpectedly early hearing of the two-men-in-a-booth bill before the judiciary committee brought exhibitors from all over the state of Hartford to protest Thursday (Feb. 20). Before the hearing, exhibitors met at luncheon to talk over their line of defense at the Hotel Bond. The judiciary committee now takes the bill and opinions expressed under advisement.

Boston Arbitration Panel Is Selected

BOSTON—The following have been selected as members of the panel of arbitration for the Boston tribunal. Other names may yet be added by the American Arbitration Ass'n:

C. N. Angell, certified public accountant, 40 Broad Street.

Raymond P. Baldwin, lawyer, 1 Federal St.

Daniel Bloomfield, manager of the Retail Trade Board, 80 Federal St.

E. G. Boutelle, certified public accountant, 80 Federal St.

Prof. Arthur L. Brown, lawyer, Boston University Law School.

Ralph R. Brewster, certified public accountant, 110 State St.

John A. Day, occupation not designated, 209 Washington St.

William Hitchcock, attorney, 73 Tremont Bldg.

Walter Humphreys, secretary of the National Ass'n of Wool Manufacturers, 80 Federal St.

Reuben Lurie, lawyer, 85 Devonshire St.

Arthur Rogow, manager of Sears, Roebuck & Co.

Roy F. Williams, editor of *Industry*, Park Square Bldg.

The initial panel has not yet been selected for the Albany board. It is expected to be named momentarily.

Loew Anti-Trust Suits Nearer a Hearing

BOSTON—The latest group of E. M. Loew anti-trust suits, including litigations involving the circuit owner's southern outdoor theatre interests, is scheduled to go before a Master here in the near future. Federal court has appointed Arthur Black to sit on the hearings.

The matter is being held up at present because of the current Waldo Theatre Corp. vs. Joseph Dondis et al. anti-trust suit which is requiring the attendance of several interested attorneys elsewhere.

Hayden in Hartford P. A.

HARTFORD—Stirling Hayden, who stars in Paramount's "Virginia," appeared at the local M&P's Allyn last Wednesday.

Tax on Film Rentals Proposed in Conn.

HARTFORD—A state tax on motion picture film rentals by Connecticut theatres would be imposed under the terms of a bill introduced into the state senate here by Senator John L. Sullivan (D) of New Britain.

According to the terms of the proposed bill, when the rent paid for the film is from $500 to $1,000 a week, there would be a five per cent tax, and where the rent exceeds $1,000 a week, the tax would be seven and one-half per cent. If the theatre grosses more than $2,000 per week, under the measure, it would be assumed that the film rental is $500 a week.

Stating that the bill is aimed at circuit theatres, Senator Sullivan declared that a provision permitting deduction of the value of premiums given out by the theatre from the gross is designed to assist the independent situations.

The above bill is the first legislative proposal actually aimed toward the industry in Connecticut.

Harry Goldman Chairman Salesmen's Club Dance

BOSTON—The fifth annual dinner-dance of the Motion Picture Salesmen's Club will be held at the Cocoanut Grove on Sunday, April 20.

Harry I. Goldman of Producers Releasing Corp., president of the organization, is general chairman. Reservations, which are going at six dollars a couple, may be secured from Maynard Sickles of the Capitol Theatre Supply Co., secretary.

Goldman, also chairman of the entertainment committee, has announced that additional talent will be brought in for the affair. He is being assisted in this field by Harry Rosenblatt of M-G-M and Saul Simons of Columbia.

Sickles, in charge of the program committee in addition to his other duties, is being assisted by John Felone of 20th-Fox, Mac Farber of Imperial, Frank Dervin of Universal, Saul Simons of Columbia, and James Connolly of 20th-Fox.

Berg Reports Tickets Move For Cinema Club Dance

BOSTON—Sam Berg, president of the Boston Cinema Club and general chairman in charge of the forthcoming March 15 annual dinner-dance of the fraternity, reported this week that subsequent ticket sales already have been made.

Berg, 20th-Fox head booker here, has been calling a number of special meetings to further plans for the Sunday charitable festivities at the Cocoanut Grove. Reservations are going at five dollars a pair.

"Kitty Foyle" a Record Breaker

BOSTON—"Kitty Foyle," combined with "The Saint in Palm Springs," stayed six weeks at Keith's Memorial and broke all previous gross and booking records.

75-Year-Old Park Will Be Razed

Bridgeport, Conn.—The Park, three-quarters of a century old and at one time the city's top theatre, is to be torn down, according to Frank Shea, president of the Park Theatre Co., owners of the building.

The house long has been dark except for occasional road companies. Of late, bricks have been falling from the walls onto autos in a nearby parking lot.

Mass. Governor in Tribute To "Land of Liberty"

BOSTON—"On behalf of the Commonwealth I wish to commend the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America for the patriotic service you are performing in presenting the motion picture, 'Land of Liberty,'" Gov. Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts said in a letter to Will Hays last week.

"There is certainly no better way of building patriotic values," His Excellency continued, "than by portraying the dramatic story of the birth and development of the democracy of the United States. I am delighted that the film is being shown in Massachusetts."

Charles E. Kurtzman, local Loew's division manager, has announced that a "Land of Liberty" committee has been composed of some one hundred outstanding Bostonians to sponsor the showing of the feature at Loew's State and Orpheum.

McBride Has Tibbetts as Aide at Boston State

BOSTON—Edward McBride, recently manager of Loew's State in Providence, this week officially took over managerial duties of Loew's State in Boston. James Tibbetts, formerly treasurer to Howard Burkhardt at the Orpheum, came into the State, Boston, as assistant to McBride, succeeding Edmund Howard, resigned.

Tom Foley, formerly of Loew's State here, has been appointed Loew's Orpheum assistant treasurer by Charles Kurtzman, division manager. Emil Weretelnyk, also of the Orpheum, has been made treasurer.

Plans for 800-Seater in Concord Await Approval

BOSTON—Plans for a new Colonial-type theatre in Concord have been readied for filing with the state public building department. Julius Meyers is the nominal head of the interests backing the project, set for completion early next fall. The proposed 800-seater, to be known as the Concord Theatre, will be the town's first regular motion picture house.

Week's Batch Passes

BOSTON—No film eliminations were reported last week as the Massachusetts bureau of Sunday censorship approved 38 motion pictures without a hitch.

Cut "This Thing" for Boston City Censor

BOSTON—John Spencer, Boston city censor, moved ahead last week in his recently announced campaign, first reported by this publication.

Spencer contacted local Loew's, Inc., authorities for an interview which resulted in minor deletions in "This Thing Called Love," held over at Loew's State and Orpheum.

The state censorship board gave "This Thing Called Love" a complete bill of health.

Spencer also moved against the Trans Lux, operated by Interstate Theatres Corp., ordering the management to stop distribution of a folder advertising this week's opening of "Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands." Spencer also requested a special pre-release showing of the Danielle Darrieux feature, scheduled to open last Wednesday.

"The Virgin Bride," renamed French release, was not on the original list of motion pictures that Spencer recently distributed among local theatre operators demanding that he be notified in writing not less than four days before the proposed showing of any of them. A previous Danielle Darrieux vehicle, "Club des Femmes," was included in the order.

Spencer told this publication that his list of 34 motion pictures was largely drawn from Legion of Decency listings although he had added the names of several features from information gathered from National Board of Review reactions.

Springfield Film Council Classifies New Product

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. — The Springfield Motion Picture Council has announced, as follows, its "classified list of forthcoming films:"

For adults—"The Philadelphia Story."

For the family—"Land of Liberty."

For adults and young people—"Night Train," "You're the One," "Life With Henry," "Virginia," "Hudson's Bay," "Tall, Dark and Handsome," "Invisible Woman," "South to Karanga," and "This Thing Called Love."

Worcester Better Films Council Issues Digest

WORCESTER, MASS.—The Worcester Better Films Council, of which Mrs. Howard S. Shepard, is president, has announced, as follows, its "movie digest:"

For young people (from 15 years of age)—"Tin Pan Alley," "The Mark of Zorro," "Thief of Bagdad," and "Let's Make Music."

For adults—"Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga," "The Philadelphia Story," "Michael Shayne, Private Detective," "Pastor Hall," "I Love You Again," "Arise My Love," "The Great Profile," "South of Suez," and "Honeymoon for Three."

For the family—"Thief of Bagdad" and "Keeping Company."

Developing Into a One-Day Business

Boston—Stating that big weekends are all that are keeping some New England theatres out of the red, a prominent New England exhibitor said here this week that in some eastern localities, the theatre game has definitely developed into a one-day (Sunday) business.

Theatre Management Class Hears Wassermann

BOSTON—Harry I. Wassermann, M&P district manager, spoke on the duties of a district manager and the responsibilities of a suburban theatre manager as guest lecturer of the State University Extension course in Theatre Management being held weekly under the leadership of Arthur L. Tuohy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Wassermann, one of this section's pioneer showmen, covered in general the main duties of his own office and then proceeded with a detailed explanation of the major duties involved in managing a neighborhood house.

Setting forth those departments to which the successful suburban manager must give particular attention, Wassermann stressed: budget control, weekly staff meetings, physical house inspection, good will, special care of children, handling of complaints, exploitation, and divers community activities.

Springfield Operators Fete Benjamin G. Hull

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Benjamin G. Hull of Westfield, newly elected business agent of the Motion Picture Operators Union, Local 186, was guest of honor at a party held last fortnight in the home of Owen Holmes, Garden projectionist. Guests included: Louis Williamson (Bijou), union president; Granville G. Best, Local 186's vice-president; Arthur Payette (Arcade), secretary-treasurer; Yvan Ellia (Paramount), and Edwin B. Webber (Broadway), members of the union's executive board.

Business Agent Hull was presented a wrist watch. A buffet luncheon was served.

Plumbers Would Produce Educational Picture

MANCHESTER, N. H.—At the 11th annual convention of the New Hampshire Association of Master Plumbers here, it was voted to appropriate $50 from the association's treasury and raise additional funds through a special committee, toward the production of a $25,000 motion picture which is planned for nation-wide screening in the interest of the plumbing industry.

The board of directors was authorized to select a committee to raise New Hampshire's share of the production costs.

BOSTON

ARTHUR K. Howard, Independent Exhibitors business manager, sent the new Allied Information Department bulletin, comprising a summary of 1940-1941 contracts, to New England members this week.

Harry Asher, Producers Releasing Corp. franchise owner, was in New York on business . . . Al Gould of the Majestic in Springfield was in town, conferring with Kenneth Douglass of the Capitol Theatre Supply . . . Guy Kibbee visited the RKO and Columbia exchanges . . . H. J. McKinney, local manager for National Screen Service, was in New York at a managers convention.

Lou Newman, new manager at the Trans Lux in Boston, has been supervising the installation of a new marquee. Newman, together with Publicist Spencer Rudnick, gave the Trans Lux a brand new front for "Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands." It was a repeat booking for the latter feature.

Joe Flynn of the Victoria in Lawrence was in . . . Helen Saul, formerly of Specialty Pictures, has been in Florida . . . Herbert Zidell of Imperial has left for some six weeks in Florida . . . Albert Lewin, the producer, was in town.

Lloyd Bridgham, operator of the Broadway in Dover, has completed further renovations at the New Hampshire house . . . James Field, manager of the Paramount in Salem for Phil Bloomberg, is still featuring organ recitals by Arthur Martel, for years at the Metropolitan in Boston.

William S. Koster, theatre seat renovation expert with offices in the Copley Square Theatre building here, recently completed rejuvenation for Louis Stern at the Modern in Marlborough . . . Harry Rose, manager of the Globe in Bridgeport, is convalescing following hospitalization.

Two press parties here last week: One for Guy Kibbee at the Ritz-Carlton, the second for Stirling Hayden at T Wharf . . . Susanna Foster, starlet in the "Hard-Boiled Canary," is due for a personal appearance tour here.

George Rabb, now managing the Phillips in Springfield, is giving the house that feminine touch with the introduction of usherettes . . . Court Square, E. M. Loew house in Springfield, pulled in SRO crowds with a personal appearance there of Johnny Downs.

John Dervin, local UA branch manager, and his sales staff are driving hard to win two-week bonuses in the present Kelly Drive . . . Jack Granara, RKO publicist, even tied in "Hudson's Bay" with Hudson's Bay 3½-point and 4-point Blankets. These, as Granara found out, have a particularly colorful background, "the points signifying the number of beaver skins that formerly had to be put up by Indians, trappers, etc., wishing to buy the blankets from the Hudson's Bay Company."

Dorothy Gish and Louis Calhern, film stars, set up the current record for legit runs here with twenty weeks of "Life With Father" at the Repertory. No other play this season ran longer than three weeks.

Irving Dunn, formerly manager of the Tower in Lowell and later film salesman for Specialty Pictures here, is now managing the Lyric in Fitchburg . . . Phil Lowe of the Theatre Candy Company and former Carole Myers of New Rochelle, N. Y., have married.

Edmund Howard, formerly assistant manager at Loew's State in Boston, is planning a Florida stay . . . Major Patrick F. Healey, state film head, is heading south to Havana. Florence Turner of the same department also sojourning. James Sherran is taking over.

Ernest Warren, Universal salesman, was hospitalized in Portland, Me., with sinus trouble . . . A new motion picture house is understood to be slated for Southbridge . . . A new theatre is also reportedly in the works for Bristol, Conn. . . . Frederick E. Lieberman, the circuit operator, is advertising that his new motion picture house at Uphams Corner in suburban Boston is "opening soon."

William H. McLaughlin, recent operator of the Stoneham in Stoneham, acted as his own attorney in a court case in Woburn last week which involved a minor automobile accident . . . Work continues on two new film district buildings, one at the corner of Broadway and Winchester Streets to house National Screen Service and the other on Arlington Street to house RKO . . . National Screen announces it will now service Connecticut with accessories out of New Haven rather than out of New York.

PROVIDENCE

"BUCK PRIVATES," paired with "Invisible Woman," at RKO-Albee drew such business Saturday that Manager George French had to run an extra late show of the feature to accommodate lobby standees unable to get inside for the last regular show.

Jack Simons, new manager at Loew's State, succeeding Edward H. McBride, shifted to Boston, busy making contracts and friends around town and finding he likes Providence.

Coincidence that the last program to be worked on by three of Albee's front-of-the-house staff due to go into the army next Monday, is "Buck Privates," subjecting the lads to some good-natured kidding.

Paramount, Newport, ran a midnight show February 21, with the entire proceeds to go to British War Relief.

M&P circuit planning enlarging the Strand, Newport. Increased seating capacity reported necessitated by large numbers of men now stationed in Newport's military establishments.

Manager Al Clarke of the Majestic going in for billboard displays in advance plugging of "Strawberry Blonde."

Will Appeal Judgment Accorded Adornos

MIDDLETOWN, CONN.—An appeal to the state supreme court will be made by the S&S Theatres, Inc., et al., and the Middletown Theatres, Inc., et al., in their $269,000 damage suit against Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Adorno, entered by Judge Ernest C. Simpson in the Adornos' favor.

Plaintiffs in the two cases, which were tried together, charged that Adorno had concealed knowledge of a lease he had obtained on a theatre in the Middletown Enterprises combination together with an offer to buy all the theatres involved.

Judge Simpson's judgment was entered in the superior clerk's office here last fortnight as the decision on the hearing held in November.

Community Theatre Group Incorporates in Hartford

HARTFORD—This city of 175,000 persons was one step nearer to having a community playhouse last week.

The Community Theatre Building Corp. of Hartford, Inc., incorporated without capital stock, has been formed to build a non-commercial theatre in Hartford for the legit productions, according to papers filed with the Secretary of State here.

If the corporation can raise $250,000 by public subscription, this city can take its place among many others which have provided non-commercial theatres. Officers of the corporation are: Cedric G. Thompson, president; Samuel Gold, treasurer; and Roswell Hawley, secretary.

Loew's Dollar Club Shows Greenway High in '40

BOSTON—Frederick R. Greenway, who this week left Loew's State in Boston to assume managership of the Palace in Hartford, led the United States last year in securing extra business for his theatre, Loew's Dollar Club summary reveals.

Special football shows counted largely for Greenway's jump on the field. Howard Burkhardt, manager of Loew's Orpheum in Boston, was high in the ratings.

Joseph A. DiPesa, veteran advertising manager for Loew's in Boston, led the country in securing full-page publicity breaks.

E. M. Loew Celebrates

BOSTON—E. M. Loew, independent circuit operator who, within recent years has extended his holding beyond New England boundaries to points as far away as New Orleans and Miami, last week celebrated with a party a move into new Metropolitan Theatre Building offices.

Boy Scouts Plug Film

MANCHESTER, N. H.—When "Land of Liberty" was shown at the State Theatre here, Daniel Webster Council, Boy Scouts of America, urged all Boy Scouts and other persons in this vicinity to attend.

"Scattergood Baines" Bows in Montpelier

Boston—The world premiere of "Scattergood Baines," first of a proposed series built around the Clarence Budington Kelland character, was spotted at Montpelier, Vt., last week. Guy Kibbee made a special personal appearance at the Capitol, Maine & New Hampshire Theatres Company house, for the unveiling.

Rising Business Index Keeps Trade Cheered

BOSTON—Theatre business in New England still is far below what experts think it should be, but optimism for the near future continues to run high. Employment and payrolls have not reached such high figures in this territory for years. The continued trend was shown by the present report of the Massachusetts planning board that Bay State industries in December hit the greatest industrial activity since the fall of 1929.

The Massachusetts planning board recorded the activity at 99.1 per cent, better than 10 per cent higher than December of a year ago. The biggest increase took place in new building, the total of which amounts to $26,912,000, exclusive of public works and public utilities. Industrial employment was up seven per cent compared with the previous December, electric power consumption gained 4.1 per cent, shoe production was up 9.4 per cent, and cotton textiles activity mounted 3.1 per cent.

"New orders received by Massachusetts factories during the month were 44 per cent larger," according to the Associated Industries report.

"Business in 1941 will be sustained at present high levels and, in most lines, at considerably higher levels. This will probably be true in 1942," the New England Council surmised, adding, "with the level of business activity in New England closing the year more than 10 per cent above the estimated numeral, it is apparent that in 1941 industrial production in this region will probably be larger than in any year in the past decade."

Hartford Plants Report New Employment High

HARTFORD—On February 1 employes in 82 Hartford county plants numbered 83,600, another new high, compared with 79,936 the month before, a gain of 3,664, or 4.5 per cent, the Manufacturers Ass'n of Hartford reports. On March 1, 1933, there were but 31,707 workers employed in the same plants, it is stated here.

Of the January gain, 2,789 were added at 43 Hartford plants, 586 at 27 New Britain plants, and 289 at 12 Bristol plants. The percentage gains were 5.8 per cent in Hartford to a 50,575 total, 2.8 per cent in New Britain to a 21,308 total, and 2.5 per cent in Bristol to a 11,717 total.

In the eight months since June 1, 1940 (the government started awarding defense contracts to industry on June 13), employment in Hartford county has increased 18,312 or 28.1 per cent, the association reports. Since a year ago, employment has increased 20,542 or 32.6 per cent.

As of February 1 employment in the county stood at 158.7 per cent of the accepted normal at the beginning of 1929, as compared with 151.8 per cent the month before and 119.7 per cent the year before. Man-hours stood at 141.2 per cent of this normal as against 133.5 per cent January 1 and 96.8 per cent February 1, 1940.

Sizeable Audiences Attracted in Boston

BOSTON—Sizeable audiences livened Boston first-run theatres last week with "Kitty Foyle" and "The Saint in Palm Springs," both in their record sixth week, still the main loop sensation. "This Thing Called Love," aided by complimentary reviews and strong word-of-mouth, climbed satisfactorily at the Orpheum and State and was a holdover. "Western Union" was big at the Metropolitan.

Detail for the week ending February 14:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**You're the One** (Para't); **The Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col) 100
Keith's Memorial—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **The Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 6th wk..... 70
Loew's Orpheum—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Nobody's Children** (Col)..... 155
Loew's State—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Nobody's Children** (Col) 150
Metropolitan—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 140
Paramount—**You're the One** (Para't); **The Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col) 105

"Kitty Foyle" a Record Breaker in Providence

PROVIDENCE—"Kitty Foyle," in a sixth week at the Albee, turned in a 100-per-center gross and matched the long-run record of "Snow White." "GWTW," meanwhile, went into its 9th week in Providence and third week of its return booking, at the Carlton, with business continuing to surprise. Majestic's heavy ad campaign on "Western Union" paid dividends with business up sufficiently to warrant holding film a second week.

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 6th wk..... 100
Carlton—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M)..... 100
Fays—**Golden Hoofs** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 85
Majestic—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Meet the Chump** (Univ) 140
State—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Phantom Submarine** (Col) 125
Strand—**Life With Henry** (Para't); **Doomed Caravan** (Para't) 100

"Philadelphia Story" to Front in New Haven

NEW HAVEN—"Ice Follies of 1941" at the Arena is estimated to have taken $60,000 in a week's receipts, and undoubtedly cut into film openings and weekend business.

Detail for week ended February 14:

(Average is 100)

College—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 2nd wk..... 185
Loew-Poli—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Nobody's Children** (Col) 80
Paramount—**You're the One** (Para't); **San Francisco Docks** (Univ) 125
Roger Sherman—**Back Street** (Univ); **The Invisible Woman** (Univ) 135

BRIDGEPORT

THE MANNY KUGELLS celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary with a party at their home. He is manager of the Warner . . . Organ music returned to the Loew's Poli after an absence of 12 years with "Tiny" Day at the console . . . Agnes Connolly has resigned as assistant cashier at the Majestic . . . Capitol Manager Samuel Haddleman is back from a vacation in Miami . . . The Fine Arts, Westport, ran "Ballerina" to raise funds for Greek relief . . . The Fishman's Community in Fairfield has started an encyclopedia deal. This is the first giveaway venture for the theatre . . . Thomas Keeling of the Warner staff is an active worker in the "Bundles for Britain" cause.

Dearth of road attractions has the Klein Memorial Auditorium here and the Shubert in New Haven dark . . . Mrs. Virginia May, Warner cashier, celebrated her first wedding anniversary with a party . . . Sidney Voletsky, student assistant at the Majestic, is one of the best chess players in the city. He is having trouble finding worthy opponents. He would like to challenge any chess player in the Loew's New England division. And just for good measure, he is studying French on the side . . . William Dougherty, assistant manager at the Strand-Palace, has a new set of store teeth . . . William Neilson, Hippodrome doorman, is back on the job after a battle with the flu.

Mrs. Edward Madden, wife of the Lyric manager, celebrates her birthday February 25 . . . Robert Taylor, business agent for the Norwalk projectionist union, was a visitor . . . Guests at the "Tiny" Day dinner at the Pine Room of the Stratfield Hotel included Manager Matt L. Saunders, Assistant Manager and Mrs. Sidney of Poew's Poli, Assistant Manager and Mrs. Robert Carney of Loew's Majestic and Movie Editor and Mrs. Fred H. Russell of the *Post* and *Telegram* . . . Rose Bartolini, former Warner cashier, has been filling in when illness hit the cage . . . Manager Matt Saunders of the Loew-Poli is toying with the idea of taking his family to Florida for a couple of weeks.

Phil Schwartz of the Parkway has started a new dish deal . . . Jimmy Vizzo, now stationed at Fort Terry in Long Island Sound, was given a party by former comrades on the American staff when he paid a visit to the city . . . Julia Greenstein has succeeded Virginia Whyland as cashier at the Warner. Mrs. Whyland resigned to go into housekeeping . . . Joe Babbitt, former stage manager at the Lyric, was a visitor . . . The New York World's Fair midgets did big business at the Globe . . . Sheldon Rose, son of Globe Manager Harry Rose, is a mumps victim.

Phil Oliver did good business with the Sugar Bowl football game, second run, due to the fact that two local lads were on the Boston College team . . . Ralph S. Broderick, projectionist at the Fine Arts in Westport, has resigned to enlist in the Army. He has been assigned to the signal corps . . . Mrs. Ida Shaw has been in New Haven as the guest of her son, Harry F. Shaw, Loew's division manager.

A Dual Bill For Critics

Boston—A holdover in a local first-run motion picture house was noted by a daily paper here last week with the tag line following the first feature that it was "definitely not a picture for children," and the concluding criticism of the second feature being that it was "definitely not a picture for adults."

Clear Site for New House In East Hartford, Conn.

EAST HARTFORD, CONN.—Workmen are clearing a site here for a new theatre to seat 1,000, which is being constructed by the Sycamore Corp. of America.

Reportedly behind the deal are Peter Perakos and Joseph Quittner, prominent Connecticut exhibitors.

Present plans call for the inclusion of three stores in the theatre building, as part of a proposed new shopping center.

The only theatre in the town at present is the Astor, managed by Joseph Anger.

Elmore Rhines Leaves Graphic Circuit Post

BOSTON—Elmore Rhines, for several years manager of the Mayfair in Bridgton, Maine, and recently manager of the Methuen in Methuen, has resigned from the latter position and has quit the Graphic Theatre circuit. Rhines joined the Sam Kurson chain some years ago, leaving George Ramsdell interests in the move.

An Assignment

BOSTON—Local college students are being advised by Joseph A. DiPesa et al. of the local Loew's publicity staff to "make 'So Ends Our Night' your next homework assignment." Contended DiPesa in special letters sent to the students of Brown, Pembroke, Boston University, Wellesley, etc., on regular Loew's stationery, " 'So Ends Our Night' contains a lesson that no book, no lecturer, no professor would touch." The stunt built considerably for the Loew's State and Orpheum release via word-of-mouth.

Testing Cash Quiz

BOSTON—Sam Lind, New England distributor for Cash Quiz, reported last week that the M&P Theatres Corp. is trying out the new giveaway in five key houses. Charles Morse and Louis Rothenberg, Lind said, have spotted Cash Quiz in Haverhill, Nashua, New London and Norwich, and are negotiating to open in new spots. Other deals are only awaiting the completion of test runs, Lind, one of the pioneer book distributors here, said.

Relief Costs Drop

HARTFORD—General relief costs in Hartford last month were $79,220, or 16.4 per cent less than January, 1940, according to Robert J. Smith, state welfare commission, in his monthly report on five selected cities in the state.

HARTFORD

UA'S "SO ENDS OUR NIGHT" is due at the local Loew's Poli, February 27 . . . Robert Dawson, usher, Central, West Hartford, is back at work after having been out with the flu . . . In New Haven on business were Charlie Repass, Crown manager, and Martin Kelleher, Princess manager . . . Albert Schulman, manager of the Rivoli, spent a few days in New York . . . "Thief of Bagdad" was held over for a second week at the Loew's Poli Elm Street in Worcester.

Children's Museum presented "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" on the Bushnell's screen last Saturday evening . . . Louis A. Cohen, manager of the Loew's Poli, obtained a co-op ad with Helen's Beauty Shoppe for "Kitty Foyle" . . . Louis DeMayo is a new usher at the Loew's Poli . . . Members of the arrangements committee for the Hartford President's Ball are still receiving compliments for the affair. Those who worked for the event included Morris Schulman of the Schulman Theatres (Webster, Rivoli and Plaza-Windsor); George E. Landers, manager of the E. M. Loew's, and David E. Sugarman, manager of the Colonial . . . Morris Schulman of Schulman Theatres was in New Haven on business.

In Boston last Monday was George E. Landers, popular E. M. Loew's manager . . . "The Hard-Boiled Canary" and "Little Men" are due soon at the M&P's Allyn . . . Charles Tuttle is the new usher at the E. M. Loew's, succeeding Russell Schwartz . . . "Philadelphia Story" did SRO business at the Loew's Poli Palace . . . Tommy Plantaus has replaced Robert Barret as doorman at the Proven Pictures . . . Revival of "Scarface" and "Hell's Angels" at the Proven Pictures last Thursday did good business . . . Jay Pinckney has succeeded Robert Tamkin as doorman at WB's Strand . . . In Hartford last Tuesday was Hy Fine, division manager of M&P Theatres.

William Fash of Hackensack, N. J., is now manager of the Playhouse, Ridgefield, succeeding Gerald Mangone, who has been switched to Larchmont, N. Y. . . . Thomas Fitzsimmons, attorney, is registered as lobbyist for the stagehands' and operators' unions at the general assembly in Hartford . . . William Ball has joined the ushers' corps at the Strand, replacing Donald McGuire, resigned . . . Henry Hoff, electrician at the Strand, and James F. McCarthy, manager, are new Buick owners . . . Alice Ericson, cashier at the WB's Strand, leaves Hartford on March 1 for a two-month leave of absence in California due to sinus trouble.

Charlie Cunio, formerly of the Norwalk, Norwalk, Conn., is new chief of service at the Capitol, Auburn . . . A benefit theatre party will be held by the Windsor firemen on February 25 at the Plaza . . . Schulmans' Webster, Hartford, brought back "Come and Get It" . . . Webster had Monogram's "Her First Romance" . . . Elected president of the Darien Kiwanis Club is William Pine of the Playhouse in that town . . . Interior of the Playhouse in New Canaan has been repainted . . . In New Haven was Mickey Daly of the Daly, Hartford, and Plainfield, Plainfield.

SPRINGFIELD

HY NOZAK, popular assistant manager at the Arcade, observed his 21st birthday last Wednesday . . . Boyd Taylor Sparrow, Loew's-Poli assistant manager, left Sunday for a visit to his home town, Washington, D. C. . . . Jenny Bragiel, office clerk for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., has recovered from the grippe . . . Members of the service staff at the E. M. Loew's Court Square are sporting new uniforms . . . New marquee has been installed at Manager Harold Morrow's Strand.

Charlie Iacona, formerly accountant for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., is now reportedly connected with the accounting department of Paramount's New York offices . . . Regards are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brown of Worcester who are now the proud parents of a baby girl. Brown is manager of the Park in that town . . . Horace Buzzell, chief of service at the Paramount, North Adams, has been switched to the Palace in Pittsfield as assistant manager . . . Peter Veto, formerly GB's Paramount doorman, and Miss Grace Ward of this city were to be married on February 22.

Jim O'Loughlin, manager of the Strand, Amesbury, is back at work after being on the sick list . . . Mrs. George E. Freeman, wife of the Loew's-Poli manager, had the flu . . . "The Philadelphia Story" was held over for a second week at the Loew's-Poli. Part of Manager George E. Freeman's campaign for the picture included a tieup with WMAS in which Ethel Hennan reviewed the picture on a 15-minute program . . . Bill Teague has been handling the Bijou while the Al Anders have been vacationing . . . Harry Smith, division manager and also director of publicity for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., visited circuit theatre managers in Northampton and Pittsfield last Wednesday.

"This Thing Called Love" was held over for four weeks at the Bijou . . . New ABC candy machine has been installed at the Broadway . . . Johnnie Atatlion, Broadway usher, has resigned . . . Broadway double-billed Republic's "Melody Ranch" and "Who Killed Aunt Maggie?" . . . Tom Tooley, local theatrical supply man, has installed aisle lights in the top balcony at the E. M Loew's Court Square . . . Mrs. Doris Whittle is the new cashier at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, replacing Mrs. Olive J. Simms, resigned.

Ruth "Cookie" Hurley, Loew's-Poli usherette, is now relief cashier at that theatre . . . Tillie Hansen is the new candy girl at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, succeeding Loraine Contour, resigned . . . Arthur Deane Nelson, chief of the E. M. Loew's Court Square service staff, is growing a mustache . . Dick Linnahan has joined the Arcade's service staff, replacing Robert Burns, who's now employed in a local factory . . . Penny Nester is the new candy girl at the Arcade.

Carl A. Jamroga, manager of Jefferson, was in Manchester, Conn., visiting relatives and friends . . . Frank Shumlio has resigned as doorman at the Liberty . . . In town to look over his local theatres last Wednesday was Herman Rifkin, circuit head . . . Julian Rifkin was in Springfield last Sunday . . Lewis Lambert, projectionist, Garden, and Miss Simone Sirois of this city will become Mr. and Mrs. on February 24 at the St. Thomas Church.

Manager George W. Coleman and Assistant Hy Nozak of the Arcade, in connection with "Flight Command," had model airplanes placed in the lobby of the theatre for all to see . . . Henry Webber, house electrician at the WB's Capitol, is quite a handball fan and spends all his spare time playing the game . . . Julius Bussey, formerly with several Chicago theatres, has joined the service staff at the local GB's Paramount . . . Out with the grippe was Harry Felix, GB's Paramount usher . . . Don Chambers, New England publicist for Paramount, was in town . . . Melvin M. Aronson, assistant manager of the Strand, Westfield, takes the usual busman's holiday on Wednesday, his day off. He goes to Springfield theatres and sees the pictures.

Robert "Mousie" Glazer, assistant chief of service, and Charlie J. Abdull, usher at the GB's Paramount, are contemplating a trip to New York in a few weeks . . . Charlie R. Smith, Broadway manager, reports business has been pretty good lately . . . William Powell, division manager of the Herman Rifkin Theatres, reports that "Gone With the Wind" will open an engagement at the Forest Park Phillips on March 8 at 55 cents top . . . John Dolan, WB's Capitol service staff member, has resigned.

Nat Rubin, assistant manager of the Loew's-Poli in New Haven, was a visitor . . . "The best thing in life is good health," says Joe Raymond, assistant manager at the Broadway . . . A Major Bowes unit is due at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, Ernest W. Whitford reports . . . Condolences are in order for Howard Smith, projectionist at the Arcade, whose mother-in-law passed away last Tuesday . . . Arthur Payette, the Arcade's chief projectionist, injured a finger last Tuesday while working on one of his hobbies at home.

Richard O'Fuer is a new usher at the WB's Capitol . . . Andrew A. Sette, manager of the WB's Capitol, in connection with exploitation for "Strawberry Blonde," sent two youngsters, dressed in late 18th century costumes, riding around Springfield on an old-fashioned "bike for two" three days in advance of playdate . . . Sette and Tony diCaro, assistant, went to town on advance exploitation for Universal's "Buck Privates," to the extent of 24-sheets, lobby displays and press plugs . . . A mink muff worth $100 was stolen in the WB's Capitol last Monday night, according to a report to local police by a Springfield woman.

William Herbert of Worcester, who was associated with Paramount's Hollywood publicity staff, is now connected with Warner's coast publicity staff, according to reports reaching Massachusetts . . . Mr. and Mrs. Zietz of New Bedford will attend the banquet to be held by Columbia at New York's Waldorf-Astoria on February 22 . . . Manager Joe O'Hear of the Olympia, Chelsea, is quite a basketball fan . . . I. J. and B. E. Hoffman, Warner executives in New England, visited the Warner, Lynn . . . Our sympathy is extended to Florence Saulnier, Mohawk, North Adams, whose brother-in-law and uncle passed away the same day . . . Eastern States Coliseum brought in "Ice Follies of 1941" for a week's run.

: Lewin Wonders Why :

BOSTON—"I sometimes wonder why I am now a producer," Albert Lewin, here in advance of "So Ends Our Night," told Harvard students last week.

The former professor of English at the University of Missouri said that he never had any idea of making pictures and that his mind was completely made up to a scholastic career.

"If any members of the Harvard Dramatic Club want to know how to become a film producer," Lewin said, "I shall certainly ask them why they want to."

Lewin, who graduated from New York University and then attended Harvard Graduate School, said that his first film job was as a reader for Sam Goldwyn. He went to M-G-M as a writer, and, later, became an associate producer. He picked as his favorite stars to work with, he said, Carole Lombard and Clark Gable.

Ehrlick Ballys "Fantasia"

BOSTON—Joe Ehrlick has resigned as manager of the Gayety in Boston, E. M. Loew house, to join the local publicity staff for "Fantasia." Ehrlick was assistant publicist at Keith's Memorial when Jack Goldstein, present local "Fantasia" advertising head, covered exploitation for that house. Egmont Frankel, formerly assistant at the Capitol in Lynn, has been appointed Gayety manager by Lou Richmond, E. M. Loew general manager.

Adieu to Sweeney

HARTFORD—Hollis Sweeney of the Loew's Poli Palace was presented a leather traveling kit and accessories by members of the theatre's service staff last Monday night at a farewell party held on the stage. Sweeney joins the National Guard at Jacksonville, Fla., as a corporal.

Transfers James Copley

HARTFORD—Morris Schulman, managing director of the Schulman Theatres (Webster, Rivoli and Plaza-Windsor), has named James Copley, formerly of the Warner, Torrington, Conn., student assistant at the local Rivoli.

Buy "Johnny Eager"

HOLLYWOOD—"Johnny Eager," an underworld story by James Edward Grant, has been purchased by Metro. John W. Considine jr. will produce.

: NEW BRITAIN :

NICK Marlames, co-owner of the Roxy, is expected back from a St. Petersburg, Fla., vacation about March 1 . . . Mrs. Swen Swanson, wife of the Embassy projectionist, gave birth last week to a 9-pound, 4-ounce boy . . . Al Ireland, doorman at the Roxy, is driving a nifty new Plymouth sedan . . . In New Haven last Monday on business was Phil Demas, Roxy manager.

Republic's "Young Buffalo Bill" played the State last Sunday . . . Peter Perakos, Palace owner, had the grippe . . . Monogram's "Tomboy" was shown at the Arch Street . . . Johnny Sheppard and Charlie Casma, Palace ushers, will be leaving New Britain on February 24 for one year's service with the National Guard in Jacksonville, Fla.

Joe Bornstein, Embassy manager, reported swell business with "This Thing Called Love" . . . A. Zealdon, projectionist at the Arch Street, is quite a fishing fan . . . Peter Perakos, Palace owner, was in New Haven on business . . . While Randy Maller, WB's Strand manager, had the flu, Bill Humphries, assistant manager, filled in at the theatre.

Edmund Starr is the new usher at the WB's Embassy, succeeding Robert Jenkins, who resigned to join the Navy . . . Carlton Miles, advance man for "Tobacco Road," is due here ahead of the play at Warner's Capitol.

Fine for Overcrowding

HARTFORD—Bernard M. Levy of this city was fined $20 and costs in the Hartford police court last Monday as manager of the local Proven Pictures Theatre for overcrowding of the theatre last Sunday afternoon.

Twice a Victim

HARTFORD—With its safe smashed and robbed of $100 several weeks ago, the Schulman's Webster Theatre here was victimized again last Monday night, when thieves took an undisclosed amount of money from a candy vending machine in the theatre.

Back to Regular Policy

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.—The local Capitol, after running daily showings of "Gone With the Wind" over a two-week period, has gone back to its regular policy of playing day and date with the other Warner theatres here, the Embassy and Strand. Joe Bornstein, manager of the Embassy, has been handling the Capitol.

Booking Departures Continue

BOSTON—More booking muddles for subsequent-run and suburban houses were added this week with the selling away of M-G-M's "Wild Man of Borneo" to the M&P Theatres Corp. for a first-run at the Metropolitan.

Selecting Child Fare Problem of Parents

MIDDLETOWN, CONN.—Prof. Ralph D. Pendleton of Wesleyan University, in announcing his "best 20 films of the past three years," asserts that the problem of selecting film fare suitable for children is a responsibility of parents.

His "20 best" list includes: "Abe Lincoln in Illinois," "Baker's Wife," "Fantasia," "Foreign Correspondent," "Gone With the Wind," "Grapes of Wrath," "Harvest," "The Letter," "The Long Voyage Home," "Ninotchka," "Of Mice and Men," "Our Town," "The Philadelphia Story," "Pinocchio," "Pride and Prejudice," "Rebecca," "Stagecoach," "Time in the Sun," "Night Train," and "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

'The movies," he says, "are, of course, far from what they might be; for they are only a half century old as a developing form of art. However, there is a significant gap between 'The Perils of Pauline' and 'Grapes of Wrath.' Already the movies are perhaps the principal vehicle of entertainment in America."

Represents Governor At "Sub" Launching

WAKEFIELD, N. H.—Ansel Sanborn, theatre chain operator in this section, who is winning honors thick and fast these days, has added another to his list.

In his official capacity as a member of the state executive council, he represented Gov. Robert O. Blood at the launching of the new submarine, *U. S. S. Marlin*, at the Portsmouth Navy Yard.

Films to Schools

BOSTON—The visual education department of the University of New Hampshire has announced that so-called educational films were viewed in New Hampshire schools last year by 72,976 pupils. Better than fifty per cent of the secondary schools in the White Mountain state, according to the same source, have film equipment.

16mm Film Draws

BOSTON—George Kraska, operator of the Fine Arts, has held a 16mm feature-length travelogue for a sixth consecutive week at the motion picture house where he has been projecting it with special equipment. The film is Pat Stanton's "Here Is Ireland."

Fishman Wrenches Leg

NEW HAVEN—Dr. J. B. Fishman of the Fishman circuit has been confined to his home with a wrenched leg ligament.

"Baa, Baa, Back Bay" To Be Unveiled

Boston—Meyer Marcus, assistant to M&P's publicity director, Henry Brown, is helping to write and produce "Baa, Baa, Back Bay," a new revue which was scheduled for unveiling February 20 at the Peabody Playhouse. The film district will be among the local spots to be satirized, it is understood.

: NEW HAMPSHIRE :

THE Strand in Manchester drew a throng of children by staging a big "Cartoon Show." Five cartoons were presented, in addition to the regular film program.

Uncle Bob and His Gang, from radio station WLAW in Lawrence, Mass., were a recent Saturday attraction on the Scenic stage in Rochester.

Further Sunday law changes are being sought in the Vermont legislature, which in 1939 amended the state's "blue laws" to permit charging admission on the Sabbath to shows, baseball games, lectures, etc. A movement has now been started to extend the Sunday privilege to include bowling, roller skating and dramatic presentations. Hotel men are also trying to liberalize their Sunday liquor laws.

Plays to Springfield

BOSTON—Drama returned to Springfield last week when the Playgoers League brought Flora Robson in "Ladies in Retirement" to the Court Square, regular E. M. Loew film house. Some 2,500 attended the matinee and evening performances on the first day, and announcements were forthcoming that such stars as Eddie Dowling, Julie Haydon, and the Lunts might hit Springfield stands. Tom Roberts handled the publicity.

Shaughnessy in Army

NORTHAMPTON, MASS. — M. Frank Shaughnessy, manager of the local Academy, is now a first lieutenant at Camp Edwards. Miss Mildred Walker, formerly assistant manager of the Academy, has succeeded Shaughnessy as manager of the theatre.

Draft Sperie Perakos

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.—Included in the local draftees was Sperie Perakos, son of Peter Perakos, owner of the Palace here. He is manager of the Strand, owned by his father and located in Thompsonville, Conn.

Probe Robberies

HARTFORD—Police are investigating a series of safe cracking jobs here and in East Hartford that began last fortnight and continued for several days. Among the concerns "visited" were the local Rialto, Webster and Lyric theatres.

Exchange Posts

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Carl A. Jamroga, manager of the Forest Park Phillips, has taken over the Rifkin Jefferson, replacing George Rabb, who now is handling the Phillips.

Signed for a "Tough Guy"

HOLLYWOOD—Gladys George and Barton MacLane have been signed by Universal for toplines in "Hit the Road," a "Little Tough Guys" feature to be directed by Joe May.

Legislative Avalanche Is Trade's Pervading Topic

NEW HAVEN—As Connecticut MPTO met Friday at Ceriani's with Arthur Lockwood in from Boston to preside, and Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut met at the Hof Brau Haus, with A. M. Schuman in the chair, exhibitor talk centered mainly on legislation in the state which might affect their interests as a group.

Discussion covered the two-men-in-a-booth bill S. B. 775, which had made a last-day appearance; S. B. 985, the Sullivan-filed bill in blank, which, it was feared had in mind taxation of amusements; several Bingo bills, several anti-copyright association bills, labor, horse racing and other measures. Exhibitors planned to be present at public hearings before the various committees.

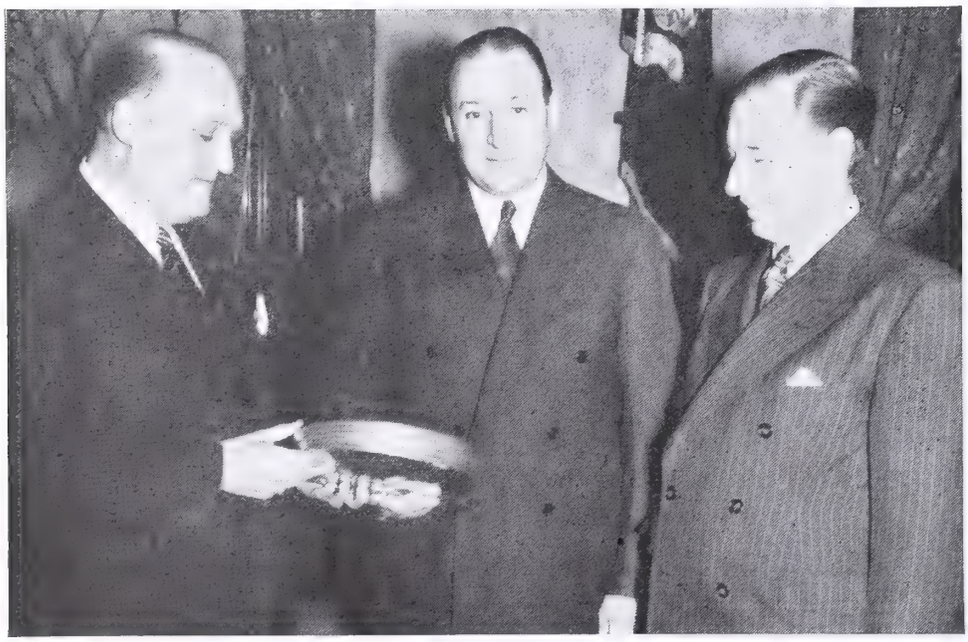
In addition to bills already reported, several were filed at the deadline. H. B. 245 would amend Section 2321 of the General Statutes to exempt from inspection, safety and license regulations of motion pictures in this state, machines using only cellulose acetate film not more than 16mm in width, except when such machines shall be used for exhibition in theatres or public places of entertainment regularly used as such and to which an admission fee is charged, such places of entertainment not to include schools, Sunday schools, the Grange, club, church or lodge rooms. Formerly the exemption was for films not more than 100 feet long, one inch wide, requiring maximum of 500 watts to operate the arc, or 1,000 feet long, 1¼ inches wide, using inclosed incandescent lamp.

S. B. 1085-3-1, another bill levying a state franchise tax of 25 per cent of the gross receipts on copyright societies in this state and requiring licensing of such societies, has an additional provision that "any person, firm, association, or corporation who shall request the playing of any copyright musical number, in any public place, with intent and for the purpose of making such rendition a basis for an infringement suit against the proprietor thereof, or any person; or who shall without first obtaining the necessary license therefor attempt by threats of suit or other means either oral or in writing, to compel persons in this state to purchase licenses for the rendition of musical numbers, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor . . . and be liable to a fine of $500 for each offense.

H. B. 923 would appropriate $12,500 to a revolving visual education fund to be used by the state board of education to pay the ordinary recurring expenses and purchase necessary equipment for audio-visual education work.

Among the several Bingo bills is H. B. 436, which would limit the prize to be awarded to any one person or organization in any one week to an intrinsic value of $2.00.

H. B. 695-2-2 would authorize the park commission to permit amateur ball games, free concerts and music, and athletic sports on Sunday. A second new race or color discrimination bill appears in H. B. 1027, which imposes a fine for any such discrimination in hotels, motion picture theatres, and other public buildings.



For Gubernatorial Archives—

Harry F. Shaw, left, division manager of the Loew Poli New England theatres; Gov. Robert A. Hurley, Connecticut's new chief executive, center, and Lou Brown, Poli New England theatres division publicity head, shown when the new governor was presented with the special newsreel subjects taken during the inaugural ceremonies. The presentation was made in the state capital in Hartford.

NEW HAVEN

METRO Pep Club's new officers, elected at the last meeting: Rosemary Patterson, president; Molly Smith, vice-president; Anna Caparossi, treasurer, and Ethel Philips, secretary.

Alex Bookspan of the Fishman Theatres office, and Mrs. Bookspan are the proud parents of eight-pound, seven-ounce Richard A., born at New Haven Hospital. Which makes Selig Fishman another grandfather, too . . . Bringing Boston to Goldstein: The Metro manager had as visitors last week, Hy Fine, M&P district manager; Nate Furst, Monogram; Jack Myers, Hub Films, and Smiler Callahan of golf fame.

Sol Popolizio, assistant booker at 20th-Fox, has been out sick with the grippe . . . Frank Mullen, Metro office manager, is out again with a knee injury, sustained while stepping off a bus . . . Harry Fishman, of Fishman Theatres and manager of the Community, Fairfield, off by train with Mrs. Fishman and the family for a six-week vacation at Miami Beach, and Oscar Shanken of the Dixwell, is commuting to Fairfield to keep an eye on things.

Meadow Street enjoyed a half-holiday in honor of Lincoln . . . Ernest Doreau of the Middletown theatres is building a new home in the Westview section . . . Morey Goldstein, Metro manager, will move his family to New Haven this spring . . . Harry Shaw readying plans for his March cruise to Panama, after which the Lou Browns will vacation in April. Lou perplexed as to which of his half-dozen invitations to accept . . . The Bob Russells and Jack Halprins did New York in high style last Saturday.

Fred Quantrano of the Lido, Waterbury, has a permit from the state police to build a 700-seat theatre in Newington, near West Hartford, and plans to start digging March 1 . . . Philip Schwartz is planning to take out the back wall of his 400-seat Parkway, Bridgeport, and add an additional 200 seats this spring . . . Peter Perakos and Joseph Quittner reported digging for their 1,000-seater in East Hartford . . . Joe Faith's Bristol house, announced for mid-February opening, is still not ready.

Jules Livingston of Alexander Prevues has sold his prevues to the Lou Anger houses . . . New Haven RKO was among the exchanges reported over quota in the first week of the Ned Depinet Drive . . . Nate and Sam Goldstein of Western Massachusetts theatres were in New Haven for the funeral of their brother, Israel Goldstein, who died in Hollywood, Fla., recently.

Mrs. Michael Cascioli of the Forest, West Haven, in the hospital for observation . . . So-called "Stratford" team played a "Columbia" team for a win of 1,848 total pinfall against 1,764, Tuesday . . . Al Pickus' players included Milton Hyams, A. Wilson, M. Goldstein, Al Parizer, and Domenick Somma, while Tim O'Toole and Sid Swirsky of Columbia were assisted by Henry Germaine, Morris Weinstein, Sal Popolizio, and Lou Schaefer.

Show Shops Hold Firm Before Competition

NEW ORLEANS—There seemed to be no let up in the theatre business despite carnival balls and other social activities. "GWTW" closed a three-week return engagement at Loew's with attendance on a par with the first week, and many turned away on the closing night. "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" packed their grips and transferred from the Orpheum to the Liberty, another Mort Singer house, and did a nice business, while the Orpheum welcomed Ida Lupino in "High Sierra" with crowded houses. "Victory" kept the cashiers busy at the Saenger. "Little Nellie Kelly" reaped in the shekels at the Globe. The ten cent houses with double bills did fairly well. Underlined is "Philadelphia Story" at Loew's with prospects of excellent business.

Detail for week ended February 14:

(Average is 100)

Center—**San Francisco Docks** (Univ).....100
Globe—**Little Nellie Kelly** (M-G-M).....100
Liberty—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO)..... 90
Loew's—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....200
Orpheum—**High Sierra** (FN) 150
Saenger—**Victory** (Para't) 150

"GWTW" Holds Lead in Average Dallas Week

DALLAS—A wind and dust storm here during mid-week took some of Elm Street's profit, however, the week was fair yet uneventful. "Gone With the Wind" continued to more than double the gross at the Palace for the second week and was held over at the Tower for a third and final seven days. The much-played "Jesse James" did an average at the Capitol.

Detail for week ending February 15:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Jesse James** (20th-Fox), return run.100
Capitol—**Devil Commands** (Col); **Face Behind the Mask** (Col) 120
Played last third of the week.
Majestic—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox).....100
Palace—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 225
Rialto—**You're the One** (Para't) 90
Three days starting Tuesday.
Rialto—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ).....100
Played Friday over the weekend.
Tower—**Pastor Hall** (UA) 100

Routine Week Chalked by Okla. City First Runs

OKLAHOMA CITY—It's been good weather and there's been no competition but business was rather sleepy last week. The new Uptown, second run house just outside the main section, had a good opening business as did Sam Caporal's further out Bison Theatre. A checkup revealed business at second and neighborhood run houses as being on practically the same levels as first run showings.

Detail for week ended February 14:

(Average is 100)

Criterion—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M).....120
Liberty—**Land of Liberty** (M-G-M); **Hidden Gold** (Univ) 90
Midwest—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox). 120
State—**This Thing Called Love** (Col).....120
Tower—**Virginia** (Para't); follows week's run at downtown Criterion 100

One Night in Waco

WACO, TEX.—"The Man Who Came to Dinner" took over the stage of Waco Hall for a one-night stand.

Carolina Theatre Building Activity Seen Mounting

By PAULINE GRIFFITH

CHARLOTTE—Few of the industry outside of the Carolinas and many who reside within its boundaries, realize that there are 526 operating theatres in the two states, with a seating capacity of 246,695. Of this number of theatres 153 are circuit (or chain) operated, the remaining 373 (with no operation of more than five) are controlled by individuals.

The following additional houses are in the course of construction:

For North Carolina Theatres, Inc., (Wilby-Kincey) Lenoir, N. C. (Center to open March 3); Fayetteville, N. C.; Spartanburg, S. C.; Greenville, N. C. (all to open soon). For Alf Miller, Lincolnton, N. C., the Century. Morris Legendre, Legendre circuit, with eight operating in North and South Carolina, will open the Dixie at North Charleston, S. C., sometime in March. This theatre is located about six miles from Charleston proper and is adjacent to the Navy Yards.

Albert Sottile of the Pastime Amusement Company, who has controlled for many years, five theatres in Charleston, S. C., will construct another as soon as plans are completed. The property has been acquired. At Elkin, N. C., Louis Mitchell, who now has the Lyric, is to announce his opening date soon for his yet unnamed new house. There also is a report that there is to be another for this town which will make four.

Conover, N. C. is getting its first theatre with construction to start at once by George Carpenter and associates, who now operate in Valdese, Granite Falls and Madison, all in North Carolina. Ira Smith, operating the Breeze in Beaufort, S. C., has started his second. Mrs. W. A. Mitchell will open her first in Hazelwood, N. C., in early March. W. V. Brockman, who formerly had the Carolina, Allendale, S. C., will, after complete renovation reopen the Westminster of the same name in South Carolina, theatre having been closed for some time. Spartanburg, S. C., is to get a new colored house, details, however, are lacking.

Arbitration Hearing Is Delayed

New Orleans—Hearing date on the first case before the local motion picture arbitration tribunal is not expected to be before next month.

The complaint has been filed by Charles F. Woolner, owner of a drive-in theatre, against Paramount, charging the distributor with refusal to license product.

Arbitration Office in Dallas Ready to Act

DALLAS—Headquarters of the Motion Picture Tribunal, 802 Fidelity Building here, where arbitration cases will be heard under terms of the consent decree, are all ready for activity but so far no action is in immediate sight.

C. C. Williams, clerk of the Tribunal, has been on duty in the office for several weeks along with Miss Bonnie Newburn, office secretary for that body.

Williams declined to give out any information in advance of any case that may be filed. He said, however, that none has been filed up to this time. It is understood, however, that several exhibitors have taken forms on which to file cases.

Arbiters have been named for this territory, but Williams said he was not at liberty to give their names at this time.

R&R Affiliates Open Mineral Wells House

MINERAL WELLS, TEX.—The new Ritz was opened here Wednesday night by the Resort Amusement Company which includes Mack Dunn, J. W. Courtney and an affiliation with the Robb & Rowley-United circuit with headquarters in Dallas.

Within the next few days another new house will be opened here. It will seat 1,000, and is being constructed by Phil Isley of Dallas.

Atlanta Jumps Into Lead In Ned Depinet Drive

ATLANTA—The local RKO exchange, headed by H. M. Lyons, leads all branches in the United States and Canada in the second week of the Ned Depinet Drive. The next four branches, in the order of their standing, are: Buffalo, E. Lux, manager; Boston, R. C. Cropper, manager; Philadelphia, C. Zagrans, manager, and Washington, R. J. Folliard, manager.

Jenkins Divisional Head For Greek War Relief

ATLANTA—William K. Jenkins has been appointed division chairman of the amusement industry for the Greek War Relief Fund. Jenkins is a member of the firm of Lucas & Jenkins, operators of a large group of Georgia theatres.

Roy M. Avey, manager of Metro's Atlanta branch, has been named co-chairman for this territory for distributors.

These appointments were announced by Adolph Zukor, chairman of the board of directors of Paramount Pictures, Inc., and who is chairman for the entire motion picture industry war relief effort.

Production Advisory Board Is Proposed

DALLAS—Urging closer cooperation between exhibitor and producer, Richard A. Rowland proposed a board be formed of 12 exhibitors representing all parts of the country to work with producers along lines of public tastes, in a short address at the Variety Club luncheon.

Such a plan, he said, has been close to his heart for many years. He came to Dallas for a special trade screening of his new picture, "Cheers for Miss Bishop," which was shown during the morning at the Tower. After a visit to all United Artists exchange centers, with Dallas his last stop, the producer returned to Hollywood Monday.

The exhibitor board, suggested by Rowland, would work hand in hand with producers who would learn from the board just what types of stories the public wants. The producers, he said, would then endeavor to lay their plans along these lines. In making a picture, the story, in his opinion, is the primary consideration and should be considered ahead of stars, director, producer, writers or production, he said.

Jones and Youngblood Plan San Angelo House

SAN ANGELO, TEX.—Construction of a seventh theatre here and remodeling of the Rex for vaudeville are latest expansion moves announced here by John D. Jones and H. L. Youngblood, of Concho Theatres, Inc., affiliates of the Robb & Rowley circuit. These new theatre moves are inspired by national defense activities here which takes in training of additional soldiers and construction payrolls.

Vaudeville was last seen here during the Ranger and Eastland oil booms of years ago with these towns affording a circuit that Jones brought into San Angelo, the stand then being the old Crystal long since closed. Now with army centers at Brownwood, Mineral Wells, Abilene, Corpus and other places, the same sort of circuit is in the process of forming.

The Rex, located at 121 N. Chadbourne, is already equipped with a large stage and dressing rooms. Its remodeling, however, will start within the next few days. Location of the new theatre is still undetermined but preliminary plans call for around 400 seats and expenditure of about $12,000.

Crescent Plans Revamp Job in Clarksville

CLARKSVILLE, TENN.—Crescent Amusement Co. is having the local architectural firm of Speight & Hibbs prepare plans for remodeling the old Lillian Theatre at Franklin and First Street, purchased by its present owners three years ago from Goldberg Amusement Co.

Besides new interior seating and decorations, a new front and marquee will be built and complete new equipment installed.

Concerning Florida

By A. JULES BENEDIC

MIAMI—As we pilot the Plymouth over the Tamiami trail, and meander into Miami, conviction grows that our fellow-columnist, one W. Winchell, hit the nail on the head when he said this Florida metropolis is the "hot-spot" of the nation.



BENEDIC

Our Plymouth is piloting perfectly, by the way, but the word "our" is used advisedly, as the instant trip is under the auspices and through the courtesy of the First National Bank, a sound institution in Kansas City, with assets running into the millions. (This is free, as we may be around in the early summer for a loan.)

Theatres in Miami and environs are numerous enough, to be sure, but not so plentiful as hotels and nite-spots, with entertainment carried to the nth degree; even the hamburger joints giving you a song and dance along with a dime slice of a steer that never saw Texas. Taking up these matters *ad seratim*, an insight into the food situation, for example, is given by a little old lady who runs an eating joint out near our modest menage in 34th street, NW:

Plethora of "Ham an'" Joints

"I got a respectable place with no jukes or nothing, mister," she says, "and I'm getting along fine until six other joints put in near me. One of these places has an open-air stage, an emcee and a coupl'a girls who claim they once sang over the radio in Waterloo. Maybe folks out in Iowa is easier to please; at any rate, the singing gets on the nerves of my patrons, who come here to eat."

Investigation reveals some 3,000 licenses issued to restaurant keepers, cafes, roadside joints and the like. With competition keen, the local purveyors are copying Club Bali, Club Esquire and like swankier spots, and giving girls along with the giggle-soup and sandwiches. Indeed, a walk along Seventh avenue, in the semi-suburban section, showed three sandwich salons with al fresco setups similar to med shows, with entertainment on a par with the "more medicine, doctor!" stooges.

Maybe there aren't 3,000 hotels in Miami, the Beach and the like, but the figure seems close to that, and in this connection, Frank Rogers tells a screamingly funny story about one of the hotels, which, just recently, counted 18 guests and 250 employes. Not that some of the places are doing good business; you either have it or haven't it, in this man's town, and the visitors are plentiful, with a longer season in prospect. It's just simply that, particularly at the Beach, they are killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

What we started to talk about was the theatrical situation, which is summed up by George Hoover, city manager for Paramount, as follows:

"Defense industries may be keeping the folks at home a little later than in past years, but we feel that the present Miami season will be longer than usual and, in the final analysis, as good as last year, which was a good year. Then, too, the latter half of February is registering substantial gains in visitors over a similar period in January."

A like opinion was given by W. A. Klements of Wometco, controlling, like Paramount, about a score of theatres in the Greater Miami area. Mr. Klements sees business getting better as the season progresses.

Not Rosy to Rogers

Frank Rogers, authoritative Sparks spokesman, in speaking of theatre business over Florida, excluding Miami, where the Sparks interests do not operate, sees figures off from last year, especially in the St. Pete and Tampa areas. He agrees with others that the expected "killing" for the 1941 season will fail to materialize, that is, for any line of business over the state.

We enter the Edison, a suburban operation run by John Cunningham, our one-time M-G-M side-kick, and his partner, Charles K. Hollander. Both tell us of the new operation in Fort Lauderdale, the Warner Theatre, which they plan to open approximately April 22. It's a $65,000 investment, John says, and will be ultra-modern in every respect.

We piroutte to the Parkway, an Aaron Courshon operation which recently added new seats and other improvements, and find Sol M. Taplan in the pilot's seat . . . Numerous trips to the Tivoli fail to locate Charlie Walder, a mighty busy man, apparently . . . At the Drive-In we renew acquaintance with Ira Loew, brother of E. M. Loew, the Boston circuit operator. The latter was due in for an extended Miami visit, we learn. Ira's mighty busy now with preparations for his third anniversary celebration, to last for a week. The millionth car entering the drive-in, incidentally, will be presented with an engraved plaque good for free admission for a year. The Drive-In soon will world-premiere an arctic exploration picture, with Lieut. Earl Rossman in personal appearances. Rossman for years was an aide to Sir Hubert Wilkins, polar explorer, and was also royal photographer for Haile Selassie.

Upstage Antics At Boca Raton

Eliminating a planned visit to Key West, we bump to Boca Raton, site of a club that occupies acres of ground and is assessed at $13,000,000, and, recovering somewhat from the surrounding grandeur, meet W. T. Keenan, who has the film booking in charge for one of the most unique theatres in the world. In the spacious block-long club that is really a glorified hotel, we are ushered into an auditorium where selected pictures are shown tri-weekly during the season, at no charge to the guests. There are two separate mechanical set-ups,

with the second projecting the same films in the open-air for the benefit of employes. Only a few outstanding hits are picked from the producers, the club paying about three times a normal price for selectivity. Membership fees in this millionaires' paradise range from $5,000 up, we understand, and we confided to Mr. Keenan that we intend later to spend at least a weekend here on a guest card, or as soon as we prepare the K. C. counting-room against the resultant expense account shock.

We clip to Clewiston and once-over the new Cinema Dixie Crystal, pride of the Okeechobee area, and brainchild of Mary Hayes Davis, veteran theatre woman who holds forth here, at Venice, and at Moore Haven and LaBelle. Mrs. Davis is justly proud of the new theatre, which is billed to open approximately March 1. The building is architected by C. A. Cone of West Palm Beach and the contractor is Earl Anderson of Fort Myers.

Quartet for Fort Myers

Thoughts while filming the flora and fauna of Florida: Fort Myers should be plentifully supplied with theatres soon, what with the opening May 1 of Sparks' Edison, honoring Thomas A. Edison; its present two Sparks houses and the new house that will be erected by Messrs. Jack and Copeland of the Warner Bros. setup . . . Slipping into Sarasota, home of Ringling Circus, Bill Hart, Sparks pilot, says the third house here will be named the Art . . . Mr. Desquin of the Punta Gorda setup likes bowling alleys; he owns a half dozen of 'em! . . . Slamming into Sebring reminded us of the time when "Uncle Charlie" Morrison, now a Sparks' pilot at Gainesville, owned the setup.

Even in the drug stores, they gamble at Miami . . . H. G. Culbreth of the Gilbert at Okeechobee combines the theatre with a flourishing Chevrolet setup . . . Watch for a photo of Freddy Case and his canine friend, Pal, real soon. Both live at Pompano . . . Speaking of Pompano recalls the marvelous change in this east-coaster since our last visit. Now they have a swanky tavern set up on the beach, with a $1.25 table de hote that draws tourists like flies . . . As we effervesce through the Everglades, we run across a number of Seminole villages, at present unoccupied. Inquiry reveals that the Indians who formerly occupied the joints have moved into houses with modern plumbing, etc. The tourist business has been good, recently, it seems.

Ran across the track of C. O. Jeffers, the Alexander Film man, but didn't meet him . . . R. R. Bair, former Indianapolis circuit owner, now living the life of Riley at Fort Lauderdale . . . John L. Pope of the New Theatre at Lake Placid has one of the smallest towns and smallest theatres in the State; treat him right on film prices, boys! . . . Oranges so plentiful the growers invite you to step inside and pick a few! . . . Speaking of oranges recalls that in all our travels we never did see them picked by good-looking gals in muchly abbreviated overalls, as depicted by the Florida State Chamber of Commerce. We noted an individual picking oranges in one grove and headed the car that way. Investigation revealed he was a Mexican named Jesus Morales, and would never take a prize at any beauty show.

Martin Chain Undertakes To Build Seven Houses

COLUMBUS, GA.—An extensive construction campaign that will add seven new theatres during the year has been undertaken by the Martin Theatres chain, operating in Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

Under construction at the present time are four houses: A 1,000-seater in Milledgeville, Ga., to be named the Co-Ed; a 900-seater in Valdosta, Ga.; a theatre to seat 1,050 in Roanoke, Ala., and a de-luxer, to seat 1,350, in Childersburg, Ala.

Proposed building has been set for Lake City, Fla., where the circuit has purchased a lot and plans a 1,250-seat house; for Dothan, Ala., where a 2,000-seater is planned, and for Americus, Ga., where a lot has been acquired for an 1,800-seat house.

During 1940 Martin Theatres built six houses and remodeled three. The new houses were erected in Carrollton, Canton, Valdosta, Andalusia, Douglas and Perry. A policy of the chain is to have two houses in every town of over 4,000 population—one a large house for all-week operation and the other smaller, and operated on weekends.

British Aid Premiere In Dallas March 8

DALLAS—Likely to be one of the biggest events of the year, is the coming premiere for Britain scheduled March 8 in Fair Park Auditorium presenting a "gigantic" stage and screen show. It will also be the southwestern premiere of "The Hard-Boiled Canary," and Paramount is sending its stars, Allan Jones, Susanna Foster and others, for personal appearances. The Dallas Symphony orchestra will be part of the show.

Interstate Theatres are cooperating in the sale of tickets for the big show, prices being $2.00 matinee and $2.50 at night. Sales of tickets in blocks as high as 100 each, are reported. The Fair Park engagement is in charge of British War Relief offices here at 1601 Commerce and at Knox and McKinney.

Tennessee Legislature Thanks Tony Sudekum

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The Tennessee legislature, which concluded its biennial session Saturday, by resolution thanked Tony Sudekum, president of the Crescent Amusement Co. for loan of films during the past two years for use in the state penitentiary and other state institutions. No laws were passed by the session affecting operation of theatres in the state.

Plan Ice Rink

DALLAS—Ice Sports, Inc., a proposed $150,000 corporation, is in process of organization here with Clarence E. Linz at the helm. The new company intends to operate a large rink, 100x200 feet, to be located in the Live Stock Arena at Fair Park and ready by June. Seats will be provided for 7,500 and there will be a tea room, cafe, soft drink bar and lounge in connection.

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Southern Arbitration Panels

The American Arbitration Ass'n has announced members of arbitration panels for the six motion picture tribunals in Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas, Memphis, New Orleans and Oklahoma City. The members, listed by cities on this page, will probably be augmented in the future.

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Dr. Cortez Ewing, professor of government; director of school of citizenship and public affairs, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.

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DALLAS

INFORMATION here is that C. C. Dues and W. H. M. Watson will open the Mission in El Paso around March 1 . . . H. R. White is the new operator of the White at Celeste. He is a son-in-law of E. L. Black, well-known former exhibitor. The Celeste show was opened last year by R. E. Blevins.

Chester "Chet" Humphries, owner of the Log Cabin in Oklahoma City, the Ritz at Britton and the Pix at Wewoka, was here during the week with Homer Gimlin, his manager and associate in Wewoka. Gimlin recently sold his interest in the State at Altus to his partner, M. R. Allen, before going with Humphries.

Dick Potter jr., the handsome young son of R. J. "Dick" Potter, booker for the U. S. Army Motion Picture Service, was down on Harwood Street the other day with his father meeting new and old friends. The son is a student at Woodrow High and finishes next year.

E. S. Olsmith, Universal manager, arrived early in the week from Chicago where he attended the company's national sales convention. Another conventioneer was A. G. "Smitty" Smith, National Theatre Supply Co. manager, who was in New York for that organization's annual sales confab.

A. H. Truitt, owner of the Star at Amarillo and his assistant manager, Roy DeVinney, were here for booking purposes Tuesday. Truitt said all the trees in his town which went down early this winter under tons of ice, haven't put on any new branches as yet . . . W. H. Frye of Forney, who recently sold the Star there to Mrs. Laura Travis, was here Monday.

Corp. J. W. Bates, Company F, 144th Infantry, Camp Bowie, Brownwood, Tex., was on the Row in uniform on short leave. Before going to camp he worked for the Buddy Harris Poster exchange . . . C. V. Caver, owner of the Rita here, has been a flu victim three times in one season. On the Row Monday along with an associate, J. Preston Tate of Comanche, Caver was feeling almost up to par.

Ed Dorbandt, co-owner of the Dixie and Liberty at Athens, among visiting bookers. The last representative of the Athens shows here was Will Dorbandt, Ed's brother, who was in town about two weeks ago. It seems they take turns on visiting the exchanges.

Ben Golding of the Rex and Texas in Amarillo was here on a booking trip. Besides his theatres, Ben is custodian of fishing and entertainment rights on a government lake in the Amarillo area.

M. K. McDaniel of the Lamar at LeMarque, O. T. McGinley of the Ritz at McGregor, and B. F. Fordtran, Alamo in Bellville, were among the week's visiting showmen.

R. W. Bandy, the 20th-Fox ad sales manager, has resigned to enter the insurance business and Wayne Love moves up in the department to succeed him. In turn, C. B. Alexander succeeds Love.



—Ray Barrett Photo

To AA Staff—

Victor Maxwell, whose appointment as director of exploitation for Advertising Accessories in Dallas is announced by Paul Short, National Screen divisional manager. Maxwell, who has been with NSS for a number of years, will emphasize accessories suitable for outdoor use.

Martin Lamour, who recently opened his new National at Graham, was visiting the exchanges this week. The new house replaces an old structure damaged by fire late in 1940.

J. O. Cherry of Elm Street, as chairman of the Variety More Members Committee, has added a good part of his quota of 50 *resident and* 100 *non-resident new members to the club's roster. The drive ends May* 1 . . . *Chief Barker Paul Short and Honorary Chief Barker R. J. O'Donnell will go to Atlantic City next month to help in final plans for the Variety national convention there in April.*

Arthur Mohr of Dallas, but who spent the past 14 years in New York, has been named business manager of Variety Club of Texas, succeeding Miss Bonnie Long . . . William B. Brenner, vice-president of National Screen Service, in charge of operation, will arrive in a few days on a two-week visit to the Dallas branch after which he will visit all other branches in the region, accompanied on the trip by District Manager Paul Short.

Miss Mary Bitting, Columbia's cashier in Oklahoma City, won the $25 *jack pot at Variety's last Bingo party. She was here on a visit to her sister, Mrs. Wallace Walthall. Incidentally Wallace is promoter of the Bingo affairs and has succeeded in building up attendance* 100 *per cent since January* 1 . . . *Uncle Joe "J. E." Luckett, of the Interstate circuit, celebrated another birthday last week and among other things was a big turkey dinner. Remembrances came from afar, including one from his daughter, the former Edith Luckett, well-known actress.*

Conrad Krebs, one of the top executives of the RKO publicity department, was in town simultaneously with the opening of "Kitty Foyle" at the Majestic. Mrs. Krebs was with him on the trip. Professionally she is known as Shirley Reid and is the voice of Minnie Mouse . . . Another publicity executive here was Sam Clark of Warner Bros., working in connection with Frank Capra's first for the company, "Meet John Doe."

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CHARLOTTE

VISITORS ON THE ROW: A. C. Phillips, Strand Theatre, Walhalla, S. C.; S. J. Workman, Hollywood, Woodruff, S. C.; J. J. Booth, Palmetto, Walnut Cove and Palmetto, King, N. C.; C. H. Caudell, Wanoca, Wallace, N. C.; Ted Ballenger, Blair, Marshville, N. C.; R. C. Whitehurst, Jackson, Jackson, N. C., and Pastime, Murfreesboro, N. C.; R. Glenn Davis, Louisburg, Louisburg, N. C., and Richard, Ahoskie, N. C.; A. B. Huff, Carolina, Paramount and Oasis, Kinston, N. C.; George Carpenter, Colonial, Valdese, N. C.; Patovi, Madison, N. C., and Main, Granite Falls, N. C.; Jeff Wilson, Biscoe, Biscoe, N. C.; George Parr, Parr and Imperial, Lancaster, S. C.

Also G. L. and C. H. Faw, Dixie, Troy, N. C.; M. B. Goodnough, Royal, Simpsonville, S. C.; J. W. McMillan, Latta, Latta, S. C.; J. E. Shew, Yadkin, Yadkinville, N. C.; J. B. McIntyre, Raeford, Raeford, N. C.; W. H. "Cotton" Eubanks, Richmond, Rockingham, N. C.; Sam Trincher, Legendre circuit, Kanapolis, N. C.; J. Francis White, Capitol and Sunset, Asheboro, N. C.; B. W. Allen, Uptown, Durham, N. C.; R. S. Rogers jr. and Tony Broadway, Cheraw, Cheraw, S. C.; B. B. Horton, State, Concord, N. C.; State, Inman, S. C.; Red Springs, Red Springs, N. C.; Rialto, Greer, S. C.; J. B. Edwards, Aberdeen, Aberdeen, N. C., and Mrs. J. D. Talley, Strand, Murphy, N. C.

A girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. "Happy" Bell on Valentine Day. "Happy" is the Metro shipper . . . Ben Ralston of SESCO has completed a deal to renovate the Western Electric equipment in W. H. Hendrix's Rockingham in Reidsville, N. C. . . . North Carolina Theatres, Inc. (Wilby-Kincey) has taken over the Richmond and Little theatres in Rockingham, N. C., from Mrs. Elizabeth N. Wall. Grayson Poats, formerly of the Ritz, in Columbus, S. C., will manage . . . Ray Corrigan, star of the Range Buster series, spent a day in Charlotte visiting the local Monogram office. He was entertained by Manager Jack Lamont and his sales representatives.

Manager Cy Dillon, Jack London, Marsh Funderburke and Roy Bradley of Republic went fishing over the weekend at Rockingham, N. C. . . . The death of Floyd Adams, store salesman for National Theatre Supply, was adjudged suicide by the coroner. Funeral services were held at the home of his parents in Lilesville, N. C. Burial was in Laurinburg, N. C. . . . Sam Trincher of the Legendre circuit is leaving for a week's stay in Charleston, S. C., to inspect the circuit's newest addition, the Dixie, construction of which is rapidly nearing completion.

Norman Moray, Vitagraph's short subject general sales manager, and Sam Shapin, home office representative, held a pep meeting at the local office. Shapin's son, stationed at Fort Bragg, N. C., visited his father while he was in Charlotte . . . W. V. Brockman, who formerly operated the Carolina in Allendale, S. C., is opening the New in Westminster, S. C., some time between March 1 and 15 . . . North Carolina Theatres, Inc., will build a second-run theatre in Greenville, N. C. The property has already been acquired. The company now operates the State and Pitt theatres in that city.

Charlotte will have a world premiere of its own on February 24 when the initial showing of the Monogram picture, "Ridin' the Cherokee Trail," is shown at the Tryon, announces C. A. Matthews, general manager of the B&B circuit. Reason for holding the premiere here is that the Tennessee Ramblers, who are featured in the picture, are from Charlotte . . . Joe Anderson, who operates the Ritz in Tabor City, N. C., is suffering with a shoulder dislocation . . . Tom Bailey, Metro salesman, is back on the road after a siege of flu . . . Margaret Brown, who has been ill for the past five weeks with pneumonia, is back at work as secretary to Manager Benn Rosenwald at Metro.

North Carolina Theatres, Inc., will open the new Center in Lenoir, N. C., March 3. Don Austell, who is manager of the Imperial and State theatres, will also have charge of the new house . . . Al Burks of Metro has returned from Salisbury, N. C., where he inaugurated the first North Carolina showing of "The Trial of Mary Dugan" at the Capitol . . . Henry R. Berry of the Center and Temple theatres in Hartsville, S. C., is recuperating from an operation undergone three weeks ago . . . Max Kravatz visited the local RKO exchange in the interests of Stephens-Lang Productions, producers of the "Dr. Christian" series.

Mrs. W. A. Mitchell, longtime resident of Bryson City, N. C., is building a new theatre in nearby Hazelwood. This is her first theatre venture. She plans to open the theatre some time in March and has purchased complete booth equipment from National Theatre Supply . . . The Charlotte exchange is leading the nation in Monogram's playdate drive, which accounts for the wide grin of Manager Jack Lamont . . . Carl Patterson jr., whose dad is booker at Columbia, recently passed an examination to enter the navy. Later it was discovered from his birth certificate that he was not eligible until April 17, as on that date he will be 17 years old. So on the 17th he leaves for Norfolk, Va.

Katherine Kries of Monogram has the flu . . . If persons who saw Fifi D'Orsay at the Broadway last week thought the kisses she dispensed among the audience as a part of her act were not the real "McCoy," they would do well to glance over a wire sent by a recipient of one of the kisses: "Madamoiselle Fifi D'Orsay: After the kiss you gave me this afternoon during the performance, I feel strong enough to go bring Hitler to you. How do you want him, dead or alive?"

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Sacks to Open Beaumont Colored House Mid-March

DALLAS—The new Ritz for colored in Beaumont will open about March 15, according to Alfred N. Sack, one of the owners here.

The operating company, South Texas Theatres, Inc., which also owns the new building, includes L. Toplitz of Beaumont, president; Alfred Sack, vice-president; Lester Sack, secretary-treasurer, and Dr. Harry Jacobson of Post, Tex.

PRC Franchise Holders May Convene in Dallas

DALLAS — Producers Releasing Corporation franchise holders may hold a national convention here in March or April, it was learned this week. O. Henry Briggs, president of the company, is expected here next Tuesday for a conference with Jack K. Adams on the matter. Briggs will be en route from Hollywood to New York. Another PRC franchise holder, Ike Katz of Atlanta, may be in Dallas at the same time to meet with Adams and Briggs.

HOUSTON

WILL HORWITZ turned over the Uptown to the Bundles for Britain committee for a three-day showing of "The Lion Has Wings" . . . Work has begun on the Majestic lobby and mezzanine. According to Ray Jones, manager, a grand staircase will eliminate the narrow one now in use. Work is done at night.

A four-act stage show presented three times daily augmented the film bill at the Blue Bonnet February 14 and 15 . . . Valentine's night was "Sweetheart Night" at the Eastwood, North Main and Alabama, with film offerings following the general idea. Admission for couples was 20 cents, for stags 30 cents.

Kirby Theatre travelers are E. W. Sweeney, operator, who journeyed east for three weeks, and W. E. Bremmer, manager, who with Bob Kelly, Interstate publicity man, went to Dallas to confer on a unique stunt to be unveiled next month.

Every Thursday night look for John Arnold, Yale manager, drilling with the home guards. He's a sergeant . . . In celebration of the fifth birthday of the Tower, Manager Joseph McDonald announced a special birthday week from February 14 to the 20th. House was decorated with flags, pennants and other festive trappings. Cake and coffee were dispensed from a special bar in the lobby.

The local chapter of the Negro Motion Picture Operators' Union held its annual smoker at the Eldorado ballroom February 16, to the rhythm of I. H. Smalley's orchestra. H. Price is president and H. W. Lindsay secretary.

Margaret Kramer, daughter of Joe Kramer, local operator and ad man, was a soloist in the Pritchard Professional Club scholarship revue held at the San Jacinto Auditorium . . . James E. Trammell, former Loew's usher and now in the army, will soon be transferred to the Philippines.

SANTONE

RECENT visitors to the Azteca exchange included Mrs. "Stout" Jackson, wife of the Robstown showman; Sr. Raul Ancona, distributor of Argentine pictures, New York City, and J. Luis Bueno, producer of Mexico City. J. J. Jimenez sr., general manager of the Latin-American exchange here, left Sunday with his wife, daughter and son for a vacation down Mexico way.

James Horton, formerly of the Paramount, Austin, is the new usher at the Prince . . . Henry King, 20th-Fox director, soloed in from the west coast for a two-day stopover on his flight to Monterey, Mex. . . . Thelma Miller, the State candy girl, back after being floored by old Kid Flu . . . C. E. (Red) Rupert, projectionist, Dallas; "Swede" Hanson, E. P. Ischey, and the Hall brothers, two, from Austin, were Alamo City vacationists.

The All-American Revue wound up their local engagement at the Texas January 13 with "Follies of 1941" . . . Jerry Lee Pecht is awarding free ducats to the Drive-In on his daily radio program over KABC tagged "Let's Dance" . . . A grand total of $5,000 was realized from the President's Birthday Parties in Bexar county . . . "The Mad Doctor" was the midnight chiller at the Texas last Saturday.

Over at the Texas-Valley Film Service, Searcy Lacey, Les McDonald, W. B. Rogers and Tommy Hawkins make up a jolly four-hand dominoe game these spring-like days . . . A sign in a local film exchange office reads: "Something I Will Never Hear—An exhibitor offering to pay more rental because a picture made him money!"

Richard St. John, the new announcer at KMAC, hails from Hollywood . . . "Paradise in Harlem" owled at the Cameo Saturday . . . Interstate has booked the road-show attraction, "Hellzapoppin'" for a date at the Texas in the near future . . . Guy Lee Parkinson, the Interstate student manager here, telling friends that his little six-months-old son now has two front teeth.

The Joy is not admitting school children under 16 years during school hours . . . Interstate theatres hawked their coupon ticket booklets via trailers as the ideal gift for St. Valentine's Day . . . Emile A. Robin expected back soon from Galveston where he did the artistic decorations for the Buccaneer Days Celebration floats.

Peggy Alston, the new continuity writer at Southland Industries, looks a lot like Ida Lupino . . . Earl Goff, erstwhile doorman at the Joy, has gone in for military training . . . "Juarez" (Warner) played a return stand at the Obrero, Mexican downtown house, last week . . . "The Mysterious Dr. Satan," serial, opened at the State last Saturday and is still going great . . . "GWTW" arrived a week early and is now playing at the Majestic.

Harris Into K. C.

KANSAS CITY—Buddy Harris of the Buddy Harris Poster Exchange in Dallas has joined George C. Blackwell here as a partner to operate the Bhasco Poster Service for theatres.

Indes Catch Spirit Of Theatre Spurts

Sebring, Fla.—Even the small town indes are catching the spirit of this theatre-building wave inundating Florida.

Sebring in summer has a population of 2,000, with a few hundreds of winter visitors. Heretofore boasting of but a single theatre—the Circle—operated by the Floyd-Stein interests, now it seems, unless present plans are changed, the town will have four; three devoted to white, one to colored patronage.

Circuit owners of the Circle have announced a new theatre, the Florida, construction on which was to have begun this week. In the meantime, C. F. Schroeder and A. William "Bill" Jones, are putting finishing touches on the Sebring, due to open in early March. It will seat up to 500. Schroeder is a local lumberman; Jones a former "legit" actor, with experience also in films.

Schroeder and Jones recently reopened the Palm in the Negro quarter, a house formerly known as the Lincoln.

MIAMI

SPECIAL events for every night of the week are marking the seven day birthday celebration now being staged by the huge Miami Drive-In Theatre. Interest concentrates on the Tuesday evening show which will mark the day on which this world's largest outdoor theatre was opened to the public in 1938. E. M. Loew is down from Boston for the celebration and is advising his brother, Ira Loew, district manager for the Loew interests, on matters pertaining to the anniversary week programs.

A personal birthday anniversary of outstanding interest is being celebrated by Al Weiss jr., youngest veteran theatreman in the area. Young Carolyn Lee is assisting in this celebration when she makes her first personal appearance there as "Virginia" opens at this big Flagler Street house.

Prominent parts in Hollywood's annual fete, its Fiesta Tropical, February 28, are being played by both the Florida Theatre and its manager, Paul Robinson. Voting for fiesta king is being concluded this week with announcement of the king and his introduction of his queen taking place at a special midnight show Friday. Candidates for members of the queen's court will appear on the Florida stage with three to be selected from the high 12.

Moritz Adapts "Eadie"

HOLLYWOOD—"Eadie Was a Lady," forthcoming Gene Markey production for Columbia, is being scripted by Henry K. Moritz.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

OKLA. CITY

NELSON CLAYBAUGH, co-owner of the Penn Theatre here, was a consistent spectator at the Golden Gloves bouts . . . Chuck Ferris and Bob Busch had a good opening of their new Uptown at 12th and Hudson last week. Ferris is operator and Busch manager of the new neighborhood house.

The State Theatre is now using more and more spot announcement radio advertising over KOCY as Manager Bob Pfotenhauer states after checking up, it was found that the spot announcements very definitely pulled business to the theatre's boxoffice.

Work is expected to begin soon on Tulsa's newest suburban theatre, The Pines, to be operated by Griffith-Southwestern Theatres, Inc. Mrs. Joseph Strobel owns the property and will erect the building on terms of a long lease with the company. Griffith is understood considering building a drive-in at Tulsa on Highway 66 near the ball park there.

Construction of the crypt and garden at the Will Rogers Memorial, Claremore, where the body of the humorist-actor will eventually lie, has moved well past the preliminary stage.

Paul Jones of Standard Theatres had his picture taken last week . . . We'd like to go calling on Mr. Stribling at the Rialto oftener but that stairway leading up to his office is too much for our girth; neither yours truly nor Morris Loewenstein could manage it. Dunno about Morris though . . . he manages to get around pretty well in that "spacious" office of his.

L. C. Griffith, chief barker of Tent 22 here of the Variety Clubs of America, issued a bulletin to all members last week pointing out that the national convention is scheduled for Charlotte, N. C., March 10, and urged that all members of the state organization attend.

There are several "bees" buzzing around on new theatres for Oklahoma City this spring. One involves Standard, with much pow-wowing reportedly going on between Standard's men and a local banker over a spot at Southwest 29th and Walker for a very nice new house to supplement Standard's Circle. Right now the deal is cool due to speculation on what's happened to Lewis Barton's proposed Redskin a few blocks down the street. The latter has basement dug and materials on the property but has been that way for months.

Bob Flynn of the Penn is studying accounting in his spare time . . . Our sympathies to the young man who had a paint brush snap at him and in self defense pushed it through a local screen.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

ATLANTA

EARLE HOLDEN, manager of the Capitol, offered $25 to the first patron who enlisted in the United States Navy during the run of "Here Comes the Navy."

Henry Stanford, for several years assistant manager of the Capitol Theatre, has resigned to take a civil service job with the Fourth Corps Area headquarters. Thomas R. Jones, formerly of the Roxy, is Earle Holden's new assistant.

W. M. "Bill" Yarbrough, manager of the Hangar Theatre, Hapeville, Ga., has redecorated the theatre and installed a new marquee . . . Mrs. Solomon Miller, wife of Solomon Miller, Miller Theatres, is very much improved and will be moved to her home some time this week.

Ed Sheppard, assistant manager of the Roxy, and also a staff sergeant, will leave for army service February 24. A private screening of "Buck Privates" was held Friday night at the Roxy for Sheppard and his company.

Mrs. Irma Reeves Marshall, Warner bookkeeper, lost her husband, Erskine Marshall . . . R. L. McCoy, district manager of Vitagraph, Inc., is in Memphis . . . Sam Shapin, auditor for the company, was a visitor this week.

Saul Renick made his first trip to the Sunny South, the last week when he came down from New York to work on special exploitation on "Back Street," "Buck Privates" and "Nice Girl." While in Atlanta, he called on Perry Spencer, publicity director for Republic, and talked over old times when both were connected with Loew's theatres home office publicity staff.

Walter L. Brandenburg has leased the Liberty from I. D. Hussey. He will repaint the front and lobby and start redecorating this week . . . Ike Katz, of PRC, is in Memphis to contact circuits and exhibitors in that territory.

Henry Glover, branch manager for Republic, is back from a trip to South Georgia with a fist full of "signed-on-the-dotted-line" contracts.

Sam Clark, of Warner's Studio publicity staff, who is touring the country on promotional work for the Frank Capra-Robert Riskin production, "Meet John Doe," arrived in Atlanta this week where he spent several days contacting local newspaper people.

Visugraphic Film has redecorated and made some alterations in their offices . . . James P. Buchanan, Paramount newsman, passed through the city this past week on his way to New Jersey. He will be stationed at Ft. Benning, where he will assume his duties as major after a short leave on vacation.

J. C. Whitlock has joined the sales force of Amity exchange. He was some time ago connected with one of the major companies in this territory . . . Emory Theatre's new assistant manager is Gordon Taafe.

T. L. Davis, branch manager for United Artists, lost his father. Services were held Saturday afternoon in Charlottesville, Va. . . . W. J. Stewart held the formal opening of his new Midway Theatre, Bluff City, Tenn., Monday, February 17. He formerly operated theatres in Alaska and Florida.

Walter Walker, Columbia Pictures, has been promoted from contract clerk to assistant booker. Rudy Lehmann has been promoted from cashier to short subject booker . . . Bill Wallenhaupt, Theatrical Printing Company, is recuperating after an emergency appendectomy at Piedmont Hospital . . . Savini Films have moved into their new offices on the ground floor of 163 Walton St., N. W.

H. P. "Dusty" Rhodes, booker for Lucas & Jenkins, spent the weekend at Macon, Ga., visiting their theatres . . . George Jones, who recently opened the Jones-Benton Booking Service, can be seen any and all times of the day going from one exchange to the other booking for his customers.

Visitors: Jas. S. Biggers, Martin, Opelika, Ala.; Fred Levi, Carver, Birmingham, Ala.; H. H. Newman and son, Warren, Pastime, Sandersville, Ga.; W. J. "Bill" Collins, Toccoa, Ga.; Mrs. W. B. Smith, Erin, Tennille, Ga.; Mary Hayes Davis, who operates several theatres in Florida; L. T. Sheffield, and A. C. Saunders, of Headland, Hartford, Ala., and Bonifay, Fla.; Paul Engler, Famous & Frolic, Birmingham, Ala; J. E. Duncan, Playhouse, Carrollton, Ga.; E. F. Ingram, Ashland and Lineville, Ala.; A. L. Cowart, Legion, Cartersville, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller, Augusta, Ga.; and E. J. Hunter, Edison, Edison, Ga.

Oklahoma Trade Attends Griffith Tulsa Opening

TULSA, OKLA.—Griffith Southwestern Theatres, Inc., opened their new Tulsa at Third and Main streets Wednesday, February 19, with a special party attended by many in the trade.

The theatre was dedicated at 7:30 p. m. following a banquet for Griffith's guests in the Hotel Tulsa.

Tulsa Manager L. A. Chatham was in charge of the affair.

Labor Transfer Expected Without Difficulties

TULSA, OKLA.—Lew A. Chatham, manager of the Griffith Southwestern theatres in Tulsa, has announced that he does not expect any labor difficulties when the Main Street Theatre is closed this week and the personnel moved to the new Tulsa across the street.

Charles Hathaway, president of the MPO union, stated previously that a demand for a contract for operation of the new theatre will be made immediately after the opening.

Rubinoff in South

PONCA CITY, OKLA.—Swinging southwest following appearances in the middle and northwestern states, Rubinoff nears the half-way mark of his current personal appearance tour as he opened here Wednesday. Additional dates follow in Shawnee and New Mexico before the maestro opens in Texas for a possible 10 appearances.

MEMPHIS

MRS. W. D. MITCHELL of the Gem at Dumas, Ark., was in on her first trip to Memphis since the holidays . . . Alton Sims, R&R's local booker, is back at his desk after a short business trip to Dallas . . . Margaret Higginbotham, who is taking a year's leave from theatre activities, postcards best regards from Mobile, Ala., where she is visiting her sister. Mrs. Higginbotham owns the Ozark Amusement Co. at Hardy, Ark. . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Noble were recent Filmrow visitors. Mrs Noble was booking for their Rex and Temple at Leland, while her husband was busy looking after the interests of the Harlem at Greenville.

M. H. Brandon, president of Film Transit, Inc., spent several days in Memphis at his local office . . . R. L. "Bob" Bostick, branch manager for NTS, is back at his desk after several days in New York attending a company convention . . . Miss Elsie Hanks, manager of the Ritz at Crenshaw, Miss., was on the Row booking . . . F. J. Daugherty of the Palace at W. Helena, Ark., has just installed new lamps and rectifiers at his house.

H. I. "Buddy" Mansfield, branch manager for Universal, and Ben Jordan and Pete Dawson, salesmen, are off to New Orleans to attend a regional sales convention at the Hotel Roosevelt . . . G. H. Goff of the Rustic at Parsons, Tenn., who has been ill, was seen on the Row . . . W. G. Milwain of NTS left for Charlotte last week where he will be stationed by the company . . . Walter Parham of the Royal, Memphis, and his mother are in Tampa, Fla., where they are visiting her sister.

Exhibitors on the Row: John Crabtree jr., Merlu, Clarendon, Ark.; A. D. Fielder, Steele, Steele, Mo.; Bill Malin, Lura, Augusta, Ark.; Earl Vandiver, Vandiver, Kennett, Mo.; G. W. Jones, New, Lonoke, Ark.; K. H. Kinney, Hays, Hughes, Ark.; Gordon Lee Hutchins, State, Corning, Ark.; N. B. Fair, Fair, Somerville, Tenn.; C. W. Tipton, New, Manila, Ark.; Jack Marshall, Frances and Capitol, Dyersburg, Tenn.; Lyle Richmond, Missouri, Senath, Mo.; John Mohrstadt, Missouri, Hayti, Mo.; Mrs. Lela Flippin and Juanita Williams, Grand, Cardwell, Mo.; W. H. Kaver, Von, Booneville, Miss.; Harry Shaw, Ritz, Aberdeen, Miss.; Roy Dillard, Dillard, Wardell, Mo.; John Shannon, Maxon, Portageville, Mo.; Guy B. Amis, Princess, Lexington, Tenn.; J. J. Sharum, Sharum, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; W. A. Rush, Houston, Houston, Miss.

Ilene Lindsay, assistant cashier at Universal, has resigned to marry Bill MacCauley, mechanical engineer for Dupont in Louisville . . . Joe Wheeler, who for several years has been active in the theatre business in this territory, was a recent visitor at the Variety Club . . . Lawrence Landers of the Landers at Batesville spent a couple of days in Memphis advancing his bookings . . . Dan Cupid has been quite busy these spring days at the Malco office. B. W. Hirsh, booker, has announced his engagement to Miss Margaret Loeb. They will do it in April.

Warner Bros. Acquire $25,000 in War Bonds

TORONTO—Warner Bros., through its Canadian company, Vitagraph, Ltd., has made a purchase of Canadian war bonds to the value of $25,000 which have been offered by the Dominion government in recent months. They are of the non-interest bearing type, which means that no income is derived by bondholders and are intended for purchasers who desire to place money at the disposal of the government without interest.

This is in line with the proposal that the eight major producing companies of the United States should invest in the next Canadian war loan which is to be floated in June, the suggestion having been thrown out that each of the big companies should take a block of at least $100,000 worth of the new bonds which are expected to provide 3⅛ per cent interest, apart from the profit which may accrue to the extent of 10 per cent by reason of the rate of exchange in favor of U. S. funds.

It has been suggested that it would be good business for the U. S. film industry to invest in the next Canadian loan because of the fact that an average of $6,000,000 per year is taken from the country by the U. S. companies, this amount being surplus revenue from Canadian rentals. In several other parts of the British Empire, including Great Britain, only 50 per cent of such revenue can be exported because of exchange conditions during the war.

Warner anticipated the war loan proposal by taking $25,000 worth of the non-interest bonds as a gesture of goodwill.

Independent Cooperative Circuit Takes Shape

TORONTO—The organization of Consolidated Theatres Ass'n, a co-operative circuit of independent theatres in Ontario, has been completed and the officers of the group have been announced as follows:

Morris Weiss of the Colony, Toronto, president; Barney Goldhar, Paramount Theatre, vice-president; Gus Solway, Bloordale, treasurer, and Harry Romberg, Metro Theatre, secretary. The general manager is Harry S. Dahn, who was formerly an executive of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

In addition to a group of theatres in Toronto, the association has lined up a number of out-of-town exhibitors in Ontario, the latest being the Alexander at Wallaceburg, owned by Tony Allevato, and the Kingsway of Islington, the proprietor of which is L. E. Farrow.

Amateur Night Draws

EDMONTON—Amateur night at the Princess, newly organized under the management of Fred Tickwell, is proving especially attractive to patrons, the manager reports.

Odeon Dominion 'Invasion' Launched in Vancouver

VANCOUVER—The "invasion" of the Dominion by the Odeon Theatres chain of England has been launched here with the acquisition of four local theatres in a move admittedly the beginning of coast-to-coast expansion.

The entry was made via Odeon Theatres of Canada in securing the nearly completed Vogue, the Plaza, Paradise and Dunbar. Negotiations are said to be in progress for the Rio, Fraser and Kingsway.

William J. Long, supervisor in British Columbia for Odeon Theatres in Canada, confirmed the plan to acquire a string of houses from coast to coast. The company, he said, will take over a theatre in every city or town of any importance in British Columbia. Where theatres are not available or suitable for purchase, it will build houses, he said.

Although closely allied to the British corporation of the same name, the Canadian firm is controlled entirely by Canadian interest, according to Long.

The Odeon executive formerly was connected in the Edmonton theatrical business, and is known throughout the Dominion industry. J. Howard Boothe, local independent exhibitor, will be associated with Long in an executive capacity.

Jack L. Hunter Heads Toronto Film Board

Toronto—Jack L. Hunter, veteran Ontario branch manager of Paramount Film Service, Ltd., is president of the Toronto film board of trade for 1941, it has been announced. The annual elections resulted in the selection of T. J. Gould, Toronto branch manager of Regal Films, Ltd., as vice-president, and E. H. Wells as permanent secretary.

The committee comprises Frank H. Fisher, of the office of Empire-Universal-Films, Ltd.; H. J. Bailey of 20th Century-Fox Corp., Ltd., and M. Plottel of RKO Distributing Corp. of Canada, Ltd.

"GWTW" Leads "NWMP" As Dominion's Favorite

TORONTO—According to a fan poll conducted by a Toronto daily newspaper, the most popular feature in the Dominion during 1940 was "Gone With the Wind," which was appreciably above the next choice, "North West Mounted Police." Film fans were invited to make their own listings of pictures up to 10 in number and there were only 92 ballots which did not include "Wind."

Close behind "North West Mounted Police" for third place was "Rebecca" and next in order were the following: "Foreign Correspondent," "The Mortal Storm," "Waterloo Bridge," "All This, and Heaven Too," "Boom Town," "Northwest Passage" and "Our Town." This voting completes the cycle of "best" pictures for 1940 to be compiled by Toronto publications, the previous selections having been made by exhibitors and also by compilations of box-office records.

The fan popularity vote does not include a number of pictures which have been nominated for Academy awards because they had not yet played in Canadian situations, these including "The Letter," "Kitty Foyle," "The Long Voyage Home" and "The Philadelphia Story," while "The Great Dictator" had appeared on the screen of only two theatres in Canada during 1940 and both of these were outside of Toronto.

For the Canadian fan vote, prizes were offered in cooperation with the newspaper by Famous Players Canadian Corp., Toronto Loew's and the Uptown and Imperial Theatres, 24 contestants being rewarded with prizes.



At the Chicago Convention—

Frank J. A. McCarthy, Universal eastern sales manager with the company's Canadian sales representatives—left to right: Paul J. Nathanson, vice-president Empire-Universal; Clair Hague, Universal's representative in the Dominion, and A. W. Perry, Empire-Universal's general manager.

TORONTO

IN TORONTO over last weekend for patriotic purposes were Gracie Allen and George Burns, who ripped things loose at Massey Music Hall, and Walter Huston, native of the city, who was giving a portrayal of Abraham Lincoln to help Canada's war endeavors . . . The officers and employes of Paramount Film Service, Ltd., have been organized 100 per cent in pledges to invest a percentage of their salaries in government war certificates until the end of the war, according to Jack Hunter, Ontario branch manager.

Airman R. Rathbone, son of Basil Rathbone, screen actor, who has been training with the Royal Canadian Air Force at Windsor, Ont., passed through Toronto on his way to an air station in western Canada. Richard Barron of the Grand, Calgary, has reported at the No. 1 Eglinton Training Depot, Toronto, as a start in his course to become a war pilot. He is the son of J. B. Barron, a Calgary exhibitor for many years . . . In answer to the question, put to several officials on Toronto's Filmrow, as to why there were not many out-of-town exhibitors doing the rounds, the answers summed up to the following: "They are too busy making money." That may be only one side of the story.

Harry J. Allen, general manager of Grand National Films, Ltd., returned to Toronto from a business trip to Montreal and reported that no further developments had taken place for Canadian distribution of the product of Producers Releasing Corp. . . . H. C. D. Main, general supervisor of Hanson Theatres Corp., made a tour of inspection of theatres of the circuit in the Niagara district, picking a rainy spell for the drive . . . Harry S. Dahn, general manager of Consolidated Theatres Ass'n, Toronto, is elated over the news that he has become a grandfather, a son having been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Dahn of Montreal. Gordon is the manager of the York in that city.

Joe Holliday, former manager of the Circle in North Toronto, has joined the war industrial sphere and is now helping to turn out fighting airplanes at the De-Havilland plant. Lieut. Don Cooper, son of Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the motion Picture Distributors Ass'n, has gained his promotion in the field. Serving with the Royal Canadian Artillery somewhere across the Atlantic, he has been promoted to the rank of captain . . . Leo M. Devaney, general manager of RKO Distributing Corp. of Canada, Ltd., returned to Toronto headquarters for a temporary stay after having made a tour of offices in the United States as captain of the Ned Depinet sales drive which will be in full swing for a number of weeks.

Claire Hague, Canadian Universal representative, General Manager Alf Perry of Empire-Universal Films and Vice-President Paul Nathanson of the same company, attended the annual convention of Universal in Chicago. O. R. Hanson, president of several big companies in Toronto, has been away on a vacation following his business tour of the western provinces . . . Jake Miles, president of Western Theatres, Ltd., Winnipeg, passed through Toronto on his way to Florida for a winter holiday. Western Theatres are affiliated with Famous Players Canadian Corp.

President A. J. Laurie of Esquire Films, Ltd., Toronto, has timed the Canadian release of "It's on Ice," British feature starring George Formby, to coincide with the start of the National Hockey League playoffs late in March, the theme of the picture being hockey . . . Lester Montgomery at the Toronto Casino has received commendation for the patriotic pageant he staged during the past week to boost the government's war certificate compaign. He had a line of girls wearing large replicas of war savings stamps and, for a finale, a parade of the flags of the Allies including the United States.

James I. Foy, general manager of Sovereign Film Distributors, has returned to Toronto headoffice after inspecting the company branches as far west as Vancouver . . . Some distraction was caused during the performance of "This Thing Called Love" at the big Imperial, Toronto, when Louis Simon, age 67, died suddenly of a heart attack. A prominent manufacturer, he was accompanied to the theatre by his wife and son . . . George Robinson, a sound engineer of General Theatre Supply Co., Ltd., Toronto, has resigned to join the colors, having become a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force in which his technical training will be particularly appropriate.

Sam Firestone, proprietor of the Aster and Esquire, Toronto, has paid $27,500 for the Mayfair on Jane Street, the block including two stores. The vendor was Abraham Polakoff, a popular exhibitor for many years . . . Charlie Stephenson, wide-awake manager of the Century at Kitchener, Ont., advises BOXOFFICE *that all 14 of his staff have signed pledges to make regular purchases of war savings stamps as their bit in helping to finance the war.*

Wolfe Cohen, district manager of Warner Bros., arranged a private screening of the British picture, "Christmas Under Fire," for Mrs. D. W. Melhuish, an English refugee widow, and other members of the family, because her grandson appeared in an important bit as a soloist of the King's College Chapel Choir. Gross rentals of the film are being turned over to British war relief . . . When he was in Toronto, Richard A. Rowland, film producer, revealed he has completed preparations for the making of a feature dealing with English family life in the war which will include the evacuation from Dunkirk. Rowland, who came for a special screening of "Cheers for Miss Bishop," was given a welcome by Mayor Conboy.

Jules Wolfe has been kept busy at the headoffice of Bloom & Fine Theatres, Toronto, in lining up the pledges for war savings stamps from all employes of the chain, many of whom will receive a percentage of stamps instead of cash in their weekly pay envelopes . . . Syd Taube, pioneer film man of Toronto, and Mrs. Taube continue to have an enjoyable holiday in Hollywood where they have been meeting many former Canadians . . . H. J. Allaster, who has spent a lifetime in theatres and is a member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, has been elected president of Local 105 at London, Ont., of the IATSE and Motion Picture Operators' Union.

497 Films Pass Before Censor

Toronto—Figures for the past calendar year, recently compiled, show that the Ontario film censor board viewed 455 features from the United States during the 12 months and 42 feature-length pictures from the United Kingdom, for a total of 497. During the previous year the board examined 654 features but many of these were of French and other foreign origin, the number of which has fallen off considerably because of the war difficulties.

The totals for 1941 reveal that 91½ per cent of English-language features are produced in the United States. The percentage of British features has increased slightly because of the output of pictures dealing with phases of the war, including semi-official films.

The Irish Maintain Strict Neutrality

Montreal — Irish film distributors are confronted with severe censorship.

No newsreel may contain pictures of the rulers of any belligerent nation or their flags or politicians.

No British propaganda or patriotic films can be shown any more than can similar pictures from Germany or Italy.

Illustrating the inflexibility of the censors was the order to cut out momentary appearances of Sir Kingsley Wood and President Roosevelt in different newsreels, and a 12-inch cut in another reel because it showed a Union Jack on a ship in the background of a shot of liners in New York harbor.

Complain of Cut Rates At Fingold Theatres

TORONTO—A trade problem has developed in connection with the operation of two theatres in small towns of western Ontario allegedly with the offer of bargain shows and heavy programs, the situation having come to the official attention of the industry's heads in Toronto.

The two theatres, which are owned by S. Fingold, are the Roxy at Chesley and the Roxy at Mount Forest. At one of these houses particularly, it is charged, the policy has been adopted of admitting two persons for the price of one ticket during the first half of the week and of presenting three features and one short during the last three days, with one show each night starting at 7:30. The nearest opposition for the Chesley Theatre is the Paramount, an independent house at Hanover, 28 miles away. The stand has been taken that the procedure is unnecessary.

MONTREAL

ROMANCE has once again centered on Filmrow, Cupid's dart striking popular Helen Druxerman of Columbia who was the recipient of a presentation on the eve of her departure to be married. Miss Druxerman was entertained at a tea attended by all the Filmrow girls and by executives of the distributors and of Consolidated Theatres and United Amusement Corp. A special screening was given in her honor. Her successor at Columbia is her sister, Ethel, formerly of Grand National.

John Grierson is scheduled to speak on "Propaganda" before Montreal Canadian Club. Grierson is Canada's national film commissioner and was famed on the other side of the Atlantic as a pioneer of the documentary film. He is a Scotsman . . . News brought from Paris by a girl refugee says there is no real night life there now, but theatres are doing fairly well. Yvonne Primtemps is drawing about $750 *a week at the Michodiere and the "Folies Bergere" is paying salaries up to* $1,000. *Midnight is curfew hour.*

France Film Co. has laid an accusation against the former manager of the Beaubien, Georges Emile Perreault, charging him with theft of $267. He pleaded not guilty before Judge Amedee Monet and was remanded on $500 bail . . . Sympathy is being expressed with A. Adilson, proprietor of the Roxy, Ste. Agathe, whose mother died recently . . . Complete coverage of the Victory Mass, celebrated in historic Notre Dame, Montreal, required the attendance of over 20 technicians from Associated Screen News.

Filmrow learned with regret of the sudden demise of George Munro, shipper for many years at United Artists, who dropped dead. His successor is Harry Dolman, formerly with Grand National and Warner Bros. . . . Ike Sourkes, formerly with Warner and Grand National, has joined Empire-Universal as salesman . . . Larry Druxerman, salesman for Empire-Universal, will go west for the same concern.

Ross Beesley and Roy Tash of Associated Screen News covered the visit of J. A. D. MacCurdy to an airplane factory and to the Uplands Service Flying School. He was the first pilot to fly a plane in the British Empire over 30 years ago. Recently he was named purchasing agent for the aircraft construction branch of the department of munitions and supply. Tash also filmed the RCAF bombing and gunnery school in operation, and Beesley, with Bob Martin, covered the visit of the governor-general to a Montreal munitions plant . . . Tourist stills for ASN are being taken at Quebec by Charles Wilkinson.

"This Is England," a British documentary, has been acquired by a United States company for distribution in Canada and the United States, and also in Latin America. The film, according to the BBC, "gives a view of the damage done in Britain by indiscriminate bombing, and the efforts made in British factories to enable the British defenders to hit back" . . . Albert E. Glazer, former district manager and engineer-in-charge of Premier Operating Corp. theatres at Tillsonburg, Ont., had the job of flying a picture to Camp Borden to entertain the airmen, and liked what he saw so well that he joined the air force. He is attached to the signals (radio) division. The picture he flew in to camp was "The Lion Has Wings."

Helen Mencken, American actress, called on Mayor Adhemar Raynault and recalled incidents in her marriage to former Mayor Jimmy Walker of New York, who, she said, never wanted to be mayor, but an actor. She told Raynault that Jimmy is in line for a job as censor of motion pictures, assisting the czar of the industry, Will Hays.

Eugene Maynard, manager of the Savoy and the Outremont, arranged a good drawing event when he brought to the Outremont "Ken Soble's Good Humor Contest" winners, with Doug Romaine as master of ceremonies . . . Bob Edge, famous angler, showed 1,600 *feet of Technicolor film of the battle of fishermen against finny monsters of the deep at the annual gathering of the Anglers' Ass'n of Montreal.*

Filmrow Bowling League is witnessing some exciting contests. United Amusement leads for the moment, with Consolidated Theatres and Paramount tied for second place, one game behind . . . Filmrow visitors include: D. O'Connor of the O'Connor, Huntingdon; Charles Magnan of the Malartic, Malartic; Mr. and Mrs. Chouinard of the Princess, Quebec, and Albert Bey of the Cinema, Thetford Mines.

Theatre Construction in Ontario Firmly Paced

TORONTO—Construction, both underway and proposed, changes in ownership and operation, and equipment installations are currently prevalent throughout Ontario.

John Allen, proprietor of the Tivoli, Ont., for some years, has constructed a theatre at Niagara-on-the-Lake which will open shortly. There is no other theatre in the town, which has become increasingly important in recent months because of its military garrison. On the other hand, Famous Players Canadian Corp. is completing a theatre, the Park, in Welland which is close to Thorold.

The Hanson interests of Toronto have taken over the Cartier in Timmins, northern Ontario, this house having previously been operated by the Cinema Rousson-Trudeau Limitee. Hanson now has the Goldfields, Palace, New Empire and Cartier theatres in Timmins. A short time ago, the Allen chain acquired the LaSalle in Kirkland Lake from the Rousson-Trudeau company, the latter having now withdrawn from the active operation of theatres, it is announced.

The Strand, in downtown Toronto, through M. Axler, has installed two new projectors and lamps which were purchased from the General Theatre Supply Co.

Famous Players is well advanced with the construction of a new theatre in Chatham, Ont., which is to be called the Park, to be operated along with its Capitol in that city. Another theatre, to be called the Centre, is being erected in Chatham by 20th Century Theatres, Toronto, which is headed by N. A. Taylor.

Plans for the erection of a new house in Cornwall by the Palace Amusement Co., Ltd., have been held in abeyance. The company, which is headed by Clarence Markell and is a subsidiary of Famous Players, operates the Capitol and Palace in that town.

Consideration has been given to the erection of another theatre at Timmins, to be known as the Broadway, by Broadway Theatres Timmins, Ltd., to seat 800. The company is headed by O. R. Hanson of Toronto. Timmins is a thriving mining town.

Robert Hambleton of Simcoe, Ont., has confirmed the information that he is going ahead with the construction of a theatre at Norwich, Ont. Hambleton has two theatres in Simcoe and two in Tillsonburg.

Musical Fee-Sharing Objective Interests

TORONTO—Theatremen are watching with keen interest the dual between the Canadian Performing Right Society and Broadcast Music, (Canada) Inc., over the question of sharing the fee which has been laid down for the annual licensing of radio stations in the Dominion for royalties because of its possible effect on the seat tax paid annually by theatres for the use of musical works. BMI of Canada wants a share of the levy on broadcasters now collected by the Society on the basis of eight cents per receiving set on the ground that it provides an outlet for authors and composers who cannot get into Ascap which is linked with the Canadian Society, the latter now holding exclusive rights in the collecting of the royalty fee in the Dominion.

The Society has applied to the copyright appeal board for permission to raise the tax from 8 cents to 14 cents per receiving set but opposition has developed to this demand, apart from the request of BMI for a share in the takings. The board has reserved judgment in the case.

Oliviers in London

MONTREAL—Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh are in London. Olivier has signed to play in "49th Parallel" before joining the air force. Miss Leigh will go on the stage.

OTTAWA

THE work of increasing the capacity of the Elgin by 100 seats has been completed under the supervision of Manager Lloyd M. Mills, who is now getting ready for the redecorating of the theatre and changes in the lighting system, after which a block of stores will be erected on the parking lot adjacent to the theatre entrance, the new building to conform with the design of the Elgin. Meantime he is busy with the presentation of "This Thing Called Love" which looks as if it will run for three or four weeks.

Vern Hudson, manager of the Avalon in the Globe district of Ottawa, staged a variety show of four acts for one evening last week in conjunction with a double film bill and this will become a regular weekly feature, he has announced . . . "The Philadelphia Story," based on the M-G-M film story and illustrated with stills from the picture, has been published as a serial in the Ottawa Journal, *this being the first time that the newspaper has ever printed a film narrative.*

Isser Singerman has been busy with "Gone With the Wind" at the Imperial, to which the picture was immediately transferred after its run at the Ottawa Regent where it was held over for several days by Manager Angelo Stevens . . . Jack Murray, famed as one of the original members of the Canadian Dumbells, passed away in his 56th year following a heart attack. The Dumbells made their start as a concert party behind the Western Front in the last war and then toured practically every theatre in the Dominion for approximately 15 years after the Armistice.

A radio adaptation of "The Mortal Storm" was scheduled for presentation over the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. last night, February 21, under the direction of Rai Purdy, and the film version of Nazi policies is appearing regularly at local theatres . . . R. B. "Babe" Berezin, native of Ottawa, has been appointed manager of the Regent at Sudbury, Ontario, which was recently taken over by 20th Century Theatres, Ltd. Berezin joined the staff of the Ottawa Elgin when it opened three years ago.

The municipal council of Cornwall, Ont., has put a ban on tag days for the remainder of 1941, regardless of the patriotic or charity cause, in the belief that the tag stunt has been greatly overdone. Cornwall had a blackout rehearsal the other night and Manager Clarence Markell of the Capitol and Palace reported little inconvenience to theatre patrons.

National Film Society Hit by "Arty" Dearth

TORONTO—The National Film Society of Canada is having a tough time of it because of a dearth of "arty" foreign films due to the war and distress signals have already been sent up by branches of the organization in different cities after a brave attempt to carry on during the second winter of the international conflict.

Product Earning Holdovers

Toronto — The past week has been featured by holdovers in leading theatres of Toronto, thus indicating that business is well up to scratch—and that the films are worth while. "This Thing Called Love" registered a record for the season at the Imperial by playing its fourth week against strong opposition. "Gone With the Wind" continued for a third week at Loew's at popular prices, while "Kitty Foyle" went into its second week at the Uptown.

The opposition included the Ballet Russe on the stage of the Royal Alexandra where an extra matinee was put on to take care of the extra demand; a big patriotic concert in Massey Music Hall and a couple of important professional hockey matches.

VANCOUVER

SID TAUBE of the Moving Picture Pioneers Ass'n in Vancouver on his way east from Los Angeles . . . Frank Kershaw from Winnipeg here for a short visit . . . G. G. Baiss of the Capitol Duncan in to complete advance bookings.

Jimmie Haworth of the Rio Theatre, Ladysmith, around Filmrow carefully selecting his advance bookings . . . The Film Exchange Table Tennis Club successfully stood off their return challenge match with the C. P. R., winning with great ease. Owen Bird, Don Findlay and Ray Tarling never lost a game.

Great interest is being displayed by exhibitors over a short released by Empire Universal Films, titled "Mastery of the Sea." This subject is a vivid study of the work of the British Navy particularly in convoying shipping to and from Great Britain.

Adam Klein has reopened the Legion Hall at Agassiz, B. C.

Loew's Theatres Reduce Arrears on Preferred

MONTREAL—Arrears on preferred stock of Marcus Loew's Theatres, Ltd., will be reduced to $5.25 a share following payment of a dividend of $1.75 a share just declared in addition to the regular quarterly $1.75, payable March 31 to shareholders of record March 15.

Since 1937, the company has been reducing preferred arrears which had accumulated during the period 1922 to 1934 inclusive. Last year's disbursement of $14 a share contracted with $31.50 paid in 1939, and $8.75 a share distributed in 1938 and also in 1937.

Although net profit of $94,508 for the fiscal year ended August, 1930, was below the previous year on account of increased taxes, it was sufficient to cover dividend requirements.

WINNIPEG

LOCAL houses were turned over to the war effort Saturday morning when a special children's show was held to which admission was in the form of bundles of rags. These were handed over to the Patriotic Salvage Corps to be sold, the proceeds going towards buying mobile kitchen units for use in Great Britain.

At the Capitol, Harold Bishop has been presenting his return engagement of "GWTW" to packed houses. It is now in its second week and going strong . . . The national film board, under the direction of John Grierson, will make a documentary film of the central volunteer bureau, according to announcement made at the board meeting of the bureau by Mrs. Gordon Konantz, chairman.

Grand National's "Mein Kampf" has been playing to good houses here since its introduction a few weeks ago. After two fine weeks at the Starland, the film played simultaneously last week at the Furby and the College.

J. M. Beaudet, music director of the CBC for Canada, told the press this week that the CBC can play both B. M. I. and Ascap on a Canadian program, but exchange programs to the United States must be B. M. I. Speaking about the influence of the war on music broadcast over CBC, Mr. Beaudet said the war had not affected the type of music played.

Eddie Newman has been running a smart campaign of teaser ads in connection with his forthcoming showing of "Dulcy" . . . The George Formby film, "It's in the Air," is doing sensational business at the Bijou where Garnet Wright has taken it into its fourth straight week.

The film last week at Don Gauld's sneak-preview at the Uptown was "Comrade X." The film played to the large house which has become standard at these previews.

Blackout Rehearsal Idea Is Abandoned

TORONTO—After considerable bickering between rival authorities, the War Savings Stamps Campaign Committee of Toronto finally decided to call off the blackout rehearsal which had been planned for February 19 locally, differences having arisen between federal government officials and the municipal fathers. The theatres had arranged to participate in the blackout and it had been decided to issue special pass-out checks to patrons so that they could watch the outdoor performance but the whole stunt has been cancelled for keeps.

Set Designer Trains

MONTREAL—A United States architect, Harlon Buettner, who helped design the sets for "Three Smart Girls" and "The Great Ziegfeld" is at Malton, Ont., one of nine pilots receiving instruction on multi-engine aircraft through a scheme voluntarily undertaken by Dominion Skyways training to supply some of the 250 pilots needed by aid observer schools.

From the Press

MINNEDOSA, MAN.—The destruction of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Asper's Lyric here by fire, occasioned an editorial in the Minnedosa *Tribune* that was a kudo to theatres in general. The paper called the theatre a "fourth corner of contact with the world." The others it listed as the telephone, the radio and the newspaper. The fire, starting in the booth, is estimated to have done damage to the extent of $18,000.

LONDON, ONT. — The London Theatre Managers' Ass'n, headed by W. K. Trudell, manager of the Capitol, is cooperating in pushing the sale of war savings certificates, by freely lending the facilities of its houses.

TORONTO—A letter to the Toronto *Telegram* stressed the safety of the theatres as a haven for children as compared to the streets with their traffic menace.

TORONTO—Abraham Polakoff has sold Samuel Firestone a land parcel and the theatre and store building thereon for a reported $27,500.

KINGSTON, ONT.—Odeon Theatres, Ltd., plan a 1,000-seat house upon property they have acquired here.

TORONTO—Over 100 head office employes of Famous Players Canadian pledged to make regular contributions toward the purchase of war savings certificates.

KASLO KOOTENAIAN, B. C. — Training camps are showing the latest developments in tactics and explanations of war weapon usage by the use of films, received from the British war office.

OTTAWA—John Grierson, government film commissioner, in an address before members of the Canadian Authors Ass'n, cited the value of documentary films as a means of cementing unity in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.—A new theatre is in prospect here, plans for which have been submitted to the city building department.

LONGUEUIL, QUE.—Contract for a 640-seat theatre has been let here.

HALIFAX, N. S.—The Halifax Presbytery of the United Church resolved to support a protest against allowing civilians to attend Sunday night shows as guests of service men.

SUMMERSIDE, P. E. I.—In an editorial captioned "Vandalism" the Summerside *Pioneer* calls for apprehension of those responsible for the "deliberate destruction of one of the artistic glass panels making up the magnificent front of the Capitol Theatre."

KINGSTON, ONT.—Permit for a new 750-seat theatre has been taken out for the Biltmore Theatres (Kingston) Ltd. H. Falk of Toronto conducted negotiations.

NEW GLASGOW, N. S.—George Scott of the Roseland Theatre staff has recovered from a siege of flu which confined him to his home two weeks.

WINDSOR, ONT.—A new program of visual education, through the use of pictures to be borrowed from the government and other film libraries, is being planned by the board of education.

FT. WILLIAM, ONT.—Construction on a house here and one at Port Arthur for Famous Players Canadian Corp., will start this spring. The Fort William theatre will seat 1,200.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—Jack R. McLennan has installed a new screen at the Capitol

SUDBURY, ONT.—R. "Babe" Berezin, assistant manager of the Elgin in Ottawa, has been upped to the helm of the Regent Theatre by 20th Century Theatres, Ltd.

NEW GLASGOW, N. S.—Manager N. W. Mason of the Roseland Theatre Co., Ltd., obtained a news story by advertising that the New Glasgow either has or will present every one of the pictures voted the ten best in 1940.

LONDON, ONT.—Harold J. Allaster has been elected president of Local 105 of the IATSE. Allaster for 13 years has been business agent for the projectionists' union.

SASKATCHEWAN

REGINA'S five theatres chose a committee of five to look after plans for selling stamps to theatre employes in the city. Most of the employes have already signed pledges to have money for the stamps taken out of their pay and the committee is now formulating plans for get-togethers of the theatre staffs in the way of parties, dances and so on to raise more money for Canada's war effort. Members of the committee are: Charles Baird, assistant manager, Capitol; Charles Horning, assistant manager, Met; Peter Kosh, doorman, Rex; Mary Graham, cashier, Grand; Joe Schacter, Roxy.

Saskatoon theatres, the Capitol, Daylight, Ritz, Roxy and Tivoli, are aiding in the current drive to sell war saving stamps and certificates by permitting special speakers to be heard during programs.

Nat Rothstein celebrated his 20 years of exhibiting in Assiniboia the other day by installing new sound equipment in his Olympia Theatre. Hearing aid devices also have been installed.

Wide Distribution for "Canada Carries On"

MONTREAL—To be shown at commercial rates in 900 Canadian theatres is but the start of the journey for films in the "Canada Carries On" series. When they have been handled by regular film theatres, 16-millimeter copies are made.

In the United Kingdom, national film board productions in this series are shown in at least 1,000 theatres. From 600 to 800 Australian and New Zealand theatres show each release and other parts of the Empire also use the service.

United States interest in the films is heartening, film board officials say. When one is completed the negative is made available to the five newsreel companies at New York, and they take from it such sections as they wish to incorporate in their regular releases, to show the development of Canada's war effort.

"Canada Carries On" pictures are produced by the national film board for G. H. Lash, director of public information.

Films German Prisoners Arriving for Internment

MONTREAL—German prisoners of war arriving at an eastern Canadian port were filmed by Ross Beesley of Associated Screen News. Bob Martin of the same organization covered a flight to the Laurentians on the ski special air service; Arnold Hague returned, after three years in Vancouver, to help relieve the pressure of assignments on ASN cameramen in eastern Canada, and covered the snowshoers convention in Quebec, while Roy Tash pictured the Canadian Red Cross preparations for shipment of parcels to Canadian war prisoners in Germany.

Picture Pioneers Add Quartet to Roster

TORONTO—The Canadian Picture Pioneers has secured four more new members, bringing the roll of trade veterans up to 180, the qualification being that they must have been identified with the film industry for at least 25 years. The president is Clair Hague, of Toronto.

Through its Canadian motion picture war services committee the Pioneers are taking an active and aggressive part in the promotion of the current War Savings Stamp Campaign as a feature of their policy to lend all possible aid to the Canadian Government in the war effort.

R. L. Vallee Reopens Sherbrooke Premiere

SHERBROOKE, QUE.—On the occasion of opening his renovated Premiere Theatre, R. L. Vallee received a full page of publicity in the local daily.

Congratulatory ads from neighboring firms and from those that serviced the theatre in equipment and decorations made up the page, as did a biographical sketch.

Vallee is a veteran showman, having been in the trade for 30 years.

Former Manager Wins $680 Judgment Against Theatre

MONTREAL—Judgment for $680 was given in the superior court by Justice Alfred Forest in favor of Joachim Donat Germain against Mrs. Louis Desrosiers, proprietor of the Perron Theatre. Plaintiff sued for damages caused because of dismissal on October 13, 1938, as manager of the theatre, after he had been engaged the previous July 22 on a five-year contract at $50 a week.

Under the terms of the contract plaintiff was to give all his time to the position. Mrs. Desrosiers claimed he was incompetent, and made a public scandal by devoting too much of his time to a married niece of his employer.

His Lordship came to the conclusion that his dismissal had not been justified. He pointed out that Mrs. Desrosiers had authorized a trip by the two of them to Kitchener, Ont., a few days before the contract to study moving picture conditions. It was evident to His Lordship that family quarrels had been responsible for the charge against Germain.

As to Germain's competency, His Lordship said that there had been no concealment in this respect, that Mrs. Desrosiers had recognized that he was not an expert and before taking over the position she had sent him to study the cinema at such centers as Granby, Magog, St. Hyacinthe and Asbestos.

Germain sued for $9,999 damages. His Lordship said that after his dismissal he had obtained other employment, which for a time had not reimbursed him to the extent of $50 a week. He allowed him $680 as compensation, but beyond that period no damages were allowed, seeing that Germain has been making as much money in another position as he would have obtained under the contract.

: Unity the Aim :

OTTAWA—British propaganda films were not used as an instrument of hate and did not utilize "loud music," declared John Grierson of London, England, Dominion film commissioner, in an address before the Canadian Authors Ass'n at the Chelsea Club in which he emphasized the value of the screen in cementing unity in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

With respect to Canadian government films, Grierson asserted that the wartime motion pictures had performed valuable service in making the people conscious of the worth of their own country. The new Canadian war films contained patriotic logic and appealed to the subconscious mind of the people.

German propaganda films, captured by the British armed forces, were among the most perfectly prepared and were an indication of the importance placed upon propaganda by the enemy country, Grierson said. The value of moving pictures in war was first realized by Great Britain shortly after the start of the First Great War.

Many Nazi Films Intercepted

Ottawa—The National Film Board has been handling a considerable quantity of Nazi propaganda films which has been seized by the British contraband control at various stations on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the confiscated prints having been forwarded to the Dominion government for examination and use for a purpose for which they were not intended by the Hitlerites.

Some of the films have been made available to film producers of the United States after editorial surveillance while a portion have been turned over to the military authorities for study because of the information provided in the pictures.

A recent shipment bound for South America by an unstated route and intercepted by British warships was of particular interest because they included pictures from the air of London under fire, a record of an aerial attack on a convoy and the destructive effect of Royal Air Force raids on objectives in Occupied France.

Hamilton Theatre Fire Is Being Investigated

TORONTO—Twentieth Century Theatres, Ltd., is investigating a fire in the Century, a unit of its chain in Hamilton, Ont., the stage of which was discovered in flames in the early morning of February 14. The most damage was done around the screen, at the foot of which a number of matches were found after the blaze had been extinguished. The matches were turned over to fire department investigators for examination.

The Century was acquired only a few months ago. Previously it had been operated as the Lyric for many years for vaudeville, stage shows and pictures by R. T. Stewart, pioneer showman, and it had been remodeled throughout by the new company, Inter-City Theatres, Ltd., a subsidiary of 20th Century headed by Nat Taylor.

Nathanson Stock Option Again Is Extended

MONTREAL—Famous Players Canadian Corp., Ltd., has notified the Montreal Stock Exchange that the option granted N. L. Nathanson, president of the company, on April 15, 1936, has again been extended. The option covers the right to purchase 11,000 shares at $16 per share. Previously extended to January 31, 1941, it has now been extended to April 30, 1941.

New School Theatre

MONTREAL—By converting two classrooms into one through removing the partitions and by blacking out the windows, the Peace Centennial School of Montreal has created at little cost a motion picture hall seating 270 pupils. Educational and old entertainment films are planned.

Famous Players Reviews War Service Highlights

MONTREAL—Famous Players Canadian Corp., Ltd., has issued a statement reviewing the highlights of its past year's war service and pledging further service. The statement, which urges the patrons of theatres to buy war certificates and thus "serve by saving," is signed by N. L. Nathanson, president. It reads:

"We too have been privileged to serve. Famous Players is proud that during the past year its theatres aided materially in Canada's war effort, and, through entertaining millions of theatre-goers, contributed in no small measure to maintaining the morale of the Canadian people in these troubled times.

"At performances given in motion picture theatres across Canada on the night of July 15, 1940, approximately 560,000 Canadians bought more than $700,000 worth of War Savings Stamps and Certificates. Every theatre operated by Famous Players participated in this campaign.

"Famous Players theatres cooperated with the Canadian Motion Picture War Services Committee in the Rodeo at the Toronto Coliseum in November, 1940, at which £5,000 was raised and remitted to the Lord Mayor of London for his fund for air raid victims.

"Three Famous Players theatres in Regina joined in the world premiere of 'North West Mounted Police,' the entire proceeds being donated to the Canadian Red Cross.

"During the year many of Hollywood's stars gave most generously of their services to aid in Canada's war work, including such artists as Anna Neagle, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Ned Sparks, Vivien Leigh, Laurence Olivier and Maureen O'Sullivan, who appeared at the "Stamp" shows; the singing cowboy, Gene Autry, at the Rodeo; Madeleine Carroll, Lynne Overman, Preston Foster and Robert Preston, whose personal appearances aided the Canadian Red Cross."

The statement ends with the promise: "We pledge ourselves to further service until victory has been achieved."

Edmonton Managers Talk War Savings Campaign

EDMONTON—The part to be played by Edmonton theatres in Canada's dominion-wide February war savings drive was the only subject up for discussion at the regular weekly meeting of the theatre managers under the chairmanship of Walter Wilson of the Capitol.

Plans were made for a special meeting to be attended by all theatre employes to determine the amount each could afford to contribute to war savings. Ray Staples, chairman of the Edmonton War Savings committee, will be principal speaker.

Campaign for "Mr. Smith"

WINNIPEG—Invitation cards, ostensibly sent by the star, and calls to all the Smiths in the phone book were the methods used by Jack Randall of the College to publicize his booking of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Murphy, Read Earn Campaign Buttons

NEW YORK—M-G-M has awarded Honor Roll Buttons to David Murphy, State Theatre, Altoona, Pa., and John P. Read, Riviera, St. Paul, Minn., for their outstanding campaigns for "Flight Command" and "Land of Liberty," respectively.

Highlights of Murphy's campaign follow.

Two parades to theatre, including newsboys wearing aviator cloth helmets. Local radio station used Cinemakwiz three times, with cash and guest tickets to winners. 5,000 heralds inserted in Sunday papers. Sidewalks stencilled with giant plane figure and film copy. Model plane contest in cooperation with YMCA and NYA.

Highlights of Read's "Land of Liberty" campaign:

Special advance screening for federal, state and city officials. Also, social, educational and religious leaders. Daily radio announcements from news commentators for eight days before opening. Proclamation issued by mayor. American Legion parade to theatre on opening day, including drum and bugle corps and ten-foot banner. Two hundred block one-sheets posted in special locations all over town.

Inexpensive Tiein With Popular Radio Quiz

OKLAHOMA CITY—The State Theatre and radio station WKY are participating in a program take-off of the quiz shows that have been gaining listening audiences by leaps and bounds.

The show, called "Smarty-Party," is aired three evening times weekly, and features a board of "incompetents" who are armed with dictionaries, encyclopedias, almanacs and reference books in their sessions before the mike.

Listeners call in questions and if the "incompetents" cannot answer them in two minutes the listener is sent a pair of tickets to see the current attraction at the State.

The pass deal is the only obligation on the part of the theatre in the tie-up.

Sells the Duals

ALLENTOWN, PA.—Recognizing the at-least-present permanence of double features, Nick Todorov, advertising director for Wilmer & Vincent here, proceeds to market the duals. Beneath the marquee of his State Theatre, just above the boxoffice, are several panels that list the bills playing. A large easel alongside the boxoffice reminds all and sundry that "the biggest and best show value in Allentown" is just inside, where is "always two big first-run feature hits!" Price schedule completes the board.



Draws a Crowd—

An animated lobby display that Stanley Benford of the Colonial in Philadelphia made for "Here Comes the Navy." The small battleships are on an endless belt and keep moving. The larger ship in the foreground is stationary. The bull's eye on this ship is cut out and behind it is a break-switch which, when hit, causes all action to stop. Patrons who were interested were offered a pistol and three darts with which to try their luck. There was a crowd around the display all week.

4-H Club Mention Aid "Barnyard Follies"

Butte, Mont.—A boxoffice lineup was the result of a 4-H Club tieup on "Barnyard Follies" arranged by M. Clyde Anderson, manager of the American.

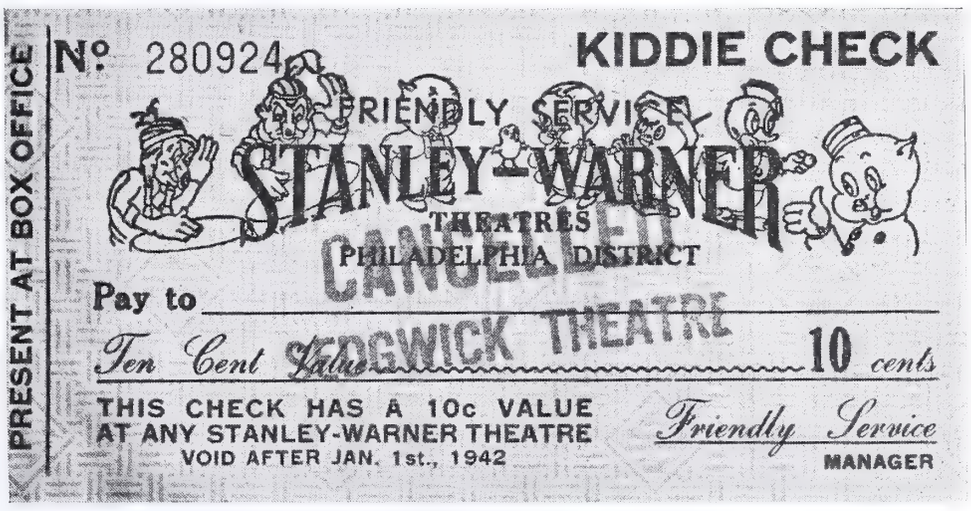
Anderson sent a letter to all the teachers in the county a week in advance of his booking, stressing the 4-H Club activities shown in the picture, and asking them to notify their students. Usherettes and cashiers wore short gingham kiddie dresses and carried signs on their backs telling about the opening. He engaged several hay-racks, which carried advertisements announcing that all patrons who called the American Theatre would be given a free ride to the house to see the picture.

Fifteen Cleveland Houses Offer "Melody Ranch"

CLEVELAND—Fifteen neighborhood houses cooperated in a day-and-date engagement of "Melody Ranch," starring Gene Autry. A giant newspaper ad was preceded by teaser ads in selling the show.

Motion picture pages of the dailies ran photos and stories a month in advance, and the local radio station carrying the Autry Sunday night broadcasts plugged the engagement well in advance.

Special flash lobby displays were constructed in all 15 theatres.



A Means to Bulk Sales—

A specimen of the Kiddie Check (printed up on check book paper) that the Stanley-Warner houses in and about Philadelphia have been using with considerable success. In this particular instance, Manager William E. Yurasko of the Sedgwick Theatre in Philadelphia effected a tieup with a local music house that now mails out the checks to youngsters on their birthdays. The merchant stands all expense of mailing. The Kiddie Checks have been sold in books to parents; to philanthropists who treat the inmates of children's homes and the like; and to cooperating merchants for their mailing lists.

FOUR WIVES—Passes to people submitting the most novel birth announcements. Paste up as a lobby display.

A contest in the newspaper hunting the town's largest family. They submit family group photos and the winning group is guest of the theatre.

Two girls canvassed houses, asking: "Pardon me, but could you tell me what picture is starting at the (theatre) on (playdate)?" When the householder fumbled, the ladies chirped, "Sorry, if you had told me it was 'Four Wives' I would have given you a pass to see it."

MR. AND MRS. SMITH—Guest tickets to the Smiths in the phone book. A newspaper contest "What do you think are the ten best rules for married couples?" Ducats to the 25 best letters. A committee of six bachelors were the judges.

THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WANTED—A large placard in a jewelry store window read: "'They Knew What They Wanted' so they went to (name of store)."

THE LETTER—A giant postcard in the lobby addressed to Bette Davis, inviting patrons to sign their names under the following message: "The undersigned patrons of this theatre after seeing your great performance in 'The Letter' feel that you are again the leading contender for the Academy Award honors . . ."

SECOND CHORUS—Two dancing instructors taken to a nearby encampment to demonstrate the new number "Dig-It" introduced in the film, to the soldiers. Also dance contest held on the stage.

KITTY FOYLE—Breakfast show for white collar girls. Coffee and doughnuts served after screening. Five thousand blotters in offices. Busses and taxis placarded. Fashion stills in dress and hat shops.

KITTY FOYLE—A baggage truck, promoted from Railway Express and painted up for the occasion, loaded with several trunks, also promoted, made a lobby display. Large tags on the trunks read: "'Kitty Foyle'—in care of the (theatre name)." This was three weeks in advance. The second week large cards on the truck read "'Kitty Foyle' is coming soon." The final week the cards read "'Kitty Foyle' is coming Friday."

KITTY FOYLE—A fashion show was sponsored by a local fur and dress shop, featuring the gowns worn in the film. A book window tieup including stills, with a department store.

ESCAPE—Chained to the boxoffice was a man dressed in convict suit and a card next to him informing: "I tried to escape to see 'Escape'."

LITTLE NELLIE KELLY—A little girl from an orphanage was selected as a "lady-for-a-day," outfitted, driven about in a chauffeured limousine, received the keys to the city from the mayor and had a luncheon tendered her. All the dailies covered the stunt.

DR. KILDARE'S CRISIS—Man in doctor's attire, with medical bag and various instruments handed out 3,000 name cards, reading "Dr. James Kildare. Office hours 11 A. M.—10 P. M. daily." Theatre advertising on inside of paper fold. Love quiz from press book over radio three days.

DOWN ARGENTINE WAY—Title was lettered in red ink on a newspaper and a boy carried it on board street cars at busy times.

ARISE, MY LOVE—A bed in the lobby with the figure of a girl lying in it. A standee of Ray Milland with arm outstretched, at end of bed, beckoning to arise. A night table with a lamp and clock, cold cream jar and lipstick nearby complete the display. Card gives cast and title.

SANDY GETS HER MAN—A three-or-four-year-old youngster delivered an invitation to the newly elected fire chief and his staff, to attend the showing as guests of the theatre. Taking a reporter along netted a two-column picture in the paper.

HE STAYED FOR BREAKFAST—A local photographer took pictures of patrons free in lobby. Ladies photographed at a breakfast table with a cut-out of Melvyn Douglas seated opposite. Men photographed at the table with a cut-out of Loretta Young opposite them. Over 1,200 were taken, developed and mailed to the patrons several days before the opening of the picture, at no cost to the theatre.

DISPATCH FROM REUTER'S—A flash front made up by the use of newspaper headlines and action photos. Also pictures of famous pigeons secured from a local Homing Pigeon Club. Display slanted to show the different methods of gathering news, from pigeon to modern newspaper.

LUCKY PARTNERS—A board in the lobby displayed various "good luck" charms on it. Copy read: "Bring in a lucky charm different from any of those posted on this board and you will receive a free ticket to see 'Lucky Partners.'"

LAND OF LIBERTY—Newspapers cooperated with special British War Relief editions, devoting front page to picture. Mayor issued proclamation urging attendance. Leading organizations participated in activities. Newspapers carried no price tags, but asked readers to pay as much as they chose for the special edition. Proceeds of the performance went to war relief agencies.

PHILADELPHIA STORY—Fifteen merchants tied in on an eight-page newspaper section which carried scenes on the picture and their ads. The theatre provided several passes to go to those finding their names in the ads.

HERE COMES THE NAVY—An usher, dressed as a sailor, went about town placarded: "See the entire U. S. Fleet thunder into action in (title, cast, playdate)."

ARIZONA—A letter from the governor of Arizona to the mayor of Sheboygan, on the occasion of the film's booking here, was reprinted in the papers.

FLIGHT COMMAND—A print of the film arranged to come in by air, with a committee of the local Aviation Club meeting the plane. News stories and pictures made the papers.

FLIGHT COMMAND—Model airplanes, appropriately lettered, hanging from the ceiling in advance of run.

HONOR ROLL

Showmen whose exploitation activities flank this column.

Jimmy Ashcraft
Metro exploiteer
Ben Cohn, C. Demos
Frolic, Chicago
George W. Coleman
Arcade, Springfield, Mass.
M. Conner, M. J. Gorman
Sheboygan, Sheboygan, Wis.
Jack Driscoll
Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wis.
J. C. Ebersberger
Rex, Sheboygan, Wis.
Stanley Gross
Rio, Appleton, Wis.
E. D. Hopson
Oakland Square, Chicago
Len Howard, Larry Schulz
Princess, Milwaukee
Bob Kennedy
Symphony, Chicago
Graham Kislingbury
Fox, San Francisco
R. Lee Kline
Orpheum, Philadelphia
Bill Lansburg
Paramount exploiteer,
Kansas City, Mo.
Tony Masella
Globe, Bridgeport, Conn.
Al Meskis, Bob Haggith
National, Milwaukee
Charlie Moyer
State, Hanover, Pa.
Frank Murphy
Loew's, Syracuse, N. Y.
Louis E. Nye
Gateway, Kenosha, Wis.
Earl Ochenbine
State, East Liverpool, Ohio
Bill Pierce, Walter Blaney jr.
Savoy, Milwaukee
Robert Sidman
Senate, Harrisburg, Pa.
Ed Vaughn
Chief, Greeley, Colo.
John Walsh
Fulton, Pittsburgh

Opinions on the Current Short Subjects

SHORTS REVIEWS

The Rodeo Goes to Town

20th-Fox (Sports Review) 10 *Mins.*

Fair. Behind-the-scenes activities of men and animals that make rodeos an exciting spectacle. Cowboys rehearse quadrilles, break broncs, bulldog steers, rope calves. And, later, they open at Madison Square Garden.

What a Little Sneeze Will Do

20th-Fox (Terry-Toon) 7 *Mins.*

Average. A cartoon pig sneezes and is beset by friends who offer all sorts of aid. He arrives home loaded down with bottles, pillboxes. He even dreams of bottles and pillboxes. At length, he awakes. Never once is it unfamiliar.

Forbidden Passage

M-G-M (Crime Does Not Pay) 21 *Mins.*

Fair dramatic offering. Dealing with the smuggling into this country of aliens who are sometimes dumped overboard when the immigration service grows hot on the chase, this subject warns that it is better to await a quota number than risk sub rosa transportation and illegal entry.

Gene Krupa and His Orchestra

Paramount (Headliner) 11 *Mins.*

Good band item. Gene Krupa beats out hot licks on the skins, the rest of the band makes hot jive and a boy and girl sing capably. "Perfidia" is the number best played. Others are "Jungle Madness," "Call of the Canyon," and "Hamtramck." The jitterbugs will jitter.

More About Nostradamus

M-G-M (Miniature) 11 *Mins.*

First rate. The 16th century doctor whose "future book" called the turn on many world-shaking events is glossed over biographically and more of his predictions are shown in relation to present day developments. This is the kind of stuff, it seems, that audiences relish.

Red Men on Parade

M-G-M (FitzPatrick Traveltalk) 9 *Mins.*

Good. Ceremonies, dances and an exhibition of Indian arts and crafts at a recent annual inter-tribal meeting in New Mexico has been fashioned into a colorful, interesting short. The Technicolor footage concludes with a rodeo.

Third Dimensional Murder

M-G-M (Special-Metroscopix) 7 *Mins.*

Excellent. Once this was called Audioscopicks. Under the new name it is just as potent entertainment, as likely to shake the house loose from the foundations when the shrieks and howls start coming. Pete Smith goes out into the night to investigate a murder. Arriving at an old house he almost runs into a fallen telegraph pole (first shriek), an old witch thrusts a spider into his face, Frankenstein reaches for him, a skeleton looms menacingly, Frankenstein hurls masonry from a roof then molten lead, then a huge pot. By this time Smith is ready for the booby hatch and is apparently headed that way when the skeleton removes its skull and hurls it straight at Smith who is also the eye of the camera. It comes with colored glasses. Can't miss.

Whispers

M-G-M (Passing Parade) 10 *Mins.*

Eyeopening topic. There should be a fine response to this short. Dealing with the tragedy, results and slick purposes on which whispering campaigns have been launched, herein is shown a brief insight on how it is done amateurishly and professionally to befuddle the fools who would lend an ear. It has that "different" quality.

: WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS :

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Movietone News, No. 45

Willkie returns; Annapolis graduations; British aircraft carrier in Mediterranean; Churchill and Hopkins in Scotland; king and queen meet flyers; Greek relief show in film capital; army tests new midget cars; baseball players in golf contest; Seabiscuit statue unveiled; Miami regatta.

News of the Day, No. 243

War in East Africa; "Ark Royal" in Mediterranean; English troops in training; Greek relief show; Willkie returns; Annapolis graduations; midget cars tested by army; Seabiscuit statue unveiled; yachting at Miami; baseball players shoot golf.

Paramount News, No. 48

Seabiscuit statue unveiled; Greek relief show on coast; Japanese envoy arrives; bomber crashes in Nevada; new postal truck; sound and motion mural unveiled in Radio City; Willkie returns; British drive in Africa.

RKO Pathe News, No. 48

Willkie returns; British troops in Africa; name new chief of fleet; Winant named English ambassador; Japan's envoy arrives; graduations at Annapolis; Greek war show; Cleveland boy returns from Siberian prison; new postoffice truck; unveil Seabiscuit statue; Miami yachting.

Universal Newsreel, No. 953

Willkie returns; Winant named English envoy; Japanese ambassador arrives; Annapolis graduations; midget army cars tested by army; new mail bus tried out; Greek war relief show; golf; Seabiscuit statute unveiled; yachting; skiing.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Movietone News, No. 46

Willkie in Washington; British freighter capsizes; explosion in Philadelphia; dog sent to enlisted soldier; carnival to aid Britain; dog show; marines practice parachute jumping; ski meet in Michigan.

News of the Day, No. 244

Willkie testifies before senate; British ship capsizes; dog follows soldier in army; marines in sky maneuvers; amateur boxing matches; skiing; dog show.

Paramount News, No. 49

Army bombers in Porto Rico; blast in Philadelphia; Arkansas town used as artillery target; dog and master in reunion; nurses join Red Cross; war cameraman returns; Willkie a senate witness; dog show.

RKO Pathe News, No. 49

Willkie in Washington; British ship capsizes; dog show; Chicago explosion; Polar Bear Clubbers go swimming; biggest army camp in work in Florida; soccer in Garden debut; skiing.

Universal Newsreel, No. 954

Willkie urges more aid to Britain; Philadelphia explosion; Chicago blast; marines in air maneuvers; carnival to aid Britain; fly dog to master; soccer at the Garden; baseball players at Hot Springs; swimming in Lake Michigan; dog show.

FRIENDLY SERVICE SAVES TIME AND MONEY AT Postal Telegraph

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EXHIBITORS!

JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THIS FREE OFFER!

"ARMY ON WHEELS" Tie in with National defense! Give 'em a seat on the firing line. They'll charge your box office to see Uncle Sam's army in action! It's timely! It's patriotic! It's official! (one reel).

"WHEELS ACROSS INDIA" There's never been a jungle picture like this one! A white man gambled his life to make it! It'll be the talk of your town. Intrigue! Thrills! Suspense! (two reels).

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BOOKING CHART

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ☺ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JULY 13		12 Drama 44 **Sporting Blood** (82) Robert Young Maureen O'Sullivan R—July 13		12 Western 3959 **Stagecoach War** (63) R—July 6 Bill Boyd Russell Hayden		12 Com. Drama 039 **Cross Country Romance** (68) Gene Raymond Wendy Barrie R—June 29	12 Drama 046 **Manhattan Heartbeat** (71) V. Gilmore R. Sterling R-June 8			13 Drama FN454 ☺**All This, and Heaven Too** (143) Bette Davis Charles Boyer R—June 22	
JULY 20	18 Drama 1038 **Military Academy** (66) T. Kelly R-July 13 24 Adventure 1110 **I Married Adventure** (78) R-July 20	19 Com. Drama 45 **We Who Are Young** (79) Lana Turner John Shelton R—July 20	16 Mystery 3910 **Haunted House** (70) R—Aug. 3 15 Melodrama 4020 **Boys of the City** East Side Kids (63) R—Aug. 31		20 Comedy 909 **Scatterbrain** (72) Judy Canova R—July 13 15 Western 944 **Carolina Moon** (65) G. Autry R—July 20	19 Drama 029 **Tom Brown's School Days** (82) James Lydon Fred. Bartholomew Cedric Hardwicke R—June 29	19 Drama 050 ⊙**Maryland** (91) Walter Brennan Fay Bainter Brenda Joyce R—July 13	18 Melodrama **South of Pago Pago** (97) Victor McLaglen Jon Hall Francis Farmer R—July 20	19 Melodrama 4057 **Black Diamonds** (52) R—July 27 26 Western 4064 **Son of Roaring Dan** (64) R—Aug. 17 Johnny Mack Brown	20 Com. with Mu. WB407 **My Love Came Back** (85) R—July 6 Olivia de Havilland Jeffrey Lynn	20 Western 1 **Billy the Kid Ou** lawed (55) Bob Steele
JULY 27	25 Comedy 1012 **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (70) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 27	26 Com. Drama 47 **Gold Rush Maisie** (82) Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	29 Melodrama 4024 **Orphans of the North** (57) R—Nov. 9 29 Western 3957 **Rainbow Over the Range** (59) T. Ritter R-Aug. 10	26 Drama 3941 ⊙**Untamed** (83) Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	30 Drama 904 **Girl from God's Country** (71) R—Jul 27 Chester Morris	26 Western 085 **Stage to Chino** (59) G.O'Brien R-Aug. 24 26 Com. Drama 037 **Millionaires in Prison** (63) L. Tracy R-June 29			26 Com. Dr. 4023 **You're Not So Tough** (72) R—June 1 26 Outd'r Dr. 4006 **When Daltons Rode** (81) R—Aug. 3	27 Comedy FN474 **Ladies Must Live** (58) Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		2 Costume Com. 46 ☺**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	5 Melodrama 3908 **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	2 Melodrama 3942 **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	30 Western 956 **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R-July 27	2 Drama 061 ⊙**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov.26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	2 Drama 101 **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		2 M'drama 4039 **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	3 Drama FN460 **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	3 Western 1 **Gun Code** (55) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	7 Drama 1008 **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama 50 **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama 3943 **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical 910 **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama 042 **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama 104 **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy 4003 **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram WB414 **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama 1039 **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 16 Western 2201 **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy 49 **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama 3913 **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 Western 3958 **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	16 Comery 3944 **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western 071 **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama 041 **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama 103 ⊙**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama WB417 **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama 1006 **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama 3939 **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western RB-1 **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama 3945 **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda 171 **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama 043 **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R-Aug. 24	23 Drama 106 **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. WB412 **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama 48 **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama 3903 **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 23		29 Western 068 **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy 046 **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners** (101) R.Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy 109 **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama WB401 **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 Mystery 1 **Marked Men** (69) Warren Hull R—Feb. 1—PG-18
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy 1022 **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama 101 **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama 3920 **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. 4001 **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western 043 **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama 101 **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	6 Melodrama 110 **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (92) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. 5013 **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. WB519 **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama 2033 **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama 1024 **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama 017 **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept 14	13 Comedy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	18 Comedy 105 **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. 5006 **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama 5051 **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 Comedy FN554 **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 ☺**The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	30 Mus. Com. 104 **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama 4021 **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jorden R—Oct. 5	20 Drama 4002 **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western 086 **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Act. Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama 5020 **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 Western 5061 **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 Drama WB506 **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 Western 1 **Arizona Gang Busters** (60) Tim McCoy
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 1040 **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery 105 **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama 4003 **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western 062 **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. 5001 **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin		30 Western 1 **Billy the Kid in Texas** (55) Bob Steele

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama 4004 **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 Western 072 **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western 181 **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama 5018 **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Dr'ma 2018 **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western RB-2 **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 Drama 4005 **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 Mus. Com. 005 **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 Burl. Com. 105 **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R-Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 Mus. Com. 113 **Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 Melodrama 5017 **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 Comedy FN559 **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama 2030 **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows R—Feb. 1—PG-18		7 Com. Dr. 4010 **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 Drama 4006 **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 Mus. Com. 001 **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 Melodrama 107 **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama 114 **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 Western 5062 **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. WB511 **Dispatch from Reuters** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama 3038 **Girls Under 21** (64) R—Nov. 30 21 Western 2202 **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy 109 **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 Drama 4007 **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 28 Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	21 Western 052 **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 Melodrama 104 **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 Comedy 111 **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy 5024 **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 Drama 5007 **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	26 Com. Dr. FN561 **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy 2016 **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama 106 **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 Musical 4008 **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 Mystery 006 **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 Comedy 109 **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 Comedy 5036 **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 Melodrama 5052 **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	2 Comedy FN570 **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical 110 **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western 4051 **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 Musical 4009 **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 Mus. Comedy 007 **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 Comedy 106 **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 Melodrama 117 **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy 5021 **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 Western 5063 **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama FN562 **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	
NOV. 16	14 Western 2210 **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama 111 **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery 4012 **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western 4050 **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western 063 **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy 111 **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama 102 **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		16 Drama 5015 **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama WB513 **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Geraldine Fitzgerald R—Dec. 21	11 Western 1 **Riders of Black Mountain** (59) Tim McCoy
NOV. 23	23 Mystery 2021 **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30 28 Drama 2012 **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30	22 Comedy 112 **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 Western RB-3 **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western 041 **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 22 Western 073 **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. 108 **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy 119 **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy 5023 **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama R5048 **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama FN552 **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	30 Mystery 2024 **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 115 **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 Comedy 018 **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karns R—Nov. 30	29 Drama 113 **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama 120 **Tin Pan Alley** (94) R—Nov. 30 Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable	29 Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy 5010 **Bank Dick, The** (72) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama WB512 **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western 2208 **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy 114 **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. 4011 **Night at Earl Carroll's, A** (63) Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western 053 **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western 182 **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama 118 **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy 5026 **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy FN571 **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	
DEC. 14	9 Drama 2031 **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama 113 **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		13 Western 4012 **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy 008 **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery 121 **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama 5008 **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Com. Mys. 1 **Devil Bat** (69) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 21	20 Mystery 2033 **Phantom Submarine** (70) Anita Louise R—Feb. 26—PG-30			27 Outd'r Dr. 3046 **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama 009 **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama 114 **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	20 Comedy 122 **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama 5025 **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 Reissue **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Drama 1 **Misbehaving Husbands** (66) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	26 Outd'r Dr. 2101 **Arizona** (128) R—Nov. 23 31 Western 2211 **Wildcat of Tuscon** (57) Bill Elliott R—Feb. 26—PG-30	27 Comedy 116 **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 Drama 4003 **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western 4052 **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) R—Feb. 1—PG-17	27 Comedy 4013 **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western 064 **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 112 **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	27 Drama 123 **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Com. 5018 **Invisible Woman** (72) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan 4—PG-1	28 Adv. Dr. FN551 **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Western 1 **Billy the Kid's Gu Justice** (63) Bob Steele

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JAN. 4	2 Comedy **2205** **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama **117** **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical **4014** **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama **019** **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 Drama **161** **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	3 Drama **115** **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama **5030** **Where Did You Get That Girl** (65) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama **5053** **Lucky Devils** (62)	4 M'drama **WB503** **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	
JAN. 11	9 Western **2204** **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett R—Feb. 8—PG-23	20 Com. Drama **118** **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western **RB-4** **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (60) Range Busters	10 Western **4051** **Doomed Caravan** (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 Western **074** **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 Drama **110** **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama **124** **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western **5064** **Boss of Bullion City** (59) 10 Drama **5027** **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama **FN572** **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon R—Feb. 1—PG-19	10 Western **Lone Rider Rides** (64) George Houston
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. **2029** **Face Behind the Mask** (69) Peter Lorre R—Feb. 15—PG-26	17 Drama **119** **Philadelphia Story** (112) R—Nov. 30 Katharine Hepburn Cary Grant	15 Mystery **Dead Man's Shoes** (..) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 Drama **4015** **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western **054** **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers **R—Jan. 18—PG-10**	17 Musical **115** **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama **125** **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 Comedy **5022** **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (62) Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Dr. **WB510** **Honeymoon for Three** (76) George Brent R—Jan. 25—PG-13	17 Comedy **Caught in the Ac** (62) Henry Armetta
JAN. 25		24 **Comedy** **121** **Wild Man of Borneo** (78) R-Feb. 8-PG-24 24 Historical **Land of Liberty** (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	20 Melodrama **4014** **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 Comedy **4016** **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (82) R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western **044** **Riding on a Rainbow** (79) Gene Autry R—Feb. 1—PG-19	24 **Mystery** **116** **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama **128** **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (78) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 25—PG-14	24 Comedy **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carol Landis R—Feb. 15—PG-25		25 Drama **FN556** **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western **Billy the Kid's Range War** (..) Bob Steele
FEB. 1	3 Melodrama **2028** **The Devil Commands** (65) Boris Karloff R—Feb. 22—PG-31	31 Drama **122** **Come Live With Me** (86) James Stewart R—Feb. 1—PG-17			28 Comedy **010** **Arkansas Judge** (72) Weaver Bros. R—Jan. 25—PG-14	31 **Comedy** **117** **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard R—Jan. 23—PG-13	31 **Drama** **127** **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Comedy **5011** **Buck Privates** (84) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello R—Feb. 8—PG-22	1 Drama **WB520** **Father's Son** (57) John Litel Frieda Inescort R—Feb. 22—PG-31	31 Mystery **Secret Evidence** (6 Marjorie Reynolds Chas. Quigley R—Feb. 8—PG-23
FEB. 8	13 Western **2212** **Across the Sierra** (58) Bill Elliott	7 Comedy **123** **Blonde Inspiration** (72) John Shelton R—Feb. 22—PG-30	6 Western **4053** **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (..) Tex Ritter	7 Mus. Com. **4017** **You're the One** (81) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker R—Feb. 8—PG-21	31 Comedy **020** **Petticoat Politics** (67) Higgins Family R—Feb. 22—PG-31	7 Western **183** **Along the Rio Grande** (64) Tim Holt R—Feb. 1—PG-20	7 Comedy **129** **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (59) Eugene Pallette R—Feb. 15—PG-25		7 Drama **5002** **Back Street** (89) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer R—Feb. 8—PG-21	8 Drama **WB514** **Flight From Destiny** (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	18 Drama **Adam Had Four Sons** (..) Warner Baxter R—Feb. 22—PG-32	14 Drama **125** **Trial of Mary Dugan** (90) Robert Young R—Feb. 15—PG-28		14 Mystery **4018** **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone R—Feb. 15—PG-26	14 Western **075** **Phantom Cowboy** (56) Don "Red" Barry	14 Drama **121** **Play Girl** (77) Kay Francis James Ellison R—Dec. 14	14 Com. Drama **130** **Golden Hoofs** (67) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers R—Feb. 22—PG-29	14 Drama **So Ends Our Night** (121) Fredric March Margaret Sullavan R—Feb. 1—PG-20	14 Comedy **Meet the Chump** (60) Hugh Herbert R—Feb. 15—PG-28	15 Comedy **WB515** **The Great Mr. Nobody** (71) Eddie Albert Joan Leslie	
FEB. 22	20 **Drama** **Meet Boston Blackie** (..) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson	21 Comedy **126** **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (..) Mickey Rooney	19 Air Drama **Flying Wild** (..) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan	21 Drama **4019** **Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	16 Western **065** **Prairie Pioneers** (57) Three Mesquiteers	21 Com. Drama **123** **Scattergood Baines** (69) Guy Kibbee R—Feb. 15—PG-27	21 Drama **126** **Western Union** (95) Robert Young R—Feb. 8—PG-24		21 Mus. Comedy **Nice Girl** (..) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone	22 Com. Dr. **FN559** **Strawberry Blonde** (91) James Cagney Olivia de Havilland R—Feb. 22—PG-29	
MAR. 1	27 **Comedy** **Blondie Goes Latin** (70) R-Feb.22 PG-32 27 Western **2205** **Outlaws of the Panhandle** (59) Charles Starrett	28 Com. Drama **127** **Free and Easy** (..) Ruth Hussey Robert Cummings	28 Drama **Sign of the Wolf** (..) Grace Bradley	28 Western **4052** **In Old Colorado** (..) William Boyd	27 Drama **011** **A Man Betrayed** (..) John Wayne Frances Dee	28 Drama **118** **Citizen Kane** (..) Orson Welles Dorothy Comingore	28 Mystery **132** **Murder Among Friends** (..) John Hubbard Marjorie Weaver	1 Comedy **The Great Dictator** (129) R—Oct. 26 R—Oct. 26 Charles Chaplin Jack Oakie Paulette Goddard	28 Drama **5040** **Dark Streets of Cairo** (..) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7	1 Mys. Drama **Shadows on the Stairs** (..) Frieda Inescort Paul Cavanagh	28 Western **Lone Rider Crosse the Rio** (..) George Houston
MAR. 8	28 Drama **2044** **Missing Ten Days** 6 Mystery **Lone Wolf Takes a Chance** (..)	7 Drama **128** **Rage in Heaven** (..) Robert Montgomery Ingrid Bergman		7 Comedy **4020** **Hard Boiled Canary** (79) Allan Jones Susanna Foster	28 Act. Drama **021** **Great Train Robbery** (..) Bob Steele Claire Carleton		7 Drama **133** **Tobacco Road** (..) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau		7 **Comedy** **Mr. Dynamite** (..) Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey	8 Mys. Drama **Footsteps in the Dark** (..) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall	7 Western **Outlaws of the Ri Grande** (..) Tim McCoy
MAR. 15	13 Com. Drama **Penny Serenade** (..) Cary Grant Irene Dunne	14 Drama **124** **The Bad Man** (..) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore			14 Western **045** **Back in the Saddle** (..) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	14 Comedy **120** **A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (..) George Murphy Lucille Ball	14 Drama **134** **Sleepers West** (..) Lloyd Nolan Lynn Bari		14 Comedy **Model Wife** (..) Joan Blondell Dick Powell	15 Comedy **Here Comes Happiness** (..) Mildred Coles Edward Norris	
MAR. 22		21 Musical **Ziegfeld Girl** (..) Judy Garland James Stewart Hedy Lamarr		21 Comedy **Lady Eve** (97) Barbara Stanwyck Henry Fonda		21 Musical **119** **Footlight Fever** (..) Alan Mowbray Donald McBride	21 Drama **135** **The Outlaw** (..) Walter Huston Thomas Mitchell		21 Drama **Double Date** (..) Peggy Moran Edmund Lowe	22 Drama **The Sea Wolf** (..) Edw. G. Robinson Ida Lupino John Garfield	22 Western **Billy the Kid's Trigger Pals** (..) Bob Steele
MAR. 29	24 Mys. Drama **Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery** (..) Ralph Bellamy	28 Drama **The Penalty** (..) Lionel Barrymore Edward Arnold Gene Reynolds		28 Musical **Las Vegas Nights** (..) Phil Regan Tommy Dorsey	27 Drama **Mr. District Attorney** (..) Dennis O'Keefe Florence Rice	28 Drama **124** **Melody for Three** (..) Jean Hersholt	28 Mystery **136** **Dead Men Tell** (..) Sidney Toler Jean Rogers			29 Drama **Knockout** (..) Arthur Kennedy Olympe Bradna	29 Drama **Federal Fugitives** (..)
APR. 5	31 Western **North From the Lone Star** (..) Bill Elliott			4 Western **Border Vigilantes** (..) William Boyd	30 Comedy **Sis Hopkins** (..) Judy Canova 1 Western **In Old Cheyenne**	4 Drama **125** **Repent at Leisure** (..) Kent Taylor Wendy Barrie	4 Mystery **131** **Scotland Yard** (..) John Loder Nancy Kelly Edmund Gwenn		4 Melodrama **Mutiny in the Arctic** (..) Richard Arlen 4 Mystery		

Looking Ahead at Forthcoming Pictures Now in the Making

PRODUCTION INDEX

COMPANY	TITLE	TYPE	STARS	THUMBNAIL SYNOPSIS	RELEASE DATE
COLUMBIA					
	A Girl's Best Friend Is Wall Street	Comedy	Franchot Tone Joan Bennett John Hubbard	This tells of a Wall Street telephone operator who plays the financial and matrimonial game all backward, but who nevertheless walks off with a fortune and the street's most eligible young broker. Richard Wallace, director.	Not Set
	Her First Beau	Romance	Jane Withers Jackie Cooper Edith Fellows	From the stage play, "June Mad," this deals with young love in the springtime, and its comic and dramatic developments. J. Theodore Reed, director.	Not Set
	Texas	Western	William Holden	Semi-historical western tracing the growth of the Lone Star State. George Marshall, director.	Not Set
	Under Age	Melodrama	Nan Grey Alan Baxter Mary Anderson	Drama of a blackmail ring operating behind a cross-country chain of motels. Edward Dmytryk, director.	Not Set
M-G-M					
	Blossoms in the Dust	Drama	Greer Garson Walter Pidgeon Marsha Hunt	Based on the life of Mrs. Edna Gladney, founder of the Texas Children's Home and Aid Society. Mervyn LeRoy, director.	Not Set
	Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Drama	Spencer Tracy Ingrid Bergman Lana Turner	From Robert Louis Stevenson's fantastic story of the doctor, respected and eminent, who discovers a concoction whereby he turns into a lustful, murderous beast. Victor Fleming, director.	Not Set
	Lady Be Good	Musical	Ann Sothern Eleanor Powell Lionel Barrymore	Adapted from the hit stage play of the same title, with a musical score by George Gershwin. Busby Berkeley, director.	Not Set
	Love Crazy	Comedy	William Powell Myrna Loy Gail Patrick	William Powell and Myrna Loy portray a scrapping married couple who go to the divorce courts over absurd quarrels, and reconcile in the nick of time. Jack Conway, director.	Not Set
	Smilin' Through	Musical	Jeanette MacDonald	From the famous stage production, made once as a silent film and once as a talking picture. Director not set.	Not Set
MONOGRAM					
	The Pioneers	Western	Tex Ritter Slim Andrews	Semi-historical western, adapted from a novel by James Fenimore Cooper. Director not set.	Not Set
	Tumbledown Ranch in Arizona	Western	Ray Corrigan John King Max Terhune	Another in the series of sagebrushers relating the adventures of "The Range Busters." S. Roy Luby, director.	Not Set
PARAMOUNT					
	Aloma of the South Seas	Romance	Dorothy Lamour Jon Hall	Remake of a silent screen success, with a tropical locale, and being filmed in Technicolor. Al Santell, director.	Not Set
	Kiss the Boys Goodbye	Comedy	Don Ameche Mary Martin Oscar Levant	In which the frantic search for an actress to portray Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With the Wind" is satirized. From the Clare Booth play. Victor Schertzinger, director.	Not Set
	Little Miss Muffett	Comedy	Anne Shirley	Comedy with a West Point background. Robert Siodmak, director.	Not Set
	The Night of January 16	Mystery	Ellen Drew Robert Preston Nils Asther	Concerns the murder of a world-famed industrialist. Ellen Drew is an innocent suspect. William Clemens, director.	Not Set
	The Pioneer Woman	Western	Barbara Stanwyck Joel McCrea Brian Donlevy	Historical western glorifying the women who fought and worked side by side with their frontiersmen husbands. William A. Wellman, director.	Not Set
	Power Dive	Aviation Drama	Richard Arlen Jean Parker Roger Pryor	First in a projected series of three aviation adventures starring Richard Arlen. James Hogan, director.	Not Set
REPUBLIC					
	In Old Cheyenne	Western	Roy Rogers George Hayes	In which Roy Rogers continues to thwart villainy on the plains. Joseph Kane, director.	Not Set
	Mr. District Attorney	Drama	Dennis O'Keefe Florence Rice Peter Lorre	First in a proposed series adapted from the popular radio program by Phillips Lord. William Morgan, director.	Mar. 27

COMPANY	TITLE	TYPE	STARS	THUMBNAIL SYNOPSIS	RELEASE DATE
	Lady From New Orleans	Drama	Ona Munson John Wayne	Concerns a lady from the wrong side of the tracks who reaches the pinnacle of old New Orleans society, then topples back into oblivion. John H. Auer, director.	Not Set
	Rookies on Parade	Musical	Not Set	Musical comedy with a conscription camp background. Director not set.	Not Set
RKO RADIO					
	Before the Fact	Drama	Cary Grant Joan Fontaine	Murder mystery, its locale the English countryside. Alfred Hitchcock, director.	Not Set
	My Life With Caroline	Comedy	Ronald Colman Anna Lee	Sophisticated comedy, a remake of a French farce. Lewis Milestone, director.	Not Set
	Repent at Leisure	Comedy	Kent Taylor Wendy Barrie George Barbier	Story of a hasty weddin gand the serio-comic consequences. Frank Woodruff, director.	April 4
	Tom, Dick and Harry	Comedy	Ginger Rogers George Murphy Alan Marshal	Ginger Rogers has three prospective husbands to choose from—a glib salesman, a wealthy sportsman and a poor but fascinating service station attendant. Garson Kanin, director.	Not Set
20TH-FOX					
	The Great American Broadcast	Musical	Alice Faye Cesar Romero Jack Oakie	Cavalcade of the growth of radio, incorporating many past and present song hits. Archie Mayo, director.	Not Set
UNITED ARTISTS					
	New Wine	Musical	Ilona Massey Binnie Barnes Alan Curtis	Concerning the life and romance of Composer Franz Schubert. Reinhold Schunzel, director.	Not Set
	Strange Victory	Drama	Martha Scott	Relates the romance between the governess of a wealthy man's ward and the man himself. Director not set.	Not Set
UNIVERSAL					
	The Black Cat	Mystery Comedy	Hugh Herbert	Screwball mystery comedy with Hugh Herbert toplining the cast. Al Rogell, director.	Not Set
	Double Date	Comedy	Edmund Lowe Una Merkel Rand Brooks Peggy Moran	Edmund Lowe and Una Merkle, next-door neighbors, are in love with each other but meet opposition when Lowe's son and Miss Merkel's niece try to stop them from marrying. Glenn Tryon, director.	Mar. 21
	The Man Who Lost Himself	Drama	Brian Aherne Kay Francis Henry Stephenson	Brian Aherne essays a dual role in this story of a neglected wife, her wastrel husband and an ingratiating stranger who is the husband's exact double. Edward Ludwig, director.	Apr. 25
	Oh, Charlie	Comedy	Bud Abbott Lou Costello Richard Carlson	In which Abbott and Costello fall heirs to a roadhouse, which they discover to be haunted. Arthur Lubin, director.	May 30
	Unfinished Business	Comedy	Irene Dunne Robert Montgomery Preston Foster	Sophisticated comedy of domestic entanglements, produced and directed by Gregory LaCava, who made "My Man Godfrey."	Aug. 15
WARNER					
	The Gentle People	Drama	Ida Lupino Thomas Mitchell John Qualen	Adapted from the play by Irwin Shaw, this is the story of tenement folk who rise in wrath to destroy a gangster. Anatole Litvak, director.	Not Set
	Highway West	Melodrama	Brenda Marshall William Lundigan Olympe Bradna	Action takes place in an auto camp along Highway 99, the famed transcontinental route. William McGann, director.	Not Set
	The Nurse's Secret	Drama	Lee Patrick Regis Toomey	Murder mystery, its locale a hospital, this is adapted from a story by Mary Roberts Rinehart. Noel Smith, director.	Not Set
	Sergeant York	Biography	Gary Cooper Joan Leslie Walter Brennan	Life story of Sergeant Alvin York, famed American hero of the first World War. Howard Hawks, director.	Not Set
	Three Sons o' Guns	Comedy	Wayne Morris Lucille Fairbanks Arthur Kennedy	Deals with conscription and life in a defense camp. Ben Stoloff, director.	Not Set

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The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

MARCH 1, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION



The MODERN THEATRE



WHEN ONE SHOWMAN MEETS ANOTHER!



Here's looking at you, Joe!
Down the hatch, Ben!
Ah . . . h . . . h!
Um . . . m . . . m! (*Two of the same, please.*)
How's tricks?
That's easy . . . I've got M-G-M!
Lucky you, Joe!
Don't I know it, Ben!
They're pretty HOT right now.
Never better, I'm doing okay.
Holding over "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary"?
You bet! It's the best yet!
They claim every Hardy is the best yet!
They generally do—and they generally *are*!

(Have another, Joe?
Don't mind if I do, Ben!)

It's amazing how that M-G-M crowd keep it up.
Well, that's an old story.
But when you think of just the past few weeks—
Yes, it's been a merry-go-round since Christmas!
"Comrade X" and "Flight Command," for instance?
"Philadelphia Story," "Come Live With Me" too.



How does the Spring stuff look, Joe?
On paper March and April look terrific!
And they'll probably look colossal on the screen!
Wally Beery's "Bad Man" for instance, to start.
And "Ziegfeld Girl"—I hear it's the last word!
The reports say it's better than "Great Ziegfeld"!



(Fill 'em up please!
Happy days!)

Who's in it, Joe?
Jimmy Stewart, Garland, Lamarr, Lana Turner.
Oh boy!
And just about 50 others! And the songs are great!
I'll bet it's an eyeful!
Sure, and just when you think they can't top it—
You mean a *bigger* show?
I think "Men of Boys Town" will top 'em all!
Tracy and Rooney again?
Exactly! Reliable sources tell me it's sensational!.
Gosh, y' gotta hand it to that outfit!
Greatest in the history of show business!
And Friendly!
You said it!

(One more, Ben?
Okay Joe, nightcap.)



BOXOFFICE *The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

Hang On And Enjoy It

IF YOU accept the results of the survey, what stems out of it is much on the interesting side.

First, the survey. Conducted by the National Radio Film Commentators' Circle, headed by David Lowe of Station WNEW in New York, it appears eighty-seven per cent of sponsored film commentators on the air are engaged by exhibitors for that job. Polled were one hundred and seventy-eight film chatterers appearing over stations in all of the states, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

Secondly, conclusions. Whether resigned to it or discouraged about further fighting is not easily determinable, but the fact is the theatreman has been singularly quiet of late on the subject of radio competition. This checkup, on the other side of the picture, would seem to indicate he is getting smart about a situation that has riled him for years.

And, thirdly, the moral: If he can't stop the sails of the windmill from moving with the breeze, he might just as well hang on and enjoy the ride.

There is a parallel for this. In the earlier days of broadcasting, probably no single group waged more of a determined fight against newscasting than the newspaper publishers. They were, of course, worried about encroachments on their circulation and their reprisals took form in whittling down space devoted to radio in their own columns; there, at least, was one effective means at their disposal.

Then the Swing

RADIO grew, and rapidly. And to a point where newspaper owners, being smart about this matter anyway, decided to tie in. The outcome was purchase in wholesale of radio stations so that today an interesting proportion of the slightly less than one thousand broadcasting outlets around the country is owned by the daily press.

Obviously, there is a lesson here for the picture business. In fact, that lesson apparently is partially learned, as the tally of the commentators' circle indicates. This reminds, too, of a handful of remarks which found their way onto this page several weeks ago relative to the undoubted, rising tide of television.

Your observer then recommended that full attention be paid to the development. He suggested a courtship on the basis of winning the girl and, if not that, of becoming one of her very good boy friends. With radio, it's the identical idea. If the two mediums continue to work together, as frequently they have in the past and as inevitably they must in the future, a mutuality keyed to both points of view can, and will, result.

From Texas

THIS desk's mailbag disgorges a variety of matters. Business beefs by individually disgruntled exhibitors, ideas on the impractical side. Frequently, serious and thoughtful observations like one from Roy L. Walker, president of the Theatre Owners Protective Ass'n, Texas affiliate of the MPTOA. The typewriter now defers to his:

"I was just wondering if it has ever occurred to you the great joke in this consent decree.

"First: The suit was brought to divorce distribution from exhibition. The consent decree legalizes distributor-owned theatres and gives them the right to acquire more theatres if necessary to protect their investment.

"Second: The suit was brought to abolish block booking of pictures, and the decree legalizes block booking. Of course, they put a limit, but, nevertheless, it is block booking. Not only legalizes the five distributors in the selling in block, it authorized the continuance of the suit against the other three for selling in block.

"Third: The suit was brought against the eight companies claiming they had a monopoly of the business, and the consent decree gives the five companies a complete monopoly on seventy-five per cent of feature production and eighty-seven and one half per cent of the gross income.

"In my limited experience as an attorney, I never heard of a suit being brought alleging certain things to be illegal and then, by agreement, those very things receiving the approval of the department of justice.

"Just my idea handed to you for what it is worth."

MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

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LIGHTNING LIQUIDATION AIMED UNDER BLOCKS OF FIVE SALES

Scramble for Playdates Seen; Stress on Quick Deals Anticipated

NEW YORK—The fastest liquidation of product that the industry has ever known appears to be moving out of the realm of the speculative into the realm of the expected once new selling under the decree gets actively under way.

Experts in distribution, admittedly guessing largely about actual procedure via the new system, are beginning to envision the wildest sort of scramble for playdates. With five companies under the cloak of the decree—they are, of course, Loew's, Paramount, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warner—and five out—they are Columbia, Monogram, Republic, UA and Universal—the expectation is that the sales force which gets the playing time will be the one that strikes deals with the exhibitor first. Nobody is going to wait, the presumption goes.

Will Apply to All

All of this naturally applies to those theatre accounts not identified with the five consenting majors. And, exempted, also, are closed towns where the situation naturally is pretty much in the hands of the controlling theatreman. But in competitive situations the expectancy is that the average operator will have the widest product availabilities that probably he has experienced in his history.

In a number of directions, considerable attention continues to be directed toward the working out of a feasible plan whereby blocks of five can be sold with actual theatre dates. One hurdle in this connection is the difficulty of fixing the length of key runs while, obviously without this information, dates for all runs beyond key engagements cannot be set by the calendar. What may come out, however, is an endeavor to work out a scheme under which the idea of making film deals, plus actual dates, can be crystallized the moment the termination of the key run is determined.

Sees Price Determining

One attorney who had been active during the NRA days and latterly on the decree feels the present clearance system is "unscientific" and predicts a "radical change." He foresees the new order predicated on price rather than clearance and feels that this easily could result in switches in product from one theatre to another so that the public, accustomed to seeing one line of product in a given theatre, may find that same product playing a theatre which did not previously run it. Further, he views it as a distinct possibility that mediocre product playing a given theatre may be eliminated, to some extent, on the ground such given theatre will no

(Continued on page 22)

AAA Panels Rise To Total of 558

New York—The American Arbitration Association has designated an initial panel of 15 arbitrators in New Haven and 10 in Seattle, bringing its appointive list thus far throughout the United States to 558. There will be additions in these two cities as in the other 27 thus far named. Albany and Indianapolis are yet to come.

UA Discussing Series Of Regional Meetings

NEW YORK—UA sales executives are discussing a series of regional meetings with plans to be decided in the next few weeks. Last year, two meetings were held, one in Chicago and the other in New York.

Product details have not been completed, as yet. Murray Silverstone has been on the coast the past few weeks contacting UA producers on their plans for the coming year.

Richard A. Rowland, who recently completed "Cheers for Miss Bishop," and Dave Loew and Albert Lewin, who made "So Ends Our Night," have returned to California after making trips to the field in connection with their pictures.

Re-Trial of Gov't Charges Pondered

NEW YORK—Responsible legal opinion reads into a triple damage suit for $900,000 filed by the Hillside Amusement Co., operating the Mayfair at Hillside, N. J., against the majors, their subsidiaries and the Hays organization the possibility of compelling the company defendants to defend many of the charges filed against them in the all-industry suit.

This interpretation traces to the employment, in almost identical language, of the government's original complaint by the plaintiff.

It is pointed out that, while theatre divorcement is not possible for a single plaintiff to seek, action at large against the majors on this point might follow if the court should rule for the suing party in this instance.

The Hillside Amusement action is being brought, curiously enough, by a firm of lawyers whose senior member is also a man named Hays. The firm is Hays, Podell and Shulman and the Podell in it is David L., former assistant to the attorney general and at one time connected with the

(Continued on page 22)

Way Out for "Sneak" Previews Seen Feasible Under Decree

NEW YORK—Although strict adherence to the decree indicates the "Big Five" would be precluded from indulging in sneak previews to the extent currently practiced, circumvention is possible if they show the film in advance at one of their own affiliated theatres or publicly label it a roadshow attraction, according to authoritative interpretation.

Section III of the decree explicitly states no consenting defendant "shall license or offer for license a feature motion picture for public exhibition within the United States of America at which an admission fee is to be charged until the feature has been trade shown within the exchange district in which the public exhibition is to be held."

Impliedly, at least, this section would prohibit sneaks before typical audiences which pay an admission. However, the "Big Five" in all probability need not concern themselves with this section if they show a film in advance of general release at their own theatres, because they are not even bound to trade show in advance to their own theatres' film buyers.

Section XIV of the decree states: "Nothing contained in this decree shall be construed to limit or affect the right of any distributor defendant, prior to the general release of a motion picture, to roadshow such picture or to license or otherwise arrange for the roadshowing of such picture upon such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the distributor." Road show is defined in the decree as "an exhibition at a theatre where a majority of the main floor seats for each evening performance are reserved and sold at an admission price of not less than $1."

Thus, if any of the "Big Five" should desire to sneak preview a film that falls into this category the theory goes it is free to do so without violating the decree.

Monogram's Financing Deal Almost Complete

NEW YORK—Negotiations for the financing of Monogram's 1941-42 production budget are nearing completion with Pathe Laboratories slated to provide the necessary funds. W. Ray Johnston, president, and Trem Carr, director, have been in town the past two weeks on the discussions, which are to wind up next week.

20th CENTURY-FOX

is proud to announce the release of TOBACCO ROAD. By its very history as a play, it comes to the screen as one of the greatest theatrical properties of all time. 20th Century-Fox is happy that you who will play this attraction will derive profits measured only by its importance.


At Last ....
It's on the Sc
TOBACC
with CHARLEY
GRAPEWIN · RAMBEAU · TIER
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O ROAD
PRODUCED BY
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Sensible of the importance of this property, 20th Century-Fox protected its production as a motion picture with every possible value. The result is an authentic triumph for the motion picture art. You, as an exhibitor, will be proud to share in one of this industry's historic accomplishments.

Litho U.S.A.

Columnists Treating Films More Kindly

NEW YORK—The country's newspaper columnists, as a trend, displayed the most markedly increased favorable comment toward the industry during 1940, registering 27.8 per cent of the total, as compared with 23.7 per cent in the two preceding years. The annual analysis of press comment computed by the MPPDA reveals this.

Last year favorable press comment of an all-inclusive nature was tabulated at 61.9 per cent out of a possible 100 per cent, running second to a high of 65.3 per cent in 1939. The third best year was 1938, with 60.9 per cent.

Observing high points of favorable press comment that led to 1939 taking first place were the industry's 50th anniversary campaign while 1938 was helped along with the "Motion Pictures Are Your Greatest Entertainment" plan, the report notes that in 1940 there was no such promotional campaign.

A breakdown of press attitude toward the industry last year is cited as follows: The first three months got off to a favorable start as a result of the campaign against the Neely bill. Added factors in March were three speeches by Will H. Hays and the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences awards. Some adverse comment on "Primrose Path" and "Strange Cargo" was "lost in the chorus of favorable press reactions to industry activities as a whole," the report states.

Adverse criticism loomed large for May, principally as a result of an article in the *Saturday Evening Post* by Samuel Goldwyn criticizing giveaways, double features and other industry practices; comment by Jimmy Fidler on what he called "another cycle of risque pictures," and a speech by David O. Selznick in the course of which he said that low-grade pictures of popular appeal, referred to elsewhere as "trash," helped to pay for better pictures of smaller drawing power at the box-office.

In addition to the customary summer doldrums, there was some criticism of propaganda in newsreels in June and more along the lines advanced by Goldwyn and Fidler in both June and July. The latter month also brought unfavorable comment on a release from the treasury department on the salaries paid to leading industry figures. A drop in August was due in part to comment by the Dies committee on "Reds" in Hollywood, further comment on disproportionate salaries and the Gallup poll made at the request of Goldwyn.

One of the factors responsible for the rise of favorable comment in September, which continued into October, was the statement by Hays outlining fall product. The banning of "The Ramparts We Watch" in Pennsylvania brought industry support by editorial writers who condemned censorship. These continued into October. Another favorable factor was the speech delivered by Hays before the DAR at French Lick, Ind.

These favorable items are alleged in the report to have offset adverse comment occasioned by criticism of too much drinking depicted in films, alleged PCA laxity in certain pictures, and the statement of Rev. John J. McClafferty to the Legion of Decency meeting in Richmond that "there is a retrogression toward accepting immoral situations as permissible" on the screen.

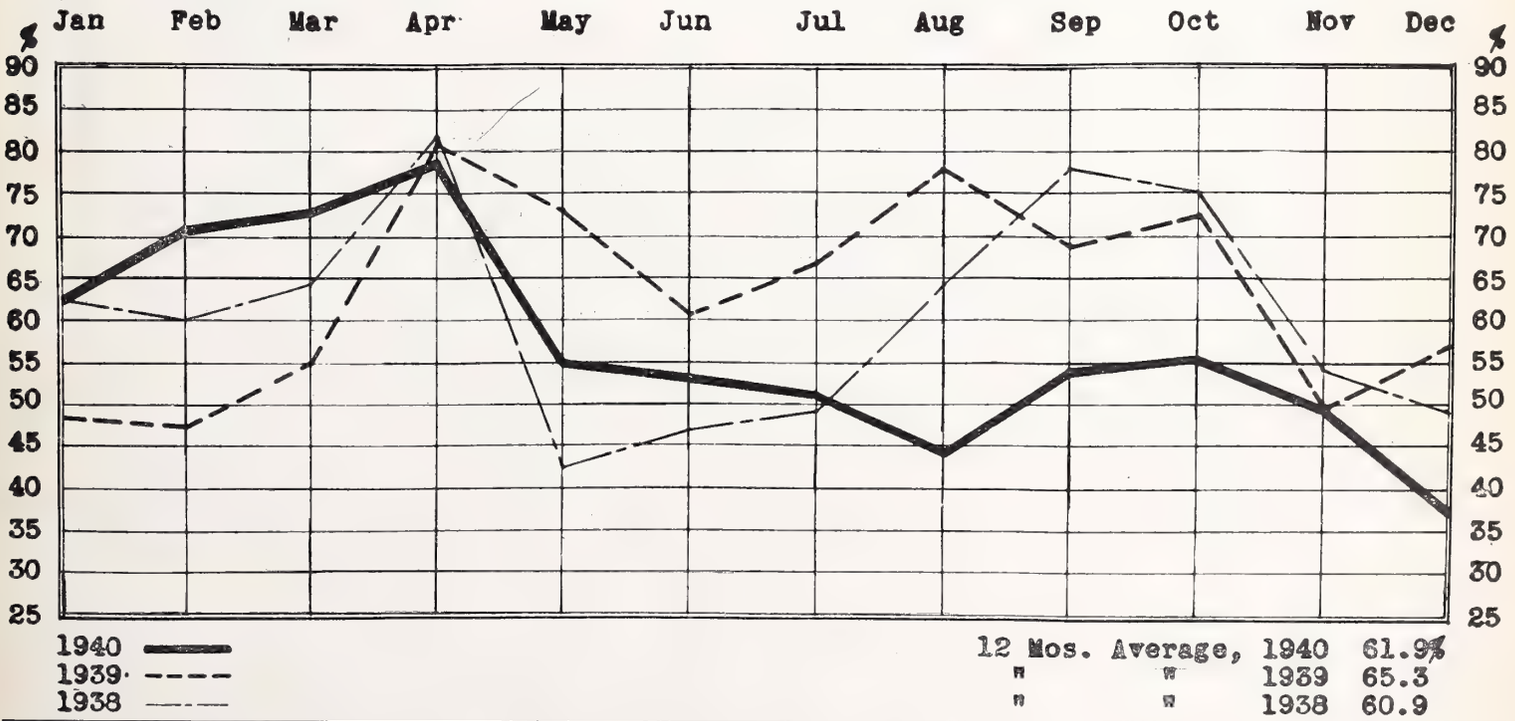
A drop in November was due to several influences, chief among which was the protest by Archbishops of the Catholic Church against what they termed the "increasingly objectionable tendencies which lately have become manifest in films." When the LOD renewed its pledge in December to attend only pictures on the organization's national list there was further comment on the Bishops' criticism. Criticism of PCA rulings continued in November and December.

The survey notes that the beginning of 1941 shows a "sharp rise" in favorable comment due largely to the "Land of Liberty" campaign and Hays' letter to Senator Burton K. Wheeler categorically denying that "the motion picture industry is carrying on a violent propaganda campaign intending to incite the American people to the point where they will become involved in a war."

Ceremonies to Mark Appeals Board Debut

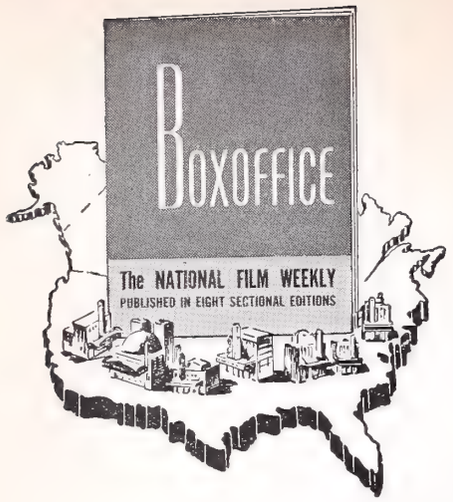
NEW YORK—Formal opening of the arbitration appeals board offices on the 12th floor of the RCA Building will take place March 12 with the AAA tendering a reception in the afternoon to Van Vechten Veeder, George W. Alger and Albert Putnam to which exhibitor leaders from this area and ranking sales executives of the "Big Five" have been invited.

The exhibitors, both affiliated and independent, will include: Joseph Bernhard, Warner; Harry Brandt; Lawrence Bolognino, Consolidated; Leo Brecher; Max Cohen, Cinema Circuit; Sam Dembow, Leon Netter and Leonard Goldenson, Paramount; Si Fabian; Al Hovel, Century; Joseph R. Vogel and Charles C. Moskowitz, Loew's; John J. O'Connor, RKO; Walter Reade; Samuel Rinzler, Randforce; Leon Rosenblatt, Rosenblatt & Welt; Joe Seider, Prudential Playhouses; George P. Skouras, Spyros Skouras, and Sam Strassberg, Interboro Circuit.



It Was Most Favorable in April: Then It Slid—

This graph traces the course of press comment on the industry for the last three years. The high point in 1940 *was reached in April in the trail of Will Hays' annual report. An MPPDA analysis reveals* 36.3 *per cent of the published material was editorial,* 27.8 *per cent columnist and* 35.9 *per cent news. In* 1939, *it was* 45.1 *per cent editorial,* 23.7 *per cent columnist and* 31.2 *per cent news. In* 1938, 52.2 *per cent editorial,* 23.7 *per cent columnist and* 24.1 *per cent news.*



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IN CANADA

CALGARY—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
HAMILTON—20 Holton, N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON—97 Adelaide St., S., John Gore.
MONTREAL—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Walnut 5519.
REGINA—The Leader-Post. Bruce Peacock.
ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings., C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

JOE BERNHARD was telling the AMPA he would like to read something on the plus side of the business. No doubt, he will be interested in a roundup of ideas which appeared recently in the magazine of the National Board of Review.

Those thoughts hold together because they make sense. And, while it is nice to be able to accommodate Joe, what follows makes this column for reasons beyond courtesy. As, hopefully, you will note:

"Whatever we are in politics, world events are making our producers isolationists to the extent that the business they have to attend to is pretty much here at home. Our own audiences, being about all they can conveniently reach, are all they have to please. With some adjustments to counter balance the shrinking, or vanishing, of old world income, they appear to be going ahead with schedules as ambitious as ever, which will be necessary to keep the theatre supplied with attractive entertainment if the generally expected boom in earnings among their countrymen makes more, or more frequent, moviegoers. Unless the trade prophets are whistling hopefully for their own morale, [we interject to remark they positively are not] we'll have plenty of movies this year and movies made chiefly for our own pleasure, without too many bows, either complimentary or conciliatory, to foreign customers."

That's good point number one. Further:

"There's the consent decree to put into working order and the result of it in production and distribution still to be seen. What it will mean to the public is all in the future, with perhaps some disillusionment among people who think their own private complaints can be settled by legislation. Other troubles are sure to spring up; the picture industry has always been the whipping boy for all ports of dissatisfactions and, though it isn't a boy any longer, it's still one of our most convenient scapegoats. The congenital grandma never realizes when a little boy has grown up. And the movies are always at hand for anyone with an axe to grind or bury in something. [And that sounds as if someone's been reading our mind, not to ignore BOXOFFICE]."

Discussing propaganda, the article correctly points out films may have to struggle for their freedom "along with other means by which men express themselves" and observes: "But we find it hard to believe, that the excesses of the last war will be repeated." For ourselves, we wish we could be more certain.

On the production situation at large, the verdict is 1940 was an assuring promise for 1941. Also:

"Intelligence and respect for intelligence exist plentifully in Hollywood and any howler who denies it just doesn't get around much among the theatres. Look at either boxoffice or critics' polls for the last year, compare the product of the American studios with the product of any other industry that depends on mass consumption to keep it going and no reasonable person has any ground for complaint."

Aside to Bernhard: Feeling any better now?

Re Arbitration

FROM an unnamed city comes the reaction of an executive of a large corporation who had been asked to join the arbitration panel in his city:

"Not me. It might interfere with a deal involving thousands for my own company, not to mention the fact I know nothing about the film business and no one could conscientiously render a sensible and unbiased opinion without knowing the inside workings of that business."

Many within the industry, of course, are troubled by the same possibility.

When the New York panel was inducted, Paul Felix Warburg, chairman of the AAA administrative committee on arbitration under the decree, expressed full confidence that arbitrators are equal to the responsibility of giving fair decisions. "The decisions you will reach will be based entirely on horse sense," said he.

Many within the industry are counting on that.

Thin Under the Skin

THE dictators are no fellows to be laughed off easily. Yet there comes a time when the fury of their ideology ends in amusing results. Witness the dispatch from Rome wherein Paolo Lorenzino, nephew of the late Carlo Lorenzino, author of "Pinocchio," asked the Italian ministry of popular (?) culture to sue Walt Disney for libel. The charge would be a distortion of the Pinocchio character by tuning up the long-nosed one in a manner which would mistake him for an American.

If there is any conclusion in this, it would be that the Italians can't take it. See the headlines of your local newspaper, too.



JANE RUSSELL and JACK BUETEL

The two most thrilling star-discoveries in years
. . . brought to the screen by Howard Hughes,
they mean new life-blood to your business!

Printed in U.S.A.

The Lady Known as Rio...

AND THE WEST'S MOST FAMOUS BAD MAN!



The OUTLAW

The Story of Billy the Kid

Produced and directed by

HOWARD HUGHES

with

THOMAS MITCHELL · WALTER HUSTON

The last time *Howard Hughes* said he had someone to show you, he gave you two new stars . . . *Jean Harlow* and *Paul Muni*. Now he makes the same promise again and—

presents

JANE RUSSELL · JACK BUETEL

Story and Screen Play by Jules Furthman

Photography by Gregg Toland, ASC

Released through Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp.

What They'll Make For "U" Next Year

NEW YORK—Cast assignments in Universal's 1941-42 program as revealed in the company's lineup follow:

Abbott & Costello—Starred in "Ride 'Em Cowboy" and "They're in the Navy Now."

Baby Sandy—Starred in two unnamed, featured in "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break."

Charles Boyer—Co-starred with Margaret Sullavan in one unnamed.

Johnny Mack Brown—Starred in seven unnamed westerns.

Carol Bruce—Featured in one unnamed.

Virginia Bruce—Co-starred in one unnamed with Franchot Tone.

Butch and Buddy—Featured in "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break."

Broderick Crawford—Featured in two, one being "The Black Cat."

Leo Carrillo—Co-starred with Dick Foran and Andy Devine in seven action films: "Beyond the Pampas," "In Old Monterey," "Viva, Pancho!," "Sunset on the Sierras," "Dons of San Marcos," "The Fighting Padre" and "The Americanos."

Dead End Kids—Co-starred with Little Tough Guys in two unnamed.

Andy Devine—Co-starred with Dick Foran and Leo Carrillo in "Beyond the Pampas," "In Old Monterey," "Viva, Pancho!," "Sunset on the Sierras," "Dons of San Marcos," "The Fighting Padre" and "The Americanos."

Marlene Dietrich—Starred in "Hilo Hattie."

Irene Dunne—Starred in one unnamed.

Deanna Durbin—Starred in two unnamed.

W. C. Fields—Starred in "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break."

Dick Foran—Co-starred with Leo Carrillo and Andy Devine in "Beyond the Pampas," "In Old Monterey," "Viva, Pancho!," "Sunset on the Sierras," "Dons of San Marcos," 'The Fighting Padre" and "The Americanos."

Anne Gwynne—Featured in "The Black Cat."

Hugh Herbert—Starred in "Hello Sucker" and "Man or Mouse," featured in "The Black Cat."

Gloria Jean—Starred in "Straight From the Heart," featured in "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break."

Fuzzy Knight—Featured in seven westerns, as yet unnamed.

Charles Laughton—Starred in "Almost an Angel."

Little Tough Guys—Co-starred with the Dead End Kids in two, titles not yet set.

Carole Lombard—Starred in one unnamed.

Nell O'Day—Featured in seven undesignated westerns.

Olsen & Johnson—Featured in "Hellzapoppin'."

George Raft—Starred in one unnamed.

Basil Rathbone—Starred in "The Black Cat."

Margaret Sullavan—Co-starred in one with Charles Boyer and a second with Franchot Tone, both unnamed.

Franchot Tone—Co-starred in two, one with Margaret Sullavan and the other with Virginia Bruce, both unnamed.

Rudy Vallee—Starred in "Radio Follies."

Loretta Young—Starred in one unnamed.

Nine O'Clock Plan Reaches Albany

Albany, N. Y.—One of the first known instances of the extension of the so-called 9 o'clock plan on duals beyond New York is in effect at Fabian's Palace. Designed to meet objections of single feature adherents in double feature houses, the idea, of course, is to screen the top picture at 9 p. m., thereby allowing an early getaway from the theatre. The Palace launched the idea with "This Thing Called Love" Monday through Wednesday.

Set Up Field Men To Handle Shorts

NEW YORK—Six district representatives for special handling of shorts under the decree have been appointed by Oscar A. Morgan, Paramount head of that department and the newsreel.

Richard Scheinbaum has the Chicago district; James Harris, Boston; J. J. Curry, Los Angeles; Ed Ugast, New York; Saul Jacobs, Philadelphia; Max Stahl, Cleveland.

Other appointments are being made for Atlanta, Dallas, Kansas City and Denver.

Curry had been with the company as branch manager in Oklahoma City before retiring due to ill health. He has recovered sufficiently to return to the field.

Scheinbaum and Harris have been salesmen with the company since 1933, the former in Milwaukee and Indianapolis, and Harris in Boston.

Ugast, before joining UA and RKO foreign departments, was ad sales supervisor at Paramount under Mel Sauer and James Clark, later going into the foreign department.

Jacobs has served as general manager for Paramount in Trinidad, while Stahl was formerly with UA, Educational and recently an exhibitor in the Illinois territory.

Several weeks ago Manny Reiner, who has been with M-G-M, Warner, Monogram and publicity head for the Quiz Kids, was named publicity and advertising manager for the department, with Monroe Goodman, formerly assistant to Morgan when he was southern division manager, as Morgan's assistant.

On Again; Boren Asks U. S. Probe

WASHINGTON—The first congressional attack of 1941 on the film industry was launched by Oklahoma's Representative Lyle H. Boren (Dem.), who introduced a resolution calling for the creation of a special committee to investigate the industry.

Specifically, Boren would have five members of the House probe the practices and methods involved in the production, sale, leasing, distribution and exhibition of pictures, but he would also have the inquiry extend to the use of films as a medium "for influencing economic, political and social patterns of American life."

The Oklahoma Congressman has for some years been on the Neely bandwagon, and at one time last Congress was considering the introduction of his own legislation, which would entirely reorganize the industry. The bill never was submitted to the House, but Boren took an active part in the hearings on the Neely bill before the House interstate and foreign commerce committee, of which he is a member.

So far, there has been little indication that Administration leaders in Congress will be sympathetic to any investigations other than those involving national defense matters and that attitude, together with a feeling that the industry ought to be left alone until the effects of the consent decree can be gauged, is seen as making adoption of the Boren resolution difficult.

Harry M. Durning Elected Director of Atlas Corp.

NEW YORK—Harry M. Durning, collector of the port of New York, has been elected a director of Atlas Corp., which holds substantial interests in Paramount and RKO. He is also chairman of the finance committee of the New York Fire Insurance Co., and a director of several other corporations, including the Howe Sound Co., Underwood-Elliott-Fisher Co., Telautograph Corp. and the Permutit Co.

It's Up to Hollywood

New York—The deciding factor in MPTOA's openly expressed desire to hold its annual convention in Hollywood rests with the majors' attitude toward throwing open the studio gates and preview doors to the members who attend. This is something they are known to be opposed to on general grounds.

The organization presumably could justify the imposition of the extra expense of the coast trek upon its members if it promised them the first intimate glimpse of the product they will be getting under blocks of five selling, but needs the studios' sanction for this. MPTOA leaders feel, it is said, such a conclave would be highly successful for this reason. In all probability the session, if finally decided for Hollywood, could not be held until at least the middle of May, at which time some of the 1941-42 product will have reached the camera stage.

Flashes From the News Front

Clearance Plaint in Evansville, Wis.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.—Evansville Theatre, Inc., operator of the Rex in Evansville, Wis., has complained to the arbitration board that Paramount is giving unreasonable clearance to the Jeffris in Janesville, Wis., operated by the Jeffris Theatre Co. This is the first arbitration action in the Milwaukee territory.

Interstate Dismissal Motion Denied

BOSTON — A motion of the Interstate Theatre Corp. that the U. S. district court of Vermont dismiss the anti-trust suit brought against it by Tegu's Palace Theatre, Inc., on the ground Interstate does not transact business in Vermont, was denied by Federal Judge Harland B. Howe.

Try Cassil Suit March 10

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—The $452,775 anti-trust damage suit by the Frank Cassils against Dubinsky Bros. Enterprises and major distributors alleging conspiracy to prevent the Cassils from obtaining first-run product, probably will be tried at the federal court term here beginning March 10, Judge Otis has indicated.

Two Tax Measures Fail

LINCOLN, NEB.—The Nebraska legislature rejected two measures leveled at the industry. One was a proposal to tax every 10-cent or fraction of ticket cost, 10 per cent. This was to apply to cosmetics, gasoline, soft drinks and cigarettes as well. The other bill would have licensed all exchanges in the state $1,000 annually, and $1 per reel for each one distributed in the state.

Television to Get FCC Eye

NEW YORK—The next hearing before the FCC in Washington on March 20 is expected to revolve about the setting of television standards and rules of commercialization.

To Show How Majors "Dominate" Industry

WASHINGTON—The major companies exemplify one of a number of methods by which large organizations dominate whole industries, the temporary national economic committee is to be told in a monograph now being prepared by its economic staff.

The report, now nearing completion, is expected to present an exhaustive study of the industry as it operated prior to the consent decree, as an example of the ability of a few large corporations to control a whole field of industrial activity.

Although the TNEC did not include motion pictures in the several major industries which it probed in its investigation of monopoly, it was held by economists on the staff to be one in which study would pay a rich reward.

Title-Protection Suit

PHILADELPHIA—Warner, in a move to protect its production of "One Foot in Heaven," best-seller by Hartzell Spence, has filed an action in common pleas court here for an injunction to restrain Macre-Smith, Philadelphia publishers, from publishing a book by Percival Christopher Wren under the title, "Two Feet From Heaven." Warner's complaint asserts the Wren title is being used to gain the goodwill established by the Spence title and that the public will be deceived into believing the forthcoming film is based upon the Wren book.

Anti-Decree Hearing March 5

MINNEAPOLIS—The first public hearing on Northwest Allied's anti-consent decree bill will be held by a Minnesota state senate committee, Wednesday, March 5. The measure would require distributors in Minnesota to offer for license their company's entire season's product output.

In this issue . . .

The MODERN THEATRE

WEATHER-MAKING: "The Refrigerative Form of Air Conditioning for Theatres"

*

SLUM CLEARANCE: "Apartment Villages in Large Cities Create Ready-made Movie Sites"

*

WARNING: "Give Us Fresh Air!—or elsewhere we'll go for it"

*

MATERIALS: "Porcelains, Glasses and Plastics—Our Modern Allies"

*

ASSEMBLY: "Co-ordination of Parts Makes a Competent Air Conditioning System"

*

PLANT TOUR: "A Peep Into the Fiery Furnace and the Production of Plate Glass"

*

PLANNING: "An Experienced Showman Builds a Theatre of Quality and Good Taste"

*

FLOOR COVERINGS: "Theatre Carpet Buyers Should Become Style and Beauty Conscious"

*

CINE CLINIC: "A Good Doctor Diagnoses the Ailment Ere He Starts Dosing It"

*

SHOW WINDOW: "News of What's New in Theatre Equipment"

Aims New Ascap Blow

RALEIGH, N. C.—Ascap and other such organizations would be subject to a maximum of $300 in fees and 15 per cent of gross intake under the terms of a bill being prepared for introduction in the house by Representative Ed T. Tonissen of Charlotte. The measure would impose a $100 annual state license fee, plus 15 per cent of the gross, and would permit county and city governments each to levy a similar license fee at their discretion.

Buys Canadian Bonds

NEW YORK—Warner is the first distributor known to have purchased Canadian war bonds which the Canadian government is suggesting each company with interests in that country take up to $100,000 each. While Warner, which took $25,000 worth, is the first under the wire, it is said in responsible quarters that it is only a matter of a short time before each of the other distributors will take substantial blocks of the suggested quota.

More Kansas Restrictions

TOPEKA, KAS.—Senate Bill 240, introduced in the Kansas legislature by Senator Dale, applying to small theatres, has the new provision that when a theatre has a single aisle, in the middle, the aisle must be 44 inches wide, and no more than six seats may intervene between any seat and the aisle.

Delay "Doe" L. A. Bow

LOS ANGELES—Local premiere of "Meet John Doe" at the Warner and Downtown simultaneously has been deferred from March 6 to March 12. The New York opening at the Rivoli and Hollywood on Broadway will be about the same time, depending on the run of "Back Street" at the Rivoli. The Hollywood thus reverts to its original name.

Hears Defense in Crescent Action

NASHVILLE—Defendants' motions objecting to most of the charges against them as "irrelevant and immaterial" were heard Monday by Federal Judge Elmer D. Davis in the government's anti-trust suit against the Crescent Amusement Co., et al. The plea for the defense was made by George H. Armistead jr. at the hearing, which was moved up four days from the date originally set.

Overruling by the judge of the defendants' plea would clear the case of all pending motions and pave the way for a hearing of the suit on its merits.

On the same day, Judge Davis heard the plea of "Little 3" attorneys seeking the dismissal of Columbia, Universal and United Artists from the suit. There was no intimation as to when a ruling on the plea would be made.

What the Studios Are Doing

Republic Schedule Sharp Boost Over Last Year

HOLLYWOOD—The $15,000,000 production budget for 1941-42, announced for Republic by Herbert J. Yates, board chairman, and James R. Grainger, president, represents an increase of approximately 50 per cent above 1940-41 expenditures. The line-up of features is boosted four over the current season's 62. The new schedule includes 32 westerns and four serials. The complete list of titles will be announced at a New York regional meeting, after parleys have been held in Kansas City and Atlanta. Earlier, Yates had announced plans to expend $100,000 on fan magazine advertising, first time the company has used this medium, and $400,000 in trade paper advertising for Republic's 1941-42 product . . . Following the four regional meetings, Yates, Grainger and a representative of Donahue & Coe, advertising agency handling the Republic account, will visit 33 key American and six key Canadian cities, meeting with exhibitors, distributors, newspapermen and others to discuss the company's plans for next year . . . Some 50 western territory exchange managers, bookers and salesmen attended the local meeting.

Production at High Pitch as March Opens

March is roaring in like a lion insofar as production pace is concerned. Set for camera work thus far this month are 34 features, with nine more already set to follow in April . . . Leading the pack is Paramount, with eight starters . . . In second spot are Columbia, Republic and Warner, with four each . ... 20th Century-Fox will roll three, as will United Artists and M-G-M . . . Universal and RKO Radio have two each on schedule and Monogram is preparing one.

Release Violations Change Academy News Rules

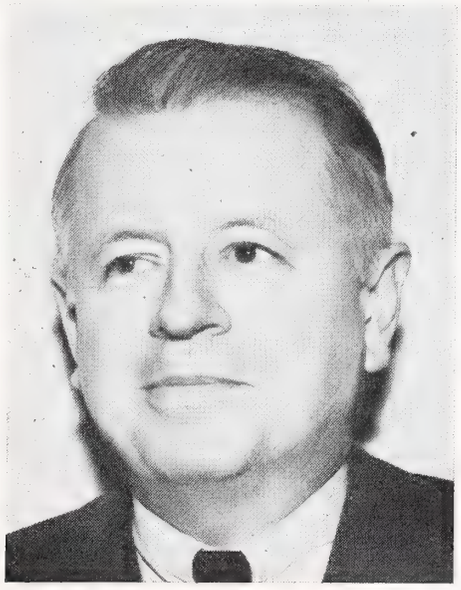
Because, in the past, certain publications violated specified release dates on advance information concerning winners of the various Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences handled the affair differently at its 13th annual Awards banquet, February 27 . . . No advance announcement was given the press, which did not know who the winners in any classification were until the Oscars were presented from the rostrum.

No Change Planned In Sneak Previews

Although a comparatively obscure consent decree clause may, a strict interpretation might indicate, affect Hollywood's so-called sneak previews, no change is contemplated in the system by which unbiased audience reaction to new product is gained. That is the consensus among studio publicity directors and executive personnel who have studied the clause, which rules no motion picture may be screened, for profit, before exhibitors have seen it at a formal trade showing . . . Those in authority hold that the phrase "for profit" eliminates sneaks from the ruling because studios do not charge rental for the film being previewed, the producer receives no profit and any additional revenue resulting from the showing goes to the theatre operator . . . They point out also the name of the sneak is never advertised, and in the majority of instances the distribution branch of the company involved is not even notified such a screening has been scheduled.

Writers Ask $150 Minimum; Metro on Story-Buying Spree

The Screen Writers Guild will request a $150 minimum weekly salary for film scripters when negotiations with producers for a new basic agreement begin shortly . . . M-G-M went on a story-purchasing spree to bob up with "Cimarron" and "Rio Rita," both of which it bought from RKO Radio . . . "If Winter Comes," by A. S. M. Hutchinson, from David O. Selznick . . . "Odor of Violets" from Baynard Kendrick . . . "The Road Away From Home," from Richard English and Clifford Dowdey . . . "Southern Cross," by Osso and Edgar Van Eyss, went to Columbia . . . Warner bought Stephen Longstreet's "The Gay Sisters" to star Bette Davis . . . John T. Neville's "I Give My Life" went to Producer E. B. Derr . . . RKO Radio grabbed "Journey Into Fear," a novel by Eric Ambler, and will star Michele Morgan, with David Hempstead producing.



Re-elected—

Y. Frank Freeman will guide the destinies of the producers association for a second term. As its president he serves as "spokesman" for Hollywood in all official matters. Freeman is a Paramount vice-president and is in charge of studio operations for that company.

20th-Fox LeBaron Pact Runs for Two Years

Twentieth Century-Fox's contract with William LeBaron, recently-resigned Paramount executive producer, runs two years. He will head a production unit . . . Paramount ticketed Rufus LeMaire as aide to B. G. DeSylva, new executive producer . . . Producers Releasing Corp., spurred by a $1,000,000 trade deal wherein Consolidated Film Industries will finance and process its 1941-42 schedule, is readying a picture-making boom which will find three features and two westerns rolling this month. . . . George W. Weeks, producer of the "Range Busters" westerns for Monogram, will produce an additional series of eight sagebrushers, to be called "The Four Horsemen," for the 1941-42 program . . . Major-General J. O. Mauborgne, chief signal officer of the U. S. Army, spent two days here viewing two completed training shorts made for the War Department by the Academy Research Council. Darryl F. Zanuck, lieutenant-colonel in the signal corps and in charge of production of the training films, accompanied General Mauborgne back to Washington to deliver the shorts.

Sandrich Helms Crosby's Next; Title-Changers Still Busy

Paramount has assigned Mark Sandrich to produce and direct an untitled Irving Berlin musical in which Bing Crosby will be starred . . . Ralph Murphy will direct "Twin Beds" for Edward Small, to be released by United Artists . . . Kenneth Macgowan draws the production reins on 20th Century-Fox's "Flight Surgeon" . . . Vincent Sherman is piloting Warner's anti-Nazi story, "Underground" . . . Title-changers revised Paramount's "Little Miss Muffett" to "Nurses Don't Tell," while Columbia's "Show Business" is now known as "Time Out for Rhythm" . . . Paramount's horror entry, "Among the Living," will be directed by Stuart Heisler.

Silks and Sables For "John Doe"

Silk hats and sables will be taken out of the mothballs by Hollywood's elite when Warner gives the Frank Capra-Robert Riskin production, "Meet John Doe," its world premiere at the Hollywood Theatre here March 12. The reserved-seat affair will precede day-date showings, at advanced prices, at the Hollywood and Downtown.

Tropical Honolulu has been chosen as the setting for the world premiere of Harold Lloyd's first RKO Radio production, "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob." The feature, with George Murphy and Lucille Ball toplining the cast, will be screened March 4 at the Hawaii Theatre in the island metropolis.

Twentieth Century-Fox is planning a Mexico City premiere for "Blood and Sand," the Tyrone Power starrer, although the date has not been set as yet.

Monogram's "Ridin' the Cherokee Trail," starring Tex Ritter, was premiered at the Tryon, Charlotte, N. C., February 24.

Republic Moves In on '42; 66 Features, 4 Up on '41

LOS ANGELES—Republic will expend $15,000,000—an increase of approximately 50 per cent over the current season's budget—on a program of 66 features for the 1941-42 season, executives and exchange personnel were informed by Herbert J. Yates, chairman of the board, and James R. Grainger, general sales manager, in the first of a series of regional sales meetings. Initial session was held at the company's North Hollywood studio.

The new season's program represents an increase of four features over the 1940-41 lineup of 62. A complete list of titles will be announced by Yates and Grainger at a regional session in New York, March 6-7. Broken down as to groups, the lineup looks like this:

Six DeLuxe—two more than in 1940-41—budgeted at from $750,000 to $1,000,000 each.

Fourteen Anniversary Specials—also an increase of two—to be made at a cost of from $250,000 to $500,000 per picture.

Ten Jubilees at $150,000 each.

Two "Premiere" Gene Autry westerns at not less than $500,000 each.

Six Autry-Smiley Burnette westerns at $175,000 each.

Eight Roy Rogers sagebrushers at $100,000 each.

Eight Don Barry westerns at a total cost of $600,000.

Eight "Three Mesquiteers" sagebrushers at a total cost of $600,000.

Four serials, at an average cost of $250,000 each.

The local sales meeting wound up February 25, and was attended by H. J. Yates, M. J. Siegel, president of Republic Productions; J. T. Sheffield, northwest franchise holder; Ed Walton, branch manager of the Seattle office; J. H. Sheffield, Portland manager; Gene Gerbase, Denver manager; E. M. Loy, Butte; G. S. Pinnell, Salt Lake City; Sid Weisbaum, San Francisco, and Francis Bateman, Los Angeles.

The first day of the local conclave was devoted to a discussion of advertising and exploitation campaigns on forthcoming pictures. At least four current films will be heavily ballyhooed, it was announced, including "Sis Hopkins," "Lady From New Orleans," "Down Mexico Way" and "Mr. District Attorney." "Sis Hopkins" and "Lady From New Orleans" will be given gala world premieres, the former in a city not yet selected, the latter in New Orleans. "Mr. District Attorney," now in production, is being given a budget boost of $50,000. An exploitation tieup on it has been worked out with Bristol-Myers, sponsor of the radio program on which the film is based.

The second gathering was held in Kansas City Thursday and Friday with Grainger presiding. There, in attendance were Yates, Lloyd Rust, Dallas branch manager; Nat Steinberg, St. Louis; F. R. Moran, Des Moines; C. F. Reese, Omaha; R. F. Withers, Kansas City franchise holder; Gilbert Nathanson, Minneapolis franchise holder; and Sol Davis, franchise owner in Oklahoma City.



—Pictures, Inc.

The President Talks—

Thursday evening, the Chief Executive spoke from Washington to the Academy awards dinner held at the Los Angeles Biltmore. He was presented by Walter Wanger, president of the Academy. The address was broadcast from 11:45 P. M. to midnight, E.S.T., over the three major networks and marked the first time in latter day annals that the industry had been directly addressed by a presidential incumbent.

ATLANTA—On Monday and Tuesday, Republic franchise holders and branch managers in the south will hold a meeting on next season's plans here. James R. Grainger, president and general sales manager, will preside with H. J. Yates of the home office, A. C. Bromberg, southern division franchise holder; L. V. Seicshnaydre, New Orleans manager; W. M. Snelson, Memphis; Henry Glover, Atlanta; J. H. Dillon, Charlotte, and H. V. Laird, Tampa, in attendance.

NEW YORK—Fourth and final Republic sales meeting will be held March 6-7 with James R. Grainger presiding. In attendance will be H. J. Yates, Arthur Newman, Albany; Jack Bellman, Buffalo; Morris Epstein, New York; M. E. Morey, Boston; Sam Seletsky, New Haven; Max Gillis, Philadelphia; Sam Seplowin, Detroit; Jake Flax, Washington; J. H. Alexander, Pittsburgh; Nat Lefton, Cleveland; Sam Gorrel, Cleveland, and George Kirby, Cincinnati.

It is expected a Canadian meeting will be held also, but that is to be determined later.

Grainger, sometime next week, is scheduled to announce acquisition of several more franchise holders. The last was Dallas, which gave the company direct control of exchanges with more than a 50 per cent revenue of the country.

The company is also planning to extensively nationally advertise its "De Luxe" and a number of its "Anniversary" productions.

Following the New York conference, Yates and Grainger will embark on a tour of 33 key American and six key Canadian cities, accompanied by a representative of Donahue & Coe, advertising agency now handling the Republic account. During this junket, it was announced, they will confer with exhibitors, distributors, newspapermen and others, discussing Republic's 1941-42 program.

Sees High Incomes Boosting Attendance

NEW YORK—Theatre attendance during 1941 "will far surpass that of 1940," states Poor's Publishing Co., financial publishers, in one of its periodic industry surveys. The reason given for the increased attendance prediction is "higher consumer incomes occasioned by war-stimulated activity in this country."

The survey notes that, inasmuch as preliminary estimates place 1941 national income at 83.6 billion dollars, nearly 13 per cent larger than that of 1940, "the improvement in prospect for 1941 is expected to be sufficient to offset any losses suffered from the foreign markets. For, even should so much as a 50 per cent decline in foreign film rentals be suffered, a rise of less than seven per cent in total United States boxoffice receipts in rentals would prove compensatory."

The survey states a "trend worth noticing is the inclination of the motion picture public to favor single, rather than double feature programs." Should the industry decide that the time is ripe to discontinue the practice of servicing the double feature market and to concentrate on the production of fewer, but better quality, single features, closer control over operating costs might easily result, it is maintained.

Notwithstanding adverse conditions arising from the European war, indications are that no reduction in producton costs has been effected and prospects are "that no important change in production costs will occur in the near future," the survey adds. It also takes the view that although prospects indicate satisfactory increases in domestic theatre attendance, "there is small incentive for building new film outlets or enlarging present ones."

Metro Sales Manager Will Address Ampa

NEW YORK — William F. Rodgers, M-G-M's general sales manager, will be the guest speaker at Ampa's next luncheon meeting at the Hotel Edison, March 6.



JANE RUSSELL and JACK BUETEL

For both, overnight stardom . . . once before Howard Hughes made the same prediction and this industry gained two of its greatest stars!

Printed in U.S.A.


The
OUTLAW
The Story of Billy the Kid
Produced and directed by
HOWARD HUGHES
with
THOMAS MITCHELL · WALTER HUSTON
The last time Howard Hughes said he had someone to show you, he gave you two new stars . . . Jean Harlow and Paul Muni. Now he makes the same promise again and—
presents
JANE RUSSELL · JACK BUETEL
Story and Screen Play by Jules Furthman
Photography by Gregg Toland, ASC
The kind of entertainment that made this business great!
Released through Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp.

"This Thing" Changes End Legion Fight

New York—Telegraphic changes in "This Thing Called Love," eliminating Legion of Decency objections, have resulted in lifting the picture out of the condemned and into the "B," or objectionable in part, listing. The Legion's campaign against the attraction consequently is brought to an end.

Nat'l Theatres Meet Slated for March 6

NEW YORK—Spyros Skouras has finally set the week of March 6 as the annual meeting dates at Lake Arrowhead, Calif., for the National Theatres divisional managers. At the meeting, another annual drive, to start Easter Week and wind up July 4, will be announced.

Harry Huffman, Denver city district manager, took top honors in the 17-week drive from September 1 to December 28 for which $25,000 in awards are being made. Second place went to Charles Thall with his San Francisco first-run houses. George Bowser's coast district in southern California finished a close third.

Al Finke collected fourth place money for his Portland district, followed by Bob Selig, who was awarded fifth prize for the fine showing of his southern Colorado and New Mexico units. Dick Spier, managing the Oakland-East Bay district in northern California, maintained his splendid record of previous drives by coming in sixth. Seventh and eighth places went to John Hamrick and Thornton Sargent, respectively. Hamrick has the Seattle district, and Sargent has Los Angeles first runs.

Ray Davis, in charge of northern Colorado and Nebraska, attained ninth position. The remaining four districts were awarded special prizes.

Hal Seitel, operating the Peninsula district in northern California; Dick Dickson, manager of the Beach district in Los Angeles; Hall Naetz of the Montana district, and Fred Souttar of the Illinois district all were given special prizes.

Among those who will attend the coast sessions are Rick Ricketson, Denver; Harold J. Fitzgerald and E. L. Alperson, Milwaukee; E. C. Rhoden, Kansas City; Charles Skouras and Charles A. Buckley, Los Angeles; Arch Bowles, San Francisco; Al Finke, Portland; Frank Newman, Seattle, and from the home office William T. Powers, Harry T. Cox, Edward Zabel, Milton Hossfeld, Aubrey Schenck, Skouras and John Healy. Hossfeld has been on the coast for the past month, having taken his vacation there and spending the extra time working at the FWC offices with Larry Kent, chief buyer and booker for the coast circuits.

Interstate Washes Up Suits

DALLAS—The last of a series of anti-trust suits against the Interstate circuit, alleging price-fixing on the part of the circuit to the detriment of H. N. Jorgenson, an independent, has been settled out of court. Details were not announced.

Circuit Men in New York Bubbling With Optimism

NEW YORK — Paraphrasing somebody's sage observation it's a case here of New York going as the nation goes on the business outlook for 1941. Majority opinion unites in agreeing something akin to the good old times lies ahead. As the situation is appraised:

A high Loew circuit executive, giving his unidentified view on out-of-New York theatre operations, believes the money poured into the national defense program must leave its favorable mark on exhibition. He is careful enough to point out, at the same time, that the industry is not reaping such benefits yet, what with Mr. Average Working Man first paying off debts, then buying necessities and converting whatever leftovers may be around into terms of amusement.

Defense Program a Hypo

But he argues that in periods of depressions, this industry is the first to feel the effects and that, similarly, in periods reflecting upturns, theatres feel them last. Whether or not this holds true generally, furthermore, appears to be beside the point. Rather it is the point that the Loew organization, via this spokesman, feels this way about it all.

There are definite signs on the other hand. In towns where new army camps have blossomed or have sprung up anew, general business apparently and already has increased. Many of these camps have their own houses and, while prevailing theatre outlets do not directly benefit, they, nevertheless, do because greater purchasing power prevailing in the areas in which cantonments are located makes it possible for the population involved to spend more on amusements in the houses they normally would patronize.

In Norfolk and Newport News, Va. and Portsmouth, N. H., the government is spending hundreds of millions. There, theatre business is reported to have picked up nicely.

Netter Predicts Upswing

And now the approach of another high executive, attached to another major chain:

"Business should rise in the future. The money being spent on national defense has not hit the theatres yet. Not noticeably so, at any rate, but we are confident. On the other hand, there are apparent contradictions. In some areas, Washington is spending huge sums, but signs of improvement in theatre business have not been forthcoming. This goes for Michigan and parts of California. We have been trying to figure this out, but without success thus far."

Leon D. Netter, Paramount circuit executive, holds to the opinion an upsurge will assert itself in the spring and summer. He figures by that time defense expenditures will be working in full swing, many currently unemployed will have returned to work, their debts paid off and a return to the picture show once more part of their routine.

E. C. Grainger, president and general manager of Shea theatres operating 50 houses in 20 Pennsylvania, Ohio and New England sections, holds the defense program is bound to help business. "We have theatres in a lot of industrial towns. When the money gets into circulation, we will get some of it. Christmas week was fair, but New Year's week was exceptionally good. There are no signs now of business being any better," he observes.

Simon H. Fabian, operating 40 houses upstate and in metropolitan area, says there should be a definite upturn if the quality of pictures holds up. "There is a tremendous amount of money being spent. We haven't felt any of the new spending yet, but I feel the upturn will definitely come," he believes.

William White, general manager of the Skouras circuit, does not think the Skouras circuit will be affected for the next six months. "When the spending spree does come, it will hit us with a bang," he feels. "The first area to feel it will be New Jersey where the clothing and war materials factories are busy but living accommodations scarce in towns where the factories are located. The next area to feel it will be Nassau county where a campaign has already been started to get new patronage from the airplane plants.

Rinzler: "Future Looks Brighter"

"We are just beginning to feel a slight touch of the new business, and if it continues, it should develop to good proportions. As far as New York and the Bronx are concerned, it has always been that, when people have money, they go downtown rather than spend it in the neighborhood."

Sam Rinzler, head of Randforce which operates a large Brooklyn circuit: "The future must look brighter, if the money being spent in department stores is any criterion. I look forward to better business. New York, you know, is the last to feel any upturn in business."

Laurence Bolognino, operating head of Consolidated, which has 20 houses in the metropolitan area, says the year started out nicely and looks "all right. My guess is as good as any other and it looks good. The last part of 1940 showed no improvement, but with the turn of the new year business has come back to life."

Max A. Cohen, head of the Cinema circuit: "It looks lousy to me. We are not getting any of the money being spent. There has been a drop in receipts in this territory and I can't see any reason for optimism."

Urges Joint Price Increase

Joe Katsch, who operates a handful of theatres in the metropolitan area: "I think things will be much better. There is less unemployment and there is more money to spend. It looks like as if we will have a little prosperity. The money being spent on defense will be reflected at the boxoffice and I think the time is right for all theatres in the local area to get together and increase admissions by five cents. New York is the only city in the country where you can buy amusements so cheap. Things are bound to be better."

The World Premiere early

AT 2 THEA

IN NEW Y

THE RIVOLI THEATRE and THE HOLLY

Continuous at Advan

n March
TRES
ORK
OD THEATRE
d Prices

FRANK CAPRA'S PRODUCTION FOR 1941!



GARY COOPER · BARBARA STANWYCK

in

MEET JOHN DOE

with

EDWARD ARNOLD · WALTER BRENNAN

Spring Byington • James Gleason and Gene Lockhart

This Screen Play, as were most of the major successes of Frank Capra, is by

ROBERT RISKIN

Directed by Frank Capra

Distributed by Vitagraph, Inc.

Produced at the Studios of **WARNER BROS.**

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from the first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is* 100 *per cent.*

GONE WITH THE WIND—
Denver 250
San Francisco 200
Dallas 185
Detroit 170

VIRGINIA—
Denver 210

PHILADELPHIA STORY—
Indianapolis (dual) 200
Cleveland 190
Philadelphia 180
Kansas City (dual) 180

MR. AND MRS. SMITH—
Los Angeles (dual) 200
Kansas City (dual 170

HUDSON'S BAY—
Boston (dual) 165

LeBaron in Full Authority Over Unit for 20th-Fox

NEW YORK—Deal whereby William LeBaron joins 20th Century-Fox as a producer continues the decentralization of that studio's authority, according to a Hollywood dispatch to the New York *Times*.

"LeBaron will be the only full producer on that lot, except for Darryl F. Zanuck and Sol M. Wurtzel and will have full authority over his own pictures, from original story selection to editing, according to the studio," states the *Times*.

"Until recently all Fox pictures have been made under the direct supervision of Zanuck or Wurtzel, but during the season the company agreed to distribute Howard Hughes' independently made 'The Outlaw' and negotiated a deal with an autonomous unit formed by Charles Boyer, Ronald Colman, Irene Dunne, Anatole Litvak and Lewis Milestone."

Convention Planning Will Bring Depinet

NEW YORK—Ned E. Depinet, vice-president in charge of RKO distribution, is due back from the coast next Monday when it is expected he will plan for the company's annual sales convention.

George J. Schaefer, president, returned to the studio by plane during the week after a short visit east. Both home office executives are outlining the contemplated program under the first year's operation of the decree.

"Kidnaping Gorillas" Allowed a License

NEW YORK—The board of regents has reversed Irwin Esmond, director of the state's censorship bureau, in authorizing a license for "Kidnaping Gorillas" and at the same time sustained Esmond's ban on "Life on the Hortobagy."

Re-Trial of Government Charges Is Pondered

(Continued from page 4)

department of justice in the prosecution of the all-industry action. Podell, however, dropped out of the picture prior to the start of the trial June 3, 1940.

The papers thus far filed launch a terrific attack on the Hays organization, charging that group is maintained and controlled by the other defendants for purposes of effecting a monopoly in the business and that it has diverted the attention of the public and the government from the alleged improper and illegal activities of the defendants. Further, the MPPDA is accused of having blocked legislation in congress and the various states which might have alleviated the situation charged.

The complaint sets forth that of the 92 cities in the United States with a population of 100,000 or over, only four—Tulsa, Okla., Fall River, Mass., Tacoma, Wash., and Fort Wayne, Ind.—have no affiliated theatres. A monopoly in 200 of 283 cities with populations ranging from 25,000 to 100,000 is similarly charged. These cities return the majority of theatre income, it is held.

The plaintiff lists 14 separate points in which it accuses the majors of having violated the Sherman act. The charges are these:

1. Agreeing on rental terms and percentages to be paid by independents.
2. Fixing clearance, protection and runs in the United States.
3. Discrimination in favor of affiliated theatres on clearance, playdates, runs and zoning.
4. Obligating independents to pay score charges.
5. Making illegal cross-licensing agreements among themselves.
6. Excluding independent producers from screen time on major film companies theatres.
7. Preventing independent theatres from competing on a fair basis with the majors.
8. Threatening independents by building or acquiring theatres in opposition.
9. Pooling resources of two or more majors against a strong independent.
10. Dividing product among themselves to prevent the independent from securing any.
11. Pooling in the operation of each others' theatres.
12. Monopolizing 80 per cent of all cities with populations of 100,000 or less.
13. Creating a 100 per cent monopoly in all cities whose population is 1,000,000 or over.
14. Compelling independents to pay more for pictures than affiliated theatres.

Other charges include forcing of shorts and newsreels, cancellations, moveovers, forcing of double featuring, contract modifications, elimination of features already booked and arbitrary, unconscionable and discriminatory film rentals.

The plaintiff devotes a minimum of space to its own complaint, charging that Warner Bros. Circuit Management Corp. imposed unreasonable clearance on runs, protection and zoning against it and that it became impossible for the plaintiff and other independents to operate in successful opposition to Warner or secure first or preferred run pictures. The Mayfair, it is alleged, was placed in an inferior position as a result and was forced to pay score charges to all defendants except Columbia, UA and Universal, with the producer-exhibitors claiming these charges were applying as royalties to RCA, Western Electric and Erpi. This statement is false, the plaintiff claims.

The Mayfair lost profits and patronage and has been damaged to the extent of $300,000, it is claimed. Three times that amount is asked. Members of the department of justice refuse comment on the suit, preferring to study it before making any statement.

Lightning Liquidation Is Expected Under Decree

(Continued from page 4)

longer be compelled to indulge in full line buys but have available the product of 10 companies. The rest of this theory goes that, as a companion piece of greater selectivity, there may result the gradual elimination of by-products, such as games and giveaways.

Another attorney professes mystification over the reason for what appears to be a rising tide of clearance complaints under the arbitration provisions of the decree. "Under the new order of selling and with clearance, as now constituted, moved into the background, this activity looks like an effort in the direction of a lost cause."

Another possibility is the removal from blocks of individually strong attractions for solo sale, coupled with a push by the distributor for extended playing time and an effort to include a couple of shorts in order to round out a strong, single bill program. The angle on shorts, and newsreels, which cannot be forced with features under the decree, is to sell them on a "goodwill" basis.

Building, Remodeling Up, Reports RCA Sales Chief

CAMDEN, N. J.—Many new theatres are being built and scores of existing houses are undergoing refurbishing, reports Homer B. Snook, sales manager of RCA Photophone reproducers.

"Back of increased business is generally improved business conditions everywhere, which have reflected themselves in improved boxoffice receipts and, to some respect, the national defense program which is concentrating larger numbers of trainees in areas not now served by large theatres," he states. He also declares equipment sales are considerably ahead of the same period of 1940.

TOPPER TRADE SHOW TIME



MARCH 10-15th
in theatres from coast to coast!

Hal Roach invites every exhibitor to see one of the smash comedies of recent years. Ace director Roy del Ruth has done such an outstanding job on "Topper Returns" that every showman in the industry should attend a preview in order to develop and plan his advance campaign on this hit attraction.

Get your tickets (bring the family) from your United Artists Branch Manager.

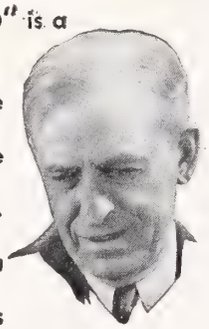


HELLO, MR. EXHIBITOR,
THIS IS EDDIE (ROCHESTER) ANDERSON...
My boss, Mr. Topper, is having girl trouble again...and what a picture it makes...yes suh!

THE TIP-OFF ON A BIG PICTURE

SHOWMANSHIP, is the word for **"A MAN BETRAYED,"** first of **REPUBLIC'S** outstanding **ATTRACTIONS** that will be **ADVERTISED** nationally **THIS** year in every **IMPORTANT** motion picture **FAN** magazine.

"A MAN BETRAYED" is a **TITLE** that promises **STIRRING** action . . . a title **THAT** spells box-office **MAGIC** on any marquee.



"A MAN BETRAYED" offers a **STIRRING** story as **TIMELY** as tomorrow's **HEADLINES** . . . the story of an **AMERICAN** who dares to **FIGHT** for the **DEMOCRACY** he believes in . . . **AND** for the beautiful **WOMAN** he loves.

"A MAN BETRAYED" presents a **CAST** of marquee names. **JOHN WAYNE,** fresh from recent **TRIUMPHS** in Republic's **"DARK COMMAND"** and **"LONG VOYAGE HOME,"** **CO-STARS** with glamorous **FRANCES DEE** as the **UNSUSPECTING** daughter of the



HIDDEN power behind the **CORRUPTION** in a great city. **EDWARD ELLIS** heads the **FEATURED** cast that includes **WALLACE FORD,** Ward Bond, **HAROLD HUBER,** Alexander Granach. **"A MAN BETRAYED"** was **DIRECTED** by **JOHN H. AUER.** **REMEMBER** it's a nationally **ADVERTISED**

Republic PICTURE

Says Studios Ignore Their Customers

PRINCETON, N. J.—On the basis of a poll to ascertain the best-liked pictures of 1940, only one of which—"Rebecca"—was nominated for the Academy award, the American Institute of Public opinion draws the conclusion there "Apparently is considerable difference of opinion between Hollywood and its customers."

The 10 nominated by the Academy were "All This, and Heaven Too," "Foreign Correspondent," "Kitty Foyle," "The Grapes of Wrath," "Our Town," "Rebecca," "The Great Dictator," "The Letter," "The Long Voyage Home" and "The Philadelphia Story." But the winning six in the Gallup poll, according to rank, turn out to be "Boom Town," "Knute Rockne," "Rebecca," "Northwest Passage," "Strike Up the Band" and "The Fighting 69th." Only in the instance of "Rebecca" does the same attraction appear in both groupings.

The Gallup survey was confined to pictures released between January 1 and November 30, all thereafter being ruled off "because they had not had time to reach audiences throughout the country." This, it is pointed out, ruled off three which had been nominated for top honors by the Academy, "The Great Dictator," "Kitty Foyle" and "The Philadelphia Story," as well as "North West Mounted Police" which was released in December and, therefore, not nominated.

A list of more than 100 top grossing attractions was shown to the poll participants, each one being asked, "Are there any pictures here which you especially liked?"

"Frequent" goers, or those who attend once a week or more, were queried. So were "infrequent" goers, or those who attend less than once a week. The first classification picked "Boom Town," "Knute Rockne," "Northwest Passage," "Rebecca," "Strike Up the Band" and "The Fighting 69th." The second group selected "Rebecca," "Boom Town," "Northwest Passage," "Knute Rockne," "The Fighting 69th" and "All This, and Heaven Too." Male voters selected "Knute Rockne," "Boom Town," "Northwest Passage," "The Fighting 69th," "The Sea Hawk" and "Strike Up the Band" in the order given. Women selected "Rebecca," "All This, and Heaven Too," "Boom Town," "My Favorite Wife," "Strike Up the Band" and "Waterloo Bridge."

Men and women differed widely, according to the poll. "All This, and Heaven Too," for example, ranked second with women and 39th with men; "My Favorite Wife" finished fourth among women and 34th with men. "Knute Rockne" and "The Fighting 69th," however, were more popular with men than with women.

Ascap Signs Decree; Air Peace Seen Near

New York—Suit brought by the government against Ascap for alleged violation of the Sherman act has been withdrawn with the signing of a consent decree. This, say department of justice spokesmen, paves the way for a peaceful settlement of the Ascap difficulties with major broadcasting networks.

Suit in La Crosse Ends in Dismissal

MADISON, WIS.—In handing down a decision dismissing the La Crosse Theatres anti-trust suit for triple damages, Federal Judge Stone exonerated the defendants, Paramount, 20th-Fox, UA, Welworth Theatres and Minnesota Amusements.

Counsel for the plaintiff on October 30, 1940, after putting two witnesses on the stand before a jury, interrupted the case due to illness. Trial was resumed February 17 before Judge Stone and a new jury, but during the course of the hearings plaintiff's attorney again sought a continuance for new evidence.

Not only did the court deny the continuance, but the case was thrown out on its merits and each of the individual defendants cleared of any charge of conspiracy, as alleged.

The contention of the defendants was that sales of their product to Welworth in preference to La Crosse Theatres was of their own separate judgment and not the result of collusion or conspiracy among them. The court's ruling sustained this defense, dismissing the complaint and at the same time marking an important victory for the defendants.

Louis Phillips of the Paramount home office worked with local and Chicago counsel on the defense legal lineup. The case took three weeks less than anticipated.

AAA Says Only Two Refused

New York—Any national activity that deals in large numbers invariably produces sidelights worthy of mention.

And so it is with the selection of local panels that will hear complaints at arbitration film tribunals. The AAA states that of the 400 odd business and professional men who were selected as arbitrators—at the fixed $10 per diem fee, of course—only two declined. They did so, it is asserted, because they felt the $10 fee was too small for men of their calibre. However, they finally capitulated.

It seems further that of the number of men, probably reaching close to 1,000, who were approached and who were deemed desirable as arbitrators, a large block said they were sorry, but just couldn't. Of this block, 75 per cent declined because they said their time was consumed in national defense problems.

Opinions on Current Productions, and Exploitips for Selling to the Public

FEATURE REVIEWS

In Old Colorado F Western

Paramount (4052) 67 Minutes Rel. ——

Although Hopalong Cassidy gets away from his usual stamping ground, geographically, he doesn't deviate one bit from his well-established system for delivering top notch action entertainment to the sagebrush fans. This is the third in the current season's series—and, incidentally, the 38th to date. In every department it compares favorably with the general average of its many predecessors. William Boyd, of course, portrays the redoubtable "Hoppy," with his two buddies, "Lucky" and "California," completing the well-known triumvirate and supplying additional action and comedy, respectively. The humor content of this chapter is stepped up several points through the use of Cliff Nazarro, the double-talk man. The production is convincingly framed and displays Harry Sherman's meticulous attention to details and atmosphere and his flare for selecting scenically appropriate backgrounds. The story has "Hoppy" coming to Colorado to buy a herd of cattle for the Bar 20 ranch. He settles an unwarranted feud between ranchers and nesters, and runs to earth the undercover villains who have been preying on both factions. Directed by Howard Bretherton.

William Boyd, Russell Hayden, Andy Clyde, Margaret Hayes, Morris Ankrum, Sarah Padden, Cliff Nazarro.

EXPLOITIPS: The "Hopalong Cassidy" series is so well known to action fans that mention of the "Cassidy" name should be made on the marquee. Otherwise employ the usual western-film exploitation tactics, including tieups with bookstores on the Clarence E. Mulford novels from which these pictures are made; dressing attendants as cowhands, making over the lobby in sagebrush style, and staging a juvenile "rodeo" at matinee performances.

CATCHLINES: It's Your Old Pal Hoppy . . . Back Again in Another Thrilling Tale of the Old West.

Hoppy Finds Himself in Strange Territory . . . But It Doesn't Stop Him From Foiling Villainy in His Usual Two-Fisted Style.

Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery F Melodrama

Columbia (——) 68 Minutes Rel. Mar. 24, '41

Second in the series being produced by Larry Darmour from the popular detective novels, this incorporates suspense, intrigue, comedy and thrills in sufficient quantities to insure its popularity among action-seekers. Its most noteworthy asset is a well-selected and capable cast, with Ralph Bellamy repeating in the title role and Margaret Lindsay and Charley Grapewin again portraying his secretary and the inspector of police respectively. The screenplay, and the action therein, are clean-cut and logical. Noel Madison, a soldier of fortune, is deputized by the Chinese government to bring some valuable jewels into the United States and sell them, the money to go for Chinese relief. No sooner does he arrive in New York than he is murdered. Whereupon Ellery and his father, Inspector Queen, with the dubious assistance of Ellery's secretary, Nikki Porter, set out to unravel the mystery, with, of course, ultimate success. Directed by James Hogan.

Ralph Bellamy, Margaret Lindsay, Charley Grapewin, James Burke, Anna May Wong, Noel Madison, Frank Albertson.

EXPLOITIPS: The exploitation problem on this one should be considerably easier, since it is the second in the series, and since there are millions who have been familiarized with the character through reading scores of "Ellery Queen" books and listening to the radio program. Be sure to arrange tieups on the sleuth novels with libraries and bookstores. Give Ralph Bellamy and Margaret Lindsay the title credits on the marquee. Prepare a lobby display of famed screen sleuths with Bellamy, as "Ellery Queen," given the most prominent position. Form an "Ellery Queen" Junior Detective Club for your juvenile patrons, giving them inexpensive badges and membership cards.

CATCHLINES: The King of Detectives . . . Ellery Queen . . . Returns to Solve the Year's Most Baffling Mystery Thriller.

You've Thrilled to His Books and His Radio Exploits . . . Now He's Better Than Ever on the Screen.

Ridin' the Cherokee Trail F Western

Monogram (4053) 61 Minutes Rel. Feb. 6, '41

By returning to the time-honored formula for crooning cowhands, this Tex Ritter adventure shows considerable improvement over the chapter which immediately preceded it. As middle-scale western fare it will serve in the market for which it was made. Ritter, as usual, is a Texas Ranger assigned to nab the bad hombre of the Cherokee Strip, which arrest can be accomplished only through luring the bandit chief across the Texas border. There is the normal amount of shooting, slugging, singing and galloping before the villain steps into the trap and is brought to justice. The musical moments are supplied by Ritter and the Tennessee Ramblers. Directed by Spencer G. Bennet.

Tex Ritter, "Arkansas Slim" Andrews, Forrest Taylor, Betty Miles, Jack Roper, Fred Burns, Bruce Nolan.

EXPLOITIPS: Tex Ritter and his comedy side-kick, "Arkansas Slim" Andrews, are the marquee and advertising names. Attention of your customers should also be called to the presence in the cast of the Tennessee Ramblers, radio stars and phonograph recording artists. Plug them and Ritter through local music stores. Make over the lobby in the usual western style and employ the reliable forms of ballyhoo as used for previous sagebrushers.

CATCHLINES: It's Tex Ritter Again . . . In His Most Exciting Western Adventure.

The Lone Rider Rides On F Western

Producers Releasing Corp. (——) 61 Minutes Rel. Jan. 10, '41

First of the "Lone Rider" series is a strictly routine offering without particular distinction. Music saves it somewhat. It is played loud and long. George Houston is not up to regulation cowboy hero standards. He lacks a drawl and his acting talents need polish. Hillary Brooke, the feminine lead, sounds like a Park Avenue drawing roomer. Obviously a rush job, many of the sequences were filmed in overcast weather which could not wholly spoil the excellent scenic background. The formula yarn is the familiar treatment of the murdered parents surviving child who grows up with revenge in his heart. In due time, he finds a gang of crooked landgrabbers at the bottom of the trouble and settles accounts accordingly.

George Houston, Hillary Brooke, Al St. John, Karl Hackett, Tom London.

EXPLOITIPS: Plug the songs in the film. John Lange and Lew Porter wrote them. They also wrote the recently popular "Little Red Fox." Tieups are indicated here for music stores. Start an amateur reviewers contest. Post the winning essays prominently in the lobby and give the writers passes for their efforts.

CATCHLINES: A New Western Character Rides Into This Theatre Soon . . . He's George Houston . . . And He's Riding the Trail of Adventure.

"The Lone Rider" . . . He Rides Hard, Shoots Straight and Fights to the Finish.

Prairie Pioneers F Western

Republic (065) 58 Minutes Rel. Feb. 16, '41

Herein the Three Mesquiteers come to the rescue of the persecuted and hounded, circa 1853, locale, California, where the Spanish dons are trying to prevent crooks from stealing their land and where pioneers are still pouring in to settle or to dig up a mess of gold. Chalk it up as an average Three Mesquiteer exercise in western action melodramatics. The usual quota of gunfire, fisticuffs and leather pounding is thrown in, also a unique brand of Spanish-English dialect. The tale comes to a head when, after a series of contributing sequences have unreeled, the son of Don Miguel faces a firing squad because he has been framed with a murder. Our Three Heroes knock the props from under the skullduggery.

Robert Livingston, Bob Steele, Rufe Davis, Esther Estrella, Robert Kellard.

EXPLOITIPS: Dress up three ballyhoo men as cowboys and have them ride up and down the main street. Print throwaways with silhouettes of the trio, preferably an action scene, and enclose them in the envelopes in which the weekly program is mailed.

CATCHLINES: Your Favorite Action Trio Rides to New Adventures as "Prairie Pioneers."

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

REVIEW DIGEST
AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

P. G.	Page Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
	A										
	Across the Sierras	(Col)							±		1+ 1–
32.	Adam Had Four Sons	(Col)	⧺		±		⧺	⧺			7+ 1–
16.	Aldrich Family in Life With Henry	(Para)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2–
20.	Along the Rio Grande	(RKO)	+	±	∓		+	±	±		6+ 4–
	Always a Bride	(FN)	∓	∓	∓	–	–	±	–		4+ 7–
36.	Andy Hardy's Private Secretary	(M-G-M)	⧺			⧺	⧺	⧺			8+
	Angels Over Broadway	(Col)	±	+	∓	+	⧺	+	+	+	9+ 2–
	Ape, The	(Mono)	+	–	–	+	+	+		±	5+ 3–
	Arise, My Love	(Para)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	10+
	Arizona	(Col)	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	14+
14.	Arkansas Judge	(Rep)	±	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 2–
	B										
21.	Back Street	(Univ)	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	±	+	13+ 1–
	Bad Man, The	(M-G-M)							+		1+
	Bank Dick, The	(Univ)	⧺	+	+	⧺	⧺	+	+	±	11+ 1–
	Barnyard Follies	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2–
	Behind the News	(Rep)	±	+	±	+	⧺	+	±	±	9+ 4–
	Beyond the Sacramento	(Col)							+		1+
	Billy the Kid in Texas	(PRC)			∓						1+ 1–
	Bitter Sweet	(M-G-M)	⧺	+	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	+	+	12+
	Blackout	(UA)	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+
30.	Blondie Inspiration	(M-G-M)	±		∓	±			±		4+ 4–
32.	Blondie Goes Latin	(Col)	+		+		+	+			4+
	Blondie Plays Cupid	(Col)	+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3–
	Border Legion	(Rep)	+		∓	+	⧺	+	±	±	8+ 3–
	Boss of Bullion City	(Univ)							±		1+ 1–
2.	Bowery Boy	(Rep)	∓	±	–	+	±	±	±	±	7+ 7–
	Bride Wore Crutches	(20th-Fox)	±		–		±	–	±		3+ 6–
	Brigham Young—Frontiersman	(20th-Fox)	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	13+
22.	Buck Privates	(Univ)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	14+
	Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie	(Univ)							+		1+
	C										
19.	Case of the Black Parrot	(FN)	–	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 6–
	Caught in the Act	(PRC)				±			–	∓	2+ 3–
	Chad Hanna	(20th-Fox)	±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2–
	Chamber of Horrors	(Mono)	±	±					±		3+ 3–
	Charter Pilot	(20th-Fox)	∓	+	–	+	⧺	±	+	±	8+ 4–
9.	Cheers for Miss Bishop	(UA)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺		14+
	Cherokee Strip	(Para)	+	+	±	+		⧺	+		7+ 1–
	Christmas in July	(Para)	⧺	+	±	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	12+ 1–
	City for Conquest	(WB)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	14+
	Colorado	(Rep)	±		–	+			±	±	4+ 4–
17.	Come Live With Me	(M-G-M)	⧺	±	–	⧺	⧺	⧺	±		10+ 3–
	Comrade X	(M-G-M)	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	14+
11.	Convoy	(RKO)	+	+		+			+	±	6+ 1–
	D										
	Dancing on a Dime	(Para)	±	+	±	±	+	∓	+	∓	8+ 5–
	Dangerous Game, A	(Univ)							–		1–
	Dark Streets of Cairo	(Univ)	–	±	+	±			+		4+ 8–
	Dead Man's Shoes	(Mono)		±							1+ 1–
	Devil Bat, The	(PRC)			=	±				±	2+ 4–
31.	Devil Commands, The	(Col)	±		=	+			–	∓	3+ 5–
	Devil's Pipeline	(Univ)	∓	±	–	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6–
	Diamond Frontier	(Univ)	∓	±	–	±	+	∓	–	∓	6+ 7–
	Dispatch From Reuter's	(WB)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	13+
	Dr. Kildare's Crisis	(M-G-M)	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
9.	Doomed Caravan	(Para)	⧺		+	⧺	⧺	⧺	+		10+
	Down Argentine Way	(20-Fox)	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	13+
	Drums of the Desert	(Mono)	±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	4+ 4–
	Dulcy	(M-G-M)	+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2–
	E										
	East of the River	(FN)	±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5–
	Ellery Queen, Master Detective	(Col)	+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
34.	Ellery Queen's Penthouse										
	Mystery	(Col)	±					+	+		3+ 1–
	Escape	(M-G-M)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	15+
	Escape to Glory	(Col)	+	±	+		+	+	±		6+ 2–
	F										
26.	Face Behind the Mask	(Col)	+	±	=	±			±	±	6+ 5–
	Fantasia	(Disney)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺		⧺	⧺	⧺	14+
	Fargo Kid	(RKO)	+	±	±		+	+	+		6+ 2–
31.	Father's Son	(WB)	±	±	=	±	–	∓	±	∓	6+ 9–
	Father Is a Prince	(FN)	±	±	±		=	=	–	–	3+ 9–
	Fight for Life, The	(Col)	+						⧺	+	4+
	Flight Command	(M-G-M)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	14+
4.	Flight From Destiny	(WB)	+	+	±	⧺	⧺	⧺	+		10+ 1–
	Four Mothers	(WB)	⧺	+	±	+	+	⧺	+	+	10+ 1–
	Four Sons	(20th-Fox)	⧺		+	⧺	⧺	+	+	+	10+
	Freedom Radio	(Col)			+						1+
	Friendly Neighbors	(Rep)	±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5–
	Frontier Vengeance	(Univ)	o		–	∓			±		2+ 3–
	Fugitive From Justice	(WB)	±	∓	+	+		–	±	±	6+ 5–
	G										
	Gallant Sons	(M-G-M)	+	+	+	±	⧺	+	±	±	9+ 3–
	Gay Caballero, The	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	–	+	+	±	7+ 4–
1.	Girl in the News	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+	⧺	+	+		8+
	Girls Under 21	(Col)	–	±	±			±	±	±	5+ 8–
	Give Us Wings	(Univ)	–	±	±			+	±	–	4+ 5–
	Glamour for Sale	(Col)	±	±	±		=	±	–	∓	5+ 8–
29.	Golden Hoofs	(20th-Fox)	+	±	+		+	+	+		6+ 1–
	Go West	(M-G-M)	+	+	⧺	+	⧺	+	±	⧺	11+ 1–
	Gone With the Wind	(M-G-M)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	16+
	Great Commandment	(20-Fox)							⧺		2+
	Great Dictator, The	(UA)	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	∓	+	⧺	+	12+ 1–
	Great Mr. Nobody	(WB)		±					±		2+ 2–
	Great Plane Robbery	(Col)	+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4–
	Great Profile, The	(20th-Fox)	+	±	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	+	±	11+ 2–
	H										
33.	Hard Boiled Canary	(Para)	±				⧺	+	+		5+ 1–
	Haunted Honeymoon	(M-G-M)	+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+ 6–
	Her First Romance	(Mono)	+	+		+	⧺	+	+		7+
	Here Comes the Navy	(WB)						⧺			2+
16.	High Sierra	(FN)	⧺	±	±	⧺	⧺	⧺		+	11+ 2–
	Hit Parade of 1941	(Rep)	+	±	±	⧺	+	+	+	∓	9+ 3–
	Hold That Woman	(PRC)	+		–	±	+	–		±	4+ 4–
13.	Honeymoon for Three	(WB)	±	±	±	±	±	⧺	+	±	9+ 6–
	Howards of Virginia	(Col)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	15+
	Hudson's Bay	(20th-Fox)	+	±	∓	±	+	⧺	+	+	9+ 3–
	Hullabaloo	(M-G-M)	+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6–
	I										
	I Want a Divorce	(Para)	+	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	12+
	I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now	(Univ)	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2–
	I'm Still Alive	(RKO)	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
34.	In Old Colorado	(Para)	+				+	+	+		4+
1.	Invisible Woman, The	(Univ)	⧺	+	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	±	12+ 1–
	J										
	Jennie	(20th-Fox)	+	+			+	+	+		5+
	K										
4.	Keeping Company	(M-G-M)	–	±	–	⧺	⧺	±	+		7+ 4–
	Kitty Foyle	(RKO)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	14+
	Knute Rockne—All American	(WB)	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	15+
	L										
	Laddie	(RKO)	∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4–
	Lady Eve, The	(Para)							+		1+
	Lady With Red Hair	(WB)	+	±	+	+	⧺	+	+	±	9+ 2–
15.	Land of Liberty	(M-G-M)	⧺	±	+			⧺	+		7+ 1–
	Law and Order	(Univ)	±		+	+					3+ 1–
	Let's Make Music	(RKO)	+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4–
	Letter, The	(FN)	⧺	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	⧺	14+
1.	Li'l Abner	(RKO)	+	∓			∓	±	–		4+ 4–
	Little Bit of Heaven	(Univ)	⧺	+	+	⧺	⧺	⧺	+	+	12+
	Little Men	(RKO)	–	±	=	±	⧺	+	±	±	7+ 7–

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week.

The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:
⧺ **Very Good;** + **Good;** ± **Fair;** ∓ **Mediocre;** – **Poor;** = **Very Poor.**
In the summary ⧺ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.
(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number.)

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

Andy Hardy's Private Secretary F
Comedy-Drama

M-G-M (126) 100 Minutes Rel. Feb. 21, '41

In which the youngest of the famous Hardy clan—in the person of Mickey Rooney—very nearly doesn't graduate from high school, but manages barely to scrape through after the expected romantic, hilarious and academic complications. The feature is well up to par for the series and can be expected to account for itself with honors in revenue. Otherwise it is notable because it marks the film debut of Kathryn Grayson, youthful actress and singer, who definitely impresses, looks to be of certain star calibre and performs the amazing feat of stealing a scene or two away from Master Rooney—which in itself is no mean accomplishment. The only criticism which might possibly be directed against the entry is that it is a bit lengthy. Andy, president of the senior class, author of the annual play and chairman of every other committee, is too busy to study—with the result that he flunks his English examination. He is further beset by woe when Polly, his girl-friend, waxes jealous because he has hired young Miss Grayson as his secretary. However, one of the usual man-to-man talks with Judge Hardy, plus some concentrated study, clears up the dilemma. George B. Seitz directed.

Mickey Rooney, Lewis Stone, Kathryn Grayson, Ann Rutherford, Ian Hunter, Fay Holden, Todd Karns.

EXPLOITIPS: Pursue the exploitation procedure adopted for previous Hardy Family pictures—preparing special mailing pieces for all families named Hardy; stressing the family angle by having the Hardys endorse such local products as food, furniture, clothing, etc. Give Kathryn Grayson an exploitation buildup as a new singing star. Take advertisements in high school papers. Invite the school's senior class to attend a showing as your guests. Prepare throwsheets written in shorthand, translated on the reverse side.

CATCHLINES: Andy Hardy Was So Busy Running the High School Graduation That He Forgot to Study . . . And Almost Flunked Out.

You'll Vote It the Best One Yet . . . This Newest, Funniest of Andy Hardy's Romantically Hilarious Adventures.

Nice Girl? F
Comedy With Music

Universal (——) 90 Minutes Rel. Feb. 21, '41

This is a rather sharp departure in story material and productional treatment from immediately preceding Deanna Durbin features. There is no apparent reason, however, why it shouldn't prove just as popular and profitable as other films in which she has been starred. The gifted young songbird, who has attained womanhood with such remarkable grace and development of her natural abilities as an actress, isn't afforded so much opportunity to display her vocal talents. Rather, her part was designed to accent her Thespic qualities. Noteworthy is the fact that the remaining cast is more impressive and admittedly more expensive than has ever before been assembled in her support, which factor will undoubtedly go a long way in alleviating the disappointment of fans who might decry the paucity of music. The film is a wholesome comedy of small city atmosphere and leaning toward formula in its romantic motivation. Robert Benchley, an absent-minded professor, has three daughters, of which Deanna is one. They all make a play for Franchot Tone, a colorful explorer who visits their father, and Deanna finds herself in an embarrassing spot because of an unfounded report of her engagement. Tone comes to the rescue and Deanna returns to her shy small-town sweetheart. William Seiter's understanding direction must be credited for a large portion of the picture's assets.

Deanna Durbin, Franchot Tone, Walter Brennan, Robert Stack, Robert Benchley, Helen Broderick, Ann Gillis.

EXPLOITIPS: Deanna Durbin and Franchot Tone are the marquee names in this one, while Robert Benchley is worthy of supporting mention. Promote a contest among high schools for the selection of their favorite "Nice Girl" and have the winner attend a showing of the picture as the guest of honor. Miss Durbin's ability as a songstress suggests a contest on the stage for amateur songbirds.

CATCHLINES: Deanna's Gayer and More Charming Than Ever . . . And She Has a Brand-New Boy Friend . . . Handsome Franchot Tone.

Tobacco Road F
Drama

20th Century-Fox (133) 84 Minutes Rel. Mar. 7, '41

Darryl F. Zanuck's screen version of the record-shattering stage hit is an expertly produced, magnificently enacted feature. The obscenity and objectionable sex sequences of the original have been eliminated but the screenplay retains and accentuates its pathos and scattered humorous situations. Charles Grapewin is superb in his portrayal of Jeeter Lester, the Georgia cracker, whose great love for the land of his forefathers is overshadowed only by his shiftlessness and aversion to labor. In fact, every member of the cast is ideally suited to his role and delivers a notable performance. Among those who are prepared to judge the offering solely on its merits as an exhibit of better motion picture making, the film should win wide patronage and praise. Among the more squeamish, however, its sordidness, and it had to be sordid not to completely sacrifice its identity, may prove a barrier. A further possible objection may come from those who look askance at the manner in which religion is treated and who might easily accuse such treatment of bordering on burlesque. In view of which elements, the picture's overall boxoffice fate is difficult to predict. Grosses will probably vary in accordance with localities and types of audiences. John Ford directed.

Charley Grapewin, Marjorie Rambeau, Gene Tierney, William Tracy, Elizabeth Patterson, Dana Andrews.

EXPLOITIPS: Transform lobby and theatre front into a hillbilly settlement, with attendants dressed as mountaineers. Make up narrow, arrow-shaped tack cards reading "This Way to Tobacco Road" and post them on all streets in the vicinity. Point out that the picture was made from the stage play which has had more than 3,000 performances, breaking all theatrical records.

CATCHLINES: The Greatest Popular Hit in All Stage History . . . Comes at Last to the Screen.

Hollywood Dared to Make It . . . And We Dare You to See the Season's Most Sensational Screen Success.

The Hard-Boiled Canary F
Drama With Music

Paramount (4020) 80 Minutes Rel. Mar. 7, '41

An experimental sally into the field of culture, the picture has many moments of rare entertainment to offer music lovers and, because of its preponderantly juvenile cast, may possess a dramatic appeal to youngsters. The film's maximum possibilities were lost somewhere in the maze of a naive, maudlin, over-length story, freighted with improbable and unacceptable situations. Using the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich., as its locale, the feature enlists the services of scores of talented amateur youngsters, all of whom are amazingly splendid musicians and many of whom display an aptitude for acting which proves both surprising and refreshing. The established Thespians do the best they can with the meager material furnished them. Allan Jones and Susanna Foster, in the toplines, predominate because of their respective abilities as singers. Young Miss Foster, a burlesque show entertainer, is rescued in a raid by Jones, whose father is the managing director of the music camp, in which she is placed and where she attains fame and popularity, but only after an endless series of sequences which try and test her character. Produced and directed by Andrew L. Stone.

Allan Jones, Susanna Foster, Margaret Lindsay, Lynne Overman, Grace Bradley, William Collier sr., Heimo Haitto.

EXPLOITIPS: Stress the musical angles in your selling campaign on this one. Allan Jones and Susanna Foster have both gained renown through their vocal abilities, while Dolly Loehr, a juvenile pianist, is another name to plug. Promote a contest for young amateur musicians on the stage of the theatre, with music teachers of local schools selected to serve as judges. Hold a special matinee performance for aspiring young musicians, admitted at special rates when accompanied by their teachers.

CATCHLINES: Prepare Yourself for a Treat . . . When a Group of Amazingly Talented Youngsters Display Their Musical Ability.

ǂ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor — In the summary ǂ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		Little Nellie Kelly (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 2−
	35	Lone Rider Rides On (PRC)		∓						+		2+ 1−
		Lone Star Raiders (Rep)		+		±	∓		+	±	∓	6+ 4−
		Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (Col)		+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
		Long Voyage Home (UA)		+	ǂ		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	13+
		Love Thy Neighbor (Para)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
		Lucky Devils (Univ)			±					+	∓	3+ 2−
		M										
	26	Mad Doctor, The (Para)		∓	+			+	±	+		5+ 2−
	5	Maisie Was a Lady (M-G-M)		+	±	+	∓	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	10+ 2−
		Margie (Univ)		−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
		Mark of Zorro, The (20th-Fox)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
	28	Meet the Chump (Univ)		±	−	±		+	+	±		5+ 4−
		Meet the Missus (Rep)		±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
		Meet the Wildcat (Univ)		−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
		Melody and Moonlight (Rep)		∓	±		ǂ	ǂ	+	±		8+ 3−
		Melody Ranch (Rep)		+	+	+	ǂ		ǂ	+	∓	9+ 1−
		Mexican Spitfire Out West (RKO)		+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
		Michael Shayne, Private Detective (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Misbehaving Husbands (PRC)		+	±	=	+	ǂ	+		∓	7+ 4−
	27	Monster and the Girl (Para)		+				+	±			3+ 1−
		Moon Over Burma (Para)		+	+	±	+	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 2−
		Mortal Storm, The (M-G-M)		+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	13+
	13	Mr. and Mrs. Smith (RKO)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	±	ǂ	+	+	11+ 1−
		Mummy's Hand, The (Univ)		+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
		Murder Over New York (20th-Fox)		±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
		N										
	36	Nice Girl (Univ)		+								1+
		Night at Earl Carroll's (Para)		=	±	−	±	±	±	±	±	6+ 9−
		Night Train (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	ǂ		+	ǂ	9+
	18	Nobody's Children (Col)		±	−	∓	±	±	±	±	±	7+ 8−
	8	No, No, Nanette (RKO)		ǂ	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		North West Mounted Police (Para)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
		O										
		Ol' Swimmin' Hole (Mono)		+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
		On the Spot (Mono)		+		−	+	+	±	±	∓	6+ 4−
		One Million B. C. (UA)		±	±	−	+	±	∓	±		6+ 6−
		One Night in the Tropics (Univ)		±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
		Outlaws of the Panhandle (Col)								−		1−
		P										
		Passport to Alcatraz (Col)		+	−	±	+	∓	−	±		5+ 5−
	31	Petticoat Politics (Rep)		∓	−	∓	+	−	+	−		4+ 5−
		Phantom Cowboy (Rep)					+			±		2+ 1−
		Phantom of Chinatown (Mono)		±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
	30	Phantom Submarine, The (Col)		±	±	−	±			±	±	5+ 6−
		Philadelphia Story (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
	23	Pinto Kid (Col)		+		±	+			±	±	5+ 3−
		Play Girl (RKO)		+	±	±	±	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 4−
		Pony Post (Univ)		±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
		Prairie Law (RKO)		+	±	+	+		+	±	∓	7+ 3−
		Prairie Schooners (Col)		∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
	15	Pride of the Bowery (Mono)		+	±	=	±	+	−	+	∓	6+ 6−
		Public Deb. No. 1 (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+	+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
		Q										
		Quarterback, The (Para)		±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		R										
		Ragtime Cowboy Joe (Univ)		+		±	+			+	∓	5+ 2−
		Rangers of Fortune (Para)		+	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	±	+	12+ 2−
		Remedy for Riches (RKO)		+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
	25	Ride, Kelly, Ride (20th-Fox)		±	−	−		=	−	±		2+ 7−
	19	Ridin' on a Rainbow (Rep)		∓		∓	+	+	+			5+ 2−
	35	Ridin' the Cherokee Trail (Mono)		+				+	+			3+
	25	Road Show (UA)		+	−	∓	±	−	+	+	±	6+ 5−
	10	Robin Hood of the Pecos (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	∓	+	±	7+ 4−
	17	Rolling Home to Texas (Mono)		=			+	+	±	±		4+ 4−
	5	Romance of the Rio Grande (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		Roundup, The (Para)								±		1+ 1−
		S										
		Safari (Para)		±	∓	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
	3	Saint in Palm Springs (RKO)		+	±	=	∓	=	+	+	+	6+ 6−
		Sandy Gets Her Man (Univ)		+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		Sandy Is a Lady (Univ)		+	∓	∓	+	+	±	+	±	8+ 4−
		San Francisco Docks (Univ)		∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
		Santa Fe Trail (FN)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
	27	Scattergood Baines (RKO)		+	±	+	+	ǂ	+	+		8+ 1−
		Second Chorus (Para)		ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
	23	Secret Evidence (PRC)		+	±		+	+	−	±		5+ 3−
		Seven Sinners (Univ)		±	+	±	ǂ	+	+	±	+	9+ 3−
		She Couldn't Say No (FN)		+	±	±	±	∓		±	±	7+ 6−
	12	Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga (Univ)		+	±		+	∓	+	±	∓	7+ 4−
		Sky Murder (M-G-M)		±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+ 10−
		Slightly Tempted (Univ)		±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
	20	So Ends Our Night (UA)		∓	+	±	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ		10+ 2−
		So You Won't Talk (Col)		−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
		Son of Monte Cristo (UA)		+	±	∓	±	∓	ǂ	±	±	9+ 6−
		South of Suez (WB)		+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
		Spellbound (UA)				+						1+
		Spring Parade (Univ)		ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
	29	Strawberry Blonde (FN)		ǂ	±	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ		11+ 1−
		Street of Memories (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
		Strike Up the Band (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
		T										
		Take Me Back to Okla. (Mono)		+			ǂ	+	+	+		6+
	14	Tall, Dark and Handsome (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	12+
		Texas Rangers Ride Again (Para)		+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
		Texas Terrors (Rep)		+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
		That Gang of Mine (Mono)		±	±	=	+	−	±	−	±	5+ 8−
		That Uncertain Feeling (UA)								+		1+
		They Knew What They Wanted (RKO)		ǂ	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	14+ 1−
		Thief of Bagdad (UA)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
		Third Finger, Left Hand (M-G-M)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
		This Thing Called Love (Col)		+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		±	+	10+ 1−
		Three Men From Texas (Para)		+		ǂ	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Thundering Frontier (Col)		−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
		Tin Pan Alley (20th-Fox)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
	33	Tobacco Road (20th-Fox)		ǂ			ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		+	9+
		Too Many Girls (RKO)		+	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	11+ 1−
		Torpedo Raider (Mono)		∓								1+ 1−
		Trail Blazers (Rep)		+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
		Trail of the Silver Spurs (Mono)				+				+		2+
		Trail of the Vigilantes (Univ)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		Trailin' Double Trouble (Mono)		∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
	28	Trial of Mary Dugan (M-G-M)		+	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+		9+
		Triple Justice (RKO)		+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
		Tugboat Annie Sails Again (WB)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		U										
		Under Texas Skies (Rep)		+		±	+			+	±	5+ 2−
		V										
		Victory (Para)		+	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	11+ 1−
		Villain Still Pursued Her, The (RKO)		±	∓	−	±	±	∓	±		6+ 7−
	12	Virginia (Para)		ǂ	±	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 3−
		W										
		Wagon Train (RKO)		+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
		Wagons Westward (Rep)		+	+	±	+	−	∓	±	±	7+ 5−
		West of Pinto Basin (Mono)		±		±	+	ǂ	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
		Westerner, The (UA)		±	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	+	10+ 1−
	24	Western Union (20th-Fox)		ǂ		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		+	11+
		Where Did You Get That Girl (Univ)		+	±		±	+	+	±		6+ 3−
		Who Killed Aunt Maggie? (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
		Wild Horse Range (Mono)								±	∓	2+ 2−
	24	Wild Man of Borneo (M-G-M)		+	−					+		2+ 1−
	30	Wildcat of Tucson (Col)		o								0+ 0−
		World in Flames (Para)		+		ǂ	ǂ	+		+	+	8+
	8	Wyoming Wildcat (Rep)		+			+			+		3+
		Y										
		Yesterday's Heroes (20th-Fox)		+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
		You'll Find Out (RKO)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
		Young Bill Hickok (Rep)		±		∓	+			±		4+ 3−
	11	You're Out of Luck (Mono)		±	±			∓	±	±		5+ 5−
	21	You're the One (Para)		+	∓	∓		ǂ	+	−	±	7+ 4−
		Youth Will Be Served (20th-Fox)		±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
		Yukon Flight (Mono)		+			+					2+

ROOSEVELT PRAISES FILMS FOR PROMOTING SOLIDARITY

Newsreels Service, Trade Defense Cooperation Also Are Lauded

HOLLYWOOD—One of the most important contributions the motion picture can make to the national defense program is in the promotion of solidarity "among all the people of the Americas," President Franklin Delano Roosevelt told the industry and the nation Thursday night in a three-way network broadcast from Washington to open the 13th annual banquet of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The President expressed the government's appreciation for the cooperation of the industry in "helping the people of this hemisphere to come to know each other better."

Cites Newsreels

The newsreels, he said, have performed a "great service" in acquainting the public with the implications of the lend-lease bill.

Highlights of the President's address:

"The American motion picture as a national and international force is a phenomenon of our own generation. Within living memory we have seen it born and grow up into full maturity. We have seen the American motion picture become foremost throughout the world. We have seen it reflect our civilization throughout the rest of the world—the aims and aspirations and ideals of a free people and of freedom.

"That is the real reason that some governments do not want our American films exhibited in their countries. Dictators—those who enforce the totalitarian form of government—think it a dangerous thing for their unfortunate peoples to know that in our democracy officers of the government are the servants, never the masters, of the people.

"We have been seeking to affirm our faith in the western world through a wider exchange of culture, of education, of thought and of free expression among the various nations of this hemisphere. Your industry has utilized its vast resources of talent and facilities in a sincere effort to help the people of this hemisphere come to know each other.

"Our government has invited you to do your share of the job of interpreting the people of the western hemisphere to one another. And all of us in all the 21 American republics are grateful that your response is so immediate and so wholehearted.

"I do not minimize the importance of the motion picture industry as the most popular medium of mass entertainment. But tonight I want to place the chief emphasis on the service you can render in promoting solidarity among all the people of the Americas.

"For all this and for your splendid cooperation with all who are directing the expansion of our defense forces, I am glad to thank you. In the weeks and months that lie ahead, we in Washington know we shall have your continued aid and support."

Academy Chooses "Rebecca," James Stewart, Ginger Rogers

Meeting for the 13th consecutive year at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science's annual Awards Banquet, Hollywood's creative workers acclaimed "Rebecca," produced by David O. Selznick for United Artists, the outstanding motion picture made during 1940.

The 12,000 members of the industry who participated in one of the film colony's most distinguished and significant yearly functions presented James Stewart the best-actor accolade for his performance in "The Philadelphia Story," produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Ginger Rogers was named best actress as a result of her work in "Kitty Foyle," produced by RKO Radio.

President Opens Dinner

Occasion was further enhanced by an address of welcome and congratulation via radio from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaking from the White House in Washington over the three major networks. Winners were announced, and the famous gold trophies were presented, at the Biltmore Bowl in the Biltmore Hotel on the evening of February 27. Presentations to the winning actors and actresses were made by Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, and Bob Hope served as master of ceremonies. Stars, executives and other industry notables on hand to extend plaudits to the recipients of the coveted statuettes made the affair a sell-out.

Other winners included:

Walter Brennan, chosen as the best actor in a supporting role, for his work in "The Westerner," a Samuel Goldwyn production. Named as best actress in a supporting role was Jane Darwell as a result of her portrayal in "The Grapes of Wrath," a 20th Century-Fox production.

John Ford for Direction

For the best achievement in direction:

John Ford, pilot of "The Grapes of Wrath."

For the best original motion picture story:

Benjamin Glazer and John S. Toldy, authors of "Arise, My Love." Donald Ogden Stewart received the best screenplay award for "The Philadelphia Story." For the best original screenplay, the writer or writers of which are also the authors of the original story, the award went to Preston Sturges for "The Great McGinty."

For the art direction achievement in black-and-white films:

Cedric Gibbons and Paul Groesse for "Pride and Prejudice." Winner of the art direction award for color films was Vincent Korda, for "The Thief of Bagdad." Recognition for the best achievement in film editing went to Anne Bauchens for "North West Mounted Police."

His camera work on "Rebecca" won top honors for George Barnes in the black-and-white cinematography division. The color photography winner was George Perinal, who handled the cameras on "The Thief of Bagdad."

In the music field, the best original score, with primary emphasis on original composition, was deemed that written by Ned Washington and Leigh Harline for "Pinocchio." Selected as the best musical score without regard to source was that done by Alfred Newman for "Tin Pan Alley." "When You Wish Upon a Star" in "Pinocchio," was chosen as the best song, the citation going to its authors, Ned Washington and Leigh Harline.

"Milky Way" was named the outstanding cartoon subject produced during the year. It was made by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Winner of the award as best short subject of 1,000 feet or less in length was "Quicker'n a Wink," a Pete Smith production. Selected as the best short subject in the 1,000 to 3,000 feet division was "Teddy, the Rough Rider," a Warner Brothers release.

The sound recording in "Strike Up the Band" won top honors for Douglas Shearer. In the special effects classification the award went to Lawrence Butler and Jack Whitney for "The Thief of Bagdad."

Special Award to Bob Hope

Recipients of special awards, named as the result of conferences between the awards committee and the Academy's board of governors, were Bob Hope who received a special plaque for his many contributions to charitable undertakings for building goodwill for the industry; and to Col. Nathan Levinson for outstanding service to the industry and the army during the past nine years, which made possible the present efficient mobilization of the production of army training films.

No award was made of the Irving Thalberg memorial this year.

Riesner Megs a Marx

HOLLYWOOD—"Step This Way," Marx Bros. starrer, will be directed for Metro by Charles Riesner.

"Less Than Half as Many Cost $11,000,000 More"

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—Motion picture producers in 1939 turned out less than half as many features as they did in 1937 but spent over $11,000,000 more in their production, it is shown by preliminary figures just released by the U. S. census bureau.

Issuing its first report on the 1940 census of film production, the bureau disclosed that 520 features, 27 of them in color, cost $132,186,453 in 1939, compared with $120,820,554 expended on 1,097 features, 12 of which were in color, in 1937.

On the basis of the boxoffice receipts of $673,045,000 recently reported by the bureau for the exhibition branch of the industry, the motion picture theatres of the country took in approximately $4 for every $1 spent in the production of features, shorts, educational and news films.

More Firms Producing

The 1940 canvass shows that in the preceding year a total of 178 producing establishments were in operation, their total expenditures being $215,664,929, compared with 83 establishments spending $197,741,358 in 1937.

"Although the production of motion pictures is not a manufacturing industry, its commercial importance is so great that data in regard to it have been collected at the biennial censuses of manufactures for 1921 and subsequent years," the bureau explains, pointing out that since the first survey, when expenditures for 1921 were found to be $77,000,000 the dollar cost of film production has trebled.

"The unique nature of the picture production industry is indicated in the census report," Acting Director Vergil D. Reed comments. "More than $93,000,000 was paid out in executive, supervisory, clerical and star salaries, representing nearly 50 per cent of all production costs. Wages paid to skilled and unskilled manual labor amounted to less than half of the salaries paid to executives and creative talent."

Employment and Salaries Down

While the number of salaried officers and employes was cut sharply between 1937 and 1939, from 13,060 to 9,635, salary payments showed only one-third as great a decline, from $102,393,327 to $93,341,137, the report discloses. On the other hand, the average number of wage earners increased 24 per cent, from 19,338 to 24,052, but wage payments rose only 23 per cent, from $37,157,753 to $45,735,926.

Other expenditures were $43,051,733 for studio supplies, containers for films, fuel, and energy, compared with $35,574,879 in 1937; $3,644,889 for contract work compared with $7,012,657, and $29,891,244 for other expenses compared with $15,602,742.

Only slightly more than half of the country's producing establishments were located in California, but the 93 in operation in that state in 1939 spent $186,848,971, or some 85 per cent of the national total. In 1937, there were 35 establishments with expenditures of $171,943,349.

Sixty-five of the California establishments were located in the city of Los Angeles and reported expenditures of $95,320,051, compared with $87,765,452 reported by 24 in 1937; and 23 were located in Los Angeles county, their expenditures of $91,448,650 comparing with $84,177,897 reported by 11 establishments in 1937. In the San Francisco area, the bureau reported five establishments with expenditures of $80,270.

Gain in N. Y. Establishments

California accounted in 1939 for 30,263 of the total of 33,687 persons engaged in the industry and for $130,981,076 of the total of $139,077,063 paid out for salaries and wages.

New York was reported as having 43 establishments with expenditures of $18,059,670 in 1939, against 21 with expenditures of $16,377,532 in 1937. In 1939 a total of 1,845 persons were engaged in the state and salary and wage payments aggregated $4,874,802.

The only other states to have more than two producing establishments in 1939 were Illinois, nine with expenditures of $499,152; Michigan, five with expenditures of $1,765,472 and Missouri, five with expenditures of $166,876. There were 23 establishments in all other states, with Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania each reporting two, and Iowa, Maryland, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin reporting one each.

Light December Trading By Company Officials

WASHINGTON—The final December report of the securities and exchange commission on transactions by corporation officers and directors in the stocks of their companies shows only operations by two Universal corporation officials.

The SEC reported that Preston Davie, New York, director, acquired 400 common voting trust certificates and Peyton Gibson, New York, officer, acquired 100 certificates. At the close of the year Davie was reported as holding 3,000 and Gibson 1,400 certificates. Standard Capital Co. was reported as holding 26,500 voting trust certificates and 111,283 warrants.

AAA Panels Named In Two More Keys

New York—The American Arbitration Association during the week listed partial panels for two more cities, Seattle and New Haven. This leaves two to go. Detail on Seattle on page 88-A. On New Haven, page 113.

NSS Sues Casanave; Casanave Sues NSS

NEW YORK—Herman Robbins and Toby Gruen, as directors of National Screen Service, have filed a civil action in supreme court against Charles L. Casanave and National Screen Accessories, subsidiary of the parent company in which Casanave has a 30 per cent stock interest and a contract as vice-president and general manager which runs for 11 more years.

The plaintiffs assert Casanave borrowed $30,000 from NSS in 1935 with which to purchase a 50 per cent interest in American Display Co., jointly operated by Casanave and Harry A. Samwick, and one year later sold that interest to Advertising Accessories. The complaint alleges Casanave then consummated a deal between the two companies by which American Display was to manufacture all product distributed by Advertising Accessories but that in so doing he allegedly committed fraudulent acts and secretly obtained a 109 per cent overage for himself on all business done between both firms.

Four Causes of Action

Actually, there are four causes of action in the complaint, all based on the charge Casanave "made divers false representations and entered into divers secret and undisclosed agreements in violation of his duty as an officer and director" of NSA . . . "whereby the plaintiff corporation and the defendant corporation have been injured and deprived of secret profits" alleged to have been personally accumulated by Casanave. Nowhere is Samwick made a party defendant.

The plaintiffs seek in excess of $45,000, representing sums allegedly unlawfully received by Casanave, that he be compelled to hold in trust all future money acquired as a result of the deal between American Display and Advertising Accessories, the sum of $5,000 alleged to be a "kickback" in a stock transfer, and an accounting by reason of the losses alleged to have been sustained by NSS and AA.

Casanave has filed a counter suit in which he seeks a declaratory judgment declaring his acts to have been legal and proper and charging that a "conspiracy" was entered into between directors of NSS and subsidiaries to the detriment of AA. He also charges the parent company has made improper allegations against subsidiary companies and asks the appointment of a master to ascertain the financial status of NSS insofar as "illegal practices" have been committed.

Nat'l Theatres Advance Guard Heads for Coast

LOS ANGELES—Due here Monday from New York in advance of the annual meeting of National Theatres divisional operating heads for the week of March 6 are William T. Powers, Edward Zabel, Harry T. Cox, Aubrey Schenck and Peter Lundgren. Spyros Skouras will fly in from the east later.

BROADWAY

THE social season took a long stride forward Saturday evening when about 900 members, guests and distributor representatives jammed the main ballroom of the Hotel Astor for the eighth annual dinner dance and show of the ITOA. There were no speeches. Instead there were two orchestras — Eli Dantzig tooting domestic type music and Zito, dispensing the rhumba variety. Then a flock of Broadway stage and visiting screen personalities. The ballroom decorations, carried out in the patriotic hues of red, white and blue, evoked considerable comment from the guests. Credit for the arrangements goes to Dave Weinstock . . . Paul Ash, Roxy orchestra maestro, has a piece of the House of Chan . . . Edward Casanave, brother of Charles, is no longer with Advertising Accessories . . . Walter Gould was in Florida for the weekend to visit his family . . . George Dembow was home very early Wednesday and for an excellent reason—it was Mrs. Dembow's birthday.

Joseph A. McConville, Columbia's foreign manager, returned to Florida over the weekend en route for a month's business trip to Central America. He is repeating the first leg of the same journey he began on February 21, which took him as far as Florida, but when he was informed of the accident involving Jack Segal, his assistant, he returned here immediately. Latest word at the General Hospital at Paterson, where Segal is confined, is that he is showing signs of improvement, but will be laid up for some time . . . Leo Pillot of Monroe Greenthal's staff has taken to skiing and has two very blurred photographs and nine bone bruises to prove it . . . Leonard Picker, Columbia attorney, is due back Monday from a second installment of Miami, the first having been cut short by business.

Herman Sussman has gone to Miami. He's the upstate exhibitor who is an uncle of Bill Sussman, eastern division head for 20th-Fox. Incidentally, Bill plans to resume his tour of exchanges on the decree. Fred Pride, attorney who had been accompanying him, was in Madison for the past two weeks on the La Crosse case. Now that it's over, Sussman and Pride will get together again . . . Henry S. Griffing, attorney for Griffith circuit in Oklahoma City, was in Washington conferring with department of justice representatives on the anti-trust suit pending against the circuit . . . Fred Schwartz and Charles Stern spent the weekend in Lake Placid . . . William White's wife was discharged over the weekend from a local hospital after an operation.

Jay Eisenberg, Loew attorney, lost his mother-in-law the other day . . . Morris Epstein, local Republic branch manager, is back from Miami Beach, but says his wife continues in the winter resort for the balance of the season . . . Homer S. Cummings was in Washington for an important conference, the import of which will become known in a few days . . . Julius Gordon of Jefferson Amusement Co. has been in town from Beaumont, Tex., for Paramount home office conferences . . . Arthur Willi, RKO talent scout, has been upstate catching a couple of shows . . . Cliff Lewis is in town after a cross-country tour with Susanna Foster.

Phil Seletsky and Walter Higgins, film buyers for Mullin & Pinanski, are back in Boston after a three-day session here working out a "Gone With the Wind" deal with Edwin Aaron and Harold Postman of M-G-M . . . Ben Jacobson of Marvin Schenck's staff was confined to his Century Hotel penthouse with a bad cold, while Milton Weiss was the middleman for such items as food and cigarettes . . . Leonard Palumbo of Warner's foreign publicity staff was also on the sick list . . . M. L. Simons, editor of M-G-M's *The Distributor*, is back from three days in Charlotte on company business . . . Estelle Schrott, formerly eastern publicity representative for Walter Wanger, has finished a novel, "High Noon," which can be seen or heard about through her agents, Ruth and Maxwell Aley. It's a story about Americans in South America. Meanwhile, Estelle is in Mexico City for a two months' holiday . . . Jerry Sager of Loew's publicity staff is recuperating at home from pleurisy.

Martin Moskowitz gets four stars for that one-reel short he produced. It's called "Our Mom," with Lowell Thomas handling the commentary. It was previewed at the Moskowitz Manse the evening of February 21, when Mom celebrated her 77th . . . Eddie Golden has gone back to the coast after several weeks here arranging for his two feature independent productions to be released by Monogram . . . Lester Krieger, Warner Philadelphia circuit booker, paid the home offices one of his regular visits during the week . . . Harry Royster and Harold Greenberg, who formerly made their headquarters at the Paramount home office, are now quartered in Poughkeepsie where they will supervise operations of the Netco circuit . . . Eddie Hyman is in from Detroit and now making his office on the ninth floor of the Paramount Building . . . Abe Leff, his daughter married, has gone to Miami with his wife for a vacation.

Mort Spring returns Monday from Tucson, Ariz., to find his office newly painted . . . Arthur Loew is visiting his son there and then will head for the M-G-M studios . . . Jean Birkahan, M-G-M managing director in Bulgaria, is here after a trip which took him 100 days. He's glad to be here, despite the arduous journey . . . Dorothy Kennedy, Loew receptionist on the seventh floor, has been home ill for about two weeks . . . Bob O'Donnell of the Interstate circuit was in town the latter part of the week . . . Emerson Yorke, shorts subject producer, will make a one-reeler "Big Game of Alaska" for the U. S. Forest Service . . . Nick Schenck and Dave Bernstein the other lunch hour arm-and-arming in a brief walk around Radio City . . . Lou Anger, who has been reported in town, is not expected for a few weeks yet . . . Irving Greenfield, Loew attorney, is Miami-Beaching it for a couple of weeks.

Joe Vogel and Harry Bernstein left Friday for Miami and Havana and a couple of weeks rest . . . Dave Snaper, Jersey exhibitor, is in Hot Springs, Ark., recuperating from a recent illness . . . Harry Brandt leaves for Miami March 4 . . . Joe Lee gets back Monday and on Tuesday Harry Buxbaum will head for the same southern resort . . . On March 21, Moe Sanders will begin his Miami vacationing . . . Dick Kearny of the Feiber & Shea office made a trip to Ohio, Pennsylvania and upstate

(Continued on page 35)



—Metropolitan Photos

On a Tour They Go—

"Captain" Leo Devaney of the Ned Depinet drive—he's in the center—and Harry Michalson, RKO shorts sales manager—he's on the left—acquire the good wishes of A. W. Smith jr., general sales manager, as they leave the home office on a tour of American and Canadian exchanges. They're due back April 5.



—Metropolitan Photos

Making P. A. Trip—

Wendy Barrie, tall and blonde, arrives in New York from the coast to make personal appearances at Loew's State. She plays one of the leads in "Repent at Leisure."



The Oscar Levants: A Family Album—

Having finished a role in "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" for Paramount, Oscar Levant—he writes and plays music and appears in the "Information, Please" air show of course—arrives in New York with his family. Mrs. L. is the former June Gale. The cutie is Marcia, age four months.

RCA's RKO Holdings Top Six Millions

NEW YORK—RCA lists RKO stock holdings in its asset column at $6,614,434 although indicated market values, as of December 31, 1940 and based on then stock and curb market quotations, are reported at $3,284,302.

The $6,614,434 figure is RCA's investment at cost. Today it is represented by 44,757 and 106/1,000 shares of RKO $100 par value six per cent convertible preferred on which dividends are cumulative from February 1, 1940, as well as 316,328 2/24 shares of $1 par value common and 555,253 3/4 option warrants received in 1940 upon termination proceedings under 77-B. These blocks were transferred to RCA for the 555,254 1/10 shares of old common and $4,485,550.21 in debentures previously held.

The detail on this stock portfolio was divulged with release of RCA's annual report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1940. It shows a consolidated net of $9,113,156, or an increase of $1,030,345 over the preceding year.

Wanger Planning Three Features for 1941-42

HOLLYWOOD—Walter Wanger plans three for 1941-42 release. "Sundown," a *Saturday Evening Post* story by Barre Lyndon, will be first with Henry Hathaway directing. Second will be "The Eagle Squadron," dealing with Americans flying with the RAF. The third has not been determined, but "So Gallantly Gleaming" has been postponed.

Leo Abrams Takes Over In Gotham for NSS

NEW YORK—Leo Abrams, most recently short subjects sales manager at Universal, is now New York exchange manager for National Screen. This is a new post and was created, George F. Dembow, general sales manager, declares, because the home office personnel was not able to devote the time necessary to its supervision.

In fact, Morton Van Praag, who is midwestern district manager, had been doubling by spending considerable of his time in this territory in addition to other duties. The appointment of Abrams frees Van Praag to pursue his midwestern activities more fully and to take up other special assignments as they arise.

Van Praag Spending Two Weeks in Chicago Area

CHICAGO—Morton Van Praag, National Screen district manager, is here from New York to spend about two weeks in this territory. He had made his headquarters here until a few months ago when he was shifted to New York.

20th-Fox Dividend

NEW YORK—The board of directors of 20th Century-Fox at its meeting Thursday declared a cash dividend of 37½ cents per share for the first quarter of 1941 on the outstanding preferred payable March 31, 1941 to stockholders of record at the close of business March 17, 1941.

Goes to Paramount

NEW YORK—Universal has sold "Nice Girl?" to the Paramount for a run starting March 26. "Spring Parade," the last Durbin, played the Rivoli.



It's Miami and It's Genuine—

A case of distributor and exhibitor getting together, for once, anyway. The fancy regalia is worn by E. M. Saunders, western sales manager of M-G-M; Jack Bowen, New York district manager for that company; William A. Scully, general sales manager of Universal, and A. C. Hayman, Buffalo and Niagara Falls exhibitor. The place is the dockside at Miami after a foray into the Gulf Stream which netted 32 fish and a half, including dolphin, king, bonita and shark. Scully and Hayman both struggled with a 200 pound shark for two hours and lost him.

Capital Board Busy With Trade Plaints

WASHINGTON — Indications that the Washington area is a hot-bed of clearance disputes and that exhibitors are losing no time in having them straightened out under the arbitration setup of the consent decree are seen in the fact that the three cases so far filed with the Washington office of the American Arbitration Ass'n involve that subject.

The third case, filed February 24, was brought by Westway Theatre, Inc., Baltimore, against Loew's, Inc., Vitagraph and 20th Century-Fox, protesting the 14-day clearance granted the Edgewood, operated by the Frank H. Durkee Theatre Enterprises, and involving also the Alph and Irving theatres.

The petition asserts that the Westway, opened in April, 1939, has lost money as a result of the clearance granted the other three houses, and asks that it be permitted to play day and date "with other theatres of its class."

Of the three cases so far filed in this area, two are from Baltimore, both protesting clearance given Durkee houses. The first case, filed by the Walbrook Theatre against Vitagraph and 20th Century-Fox, protesting the seven-day clearance granted the Ambassador, Forest and Gwynn theatres, was the first case to be filed in the country and has progressed to the point where a list of ten names has been sent to the parties involved for selection of an arbitrator. Each party will list the names of persons most acceptable and Harold B. Barton, clerk of the Washington office, will make the final selection from the nominations on March 4, after which a date will be set for hearing.

File Briefs on Remittance Allocations With Arbiter

NEW YORK—Counsel for M-G-M has filed briefs and Joseph H. Hazen, representing the other seven majors, have submitted counter briefs to Milton J. Handler, arbiter in the dispute on allocation of remittances from England for the year starting November 1, 1940. There is no indication when a decision will be handed down.

Seeks Day and Date for Forum in Metuchen

NEW YORK—The third complaint filed with the local arbitration tribunal is by Monseigneur Enterprises, of which Jack Davis is president, and which operates the Forum, Metuchen, N. J. It is against the "Big Five." The complaint charges the Forum is forced to accept unfair clearance imposed by the Paramount, Oxford and Strand in Plainfield. Davis seeks day and date availability.

New Clearance Action Before Boston Board

BOSTON—Garbose Bros., operators of the York and Capitol at Athol, Mass., have filed a demand for arbitration here. They named the "Big Five" and charged product is not available until it has played first run in Boston and Fitchburg. Day-and-date runs with those cities is sought on the ground the York and Capitol are first-run accounts.

Will Study Damage Suit Potentialities

NEW YORK—Before any complaints are filed for arbitration by the recently organized new Allied of New York unit, each will be examined and studied with an eye to filing a case in court for damages, it is stated by a spokesman for the unit.

The new unit is temporarily making its headquarters with Allied of New Jersey. Harry Kridel, who owns the Mayfair, Hillside, N. J., recently filed an anti-trust suit alleging many of the same charges of the government's complaint against all the majors.

The theory behind the law suit angle is that arbitration may prove the solution in some cases, but in others which may be more involved may give the exhibitor an opportunity to recover some of the money he has allegedly lost in so-called unfair clearance and protection by major circuits.

From all appearances, the strength of the newest Allied unit will center upstate, it is believed, although a number of independents locally are actively engaged in furthering a membership drive in these parts.

: *The Esquire, Great Neck Complaint* :

NEW YORK—*Herbert Scheftel, president of the Esquire-Great Neck Corp., operating the Squire in that Long Island town, has filed a clearance complaint with the arbitration tribunal, charging the Great Neck Playhouse, operated by Skouras, enjoys unreasonable clearance of 30 days over his house and seeking relief in the form of "fair and reasonable clearance."*

This, the second complaint to be filed locally, is held up by the AAA as a presentation made in model form. The text, consequently, is published:

To Clerk of the New York Tribunal:

The undersigned, in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration and Appeals, demands that the controversy hereinafter described be submitted to arbitration under the Motion Picture Consent Decree and files herewith a Submission dated Feb. 20, 1941, in accordance with the provisions of Section XXII, subdivision 9, of said Decree.

1. *Statement of Claim and Relief Sought*:

Complainant is the Esquire-Great Neck Corporation, a New York corporation, with offices at 32 East 57th St., New York City. It owns and operates the "Squire Theatre," located at 111-117 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck, Long Island, which was constructed for the showing of feature motion pictures.

The claim is that the "Distributors" hereinafter named have refused to rent and license feature motion pictures to the complainant for exhibition at the Squire Theatre except upon a "clearance" of at least 30 days after the last exhibition of such pictures at a theatre known as "The Great Neck Playhouse," located at 104 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck, Long Island, and which is owned by the Skouras Theatres Corp.

This "clearance" condition is unreasonable. It prevents the complainant from profitably operating its theatre as a feature motion picture theatre and is tantamount to a destruction of the complainant's right to use its property free of unreasonable trade restraints and impositions.

The complainant seeks relief of this and other unreasonable "clearance" conditions and an award directing the hereinafter named "Distributors" to desist from insisting upon any such "clearance" and to rent and license feature motion pictures to the complainant upon such terms and conditions as this Tribunal may deem fair and reasonable.

2. *Name and Address of Each Distributor Against Whom This Complaint Is Made:*

Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Bldg.; Paramount Film Distributing Corp., Paramount Bldg.; Loew's, Inc., 1540 Broadway; Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., 1270 6th Ave.; RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 321 W. 44th St.; Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., 321 W. 44th St.; Vitagraph, Inc., 321 W. 44th St.; 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., 444 West 56th St., all New York City.

3. *Name and Address of Each Theatre Involved in Controversy:*

Squire Theatre, 111-117 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck, Long Island; Great Neck Playhouse, 104 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck, Long Island.

4. *Name and Address of Each Other Exhibitor Whose Property Complainant Believes May Be Affected by an Award in the Arbitration Proceeding*:

Skouras Theatres Corp., with offices at 1501 Broadway, New York City, which owns and operates the aforementioned Great Neck Playhouse, located at 104 Middle Neck Road, Great Neck, Long Island.

Dated: February 20, 1941.
Date of Filing: February 21, 1941.
Filing Fee Received: $10.00.
(Signed) Charles S. Wall, *Clerk*
ESQUIRE-GREAT NECK CORP.,
By Herbert Scheftel, President.
Complainant.
Address: 32 East 57th St., New York City.

Skouras, Warner Settle N. J. Clearance Tiff

NEW YORK—Skouras and Warner have settled their clearance differences in Suffern and Paterson, N. J. A number of weeks ago, Skouras closed its theatre in Suffern for three days when it could not date "The Letter" because of the Warner protection.

While RKO is taking credit for adopting the 9 p. m. last feature plan locally, Skouras claims the Beacon, Port Washington, experimented with the idea as far back as three years ago and for the past two years the Glen Cove, Port Chester and Great Neck have been operating on this idea while the Forest Hills was recently added to the list.

At the Columbian Club Dance



Mrs. Jack Cohn, L. M. Blancke of Hemphill Noyes & Co., and Jack Cohn.



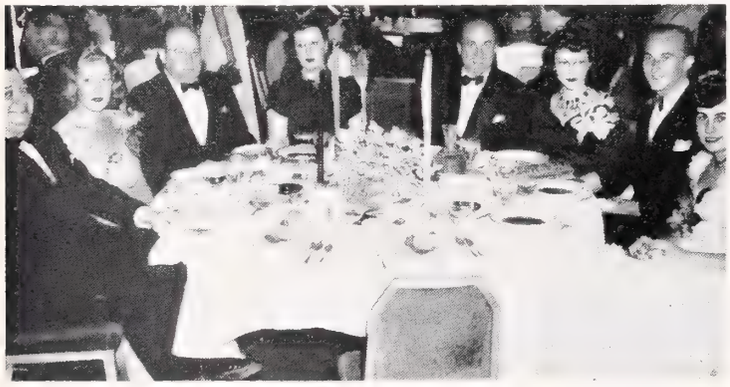
Mr. & Mrs. A. Schneider, (left) and Clayton Bond and Louis Schine.



Standing: M. Goldstein and Lester Wurtele, both of the Philadelphia exchange. Sitting: Joe Eagan, Nat Fellman, Lester Krieger.



Oscar Doob, Mrs. Eugene Picker, Rube Jackter, Eugene Picker, Harold Malkin, Mrs. Oscar Doob and Charles Moskowitz, arranged in the usual left-to-right order.



Included here are Max Waxberger, Emanuel Burstein, Harry Brandt, Bingo Brandt and Miss Babette Brandt.



Facing the camera here: Miss Patricia Garfield, William Jaffe, Miss Bergh, Robert Sherwood and Harry Hershfield, emcee.



Max Weisfeldt, Bill Rowland, Gus Eyssell, Mrs. Max Weisfeldt, Jack Shea, Mr. and Mrs. Wally Howes and Andrew MacDonald, and one person not identified.



—Metropolitan Photos

Including, seated: L. Wolf, L. Fischler and S. Trauner. Standing: A. Suchman, S. Fraum and J. Ingber.

Atlas Is Optimistic Over RKO Future

NEW YORK—Atlas Corp., in its annual financial report for the year ended December 31, 1940, regards its investment in RKO as "optimistic as to its long term outlook," while admitting the company "is now suffering from loss of some foreign markets as a result of the war and as yet has not had sufficient time to adjust itself to a cessation of long-continued reorganization proceedings."

The report reveals Atlas, as of December 31, owned approximately 28 per cent of preferred and 39 per cent of common of RKO, including 120,000 shares of common to be received under allowances made by the court in connection with the reorganization.

Among assets, Atlas lists the 120,000 common shares at a valuation of $450,000, based on December 31, 1940 market quotations. This stock which has not yet been received and $190,561 paid to Atlas in December, 1940 represents the allowance made to Atlas by the district court in connection with the RKO reorganization.

An application made by a former stockholder for leave to appeal to the United States circuit court of appeals was denied by that court, but the time for petition to the United States supreme court for certiorari in respect of such denials has not yet expired.

"Counsel advise that the probability of changing the allowance made by the district court is remote," the report states.

Deep in Amusements

Amusement stocks represent approximately 14 per cent and head the list of general market securities held by Atlas. The listing reveals, among preferred stocks held, 10,000 shares of Walt Disney Productions six per cent cumulative convertible valued at $97,500, and the following of RKO: 7,000 shares of KAO seven per cent cumulative convertible voting trust certificates, $728,875, and 35,481 RKO six per cent cumulative convertible, $1,525,694.

Among common stocks held are 1,001,126 shares of RKO valued at $3,754,224, and 327,811 shares of RKO option warrants valued at $102,441.

The report notes Atlas paid fees during 1940 of $284,050 to Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett for legal services, of which amount $200,000 was for services rendered over a period of several years in connection with the RKO reorganization.

Atlas reports net income of $2,521,022, with surplus at December 31 of $19,888,631. An annual stockholders' meeting will be held April 2.

Herman Starr Doing Well Following Appendectomy

NEW YORK—Herman Starr, New Jersey Skouras division manager, is coming along nicely after an emergency appendectomy and is expected shortly to leave Murray Hill Hospital. Notis Komenos, assistant, is pinch hitting for Starr.

Seven Men to Supervise N. Y. Allied Activities

NEW YORK—A six-man board of directors and a business manager will supervise the activities of the New York unit of National Allied, dispensing with the election of a president and other officers, it was decided at a meeting held at Allied of New Jersey headquarters. The setup will function similar to that of Eastern Pennsylvania, headed by Sidney Samuelson.

Three units will be represented on the board—Max Cohen of Brooklyn and Robert Goldblatt from New York; Leonard Rosenthal and Abe Stone from Albany, and two others from Buffalo to be chosen at a unit meeting March 18.

"La. Purchase" to Para't

HOLLYWOOD—Buddy De Sylva, producer of "Louisiana Purchase," New York musical comedy success, has sold to Buddy De Sylva, Paramount executive producer, the film rights at a reported $150,000.

REVIEW FLASHES

FOOTSTEPS IN THE DARK (WB)—Errol Flynn forsakes swashbuckling and action to play the debonair amateur detective and solve a murder-mystery which specializes in comedy rather than suspense. His performance as a dilettante sleuth is noteworthy as are other elements of the feature, which sums up as an acceptable parcel of diverting entertainment. Robert Lord produced; Lloyd Bacon directed.

GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY, THE (Rep)—On the hokum side from start to finish, "The Great Train Robbery," titled like an earlier and historical namesake, is a solid, more-than-adequate supporting feature. Most of the drama takes place in cleverly handled sequences that constantly keep the action elements in the fore. Cast includes Bob Steele, Claire Carleton, Milburn Stone. Joe Kane directed.

LADY EVE, THE (Para't)—In the sophisticated romantic-comedy vein, this has seldom been equalled this season. Written and directed by Preston Sturges, who was responsible for "The Great McGinty," it looks like a certain success wherever smart, sparkling entertainment is in demand. Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda are co-starred.

MELODY FOR THREE (RKO)—This can be recommended without reservation to fans of the "Dr. Christian" series starring Jean Hersholt, for it possesses the same blend of down-to-earth hokum and comedy which characterized its predecessors. Additionally it presents a promising juvenile player, by name Schuyler Standish, who performs miracles with a violin. William Stephens produced; Erle C. Kenton directed.

Educative Force of Pictures Is Lauded

ATLANTIC CITY—Observations made in various centers throughout the country proved conclusively that, where motion pictures have been used in the presentation of educational material, a greater knowledge of the subject has been gained by students and the vital factor of retention has been heightened and strengthened, delegates to the 71st annual convention of the National Education Ass'n were told by Nathan D. Golden, chief of the motion picture division of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

Besides their function to educate as well as entertain, films also can be highly effective during and after the building up of the country's defense program, he added. In this respect he cited figures to illustrate the vast facilities available at colleges and schools for the mass training of specialized crafts in the interest of national defense.

Touching upon activities of industrial organizations which have sponsored educational films for gratis distribution to schools, Golden said: "Some of these companies have had a sufficiently broad vision to eliminate direct advertising and selling elements from their films. In such cases their efforts to reach the educational field have been notably successful. Others, having included a burdensome amount of advertising or blatant sales 'lugs,' have found that, to them, most educational channels of distribution have been closed."

He declared the industry "is now rendering valuable assistance" to the defense program in producing films that will aid in the field of cultural relations and in the training of armed forces, and concluded with:

"The motion picture, in its capacity as a significant aid to defense measures, should not and will not be used as propaganda. The industry fully realizes that motion pictures, to be really useful in carrying out their true defense objectives, must be enlightening, instructive, and devoid of any intent to sway the individual opinions of the persons who enjoy them and benefit substantially from them."

Ships to Have Portable Sound-Picture Units

WASHINGTON—Purchase of 500 portable sound-motion-picture units at $300 each, to be used for motion picture exhibition on ships under war-time conditions, is provided for in an appropriation of $150,000 included in a supplemental money bill now before Congress.

The fund was approved by the house appropriations committee after Captain F. U. Lake of the bureau of navigation explained that the equipment is to be used for showings below decks when ships are darkened. Ordinarily the motion picture shows are given on deck.

"Motion pictures are a vital factor in morale and this equipment has been urgently requested by the commander-in-chief, United States Fleet," Captain Lake said.

May Seek '37 Tax Refund In 20th-Fox GB Loss

NEW YORK—Sidney R. Kent, president of 20th-Fox, in a letter to all stockholders, advises they have grounds to seek refunds on 1937 taxes because of a loss of $4,997,962.99 sustained on the sale of 50 per cent of its holdings in Metropolis & Bradford Trust, which owned GB control, to Loew's.

Pointing out that 20th-Fox distributed $1,450,024.02 in preferred dividends and $4,304,679.04 in common dividends in 1937, the letter to stockholders goes on to say:

"The corporation had net income for the year 1937 substantially in excess of the aggregate dividends mentioned above. It also had a substantial corporate surplus. It is probable that most of our stockholders included the above mentioned dividends in their gross income for income tax purposes.

Taxable Conditions

"Under the income tax laws, dividends are taxable to the stockholders only if they come (a) out of the earnings or profits accumulated after Feb. 28, 1913, or (b) out of the earnings or profits of the current year. The aforementioned dividends did not come from '(a)' above because for income tax purposes no account is taken of past recapitalizations, reorganizations, etc., and as to whether they came from '(b)' above, a question has recently been raised.

"You were advised in the annual report of the corporation for the year 1936 that the corporation had, in the plan of reorganization, dated June 21, 1933, provided a reserve for the revaluation of investments in the amount of $14,500,000 and that such reserve had during the year 1936 been written off of the investment in Metropolis & Bradford Trust Co., Ltd. In 1937 your corporation sold to Loew's, Inc., one-half interest in the corporation's direct and indirect investment in Metropolis & Bradford Trust Co., Ltd., which, in turn, owned stock in Gaumont British Picture Corp.

Loss Realized in 1937

"Under the federal income tax law the loss with respect to the aforementioned investment was not realized until 1937 when the sale thereof was made. It would seem that for income tax purposes the corporation realized a loss in the aforementioned sale to Loew's, Inc., in the sum of $4,997,962.99, although only $2,000 thereof was available to the corporation as a deduction for income tax purposes. There is a possibility that this capital loss, from the standpoint of taxable distributions to the stockholders, had the effect of reducing the amount of earnings or profits in 1937.

"If you included your 1937 dividends from this corporation in your gross income for 1937 income tax purposes you may wish to file a refund claim in order to protect your right to the refund if it should ultimately be determined that some part of the dividends was not taxable income to the shareholders.

"We do not know the formula the bureau of internal revenue would use in determining which particular dividend, or what part, if any, of each dividend, was free from income tax.

"We call your attention to the fact that there is a statutory limitation upon the time within which a refund claim may be filed, so that prompt action on your part may be necessary."

It is understood Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board, paid a tax of $425,000 on the common dividend received and also on the $35,000 preferred dividend. All of the common dividend was paid out of capital, while part of the preferred was paid from capital. This is significant in view of the fact the government is questioning his 1937 tax figures and may wind up refunding the 20th-Fox chieftain a substantial sum. The treasury department here is now checking into the matter and will most likely have a decision before the alleged charges against Schenck are aired before a jury in the local federal court.

Hearings on SPG Petition Postponed Until March 5

NEW YORK—Hearings before the NLRB on the petition of the Screen Publicists Guild to be named collecting bargaining agency for advertising and publicity men and women in New York, were postponed Wednesday to March 5. At that time, Warner and Loew's, whose examination was slated before Dan Baker, trial examiner, must appear with complete records.

Testimony of other companies was concluded last Monday after 15 days of hearings, starting January 23. Ordered to appear had been UA, Columbia, 20th-Fox, RKO, Paramount and Universal, but the probability now is the remainder of the procedure will be speeded.

Representatives of the companies thus far heard again have refused request of the SPG for a consent election, thus following a similar refusal at the outset of the hearings. Meanwhile, SPG maintains it represents more than 90 per cent of eligible publicity department employes in New York.

Producer counsel has been emphasizing the contention artists are not to be considered part of publicity department staffs, while SPG counsel has been opposing this. With the exception of staffs handling foreign publicity, the companies have stipulated acceptance of all other classifications of employes in advertising and publicity departments.

Macgowan Quits Fox Job To Direct Unity Group

HOLLYWOOD — Kenneth Macgowan has resigned a $2,500 a week producership at 20th Century-Fox to become non-theatrical director for the South American Unity Committee at $8,000 yearly. He will headquarter in New York.

Broadway Managers Say Product Weak

NEW YORK—Strong, but not sizzling, is the report of the Broadway managers, despite a big lift from the Washington's Birthday holiday, which, climatically speaking, was perfect. The same, however, cannot be said of the calibre of product on display. In fact, the weakness of a few is seen in the fact they got by only on account of the holiday and were replaced after a week.

Into this category fall "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," at the Music Hall, which brought in "So Ends Our Night"; "Go West" at the Capitol, now tenanting "Come Live With Me"; and "You're the One," out at the Paramount in favor of "The Lady Eve."

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 20th road-show wk. 100
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 15th roadshow wk. 125
Capitol—**Go West** (M-G-M) 85
Criterion—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 100
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 9th wk. 100
Paramount—**You're the One** (Para't), plus stage show 90
Radio City Music Hall—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), plus stage show 100
Rialto—**Road Show** (UA) 85
Rivoli—**Back Street** (Univ), 2nd wk. 110
Roxy—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 115
Strand—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), plus stage show 125

"Fantasia" and "Story" Take Philly Honors

PHILADELPHIA—"Fantasia" was the big news last week, getting one of the biggest send-offs in years. Some of the reviews were unfavorable, while others went so far as to call Disney a second Da Vinci, all of which brought out the curious fans. Opening was bought out by the Junior League. "Gone With the Wind" completed a smashing fourth week, but was moved to the Keith's because of product jam.

Detail for week ending February 21:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Fantasia** (Disney) 155
Two a day, reserved seat policy.
Arcadia—**Rebecca** (UA), revival 100
Product jam occasioned this revival.
Boyd—**Victory** (Para't) 75
Earle—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB), plus Johnny Davis' Orch. on stage 105
Fox—**This Thing Called Love** (Col) 120
Karlton—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 2nd run.180
Moved out of Boyd after four week to open way for new product.
Keith's—**High Sierra** (FN), 2nd run 90
Stanley—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 4th wk. 110
Stanton—**Convoy** (RKO) 115

Ampa Names Committee To Nominate Officers

NEW YORK—A nominating committee to bring in a slate of officers for Ampa, elections on whom will take place April 24, was selected at a business meeting. It consists of John C. Flinn, Ray Gallagher, S. Barret McCormick, Ed McNamee, Charles Alicoate, Joel Swensen and Hortense Schorr, and "Hap" Hadley as alternate. The committee must make its report not later than April 10.

Yorke-Chrysler Suit Tops a Slow Week

NEW YORK—Emerson Yorke has applied to the supreme court for permission to examine Arthur Loucks and John Norling before trial. All three are film producers, with the plaintiff claiming he introduced the defendants to the Chrysler Company for whom they made two stereoscopic shorts. Defendants were paid $100,000 and plaintiff wants $3,750. Defense claims deal was for one film and that Yorke was paid in full.

Application has been made to the supreme court by Minnie Saltzman-Stevens, 62-year-old former Wagnerian soprano of the Metropolitan, to examine officers and directors of Columbia before trial in connection with a $100,000 suit against it. Plaintiff claims Columbia used a photo of her in "I'll Take Romance" without permission. Columbia has entered a general denial.

Suit by Perfume Company

RKO has applied to the supreme court to dismiss a suit by the Caron Corp., manufacturers of perfume. Plaintiff seeks an injunction against "Primrose Path," claiming the picture shows one of its products in connection with a prostitute. RKO is claiming failure to state a cause of action in seeking dismissal.

Federal Judge Henry Warren Goddard has ordered trial of Henry Rose's suit against Marc Connelly, Arthur Kober and Mitchell Grayson for March 4, despite a plea by Kober for additional time. Plaintiff claims "Having Wonderful Time" was stolen from his unpublished play, "Silent Shears." Kober claimed he just secured a four-week job with Samuel Goldwyn to do the screenplay on "Little Foxes" and would be unavailable till April 1, but the court ruled there had been sufficient delays already.

Names 42 to Cooperate With Catholic Drive

NEW YORK—John J. O'Connor, chairman of the motion picture division for the Archbishop's Committee of the Laity, has appointed 42 industry executives to cooperate on the drive. They are:

Jack Alicoate, Nate J. Blumberg, Major Edward Bowes, Harry Brandt, Steve Broidy, Harry D. Buckley, Pat Casey, H. M. Doherty, Si Fabian, E. C. and James R. Grainger, Al Hovell, John Kane, Red Kann, Austin C. Keough, Joseph H. McConville, Charles B. McDonald, Joseph P. McLaughlin, Joseph E. McMahon, William Morris jr., John Murphy, Sen. William J. Murray, Leon Netter, John Nolan.

Dennis F. O'Brien, John O'Connell, Charles L. O'Reilly, P. A. Powers, Martin Quigley, Charles M. Reagan, Phil Reisman, Herman Robbins, William F. Rodgers, Bert Sanford, George J. Schaefer, William A. Scully, Gradwell L. Sears, George P. and Spyros P. Skouras, W. G. Van Schmus, Frank C. Walker and William White.

(Continued from page 29)

New York and got caught in a snow storm upstate which was a pip . . . Incidentally, E. C. Grainger has gone to Ft. Lauderdale, as he does every winter about this time, for a vacation . . . Jack Shea has been at New Salem, Mass., for a few days rest . . . Ed Peskay has been on the coast the past week conferring with Hal Roach . . . John Benas says he's going to take his vacation next month, but hasn't definitely made up his mind where he's going . . . Bob Wolff got back from Miami Monday . . . Charles Moses is not due to return from Key West until the middle of March. Al Hovel and a few more of Century circuit associates are slated to get back from that fishing party off the keys Monday . . . Joe Pincus of 20th-Fox has tapered nine pounds from his waistline.

J. Arthur Hirsch in town from Canada again . . . Sam Briskin in a huddle with Harry Goetz and Max Gordon on "My Sister Eileen" at Lindy's. Briskin is interested in buying it for Columbia, and headed back to the coast Friday after taking in a couple more shows . . . John Jacob Milstein leaves March 17 for Mexico with Arthur Gottlieb of DuArt . . . George Dillon, formerly foreign Warner representative, is now attached to the company's local exchange. He has been in the field the past few months . . . Bob Goldstein has gone to Miami and is staying with Damon Runyon while there . . . Lou Pollock is on the job again at Universal's home office after a fortnight's siesta in Miami . . . Dave Loew and Dick Rowland are back on the coast after visits to the east . . . Loew's is holding a special benefit for the mother of Leon Fox, the cop killed by bandits when he tried to save $800 stolen from Loew's Coney Island by banditis, March 28 . . . It is expected $4,000 will be raised. Incidentally, the circuit has already given the officer's son $1,000 in cash.

Harry A. Samwick, organizer and president of American Display, has been cleared by his medico, thereby ending part-time business activity. As a consequence, he is back in full harness . . . Arthur Herschmann of the Loew ad department is in Miami, convalescing from a long illness . . . Ernie Emerling—he's Oscar Doob's assistant at Loew's, of course—is applying a bit of concentration at those weekly staff meetings on ad layouts . . . Carter Barron again was up from Washington, conferring around the Loew office . . . Arthur Menken, one of Paramount Newsreel's ace cameramen, is en route to the Far Eastern dange spots. He feels the next big story will break in that area, so discussed it with Barney Balaban and A. J. Richard, the latter chief of the reel, and got the assignment.

Si Seadler is now well in the swing of the outdoor routine at the B-Bar-H ranch near Palm Springs where he is riding horse and communing under desert moonlight . . . William B. Brenner, NSS vice-president in charge of operations, is recovering from a major operation . . . Abe Montague is back from Boston where he had been called by the death of his brother-in-law . . . Frank Capra currently plans to attend the New York premiere of "Meet John Doe" on or about March 12 at both the Hollywood, nee the 51st St., and the Rivoli . . . Bert Wilson is now chief cutter and editor of Cinemasters, Inc.; John E. Graham, assistant director and head of casting, and Don Malkames, chief cameraman. Cinemasters is the company, headed by Arthur Leonard and Dick Hyland, which is making "Soundies" for the Roosevelt-Mills organization.

Alexander Korda, who brought in a print of his latest picture, "That Hamilton Woman," from the coast early in the week, left by plane for Hollywood the latter part of the week after having it screened for the UA home office executives. The picture goes into the Music Hall Easter week . . . Harry Allen of the Allen circuit in Canada was in town for a few days on business . . . Bob Benjamin spent the week in Miami. He's now back in New York and within the next few days expects to leave on a belated trip to the coast . . . Harry Mersay left Friday for a Miami vacation . . . Charles Goetz is anxious to spend his vacation on the coast, but seems to have some difficulty in making up his mind when he'll leave . . . Monroe Stein, RKO home office circuit booker, was in Rochester this week.

Henry Reiner of National Screen has dropped nine pounds in a week . . . Leo Spitz has been in town after a trip to the coast . . . N. L. Nathanson is also here . . . Tom Connors, back from southern waters, is boasting about his sailfish catch . . . Carter Barron, Loew Washington district head, has been here for a brief visit to the home office . . . Matty Fox left Thursday for the coast after a goodly number of weeks in the east, south and midwest . . . Jack L. Warner, his wife, a couple of secretaries and a masseur are in town from the coast . . . Lou Silvers, head music man at 20th-Fox studios, is here on a brief vacation . . . Bill Goetz is expected on from the coast next week . . . Ben Miggins has put on a bit of the poundage he lost on his recent diet . . . Lynn Farnol's new offices are getting into final shape very rapidly now.

Delaware Blue Laws Win First Round in House

DOVER—A senate bill seeking repeal of Delaware's 200-year-old blue laws by establishing restrictions through local option, was defeated in the house Friday. The vote showed 21, or three short of the necessary 24, for the measure with 13 opposed. However, in a procedure designed to restore the measure to the house calendar for another test, supporters changed their votes making the official total against the bill 34.

NOW BOOKING the only original version on "THE LIFE OF OUR SAVIOR"

Complete from the manger to the cross. Adapted from Behold the Man. Descriptive talking version. 72 Brand New Prints Available. Positively a record-breaker! Only first-class theatres should apply. Beware of patched-up versions. Direct shipments everywhere. Western Feature Films, 1018 S. Wabash, Chicago.

WASHINGTON

JESSE H. JONES, secretary of commerce and federal loan administrator, will be guest of honor at the Variety Club's luncheon at the Willard, March 3. He having recently been made an honorary member of all Variety Tents, the occasion will be highlighted by the presentation to Jones of a gold membership card. Carter Barron and Nate Golden will be "kings for the day." As a former exhibitor and close associate of leaders in the industry, Jones will doubtlessly step out of character for the nonce and discourse in the more familiar parlance.

"Dr. I. Q." has been booked into the Capitol for a number of weeks in April, appearing on Monday evenings as usual . . . John J. Payette, Warner zone manager, scheduled a special matinee at the Tivoli on March 1, *the proceeds to go to the Washington* Post *Blood Bank Fund for Children's Hospital . . . The Warner Club held its annual dance at Wardman Park Hotel Monday evening, with Joe Lombardy, Earle maestro, and his orchestra featured . . . The local sport pages featured photos of Sidney Lust and his rod and reel successes in southern waters, with emphasis on a* 55-*pound sailfish. Paging Pete Smith!*

The Bookers Club of Washington elected 20th-Fox's Charlie Mendelsohn as its treasurer at the last meeting, and at the same time a constitutional committee, consisting of Bill Henderson, chairman; Clarke Davis, Joe Cohan, and Jack Fruchtman, was chosen to draw up the by-laws . . . Ellen Jones, secretary to Vitagraph's Fred Beiersdorf, was given a surprise shower at the home of June Duncan in honor of her forthcoming marriage to Charles Hellriegle, March 8 . . . Columbia's Claude Ringer came out the loser in a tussle with a case of film and is now favoring some rigid digits.

Danny Rosenthal and Marty Putner were White Way visitors over the holiday weekend . . . Booker Freddie Sapperstein has contracted for a new red Olds f. o. b. . . . "Night Train" is back at the Hiser for a prolonged stay, following in the wake of a record engagement at the Little . . . The NSS branch is in second place in the current "Beat Par Drive" . . . The National in Martinsville has been reseated . . . Tommy Goldberg's Hilton will be opened on or about April 12.

Danny Weinberg of Bedford Theatres, Inc., advises that a new 700 seater is under way in Roanoke, Va. . . . Universal's Ina Pritchard is vacationing . . . RKO's Bob Folliard refused to give in to a mean cold and set sail for Norfolk to gather biz to improve his third place standing nationally in the Ned Depinet drive . . . Sam and Mrs. Mellitts of Denton, Md., journeyed to the Big City for a peek at "Hellzapoppin' " . . . Cecil Ward of Bassett, Va., has purchased a new house in King, N. C. . . . Mrs. Cecil Ward is basking at ye olde rendez-vous . . . Clark Film's Estelle Tabb a birthday celebrant on the 27th.

Batch of Smiles: New telephone operator on the Row: "I have a call for Mr. B." Sotto reply: "He is in the library." Operator: "You kidding, I didn't know we had a library" . . . Johnnie Garst of Martinsville featured his infrequent visit to the Row by attending "The Man Who Came to Dinner" at the National . . . Charles Young of 20*th-Fox's legal staff visited . . . Joe Cohan,* 20*th-Fox office manager, attended the Tri-State Rainbow division convention in Richmond, Va. . . . Sara Young is visiting Miami via postcards, having received one daily for quite a spell . . . May Feldman's brother, "Cy," visited with her while en route to Rochester from Florida.*

Bill Hicks and Sam Soltz of Baltimore have joined the film colony at this winter's popular resort . . . "Jimmie" Finney, secretary to Sam Galanty, remained by her fireside to nurse a cold . . . George Wheeler of the Lichtman circuit returned to Pittsburgh for an operation on his hand . . . Jack Whittle and Gene Freeland of the Avenue, Baltimore, were surprise visitors . . . Add: Joe Fields, Morris Shapiro, Sam Mellitts, Alan Kahn, Sam Goldenberg, Bill Smith and Lou Tunick . . . Harry Thomas, Monogram franchise holder, visited with Harry Brown . . . A. L. Pindat of Republic's home office visited with Jake Flax . . . Hunter Perry of Charlottesville is sun tanning.

Eddie Fontaine, Paramount branch manager, has turned draftsman of late and is giving the ole double check to the blue prints for the new exchange . . . "Virginia" broke the house record in Petersburg, Va., and enjoyed a four-week stand in Richmond . . . Clang! Clang! Clang! Jerry Murphy, 20*th-Fox salesman, recently called on Brown Farenholt, owner of the Edgehill, Gloucester, Va. During the business huddle the town siren echoed. Up jumped Farenholt, grabbed a rubber coat and stocking hat, and sallied out of the house yelling: "Make way for the Fire Chief!"*

Claude Lee of Paramount's home office was a visitor . . . June Bradfield of the office staff has resigned and is en route to her home in Georgia . . . Eddie F. Sherwood, son of Ascap's Eddie, has joined Paramount's booking department . . . G. W. Palmer, secretary to Head Booker Bob Grace, has resigned . . . Fred Rippingale, Metro office manager, and his secretary, Helen Pender, took turns nursing colds . . . "Syd" Rosenthal a birthday celebrant on the 26th . . . Pete Prince is winning his spurs calling on Baltimore accounts . . . Genevieve Kushner has joined the inspection staff . . . Birthday greetings to Jack Goldberg, March 1 being the festive day . . . Ditto Pete Prince on March 3.

Bedford Theatres Will Build Roanoke House

ROANOKE, VA.—A new theatre to seat about 700 people will be built on Williamson Road a short distance north of Roanoke, Dan Weinberg, president of Bedford Theatres, Inc., and Lehigh Development Corp., has announced.

Involving an outlay estimated at $75,000, the project is expected to be completed in the late summer with the opening scheduled for August or September.

"Philadelphia Story" Hits Record Pace

New York—After an attendance shattering run of six weeks at the Music Hall, "The Philadelphia Story" wound up a week at the State, Loew's secondary run Broadway film-presentation house, with a sensational $45,000, up among the five top grosses, and a new opening day attendance record of 20,198. High at the house for one week is $54,000, established notably through the personal appearance of Eddie Cantor.

BUFFALO

BOB MURPHY, Falls city manager for Shea, is busy distributing tickets for the "Iron Lung Dance" to be held at the Statler March 16. Proceeds will go for an "iron lung," which will be presented to the city by the local Tent of Variety . . . Eddie Meade tells us all Shea managers of community houses are being swamped with applicants for the model airplane contest being run in conjunction with "Flight Command" . . . Jim Sheedy of the Shea staff is an ardent sports fan. He hardly ever misses a basketball game or boxing or wrestling match . . . Alice McCarthy of the Shea office is back at her desk looking as well as ever . . . John Patterson, chief usher at Shea's Buffalo, has resigned . . . Frank Millitello has been elected secretary of Shea's Service Employes Benevolent Ass'n. New headquarters are located at 414 Pearl Street, one block from the Film Building . . . Charlie Estabrooks, former Shea employe, is the new junior executive at the Lafayette.

Marion Gueth, MPTO secretary, is being deluged with questions about her recent southern waters excursion . . . Chuck McKernan's Buffalo No. 2 *team lost its second place berth to Buffalo No.* 1, *dropping six games to them Friday night. George C. Maurer, captain of the No.* 1 *team, tells us the only team he fears this round is Bob Dame's Niagara five. Cab Calloway and the Mills Bros. defeated Bill Brett and his team three straight the other evening . . . Is Mart Murret's absence the real reason for the losing streak of the Kenmore Theatre? Eddie Miller's Lackawanna bowlers are steadily climbing.*

Late mail contains postcard from Bill Downey stating he has arrived in Hollywood safely, prior to schooling at the Pasadena Playhouse . . . Wally Leffler, Bellevue manager, is still commuting between the Falls and Buffalo . . . Vincent R. McFaul, managing director for Shea Theatres, turned over the Great Lakes Theatre and employes their labor to the British relief organization for a successful benefit for Greek war relief group, in which Nicholas J. Basil of Basil Bros. Theatres, plays an important role.

Acquires "Southern Cross"

HOLLYWOOD—"Southern Cross," a story by Osso and Edgar Van Eyss, has been acquired by Columbia.

Over 1,000 Theatres Pledge Greek Relief

NEW YORK—More than 1,000 theatres already have signed pledges to participate in Greek War Relief Week, March 25-30, according to Adolph Zukor, chairman of the amusement industry division of the Greek War Relief Ass'n.

Jules J. Rubens, division manager of the Chicago territory, reports 263 houses in Illinois have agreed to take up collections in lobbies. Harry Kalmine, Warner theatre zone manager in Pittsburgh, has staged a midnight show at Johnston, Pa., and Cecil Vogel at Loew's Palace, Memphis, as a prelude to an indeterminate number slated for other cities and towns.

Sam H. Harris, stage producer, has accepted chairmanship of the legit theatre division and Bill Corum of the sports division.

Borough Committees for Greek War Relief Drive

NEW YORK—Committees for the various boroughs have been appointed in connection with the Greek War Relief drive which gets under way March 25 and winds up March 30 under the divisional chairmanship of Joseph R. Vogel.

Leo Brecher and Max A. Cohen will head the Manhattan unit, J. J. Thompson and Laurence Bolognino, the Bronx; Irwin Wheeler, Westchester; Fred Schwartz and Sam Rhonheimer, Queens; Harold Rinzler and Sam Strausberg, Brooklyn; Si Fabian and Charles Moses, Staten Island; Long Island, Joe Seider.

In addition, divisional and district managers of all circuits will act as co-chairmen in each section. At a meeting at the Astor, Spyros Skouras, who has been spending considerable of his time and money in connection with the campaign being conducted, spoke to members of the various committees on the aims and purposes of the work being done.

UA Lines Up Series Key Screenings on "Topper"

NEW YORK—UA has lined up a series of key city screenings of "Topper Returns" with more on the way. The schedule:

March 11

Boston—The Uptown.
Denver—The Broadway.
New Haven—The Whitney.
St. Louis—The Esquire.

March 12

Cleveland—The Cedar Lee.

March 13

Chicago—The Esquire.

Later spots include the Valencia, Baltimore; Shea's Niagara, Buffalo; the Carolina, Charlotte, and the Roosevelt, Des Moines.

"Premiere" for Garrett

HOLLYWOOD—Otis Garrett will direct "World Premiere" for Producer Sol C. Siegel at Paramount.

ALBANY

VISITORS: Morris Slotnik, Strand, Waterville, and Star, Oriskany Falls; George Stanton, Burt's, Luzerne; Henry Frieder and Henry Grossman, Community, Warren, and Star, Hudson; Harry Lamont, Lamont circuit; George Thornton, Orpheum, Saugerties; Jim Christie, Strand, Watervliet; Sam Davis, Phoenicia, Phoenicia; Phil Baroudi, North Creek and Indian Lake; Walter Wertime, Chester, Chestertown; Daytone La Pointe, Crandall, Chatham; Leonard Rosenthal, State, Troy.

Leo Rosen, manager of the Troy, Troy, back on job after an attack of pneumonia which confined him to a hospital . . . Irving Rosenstock, mistakenly reported called in draft, is still assistant manager of Strand, Albany. Transferred from Ritz to replace Carl Hovey, now in the Army. Henry Sax, former doorman, promoted to assistant manager of Ritz . . . WB's District Manager Charles A. Smakwitz, winner of a Buick for best exploitation on "One Million B. C." in United Artists' national contest, will hop to New York for the award . . . Upstate Zone Manager M. A. Silver and Mrs. Silver were due back Saturday from Miami.

Resignation of Johnny Babbit as assistant RKO booker, to take a job under Tommy Martell in U. S. Army Film Service, New York, led to changes in RKO staff. Mrs. Mildred Windelspecht became assistant booker. Ann Maricck of Troy, at one time employed in the Buffalo exchange, went on payroll as stenographer. Fred Joos moved up to assistant shipper. Babbit is filling post which Lee Beecher, erstwhile Paramount ad sales manager, held.

Jimmy Boyle, RKO exploiteer, has been here working on "Convoy" and other pictures . . . Bernard Kranze, RKO manager, visited Schine offices in Gloversville, Kallett headquarters in Oneida, and exhibitors in Utica . . . "Western Union" did smackeroo business at Warner's Strand . . . Charles Leach, affable manager of Ross Federal Service, made a one-day business trip to New York . . . Hellman's Palace, Troy, has a tieup with the three Empire Super Markets for 25 prizes on a Saturday "Quiz Night."

Rosenthal's State, Troy, stages a Friday Amateur Night sponsored by a local insurance man . . . Metro raking in the shekels with a dozen prints of "Gone With the Wind" . . . Herman Ripps, M-G-M branch manager, weekended in New York with Mrs. Ripps and their baby boy. Youngster will be brought here in the spring.

Childrens Admissions for 'GWTW' Upped by Loew's

NEW YORK—Childrens admission price for "Gone With the Wind" at Loew houses will be 25 cents, an increase of 10 cents over current scales. The matinee price will be 40 cents and evening admissions will be 55 cents. Nine metropolitan neighborhood houses open with the film March 6 and a week later 16 other houses will begin playing it. In the week of March 20, there will be 26 houses showing film on split and full weeks. The week of March 27 will wind up the engagement in four additional houses.

Consolidated Amusement String Value $600,000

NEW YORK—Purchase price for Consolidated Amusement's string of 20 theatres in the metropolitan area is said to be $600,000 cash. Julius Joelson, former local independent circuit operator and more recently in New England, is understood to have virtually closed for the circuit.

Metro's Far Eastern and Bulgarian Heads Resign

NEW YORK—Morey Marcus, general manager for M-G-M in Japan and China, and Jean Birkahan, branch manager in Sofia, Bulgaria, have resigned as a result of the European situation. Both are in New York, the former for some months, while the latter recently arrived.

Assign Bradbury Foote

HOLLYWOOD—Bradbury Foote will script "Squatter's Rights" for Producer Harry Rapf at Metro.

Jackter in Charge of Columbia Campaign

NEW YORK—Rube Jackter, assistant sales manager, will be chairman of the company's committee in charge of "Columbia Exhibitors' Goodwill Campaign," sales drive which started Saturday and terminates May 30. His aide-de-camps will be Louis Astor, Louis Weinberg, Max Weisfeldt, Maurice Grad, Henry Kaufman and George Josephs. A series of awards, as usual, will go to winning branches.

Briskin to Hollywood

NEW YORK—Samuel J. Briskin, Columbia studio executive, left for Hollywood Friday after conferring here several days with Jack Cohn.

Union County Grand Jury Orders Bingo Stopped

ELIZABETH, N. J.—The Union county grand jury held in a presentment that Bingo is gambling and must be stopped, regardless of the purpose for which it is played.

The Tabs Society, Catholic organization, and the Elks Club were chief sponsors of the game.

Silverstone Back

NEW YORK—Murray Silverstone, UA executive head, is back from an extended Hollywood trip during which discussions leading to a termination of Samuel Goldwyn's association with the company were discussed, but not finally consummated.

RICHMOND

AMONG folks seen at the annual theatrical ball: Leroy Ford and his wife and son; M. C. Morrisette, Arthur Dean, Wencel Strouf, Willie Butler, Tripple Cardwell, John Doherty, Addie Stewart, Harry Jarvis, William Fox, Henry Saunders, John Leary, George Daniels, George Crozier, Herbert Hogwood, Jim Smith, Louis Magalis, Jimmy Mathews, Dan Anderson, Mervin Ullman and wife, Bob Coulter, Stewart Tucker, Tom Jones, Joe Baird, Buck Colgin, Earl Clator, Frank Mathews, Joe LaPrade, Stuart Atkisson, Jit Sickinger, Claude Wilson, Leslie Banks, Mr. and Mrs. Ober Boyd, Tom Pitts, Lee Smoot and wife, Al Nowitsky, Keith Caudle, Ed Gidley, Pete Stainback, Bill Attmore, Floyd Stawls, Louise Cogbill, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Pulliam.

The Lichtman circuit has taken over the operation of the Gem, Petersburg, and set John Vaughn from the Booker T to manage it. Russell Ward was promoted to manager of the Booker T and W. I. Johnson replaced him as relief manager . . . Ed Haley, general manager, Lichtman circuit, was a visitor here . . . New cooling system is going into the Capitol . . . Floyd Stawls, Carillon manager, is staging a Quiz Program on his stage every Wednesday night, locally sponsored and broadcast.

Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Thalhimer have returned from vacationing in Mexico . . . Hilda Garnett has succeeded Margaret Cobb Powell as cashier of the East End Theatre . . . Morris Lewis is an addition to the Capitol Theatre staff, succeeding Dabney MacKenzie, who left with the National Guard . . . Tom Rutherford, Paramount player, was here visiting relatives, also Fifi D'Orsay, who appeared at the National.

Colonel Peter Saunders, chairman of the censor board, visited his home in Rocky Mount . . . Sunday shows now are being shown in Pulaski, with one matinee and a night performance at nine . . . Ernest Ewing, formerly at the Capitol, has moved to Georgia. Henry Hawkins replaced him . . . Russell Clayton is a new usher at the Bellevue . . . Christine Abbott, cashier of the Capitol, spent several days in court as witness in an accident case . . . Stewart Tucker, manager of the State, took his mother to visit relatives in Cumberland county.

The state corporation commission has issued a charter to Republic Theatre Corp., Norfolk, with maximum capital of $50,000. A. E. Lichtman of Washington is listed as president . . . The Patrick Henry Theatre starts a new policy next week, opening on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, in addition to Friday and Saturday.

Bob Folliard, RKO branch manager, was in town, accompanied by his salesman, Elbert Grover . . . Alex Ravdin has been accompanying Ivan Rosenbaum on his booking trips to Washington . . . Harley Davidson, Paramount salesman, was here. Wilma Near missed several days in the boxoffice at the State on account of illness . . . Vernon Boyd, son of the Colonial cashier, is back from California where he graduated from the Navy Net Depot.

There have been a lot of holdovers in the first runs recently. The latest was "Philadelphia Story" at Loew's and "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" at the State . . . Charlie Somma has returned from visiting in Florida . . . Bob Beamer, Pulaski manager, was in town conferring with home office officials . . . Howard Rubin was a visitor from Petersburg . . . George Summers, Neighborhood Theatre home office, went to Fort Meade with the National Guard.

Erpi Executive Tells of Improvement in Orient

NEW YORK—Returning after a five-year assignment in the Orient, R. E. Warn, assistant manager for Erpi of Australia, stated theatre business in the Far East, including the Malay States, Straits Settlements, New Zealand and Australia, has shown considerable improvement in the past few months.

New theatres are being constructed in Batavia. The Patanakorn, to seat 2,000, is being built in Bangkok, while improvements continue to be made in other houses, he said.

With plans set to sail for New Zealand in April, Warn and his wife are now here for a brief visit, then will go to Washington, Houston, and a few other points.

Michigan Gridiron Star To Make Columbia Film

NEW YORK—Columbia has signed Tommy Harmon, 21-year-old Michigan football star, for a one picture deal at $13,500, with Harmon to report to the studio after graduation in June. A deal is on the fire for Harmon's running mate at Michigan, Mike Evaskaveski, to appear with him. The Everett Crosby Agency is handling. On completion of the Columbia contract Harmon will probably land at WJR, Detroit, as a sports commentator.

Metro's European Story Editor Dies in London

NEW YORK—Word of the death of Edward Joseph O'Brien in London was received here by M-G-M, for whom he acted as European story editor in association with the company's English studios. O'Brien, who was 50, was renowned as a short story writer and editor. He was born in Boston and educated at Boston College and Harvard. Since 1915 he had published annually "Best Short Stories," which came to be known as the "Yearbook of the American Short Story."

Anna Segal Rites

NEW YORK—Funeral services were held at Wyckoff, N. J., for Mrs. Anna Segal, who was killed while returning home from the annual Columbian Club dinner-dance with her husband, Jacob, who is assistant to Joseph A. McConville, foreign head. Segal is confined to General Hospital in Paterson with serious injuries, although his condition is reported as improving. The Segals were driving home when their car left the road and hit a telephone pole at Glen Rock, N. J.

Re-Sign Seiter for Three

HOLLYWOOD—William A. Seiter has signed a new three-picture deal at Universal as a producer-director.

BALTIMORE

J L. ROME has left on a trip which will take him to Chicago, the Grand Canyon, then to California. He will return by way of Salt Lake and Denver. It'll all take about three months . . . Maurice A. Rome has returned from Florida with a good coat of tan . . . Dick and Raymond Shamus are having the front of their Real Art decorated . . . Bernie Seaman, manager of the Hippodrome, was in Newark visiting his brother who recently underwent an operation . . . The sister of Francis Susie, assistant manager at the Hippodrome, is coming along nicely at Sinai Hospital after an operation . . . Sam Soltz of the Howard and the Mrs. are vacationing in Florida . . . "Night Train" is in its fourth month at the Little . . . New manager of the Mayfair is Michael Rebert, who was transferred from the Hampton.

John Alderson, manager of the Centre, is now broadcasting news over WFBR in his spare time . . . Leo Brown has been appointed stage doorman at the Hippodrome . . . Ted Routson reports that close to 400 children of his Gif-Ted Club have been auditioned over the air from the stage of his Hippodrome . . . Rodney Collier, manager of Warner's Stanley, tied up with a string of local drug stores on a "Strawberry Blonde Sundae." Those buying these sundaes, were given a free photo of Olivia de Havilland . . . Bob Ashcroft, Apollo, reports that the police have located his safe which was stolen several weeks ago. Yep, it was empty . . . John Wahl, Variety Club member, is spending three weeks in Miami . . . Mrs. Elliott has been reappointed vice-chairman of the Maryland censor board by Governor O'Conor . . . Juke boxes will appear here about April 1.

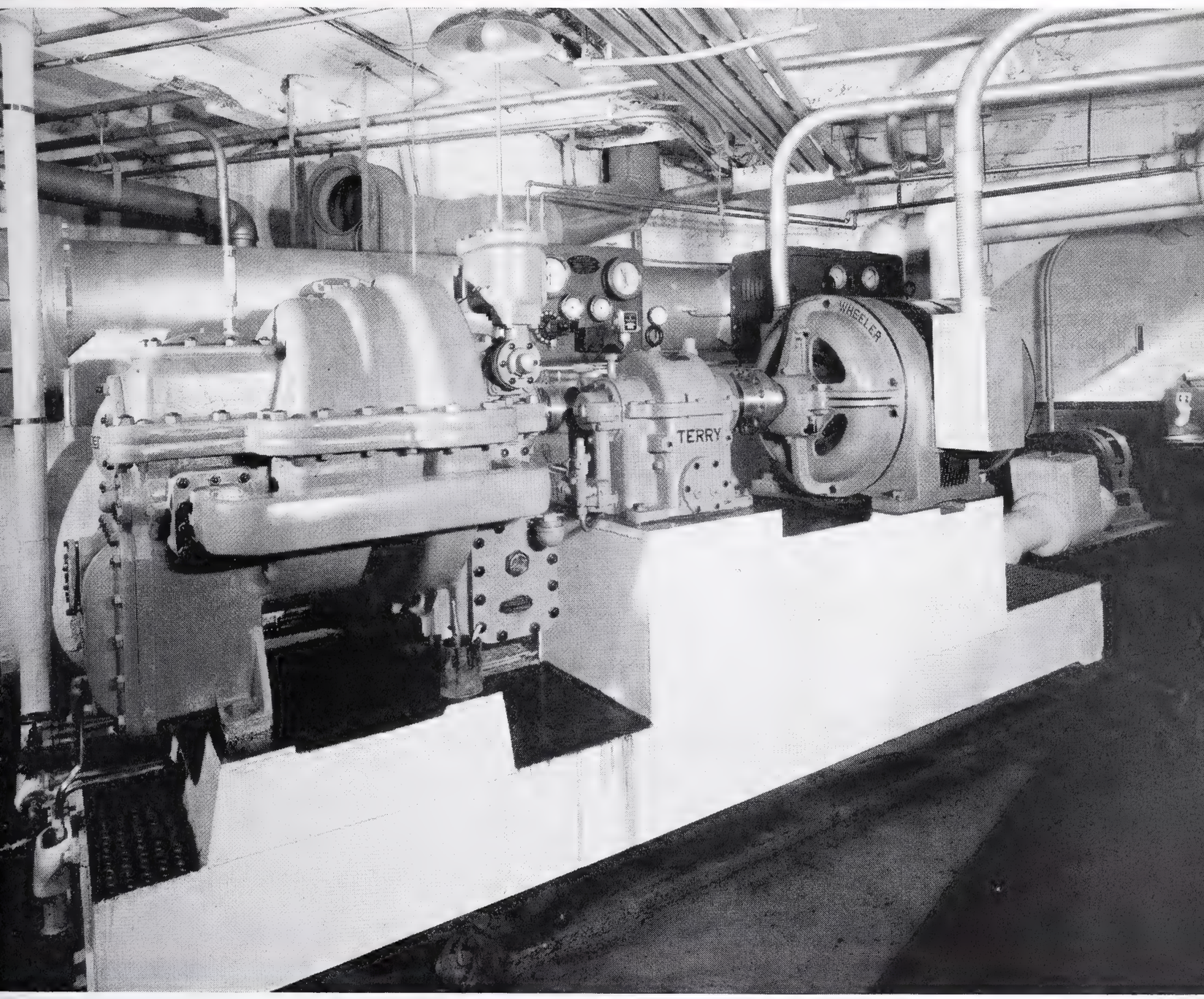
Lawrence Schanberger invited the Press Club to the premiere of "You're the One" . . . Louise Platt of the films will appear at the Maryland the week of March 3. A Marylander, she first started acting in school plays at Annapolis where her father taught at the Naval Academy . . . Howard A. Burman of Variety heads the committee planning the Preakness Ball . . . The Cinema is holding a current events and film quiz on Wednesday nights. Those answering correctly get a silver dollar . . . Martin H. Rogers, McHenry and Garden manager, was in charge of arrangements for the sixth annual dinner-dance of the South Baltimore Improvement Ass'n at which certificates of merit were awarded for outstanding service to the community . . . "Movies as Entertainment for Children" was the subject of a talk by Marie Presstman, secretary of the Maryland censor board, before the PTA.

Feiber & Shea Acquire Interest in 4 More

NEW YORK—Marking a total of more than 60, Feiber & Shea has acquired the stock of the late Edward Finch and Edward Steward in the C&M Amusement Co., which had the Colonial and Strand in Cambridge, Ohio, and the Hippodrome and Putnam in Marietta, Ohio. F&S had been operating two houses in each of the towns. The circuit recently took over the Colonial, Wheeling, W. Va.

The MODERN THEATRE

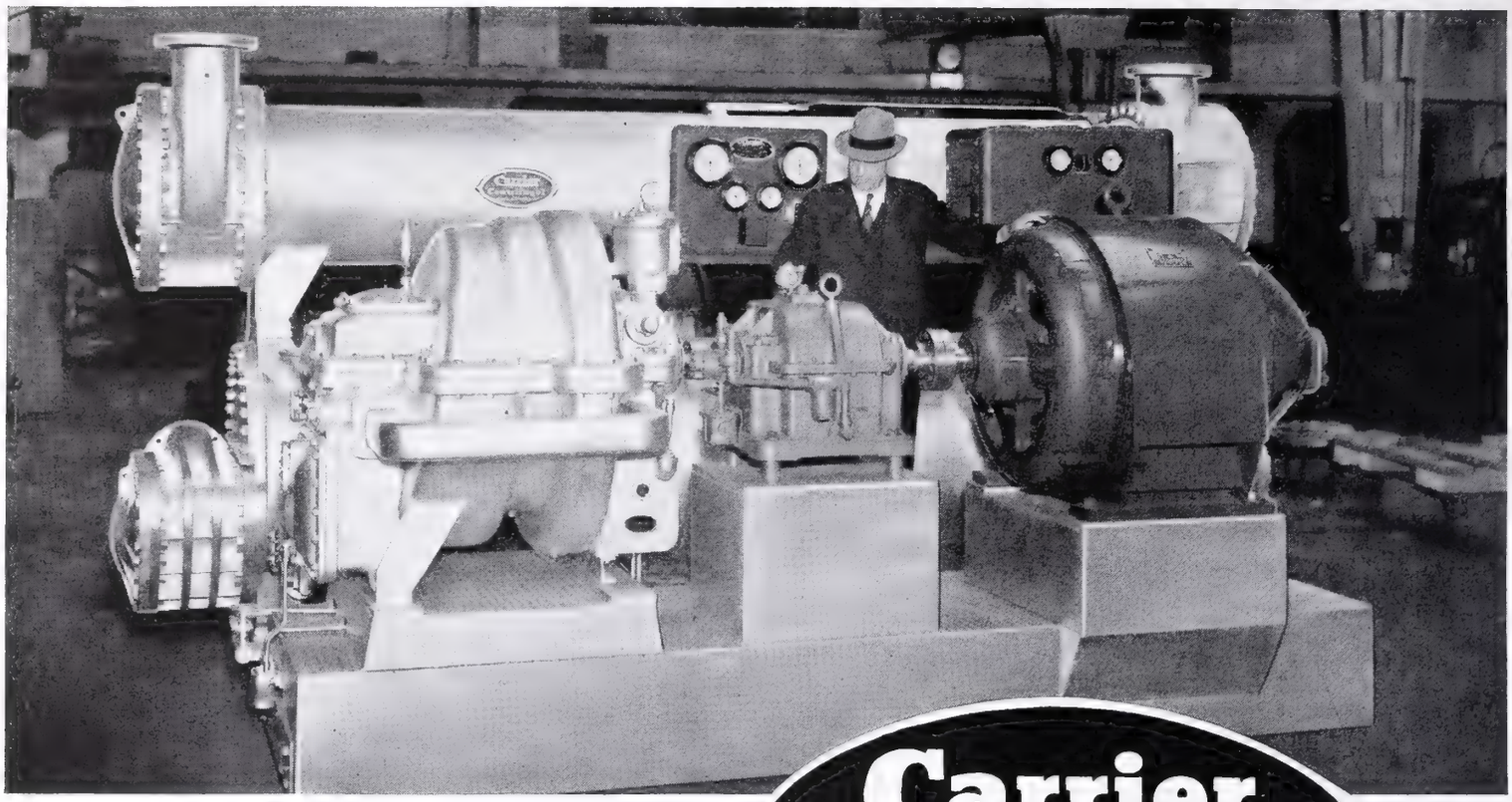
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Issue of MARCH 1, 1941

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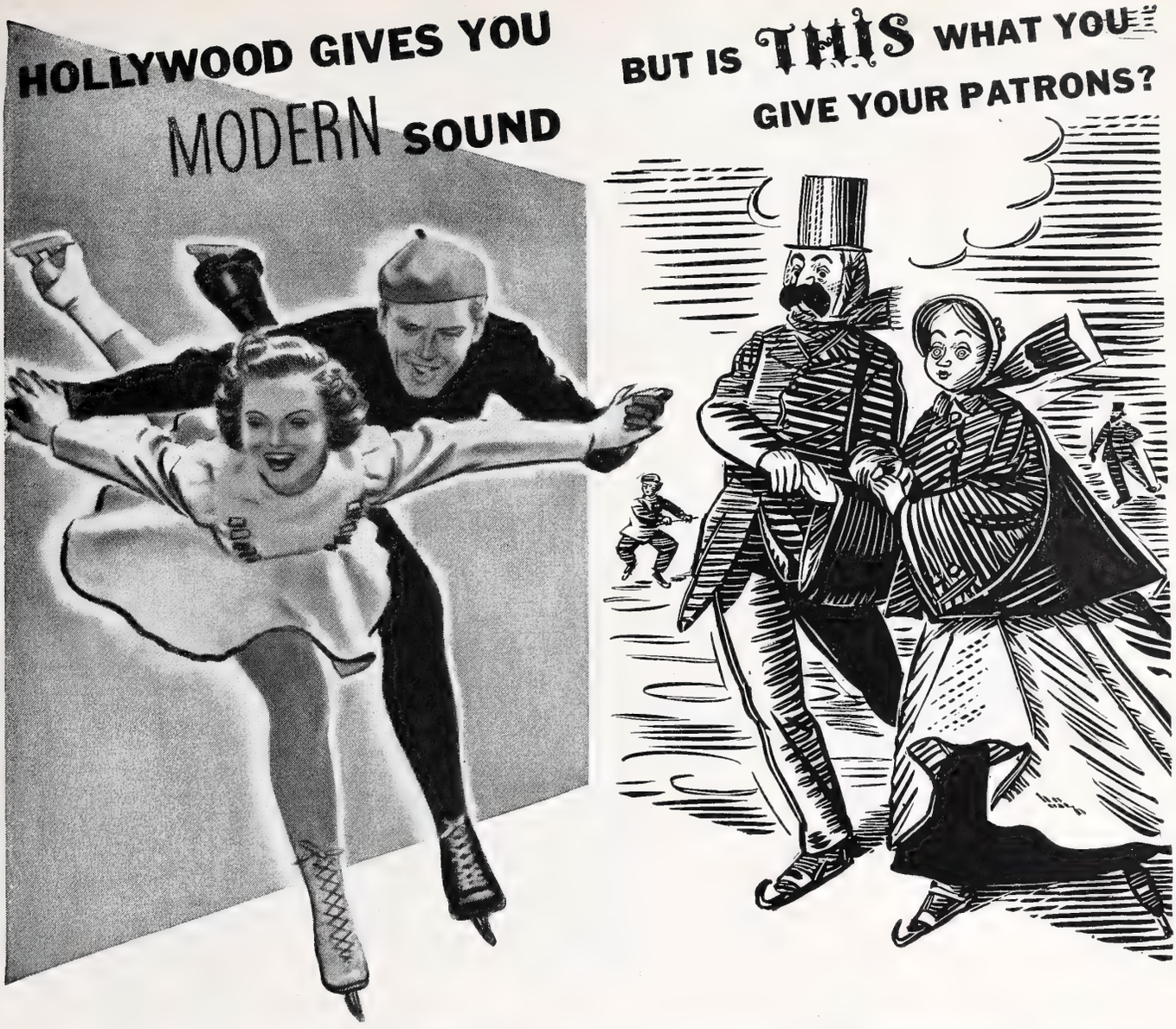
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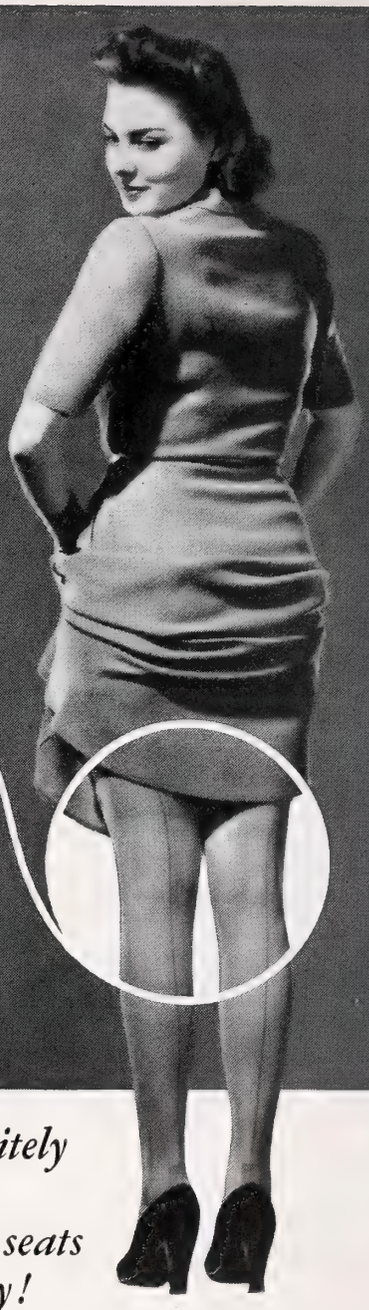
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American Seating's revolutionary new seats with *Feather Foam Front* take the pressure off the *Popliteal*



POPLITEAL—Webster's defines the Popliteal as the "back part of the leg behind the knee joint." It is very sensitive because arteries, veins, and nerves are close to the skin surface. Pressure on the Popliteal causes legs to "go to sleep," is responsible for discomfort and nervousness.

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HERE'S news—good news, BIG news! News that means dividends in patron satisfaction. It's *Feather Foam Front*—American Seating's new-type theatre seat that *takes the pressure off the Popliteal!*

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The MODERN THEATRE

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION of BOXOFFICE

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Issue of MARCH 1, 1941 — J. HARRY TOLER, *Managing Editor* : Vol. VIII. — No. 4

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House Appeal a Point of Issue Under the Consent Decree

Exhibitors who have read the rules of arbitration to apply under the Consent Decree must have noticed that for the first time in moving picture trade relations, house attraction and operating efficiency become practically a condition of contract.

There's a strong inference of this in Section VI. of the decree from which we quote: ". . . if the exhibitor can satisfy reasonable minimum standards of theatre operation."

There's even more significance in Section VIII. where in paragraph (3) we find: "The **character** and location of the theatres involved, including size, type of entertainment, **appointments,** etc."

But in a sub-paragraph (C) of Section X. we find the strongest possible implication wherein **"the character, appearance and condition of each, including its furnishings, equipment and conveniences"** is referred to.

That physical condition and appearance of theatre properties will be a strong point of arbitration under the decree is a rather foregone conclusion. One major producer-distributor has already announced the completion of a theatre survey with expressed intent to permit only theatres in good condition to play his product.

As the original and a long consistent advocate of the boxoffice value of house attraction, we can now see no good reason for disagreement with these protective provisions of the code.

Since the public has so volubly expressed its preference for the comforting effects of the modern theatre, and so positively its distaste for the other kind, we believe most exhibitors will now try to put their houses in proper shape to qualify — and with a margin to spare.

Toler

The Refrigerative Form of Air Conditioning for Theatres

SUCCESSFUL methods for the systematic control, regulation and distribution of temperature in moving picture theatres have finally simmered down to a comparatively few recognized means, the choice of which depends in large measure upon the object to be arrived at.

The question is whether the theatre owner wants to make his patrons comfortable at all times and in all seasons, during hot spells, cold snaps or the muggy weather often encountered in between. Or does he merely wish to make his house meet the extremes of the weather variation which nature has seen fit to provide?

To go all out for complete air conditioning; or to barely provide enough of it to get by during the peak periods of necessity. The choice should be made between these two possible objectives before the selection of a system or method is ever attempted, regardless of the size or situation of the theatre.

If it is decided to do the job completely and finally, with intent to solve the air conditioning problem permanently, then the next logical step is an engineering survey and a careful study of all conditions relating to the project, such as structural limitations, dimensional data, local weather conditions, power costs and any other contingencies that may have a possible bearing on the means of accomplishing the objective—a completely air conditioned theatre; or a partial solution for temporary relief.

The Method Discussed

In this instance we shall discuss one method of arriving at the goal which records of performance seem to have confirmed as one of the best, if not the best, method of air conditioning theatres for comfortable occupancy at all times of the year. We refer to the centrifugal (refrigeration) type of weather-making machinery which lends itself admirably to a wide variety of industrial purposes and is particularly adapted to theatre air conditioning.

Whereas formerly this type of machinery was considered too elaborate and costly for the average condition of theatre operation, and especially for theatres of smaller capacity, product engineering and specialization in manufacture have now practically removed that impression, and today we find the centrifugal refrigeration method most successfully used in small-sized theatres, where long-standing air conditioning problems have finally been met completely and satisfactorily solved.

The centrifugal refrigeration method of air conditioning, as represented in modern machinery of latest development, is quite easily and understandably described. In certain equipments adapted to theatre use, increased efficiencies have been achieved by improvements in the centrifugal compressor, evaporator and condenser, the three major parts in addition to which all equipment is included to make each machine a complete self-contained and compact unit. Horsepower has been reduced by 10 per cent to 15 per cent for all sizes of machines. Sound level of operation has been lowered, external appearance greatly improved, and the refrigerant pump has been eliminated.

The new special extruded extended surface tube is used in the evaporator and condenser for high efficiency, economy and further compactness in design. The lineal feet of tube required for a given capacity have been reduced by 50 per cent or more. This has led to a great reduction in the size of the evaporator and condenser.

Economy Factors

The new tube surface is not only economical and space-saving, but it also makes possible an efficient evaporator for a refrigerant recirculating pump, motor and distributing system. The special tubes are so designed that they may be removed and



Exterior view of Loew's Mt. Vernon Theatre superimposed on a view of the auditorium. The Mt. Vernon is one of three Loew's Greater New York houses completely air conditioned by the centrifugal refrigeration method last Spring and the interim results are said to have fully substantiated all claims made for the modern type of systems installed in this theatre as well as the Plaza in Corona, L. I., and the Sheridan in Greenwich Village, N. Y. (Photos courtesy Carrier Corp.)

Cover Plate

An intimate view of the heart of a modern air conditioning system of the type referred to in this article. A close-up picture of the weather-making machine in Loew's Mt. Vernon Theatre, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., comprising Carrier's latest Model 17-M, an improved centrifugal machine for comfort air conditioning; a 150-horsepower unit with a maximum capacity of 160 tons of cooling effect. Identical equipments were installed in two other Loew's theatres, the Plaza in Corona, Long Island, and the Sheridan in Greenwich Village, N. Y. (Photo courtesy Carrier Corp.)

replaced without disturbing the tube bundle.

Available equipment in one of the most popular centrifugal lines now includes 24 compressor sizes, nine evaporators and nine condensers. The three elements—compressor, condenser, and evaporator—have the same relative location in the assembly; therefore, irrespective of size, each refrigeration machine in this line is similar in appearance.

The line referred to represents years of experience in designing and installing this type of refrigeration for industrial processing, air conditioning and low temperature requirements. Installed machines range in refrigerating capacities from 60-ton units to 1,100-ton units, and produce temperatures from minus 100 degrees Fahrenheit to those needed for comfort air conditioning in theatres.

The refrigerant used is non-toxic, non explosive, non-inflammable, highly efficient, listed in Group 1, by American Standard Safety Code for Mechanical Refrigeration. The modern machines are compact, self-contained units, comprising evaporator, centrifugal multi-stage compressor and condenser on a single foundation.

The compressor rotor is statically and dynamically balanced. Impellers are lead coated. The complete oiling system with pump is integral with compressor.

Advantages Defined

Certain advantages for greater economy, ease of installation and higher efficiency are characteristic in the new centrifugal systems. As enumerated by a leading manufacturer who has pioneered in the development, these advantages are as follows:

(1) Easily installed, compact, relatively light weight. Machines are designed for simplicity of assembly. Erection consists only of bolting a few parts together.

(2) Any standard drive is applicable. Synchonous motor, induction motor, slip-ring motor, or steam turbine may be used for driving compressor.

(3) Improved heat balance. The centrifugal machine may be fitted into plant heat balance when driven by a suitable steam turbine. It may be driven by high pressure steam and supply low pressure steam for heating or other industrial purposes, by low pressure exhaust steam, operating, condensing, or a combination of the two. The steam turbine exhausts clean steam, free from contaminating oil.

(4) High, sustained efficiency. Two shaft bearings and a thrust bearing are only rubbing parts. No valves or piston rings to wear and replace. Oil and liquid refrigerant are not intermingled, eliminating fouling of heat transfer surfaces.

(5) Easily maintained. Wearing parts are few and are readily accessible without progressive dismantling of machines.

(6) Superior operating characteristics. Capacity can be varied economically over a wide range by comparatively slight changes in speed. The temperature of the brine leaving the cooler can be controlled automatically, within close limits, with either steam or electric drive, by means of speed control.

(7) Less supervision required. Inherent constant temperature characteristic requires few adjustments and hence less supervision. Because of inherent constant temperature stability, constant speed may be employed with comparatively minor adjustments for temperature control.

(8) Operates with negligible vibration and no shock. Massive foundations are unnecessary, moving parts are light in weight and in perfect dynamic balance.

(9) Machines are safe. Safe low pressure refrigerant. Moving parts are enclosed. Cooler operates under vacuum, condenser slightly above atmospheric pressure.

Three Cases in Point

Year 'round comfort air conditioning by the refrigeration method is employed most successfully in three of Loew's, Inc., Greater New York theatres, the Mt. Vernon in Mt. Vernon, the Plaza in Corona, Long Island, and the Sheridan in Greenwich Village. The installations were made last Spring and operating efficiency and cost records have since confirmed the good judgment of the owners in selecting this type of equipment.

Pictures of the Mt. Vernon Theatre installation are presented here. It as well as each of the two other houses referred to is equipped with a 150 h.p. centrifugal refrigerating plant, consisting of a compressor of latest type complete with water cooler and condenser arranged for cooling tower operation.

These centrifugal machines, operating as refrigerating units with coolers and condensers, act to chill water at approximately 46 degreees Fahrenheit. The water is then piped to the various fan systems in which are located the fin type chilled water coils, over which is drawn the air that is to be dehumidified, cooled and later distributed within and throughout the theatre for utmost comfort to the patrons.

The centrifugal machine has long been known to have the desirable characteristic of "floating on the load." By this is meant that with small reductions in load in the theatre, which, of course, are liable to occur many times during the day, the centrifugal machine tends to follow this reduction in the brake housepower requirements for driving the machine.

New Features of System

Many new features of the refrigeration method of air conditioning which now attract the theatre buyer include a reduction in the over-all dimensions of the machinery, a greater selection of sizes to fit the individual requirements, improved performance and efficiency, elimination of the need for a liquor pump on the cooler, and the embodiment of a standard economizer with every machine to reduce the brake horsepower per ton requirements.

Thus with capacities to suit the requirements of all theatres, from the largest to the smallest, now available, and at costs well within the means of all profitably operated theatres, the small capacity houses are no longer denied the use of an air conditioning method that has created a new conception of year 'round comfort regulation for theatre patrons, whose appreciation of the value of air conditioning has risen sharply and will continue to rise.

Proper outlets to direct the conditioned air are an economy as well as a comfort element for the patrons. They eliminate waste by controlling the flow of this comfortized atmosphere.

TRADEWINDS

A MONTHLY WEATHERVANE ON CURRENT EVENTS IN THIS AND OTHER INDUSTRIES AFFECTING THE INTERESTS OF THEATRE OPERATION.

Dealers and Manufacturers Hold Pow Wows in Worthy Purpose

Two important events in theatre equipment circles took place recently, both of which may be considered as harbingers of better service and greater satisfaction to the theatre industry at large.

The independent theatre equipment dealers, until recently quite dormant as to organization activity, gathered in Chicago on February 8th for a 3-day session. Some 25 delegates were present at the inaugural meeting in which a new organization, the Theatre Equipment Dealers Protective Association was formed and placed under the direction of Harry W. Graham, of Graham Bros., of Denver, Colo., who was elected Executive Secretary of the group, which will be materially augmented by the addition of new members.

Some 25 manufacturers renewed acquaintanceship with their distributors at this meeting and discussed product, policies and price structures and other problems of sales and service arising under the government's defense program and resultant increased business activity.

Concurrently National Theatre Supply Company summoned its branch managers to New York (February 9-14) for another of its regular round table discussions of service problems and demonstrations of equipment with the design of improving the service to their customers.

The meeting was attended by manufacturers of the most important products distributed through National who participated in the 6-day program, presided over by the company's president, Walter E. Green. The meeting was said to be entirely educational in its aims.

Unlike customary dealer-manufacturer gatherings of the past, wherein better service to the customer has been a subject of secondary discussion, the two current meetings were characterized by a very worthy purpose to improve the services of dealership in all particulars.

It is mighty encouraging to observe that theatre equipment manufacturers and their dealers have finally begun to merchandise their wares.—THE EDITOR.

Apartment Villages in Large Cities create ready-made movie sites

• • •

SMALL towns, with all their intimately pleasant characteristics, are not uncommon within our large cities in this day and age. We are encountering this new community spirit—a new social plan prompted by modern ways of living on a higher scale to be shared by groups in a leveled income bracket. The housing project, designed originally as a slum clearance measure and since deemed practical for middle-class families as well, has brought new and higher standards of living to the major elements of large city populations.

In every large city throughout the country, we have seen developed during the past several years apartment villages, some Government sponsored, others privately owned, and in every case the modern community homes have brought a higher standard of living for the money expended for rent by their tenants. The satisfaction and pride of occupancy inherent in these large housing projects—whether for the very low wage-earning groups or the middle-class elements, who found they could get more for their rent-money in these modern community apartments—is one of the success elements which have made them more popular and profitable than was even hoped for by their protagonists.

Trend to Better Living

That this new housing trend is highly important to theatre people cannot be denied. With the higher standard in living conditions comes also a demand for higher standards in entertainment and the places in which these better housed populations will seek their amusement. In almost every case of a new housing project, there is need also for a new or enlarged moving picture theatre of the proper type—modern and functional, yet not necessarily overpretentious.

New housing projects in large cities provide practically ready-made patronage for theatres located adjacent thereto, inasmuch as the mushroom growth and expansion of such a group of potential patrons can almost invariably keep a theatre well filled from those residing in the community alone. It must be remembered that such projects within a large city often house more families than does the average small town.

For the past several years this publication has noted and called attention to the new trend in large city housing and its resultant effect upon the entertainment phase. It has been our belief that large-scale public housing is greatly influential upon theatre appearance and efficiency in metropolitan areas and thus upon the community house wherever it may be located—in proximity to middle-class homes in large cities or in average small towns throughout the country.

Entertainment a Necessity

Because of the nature of large housing projects in cities, i. e., that they are almost always situated in areas lately cleared of slums or on sites which were formerly unoccupied, it almost necessarily follows that a new theatre will have to be constructed to accommodate the large incoming population which immediately enters the so-favored district. And because of the modern efficiency of the apartment homes, only the most modern and functionally efficient theatre can be expected to satisfy these enlightened tenants.

For this reason, modern housing precepts and modern community theatre construction go hand in hand insofar as public appeal is concerned. When the lower and middle classes are better housed, they must also be conveniently and comfortably entertained. We can be proud that modern showmen are quick to take cognizance of this fact and provide handsomely for these ready-made audiences. The community theatres being constructed to accommodate housing project tenants are in almost every case outstanding examples of modernity and efficiency, which, of course, is highly essential if they are to compete with the charms of these modern firesides.

A study of a modern housing project brings to light many things of interest to theatre owners who believe in keeping abreast of the living habits and customs of the general public and their potential patrons. Modern living has influence on even the least of us in even the remote locations, and this new trend in big city living will have repercussions on even the small towns and hamlets of the country.



Loew's new American Theatre (foreground) is one of the chief contributions to better living in Parkchester, new apartment community of 12,200 families now being completed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in the Bronx, New York. This view was photographed a few days after opening of the theatre on December 26, 1940. The thoroughfare is East Avenue.

A Planned Community

So let us now consider Parkchester. Here is an extraordinary housing project, the like of which has never before been seen in the United States. Parkchester is the modern conception of a completely planned community, providing modern housing at lowest practicable rentals, and furthermore, achieving sanitary wholesomeness, convenience and beauty.

Located in the densely populated East Bronx section of New York City, Parkchester is a complete community which is larger than the average small city. It occupies 129 acres and its 51 apartment buildings range in height from six to twelve stories. The 58 buildings in all

which comprise the project, however, cover only 35.5 acres or 27.4 per cent of the land. Landscaped and recreational areas account for 66.6 acres or 51.4 per cent of the land; streets or parkways cover the remaining 27.4 acres or 21.2 per cent of the site.

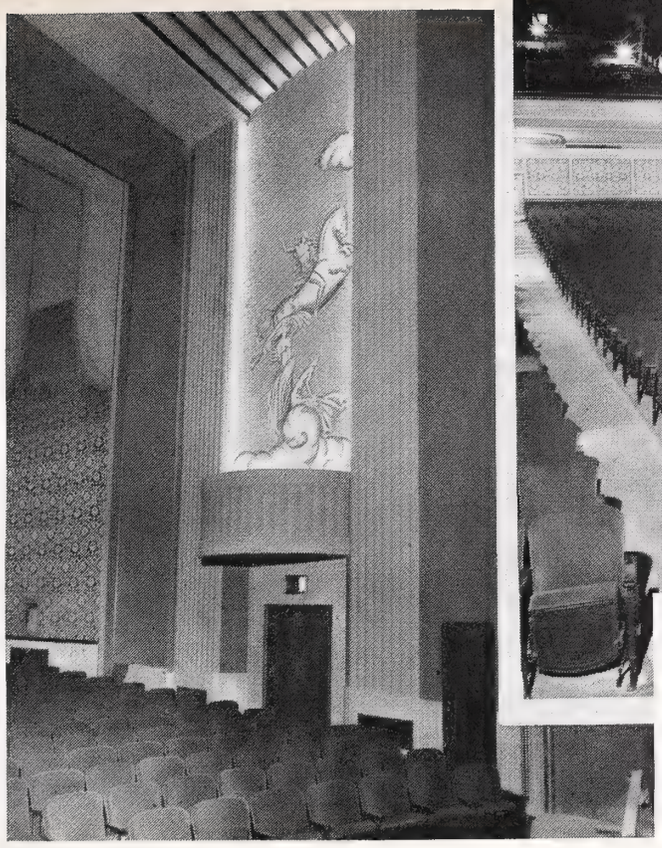
As yet, Parkchester is unfinished, despite the fact that it is already a functioning community. Since March 1st of last year, families have begun to move into the progressively finished buildings, and when the project is finally completed some time during the present year it will have housing accommodations for 12,200 families or about 40,000 persons. Nowhere else in the world perhaps will so large a population enjoy such uniformly modern living conditions.

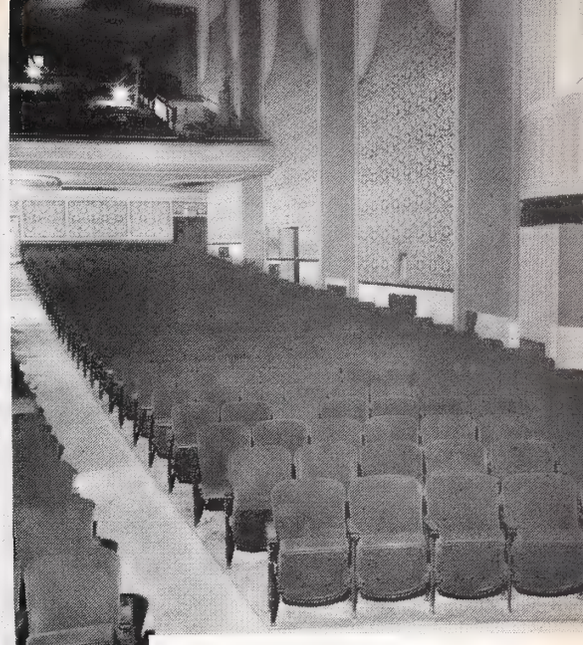
Parkchester was conceived and built by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to provide for families of the middle income group, whose incomes range from about $1,800 to $4,500 a year. It contains apartments of the highest standards at the lowest possible rentals, and emphasis was laid on wholesome outdoor environment—a factor which has been sadly missing in the living conditions of this class in large cities heretofore.

Recreational Provisions

The community's spacious open areas will contain several thousand newly-planted trees, handsome lawns and a wealth of shrubbery. The plan provides many play areas and much outdoor play equipment also is included. In addition, upon final completion there will be about 200 stores of the highest type, which will be located in a major shopping center and in "neighborhood" shopping areas. Macy's only New York branch will be opened in Parkchester within a short time.

At the very outset when plans were in first consideration, a modern motion picture theatre was contemplated by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as a most necessary adjunct to the huge housing development. And in all promotion of the project to potential tenants the modern theatre was placed high among the advantages as an appeal factor.





At left—Entire mural and cove decorations on sides of orchestra walls of Loew's new American Theatre, in Parkchester, a new housing development in the Bronx, N. Y. Above—Side view of orchestra and balcony showing comfortable seating facilities and a portion of the mural decorations in the new community playhouse.

Loew's new American Theatre was opened with much music and pageantry in Parkchester on December 26th to add a final flair and fillip to the outstanding project. With their own entertainment facilities right on the grounds, the well-housed tenants now have all that can be desired in modern living.

The theatre is centrally located and architecturally a most important part of the housing plan. The house seats 2,000 persons and is modern to the minute in design and functional equipment. John and Drew Eberson were consulting architects to the Board of Design of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in its construction.

In every respect, the new American Theatre is a model community playhouse. Its attractive exterior serves as a beacon of brilliance for the entire neighborhood and the interior is an ensemble of refined decorative appeal. Modern murals and effective cove lighting highlight the comfort and convenience of its functional furnishings. The amusement facilities here are entirely complementary to the wide scope of Parkchester's housing accomplishment; a factor which is of major importance to builders of theatres in any community.



Left to right: Frank Lowe, manager of the Parkchester Development; Monsignor Arthur Scanlan, St. Helena's R. C. Church; Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx; Charles C. Moskowitz, Oscar A. Doob and Harry Karasik, of Loew's Theatres, at the opening of Loew's new American Theatre, Parkchester, East Bronx, N. Y. The Borough President is seen cutting the ribbon which surrounds the cellophane wrapped boxoffice, a fitting Christmas present to the new tenants of Parkchester.

A much higher degree of experience and skill on the part of the air conditioning engineer and contractor is required to design a winter air distributing system than is required for a summer air distributing system—yet many theatre men think only in terms of summer cooling.

Automatic temperature controls take all the guess-work and foolishness out of the operation of an air conditioning system. They promote economy also.

Give Us FRESH AIR!.... or elsewhere we'll go for it

by ANSEL M. MOORE

WE, THE PEOPLE, SPEAK! And with finality we here and now inform you gentlemen of the great moving picture industry that we will no longer go for (or to) stuffy, ill-smelling, germ-infested theatres.

We, the People, protest against the seeming indifference of some of you toward our physical well-being in the winter time. Yet you do expect our patronage, perhaps on the theory that we've nothing better to do for our indoor pastime.

But men who think so, that's just where you're wrong. We can not only find other forms of diversion, relaxation and pleasantry; but since we're noticeably becoming movie-minded again, we can actually and quite readily find what we want in some other theatre nowadays. Maybe not right in our immediate neighborhood, as we'd prefer it, but not too far away to be within driving range.

So you still think (or don't you?) that air conditioning is simply a hot weather expedient—a thing to be thought of and exploited to our gullibility during only three or four months of the year. If you think so, gentlemen, you're wrong there too.

Here's Your Cue

Comfortable occupancy is a year-round contingency with us come Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall and with each of these seasons and in between them we demand pure, fresh air, tempered to the normal requirements of comfort, health and sanitation. If we don't get it at your house we can (and do) go elsewhere.

We, the People, have no doubt that most of you have already begun to think of *cooling us off* in June, July and August, 1941. This is the time of year when as a matter of habit you all turn almost instinctively to tender thoughts of how to intrigue our summer fancies and take in more of our shekels during the hot spell. Don't get us wrong. We appreciate your brief seasonal concern and we'll still show it at your boxoffices this summer. But what burns us up is that you fellows "blow hot and cold" on the subject of theatre air conditioning.

Some of you who have good air conditioning systems (and not too many have them) allow them to lie dormant and unattended during about nine months of the year. But with the call of the first Robin you fellows who put it off again last summer begin to bestir yourselves and warm up to the subject. By mid-summer (if you're lucky with deliveries and installations) you'll get something done—if you don't go and put it off again.

Then after awhile when Old Man Heat and his playmate Humidity begin to bear down heavily on your boxoffice receipts you'll drag out the icicle-festooned banners and with pictures of icebergs and polar bears, try blatantly, but not very subtly, to proclaim to Us, the People, that you've really got air conditioning in your place of business.

Frankly, most of us no longer fall for this perpetration of fraud on the fair name of air conditioning. To appeal to us effectively your house must give us comfort in January as well as in July. We don't compromise on mere summer cooling, whether you propose to do it by cold storage, clammy air circulation or any other contrivance you choose to foist upon us in the good name of air conditioning.

Give us Fresh Air, Gentlemen, properly tempered, frequently changed and fairly distributed to all parts of your theatre. Give it to us not in cold blasts or heat waves, but through a system that is efficient for your locality in all sorts of weather and during all seasons of the year.

Just Between Us

Now, We the People, want to let you in on a little secret. It may be news to many of you. In case you are already aware of it, this may still serve as a reminder. We have learned that the secret of being comfortable and at ease lies in our not being conscious of what causes us to be comfortable. That may sound funny to some of you but it's a fact, nevertheless.

When we enter a modern theatre, a night spot or a nifty eating place where everything is in apple pie order we at once settle into a calm and appreciative concern for what is to be set before us. It may be a screenplay, a strip tease or a sizzling steak. If we're made comfortable at the start our complete enjoyment of the fare is practically assured.

On the other hand, such aggravating distractions as drafty air distribution, intermingled with chills, hot flashes, clamminess and nauseating odors causes us to immediately become hypercritical of the whole layout, including the house, the merchandise and the management.

We, the People, ever more frequently nowadays find ourselves in places of business (theatres too) where we don't even give a thought to our physical condition. There is nothing amiss in such places to remind us to look for discomfort, nor are we greatly interested at the moment in knowing what makes us so comfortable.

Afterwards, perhaps on the way home, we begin to recall how the place appealed to us. Come to think of it now, everything seemed to have centered on one objective: To make us want to come back again. The details, overlooked at the time, because of the business that brought us there, are now recalled, point by point. The place had—yes, you've guessed it—House Appeal.

The Happy Medium

In the attainment of this thing called House Appeal, there is a happy medium with respect to air conditioning that many theatre owners seem to have missed, and the omission is dangerous. We, the People, like fresh air—but not too much of it and no less of it than it takes to keep us comfortable. Its ministrations must be governed by good common sense, which we know, of course, isn't always exercised around the average theatre. Knowing this, air conditioning engineers have devised automatic control, a godsend to temperature regulation and its beneficiaries. It may never be possible to exactly please all of Us, the People, all of the time in the matter of heat and cold regulation. The average theatre audience is usually about evenly divided between the hot and cold blooded patrons among us with a few extremes on each outer end of a scale running to norm at the middle.

Automatic (hands off) control of an efficient year-round air conditioning system of adequate capacity range to suit all seasons and with effective distribution to all parts of the house, is just about what the faithful old family doctor would order for Us, the People, if he were consulted professionally in the prescription of air conditioning systems for your theatres.

We've accused you of "blowing hot and cold" on this air conditioning problem. Now we want to qualify that accusation and let someone else share with you the blame for it. So here and now we make air conditioning manufacturers with their rush-season selling methods and long "rest periods" an accessory before the fact. Very few manufacturers of equipment make any concerted effort to sell theatre air conditioning outside the so-called "theatre cooling season." Ask them why and they'll tell you a bit sheepishly that "It's no use. Theatre owners won't buy our equipment

(Continued on page 61)

Refrain or Be Restrained!

As an addendum to the lead editorial appearing in this issue Ansel Moore will stir up some more interesting new angles and asides on theatre Trade Protection a'propos the Consent Decree arbitration proceedings for presentation in the forthcoming (March 29th) issue of The Modern Theatre section. Enlightening perhaps; at least amusing.—The Editor.


THE CAMEO
...a Star Performer
makes your best show better!
EVERY time and everywhere that it is installed the Heywood Cameo makes money for the box-office. These swanky chairs give your patrons *genuine* spring edge comfort *over the full area of the seat.* The Cameo is distinctive in appearance . . . lends flash and sparkle to your interior. The Cameo is reasonably priced because it is produced in such tremendous volume. And . . . the Cameo is so rich in deep, luxurious comfort that it will make every show seem just so much better to your patrons. *May we furnish details?*
HEYWOOD-WAKEFIELD
Theatre Seating Division
GARDNER •• MASSACHUSETTS

Porcelains, Glasses and Plastics.... Our Modern Allies

by BILL J. MOORE*

THE Architectural profession knows possibly better than all others, how history repeats itself in periods, styles and materials. Yet, periods, styles and materials are often disguised in a *new era* to such an extent that they are hardly to be recognized.

As an illustration of an old material coming back popularly to be used in an entirely different manner, we cite porcelain enamel. Porcelain enamel is very, very old. It has been made and used so long its origin was lost centuries ago.

Thousands of years ago nations of the Orient, China especially, were making porcelain enamel. The larger metropolitan museums, art schools and some private collections still have porcelain enameled art objects hundreds and thousands of years old, all in perfect state of preservation.

But, in spite of the fact that the art of making porcelain objects has been known all this time, it was left to the present generation to find a new use for this old material in applying it to theatre building construction.

Still another ancient material, glass, has come out of hiding and presented itself in an entirely different form, for the architect to use and present to this new era, with originality, permanence of color, and flexibility of design in forms and styles so different and yet simulating so nearly the ancient arts of the glass blower.

The glass blower in days gone by created forms, shapes and effects most beautiful, yet they were impractical for use as a building material. These old shapes and forms are being recreated today in very much the same styles, but of a much stronger and more durable product, with strength to withstand modern day strains on building materials; thus the history of styles and materials repeats itself in glass.

However, in the midst of an age in which history is continually repeating itself, we designers are presented with an apparently new and different material, the plastics. While there are numerous plastics on the American market today, most of these materials have very much in common with the new adaptations of porcelains and glass. They have strength, permanence of color and offer flexibility to the architect in designing for the needs of his client today.

Thus, today, as during the colorful "Regency" period of English history, the architect is called on to give his client new, colorful and elegant designs to satisfy the present desire for glistening brilliance in building construction. In order to do this, he must have numerous materials with which he can accomplish his purpose of obtaining strength, durability, permanent color, light and originality in his building designs.

Porcelain enamel, glass and plastics have all the characteristics mentioned above and the following things in common, namely:

(1) Porcelain enamel is merely powdered glass fused to metal by means of intense heat.

(2) Glass, plastics and metal come from heat and special processes applied to substances of the earth.

(3) All three, glass, plastics and porcelain enamel can be formed or molded to practically any size, shape or form.

We theatre architects feel that these materials are "Modern Allies" combined together to fight with us against the cold, formal and dingy buildings of an era gone by.

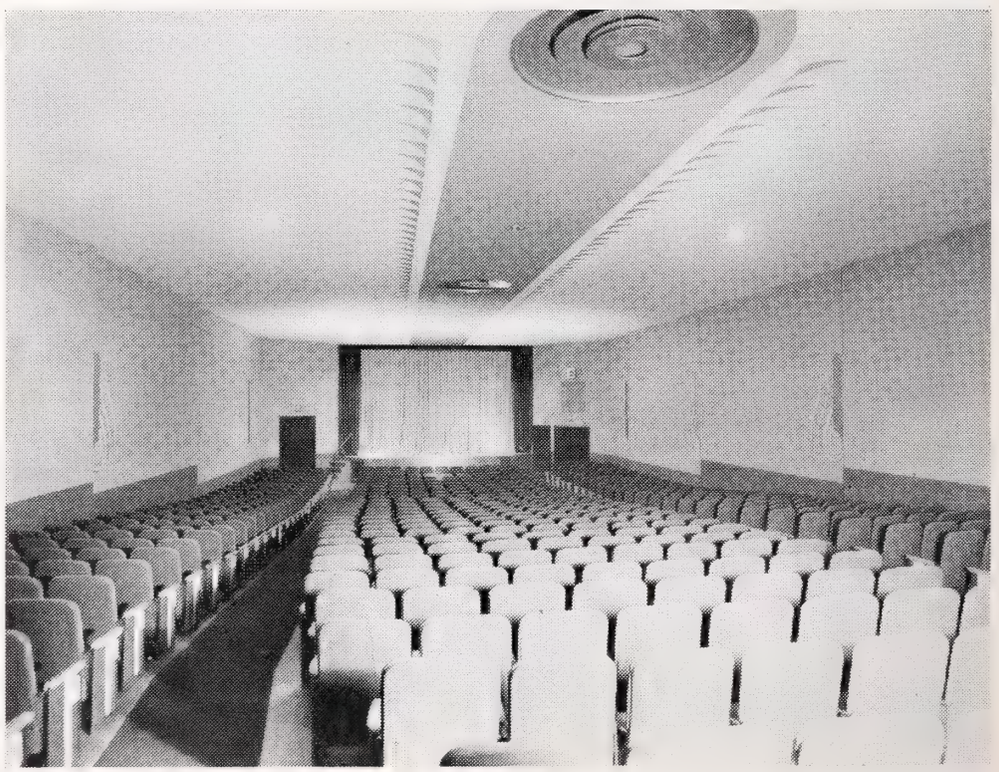
* of Corgan & Moore, Theatre Architects, Dallas, Texas; members of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute.

Good Lining Protects Carpet Over Concrete

Many modern fireproof theatres have carpet laid right over concrete sub-floors; thus saving the price of hardwood flooring for rooms which are to be fully carpeted. On this basis alone, the carpet pays for itself, not to mention later savings in costlier upkeep for wood floors, such as refinishing, polishing and so forth.

Good carpet lining is essential always and especially so when carpeting over concrete. First, because it is impossible to tell just what chemical action the concrete may have on the back of the carpet in case of accidental dampness. Second, because concrete is hard.

DRAFTLESS VENTILATION IN THEATRE DESIGN



Auditorium view of the Rex Theatre in Chicago owned by D. J. Chrissis, wherein draftless air distribution was made an integral part of the design by Roy B. Blass, the architect. The functional media used for this practical purpose were three 30-inch spun aluminum ceiling type air distribution termini located in the ceiling with complementary decorative treatment to match. (Photo courtesy Plandaire, Inc.)

Announcing the New

IRWIN CLIPPER

A chair that offers the latest and finest developments in theatre seating — **at extremely moderate price!**

This exceedingly fine new chair has been specifically developed for the "high quality, low cost" buyer — the man who wants all the boxoffice drawing power that good seating can contribute without paying a premium price for it. Note the beauty of its design and the highlights of construction given below:

Steel Seat Bucket completely encloses under side and edges of seat.

No Screws or Bolts Exposed anywhere on the chair.

Full Steel Back Panel with rolled edges covering and protecting the edges of back upholstery. Available with extension of back panel to protect seat covering from feet of occupants in the rear.

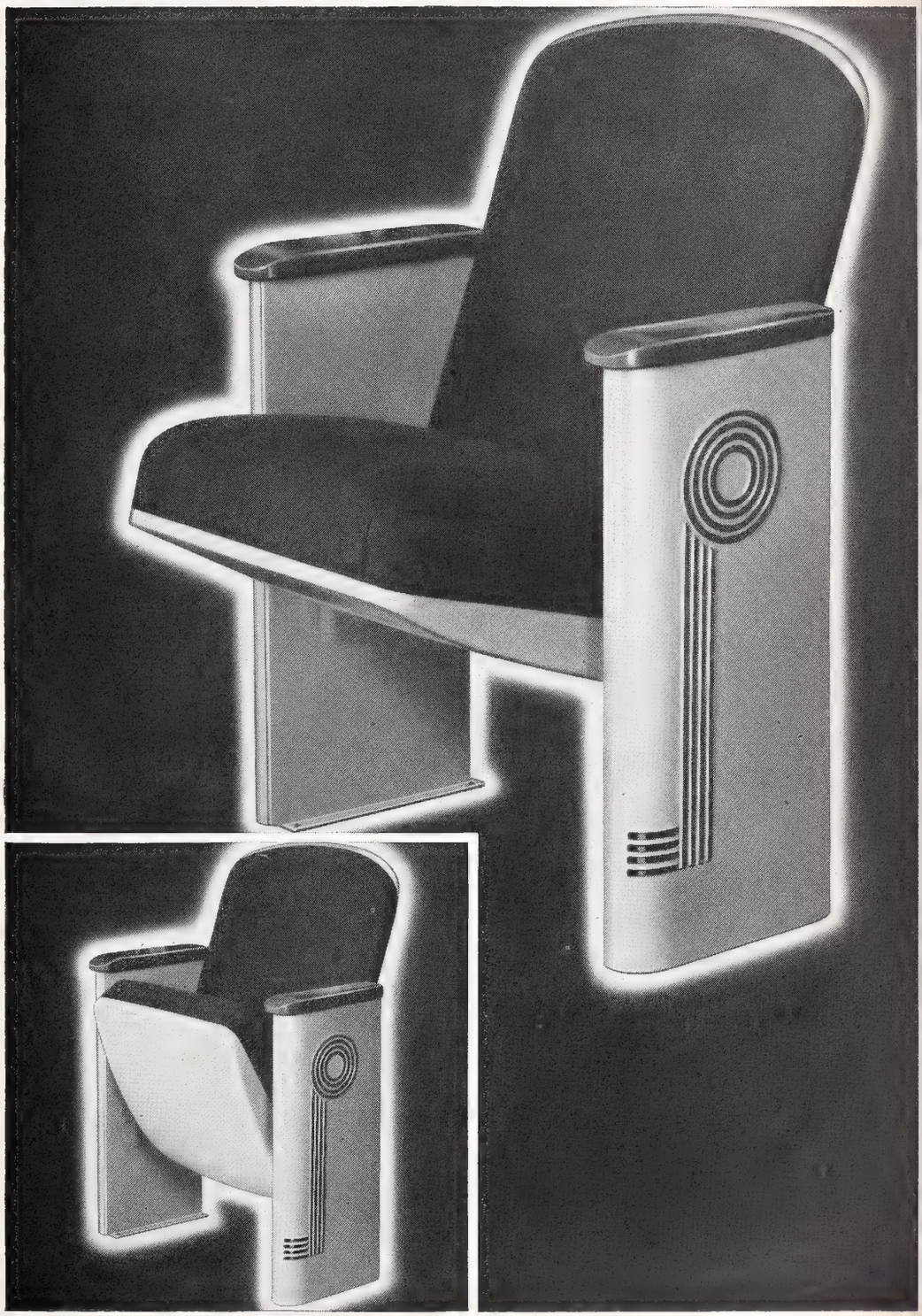
Seats—Unusually Wide and Deep. Available with the exclusive new FLEX-STEEL spring construction — the last word in comfort and durability.

Steel Panel Center Standard — full depth and extending to the floor with smooth tubular edges.

Back and Seat Upholstery quickly and easily replaceable.

Arm Rests attached without use of screws.

Seats and Backs align perfectly in all installations.



For a SUPER buy in theatre seating see the new CLIPPER and its superb running mate the CLIPPER DELUXE at the nearest display room of

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AIR CONDITIONING

DEVOTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN THEATRES

Co-ordination of Parts Makes a Competent Air Conditioning System

by GORDON H. SIMMONS*



I AM a curious, nomadic sort of a cuss. Even when I am physically inert tho' that is seldom, the mind and the spirit in me wanders over the face of the earth. Only this I know and that is, in some way, some how, I must do something that will make me realize that I am a success, that I have lived victoriously, or something.

It is not enough to be born, marry and have children, make a sufficient amount of money and then die. It is hardly enough to have friends and accumulate a little knowledge. I have some of both. I have received too much at the hands of my friends, too much from Nature itself, to just "take it and quit."

I want to give back part of it. I don't want to stop feeling that I am a debtor to Life. I want to think I've added some small thing to the ease and the joy of living. I want to be remembered for something when I'm dead.

I'm too old to place much faith in knowledge. Too young to have much wisdom. And too ignorant to write about the deep things I have discovered in humanity and in Nature. Like a child who sees a rainbow in the sky yet has no words with which to describe it poetically.

Hope I've Helped

To those of you who have read my platitudes about air conditioning, let me say that while I might know how to make myself physically comfortable, I do not necessarily know how to make myself spiritually so. But I have derived pleasure out of serving some of you and that helps.

I do hope that air conditioning practice in theatre circles has been somewhat improved and that maybe I've helped to improve it. Furthermore, I hope that you have relaxed somewhat on the "price" angle in the interest of obtaining better air conditioning quality. I hope also that I have mitigated somewhat the confusion in the minds of many of you as to what really constitutes *proper air conditioning.*

I have tried to show you that winter air conditioning is important too. Tried to impress upon you the importance of winter fresh air in your houses. Tried to make you realize that real air conditioning, both summer and winter, makes the cash register ring up faster in the boxoffice the whole year 'round.

But when I appeal to your financial interest, I am merely baiting a hook with which to catch you by. I am just as much interested in those customers in your house as I am in you and I want to bring *them* some comfort too.

I am too prone to say what I think and too inept with words to say it diplomatically. A theatre owner once asked me to estimate the cost of an air conditioning system for him. He had unusually good local conditions favoring an inexpensive installation so I told him I thought it could be done for $1,500. He smiled sardonically and said, "I can do it for far less than that." I am afraid I replied in pretty drastic style.

A Jack-Leg Job

I said I had seen too many jobs done by theatre owners "for less." Told him that the jobs I had inspected proved to me that what theatre owners did not know about air conditioning would fill a great big book. That a theatre owner might install a good job if he had a proper plan and followed it, but that the kind of a job he would do for less than $1,500, either with or without a plan, couldn't afford comfort to the occupants of a doghouse, much less the patrons of a movie theatre. This is being sarcastic, I suppose, but I do not mean to be. There are certain elements required as ingredients for a good air conditioning system, just like making a pie, that cannot be bought for less. At present prices, anyhow.

This man had 52-degree water and a small house. So I figured about as follows: (Prices may have since gone up).

Cleaning the air (filters)	$ 100
Moving the air (blower)	165
(motor)	125
Cooling the air (coils)	600
Controlling the air (dampers and controls)	200
Distributing the air (ducts, pipe work and installation)	400
	$1,590

Leave out or cheapen any item of the above essential items and he's got no job. But put the job in the way I would specify and it would be an inexpensive one, yet no one would dare to call it cheap. I don't do cheap work. There is already too much of it being done and I don't like competition.

Every one of the items of equipment called for in the above estimate is made by nationally known manufacturers, as well known to the air conditioning industry as Paramount in Hollywood is known to you.

If you never made a pie before, you had better follow a recipe and use good ingredients. And whether or not you ever installed an air conditioning job before, you had better have an engineers' plan and specifications. Now I have already supplied many of these and often at my own cost. But I can't get anywhere by assisting you one at a time. I must work on you en masse. I must establish criteria and succinctly say what each item of equipment must do to properly play its part.

Repetition

Deliberately repeating what I've said many times before, a minimum of 20 c.f.m. per seat and a maximum of 30 c.f.m. per seat can be used, depending upon locality. This establishes the capacity of the blower. The usual air velocity through a filter is 250 ft. per minute, which establishes the filter size and capacity. The usual velocity of air through a cooling coil is 500 ft. per minute, so if you wanted to cool 10,000 c.f.m of air per minute you would need 20 square feet of coils.

But the depth of those coils, that is the number of rows deep, depends upon who makes them as well as the temperature of the cooling medium. It can be cold water if available, or it can be a refrigerant gas. The depth of the coils depends too upon the amount of fresh air you propose to use.

Now the amount of calculation necessary to ascertain the proper depth of coil for you to use on your job, is so involved and complicated that it would be utterly useless for me to even try to discuss it

Information, Please

We, meaning the Editor and me, want to know about your air conditioning problems, in order to better serve in helping you and others to solve them. If you're in trouble, or want to avoid it; if you're confused or otherwise undecided on what to do about this or that, just sit right down and write, telling us what's troubling you. Give us full facts about your theatre—seating capacity, room dimensions, equipment, air outlets, blower sizes, etc. NO CHARGE FOR ADVICE. Address THE MODERN THEATRE, 332 S. MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.—AND BE SURE TO ENCLOSE POSTAGE FOR REPLY.—G. H. S.

*Air Conditioning Engineer, Milwaukee, Wis.

with you in print. Nor could I do it at all unless I knew WHO makes the coil. Any attempt to buy a cheap coil does not give you a cheap job, it generally just gives you no job at all.

There are some coils on the market that can be used for heating as well as cooling when supplied with hot water or steam from a suitable boiler. Any coil made out of thin copper strips and then dipped into a bath of solder to hold them together, but which can stand no more than 30 lbs. pressure, is most unsuitable. If any coil offered you looks like your automobile radiator, lay off of it as if it were the plague. Many of them are efficient, I suppose. But too many of them have sprung leaks. They are not structurally built to stand up under continued use. I could give the roll call of good ones, but should I leave one out I might get my ears burned off.

School of Experience

I persist in wondering about many things. I wander all over the land inspecting the good and the bad about air conditioning while wondering how I can convey my findings to you in a manner that will save you from making the mistakes I've seen made.

There is so much about theatre air conditioning that is unconstitutional. Many indoor climatic conditions that wreck the constitution of a healthy man. In one instance I was put to bed for a week, and I am a pretty tough hombre. This has happened to me once before. Years ago, I went to bed with cramps occasioned by one of my own air conditioning jobs in a tavern. I no longer drink 50-degree beer in a 70-degree atmosphere and then take a brisk walk out-of-doors when it is 100 degrees in the shade. "Experience is a hard school but fools will learn in no other."

I cannot see that the average job has improved very much in quality since one of my own put me to bed. Nor can I find that the ideals of engineering practice in regard to it have been raised very much either. Learned engineers discuss temperature and humidity, air movement, air distribution and methods of cleaning it as if that were all. There is a quality about air conditioning not measurable by instruments that does bring refreshment instead of lassitude.

It is possible for a patron to walk in and out of doors with impunity without having the feeling that somebody has hit him in the head with a brick. If you walk out of your house on a hot day and promptly feel miserable, your air conditioning system (if you have one) is a flop and I don't care if the archangel himself installed it. Your patrons will not enjoy it any more than you do. Yet you charge them for undergoing such treatment, under the guise of good air conditioning.

Still, there are some theatre air conditioning jobs whose maintained excellence of operation actually proves that real air conditioning is here. And strange as it may seem, these jobs often cost less than some of the ones complained of. Not only that, but their operating cost is less and their repair bills are lower.

The Why of a System

Even if I were able to make you thoroughly understand the functions of each part of an air conditioning system, this would not be enough. Nor would it be necessary. These parts must not function as separate units. Not any more than your hands and your feet. Your hands and your feet are coordinated so that they implicitly obey your will. You don't think of them ordinarily as separate parts of your anatomy.

And so, the very minute that any part of your air conditioning system starts to function independently, you haven't got a "system." Nor air conditioning either.

The coordination of the essential parts of a system is the essential thing about it. No factory manufactures coordination as something that can be shipped to you in a box. An automobile is a coordinated thing when you get it. But *you have to drive it.* If you don't coordinate your driving you're liable to wrap yourself around a telegraph pole. You have to furnish the brains. But an air conditioning system is a bit different—it has to have *brains built into it* so that it will run itself, because experience has proved that when theatre owners or their

(Continued on following page)

Simmons' Q & A Corner

Problems presented herein are bona fide and are not imaginary concoctions for the purpose of misrepresenting reader interest. Original signed letters are on file for examination, subject to the approval of correspondents.

Air distribution is a subject of common complaint among theatre owners who write me. Inadequate provision and cheap installation is usually the cause. The following letter from a theatre owner out in Western Kansas is typical of the troubles I've seen:

The Letter: "I am having some trouble with my air conditioning system and am enclosing sketch of layout with information.

"I do not use this in my heating system at all so this phase of it will not need to be considered.

"The building is built of cement blocks and lined with an insulating board called . . . and is similar to the other standard insulating boards.

"If there is any more information you need I will do my best to furnish it. Our elevation here is 2,500 feet and it is rather dry most of the time.—F. D. M."

My Answer: "I assume that you have an adequate amount of cooling and are only troubled with air distribution. Now throwing air from stage-end a distance of 100 ft. is hard to do. What your job requires is an overhead duct system.

"If you cannot install overhead ducts, I would specify very special air diffusion grilles to replace the ones you have. And while your air distribution would be greatly improved, your condition would not be entirely cured.

"Based on the information you furnished me about your blower, I guess you are supplying 20,000 c.f.m. for 360 seats. And you are bound to get 'breeze' in an auditorium 100 ft. x 24 ft. x 15 ft. (av.) ceiling. Besides, handling 10,000 c.f.m. through a single grille (you have two) is an engineering feat in itself.

"The maximum air I would handle on a job your size would be 10,000 c.f.m. or 5,000 c.f.m. through each grille. But if your system was slowed up to deliver this little air, you might not get very much cooling. In fact, the type of system you have requires 'breeze' in order to work at all.

"Now I can better distribute our breeze if that is what you want. You probably have strong drafts or wind blowing on certain sections of seats in your house. All we can do is 'zephyr' your customers instead of trying to blow some of them out of their seats.

"If that is what you want, please let me know. But if the rear of your house is sultry when crowded, I should know this too. I think that it is.

"At the moment, I am air conditioning a prominent restaurant that is 100 ft. deep. I must introduce my air at one end and suck it out at the other end. I cannot depend on blowing the air because of many decorative ceiling obstructions. I only have a 10 ft. 6 in. ceiling height.

"I realize my neck is stuck way out. But I can usually secure results by doing things I dare not preach about. For instance, I am using a very low volume of air of very high quality. The dew point of this air will be close to 40 degrees F. And the restaurant might be at a temperature of 85 degrees while the customers feel delightfully cool. This is a higher grade of air conditioning than is possibly installed in any theatre. It costs no more; but theatre owners just don't know about it. Such jobs require a high degree of engineering skill and I'd hesitate to handle such a job entirely by mail.

"I probably could have installed such a job for you for the money you have already paid. But since you must now use what you have, I can only alleviate a condition instead of entirely curing it.

"If you will check me on the c.f.m. delivered by your blowers, give me the size of your present air supply grilles, also their distance from each side wall, I can possibly give you a recommendation. I note that you failed to enclose stamp for reply. You now owe me two. I'm a stamp collector.

"What saves your situation is the dryness of your climate. Should you have a stuffy condition in the rear of a crowded house, you'd better measure the temperature of the water in your air washer pan as this establishes for me the "dew point" of the air you are using. I'd also like to know the temperature of the air leaving it. Also your outside temperature on the day you make your other temperature readings.

"This is all I need in order to diagnose. But without such information, I would only be guessing. Still, at times I am a pretty good Guesstimator. If I could guess as good on a horse race, I'd quit air conditioning.—G. H. S."

Co-ordination of Parts Makes a Competent Air Conditioning System

(Continued from preceding page)

employes try to drive their air conditioning plants by hand, unaided by controlled regulation, they usually drive their patrons to distraction—or to another theatre down the street.

It so happens that proper air conditioning calls for the use of so many of the laws of physics that you theatre owners are not expected, nor do you need, to know them. Practically no contractors and very few equipment salesmen seem to know them, either. But we engineers do and it is our job to *practically apply them*. Sometimes it is quite a job, believe you me.

To sum it all up, simply, what is required for a proper air conditioning system is to hold inside atmospheric conditions at some constant value regardless the vagaries of the outside weather. And while there may be many ways and different equipment offered to do it with, these ways and all equipment must conform to the physical laws governing or else—you've got a sour job.

You Can't Gyp Nature

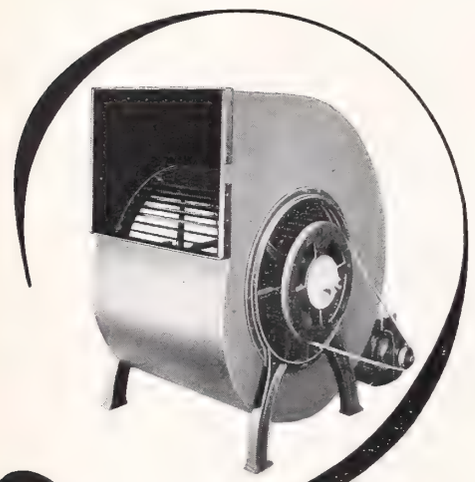
I never saw such an attempt in any industry and by so many men, who should know better, to jump back fences and circumvent the laws of Nature by installing air conditioning systems that were damned at their inception.

Human nature being what it is, somebody is going to sell you something if you are in the market to buy. And when you tell a salesman or a contractor to "sharpen his pencil," don't think for a minute that he is going to shave his profit entirely out of the deal. He'll just whittle some of the value out of it—something vital that should go into the job in the interest of securing a proper result. Thus he sharpens his pencil the better to stab you with.

A great many letters I write theatre owners when they ask for advice about something recommended to them as a "big money-saver," is to say in reply, *"You can't do that!"* Naturally I give my reasons. Being forewarned is being forearmed. We can do this much for you. Maybe we can help prevent mistakes. Is this worthwhile? That's for you to say.

In conclusion, a few "Don'ts"—simple suggestions to save you from trouble: Don't try to air condition your house with a ¼ h.p. motor for your blower. Don't blow air from the rear and down somebody's neck. Don't dump it in the auditorium from the stage-end either, through two open spouts six to eight feet from the floor. Don't use less than 20 c.f.m. per person for auditorium only, and if you are in the Deep South, you might have to use 30 c.f.m. of air. Don't freeze your customers on a hot day by keeping the temperature at 70 degrees. Don't fail to do something about the humidity. If you don't know what to do, you might ask. Don't overlook your air distribution; it's vital. Don't ask anybody for a set of plans unless you really intend to buy something. Good plans are expensive, even when you don't use 'em.

Don't blow the patrons out of their seats in summer and suffocate them in winter and then expect them to come back in spring and fall, when conditions are not so drastic. Give them proper air conditioning the year 'round.



PREVENT NEXT SUMMER'S "BOX OFFICE BEATING NOW!

Keep that business you could never hold before. Follow the lead of the many theatres which have installed

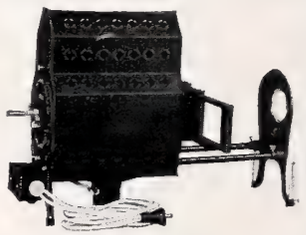
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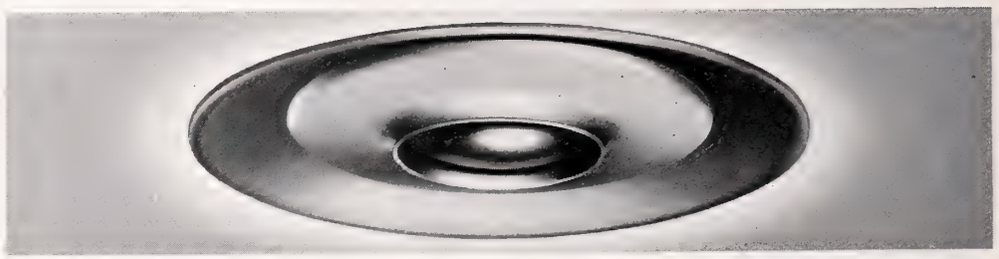


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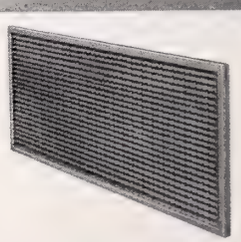
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BEST DEVICES CO.
10516 Western Avenue Cleveland, Ohio

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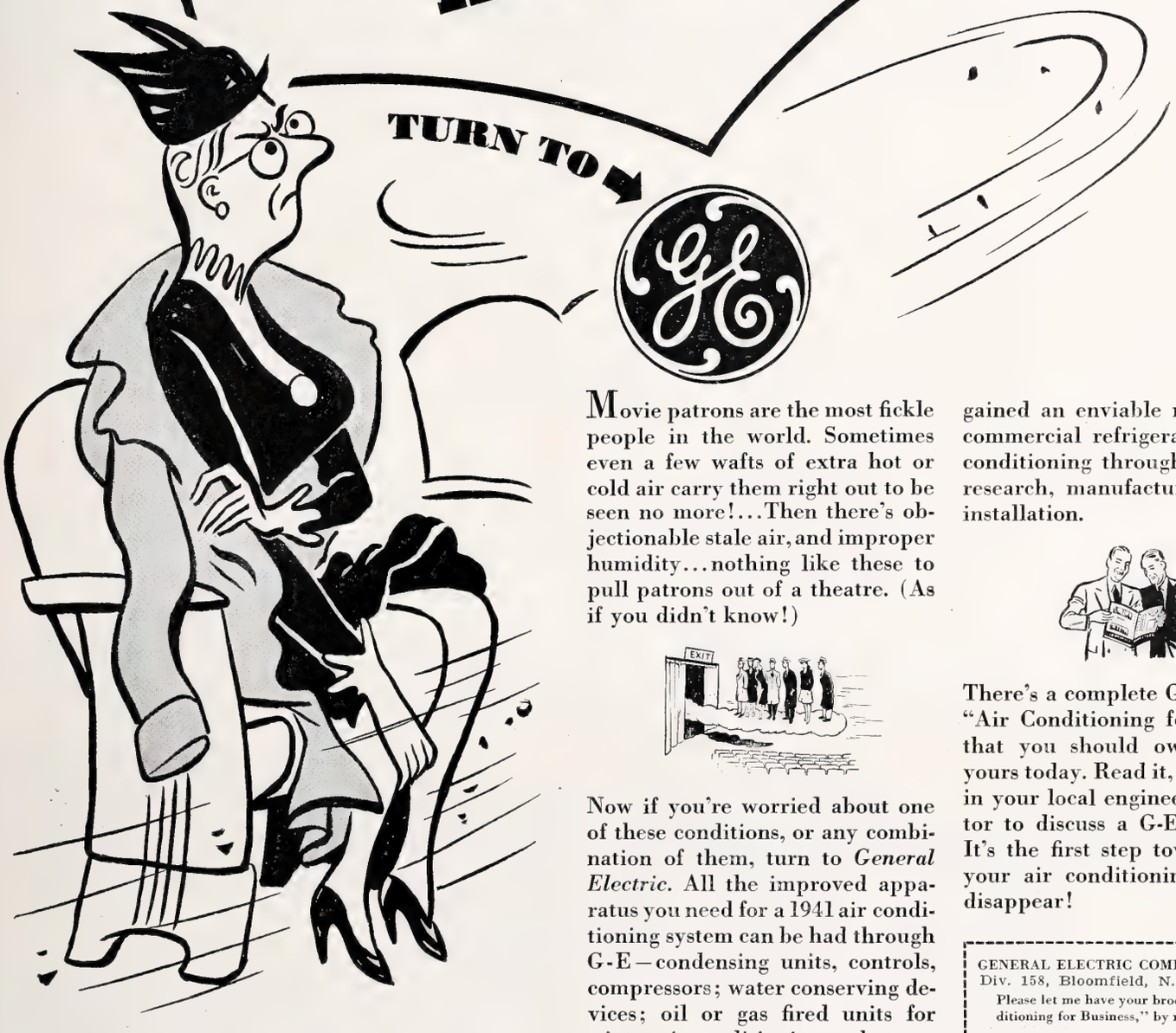


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Movie patrons are the most fickle people in the world. Sometimes even a few wafts of extra hot or cold air carry them right out to be seen no more!...Then there's objectionable stale air, and improper humidity...nothing like these to pull patrons out of a theatre. (As if you didn't know!)

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GENERAL ELECTRIC

AIR CONDITIONING

FACTORIES AT WORK

A series of introductions to theatre equipment manufacturers and the methods behind their products.

A Peep Into the Fiery Furnace and the Production of Plate Glass

THERE'S something extra thrilling about a factory inspection tour where fiery furnaces gape and offer a blistering threat to all of us wide-eyed and curious explorers of production phenomena who come to look and learn. We always enter with a suspicion that we're doing something dangerous and inevitably we emerge feeling considerably smaller in stature and filled with wonder at the marvels we've seen wrought.

It was decided among us that for this trip we'd brave a temperature of 2,635 degrees Fahrenheit (we wouldn't actually be there, but we'd be mighty close) to find out how plate glass and its very near relative, structural glass, are manufactured at the No. 4 Works of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company at Ford City, Pa.

But first, we decided to check up on the history of glass-making as a sort of ground-work for our sight-seeing investigations. We learned that this industry has a life story which went back for its beginnings thousands of years before the Christian era. It was something whose discovery or invention is obscured by time, but its production has maintained the romance of antiquity. However, we do know that it was used principally in the olden days for its artistic and decorative value and had very little more practical use.

Historical Notations

Glass as we know it today is a relatively new product. Its combination of beauty with transparency and usefulness is of comparative recent discovery. From antiquity to the Middle Ages in Europe and thence to America, where its manufacture was unable to gain a real foothold until as recently as fifty years ago, glass-making has had a romantic history.

The corporate life of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, one of the pioneers in this industry in America, had its beginning in 1883. Prior to that time attempts to manufacture plate glass in this country had been unsuccessful because of inefficient equipment, shortage of skilled labor, insufficient capital or bad management. However, the raw materials from which glass was made were abundant in America, and finally, through training, a number of skilled glass artisans were painstakingly developed.

Today, America leads the world in flat glass production and there has been no interruption in the progress of this industry. The modern miracle of polished plate glass and related products as they are turned out today through the application of mass production methods have proved themselves of great benefit to the public as well as to all industry.



SOURCE: Clean silica sand is thus obtained from both open pit and under-ground mining. View of a sand mine operation in Missouri.

Glamour of Operation

Now we were ready for our inspection of a plate glass plant in actual operation. The color and glamour of such an experience can only be hinted at here, but a practical explanation of what goes on in a modern glass factory can well be gained from words of description and the photographs here shown.

We learn first that there is one characteristic of plate glass manufacture in which it differs from all other types of flat glass—that is that all plate glass is ground and polished. Further, there are two chief methods of plate glass manufacture—the pot casting and the continuous methods—which are essentially alike save for the preliminary processes involved. The older of the two, the pot casting method, is used primarily for making plate glass and structural glass of larger size and thickness, while the continuous method is generally employed for making plate glass of smaller size and thickness.

Next, we examine the raw materials which go into the making of plate glass. The main ingredient is sand; clean silica sand which is obtained both from open pit and underground mining, and which is carefully graded. With the sand is mixed limestone, soda ash, salt cake, arsenic, charcoal and common table salt in varying amounts. The final ingredient is cullet, or broken glass, enormous piles of which may be seen glistening in the sun around any glass plant. Together, these raw materials form the "batch" from which plate glass is made.

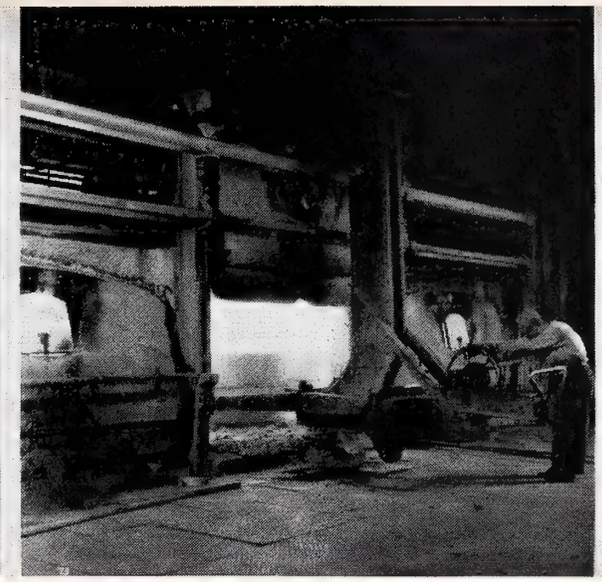
The Batch Is Fired

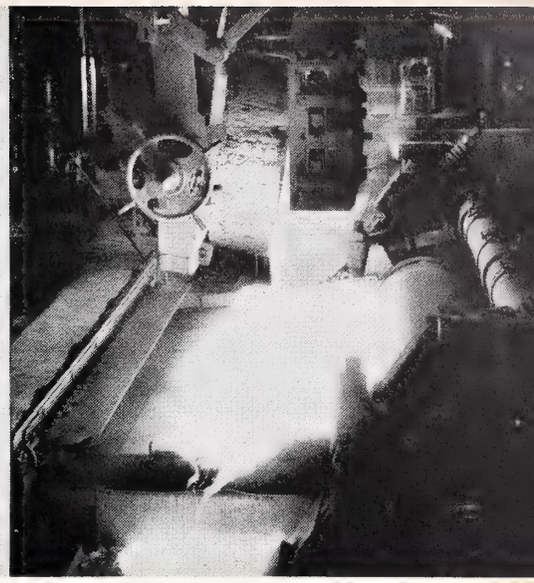
The pot-casting method involves the use of huge pots or crucibles, in which the "batch" is melted in the furnaces. Having been heated to furnace temperatures, the pots, composed of scientifically conditioned fire clays to withstand the enormous heat, are placed in the furnace and then loaded with "batch" by means of a long-handled ladle. During 36 to 48 hours in the furnace, the pots must be refilled several times since the "batch" shrinks as it melts and each pot must be full of molten glass at the end of the melting. It is during this time that the furnace attains its maximum heat of about 2,635 degrees Fahrenheit.

At the end of the melting period, a huge crane-operated pair of tongs removes each pot-full of molten glass, which is now red hot and incandescent from the terrific heat and the glowing, orange-red "taffy" which it contains is extremely beautiful and brilliant with color. From here the pots are placed in a smaller furnace called the soaking pit to prepare the "metal" exactly for casting.

The giant tongs again grasp a pot and lift it over the forming rolls, tilt it, and the molten glass pours into the shallow hopper formed by the rolls. The forming rolls are like the rollers on a clothes wringer, except that they are very much bigger and longer. The molten glass, usually cast at a temperature of 2,000 to 2,050 degrees, emerges from between the







rollers as a wide flat plate of glowing hot glass, the thickness of which is determined by the distance separating the rolls.

From the casting rolls, the plate passes on a slowly moving table into the annealing oven where it is cooled gradually. The annealing oven is many hundreds of feet long and the glass plate passes through it very slowly, consuming about an hour and three quarters in its journey. Upon its emergence from this process, the glass is cut into large sections by skilled workmen, after having been carefully inspected by men sitting in the very mouth of the oven, whose job it is to watch for defects and destroy marred portions of the plate.

How It Looks Now

At this stage, we examine a plate of glass to see just what it looks like now. It is not the clear, brilliant material we are used to thinking of when we say "plate glass." Rather, it is rough surfaced and almost opaque. But the process is only half completed, as we learn from our informant.

Now a moving belt takes the sections of rough glass to another part of the plant where each section is lifted by vacuum disks onto a moving table coated with plaster of Paris and passed to the battery of grinding and polishing machines. Each grinding machine consists of an enormous metal disk, shod with iron runners, which revolves at high speed over the surface of the glass. Between the grinding disk and the glass, sand mixed with water is used as an abrasive.

As the glass progresses from one grinder to another, the abrasive sand becomes finer in texture until the last few grinders are fed with emery down to a consistency of talcum powder. Polishing then is accomplished by similar revolving disks, shod with thick felt pads instead of iron, and iron oxide, or "rouge," is used as the polishing agent. The grinding and polishing processes are repeated on the other surface of the plate of glass and the final steps in the process consist merely of a bath in muriatic acid and careful inspection for imperfections or flaws. Then the plates are marked and cut to desired sizes—and the glass is ready for shipment to the user.

Thus our inspection of another of the theatre's basic supply sources ended. As a user of plate and structural glass for both exteriors and interiors, the modern moving picture theatre is one of the prime beneficiaries of the glass producers' art. And so, this pictorial plant inspection tour would seem to be highly in order and of intrinsic educational value to theatre owners, their managers, their architects and others who are called upon frequently to exercise the privilege of product selection. We found it decidedly so.

THRU THE PLANT

(Top of page—left to right)

(1) How silica sand, soda ash, limestone, and other raw materials are assembled in the plate glass factories in bins. Each batch of materials to be used for glass making is weighed with the same care a good housewife uses in making a cake. Workman is here seen using the delicate scale. He is protected from dust by a special mask.

(2) The batch is now placed in large clay pots and shoved into a huge furnace as shown by the action here.

(3) After the batch is melted sufficiently it is carried by means of cranes to this set of rollers. The mixture is poured between the rollers which flatten it to the desired thickness. This picture shows glass being poured from the pot into the rollers.

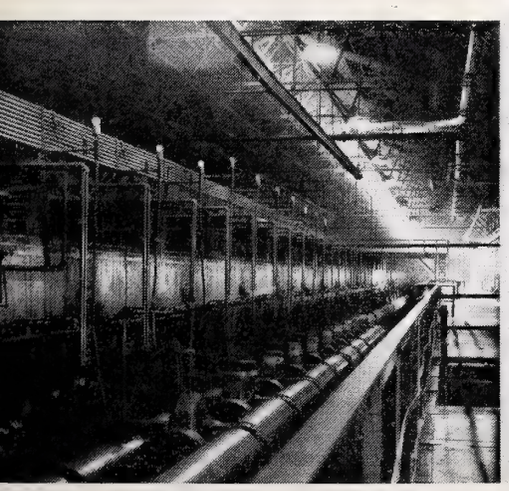
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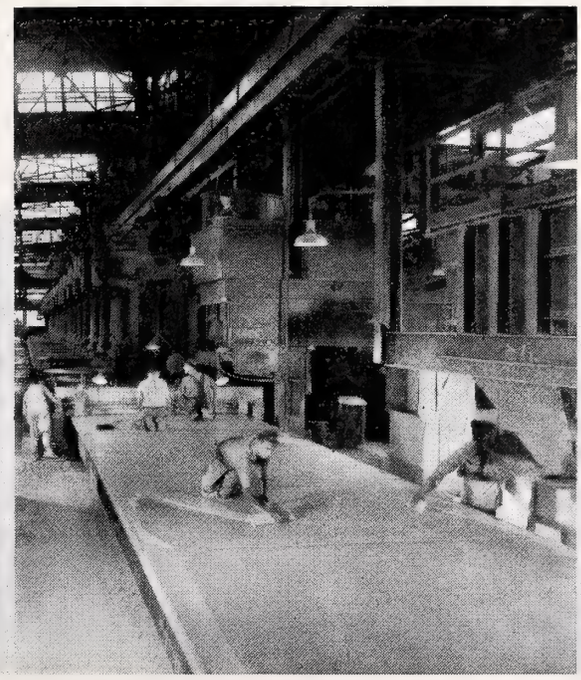
(4) After passing through the rolls the hot glass is immediately run on rollers into the annealing oven, which is essentially a long brick tunnel through which the glass slowly rolls. In this manner it is carefully and slowly cooled and emerges from the rear end as rough glass.

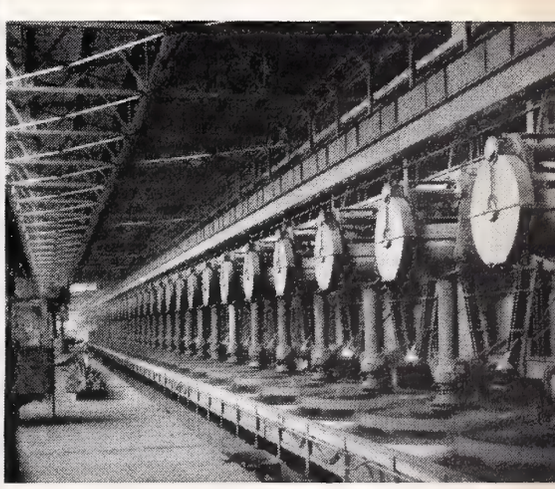
(5) The rough glass is fastened to the tops of huge cast iron tables with plaster of Paris. Note action of workers in foreground. These are then pushed under a large battery of revolving grinding and polishing wheels.

(6) Sand of increasing fineness is used as an abrasive as the glass passes under them. The last polishing step is effected under felt-lined wheels where the glass is polished with the use of rouge (iron oxide).

This Pictorial Plant Inspection Tour through the courtesy of The Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company.







HOW MUCH COST TO INSTALL AIR CONDITIONING

THE answer to this question is what the exhibitor seems to want more than anything else. It determines how much money he will have to raise to equip his theatre. At the same time, it is the most difficult question for the expert engineer or contractor to answer. These experts have a well-founded fear of answering this question. They may know quite well what is the average cost to set for installing air conditioning in what they call a normal theatre. But, they have learned from bitter experience that these guesses cannot always be right and that the exhibitor has all too frequently misled himself by accepting these figures as representing actual equipment firm prices.

The reason why prices cannot be pulled out of the air is that cost of a theatre installation may be divided into ten major items, each of which will vary down or up for many reasons. The expert engineer or contractor cannot tell what it will cost to equip a theatre until after he has spent many hours examining it and has taken many bids from sub-contractors. These bids will cover such things as plumbing electric wiring, plastering, building alteration work and so forth.

Therefore, if the theatre owner is not to mislead himself by published figures, he must understand that they are worked out for a theatre in which a normal is assumed for every one of the ten variables. He may say that his theatre is normal; that it is just like somebody else's theatre, but it must be remembered that this is a complex problem.

It must be remembered also that while there is vast difference between the requirements of a de luxe house and a small neighborhood theatre, there is also a vast difference between the requirements of various small neighborhood houses.



"Here's the chair we bought!"

"and it's the Ideal Chair for your theatre. We know positively that installing the Ideal Aristocrat Chair increases your business.

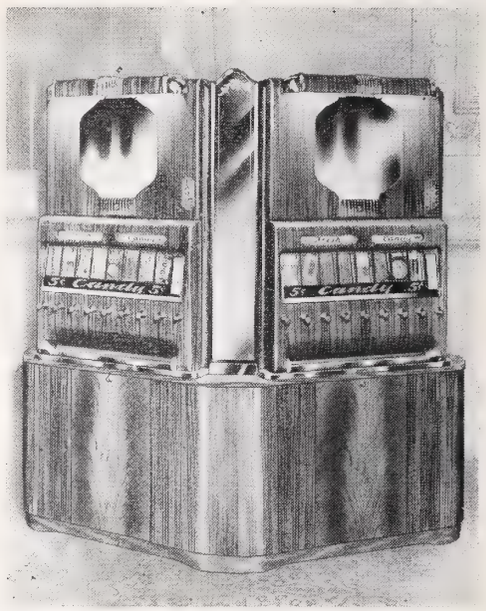
We looked at all the lines of seating made, but Ideal had a finer looking chair, a more comfortable chair, one that obviously was better made . . . would last longer, had more of the desirable features. Yet it actually cost no more than the others!"

You, too, should write for literature. There's an Ideal Chair to fit every budget . . . "built to excel, not just to compete."

IDEAL SEATING COMPANY
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

EXPORT OFFICE: 330 W. 42nd St., New York City
Attention: J. E. Robin

DeLuxe Candy Vendor For Theatres Introduced

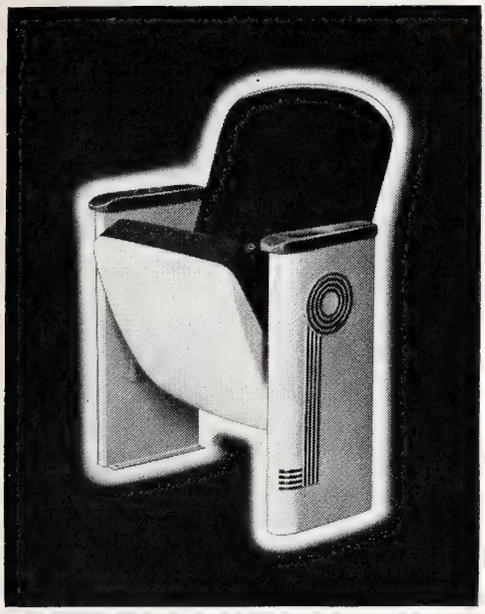


(Photo courtesy Stoner Corporation).

A new, larger and more beautiful "Univendor" for theatres has been announced by the manufacturers of this practical "extra-profit" device. Among the added advantages claimed for the new model are larger selection, since the unit now contains 16 columns for various bars and packaged confections; 320 bar capacity; noiseless, sound-proofed operation, and a storage compartment in the base at front. Standard equipment also includes a slug-detector mechanism, fluorescent heatless lighting and three attractively designed mirrors. A new kind of finish simulates natural wood, making it easily adaptable to most any theatre interior decoration.

After a theatre is air conditioned properly, the fact should be broadcast and advertised to the general public by all the means at its owner's disposal. Promote those healthful conditions to the patrons, both regular and potential.

TWO NEW CHAIR MODELS ANNOUNCED BY IRWIN



A chair of completely new design and construction, known as the Irwin Clipper, is announced as the latest addition to the line of Irwin Seating Company. It is offered in two classifications, the Standard Clipper and the Clipper DeLuxe.

The Standard Clipper has a smooth steel back panel with top edge rolled over to protect the upholstering material. The center standards are of the closed panel, embossed steel type with tubular front and rear posts. Aisle standards are of steel corresponding in design to the center standard. Seats are zigger-spring type with enclosing steel seat bucket, and a compensating seat lifter is optional. No screws or bolts are exposed any place on the chair and arm rests are attached by a new method eliminating the use of screws and simplifying installation. Compensation is made on both the seats and backs of all wider than usual chairs so that seats and backs of all installations may line up properly.

The Clipper DeLuxe is equipped with a full length embossed steel back which protects the rear edge of the seat. Center standards are of closed steel design and are so manufactured that the chair backs are attached to center standards with concealed fastening. This it is claimed makes the chair back and center standards appear to be one continuous steel member. The aisle standards are of attractive design, available in either steel or cast iron.

The seats are of an entirely new flex-steel spring type, an exclusive feature, and are so constructed that approximately 75 per cent of the surface area of the seat is directly supported by the springs. This is said to insure long life and eliminate the danger of springs pocketing. The upholstering material on both seat and back is easily recoverable. The new model is all steel and no tacks are used in its construction.

The grilles and tip ends of the air conditioning system, which cost less than five per cent of the total cost, are of equal importance to the rest of the system put together.

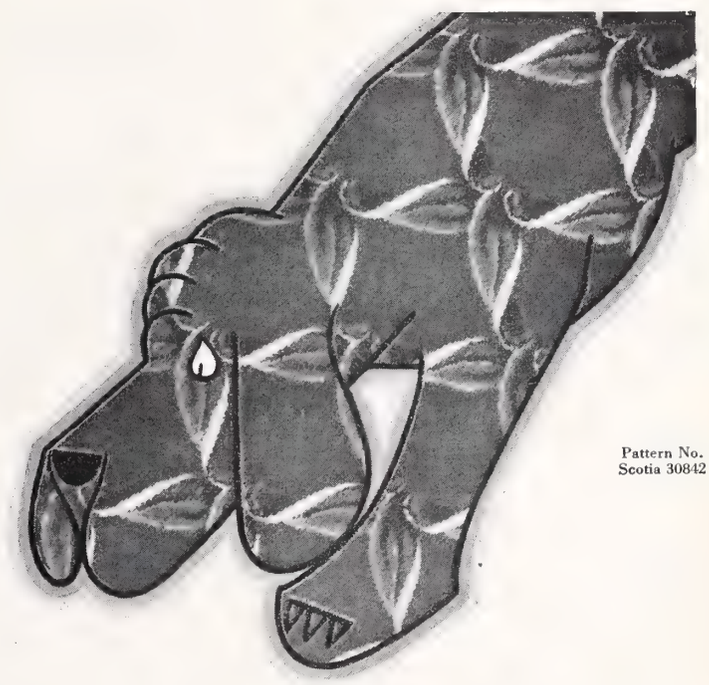
Give Us Fresh Air! . . . or elsewhere we go for it

(Continued from page 50)

until hot weather begins to bite 'em in the boxoffice."

Maybe they're right. But just why the creators of year-round temperature control don't see fit to more intensively promote the sale of their ware the whole year 'round is quite a mystery to Us, the People, to whom Fresh Air is not merely a passing summer fantasy, but a "must" contingency of regular patronage in every weather-changing month of the year.

If you're going in for air conditioning, gentlemen, it will pay you to go all the way.



Pattern No.
Scotia 30842

MOHAWKS RUN DOWN UPKEEP



Tramping feet. Traffic Oil. Mud. Gum. These are the "gangsters" that prey on theater carpets! They're up against a "tough hombre" when they lay for Mohawks! For Mohawks are theater-wise carpet. . . Woven full of stamina, Mohawks have plenty of glamour, too . . gay colors . . dramatic designs . . soft, deep pile to soft-pedal footsteps down the aisles.

If you'd like to know how beauty and hard wear can team up, write for the story on Rialto, Scotia and the Broadway Group—a carpet repertory with a wide range of colors, designs, textures and prices. Write Mohawk Carpet Mills, Inc., Amsterdam, New York.

PLANNING

INTERESTING CASE HISTORIES ON CURRENT MODERN THEATRE PROJECTS

An Experienced Showman Builds a Theatre of Quality and Good Taste

IT'S ALWAYS good news to hear that a theatre operating veteran has built a new house in which to carry on his chosen profession and life's work. That shows progress and foresight as well as faith in the future of the moving picture industry. Fortunately, we're hearing a lot of such good news lately. It seems that there are practically few moss-backs among our veteran theatre operators any more, and days were when seasoned showmen were wont to weep in their beers over the good old times and do absolutely nothing to improve the present.

A decade and a half in theatre business is not such a long time. But anyone who has stayed with it that long and withstood the tests of the past 15 slack and uncertain years certainly deserves rating as a veteran.

Out in Los Angeles, a showman with that many years in the game to his credit decided to build a new and modern house in which to practice his profession. The man is Ben Mohi. His new theatre, a pride and joy of a small but smart neighborhood house, is the Picfair, opened on January 21 and now doing nicely, thanks to growing public interest in such projects.

Mr. Mohi knew what he wanted in a new theatre from his experience of the past and he also knew that planning *in advance* would bring about his principal objective —a picture theatre to attract patronage. Hence the new Picfair shows genuine evidence of astute planning in the beauty of form, efficiency of furnishings and equipment and general functionalism of its design and construction.

Impressive Exterior

The exterior of the new Picfair is in monolithic form, simple and unprepossessing, yet an ideal background for the theatre's impressive luminous display. A high-standing illuminated beacon at one side of the theatre's facade, ideally located at a corner intersection of streets, serves to spot this site as the most brilliant in its neighborhood.

A dazzling V-shaped marquee with modern multi-size changeable silhouette letters makes the program display both highly legible and graphically smart in appearance. For further spectacle, the marquee is neonized in several colors and block letters form name signs on either side of its angles. Dignified display is also to be noted in the recessed and illuminated poster cases which line the entrance lobby. The centrally located boxoffice is a smartly attractive element of ornamentation as well as a convenience for the patrons.

The foyer of the new Picfair is both commodious and comfortable. Because of a wide expanse of luxurious carpeting in a modern scroll pattern, spaciousness is the predominating factor. With this lovely floor covering as a basis, a smart decorative scheme is achieved simply and colorfully, having its main elements of ornamentation on the modern flush doors and a wainscot and ceiling border treatment in contrasting colors.

Furniture in this foyer is loungey and modern in form and of a type which would be suitable in a fine home or clubroom. A modern drinking fountain also is conveniently located here. Lighting in the foyer is indirect and highly complimentary to the decorative scheme. A stairway to upper regions of the house is completely carpeted and made decoratively an important element of the scheme by an interestingly designed metal handrailing.

Comfort Pronounced

The auditorium of Ben Mohi's new theatre promotes comfort as its stock in trade. The auditorium seats 800 persons and it was its owner's purpose to see that all of these patrons are seated comfortably at all times and at ease in proper atmospheric conditions. Decoratively too, the Picfair auditorium is dedicated to relaxation.

Abstract scenic treatments in side wall panels are restful to the eyes, yet colorful enough to harmonize with the more gayly





Monolithic in form, brilliant in illumination and outstanding as an element of refined program exploitation, the exterior of Ben Mohi's Picfair Theatre in Los Angeles, bespeaks quality, but belies its real economy of construction. Functionalism evident even here at the facade is to be found throughout this new medium-sized neighborhood theatre. Spaciousness and luxuriousness of furnishings are highlights of the Picfair's foyer shown below. The rich carpet so purposefully used here and inviting pieces of furniture which might grace a home or fine club, lend an air of quiet repose to this important part of the house. (All photos courtesy B. F. Shearer Company).

colored seat upholstery and aisle carpet. At the proscenium, or those walls which border the stage, white cords with tassels are effectively draped to give a neoclassic feeling to the interior decoration. The gleaming stage curtain of rich material attracts the eye immediately to this focal point

Seating in the new Picfair is a true reflection of comfort in every sense of the word. Of the latest design for correct posture, the 800 theatre chairs installed in this house provide a remarkable medium for relaxation. Deeply upholstered in a krinkly surfaced mohair, they are luxurious in feeling as well as looks. The aisle standards for this installation were stunningly contrived to fit the modern scheme and their selection seems to mirror somewhat the interesting scroll design of carpets used in the house.

Lighting in the auditorium emanates from large modern fixtures located on pilasters along the side walls. The illumination is indirect in form, spreading a glow through translucent glass columns mounted on metal fittings. The ceiling has an interesting stencil treatment on acoustical material for proper sound effects. Ventilating outlets in the ceiling also are cunningly contrived to detract as little as possible from the decorative effect in the auditorium.

The Projection Room

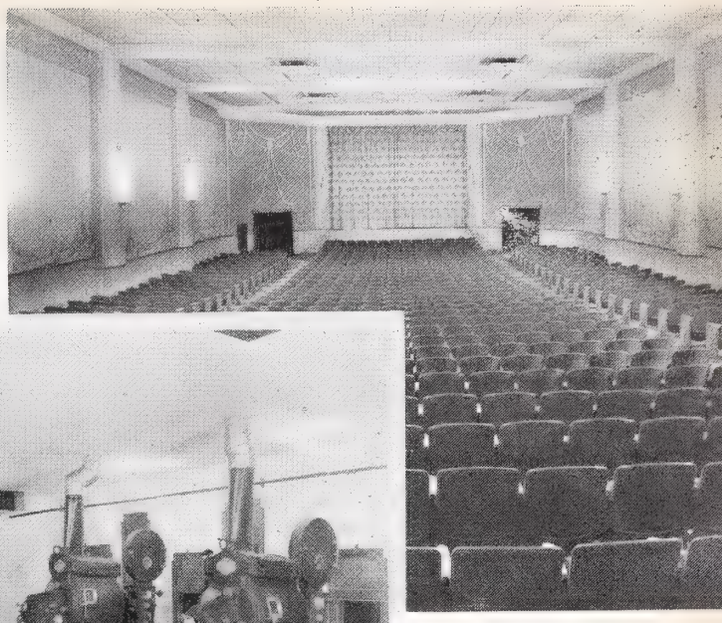
Outstanding in the new Picfair Theatre is its projection room. Despite the fact that this part of the house is not intended for the eyes of patrons, here is a projection room which is a model in every respect. Spacious, clean and neat in every particular, the room itself shows the importance Mr. Mohi attributes to good projection of the entertainment he offers his patronage.

The equipment and furnishings to be found in his projection room are of the very latest type. Projectors and sound equipment, projection lamps and miscellaneous equipment to make the projectionists' work finer and more easy of accomplishment were selected by Mr. Mohi and his standards of picture presentation reach new heights in the Picfair.

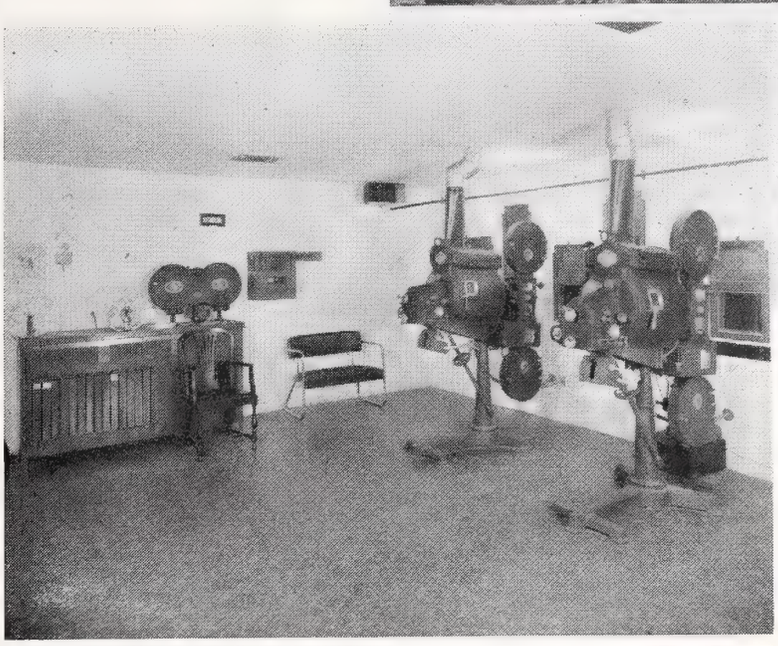
Quality, efficiency and functionalism are evident in good measure throughout this new house. The Picfair Theatre is a very fine example of what many of our veteran showmen consider a smart investment nowadays. It's the type of medium-sized house which will be a profit-maker from the day its doors are opened to the public and for many years to come. And it will wear well, too, because it's made of quality and good taste, characteristics of our modern materials of today.

IDENTIFICATION
(Picfair Theatre)

CARPET: A. & M. Karagheusian, Inc.
DRAPERIES: B. F. Shearer Co.
FURNITURE: Heywood-Wakefield Co.
MARQUEE EQUIPMENT: Wagner Sign Service, Inc.
PROJECTION: Motiograph, Inc.
PROJECTION LAMPS: Brenkert Light Projection Co.
PROJECTOR PEDESTALS: B. F. Shearer Co.
RECTIFIERS: Benwood-Linze Electric Co.
SEATING: Heywood-Wakefield Co.
SOUND: Motiograph, Inc.
STAGE EQUIPMENT: B. F. Shearer Co.
Additional particulars on the project may be secured upon request to The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.



Comfort is the stock in trade of the Picfair's auditorium, with even the simply contrived decorative scheme serving to invite relaxation. Deeply upholstered posture-correct chairs, proper atmospheric conditions and dimly glowing illumination enhance the Picfair's scene for entertainment.



The projection room of the Picfair Theatre is a model of mechanical efficiency and quality. Latest model equipment for the purpose of providing the best possible motion picture presentation is here situated in a spacious, neat and clean work-room.

THEATRE PLANNING GUIDE

Through the cooperation of our affiliated architects, leading manufacturers, their engineers, designers, dealers, contractors and others, a majority of whom are active members of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute, we are prepared to assist the theatre-owner in selection and application of all commodities and services needed in remodeling and modernizing by placing him in touch with dependable sources of supply. As sponsor of the Institute, we strive to impartially relay each inquiry only to sources of reliable information. However, we do not guarantee all statements or claims made in connection with products offered.

MAIL THIS FORM FOR FREE INFORMATION

The MODERN THEATRE Planning Institute, 3-1-41
Room 334—332 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen: Without cost or obligation please arrange to have data supplied to us covering the following subjects:

☐ Acoustics	☐ Decorating	☐ Screens
☐ Air Conditioning	☐ Heating Equipment	☐ Seating
☐ Amplifiers	☐ Lighting Fixtures	☐ Signs and Marquees
☐ Architectural Service	☐ Lounge Furniture	☐ Sound Equipment
☐ Carpets	☐ Plumbing Fixtures	☐ Theatre Fronts
☐ Cleaning Equipment	☐ Projectors	☐ Ticket Machines
☐ Complete Remodeling	☐ Projection Lamps	☐ Other Subjects

.....

Theatre .....Seating Capacity.....

Address .....

City ..... State.....

Signed.....
(Owner-Manager)

THE MODERN THEATRE ★ PLANNING INSTITUTE
MEMBER

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MODERN CONTOUR IN FRONT DESIGN EMPHASIZED



The flowing modern lines which grace the new Circle Theatre in Brighton, Mass., a Paramount affiliate house, are heightened in beauty of effect and made functional by brilliant display. A large curved marquee and an augmenting straight attraction board are brightly lighted and fitted with modern silhouette changeable letters in 10- and 16-inch sizes for variety of effect. (Photo courtesy Adler Silhouette Letter Co.)

Seating Worries May Be Delegated to Experts

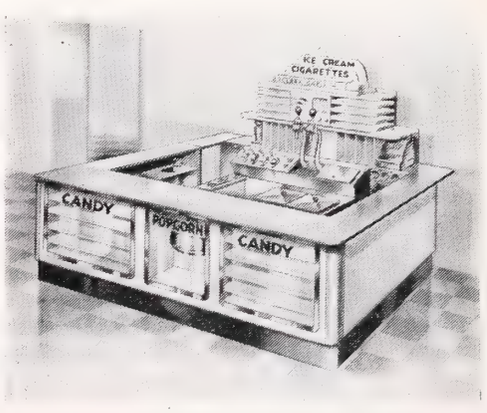
In the seating or reseating of a theatre there are innumerable technical problems relating to floor materials and construction, inclines, riser heights, row spacing, sightlines, aislelights, acoustics and installation difficulties. However, the engineering staffs of our large theatre chair manufacturing companies possess unequalled experience in this highly specialized field. And their advisory assistance is available without charge. Expensive errors may be avoided by consulting with these experts in the early stages of planning. It has often been found that such preliminary engineering service can sometimes save in building costs more than the price of the seating.

Midget Soda Fountain Adapted to Theatre Use

A new idea created to meet the exacting demands of the large location with little space to spare is introduced in "Konfecto," a new self-selling confection-fountain unit. It is termed the world's smallest fountain, occupying only five and one-half by eight feet of floor space, yet containing all necessary elements to create sales and having a streamlined appearance which makes it attractive to customers.

The model pictured features a refrigerated candy unit, eight ice cream flavor containers, display shelves for candy and cigarettes, soft drink coolers, a carbonator which provides ample carbonated water at less than one cent per gallon, a 19-foot serving counter, sanitary cup dispensers, endless moving film message, built-in radio, clock, and cash register. Units for hot popcorn and toasted nuts are optional.

Simplified installation requires only a plumbing connection, since the unit plugs into regular 110-volt socket, a. c. or d. c. The new unit is said to be readily adaptable to theatre use as an "extra profit" medium, inasmuch as its appeal to the public is apparent and its size makes it applicable to small locations.



(Photo courtesy Felgreen Company).

Perfume Disseminator a Nicety for Restrooms

An electric perfume disseminator is a low cost method of creating a pleasant atmosphere in the theatre rest room or lounge. It will require no more current than a 15-watt light bulb and but a small amount of highly concentrated perfume to keep the air in a pleasingly fragrant condition throughout an entire evening's performance.

Unpleasant odors quickly disappear and are replaced by an inviting fragrance of natural flowers, the exhilarating tang of the woods or the sophisticated aroma of the Orient. The perfume disseminator has also been found quite effective in auditoriums to create an atmosphere for the pictures shown by using a fragrance suggestive of the locale.

When summer heat waves strike, the temperature of a theatre becomes as great a customer draw as does the program. With good air conditioning the year 'round, this will hold true in moderate weather as well.

LOW-COST SOUND SYSTEM FITS CURRENT NEED

A NEW motion picture sound reproducing system especially designed to meet the needs of the small theatre operator at a price within his reach, has uncovered a huge replacement market among independent exhibitors, according to Homer B. Snook, manager of RCA Photophone reproducer sales.

The system, known as the PG-134, has been greeted with unprecedented enthusiasm in the field despite the fact that its introduction was virtually unheralded, Mr. Snook said. It provides in standard equipment many features heretofore confined to systems designed only for larger theatres.

"The small theatre operator has always been able to get good sound equipment for his house, but only at a price far in excess of what it should be," Mr. Snook said. "And then he found he had equipment of greater capabilities than he needed to employ because of the size of his theatre.

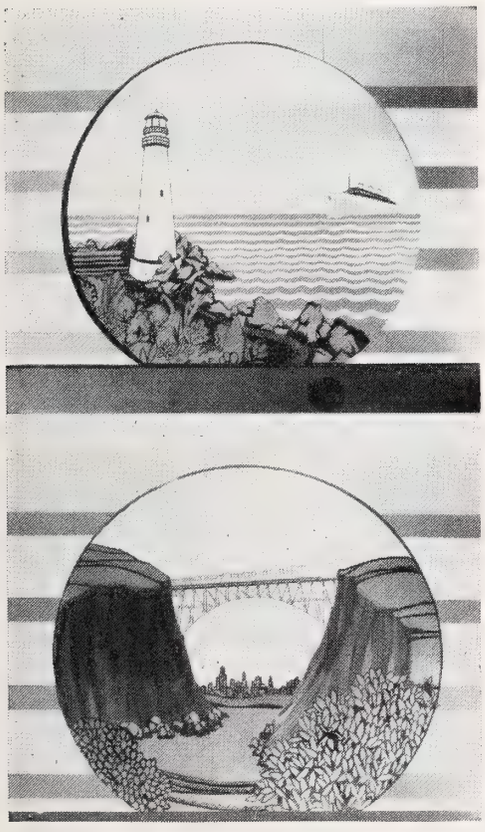
"The new system gives the small operator everything he needs for high quality sound reproduction at a price below that of any standard equipment he has ever been offered. The skill of design engineers, backed by the long history of the company in every field of sound recording and reproduction, has made this possible in the face of increasing costs."

The new system incorporates soundheads equipped with the rotary stabilizer mechanism. Its amplifier has high fidelity frequency response and adequate reserve power. The loudspeaker system is of the well-known two-way type and is designed for minimum backstage requirements. The treble tones are reproduced by a cellular horn while the bass tones are handled by a large folded baffle.

The best "double-feature" a theatre owner can offer his patrons is a good picture program plus a fine place in which to view it. Functional Planning implies this.

Perfect air conditioning bought without regard to price cannot take the place of good showmanship, house appeal and a good picture program—but it surely can help a lot.

BLACK LIGHTED



Two black lighted murals, cleverly empanelled on the side walls of the 560-seat Beacon Theatre at Omaha, Nebraska, add artistic beauty and interest to the modern wall treatment given this recently modernized theatre, the property of Walter Creal. Fluorescent aisle carpets, new chairs and a modern year-round air conditioning system provide an interesting study of the functional planning employed in this $10,000 theatre remodeling project. (Photos courtesy Scott-Ballantyne Company).



SAVE ON AMAZING G-E MAZDA FLUORESCENT LAMPS!

EVERY day the story of G-E MAZDA Fluorescent lamps grows more amazing. So swift has been the acceptance of this new, cooler, high-efficiency light source—so widespread has become its use in the theatres everywhere—so steady has been the development of new G-E manufacturing economies, that again General Electric announces lower prices! Again General Electric passes its savings along to you!

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2—Apply color and brightness easily to enliven lobbies.

3—Give poster and display panels maximum attraction. The shape and efficiency of these lamps make them ideal.

4—Create pleasing and effective foyers and lounges. (The addition of the new soft white lamp now provides an even wider range of possibilities to do this.)

Ask your G-E MAZDA lamp distributor to help you choose the fixture best suited to your needs. And be sure you get G-E MAZDA "F" lamps. They're made to give maximum light for current consumed. *Made to Stay Brighter Longer!*

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	WAS	NOW
15-watt T-8 (Daylight or Standard White*)	95c...	85c
15-watt T-8 (New, soft white)	$1.05...	95c
20-watt T-12 (Daylight or Standard White*)	$1.25...	$1.10
20-watt T-12 (New, soft white)	$1.35...	$1.20
30-watt T-8 (Daylight or Standard White*)	$1.25...	$1.10
30-watt T-8 (New, soft white)	$1.35...	$1.20
Also in the above sizes, blue, green, or pink, 10c additional; gold or red, 20c additional.		
40-watt T-12 (Daylight or Standard White*)	$1.90...	$1.60
40-watt (New, soft white)	$2.00...	$1.70
40-watt T-12 (Daylight or Standard White)	$1.90...	$1.60
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(* Standard White 3500°K)

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FLOOR COVERINGS

A DEPARTMENT FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PROVISIONS FOR HOUSE APPEAL UNDERFOOT

Theatre Carpet Buyers Should Become Style and Beauty Conscious

by HELEN KENT

IF IT were always remembered by the purchaser of theatre carpet that he is not buying just floor-covering material but that instead he is buying *beauty* by the yard, he would have much greater satisfaction on all points. The richness, texture and wealth of color inherent in fine carpeting makes it a property of beauty rather more than anything else, despite the fact that its function in the theatre embodies many other features as well.

Beauty has never come cheaply and when attempts to cheapen it are made, it seldom retains all those elements which contributed to its value. This is true of carpeting as of many other quality materials whose creation is based on beauty. It is a tenet which should be borne in mind by the purchaser who expects to derive the most value from the money expended.

Insofar as a theatre installation of carpeting is concerned, the primary reason for the purchase is to *impress the public*. And it is the beauty of the carpet selected which serves most readily in this respect. The general public may subconsciously note the quietening effect of a theatre's carpet; it may remark about the softness underfoot. But it is the beauty of pattern, coloring and style which elicits the public's "ohs and ahs" and that invaluable word-of-mouth advertising that results when a new carpet installation is made in a theatre.

Style Makes Impressions

Style in theatre carpet thus becomes the motivating element in its purchase followed closely thereafter by the quality factors which will give it luxury and long life under hard usage. And since style is an ever-changing motivation, the subject deserves careful consideration and study at the time a carpet purchase is contemplated. It is a factor which cannot be left to chance, nor to prior experience, since timeliness is its most important ally.

Inasmuch as carpet serves as the very basis of an interior decorative scheme, and this is particularly true of theatres, wherein furnishings are usually quite simple and necessarily harmonious, it deserves prime attention by theatre men as a large item of attraction power. From carpet, color may be picked up to provide a handsome color scheme for a room or indeed the entire interior decorative scheme. Most theatre carpetings are designed for brilliant color effect with this purpose in mind.

In interior decoration, carpeting is a major item, inasmuch as the floor area is considerably larger than any other surface which is treated as a unit. Walls and ceiling surfaces may be broken up decoratively and this is done effectively; but we have yet to discover a more beautifully effective treatment for the floor area than completely unbroken surfaces of luxurious carpet in appropriate pattern and colors.

Carpet Suggests Colors

For this reason, interior decorators often advise that carpeting be selected first in planning a decorative and color scheme, and particularly is this the simplest method of approach by the more inexperienced. The carpet will usually suggest colors for wall and ceiling treatment, furniture upholstery, draperies and the incidental furnishings, and a good basis will have been formed upon which to build the decoration.

Not only may colors be determined for a decorative scheme by selecting them from the chosen carpet, but design style also may be suggested. Design trends are just as evident in carpeting as in any other medium of interior decoration. The scroll or geometric pattern will often suggest certain modern treatments, the all-over leaf or floral motif may suggest a more conventional decor, the Chinese design in carpet may be adaptable to many intermediate moods, or a Grecian key design variation will immediately suggest neoclassic treatment.

All of these decorative motives are extremely practicable and most popular in theatre interior adaptations today. The fact that the carpet weavers can supply inspiration for each of them in many variations of design makes the interior decorator's work much simpler. Then when one considers that each carpet pattern is available in many combinations of colors, it is evident at once that the beauty problem in carpeting is perhaps one of the most easily solved of any that confront the puzzled theatre man who wants to redecorate his house completely or merely recarpet it in harmony with an existing decorative scheme.

One of the nicest things about purchasing carpet today is that beauty of design does not necessarily add to the cost. After the purchaser has selected the quality he desires in the wool, weave and dyes which make up the cost factors of this material, his only concern can then be with the beauty of design which has little if anything to do with cost.

The carpet mill representatives at all times have in stock a wide selection of successful designs for whatever purpose may be desired. If nothing else, they will serve as a source of real inspiration. It may be that the exactly right carpet design will be found at once—or, if there is a special color scheme to consider, the pattern selected can then be produced in colors to harmonize exactly with existing requirements. Finally, there is always the original design creation to be considered and this can usually be had at slight extra cost which will be repaid in individuality and originality.

Current Design Trends

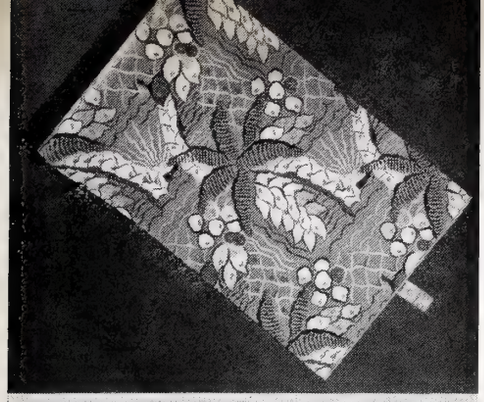
Some of the latest design trends, particularly applicable to theatre use, that are being offered by one of the leading carpet manufacturers are shown here. They are of a high quality weave with a luxurious sheen and long wearability. Just the value determinants so necessary in theatre situations where traffic conditions are almost abusive to this luxury material. In order, we will discuss their design applications as we see them.

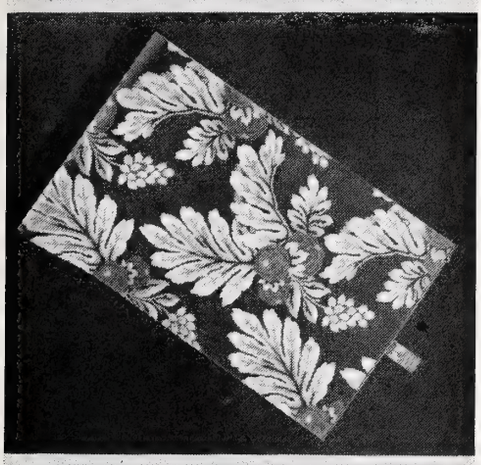
Design No. 1: A tropical pattern, very gay, with palm trees, sunbursts and citrus fruit interwoven to form a bright color treatment and warm design motif. This would appear to be ideal carpeting for a theatre wherein the warmth of sunlight is badly needed. It would be most effective when used with wall treatments predominantly yellow and orange. Simple blond wood or rattan furnishings for lounge or lobby would complement this carpet and in turn be highlighted by it. This pattern is most colorful and it would suggest many shades to be used for other parts of the interior color scheme. However, because of its boldness it would be wise to have walls, upholstery materials and draperies to be used with it in more subdued harmonious shades of the vivid colors found in the carpet.

Design No. 2: The conventional leaf and fruit pattern which is highly adaptable to almost any situation wherein a too definite style trend is not followed. The dark background of this pattern makes it serviceable, while the rather large design motif in bright colors gives just enough

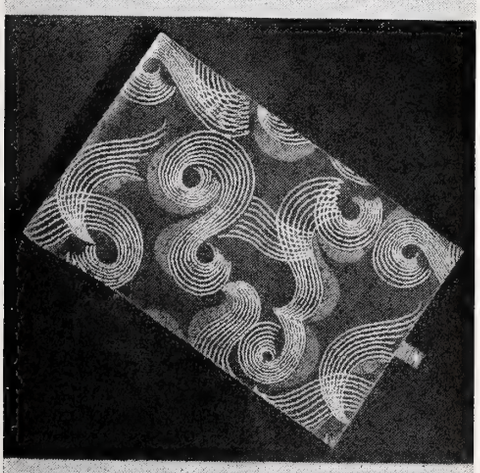
INFORMATION

Readers who desire special information or advice on the selection or application of theatre carpets are invited to communicate with Helen Kent in care of The Modern Theatre section, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., accompanying such inquiry with postage for reply. All problems will be given prompt and helpful attention.











PICTURED

(Top to bottom)

DESIGN NO. 1: *"A tropical pattern, very gay . . .*

DESIGN NO. 2: *"The conventional leaf and fruit . . .*

DESIGN NO. 3: *"A modern with subdued coloring . . .*

DESIGN NO. 4: *"The modern scroll is varied . . .*

DESIGN NO. 5: *"An all-over modern leaf, very colorful . . .*

(The photos courtesy A. & M. Karagheusian, Inc., makers of Gulistan carpets.)

warmth and life to make it adaptable to the dimly lighted interiors of a theatre. Offering several distinct colors and shadings, it will suggest many color schemes which will be effective, and because of its conventionality, almost any style of furnishings may be used with this carpet pattern.

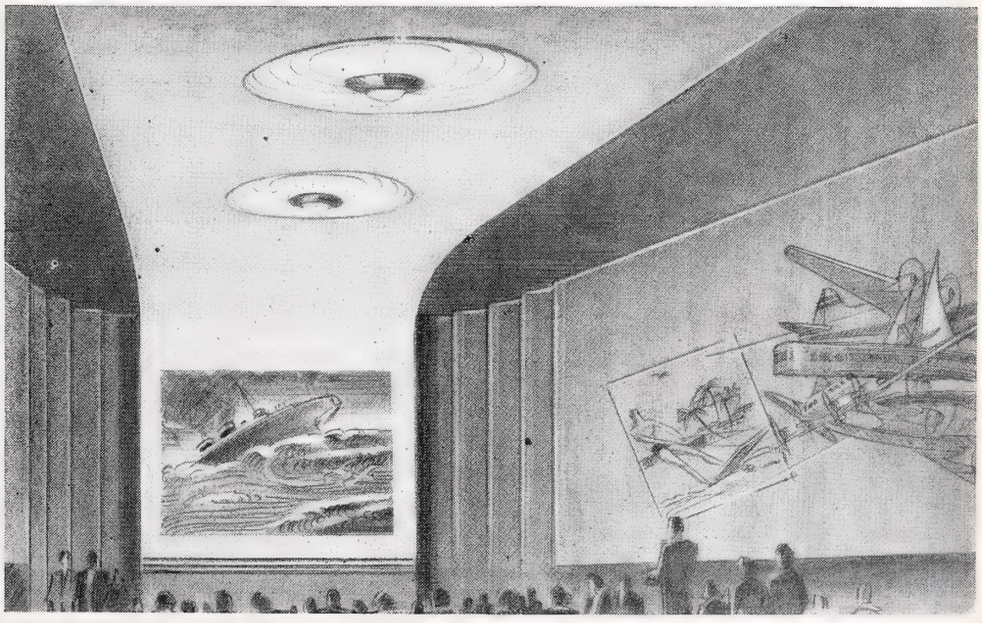
DESIGN NO. 3: A modern pattern with subdued coloring. The stylized floral design and geometric balancing motives make this pattern particularly fitting for the more timid who like modern but who dislike its sometimes garish treatments. This simple design suggests brighter decorative applications in walls and ceilings, furnishings and draperies, since the subdued shades which make up its pattern will be most complemented by more vivid accessories. Modern furnishings or conventional will be equally at home on such a background.

DESIGN NO. 4. The modern scroll pattern is varied and highly effective in numerous situations. This treatment is particularly stunning by reason of its effective highlights. The whirling lines in white or light tone stand out against a background of deeper shading for practical purposes. Because this particular pattern is composed of only three color tones, it is quite adaptable to many contrasts in decorative color schemes. It is highly applicable to theatre use, lending itself effectively to modern furnishings from chrome and leather to highly polished wood and luxury materials, and then again it would be just as suitable with neo-classic or conventional furnishings. This type of pattern is equally good looking in wide expanses or in runners for the aisles of the auditorium.

DESIGN NO. 5: An all-over modern leaf design with lots of color, vivacity and warmth. Such a carpet pattern is so gay in itself that decoration may be more subdued. Colors selected from this pattern will best be those which do not predominate, thus to complement all parts of the decorative scheme more equally. Simplicity of furnishings will be most appropriate for the interior which this carpet graces. Modern metal or bamboo furniture with plain textured upholstery and plain draperies in a tone from the depths of this carpet would be highly complementary.

This is just a simple analysis of several new carpet patterns and what they can mean to the decorative scheme. To others they may suggest an entirely different approach in the problem of harmonizing many elements which contribute to beauty. When it is realized that building an interior decorative scheme from the ground up is logical and easy to accomplish with a bit of thought, it becomes obvious at once how important integral beauty and quality of carpet really is. Hence it is wise to give this beautifying element a chance when carpet selection becomes the business at hand.

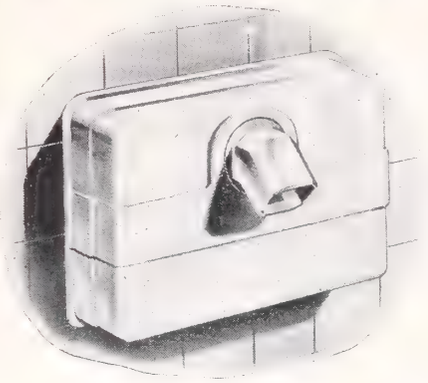
"TODAY" SUGGESTS THEATRE OF TOMORROW



Architectural conception of the auditorium in Chicago's new newsreel theatre, "Today," created by David Chapman, Chicago industrial designer for its owner, Richard Beck. "Today," opening March 1st, is proclaimed the finest small theatre in the world, featuring many unique innovations in functional form and facility for the enjoyment of world events in moving pictures. The Modern Theatre section for March 29th will present the finished project in full particulars.

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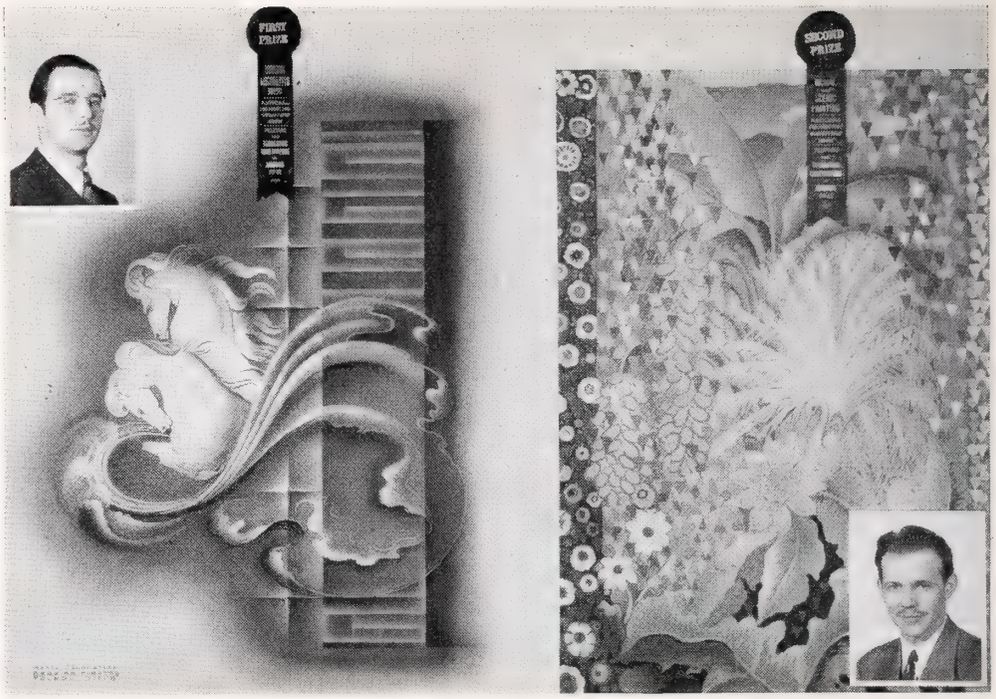
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TWO TEICHERT ARTISTS AWARDED TOP PRIZES



Two staff members of the Hanns Teichert organization of theatre decorators in Chicago were awarded first and second prizes at this year's Master Painters Convention held in Minneapolis. On the left above is shown the modern decorative motif entry of Martin Zeigner (inset) which was awarded first prize in its classification. At the right is illustrated the other prize winning subject for mural and scenic painting, an inspiring composition by Frank Lackner (inset) which took second prize in the nation's keenest competition among creative artists. The Teichert organization is a member of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute.

Determination of Load For Air Conditioning

A preliminary to the actual selection of equipment, whether for summer or winter air conditioning, is the determination of the load to be imposed on that equipment. This calls for accurate information as to the design of the building, its size, construction, use, occupancy, seasonal climatic conditions of the locality, etc.

The first question to be considered is "What are the most desirable conditions to be maintained within a theatre during the summer." In a word, the problem is not entirely technical but must take into consideration the physiological effect upon the human body, with a view of avoiding shock to the human system.

On the other hand, practical considerations from a design standpoint compel the selection of a definite outside atmospheric condition and a definite inside condition before any load determinations can be made. It then becomes a matter of selecting equipment that not only has the capacity to handle the calculated load, but that also lends itself to the greatest flexibility of control in order to meet changes in outside conditions and any reasonable change that may be desirable within the space being conditioned.

It would not be practical to determine the load on the basis of maximum outside conditions, for such conditions would be of short duration. It is well to use conditions that represent an average and which can be considered as "recommended design conditions" for various localities.



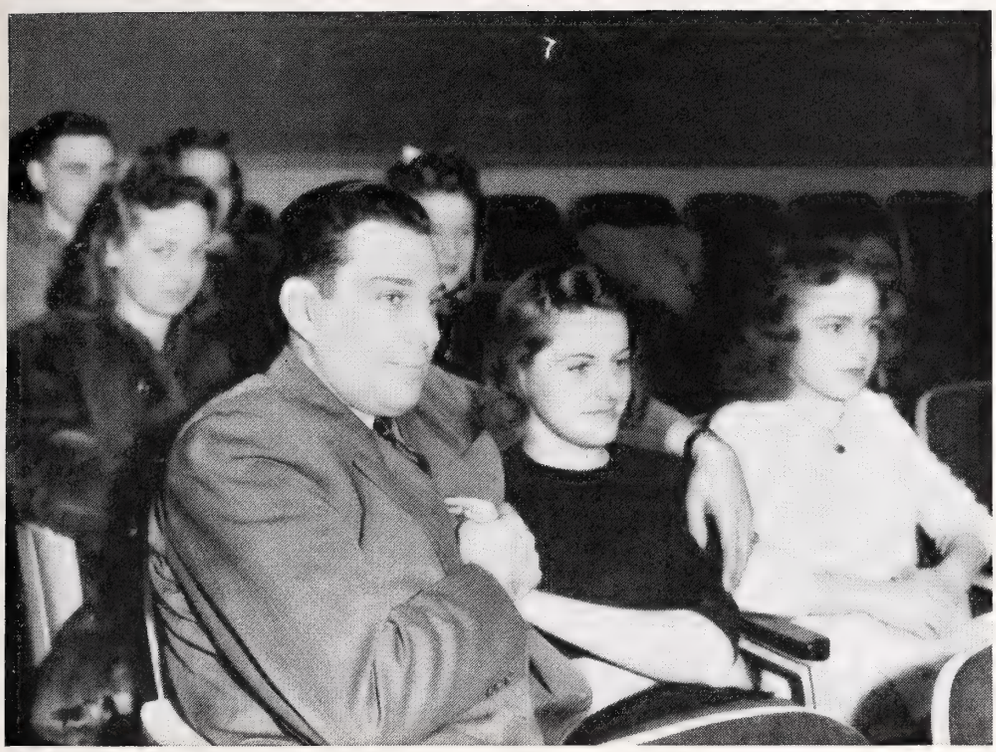
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- **Protect you against projection room emergencies.**
- **Meet all inspection laws.**
- **Prevent smoke from spreading into auditorium.**
- **¼-inch plate drops—ALWAYS drops!**
- **Made to last, of heavy No. 10 gauge metal.**
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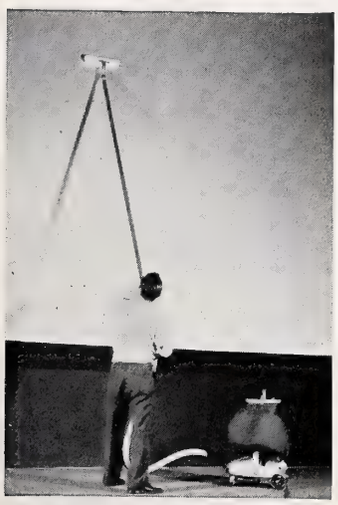


Nate Cohan, manager of the Tosa Theatre in Wauwatosa, a suburb of Milwaukee, and Miss Mickey Burns smilingly demonstrated the patron appeal of newly installed "love seats" for the edification of readers of the Milwaukee "Journal." (Acme photo).

IN A CLEVER publicity stunt which snared front page position in the Milwaukee *Journal* recently, Manager Nate Cohan of the Tosa Theatre in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, promoted the installation of new theatre chairs which included 28 doubles, or "love seats."

A well-written, human interest story accompanied the picture and in it were brought out the many advantages of this new type chair for theatre patrons—pointing out also its appeal to the "broad-beamed" as well as the "woo pitchers."

Manager Cohan reports that there is considerable rivalry for the occupancy of his 28 love seats.



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Refrigerated Kooler-aire

Manufactured by

UNITED STATES AIR CONDITIONING CORPORATION

NORTHWEST TERMINAL · MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



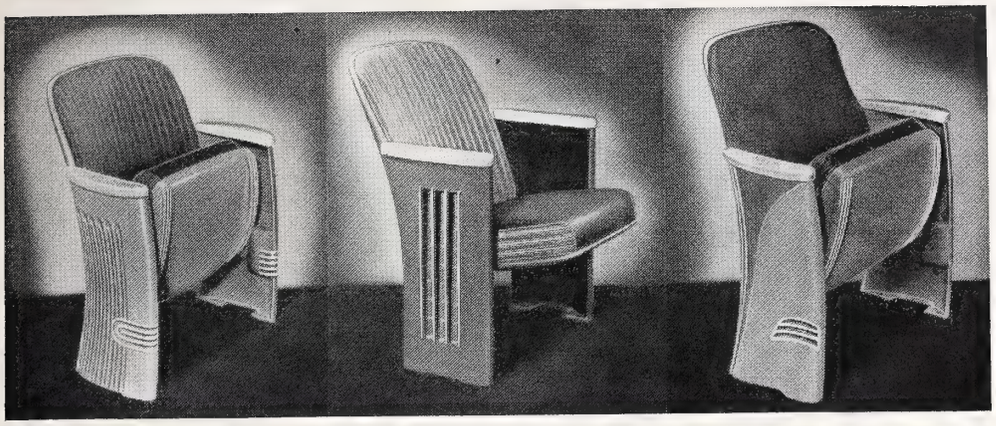
"Cut out the sad parts once more, Snitkin, and you're fired."

Courtesy "Sketch"

Weep No More, Exhibitor!

Exhibitors need no longer be unhappy about dismal screen lighting. They eliminate their old low intensity lamps and install the Simplex High. Then, for the first time they see how beautiful colored pictures can be. They find much joy in the fact that operating costs are but slightly higher. Any National Theatre Supply Company branch will be glad to demonstrate.

INTERMEDIARY CHAIR MODELS INTRODUCED



"BODIFORM" "ZEPHYR" "COMMODORE"

IN A NEW line of seating models just now being introduced, American Seating Company claims to have aroused a new principle in plans for theatre seating. It is possible to outfit the theatre with more than one style or grade of chair—each to suit the condition called for, such as for example, balconies and loges, and portions of the main floor where seats with special comfort or design features may be called for. Yet all the chairs may be of the same general appearance and styling and strictly in keeping with the decorative scheme of the interior.

Between the "Bodiform," ace model of the American line, employing the new "popliteal" seat feature and the "Avion," popular low-cost model, has been introduced three intermediate jobs: The "Zephyr" combines the seat of the "Avion" with the back of the "Bodiform" and an end standard of its own. The "Commodore" combines the "Avion" standard and back with the "Bodiform" seat. The "Zenith" (not illustrated) is practically the "Zephyr" with a specially designed short back to make it more suitable for balconies.

All are standard stock models carried ready for the application of upholstery and finish and it is thus claimed that delivery and installation can be made in shortest possible time.

Impure Air Comparable to Stagnant Water

You wouldn't knowingly ask your patrons to drink stagnant or impure water in your theatre, because the disastrous effects it might cause are universally known facts. Yet, often unknowingly they are compelled to breathe foul, street contaminated and odor laden air that is almost as dangerous to health as drinking impure water while they are in your theatre.

Dangers similar to those existing in impure water lurk in the air that theatre patrons breathe when nothing is done to purify and circulate fresh air within public gathering places. These ever present, unnoticed impurities are unquestionably responsible for much ill health for patrons, and poor repute for the theatre that is suspected of harboring bad air conditions.

But on the other hand, the theatre that is properly air conditioned can boast of greater precaution for patrons' health than almost any place they may gather. This is one of the selling and promotional points in favor of modern year-round air conditioning.

Ideal Seating Observes Its Twentieth Birthday

The Ideal Seating Company played host to all employes and their wives, numbering about 250, at a banquet in the Hotel Pantlind Grill Room in Grand Rapids, Mich., February 1st. The occasion was the celebration of the company's completion of 20 years in business.

Nathan Snyder, attorney of the firm of Cleland and Snyder, acted as Master of Ceremonies. The law firm has been legal representative for the seating company since its inception. The principal speaker of the evening was Mayor George Welsh of Grand Rapids. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Cleland, Mr. Morris Berman of the Morris Berman Accounting firm, which also has been associated with the seating company since its beginning, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kanton.

William A. Gedris, president of Ideal Seating Company, addressed the gathering, tendering the thanks of the organization to the loyal employes who have served them so well over a period of years. Sterling silver merit buttons were awarded employes who have been with the company five years or more. Those who have been with the company ten years or more received gold buttons.

The Hall Quartet sang several numbers during the evening. Following the banquet the employes attended a basketball game at the Y. M. C. A. between the Ideal Seating Company team and the Precision Parts team of Holland, Michigan.



Wagner Multiple Size Letters

MULTIPLY

Attraction Value of Your Marquee

•

WAGNER '41 FRAME

100% Proof Against Water Damage!

The ONLY structure in which water drains to the FRONT of the frame—protecting wiring against 'shorts' and frame against rusting. See what rain does to ANY OTHER frame.

NEW! THE WAGNER DUO-COLOR SILHOUETTE LETTER

Consists of a colored Catlin insert framed in aluminum. Special construction makes it practically unbreakable under ordinary use. If green fluorescent lighting is used and white incandescent lamps are flashed on and off, it gives the effect alternately of a solid silhouette letter and a letter with neon illuminated center.

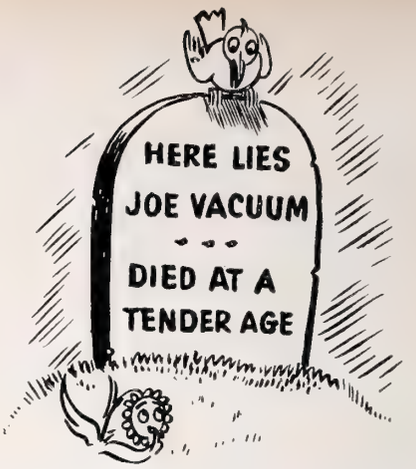


WAGNER SIGN SERVICE, INC.

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CINE' CLINIC

PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS ON MODERN PROJECTION AND SOUND PRACTICES



" . . . grave suspicions should be aroused."

A Good Doctor Diagnoses the Ailment Ere He Starts Dosing It

by DON L. TURNER*

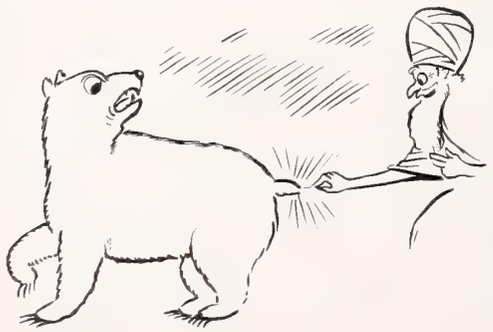
DOES your child cry its head off when it's teething? Are you suffering from gout? Would you like to get rid of freckles? Would you enjoy drinking 20 highballs — without getting tight?



If you lived in Persia, during the thirteenth century, it would be a simple matter, to the medicos of the period, to set you right on all these counts. To make an infant's teething easy and painless, you hung the kidney of a fox around baby's neck. You ground up the hoof of an ox, mixed it with olive oil and honey—and lo! your freckles disappeared in a jiffy. Blood of a panther fixed your gout. Yes, and to drink a tank-full, and still not get plastered? The Persian doctor said:

"If a man puts a hair from the tail of a bear upon his ear, and keeps it there, however much he drinks, he will never become intoxicated."

Since that time, fortunately, medical science has discovered that the human body is an extremely complicated mechanism, and that a large amount of medical knowledge is needed to diagnose what's wrong with the patient, to say nothing of curing it. Nowadays, the science of diagnosis must take account of obscure causes, rather than merely applying a remedy to the trouble that appears on the surface.



" . . . he will never become intoxicated."

Same With Sound

The science of maintaining sound in the theatre at a high level of quality leans just as heavily upon diagnostic ability. In this field, the apparent, the seemingly obvious cause of trouble is particularly deceptive in the way it obscures what is *really* wrong. The service records, containing the engineers' reports of thousands of cases of emergency breakdowns in the sound equipment, show that in over 50 per cent of emergency cases, the *obvious* trouble actually is not the real cause of the trouble. The real trouble is hidden; its nature is often not even suspected by the projectionist attempting to analyze it.

For example, when the sound suddenly dies, a hasty checkup of the equipment reveals that one or more of the vacuum tubes have burned out. Obvious conclusion: The tubes are at fault. The tubes are replaced. Shortly afterward, the sound again disappears and the new tubes also burn out. Only then does it become apparent that a scientific diagnosis of the rest of the equipment must be made, to find the real root of the trouble.

Many sound system troubles are of this nature. A part will develop a defect not easily detected. This defect, in turn, will place an overload on other parts and cause one or more of them to fail. These secondary failures promptly proceed to make things worse by presenting misleading symptoms.

Sound failure, for instance, may be the result of an intermittent short-circuit developing between the plate and the filament of a rectifier tube in the main amplifier. Such a short-circuit causes excessive current to flow, and a burned-out power transformer and blown fuses usually result. First off, the open fuses are located. New ones are installed, but they proceed to blow out the moment the amplifier is turned on. Further search reveals a defective power transformer, which is probably badly overheated and may be smoking or dripping sealing compound. A new transformer is ordered and installed. Everything tests okay and the amplifier is starting up. Then—after a short period, the same trouble starts all over again!

Defects in Hiding

What's wrong? The transformer obviously was bad, and on the surface it appeared that surely it was causing the whole botheration. But the actual answer lies in a *hidden defect* in the rectifier tube. The defect was such that the short-circuit between filament and plate develops *only* when the tube has become hot after a period of operation—and possibly, after it was subject to a certain type of vibration.

Then, when the amplifier was turned off after the transformer failure, the tube cooled, and the short-circuit cleared automatically. It tested okay, and was considered in good condition—but later, when the amplifier was started up and the tube became hot again, the short-circuit promptly reappeared, and the whole cycle repeated itself.

The flare-up of a vacuum tube is often the first evidence that a vital part, buried somewhere in the apparatus, is acting up. Even sudden failure, or some indication of abnormal tube operation, should be accepted as a warning, and the associated circuits examined carefully. Since tube replacement represents a costly item in maintenance, the wisdom of careful examination of the whole mechanism becomes increasingly evident.

Not long ago, an engineer received an emergency call which aptly illustrates this. The telephone call reported: First, no sound. Then, the 43 type amplifier was registering excessive plate current. Also,

*District manager, Altec Service Corp.

Have You a Problem?

Conductors of the CINE' CLINIC will be glad to answer questions relating to problems of projection and sound operation and practices through these columns. State your problem clearly, detailing symptoms of trouble. Answers to questions of general interest will be published in a later issue, identified by inquirer's initials only. Should you desire private information or advice, enclose stamp for reply. Address The MODERN THEATRE, Room 334, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.



" . . . high-line voltage is the hissing villain."

the two 242-C vacuum tubes had burned out. Tracing the trouble to its source, the service engineer found that the C-1 bypass condenser had short-circuited, thus throwing a short across the grid bias resistor. This cut out the grid bias potential and permitted excessive plate current to flow. This, in turn, burned out two tubes in a row, and in each case, caused loss of sound.

Mechanical Research

Another emergency call developed this situation: The fuses in the system would not hold. The theatre had installed two replacement 5Z3 rectifier tubes, and they, too, had burned out. The engineer traced the source of the trouble to two SN-508 filter condensers which had broken down. They placed a short circuit across the 5Z3 tube, causing excessive plate current and flash-over, which damaged the tube and made the AC supply fuses blow.

Whenever vacuum tubes are found to be short-lived, suspicions should be aroused. Thorough exploration for hidden causes should be made.

The most common cause of short life in vacuum tubes is the result of operation at either excessive or at subnormal potentials (or current) resulting from the voltage of the incoming line. In many parts of the country, there has been a tendency on the part of power companies to increase line voltages. In some places, it reaches 125 volts. Many older sound systems were designed for 110-volt operation; they do not possess tapped power transformers to compensate for higher line voltage, the way modern equipment does. Where rheostat facilities are available, the filament current of vacuum tubes should be checked several times each day, and maintained at exactly the specified point, because the filament supply will vary as a result of batteries discharging, variation in load on the incoming line, or heating of power conversion equipment.

Fuses Flash Danger

This same high line voltage is the villain of the play in cases where condensers, resistors and transformers fail. When electrical parts operate at higher than normal temperature or when condensers and transformers start to leak compound, that doesn't necessarily mean that they are poorly designed. The line voltage should be checked immediately.

Another thing that constitutes a genuine

(Continued on page 75)

PARTNERS

They're not on your payroll, but they work with you and for you 365 days a year.

Ask them for advice, for help, for the unusual service, and they'll respond quickly and enthusiastically.

Who are they? They're your "partners," . . . the trained and expert men at your nearby National Theatre Supply Company store, ready to serve you with just the equipment you need to bring more people to your boxoffice in 1941.

SERVING THE NATION
NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY
SOLD ★ SERVICED ★ GUARANTEED

THERE'S A BRANCH NEAR YOU

CHAMPIONS WIN through their ability to ALWAYS deliver a FINE PERFORMANCE

That's the 25-year record of the

TransVerteR

The theatre owner and projectionist using the Transverter know that these super values can be depended upon . . . Long years of uninterrupted service . . . with low cost of operation . . . and that FIRST COST IS THE ONLY COST.



Ask your nearest dealer . . .
National Theatre Supply Company in the U. S. A.
or General Theatre Supply Co. in Canada
. . . about the Hertner Transverter

THE HERTNER ELECTRIC CO. 12695 ELMWOOD AVENUE CLEVELAND, OHIO, U.S.A.

Exclusive Manufacturers of the Transverter

Here's your  **QUIZ, KIDS!**  There's a **POT OF**  **GOLD** awaiting all exhibitors who know these answers. You can **TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.** But just  remember that today when you think of light it must be **DOUBLE OR NOTHING.** And, now  **PROFESSOR QUIZ,** more  **INFORMATION PLEASE!**

? ? ?	& ANS.
Why are so many moderate sized theatres installing the new intermediate capacity high intensity projection arc lamps?	Because today, much more light, snow-white light, is absolutely necessary to the satisfactory projection of colored pictures and present dense black and white films.
Does this mean that low intensity lamps can no longer be used satisfactorily?	It does. Furthermore, there is no longer a reason for theaters with screens up to 18 feet in width denying themselves the vivid brilliancy of high intensity projection.
But why didn't they replace their low intensities with high intensities before now?	Because, up to the time the Strong Utility was introduced, the operating cost was considered prohibitive by many of them.
How much more light does the Strong Utility project?	Twice as much as any low intensity lamp, but this is not all . . . it projects light of the same characteristics as that used in the studios where the pictures are shot.
. . . and does this doubling in light double the operating cost?	No. Strong has made it possible at an increased combined current and carbon cost of less than 2c an hour.
Who sells Strong Utility lamps?	Your Independent Theatre Supply Dealer. He'll arrange a demonstration in your theatre without obligation.
Who manufactures them?	The Strong Electric Corporation, 2501 Lagrange Street, Toledo, Ohio.

A Good Doctor Diagnoses the Ailment Ere He Starts Dosing It

(Continued from page 73)

danger signal: *Fuses.* When the sound goes off, and a blown fuse is discovered, it isn't enough simply to replace the fuse. A fuse of recommended value will seldom blow out unless some irregular condition develops in the circuit that it feeds. When a fuse blows, and especially when a fuse blows frequently, every part of the circuit should be carefully examined.

An emergency call from a Minneapolis theatre illustrates this type of trouble. When the engineer looked into the trouble, he found that the DC field current of the stage horns was being obtained from the arc generator, and the 3-ampere fuses had been reported "blowing periodically." The engineer's first check-up revealed that everything tested in order, and the operation seemed entirely normal. But the "doctor" wasn't satisfied—he decided to dig deeper into the situation. As a result of some brilliant diagnosis, he found out what was wrong.

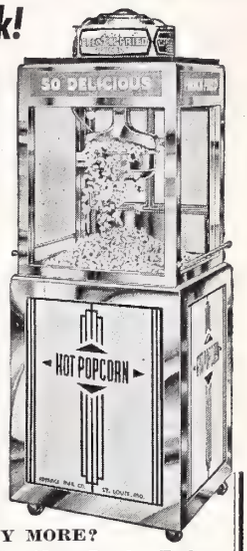
An electrolytic condenser with a grounded case was connected *on the load side* of the temperamental fuse as a filter for the circuit. Any slight leakage from the arc lamp—which was also grounded—would cause excessive current to flow *through this particular fuse only* and cause it to burn out. As a temporary correction, the condenser was shifted to the generator side of the fuse, until the projectionist had time to replace the insulators which were responsible for the leakage in the arc lamp.

In dealing with these hidden troubles, often far removed from the symptoms exhibited, the sound service engineer relies upon intimate knowledge of the relationship of every component part of the circuit, as well as upon the experience he has had in getting at the root of similar troubles which he has encountered in other theatres. When the audience is restively sitting before a dark screen, and there's a truck-load of nervous tension in the manager's office and the projection room, the service engineer's sure quick thinking, based on his years of experience, makes it possible for him to put his finger instantly, on what really is causing the trouble—enabling him to do what is necessary to make the show hit the sheet again in a matter of minutes or even seconds.

Air conditioning is a sound, high-grade, fast-paying investment for the exhibitor. It goes to work immediately toward increasing his business and continues to pay dividends throughout its natural life.

Both winter and summer air conditioning with a good distributing system has a drawing power of great value and a value which will increase as the public learns more about air conditioning.

WRITE FOR CATALOG! . . .
Learn How You, Too, Can Earn $40...$50...$60...Even $100 Extra Per Week!



Many wise exhibitors are swelling their cash income with the handsome profits from ADVANCE Popcorn Machines. And you, too, might just as well be cashing in!

Investigate with an Open Mind

***Get the facts* . . . See what an ADVANCE Machine will do for you.**

These fine new Popcorn Machines with lights, color, and motion, draw trade and get profits . . . 70c profit on every dollar! Simple and easy to run — more efficient — pop more corn — and produce more business than out-of-date machines.

All Sizes From $139.50 up

EASY TERMS—WHY PAY MORE?

Write for Catalog or See Your Dealer Today.

ADVANCE MFG. CO.
6334 St. Louis Ave. St. Louis, Mo.

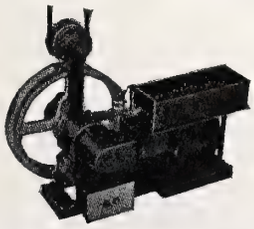
Next issue "SPRING RENOVATION"--- *March 29th*

Push Button Simplicity

autodrape

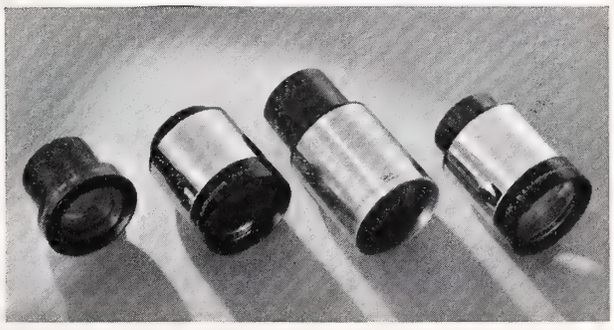
CURTAIN MACHINES

Simple as pushing a button to operate. The AUTODRAPE gives you perfect performance at every performance. Lower operating cost—32% more power capacity—automatic overload protective breaker—many other advantages . . . all at no increase in price.



AUTOMATIC DEVICES CO.
1035 Linden St. Allentown, Pa.
Export Office:
220 W. 42nd St., New York City
Also Manufacturers of Allentown Steel Curtain Tracks and Curtain Machines

HOW TO GET GREATER EFFICIENCY FROM YOUR PRESENT PROJECTOR



You can greatly increase the efficiency of your projector with a Bausch & Lomb f:2 Super Cinephor—the projection lens which actually delivers 25% more light on the screen. A new process of treating lens surfaces to minimize reflections puts to work the light previously lost (4 to 6% at each air to glass surface). The new f:2 lens has the light efficiency that hitherto would only have been possible at f:1.79.

The result of this increased light on the screen is a marked gain in contrast and crispness. Shadow detail is not diluted by distributed light. Color films have greater purity and brilliance.

If you want greater projection efficiency—better image quality—write for details to Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., 720 St. Paul Street, Rochester, N. Y.

BAUSCH & LOMB OPTICAL COMPANY

FOR YOUR EYES, INSIST ON BAUSCH & LOMB EYEWEAR, MADE FROM BAUSCH & LOMB GLASS TO BAUSCH & LOMB HIGH STANDARDS OF PRECISION

EXHIBITORS!—WITHOUT ACOUSTICON THEATRE PHONES

20,000,000 DEAFENED ARE NOT WAITING

AT YOUR BOX OFFICES. WRITE FOR BOOKLET 413.

ACOUSTICON 580 FIFTH AVENUE — NEW YORK CITY

Distribution of Air in Theatre Auditoria

Proper auditorium ventilation is now recognized as a combination of temperature, air motion and distribution, humidity, dust, bacteria, odors and carbon dioxide. Air motion and distribution is second only to temperature in importance. The Synthetic Air Chart adopted by the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers takes into account all of these factors and makes it possible to arrive at an average which will show the percentage of perfect ventilation obtained in any given installation.

Modern practice shows that eight cubic feet of fresh air per minute per person is ample to keep the air in an auditorium free of odors; and to maintain body heat and to balance the outdoor heat of a warm summer's day, about 20 cubic feet per minute per person must be introduced. The accurate amount becomes an engineering problem.

Of the 20 cubic feet per minute per person introduced, 12 cubic feet may be recirculated, economizing heat in winter and cooling in summer. If too much air is recirculated, odors will result; and when smoking is to be allowed, much more new air must be introduced.

ONE REASON WHY VALLEN LEADS



Jr. Control Curtain Speed 125 f.p.m. With Pillow Action.

is the Jr. Control—the only control with instant start, stop and reverse action assured. Installed with Vallen Rear-Fold Safety Track, the entire assembly forms a unit of faultless construction which is easily installed.

VALLEN, INC.
AKRON, OHIO

Carpeting Applied as Decorative Cosmetic

On the theory that interiors, as well as female faces, can be transformed through the use of proper make-up, Charles P. Cochrane Company is emphasizing this cosmetic influence in the promotion and display of its new carpet patterns. That rugs and carpets serve in interior decoration much the same purpose as do rouge, powder and lipstick for milady's face is brought out cleverly by the carpet company.

Many of the new carpet designs are likened by this company to certain beauticians' items, such as "beauty essentials," "foundations," and "stimulants." The new fashion trend makes this analogy particularly fitting and centers interest on the vast decorative possibilities of modern carpet for interiors of all types.

Two Photophone Men Assigned New Duties

M. J. "Mike" Yahr, formerly Commercial Engineer at Camden headquarters, has been assigned to the newly created position of Product Manager at the Indianapolis plant. Carl Johnson, after 11 years in the RCA service organization, has been appointed to Mr. Yahr's former position.

Mr. Yahr attended the college of the City of New York before he joined the company in 1929, soon after its formation, as a field engineer in the Midwest. After about two years at this post he was placed in charge of cataloging and parts at Camden; later he was promoted to assistant manager of service contract sales. His elevation to commercial engineer came four years ago.

Mr. Johnson joined the RCA service organization in 1930. Assigned first to San Francisco, he subsequently had charge of service operations in widely scattered locations throughout the country.

END UNCOMFORTABLE AIR CONDITIONS IN YOUR THEATRE WITH ANEMOSTAT DRAFTLESS AIR DIFFUSERS!



Ceiling ANEMOSTATS installed in both Orchestra and Lobby of new Hollywood Theatre, Sioux Falls, S. D.—Harold Spitznagel, Architect; Rose & Harris, Engineers.

"NO AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM IS BETTER THAN ITS AIR DISTRIBUTION"

DRAFTS, wide temperature differences and other uncomfortable conditions in a theatre that has an air conditioning, air heating, cooling or ventilating system, are invariably due to one thing—inadequate means of introducing and distributing the air from the system.

With old fashioned grilles or registers, which merely cover the duct openings while permitting the air to pass through, you are bound to get swiftly moving currents of air, marked variations in temperature and improper air distribution.

You can end these conditions quickly and at reasonable cost by simply equipping all air supply outlets with modern, scientifically designed ANEMOSTATS. These units take the high velocity air from the ducts and diffuse it in a way that **positively eliminates drafts and equalizes temperature and humidity** throughout the entire conditioned or ventilated area.

ANEMOSTATS have ended air distribution troubles for many theatres all over the country. In newly installed systems their use is now practically a rule.

WRITE TODAY FOR FULL ANEMOSTAT DETAILS

ANEMOSTAT
CORPORATION OF AMERICA
10 East 39th Street - New York, N.Y.
Representatives in Principal Cities

News of what's NEW in Modern Theatre Equipment

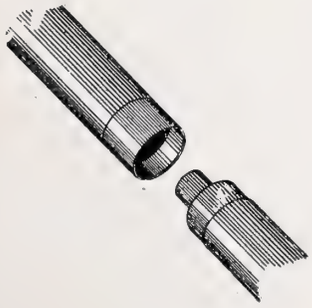
36 DUO-COLOR SILHOUETTE LETTERS — For novel marquee display and attraction board innovation, a new silhouette letter is now available which adds color to legibility of theatre front advertising. A colored Catalin section is set into an aluminum



frame on the face of the letter, which is practically unbreakable. If used with fluorescent lighting and bulbs are flashed on and off, it gives the effect alternately of a solid silhouette letter and a letter with Neon illuminated center.

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37 DROLL CARBON ECONOMIZER—A scientifically engineered process that reduces projector carbon costs from 10 to 25 per cent, by "saving the stubs." No short lengths of carbon to throw away. Simply insert fresh carbon into the burnt

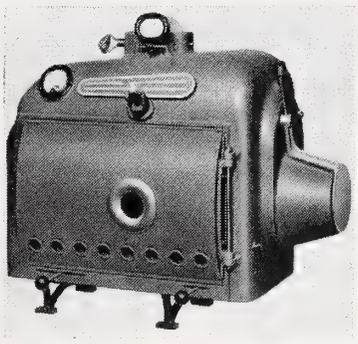


stub of previous trim, using copper sleeve for contact. The stub is consumed, sleeve and all, giving light of unaltered quality and intensity. No machinery or parts to buy. Merely order projector carbons processed and ready to use.

38 PLANDAIRE DIFFUSERS —A new ceiling type high velocity air diffusing element for no-draft air distribution. Attractively designed and engineered for high efficiency it enhances the decorative treatment of the room, fits well into the architectural scheme and serves to eliminate unsightly air outlets commonly used. Adjustability is a feature, permitting regulation of air flow where the design of the room or other conditions necessitate adjustment to secure the proper air flow pattern. Obtainable at reasonable cost.

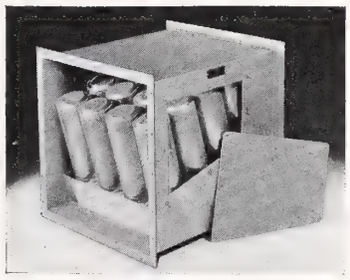
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39 SMALL PROJECTION LAMP—A new projection arc lamp of the universal type to work on either low intensity, the one-kilowatt arc or the small Suprex carbon trims now



popularly used in small and medium-sized theatres. The housing is cast in one solid piece, with adaptors to fit all standard projectors and the mechanism features a carbon feed of the double screw type. Low first cost, economy of operation and efficiency are emphasized by the manufacturer.

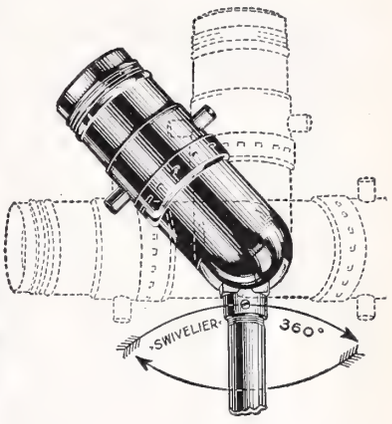
40 DOREX ODOR ABSORBERS — For application to existing or new air conditioning systems. Employing specially processed, activated cocoanut shell carbon the canisters



here illustrated serve to absorb, or, more simply, to extract and hold odorous gases and vapors in a condensed state. Upon saturation the carbon may be economically reactivated and used again. When applied to recirculated air, they permit a reduction in outdoor air supply of from 3 to 5 cubic feet per minute per occupant, thereby providing air conditioning comfort at considerably reduced operating cost.

---

41 SWIVELIER—A new and complete line of universally adjustable sockets and lamp units for focalized lighting. Among its advantages and adaptations for the theatre field are: The Swivelier socket is adjustable to full 90-degree right angle; it can be rotated to complete a 360 degree full circle when adjusted at any angle. Wires cannot twist due to a special stop, and the unit will stay put in any position. Patented



construction compensates for wear due to friction and the unit is approved by Underwriter's Laboratories.

---

42 STYLO-PLASTIC—A new plastic compound to simplify and beautify the art of sign making. For poster lettering in bold relief and thickness, providing the third dimension by adding depth and artistic treatment to signs of any style, the material is said to be superior to embossing or

Stylo-Pla

processing, at very low cost per sign. The new sign-making material is available in ½-pint cans in eight standard colors and 40 other shades can be provided on special orders. Special introductory offers are now in effect.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

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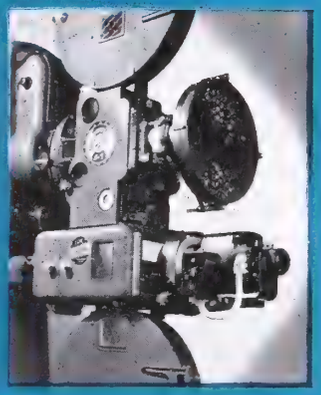
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PROMOTION OF UNITY AMONG AMERICAS PRAISED BY F. D. R.

Cooperation in Defense, Service of Newsreels Also Are Applauded

HOLLYWOOD—One of the most important contributions the motion picture can make to the national defense program is in the promotion of solidarity "among all the people of the Americas," President Franklin Delano Roosevelt told the industry and the nation Thursday night in a three-way network broadcast from Washington to open the 13th annual banquet of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The President expressed the government's appreciation for the cooperation of the industry in "helping the people of this hemisphere to come to know each other better."

Cites Newsreels

The newsreels, he said, have performed a "great service" in acquainting the public with the implications of the lend-lease bill.

Highlights of the President's address:

"The American motion picture as a national and international force is a phenomenon of our own generation. Within living memory we have seen it born and grow up into full maturity. We have seen the American motion picture become foremost throughout the world. We have seen it reflect our civilization throughout the rest of the world—the aims and aspirations and ideals of a free people and of freedom.

"That is the real reason that some governments do not want our American films exhibited in their countries. Dictators—those who enforce the totalitarian form of government—think it a dangerous thing for their unfortunate peoples to know that in our democracy officers of the government are the servants, never the masters, of the people.

"We have been seeking to affirm our faith in the western world through a wider exchange of culture, of education, of thought and of free expression among the various nations of this hemisphere. Your industry has utilized its vast resources of talent and facilities in a sincere effort to help the people of this hemisphere come to know each other.

"Our government has invited you to do your share of the job of interpreting the people of the western hemisphere to one another. And all of us in all the 21 American republics are grateful that your response is so immediate and so wholehearted.

"I do not minimize the importance of the motion picture industry as the most popular medium of mass entertainment. But tonight I want to place the chief emphasis on the service you can render in promoting solidarity among all the people of the Americas.

"For all this and for your splendid cooperation with all who are directing the expansion of our defense forces, I am glad to thank you. In the weeks and months that lie ahead, we in Washington know we shall have your continued aid and support."

Academy Chooses "Rebecca," James Stewart, Ginger Rogers

Meeting for the 13th consecutive year at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science's annual Awards Banquet, Hollywood's creative workers acclaimed "Rebecca," produced by David O. Selznick for United Artists, the outstanding motion picture made during 1940.

The 12,000 members of the industry who participated in one of the film colony's most distinguished and significant yearly functions presented James Stewart the best-actor accolade for his performance in "The Philadelphia Story," produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Ginger Rogers was named best actress as a result of her work in "Kitty Foyle," produced by RKO Radio.

Occasion was further enhanced by an address of welcome and congratulation via radio from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaking from the White House in Washington over the three major networks. Winners were announced, and the famous gold trophies were presented, at the Biltmore Bowl in the Biltmore Hotel on the evening of February 27. Presentations to the winning actors and actresses were made by Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, and Bob Hope served as master of ceremonies. Stars, executives and other industry notables on hand to extend plaudits to the recipients of the coveted statuettes made the affair a sell-out.

Other winners included:

Walter Brennan, chosen as the best actor in a supporting role, for his work in "The Westerner," a Samuel Goldwyn production. Named as best actress in a supporting role was Jane Darwell as a result of her portrayal in "The Grapes of Wrath," a 20th Century-Fox production.

John Ford for Direction

For the best achievement in direction:

John Ford, pilot of "The Grapes of Wrath."

For the best original motion picture story:

Benjamin Glazer and John S. Toldy, authors of "Arise, My Love." Donald Ogden Stewart received the best screenplay award for "The Philadelphia Story." For the best original screenplay, the writer or writers of which are also the authors of the original story, the award went to Preston Sturges for "The Great McGinty."

For the art direction achievement in black-and-white films:

Cedric Gibbons and Paul Groesse for "Pride and Prejudice." Winner of the art direction award for color films was Vincent Korda, for "The Thief of Bagdad." Recognition for the best achievement in film editing went to Anne Bauchens for "North West Mounted Police."

His camera work on "Rebecca" won top honors for George Barnes in the black-and-white cinematography division. The color photography winner was George

(Continued on next page)

Hollywood Tells How Films Can Aid Nat'l Defense

LOS ANGELES—The industry's answer to the question of "How Should the Movies Aid National Defense" was given Thursday night via America's Town Meeting of the Air broadcast from the Philharmonic Auditorium here over the NBC network. The reply included a defense of the trade against charges of "war-mongering" hurled recently by Senator Burton K. Wheeler.

Participating were Walter Wanger, producer, and president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; Donald Ogden Stewart, writer; Rosalind Russell, actress, and Manchester Boddy, columnist and publisher of the Los Angeles *News*. George V. Denny jr., originator of the radio program, was moderator.

Should Make Them Think

Wanger, while urging that motion pictures should entertain, insisted that they also should make people think. He decried the belief he said was held in certain quarters that because a film had significant content it was automatically unfit for pure entertainment. The melding of the right kind of social responsibility and highest type of entertainment quality he construed the real purpose of the motion picture.

He would change the subject, "How Should Movies Aid National Defense" to "How CAN Movies Aid National Defense," pointing out there was no doubt but that the trade would exert itself to the utmost in that direction. He insisted that the industry must go "all-out" in its efforts, maintaining that there could be no pursuit of "Business As Usual" policy—that the effort would have to be a "100 per cent effort, or fail."

The producer cited four ways in which he considered the industry can best aid national defense:

1. Newsreels that present a realistic picture of things as they are, without glossing over or distorting—an uncompromising picture of world developments substantially as actually viewed by the camera.
2. Continued cooperation with the Army, Navy and defense commission in the production of films for training purposes.
3. More pictures about North and South America, their history, achievements, aspirations, etc. "Revive the past for those who have forgotten it."
4. Widen the scope and vision when pictures deal with contemporary life. Dramatize America for Americans. He asserted that in this country was occurring the greatest "revolution" in history, the most significant social changes within memory, contending that this should be pointed up. He said that if other countries could point to like achievements they would fill the screen with dramatic material about them.

Replying to Senator Wheeler's charge of "war-mongering," Wanger said that of 350 pictures produced by major studios during the past season less than ten were more than the usual boy-meets-girl plot. "How can anyone call that war-mongering?" he asked.

The issue presenting itself in the relation of films to national defense, Boddy declared, is whether the government should take over motion pictures, as has been done in totalitarian countries, or whether the films should remain free.

The publisher cited German and Italian experience with government-controlled films, asserting that after years of enforced feeding the results had been, from the desired goal of the dictators, disappointing. He said that German films had praised Mussolini and his nation as their real friends, and that Italian films had loudly and consistently insisted upon the German way of life as the successful and desirable way. The net result, he said, is that now the Italian people "despise and fear" the German leaders and the Germans "scorn" the Italian soldiers "who do not want to fight."

Censorship, said Boddy, would be a "colossal blunder." He argued that government restriction of films would vitiate their value as entertainment, and that films so produced would, by their impotency, destroy the very censorship that bore them.

"Senator Wheeler," the publisher asserted, is "pursuing the wrong course" in attacking motion pictures. He termed the Senator's attitude as "un-American."

One of the most important jobs, Boddy said, was for the motion picture to help restore the mental balance of a war weary world. If that could be done, he said, it would contribute more to national defense than anything else.

Rosalind Russell's Idea

Rosalind Russell would devote 80 per cent of film output, the features, to pure entertainment. The balance would be devoted to factual short subjects that would go all-out in an effort to give all the facts possible and present factual reasons as to why we must protect our possessions. They would show our various boundaries, possessions, etc., and emphasize their importance to us and to the world.

Stewart would portray the full American scene, concentrating on entertainment but not losing sight of the nation's problems. The question of national defense, he said, is one of a united, healthy and strong people. The films, he asserted, can unite the people as no other agency can do.

Denny announced at the conclusion of the program that a contract had been signed assuring the continuance of the feature on the air for the next five years.

"Oscars" to "Rebecca," Rogers, Stewart

(Continued from preceding page)

Perinal, who handled the cameras on "The Thief of Bagdad."

In the music field, the best original score, with primary emphasis on original composition, was deemed that written by Ned Washington and Leigh Harline for "Pinocchio." Selected as the best musical score without regard to source was that done by Alfred Newman for "Tin Pan Alley." "When You Wish Upon a Star" in "Pinocchio," was chosen as the best song, the citation going to its authors, Ned Washington and Leigh Harline.

"Milky Way" was named the outstanding cartoon subject produced during the year. It was made by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Winner of the award as best short subject of 1,000 feet or less in length was "Quicker'n a Wink," a Pete Smith production. Selected as the best short subject in the 1,000 to 3,000 feet division was "Teddy, the Rough Rider," a Warner Brothers release.

The sound recording in "Strike Up the Band" won top honors for Douglas Shearer. In the special effects classification the award went to Lawrence Butler and Jack Whitney for "The Thief of Bagdad."

Special Award to Bob Hope

Recipients of special awards, named as the result of conferences between the awards committee and the Academy's board of governors, were Bob Hope who received a special plaque for his many contributions to charitable undertakings for building goodwill for the industry; and to Col. Nathan Levinson for outstanding service to the industry and the army during the past nine years, which made possible the present efficient mobilization of the production of army training films.

No award was made of the Irving Thalberg memorial this year.

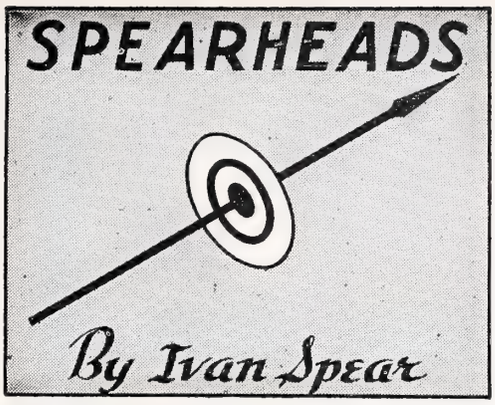
Coast Branches Fifth In Monogram Drive

LOS ANGELES—Monogram's Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle exchanges currently are occupying fifth place, as a group, in the company's "Lucky 7" playdate drive, according to Samuel "Steve" Broidy, sales manager. They are grouped as "Jack London's Forty-Niners."

In first place are "Tex Ritter's Rhythm Rangers," consisting of the Atlanta, Charlotte, Memphis and New Orleans branches. The Dallas, Oklahoma City, Denver and Salt Lake City exchanges, combined as "The Range Busters," are in second spot, while "Frankie Darro's Hell Raisers," the Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Washington offices, are third in the standings.

MacDonald and Brown Aid Malibu Players

Director Frank MacDonald and Bernard B. Brown, sound supervisor at Universal, are serving on the advisory board for the Malibu Players, a strawhat theatre organization headquartering at Malibu Beach. Harrison Slott is the managing director. Initial offering, beginning June 1, will be "Heaven Only Knows," musical fantasy.



A PUBLICITY release from Paramount shortly after the first of the year announced that the company "estimated net profits for the fourth quarter ended Jan. 4, 1941, at $2,807,000, after all charges, including federal income taxes, equal after preferred dividend requirements to $1.02 a share on the outstanding common stock.

"This compares with net profits of $1,030,000, or 29 cents a share on common stock in the corresponding quarter ended Dec. 30, 1939.

"The company estimated net profits for the 53 weeks ended Jan. 4, 1941, at $7,617,000 after all charges, equal after preferred dividend requirements to $2.63 a share on common stock compared with $3,874,000, or $1.08 a common share in the year ended Dec. 30, 1939 . . ."

The ink on that unusually rosy statement of increased earnings had hardly dried when the studio's executive and productional personnel was subjected to a precedental reorganization. William LeBaron relinquished his post as executive producer after holding the reins since 1936. Also departing was A. M. Botsford, a Paramount veteran and LeBaron's executive aide, and Jack Moss, an associate producer. LeBaron's place was taken by B. G. DeSylva, who promptly signed Rufus LeMaire to handle special assignments under his guidance; added Monta Bell as an associate producer, and promoted Richard Blumenthal, formerly Producer Arthur Hornblow jr.'s aide, to an associate producership.

Which contradictory situation should supply plenty of food for thought to the exponents of the leave-well-enough-alone theory.

→

When Cinelandia, *leading fan magazine of the Latin-American countries, presented Bette Davis with her 24th acting award—for the "best screen performance of 1940" —Miss Davis put in some intensive study so that she could make her acceptance speech in the Spanish language.*

How lucky she is that there are no fan magazines in Greece—or are there?

→

Warner publicists are going off the deep end with a loud splash in broadcasting news concerning invitations from obscure and unlikely places which are allegedly being offered as the locales for premieres of their company's features. Witness the following pair:

Through the Ranee of Sarawak, it is asserted, negotiations have been launched for the world premiere of "Singapore Woman" in Sarawak, some 750 miles away from Singapore. The Ranee and Rajah, the release proclaims, own the island's only theatre.

The Burlington Liars Club of Burlington, Wis.—which organization sponsors an annual "tall story" contest—has, it is claimed, petitioned to have the world premiere of "The Great Lie" in that locality.

True or not, the invitation from Burlington might be worthy of consideration—especially for the publicity department.

And the general idea should serve as a suggestion to Perry Lieber. In view of the William Randolph Hearst-Orson Welles battle, Mars is probably the only safe and appropriate place for the debut of "Citizen Kane"—if any.

→

Add Tough-to-Sell Dept.:

Katherine DeMille will essay a screen comeback in her foster father's next picture, "Reap the Wild Wind." According to the stress agents, "she won her chance for the test by reading DeMille a scene from the script."

The Paramount Pharaohs of Praise would have it further known that Richard DeMille, "teen-age son of the great C. B.," will also have a part in the picture. One more DeMille and the projected epic will look like a remake of "Swiss Family Robinson."

→

BALLYHOODLUMS: Inasmuch as he is the newest major studio publicity director on the Hollywood scene, the election by his contemporary orchid cultivators of John Joseph to head the publicity directors' committee of the Hays office is singular recognition of a job well done . . . Of course, there are those who might suspect that the boys are trying to crucify, rather than glorify, him . . . And to ever-competent John LeRoy Johnston goes credit for having conceived the idea of having President Roosevelt address the annual Academy Dinner, which masterful bit of showmanship accomplished a great deal in reviving waning interest in l'affaire Oscar . . . Columbia's Lou Smith gets the nod for the most heavy-handed attempt to date to circumvent the no-theatre-preview agreement. The occasion was the press showing of "Blondie Goes Latin," which momentous incident was announced by a call, "We're having a sneak press preview of 'Blondie' tomorrow night. A bus will leave the studio at 8 o'clock or, if you prefer, we'll wire you tomorrow to tell you at what theatre it is being held."

Canaries, Crackers, Chapters

Four of the nine pictures which constituted an abnormally heavy preview week are of indisputable top-of-the-bill quality, with only personal tastes controlling which of the quartet should be designated as the best. Of the nine, five were of the series variety, probably indicating the ever-increasing popularity of this approach to production.

In the sophisticated, romantic comedy vein Paramount's "The Lady Eve" has seldom been equalled this season. It was written and directed by Preston "The Great McGinty" Sturges, who again distinguishes himself on both counts by turning out what should be a certain hit. Barbara Stanwyck, co-starred with Henry Fonda, benefits by a gay, sympathetic and sparkling role to which she does full justice; Fonda proves an able foil, and they are paced all the way by an able supporting cast headed by Charles Coburn in a delightful performance. Sturges worked under the intelligent production guidance of Paul Jones, and used a story by Monckton Hoffe as his pattern.

Departing rather sharply in story material and productional treatment from the immediately preceding Deanna Durbin features, there is, nevertheless, no apparent reason why Universal's "Nice Girl?" should not prove just as popular and profitable as its predecessors. The gifted Deanna, who has attained womanhood with such remarkable grace and development of her natural abilities as an actress, doesn't get much of a chance to display her vocal talents, having been given a part designed to accent her Thespic qualities. The remaining cast, topped by Franchot Tone and Walter Brennan, is, notably, more expensive and impressive that ever before assembled in Deanna's support—a factor that will help considerably in alleviating the disappointment of fans who might decry the scarcity of music. The script by Richard Connell and Gladys Lehman, from a play by Phyllis Duganne, is a wholesome comedy. Under Joe Pasternak's production supervision, William Seiter directed with an understanding that must be credited with contributing a large portion of the film's assets.

Twentieth Century-Fox's screen version of that record-shattering stage hit, "Tobacco Road," is expertly produced and magnificently enacted. Darryl F. Zanuck, who was in charge of its making, and Nunnally Johnson, who scripted, carefully eliminated the obscenity and objectionable sex sequences which were in the original, but at the same time retained its pathos and scattered humorous situations. As Jeeter Lester, the Georgia cracker, Charley Grapewin is nothing short of superb; while notable performances are delivered by the remainder of the cast. Worthy of wide patronage and praise, the picture's sordidness may prove a barrier among the more squeamish, however, while others may look askance at the manner in which re-

(Continued on page 85)

Think Decree Won't Alter "Sneak" Preview Practice

Although a strict interpretation might indicate that a comparatively obscure clause in the consent decree may have an effect upon the so-called "sneak" previews as employed by the Hollywood studios as a means of gaining an unbiased audience reaction to new product, the consensus among publicity directors and executive personnel holds that there will be no change in the system.

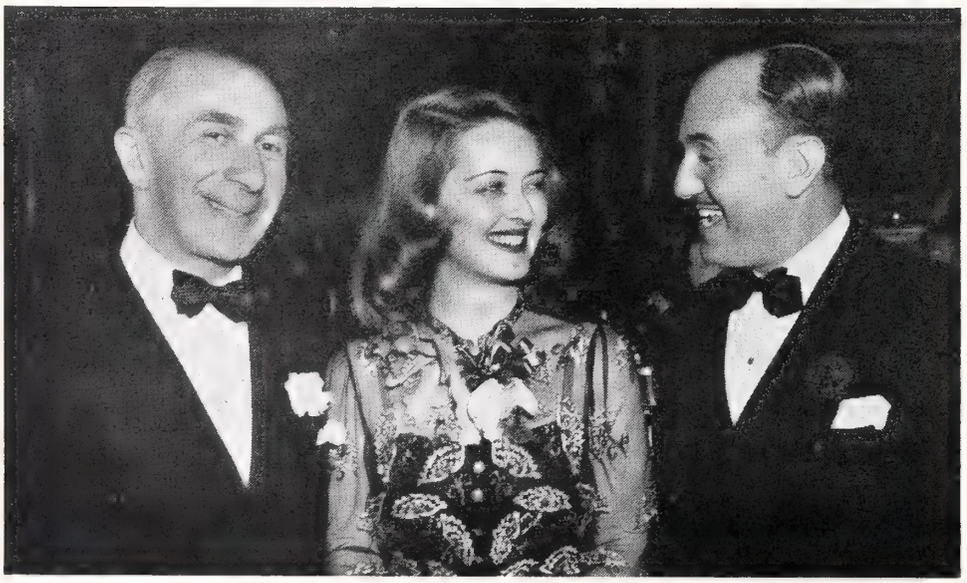
The clause in question rules that no motion picture is to be screened, for profit, before exhibitors have been given an opportunity to view it at a formal trade showing, in accordance with other consent decree regulations.

To date, those in authority who have studied the potentialities of the setup submit that the phrase, "for profit," automatically eliminates sneak previews from the ruling. They point out that, in the first place, the exhibitor is charged no rental for the film being previewed. Consequently, the distributor receives no profit from the showing. If any additional revenue accrues through increased patronage because of added audience interest in the preview, those extra receipts are pocketed by the theatre operator. No attempt is made to advertise the name of the sneak, but the showman may raise his admission prices if he desires.

Parenthetically, spokesmen add, there could be but one possible set of circumstances wherein the consent decree clause might be invoked, and then only by the most narrow reasoning. This would embrace a theatre in which an M-G-M film, for example, is playing on a percentage basis. Should M-G-M studio officials set in a sneak which would draw in an appreciably greater amount of business, the company's gross from the regularly-booked film would benefit accordingly. In such an instance, it is admitted, there might be some, but very little, justification for questioning the screening on the "for profit" provision.

Studio attaches point out further that the consent decree applies primarily to the relationship between exhibition and distribution, which again removes the sneak preview from the scene because sneak showings are arranged directly between studio representatives and theatre operators. In the majority of instances the distribution branch of the company involved is not even notified that such a screening has been scheduled. The studio's local exchange is never consulted. Further, sneaks are almost entirely a local practice, confined preponderantly to Hollywood and its environs.

One particular studio, for example, has four "favored" locations for its sneaks—Long Beach, Huntington Park, Inglewood and Pomona. The first three are within ten miles of Los Angeles and Pomona is approximately 40. When a sneak screening of any new picture is decided upon, a studio publicist checks with theatres in those towns to ascertain what program they may be running at that time. An effort is made to book the sneak with a picture which does not parallel it as to subject matter and type. Should the sneak be a comedy, for instance, the studio avoids setting it in with a program on which the main attraction is also a comedy. It does not even insist that the regular feature be one of its own pictures, so long as there is sufficient of a contrast between it and the sneak so that a fair and unprejudiced audience reaction can be obtained.



At the Dance—

Stars and notables of every description turned out for the Warner Studio Club's seventh annual dinner-dance at the Biltmore Bowl. Caught by the camera, at left, are Harry M. Warner and Jack L. Warner, exchanging pleasantries with their company's top-ranking star, Bette Davis. Below, Dennis Morgan and Mrs. Jack L. Warner are in animated conversation; to the lower left, Jack L. Warner jr., with Patsy Mace on his arm, makes an entrance.





PRC Starting Five Films This Month

Spurred by the consummation of a $1,000,000 trade deal whereby Consolidated Film Industries will finance and process its 1941-42 schedule, Producers Releasing Corp. is readying a picture-making boom which will find three features and two westerns rolling this month. The deal was set between President O. Henry Briggs of PRC and Joseph Aller of Consolidated. The latter company will handle the complete negative development, printing, titles and inserts on the PRC lineup of 63 films.

Other Activity

T. H. Richmond has been assigned to produce a second feature for PRC, "South to Panama," from a story by Sidney Sheldon and Ben Roberts. It rolls March 10.

A March 20 start has been set for "Murder by the Stars," which Sam Katzman will produce for Monogram with Bela Lugosi in the leading role. Al Martin scripted.

George W. Weeks, producer of the "Range Busters" westerns for Monogram, is planning to produce an additional series of eight pictures on Monogram's 1941-42 program, to be known as "The Four Horsemen." No cast has been lined up as yet for the new sagebrushers.

Edward Small's next for United Artists will be "Twin Beds," from the Margaret Mayo stage play. Walter DeLeon is doing the script and Ralph Murphy will direct.

Harry Sherman will launch a new "Hopalong Cassidy" western for Paramount, "Secret of the Wastelands," April 1, following "The Parson of Panamint." Five others are completed and awaiting release.

Second in Jerrold Brandt's "Scattergood Baines" series for RKO Radio release, starring Guy Kibbee, will roll March 10 under the direction of Christy Cabanne. Brandt is shooting at the RKO Pathe studios in Culver City.

LaBarba to Free-Lance

After four years at the 20th-Fox studio as a writer and story advisor, Fidel LaBarba has checked off the lot to freelance. During his stay he worked on more than 30 scripts.



Spearheads

(Continued from page 83)

ligion is treated. John Ford's direction is up to his usual competent standard.

Well up to par for this popular series is M-G-M's "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary." The ingredients which have made the Hardy Family top film favorites have been inculcated in the Jane Murfin-Harry Ruskin script, written from a Katharine Brush original. The film is noteworthy particularly for marking the screen debut of Kathryn Grayson, a youthful actress and singer, who looks like certain star material. In the title role, Mickey Rooney is as irrepressible as usual. George B. Seitz turned in a deft directorial chore.

* * *

Another foursome can be grouped as supporting fare, each with better-than-average possibilities in its respective classification. Paramount's "The Hard-Boiled Canary" can be classed as an experimental sally into cultural fields which, with a preponderantly juvenile cast, may possess a dramatic appeal to youngsters. It also has moments of rare entertainment to offer music lovers, but its maximum possibilities were lost somewhere in the maze of a naive, maudlin and over-length story. Scores of talented young amateur musicians from the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich., vie with Allan Jones and Susanna Foster in the toplines, all turning in acceptable performances. Andrew L. Stone produced, directed and collaborated on the original story with Robert Lively. They worked from an idea by Ann Ronell which was scripted by Frederick Jackson.

Hopalong Cassidy gets away from his usual stamping grounds, geographically, in his 38th film adventure—Harry Sherman's "In Old Colorado," made for Paramount release—but doesn't deviate a bit from his well-established system for delivering top-notch action entertainment to the sagebrush fans. William Boyd is, of course, the redoubtable Hopalong; while the humor content is stepped up through the casting of double-talking Cliff Nazarro in a supporting role. Sherman again demonstrates his flair for selecting scenically appropriate backgrounds. Howard Bretherton directed ably, using a script by Norton S. Parker and J. Benton Cheney.

* * *

Columbia injects added snap into its "Blondie" series by emphasizing the musical contributions, including three peppy Latin-American numbers, in "Blondie Goes Latin." The result is a fresh and humorous comedy which fans of the Bumsteads should welcome. Frank R. Strayer directed for Producer Robert Sparks, while Richard Flournoy and Karen DeWolf teamed on the script, for which Quinn Martin supplied the original story. Arthur Lake, Penny Singleton and Larry Simms share cast honors with such newcomers as Tito Guizar and Ruth Terry.

Also a Columbia release is the second in Larry Darmour's new series, "Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery." It incorporates suspense, intrigue, comedy and thrills in sufficient quantities to insure its popularity among action-seekers. Darmour, mounting it unstintingly, peopled it with a capable cast, with Ralph Bellamy repeating in the title role, and Margaret Lindsay and Charley Grapewin again portraying his secretary and the inspector of police respectively. Eric Taylor contributed a clean-cut and logical script from an original by "Ellery Queen." James Hogan's direction is brisk.

Bringing up the rear was Monogram's "Flying Wild," latest in Producer Sam Katzman's "East Side Kids" series. Probably because the general idea was too ambitious for its budget limitations, it is far less acceptable and entertaining than the average previously established. Al Martin's story and screenplay is fundamentally weak and the vehicle was roughly directed by William West.



In Recognition—

Metro's "The Philadelphia Story" was selected by the National Screen Council as the best feature released during January. Consequently BOXOFFICE *Blue Ribbon Awards were dispatched to those responsible for its creation. Shown here with their plaques are, at the left: Producer Joseph Mankiewicz; above, Director George Cukor; right, Donald Ogden Stewart.*



Hollywood—
—Personnelities

Barnstormers

Paramount

PHIL REGAN appeared and sang at a convenvention of the Associated Boys Clubs of America in Chicago, February 26-27. Regan has just completed the lead in "Las Vegas Nights."

Blurbers

BERT W. HOLLOWAY, former Paramount studio publicist, has been named national public relations director for the Lockheed-Vega Aircraft Corp.

JOHN JOSEPH, Universal publicity-advertising director, has been elected chairman of the Publicity Directors Committee of the major studios, succeeding Harry Brand of 20th Century-Fox.

Briefies

Soundies Corp.

J. N. (JACK) BROWER, general manager, checks out for New York, where he will spend ten days lining up future production plans for the coin-in-slot machines.

Cleffers

Warner Bros.

MAX STEINER composing musical score for "Shining Victory."

Meggers

Columbia

EVERETT RISKIN to produce "He's My Uncle," a conscription camp musical, in which Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth will co-star.

Metro

CHARLES RIESNER to direct "Step This Way," a Marx Brothers comedy.

Paramount

STUART HEISLER to pilot "Among the Living," a horror tale to star Albert Dekker.

MARK SANDRICH to produce and direct an untitled Irving Berlin musical starring Bing Crosby.

OTIS GARRETT to pilot "World Premiere," a Sol C. Siegel production written by Earl Felton.

VICTOR SCHERTZINGER named director of "Birth of the Blues," a Bing Crosby starrer to roll April 1.

Republic

LES ORLEBECK to direct an untitled Three Mesquiteers western.

RKO Radio

LEE MARCUS to produce "The Father Takes a Wife," with Signe Hasso, Anne Shirley and Adolphe Menjou, as his first chore since being named aide to J. R. McDonough. Jack Hively will direct.

Edward Small

RALPH MURPHY to direct "Twin Beds," being scripted by Walter DeLeon for United Artists release.

20th Century-Fox

LOU OSTROW to produce "Fraternity," from a story by Mary C. McCall jr.

KENNETH MACGOWAN to produce "Flight Surgeon," being scripted by Warren Duff.

Warner Bros.

VINCENT SHERMAN to pilot "Underground," anti-Nazi story being scripted by Charles Grayson from the Oliver H. P. Garrett-Edwin Justus Mayer original.

Options

Columbia

KAY HARRIS, secretary to a business executive, signed for the title role in the "Tillie the Toiler" series. She has had limited acting experience in Wisconsin and Illinois stock companies.

FREDDIE BARTHOLOMEW and **JIMMY LYDON** signed for leads in "Naval Academy."

RICHARD LANE replaces **WILLIAM GARGAN** in "Time Out for Rhythm."

Metro

ELISHA COOK jr. draws a comedy topline in "Love Crazy."

KENT TAYLOR draws the male lead opposite Ann Rutherford in "Washington Melodrama." S. Sylvan Simon is directing.

CHILL WILLS, comedian, given new contract.

Monogram

BELA LUGOSI signed for the lead in "Murder by the Stars," a Sam Katzman production being scripted by Al Martin.

Paramount

MICHELINE CHEIREL, French stage and screen actress, draws a topline in "Hold Back the Dawn."

RKO Radio

HARRY CAREY given a topline in "Parachute Battalion," the Howard Benedict production.

KATHARINE LESLIE, New York stage actress, signed for the second feminine lead in the Ronald Colman starrer, "My Life With Caroline."

Republic

BOB CROSBY signed for the top role in "Rookies on Parade." He has just completed the lead opposite Judy Canova in "Sis Hopkins." Crosby will appear opposite Ruth Terry in the new conscription camp comedy, which Joseph Santley will direct.

EDDIE FOY jr. given comedy lead in "Rookies on Parade."

RAY MIDDLETON, stage-opera singing star, draws term acting contract and a role in "Lady From New Orleans."

GERTRUDE NIESEN draws a featured role in "Rookies on Parade."

20th Century-Fox

HERMES PAN, dance director, held for another term.

Universal

WILLIAM A. SEITER given new three-picture deal as a producer-director.

Warner Bros.

TOM WHITNEY given term acting contract. He is from the Pasadena Community Playhouse.

GERALDINE FITZGERALD given new acting contract. She has just completed the top feminine role in "Shining Victory."

Scripters

Columbia

LOUIS MELTZER teamed with **MICHAEL BLANKFORT** on "Texas," which George Marshall will direct for Producer Sam Bischoff.

Samuel Goldwyn

JOHN WEXLEY to "McIntosh," from a W. Somerset Maugham story.

Metro

HARRY RUBY to "The World's Our Oyster," a Joseph Mankiewicz production.

FRANZ SCHULZ to an untitled original for Producer Frederick Stephani.

BRADBURY FOOTE to "Squatter's Rights." Harry Rapf produces.

Paramount

KENNETH EARL and **CURTIS KENYON** to "Cupid With a Beard," an original by Michael Uris. Paul Jones will produce the Bing Crosby starrer.

WILKIE MAHONEY to "Aloma of the South Seas."

CLIFFORD GOLDSMITH and **SAM TAYLOR** complete "Henry and Dizzy," next in the "Aldrich Family" series. It rolls March 24 with the newly-signed team of Jimmy Lydon and Charley Smith in the title roles.

Republic

LAWRENCE KIMBLE to "Newspapermen Are Human." George Arthur will produce.

Harry Sherman

GERALD GERAGHTY to "Secret of the Wastelands," next "Hopalong Cassidy" western for Paramount.

20th Century-Fox

JANE STORM to "Green Entry," from the F. Ruth Howard novel, for Producer Lou Ostrow.

DARRELL WARE and **KARL TUNBERG** to "Pearl of Pearl Harbor." Fred Kohlmar will produce.

EDWIN BLUM and **DON ETTLINGER** to "Song and Dance Man."

LAMARR TROTTI to "A Yank in the R. A. F."

ROBERT PIROSH to "European Plan," from a Manny Seff story, which Milton Sperling will produce.

LAMAR TROTTI to "Rise and Shine" for Producer Lou Edelman.

Warner Bros.

EDWIN GILBERT to "Hot Nocturne," James Cagney starrer, from his own original.

OWEN CRUMP to "Now and Then," two-reeler history of transportation.

Story Buys

Columbia

"Southern Cross," by Osso and Edgar Van Eyss.

E. B. Derr

"I Give My Life," by John T. Neville, who is scripting for an April 22 starting date.

Metro

"The Road Away From Home," by Richard English and Clifford Dowdey, for production by Milton Bren.

RKO Radio

"Journey Into Fear," by Eric Ambler. Michele Morgan, French actress, will be starred. David Hempstead will produce and Robert Stevenson has been signed to direct, with Ben Hecht doing the script.

Warner Bros.

"The Gay Sisters," by Stephen Longstreet, as a Bette Davis starrer. It will follow "The Widow of Devil's Island" on her schedule, with Edmund Goulding to direct.

Technically

Columbia

JEROME PYCHA jr. designing sets for "Naval Academy."

ARTHUR SEID to edit "Time Out for Rhythm."

Metro

SAMMY LEE directing dance sequences in "Washington Melodrama."

OLIVER MARSH lensing dance sequences in "Lady Be Good."

HAROLD ROSSON lensing "Washington Melodrama."

PAUL GROESSE named art director on "The Yearling."

JAY MARCHANT, unit production manager on "The Yearling," has checked out for Ocala, Fla., to make advance arrangements for a company of 60 players and technicians who will leave April 1 to work on location there in the Spencer Tracy starrer.

CHARLES LEVIN named unit manager on "Washington Melodrama."

Paramount

L. B. (DOC) MERMAN, production manager, scouting locations around Prescott, Ariz., for "Forced Landing," second in the series of aviation films starring Richard Arlen being produced for Paramount release.

JOHN MESCALL to lens "The Night of January 16."

RKO Radio

BERNARD HERZBRUN designing sets for Producer Jerrold Brandt's next "Scattergood Baines" film.

Republic

EWING SCOTT, who will direct and write, and **MALA,** who will star, have checked out as the heads of a sound and camera crew to spend six months in and around Point Barrow, Alaska, filming "Son of Nanook."

Harry Sherman

SHERMAN A. ROSE will edit "Secret of the Wastelands" and "Timber Wolves," next two "Hopalong Cassidy" westerns for release by Paramount.

Warner Bros.

MAX PARKER named art director on "Hard to Get."

WARREN LOW to edit "The Gentle People."

RUSS SAUNDERS named assistant director on "Hard to Get."

Columbia Signs Leisen For Dietrich Starrer

Permitted one outside commitment annually on his Paramount contract, Mitchell Leisen has been signed by Columbia to produce and direct "Miss Madden Is Willing," in which Marlene Dietrich will be starred. The story is by James Edward Grant.

It will be Leisen's first chore as a megaphonist for any studio but Paramount, with which he has been associated as a director since 1933. The Columbia assignment will begin in June, when Miss Dietrich has completed an acting stint for Warner.

SWG Seeking Data Before Dealing

For use in pending negotiations with producers concerning revisions in the current basic agreement, which expires in April, the Screen Writers Guild has distributed a questionnaire among film scriveners, seeking information on such items as:

Whether they favor a minimum wage scale; abolition of so-called "flat" deals where the sum involved is under $5,000; and a minimum employment guarantee. It also asks writers their present salaries and other information to be correlated for reference when the negotiation committee, headed by President Sheridan Gibney, meets with the producers. Items in the questionnaire were also discussed at an open SWG board meeting.

Being discussed by representatives of the IATSE studio locals is the question as to whether negotiations with the producers for revisions in their contracts should be handled by the individual locals or turned over to the IA international. Local negotiating committee is headed by Harold V. Smith, business representative of the sound technicians, and includes representatives from the projectionists, grips, utility workers, electricians, costumers and property men. Producers, through Pat Casey, labor contact, have indicated they will not consider opening negotiations until the matter of which shall be the bargaining agent has been settled.

Study Independent Casting Field

With its next move the elimination of those extra players who worked 20 days or less in 1939 from Screen Actors Guild membership, the SAG-producer standing committee has begun a probe of the independent casting field to amplify on the records of extra placements and earnings as tabulated through Central Casting.

Studio scenic artists have voted to accept the producers' offer of a wage increase of 50 cents per hour, boosting the scale to $2.75 per hour. The Screen Office Employes Guild has authorized its executive board to negotiate with producers for a uniform contract "in any way that they deem advisable." Studios have been insisting on conducting negotiations individually rather than as a group.

Here for conferences with local union leaders is Joseph Marshall, international vice-president of the Studio Utility Employes. He came out from Miami, where he attended a session of the American Federation of Labor's executive council.

In its open board meeting, the SWG decided to request a minimum weekly salary of $150 for film scriveners when negotiations with producers for a new basic agreement get under way. It will also demand that speculative writing, to which members declared themselves unanimously opposed, be abolished entirely.

Producers and the SAG have begun their long-delayed discussion of conditions affecting extra players, with a view to reclassifying them as to wage brackets and thus alleviating the current unemployment situation. Being discussed are proposals that the $11 and $8.25 calls be abolished in favor of a straight $10 call, while another suggestion being threshed out is that the $5.50 call also be eliminated except where 50 or more extras are requested, without special wardrobes, for mob scenes. Edward Arnold heads the SAG's negotiating committee.

Scheduled meeting of the producer-Screen Directors Guild conciliation committee has been postponed until March 5. SDG is seeking a minimum salary scale for directors on low-budget features, vacation clauses, guaranteed employment and a 90 per cent Guild shop.

Following a meeting of representatives of eight IATSE studio locals, it was decided to abandon the idea of enlisting the IA international in negotiating contract revisions with the producers. A meeting with Pat Casey, labor contact for the Hays office, was scheduled for February 27, at which the preliminaries toward negotiating new basic agreements with the individual unions were discussed.

A jurisdictional dispute between the Society of Motion Picture Artists and Illustrators and the Moving Picture Painters has arisen, each claiming jurisdiction over studio title artists. Averting a threatened strike, George Pal Productions has agreed to recognize the Screen Cartoonists Guild as exclusive bargaining agent for employes of the organization.

A Big Construction Program by Metro

One of the heaviest construction programs to be undertaken by M-G-M for more than a year is now under way, for which 1,500 men have been employed on three shifts, 18 hours a day. They are building sets for "Billy the Kid," "Lady Be Good," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "Blossoms in the Dust."

March Production In Like a Lion

True to the old adage, March is coming in like a lion insofar as Hollywood production activity is concerned. A total of 34 features are already set for camera work this month—with nine more to follow in April, according to present schedules.

Far out in front in point of quantity is Paramount, which lists eight starters. These include "Aloma of the South Seas," "Two Bad Angels," "Buy Me That Town," "World Premiere," "Henry and Dizzy," "Nothing But the Truth," "Dildo Cay" and a Harry Sherman western, "The Parson of Panamint." In April it will film "Birth of the Blues" and "Secret of the Wastelands."

Columbia lists "Texas," "Senate Page Boys," "Show Business" and "Bedtime Story." Twentieth Century-Fox will roll "Miami," "Sun Valley" and "Sioux City." Universal is preparing "Mutiny in the Arctic" and "Almost an Angel" and will follow in April with "Men of the Timberlines" and "Ready for Romance."

The United Artists schedule includes "The Battle of Britain," Richard Rowland; "The Jungle Book," Alexander Korda, and "Strange Victory," Sol Lesser. In April David O. Selznick will roll "Jane Eyre" and Hal Roach will launch "Niagara Falls." M-G-M plans an untitled "Dr. Kildare," a "Tarzan" feature and "Smilin' Through," with "The Yearling" and "Babes on Broadway" to go in April. Monogram has "Murder by the Stars."

"Dive Bomber," "Hard to Get," "Bad Men of Missouri" and "Underground" will roll at Warner. Second in the "Scattergood Baines" series and "Parachute Battalion" are on RKO Radio's schedule, plus an April starter, "True to Form." Republic is readying an untitled "Three Mesquiteers" sagebrusher; "Puddin' Head," "Lady From New Orleans," and "Rookies on Parade."

Cinémarks

When Director Anatole Litvak stumbled over a moving camera dolly on the set of Warner's "The Gentle People," he incurred a sprained ankle and a fractured bone in his left foot. Following first-aid treatment on the set he continued on the job.

*

Y. Frank Freeman, Producers Association president, was host at a luncheon at Paramount honoring John and Mike Cowles, publishers of the Des Moines Register, Look *Magazine and other newspapers and syndicates. Association directors and the publicity directors committee attended.*

*

Arthur E. Meyerhoff, Wrigley Co. representative, is here for conferences with Producer Jerrold Brandt on cooperative tieups between the gum firm and Brandt's series of "Scattergood Baines" films.

*

Max Kravtz, sales manager for Stephens-Lang Productions, has returned from a nation-wide tour building up interest in the "Dr. Christian" series, starring Jean Hersholt, which RKO Radio releases.

*

When William Keighley has completed direction of his current Warner assignment, he plans to check out on a six-week tour of South America, during which he will visit and confer with the heads of the principal Warner offices there.

*

Celebrating the birthday of E. J. Mannix, a group of M-G-M executives were guests at a party given at Louis B. Mayer's home, with Mannix as the honored guest, February 24.

*

Producer David O. Selznick has returned from a two-week stay at Palm Springs, during which he vacationed and worked on some story ideas.

Successful Concert Aids Greek War Relief Fund

Already enriched by a $50,000 contribution from the motion picture permanent charities committee, the Greek War Relief Fund was due for another increase as a result of the success of the concert at the Shrine Auditorium in which composers, song writers and film stars participated. Fifteen thousand dollars in admissions were sold in advance through purchase by various Greek organizations, as well as district and divisional managers of the Fox West Coast circuit, whose president, Charles P. Skouras, is handling the Greek relief drive for Southern California. The $50,000 check was presented to Skouras by Samuel Goldwyn, representing the film colony, and represented the proceeds from a radio broadcast at Grauman's Chinese Theatre some time ago.

James FitzPatrick, M-G-M shorts producer, has donated one of his Traveltalks, "Historic Athens," to be given showings for the Greek War Relief drive, the short to be screened in FWC houses throughout the area.

Appearing on the Shrine Auditorium program, which was not broadcast, were such players as Deanna Durbin, Jack Benny, Eddie Cantor, Judy Garland, Bob Hope, Francis Langford, Tony Martin, Mary Martin and composers including Sigmund Romberg, Jerome Kern, George M. Cohan and Victor Young.

To preview the first two army training films produced by the Academy Research Council for the War Department, and to confer with industry executives on the progress being made on other films being made for the national defense program, Maj.-Gen. J. O. Mauborgne, chief signal officer of the U. S. army, checked in from Washington, D. C., for a two-day stay February 26-27.

General Mauborgne was guest of honor at a dinner given in his honor by Lieut.-Col. Darryl F. Zanuck, Research Council chairman, at 20th Century-Fox, attended by Council members, officers and members of the Academy's board of governors, officers and members of the producers association, and the producers' defense coordination committee. Preview of the training films followed the dinner. Zanuck, Maj. Nathan Levinson of Warner and Capt. Gordon S. Mitchell, Council manager, have left for Washington to formally deliver the two training films to army officials.

Moulton Releasing Six Shorts Via Paramount

Herbert Moulton, former Paramount shorts and trailer producer, has set a releasing deal through that company for a quota of six short subjects per year, titled "Hedda Hopper's Hollywood," which he is producing independently.

Miss Hopper will furnish the commentary and will also appear in the subjects, which will be in the nature of "candid" shots of the stars at work and play. Moulton has leased office and shooting space at the Hal Roach studios in Culver City, and is rolling the first short immediately for a May release.

REVIEW FLASHES

FOOTSTEPS IN THE DARK (WB)—Errol Flynn forsakes swashbuckling and action to play the debonair amateur detective and solve a murder-mystery which specializes in comedy rather than suspense. His performance as a dilettante sleuth is noteworthy as are other elements of the feature, which sums up as an acceptable parcel of diverting entertainment. Robert Lord produced; Lloyd Bacon directed.

LADY EVE, THE (Para't)—In the sophisticated romantic-comedy vein, this has seldom been equalled this season. Written and directed by Preston Sturges, who was responsible for "The Great McGinty," it looks like a certain success wherever smart, sparkling entertainment is in demand. Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda are co-starred.

MELODY FOR THREE (RKO)—This can be recommended without reservation to fans of the "Dr. Christian" series starring Jean Hersholt, for it possesses the same blend of down-to-earth hokum and comedy which characterized its predecessors. Additionally it presents a promising juvenile player, by name Schuyler Standish, who performs miracles with a violin. William Stephens produced; Erle C. Kenton directed.

Schaefer Planes East On Personal Business

Interrupting his current extended stay at the studio, where he has assumed full charge for an indefinite period, President George J. Schaefer of RKO Radio planed east on personal business that took him to Chicago and New York for three days. The company head was expected to return to his local headquarters before the end of the week. The nature of his trip was not disclosed, but studio attaches asserted that as far as was known here it had nothing to do with company matters.

David L. Loew, partner of Albert Lewin in Loew-Lewin Productions, has returned from a lengthy stay in the east, during which he discussed production plans with United Artists homeoffice executives and attended the New York opening of Loew-Lewin's first UA production, "So Ends Our Night." Another UA producer, Alexander Korda, trained for New York to arrange for the eastern opening of his new film, "That Hamilton Woman."

Macgowan Directs Unity Committee

Kenneth Macgowan has resigned a $2,500 a week producership at 20th Century-Fox to become non-theatrical director for the South American Unity Committee at $8,000 yearly. He will headquarter in New York.

Busier Than Usual Week For Producers Ass'n

Busier than usual was the week's schedule for members of the Producers Association and Will H. Hays, president of the MPPDA, here on one of his periodic visits.

Association officers, and members of the board of directors, were among the guests when Darryl F. Zanuck entertained Maj. Gen. J. O. Mauborgne, chief signal officer of the U. S. army, at a dinner at 20th Century-Fox, which event culminated General Mauborgne's two-day stay here.

Earlier, Y. Frank Freeman, recently elected association president for a second term, was guest of honor at a banquet tendered him at M-G-M by Louis B. Mayer. Mayer paid tribute to Freeman for his past work in office and presented him with an ebony gavel. Mayer also complimented E. J. Mannix, re-named vice-president, and Cliff Work, named for another term as second vice-president. Speakers, aside from Mayer, included Hays, Samuel Goldwyn, Mannix, Mendel Silberberg, George Schaefer, Work and Harry M. Warner.

Those attending, in addition to the speakers, included Fred W. Beetson, Harry Brand, George Cohen, Zanuck, Pat Casey, Harry Cohn, Herbert Freston, William Goetz, Jacob Karp, B. B. Kahane, Jock Lawrence, E. J. Loeb, J. R. McDonough, Homer Mitchell, J. J. Nolan, Fred Pelton, Hal E. Roach, Howard Strickling and Alfred Wright.

Western representatives of a number of national magazines have formed an association for the purpose of contacting Jock Lawrence, Hays office public relations counsel, to bring about closer cooperation and better relations.

WB Works to Increase Quality of Trailers

Aiming to increase the entertainment qualities of trailers, Warner has assigned three top composers to write special music for a trio of trailers. Dmitri Tiomkin is doing a special score for "Meet John Doe," Max Steiner is scoring the trailer for "The Great Life" and Erich Wolfgang Korngold is assigned a similar job on the trailer for "The Sea Wolf." Edward Selzer is supervising.

LeMaire to Paramount

Continuing the realignment of production personnel which found B. G. DeSylva succeeding LeBaron as executive producer, Paramount has signed Rufus LeMaire to handle special assignments under DeSylva's guidance. LeMaire has been connected with Warner, M-G-M and RKO Radio in various executive capacities.

Blumenthal Upped

Richard Blumenthal has been promoted to an associate producership at Paramount after functioning for several years as an assistant to Producer Arthur Hornblow jr. Prior to his work at the studio, Blumenthal worked in Paramount's home office. His first assignment will be announced shortly by B. G. DeSylva, executive producer.

Lay Plans for Aiding Greek Relief Fund

LOS ANGELES—Plans whereby all Southern California exhibitors, both circuit and independent, will participate in the national "Greek Independence Week," which gets under way March 24 as a means of raising funds through the theatres for Greek War Relief, were laid at a mass meeting at the Ambassador Hotel here February 24.

Speakers included Robert H. Poole, executive secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., who is representing all exhibitors on the committee in charge; Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin and Adamantios Th. Polyzoides, faculty member at the University of Southern California and himself a native of Greece.

350 Pledge Support

Exhibitors and distributors numbering approximately 350 were on hand to pledge unanimous support. The committee, of which W. E. Calloway, Warner branch manager, is chairman, will seek to have Gov. Culbert E. Olsen issue a proclamation making "Greek Independence Week" official throughout the state. A special trailer made by M-G-M and featuring Melvyn Douglas will be screened in theatres throughout the area. Collections will be handled by clubwomen and civic leaders in each community, who will turn the money directly over to the national Greek War Relief committee.

Poole and Calloway, assisted by Harry Nace of the Nace-Publix circuit in Arizona, are devoting all their available time to the undertaking. As a consequence Poole, who is also executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, reports that further action is being tabled, for the time being, on the PCCITO's contemplated suit against Ascap. Albert J. Law, PCCITO counsel, is still working on a bill of complaint to be filed in federal court, and through which the organization will seek to kill the "dual scoring" charge which exhibitors must now pay for the privilege of screening films containing Ascap music.

"Rebecca" Playing Third Return Week

Hollywood—Benefiting by a strong publicity campaign, the return engagement of David O. Selznick's United Artists production, "Rebecca," at the Hawaii Theatre has been extended for a third week after an SRO first stanza and a strong second week. The film had been withdrawn from its last 10-cent runs and went immediately into the 55-cent-top Hollywood Theatre with a gala "critics' award premiere."

El Rey in Sacramento Destroyed by Fire

SAN FRANCISCO—A fire of unknown origin swept through the El Rey in downtown Sacramento causing $50,000 damage to the theatre and the building in which it was housed. The daytime blaze evidently began in the projection room and was well under way before it was discovered. The theatre, owned and operated by Irvin and Allen Lee, was completely destroyed.

Three other theatre fires occurred in this territory during this week. The Ideal in McFarland was slightly damaged and the Mendota in Mendota had a projection room blaze. Both of these houses belong to Tony Bou. The Quincy in Quincy, owned by Paul Sprague, was damaged by a fire apparently started by a careless smoker.

"Fantasia" Roadshows At Geary on March 5

SAN FRANCISCO—"Fantasia" opens at the Geary, March 5, on the roadshow basis of two-a-day. Opening night will be sponsored by the San Francisco Opera Guild and prices will range from $1 to $5. A sell-out is indicated by the advance sale.

Hal Neides, who will manage the theatre for this run, will be assisted by Fred Kislingbury, Gladys Mensh and Morrie O'Hern. Irving Ludwig came out from New York to handle technical details.



At a Birthday Party—

It was the occasion for a party at the Florentine Gardens in Hollywood when Mrs. Fred Mercy, wife of the northwest theatre operator, celebrated a birthday recently. She and her husband flew down from Yakima, Washington, to be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Quinn, district credit manager for Altec Service. In this photo the Mercys are at the left, the Quinns on the right.

Arbitration Panel Named for Seattle

Seattle—While the number will probably be swelled in the future, the following have been named as members of the arbitration panel for the Seattle film tribunal by the American Arbitration Ass'n:

Frank S. Bayley sr., attorney, 759 Stuart Bldg.

G. H. Bucey, attorney; Hayden, Merritt, Summers & Bucey, 840 Central Bldg.

Henry Burd, professor; University of Washington, University of Washington.

Carl Dakan, professor, University of Washington, University of Washington.

Ford Q. Elvidge, attorney, 910 Dexter Horton Bldg.

William E. Froude, attorney, Northern Life Tower.

Tracy E. Griffin, attorney, 1107 American Bldg.

W. C. Morse, hydraulic engineer and superintendent of the Seattle Water Department, 323 County-City Bldg.

Robert Peel, secretary-manager, Intermountain Ass'n of Credit Men, Utah Oil Bldg.

O. B. Thorgrimson, attorney, 2000 Northern Life Tower.

Elliott Still Awaiting His First Complaint

LOS ANGELES—Admittedly one of the most perplexed individuals in this area is William H. Elliott, clerk of the Los Angeles tribunal of the American Arbitration Assn.

Opening offices a month ago and expecting a landslide of complaints to be filed with his organization by exhibitors seeking relief from real or fancied grievances under the consent decree, Elliott reports that thus far not a single complaint has come to his attention.

And his perplexity arises, principally, out of the fact that he had been informed the Southern California territory would, judging from its past record of exhibition-distribution disputes, be among the most active in the nation.

"Perhaps it's the 'unusual weather,'" Elliott told BOXOFFICE, referring to the two weeks of almost incessant rains with which the section has been pelted. "I can't think of any other explanation."

Members of the arbitration panel for the Los Angeles tribunal were announced from New York by the AAA last week. It comprises 18 names from various professions and local firms. Complete list was published in the February 22 issue of BOXOFFICE.

Bill Forman Quits Post With Sterling Chain

SEATTLE—John Danz, president of Sterling Theatres, announces that William R. "Bill" Forman has tendered his resignation as general manager of Sterling Theatres. Forman will soon announce new plans.

SAN FRANCISCO

TERRIFIC weekend business was experienced by all theatres in the territory. And the prosperity was not limited to film houses, the city's night spots being jammed with customers as well. Army leaves and a bit of pleasant weather had a lot to do with the biggest weekend business since New Year's. In fact, it was almost a repeat of the January 1 rush to the boxoffice. Strong product in all of the first run houses was certainly a stimulus to the increased patronage.

Columbia is spreading plenty of buttons around in connection with "Columbia's Good Will" campaign. The drive begins March 1 and continues until May 30 . . . Mrs. Helen Bennett, Monogram cashier, planed out for Canada for the funeral of her mother . . . Gordon P. Allen, Monogram salesman, checked out of the hospital after a three-week stay . . . "They Met on Skis" is doing a nice business at the Clay . . . Henning and Lippert to Los Angeles by plane for Pacific Premium.

"Fantasia" opens at the Geary, March 5 for an indefinite stay. Walt and Roy Disney have both been in town supervising the installation of necessary equipment . . . Jerome Safron in for a one-day visit at Columbia . . . Frank Noege, Warner assistant shipper, has moved over to Monogram replacing Ned McArthur who leaves the industry for other fields . . . Walter Reinhertz, Warner poster clerk, reports to Uncle Sam about March 15.

Four fires in the surrounding area this week. The largest in Sacramento where the El Rey was destroyed by a blaze that did $50,000 worth of damage. Tony Bou had two of his houses hit—the Ideal in McFarland and the Mendota in Mendota. The damage was slight at both. Paul Sprague's Quincy in Quincy was another casualty with fire damaging the interior, necessitating new fixtures and fittings.

Monogram started its "Lucky Seven" playdate drive on Feb. 22 and will campaign for dates until April 11 . . . Howard Butler has been re-employed at Monogram after a year's absence from the exchange. He checked out for the San Joaquin Valley on his first jaunt . . . "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" has been packing them in at the Gate and goes into a third week . . . Harry Hemington announces a March opening for his Fowler in Fowler . . . Dick Crosby, Embassy house manager, has bought a new home for himself and his mother.

Bob Schultz took over the managership of the National Theatre Supply office here replacing Lloyd Ownbey who goes to Los Angeles for a bigger and better position. Our best to both in their new spots . . . "Pride of the Bowery" is showing first run at the Esquire and looks good for a week at least. "Secrets of the French Police" is the companion film . . . Nick Laurice was installed as business agent of Local B-17 this week . . . Pat Patterson is moving back into his former quarters sometime after March 1 when Producers vacates to move to their new quarters.

The world premiere of "A Girl, a Guy, and a Gob" will be held Mar. 5 at the Golden Gate. An impressive list of Hollywood celebs will be on hand for personals. The list is incomplete at present but will include the stars of the picture, George Murphy and Lucille Ball. It is hoped Harold Lloyd, producer, will be able to make the trip for the one-day stand. President George Schaefer of RKO will represent the studio.

Leon Applestone, manager of the Marina Theatre, has been drafted and will report about the middle of March . . . "The Light Ahead," a Yiddish film, opened at the Clay . . . Booking: Ray Harper, Mariposa, Mariposa; Odillo Restano, Sonora, Sonora, and Lou Marks, Rialto, Sacramento.

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'Mr. & Mrs. Smith' to Top Business in L. A.

LOS ANGELES—A steady siege of rain failed to dampen boxoffice grosses in the first-run houses here. With but one exception, a poor fifth week for "Cheers for Miss Bishop" at the Four Star, top business was reported right down the line. Outstanding hit was "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," coupled with "The Lone Wolf Keeps a Date," which doubled normal takes at the Pantages and came close to doing so in its day-date engagement at the RKO Hillstreet.

Detail for week ending February 18:

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox) 125
Downtown—**The Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Father's Son** (WB) 140
Four Star—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA), 5th wk. 50
Hillstreet—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **The Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col) 190
Hollywood—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Father's Son** (WB) 140
Pantages—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col) 200
Paramount—**Virginia** (Para't), plus **Bob Crosby's Orchestra** on stage 150
State—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox) 140

Low-Grossing Holdovers Feature Seattle Runs

SEATTLE—Most houses in town feature hold-overs but none can boast of doing "big" business. Beautiful sunshiny weather did not do the theatres any good over the Washington Birthday holiday. The golf courses did the biz. Liberty, after two weeks single bill on same feature, added a second picture.

Detail for week ending February 22:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M), moved from 5th Ave., 2nd wk. 90
Fifth Avenue—**Virginia** (Para't); **Life With Henry** (Para't) 90
Liberty—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 3rd wk.; **Phantom Submarine** (Col), 2nd feature added 90
Music Box—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox), 6th wk. 90
Orpheum—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN), 2nd wk. 90
Palomar—**Flight From Destiny** (WB), plus stage show 90
Paramount—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 100
Roosevelt—**High Sierra** (FN), 4th wk. 90

Above-Average Week Is Maintained in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY—Unusually fine early spring weather all week, and some attractive theatre attendance has been enjoyed here. "Philadelphia Story" carried into its third week at the Studio after the first week at the Centre. The Victory's new policy continues to be a big boxoffice attraction (one big second run and a first run). The Rialto switched to second runs for the week.

Details for week ending February 20:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Blondie Goes Latin** (Col); **Life With Henry** (Para't) 110
Centre—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 110
Lake—**Son of the Navy** (Mono); **Her First Romance** (Mono), plus stage show 105
Studio—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 105
Utah—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) 100
Victory—**Rhythm on the River** (Para't); **A Dispatch From Reuter's** (WB) 110

"GWTW" Doubles Par In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—"Gone With the Wind" made a smash return to the Warfield and from the looks of the lines that have extended in front of the theatre each day, the picture appears to be set for a long run. The Gate had a fine week with "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" holding the film for a second week. The rest of the first runs were bunched around the average mark. The weather continued a big handicap, with rain every day.

Detail for week ending February 19:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **You're the One** (Para't) 100
Golden Gate—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), with Salici Puppets on the stage 150
Orpheum—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ); **Invisible Woman** (Univ) 90
Paramount—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **The Mad Doctor** (Para't), 2nd wk. 100
St. Francis—**High Sierra** (FN); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 95
United Artists—**The Son of Monte Cristo** (UA) 110
Warfield—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 200

"Wind" and "Virginia" Rate Denver Lead

DENVER—"Gone With the Wind" at the Orpheum easily walked off with high money honors, packing the house repeatedly and holding over.

However, "Virginia" was doing a similar feat at the Denham, and the money turned in rated second to the Orpheum gross.

Detail for the week ending February 19:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Chad Hanna** (20th-Fox); **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), after wk. at the Denver 100
Broadway—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Let's Make Music** (RKO), 2nd wk., after wk. at the Orpheum 115
Denham—**Virginia** (Para't) 210
Denver—**Back Street** (Univ); **Meet the Chump** (Univ) 130
Orpheum—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 250
Paramount—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Father's Son** (WB) 140
Rialto—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), after a wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **Pride of the Bowery** (Mono) 120

LOS ANGELES

A VISITOR at the Warner studio in Burbank was Joseph Buxton, operator of the Buxton-Brennan circuit of 28 theatres in the Manchester, England, area . . . J. J. Curry has been appointed sales representative in the Los Angeles district for the newly-formed Paramount short subjects and Paramount News sales department. He was formerly branch manager for Paramount in Oklahoma City.

Joe Martin, former M-G-M shipper, is now with RKO in the same capacity . . . Jack Cooper, booker for M-G-M, took the day off to have another molar yanked . . . After sporting it for 18 years, Harry Rackin of Exhibitors Service has finally shaved off that mustache.

Francis A. Bateman, local Republic branch manager; Carl L. Bryant, office manager and booker, and John Frey and J. S. Stout, salesmen, attended the company's western division regional sales meeting at the North Hollywood studio, February 24-25 . . . In for bookings: Harvey Levinson of the Cozy; Boris Posner, operator of the Arlington; Irwin Kanowitz, Union Theatre.

Rae Winnick, secretary at M-G-M, reports her father, Jack Winnick, was held up, severely beaten and robbed of a small amount of cash the other night on his way home from work . . . Ralph Donahue, formerly a booker with RKO and National Screen Service, is now booking for Fox West Coast.

An acute appendicitis attack has sent Max Gardens, operator of the Rosslyn, to bed for a few days . . . George Hickey, M-G-M's western district manager, came in from a tour of the territory, but checks out again soon . . . Booking: Murray Hawkins, general manager of the Swan circuit; Lowell Winfield, Glendora Theatre, Glendora; Ben Peskay, operator of the Banner, Palms and York theatres.

Visiting here from Youngtown, Ohio, where he is a theatre operator, is Joseph Shagrin . . . Booking visitors: Jack Berman, Eastland circuit; Joe Buse of the Midway; Kobe Wartman, DeLuxe Theatre; Bill Kohler, Valuskis Theatre, Willowbrook; Dave Rector, Ebell, Long Beach.

San Francisco was the first stop in a tour of the territory launched by Herb MacIntyre, RKO western district manager, who headquarters here . . . Howard Perretz, M-G-M booker, is one spare tire short. Somebody lifted it from his car, parked near the office.

Back on the job is Myrna Lawson, inspectress at M-G-M, who spent a week at home with a throat infection . . . In from the regional sales convention in San Francisco are Eddie Cooke, Universal office manager, and Salesmen Lon Hoss, John Ludwig and Foster Blake.

Jerome Safron, western district manager for Columbia, has checked out for a swing around the territory . . . Braving heavy rains to drop in for bookings were Jenne Dodge, operator of the Mission and Mayfair theatres in Ventura; Ben Mohi of the Picfair, and Irwin Kanowitz, Union Theatre.

On Hand to Fight Anti-Ascap Bill

Portland—Banjo Miller, Bill Graeper, Joe Bradt, Harry Moyer and Bob White have been camped on the capital doorsteps in behalf of bill No. 281 seeking relief from the music tax imposed on the theatres by Ascap. Miller, secretary of Oregon PCCITO, has spent the past three weeks in the State capital. The bill is supported by Oregon's ablest state senators, Coe McKenna, Douglas McKay and Charles Childs. From the house of representatives William McAllister, Stanhope Pier and Harry Semon are behind it.

DENVER

RICK RICKETSON is serving on the executive committee for the Central City Opera House Play Festival. The organization, a non-profit group, sponsors the annual play festival at the 63-year-old theatre in Central City, Colo.

Evangel Temple has leased the Hiawatha Theatre, which has been closed for several months, for a period of one year with option of purchase. At the closing Fox operated the house.

The Denver *Post* is down to one page for their Sunday amusements, dropping from the two they have been carrying for a number of years, prior to which they used three.

Frank Culp, manager of the Tabor, is in Mercy Hospital here for a nasal operation . . . Arthur Bratton has taken over the closed Ovid Theatre at Ovid, Colo. H. H. Homer had formerly operated the house.

Si Saunders, booker for Fox at Denver, has been moved to Salt Lake City in the same capacity . . . Don V. Tibbs is now manager of the Producers Releasing Corp. exchange in Salt Lake City.

Jack Price has left with the National Guard from Colorado for Camp Forest, Tennessee, where he will be stationed six months, going from there to New Jersey as a radio instructor. His mother, Ann Price, has been an inspectress on the Row for many years.

RKO exchange and National Theatre Supply gave a party for their personnel at the Rocky Mountain Screen Club. Joe H. Ashby, RKO manager, and J. J. "Jap" Morgan, National Theatre Supply manager, were hosts.

Claude Graves, who is building a new theatre in Albuquerque, was in town and gave a nice equipment order to the National Theatre Supply Co. He intends calling the new theatre the El Rey.

TRADE FOR THEATRE

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PORTLAND

LILLIAN LOCKWOOD opened the doors of the Irvington Theatre to the Aid to Britain cause, and many Portlanders crowded in to swell the contribution. After the show Lillian was presented with a beautiful compact in appreciation of her service.

Visitors were numerous on the Row, with most everyone in for booking their March programs. They included: George Gessler, Sweet Home; George Gould, Dallas, (about ready to open his new theatre there); Ken and Denzel Piercy, Prineville; George Roy and George Roy jr. from the State, Salem; M. W. and Bob Mattecheck, McMinnville; George Goldstein, Bingen; Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Moore, Hermiston; Nate Rhodes, Woodland; Johnny Harvey, Battleground; Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Monroe and her daughter from Kalama; Joe Rosenfield, Dalles; Eino Hemmila and Mendy Mendenhall, Medford and Grants Pass.

June Victor, lately Banjo Miller's secretary, has left that post for a secretarial job with the Knights of Columbus, fraternal organization. Miss Elinor Casey is taking the job left vacant by Miss Victor . . . The projectionists are a happy lot these days after being advised that a goodly number of their members were granted a rise in wages . . . Art Anderson is burning the midnight oil preparing for the opening, soon, of his new State in Vancouver, Wash. Art wasted no time in starting construction as soon as the town began building heavily. Several plants were established there as soon as Bonneville power became available . . . Carl Lowe and Eddie Boyer observed their seventh anniversary of the Mount Tabor with an old fashioned party. A midnight matinee was held and ice cream and cake served to everyone attending. The boys celebrated completion of a remodeling job, which included an entirely new front and redecorated lobby.

Al Meyers of the Granada has moved into his new home not far from the theatre . . . Banjo Miller wishes to express his appreciation of the holiday declared on his birthday when all Filmrow was closed. His birthday was February 22.

Herbel Leads Sears Drive With Three Weeks to Go

LOS ANGELES—With only three more weeks to go, Warner's western sales division, under Henry Herbel, has recaptured first place in the "20th Year for Sears" sales drive. Herbel's district, which led in the first weeks of the testimonial to Gradwell L. Sears, Warner sales chief, was outstripped temporarily by the midwestern territory.

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LOS ANGELES

SEATTLE

THIS neck-of-the-woods is sure enjoying grand weather for this time of the year. Reports from California tell of heavy rains. Here, in place of the usual rain, the sun is shining and the air very warm. Great for the outloor lovers, but tough on the show-shops . . . John James Sullivan, former Seattle manager for Fox Theatres, is dead. At the time of his death he was vice-president of the National Theatre Corp. . . . The "sneak" preview is getting to be quite the thing. Started by RKO some time ago, other companies have caught on. Paramount kept up the fad this week by presenting a new production at the Fifth Avenue. Event is just advertised as a "Sneak Hollywood Preview" in conjunction with the regular show.

Local gal makes good. Vivien Mason, formerly of a local department store, garnered a load of space in the dailies due to her getting a swell part in "Ziegfeld Girl." Her dad is in business in Seattle . . . Word to Eddie Lamb, local manager for RKO, tells that his company will hold the world premiere of "A Guy, a Girl and a Gob," March 14 at the Paramount here. Personal appearances have not yet been set but some stars will be on hand . . . Funeral services for Mrs. Tom Berry were attended by representatives from every theatre and exchange in this territory. The crowd was so large that many had to stand outside the church. Mrs. Berry was one of the most popular and highly regarded exhibitors in the northwest. Her theatre is in Edmonds, a few miles from Seattle . . . L. J. McGinley, branch manager for Universal, along with Les Theuerkauf and M. G. Whitman, salesmen, out for Hollywood to attend the sales convention.

Bill Shartin, recovering from an infected leg, back at his desk . . . Jack Flannery telling that Charlie Greime of Wenatchee is in Palm Springs and will be back home March 16. His wife is coming along in fine shape and wants to be remembered to everyone . . . J. T. Sheffield, president of Republic Pictures of the Northwest, has left for Hollywood to attend a convention of branch managers. Sheff took along his aides, Eddie Walton from Seattle; Harold Sheffield, Portland; Eddie Loy, Butte; Pat Pinnell, Salt Lake, and Gene Gerbase, Denver . . . W. B. McDonald and his wife of the Avalon, Olympia, off to Detroit where they will pick up a new car and tour the south. Quite a change for Mac who owns a couple of boats and spends most of his time on the water . . . A. J. "Sully" Sullivan of United Artists got a candy doll for Valentine's Day. It was addressed to "Harvey" and signed "Brenda and Cobina" who, in this case, were Virginia Collala and Juanita Eckert of the UA office.

Henry Turner, long identified with theatres in Missoula and recently operating one of the best dude ranches in the west, passed away a few days ago . . . H. S. McLeod of the theatre equipment company named Tusco up from Portland for a few days . . . Dr. I. Q., real name Lew Valentine, doing a lot of radio interviews to prepare his opening for six weeks at the Orpheum here . . . Jerry Safron, district sales manager for Columbia, in from California and being entertained by Neal Walton . . . Joe Kelly, manager of the Warner theatre in Aberdeen, on the Row and introducing Phil Zeller who has been transferred from Santa Barbara to manager of the Warner house in Hoquiam.

Walter Mackintosh, traveling auditor for Paramount, doing his chores here . . . J. Zimmerman, M-G-M auditor, also here to do his stuff . . . Pete Dailey, assistant to Lou Smith, director of publicity for Columbia, in town from Hollywood spreading the word about several of the "big ones" Columbia has in the offing . . . Pat Madigan of the Metro office able to leave the hospital and recuperating at home . . . Neal and Ethel Walton back from Spokane and Yakima and in time to meet Mable Weitner of San Francisco, who will be their house guest for a few days . . . Earl "Doc" Henning out for San Francisco after several days here . . . Ned Edris and Bill Conner over from Tacoma together . . . Ben Fish, coast division manager for United Artists, away for a vacation in Honolulu. Before he left he was gifted with a set of traveling bags by the UA exchange heads in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. Ben will be back about March 7.

Junior Mercy sending daily official weather reports to his wife who is complaining of California's stretch of "embarrassing" weather. She is in California with Mrs. Eddie Walton . . . Henry Davidson over from Port Angeles for a hospital checkup . . . Pete Higgins giving a special preview of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" at the Egyptian for members of the University of Washington faculty . . . L. W. Conrow, president of Altec, here from New York accompanied by E. C. Schriver, district manager from Los Angeles . . . Roy Stevens over from Port Townsend . . . Al Bloom in from his east-of-the-mountain territory and spending most of his time at the hospital visiting his wife Rose.

Lionel and Corinne Brown and their daughter Gloria in from Edmonds with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davidson as their guests. Mrs. Davidson is Mrs. Brown's mother-in-law. The Browns are now operating the Princess since the passing of Mrs. Berry, who was the mother of Mrs. Brown . . . Iras "Lindy" Lindahl back to the switchboard at Hamrick-Evergreen Theatres. Lindy had left for a spell to join her family in Marble Mount following the death of her father.

"Footsteps in the Dark" Single-Billed Evenings

LOS ANGELES—With Warner's "Footsteps in the Dark" opening its day-date first-run engagement at the Warner Hollywood and Downtown theatres, February 27, the second half of the bill, "Here Comes Happiness," is being shown in the afternoons only. "Footsteps" is being single-billed in evening performances.

Directs "Underground"

HOLLYWOOD—Vincent Sherman will direct "Underground" for Warner. The anti-Nazi story is being adapted by Charles Grayson from the Oliver H. P. Garrett-Edwin Justus Mayer original.

SALT LAKE

INITIAL appointments to a panel of arbitrators to settle disputes in the motion picture industry in the Salt Lake area were announced this week here by C. V. Whitney of New York, president of the American Arbitration association. Salt Lake members are T. A. Beal, A. E. Bowen, H. M. Chamberlain, Earl J. Glade, Mark H. Greene, F. Henri Henroid, E. O. Howard, Walter C. Hurd, Robert L. Judd, Lincoln G. Kelly, C. Vernon Langlois, William J. Lowe, Bernard F. Musser, Lawrence H. Pierce, H. J. Plumhof, Ivor Sharp, W. M. Smoot and C. E. Wright. Hearings in this district will be held in offices of the Continental Bank Bldg.

Nearly 2,000 teachers and educators from Utah and surrounding states who attended sessions of the Utah regional conference of the Progressive Education association a few days ago at Provo, viewed a demonstration of motion pictures and slides to show a program of visual education which brought the school at Melno, California, national attention.

Universal Branch Manager Buck Wade is in from the territory for a few days . . . Manager Bill Seib of Columbia is expecting Division Manager Jerome Safron in Salt Lake next week, and a sales conference will be held here . . . Bud Campbell is the new booker at Columbia, having formerly been the accessory manager here. Harry Swanson succeeds him, and comes from the managership of the Butte sub-office.

"The Wild Man of Borneo" and "Blonde Inspiration" were screened for the trade by M-G-M in Salt Lake a few days ago with good results. Manager Sam Gardner reports that J. P. Byrne left for Denver after spending several days here. H. M. Richey, home office representative for Metro, left here recently after a several days visit.

Dark to vaudeville for the past two weeks, the Lake Theatre is resuming its policy of stage headliners . . . The Rialto is showing a double feature bill as a change of policy. "Western Union" has been held over for the second week and is now at the Studio after a big week at the Center.

J. T. Sheffield left Salt Lake City after conferring with the local personnel. Manager G. S. Pinnell is leaving right away for a convention at the Republic studios, which Sheffield will attend as will all western managers. They will meet with H. J. Yates and J. R. Grainger of the company . . . Smiley Burnett is in Salt Lake City accompanied by his cowboy accompanists and their string instruments, appearing on the stage of the new Broadway Theatre for a few days. This personal appearance is in conjunction with the showing of "Carolina Moon" . . . Republic Salesman Art Baron is working in Idaho currently, according to N. Scott, cashier here.

"Virginia" is receiving good advance publicity and is opening at the Centre.



—Joyce-Nones

He's AAA Man—

This is John Francis Sullivan, clerk of the Chicago arbitration tribunal. He has lived in Illinois and the Windy City 33 years, is married and is a cousin of Judge Philip L. Sullivan, sitting in the U. S. district court. A member of the Chicago Bar Ass'n and the press committee of the Holy Name Society, Chicago, Sullivan is a lawyer. He earned his degree in '36 at the John Marshall Law School. For 11 years he was with Orr, Sullivan & Richs, first as a legal stenographer, then a private secretary and for the last three years and a half assistant attorney. The law firm is headed by Judge W. H. Orr, formerly of the Illinois supreme bench. Sullivan maintains the AAA office in the Rookery Building.

Evansville, Wis., Clearance Issue to Arbitration

Chicago Ken Theatre Brings Up Clearance

CHICAGO—First suit regarding clearance in Chicago was filed with Clerk John F. Sullivan here by the Ken Theatre Corporation with three distributors—RKO, Paramount and 20th Century-Fox—named in the complaint. Chicago's initial complaint, filed by E. F. Van Derveer, operator of the State Theatre, Morris, Ill., on February 13 was in reference to nonability to obtain second-run Metro product. Landis & Landis, law firm at 33 N. La Salle St., Chicago, is handling the complaint for the Ken Theatre Corp.

The Ken Theatre, which now plays pictures the third week of general release (or 13 weeks after the opening of a film in the loop) is complaining that the Shakespeare and Pix theatres, both operated by the Schoenstadts and both located in the same neighborhood as the Ken, are playing second and third week run pictures respectively.

The Ken, in its complaint, asks that it be allowed to show 20th-Fox, RKO and Paramount films at the same time as the Shakespeare and ahead of the Pix. The Shakespeare is a 954-seat house, the Ken a 900-seat house and the Pix a 400-seat house. Ads in Chicago daily papers the day after the action was taken, quoted the following admission prices at the three theatres: Shakespeare—15 cents matinee and 20 cents evening; Ken, 15 cents from 6:00 to 6:30 p. m. and 25 cents after 6:30; Pix—10 cents all evening.

The Ken was opened by Ben Banowitz and John Landis on Sunday, February 16. It is reported that $80,000 was spent in remodeling. Formerly known as the Kenwood, the theatre was operated by the Schoenstadts until the latter part of 1939. The Kenwood was a second-week house when operated by the Schoenstadts and had 500 seats.

MILWAUKEE—The first arbitration action in this territory was filed Tuesday by the Evansville Theatre, Inc., operator of the Rex in Evansville, Wis., against Paramount.

The complaint alleges that Paramount is giving unreasonable clearance to the Jeffris Theatre in Janesville, Wis., operated by the Jeffris Theatre Co., and is improperly refusing to deliver prints of motion pictures contracted for said Rex until said pictures have been exhibited at the Jeffris.

The Evansville company claims that on the basis of admission price charged by the Jeffris it is entitled to no clearance over the Rex and seeks a finding that the said clearance is unreasonable and an award that the Jeffris is entitled to no clearance over the Rex.

The Rex is affiliated with the Eskin Theatres, Inc. and the Jeffris with the Saxe Amusement Management, Inc., both of Milwaukee. Lamfrom, Tighe, Engelhard & Peck, Milwaukee, is representing the Evansville Theatre, Inc., in the action.

Complaint Text

The complete complaint as filed with Clerk Sullivan read as follows:

"Ken Theatre, a corporation and an exhibitor within the meaning of the Consent Decree claims that the clearance granted to the Shakespeare Theatre by Paramount Pictures, Inc., 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago; Paramount Film Distributing Corp., 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago; 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., 1260 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago; Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., 1023 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago; RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 1023 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago; L. B. Keith Orpheum Corp., 1023 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago; RKO Proctor Corp., 1023 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, and RKO Midwest Corp., 1023 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, is unreasonable; and that the failure of (above-mentioned eight companies are here repeated) to grant to the Ken Theatre clearance over the Pix Theatre is unreasonable; and the Ken Theatre asks that the arbitrator shall find that the said clearance granted to the said Shakespeare Theatre by the above named distributors is unreasonable and that the failure of the above named distributors to grant to the Ken Theatre clearance over the Pix Theatre is unreasonable, and that the arbitrator enter an award fixing the clearance between the Shakespeare and Ken Theatre and the Shakespeare Theatre and the Pix Theatre."

Would Aid Members In Filing Plaints

CHICAGO—At the recent election-meeting of Allied Theatres of Illinois held at the Congress, President Jack Kirsch proposed that members take up contemplated complaints with Allied's board of directors before actually filing them. This plan was proposed so that members might be aided by the knowledge of the board members who are all veteran exhibitors.

All officers and directors were re-elected at the meeting. Jack Kirsch was not up for re-election since his 3-year term has two more years to go. Re-elected were: Van A. Nomikos, vice-president; Richard Salkin, secretary-treasurer, and Harry Nepo, sergeant-at-arms.

All officers are also automatically on the board which comprises a total of 16 members. Re-elected to the board were: Jack Rose, Indiana-Illinois circuit; Ben Bartelstein, Bartelstein circuit; Harry Rekas, Ramova, Milda and Wallace theatres; Ludwig Sussman, Adelphi; Verne Langdon, Hub and Alvin; Carl Goodman, Goodman-Harrison circuit; Charles Nelson, Lawndale; Benjamin Lasker, Jacob Lasker & Son circuit; Abe Gumbiner, Abe Gumbiner circuit; Nate Wolf, Lane Court; Richard Salkin, Jackson Park; Joseph Stern, Joseph Stern Theatres, and Sinuel Roberts, California, White Palace and Homan theatres.

The question of licensing dime-in-the-slot film machines was also discussed. It is understood that the city council may pass a resolution charging a $50 fee per machine to taverns, drugstores and other locations that might have the machines.

At the meeting it was announced that the janitors' union, which had asked for a 20 per cent increase in wages, had settled for a five per cent increase. This was retroactive from the first of the year. The minimum weekly wage for male employes, based on a 42-hour week, has been $27.50, while minimum wage for women employes has been $18 for a 42-hour week. Employes are paid time and a half for overtime.

All Allied members have signed pledges for cooperation with the industry's committee on national defense.

Narrow Gauge Films In Terre Haute Rile

TERRE HAUTE, IND.—A recent 16mm showing of "The Star Maker" by a local school, with tickets sold to parents as well as children, occasioned a letter of protest to the Paramount exchange here by A. H. Kaufman, head of the Terre Haute Theatres Ass'n and manager of the Fountain Theatre.

Requesting that the protest be forwarded to the Paramount home office, Kaufman stated in part:

"I don't know whether your company is aware of the seriousness of 16mm competition here. There are now six free merchants shows put on all summer within a radius of two to ten miles of our city . . . I cannot understand why film companies will continue to jeopardize the business of their customers by furnishing 16mm shows to free showings and schools in actual competition to theatres."

Barrett Injured

COLUMBIA, MO.—Mayor Rex P. Barrett, who is interested in local theatres, was injured slightly when his automobile collided with a truck on Highway No. 40.

Many Warner Employes Join Service Units

CHICAGO—More than a dozen Warner theatre employes have resigned in the past couple months to join various U. S. service branches.

Men who have enlisted, together with the theatre at which they were employed, and the branch of service they are now in follow:

George Walthers, Sheboygan, marines; Ben Sukis, Avalon, army; Michael Lengyel, Paramount, army; Martin Frain, Avalon, army; James Foster, Oakland, air corps; Jack Robertson, Paramount, Canadian air corps; Dean Malme, Rialto, national guard; Adolph Sugent, State, army; Robert Anderson, Avalon, marines; John Collopy, Rhodes, navy; Chris Kuris, Avalon, army; Douglas Majury, Avalon, army; Wayman Merrill, Ogden, national guard; James Holmquist, Cosmo, naval reserves; Robert Grogan, Highland, naval reserves; Donald Wright, Grove, navy, and Charles Dixon, Warner, conscripted.

Michael Nash Missing

ST. LOUIS—The wife of Michael Joseph Nash, veteran retired theatre operator, has asked St. Louis police to conduct a search for her husband who has been missing since he left last November for a Florida vacation. Nash opened a theatre of the nickelodeon type on Franklin Ave. about 1907 or 1908 and later had the King Bee. He retired several years ago and is now about 70 years of age.

Long Runs Causing Product Problem

By HAL TATE

CHICAGO—With "Fantasia" booked into the B&K Apollo for a long-time run and "Gone With the Wind" tying up the circuit's Roosevelt for some time to come, local exchange managers are tearing their hair trying to figure out some way of getting their product into downtown theatres.

RKO and Universal show their pictures at the Palace but all the other companies have a big batch of pictures ready and are scrambling to get their product into one of the other loop houses. Metro's top pictures usually open at the United Artists and oft-times stay there for a lengthy run.

Taking advantage of the situation is "Lucky" Mike Todd, who recently took over the management of the Oriental. Because of the current lack of loop outlets, Bennie Eisenberg, exchange manager for United Artists here, has sold Todd a first-run UA release, "Road Show." It is possible Todd may also have first run on another UA picture.

As a result of the loop situation, B&K is showing some first runs at their northside Riviera. Pictures playing there, however, are double-billed. Warner Bros.' "Honeymoon for Three" had its first Chicago showing last Friday at the ace Warner house, the south side Avalon.







"Fantasia" in Chicago—

In the upper left corner is the B&K Apollo in its special attire for the Disney film. Above, in the Apollo lobby during the society premiere of "Fantasia," are, left to right: Dick Condon, exploiteer in from Detroit; Toni Spitzer and Bob Montgomery who handled the campaign; and Jim Levine, midwestern district manager for Disney. To the left, the program scanners are Walter Immerman, B&K executive; Hal Horne, Walt Disney, vice-president; and Bill Garrity, chief sound engineer for the producer.



Pre-Release—

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox (right) and Sergeant Alvin York, World War hero, appear on the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Hello America" broadcast in Chicago. A sketch broadcast from Hollywood and based on the Warner picture, "Sergeant York," highlighted the program. Gary Cooper portrays Sergeant York in the picture.

Terre Haute Benefit Show for Greek Aid

TERRE HAUTE, IND.—A focal point for the Greek War Relief Fund campaign underway here will be the benefit show at the Gregory circuit's Orpheum and Fountain theatres on Saturday, March 1.

Abe Kaufman and Nat Blank, managers respectively of the Fountain and Orpheum, are active on the committee of civic leaders who are conducting the campaign.

The week of February 23 to March 1 has been proclaimed by the mayor as "Greek War Relief Week" and the newspapers are cooperating by printing the names of all contributors to the fund. Various women's clubs and the radio station too are aiding the project.

Kaufman and Blank have special tickets on sale for the benefit performance and have promoted a sound truck for ballyhoo. The operators and theatre staff are donating their services and the exchanges are furnishing films gratis.

To date some $600 has been contributed to the fund.

Guinan to PRC

ST. LOUIS—William A. Guinan has been added to the local sales staff of Producers Releasing Corp. by A. R. Dietz, branch manager. Guinan has been in the sales end of the industry for the past five years with Republic and the now defunct Grand National.

CHICAGO

VACATIONISTS at B&K include Morris Leonard, counsel in charge of real estate department, and Bill Hollander, publicity chieftain. Leonard is in South America while Hollander is acquiring tan at Miami Beach. Hollander is expected back March 10 . . . Toni Spitzer, who was in charge of exploitation for "Fantasia," has returned to New York because of illness in family.

Sylvia Needel, formerly employed at Paramount exchange in Boston, is now doing clerical work at RKO here . . . Many exhibitors attended recent funeral of Mrs. Bessie Benson, mother of Max Sachs, owner of Lexington . . . Irving Mack's son, Joseph, and Al Rezek, superintendent of the Filmack laboratory, have both been drafted. Young Mack, a graduate of Loyola University, has been working for his father.

Arthur Benjamin of Midwest Film Exchange reports he has sold French film with English titles, "Man of the Day," to World Playhouse. Film, which stars Maurice Chevalier, will play there some time in April. Benjamin is also handling another French film, "The Slipper Episode," which won honorable mention at the Venice Biennial exposition . . . Abbott Theatre Equipment has moved from 1303 S. Michigan Ave. to the Warner Bros. building at 1311 S. Wabash.

Motion pictures, as used to teach primary and secondary school children, will be one of main subjects discussed at Midwestern Forum on Visual Teaching Aids to be held at Congress Hotel, March 28-29.

Warner Notes — Via Andy Kenney: Michael Whalen, Avalon operator, is being treated at the Little Company of Mary Hospital for a cerebral hemorrhage he suffered February 4 . . . Larry Stein, Chicago advertising director and district manager for Hammond, and Mrs. Stein were hosts at their home to his managers and assistants together with their wives and girl friends . . . George Gross got nice send-off in Racine *Journal Times* upon assuming his post as manager of the Rialto there.

Bob Hickey, RKO publicity man here, arranged for appearance of Guy Kibbee on WBBM when "Scattergood Baines" star came through town on his way back to Hollywood. The "Scattergood Baines" CBS show originates here . . . Eddie Solomon in town conferring with Clyde Eckhardt, Fox branch manager, on local publicity campaigns for "Tobacco Road" and other big Fox hits . . . Fred Bartow, Paramount exploiteer here, got in some "Hard-Boiled Canary" publicity in South Bend and Grand Rapids when he accompanied the film's star, Allan Jones, on concert tour in those two towns.

Bill Crouch, in handling publicity for reissue of "Hell's Angels" at Oriental, made no mention of the late Jean Harlow. Instead he concentrated campaign by saying film showed birth of the RAF . . . Monroe Rubinger engineered some fine publicity for new WB film by having a "Miss Strawberry Blonde of 1941" chosen at the National Food Show at the Palmer House . . . Mike Todd back from New York trip in which he signed up some talent for forthcoming Oriental stage shows.

Sylvan Goldfinger, manager of Telenews, back from Cleveland where he attended opening of new Telenews there . . . Visitor on Filmrow was A. B. McCullom of the McCullom circuit . . . Ben Kalmenson, western and southern sales manager for Warner, in town for brief visit. Conferred with Rud Lohrenz, midwest district manager. Lohrenz is leading the country so far in the Sears drive which winds up mid-April.

Initial "Meet John Doe" bookings in this territory are: Mary Anderson Theatre, Louisville, March 14, and Circle, Indianapolis, March 21 . . . "Strawberry Blonde" tentatively scheduled to go into Chicago Friday . . . President William E. Weinschenker of Reel Fellows Club reports that the club has given $50 for the infantile paralysis campaign and $25 for other charitable purposes. Reel Fellows also sending out birthday cards when members celebrate their natal anniversary.

Phil Solomon is now at Garrick while Jim Thompson has been made assistant manager at Apollo . . . Dorothy Day, film and drama critic for the Chicago Herald-Examiner, *now out of existence, back from New York where she conferred with Producer Arthur Hopkins about her new play, "Bow to the Wittiest" . . . Charles Rude has taken over the 400-seat Grant in Cicero from Walter Babbitt . . . Mr. De Wolf, who has been ailing since Xmas, is now back on his feet and is managing the new Rex for Jim Chrissis.*

James E. Coston, zone manager for Warner Theatres in this territory, is expected back this Thursday from Miami vacation which included jaunt to Cuba . . . Herb Elisburg, who is selling Al Dezel's "Living Dead" as a horror show at his Studio Theatre, reports best weekend business since he played "Mannerheim Line," his top-grosser to date.

Clinton W. Vidor, a cousin of Hollywood director King Vidor, who has been with 20th Century-Fox for a quarter of a century, died on Washington's birthday. Vidor, who was 63 years old, was head night shipper at the Fox exchange here—a post he had held for the past nine years. Prior to that he had been a salesman working for Fox in their Chicago, Milwaukee and Kansas City ex-

(Continued on page 93)

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ST. LOUIS

PAUL ROBESON, Negro baritone, grossed $4,400 at his concert in the Municipal Auditorium grand opera house . . . Members of Variety Club of St. Louis have raised enough money to finance the purchase of two ambulances for Great Britain. Maintenance for a year is also provided. . . . Soldiers from Jefferson Barracks were guests at the Fox for a showing of Universal's "Buck Privates."

The renown of Harry Crawford, manager of Fanchon & Marco's Ambassador, as an after-dinner speaker, is apparently spreading. On February 21 he spoke at a meeting of civic leaders in Salem, Ill., and the night before he spoke at a gathering of the Young Men's Division of the St. Louis chamber of commerce . . . Johnnie Manion, golf professional at Meadow Brook, presented the motion picture "Good Golf" at a luncheon meeting of the Executives Club.

Dave Arthur of Chicago and Los Angeles flew in from California to visit with his brothers, Harry C. Arthur jr., head of the Fanchon & Marco theatres here, and Eddie Arthur, who has charge of the bookings for the local theatres under the F&M banner . . . Ed Lewitz, treasurer of the Fox, has reported at Jefferson Barracks for a year's military training. Henry Pontzious, relief manager for the St. Louis Amusement Co., has moved into Lewitz's job.

John W. Schuchert, 83, who for many years operated the old Opera House at Chester, Ill., is dead. Several years ago he disposed of his theatrical holdings here to Walter M. Light . . . "Love From a Stranger" was presented at the Little Theatre.

Carl Ravazza and his orchestra wound up their three-week engagement at the Chase Club, Thursday . . . The St. Louis Grand Opera spring season will open April 16 with Mozart's "Don Giovanni."

Experimental Telecasts Made by B&K Station

CHICAGO—Without ballyhoo or publicity of any sort, B&K's television station, W9XBK, made its first experimental telecasts last Friday. Tests were under the personal supervision of Bill Eddy, station manager. The initial telecast followed considerable field-tests which had been made to determine the station's coverage.

B&K's transmitter is located atop the State-Lake Theatre Bldg. in downtown Chicago. Studios are also located on the top floor of the building.

B&K's telecasts use a vertical antenna polarization. Their equipment is manufactured by the DuMont Laboratories, although some parts have been constructed by B&K engineers. Working with the B&K engineers on some special work have been two engineers from the American Television Laboratories, Chicago, Stanley Osterlund and Hudson Nall.

Below Zero Weather Milwaukee Barrier

MILWAUKEE — Prolonged below zero weather and snow held down all takes for the week except the Warner and Wisconsin where business was slightly above par. Leader was "Come Live With Me" and "The Wild Man of Borneo" at Fox's Wisconsin with "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and "The Saint in Palm Springs" a close runner-up at the Warner.

Detail for week ending February 20:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**The Hard-Boiled Canary** (Para't); **Night Train** (20th-Fox) 80
Riverside—**Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga** (Univ), plus stage show 100
Strand—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **You're the One** (Para't) 100
Warner—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **The Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO) 110
Wisconsin—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M) 115

'Virginia' Plus Stage Show Grosses Tops in Chicago

CHICAGO — Despite the zero weather which didn't help boxoffice attendance at loop theatres, the Chicago with Paramount's "Virginia" on the screen and Phil Spitalny's orchestra on stage, did top B&K business. The Palace started off big with Universal's "Back Street" and it looks like it'll be in there a few weeks. Universal's "San Francisco Docks" and Louis Armstrong's band on stage proved a fine exit march for Jones, Linick & Schaefer at the Oriental. Mike Todd took over management of the house on Friday, February 21. Initial "Fantasia" reports at the Apollo will appear in next week's BOXOFFICE.

Detail for week ending February 20:

(Average is 100)

Chicago—**Virginia** (Para't), plus Phil Spitalny stage show 140
Garrick—**Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) 85
Oriental—**San Francisco Docks** (Univ), plus stage show 110
Palace—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Play Girl** (Univ), first part of wk. 95
Palace—**Back Street** (Univ); **Six Lessons From Madam LaZonga** (Univ), 2nd part of wk. 135
Roosevelt—**High Sierra** (FN) 125
State-Lake—**Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't), plus stage show 100
Studio—**University of Life** (Artkino) 75
United Artists—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 4th wk. 90

"Philly Story" Builds to Top Spot in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS—With the weather cold, the only outstanding business was done by Loew's with "The Philadelphia Story." The opening was slow, but the grosses built to standing crowds by the end of the first week's run. Others were about average with the Circle's program proving disappointing.

Detail for week ending February 21:

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**Border Legion** (Rep); **The Lone Rider Rides On** (PRC) 75
Ambassador—**Riding on a Rainbow** (Rep); **So You Won't Talk** (Col) 110
Circle—**You're the One** (Para't); **Little Men** (RKO) 85
Indiana—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Golden Hoofs** (20th-Fox) 110
Loew's—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 200
Lyric—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), plus Will Rock on stage 95

MILWAUKEE

EARL CARROLL was a local visitor to pick likely candidates for his "Vanities" playing Fox's Wisconsin. Two lassies were selected by the maestro, one Lola Klemme, an usherette at the Wisconsin . . . Harold Mirisch's Oriental is now playing a single feature on Monday nights. New show opens on Fridays and runs six days with Mondays the only solo feature day of the run.

Fox Zenith has been staging a "Stump the Organist" contest on Friday nights with free groceries as prizes . . . Warner-Saxe's Modjeska presented a free flag to every boy and girl attending the Washington's birthday show.

Earl Tetting, recently placed in charge of publicity and promotion for the Middle States Corp., operator of the Riverside here and the Minnesota in Minneapolis, is temporarily managing the latter house since the resignation of Lanning Livingston.

A short circuit in wiring ignited furnishings in the office of the Venetian in Racine, but the blaze was extinguished without great loss . . . Ed Benjii has resumed amateur night programs on Thursdays at the Capitol in Madison . . . Fond du Lac youngsters were guests of the Elks defense commission at a free patriotic show on Washington's birthday at the Fond du Lac Theatre.

Victory in Postponement Of Daylight Saving Bill

MADISON, WIS.—Recommendation by the committee on state and local government for an indefinite postponement of the Murray daylight saving bill, is viewed as a victory for exhibitors who have been opposing passage of the measure. Theatremen contend that passage of the bill would do great harm to their business.

The Westfahl bill, which would establish a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour for all non-farm workers in Wisconsin, was unopposed at a hearing before the assembly committee on labor. Another hearing is scheduled for this measure, which if passed, would affect the theatre industry.

A joint resolution engineered by Edward J. Benjii, manager of the Capitol here, inviting Fred MacMurray, Wisconsin-born film star, to come to Madison March 15 in connection with the opening of "Virginia" at the Capitol, boomeranged when the state assembly passed the measure but the senate shouted it down by voice vote. The invitation was to have been extended in connection with the Wisconsin premiere of the flicker, but the picture opened February 19 at Fox's Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

"Wind" at Roosevelt on Return to Windy City

CHICAGO—The first showing of "Gone With the Wind" at popular prices here started Thursday at the B&K Roosevelt on a continuous-run basis. It is being shown four times daily.

CHICAGO



Producers Visit—

Albert Lewin (left) and David Loew, producers of "So Ends Our Night," pause in Chicago en route to Hollywood. The pair, who release through UA, say their next picture will be "Landfall," adapted from Neville Shute's book of the same name. Production is planned to start this summer.

"Today," a Newsreeler, Debuts in Windy City

CHICAGO—The town's second newsreel theatre, Dick Beck's "Today," located at Madison and Dearborn Streets, is now going full blast following the gala premiere held there Friday night. The premiere was a benefit affair held by the Illinois chapter of the American Institute of Decorators.

Patrons and patronesses include Governor and Mrs. Dwight Green of Illinois and numerous prominent society people including Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Davis. The Davises were planning on having Walter Huston as their dinner guest and the stage and screen star was scheduled to make a personal appearance at the premiere.

Opening festivities started with a press cocktail party at the Morrison Hotel on Thursday. The premiere took place Friday night and following a press and trade showing scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 2:30, the new newsreel theatre was thrown open to the public.

Dick Beck said that he was informing all well-wishers not to send flowers. Instead, he suggested they turn over all "flower money" to the British War Relief.

"Today" was designed by David Chapman. A complete story of "Today" from a technical angle is scheduled for a forthcoming issue in THE MODERN THEATRE section of BOXOFFICE.

Olivia for "Dawn"

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has borrowed Olivia De Havilland from Warner for a co-starring spot with Paulette Goddard and Charles Boyer in "Hold Back the Dawn."

(Continued from page 91)

changes. Burial took place at Mount Olive Cemetery on Wednesday.

According to Producer Oscar Serlin, Lillian Gish will not leave "Life With Father" to accept a leading role in "Ladies in Retirement." Serlin issued the denial following publication of the report in a Hollywood trade paper and in a syndicated film gossip column. According to present plans, Miss Gish, Percy Waram and the rest of the Chicago cast will embark upon a year's transcontinental tour after "Life With Father" sets an all-time record in late May.

Charlie Ryan says Coca Cola vending machines have been installed in all 15 *Warner houses . . . Working with Bob Montgomery now on "Fantasia" publicity is Frances Taylor who before her marriage was Frances Taylor of the Chicago* Herald-American *amusement page . . . Jim Levine, head of the Disney office here, went to Cleveland to look over the Hanna, "Fantasia" house there.*

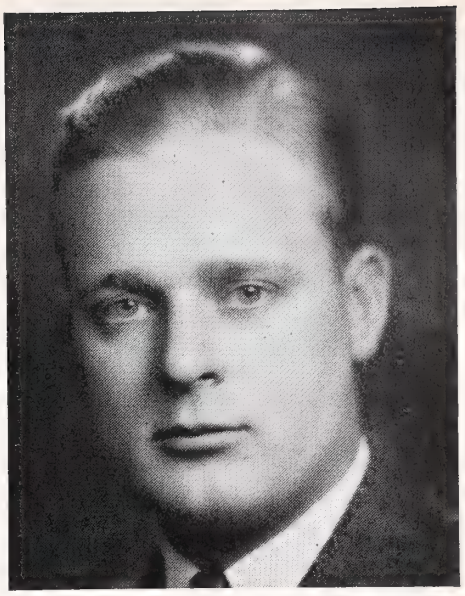
Art Catlin, United Artists publicity man here, met Producers David Loew and Albert Lewin when they came through here recently. Art conducted the pair to WGN where, with Bill Bacher, they discussed the idea of sending some "So Ends Our Night" stars here to star on the WGN-Mutual "In Chicago Tonight" program . . . Bennie Eisenberg, UA exchange manager, says Charlie Chaplin doesn't want his "Great Dictator" released here until Easter Sunday.

Al Dezel announces he has booked "Schubert's Serenade" into several B&K and Essaness houses . . . Irving Mack back from the Tri-Cities where he attended testimonial banquet for Joe Kinsky, district manager for Publix in Davenport, who was transferred to Omaha . . . Colleen Moore, who is now married to Chicagoan Homer P. Hargrave, recently starred in original dramatic sketch written by Nikki Kaye and Hal Tate and broadcast over WAAF on the BOXOFFICE-*Joy Candy Shoppers' program.*

Two Reel Fellows Club members recently celebrated wedding anniversaries. Mr. and Mrs. Percy Barr celebrated their silver anniversary on February 20 while Mr. and Mrs. Mike Gottschalk celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary on February 16. Next Reel Fellows meeting will be held at Sherman Hotel on Sunday, March 9.

Two Film Talks

MILWAUKEE—"Children and the Movies" was discussed by Josephine Maloney of the Milwaukee State Teachers College before the Garden Homes PTA here, and by Helen Nagle, superintendent of the Children's Home at Fond du Lac, Wis., before the Better Films Council in that city during the past week.



New Manager—

For the Indianapolis branch of National Theatre Supply is B. N. Peterson. He started with the company here in 1933 *as shipper and clerk and was transferred in* 1937 *to Cincinnati as salesman for West Virginia and Kentucky.*

Fine Projectionist $250 For Contempt of Court

MILWAUKEE—Norman W. Habersat, a motion picture projectionist, was fined $250 by Circuit Judge William F. Shaughnessy for contempt of court. Habersat was charged with attempting to influence Eugene Goderski, manager of a south side theatre, who was serving as a juror in an assault and battery and slander action. Habersat denied any intent to influence Goderski and accused the juror of "framing" him because he had picketed the theatre operated by the juror's father seven years ago.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

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INDIANAPOLIS

VISITORS to Filmrow: Harry Van Noy, Paramount Theatre, Anderson; Abe Kaufman, Fountain, Terre Haute; William T. Studebaker, Logan, Logansport; Lowell T. Moore, Orpheum, Mitchell; Mark Gates, Madrid, Akron; Ike R. Holycross, Paramount, Anderson; E. K. Crouch, Palace, Fairmount; H. H. Johnson, Madison, Madison; Fred J. Dolle, Fourth Avenue Amusement Co., Louisville; John J. Doerr, Alliance Theatres, Chicago; S. E. Goodman, Marion, Poseyville; Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Bell, Lyceum, Terre Haute; Harold V. Neese, Dana, Dana; Art Clark, Indiana, Bloomington; Walter Easley, Tree, Greensburg.

Plans are being made for a new theatre in Charlestown, Ind. This is the site of the DuPont powder plant for the government, which now has all the earmarks of a boomtown . . . Douglas Haney, operator of the Albion at Albion, reports his theatre is being remodeled . . . Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Crouch of the Palace, Fairmount, left for New Orleans and the Mardi Gras . . . Elissa Landi was guest artist at the Bundles-for-Britain benefit ball. She flew in from New York . . . A billboard tax measure was introduced proposing not only a license for each billboard within the state, but also a tax based on the square footage. It was killed.

Among other points in the bill to amend the present liquor laws of Indiana was a clause prohibiting the operation of a tavern within 50 feet of a motion picture theatre . . . A recent fire in Indianapolis may result in the change of the building code to not allow the erection of any building over one story with a modernistic, solid windowless front. The fire in question caused firemen to attack the fire from the rear of building, due to the fact that they could not get to the upper stories through the front . . . The Apollo cooperated in National Defense Week by showing "Wings of the Navy," with trainees at the local Naval Armory as guests.

Columbia Hall in Louisville was purchased by the City of Louisville to be used primarily as a soldier-civilian center. The hall contains a theatre, which has been used by independent groups to present special features, and traveling promoters with "special attractions." Acting Mayor Broaddus of Louisville is quoted as saying that the theatre will not be operated in competition with others, as the city is not in the theatrical business . . . Indianapolis is also considering the problem of taking care of the soldiers stationed at Fort Knox. However, there seems to be little likelihood of any theatrical competition, although present plans appear to be in the direction of greater use and facilities of the city parks.

The Variety Club staged a Gay Nineties party, with Fred Greenberg of Warner contributing a part of "Strawberry Blonde" toward the entertainment. Carl Niesse was chairman, assisted by Claude McKean, Ralph Iula, Harry Hayes and A. C. Zaring . . . Ted Nicholas, on leave from his position as manager of Orrin Tucker's band, announced the opening of an advertising agency in Indianapolis. He was formerly manager of the Lyric and also at one time was advertising manager of the Indiana and Circle theatres, Indianapolis, and publicity director for English Theatre . . . The Tacoma in Indianapolis was badly damaged by fire, and may be closed for 30 days. The fire started in the drug store next door, and was discovered by the theatre custodian. Damage to the building was expected to exceed $25,000.

Will Rock, magician, presented his show on the Lyric stage, and between times found himself with a sister-in-law. His brother, John Rock, married Miss Helen Welti of Salt Lake City, and a member of the cast. Both returned immediately to appear in the next show . . . As a publicity gag, the Indiana was picketed by three brunettes carrying a sign reading "Strawberry Blonde Is Unfair to Brunettes" . . . The salesroom of National Theatre Supply Co. is being remodeled . . . A card was received from Jack Dowd, former Warner booker, who is now at Camp Custer, Battle Creek, Mich. . . . H. R. Wagner is now manager of the Playhouse, Edinburg, having resigned from the management of the Majestic in Seymour . . . Rosalind Lindley, secretary to J. H. Stevens, Paramount branch manager, has resigned . . . Carl Kemp, booker at Paramount, has been confined to his home by sickness.

A triple feature policy has been instituted by the Fountain by means of a "preview night." The principal feature on the ending program is coupled with the two shows scheduled to open the following day . . . Rud Lohrenz, Warner district manager, paid a visit at the local exchange . . . Fred Pride of 20th Century-Fox's home office legal staff explained the consent decree to the local sales force staff . . . The Esquire has run "Night Train" (Fox) for two consecutive weeks, using different supporting features. This is probably a record for local neighborhood houses.

A Jury Selected in La Crosse Action

MADISON, WIS.—The first week in the $1,476,000 anti-trust action of the La Crosse Theatres Co. in federal court here was primarily concerned with the selection of a jury and presentation of opening statements by attorneys.

Hearing in the action against Paramount, United Artists, 20th Century-Fox, Welworth Theatres and the Minnesota Amusement Co. was first started last October but was finally postponed to February 17 due to the illness of Robert A. Hess, Milwaukee, counsel for the plaintiff company.

Hess told the jury, which includes two women, that the defendants had sought to "freeze out" the La Crosse firm by refusing to make desirable films available.

D. V. W. Beckwith, counsel for the distributors, said he failed to see how the La Crosse Co. could expect to receive protection from the Sherman act when it had a monopoly in La Crosse from 1927 until 1936, when the Welworth company built its first house in that city.

La Crosse has seven theatres of which number five are operated by the La Crosse Theatres Co. and two by the Welworth company, a subsidiary of the Minnesota Amusement Co.

Taverns and Roadhouses Are Targets in Proposal

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.—Sen. William Quinn of Maywood has presented a bill to the senate to prohibit taverns and roadhouses from putting on floor shows or operating mechanical musical instruments. Quinn, a Democrat, said his measure is aimed primarily at rural sections where young people congregate in roadhouses and dime-a-dance taverns. The bill would permit the state liquor supervisor to issue special permits to hotels in larger cities where "entertainment is better regulated" to hire orchestras for dances.

BOWLING

CHICAGO — As the Filmrow Bowling League went into its 20th week, the race apparently centered into a battle for first place between three teams, with Paramount holding a two-game lead over Metro and 20th Century-Fox.

Metro is coming up fast, making a clean sweep of the three-game series with United Artists, while Fox was winning two out of three from Film Chauffeurs and the leading Paramount boys managed to take a single game from Republic.

Abe Fischer continued to lead the bowlers with a 174 average. Other leading scorers are: Johnny Knaffle, UA, 173; Max Dreifuss, Republic, 173; Jack Kirsch, Republic, 172, and Mike Fahey, Paramount, 172. Team standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Paramount	36	24
Metro	34	26
20th Century-Fox	34	26
Republic	29	31
Film Chauffeurs	29	31
United Artists	28	32
National Screen	26	34
Universal	24	36

CHICAGO—The Avalon Cubs retained first place in the 24th week of the Warner Bros. Bowling League by taking two out of three from the Stratford boys, while the second place Yannigans kept right at the AC's heels by whipping the Grove boys two out of three.

William Biltgen, with a 170 average, managed to creep into the "Big Five" circle. Other leading scorers are: Tom Jones, 183; Ted Turrell, 180; Whitey Graf, 175, and George Heiss, 172. Team standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Avalon Cubs	45	27
Yannigans	44	28
Stratford	41	31
Capitol	40	32
Grove	39	33
Avalon	38	34
Hammond	38	34
Cosmo	35	37
Beverly	33	39
1,000 Pounders	32	40
Ogden	32	40
Jeffery	29	43

Chicago Beaming on Prospects for 1941

CHICAGO—With general conditions expected to exceed those of 1940, circuit heads and independents alike when questioned by BOXOFFICE, expressed confidence 1941 would be a better theatre year.

Defense appropriations are expected to play a great part in increasing attendance. Most exhibitors felt it is too premature to comment on how the decree would affect business, but they, nevertheless feel it would not prove a hinderance insofar as grosses are concerned.

The mid-west particularly is expected to benefit by new defense appropriations. Two important military posts, one for the army at Fort Sheridan, Ill., and another one for the navy at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station near Waukegan, Ill., are both located within 40 miles of Chicago.

Defense Program a Boon

A new ammunition factory located at Lockport between Wilmington and Joliet is expected to prove beneficial. Factories located at Rockford, Harvey and Peoria, all manufacturing military supplies, have increased their personnel, which, in turn, is expected to prove profitable to theatres. Gary, great steel manufacturing center located 26 miles from the heart of the Loop, is another mid-western city into which government money has been poured and some of which, it is hoped, will eventually reach the coffers of picture houses.

John Balaban of B&K told BOXOFFICE he expected the new defense appropriations to aid business in some cities but, that to date the program had no effect insofar as increased attendance was concerned. He added he felt the decree would cause confusion to theatre owners until everyone became adjusted to it and that it was too premature at this time to predict the effect of the decree generally on 1941 business.

Foresees Product Improvement

An executive of the Warner circuit, who preferred to remain anonymous, feels the decree would improve the calibre of pictures, which, in turn, would result in increased attendance. He quoted the popular credo, proverb: "There is nothing wrong with this business that a good picture can't cure."

M. M. Rubens of Publix-Great States thinks this: "Business for 1941 looks very good. Starting with Christmas Day the mid-west had enjoyed unprecedented weather conditions which has been perfect for theatre owners with the result that there has been a decided upswing in profits."

Questioned on the effect of the decree Rubens said that at the present time he felt that the decree would result in increased production costs, which, in turn, would be passed along to exhibitors. For this reason he felt that the decree would not increase profits.

He also advanced the theory that the decree will not prove beneficial to business because exhibitors will spend more time in buying product than in the past and have less time to spend on exploiting the product.

He thinks the decree may open an entire new field in the business in that agents will do nothing but view films for both circuit and independent theatre owners and pass judgment on what they think will be their potential boxoffice appeal. In other words, since many exhibitors will be unable to view films when sold in blocks of five, they will have to appoint agents to do the buying for them.

Van Nomikos, head of his own circuit and vice-president of the Allied Theatres of Illinois, thinks the outlook is the best in years and that, if the defense program continues at the pace set for it, business in 1941 will break all previous records. Regarding the decree, he said it should be given a fair trial and will use his efforts to help make it work satisfactorily. He suggested distributors arrange showings in spots most accessible to theatre owners who book their own films and do not rely on booking combines.

Herb Elisburg, owner of the Studio, said the outlook is very good. He feels the decree will result in the abolishment of "B" pictures and that art and foreign language films would come into their own this year.

Joseph Vicedomini, manager of the World Playhouse, expressed confidence in business prospects.

The arbitration picture in the Chicago-Milwaukee area to date:

MORRIS, ILL.—
E. F. Van Derveer, operator of the State Theatre, complained against Metro, claiming non-ability to obtain second-run product from the distributor.

CHICAGO—
Ken Theatre Corp. demands right to show 20th-Fox, RKO and Paramount films at its Ken Theatre ahead of Schoenstadt's Pix, and an alteration of the clearance between the Ken and the Shakespeare Theatre, also a Schoenstadt house.

EVANSVILLE, WIS.—
Evansville Theatre, Inc., operator of the Rex, claims Paramount is giving unreasonable clearance to the Jeffris in Janesville, Wis., operated by the Jeffris Theatre Co.

Mrs. Breitenbach Names Council's Committees

FOND DU LAC, WIS.—Mrs. G. F. Breitenbach, newly installed president of the Better Films Council, recently named committees as follows:

Reviewing chairman, Mrs. D. E. Sullivan; program, Mrs. William Mobray; publicity, Mrs. H. J. Kenyon; visual education, Miss Vivian Gamble, Miss Veronica Balthazor; legislative, Miss Isabelle Rothbauer, Mrs. William Kremer; social chairmen, Mrs. Rublee Brown, Miss Ruth Barnett; telephone corps, Mrs. Herman Rhode, Mrs. H. L. Lepinski, Mrs. W. J. Vandervoort, Mrs. Manville Perry and advisory committee, all past presidents.

De Lorenzo President of Operators' Credit Union

MILWAUKEE—The Projectionists' Credit union of the Motion Picture Projectionists' union, Local 164, has elected officers as follows: John B. De Lorenzo, president; Karl Miller, vice-president; Robert Lucht, treasurer; George Brader, secretary; Otto Trampe, director; Spiro Methenitis, Samuel Serge and Walter Behr, members of the credit committee; Arthur Brock, Alfred Baumann and Herbert Paringer, members of the auditing committee.

Ambersley Re-elected IA Affiliate Agent

ST. LOUIS — John Ambersley was re-elected business agent of the Theatrical Employes Local B-2, an affiliate of the IATSE that includes ushers, ticket sellers, service help, etc.

Other officers are Al Dustin who was re-elected president; Eugene Costello, vice-president; Joseph Williams, recording secretary; Victor Morris, financial secretary and treasurer; Martin Seymour, guide, and John Dwyer, guardian.

Ethel Dickson, Edward Steinhauer and Robert Mackle were named trustees, and Gentry Oliver, Mal Curran, Eugene Killoren and William Murphy, members of the executive board.



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Two Tax Measures Dropped in Nebraska

LINCOLN—Two bills in Nebraska's legislature—a prospective menace of $600,000 to the state's amusement boxoffices—went tumbling into the wastebasket and oblivion for the 1941 session last week.

The bills:

A proposal to tax 10 per cent of every 10 cents or fraction of ticket cost, estimated to bring, from all amusement sources, largely film houses, a matter of $500,000 annually. This bill lumped cosmetics, gasoline, soft drinks, and cigarettes along with theatres, and was proposed for the purpose of relieving some of the tax pressure on property owners.

A proposal to license all exchanges in Nebraska for $1,000 annually, and $1 per reel for each one distributed in the state. The author of the bill thought $100,000 was safe expectancy from this source alone.

But, both the bills failed to survive the barrage of anti-talk which swept the hearing room.

R. R. Livingston, of the Capitol, an independent subsequent run here, can take credit for the bill killing, because he was the sole exhibitor, or representative of the film business, to go before the committee hearing the bill.

He said the average small town theatre was the poor man's only chance for relaxation, and that, as such, it could hardly be considered in the classification of a luxury. In addition, he said theatres were already paying a 10 per cent federal tax, and in case this tax proposal, or the licensing bill passed, the cost of the additional burden would have to be loaded onto the ultimate consumer.

"If these bills pass," he wound up, "every kid in Nebraska will be throwing rocks at every legislator he sees for taking his candy pennies away from him."

Divorcement Waits

Demise of the measures was written over protest of their backer, Sen. E. M. Neubauer, who said he saw in them the opportunity to take some of the back-breaking load off the Nebraska property owners, who were heavily laden with real estate taxes.

He still has two counts against the industry to be heard later—one of them direct, and the other indirect. His bill to divorce exhibition from producer-distributor affiliations is being held back, and no hearing date has been set. There's also the matter of his square-foot tax on billboard advertising, which can affect the cost of film banner advertising, if it passes.

This is the second year in a row for Neubauer to try for the measure of the film industry. His $1,000 licensing bill is a repeat from the session of 1939, and so is the divorcement proposal.

Rex Barrett Injured

COLUMBIA, MO.—Mayor Rex P. Barrett, in charge here for the Commonwealth circuit, was slightly injured in an automobile accident recently.

Anti-Consent Decree Bill Hearing in Minn. March 5

MINNEAPOLIS—The first public hearing on the Northwest Allied's anti-consent decree bill will be held by the Minnesota state senate committee on general legislation Wednesday, March 5. The general legislation committee of the legislature's lower house also has promised speedy action on the measure which requires film distributors in Minnesota to offer exhibitors for license their company's entire season's product output, the same as at present, in place of in groups of five, as the consent decree provides.

Confident of Passage

Northwest Allied leaders are confident of the passage of the bill which also requires film contracts to carry a minimum cancellation privilege clause and which outlaws the forced selling of shorts, newsreels, foreign films, westerns and trailers. However, it is admitted, that the degree of opposition aroused by the measure may be the determining factor. Whether there will be much, if any, opposition and its extent cannot be foreseen, according to Fred Strom, executive secretary.

It is known that at least one of the major film companies has informed Northwest Allied that it will not oppose the proposed law. On the other hand, the representative of another company declares he will fight the bill because it won't be practicable to have one selling plan for Minnesota and another—that of the consent decree—for North and South Dakota, western Wisconsin and the Michigan peninsula which also are part of the Minneapolis territory.

Opposition also may come from the federal government and from women's clubs and civic and religious organizations which "mistakenly" believe that the consent decree selling plan does away with block booking, Strom admits. However, he says, Northwest Allied is prepared to combat such opposition vigorously and refute every argument.

Constitutionality Questioned

There is still a question as to whether the law would be constitutional. It is known that Northwest Allied has had conflicting legal advice regarding this phase of the matter. Prominent attorneys here insisted that the measure could be upheld in the courts. The federal department of justice and some eastern lawyers, however, contend otherwise.

Harry Honnemacher, chairman of the house general legislation committee, is a co-author of the bill.

Northwest Allied leaders are pointing out that the law simply would give to independent exhibitors the things which the distributors offered them in a code of fair trade practices for the film industry two years ago. The code was submitted to national Allied States at its convention here by W. F. Rodgers, M-G-M sales head, representing the committee which formulated it. The independents, however, rejected it at that time.

Berger Refused Films For Day-Date Run

MINNEAPOLIS—Several exchanges already have replied in the negative to Bennie Berger's demand for major pictures to play day and date at his Esquire, loop sure-seater, with subsequent runs at 20-cent top. Now Berger is planning on taking the matter to the consent decree arbitration board.

Because of inability to obtain satisfactory screen product, the Esquire now is dark. But Berger insists that it isn't going to remain closed permanently even if he has to carry his fight for pictures to the U. S. supreme court.

Cooper Accounting Will Be Done in Lincoln

LINCOLN—Arrival of Leon Savell, of Paramount's home office in New York, to take over the J. H. Cooper Enterprises accounting department here, is expected shortly.

Savell, with Paramount for many years in New York and Atlanta, Ga., is taking over after Joe Philippson resigns to go to a new Paramount post. Plan is to have all the JHCE accounting done here, with offices in the Lincoln, and the present force, which includes Vincent J. DiFiore and Charlie Shire, expanded to about eight people.

This is in line with Cooper's plan to move to the middle-west from New York, probably to make his home in Oklahoma City. All booking will be done by Cooper personally in the future, it is understood.

Minneapolis Arbitrators Waiting for First Case

MINNEAPOLIS—The consent decree arbitration board here is still awaiting its first complaint. In view of the considerable squawking that has been in evidence in this territory, the delay, or failure, of independent exhibitors to avail themselves of arbitration is considered all the more surprising in trade circles.

Sentence Theatre Bandit

MINNEAPOLIS—W. F. Sexton, 20, was sentenced to serve up to 10 years in the state reformatory in district court here for the hold-up of the Franklin Theatre, local neighborhood house, last January 13. He told the court he would not have committed the robbery except for the urging of Louis R. Cowen, a projectionist at one of the other theatres in the circuit. Cowen goes to trial May 5.

Business Activity Flows Toward Remodeling

KANSAS CITY—Impetus of defense spending was felt during the past year in Western Missouri and Kansas more in expenditures for remodeling, new equipment, and new theatres than in gains at the boxoffice, survey discloses. Outlay was more in the nature of expectation, and 1941 should realize on new and old investment through better business created by reemployment.

Since the tendency in the past five years has been to modernize in spite of only fair receipts, and since modernization has been to some extent keeping up with obsolescence, 1941 probably will not be a great deal larger in total spent than 1940. In particular spots affected by defense (Junction City and Wichita, Kans.; Rolla, Waynesville and Lebanon, Mo., etc.) there will be more activity. While there seemed to be plenty of capital available the past five years for theatre investment, receipts so far don't justify a boom. The 1940 aggregate is somewhat over 1939.

Add 8,000 Seats in 1940

To date (including January) the last 12 months have seen erection of theatres with some 8,876 new seats, representing a capital investment of approximately $423,000. This is probably 15 per cent higher than the preceding year.

Analysis shows that defense accounted for considerably more than half the seats, 5,476; and for a good deal less than half the expenditures, $165,000. "Competition" was responsible for 1,550 seats for $150,000, and just plain "venture" prompted about 1,450 seats at $53,000.

In the same period there were 16 major remodelings running from $10,000 to $55,000 for a total of $455,000. In many cases these houses increased the number of seats during the process of modernization, probably at least 5 per cent for the total of 500, which, added to the new seats in new theatres, brings the total new seats for the year not in existence in 1939, to 9,376.

Added to this must be some 50 more theatres that did some remodeling, reequipping or refurbishing in the year. These theatres spent from $500 to $8,000 on new seats, fronts, projection equipment, air conditioning, heating, etc. Average expenditure for the group would run well over $1,500 apiece, but at that figure add a total of $75,000 to modernization layout.

Near Million Mark

The grand total for new theatres and modernization of old is $953,000, or almost $1,000,000. Impetus of remodeling is harder to analyze than for new houses, but the same factors were responsible: defense spending, competition, and for remodeling alone, the additional factor of obsolescence.

In theatres that included balconies, stadium predominates over the suspended type. However, the trend is toward theatres with all seats on one floor.

A "novelty" that probably always will be good in theatres serving residential type patronage is the cry-room for mothers with babies. These are miniature balconies with a dozen or more seats, and a glass partition to prevent noise from reaching the main audience. Sound from the picture is "piped" into the cry-room.

Impact of defense on the general economic picture is seen in a return here and there, of a stage larger than just enough to accommodate screen and sound equipment. For five years till mid-1940 few new houses except the very largest had more than an "apron" stage.

Another "novelty" that has made its appearance is the "love seat" for two, which has a definite appeal to the younger showgoer who is supposed to be the best customer of pictures.

Names Are Shorter

Interesting changes have taken place in the naming and re-naming (when a new front goes up) of theatres. Names are apt to be shorter. There are fewer Majestics and Orpheums and Paramounts, more Times and Vogues and Plazas.

Cost of neon tubing and uprights (to say nothing of the additional ink in heralds over a period) has something to do with this trend. Shorter, more compact names are easier seen by the public, more easily remembered.

Among the new houses in the past year (completed and projected) are H. J. Griffith's Paola, Paola, Kas.; Fox Midwest's Fox at Sedalia, Mo.; Commonwealth's new one at Waynesville, Mo.; R. E. Conrad's Roxy at Wichita; E. Van Hyning's house at Ottawa, Kas.; Don Phillips' new one at Colby, Kas.

Among major remodelings are Associated Theatres' Granada, Independence, Mo.; Friendly Theatres' Vogue, Lees Summit, Mo.; Midwest Theatres, Inc., Oklahoma City, remodeling of the old Opera House at Junction City, Kas. for a cost of $45,000; Commonwealth's new Melba, Batesville, Ark.; H. J. Griffith's Kansan, Fredonia, Kas.; Vox, H. F. Pautz and C. W. Rohde, Kansas City, Kas.; Fox Midwest's DeGraw, Brookfield, Mo.; Nick Kotsis' Oswego, Oswego, Kas.; Frank Cassil's Uptown, St. Joseph, Mo.

This should be a good year, even if it isn't a boom, for theatre supplymen.

See March Trial of Frank Cassil Suit

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—The suit in which Eugenia and Frank Cassil seek $452,775 damages from Dubinsky Brothers' Enterprises and major distributors probably will be tried at the term of federal court beginning here March 10, Judge Merrill E. Otis has indicated.

The Cassils, operators of the Rialto in the South Side, contend in the suit that the Dubinskys and others entered into a conspiracy to prevent the Cassils from obtaining first-run product and in so doing violated the anti-trust laws.

Club "Get Together" Kaycee High Spot

KANSAS CITY—Excellent attendance and high interest were chalked up for the first of the Variety Club "Get Together" parties staged in club quarters Friday night. Kings and Queens for the evening were C. A. and Lila Schultz, O. K. and Inez Mason and Robert F. and Helen Withers.

A buffet supper was served at 7:00 o'clock, and shortly thereafter the crowd participated in games and other forms of entertainment especially arranged for the evening.

Among those attending, in addition to the hosts and their ladies, were:

E. C. and Mrs. Rhoden, Frank and Mrs. Hensler, R. R. Biechele, Rex Barrett, Doctor and Mrs. Zoglin, Reube and Mrs. Finkelstein, C. M. and Mrs. Parkhurst, Charles Gregory, Norris and Mrs. Cresswell, Collins and Mrs. Riley, Roy Dunnuck, Harold and Mrs. Harris, W. G. McKinney, Jim and Mrs. States, Finton and Mrs. Jones, Arthur and Mrs. Cole, Larry and Mrs. Klein, Sam and Mrs. Sosna, Leo and Mrs. Finkelstein, Grover and Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Roscoe Thompson, E. L. and Mrs. Harris, Walt and Mrs. Feist, Jim and Mrs. Lewis, Charles Schaefer, Clifford and Mrs. Gilles, Lester and Mrs. Durland, Leo McCarthy, Mrs. Burtus Bishop, Claude and Mrs. Morris, George and Mrs. Baker.

Several Withholding Payment to Ascap

MINNEAPOLIS—Numerous theatres in the territory have quit paying the Ascap music tax. In so doing, they're taking the advice given by S. P. Halpern, local theatrical attorney, at the recent Northwest Allied convention.

Halpern declares the tax isn't collectible because, he holds, Ascap can't legally license the reproduction rights of a tune after first licensing its recording rights. Moreover, he points out, Ascap has been adjudged a monopoly in a suit brought by it in the state of Washington and therefore hasn't any standing in court.

Halpern has been retained by some of the non-paying exhibitors to defend them in case Ascap sues.

Kaycee Cinema Club Holds Social Event

KANSAS CITY—The Cinema Club held its February social event Wednesday evening. The affair started with a screening of "Strawberry Blonde" at the Paramount screening room and ended up with dancing at a local nitery.

"Twin Beds" for Murphy

HOLLYWOOD—Ralph Murphy will direct "Twin Beds" for Producer Edward Small. Walter DeLeon is doing the script.

Fox-Midwest, Commonwealth and Griffith Managers--

and Film Folks in General---

Like This Fine Kansas City Hotel

You'll like it-too!



Hotel Bellerive

ARMOUR BLVD. at WARWICK—KANSAS CITY, MO.
On Armour Blvd. (35th St.) 1 Block East of Main St.



KANSAS CITY'S FINEST — THE BELLERIVE
Air-Conditioned Guest Rooms, Suites, Apartments, Banquet and Meeting Rooms, Plus the Finest Cuisine in the Middle West.



WEST LOUNGE LOBBY—
Where Film Friends Meet

From All Over the Middle West, Men and Women of the Motion Picture Industry Come Repeatedly to the Modern, Lively, Attractive Bellerive in Kansas City—Removed from the "Bustle" and Noise of the City, Yet Only 5 Minutes from Mid-Town.

Just a Few Short Minutes by Convenient Bus or Street Car to the Film Exchanges, Theatre Circuit Home Offices, All Department Stores and Bright Night Clubs.

Air-Conditioned, Air-Filtered Guest Rooms, Public Rooms, Sales Meeting, Dining and Banquet Rooms at Prices You Are Glad to Pay!



ZEPHYR COCKTAIL LOUNGE
—Famous from New York to Hollywood as a "Hang-out" for Film Men.



IT'S SMART TO BE SEEN AT THE
Zephyr Cocktail Lounge
Kansas City's Swank Social Spot

IT COSTS NO MORE FOR LUXURY!

Fine Linens, Large Outside Rooms, Thick Deep Carpets, Soft Downy Beds and the Kind of Service You Enjoy.

Room and Bath from $3.00.
Parlor and Bedroom Suites from $10.00.
Heated Garage or Free Parking in Rear.

FRANK DUGGINS, Mgr.

Affiliated With SANTA RITA HOTEL, TUCSON, ARIZ.



AIR-CONDITIONED TERRACE ROOM—*Available for Banquets, Conventions, Business and Social Functions.*

Greek War Relief Aid Committee Convenes

KANSAS CITY—Committees to handle the motion picture industry's part in the Greek War Relief campaign have been set up, and held their first general meeting, February 25, under the co-chairmanship of E. C. Rhoden, for exhibitors, and T. R. Thompson, for distributors. Rhoden is president of Fox Midwest, Thompson branch manager of RKO Radio. A mass of data and suggestions had been prepared in advance, to facilitate discussion of ways and means to go about the project; these were discussed, others proposed. A meeting of the distributors' branch of the general committee will be held shortly, when plans will be made for presenting the project to the exhibitors of the area, together with the details of cooperation with exhibitors from the Kansas City exchanges. Thompson will act as chairman of this distributors' committee.

A local committee, with Jerry Zigmond, manager of the Newman, will also meet, to work out plans for the campaign in Kansas City.

Rhoden is also one of 12 division chairmen for the national campaign, his territory including Des Moines, Omaha, St. Louis as well as Kansas City. He reported that the plans are well under way in the other areas of this territory.

The Kansas City area comprises the following general and local committees:

General

Exhibitors—E. C. Rhoden, Co-Chairman; Jerry Zigmond, Jay Means, John McManus, Barney Joffee, Ed Durwood, Senn Lawler, H. J. Griffith, O. A. Schultz, A. R. Zimmer, Hardy Hendren, and R. R. Biechele, president, Kansas Missouri Theatres Ass'n.

Distributors: T. R. Thompson, co-chairman; Frank Hensler, Grover Parsons, George Fuller, Ben Marcus, R. M. Copeland, Ollie Williamson, W. E. Truog, R. F. Withers, A. H. Cole.

Local

(For Kansas City)

Jerry Zigmond, chairman; John McManus, Barney Joffee, Landon Laird, James Long, Don Davis, Harry Kauffman, James McConnell, Eugene Zachman, Lawrence Lehman.

A publicity committee for the local group includes Landon Laird as chairman, Kenneth Force, Wm. Lausberg, Karl Koerper, Lowell Lawrance, Charles Gregory.

Every member appointed to these committees was present at the initial meeting, except those who were out of town—and they sent representatives, or expressed their willingness to serve, in most cases.

The local committees include representatives of theatres, newspapers, broadcasting stations and Municipal Auditorium.

Arlen Solons Guest

LINCOLN—Richard Arlen, grounded here en route to Hollywood, was the guest of legislators whom he had previously entertained in his suite, at a Monday afternoon session of the state legislature.

Would Admit Minors to Bowl

MINNEAPOLIS—Minors will be permitted to enter bowling alleys—from which they're now barred—if the state legislature passes a bill which has been approved by the senate general legislation committee.

A Fourth Holdover Helps to a Record

OMAHA—Brandeis Theatre set some sort of record here when the house held over "Santa Fe Trail" and "Let's Make Music" for a second stanza after swell business for the first week. The Singer house has had four consecutive holdovers starting January 1 of this year and has used eight pictures where ordinarily the theatre would have consumed 16 pictures in the two-month period. This fact will have little or no effect on the product situation here, however.

Manager Will Singer told BOXOFFICE he believes an extended run of ten days or two weeks of superior pictures is preferable to the regular seven-day schedule for less desirable product. The present holdover situation has proved Manager Singer right, as compared with some unsatisfactory weeks in 1940.

The two Tri-States theatres greeted their new boss, District Manager Joe Kinsky, with "not so hot" grosses. "Victory" and "The Bank Dick" were pulled at the Orpheum after five days. "Come Live With Me" and "Dispatch From Reuter's" had a mediocre week at the Omaha.

Details for week ending February 23:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Let's Make Music** (RKO) 150
Omaha—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Dispatch From Reuter's** (WB) 100
Orpheum—**Victory** (Para't); **The Bank Dick** (Univ), 5 days 90

Kansas City Honors "Philadelphia Story"

KANSAS CITY—A drama and a laugh-provoker pulled in the attendance at two first run houses during the week for business much above average—and far ahead of other first run houses. "Philadelphia Story" seemed to have won for the Midland the top ranking for the week; but the Orpheum, with "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," was not far behind. Bob Crosby in "Let's make Music" brought the Tower a good week. "Back Street" held over at the Esquire and Uptown, was replaced after six days, but it had done a good business, considering that it was the feature at two theatres for the holdover engagement.

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Back Street** (Univ), 6-day holdover 85
Midland—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M) 180
Newman—**Flight From Destiny** (WB) 80
Orpheum—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **The Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 170
Tower—**Let's Make Music** (RKO); Broadway Rhythm, Robert & Maxine Clayton, Three Olympia Boys on the stage 100
Uptown—**Back Street** (Univ), 6-day holdover .. 75

Pay Streak Is Thin in Lincoln First Runs

LINCOLN—New films were mostly disappointments here, with "Invisible Woman," on a dual with "Ride, Kelly, Ride," providing the only money spark. "Gone With the Wind," held over a second week, was still accounting for good money.

Brodies were "High Sierra" at the Varsity, and "Buck Privates" at the Lincoln.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

KANSAS CITY TERRITORY

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Peterson "Freezem" Mfg. & Sales Co.
Blowers, washers, spray nozzels, office and home units.
Special Offer—Priced to Sell.
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Projectors and Sound for the Largest and Smallest Theatre. John A. Muchmore and R. H. Patt.
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Missouri Theatre Supply Co.
Distributors for
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115 West 18th St. GR. 2864 Kansas City, Mo.
708 West Grand Ave. Oklahoma City, Okla.

Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.
1804 Wyandotte St.
C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't
Wichita, Kas.
C. D. Peck, Mgr. Phone 2-2153

EXHIBITOR ASSOCIATIONS

K. M. T. A.
221 W. 18th St. — Harrison 4825
R. R. Biechele, Pres. Fred Meyn, Sec.-Treas.

SCREEN PUBLICITY

Alexander Film Company
Motion Picture Advertising
E. L. Harris, Dist. Mgr., Mo., Kan., Neb., Iowa
239 East 72nd Terrace
Phone: Hlland 2694

FILM LABORATORIES

MISSOURI FILM LABORATORIES
Charles O. Siebenthaler
110 W. 18th GR 0708
Kansas City, Mo.
Complete Advertising Trailer Service

That they didn't do better is surprising, considering the lack of competition.

Details for week ending February 21:

(Average is 100)

Colonial—**Thundering Frontier** (Col); **Curtain Call** (RKO) split with **Isle of Destiny** (Col); **Trailing Double Trouble** (RKO).....100
Lincoln—**Buck Privates** (Univ)..... 85
Nebraska—**Invisible Woman** (Univ); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox).....115
Stuart—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2d wk..110
Variety—**Devil Commands** (Col); **Phantom of Chinatown** (Mono) split with **Let's Make Music** (RKO); **Crooked Road** (Rep).....100
Varsity—**High Sierra** (FN)..... 80

Stage Show a Bolster for "High Sierra" in Minny

MINNEAPOLIS — Unseasonably sub-zero weather—a considerable stretch of it—and ice-coated streets and roads have combined to damage the boxoffice here substantially. However, three theatres—the Orpheum, Century and State—did particularly good business the past week. A first-rate stage show, headed by Clyde McCoy and his orchestra, was the principal magnet at the Orpheum and "This Thing Called Love," in its second week, brought 'em into the Century. The State's offering was "Virginia."

(Average is 100)

Aster—**Li'l Abner** (RKO); **Charter Pilot** (20th-Fox) 90
Century—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 2d wk.125
Gopher—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB)..... 95
Orpheum—**High Sierra** (FN), stage show.....150
State—**Virginia** (Para't) 100
World—**Flight from Destiny** (WB).....100

Stage Show a Magnet Among DM First Runs

DES MOINES—Farmers unfolded folding money in Des Moines last week and all first run theatres pocketed a share. Count Berni Vici's Pan American Follies pulled 'em in from miles around for the Orpheum, but "Virginia" at the Des Moines did better than average business despite stage show opposition and Deanna Durbin wasn't warbling in a vacant house at the Paramount, either. Statisticians observed that 70 per cent of the cars in the Orpheum parking lot Saturday had out-of-the-county licenses.

Detail for week ending February 25:

(Average is 100)

Des Moines—**Virginia** (Para't); **Michael Shayne, Detective** (20th-Fox), plus stage show.....120
Orpheum—**Little Men** (RKO), plus stage show..225
Paramount—**Nice Girl?** (Univ); **Lady With Red Hair** (WB) 90

Seven-League Boots In Patent Leather

New Orleans—Joe Stark of Paramount in Kansas City can hear all about a Mardi Gras Carnival ball from his shoes! All this, because some time ago the Joe Starks spent a weekend with the Bev Millers and Joe left his tux shoes there. Currently, Miller, delayed in New Orleans, asked the Mrs. to join him and bring along his "soup and fish." This she did and Joe Stark's shoes. Miller reports that an extra pair of socks and some paper judiciously stuffed in the toes made Stark's shoes fit and so their presence at a carnival ball.

KANSAS CITY

ROBERT H. WILSON is the new owner of the Palace Theatre in Jackson and the Park Theatre in Lutesville-Marble Hill, Mo. Wilson bought the interest of his partner, Edward L. Kies. The Palace will be improved, the balcony enlarged and the interior redecorated.

A new house, to be known as the Colonial, is under construction in Junction City, Kas. The old Opera House is being remodeled into a modern theatre. It will seat 1,000. *April* 15 *is the day set for the opening.*

The profits from the recent showing of "Land of Liberty," at the Sosna Theatre in Manhattan, Kas., were donated to war relief . . . Seth Simpson, Tina, Mo., has sold his show to the town officials and in the future it will be operated as a community enterprise . . . Not to be outdone by Tina, Mo., Little River, Kas., starts up a municipal theatre of their own. M. O. Brown of Larned, Kas., has leased the house.

Jones Ballroom in Junction City, Kas., is to be remodeled into a balcony for the Kaw Theatre . . . Colby Kansans are racking their brains trying to think up a fitting name for the new show to be run by J. P. and Don Phillips.

The Klopfenstein brothers are celebrating the anniversary of their managing the Aladdin Theatre in Mound City, Kas. Mound City merchants are collaborating by giving tickets which admit at a reduced price.

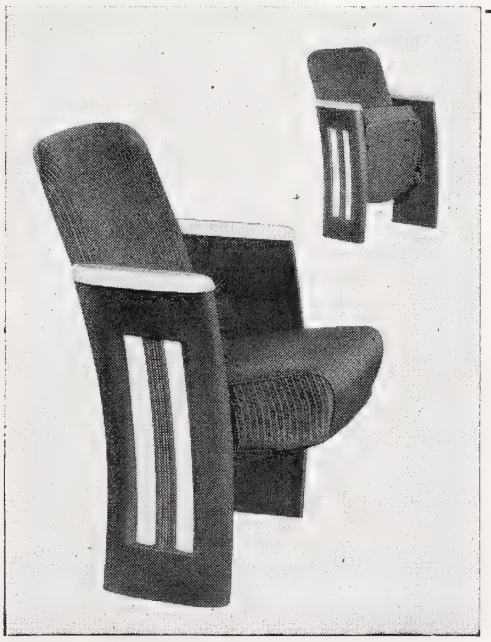
Harold Harris, general manager of H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc., and Mrs. Harris, driving to Tulsa for the opening of the circuit's new Tulsa there, routed by Independence, Kas., and took Mr. and Mrs. "Bill" Wagner along.

E. L. "Jack" Johnson, former McPherson resident who established the Ritz Theatre here, recently opened a new theatre in Los Angeles . . . Vernon Boles, for the past 13 years operator at the Madison Theatre, Madison, Kas., shortly goes to Elizabethtown, Ky., to join H. M. Hobbs, former Madison Theatre owner. In his place at the Madison will go Wallace Bristol.

The Rothrock Theatre, Macksville, Kas., run by Guy Rothrock, dropped admissions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 25 *cents to* 15 *cents. Prices remain the same the first part of the week . . . The Jewell, Paola, Kas., starts a matinee session.*

On the Row—Nick Kotsis, Holden, Holden, Mo.; R. F. Rose, Liberty, La Cygne, Kas.; Mr. and Mrs. Perry Chamberlain, Baily, Waverly, Kas.; Glenn Newbold, Temple, Yates Center, Kas.; Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Robison, Grant City, Grant City, Mo.; E. A. Patterson, Plaza, Greenfield, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Killian, Kaw, Marion, Kas.; Mrs. Moscow, Royal, St. Joseph, Mo.; Harry Till, Corder, Hamilton, Mo.

Warren Weber, Pix, St. John, Kas., (Ritz, Stafford, etc.) and A. J. Simmons, Plaza at Howard and Burlington, Kas., the cronies who went on a trip to Las Vegas, New Mexico, have been heard from on the Row . . . Wilmer Tidwell, traveling home office representative, is at the Warner exchange here for a few weeks.



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Costs No More Than Others.

Built to Excel—
Not Just to Compete.

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STEBBINS THEATRE EQUIPMENT CO.

"The Independent Exhibitor's Best Friend—Since 1899"

1804 Wyandotte St. — Telephone GRand 0134 — Kansas City, Mo.

DES MOINES

FRANTICALLY, Lou Levy dug the following items out of his desk drawers to avoid parting with a Sandy Doll for Mitzi: One package of sewing needles with threader; one telephone-address book (blank); one cardboard "Death Valley" six-shooter; one after dinner mint; six miniature Japanese umbrellas (free with a Tom Collins at the Pastime Club); one Sky Raider pin . . . now where's the doll, Lou?

For Stan Mayer's call-up file about November 1, 1941 when we'll be around again about Christmas ads: Both DM filmrowers and exhibs around the territory are saying you ought to take space for Chappy if you can't sell your salesmen and yourself on taking it for Fox . . . Hi there, Chick, hope you're feeling better now.

At that "Land of Liberty" screening, Mrs. Stan Mayer remarked that seeing filmrowers en masse like that made her wish that the DM Variety Club would be rejuvenated again . . . seeing the same bunch at the Greek relief luncheon made us wonder why with so much good material, the club apparently falls flat on its nose every time it gets up on its hind legs . . . by the way, we must apologize for showing up at the luncheon like Banquo's ghost . . . if we weren't one of these what-the-hades sort of people, we'd have felt like Banquo's ghost, too . . . well, Jack Kennedy was nice . . . and Iles, McKinney & Wolf left when we did.

Bob Friedley and Theresa Sandler were planning on making a record of themselves singing a quartette as a duet (we didn't say from "Rigaletta," Theresa, because we didn't know how to spell Verdi's "Rigoletto.") The reason Theresa is what she is: She has Nate Sandler and Joe Ancher both for her uncle! What a haul of relatives for one little girl . . . and if we're going into relatives, Bob Bernau of the Iowa at Lake City is Bob's uncle . . . guess that'll make you holler "Uncle!"

After the Minnie Simp performance for the DM Civic Music and Ray Blank the other evening, we saw Lou Elman's girl, Gretchen Kelleher, resplendent in a black and mostly-white hat in the Fort coffee shop. Jerry Banta's little Gloria is doing a most remarkable job of walking now, in fact, no child ever did a smarter job of walking (Jerry's version).

Variety Puts Radios In Hospital

Minneapolis—Twelve children's wards in the Minneapolis General hospital, now without radio sets, are being equipped with them by the Twin City Variety Club. Funds raised at a "Gold Rush Days of '49" show March 15 will defray the cost and whatever is left over will go into the Milk Fund, the club's principal charity project, and to a pool for members who will attend the national convention in Atlantic City next May.

Jean Post and Francis Kappler are not mad at each other, they're just too busy to speak . . . Jean still sticks to it that there's no lullabies among the records he and Dot have collected to date . . . maybe you ought to start shopping around, Jean, there's nothing like being prepared. Bud Moran was in Kaycee last week on business . . . Bud has an idea that Roy Rogers ought to be the cowboy on parade for the R&T *carriers' convention.*

Sy Harlan claims it's a stye that makes his eye look like that . . . well, that's a variation of the old door-knob explanation, Sy. Lou Levy says what's the use, nobody cares what I do, my district manager, Joe Garrison, is in Florida and my division manager, Bill Heineman, is in Los Angeles. Jimmy Wynn was in to see Elmer Tilton . . . Nickey Goldhammer was here to gab with Lou Elman. Lou says if the corn percentage doesn't pick up on his farm which he has rented out pretty soon, he's gonna hire a Ross checker.

Madge Ward told us a good story about how to make a hat wear two years, but she made us promise to keep it under our hat . . . Hazel and Howard Dunn are having trouble with Patty . . . she runs off every time they let her out . . . Patty considers them very unreasonable, since the nearest fire plug is at least one-half block away. Lou Levy claims he's been so busy he hasn't had time to find out what the new girl's name is.

Dave Dewey was in town and attended the Greek Relief Luncheon . . . Faye West was there accompanied by the most unusual hat . . . a turban with a braided rug motif . . . very stunning, as are most of Faye's hats . . . DD wore the usual career-girl uniform plus a smile for Harry Gottlieb . . . Burton Jerrell was wearing a no-profit look . . . G. Ralph wore his best Chief Barker's swagger . . . Leo Wolcott wore last summer's coat of tan . . . and who cares what Brenda Joyce wore?

G. Ralph Branton was puzzled by the Orpheum schedule Sunday, but not so puzzled that he failed to observe the jammed foyer and the crowded outer lobby . . . He borrowed Manager Franke's office for conference purposes and Count Berni Vici's stage show wound up with Waterloo and Omaha bookings . . . The count gave Signmaster Hildreth a literary aspect while remodeling the show's scenery here . . . The local artiste dug through the entire reference department of the city library for 15 *minutes looking for a picture of G. Washington suitable for backdrop purposes . . . When last seen he was surveying a* Liberty *cover with a critical eye.*

Tom Gorman came in from Chicago to gloat over Orpheum business and wound up at the Paramount with Emil Franke watching Deanna Durbin in "Nice Girl?" Regardless of what the weather man's charts chart for the months of lambs and lions, Harry Hiersteiner has spring fever . . . Pussy willows, all done up in a pink bowl decorated his Family Theatre cashier's cage . . . And the cashier was dressed to match.

Overseating and Free Shows Are Targets

Minneapolis—New theatre construction and free shows are targets of a bill just introduced in the Minnesota legislature under Northwest Allied sponsorship.

Under the measure's terms, a new theatre cannot be built unless there is a sufficient showing that public interest, convenience and necessity call for it. However, first-class cities, including Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth, and those with home-rule charters, are excluded from its provisions. The bill is designed to prevent further over-seating, according to Fred Strom, Northwest Allied executive secretary.

Stiff conditions in the matter of seating arrangements, aisles, electrical connections, exits, operation of film machines, etc., are prescribed in the act before free shows can be given or 16mm films shown in night clubs or other such establishments.

Patron and Product Lack Again Closes Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS—The future of the 4,000-seat Minnesota Theatre again is a matter of speculation, the house being dark once more and with no tenant in prospect. Tossing in the sponge, the Middle-States Corp. of Milwaukee, after seven weeks' operation with a policy of stage shows and independent feature pictures at low admission prices, turned the house back to the trustees in bankruptcy.

The operators blamed the closing on insufficient patronage and inability to obtain pictures. Middle-States' heads had threatened either a resort to consent decree arbitration or a court action in an effort to obtain major screen product practically all of which is sewed up in the local loop by the Minnesota Amusement Co.—Mort H. Singer pool.

Baer Circuit's Admission Cut May Start Others

MINNEAPOLIS—Action of the Baer circuit in cutting admission prices to a 20-cent maximum in all of its situations, including non-competitive spots, may precipitate general scale reductions throughout the territory, according to fears expressed in trade circles.

The only reason advanced for the slashes is poor business and a belief that lower admissions will revive the boxoffices in the 28-cent towns where it has been off the most.

Rob Majestic Exchange

MINNEAPOLIS—Burglars broke into the Majestic film exchange, owned by J. L. Stern, rifled the safe and took valuable papers along with the receipts of the Mohawk Theatre, St. Paul, recently acquired by Stern. The loot comprised several hundred dollars.

MINNEAPOLIS

AS BEN SPEWAK, theatrical financier, put it, the boys dined and wined the girls of Earl Carroll's "Vanities" at a Variety Club fete only to learn that there IS such a thing as platonic friendship . . . C. B. Stiff, head of Twin City theatre operations for the Minnesota Amusement company, representing all Minneapolis theatres on a committee, appeared before the city council to protest against the recently enacted anti sign-hanging ordinance.

It's rumored hereabouts that Michael Todd, the Chicago boy wonder, is flirting with an entertainment-cafe idea for the much closed Minnesota Theatre . . . "Hy" Chapman, the Columbia flash, beaming about his forthcoming picture, "The Penny Serenade." "Hy's" comments on the attraction came to us via the tailor who fitted him for tails and silk hat, which he'll wear at his daughter's wedding, March 22.

Bob Holcomb, graduate of the Pantages' staff, appointed by J. L. Stern as manager of his recently acquired Mohawk Theatre, St. Paul . . . Billy Evidon, Columbia head booker, showing up with a new car . . . Listen to Jay McFarland, National Screen's hustling manager, rave about his dinner at the Sol Lebedoff domicile the other Friday night. In praising Mrs. Lebedoff's cooking, Mac said top billing must go to the two varieties of gefilte fish served, but Sol, independent exhibitor and Northwest Allied officer, insists that the National Screen representative exerted his greatest oomph in tackling the borscht.

John Friedl, Minnesota Amusement company president, back from Florida and very much on the job again . . . Bess Crane, Eddie Ruben's secretary, extending her Miami Beach vacation due to the bitter weather up here . . . Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Lott Campion, Chatfield, Minn.; Jack Wright, Red Wing, Minn.; Clarence Kaake, West Duluth, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis.; A. L. Troseth, Winthrop, Minn.; W. H. McIntire, Blooming Prairie, Minn.; Charlie Lyons, Aitkins, Minn.; Harvey Thorpe, Crosby, Minn.; E. P. Parsons, Renville, Minn.; E. Dilley, Northfield, Minn., and H. Steeg, Sanborn, Minn.

Mickey Coen, veteran M-G-M salesman, laid low by the flu during his South Dakota trips and confined to hotel at Aberdeen . . . "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, visited Duluth accounts . . . Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, at the prompting of that incorrigible jokester, Bill Elson, ordered "Chad Hanna" for his luncheon at the Twin City Variety Club the other day and he actually had the waiter and kitchen in a dither trying to get it for him.

Archie Zacherl, veteran Universal salesman, up and around again, having recovered from his heart attack, and hopes to be back on the job soon . . . After several weeks' illness, Marion Langeness back at her 20th-Fox desk again . . . Harold Johnson, Universal salesman, delivered the principal address at the Windom, Minn., community club's annual dinner . . . M-G-M helped Bill Cameron, city salesman, celebrate his birthday.

After 12 years with Columbia—much of the time as the branch manager's personal secretary—Bess Popkins is resigning to devote herself to her domestic duties. Dinah Satz of the office staff has been promoted to succeed her . . . Fred Banto, Paramount's new district exploiteer, in from Chicago . . . Gilbert Nathanson, Republic branch manager, visited North Dakota accounts . . . Muriel Bronneche a new addition to the RKO office staff, succeeding Francis Brock who resigned.

They're having a "Nickey" Goldhammer week April 12 to 18 for the RKO district manager as part of the Ned Depinet drive. Dates already have started coming in . . . When they learned that Bill Scholl, RKO exploiteer, was being transferred to Cleveland, Emil Franke, Mrs. Franke and Ken and Rene Clayton sent him a blue bath towel with the admonition "Oh, Dry Those Tears." Emil manages the Paramount in Des Moines and the Claytons are, respectively, the film editor on the Des Moines Register, *and the Des Moines* BOXOFFICER.

Bill Cameron, M-G-M city salesman, put in a lot of good and effective work for the "Bundles for Britain" benefit concert at the Auditorium . . . Richard Arlen, the film star, here from Hollywood for his dad's funeral.

Jack Flynn, M-G-M district manager, a visitor . . . Rud Lohrenz, Warner district manager, dropped into town . . . Cedric Adams, Star-Journal *columnist and radio newscaster, accompanied Harry Dickerman, independent circuit owner, to Florida. Dickerman has opened new offices for his chain of five theatres in the Walker Bldg. . . . Bonnie and Billie Benfield, Morris and Gracefield, Minn., exhibitors, respectively, stopped over en route to Hot Springs, Ark., where they'll vacation.*

So many gals hereabouts were pining for Harold Lyons, 20th-Fox salesman, that he graciously came back from Des Moines for the weekend. He's stationed now in the Iowa metropolis . . . 20th-Fox staff held its annual dinner party in the Hotel Nicollet.

LINCOLN

THE WEEK'S craziest publicity stunt: Paul Anderson had all his Lincoln usher staff entering the theatre via the alley stage door. The movie playing, can't you guess, was "Back Street."

The first year: One-time hamburger wolfing Gene Shanahan, manager of the Nebraska, has changed since his marriage. A 15-minute dinner allotment in the single days, has now lengthened to a 3-hour office exodus for supper . . . Harvey Traylor says the callouses he grew on his mitts from counting "GWTW" tickets with the M-G-M checker every night have just about disappeared. He has been resting so long from the two-week overwork, he says the callouses have now slipped to the back of his lap.

To Ted Mendenhall (for passing along to the censors) and Otto Siegel: Mae West, who used to make pictures for you two guys, is now thinking about doing a streamlined version of "Carmen" for the stage. Streamlining has to do with deletion of the Carmen-sung songs, not Mae. She is still slated to get by with innuendo —and deep breathing!

It's a lie! Joe Scott did not go to Postal Telegraph in Omaha and send all the exhibitors in Nebraska a wire telling them about a movie of his called "Western Union."

Evert Cummings, passing through here after winding up his district manager affairs for Tri-States, prior to leaving for Oregon, said he had been mightily embarrassed by reports that he was going to take over a northwest circuit of theatres. "I'm dickering for two theatres in Oregon," he said, "and they're both in the same town, and they're small houses." He said he would be back to Nebraska in the middle of March.

Bob Huffman has never cut any salaries since he's been in Lincoln, but does what amounts to the same thing. He plays poker with his help—and nearly always wins.

Nifty present: J. H. Cooper, who has the Lincoln Theatres Corp., and Sidney Kent, prexy of 20th-Fox, gave a can of film of the Rose Bowl whoop-te-do this year, to the University of Nebraska. Kent, who lived in Lincoln for 15 years and went to school at the University, saw them play this year against Missouri for the first time since he left Lincoln in 1906. He and Cooper, as they sat together at that game, decided, if they made the Rose Bowl, the film present would be made.

Nebraska's legislature adjourned Saturday to see "The Great Dictator." Howard Federer, general manager of Nebraska Theatres, Inc., had all 43 of the solons down to the Varsity for a look at the Chaplin flicker, and it's the first time such a wholesale migration was made to a film by the lawmakers.

Alvin Hendricks will be wearing derbies from now until he's 40. He bought a dozen of the iron-cranial-capsules for his ushers and cashiers to ballyhoo the imminent playing of Charlie Chaplin's picture, and will probably have to wear them out himself.

NOW BOOKING the only original version on "THE LIFE OF OUR SAVIOR"

Complete from the manger to the cross. Adapted from Behold the Man. Descriptive talking version. 72 Brand New Prints Available. Positively a record-breaker! Only first-class theatres should apply. Beware of patched-up versions. Direct shipments everywhere. Western Feature Films, 1018 S. Wabash, Chicago.

.....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By KEN and RENE CLAYTON

WE don't know how we do it, but "That Jane" is now a "Queen" . . . yeah, of that little "beehive of industry" belonging to Ed Mason up in Osage . . . all joking aside, Ed, BOXOFFICE & Co. will feel very offended if you hit DM again and fail to give us a ring . . . we want you to drop around at 1705 Pleasant and take a look at that redheaded gal of yours whose hide is nailed to the clothes closet door.

And now Frank Shipley of the State in Lenox goes Ed Mason's "that Jane" one better . . . on being introduced to BOXOFFICE & Co. in Lou Levy's office one evening last week, Frank points at BOXOFFICE's brown tresses and ejaculates: "Gosh, and I had you pictured as a sort of blonde hussey!" (Humph, a plain, ordinary blonde hussey wouldn't stand a chance . . . ask & Co. . . . and he'd better answer right).

You exhibitors who get so stuck up lugging thumb tacks in your pockets on those billing tours might find an idea in Shipley's lost and found department. He did. He commandeered a little unclaimed leather purse and carries his tacks safely inside. Wouldn't that surprise a pickpocket —but not the kind you meet in business.

PERSONAL—Lou Levy reports that he'll welcome pictures of exhibitors (ladies preferred) to decorate the nearly-barren walls of his office.

Why shouldn't Bob Snyder room at the home of the local ballroom manager? . . . After all, the Varsity commander-in-chief looks enough like Fred Astaire to make all his customers stare . . . You'll have to cross the Thirteenth Street viaduct to find out about Bob's dancing, though. The gal who's helping him save up two bucks for the license is teaching school down at Carlisle.

What with Joe, Morrie, Carey and the Corydon boys around, it's no wonder we had such trouble getting the front name of the Garden manager listed. It's Edwin . . . Yeah, Edwin Smith.

Cliff Niles over at Anamosa wants a dozen of those Baby Sandy dolls. Heck, Cliff, we haven't even been able to get Lou to hand over one!

Angling along the Row last week was Joe Jacobson, the fisherman from Davenport and Dubuque. He handles the State Theatres, too.

Bob Ringler is around seeing Iowa exhibitors with "Souls in Pawn" in his satchel. The former Storm Laker is booking the film.

When Bob Lester quit as chief of service at the Orpheum, Jennings Peterson stepped into the job and "We-didn't-get-the-name Matheny checked in as assistant. Then Peterson swapped RKO blue for U. S. khaki so Matheny took over and Bill Souers, who ushered there last summer, returned to assist.

Sure, we've heard that Graceland College operates the Coliseum Theatre at Lamoni. But what we've never determined is whether that makes A. N. Deaver a professor. As manager, he dishes out more drama than any other drama department in the state.

H. H. Hall is the only exhibitor we've heard about who followed through on Columbia's "flying press squadron" to publicize "Arizona." Hall, manager of the Rivola Theatre at Elkader, hired his own *luftwaffe* in the person of Willis Hall, his nephew, from Cedar Rapids. Willis dropped 4,000 "Arizona" advertising sheets in 17 towns. In an hour and a half he covered St. Olaf, Farmersburg, McGregor, Marquette, Monona, Luana, Gunder, Egin, Wadena, Volga City, Arlington, Strawberry Point, Edgewood, Littleport, Elkport, Garber, Garnaville and Elkader. The stunt would have taken a day's time or more by car.

It's high time we started pumping Bob Bernau's new organ in the Iowa at Lake City. We heard about the purchase more'n a month ago, but forgot to mention it. Now all we've got to do is hear the organ.

H. A. Sodini of the Strand at Cedar Rapids is reported . . . "Quiet, please! ! !" (But he's expected to be news soon).

A. B. Pettit of the Iowa at Winterset is looking for southern fries and a winter tan.

John Marshall, who manages the new Center Theatre at Grundy Center, is one guy who won't hole up in a hospital and howl when ill fortune strikes. Along the Row they still talk about the time Marshall's theatre in Grundy Center burned and a safe fell on John's foot. Marshall showed up with the rescued film next day and tackled the unloading chore himself, even though his foot was in a cast.

OMAHA

J ROBERT ERICKSON is the new exhibitor at Alta, Ia., according to our scouts. Erickson was on Filmrow the other day and he's a young fellow with a cute wife, according to the description given BOXOFFICE. Hope we can get acquainted the next time you are on Davenport street, Exhibitor Erickson. Dewey Kisor formerly had the theatre at Alta.

A comedy of errors was enacted on Filmrow the other day. Principal actors were Lynn White of Quality Theatre Supply and Bill Voss, mechanic for Film Transport. The scene was the parking lot between the two buildings. Bill was imitating a racing car driver, we're told, and backed into Lynn, who was just driving out of the lot. Bill felt like two cents when Lynn asked him for his driver's license and there was a friendly argument about a very small dent in a fender.

Harry Levy, Fox salesman, has learned that policemen are not exhibitors. Harry has always been known as a good salesman, well able to take care of himself when arguing with exhibitors. A cop tagged Harry's car for overtime parking on Filmrow and the Fox salesman did a lot of fast talking but it didn't work. He paid the $1.50.

Eddie Shafton, Sol Francis and Sol Yeager heard there was a demand in Hollywood for western stars, so they have taken up horseback riding. So far, all three are afraid to ride a horse faster than a walk, we're told . . . Ed Stengel, former RKO salesman here, was in town for a visit. The tall, lanky lad is now in Los Angeles where he is interested in a firm making and selling feeds and remedies for stock. Stengel will find time to play golf, wherever he is, we'll bet.

Ted Mendenhall, Paramount boss, says he'll be able to announce the committee lineup for Omaha Variety Club for 1941 one of these days. It's a little early yet to talk about a spring golf tournament, or is it? . . . Ben Harding of Council Bluffs, Ia., was in town. Also the Mel Smiths, Akron, Ia.; Francis McNickle, Elm Creek, Neb.; Harry Lankhorst, Hawarden, Ia.; Melvin Kruse, Tilden, Neb., and Phil Lannon, West Point, Neb.

L. E. Burkey, Ritz, Deshler, Neb., was on Filmrow trying to swipe some pencils at the Warner exchange, according to a story given us by Bill Wink. It seems Burkey is up to his old tricks, reported here before, of borrowing and not returning pencils, for his collection . . . Charlie Lieb, Metro peddler, celebrates his second wedding anniversary on March 5, which is also BOXOFFICE'S *birthday. How about an exchange of gifts, Charlie?*

Brycerson Bros., exhibitors at Moorhead, Ia., have taken over the theatre at Danbury, Ia., and remodeled it with equipment from Frank Van Husan's layout . . . Warner's Nell Johnson has a birthday soon . . . Wally Johnson, Friend, Neb., has kept pretty well under cover since he was seen shopping for household goods . . . Omaha police have started a check-up on outstate license plates and they seem to be concentrating on Filmrow, which has some of the film peddlers worried . . . Don McLucas went to Des Moines on business.

Harold Bowers, exhibitor at Weeping Water, Neb., is a proud father. It's a boy, promptly nicknamed "Butch." The Bowers' already have a fine daughter . . . Evert Cummings, who resigned as district manager of Tri-States, has left, accompanied by Mrs. Cummings, for the west coast. He will own and operate two and possibly three theatres in the Pacific northwest. The locations have not been announced . . . Some exhibitors are wondering if anything will be done to carry on MPTO of Nebraska and western Iowa.

Julius London Files Two With Arbiters

DETROIT—Detroit's first complaints under the arbitration setup have both been filed by Julius D. London, circuit operator. One is for the Booth Theatre and the other for the month-old Midtown Theatre.

The action for the Booth Theatre is against Vitagraph and Paramount and affects the entire lower east side setup of subsequent runs. Cooperative Theatres of Michigan is named in the action because of its function in booking some of the houses involved.

London claims that the companies refuse "reasonable clearance" to the Booth over the Whittier, operated by Komer and Goldberg; and the East End, operated by the DeLodder circuit. He also contends that the companies are granting unreasonable clearance to DeLodder's Delthe over the Booth; that Vitagraph is not granting reasonable clearance on First National product over the DeLuxe Theatre, operated by the Steffes estate; and that the companies are charging arbitrary rentals—in effect, refusing a run.

Enters Downtown Situation

The action for the second house, the Midtown, enters into the most complicated booking situation in Detroit, that on lower Woodward Avenue, although located three blocks off Woodward itself.

The houses involved are the Coliseum, operated by London's brother-in-law, Jack Krass; the Mayfair, operated by the Cohen brothers; the Majestic, operated by Schreiber circuit, and the Globe, operated by William Schuttenhelm. The Schreiber and Cohen clearance situation is now the subject of a protracted lawsuit in federal court, filed by Schreiber against Cooperative Theatres. Cooperative and also Mutual Theatres, the other local booking organization, are both named by London as affecting this second case.

London names Paramount, Loew's, RKO and Vitagraph in the Midtown case, and claims that they are giving the Coliseum unreasonable clearance over the Midtown, in effect refusing a run, contrary to Section 6 of the consent decree. Also he contends that the distributors grant the Mayfair, Globe and Majestic unreasonable clearance over the Midtown, contrary to Section 8, and asks for an order granting relief on both counts.

The Midtown case is further unusual in that it is probably the first filed for a brand new theatre and seeks relief right away, although the house opened in January, after other contracts for opposition houses for the season were closed.

Impartiality Marks Detroit Arbitrators

DETROIT—The careful attention to impartiality of arbitrators under the new AAA setup is attested by a careful study of the list of 15 men named for Detroit.

None of these men has, according to the best informed sources in the industry, any interest, past or present, in the motion picture field. In fact, only one man, J. Lee Barrett, has any past connection with show business through the shows at Convention Hall sponsored through the Detroit Convention and Tourist Bureau, which he heads. Notable among these were the Detroit and Michigan Expositions.

Law Firm to Represent Isreal in Ellet Case

CLEVELAND—Louis Israel, owner of the Ellet Theatre now under construction in Akron, and the first exhibitor to file a case under the new arbitration system, will be represented at the hearing by the law firm of Benesch, Marsteller, Friedlander and Morris, Citizens Bldg. Jerome Friedlander of this firm served the industry as impartial representative on arbitration under the NRA.

"Fantasia" Tickets on Sale in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—Tickets went on sale Monday for the local premiere and "all performances thereafter" of Walt Disney's "Fantasia," which opens in the Fulton, March 5. Initial showing is a benefit for the Greek War Relief and prices are $2 and $3. Thereafter the twice daily admissions, with all seats reserved, are: Matinees, Monday-Friday, 75 cents, $1.10; evenings, Saturday, Sunday and holiday matinees, $1.10, $1.65, with federal tax included.

Newspapers have revealed the story of "multiple sound" and the engineering required in recording, mixing, and finally the installation of special RCA sound reproducing equipment for this special engagement of "Fantasia." Radio tieups and outdoor advertising together with the regular Walt Disney outlets through merchandising channels have made the area conscious of this unusual cartoon which features great music, conducted by Leopold Stokowski. The Fulton closed at midweek for final preparations and renovations in connection with the premiere. "Fantasia" cannot be shown in any other theatre within 100 miles of Pittsburgh, states the advertising copy.

New One Open

CYNTHIANA, KY.—Carl Rohs has opened his new 666-seat New Opera House here.

The arbitration picture in the Detroit and Cleveland districts to date:

DETROIT—

Demands for reasonable clearance for the Booth and the Midtown theatres have been made by Julius D. London, circuit operator. In the former action the complaint names Vitagraph and Paramount. In the case of the second house, Paramount, Loew's, RKO and Vitagraph are named.

AKRON—

Louis Isreal, building the Ellet Theatre, is seeking some run and an end to the seven-day protection at present afforded the Norka and Rialto, owned by W. L. Hart.

Pa. Censors to View Juke Box Pictures

HARRISBURG—Jurisdiction over "nickel-in-the-slot" films has been given to the Pennsylvania state board of censors by the justice department.

The opinion or ruling was made after the department had been asked whether it was obligated to view and approve 16mm films made for use in small machines which could be scattered around commercial places like candy and cigaret vending machines.

A "fair fee" to charge for viewing a reel of less than 1,200 lineal feet of film regardless of the number of separate subjects it contains is $2. The opinion also held that a similar fee should be expected for each duplicate film or reel or print thereof.

Greensburg Vote Recount Approves Sunday Shows

GREENSBURG, PA.—Although an official recount disclosed that Sunday motion pictures were approved by a dozen votes, Judge J. Hilary Keenan has withheld the "go" signal to local theatres. A technicality is involved, it is understood. Meanwhile, religious groups have threatened to take the matter to the state's highest court to prevent the opening of theatres here on Sunday. The issue was defeated last November 5 but the entire referendum was challenged and several weeks ago the recount, under Judge Keenan, was completed, and announcement was made that Sunday exhibitions had been legalized.

Two-Men-in-Booth Bill Before Pa. Legislators

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Representative Adie S. Rush, Delaware county, has introduced into the legislature a bill which calls for the employment of two men in a projection booth at all times. This measure comes before the body each session. The new Rush act is known as House Bill No. 496.

The Sunday motion picture law of 1935 would be amended under term of a bill introduced by Rep. Joseph M. O'Brien of Philadelphia. This measure is known as House Bill No. 510.

Both bills are now before assembly committees.

Ordinance a Block

YOUNGSTOWN—Because of a pending ordinance requiring large parking lots adjacent to theatres, Warner Bros. has abandoned plans for a $100,000 theatre here on the northside.

Flesh on Saturdays

COLUMBUS—The Main, subsequent run, has inaugurated a new weekend policy, offering in addition to the regular film program, stage shows every Saturday night.

Managers' Union Signs With Broder

By H. F. REVES

DETROIT—Formal unionization in the theatre managerial field became a reality here this week with signing of what is believed to be the first contract of a circuit with a managers' union. Principals in the case are Jack Broder, owner of five theatres, and Theatre Managers and Assistant Managers' Local 22312, holding a federal local charter from the AFL. The union has been understood to be active for over a year, as previously reported in BOXOFFICE, but has not hitherto disclosed any of its actual membership, with one exception, and has now signed its first contract.

Broder's Town Theatre, which he operates under a short-term lease arrangement, and may close later, and his Rainbo, where his brother, Abe Broder, about to be called for service in the National Guard, has been manager, have been exempted, so that the contract applies only to the Seville, Time and Times Square. Public announcement was issued by Arthur F. Brock, president of the union, who is manager of the Seville.

What the Pact Provides

Details of the contract, which covers four typewritten pages with inked additions, were given to BOXOFFICE by Clayton Bordner, attorney for the union, and confirmed by Broder. They are:

The management will employ only union managers. In addition, one manager who was not a union manager, is joining.

Managers will receive one night off every two weeks, partly through the use of what is termed a "swing" man to relieve them. Bordner added that Broder has verbally agreed to make this one night every week in a short time after personnel problems affecting the Rainbo and Town managerships have been settled.

Wages are increased by $7.50 to $12.00, or $15.00 per man per week. Actual wage scales were not disclosed.

Definite working schedule is to be made under the contract, and managers and assistants will work shorter hours than in the past.

Further Points

Bordner summarized the further points of the contract as:

Working week will be six days of eight hours each, with overtime at 50 cents for each half hour or fraction thereof after midnight. In addition, $5.00 extra must be paid for each matinee in addition to regular house policy, such as occasional midweek or holiday matinees.

New managers may be employed who are not union members, but they must become members within 30 days.

All men employed for one year or more will receive one week's vacation with pay each year.

Managers and assistants "shall be required to perform only such duties as have been generally accepted and recognized by managers and assistants in the past." This clause is intended to stop the use of managers for firing furnaces, making repairs to seats, doing electrical work, and other repair and maintenance work which is not considered to be in the manager's jurisdiction.

Assistants will be directly under the control of the house manager. This clause is intended to prevent such an incident as direct firing of an assistant by a superior circuit officer, according to Bordner, particularly with a view to avoiding favoritism.

Managers shall be deemed "competent" after 30 days' employment by the very fact that they are employed for the length of time. They may be discharged for intoxication, dishonesty, or incompetence, but the latter cause is thus ruled out after one month's employment.

An arbitration clause to settle disputes under the contract is provided, with an elaborate mechanism, including ultimate appointment of an arbitrator by the Wayne County circuit court if no other agreement is possible, and an arbitration process for grievances within the union itself is also provided.

Browne's Arrival Lifts Hopes for Settlement

DETROIT—A settlement was hoped for this week in the two-month-old picketing by the Building Service Employes International against local theatres, chiefly the United Detroit circuit, with the arrival of George E. Browne, IATSE president, who became interested in the case when it was presented to the AFL executive council at its recent session in Miami.

The dispute does not involve a strike since no UDT employes are out. Earl J. Hudson, UDT president, told BOXOFFICE that "None of our employes have quit or gone on strike, and none have appeared on the picket line. As far as we know, all pickets are non-employes."

Ray Carroll, Building Service International representative, giving his side of the dispute, said "We believe we can make better progress by notifying the public that the management is 'unfair' than by calling our men out. Our men will be called out when the operators, electricians and other crafts come out with us. Janitors could easily be replaced, and it would not be very difficult to operate the houses if only our men came out."

John Andrews President Employes Local B-25

DETROIT—New officers elected by the Film Exchange Employes' Union, Local B-25, include John Andrews, Vitagraph shipper, president; Madalene Massey, Vitagraph inspectress, vice-president; William Hanmer, 20th-Fox shipper, business representative; Mary Schaumberg, Vitagraph inspectress, financial secretary; Ruth Taylor, UA inspectress, recording secretary; Amy Burgin, Vitagraph inspectress, treasurer; Marietta Feaser, Paramount inspectress, seventh board member; Violet Demerest and Bette Iller, Republic inspectresses, delegates to International.

Andrews issued a statement on the connection of Exhibitors' Service with the union, denying reports circulating on Filmrow that Howard Craven of Exhibitors' Service is in any way connected with the union.

B-5 Dinner-Dance Draws Over 125

CLEVELAND — Film Exchange Employes Local B-5 celebrated its fourth anniversary with an elaborate dinner-dance attended by more than 125 members and guests who assembled in the Rainbow Room of the Carter Hotel.

Victor Wellman, secretary of Local 160, IATSE, filled the master of ceremony's chair and not only confined his introductory remarks to as few words as possible, but laughingly admonished the speakers to do likewise.

Harland Holmden, first vice-president of International IATSE and business manager of Local 160, brought greetings from International President George E. Browne and Assistant President Lou Krause, who could not attend because of pressure of business. Keynote of Holmden's speech was to emphasize the spirit of harmony existing in Cleveland between the operators and exhibitors and between the film exchange employes and exchanges. Much of this harmony he credited to George W. Erdmann, secretary of the Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Association, and to John Kalafat, chairman of the association's labor committee.

Out-of-town union men who responded with short speeches were Richard Walsh, third International vice-president, and director of film exchange locals, who reported that there are 33 locals throughout the country, each of them with 100 per cent membership; Harold Rundell, president of the Buffalo local; John J. Rubach, business agent, Buffalo; Ted Talley, president Pittsburgh local; and Ben Bein, John Shelton, Louis Lightner and Arthur Fix, all of Cincinnati.

Distributors were represented by Lester Zucker, Columbia branch manager; I. J. Schmertz, 20th Century-Fox branch manager; Bernard Rubin, PRC office manager; Guy Holman, of RKO; Alexander Newman of Universal, and Charles Rich, Vitagraph branch manager.

Three presentations were the highlights of the banquet. Ira Becksted, organizer of Local B-5 and business manager until recently, was presented with a gold life membership card. Becksted, in accepting this honor, said that he has held a union operators' card for 45 years. His first card was issued in 1896. Belle Lyons and Jerry Krupka were singled out for having served the industry over a longer period of time than any other exchange members in Cleveland. Miss Lyons of Warner Bros. has been an inspectress for 32 years. She received as a token a piece of jewelry. Krupka of Paramount has served 32 years as a shipper. A pencil and pen set was presented to him.

John C. Wein, president of Local B-5 and acting business manager, received special mention for having served 25 years with one company, namely RKO and its predecessor, Pathe. J. R. Johnson, first B-5 president, got special mention for outstanding contributions to the local.

Charles Rice, chairman of the entertainment committee, was complimented on the arrangements.

CLEVELAND

JACK WATTS of the local National Theatre Supply branch has been appointed salesman out of the Cincinnati office. He was guest of honor Monday night at a farewell dinner, the Cleveland NTS personnel being hosts. They presented him with a Gladstone bag. Mrs. Watts and the baby will follow as soon as Jack finds suitable quarters . . . "Fantasia" is scheduled to bow at the Hanna some time in March. RCA engineers are now measuring up the house for the necessary new sound equipment.

Lester Dowdell's son, Dick, who has been working in the Warner poster department, leaves March 7 for military training . . . Joe Kauffman, Universal branch manager, back in harness after an eight-week illness, is looking better than he did before the Strep germ got him. Says he is feeling as well as he looks . . . I. J. Schmertz, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, announces that "Tobacco Road," fortified with one of the biggest advertising and publicity campaigns of the year, opens March 8 at the local Hippodrome; March 6 at the Paramount, Toledo; March 6 at the Palace, Canton.

James Scoville of the Scoville, Essick & Reif circuit, disgusted with the weather, is now in Miami Beach . . . Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner, is enthusiastic over the announcement that his company will produce "Ice-Capades" with the original troupe of 75 people.

Frank Drew, M-G-M branch manager, was kept at home last week by a bad cold . . . Mr. Exhibitor, have you received your "Sis Hopkins" desk pad from Republic Pictures? If not, you'd better ask for one because they are very tricky.

Joe Minsky, former Vitagraph city salesman whose present address is 112th U. S. Engineers, Camp Shelby, Miss., writes that the weather is cold where he is and that he is busy collecting new experiences.

Facing a Lottery Charge in Akron

Akron—It took Akron authorities four days to make up their minds, apparently, but John Wagner, 22, assistant manager of the Palace here, is to appear in municipal court on charges of promoting a lottery in connection with the appearance at the theatre of Horace Heidt and his band and his "Pot O' Gold" scheme of entertainment. Heidt, after a four-day appearance at the theatre, moved on to Youngstown.

Contention of the prosecution is that giving away money on the turn of a wheel to members of the audience constitutes a lottery because possible recipients paid admission to the theatre. The charge has no connection with Heidt's radio show in which his sponsor gives money away.

Demanding Action On Bank Night

PITTSBURGH — The Better Business Bureau is demanding action on the part of local theatre owners and managers who have failed to reply to a request of the bureau to voluntarily abolish Bank Nights.

However, G. H. Dennison, BBB's manager, said his organization is "still hopeful that this form of lottery can be stopped here by voluntary action and that theatres operating Bank Night will abandon this lottery as a public nuisance and as a growing threat to the orderly conduct of business."

The AMPTO of W. Pa., in session last Thursday in the Hotel Roosevelt, took no action on BBB's request that theatres discontinue Bank Night and other such cash games. The subject was ignored while the membership, comprised of many exhibitors who do not offer these games, engaged in other matters.

Fred J. Herrington, AMPTO secretary, stated that BBB's charge that theatre games had forwarded and increased the many other types of games being played elsewhere, and away from theatres, needed no answer. He denied such charges and promptly dismissed the subject.

Dennison then replied through the newspapers that he was demanding a showdown on Bank Nights. He said:

"That is immaterial. We asked that theatre owners take voluntary action to end a scheme which has been outlawed in Pennsylvania by superior court action. There is no sense trying to fool ourselves. Motion picture theatres are not charitable enterprises. In making Bank Night awards, they are not moved by any spirit of brotherly love or sympathy with the poor. To them it is a coldblooded business device to fill their theatres with paying patrons. They actually give away nothing, since the prizes are supported by the mass contributions of thousands of losers."

Bank Night's Status Into Deeper Fog

LOUISVILLE—The clouded status of Bingo and Bank Night here came under a lower ceiling in the statement by Safety Director H. Watson Lindsey that he did not see any point in altering the city's attitude toward either promotion scheme. His view was expressed in responses to an opinion by Jesse K. Lewis, assistant attorney general, to the effect that Bingo and Bank Night were illegal, regardless of the identity of the sponsors.

A bill legalizing Bank Night was passed by a special session of the general assembly in 1938 after a similar bill had been vetoed by Governor Chandler. In 1940, the legislature put a 15 per cent tax on the awards, but took the position the tax did not legalize them.

Louisville at present permits Bingo games by charitable and fraternal institutions. Bank Nights are allowed under certain restrictions.

LOUISVILLE

WHAT might have been a tragic accident was experienced by the Universal sales crew en route from Indianapolis to their Chicago convention. Carl F. Mock, Kentucky representative; William Sherman, city salesman; Don Hammer, North Indiana salesman; and Milton Ettinger, head booker, left Indianapolis by automobile early Wednesday, and upon nearing Kentland, Ind., hit an icy road that caused the car to leave the road and turn over. The car was completely demolished but the occupants got away with bruises and shock.

Mr. Ira B. Dyer has taken over the Marian Theatre, Auburn, Ky., from Erwin W. Rau, operator of the Alice Theatre, Leitchfield . . . Charles D. Blair of Hopkinsville, Ky., has acquired both the Dover Theatre, Dover, Tenn., and the Erin, Erin, Tenn. Blair plans quite a bit of remodeling for both houses . . . Peter Mallers, Fort Wayne exhibitor, has assumed operation of the Riley, acquiring it from the Quimby circuit . . . Louis Wiethe, circuit operator in Cincinnati and Kentucky, has added the Ada, Ohio, house to his string.

Carl Rohs opened his new house at Cynthiana, Ky., February 6. All exchanges were represented. Features of the debut were a parade by the town band, and a sumptuous spread provided by Carl for the visitors.

B. N. Peterson has been appointed manager of the National Theatre Supply Co., Indianapolis branch. Peterson has been connected with the company for several years and comes from the Cincinnati office. Peterson replaces Don Smith.

Charley Behlen and H. C. Congleton, cooperators of the New Lincoln, Stanford, Ky., have installed RCA sound and screen, also new projectors along with other new booth equipment . . . New lamps and rectifiers have been installed in the Grand Theatre, Lancaster, Ky., owned by Congleton . . . Projectors have been installed in the Lyric, Marion, Ind. . . . A rewind has been purchased by J. A. Bailey for the Strand, Greensburg, Ind.

A new glass front and ticket office has been installed at the Ritz, Bruceton, Tenn., along with remodeling and redecoration of the interior . . . New lamps and rectifiers have been installed by George Duncan in the Lyric, Carlisle, Ky., and a complete sound system has been installed in the Aspley, Glasgow, Ky.

The Lyric Theatre, Louisville, which has been closed several weeks for a complete remodeling, is scheduled to re-open March 2 . . . The deluxe New Moon Theatre, built less than one year ago, has been taken over by the Gregory circuit from Theodore Charles.

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"Philly Story" Gives Weather a Battle

CLEVELAND—A week of heavy snowfall, high winds and icy roads was reflected by a drop in boxoffice receipts in all classes of houses. "The Philadelphia Story," playing a second week downtown, made the best showing of the week, with "The Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" on a double bill leading in popular favor. "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," also a move-over for a second week, made a good showing. The other first runs got by with fair grosses, and subsequents reported the poorest week since the first of the year.

Detail for week ending February 21:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO).....130
A second week downtown, moving over from the Hippodrome.
Hippodrome—**Western Union** (20th-Fox)..... 80
Lake—**The Virgin Bride** (SR) and **School for Husbands** (SR).....200
Palace—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox)..... 80
Stage show featured Andrews Sisters and Joe Venuti as headliners.
State—**So Ends Our Night** (UA)..... 70
Stillman—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M)...190
Second week downtown. Moved over from the State and being held for a third week.

Holdovers Fade Before Severe Pitt Weather

PITTSBURGH—Holdover pictures, petering out, and severe winter weather, put the skids under the Golden Triangle's boxoffices. "The Philadelphia Story," in its second week at Loew's Penn, was the strongest attraction, and was moved over to the Warner. "GWTW" turned in the second best percentage gross at the Warner in its second week there and for its fifth and final week downtown was moved over to the Ritz. "The Son of Monte Cristo" and a South American stage revue, "La Conga," managed to hit the average mark, and other theatres found the going rather rough although the Senator's take was very good on "This Thing Called Love," which closed after its fourth week at the Liberty avenue house. "Hellzapoppin" did capacity business at the Nixon on a fortnight engagement.

Details to February 15:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Great Plane Robbery** (Col); **Lucky Devils** (Univ) 80
Fulton—**Land of Liberty** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 55
Penn—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 2nd wk...120
Ritz—**Convoy** (RKO); **Let's Make Music** (RKO). 80
Senator—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 4th and final wk. 85
Stanley—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); La Conga stage revue 100
Warner—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 4th d. t. wk. 115

'GWTW' Sole Exception in Mediocre Detroit Week

DETROIT—Local first runs suffered from prevailing cold weather and discouraging show-going for most of the week. Worry over effects of theatre crowds on flu-incidence evidently keep many away despite the decrease of the near-epidemic here.

Outstanding this week was "GWTW" in its return to the United Artists. Actual grosses here were kept somewhat down by the length of the picture, but the house is running four shows a day—opening at 8 a. m., and starting the show at 9 a. m., so patrons get the maximum chance—and there is a good crowd on hand for the early show.

Opening of "Fantasia" at the Wilson, which has long been dark, in midweek looked good, at least for the class audience attending the earlier shows. The picture has not hit its popular stride here yet, and film wiseacres gave it about two weeks for this town. Handicap of opening of Lent is against this film as well as other local shows.

Holdovers marked the weekend otherwise, with the Fox and UA holding shows intact, while "Kitty Foyle" and "Back Street" stay on at their houses.

Detail for week ending February 20:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Back Street** (Univ), after wk. at the Fox; **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox).....125
Cinema—**Schubert's Serenade** (SR) 60
Fox—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col) 110
Michigan—**High Sierra** (FN); **No, No, Nanette** (RKO) 90
Palms-State—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), after wk. at Michigan; **Phantom of Chinatown** (Mono)...115
United Artists—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).170
Wilson—**Fantasia** (Disney) 100

Buermele Praises Recent Product

Detroit — "Pictures have shown a marked increase in boxoffice value in recent weeks," Carl R. Buermele, general manager of Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan, informs BOXOFFICE.

"Bookings set by our own office have been of much higher drawing power, particularly for the neighborhood theatres which constitute the bulk of our membership," he adds.

"Tugboat Annie" Plus Stage Chugs in First

CINCINNATI—"Folies Bergere of 1941" combined with "Tugboat Annie Sails Again" took top grosses in the Queen City. Business in general was rather sluggish and unusually cold weather undoubtedly took its toll at the boxoffice. However, two films, "Western Union" and "Back Street" in a second week ran 10 per cent above average.

Detail for week ending February 20:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), held.....110
Capitol—**Back Street** (Univ), held 3rd wk.....110
Grand—**Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) 90
Keith's—**High Sierra** (FN) 90
Lyric—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), held 3rd wk. 90
Palace—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M).....100
Shubert—**Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (WB), plus stage show 115

Constants Vacation

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO — A. G. Constant, head of Inter-State Theatres, Inc., and Mrs. Constant are in California for a two-month vacation. During Constant's absence, George A. Delis, district manager of the chain, is directing affairs of the circuit.

Another Shea Link

WHEELING, W. VA.—Shea Theatrical Enterprises has acquired the Colonial here from Laskey & Harris. The house will be closed temporarily for complete modernization.

Must Wait Until 1945 To Operate Carmen

DETROIT—In the final court order issued by Circuit Judge Guy A. Miller in the suit of Joseph Stoia vs. Joseph Miskinis, the defendants, including Miskinis and Gorelic and Marshall, were restrained from transferring ownership of the Carmen Theatre structure in any form for the period of the injunction—or until February 16, 1945.

The case was described at length in last week's BOXOFFICE, and this further addition to the issuing injunction is said to cover up the last remaining chance for operation of the building as a theatre. It may, however, be converted to other uses such as for stores or a bowling alley.

Informal Weekly Sessions Tried by AMPTO of W. Pa.

PITTSBURGH—Informal membership get-togethers on a weekly basis has been inaugurated by the AMPTO of W. Pa., according to Fred A. Beedle, president, and Fred J. Herrington, secretary.

The decision to try out this new idea in the way of meetings was made at a meeting in Hotel Roosevelt on February 20. The informal sessions will be held in the assembly room at exhibitor headquarters on Filmrow. Mondays are the days for these get-togethers and they will begin promptly at 2 o'clock and be adjourned at 3 p. m.

Purpose of these weekly meetings is to discuss any questions that have come up during the week on matters that might affect the independent theatre owners.

New Theatre Under Way at Dayton Housing Project

DAYTON, OHIO—Work has started on the new McCook Theatre, adjacent to the Parkside development on the site of old McCook field. The 950-seat house will represent an investment of $100,000 and is being built for the Keowee Development Co. by F. & Y. of Columbus.

Operations of the new theatre, which will open around July 1, will be directed by the Central States circuit (Virgil Jackson-John Murphy) of Columbus.

New Urban Makes Bow In East McKeesport

PITTSBURGH—One of the finest suburban theatres in the area was opened on Washington's birthday anniversary when the new Urban bowed in East McKeesport.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas A. Malanos, owner-managers, staged an invitational inspection-reception the evening prior to the opening for members of the trade, community leaders and friends.

Acquires Sally Rand Film

CLEVELAND—Lee Chapman, operating Exploitation Pictures of Ohio, has acquired the Sally Rand picture, "The Dance of the Peacock" for state distribution.

DETROIT

Greek War Relief Aid Asked of Trade

Pittsburgh—Exhibitors are urged to sign a pledge to cooperate with the Greek War Relief in a message from M. A. Rosenberg, former AMPTO president and associate chairman, exhibitor organization, for this worthy cause. He stated:

"We are depending on your assistance in a campaign to help alleviate suffering among civilians and the wounded. Please sign the pledge to cooperate.

"Exhibitors have always been noted for their charity and kindliness. In such a time and for such a cause, let us excel."

Cleveland Committee to Aid Cause of Greece

CLEVELAND—The co-chairmen of the local Greek Relief Fund—I. J. Schmertz, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, and John D. Kalafat of Associated circuit—have appointed the following committee to assist in raising money for relief of Greek war victims:

Frank D. Drew, M-G-M branch manager; Charles Raymond, division manager in charge of Loew theatres; Nat Holt, RKO Great Lakes division manager; Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager; Nat Barach, NSS manager; Bert Stearn, United Artists district manager; Charles Rich, Vitagraph branch manager; M. B. Horwitz, general manager of the Washington circuit, and Henry Greenberger of Community circuit.

United Motion Theatre Company Incorporated

DETROIT—The United Motion Theatre Co., formed two years ago by Saul W. Sloan, builder of the Television Theatre—now under construction—has been formally incorporated. Offices are at 733 Penobscot Building, and capitalization is listed at $25,000. Sole listed stockholder is Sidney W. Foreman, well known in the theatre field here.

The Riviera Arcade Theatre Co. has decreased its capitalization from $300,000 preferred and $60,000 common to $260,000 preferred and $60,000 common. This company is a Munz circuit affiliate. The Munz interests, however, have leased the Riviera Theatre to the United Detroit Circuit, and now directly operate only the Century.

Stage Shows, Dual Bills At Town for 20 Cents

DETROIT—The Town Theatre, operated by Jack Broder, went to a stage show policy plus double features on a full-week basis Friday. The house is operating at 20 cents admission, setting a new bargain rate for stage shows here. Variable prices on stage shows are being discussed, however, with possibility that the house would go as high as 50 cents for major show names.

ALBERT W. HEUSER, manager of the Aloma, is justly proud of that family of his . . . Ralph Raskin of Robinson Premiums says girls are his choice (his take good care of the "old man") . . . Susanna Foster, Paramount songbird, in Detroit during the week in advance of "Hard-Boiled Canary" . . . Ed Kirchner, Family manager, and Louis Kirchner—you see him officiating at Variety—having a father-and-son lunch at the Book . . . Bill Flemion, PRC manager, and Max Blumenthal, official projectionist, dining at the Cascades . . . Charley Snyder, film censor, the hero of a nice writeup in the Sunday Detroit *Times*. Explaining how he works.

Saul Korman, manager of the Empress, has his questionnaire in for the draft . . . Milton London busy playing nursemaid to the youngsters at his Saturday shows at the Midtown . . . Julius D. London has a letter of congratulation on his recent opening from Gov. Murray D. Van Wagoner . . . Mrs. Jack Krass of the Coliseum has recovered from pneumonia. Son Marvin Krass busy assisting in operation of the house now . . . Verna Hillie, once the "Panther Woman" of Michigan Theatre fame, and her husband, Frank Gill of Gill & Deming, Chicago radio team, were guests of Art Koskie and Peggy Bacon of Butterfield up at Variety . . . Harry McDonald, our favorite milkman, gave an unprecedented singing exhibition everybody enjoyed.

Thornton Ross, a nephew of Fred, the veteran Variety steward, proved a singer of rare voice at the club Saturday . . . Freddy Musser, latest Detroit juvenile "future star," is appearing as Freddy Mercer in "Five Little Peppers in Trouble" . . . Saul Sloan's new one at Six Mile and Schaefer Roads is to be called the Mercury . . . Sol Berns, booker, is meeting Ray Schreiber in Chicago on his return from Tucson, to arrange for bookings for the Colonial on a new split week stage show policy . . . Herman R. Feil and I. Shulman have their new Movie Flash Co. in an office almost on the river front . . . Dolly Loehr, 14-year-old pianist in "Hard-Boiled Canary," and Cliff Lewis of Paramount weekended in town with a busy series of luncheons and broadcasts for them and the star, Susanna Foster.

Rabbi Leon Fram, chaplain of Variety, was host to the Barkers Friday in a Brotherhood Service at Temple Beth El . . . Sam Jack Kaufman, formerly of the Fox, is a new barker in Washington . . . Cliff Giesseman, Altec, is commuting between Detroit and Cleveland in his present territorial sales efforts . . . Charlie Perry, manager of the Adams, is leaving for a motor tour of Mexico . . . Joseph Wedda got an o. k. from the city council for marquee on his new theatre on West Warren Avenue, while Ira Kaplan's request for a sign at the Cinema was turned down . . . Julius D. London of the Booth hits the hay about the earliest of any local filmite . . . Walter Aller, manager of the Del-The, thinks he knows "a hot one" . . . Adrian D. Rosen is active operator of the DeLuxe, following the death of William Steffes.

Lucille Ball and her husband, Desi Arnaz, both RKO stars, laid the cornerstone for Sol and Mac Krim's new theatre in Highland Park . . . M. F. Gowthorpe, comptroller of Paramount Theatre Service Corp., was in town on his way back from the coast to see the Royal and other UDT houses with Earl Hudson . . . Wade Allen of the Fine Arts and Arcade off to Grayling, winter-sporting for the weekend . . . Harold Berg has been made publicity man for the Town by Jack Broder . . . Hoyt Morris, active in Detroit show publicity fields, was exonerated in recorder's court on charges of alleged embezzlement entered about two years ago, and growing out of his management of the secretary of state's office here.

Stirling Hayden's appearance in "Virginia" at the Michigan was signalized by formation of the first Hayden Fan Club by 18 Wayne U co-eds . . . Howard C. Craven of Exhibitors' Service, Bill Carlson of the Studios, and Frank Lorenzen, theatrical florist, are carrying water for the elephants—working out at the Shrine Circus . . . Jackie Gleason, WB actor, is currently appearing at the Club Royale . . . Lester Sturm, 20th-Fox manager, has to watch his step when he turns up the heat controls, or he'll pull that fire alarm . . . Jess "Nea" Veldman, Fox cashier, overlooking Cass Avenue from the front window . . . Mary Marguerite Green is the new secretary to I. H. Yackness at the motion picture arbitration office.

Ray Branch, president of Allied Theatres of Michigan, was in town the first of the week for the general Variety meeting . . . Joseph Stoia of the Midway at Dearborn attends the Pioneers' parties . . . Vincent Pope, manager of the Circle at Dearborn, phones in with the hot news that a lone bandit took the house for $185 . . . Jeff William is busy redecorating his East Detroit Theatre at East Detroit.

Beatrice Mattingly Is Chosen "Film Queen"

DETROIT—A "Queen of the Motion Picture Industry" who will take her due rank with the beauty queens of other industries, was selected by Detroit Variety at an industry "Get -Acquainted" night. The new queen is Beatrice Mattingly, secretary to John Howard, Paramount branch manager. Bess Moses of 20th-Fox was selected as her maid of honor.

That the film queen has intelligence as well as good looks, was evidenced earlier in the evening when an old-fashioned spelldown to pick the most efficient secretary in local exchange and theatre offices, was won by Miss Mattingly.

Judges for the beauty contest were Jack Keegan, new film buyer, and assistant to the president of United Detroit Theatres; Dave Flayer, owner of the Amo Theatre, and H. F. Reves of BOXOFFICE. The evening was, incidentally, the best attended Variety Frolic in the past year, and the unusual contest attracted much attention in local newspaper and radio reports.

PITTSBURGH

BILL FINKEL, south side's pride and joy, will be King at the March 3 dinner at the Variety Club. Maurice Spitalny, music maker, has the March 10 spotlight. Mr. and Mrs. Ira H. Cohn will be host and hostess at the club's family night party March 7. Brian McDonald had the honors February 28 . . . Edward Ray Downes, a native of this city, but recently of New York, has been named manager of the Erie Playhouse, succeeding the late Henry B. Vincent, who founded the Erie institution a quarter of a century ago . . . Variety expects to have the largest turnout in its history at the national convention in Atlantic City, May 15-17. Barkers here will sponsor another turtle derby this fall.

Jeanette Simpson, PRC biller, is the new cashier at this exchange, succeeding Stanley Lieberfarb, who is now in the army. New employe at the PRC office is Marion Louise Heinlein. Dave Lefton and Lieberfarb, both of PRC, are Filmrow's first boys to answer the call for defense. They were sent to Fort Meade and Lefton has since been assigned to coastal defense duty in Virginia . . . William J. Lewis, dean of local theatrical writers, reports in the Sun-Tele *that "average families spend $20 a year for movies—that's about $5 and some cents per person." These figures are from a report by Dr. Vergil D. Reed, acting director of the U. C. census.*

Western Pennsylvania County Fair Ass'n, in convention here, re-elected Dr. W. A. Titus of Waynesburg as president and named the following "County Fair" dates: Week of August 4—Ford City and Clearfield; week of August 11—Butler; week of August 18—Bedford; week of August 25—Indiana; week of August 28 to September 1 (Labor Day)—Stoneboro; week of September 1—Ebensburg; August 28 to Labor Day, inclusive—Allegheny County Fair, South Park; September 8-13—Waynesburg; week September 15—Washington; week of September 22—Ligonier. Light harness racing will feature. New Castle, Mercer and other dates will be announced later.

Charlie Truran denies that he's charging fees for exhibition of his collection of Valentines. He's got one heart which he's not showing everybody, however. Just can't expose all his personal cards, you know . . . Casino here has been leased for Sunday afternoon showings of Polish films. There are no burlesque performances that day. New policy begins March 9 . . . Christy Wilbert was around last week in connection with local engagements of "Tobacco Road" and other 20th-Fox pictures. At one time a member of the Stanley-Warner publicity department here, he has been a 20th-Fox exploiteer for several years working out of the New York office.

George Alderman and Harry Taylor of Los Angeles were Filmrow visitors this week in connection with Constance Bennett cosmetics. They have a new theatre deal for this merchandise. The former is a brother of our own Peter Alderman, supply dealer, and Taylor tells us that many years ago he employed our publisher, Ben Shlyen, as a boy amateur violinist. In this business, it seems, your past catches up with you. There's always someone who knew you when . . .

Dave Kimelman, Paramount manager, was in Philadelphia last Friday attending the testimonial dinner which honored Earle W. Sweigert, newly appointed district manager . . . Charles E. Kennedy has been re-elected president of the Theatre Employes Union, Local B-12 . . . The C. J. Lattas have returned from California where they enjoyed a month's vacation . . . George Wheeler, former local film man and now booking a theatre circuit with headquarters at Washington, D. C., was here this week to undergo an operation in a local hospital.

New Oakland, recently acquired by the Warner circuit, is closed for renovation . . . Jim Baker hosted members of the Amateur Cinema Cllub at the Mode Art Studio the other evening and the amateurs got a big kick out of this visit to a professional studio-laboratory. "Sonny" Mansmann and others of the Mode Art staff assisted Baker.

"Uncle Lou" Krieger, "lone wolf" film man, covers the entire area, and not just a block territory as do the other salesmen, and he gets in more mileage and visits more exhibitors than any other of the "drummers." He has a lot of product playing hereabouts and he works hard gathering in his playdates. "Uncle Lou" was a pioneer film distributor here, having opened one of the first exchanges. He retired years ago, but he couldn't get films out of his system, so he got back in the swim a year-and-a-half ago . . . Last week we reported that Art England had departed for a month's vacation in Miami. So he had. But at Washington he read the weather report from the "sunshine state" and returned here.

Pennsylvania Senate this week confirmed the reappointment of John H. Harris as a member of the board of trustees of Western State Penitentiary . . . Ike Browarsky is vacationing in Florida . . . John Cosentino, PRC auditor, is on duty at the local office . . . Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dattola, Springdale, and Sam Navari, Universal, have returned from Florida vacations . . . Archie Fineman is at Hot Springs.

Joe Lissauer, Skirball circuit booker, was in from Cleveland the other day and was around Filmrow with Mannie Greenwald, the Barry's "Merchant of Menace" . . . Sol Goldberg, former Elkins exhibitor, is making visits in the celluloid colony again and we understand he has plans for re-entering the industry . . . David N. Green denies that he is even thinking of disposing of the Beacon . . . Bob Smeltzer, Vitagraph district manager, was here on business with Harry A. Seed . . . Mrs. A. Josephs, wife of the Triangle exhibitor, is vacationing at Miami Beach with son Herbert, who had just graduated from high school . . . Private Dave Lefton is now at Camp Pendelton, Va., and Stanley Lieberfarb is stationed at Fort Monroe, Va. Both are from the local PRC exchange.

Ray Palmer, Vitagraph auditor, is checking up at the Warner exchange . . . John Harris, son of Frank J. Harris, is the father

(Continued on next page)

CINCINNATI

FILMROW with few exceptions, celebrated Washington's Birthday with a holiday, only the perennial bookers being on hand.

The second annual stag dinner of the Cincinnati Cinema Club drew over 300 members and exhibitors from all over the territory and was voted a huge success. Among the out-of-towners gracing the occasion were Universal's Jack Stewart, Detroit; William Keyes, Freddy Krimm, Paul Banker, Herb Byrd and Ev Bennett of Dayton, Phil Bobys, Metro office, Washington, D. C., carried off the $100 drawing. Rudy Knoepfle, president, was much congratulated on the success of the affair and Jack Stewart of Detroit announced a similar organization was on the way in Detroit.

Ike Libson, RKO theatres chief, departed for a rest in Florida . . . Joe Alexander, manager of RKO Albee, announces the Albee will be redecorated and painted, including the balcony, main floor and all lobbies . . . The Viv, Corbin, Ky., suffered damages by fire February 18, when a house adjoining burned. The roof, stage, seats and carpets were burned and the screen destroyed. The house, operated by Schine's, is managed by Louis Merenbloom and will be remodeled and opened within 60 days.

Louis Wiethe has closed his recently acquired Roselawn, Bond Hill, Cincinnati, temporarily. Wiethe also operated the Bond, in the same radius . . . Midwest Theatre Supplies equipped the Ideal, recently acquired and reopened by Mrs. J. C. Crone on Columbia Parkway.

Jim Stallings jr. has been added to the personnel at Midwest Theatre Supplies, assisting his dad, J. Stallings, in operating the business . . . Although Uncle Sam's army has taken many of the team, the Filmrow bowling tournament goes merrily forward, with Al Hobt of Metro leading the single high scores, and Warner team topping the tournament to date, in games won.

Visitors to the Row included L. J. Kraft, Columbus, and B. P. Schroeder, engineers with Altec service. Schroeder stopped off to survey the Esquire Theatre. B. F. Thomas, credit manager from Detroit, was also here and toured the territory with W. Conner, local manager.

Alvin Rebuilding Is Becoming Certainty

PITTSBURGH—Since the night of last November 14 when the Alvin's roof collapsed there have been stories, published and rumored, that the theatre would be rebuilt. Tips of "definite" information regarding "inside" knowledge that a new modern theatre would be erected to replace the old structure was brought to our attention—but there was no announcement forthcoming. Now, an agreement has been reached between the Harris Amusements and Harvard University, owner of the building.

Details are to be released at once and work on the rebuilding will be started at an early date, with expectations that the theatre will be ready for opening in early summer.

Pittsburgh Pro Football Will Be "Dressed Up"

PITTSBURGH—Alex Thompson, young millionaire owner of the Pittsburgh Ironmen, pro football team, will bring showmanship into the game here for the fall and winter season. From New York comes word that he plans to dress up the Forbes Field goal posts with neon lights for night contests and that he will have a 110-piece band on hand at all games.

Construction Bids for Two at Fort Custer

DETROIT—Authorities at Fort Custer, near Battle Creek, are opening bids on construction of two new theatres there in addition to the 1,000 seat house opened a week ago. One contract calls for enlargement of a present structure to 1,000 seats, and the other is for a new theatre for Negroes to seat 638.

BOWLING

DETROIT—Lorenzen Flower Shop climbed to the top of the Nightingale Club last week, nosing out National Carbon. Jack Lindenthal's 211 and 209 for a net of 598, were largely responsible for the Lorenzen push. Other high scores were: W. Rickens, 200, total 533; and S. J. Lambly, 219, total 556. Standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Lorenzen Flower Shop	47	33
National Carbon Co.	46	34
Motiograph	45	35
McArthur	43	37
National Theatre Supply	40	40
Ernie Forbes	39	41
Brenkert Projectors	32	48
Amusement Supply Co.	29	51

DETROIT—William Szypulski hit the top in the Film Bowling League, rolling a 269 for the all-season high, while Republic beat their own record by eight points to hit 2,489 for a three-game third-high for the league. Standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
United Artists	54	30
Co-Operative	51	33
Republic	48	36
Film Drug	45	39
Film Truck	38	46
20th Century-Fox	35	49
Amusement Supply	34	50
Monogram	31	53

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from preceding page)

of a son. Young Johnny Harris manages the Palace-Newsreel . . . Variety Club is sponsoring the premiere showing of "Fantasia" at the Fulton, March 5, for the benefit of the Greek War Relief. A special press preview of the production will be held the evening of March 4 . . . During the "Fantasia" engagement at the Fulton, Owen Cleary will be shifted to duty at the Park, Youngstown, Ohio . . . The McKee will undergo alterations.

Four thousand Jeanette MacDonald fans jammed Syria Mosque Monday evening for the M-G-M star's song recital . . . Ed Siegal serenaded Filmrow the other day from the special "Buck Privates" ballyhoo train which paraded city streets. Another downtown stunt was a fellow in uniform in a 5 & 10 cent store window—peeling spuds . . . Julian "Dooley" Tonkay has resigned duties with Alvin Seiler, theatre supply dealer. Seiler is transacting all business from his Greenburg headquarters.

Attending the inspection-reception at the opening of the new Urban, East McKeesport, last Friday evening were Lawrence Carettie, Fred J. Herrington, Mark Goldman, Abe Weiner, Hymie Wheeler, Joe Gins, Mort England, Max Shulgold, Vince Josack, John Steely, the William Jervises, Charles Underhills, Lew Leftons, Dick Allens, Art Morrones and others including this corner of BOXOFFICE. The Nicholas A. Malanoses were fine hosts. In addition to a late evening snack, the Urban issued souvenir programs and pencils.

Kap Monahan, Press drama editor, now calls himself "The Flicker Slicker." He turns in a lot of copy against double bills . . . Irving Zeltner, UA exploiteer, has been around working on "So Ends Our Night," "The Great Dictator" and other releases during the Arthur W. Kelly sales drive . . . Wally Vernon, cinema comic, has been appearing at several local night spots.

Funeral services for William Leiber, who died last Friday after a long illness, were held Sunday afternoon at his home. He was president of the Hazelwood Theatre Corp. Surviving is the wife, Sarah Leiber; a daughter, Mrs. Michael N. Shapiro; two sons, Benjamin L. and Robert S. Leiber, the latter manager of the Paramount, Braddock; and three grandchildren, all of Pittsburgh, and a sister, Mrs. Bella Pollack, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Burial was in Beth Shalom Cemetery.

Hanna Joins P. R. C.

CLEVELAND—John Hanna, for nine years with M-G-M in the sales and auditing departments, has joined the Cleveland exchange of P. R. C. as salesman in northern Ohio.

Adapt Next Crosby

HOLLYWOOD—Bing Crosby's next for Paramount, "Cupid With a Beard," is being adapted by Kenneth Earl and Curtis Kenyon from an original by Michael Uris. Paul Jones will produce.

"Welcome Home" Party Is Set for Matt Goodman

CLEVELAND—Friends of Matt Goodman will welcome him back to health and full resumption of his duties after a three months' illness at a special "Welcome Home" celebration to be held at the Variety Club, March 10.

The celebration will start with an informal stag dinner and will be followed by specially arranged entertainment.

In charge of arrangements are Charles Raymond, Loew division manager; Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager; Charles Rich, Vitagraph branch manager; M. B. Horwitz, general manager of the Washington circuit; Norman Levin, Lou Geiger, Harry Leffert and Lester Dowdell of the UA office.

Name Perry and Howard Convention Delegates

DETROIT—Detroit Variety has elected former and present chief barkers as delegates to the national convention at Atlantic City in May. They are: Charles Perry, manager of the Adams, and John Howard, manager of the Paramount exchange. Alternates are Frank J. Downey, M-G-M manager, and William Flemion, PRC manager.

Perry was also elected to the pre-convention arrangements committee, which will meet in Atlantic City, March 22. David Newman of the Pasadena is alternate.

Bandits Enter and Rob Lyric at Lancaster

LANCASTER, OHIO—Two masked bandits who gained entrance by breaking the lock on a side door of the Lyric Theatre, Sunday night, held up Assistant Manager Al Fetters in his office, escaping with $460. Bound and gagged by the robbers, Fetters managed to attract the attention of the operator, Clarence Alspaugh, 15 minutes later. Police have found no trace of the men.

Dick Deutsch Sells

CLEVELAND—Dick Deutsch of the Dick Deutsch Printing Company has sold his business to Edward Sammon of this city. Deutsch plans to spend a month vacationing in Florida and then return to the printing business in Cleveland.

Barkers Are Called

COLUMBUS—Two members of Tent No. 2 of the Variety Club have been called to active duty with the army. Lieut. Hugh Gooding, salesman for National Theatre Supply, left Monday, as did Lieut. Col. Howard E. Harmond, Chillicothe, who is attached to the medical corps at Camp Davis, N. C.

Ralph Miller in the Army

PORTSMOUTH, OHIO — Ralph Miller, assistant manager of the Garden here, has joined the army for a year of military training.

Muskegon Experiencing A Boom in Building

DETROIT—Muskegon is experiencing a theatre building boom, upstate reports indicate. Nick Kuris is enlarging the Ritz, a 500-seater, to 1,200 seats by taking over an adjoining hall used for a bowling alley and adding it to the theatre.

At Muskegon Heights, a suburb, P. J. Schlossman has announced plans for a new theatre in addition to the Muskegon houses he now operates jointly with Butterfield.

Two Neighborhood Houses Planned in Queen City

CINCINNATI—Two new theatres in neighborhood districts are under way here.

Bob Fitzwater is erecting a new house, to be known as the West Hills, on Queen City Avenue. The theatre will seat 700. A large parking lot is included in the plans.

Manny Marcus, operator of the Esquire, will open a neighborhood theatre in St. Leger Place, Walnut Hills, in the near future. Pete Smith announces a new project in Bellevue, Ky.

Lefton, Kirby, Gorrel To Republic Meeting

CLEVELAND—Attending the regular quarterly Republic sales meeting in New York on March 6 and 7 from this territory will be Nat L. Lefton, Republic Ohio franchise owner; George Kirby, manager of the Cincinnati office, and S. P. Gorrel, Cleveland branch manager.

Resolution Indorses "Land of Liberty"

Detroit—A special screening of "Land of Liberty" for members of the legislature at Lansing was followed by a resolution, passed by the House of Representatives, thanking the management of the Butterfield houses and indorsing the picture.

Gets Glass Front

PITTSBURGH—A glass front is being installed at the uptown Rialto, operated by M. A. Rosenberg. The large electric sign is being removed and will not be replaced, but the house name in three-foot letters will be attached to the three-color glass facade. Three hundred light bulbs will illuminate the theatre front.

Hardgrove to Coast

COLUMBUS—John Hardgrove, for the past six years assistant to Russ Bovim at the Ohio, and relief manager for Loew's western division, has resigned. He leaves at once for the west coast where he has an affiliation with a theatre chain.

Tendered Farewell Party

EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO—James A. Fisher, manager of the American here, reports on March 2 for a year's military training in the army. Associates and friends tendered him a farewell party Thursday.

Cleveland Uptown Theatre Staff Forms a Club

CLEVELAND—Personnel of Warner's Uptown Theatre has formed a club called the Uptowners. Recently elected officers are: Don Roper, president; Stan Narosny, vice-president; Eugene Brockman, secretary; Paul Kurtz, treasurer. Don Myers was elected an honorary member. First formal party of the club was a banquet at Monaco's. Second affair was a hayride and banquet held February 21.

ZeVan Building Theatre In Elizabeth, W. Va.

PITTSBURGH—Billy ZeVan, theatre decorator, will enter exhibition in Elizabeth, W. Va. He has obtained a long-term lease on the first floor of the Masonic Lodge Hall there and is remodeling it for a theatre with a seating capacity of 250.

The theatre, to be named the Wirt, is expected to open late in March.

To Open on Easter

BROCKWAY, PA.—The new Brockway will open Easter Sunday, according to Joseph and Charles Kosco. The house will seat 550.

Hillsboro House to Chakeres

HILLSBORO, OHIO—The Phil Chakeres circuit, Springfield, has taken over the Forum, formerly operated by Bill Hill. Chakeres previously had acquired the Colony and Bells theatres here.

ANY NEWS TODAY?

Planning a new theatre? Remodeling? Being promoted? Getting married? Got a new baby (infant)? Buying new equipment? Been elected mayor? Son or daughter graduating? Proud of a new exploitation stunt? Hired a new staff member? Solved a knotty problem?

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Arbitration Panel For New Haven

NEW HAVEN—Members of the arbitration panel for the New Haven film tribunal are announced by the American Arbitration Ass'n. The list will probably be augmented in the future. The members of the panel:

Warren C. Allen, credit manager Second National Bank, 135 Church St.

W. C. Armstrong, secretary-treasurer Rockbestos Prod. Co., 285 Nicoll St.

Vernal W. Bates, president and treasurer L. C. Bates Co., 205 River St.

Milton P. Bradley, treasurer Morris Plan Bank, 128 Temple St.

M. R. Davie, professor of sociology Yale University, 133 Hall of Graduate Studies.

James Fleming jr., Yale professor of law, Yale University Law School.

A. G. Gulliver, dean Yale school of law, Yale University.

Henry W. Jones jr., president American Tube Bending Co., 5 Lawrence St.

Herbert S. MacDonald, lawyer, Parmelee & Thompson, 205 Church St.

Oscar Monrad, secretary New Haven chamber of commerce, 152 Temple St.

George P. Murdock, professor of anthropology, Yale University, 130 School of Graduate Studies.

Maurice C. Resnik, attorney, 865 Chapel St.

David M. Richman, attorney, Richman & Silver, 157 Church St.

Nathan G. Sachs, attorney, counsellor at law, Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

Philip R. Shiff, attorney, 42 Church St.

No cases have been filed as yet with the local tribunal under the arbitration system prescribed by the consent decree.

Previously reports erroneously placed the New Haven tribunal office in the Second National Life Bldg. The office is in the Second National Bank Bldg.

Move to Double Tax On Racing in Mass.

BOSTON—Massachusetts theatre owners, hard hit financially by the legalization of pari-mutuel horse and dog racing in the Bay State several years ago, have been taking particular interest in the present legislative demand that the state double its $2,000,000 annual tax at local tracks by increasing levies on pari-mutuel betting.

The Massachusetts Federation of Taxpayers Association went on record as favoring tax increase on dog racing to get Massachusetts $750,000 more yearly. The organization declared that a poll conducted among the residents of the state showed 97 per cent of them in favor of increasing dog racing taxes.

John L. Feeney of Cambridge, sponsor of a flat 10 per cent tax on dog racing and five per cent tax on horse racing, said that under New York's five per cent tax, Suffolk Downs would have had to pay $462,000 more to the state on the basis of the $22,000,000 handled in the 1940 racing season.

Sees Decree Demanding Strong Organization

Boston—"Independent theatre owners must adjust themselves to a new way of doing business now that the consent decree is in effect," Shep Epstein, field representative of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., opined this week.

"The problem involved," Epstein continued, "is so great that few exhibitors realize how much has been done and even fewer realize how much remains to be done. When they do realize these essentials, one factor remains increasingly clear: An impregnable organization capable of forcing all reasonable demands will stand out as a necessity."

Garbose Takes Date Plea to Arbitrators

BOSTON—Abe Garbose, operator of the York in Athol, filed New England's second arbitration case Tuesday, with the local clerk, Henry de la Morandiere, at the Chamber of Commerce Building quarters in Boston.

Garbose is seeking national release dates for the York Theatre in Athol, Mass. He alleges that national release dates formerly were granted the house.

George S. Ryan, the anti-trust lawyer, was retained by Garbose as counsel. Ryan also is attorney for Ben Gold, operator of the Park in Nashua and the first theatreman in this territory to enter a complaint under the AAA setup.

The Independent Exhibitors, Inc., of which Garbose is a member, assisted the theatre owner in laying the groundwork for the case. This same organization is also backing Gold in his proceedings. In these instances, Business Manager Arthur K. Howard is representative for Allied States Association.

Complaint Filing Aid Offered to Members

BOSTON—"This office stands ready to prepare complaints for presentation to the arbitration tribunal and to represent all members who wish it," Arthur K. Howard, business manager of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., advised members this week.

"The importance of filing complaints with the arbitration board should not be overlooked by anyone," Howard continued. "In order to get a true picture of the effectiveness of the consent decree, the department of justice must, at the end of the three-year trial period, have a complete picture of the relief gained by independent exhibitors under the setup."

Howard advised members not to conciliate privately, averring that in most instances "you will settle for less than you will get from arbitration."

The arbitration picture in New England to date:

NASHUA, N. H.—
Ben Gold, Nashua independent, charges 20th-Fox, Paramount, Warner and RKO with refusing to license some run in the Park Theatre in Nashua.

ATHOL, MASS.—
Abe Garbose, operator of the York in Athol, is seeking national release dates for the house. He alleges such dates formerly were granted the house.

Quick to Contest New Booth Bill

HARTFORD—Exhibitors descended on the state capital 50 strong to oppose the two-men-in-a-booth bill, which was before the judiciary committee for the seventh consecutive session of the legislature.

Since hearing was scheduled with very little advance notice, the delegation gathered first at the Bond Hotel to discuss the line of opposition to this bill from the "safety" angle in which it had been presented. Arthur H. Lockwood, president of Connecticut MPTO, and A. M. Schuman, president of Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut, presided.

In a crowded hearing room, Arthur Lockwood, down from Boston; Irving C. Jacocks, Branford exhibitor who is a representative in the legislature; C. Hess of Groton and Moosup, and Joseph F. Reed of Washington Depot and Bantam, brought out facts concerning actual fire records of the past several years, revealing that no theatre fires had originated in booths, and that in the only two fires of any consequence, the booth had remained standing although the remainder of the buildings was demolished.

Stressing the angle that no operator should leave the operating side of the machine at any time, and indicating that two men are necessary in a booth, were Thomas Fitzsimmons, lobbyist for operators and stage employes in the current session, George Brazil, president of the Connecticut Association of Motion Picture Operators and Stage Employes; John Egan, secretary of the Connecticut branch of the AFL; and James Finn, editor and publisher of *The Projectionist*.

Meanwhile, two blank bills on installation of safety control devices on cinematograph apparatus were ruled out because full texts of the bills were not inserted by February 18. Exhibitors are anxiously hoping for a similar fate for tax bills filed in blank, which have not yet come to light.

Independent Exhibitors' Committee Nominating

BOSTON—A special nominating committee for the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., is considering a report to be made at the annual meeting of the organization, March 11. Indications are that the only changes in the officers will be replacements for William H. McLaughlin and Irving Isaacs, both resigned.

The nominating committee is composed of Frank Perry, Tom McNulty, Richard Rubin, and Wilbur Peterson. Elections will be held on the same day.

Interstate Dismissal Motion Is Denied

BOSTON—A motion of the Interstate Theatre Corp. that the U. S. district court of Vermont dismiss the anti-trust suit brought against it by Tegu's Palace Theatre, Inc., on the ground that Interstate does not transact business in Vermont was denied by Federal Judge Harland B. Howe. Mortin E. Fain, Interstate general manager, was the only witness.

"Interstate 'services' four theatres located in Vermont (many in other places) owned or leased by Rockingham Operating Company, a Massachusetts Corporation," decided Judge Howe. "Fain is also its general manager. He spends all his time at the Massachusetts offices of Rockingham and Interstate and goes to and from the theatres.

"Servicing" as Evidence

"In 'servicing' the theatre, Interstate selects their local manager, their equipment, such as seats, rugs, curtains, drapes, etc. It is their purchasing agent and their booking agent, too. He selects what pictures they show and designates when to show them. Fain has been going to St. Johnsbury where the Interstate Starr Theatre is located, about five times a year. He does auditing at this theatre by checking tickets and petty cash. He says he always goes there as manager of Rockingham (it always pays his traveling expenses), he never goes there as the manager of Interstate (it never pays his traveling expenses). Whenever he has come into Vermont he has come as manager of Rockingham, never as manager of Interstate . . .

"This 'servicing' is valuable to obtain and keep public patronage. It's name, Interstate, is displayed as a theatre sign at each of the Vermont theatres. It is printed in the Vermont newspaper advertisements, urging the public to come to the picture shows. It is printed on the program of the shows which are given to the persons attending . . .

Denial to Graves Theatres

"This," Federal Judge Howe ruled, "is transacting business in Vermont. Much is necessarily done by divers persons for Interstate in Vermont. Whether it is done by Fain as its general manager or by others, for or without compensation, is unimportant. This makes it unnecessary to consider Fain's credibility. Motion denied."

Judge Howe also denied the Graves Theatres, Inc., a motion to dismiss finding that the defendant in the anti-trust action had answered April 9, 1940, and had, therefore, waived its motion to dismiss filed June 27, 1939.

Judge Howe further denied a motion brought by the Rockingham Operating Company seeking what His Honor termed, "particulars of unnecessary prolixity." The court stated, however, that the motion might be renewed "in obedience to the rules."

Jack Carson to Metro

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has borrowed Jack Carson from Warner for a topline in "Love Crazy," the Myrna Loy-William Powell co-starrer.

"Buck Privates" Benefits By a Heavy Campaign

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—Heavy selling campaign by RKO-Albee gave that theatre the lead over other first-runs last week with "Buck Privates." "Western Union" in its second stanza at the Majestic held up satisfactorily. "GWTW" at Carlton for the second week of its extended run (return showing) and its ninth week in Providence held up for a normal gross.

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Invisible Woman** (Univ) 150
Carlton—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 100
Fay's—**Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 90
Majestic—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Meet the Chump** (Univ), 2nd wk. 80
State—**So Ends Our Night** (UA); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M) 130
Strand—**The Mad Doctor** (Para't); **Barnyard Follies** (Rep) 70

"Buck Privates" on Dual New Haven's Star Draw

NEW HAVEN—"Buck Privates," dualled with "Girl in the News" at the Paramount, stood them up on Sunday and did a good week's business. Third week of "The Philadelphia Story" and "Saint in Palm Springs" stood up notably at the College. Slippery roads kept patrons home several nights.

Detail for week ending February 21:

(Average is 100)

College—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Saint in Palm Springs** (RKO), 3rd wk. 100
Loew-Poli—**So Ends Our Night** (UA); **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) 90
Paramount—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Girl in the News** (20th-Fox) 150
Roger Sherman—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); **Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 110

"This Thing Called Love" And "Hudson's Bay" Lead

BOSTON—"This Thing Called Love" continued to draw business in Boston last week where it was held for a second stanza at both Loew's State and Orpheum. "Hudson's Bay," in its first week at Keith's Memorial, was above expectations and was held for a second week.

Detail for week ending February 21:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**The Mad Doctor** (Para't); **Jennie** (20th-Fox) 70
Keith's Memorial—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Invisible Woman** (Univ) 165
Metropolitan—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M) 105
Orpheum—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Nobody's Children** (Col) 135
Paramount—**The Mad Doctor** (Para't); **Jennie** (20th-Fox) 65
State—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Nobody's Children** (Col) 140

Kibbee Humbled By Politicians

Concord, N. H.—During a personal appearance at a local theatre, Guy Kibbee was a guest of the state legislature.

Applauded loudly as he was introduced by Gov. Robert O. Blood, the film star told the world's largest legislative body that "I never thought I would live to see the day when a Democrat could get that much applause in New Hampshire. But all the members of my golf club at home are Republicans, outside of myself and Bing Crosby."

Theatre Building Spurt in Spring

NEW HAVEN—Theatre improvement activity is receiving a spring spurt.

Joe Faith, operator in Collinsville, Unionville and Terryville, is due to open his 700-seat house in Bristol, formerly a lodge hall, early in March.

Reports have it excavating has definitely started for a 1,000-seat Perakos-Quittner theatre in East Hartford.

Fred Quatrano of the Lido, Waterbury, will build a 700-seat house in Newington, which has no theatre.

Philip Schwartz will improve and enlarge his 400-seat Parkway, Bridgeport, this spring.

Strand Amusement's Strand-Palace will get 700 new seats, a new heating system, marquee, and new front of modernistic blue glass.

Bids are out for remodeling and enlarging the Michael Daly 700-seat Plainfield.

The Roger Sherman, New Haven, and other Warner "A" houses are testing new type lamps which promise to create an improved lighting effect.

Al Herman Day-and-Dates "Flying Wild" for Eight

BOSTON—Setting what is probably a new record in this territory for independent day-and-date first-run bookings, Al Herman, Monogram district manager, has concluded deals for eight simultaneous unveilings of "Flying Wild."

The contracts, which will count in the present Monogram sales drive, are with the RKO Boston, Ralph Snider's Metropolitan in Providence, Harris Bros.' State in Hartford, Giles' Garden in Laconia, Morse & Rothenberg's Arcadia in Portsmouth and Colonial in Nashua, and Warner's Capitol in Danbury and Palace in Torrington.

Nathan Press Managing Uptown in Bath, Me.

PORTLAND, ME.—Nathan Press, for several years assistant manager of the local State, is now in Bath, Me., as manager of the Uptown, an M&P house. The Uptown was formerly managed by Francis Gooch, who has been transferred to the new Houlton at Houlton, Me. Press has been succeeded here by William Romanoff, former chief-of-service, who in turn has been succeeded by Otis Graham jr.

Conn. High Court Remands A Non-Suit Decision

HARTFORD—A non-suit decision in a damage suit filed by Morton Rappaport against Rosen Film Delivery System, Inc., New Haven, was remanded with direction to the superior court in New Haven by the state supreme court.

The action was instituted to recover damages for alleged personal injuries.

BOSTON

JOSEPH A. DiPESA, local Loew's advertising manager, ballyhooed "Philadelphia Story" in town by having a girl canvass the city with a camera, the resulting photos being displayed in the lobby of the Loew's State and Orpheum with ducats going to those who could identify themselves.

Robert Sternberg, M&P Theatres Corp. district manager, lost his mother last week . . . Mary Coleman of M-G-M was out last week because of illness . . . Elizabeth Foley of M-G-M was also on sick leave . . . Charles Kurtzman, Loew's Northeastern division manager, has returned from a circuit jaunt.

Leonard Kraska, Fine Arts house manager, reports that his first present to his one-month-old son is a flashlight. Says Kraska, he is already training the youngster to be an usher . . . Fred Lynn has been appointed chief of service at Loew's State in Boston . . . J. B. Fishman, circuit owner, plans to be south for the next few weeks.

James H. Grady, 70-year-old retired vaudeville and legit actor, died last week in a Lynn convalescent home . . . Nathan Yamins, Fall River exhibitor, and Joe Mathieu, circuit owner headquartering in Winchendon, played golf in Florida the other day . . . Maurice N. Wolf, M-G-M district manager, has been in Florida . . . Wilbur Peterson, operator of the Orpheum in Somerville, is still wearing a Florida tan.

Tom O'Brien, local Monogram head booker, is pushing the Jam Handy gratis shorts to keep in the running for prizes, $25.00 on each 12 reels, that go to the exchanges which first reach the quota of playoffs on each respective reel . . . Christopher Joyce, manager of the Durfee in Fall River for Interstate, is spotting organ features at the house . . . Susanna Foster has been here in advance of "Hard-Boiled Canary." Marty Glazer, advertising manager for the Paramount and Fenway, has had her in tow and hosted a party for her Monday afternoon.

The high spot at the Capitol Theatre Supply last week was when a Western Union boy came into the offices on Wednesday and sang birthday greetings to Kenneth Douglass, Capitol head . . . Harry Asher of Producers Releasing Corp. was in New York . . . Oze Tessier, New Bedford exhib, was in . . . Ben Gold, Nashua independent, was in town a number of times last week from New Hampshire . . . Ben Cohen, formerly manager of the College in New Haven, has been transferred from India to South Africa by Loew's, Inc. He was here for a stay before taking the new assignment.

Sam Kurson is going ahead with plans to erect a new theatre on the site of the present Comique in Camden, Me. . . . Rumors are rife again that a new motion picture house may go up in Belmont . . . There is also talk of a new theatre in Southbridge . . . The Strand in Newport went into blackness this week as renovation activities were started. The M&P Theatres Corp. house is to be the subject of intensive rebuilding . . . M&P also is stepping up the Marlborough in Marlborough.

E. M. Loew, independent circuit owner, has been in Florida. Also E. Harold Stoneman, Interstate partner, as well as Louis Rothenberg, Morse & Rothenberg partner . . . Charles Morse, partner of the same circuit, has been cruising in the Caribbean . . . Warren Nichols, operator of the Gem in Peterborough, N. H., has been south.

Peter Levesque, manager of the Fairlawn in Pawtucket for Joseph and Max Levenson, lost his mother last week. Levesque formerly managed the Strand in New Bedford for E. M. Loew . . . Edward Cuddy, M&P Theatres Corp. division manager, authorized special late showing of "High Sierra" and "Honeymoon for Three" at the Scollay and Modern in Boston on Washington's Birthday eve.

Stirling Hayden, Bostonian featured in "Virginia," was grabbed by Paul Levi, Metropolitan advertising manager, during Hayden's recent publicity jaunt here and spotted for personal appearances at the Met on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday.

Max Melincoff, Warner theatre head out of Boston, has been south . . . Eleanor Glazier of Producers Releasing Corp. has been directing several amateur plays . . . Capitol Theatre Supply Co. has supplied one KW lamp for the Thompson Square in Somerville . . . E. M. Loew has installed new seats in Pawtucket . . . Renovations are under way at the Empire in New Bedford, Harry Zeitz house . . . William Sirica of the Lido in Waterbury is another New England film man who has deserted this territory for Miami.

Edward Garrity, manager of the Capitol in Lynn, is recovering from a serious illness . . . Renovations have been going ahead at the Producers Releasing Corp. exchange here, beginning in Harry Asher's office . . . It has been suggested that when RKO occupies its new Arlington Street quarters, the former RKO headquarters may be utilized as bowling alleys.

Ross Cropper, RKO district manager, and cohorts are pushing ahead in the current Ned Depinet Drive which concludes May 9. The local office was second in the drive at the conclusion of the first week and third at the end of the second, very much in the running.

Marty Glazer, Paramount and Fenway publicity manager, tied in windows at Jordan-Marsh and R. H. White's, in addition to 35 Western Union windows, for "Western Union" . . . Glazer plugged "Mad Doctor" with extra ad space and bore down heavily on exploitation for the Paramount and Fenway bill, netting special stories in the press.

Thad C. Barrows, president of the Moving Picture Operators Union, Local 182, plans to leave with a Red Sox contingent for Sarasota, Florida, training quarters next month . . . Ralph Snider, circuit owner, has been continuing in Florida . . . Phil Engel, Warner exploitation head in this territory, has been in New England aiding on "Strawberry Blonde" . . . Louis Ramm, Equity Film Exchange sales promotion manager, in town . . . Norah Kelley, secretary to Edward X. Callahan at 20th-Fox, went skiing in Vermont.

Ben Domingo, city manager for the RKO theatres, held "Hudson's Bay" and "The Invisible Woman" for a second week at the Keith Memorial . . . Dick Shaughnessey, national skeet champion who won the main event at Syracuse this year with 249 out of 250 and 50 straight in the shoot-off, will be featured at the Skeet Club being set up in the film district.

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That the Gracious Showman's Answer to The Seating Problem

Just as you offer your friends at home the most comfortable chairs, you should make even more certain of your patron's comfort. They EXPECT it. THEY PAY for it. You MUST PROVIDE it.

Let us show you the IDEAL solution for this important exhibitor problem. The Ideal Chair—"built to excel, not just to compete."

CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.
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NEW HAVEN

RECENT New Haven quilt factory fire with shocking loss of life has prompted a wave of state police checking on all establishments, including theatres. A few were charged with overcrowding . . . Exhibitors had to toe the mark for Sunday night closing at 11, a rule hard to follow to the letter with long duals . . . No activity yet in the arbitration office . . . Exhibitor attention is focused on the legislature where two-men-in-a-booth has already been opposed . . . Charity Bingo, exhibitors' chief beef, cannot even be strenuously opposed, since neighborhoods depend on church and neighborhood organization goodwill . . . A bill previously filed in blank has been filled in to set up the post of Bingo commissioner and deputy in each of six congressional districts of the state at a salary of $5,500 per commissioner. These men would issue licenses now granted by towns. Bill also increases maximum prize allowance from $250 to $500 for each series of games.

Dr. J. B. Fishman and family were guests at several parties before leaving for a five-week vacation in Miami Beach . . . Leo Bonoff of Madison and Saybrook is planning a March trip to Miami with Mrs. Bonoff . . . The Harry F. Shaws sail March 6 for Panama where they will shoot pictures, do deep-sea fishing and relax generally . . . Maurice Bailey of the "W" theatres, Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Jack Halprin, wife of the theatre contractor, started off on their motor trip to New Orleans and the Mardi Gras without Jack, who was detained by a last-minute job. However, Jack joined the party a few days later in Charlotte, N. C., whence he flew by plane . . . Ben Lourie of Columbia is spending part of his two-week leave in Buffalo, visiting with Phil Fox, Columbia manager . . . James Bracken, head of the Warner Theatre department contact office, is off for two weeks in Miami . . . Tim O'Toole, Columbia manager, and Mrs. O'Toole best dancers on the floor at the annual Columbian Club Ball at the Waldorf in New York . . . Ben Simon of 20th-Fox in New York for a few days on business.

Billy Nutile, Paramount shipper, is off for a year of camp life . . . So is Jack O'Connell, Roger Sherman assistant manager. Ray Hughes, assistant to chief usher at the theatre, and with the house for the past three years, steps into the assistantship . . . Sal Popolizio, 20th-Fox booker, who's rarin' to go and be a soldier, missed by a bad tooth . . . Andy Calavolpe, *Exhibitor* representative here, is off with the National Guard after a farewell party at the Hotel Bishop . . . After numerous delays because of holdovers, Sam Badamo is playing "The Land of Liberty," with a Motion Picture Council tieup in the way of an essay contest . . . Paramount's two-reeler, "Men of the Light Ship," also gives its film rental proceeds to British War Relief . . . World premiere of "Americans All," March of Time, given big fanfare and drew tremendous crowd at the Majestic, Bridgeport, where Morris Rosenthal gathered the mayor, prominent members of the clergy, chamber of commerce and other local celebs for the opening night.

Morey Goldstein has traded in his Packard convertible coupe, known throughout his former territory, for a nifty red Buick sedan . . . Larry Caplan is driving a new black Pontiac sedan . . . Al Zalis of Globe Poster Co. of Baltimore is making a tour of the New England territory on the lookout for new business and old acquaintances . . . Fred Greenway, for the past four years manager of the State, Boston, is the new manager at the Palace, Hartford, replacing Lou Cohen, who has been moved to the Loew-Poli. Greenway was previously at the Century, Baltimore, for over ten years, and worked at one time with Lou Brown, then doing publicity for the three Baltimore houses. The Greenways have taken up a Hartford residence . . . Hymie Schwartz of the Hillcrest, Taftville, recuperating from flu . . . Mrs. Lee Malcarni of Essex Square, Essex, is confined to bed . . . A. McInerney, 20th-Fox cashier, back at her desk after a siege of grippe . . . William Cook, veteran employe of the Capitol, Meriden, is in Meriden Hospital with the flu . . . Pete LaFlamme is celebrating his 16th year with Steve Panora at the 20th Century, New Milford.

Edward Ruff, Henry Germaine and Lou Schaefer were at the station with flowers and photographers to meet charming 16-year-old Susanna Foster, who made a p. a. at the Paramount, then proceeded to Hartford, Worcester and Boston . . . "The Dictator" comes back to the Loew-Poli at regular prices late in March . . . State did a big business with Bill Robinson, followed by Tommy Dorsey . . . The Majestic capitalized to the hilt the fact that Joan Bennett of "Son of Monte Cristo" was educated in a Waterbury school . . . Tony Massella, assistant at the Globe, Bridgeport, took a local child (and photographers) to see the new fire chief and fire equipment, as a stunt for "Sandy Gets Her Man" . . . Matt Saunders landed a half page of co-op ads in the *Times-Star*, and two-column story and art on the same page, as well as story on a "Strange Experience" contest for "So Ends Our Night."

George Rabbott is playing "GWTW" for the second time at the Alcazar, Naugatuck, and putting in an extra 10 a. m. show for the 4,000 who go to the factories for a 3 to 11 shift . . . George Freeman rescued a new radio show from the City Auditorium for his theatre, the Poli, Springfield. Show is staged Tuesdays, 8:30 to 8:55, and called "Fines or Fortunes." Sponsored by local oil dealer with no cost to the theatre . . . Members of the audience come up on the stage and are quizzed. If they answer correctly, they are allowed a certain time to dig into a fish bowl for all the coins they can take out. If incorrect, they are allowed a short time to dig and are called on to do some stunt as a fine. This provides the comedy angle, in addition to the prize appeal.

BRIDGEPORT

SAMUEL HADDLEMAN and his wife are back from a trip to New York where they saw "Fantasia" and Ed Wynn's "Boys and Girls" . . . Harold Engle, student assistant manager at the Globe, tied up with the Bridgeport Flying Service for "Give Us Wings." Students pilots were invited to attend the theatre and stunt won picture space in the *Post* . . . Saul Rapaport is the new doorman at Loew's Majestic.

Lou Anger, Barnum exhibitor, was talking about his first day at a race track. "When I got to the track," said Lou, "I felt like a million. At the end of the fifth race I felt like and had about two cents" . . . Phil Schwartz has launched a dinnerware deal at his Parkway . . . A soft drink machine has been installed at the Warner.

Majestic Manager Morris Rosenthal made the Loew Dollar Club . . . The Horace MacMahons have returned to Hollywood . . . A. M. Schuman, Black Rock theatre owner, has dropped plans to build a de luxe neighborhood theatre, and will erect an apartment house instead . . . Sidney Voletsky was called to New York to take his Selective Service examination . . . Jack Glenn, director of the March of Time's "Americans All," was at the Majestic for the film's opening. Several scenes were shot in Bridgeport . . . George Shearer of United Artists was in town in the interest of "So Ends Our Night."

Mrs. A. M. Schuman of the Black Rock is entertaining her nephew and his bride, Mr. and Mrs. Jarad Wiggins, of Montgomery, Ala. Mrs. Schuman was in New York recently . . . All New London theatres cooperated with the Army when Long Island sound became so rough that the transport could not make the night crossing to Forts Wright and Terry. The theatres informed the many men on furlough in the audience that they were to spend the night in New London.

Otto Esposito of the Loew-Poli made the *Sunday Post* with a story when he discovered that Stanley Clements of the "Tall, Dark and Handsome" cast, used to haunt the theatres here on amateur nights and cop many first prizes . . . Jack Schwartz ran "Bergslagsfolk," Swedish language picture, at his West End . . . The first neighborhood theatre to show "GWTW" here will be Sam Haddleman's Colonial. March 2 is the opening date.

Pearl Rosen is the new relief cashier at the Majestic . . . Manager Matt L. Saunders of the Loew's Poli took two projectors to the Fairfield home of George C. Waldo, editor-in-chief of the Post *and* Telegram, *and ran a full-length show. The occasion was the birthday of one of Mr. Waldo's daughters . . . Robert Wheyland has resigned as usher at the Globe . . . The State, Waterbury, has raised Sunday admissions from 35 to 50 cents . . . Nick Marlemes, owner of the Roxy, New Britain, is due back from Florida early in March . . . The State, New Britain, is now opening at 10:45 a. m. daily . . . Ernie Gracula has started a dinnerware deal at the State, Torrington.*

Film Feeder Patent Is Granted P. Edward Comi

BOSTON—P. Edward Comi, head of the Theatre Service & Supply Company, has been allowed a patent by the U. S. Patent Office involving the feeding of sound films through motion picture projectors. Comi was granted seven out of ten claims on the procedure.

The new patent involves a roller arrangement for use in projectors, eliminating one sprocket. Comi, who already has installed the device on a number of special repair and rebuilt jobs, claims that the innovation affords greater quiet and reduces wear on film.

Comi has several other proposed motion picture devices before the U. S. Patent Office for consideration. To date, he has been awarded some six patents connected with sound projection. He was the inventor of the Simplex rear-shutter.

Capitol on Job

BOSTON—Capitol Theatre Supply has been acting as architects' consultants in the drawing up of plans for the new Julius Meyer theatre in Concord. The house, the community's first regular motion picture place, is expected to be ready for opening in the fall.

Seventh Week for "Ireland"

BOSTON—George Kraska, operator of the Fine Arts, has held "Here Is Ireland" for a seventh consecutive week. Unusual angle is that the picture is 16mm.

PROVIDENCE

TRIO of employes of RKO-Albee left Saturday as "Buck Privates" with the 118th Company, R. I. National Guard, mustered into service as part of 43rd division. The lads were Thomas Mooney, chief of service; Alex Sagatt, usher, and James Wall, doorman.

John Sullivan has been promoted from usher to chief of service at RKO-Albee and Joe Giblin, former usher captain, becomes assistant chief of service in staff changes effective this week.

M&P's Strand, Pawtucket, had 700 students of the city's West high school in the audience last Thursday for a theatre party in which students presented a stage program.

Don Pardo, former chief of service at the Albee, now employed in a Providence factory turning out war materials, was passing out cigars last Wednesday—reason, a daughter. Kenneth McKinnon, Albee's porter, also is boasting about the new daughter at his house these days.

94,727 New Englanders Placed by Government

NEW HAVEN—New Englanders placed by government employment services during the past year include 53,762 placements in Connecticut and 40,965 in Massachusetts.

Parking Rules Unchanged, Says Hub Commissioner

BOSTON—Boston theatre owners were assured last week by William P. Hickey, Boston traffic commissioner, that no new parking prohibitions had been set up in the theatre district. The streets opened to parking in the past, Hickey said, are still unaffected despite the present tagging drive.

Hickey advised local managers that they could assure their patrons that automobiles parked in any area not definitely prohibited by signs would not be tagged. Practically everyone of the night-time prohibitions, the commissioner declared, may be attributed to the lack of roadway for the passage of fire apparatus.

SMPE Will Hear Paper on Panic-Prevention Device

NEW HAVEN—Earl Morin of the state police of Connecticut will present to the Society of Motion Picture Engineers' convention a paper on a new automatic damper release, of interest to theatres having air-conditioning systems as a panic-prevention device. The state has been active in developing this idea of preventing smoke of any origin, whether internal or from adjoining property, from being blown into the interior of a theatre, trying at all times, Morin states, to keep the device simple and free from mechanical and electrical defects, as well as inexpensive.

CINEMA CLUB OF BOSTON

MOTION PICTURE BOOKERS

Fifth Annual Benefit Dinner Party

at the

COCOANUT GROVE -:- BOSTON

SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 16, 1941



RECEPTION 6:30 P. M. DINNER 7:00 P. M.

SUBSCRIPTION, $2.50

This Week We Meet

MOREY GOLDSTEIN

NEW HAVEN—There's no one like the little boy who sold newspapers after school and grew up to ride in Packards and Buicks to make a model subject for a 100 per cent American success story.

Oil magnates have been known to invent the newsboy myth to gain popular appeal with the man in the street. They needed it; Morey Goldstein, new Metro manager, New Haven, is a natural for popular appeal anyhow. Witness the fact that he has been in New Haven for almost two months, and the whole Film Building, and even the customers, label him "a regular fellow" without reservation. It's too soon to tell, you say? Well, in Boston they felt that way after 18 years.

Morey came as a Xmas present to his parents in a little Russian village some 39 years ago, but by the time he was three, he had wisely exchanged beans for borscht and was on his way to fame. Not that Dame Fortune just smiled and Morey took it easy. He was a conscientious student in Chelsea elementary and high schools, and took care of the business of selling papers right after school, so that as a young boy he had no time for the usual sports and pastimes. Nevertheless, he was popular and recognized, and in both his junior and senior years of high he became president of his class. Having delivered the president's address with poise, confidence, and even eloquence, the family decided Morey would also be impressive before a jury, and urged him to study law.

Accordingly, he entered the Northeastern Law School in 1921. By 1922 he knew as much about contracts as school was destined to teach him. Then he tackled the Bentley School of Accounting, but already he had an inkling that figures of stars and film rentals would interest him more. So he left the portals of learning from books in favor of learning from cans. His first real job was as assistant shipper for the old Goldwyn Company in Boston, of which Maurice N. Wolf, now Metro district manager at Boston, was then to become branch manager. His rise upward was practically dizzy. In no time at all he became poster clerk; then he was promoted to the Metro booking department and shortly after to head booker. In this post he learned the works in a thoroughgoing experience of ten years.

His knowledge of the business and successful personal contacts made him the logical man for the sales department when a vacancy occurred. He handled first the Rhode Island territory, and was subsequently sent to every state in New England, to Delaware, Maryland and Virginia on special assignments. In 1938 he was promoted to the important city salesman's job and remained city salesman until the bells rang 1941 and Morey Goldstein into New Haven where he has since sat in the coveted and well-upholstered Metro manager's chair. As far back as 1930 he was offered a fine foreign post with his company, but his family connections were too close for severance and he remained to the benefit of the industry here, like a few of the other Goldstein boys.

Morey's older brother, Harry, was district manager of the old Netoco circuit and later became associated with Publix, for whom he now works in a managerial capacity in Matapan. His younger brother, Jack, has been associated in the publicity field with Shubert's, Keith's and United Artists, and is now handling "Fantasia" openings throughout the country for Walt Disney. A third brother, Aaron, is manager of the Metropolitan Life office in Boston.

In between times, our hero developed in several directions outside of business. From being a pool champ in high school, he turned to squash tennis and baseball with such good records that he became tournament timber. Like all good film men, he was also bitten by the golf bug, and attained the distinction of playing consistently in the 80's. More recently, he has lost a little ground, but Morey is hoping that the New Haven air and the keen competition in these parts will improve his game. So much for athletics.

That his love life has been successful is attested by the beautiful pictures of Mrs. Goldstein and the two young 'uns in his office. In addition to all this, evidence that Morey has not neglected the humorous side of life is found in the affectionate nickname, "Razz," acquired in Boston many years ago and still sticking to the extent that many of his friends know him by no other. Also, he has been very prominently identified with all Boston Friars Club activities. As chairman of the entertainment committee, he sponsored and was in charge of memorable dinners for Maurice Wolf, Steve Broidy, Abe Spitz, of the Boston film district, and Judge James E. Dooley of Narragansett Park. For this latter event, he even managed to have the front and back pages of the *Daily Record* devoted to the judge and the dinner, and to inveigle 250 Bostonians in to Providence for the time of their lives.

Goldstein has worked closely with Tom Donaldson, former New Haven manager, now promoted to Boston Metro, for the past 14 years. When Donaldson came to work for Metro as salesman, Goldstein was making strides in the booking department, and it was a pleasant coincidence that Donaldson's recent promotion to Boston meant Morey's managership in the Elm City.

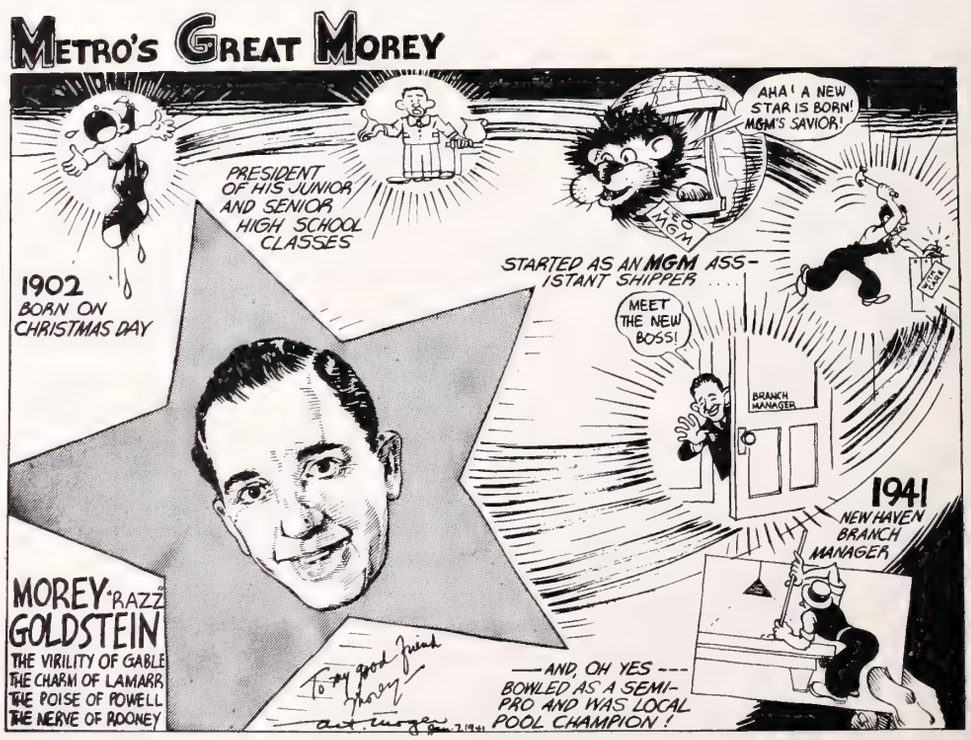
How about first impressions? "Despite the handicap of a bad eye infection," Morey says, "and the fact that my entire family was laid up with the flu on my arrival here, I could not help being pleasantly impressed with the friendly spirit manifested by everyone with whom I came in contact. It's a grand industry, with an intimacy and sociability not found in any other business. I've always been fascinated by it, and so far my experience in New Haven has served to strengthen that feeling."

Appeals Tax Valuations

HARTFORD—Ernest M. Buck of East Hartford has appealed to the state superior court here from valuations set by the board of tax review on property at 625-653 Main St., this city.

"Somewhere" for Trumbo

HOLLYWOOD—Dalton Trumbo is scripting "Somewhere I'll Find You," from Charles Hoffman's original, for Metro. Pandro Berman will produce.



SPRINGFIELD

BOYD TAYLOR SPARROW, Loew's-Poli assistant manager, returned by train from a three-day visit with relatives and friends in Washington, D. C. . . . Ed Garrity, manager of the Capitol, Lynn, has been recuperating at home from a recent operation . . . John E. O'Leary, manager of the Old Colony, Plymouth, has been named a member of the Plymouth Committee for Aid to Plymouth, England . . . Lobby at the Bijou has been repainted . . . Al Anders of the Bijou reported that Columbia's "This Thing Called Love" broke all gross records at his theatre . . . Jack Clements is now on the Broadway ushers' corps, replacing Jack Marvin, resigned.

Filmrow Visitors: Herman Rifkin, circuit head, visited his local theatre . . . In town to see Loew's-Poli Manager George E. Freeman was Harry F. Shaw, Loew's-Poli division manager . . . Louis Williamson, Bijou projectionist, and president of Local 186, IATSE, announces a meeting of the union will be held Monday night, March 3, in the Central Labor Union Hall . . . Amherst, Amherst, presented the Columbia bill, "Lost Horizon" and "The Awful Truth" . . . Fred I. Frechette, manager of the Garden, spent a few days in Chicago recently.

Joe Egan, GB's Paramount assistant engineer, who was operated on several months ago for a stomach ailment, was to have returned to work some time this week . . . Meridith Chambers has succeeded Rudy Martin as doorman at the Forest Park Phillips . . . George W. Coleman of the Arcade reports that "Gone With the Wind" is due at that theatre soon . . . Frances Bookman, former Loew's-Poli usherette, was married last Thursday to a Springfield fellow. Among those at a shower in honor of the former Loew's-Poli employe were Ruth "Cookie" Hurley and Dorothy Bonney, Loew's-Poli usherettes.

Eddie M. Dowling, manager of the Capitol in Pittsfield, has been ill . . . The Plaza, Salem, has a new marquee . . . Samuel, Nathan E., and Emanuel Goldstein of the Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., are receiving condolences on the recent death of their brother, Israel Goldstein, a New Haven jeweler, who passed away in Florida . . . Bob Portle, manager of the Loew's-Poli Plaza in Worcester, had a nice campaign for "Pastor Hall" . . . Manager Arthur Mabey of the State, Milford, hosted newsboys at a special show . . . Elaine Zeitz, daughter of Harry Zeitz, State, Empire, New Bedford, recently escaped uninjured in an automobile accident . . . New carpets have been laid in the E. M. Loew's Court Square, Springfield.

Gus F. Gamelis is a new usher at GB's Paramount. He replaces Tommy Pennock, who has been upped to doorman in succession to Joseph J. Josephus, who resigned to take over the doorman's job at the WB's Capitol . . . Fred Bengle, F&M's Art projectionist, is back at work after whipping the flu . . . John Connell has been handling Springfield theatrical advertising for the Springfield Union for over 18 years now, and is still going strong . . . Manager George E. Freeman of the Loew's-Poli, in connection with advance exploitation for "Tobacco Road," has tied in with quite a number of western Massachusetts tobacco farmers. The picture is due at that theatre some time in March, reports Freeman . . . Loew's-Poli, through the cooperation of a local coal dealer and Station WMAS, has started a radio quiz show. Program, which will run indefinitely, offers cash prizes to contestants.

Earl Pratt has resigned from the staff of the Center, Fall River . . . The Mountain Park Casino, Holyoke, will have summer stock again this year . . . Williamstown Teachers' Ass'n, Williamstown, sponsored two days' shows at the Walden in that town for a local fund for needy school children . . . State, Taunton, has installed new seats, stage drapes, display frames and a screen . . . Opera House Building, Holyoke, one of Holyoke's first theatres, will undergo renovations soon . . . Thieves broke into the Strand, Westboro, and stole a small amount of cash recently.

Springfield Playgoers' League, Inc., announces that its forthcoming presentations here will include "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "The Little Foxes," "There Shall Be No Night," "Life With Father," "Hellzapoppin'" and "Twelfth Night" . . . Walter Vincent of the Loew's-Poli real estate department covered the New England area last week . . . For inside exploitation on "Hudson's Bay," Manager George E. Freeman of the Loew's-Poli had all ushers wear "Hudson's Bay" caps . . . Tom Thouy has installed aisle lights in the second balcony of the E. M. Loew's Court Square.

Mrs. W. G. McGhee, wife of the E. M. Loew representative, has returned here after visiting her daughter in Freeport, L. I. . . . E. M. Loew's Court Square presented a midnight stage and screen show, featuring "Girls on Parade," and "Case of the Black Parrot," at 75 cents top, with all proceeds going to British War Relief . . . "Flight Command" did smash business at the Arcade, reports Hy Nozak, assistant manager . . . Bill Latinville, Arcade projectionist, is quite a model airplane builder in his spare time.

Helen Curley, niece of Charlie Curley, manager of the Liberty, is the new candy girl at the Forest Park Phillips . . . George Rabb, manager of the Forest Park Phillips, reports that "Gone With the Wind" will start a four-day run at that theatre March 9, at 55 cents top . . . Henry Webber, electrician at the WB's Capitol, is one of the best handball players among members of the local theatrical fraternity . . . Strand Manager Harold Morrow's office has been repainted and redecorated . . . George E. Freeman, manager of the Loew's-Poli, and George Gaudette, head of the local Western Union office, already have their heads together working on some stunts for the forthcoming "Western Union."

Paramount's new Technicolor production, "Virginia," featuring Stirling Hayden, Gloucester, Mass., native, opened at the GB's Paramount after a great exploitation campaign . . . Mr. and Mrs. Al Anders of the Bijou have returned from a vacation . . . Bijou, Uxbridge, is scheduled to open some time next week . . . Anthony Alves of the M&P Merrimack Square in Lowell and Miss Cecile Gottreau were married recently . . . William King has replaced Seymour "Rosie" Rosenberg as house policeman at the Proven Pictures . . . John Walton is the new WB's Strand usher, succeeding Allen Burley, resigned . . . Sidney H. Kleper, assistant manager at the Loew's-Poli Palace, obtained a co-op ad with National Typewriter Co., Hartford, for "Kitty Foyle" . . . Joe Bernard, chief of service at the WB's Strand, hopes to be a cameraman in Hollywood some day.

Jack Sullivan of the Empress, Danbury, was out with the flu . . . Jack Sanson, manager of the State in Manchester, cooperated with Manchester police in arranging a benefit show at that Warner unit . . . In New Haven recently was Bob Hamilton of the Palace, Norwich . . . Regards are in order for the Manny Kugells of the Warner, Bridgeport, who are currently observing their 10th wedding anniversary . . . Schulmans' Webster, Hartford, brought back "Dead End" . . . Main stem Daly had an Amateur Night last Thursday . . . Proven Pictures, on its regular "request day" last week, had "Beau Geste" and "The Rains Came" . . . Nick Barile, formerly projectionist at the Proven Pictures, Hartford, is the new projectionist at the Windsor, Windsor . . . Mrs. Lee Malcarney, wife of the Essex Square, Essex, manager, had the flu . . . Joe Samartano, manager, and Bill Scanlon, his assistant at the Loew's-Poli Palace, Meriden, promoted a number of co-op ads for "Gone With the Wind."

Marian Slocum of the State, Waterbury, has resigned . . . Sam Haddleman of the Capitol, Bridgeport, is back from a Florida vacation . . . R. L. Schafer, son of Lou, Paramount, New Haven manager, has joined the National Guard . . . George Comden's Fine Arts, Westport, put on a benefit show for Greek War Relief.

: NEW BRITAIN :

NICK MARLAMES, co-partner of the Roxy Theatre, who has been vacationing in St. Petersburg, Fla., is expected back in New Britain about March 1.

Johnny Sheppard and Charlie Casma, Palace service staff members, have resigned to join the National Guard in Jacksonville, Fla.

Peter Perakos recently completed a new office at the Palace.

Pat McMahon, manager of the State, was in New Haven last week.

Cinema Club Executive Mapping Dance Plans

BOSTON—Sam Berg, president of the Boston Cinema Club, called a meeting of the organization Monday to continue arrangements for the fraternity's dinner-dance.

This year's affair will be held at the Cocoanut Grove in the film district Sunday evening, March 16.

Reservations are being handled by Abe Barry of Columbia.

A special meeting of the executive committee last week was attended by Berg, First Vice-President William Cuddy of RKO; Second Vice-President Charles Repec of M-G-M; Treasurer Dave Grover of RKO; former Secretary Harry Smith of RKO, and Jerry Govan and Tom Fermoyle of M&P.

Elect Tom O'Brien

BOSTON—Tom O'Brien, head booker for Monogram here, has been unanimously appointed to the office of secretary in the Boston Cinema Club. O'Brien replaces Harry Smith of RKO who, because of the pressure of numerous other duties, has been forced to resign from the position.

Mullin Calls Meetings For Greek War Aid

BOSTON—Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres Corp. partner heading the Greek War Aid theatrical activities in New England, called a number of meetings at local M&P headquarters here this week and last to form plans for New England's participation in the campaign. Tentative plans were laid to follow the national schedule of arranging midnight benefits during the week of March 25.

Joseph Brennan, local MPTOA secretary, has been aiding with the arrangements.

PORTLAND

"GONE WITH THE WIND" was held over a third week at the Empire. The Strand opened with the Civil War epic, but after a two-week run, the picture was swung to the "B" house . . . The Hallowell City Council has approved Sunday shows.

The Capitol, a local subsequent, held a special midnight show with proceeds going to the British War Relief Fund.

Two Paramount stars visited Portland in as many weeks: Stirling Hayden, co-starred with Madeleine Carroll and Fred MacMurray in "Virginia," and Susanna Foster, young singing starlet of "The Great Victor Herbert" fame and currently in "The Hard-Boiled Canary."

Alice Ericson to California

HARTFORD—Alice Ericson, cashier at the Strand, took off February 27 for Los Angeles and a month's leave of absence.

HARTFORD

AL NATHAN, advertising representative for Universal, was in Hartford in the interests of "Back Street" . . . Eleanor Smith and Phyllis Hawkins are new usherettes at Martin Kelleher's Princess . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Shaw of New Haven are slated to leave March 6 on a vacation to Panama. Mr. S. is Loew's Poli division manager . . . Charlie Repass of the Crown and Martin Kelleher of the Princess were in New Haven last Tuesday . . . Otis Levy, Loew's Poli Palace usher, and a Bulkeley High student, won first prize of $15 in the American Legion's city oratorical contest . . . Lou Brown, Loew's Poli publicity chief, visited Lou Cohen, Loew's Poli manager . . . Manager Hugh Campbell of the WB's Central, West Hartford, reports that "Old Timer's Night" will be held at that theatre in April . . . Mickey Daly of the Daly Theatres was in New Haven on business last Monday, as was also James F. McCarthy, WB's Strand manager.

Lou Cohen, Loew's Poli manager, reports "Tobacco Road" and "Western Union" are due at his theatre soon . . . Manager Jack A. Simons' office at the Loew's State, Providence, has been repainted . . . Tom Carey of Theatre Promotions, Hartford, is said to be going in for pearl-diving as a hobby . . . F. Davis, Loew's Poli doorman, will preside at a meeting of the Hartford Townsend Club on March 3 . . . Raymond Beebe is the new usher at the Loew's Poli, replacing Jerry Goldberg, who has been upped to relief doorman, succeeding Elihu Brooks, resigned . . . "Back Street" opened to great business at the E. M. Loew's, reports Manager George E. Landers . . . Norman Beckley, WB's Regal doorman, has returned from a month's leave of absence . . . Manager Fred Greenway's office at the Loew's Poli Palace has been repainted.

James Orsini is a new usher at the Loew's Poli Palace . . . Fluorescent lighting has been installed in the Loew's Poli Palace lobby . . . The staffs of 17 E. M. Loew houses in New England contributed their services for midnight shows last Friday, the proceeds of which go to aid Britain . . . Andrew Antaya, Loew's Poli Palace usher, has been upped to relief doorman at that situation.

Hillmer D. Robinson, E. M. Loew's assistant manager, reports new seats will be installed in that house . . . Thieves broke into the Astor, East Hartford, and damaged a candy machine . . . James F. McCarthy, WB's Strand manager, spoke over Station WTHT, Hartford, on the industry's cooperation with government . . . In Boston last Tuesday, was Bernard W. Levy, manager of the local Proven Pictures.

Hillmer D. Robinson, assistant manager at E. M. Loew's who is leaving for army service, was guest of honor at a party Saturday night.

Bristol Opening Near

BRISTOL, CONN.—It is reported that Joseph Faith's new theatre in Bristol may open March 1. Faith already operates theatres in Collinsville, Terryville, and Unionville.

State Supervision for Bingo Is Proposed

HARTFORD—Bingo, which was legalized two years ago by the state legislature, would be supervised by state commissioners under a measure introduced in the house last week.

The proposal, presented by Rep. Fred Faulkner, a Democrat of New Haven, to replace a skeleton bill, provides for the appointment of a Bingo commissioner, and a deputy in each of the five congressional districts. They would take over from the towns the duties of issuing licenses and collecting fees and would turn back half of the fees to the towns.

The measure would also increase from $250 to $500 the limit on Bingo prizes in Connecticut. The commissioners, under this measure, would be paid $5,500 annually. No salaries were suggested for the deputies.

Would Legalize Benefit Bingo, Beano Games

AUGUSTA, ME.—A bill to permit benefit Beano or Bingo games with an annual license fee of $25 on them has been introduced in the Maine legislature by Rep. Frank M. Pierce (R) of Bucksport.

The measure would allow the operation of Beano or Bingo when "sponsored exclusively by and for the sole benefit of a charitable, educational, fraternal, patriotic, religious, or veteran organization."

Delays a Fine

WETHERSFIELD, CONN.—Execution of a $25 fine against the Webster Company, Hartford theatrical firm, for failure to remove construction sheds from a proposed theatre site, was delayed by the court on condition the buildings be removed within four days.

: NEW HAMPSHIRE :

GUY KIBBEE made his first personal appearance in New Hampshire at the premiere of "Scattergood Baines," in which he is featured, in Claremont. Later, admirers caught a glimpse of the star in Laconia, where he stopped for breakfast.

Spencer Tracy was second only to Wendell L. Willkie when the former presidential candidate was chosen in a straw vote at Colby Junior College in New London as honorary king of that town's winter carnival. Katharine Hepburn was voted as honorary queen.

Speaking on various forms of gambling at a Manchester Rotary Club meeting, Bancroft Brown, Dartmouth College professor, urged a continuation of New Hampshire's pari-mutuel horse racing as "the lesser of two evils." He said if parimutuels were eliminated, strong pressure undoubtedly would be exerted for a state lottery.

Elaborate Opening for New Tulsa Theatre

TULSA, OKLA.—The Griffith's newest theatre, the Tulsa, was opened here with elaborate ceremonies attended by company executives and theatre people from all over the state. An unscheduled sidelight was the calling of a strike by operators as related elsewhere in this issue.

H. J. Griffith, president of the H. J. Griffith Theatres, Inc., L. C. Griffith, president of the Griffith Amusement Co.; R. E. Griffith, president of R. E. Griffith Theatres and Westex, Inc., were executives attending.

The Griffiths dined and entertained 300 guests at the Hotel Tulsa prior to the new house dedication and followed the premiere showing with a dance and floor show at the hotel.

Closing of the old Main Street Theatre and opening of the new Tulsa across the street is just one item in a considerable expansion program by Griffith Southwestern. A lease has been signed and work will start soon on the old Palace toward eventual re-opening; the Circle has recently been remodeled; the Plaza recently rebuilt.

Plans already have been announced for the Pines Theatre, between Pine Street and Pine Place on Cincinnati Ave., and for the Will Rogers, on Eleventh Street at Toledo.

On the dinner and dedication program were Lew Chatham, division manager for Griffith Southwestern; C. B. Akers, assistant general manager; Mayor C. H. Veale; L. C. Griffith; Clyde A. King, Tulsa Chamber of Commerce president; B. J. McKenna, Griffith Southwestern general manager.

Out-of-town guests included Harold Harris, Kansas City; James E. Hammett, Claremore; Sol Davis, Oklahoma City; Claude Fulgum, Oklahoma City; E. R. Slocum, El Reno; William Wagner, Independence, Kas.; Bob Morley, Fredonia, Kas.; Morris Loewenstein, Oklahoma City; Abe Rosewald, Springfield, Mo.; Clarence Poos, Kansas City; Kenneth Blackledge, Bartlesville; Chester Daugherty, mayor of Bartlesville; Ward Scott, Kansas City, and W. J. Kupper, New York City.

Tulsa notables present included Ralph Talbot, head of Talbot Theatres, Inc., and General Alva J. Niles.

Griffith Operators Willing to Arbitrate

TULSA, OKLA.—The moion picture machine operators local union has voted to submit its controversy with Griffith-Southwestern Theatres, Inc., to the NLRB, Charles Hathaway, business representative of the union, has announced.

The strike has been directed against seven theatres in Tulsa operated by Griffith, and now has spread to Springfield, Mo., where operators of two of the company's theatres have walked out.

Hathaway complained that the company has refused to bargain collectively with his union, although he admitted that he and company representatives had had several talks.

"It's all a question of what you call collective bargaining," explained Lew Chatham, manager in Tulsa for Griffith Southwestern. "If they mean that we failed to accept their terms, then we're guilty."

The union men say they are demanding no increase in wages or improvement in working conditions but are merely asking for a five-year contract.

In Springfield, where the union men walked out Saturday, the company had employed union men but under no contract. Pickets were pacing in front of the Circle, Tower, Plaza, Delman, Rita, Tulsa and Lyric in Tulsa.

Chatham said the company was given no notice of the strike and has expressed its willingness to carry on with the union employes on present hours and wages.

Sixteen operators from other theatres of the Griffith organization over the state were called in to man the Tulsa houses after the strike broke.

Hathaway maintains that Griffith officials had flatly refused to bargain collectively.

"The Griffith representative told us," Hathaway states, "that the company has never held a contract with any labor union and didn't intend to establish any precedents in Tulsa."

He said that the inauguration of the new Tulsa Theatre last week was the "first time in 24 years that a theatre has been opened without first signing a contract with our union."

Pickens, Griffith Deal in Making

DALLAS — While definite confirmation could not be obtained here, it is reliably reported that Jack Pickens and the Griffith interests are in the midst of an important theatre deal.

Pickens, it was said, would take Uvalde and its two theatres, while Consolidated Theatres, a subsidiary of Griffith, would take New Braunfels, Cuero and Refugio.

The four towns are booked by the R. E. Griffith offices here.

A New Robbinsville House For Burgins and Talley

CHARLOTTE—The Burgin Brothers and J. D. Talley are building a new theatre in Robbinsville, N. C., which is expected to be ready for opening in the spring. The novel house, being built on the side of a mountain, will be made entirely of native stone.

The Burgins and Talley presently operate a theatre in Robbinsville and others in Andrews, Hayesville and Murphy.

Biggers Building

ATLANTA—C. M. Biggers has started construction of his new theatre at Winter Garden, Fla., which will seat 500, including orchestra and colored balcony.

Changes Threatened In Theatre Taxes

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Changes in existing theatre tax sources are recommended by a legislative sub-committee in a measure providing for a graduated license tax based on population ranging from 3 per cent of the gross amount paid for admissions in towns up to 5,000, 5 per cent from 5,000 to 10,000, 7 per cent from 10,000 to 12,000 and 10 per cent over that figure. The present levy is a seat tax governed by population.

In 1926 a 10 per cent admission tax was enacted by the South Carolina legislature which proved a heavy burden on exhibitors, causing many of them to close. At the time the old bill became a law, there were 126 theatres operating. When the existing seat tax replaced it, there were only 86 theatres left, and during the time the 1926 law was in effect not one new theatre was constructed and only minor repairs were made on a few. Today South Carolina has 151 operating theatres, with seven in the course of construction or ready to open.

Two Theatres Rising at Camp Forrest, Tenn.

TULLAHOMA, TENN.—With the first of 35,000 drafted men scheduled to arrive in March and the entire cantonments nearing completion, contractors now are building two theatres and other recreational interests at Camp Forrest (formerly known as Camp Peay). These should be ready for opening by March 15. One theatre already has been opened in Tullahoma and another is planned as a result of the sudden rise in population.

Chickasaw Amusement To Build in Humboldt

HUMBOLDT, TENN. — The Chickasaw Amusement Co., Inc., operators of the Rex, will begin the construction immediately of a new house to be called the Humboldt. The building will include rental space for a store and offices. The house is planned to seat 1,000 and there will be a separate balcony and entrance for Negroes. A big government shell-loading plant is being built at Milan, not far from Humboldt.

Two Drive-Ins for M. A. Lightman

Memphis—M. A. Lightman, president of Malco Theatres, announces that, effective immediately, he is taking over operation of the drive-in theatres in Memphis and North Little Rock, Ark., from Barney Woolner.

He's planning on an early March opening.

Concerning Florida

By A. JULES BENEDIC

LAKELAND—We leap to Lakeland, famous, among other things, for being headquarters for the Sparks enterprises and the home of retired railroad folk.



F. L. ALIG



FRED CASE



FRANK BELL



DREW EBERSON

Above are the likenesses, somewhat blurred by this non-professional cameraman, of F. L. Alig, Florida State Theatres executive, headquartering at Lakeland; Freddy Case of the Pompano Theatre at Pompano; Frank Bell, Sparks city manager at Fort Myers, with too much sun in his eyes, and Drew Eberson (his scalp reduced by this Indian photographer), of the New York firm of theatre architects bearing his name. He is the son of John Eberson.



The girls of Florida State came downstairs in two batches. We seem to get a better perspective and draw a finer bead on "The Gals," as this homeoffice contingent is dubbed. Sorry we can't give you their names; we're sort of new at this photogenic pastime, but we'll learn.



We did, however, manage to identify the above trio. Tired of the usual procedure, we name them in reverse order. Therefore, from RIGHT to left: Miss Lucille Seed, Mrs. Robert Pearce and Mrs. David Payne. Mrs. Pearce is right-hand bower to B. B. Garner, head of theatre operations. The other two are in the film rental department.



At the Floyd Stein circuit headquarters in Haines City, we induce Gene Stone (left, above) local manager, to line up with George Hoffman of National Screen Service, from Atlanta. George, incidentally, is said to be one of the oldest film men, from the point of service, still active on the road.



And we conclude this pictorial putsch with the trio of showmen who collectively and/or individually run the Bradenton-Palmetto setup for Mr. Sparks. Left to right, then: H. F. Prince, Harry Botto and O. C. Minor. Harry is senior executive, a member of the "old-school" fraternity, with film experience dating back virtually to the birth of the cinema.

Benedic Struck by Car On Pensacola Street



A. Jules Benedic, roving representative of BOXOFFICE, was struck by an automobile in Pensacola, Fla., while en route to a theatre Wednesday. He was taken to the Pensacola Hospital where initial diagnosis indicated shock and concussions. He wired his home office Thursday that he did not believe his condition to be serious.

ATLANTA

H E. MARSHALL, assistant manager of the Rhodes Theatre, left for duty at Camp Blanding this week. He will be attached to the 179th Field Artillery, and will run the camp theatre.

H. J. Yates, J. R. Grainger and A. C. Bromberg, Republic Pictures Corp., will conduct a regional sales meeting on March 3-4.

Visitors: W. A. Bowers, Warrior, Warrior, Ala.; W. H. Karr, Dixie Amusement Co., Swainsboro, Ga.; Leon H. Robbins, Lincoln, Gainesville, Fla.; Grover Wise, West End, Birmingham, Ala.; Curtis Ware, Royce, Royston, Ga.; Roth and A. J. Hook jr., Aliceville, Ala.; Mrs. Ethel Blanton, Zebulon, Cairo, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Smith, Gem, Barnesville, Ga.; Mrs. M. M. Osman, Strand, Covington, Ga., and city managers for L&J Theatres, Moon Corker, Athens, and Art Barry, Macon, Ga.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Bromberg, Republic Pictures, have returned from several weeks' vacation at Miami . . . L. C. Worthington, Auto Movies Company, Bessemer, Ala., was a visitor for several days and reports his Drive-In Theatre, at Montgomery, will reopen March 5.

Q. A. Cook and W. F. Hamilton, of Oak Dale, Tenn., were newcomers to the Row this week, making plans to open their new Oak Dale within a very short time . . . B. P. Neal, has started construction on a new theatre at Villa Rica, Ga., replacing the one destroyed by fire some time back. The theatre will have a seating capacity of 1,000, and a contest will be held to select a name.

"Ash" Yarbrough, manager of the Sylvan Theatre, is enjoying a four-day hunting trip in Florida . . . Solomon Miller, Miller Theatres, lost his wife February 24.

S. G. Tos, who operates theatres in Claxton and Reidsville, Ga., has acquired the theatre at Collins, Ga., which he will remodel . . . Nat Williams, Interstate Enterprises, Thomasville, Ga., in town booking and getting things in order to open his new theatre at Boston, Ga.

Miss Ruflyn Bachelor has been promoted from the Metro accounting department to boxoffice clerk replacing Mrs. Hilda Simmons, resigned. Mrs. Evelyn McElroy takes over Miss Bachelor's job in the accounting department . . . Lamar Swift, city manager for L&J Theatres in Waycross, Ga., paid his first visit to Atlanta since being placed in his present position.

The Pal Theatre, Lyons, Ga., was completely destroyed by fire the past week and according to H. S. Johnson, general manager for Pal Amusements, Inc., work will begin immediately on a new house.

Charles Sumner, head booker for Universal, and Lieutenant in the Army Reserves, will leave for the army camp at Hinesville, Ga., March 7 . . . Gus King, Capitol City Supply, is spending some time in Florida hunting.

Fred Geisler has joined the booking staff of Paramount . . . Mrs. Pearl Bach of the Bach Theatres is back from a visit to New Orleans where she attended the Mardi Gras . . . Claire Sharpe has joined the Warner cashier department.

Earle M. Holden, manager of the Capitol, announces the recent booking of two special stage units. The first, "Oomph in Swingtime," will star Fifi D'Orsay, and the second, George McCall and his Hollywood Review.

Lionel Keene, Kirkwood Theatre, has made a tiein with the Kirkwood Civitan Club, in a coloring contest for school children and will give away 50 free tickets to the best colorings on the serial "Terry and the Pirates" which begins its run Saturday, March 8.

Make Contact Trips Throughout Florida

JACKSONVILLE—M. C. Moore, president of the SETOA and manager of the Riverside Theatre here, has returned to Jacksonville for a short breathing spell after a 1,500-mile journey of the state in company with J. L. Cartwright, public relations counsel for the Sparks interests. The two will make several additional trips, having the unenviable task of contacting every exhibitor in the state, in the interest of legislative matters.

At Pensacola, Messrs. Moore and Cartwright were met by representatives of the Saenger circuit, as well as independents, in a closed meeting that lasted many hours.

In view of the fact several revenue-raising bills are expected at the coming session of the legislature in Tallahassee, the present trips, taken in the interest of theatres generally, are deemed important junkets.

MIAMI

NO ONE in the Greater Miami area has a tougher assignment right now than Mrs. Warren Copps, mother of that incredible young show stealer, Carolyn Lee. She and Carolyn are attempting to stage a very quiet visit here with the latter's grandparents. Most urgent of the requests, of course, come from Paramount theatre managers, all of whom cherish very fond hopes of being able to secure precious "Pretty" (whose unforgettable portrayal of that role in "Virginia" puts that feature on everybody's MUST list) for at least a momentary personal appearance when they show "Virginia."

Since BOXOFFICE'S *Miami correspondent has recovered from brief, but awful, attack of throat infection (probably engendered by the terrific wind created as Jules Benedic sped through this area in that new Plymouth), she's working extra hard to get another new tire for Jeep II, the incredible Austin, so she can negotiate the Overseas highway down to Key West to do a personal inspection job on Jose Carbonel's new Strand, which we understand is a 1,000-seat house, equipped with new sound and projection. Ygnacio Carbonel is the Strand's manager.*

Paul Robinson—up Hollywood way—is beaming with pride these days as the result of the election for King of that resort, oceanfront city's big annual Fiesta Tropicale, an event of last weekend. Leading his nearest competitor by some 500 votes was 17-year-old Jack Schell, an after-school usher at all three Hollywood houses, the Florida, Ritz and Hollywood Beach hotel. And just to make the contest a complete theatrical triumph, that runnerup was Jimmy Painton, who works in a similar capacity at the Florida and the Ritz. Two other theatre lads made creditable showings in the contest.

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ON DISPLAY

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

Dallas, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Charlotte and Oklahoma City

Impressive Quarters For Dallas Operators

By V. W. CRISP

DALLAS—Downpour of rain failed to dampen the formal opening last week of the Motion Picture Machine Operators Local 249 new club rooms and union headquarters at 1916½ Elm Street.

The party, to which a number of friends and film and theatre executives were invited, got under way at 9 o'clock. It was not until later, however, when all others operators closed their booths, that the party got into full sway.

There were no speeches and no set program. It was just a friendly get-together where friends rubbed shoulders and made new friends, J. J. Schaefer, president of the union pointed out. Harvey Hill, business agent, was active in the arrangements.

Music and dancing was the chief entertainment. Refreshments and food were served the guests, and this went on until an early hour.

The new union headquarters is attractive. The downstairs entrance has a tiled floor with an IATSE emblem in colors. A bulletin board gives the names of the MPMO and also the IATSE and Film Exchange Employes Union, local B-53, which use these quarters for their meetings.

The hall occupies the entire second floor of the building. To the front is a large room around the walls of which are chairs for members while in session and this space is appropriately used on occasions for dancing. The other part of the club, to the rear, is separated into an emporium with a number of tables and chairs, and a refreshment bar.

Organized in 1912

The Dallas MPMO was organized in 1912 with about a dozen members. The body has grown to 52 now. The first contract was signed in 1914 when such well known exhibitors as P. G. Cameron, Lou Bissinger, Billy Nevils and H. N. Jorgenson were on Elm Street.

Charter members of the union who still are active in the organization are J. H. Hardin, J. J. Schaefer, Guy Luther, R. R. Pengilly, C. E. (Red) Rupard, Joe Brewer, W. E. Kennemer, C. J. Moore and A. H. Gentry.

Present officers are J. J. Schaefer, president; C. C. Holt, vice-president; N. E. Hoylman, treasurer; H. D. Hilll, business agent; Paul Humphreys, financial secretary, and A. C. Harper, recording secretary.

Trustees are James Patrick, L. C. Clark and Julius Simms.

More than 200 persons attended the clubroom opening. Among them were visiting union projectionists from Houston, San Antonio, Wichita Falls, Waco, Beaumont, Denison, Denton, Tyler, Ft. Worth, and in attendance were the following:

BEAUMONT—Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Bellar.

DALLAS—Frank Aydelett.

R. P. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ballard, Francis Barr, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Barron, F. W. Barrett, T. H. Bevers, D. W. Bishop, Lou Bissinger, Mr. and Mrs. James M. Blaydes, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Boberg, Jean Bonds, Mrs. C. L. Borgenson, H. B. Bretel, Chas. Brewer, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brewer, J. G. Burgess (RCA).

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Carpenter, Jene Carr, Miss Audrey Carroll, A. B. Chapman, Louis Charninsky, James O. Cherry, Mrs. Dollie Clark, Luther Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Colvin, N. O. Cox, V. W. Crisp (BOXOFFICE), Mr. and Mrs. Dave H. Crowder, J. C. Cullums, Red Cummings.

Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Daniels, J. H. Davis, D. A. Dickson, L. R. Dickson, J. H. Duff.

Mrs. Bill Estes, Helen Estes, Joe Estes, Mrs. Randall Estes, W. T. Estes jr.

J. N. Firth.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Gentry, Fairlyn Green, L. J. Greene, L. W. Griswold.

L. O. Hamdely, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hardin, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Hardin, Lynn Harris, Chas. A. (Rec. Sec'y Local) and Mrs. Harcum, E. Hartting, Helen Hartting (Majestic Theatre), Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hicks, Harvey (Bus. Agent, Local) and Mrs. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hill, J. O. Hill, Sam Hoffman, C. C. (Vice-Pres., Local) and Mrs. Holt, C. T. Holt, Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Holt, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Holt, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Howard, N. E. (Treas., Local) and Mrs. Hoylman, J. D. Hughes, Paul (Fin. Sec'y, Local) and Mrs. Humphries.

Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Jackson, Truman L. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Kennemer, Myrtell Kitts.

Hilda Le Blane, Wana Lee, Worth Leuthstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Luther.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. McHanson, G. D. McIntosh (RCA), Lowell May, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Moore.

C. S. Nix.

R. J. O'Donnell, L. N. Osborn jr.

E. L. Pack, R. Paine, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Pengilly, Robert Phillips, W. G. Phillips, Mayme Pilcher, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Ponton, Truman Porencey, Jake Prater, James Pullen.

Jack Randoll, Drebon Rhodes, H. Riffe, H. R. Robb (R. & R. Theatres), Chas. C. Roder, E. C. Roseberry, Ray Rupard.

Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Saucier, Tony Savne, Julius J. (Pres., Local) and Mrs. Schaefer, Paul R. Scott, Mrs. C. N. Shady, Mr. Shafer, Paul Short, Frank Shranek, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Sinz, Jim Southerland, Dick Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Luther





When the Three Unions Met—

Scenes from the party in which three film unions participated at the IATSE Local 249 club rooms in Dallas. At the top, left to right: L. A. Boberg, president of the Film Exchange Employes Union; Miss Louise Wright, business agent for the same union; Eddie Miller, IATSE representative, Houston; R. J. O'Donnell, Interstate Circuit general manager, an honorary life member of the projectionists union; J. J. Schaefer, president of the projectionists Local 249, and Harvey Hill, business agent of that union. Botton scene: The three in front huddle, Harvey Hill, J. O. Cherry and Eddie Miller. Second row, seated: J. H. Hardin, D. P. Holt, J. Barron, Paul Humphreys, L. C. Clark, Charlie Harcum, Jim Blaydes. Third row, standing: Frank Barrett, Ray Rupard, W. C. Kennemer, Curtis Moore, Clarence Holt, J. M. Firth, L. J. Green, N. E. (Buddy) Hoylman, W. R. Wall, J. J. Schaefer. Back row: Randal Estes, Guy Luther, Joe Brewer, Jack Hill, P. D. Jackson, Leon Saucier, L. L. Ponton, J. D. Hughes, R. R. Pengilly, Clarence Carpenter.

DALLAS

H S. USRY of the Majestic at Decatur and his daughter, Margaret, were here to attend the funeral of his brother, Daniel W. Usry, a local real estate man. Services were held Thursday . . . Paul Short, National Screen Service district manager, was to conduct a sales meeting Saturday in the interests of the "Beat Par Drive" at the Adolphus Hotel. The following managers and salesmen under him were to be present: Oklahoma City—Gilbert Clark, Tom Harris, Johnny Fagin, Harold Wilson; from Memphis, B. H. Conway, Milton Lindner, Bailey Prichard and W. J. Bryan; from New Orleans, J. L. Boyer, Al Lavender, Doyl Maynard, Ralph Reid; and the Dallas contingent, Wallace Walthall, Harry Harris, R. H. Helms, Leo Smith, Joe Estes, F. W. "Doc" Allen, E. G. Detweiler, Earl Harrington and Victor Maxwell. There will be $14,000 in cash prizes.

H. B. Robb has purchased the unoccupied telephone building at Harwood and Jackson on Filmrow. It is a three-story brick and concrete structure . . . L. J. Dean, owner of the Dixie at Camp Wood and a newspaperman there, was in booking for two houses, his and the O&S at Rock Springs, operated by C. F. Lee.

Burt King, first assistant chief barker of the Variety Club of Texas, left late in the week for Atlantic City to meet with John Harris, national chief barker, and a committee on final plans for the coming national convention there.

L. G. and Mrs. Tomlinson of the Palace at Timpson were here Monday on a booking trip. He expects a draft call from Uncle Sam soon . . . C. H. Jones, who opened the Plaza at Weatherford recently, was another booker.

Jack L. Garrison, formerly with the M-G-M exchange, has joined the U. S. Army Motion Picture Service as booker and office manager . . . A mild flu wave at Camp Bowie near Brownwood closed down Army theatres there as a precautionary measure.

The H. H. Covingtons of Teague who retired from show business several months ago with the sale of their two theatres there to J. G. Long, were here last week. Since selling out, the couple has been seeing much of America. Their last trip took them up to Canada . . . Lee Scarborough, who recently built and opened the Van at Van, has been in on a deal with W. H. Frye.

Beaumont's new Ritz for colored will open March 11, according to Alfred N. Sack . . . Rubin Frels of Victoria was in town booking . . . Maj. H. S. Cole of the American, Bonham, sans chapeau as usual, seen walking along exchange avenue.

Name of the Joy on lower Elm Street has been changed to the Wade. It is owned by Percy Wade of Oklahoma City, and is managed by his son, Gene . . . The Metropolitan Opera Co. appears here again this year under auspices of the Dallas Grand Opera Ass'n. Four operas will be presented at Fair Park Auditorium, afternoon and night . . . Cold and rain put the damper on show business last week.

The A. V. (Tony) Philbins were hosts last Saturday night at the Variety Bingo setto. Their invitation was headed, "Irish Relief," saying it would be a great relief to the Irish couple if friends attended. Harry Harris and his wife were the hosts March 1 and the L. W. McClintocks will be on duty March 8.

Jorgenson Settles With Interstate

DALLAS—The H. N. Jorgenson case against the Interstate circuit alleging price-fixing, which has been hanging fire in Judge Atwell's federal court for several weeks, has been settled out of court.

Following a trial hearing recently the jury rendered a verdict of $1,500 damages in favor of Jorgenson. It was thought at the time that this award was automatically tripled to $4,500, which, eventually did not prove to be so. Instead, Judge Atwell left the case open to defense motions to set aside the jury verdict in favor of an instructed verdict for Interstate or the granting of a new trial. Whereupon Interstate attorneys presented a lengthy motion on details of the case and testimony offered, which was believed to have had an effect on Judge Atwell and counsel for Jorgenson. Thereafter, attorneys for both sides got together in a settlement, details of which were not disclosed.

The settlement winds up all pending actions against the circuit.

Finn Lee Ill

WARSAW, N. C.—Finn Lee of the Duplin Theatre is ill with the flu.

Stone, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Sullivan.
Pat Talbot, Carl Thompson, True T. Thompson, T. P. Tidwells.
A. A. Vellery.
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Wall, C. H. Wells, H. P. Williams, Raymond Willie, R. R. Willy, Ed Wilson, Louise Wright, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Zrenner.
DENISON—Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. James Ross, A. G. Talbot.
DENTON—Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Garrison.
FT. WORTH—E. D. Pance, Dan Gould.
GATESVILLE—D. A. Taylor.
HOUSTON—Frank Coogler, Roy S. Hall, J. E. Hogue, H. E. Kunz, W. J. Kunz, Tommy McMahon, L. W. Merchant, E. J. Miller (Rep. of the I. A.), Tom Offield, Marshall Padgett, Peter P. Rao, C. A. S. Smith, C. P. Tilton, Ray Wilson.
SAN ANTONIO—Mr. and Mrs. John D. Denies, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Keeler.
TYLER—T. I. Bell, E. L. Britton, G. W. Veasy, W. W. Renfro.
WACO—Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Keeler.
WICHITA FALLS—J. M. Ealy.

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CHARLOTTE

VISITORS: O. T. Kirby, Palace and Dolly Madison theatres, Roxboro, N. C.; E. G. Pophal, St. Pauls, St. Pauls, N. C.; W. A. Gray, Belton, Belton, S. C.; Lyle M. Wilson, General Amusements Co., Roanoke Rapids, and Warrenton, N. C.; T. L. Little, Camden and Haigler theatres, Camden, S. C.; F. L. Adams, Rowland, Rowland, N. C.; D. C. Swain, Penn, Reidsville, N. C.; H. P. Howell, Howell and Victory theatres, Smithfield, N. C.; Jeff Wilson, Biscoe, Biscoe, N. C.; William Conn, Webb, Gastonia, N. C.; Bill and Claude Webb, Rogers, Shelby, N. C.; D. Holt, Troy, Troy, N. C.

Also, Mrs. E. L. Derrick, Chadbourn, Chadbourn, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fleming, Sylvia, York, S. C.; B. B. Horton, Concord and Red Springs, N. C., and Inman and Greer, S. C.; John V. Robinson, New, Old Fort, S. C.; George Carpenter, Colonial, Valdese, Main, Granite Falls, and Patovi, Madison, N. C.; R. D. McGowan, Nash, Spring Hope, N. C.; P. J. and C. H. Caudell, Wanoca, Wallace, N. C.; Ted Ballenger, Blair, Marshville, N. C.; Kramer Drace, Catawba, Newton, N. C.; J. R. Patterson, Majestic, Fort Mill, S. C.; Dick Eason and George Parr, Imperial and Parr theatres, Lancaster, S. C.; and Roy Rosser, Temple and Sanlee, Sanford, N. C., and State and Gem, Clinton, N. C.

"Sis"—Did you, Sis?—Where were you Friday, Sis?—Not for that money, Sis?—and many more "Sis's" you'll hear if you happen to drop in at the local Republic office. Cy Dillon explains this was started by Salesman Jack London to keep exhibitors conscious of the forthcoming "Sis Hopkins" . . . Quite unknown but to few, J. I. Sims, who has the Reliance and Carolina in Orangeburg, S. C., has the walls and roof on his new theatre, which is unnamed as yet. No opening date has been set. J. I. always was a fast worker.

Roy P. Rosser has returned from a trip to Hot Springs, Memphis and points in Texas. Mrs. Rosser remained at home to look after the operation of their theatres in Sanford and Clinton, N. C. . . . Bill Talley, booker at Monogram, accompanied by the Mrs., spent the weekend with Mrs. Talley's parents in Whiteville, N. C. . . . Tom B. Kehoe of the Show Shop in New Bern, N. C., and one of North Carolina's oldest exhibitors, who has been confined by illness for several weeks, expects to be back on the job soon . . . J. B. McElroy reported in for the weekend ill and was ordered to bed. McElroy is a Monogram salesman.

Watt Parker, Atlantic Pictures distributor and exhibitor, spent the weekend inspecting his State in Durham, N. C. . . . Sam W. Craver has returned from an inspection visit to his theatres in Columbia, S. C.; Danville, Roanoke, Lynchburg and Norfolk, Va. He also spent several days in the various exchanges at Washington, D. C., arranging his bookings.

Ellis Blumenthal, president of B&B Amusements, who has been spending some time in Florida, flashes that he had planned to return home before this, but on seeing a local paper carrying a prediction for snow, changed his mind . . . Carpenters, electricians, plumbers, etc., are in great demand in the Carolinas due to defense construction work. We are not informed as to how Exhibitor E. B. Bowman of Maxton, N. C., qualifies, but anyway he is on the job for Uncle Sam at Fort Bragg, N. C. Mrs. Bowman is taking care of the theatre.

Ray Ervin, Metro salesman, is vacationing with his wife, Caroline, in Florida for two weeks . . . William Mick, southern and eastern division manager for the Jam Handy Detroit, spent some time with Jack Lamont, local Monogram manager, last week . . . Lt. Don Killmer, now located at Camp Stewart in Georgia, spent a day visiting local friends. Don was a South Carolina salesman for National Theatre Supply before being called to the colors.

Howard Marx of National Theatre Supply, on his return from New York where he attended the company's national convention of branch managers, announced the appointment of W. G. Milwain to assume the duties of Don Killmer who has been called to service. Milwain has been connected with National in the Memphis office for several years. He will be joined by his family later . . . Verne Davis of the Mimosa and Alva in Morganton, N. C., and also the Marion and Oasis in Marion, N. C., who only recently returned from Florida, has again gone to the sunshine state, this time accompanied by Mrs. Davis. They plan to be away for a month.

Mrs. Runa E. Curtis, who operates the Curtis in Liberty, N. C., has an unusual hobby: Collecting novelty shoes from the different states. She is also considered one of the leading morticians of North Carolina. Mrs. Curtis entered the industry in 1930 when she opened the Curtis. In 1936 she became associated with T. C. Frazier and purchased the Gem in Siler City, N. C., which they operated until 1939 when the new Elder, which they built, was opened.

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PRC Convention in Chicago March 22

DALLAS—Producers Releasing Corp. will hold its annual sales convention March 22-24 at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago, it was announced Wednesday by O. Henry Briggs, president. Briggs was here for conferences with Jack K. Adams of the Adams Film Exchanges and E. L. Walker of Oklahoma City, both territorial franchise holders. The PRC head was en route from the coast to New York on business. Mrs. Briggs was with him.

A new finance deal has just been effected by PRC, Briggs pointed out, whereby $1,000,000 has been made available by Consolidated Film Industries for completion of PRC's present program and for its '41-'42 lineup, which will total 63 productions including 26 westerns. As part of the deal, Consolidated will do PRC's laboratory work and RCA will handle their recording.

Adams, of course, will handle PRC product in Texas, Walker in Oklahoma and Ike Katz of Atlanta will distribute it in the southeast.

O. Henry Briggs Due in Charlotte for Huddle

CHARLOTTE—O. Henry Briggs, president of Producers Releasing Corp., was due here this week for product huddles with Branch Manager E. E. Heller.

George Graves III Weds

CHARLOTTE—George Calvin Graves III, son of the local 20th-Fox booker, was married recently to Miss Jeane Lanier Hoyle. The ceremony was performed at Chester, S. C.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

AUSTIN

ALMOST anything can happen among Austin's golf-playing theatremen—and it usually does. Take the case of Jesse Melinger, rotund skipper of the Varsity, who traded in his old clubs to a local dealer. Along came Capitol Manager Bill Hellums then who cashed in his clubs as a down payment on Jesse's. Payoff of the story occurred when Dick Waite, Paramount foreman, bought Bill's cast-offs.

And speaking of the fairways, Bill says that the Austin Interstate mob will join the San Antonio bunch in the annual Variety Club golf tournament in the Alamo City, instead of the usual separate tourneys this spring . . . Earl and Lena Podolnick have bought themselves a new nest in Bryker Woods . . . And Francis Vickers & Co. have moved into a new apartment . . . Dick Westbrook, now in Uncle Sam's army, was in town to see the old Varsity gang.

Recent oldies to play the Texas include "Hell's Angels," "Of Human Bondage," "Winterset," "Wuthering Heights," "The Old Dark House" and "Holiday" . . . A sneak preview of "Buck Privates" at the Paramount bagged terrific audience reaction. As a result, the film will be shown at the State instead of at the Queen . . . Julius Kubala of the Texas service staff passed his Randolph Field physical exam with flying colors.

"Go West" was dualed with "The Palm Beach Revue," stage show, at the Capitol February 28-March 1 . . . "The Philadelphia Story" was a three-day holdover at the Paramount . . . "Lost Horizon" packed 'em at the Varsity recently . . . Harold "Buster" Novy, son of the local city manager for Interstate, wound up his first semester at the University of Texas with a "B" average . . . And June Ischy, daughter of the Paramount projectionist, was accepted for CAA training.

"Red Ryder," whose daily adventures are followed by thousands of fans on the comic pages of a local newspaper, is the hero of the new serial at the Cactus . . . "Batting Around the American League" was shown here free of charge at the 7-Up Auditorium . . . Color pictures of Dixie Camps for Boys and Girls, and also of Wayman Adams engaged in painting a portrait were exhibited locally.

Joyce McIlroy, cashier at the Paramount, and Helen Evans, State cager, have exchanged places . . . Capitol ushers wore cowboy garb as a buildup for the showing of "Trail of the Vigilantes" . . . "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" proved to be a popular midnighter at the Paramount Saturday . . . Betty Waite, candy gal at the same house, to Beaumont for the weekend . . . Francisco the Spookeroo entertained party guests of Molly O'Daniel, the governor's dotter.

Opens New One March 8

NORTH CHARLESTON, S. C.—Morris Legendre of the circuit bearing his name, will open his New Dixie here March 8. His headquarters are in Summerville, S. C.

Dallas Plaint Error Causes Filing Delay

DALLAS—The first arbitration case to come before the motion picture tribunal here is in the immediate offing. It is understood that C. C. Williams, clerk of the tribunal, received a case Wednesday, but returned the complaint because an error had been made in drafting it.

It is expected to be several days before the corrected form is received by Williams.

"Premiere for Britain" Shapes Up in Dallas

DALLAS—The "Premiere for Britain" billed for Fair Park Auditorium, March 8, is taking form as the biggest theatrical event ever to be held here. It will feature the first southwestern showing of "Hard-Boiled Canary." Allan Jones, Susanna Foster and Gracie Fields will make personal appearances as well as Maureen O'Sullivan, Margaret Lindsay and others.

Tickets are going at $2 for matinee and $2.50 at night. If all seats are sold, which is very likely, $20,000 will be raised for the British cause, R. J. O'Donnell, one of the movers behind the project, said. Tickets are on sale at all Interstate theatres and at all Skillern Drug Stores.

New Interstate Unit in Caruth Development

DALLAS—With development of the W. W. Caruth properties at Greenville and Mockingbird Lane, a new neighborhood theatre at that point for the Interstate circuit has been announced. The Caruth interests are planning a large shopping center for the area in which the theatre will be located. The theatre will seat over 1,000 and its name will be the Lane.

DeStafeno Returning

DALLAS—Arthur DeStafeno, Los Angeles branch manager for National Theatre Supply, is due back home early in the week to take over the managership of the company's Dallas branch. He started years ago in the equipment business here. DeStafeno succeeds Acting Manager A. G. Smith and the late J. I. Roberts.

J. E. (Jack) Huey

DALLAS—J. E. (Jack) Huey, veteran film man of silent days and RKO south Texas representative for several years, died Thursday morning in Edinburg, Tex., from a heart attack. He had been in apparent good health.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

HOUSTON

BREAKING a precedent of long standing, this town's new chief of police, Ray Ashworth, returned passes sent to his office by a local house. The passes are routine, and have been sent to various department heads each week. In his statement Police Chief Ashworth said that he was following the custom he had set up in San Antonio and that all other officers who received passes would be expected to follow suit.

According to reports, Fred V. Cannata received a check for $825.50 from Will Horwitz for "Bundles for Britain," representing the Uptown's gross gate for the Monday share of the benefit show.

Jess Hogue, Kirby operator, had a big time at the Dallas union function . . . John Arnold, Yale manager who was reported a sergeant in the Home Guards, has received a promotion to lieutenant since that announcement.

Mercer Coleman, Interstate's traveling auditor, spent several days in the city.

Lamps for Palace

ROXBORO, N. C.—Max Bryant of Bryant Theatre Supply Co. has just completed installation of new lamps in O. T. Kirby's Palace here.

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MEMPHIS

HERBERT and Mrs. Sanderson of the Malco Theatres in Jonesboro, Ark., were recent visitors . . . Jess Norman suffered a paralytic stroke at his home in Little Rock. Rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital, he is reported gravely ill. Norman operates the Best and Star theatres in England, Ark. . . . R. B. Gooch of the Ritz at Selmer, Tenn., was on the Row for the first time in weeks . . . Frank Bishop and Ben Ward of the Fran at Greenwood, Miss., were in purchasing rectifiers for their theatre . . . O. W. McCutcheon of the Ritz and Rex at Blytheville, Ark., was in on one of his rare visits.

E. W. Savage came in from Boonville, Ark., where he operates the Palace . . . The Variety Club's new steward is Jack Norman jr., formerly of the Henry Grady Hotel in Atlanta and the Mayflower in Jacksonville . . . Roland Adams of the Bruce, Bruce, Miss., is recuperating from a recent appendectomy . . . Harold Sharpe, new head booker at Warner, was transferred here from the St. Louis office . . . Marjorie McEllroy is the new secretary at Monogram.

Tommy Horne jr. has been promoted to the managership of the Memphian. He replaces Curby Smith, who was recently called to the colors . . . Buddy Mansfield, Universal's branch manager, announces the following changes in his personnel: Mrs. Helen Wilson replaces Helen Scruggs, resigned, in the booking department, and Mrs. Grace Holmes becomes assistant cashier, replacing Ilene Lindsay, who was married last week . . . Ralph McCoy, Warner district manager, spent a couple of days last week with Homer Hisey at the local office.

Seen on the Row: Wilfred Bonds, Dyer, Dyer, Tenn.; Jack Wilbanks, Hinz, Walnut, Miss.; Whyte Bedford, New, Hamilton, Ala.; Lyle Richmond, Missouri, Senath, Mo.; H. G. Brewer, Savoy, Clarksdale, Miss.; Jack Watson, Palace, Tunica, Miss.; Mrs. Louise Mask, Luez, Bolivar, Tenn.; G. H. Goff, Rustic, Parsons, Tenn.; W. O. Taylor, Uptown, Dresden, Tenn.; W. F. Ruffin, Ruffin Amusement Co., Covington, Tenn. . . . M. J. Hogan and Sam Shapin, auditors, are now visiting the local Warner office . . . Ike Katz of Katz Premium Co., Atlanta, was a recent visitor . . . C. W. and Mrs. Tipton are in Topeka, Kas., for a physical checkup and treatments at a hospital there. They expect to return within the next ten days. Tipton operates theatres in Manila, Monette and Carraway, Ark.

Variety Entertainment Committee Is Named

CHARLOTTE — The following have been named by H. H. Everett, Variety Club president, as members of the entertainment committee for 1941:

James Prichard, chairman, Universal; George Roscoe, Columbia; Frank Beddingfield, National Screen Service; Scott Lett, Paramount; Cy Dillon, Republic.

The charter banquet for the local club will be held March 10.

Sunday Show Proposal Reconsidered in Ga.

ATLANTA—The senate voted, 29 to 14, at a recent session, to reconsider the preceding day's adverse action on a bill to permit Sunday shows under a local option plan in Georgia.

The bill returns to the calendar to await later action.

Carnival Competition Diverts N. O. Grosses

NEW ORLEANS—Carnival and a slight increase in the flu is taking its toll of grosses both in the city and the New Orleans area, despite the fact that many excellent bills are on the screen. At Loew's State, "The Philadelphia Story" is doing excellent business. At the Saenger "Honeymoon for Three" drew heavily while at the Orpheum "Back Street," produced by an ex-newspaper man, Bruce Manning, received oddles of publicity from the local scribes as well as from the patrons who witnessed it. "High Sierra," moved from the Orpheum to the Liberty, is receiving its share of patronage.

Detail for week ending February 21:

(Average is 100)

Center—**Night Train** (20th-Fox) 100
Globe—**Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't) 90
Lafayette—**Meet the Missus** (Rep).....125
Liberty—**High Sierra** (FN) 95
Loew's—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M).....150
Orpheum—**Back Street** (Univ) 150
Saenger—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB).....130

"Wind" in Third Week Strongest in Dallas

DALLAS—Rain Wednesday night and cold showers Friday and Saturday made show business gloomy for the week, however grosses held up well considering circumstances. "GWTW" finished its third and final week at the Tower to almost double business for the house and "Kitty Foyle," sold as something different, topped the regular bill of fare at the Majestic.

Detail for week ending February 22:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Dawn Patrol** (WB) 100
Played 3 days starting Wednesday.
Capitol—**Devil Bat** (SR); **In Old Colorado** (Para't) 115
Majestic—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 120
Held over at the Tower.
Palace—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA)..... 95
Rialto—**Blonde Inspiration** (M-G-M) 85
Played three days starting Tuesday.
Rialto—**Invisible Woman** (Univ) 90
Played four days.
Tower—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....185
Third and final week.

"Buck Privates" in Front Of Average O. C. Week

OKLAHOMA CITY—Nothing exceptional about grosses here this week with "Buck Privates" showing the best figure at the Criterion. Snow and wet weather setting in on the weekend helped knock good grosses downward.

Detail for week ending February 21:

(Average is 100)

Criterion—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 110
Liberty—**Trail of the Vigilantes** (Univ)..... 95
Midwest—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox)..... 90
State—**The Long Voyage Home** (UA)..... 95
Tower—**The Thief of Bagdad** (UA)..... 90
Showed previously at Midwest good.

NEW ORLEANS

VISITORS to the Row: J. Gaude, Magic, Port Allen; J. G. Langlois, Alamo, New Roads; O. A. Ott, Kentwood; Vic Maurin, Fox, Houma; G. C. Ogden, Chimes, Baton Rouge; Morris Meltz, Ferriday; Claude Daece, Opera House, Morgan City; G. M. Butterfield, Lafayette; Sidney Haup, Donaldsville; Vincent Carrier, Amite; Mrs. A. G. Barry, Edgard, Edgard; Clarence Thomesse, Gay, Harvey; L. C. Lampo, Avalon, Fenerette; J. C. Keller, Eunice; Mrs. Violet Taylor, Denham Springs; H. Labat, Fern, Raceland, all from Louisiana. From Mississippi—Ed Delaney, Pike, Magnolia; Frank Bishop, Varsity, Ellisville; W. L. Mosely, Picayune; Frank T. Mason, Purvis; Frank Glick, Palace, Forest; T. B. Barnett, DeKalb; M. M. Bailey, Lumberton; Guy Adams, Vicksburg; E. D. Lawrence, Laurel, and Bill Baker, Macon.

The Joy-Strand has advanced prices from 5 and 10 cents to 10 and 16 cents . . . Leatrice Joy was here for the Mardi Gras . . . D. E. George is erecting a new house in Alexandria, La. It will seat 700 . . . F. J. Gaude has disposed of his interests in the Arcade, Patterson, La., to William A. Lighter jr. of New Orleans . . . Russell Callen is now managing the Lake in Greenville, Miss. . . . Eddie Goldberg, formerly owner of the Gibsland, Gibsland, La., is now in Monticello, Fla. . . . The Jeff has started an encyclopedia Book Night.

A booking agency has been opened by L. Montgomery, former booker of United chain, and Joy Houck, owner of a string of small town theatres in this area.

About 25 girls from Filmrow chartered a truck for the Mardi Gras. They decorated it with flags and feminine loveliness, with a banner on each side reading "Filmrow" . . . George Mayer, a retired theatre manager of Cleveland, Ohio, after an absence of 62 years, came back to the city for the carnival . . . Mardi Gras day found all exchanges closed save for one booker and a lone shipping clerk.

OKLA. CITY

IN LINE with a custom started some years ago, J. H. Cooper, general manager of Standard Theatres, Inc., was host to Oklahoma City youngsters last Saturday at a birthday party in honor of his son, Joe Cooper jr. There were free shows and candy at the Criterion, Tower, Liberty and Circle theatres.

Earl Ford, doorman of the State, now has a sweet time of it what between keeping busy at the door and keeping his eye on the "sweet young thing" spotted at the State's new candy bar just behind him.

Griffith's have opened the old Blue Moon in Packingtown under a new name, The Rodeo, and auspiciously enough with Bob Wills' picture.

Nearly all of the "big shots" were out of town last week attending the opening of the new Griffith Theatre in Tulsa.

Recognize Calgary's War Contributions

CALGARY—Well-deserved recognition of the Calgary theatres' contribution to the Canadian War Savings Campaign was given over the CBC Dominion networks on a recent broadcast. Mention was made of the early completion of their contribution to the war fund of 100 per cent pledges from executives and the staffs of Calgary's theatres and film exchanges.

With 186 employes in eight local film offices and 11 motion picture theatres, monthly subscription pledges totaled $1,098.98.

In addition to the financial aid, the local industry worked at general publicity. So well did it perform this labor, that it was asked to supply speakers to address gatherings in the smaller towns of southern Alberta.

Committee in charge of publicity was composed of: F. H. Kershaw, supervisor, Famous Players Canadian Corp., chairman; K. M. Leach, Strand and Variety theatres, Calgary, vice-chairman; Harvey Harnick, manager of Columbia Pictures of Canada, Calgary; Vern Skorey, manager of 20th Century-Fox Films, Calgary; Pete Egan, manager of Palace, Calgary, and Al Gold, manager of Tivoli, Calgary.

Labor Seeks Admission of Juveniles to Theatres

MONTREAL—Amendment of the law so that children under 16 years of age could be admitted to certain theatres, providing they are accompanied by an adult, was urged upon the provincial government by a delegation from organized labor, which has returned to the city from Quebec.

"We suggested," said Marcel Francq, secretary of the Provincial Federation of Labor, which organized the delegation, "that certain shows remain closed to the children, while others could be open to all, providing, however, that children under 16 years of age be accompanied by their parents or some other responsible person. In countries which have adopted this system the theatres are required to advertise well in view, at the door and in the newspapers where they usually advertise, that this or that show may be seen by children. The law also provides penalties all the way up to cancellation of permits for violation of this rule." Consideration of the proposal was promised by the government.

Bickell Pays $4,450 for Churchill's Photograph

TORONTO—Word is received in Toronto that J. P. Bickell, Canadian financier now in London on war production work, paid $4,450 for an autographed photograph of Prime Minister Churchill at a patriotic auction in aid of the Royal Air Force. Bickell has been associated with N. L. Nathanson in Canadian theatre developments and is the principal stockholder of a company operating several theatres in Ontario which is linked with the Famous Players' chain.

WINNIPEG

WINNIPEG'S rag matinee at which children were admitted to local houses at special showing on presentation of bundles of rags, went well over the top with 29 tons of rags collected. Houses, staffs and projectionists donated their services in this endeavor. Proceeds from the sale of the rags went towards a fund to purchase mobile kitchen units to be used in England. Of all local houses, R. Bessler's Park made the best showing with over two tons collected.

A new idea in exploitation has been introduced by Syl Gunn of the Metropolitan and seems headed for permanency, judging by its reception. This is the replacing of window cards with painted mirrors carrying his house name and current attraction . . . I. H. Allen, local manager of Grand National, when asked about his company's releasing of Producers Releasing Corp., stated that any words on the subject would have to come from the home office at Toronto.

At the Paris, Claire Fallis has introduced a Saturday night novelty in the form of double dozen vocal ensemble singing French folk songs and other numbers. This type of stage attraction seems particularly well suited to the location of the Paris in the heart of the French-speaking section of this neck of the woods, and may possibly win support beyond those confines.

George Formby's "It's in the Air" is rolling along unabated at Garnet Wright's Bijou where it is now in its fifth week . . . Syl Gunn's private screening of "Flight Command" reaped a rich harvest for him when the OC of the district voluntarily publicized his film in daily orders. In addition to individual attendance on the part of the soldiers and small party groups, Syl got a group of 600 men in a batch . . . Last week's tail-end of winter cold cut into boxoffice takes.

Jack Fitzgibbons, until recently assistant manager at the Metropolitan, has resigned his post and left for the United States where he will take up a commission in the army. Changes in staff personnel at the Metropolitan include moving Kirk McComb up to assistant manager and Jack Heaps to head usher . . . Its message apparently ideally suited to the temper of the times, Grand National's "Mein Kampf" has been having highly successful runs.

At the Tivoli, Harold Gray is settling back in anticipation of his specialty British films when he plays "One Night in Paris" next week. Harold's house organ, a miniature bulletin in which he plugs current and coming attractions to a select mailing list, is getting favorable mention . . . "Gone With the Wind," after doing holdover business at Harold Bishop's Capitol, has settled down for a run at Bill Novak's Gaiety.

In spite of one of the coldest nights of the season and with a counter-attraction downtown in the way of a hockey game, a fine crowd packed E. A. Retalick's Uptown for one of Don Gauld's sneak previews. The film, "The Philadelphia Story," got wonderful reaction and should garner heaps of word-of-mouth advance publicity . . . Eddie Newman's teaser campaign in connection with his current playing of "Dulcy" brought results as testified by his excellent opening night house.

Nate Rothstein is again heading the campaign for the Lord Mayor's fund . . . Bill Margot is back at the screen room after his layoff due to illness . . . Earl Pash of Grand National was featured in the University of Manitoba presentation of "The Mikado" . . . Neil Leroy, formerly with radio station CJRC and originator of Public Opinion, quiz show which had a successful run at the Metropolitan, is now in Toronto, where he is reported to be doing very well.

Recent visitors to the city were H. Bercovich of Regina and A. E. Mellon of Portage la Prairie . . . "Hitler—Beast of Berlin" is again showing in this territory and is doing even better business than when it was first released last summer . . . Syl Gunn is acting as host on four occasions to Saturday morning theatre parties of children attending his house as guests of the T. Eaton Co.

Fast Time Mandatory In Two Provinces

TORONTO—Despite complaints and criticism, the Dominion government has announced that it proposes to extend the scope of daylight saving time on a permanent basis throughout the provinces of Ontario and Quebec by ordering the adoption of advanced time as a war measure in municipalities where it has not been observed and the possible provision of changing the clocks in provinces of western Canada and the Maritimes for the conservation of electric power. Cities and towns which had voluntarily adopted daylight saving for the summer months in the past will continue to forget standard time throughout the year under the order which has been in effect since last September.

There is a further intimation, which is expected to be acted upon in the near future, that consumers of electricity for large display signs, billboards and other illumination will be required to restrict the use of juice to provide further power which is said to be necessary for war industries. This will bring about a partial blackout at least of theatre fronts which are usually the one bright spot in a business block.

Exhibitors have boxoffice figures to prove that, in past years, the moment daylight saving went into effect in April or May, theatre receipts took a dive which, of course, was accentuated when patrons started to go away for vacations at the end of June.

With Nathanson 23 Years

TORONTO—Ted Gee, known to thousands of Torontonians as the ticket-taker at the Uptown, big unit of the Famous Players chain, is observing the opening of the 23rd year of his continuous employment under N. L. Nathanson, president of the Canadian circuit.

TORONTO

GEORGE J. TUSTIN, member of the Dominion Parliament for Prince Edward-Lennox, renewed acquaintanceships among the personnel of Toronto film exchanges during a short visit. He was the proprietor of the Granada at Napanee, Ont., when he was elected to the House of Commons, and sold the theatre to Hanson Theatres Corp., Ltd. He intimated that he planned to return to the theatre business even though his parliamentary seat appeared to be secure . . . Miss Jane Edmonds, proprietor of the Kent at Lindsay, Ont., for many years, visited the Toronto film offices accompanied by her sister, Miss Mabel Edmonds, who is also actively associated with the theatre.

On his semi-annual business trip to Toronto was L. S. Hodnett, manager of the Community at Kapuskasing, way up in the far north country and center of the timber limits and pulp industry owned by the New York Times. *Hodnett took over the theatre more than a year ago when he succeeded Capt. H. J. Sweatman who is in charge of the Beaver Hut, for Canadian soldiers, in London, England. Another trade visitor from the Far North was Dan Korman, proprietor of the Palace at Englehart.*

Jack Allen, owner of the Tivoli, Thorold, was busy with the bookers in the vicinity of Dundas and Victoria streets in the lining up of a string of pictures for his new theatre which he has opened at Niagara-on-the-Lake . . . Two ladies, prominent in the theatre world of western Ontario, were noted on the Filmrow. One was Mrs. H. J. Sutherland of St. Mary's who, with her husband, operate theatres at St. Mary's, Goderich, Clinton, Seaforth and Mitchell. The other was Miss A. E. Elliott of Hamilton, representing Fred Guest's theatres, the Empire, Queen's and Delta, in that city.

Alf Perry, general manager of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., was at the Montreal branch of the company for several days. Frank Fisher of Empire headoffice spent several days in western Ontario . . . Walter Kennedy has been very busy lining up the Canadian campaign on "Back Street" and will shortly be on the road to sell the picture for first-run situations . . . J. G. Strathy and W. G. Goodman, veteran partners of the Brock at Whitby, made the joint rounds of the Toronto film offices, as did Lou Rosefield and Harry Goldhar of the Palace, Galt.

Rumor has it that M. H. Yudin, manager of the Centre at St. Catharines, will be transferred to the management of the Circle in North Toronto. Yudin is the son-in-law of H. Freedman, owner of both theatres and former president of the Independent Theatres Ass'n of Ontario . . . Jack Delaney has taken over sole management of the Delaney at Gananoque, owned for many years by his father, Sanford Delaney, who died a few weeks ago. Delaney is an experienced airplane pilot, having many flying hours to his credit.

Exhibitors from various parts of Ontario descended upon the film exchanges to keep the staffs on the hustle for several days. The callers included Ben Borlak, proprietor of the College, Brantford; Sam Fingold of the Roxy, Mt. Forest, and the Roxy at Chesley; Milton Fallick, owner of the Lyceum, Hamilton; W. J. Adams, proprietor of the Lyceum, Wingham; Abe Rappaport, colorful manager of the Hollywood at Campbellford, and Simon Meretsky of Windsor who makes his presence known in unmistakable manner, as well as W. Hobberlin, new owner of the Holland at Bradford who recently sponsored a patriotic performance for the War Victims' Fund.

Ben Freedman of the Royal, Long Branch, lined up a string of bookings in anticipation of good business following the re-opening of the military training camp . . . Manager Charles F. Ingram of the Bayview, Leaside, was busy with arrangements for the third annual midnight show under the auspices of the Bayview Business Men's Ass'n which featured a screen and stage performance with a lucky draw for many prizes in aid of patriotic causes.

Manager A. C. Simpson of the Toronto Hollywood is pursuing the policy of granting a reduced admission price to soldiers, airmen and sailors in uniform to help the boys along with their somewhat restricted budgets . . . M. Weiss, proprietor of the Colony in the northwest section of Toronto, organized a special Sunday show to boost the sale of War Savings Stamps. A Sunday performance to assist Canada's war effort was also conducted by H. Freedman at the Circle in the north end.

The Belsize, Bayview and Hudson theatres are working together in a quiz advertising contest of a community newspaper in cooperation with neighborhood merchants each week by providing the complimentaries as prizes. The Hudson is an independent, owned by Max Starkman, while the other two are chain units. The Brock, in Toronto's west end, put on a second concert last Sunday night in aid of the British War Victims' Fund under the auspices of the Dundas-Brockton Businessmen's Ass'n, Joe Austin having direction of the program.

During the midst of the second long run of "Gone With the Wind" at Toronto Loew's, Manager Jules Bernstein received a cable from London, England, telling of the success of the year-long premiere of the picture in the Empire Capitol despite air raids and tumult . . . Stirling Hayden, latest screen heart-throb, packed the Toronto Uptown for two personal appearances in conjunction with the opening of "Virginia," arranged by Manager Fred Trebilcock. Hayden also officiated at the City Hall in a ceremony in connection with the war savings drive.

Joan Leslie, former Toronto school girl when she was known as Joan Brodel, received reams of publicity for her screen debut in "High Sierra" at Toronto Shea's where Walter Graydon was busy answering questions from fans. A few years ago Miss Leslie was a student at Our Lady of Lourdes School here . . . M-G-M received the official credit over the Canadian network for the broadcast of a dramatization of "The Mortal Storm" with the star role taken by Karen Glahn, formerly of the Royal Theatre, Copenhagen, and now a refugee. Her son is now in the Canadian army.

Manager Joe Paul of the Community, Welland, Ont., was the happy victim of a surprise party by his staff on the occasion of his birthday when he was presented with a wallet case, followed by suitable refreshments.

OTTAWA

JOHN FARROW, former Hollywood director and husband of Maureen O'Sullivan, has retired as press agent for the Royal Canadian Navy after holding the position for more than a year and has been succeeded by W. J. Gilhooley, a local sports writer, who has been appointed as a civilian . . . T. R. Tubman, manager of the Ottawa Capitol, organized a second rally Sunday night at the theatre as a committee chairman of the local war savings campaign, the speaker between stage presentations being Sir Norman Angell.

Donat Paquin, owner of the Francais and Victoria in Ottawa and the Laurier in Hull, and Manager Bill O'Regan journeyed to Toronto to arrange a flock of bookings. . . . Miss Maryan Nolan, proprietor of the Rexy and Nola and sole executrix of the estate of P. J. Nolan who died recently, was also in Toronto during the past week.

Finley McRae, who was elected an officer of the Ottawa Board of Trade, has now been elected vice-president of the Ottawa West Liberal Ass'n, a political organization. Son-in-law of the late Harry Brouse, McRae holds numerous public and community offices.

Manager Isser Singerman has closed the extra run of "Gone With the Wind" at the Imperial where it played more than one week . . . Manager L. M. Mills of the Elgin had the ladies of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire serving tea in the lounge daily for patriotic purposes during "This Thing Called Love" which was held over for a second week as a single attraction. Mills emphasized the laugh angle as an antidote for war worry.

The Ottawa Capitol is making a break in its continuous film policy in the presentation of the opera baritone, John Charles Thomas, in one concert on the evening of March 6 . . . Donat Paquin, who has long been a leader in the French-Canadian community of the Ottawa district, has been doing community work as a chairman of the war savings campaign for the City of Hull.

MONTREAL

RETURN of "Gone With the Wind" to Loew's is an attractive March event. At the first showing, despite the high prices, the theatre was filled to overflowing during every performance for several weeks . . . A comparatively rare visitor to Filmrow was A. Beaumont, who owns the Francais in Quebec and the Academie and the Cinema at Levis, which is on the south shore facing the provincial capital. More regular visitors were George Gray of Wonderland, Magog; C. Brook of Princess, Cowansville, and Ambrose Nolan of the Pix, Aylmer.

Canadian Dorothy Spitfire Fund announces that Dorothy Lamour's celebrated sarong will be auctioned at Vancouver in aid of the fund, as will an autographed copy of Dorothy Thompson's famous "Let's Face the Facts" radio address. Dorothy Dix sent $10 *from New Orleans . . . Dionne Quintuplets made their first try at skating on ice the other day and slid, skidded and sprawled all over the rink, so that small chairs had to be given them to push.*

Canadian Geographical Society has undertaken an educational film which will be completed this year. The Society witnessed the national premiere a showing of the National Film Board picture, "Peoples of Canada," which John Grierson, who heads the board, remarked was based on the "live and let live" outlook of the Canadian people. It shows Canadians of various origins at work all over the Dominion. Gordon Sparling of ASN directed the picture . . . The newsreel division of Associated Screen News included a special clip in recent reels entitled "Britain Faces Invasion Threat," prepared to aid the War Savings Campaign.

"Islands of the St. Lawrence" is a tourist travel picture completed by Associated Screen Studios for the Tourist Bureau of the Province of Quebec, which has also ordered a French version of the film. Narration was handled by Corey Thompson and the film was directed by Phil Taylor . . . Roy Tash of ASN went to Stratford, Ont., to film the visit of Princess Juliana . . . Lucien Roy, of the same organization, pictured activities on the Pacific coast of a trade school for enlisted men.

George Ganetakos, managing director of United Amusement Corp., who is national chairman of the Greek War Relief Fund, advises that $300,000 has now been distributed for Greek civilian relief by the fund. He received a cable from Premier Korysis, reading: "Being deeply touched by your patriotic work, I herewith express my highest admiration."

It is announced that Britain has lifted the ban on Sunday theatres and music halls in order, as Herbert Morrison, Minister of Home Security, commented, "to give servicemen and industrial workers some pleasure from their scant leisure." He also mentioned that it would assist "the financially pressed members of the theatrical profession." Later shows are also being given week nights in London.

The recent showing of "Hudson's Bay" at Loew's brought from Armour Landry of Le Flambeau Society of Arts, Science and Letters at Three Rivers, Que., the information that Pierre Radisson, the hero (played by Paul Muni) and his friend Des Groseilliers (Gooseberry), lived in Three Rivers and a marker indicates the house of the latter. Translated, it reads: "Medard Chouart Des Groseilliers (1625-1698), brother-in-law to Radisson, had his home here. The Hudson's Bay Company owes its existence to these fearless explorers."

War Cuts Estimates For Propaganda

OTTAWA—The effect of the war was reflected in the estimates of the Dominion government for the coming fiscal year of the branches engaged in motion picture and trade propaganda activities because of the shutting off of European and other markets through hostilities. One exception in the downward trend is the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau, the appropriation for which has been raised by $49,810 to $159,810 to take care of the production of propaganda films for theatrical release.

The appropriation for the National Film Board of the department of trade and commerce, of which John Grierson of London, England, is the film commissioner, has been reduced to $39,100, this total being lower by $20,900 from the previous apportionment. This indicates that the work of the National Film Board is of less importance than was regarded during its first year of operations.

The estimate of the department for exhibitions and publicity, which include moving pictures and advertising displays in foreign countries for trade and tourist purposes, has been reduced from $237,960 to $112,900. The amount earmarked for exploitation work in the British Isles was cut from $85,000 to $45,020 while the sum made available for such features in countries other than the United Kingdom has been slashed from $105,000 to $54,360.

It has also been brought out that the branch of the director of information brought an outlay of $202,672 up to December 1 last. The purpose of this new bureau is to coordinate moving picture and radio services as well as existing publicity methods of the different departments and to provide for the production of Canadian government war films for theatrical and non-theatrical distribution "and the encouragement of independent newsreel operations." No details have been provided regarding the results attained thus far.

CALGARY

IT TOOK a film sales manager of Calgary to solve a technical problem that puzzled the projectionist and house manager of an ace theatre in Edmonton. Also gathered at the conference was the theatre inspector of the Alberta provincial government. Film offices were being blamed for sending out scratched negatives to the theatre. Doubt arose when scratches appeared on film from other offices. Projection machine was dismantled and wise heads consulted. In fact everything was looked over but the house seats. In walked the film salesman, sat through a screening . . . and pointed out four seams in the new screen. In certain fully-lighted scenes they looked like four scratches running through the film as it unfolded.

Sadly depleting staffs of theatres and Filmrow, flu and other sickness have been prevalent during February. Measles among adults has also been a common ailment.

Gordon Brewerton was rushed to the hospital with hemorrhage of the stomach.

Figure $800,000 Gross For Famous Players

TORONTO—According to advance information, gross operating profits af Famous Players Canadian Corp. for the year ending December 31 will be approximately $800,000 which is higher than the preceding 12 months. However, it is pointed out that the amount reserved for the payment of various taxes will absorb a considerable portion of this sum. During the year there was a retirement of bond obligations totaling $700,000, it is understood. Earnings will figure out at $2.09 for each common share outstanding, dividends paid on which amounted to $1.00 per share.

The fact that taxes will consume a large share of earnings bears out the recent comment in BOXOFFICE regarding current war conditions in Canada that theatre patronage is appreciably heavy but that much of the increase is being consumed in greater taxation by the Dominion and other governments. The official financial statement is expected to be released in the near future.

EDMONTON

HUNDRED per cent participation was pledged by Edmonton theatre employes in the Canadian government's payroll savings plan at a meeting at the Capitol. With each of Edmonton's 11 theatres fully represented, those attending heard an address on the scheme for raising money for Canada's war effort by F. Harrison, member of the Edmonton War Savings committee. Walter Wilson acted as chairman.

"Gone With the Wind" will make its second appearance in Edmonton at the Capitol beginning March 8, Manager Walter Wilson announces . . . H. Harnicke, Calgary branch manager for Columbia, was a recent visitor.

Mrs. Fred Tickell, formerly of Calgary, has arrived in Edmonton to join her husband, newly appointed manager of the Princess. She was accompanied by her son.

From the Press

OTTAWA, ONT.—Twentieth Century Theatres, Ltd., have added about 100 seats to their Elgin Theatre.

BARRIE, ONT.—Matrons will be stationed Saturday afternoons to look after children at the Roxy and Granada.

WINNIPEG—Appreciation of the attitude of theatre executives in keeping their shows closed Sunday, was voiced at the annual meeting of the Lord's Day Alliance held here.

TORONTO — Paramount Pictures, Inc., estimates earnings for the 53 weeks ended January 4, 1941, at somewhat over $7,000,000, or double the net for 1940.

MONTREAL—M. Bernstein and J. Lieberman of St. John, recently added the 11th house to their chain, known as the B&L Theatres. The latest acquisition is the 400-seat Savoy at Fort Kent, Maine.

OTTAWA—John Grierson, acting film commissioner under the national film board, is continuing in that post, James A. MacKinnon, trade and commerce minister, indicated.

ST. JOHNS, QUE.—Mr. and Mrs. O. Thuot, owners of the Imperial, have disposed of their property to United Amusement of Montreal. Maurice Phaneuf of Montreal will manage the house.

TORONTO—Arrears on the preferred stock of Marcus Loew's Theatres, Ltd., have been reduced to $5.25 a share following payment of a dividend declaration of $1.75 a share in addition to the regular quarterly of $1.75 to be paid on March 31.

TORONTO—Speakers exhorted the audiences in Toronto's 110 theatres every Tuesday and Friday throughout February to pledge war savings.

FORT WILLIAM, ONT.—City council has authorized the removal of a dwelling here to make room for a new theatre planned by Famous Players Canadian Corp.

GANANOQUE, ONT.—Sanford Delaney, pioneer motion picture operator, died recently following a brief illness.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Magistrate Burbridge declared recently that the councils have authority to grant or refuse licenses in accordance with the express powers granted in their by-laws.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—Members of a Toronto law firm are incorporators of Biltmore Theatres (Kingston), Ltd., incorporated at Toronto.

VANCOUVER

G. BAISS of the Capitol Theatre, Duncan, and Harold Warren of the Capitol and Port theatres, Port Alberni, in town arranging their advance bookings . . . Arthur Lee of New York and Charles Mavety of Toronto were recent visitors to Vancouver.

The B. C. Projectionists Society was successful in inviting John Sutton to be their guest of honor at the banquet and ball held in the Commodore Cabaret Sunday, February 23. Sutton is featured in "Hudson's Bay" which was premiered in the Orpheum last month.

Announcement is made by the B. C. Tourist Council that motion pictures in natural color will carry the holiday invitation to millions of theatregoers in the United States this year. Radio and newspaper advertising will supplement this message.

Welcomed back on Filmrow after recent illnesses were Miss Janet Sutherland of United Artists and Bob Cringan of Fox . . . Jive addicts are having a gala time at the Beacon Theatre this week where Andy Kirk and his band is playing . . . Howard Fletcher of the Hollyburn, West Vancouver, announces that he is well over the $2,000 mark on his special Red Cross shows, proceeds of which are donated to that society.

Nat Taylor Circuit Enters Belleville

TORONTO—Twentieth Century Theatres, Ltd., Toronto, headed by Nat Taylor, has entered Belleville, Ont., in the acquiring of the McCarthy Theatre from J. C. McCarthy. It is intimated that the McCarthy, which seats 829 persons, will continue under the management of Vince Freeman who has been identified with the house for many years.

The three theatres in Belleville, which is adjacent to the Trenton air station of the Royal Canadian Air Force and has a number of war industries of its own, are now under chain jurisdiction. The Belle, seating 958 and managed by G. J. Forhan, is operated by Famous Players while the Capitol, with 829 seats, is a unit of Hanson Theatres Corp., Toronto, with Tom Mascaro as manager.

Announcement is made by Midtown Theatres, Ltd., that the Midtown, formerly the Madison, at Bloor and Bathurst Streets, will open March 15 after complete remodeling. The company is a subsidiary of 20th Century Theatres, Ltd.

S. Dolcourt has applied to the municipality of Midland, Ont., for the purchase of a property owned by the town on which to erect a theatre which would compete with the Capitol in that center. The decision has not been announced.

ST. JOHN

WHEN Operator Wallie Humby was incapacitated with a crushed hand while working in the Mayfair booth here, Herman Kerwin, doorman, stepped into the breach and continued the program to an SRO house without a second's interruption, and until the arrival of a relief operator. In the hospital, one finger on Humby's injured hand was amputated.

The Savoy, Fort Kent, Me., recently added to the B&L theatre circuit of St. John, seats 400, and is the second house on the Maine side of the border for M. S. Bernstein and J. Lieberman. This firm is the first in the eastern provinces to penetrate over the international line, their debut being at Madawaska, Me., south of Fort Kent.

The Film Girls' Patriotic Club, composed of feminine workers in St. John film exchanges, has developed into a leading war welfare group of the eastern provinces. They are now sponsoring entertainments for soldiers, sailors, air forcemen and mercantile seamen, on their own. Previously, they assisted other groups. The club is the mass mother of the crew of a naval patrol boat guarding against submarines, surface raiders and enemy bombers on the Atlantic coast. It also supplies the crew with sweaters, sox, mufflers, caps and cigarettes and delicacies.

Sunday shows at the Capitol, Halifax, N. S., are out of the trial stage, and hereafter will be presented indefinitely. But, apparently, only at the Capitol. The 1,980 seats there are filled within ten minutes after the doors are open at 8:30 p. m., and about 500 have been unable to gain admittance on recent Sundays . . . Al Clarke of Kentville, N. S., a retired pioneer exhibitor, has been raising money for Red Cross war work by touring Nova Scotia, presenting concerts in theatres and halls.

Alice Fairweather, secretary of the Maritime branch of the Canadian Distributors' Ass'n, St. John, N. B., and secretary of the Navy League of Canada for New Brunswick, has been touring the province delivering addresses in quest of new league members. She has signed up all exchange managers in St. John, this action being agreed on by the CDA branch officially . . . Employes of St. John exchanges have been organized into a bowling league. There are six teams, all chosen on the basis of ability or lack of it, and sex. None of the exchange managers is eligible.

Johnny March of St. John is following his father into film distribution, but not in the same groove. Reg March, a veteran distributor, is manager of 20th Century-Fox, while the son, 20, is on the staff of Empire-Universal, which is in the same film center as 20th-Fox, but with no other affiliation. Johnny yearns to join the Royal Canadian Air Force, and paid his own expenses to Moncton, N. B., the RCAF base. The examiners found him under weight, and now he's eating starchy and sugary foods aplenty in the effort to add enough poundage to be accepted within a few months on another try he is planning.

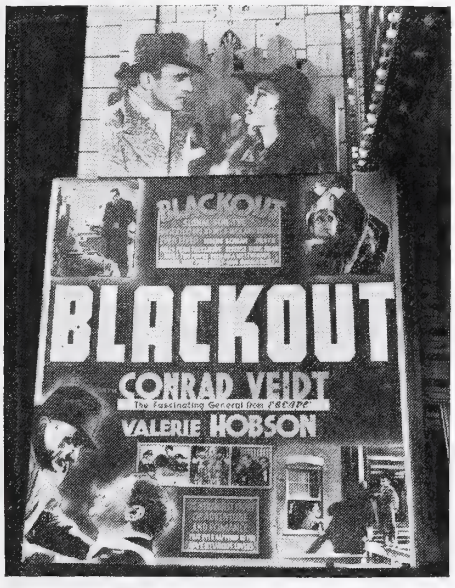
Musical Counters Radio Fight

Chicago—Alert to the times, Richard Barry, manager of the Capitol, Chicago neighborhood house, is tying in the fact of the recent ban of Ascap tunes on the radio in his advertising. Barry, in an effort to reach the radio audience, is distributing a house-to-house plugger which reads: "Have you missed the hit tunes on your radio lately? If so a visit to the Capitol Theatre will make you feel right at home when you see and hear 'Hit Parade of 1941' (copy and playdate.)" Cards in music store windows read: "No trouble with Ascap at the Capitol. Hear Kenny Baker sing these hit tunes in 'Hit Parade of 1941.'"



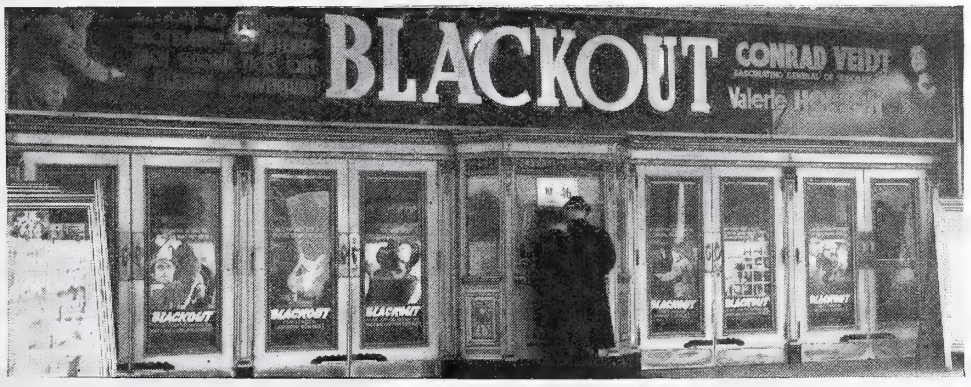
A Chilling Send-Off—

For the Monogram horror combination—"The Ape" and "Chamber of Horrors"—was arranged at the Ritz Theatre in Albany, New York, via this sensational front.



Not in the Dark—

An outside bally-view of Elmer Hollander's striking display on "Blackout" at the Stanton Theatre in Philadelphia which brought much comment from transients. Note that the war angle was omitted and mystery highlighted.



Double Bill Showing Has Mayor's Proclamation

ALBANY—Mayor Herman F. Hoogkamp issued a proclamation designating February 6-12 as "Patriotic Days" and urging Albanians to attend a showing, at Fabian's Palace during that period, of "Land of Liberty" and "Flight Command." The Knickerbocker *News* ran on a news page, a two-column facsimile of the proclamation, with a story on it and on the two films. The manager described the industry feature as "a stirring and dramatic film which tells the story of our country's patriotic progress during the past 150 years."

Airplane Model Contest

ERIE, PA.—J. V. Minton and his assistant, Wendell Proctor, at the Shea's, Erie, Pa., tied in with the *Dispatch-Herald* there on the Air Cadets model competition for "Flight Command" exploitation, with passes and tickets distributed to winners.

Charles Baron, M-G-M exploiteer, placed copy on the same picture within a large orange disc, which is the trademark of Gulf gasoline, for display at half-a-hundred Gulf gas stations.

Saturday Morning Shows Have Film Council's Aid

WORCESTER, MASS.—An experiment in special presentations for children has been inaugurated at the local Loew's Poli Elm Street by Joseph Anstead, manager, in conjunction with the Worcester Better Films Council.

Every Saturday morning, members of the "Nine-Thirty Club" pay their admissions and attend film programs, which are especially selected for the kiddies. The club has already arranged several promising angles, including free tickets on birthdays.

Hosts Boy Scouts

ALBANY—Bill Barber, manager of Charles Wilson's Bijou, Troy, was to host 200 Boy Scouts at an afternoon show. Throughout Boy Scout week, a display of handicraft of the various troops was on exhibition in theatre lobby.

Award to Robert Sidman

HARRISBURG, PA.—An Honor Roll Button has been awarded Robert Sidman, manager of the Senate Theatre, for his outstanding campaign for "Land of Liberty," industry-sponsored feature film which M-G-M is releasing.

Paper Helps Campaign

SPOKANE, WASH.—Manager W. R. Howes of the Granada brought about a newspaper smash for his engagement of "L'il Abner" through the local paper using the comics. The paper, in a seven-column display, described both the comic and the screen vehicle. Street ballyhoo and several tie-ins completed the bally.

PHILADELPHIA STORY—Amplifiers on the roof of the theatre played the "Philadelphia Story" transcription several times a day.

STRAWBERRY BLONDE—The Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity at Northwestern University voted the "Strawberry Blonde" as the type of girl they would prefer taking to the Junior Prom or Spring Dance. Immediately a group of brunettes on the campus began to picket the fraternity house. Pictures made the national news services.

MR. AND MRS. SMITH—Special literature to all the Smiths in the community. A question on marriage over a humorous radio program offered passes for the best answers.

YOU'LL FIND OUT—Doormen, usherettes and cashier were placarded as pickets a week in advance. Canvas banners, worn front and back, read: "Kay Kyser is Unfair to Gloom. 'You'll Find Out.'"

WHO KILLED AUNT MAGGIE?—A teaser campaign of one inch by one column ads a week in advance asked:

"1. Did Mussolini do it? Definitely Not! 'Who Killed Aunt Maggie?'

"2. Hitler did not do it! 'Who Killed Aunt Maggie?'

"3. Churchill would not do it! 'Who Killed Aunt Maggie?'

"4. Iron Whiskers couldn't do it! 'Who Killed Aunt Maggie?'"

During the week the cashier would whisper the title in giving out tickets or change; the doorman would whisper after his 'Thank You'; and in the middle of the newsreel a silent trailer popped out word by word "Who Killed Aunt Maggie?"

KEEPING COMPANY—A giant board in the lobby read: "If you are 'Keeping Company' be the guest of this theatre for the great picture (playdate)." Under this sign were cutout hearts with the names of couples who are keeping company in the town. They were required to pluck the heart from the board and present it at the boxoffice for the free pass. Hearts with new names were added to the board as the others were claimed by couples. A reader in the paper advertised the stunt.

IT'S IN THE AIR—Coop ad. A scrambled word contest which formed the name of the star and picture. Recordings of the music in the film over radio station. Distribution of 2,000 novelties consisting of a small cardboard airplane, the fuselage of which was a real cigarette, with the advertising of the cooperating restaurant and taxi company on the wings. Another taxi firm paid for 2,000 lucky number business cards, the winning numbers for free admissions being posted in the lobby. A cleaning company gave free theatre ticket with orders of $5, and paid for heralds enclosed in every parcel for one week.

HONOR ROLL

Showmen whose exploitation activities flank this column.

Wally Allen
Lexington, Ky.

Gordon Beavis
Royal, North Bay, Ontario

Louis A. Cohen
Loew's Poli, Hartford, Conn.

Ben Cohn, Chris Demos
Frolic, Chicago

Joe Conway
Egyptian, Bala-Cynwyd, Pa.

Col. David E. Dow
Tower, Bremerton, Wash.

John Finley
20th Century, Buffalo, N. Y.

Mike Galer
King, Albia, Ia.

Arnold Gates
Park, Cleveland

John Maloney, F. C. Rieger
Grove, Chicago

Harry Mandel
RKO Publicity Director

Dave Martin, Bill Erickson
Granada, Inglewood, Calif.

Jack McGee
Fox, Laramie, Wyo.

Jerry McWhorter, James Fennell
Hamilton, Chicago

Louis Merenbloom
Corbin, Ky.

Frank Murphy
Loew's, Syracuse, N. Y.

John Newkirk
Granada, Cleveland

Fred Ostreicher
Loew's, Columbus, Ohio

Art Peters
Majestic, Hornell, N. Y.

LAND OF LIBERTY—Mayor's proclamation urged public support. Five-minute Legion band concert outside of theatre before its start. Legion post sponsored a contest with 25 pairs of guest tickets for winning letters on "Who Is the Greatest American Patriot?" Personal letters to heads of 200 patriotic and civic organizations. 10,000 tabloid heralds, the back carrying paid ads of seven neighborhood merchants.

Also a tieup with Citizens' Bureau which conducts Americanization classes for some 2,000 adults. Bureau issued cards to each student on which was place for name, address and date on which the film was seen. These cards were presented at the theatre along with admission ticket and later used as basis for class discussion.

NO, NO NANETTE—Shoe store cooperated with window display of beautiful pair of dancing shoes and several stills. Copy on a 22x28: "You too will want to dance after you have seen Anna Neagle in (picture and playdate)."

ANDY HARDY'S PRIVATE SECRETARY—Secretarial schools placed notices on their bulletin boards concerning the picture.

KITTY FOYLE—Pages from several copies of the popular priced edition of the book were overprinted and distributed as a herald. People read the part of the story on the page they got and a checkup of book stores revealed sales had boomed.

KITTY FOYLE—Heralds were made up by imprinting pages from a stenographer's notebook. "Kitty Foyle" sundaes and "white collar luncheons" were featured by merchants who tied-in.

KITTY FOYLE—Dressed like "Kitty," a girl typist in a downtown store window typed and handed out short notices about the film. Blotters printed in shorthand were distributed in business places.

KITTY FOYLE—Twenty RKO houses in the New York area are conducting a contest to select the young business woman most resembling Ginger Rogers in the picture. Photos submitted to the theatres are mounted on a giant board inside each house. Below each is a slot in which patrons cast their ballot. Cash prize of $650 and other prizes will go to the final winner. Girls getting the greatest number of votes will appear at each theatre and compete in the finals.

CONVOY—Special showing for officers and enlisted men of local navy yard. A letter of endorsement from the captain urged citizens to see the picture. Front made over to carry out navy atmosphere.

FLIGHT COMMAND — Two anti-aircraft searchlights were used as opening night ballyhoo. A boys' parade in a tie-up with the Aviation Club.

GONE WITH THE WIND—A birthday cake in the lobby celebrated the anniversary showing. Also a year old baby, born on January 31 of last year, was posed with the cake and pictures made the dailies.

A NIGHT AT EARL CARROLL'S—Two thousand cards, simulating legit theatre tickets were distributed to restaurants, taverns, fraternities and sororities around the nearby university. The tickets read: "It would cost you $3.30 for 'A Night at Earl Carroll's'—Enjoy it for less—(Playdate and theatre)." The ticket was complete with stub.

LADY WITH RED HAIR—A red wig, placed on a stand similar to those used by milliners, made a lobby display. Card below it announced "'The Lady With Red Hair' will be here on (playdates)."

"Hams" in Lobby Let Patrons Broadcast

Detroit—David M. Idzal of the Fox has arranged a lobby display for "hams"—amateur telegraph and radio operators—in connection with opening of "Western Union." The hams have been grabbing plenty of newspaper attention because of their importance in national defense activities, so the tieup has unusual timely value.

Amateurs stationed in the lobby for the week receive messages from patrons and transmit them to any part of the country as a part of the tieup.

Distinctive Lobby

ALLENTOWN, PA.—Nick Todorov, advertising director for Wilmer & Vincent's Colonial, utilized distinctive lobby pieces in selling "Mr. and Mrs. Smith." The motif of the stars phoning one another marked the displays.

A "Flytalk" Contest

CLEVELAND—A "flytalk" contest, asking readers to translate aviation slang into everyday language, created much comment among *Press* readers as part of the "Flight Command" campaign put over by Joe Longo, Loew's publicist.



—Metropolitan Photo Service

Books and Picture Displayed—

The Pennsylvania Drug Stores in Radio City featured an elaborate "Kitty Foyle" window display arranged by Manager James Dunn of the Rivoli with the cooperation of Donald Reid of Grosset and Dunlap Publishing Co. The display featured a blown-up shot of Ginger Rogers and Dennis Morgan and the popular dollar edition of the Christopher Morley best-seller.



New Advertising Outlet—

Through the efforts of Lloyd Cohen, assistant to Charles Schlaifer of the United Artists Theatre in San Francisco, an exclusive store, hitherto uncooperative, came across with the above window display for "Thief of Bagdad." Copy in the corner reads: "Magic as a floating carpet (Royal Abustan)."

Assembles Plane in Lobby For "Flight Command"

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—When "Flight Command" played Loew's Rochester, Lester Pollock, manager, had a full-sized, two-seater cabin plane brought into the theatre and set up on the promenade. The plane, through a tieup with a local plane service, was flown in from Detroit, dismantled and then taken to the theatre where it was reassembled.

Effective also, as part of the exhibit which included model airplanes, engines, and pictures, was a large parachute hanging over the lobby suspended from the ceiling.

On the morning the film opened, 36 planes took off from the airport, flew over the city and dipped over the theatre—as a "lofty" plug for the picture.

On the marquee, Pollock arranged for a cracked-up plane, nosed into the marquee. Red lights and rising steam simulated fire.

In another tieup with the *Democrat* and *Chronicle*, a model plane contest was held with a trophy going to the winner.

Competing Pictures Sold Via "Feuding" Ads

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—A friendly feud that expressed itself in newspaper ads provided a novel departure for competing Jack Ebersberger of the Sheboygan and Marlow Conner of the Rex in advertising their respective offerings.

Read Conner's ad:

"Dear (Neighbor) Jack Ebersberger: 'Hudson's Bay' with Paul Muni . . . which I understand you are playing next Saturday . . . is a great picture for those who like lots of snow. Personally I've had all the snow this winter that I care for. If you want to have a good time, come over to the Sheboygan and see Jack Benny and Fred Allen in 'Love Thy Neighbor.'"

Responded Ebersberger:

"Dear Neighbor M. Conner: It was so nice to hear from you, especially through the pages of the *Press*, about your week-end attraction 'Love Thy Neighbor' which starts Sunday. I don't like to dampen your enthusiasm, but even you must admit that Paul Muni starring in a picturization of the 'Hudson's Bay' Company can't be topped in motion picture entertainment. 'Hudson's Bay' starring Paul Muni and featuring a host of new faces and new personalities starts Saturday at the Rex, and you owe it to yourself not to miss it."

Plug "Topper Returns"

NEW YORK—UA is ballyhooing the forthcoming "Topper Returns" trade shows with over a million stickers which will go out on all mail. Forty by sixty boards heralding the event have been sent the exchanges and special invitations will shortly be forwarded exhibitors.

BOOKING CHART

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ◎ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ◎ indicates color photography.

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JULY 20	18 Drama 1038 **Military Academy** (66) T. Kelly R-July 13 24 Adventure 1110 **I Married Adventure** (78) R-July 20	19 Com. Drama 45 **We Who Are Young** (79) Lana Turner John Shelton R—July 20	16 Mystery 3910 **Haunted House** (70) R—Aug. 3 15 Melodrama 4020 **Boys of the City** East Side Kids (63) R—Aug. 31		20 Comedy 909 **Scatterbrain** (72) Judy Canova R—July 13 15 Western 944 **Carolina Moon** (65) G. Autry R—July 20	19 Drama 029 **Tom Brown's School Days** (82) James Lydon Fred. Bartholomew Cedric Hardwicke R—June 29	19 Drama 050 ◎**Maryland** (91) Walter Brennan Fay Bainter Brenda Joyce R—July 13	18 Melodrama **South of Pago Pago** (97) Victor McLaglen Jon Hall Francis Farmer R—July 20	19 Melodrama 4057 **Black Diamonds** (52) R—July 27 26 Western 4064 **Son of Roaring Dan** (64) R—Aug. 17 Johnny Mack Brown	20 Com. with Mu. WB407 **My Love Came Back** (85) R—July 6 Olivia de Havilland Jeffrey Lynn	20 Western 157 **Billy the Kid Outlawed** (55) Bob Steele
JULY 27	25 Comedy 1012 **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (70) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 27	26 Com. Drama 47 **Gold Rush Maisie** (82) Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	29 Melodrama 4024 **Orphans of the North** (57) R—Nov. 9 29 Western 3957 **Rainbow Over the Range** (59) T. Ritter R-Aug. 10	26 Drama 3941 ◎**Untamed** (83) Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	30 Drama 904 **Girl from God's Country** (71) R—Jul 27 Chester Morris	26 Western 085 **Stage to Chino** (59) G.O'Brien R-Aug. 24 26 Com. Drama 037 **Millionaires in Prison** (63) L. Tracy R-June 29			26 Com. Dr. 4023 **You're Not So Tough** (72) R—June 1 26 Outd'r Dr. 4006 **When Daltons Rode** (81) R—Aug. 3	27 Comedy FN474 **Ladies Must Live** (58) Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		2 Costume Com. 46 ◎**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	5 Melodrama 3908 **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	2 Melodrama 3942 **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	30 Western 956 **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R-July 27	2 Drama 061 ◎**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov.26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	2 Drama 101 **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		2 M'drama 4039 **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	3 Drama FN460 **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	3 Western 152 **Gun Code** (55) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	7 Drama 1008 **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama 50 **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama 3943 **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical 910 **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama 042 **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama 104 **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy 4003 **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram WB414 **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama 1039 **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 15 Western 2201 **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy 49 **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama 3913 **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 Western 3958 **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	16 Comery 3944 **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western 071 **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama 041 **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama 103 ◎**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama WB417 **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama 1006 **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama 3938 **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western RB-1 **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama 3945 **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda 171 **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama 043 **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R-Aug. 24	23 Drama 106 **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. WB412 **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama 48 **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama 3903 **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western 069 **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy 046 **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners** (101) R.Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy 109 **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama WB401 **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 Mystery 103 **Marked Men** (69) Warren Hull R—Feb. 1—PG-18
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy 1022 **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama 101 **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama 3920 **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. 4001 **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western 043 **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) **Gene Autry** R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama 101 **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	6 Melodrama 110 **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (92) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. 5013 **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. WB519 **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama 2032 **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama 1024 **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama 017 **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept 14	13 Comedy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 Comedy 105 **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. 5006 **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama 5051 **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 Comedy FN554 **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 ◎**The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 Mus. Com. 104 **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama 4021 **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordon R—Oct. 5	20 Drama 4002 **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western 086 **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Act. Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama 5020 **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 Western 5061 **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 Drama WB506 **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 Western 153 **Arizona Gang Busters** (60) Tim McCoy
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 1040 **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery 105 **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama 4003 **Rangers of Fortune** (86) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western 062 **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. 5001 **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 Western 158 **Billy the Kid in Texas** (55) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama 4004 **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	16 Western 072 **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western 181 **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama 5019 **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama WB502 **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 19	

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
OCT. 12	[3] Com. Dr' [redacted] **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	[7] Western **RB-2** **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	[11] Drama **4005** **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	[11] Mus. Com. **005** **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	[redacted]Com. **105** **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) **R-Aug. 3** Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	[11] Mus. Com. **113** **Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		[11] Melodrama **5017** **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	[12] [redacted]**N559** **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	[17] Drama **2030** **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows R—Feb. 1—PG-18		[7] Com. Dr. **4010** **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	[18] Drama **4006** **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	[15] Mus. Com. **001** **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	[18] Melodrama **107** **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	[18] Drama **114** **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		[18] Western **5062** **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	[19] Hist. Dr. **WB511** **Dispatch from Reuters** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	[24] Drama **3038** **Girls Under 21** (64) R—Nov. 30 [21] Western **2202** **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	[25] Comedy **109** **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		[25] Drama **4007** **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 [25] Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	[21] Western **052** **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	[25] Melodrama **104** **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	[28] Comedy **111** **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		[18] Comedy **5024** **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 [25] Drama **5007** **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	[26] Com. Dr. **FN561** **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	[31] Comedy **2016** **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	[1] Drama **108** **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		[1] Musical **4008** **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	[1] Mystery **006** **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	[1] Comedy **109** **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			[1] Comedy **5036** **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 [1] Melodrama **5052** **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	[2] Comedy **FN570** **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		[8] Musical **110** **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy **R—Nov. 23**	[11] Western **4051** **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	[8] Musical **4009** **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	[7] Mus. Comedy **007** **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	[8] Comedy **106** **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	[8] Melodrama **117** **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		[8] Comedy **5021** **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 [8] Western **5063** **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	[9] Drama **FN562** **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	
NOV. 16	[14] Western **2210** **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	[16] Drama **111** **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	[28] Mystery **4012** **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	[15] Western **4050** **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	[11] Western **063** **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	[15] Comedy **111** **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (78) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	[15] Drama **102** **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		[16] Drama **5015** **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	[16] Drama **WB513** **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Geraldine Fitzgerald R—Dec. 21	[11] Western **154** **Riders of Black Mountain** (59) Tim McCoy
NOV. 23	[23] Mystery **2021** **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30 [28] Drama **2012** **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30	[22] Comedy **112** **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	[25] Western **RB-3** **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		[15] Western **041** **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 [22] Western **073** **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	[22] Mus. Com. **108** **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	[22] Comedy **119** **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	[22] Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	[22] Comedy **5023** **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 [22] Drama **R5048** **Next Time We Love** (87)	[23] Drama **FN552** **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	[30] Mystery **2024** **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	[29] Drama **115** **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			[29] Comedy **018** **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karns R—Nov. 30	[29] Drama **113** **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	[29] Drama **120** **Tin Pan Alley** (94) R—Nov. 30 Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable	[29] Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	[29] Comedy **5010** **Bank Dick, The** (72) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	[30] Drama **WB512** **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	[5] Western **2203** **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	[6] Comedy **114** **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		[6] Mus. Com. **4011** **Night at Earl Carroll's, A** (63) Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	[5] Western **053** **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	[6] Western **182** **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	[6] Drama **118** **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		[6] Comedy **5026** **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	[7] Comedy **FN571** **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	
DEC. 14	[9] Drama **2031** **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	[13] Drama **113** **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		[13] Western **4012** **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	[6] Comedy **008** **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		[13] Mystery **121** **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		[13] Drama **5008** **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		[13] Com. Mys. **105** **Devil Bat** (69) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 21	[20] Mystery **2033** **Phantom Submarine** (69) Anita Louise R—Feb. 22—PG-30			[27] Outd'r Dr. **3946** **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	[20] Drama **009** **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	[20] Drama **114** **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	[20] Comedy **122** **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		[20] Drama **5025** **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	[21] **Reissue** **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	[20] Com. Drama **104** **Misbehaving Husbands** (66) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	[26] Outd'r Dr. **2101** **Arizona** (128) R—Nov. 23 [31] Western **2211** **Wildcat of Tuscon** (64) Bill Elliott R—Feb. 22—PG-30	[27] Comedy **116** **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	[22] Drama **4003** **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 [29] Western **4052** **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) R—Feb. 1—PG-17	[27] Comedy **4013** **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	[23] Western **064** **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	[27] Drama **112** **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	[27] Drama **123** **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	[25] Fantasy **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	[27] Mys. Com. **5018** **Invisible Woman** (72) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan 4—PG-1	[28] Adv. Dr. **FN551** **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	[27] Western **159** **Billy the Kid's Gun Justice** (63) Bob Steele
JAN. 4	[2] Comedy **2205** **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	[3] Drama **117** **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		[3] Musical **4014** **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	[27] Drama **019** **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	[3] Drama **161** **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	[3] Drama **115** **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		[3] Com. Drama **5030** **Where Did You Get That Girl** (65) R—Dec. 28 [3] Adv. Drama **5053** **Lucky Devils** (62)	[4] M'drama **WB503** **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	

BOOKING CHART

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JAN. 11	9 Western 2204 **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett R—Feb. 8—PG-23	10 Com. Drama 118 **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western RB-4 **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (60) Range Busters	10 Western 4051 **Doomed Caravan** (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 Western 074 **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 Drama 110 **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama 124 **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western 5064 **Boss of Bullion City** (59) 10 Drama 5027 **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama FN572 **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon R—Feb. 1—PG-19	10 Western 163 **Lone Rider Rides On** (64) George Houston R—Mar. 1—PG-35
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. 2029 **Face Behind the Mask** (69) Peter Lorre R—Feb. 15—PG-26	17 Drama 119 **Philadelphia Story** (112) R—Nov. 30 **Gone With the Wind** (225) R—Dec. 23, '39	15 Mystery **Dead Man's Shoes** (..) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 Drama 4015 **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western 054 **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers **R—Jan. 18—PG-10**	17 Musical 115 **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama 125 **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 Comedy 5022 **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (62) Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Dr. WB510 **Honeymoon for Three** (76) George Brent R—Jan. 25—PG-13	17 Comedy 107 **Caught in the Act** (62) Henry Armetta
JAN. 25		24 Comedy 121 **Wild Man of Borneo** (78) R-Feb. 8-PG-24 24 Historical **Land of Liberty** (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	20 Melodrama 4014 **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 Comedy 4016 **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (82) R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western 044 **Riding on a Rainbow** (79) Gene Autry R—Feb. 1—PG-19	24 Mystery 116 **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama 128 **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (78) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 25—PG-14	24 Comedy **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carol Landis R—Feb. 15—PG-25		25 Drama FN556 **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western 160 **Billy the Kid's Range War** (..) Bob Steele
FEB. 1	3 Melodrama 2028 **The Devil Commands** (65) Boris Karloff R—Feb. 22—PG-31	31 Drama 122 **Come Live With Me** (86) James Stewart R—Feb. 1—PG-17			28 Comedy 010 **Arkansas Judge** (72) Weaver Bros. R—Jan. 25—PG-14	31 Comedy 117 **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard R—Jan. 23—PG-13	31 Drama 127 **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Comedy 5011 **Buck Privates** (84) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello R—Feb. 8—PG-22	1 Drama WB520 **Father's Son** (57) John Litel Frieda Inescort R—Feb. 22—PG-31	31 Mystery 106 **Secret Evidence** (64) Marjorie Reynolds Chas. Quigley R—Feb. 8—PG-23
FEB. 8	13 Western 2212 **Across the Sierra** (58) Bill Elliott	7 Comedy 123 **Blonde Inspiration** (72) John Shelton R—Feb. 22—PG-30	6 Western 4053 **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (..) Tex Ritter R—Mar. 1—PG-35	7 Mus. Com. 4017 **You're the One** (81) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker R—Feb. 8—PG-21	31 Comedy 020 **Petticoat Politics** (67) Higgins Family R—Feb. 22—PG-31	7 Western 183 **Along the Rio Grande** (64) Tim Holt R—Feb. 1—PG-20	7 Comedy 129 **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (59) Eugene Pallette R—Feb. 15—PG-25		7 Drama 5002 **Back Street** (89) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer R—Feb. 8—PG-21	8 Drama WB514 **Flight From Destiny** (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	18 Drama **Adam Had Four Sons** (81) Warner Baxter R—Feb. 22—PG-32	14 Drama 125 **Trial of Mary Dugan** (90) Robert Young R—Feb. 15—PG-28		14 Mystery 4018 **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone R—Feb. 15—PG-26	14 Western 075 **Phantom Cowboy** (56) Don "Red" Barry	14 Drama 121 **Play Girl** (77) Kay Francis James Ellison R—Dec. 14	14 Com. Drama 130 **Golden Hoofs** (68) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers R—Feb. 22—PG-29	14 Drama **So Ends Our Night** (121) Fredric March Margaret Sullavan R—Feb. 1—PG-20	14 Comedy **Meet the Chump** (60) Hugh Herbert R—Feb. 15—PG-28	15 Comedy WB515 **The Great Mr. Nobody** (71) Eddie Albert Joan Leslie	
FEB. 22	20 Drama **Meet Boston Blackie** (61) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson	21 Comedy 126 **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (100) R—Mar. 1—PG-36	19 Air Drama **Flying Wild** (..) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan	21 Drama 4019 **Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	16 Western 065 **Prairie Pioneers** (58) Three Mesquiteers R—Mar. 1—PG-35	21 Com. Drama 123 **Scattergood Baines** (69) Guy Kibbee R—Feb. 15—PG-27	21 Drama 126 **Western Union** (95) Robert Young R—Feb. 8—PG-24		21 Mus. Comedy **Nice Girl?** (90) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone R—Mar. 1—PG-36	22 Com. Dr. FN559 **Strawberry Blonde** (91) James Cagney Olivia de Havilland R—Feb. 22—PG-29	
MAR. 1	27 Comedy **Blondie Goes Latin** (70) R-Feb.22 PG-32 27 Western 2205 **Outlaws of the Panhandle** (59) Charles Starrett	28 Com. Drama 127 **Free and Easy** (..) Ruth Hussey Robert Cummings	28 Drama **Sign of the Wolf** (..) Grace Bradley	28 Drama **The Monster and the Girl** (65) Ellen Drew Rod Cameron R—Feb. 15—PG-27	28 Act. Drama 021 **Great Train Robbery** (..) Bob Steele Claire Carleton	28 Drama 118 **Citizen Kane** (..) Orson Welles Dorothy Comingore	28 Mystery 132 **Murder Among Friends** (67) John Hubbard Marjorie Weaver	1 Comedy **The Great Dictator** (129) R—Oct. 26 Charles Chaplin Jack Oakie Paulette Goddard	28 Drama 5040 **Dark Streets of Cairo** (..) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7	1 Mys. Drama **Shadows on the Stairs** (..) Frieda Inescort Paul Cavanagh	28 Western 164 **Lone Rider Crosses the Rio** (..) George Houston
MAR. 8	28 Drama 2044 **Missing Ten Days** 6 Mystery **Lone Wolf Takes a Chance** (..)	7 Drama 128 **Rage in Heaven** (..) Robert Montgomery Ingrid Bergman		7 Comedy 4020 **Hard Boiled Canary** (80) Allan Jones R—Mar. 1—PG-33	7 Drama 011 **A Man Betrayed** (..) John Wayne Frances Dee		7 Drama 133 **Tobacco Road** (84) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau R—Mar. 1—PG-33		7 Comedy **Mr. Dynamite** (..) Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey	8 Mys. Dr. WB509 **Footsteps in the Dark** (96) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall	7 Western 155 **Outlaws of the Rio Grande** (53) Tim McCoy
MAR. 15		14 Drama **The Penalty** (..) Lionel Barrymore Edward Arnold Gene Reynolds			14 Western 045 **Back in the Saddle** (..) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	14 Comedy 120 **A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (91) George Murphy Lucille Ball	14 Drama 134 **Sleepers West** (..) Lloyd Nolan Lynn Bari		14 Drama **Double Date** (..) Peggy Moran Edmund Lowe	15 Comedy **Here Comes Happiness** (58) Mildred Coles Edward Norris	
MAR. 22		21 Musical **Ziegfeld Girl** (..) Judy Garland James Stewart Hedy Lamarr		21 Comedy **Lady Eve** (97) Barbara Stanwyck Henry Fonda		21 Musical 119 **Footlight Fever** (..) Alan Mowbray Donald McBride	21 Drama 135 **The Outlaw** (..) Walter Huston Thomas Mitchell		21 Drama **The Man Who Lost Himself** (..) Brian Aherne Kay Francis	22 Drama **The Sea Wolf** (..) Edw. G. Robinson Ida Lupino John Garfield	22 Western 161 **Billy the Kid's Trigger Pals** (..) Bob Steele
MAR. 29	24 Mys. Drama **Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery** (..) R—Mar. 1—PG-34	28 Drama 124 **The Bad Man** (..) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore		28 Musical **Las Vegas Nights** (..) Phil Regan Tommy Dorsey	27 Drama **Mr. District Attorney** (..) Dennis O'Keefe Florence Rice	28 Drama 124 **Melody for Three** (..) Jean Hersholt	28 Mystery 136 **Dead Men Tell** (..) Sidney Toler Jean Rogers		28 Drama **Man-Made Monster** (..) 28 Mystery **Horror Island** (..)	29 Drama **Knockout** (73) Arthur Kennedy Olympe Bradna	29 Drama **Federal Fugitives** (..)
APR. 5	31 Western **North From the Lone Star** (..) Bill Elliott			4 Western **Border Vigilantes** (..) William Boyd	1 Western **In Old Cheyenne** (..) Roy Rogers	4 Drama 125 **Repent at Leisure** (..) Kent Taylor Wendy Barrie	4 Mystery 131 **Scotland Yard** (..) John Loder Nancy Kelly Edmund Gwenn		4 Outdoor Dr. **Lady From Cheyenne** (..) Loretta Young Robert Preston 4 Melodrama **Mutiny in the Arctic** (..)		
APR. 12				11 Comedy **Road to Zanzibar** (..) Bing Crosby Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour	6 Comedy **Sis Hopkins** (..) Judy Canova	11 Comedy 122 **The Devil and Miss Jones** (..) Jean Arthur [illegible] Coburn	11 Musical **That Night in Rio** (..) Alice Faye Don Ameche		11 Drama **The Flame of New Orleans** (..) Marlene Dietrich Bruce Cabot		

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ## Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. ◐ Indicates short of the week. ◎ Indicates color photography.

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd
2425..	Blondes and Blunders (16)	11-29	±	12- 7
2424..	Bundle of Bliss, A (18)	11- 1		....
2423..	Cold Turkey (16)	10-18		....
2628..	Fresh as a Freshman (..)	1-29		....
2426..	His Ex Marks the Spot (18)	12-13		....
2421..	Pleased to Mitt You (18)	9- 6		....
1421..	Skinny the Moocher (16½)	9- 8		....
2422..	Spook Speaks, The (18)	9-20	+	10-19
2627..	Watchman Takes a Wife, The (16)	1-10	±	1-25

CINESCOPES

2975..	Feathers (Cosmocolor) (9)	1-31		....
2972..	Floating Elephants (8)	10- 4	+	10-19
2971..	Hobby Lobby (11)	8-30	+	9-21
2972..	Industrial Green Island (10)	9-20		....
2973..	Nice Work If You Can Do It (9)	11- 8	+	11-23
2975..	◎Ocean Trails (..)	1-31		....
2974..	Unusual Crafts (9)	12-25	±	1-25

COLOR RHAPSODIES
(In Technicolor)

2505..	A Helping Paw (7)	1- 7	+	2-15
2502..	◎Mr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½)	10- 4		....
2503..	Mad Hatter, The (7)	11- 3		....
2501..	Tangled Television (7½)	8-30	+	10-19
2506..	Way of All Pests (7)	2-28		....
2504..	Wise Owl (7)	12- 6	∓	12- 7

COLUMBIA TOURS

2556..	Beautiful British Columbia (10½)	12-20	+	1-25
2557..	From Singapore to Hong Kong (De La Varre Prod.) (10)	1-10		....
2551..	Historic Virginia (Andre de la Varre Productions) (10)	8-16		....
2554..	Islands of the West Indies (10)	10-25	##	11-23
2553..	Old and New Arizona (Special) (9)	9-27		....
2552..	Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10)	9-13	##	10-23
2555..	Sojourn in Havana (LaVarre Prod.) (9)	11-25	±	12- 7

COMMUNITY SING

2651..	No. 1..(Jolly Tunes—D. Baker (10)	10- 2		....
2652..	No. 2..(Popular Songs—D. Baker (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
2653..	No. 3..(Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)	12-13		....
2654..	No. 4 (Gay Tunes) (10)	1- 1		....
2655..	No. 5 (10)	2- 7		....

Fun with Songs—L. White.

FABLES CARTOONS

2751..	Farmer Tom Thumb (6)	9-27	+	10-19
2755..	It Happened to Crusoe (..)	3-14		....
2752..	Mouse Meets Lion (6)	10-25	∓	12- 7
2753..	Paunch 'n' Judy (6½)	12-13	±	1-25
2754..	Streamlined Donkey (6)	1-17		....

NEW YORK PARADE

2951..	New York Parade (10)	1-24	+	2- 8

PHANTASIES CARTOONS

2705..	Little Theatre, The (..)	2- 7		....
1756..	Peep in the Deep, A (6½)	8-23	+	8-31
2701..	School Boy Dreams (5)	9-24	+	10-19
2705..	There's Music in Your Hair (..)	3-28		....
2704..	Tom Thumb's Brother (..)	1-17		....
2703..	Wallflower, The (..)	11-29		....

QUIZ REELS

2601..	Take It or Leave It (9½)	12- 5	o	12- 7
2602..	Take It or Leave It No. 2 (11)	12-25	∓	1-25
2603..	Take It or Leave It No. 3 (..)	2- 7		....
2604..	Junior I. Q. Parade (..)	3- 7		....

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS

2851..	No. 1 (10) Ken Murray.	9- 6		....
2852..	No. 2 (9) Don Wilson.	10-18	o	11-23
2853..	No. 3 (9) Ken Murray.	11-22	±	12- 7
2854..	No. 4 (9) Ken Murray.	12-27		....
2855..	No. 5 (9) Bob Hope.	2- 2	∓	1-25

SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)

2441..	Puss in Boots (reissue) (40)	11-21		....

SPORT REELS

2803..	All the Giant Killer (10½)	12-27	∓	1-25
2802..	Hunting Wild Deer (9)	11-22	=	12- 7
2804..	Ice Capers (..)	1-24		....
2801..	Master of Cue With Willie Hoppe (9)	10- 4	+	10-19
2805..	Splits, Spares and Strikes (..)	2-21		....

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

2404..	Boobs in Arms (18)	12-27	±	1-18
2403..	Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)	11-15	±	12- 7
2401..	From Nurse to Worse (16)	8-23	+	8-31
2402..	No Census, No Feeling (16)	10- 4		....
2405..	So Long Mr. Chumps (..)	2- 7		....

WASHINGTON PARADE
Series 2

1906..	No. 6 (Our Nat'l Defense) (10)	8-30		....

Series 3

2901..	No. 1 (The Mint) (10)	10-25		....
2902..	No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (10)	12-13	±	1-18
2903..	No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (10)	1- 3	+	1-25

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

P-201..	◐Eyes of the Navy (20)	10-26	##	10-26
.....	Forbidden Passage (21)	2- 8	±	2-22
.....	Respect the Law (20)	1- 4		....
P- 6..	Soak the Old (20)	8-24	±	9-28
P-815..	Think First (21)	9- 9		....
P-202..	◐You, the People (21)	11-30	##	1-18

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS
(In Technicolor)

.....	Alluring Alaska (9)	3- 8		....
T-214..	Beautiful Bali (9)	11-23	∓	12-14
T-211..	Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)	9- 7	##	9- 7
T-212..	Cavalcade of San Francisco (9)	9-28	∓	9-28
T-216..	Mediterranean Ports of Call (9)	1- 4		....
T-213..	Old New Mexico (10)	10-26	+	11- 9
T-215..	Old New Orleans (9)	12-21	+	1-18
T-217..	Redmen on Parade (9)	2- 1	+	2-22

METROSCOPIX

A-100..	◎Third Dimensional Murder (7)	3- 1	##	2-22

MINIATURES

M-232..	Great Meddler, The (11)	12-21	##	2- 8
M-233..	Happiest Man on Earth (11)	12-28	##	2- 8
M-234..	More About Nostradamous (Sepia) (10)	1-18	+	2-22
M-231..	Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia)	10- 9	±	12-14

M-G-M CARTOONS
(New Series)
(Technicolor)

.....	Abdul the Bulbul Ameer (8)	2-22		....
W- 94..	Gallopin' Gals (8)	10-26	+	11- 9
W- 93..	Homeless Flea, The (8)	10-12	##	12- 7
W-241..	Lonesome Stranger (9)	11-23	##	12- 7
W-242..	Mrs. Ladybug (8)	12-21		....
W- 92..	Papa Gets the Bird (8)	9- 7	∓	9-28

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY
Released Twice Weekly

OUR GANG COMEDIES

C-296..	Baby Blues (9)	2-15		....
C-293..	Goin' Fishin' (10)	10-26	±	11- 9
C-291..	Good Bad Boys (11)	9- 7	+	9- 7
C-295..	Fightin' Fools (9)	1-25		....
C-294..	Kiddie Kure (11)	11-23	+	12-28
C-292..	Waldo's Last Stand (11)	10- 5	∓	12- 7

PASSING PARADE
(New Series)

K-281..	American Spoken Here (Sepia) (10)	11-30	##	12- 7
K-126..	Baron and the Rose, The (11)	9- 7	##	9-28
K-128..	Dreams (10)	11-16	+	12-14
K-127..	Utopia of Death (10)	10-12	+	11- 9
.....	Whispers (10)	2- 8	##	2-22

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

S-113..	Football Thrills of 1939 (10)	9-21	##	9-28
S-264..	◎Penny to the Rescue (10)	1-25		....
S-112..	Please Answer (9)	8-24	##	9- 7
S-261..	◐Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9)	10-12	##	12- 7
S-265..	Quiz Buiz (Sepia) (9)	2- 8		....
S-263..	◐Sea for Yourself (10)	12-21	##	1-18
S-262..	Wedding Bills (10)	11-30	##	12- 7

Paramount

ANIMATED ANTICS

H0-4..	Bring Himself Back Alive (7)	12-20	∓	12-21
H0-1..	Dandy Lion, The (7)	9-20	±	10- 5
H0-3..	Mommy Loves Puppy (7)	11-29	+	12- 7
H0-5..	Pop and Mom in Wild Oysters (11)	2-14	+	2-15
H0-2..	Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7)	10-25	±	11-23

BENCHLEY COMEDIES

S0- 1..	Trouble With Husbands (11)	11- 8	##	12- 7
S0- 2..	Waiting for Baby (11)	1-24	##	2-15

COLOR CLASSICS
(In Technicolor)

C9-6..	You Can't Shoe a Horsefly (7)	8-23	+	8-24

FASCINATING JOURNEYS
(Technicolor)

M0- 1..	◐River Thames—Yesterday (10)	11- 8	##	11-23
M0- 2..	Sacred Ganges, The (11)	12-27	+	1-18
M0- 3..	Village in India (11)	1-31	##	2-15

FLEISCHER CARTOONS

FF0-1..	Raggedy Ann (19)	12-20	##	12-21

GABBY CARTOONS

G0- 3..	All's Well (7)	1- 3		....
G0- 2..	Constable, The (7)	11-15	+	11-23
G0- 1..	King for a Day (7)	10-18	+	10-26
G0- 4..	Two for the Zoo (7)	2-21		....

HEADLINER

A0- 4..	Gene Krupa and Orch. (11)	1-31	+	2-22
A0- 3..	Johnny Messner and Orch. (11)	12-13	±	12-21
A0- 2..	Listen to Larry (10)	10-25	+	10-26
A0- 1..	◐Moments of Charm of 1941 (10)	9-13	##	10- 5

MADCAP MODELS
(In Technicolor)

J0-1..	Western Daze (9)	1-17	##	1-18

PARAMOUNT NEWS
Released Twice Weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

V0- 3..	◐Breezy Little Bears (11)	12-27	##	1-18
V0- 1..	Nature's Nursery (10)	10-11	∓	10-26
V9-10..	Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)	9- 9	±	8-24
V0- 2..	Seeing Is Believing (11)	11-22	+	12- 7

POPEYE CARTOONS

E0- 4..	Eugene, the Jeep (7)	12-13	±	12- 7
E0- 2..	My Pop, My Pop (7)	10-18	∓	10-26
E0- 1..	Popeye Meets William Tell (7)	9-20	##	10- 5
E0-5..	Problem Pappy (7)	1-10	±	1-18
E9-12..	Puttin' on the Act (7)	8-30	+	8-24
E9-11..	Wimmin' Hadn't Oughta Drive (7)	8-16	+	8-24
E0- 3..	With Poopdeck Pappy (7)	11-15	o	12- 7

POPULAR SCIENCE
(In Cinecolor)

J0-1..	(11)	9- 6	+	10- 5
J0-2..	(10)	11- 1	+	12- 7
J0-3..	(10)	1- 3	+	12-21

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

R0- 6..	Acrobatic Aces (10)	2- 7	+	1-18
R0- 1..	Diving Demons (10)	9- 6	##	10- 5
R0- 5..	Feminine Fitness (10)	1-10	+	12-21
R0- 4..	Marine Roundup (10)	12- 6	+	12- 7
R0- 3..	Motorcycle Stunting (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
R0- 2..	Sporting Everglades, The (10)	10- 4	##	11- 9

STONE AGE CARTOONS

B9-11..	Pedagogical Institution (7)	9-13		....
B9-10..	Springtime in the Rockage (7)	8-30		....
B9-12..	Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)	9-27		....

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS
(In Color)

L0-1..	No. 1 (11)	9- 7	+	10- 5
L0-2..	No. 2 (11)	11-29	+	12- 7
L0-3..	No. 3 (10)	1-24	+	2-15

Producers Releasing Corp.

AMERICAN HISTORY

0.1..	Our Bill of Rights (21)	3- 1		....
0.2..	Our Declaration of Independence (22)	3- 1		....
0.3..	Our Constitution (22)	3- 1		....
0.4..	Our Monroe Doctrine (22)	3- 1		....

Republic

MEET THE STARS

028-1..	No. 1 (10)	12-24	+	12-28

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS
(In Technicolor)

.....	Big Hearted Pluto (..)	1-24		....
04,114..	Fire Chief (8)	11-22	##	12- 7
14,102..	Gentleman's Gentleman (7)	3-28		....
14,101..	Golden Eggs (8)	3- 7		....
04,113..	Goofy's Glider (8)	11- 1	+	12-14
04,118..	Little Whirlwind (8)	2-14		....
04,112..	Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8)	10-11	+	11-23
04,115..	Pantry Pirate (8)	12-27	+	2- 8
04,110..	Pluto's Dream House (8)	8-30	+	9-21
04,116..	Timber (8)	1-10		....
04,111..	Window Cleaners (8)	9-20	##	10-26

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

13,403..	Drafted in the Depot (19)	12-20		....
13,401..	Sunk by the Census (18)	9- 6	±	9-21
13,402..	Trailer Tragedy (17)	10-18	+	11- 9

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

13,703..	Fired Man, The (20)	1-10	+	2- 8
13,701..	He Asked for It (18)	9-27	∓	9-21
13,404..	Mad About Moonshine (19)	2-21		....
13,702..	Tattle Television (19)	11-29		....

MARCH OF TIME

03,113..	◐No. 13 (20)	8-24	##	8-31

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Movietone News, No. 47

Hopkins back from London; Winant on foreign affairs; Churchill inspects naval base; reserves train at Annapolis; bombers fly over Mount Rainier; basketball; Santa Anita derby; billiards; senators exercise in Washington gym; baseball players in training in Florida.

News of the Day, No. 245

A day at Camp Dix; aircraft workers view finished ships; bathing in Rio de Janeiro; Churchill inspects naval base; Hopkins arrives; senators reduce in Washington gym; baseball in Florida.

Paramount News, No. 50

Bombers over Mount Rainier; American pilots return from London; airplane workers see planes they build; Hopkins returns; tourists in Nassau; mothers protest lend-lease bill; iceboating in Michigan; Windsor presents yachting trophies; New York track meet; Leahy named Notre Dame football coach; female wrestlers in Washington.

RKO Pathe News, No. 50

Bombers shipped to England; Hopkins returns; dust storm in Colorado; naval reservists in Annapolis; billiard contest; senators reduce in Washington; Santa Anita derby; girls wrestle in Washington; track meet in New York; bob-sledding at Lake Placid.

Universal Newsreel, No. 955

Hopkins returns; armed forces at Fort Benning; aircraft workers see finished product; bombers in formation flight; naval reserves sworn in; senators reduce; spring hats; basketball; Santa Anita derby; Hoppe retains billiard crown.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Movietone News, No. 48

British in Libya; Haile Selassie campaigns in Ethiopia; British corvettes on convoy patrol duty; Willkie interview with King George; Queen Elizabeth examines gifts from U. S.; blast in Illinois; bathing beauties in Florida take screen test under water; rodeo in Phoenix.

News of the Day, No. 246

Haile Selassie campaigns in Ethiopia; RAF downs Italian plane in Africa; Japanese mission views lost city of Angkor Vat in Indo-China; corvettes on convoy patrol; naval air training at Pensacola; preview of easter bonnets; aquaplane race in Florida; Queen Elizabeth thanks U. S.

Paramount News, No. 51

Speed aid for Britain; Queen Elizabeth thanks U. S. for gifts; benefit for Britain in Bahamas; Haile Selassie campaigns in Ethiopia; refugee settlement in Santo Domingo; Dodgers in training in Havana; Roger Hornsby baseball school.

RKO Pathe News, No. 51

Queen Elizabeth inspects U. S. gifts; launch new destroyer; air corps studies captive balloons; army perfects camouflage; Gasparilla celebration in Tampa; Selassie reviews Ethiopian troops; tin can tourists hold convention; under water film tests; curling; skiing; Dodgers train in Havana.

Universal Newsreels, No. 956

Haile Selassie; Briton visits factories; army tests; test coins; Irish setter; underwater show; Casparilla fete; Dodgers; Di Maggio pancake eating; ice boating.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	Gateways to Panama.			
13,101	No. 1 (19)	9-13	‡‡	9-21
	On Foreign Newfronts.			
13,102	No. 2 (18)	10- 4	+	10-19
	Britain's R. A. F.			
13,103	No. 3 (19)	10-25	±	10-26
	Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.			
13,104	No. 4 (19)	11-22	+	12- 7
	Arms and the men.			
13,105	No. 5 (19)	12-20	+	12-28
	Labor and Defense.			
13,106	No. 6 (21)	1-17	‡‡	1-25
	Uncle Sam—Non-Belligerent.			
13,107	No. 7 (19)	2-14		....
	Americans All.			
	PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE			
14,201	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204	No. 4 (11)	11-29		....
14,205	No. 5 (11)	12-27	+	2- 8
14,206	No. 6 (11)	1-24		....
	PATHE NEWS (Released Twice Weekly)			
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
14,302	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,301	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,305	Snow Eagles (9)	12-20	+	2- 8
14,304	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	‡‡	12-14
14,303	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404	No. 4 (10)	12- 6	+	12-14
14,405	No. 5 (10)	1- 3	±	2- 8
14,406	No. 6 (10)	1-31		....
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)			
13,501	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
13,502	Prairie Schooners (13)	1-31		....
	SPECIALS			
14,501	Eyes on Brazil (11)	2-21		....

20th Century-Fox

	ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN			
1201	Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	‡‡	10-19
1202	Training Police Horses (10)	1-17	+	2-15
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	‡‡	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
1303	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1304	The Rodeo Comes to Town (10)	1- 3	±	2-22
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1103	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE			
1401	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402	Tale of Butch the Parrot, The (..)	2-28		....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102	Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
1105	Spotlight on Indo-China (9)	12-20	±	2-15
	TERRY-TOONS			
1501	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		....
1503	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		....
1553	How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554	Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
1552	Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		....
1504	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12- 7
1557	Mississippi Swing (7)	2- 7	+	2-15
1555	Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
1505	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		....
1556	Temperamental Lion, The (7)	12-27	+	2-15
1502	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19
1506	What a Little Sneeze Will Do (7)	1-10	±	2-22

Universal

	LANTZ CARTUNES (Technicolor)			
5241	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		....
5246	Fair Today (6¾)	2-24	±	2-15
5243	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5245	Mouse Trappers (6¾)	1-27	+	2- 8
5242	Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	‡‡	11- 9
5244	Syncopated Sioux (6¾)	12-31		....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
5351	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352	No. 82 (9)	10-14		....
5353	No. 83 (9)	11-11		....
5354	No. 84 (9)	12-23		....
5355	No. 85 (9)	1-20		....
5356	No. 86 (9)	2-17	±	2- 8
5357	No. 87 (9)	3-17		....
5358	No. 88 (9)	3-31		....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 8
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
5371	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		....
5373	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		....
5374	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		....
5375	No. 85 (9)	1- 6		....
5376	No. 86 (9)	2- 3	±	2- 8
5377	No. 87 (9)	3-10		....
5378	No. 88 (9)	3-24		....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
5226	Bagdad Daddy (17) Gertrude Neisen, Ambassadorettes, Fuzzy Knight, Johnson Bros.	2-19	±	2- 8
5225	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (17) The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.	1-22		....
5221	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		....
5223	Congamania (17) Jose Cansino Dancers. Eddie Durant & Orch.	10-16	±	12- 7
4233	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		....
5227	Music in the Morgan Manner (..) Russ Morgan and His Orchestra, Southern Swingsters.	3-19		....
5224	Tickled Pinky (18) Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.	12-25		....
5223	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
	UNIVERSAL NEWS Released Twice Weekly			

Vitaphone

	BROADWAY BREVITIES			
6202	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6204	Dog in the Orchard (20)	1-25	+	1-18
6202	Ed Sullivan's Hollywood (20)	11-16		....
6201	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		....
6203	Love's Intrigue (20)	12-28		....
4008	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		....
6205	Take the Air (20)	2-22		....
	THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)			
5410	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		....
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6102	Lady and the Lug (20)	3-22		....
6101	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6305	Boar Hunt, The (10)	1-15		....
6301	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6304	History Repeats Itself (10)	1-18		....
6303	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		....
6607	Haunted Mouse, The (7)	2-15		....
6608	Joe Glow, the Firefly (7)	3- 8		....
5616	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	‡‡	8-24
6609	Porky's Bear Facts (7)	3-29		....
6604	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6606	Porky's Snooze Reel (7)	1-11		....
6602	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		....
6605	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		....
	MELODY MASTERS			
6506	Cliff Edwards and His Buckaroos (10)	3- 8		....
6503	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	2- 1		....
6502	Joe Reichman & Orch. (10)	10-26		....
6501	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	‡‡	8-24
6504	Skinnay Ennis & Orch (10)	1- 4	+	12-28
	MERRIE MELODIES (In Technicolor)			
6706	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		....
6713	Cat's Tale, The (7)	3- 1		....
6712	Crackpot Quail, The (7)	2-15		....
6709	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)	1- 4	o	12-28
6710	Fighting 69th½, The (7)	1-18	‡‡	1-18
6101	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		....
6715	Goofy Groceries (7)	3-29		....
6703	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11 9
6701	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		....
6708	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6711	Sniffles Bells the Cat (7)	2- 1		....
6702	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
6714	Tortoise Beats the Hare (7)	3-15		....
6705	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
	SPECIAL			
6801	London Can Take It (..)	10-26	‡‡	11- 9
6850	They Spent Christmas Under Fire (10½)	1-24	‡‡	2- 8
	SPORTS PARADE (Color)			
6404	California Thoroughbreds (10)	1-11	±	12-28
6403	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6405	Fight, Fish, Fight (10)	3- 1		....
6401	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
6001	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002	March on Marines (20)	12-14	‡‡	12-28
6003	Meet the Fleet (20)	2- 8	+	1-18
5008	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		....

Serials

	COLUMBIA			
1120	Green Archer, The 15 Chapters. Victor Jory,	10-25	∓	11- 9
2120	White Eagle 15 Chapters. Buck Jones.	1-31		....
	REPUBLIC			
081	King of the Royal Mounted 12 Chapters. Allan Lane.	9-20	‡‡	8-24
082	Mysterious Doctor Satan 15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.	12-13	+	11-23
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	Green Hornet Strikes Again 15 Chapters. Warren Hull.	12-24	+	11- 9
5681	Junior G-Men 12 Chapters. Dead End Kids, Little Tough Guys.	9- 1	+	8- 3
5881	Sky Raiders 12 Chapters.	4- 8	±	2-15

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ASSISTANT MANAGER - Projectionist. Excellent projection. Banner work. Married. Eight years experience. Wife experienced cashier. References. M. M. Young, Osceola, Iowa.

PROJECTIONIST—5 years experience, licensed, sound technician. Go anywhere. Tony Bayer, 3523 South Flower, Los Angeles, Calif.

PROJECTIONIST—Age 26. 13 years experience. Also experienced in booking and managing. B-1345, Boxoffice, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

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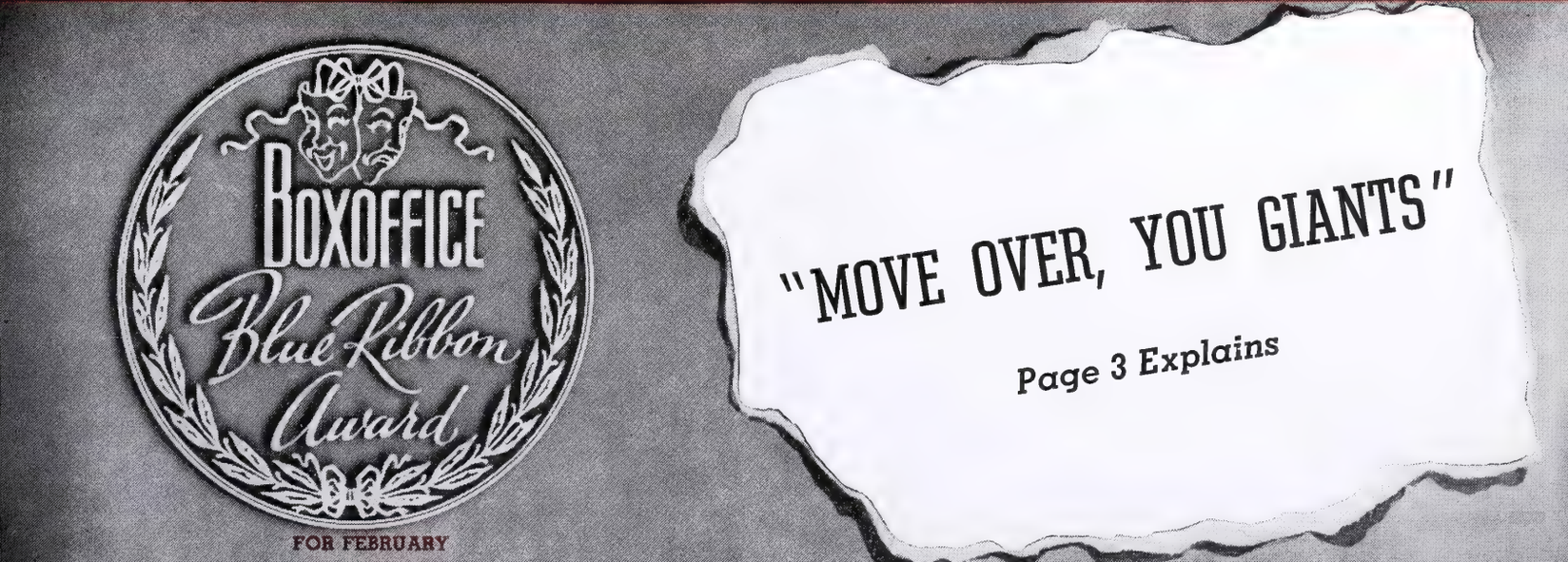
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ADVERTISING ACCESSORIES, INC.

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

MARCH 8, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION





"The Hardys are in town!"



"The Hardys are in town!"



"The Hardys are in town!"

"THE HARDYS ARE IN TOWN!"





LEWIS STONE
MICKEY ROONEY
FAY HOLDEN
Ann Rutherford
Sara Haden
Ian Hunter and
KATHRYN GRAYSON
Directed by GEORGE B. SEITZ
Screen Play by Jane Murfin and Harry Ruskin
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture



THE BEST YET AND THAT MEANS TERRIFIC!

ANDY HARDY'S PRIVATE SECRETARY

BOXOFFICE
The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

Move Over, You Giants

ANY OCCASION on which a President directs his remarks to this industry at once becomes important. The occasion, separated by a long period of years, is the more so.

It is an essential and a welcome obligation, therefore, to explore the significance of Mr. Roosevelt's address, delivered from The White House to the Academy dinner and broadcast to millions through the joint facilities of the three national networks.

At that very moment when the President signified his willingness to talk, this business automatically assumed a larger stature in the consciousness of official Washington; that, too, we feel safe to assume, must have prevailed in the consciousness of the nation.

The Chief Executive employed the occasion to stress the importance of national defense, to reiterate his stand on his policy of Western Hemisphere cooperation and to publicly acknowledge the assistance extended by this industry in that direction. "Our government has invited you to do your share of the job of interpreting the people of the Western Hemisphere to one another. And all of us in all of the twenty-one American republics are grateful that your response is so immediate and so wholehearted," thereafter followed.

"National, International Force"

BUT, note if you will the first specific approach to the film on this occasion. Clearly in the President's mind must be the realization of its tremendous influence, for no other explanation for the expression, "the American motion picture as a national and international force," seems reasonable. "We have seen the American motion picture become the foremost in the world. We have seen it reflect our civilization throughout the rest of the world—the aims and aspirations and ideals of a free people and of freedom," he said.

It is impossible completely to evaluate the significance of such a statement. These phrases, coming from the head of the state, constitute a public acknowledgment of the position which this industry occupies in the world-wide order and at last give official utterance to convictions which the more sober-minded within the business long have entertained on its behalf.

Now these convictions are of the record. The recognition is great and, hopefully, the industry will pause sufficiently to heed by not tossing it aside lightly. The recognition, further, suggests the exercise of a greater pride. It suggests a more pronounced determination to covet, to guard and, needfully, to enhance in all intelligent ways the appraisal which now falls from Mr. Roosevelt's official lips.

Essentially, this weaves and inter-weaves with "the importance of the motion picture industry as the most popular medium of mass entertainment." That importance, of course, will continue. But, as this very page has been emphasizing on different occasions these several years, there is another function which rides along with the primary one because the two are indivisible. The function is communication. Communication of thoughts, ideas and ideals, policies geared to the public good are part of the industry's job and to think it can be escaped, ignored or glossed over impresses us with the same futility as whistling in the dark.

Some Evidence on Stature

MORE and more, as the weeks pass and the emergencies rise will this become apparent. It takes evidence now in all sorts of films explaining the defense program. It takes evidence, off and on the screen alike, in the form of the Will Rogers, the Red Cross, the infantile paralysis and now the forthcoming Greek relief drives.

The part which this business, created for purposes of entertainment, will be called upon to fill in the field of public service will increase. Those who make their living in films and who draw their profits from them must recognize this in measure far beyond the substantial measure now prevailing.

For this industry, believing itself a private enterprise, actually is nothing of the sort. Constantly in the national spotlight, its performance goes beyond entertainment. It is, or can be, a vital adjunct to social and economic progress. In those directions, much of its future job reposes.

Kann

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MARCH 8, 1941
Vol. 38 No. 16

DOWN DECREE GROOVE, IS METRO PROMISE; FIRST FORMAL PLEDGE

No Auction Block Sales, No Subterfuges; Will Deliver Full Line

NEW YORK—In the first formal declaration of policy among the "Big Five" in respect to operations under the decree, M-G-M states the company "has no idea of placing our product on the auction block, but will, wherever the relationship is satisfactory, continue in the future, as in the past, to first offer our product to our present customers."

Thus setting forth the "position of our company," William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, has sent letters to all M-G-M accounts, numbering more than 10,000, and goes on in this manner:

"We will not price our merchandise beyond the possibilities of our customers to pay; we are not now, nor will we in the future, seek any subterfuges in selling short subjects, newsreels or trailers. Every unit of our output will stand on its own merit.

To Accept Judgments

"We will recognize any claim for arbitration as provided in the decree, and will vigorously, yet fairly, defend our position where we feel we are right; yet in any instance where final judgment is rendered against us, it will be accepted graciously and without any hard feelings in any direction.

"We will deliver not less than our minimum obligation of features and short subjects this year, and be prepared to trade show and offer a group of pictures for early fall release, sometime in June or July we hope, but in any event far enough in advance to protect playing time of our anticipated customers." The company is committed to deliver a minimum of 44 features for 1940-41.

Too Much Criticism

Rodgers opens his letter with the observation that it appears there is far too much emphasis placed upon the "mistaken theory that the decree is impractical," and too little evidence of desire to give its principles the support necessary for at least a fair trial. "That it will be costly to us is admitted," he asserts, adding: "It is not flawless, and undoubtedly under its administration some will be dissatisfied; yet I am unwilling to admit it is either unworkable or impractical."

At another point, Rodgers declares: "I firmly believe that we, as an industry, are big enough and sufficiently visionary to recognize we are on the threshold of an era of great opportunity. It therefore seems to me full advantage should be taken of that which is before us and use to the fullest extent whatever talents we possess in a supreme effort to bring back to the theatre those patrons who may be seeking their amusements in other directions."

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from the first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is* 100 *per cent.*

PHILADELPHIA STORY—
- Boston (dual) 210
- Philadelphia 180
- New Orleans 175

GONE WITH THE WIND—
- Los Angeles 200
- Detroit 170

VIRGINIA—
- Denver 200

Ponder War Taxes; Would Be Sky High

WASHINGTON—Personal exemptions cut to $1,000 for heads of families and $500 for single persons, a normal income tax rate of six per cent and surtaxes reaching 93 per cent on net incomes in excess of $23,000 are in sight in the event of war, together with corporation income taxes running from 15 per cent on income up to two per cent of the adjusted declared value of the corporation's capital stock to 100 per cent on income in excess of six per cent of the declared value of the capital stock.

These rates, together with many restrictive changes in the present revenue act, are contemplated in bills which have been introduced in Congress over the past few days by a number of members of both Senate and House who, in the event of war, will be the nucleus of a high-tax bloc.

Submitted without any fanfare, the bills have practically escaped all notice so far, which apparently is what the members of the bloc desire. The purpose of the legislation, as summarized in the title of the measures, is "to tax the profits out of war by steeply graduated income and other taxes in order to provide for effective national defense, to promote peace, to encourage actual neutrality, to discourage war profiteering, to distribute the burdens

(Continued on page 34)

Pathe Monogram Backing Negotiations Continue

NEW YORK—Negotiations for Pathe to finance Monogram production for 1941-42 continue with W. Ray Johnston, president of the producing-distributing company, remaining in the east until they are concluded. Pathe Laboratories has been financing Monogram for the past number of years and no hitches are contemplated.

21 on UA's Lineup For Next Season

NEW YORK—UA will offer 21 pictures for 1941-42. Titles and who will make them, including a few new producers beyond the current roster of 14, will be divulged shortly.

The contributing producers will have the benefit of a distribution cost to them below the existing 25 per cent rate.

This was revealed by Murray Silverstone, head of world operations, upon his return from an extended visit on the coast. The new distribution plan, which he termed "revolutionary," is designed to attract "the greatest producers in the industry on terms to make it worth their while." The arrangement, details of which he would not divulge, is an "extension" of the so-called Silverstone bonus plan, through which individual producers receive a "kick back" on films that garner meritorious grosses.

Silverstone also said the company "very quickly" will form a new financing subsidiary, which he said would be the first of its kind in UA's history. It will be de-

(Continued on page 32)

Korda Denies He Is Bar To Goldwyn Stock Sale

HOLLYWOOD—Denying emphatically he is the stumbling block to negotiations for the sale by Samuel Goldwyn of his stock in UA, Alexander Korda, a one-fifth owner in the company, stated on his arrival from New York he sees no reason why the deal should not go through.

Goldwyn will return his stock to the corporation, according to contract, but whether or not David O. Selznick will purchase it remains to be seen. Selznick has been reported after the one-fifth share.

Korda's plans call for three pictures next season. He is now busy on the next Merle Oberon to be directed by Julien Duvivier, the title of which has not been set. "That Hamilton Woman" with Miss Leigh and Laurence Olivier is dated to open in the Music Hall, New York, April 3. Korda does not plan to attend the premiere, he said, but will make another trip here later.

Sunday, the New York *Times* reported from Hollywood, David O. Selznick had been offered a UA partnership "to insure the renewal of his contract." The report further declared, "Those close to the producer say that he has no intention of buying the stock—a reference to Samuel Goldwyn's one-fifth interest—and his future connection remains in doubt."

The same source stated Ernst Lubitsch will return to M-G-M after one more for UA.

SUCCESS STORY

"In all my years in the theatre business, I feel that BOXOFFICE *has contributed more to my success than any other medium.*

"Thanks a million, and may your well-deserved success continue as the years go by."

— L. W. Shuppert

TIPTON THEATRE,
TIPTON, MO.

BOXOFFICE *The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

INDUSTRY'S STOCK SEEN RISING FOLLOWING ACCOLADE BY F. D. R.

Public Acknowledgment Of Trade Importance In Nat'l Affairs

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—President Roosevelt's address to the Academy is seen here as an accolade denoting a very definite acceptance of the industry's importance in the national picture and as an elevation in rank which has been earned by the whole industry, from the producers who make the pictures that aid in cementing the nation into a democratic unit to the exhibitors who bring those pictures before the people at whom they are aimed.

Directly addressing the industry for the first time since the World War, a President of the United States has publicly acknowledged the importance of motion pictures in keeping the public informed of national developments, in supporting the morale of the nation and in furthering friendly accord with other countries.

Important Role in Defense

Observers in Washington see in the President's action in talking to the industry directly a definite purpose to bring it into the family of defense industries—not a bid to help in the defense program, because help was voluntarily tendered by the industry—but an announcement to the country that motion pictures have a definite part to play in defense along with armament, oil and other essential industries.

Indirectly, of course, the message was another needle in the hide of Congress, designed to speed up action affirmatively on the British aid bill now being talked threadbare in the Senate. More directly, it was a barb directed toward the dictatorships, who admittedly do not like our free-speaking motion pictures, and a reminder to the great American public that here was a medium of speech, ungagged and unrestrained, upon which they could depend —an outstanding example of the freedom of democracy.

Field of Greatest Service

In his brief talk to the Academy, Mr. Roosevelt outlined the field in which motion pictures can immediately render the greatest service—that of improving our relations with the Latin American republics, but he did not belittle the service they are rendering here at home through the newsreels, and his omission of the defense pictures which are being produced for domestic exhibition was seen in Washington merely a desire not to place the stigma of deliberate propaganda upon an effort to bring about solidarity at home.

In other directions, however, observers in the capital discount the effects of the President's remarks. They do not believe they will have any effect upon efforts in Congress to deal with the industry legislatively, pointing out that nothing in the address could be taken as a blanket endorsement of industry practices which have been under attack.

Nor do they believe that the address will have any particular effect upon business and financial circles, which are less concerned with the esoteric aspects of the industry than with its soundness and money-making prospects.

Text of the President's address on page 15.

Again on Self-Containment

NEW YORK—For the second time in less than two weeks, financial opinion, as it might be reflected, at least, by the *Wall Street Journal,* stresses domestic self-containment for the industry.

The first reference; as reported in BOXOFFICE at the time:

"The American film industry has already suffered the worst of the decline in revenues from abroad and any further drop from this point will be relatively unimportant in comparison with large domestic revenues. In other words, the industry may be considered very nearly on a domestically self-contained basis."

This week again, in an article by Sydney B. Self:

"By late spring or summer, it seems likely that the industry, as a whole, will be back close to normal earning power, although deriving its income principally from the home market."

Metro Loses British Remittance Argument

NEW YORK—Milton J. Handler, arbiter, handed down a decision in favor of the seven major companies on the question of allocation of British remittances for the second year. M-G-M had objected to the method set up the previous year which provided for a distribution on gross rather than net income.

In this connection, M-G-M contended it entered the agreement the first year because it was simple and also that it did not expect to have any funds left over on which a question would arise. Another argument brought up by M-G-M was that its company operates cheaper on the basis of the number of pictures released in England and hence was entitled to benefit by this policy.

Representing M-G-M were J. Robert Rubin and Samuel D. Cohen. Joseph H. Hazen of the Warner home office legal staff acted for the other seven majors. Handler's opinion was covered in 14 pages.

Six Open With "Doe"

NEW YORK—Six theatres in three key cities will open simultaneously with "Meet John Doe" on March 12. They are the Rivoli and Hollywood in New York, Hollywood and Downtown, Los Angeles, and Paramount and Beach in Miami.

Mrs. Michael Shea Dead

BUFFALO—Mrs. Michael Shea, wife of the late founder of the Shea circuit, is dead after a long illness. Funeral services were held the early part of the week.

Will Set 20th-Fox Program in April

HOLLYWOOD—Conferences on next season's production lineup will get under way early in April at the 20th-Fox studios when a number of home office executives will convene here for the discussions. Expected within the next few weeks are Sidney R. Kent, president; Herman Wobber, general sales manager; Charles E. McCarthy, director of publicity and advertising, and Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board who has been spending the past month in New York.

While Schenck has been in the east he has been going over prospective plans with Kent and Wobber. The local sessions are contingent upon his arrival, but he is expected to be preceded by the other home office executives.

Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel, has been making a tour of the country explaining the decree to sales staffs. He was here over the weekend and met with National Theatres' executives who arrived in Los Angeles for a few days before proceeding to Arrowhead where they started a divisional managers annual meeting beginning Thursday.

Spyros Skouras arrived by plane Wednesday. He had expected to make a trip to Miami before landing here, but called it off the last minute.

Awards in the recent National Theatres Showmanship Campaign were distributed by Skouras at the convention in Arrowhead. John F. Caskey of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey came on from New York to explain the decree to the assembled theatre executives. He has been one of the 20th-Fox attorneys who sat in on the negotiations in New York.

Tour East on Decree

NEW YORK—Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey and William Sussman, eastern division head, visited Albany, Buffalo, Boston and New Haven 20th-Fox exchanges during the week on the decree.

Here's something Showmen can get their teeth into!...



See next page...

PARAMOUNT presents
The Year's BIG VEX Picture

Barbara STANWYCK ★ FONDA *Henry*

in Writer Preston Sturges' riskiest romance...

Directed by Preston Sturges at his friskiest!



...and here's something that audiences can get their teeth into!



PARAMOUNT presents

The Year's BIG VEX Picture

Barbara **STANWYCK** ★ **FONDA** *Henry*

in Writer Preston Sturges'
riskiest romance...
Directed by
Preston Sturges
at his friskiest!



ANOTHER BIG PARAMOUNT ALL-STAR CAST


BARBARA STANWYCK


HENRY FONDA


CHARLES COBURN


EUGENE PALLETTE


WILLIAM DEMAREST

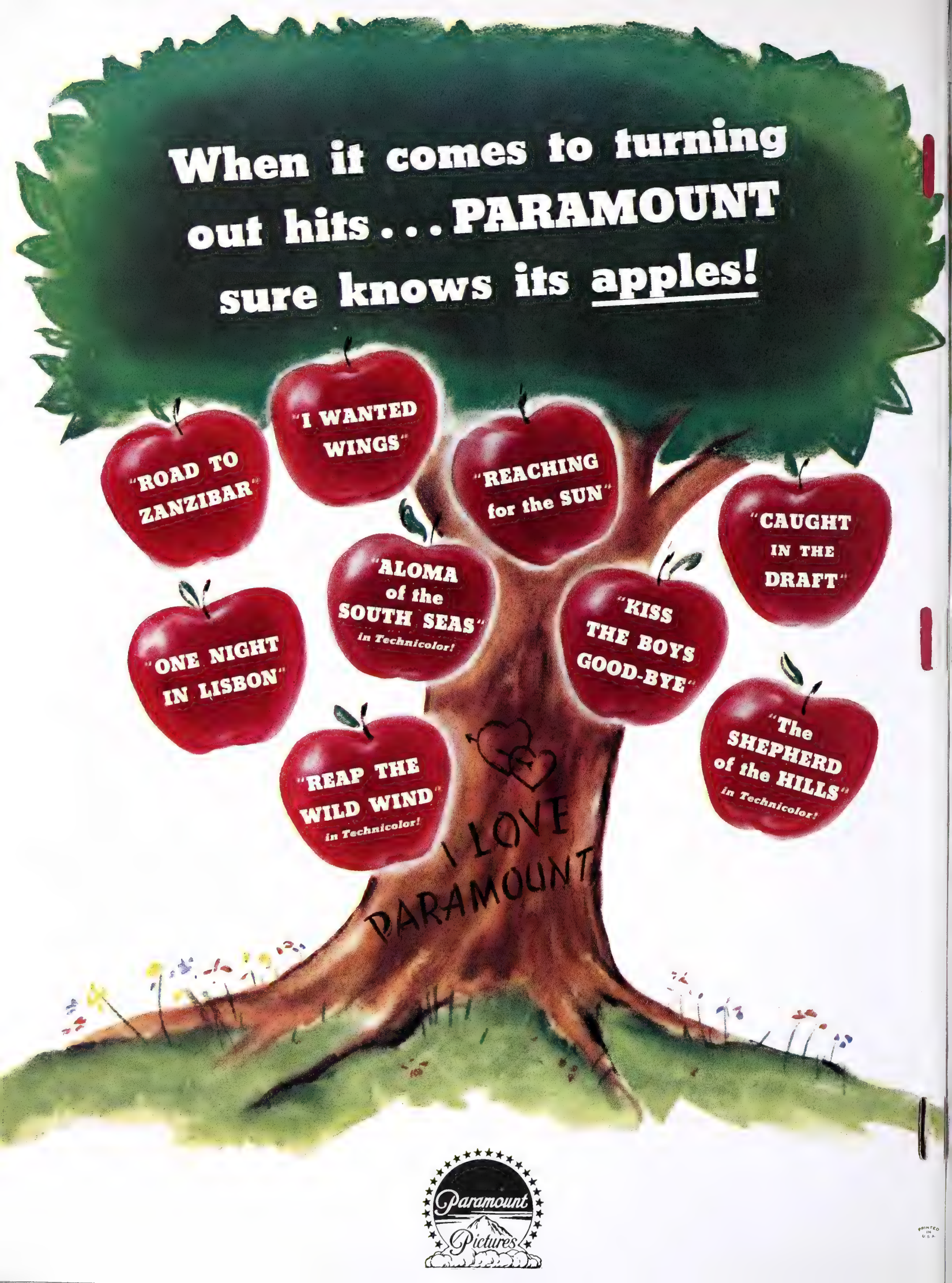

ERIC BLORE

"THE LADY EVE"



A Paramount Picture with
CHARLES COBURN · EUGENE PALLETTE · MARTHA O'DRISCOLL · WILLIAM DEMAREST · ERIC BLORE
Written and Directed by PRESTON STURGES · Screen Play Based on a Story by Monckton Hoffe




When it comes to turning out hits . . . PARAMOUNT sure knows its apples!
"ROAD TO ZANZIBAR"
"I WANTED WINGS"
"REACHING for the SUN"
"CAUGHT IN THE DRAFT"
"ONE NIGHT IN LISBON"
"ALOMA of the SOUTH SEAS" in Technicolor!
"KISS THE BOYS GOOD-BYE"
"REAP THE WILD WIND" in Technicolor!
"The SHEPHERD of the HILLS" in Technicolor!
I LOVE PARAMOUNT
Paramount Pictures

Ind'p'ts Fight Each Other Under Decree

NEW YORK—It's a case of independent versus independent largely in complaints thus far filed under the arbitration machinery of the decree although affiliated theatres have not escaped entirely.

A resume of the 17 cases filed during February, the first full month of arbitration, further reveals that, of the total, 13 deal with clearance disputes, as defined in Section VII of the decree, and four with "some run," covered generally in Section VI. Two cases fall into both classifications, each of them filing a double demand on clearance and "some run."

What the cases are, who filed them and on what date, plus designation as to the order of filing in each tribunal city follow:

Boston

CASE No. 1—Filed February 13. Demand and submission involving dispute under Section VI (some run), Paulston, Inc. Benjamin Gold, general manager. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., and 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Interested party: Colonial, Nashua, N. H.; M. A. Shea circuit.

CASE No. 2—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance dispute. Garbose Bros., Athol, Mass. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., RKO Theatres, Maine and New Hampshire Theatres Co., Loew's Boston Theatres. Other theatres named in controversy: York, Metropolitan, Paramount and Fenway, Boston; Fitchburg, Fitchburg. Named as interested party: George A. Giles Co., Cambridge, Mass.

Chicago

CASE No. 1—Filed February 13. Demand and submission involving some run dispute. E. F. Van Derveer, owner, State Theatre, Morris, Ill. With: Loew's, Inc. Named as interested parties: Morris, Times theatres both of Morris, Ill.

CASE No. 2—Filed February 18. Demand and submission involving some run (Section VI). Ken Theatre Corp. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., B. F. Keith Orpheum Corp., RKO Proctor Corp., RKO Midwest Corp. Theatres involved: Shakespeare, Pix. Named as interested parties: Arthur Schoenstadt, H. Schoenstadt and Sons.

Cleveland

CASE No. 1—Filed February 15. Demand and submission involving clearance dispute. Ellet Amusement Co. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., Loew's Film Dist. Co., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., W. L. Hart, Cooperative Theatres of Ohio, Inc., Milton Mooney. Named as interested parties: Norka, Rialto and Ellet theatres.

Chronology

New York—This is what happened by the calendar during February, first full month during which arbitration functioned under the decree. Dates, of course, tell when complaints were filed. By referring to the cities alongside the dates but in the accompanying article, the whole picture rounds out:

Filing Date	City of Filing
Feb. 7	Washington
Feb. 13	Boston, Chicago, Washington
Feb. 15	Cleveland
Feb. 17	Detroit, New Orleans
Feb. 18	Chicago, New York
Feb. 19	Dallas
Feb. 21	Detroit, New York
Feb. 24	Washington
Feb. 26	Boston, Milwaukee, New York
Feb. 28	Dallas

Dallas

CASE No. 1—Filed February 28. Demand and submission involving clearance and some run. Joseph's Drive-In Theatre, Austin, Tex. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., M-G-M Pictures Corp., Loew's, Inc., M-G-M Dist. Corp. of Texas. Named as interested parties: Interstate Theatres, W. G. Underwood and Claude Ezell, both of Dallas.

Denver

CASE No. 1—Filed February 19. Demand and submission involving dispute under Section VI (some run). Joseph J. Goldstein Enterprises, Inc., operating Longmont, Longmont, Colo. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Paramount Pictures, Inc. Named as interested party: Fox Longmont, Longmont, Colo.

Detroit

CASE No. 1—Filed February 17. Demand and submission involving clearance (Section VII). Booth Theatre, Julius D. London, owner. With: Vitagraph, Inc., Paramount Pictures, Inc. Other theatres named in controversy: Del, De Luxe, Whittier, East End, Cooperative Theatres of Michigan.

CASE No. 2—Filed February 21. Demand and submission involving clearance and some run. Julius D. London and Milton London, co-partners doing business as Midtown Theatre, Detroit. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Other theatres named in controversy: Coliseum, Majestic, Globe, all Detroit. Named as interested parties: Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, Inc., Mutual Theatres, both Detroit.

Stage Hit to Columbia; Sherwood Makes Trio

NEW YORK—Columbia will distribute the Pulitzer prize winner, "The Time of Your Life," with the author, William Saroyan, and Lester Cowan as producers. The deal calls for more than 50 per cent of the financing to come from a bank with Columbia providing the studio. Cowan is also producer for Columbia of "Ladies in Retirement."

Robert M. Sherwood has signed to produce three pictures for Columbia, with the financing ostensibly handled privately by himself. He made "Adam Had Four Sons."

Affiliateds Don't Go Free, However

Milwaukee

CASE No. 1—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance. Evansville Theatre, Inc., operator of Rex, Evansville, Wis. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp. Other theatre named in controversy: Jeffris, Janesville, Wis.

New Orleans

CASE No. 1—Filed February 17. Demand and submission involving some run (Section VI). Modern Theatre, Inc., (drive-in theatre), Charles J. Woolner, president. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp.

New York

CASE No. 1—Filed February 18. Demand and submission involving clearance. Hilary Theatre Corp., operating Regent, Brooklyn, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested party: Apollo Theatre, operated by Argosy Amusement Corp.

CASE No. 2—Filed February 21. Demand and submission involving clearance. Esquire Great Neck Corp., operating Squire, Great Neck, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Theatre named in controversy: Great Neck Playhouse, Great Neck, N. Y.

CASE No. 3—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance. Monseigneur Enterprises, Inc., operating Forum, Metuchen, N. J. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Film Corp. Other theatres named in controversy: Paramount, Oxford, Strand, all in Plainfield, N. J. Named as interested party: Walter Reade Theatres, 701 7th Ave., New York.

Washington

CASE No. 1—Filed February 7. Demand and submission involving clearance. Walbrook Amusement Co., Baltimore. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested parties: Ambassador, Forrest and Gwynn theatres.

CASE No. 2—Filed February 13. Demand and submission involving clearance. John H. Taylor, owner Charles Theatre, La Plata, Md. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Columbia Pictures Corp., Loew's, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Named as interested party: Sidney Lust, owner, Marlboro.

CASE No. 3—Filed February 24. Demand and submission involving clearance. Westway Theatre, Inc., Baltimore. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc. Other theatres named in controversy: Edgewood, Alpha and Irvington.

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CHARLOTTE—216 W. 4th, Pauline Griffith.
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SAN FRANCISCO—1095 Market St., Al Scott. Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2418 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Seneca 2460.
WASHINGTON—1426 G St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
HAMILTON—20 Holton, N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON—97 Adelaide St., S., John Gore.
MONTREAL—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Walnut 5519.
REGINA—The Leader-Post. Bruce Peacock.
ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings., C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

HOW one exhibitor approaches the matter of what he terms "pictures which punch below the belt" reaches the desk via Postmaster General Frank C. Walker's efficient carriers. E. A. Stein, occasionally appearing in these columns, this time comments on "This Thing Called Censorship," two weeks' ago editorial which did a bit of probing into the possible reason (s) behind the original condemnation of "This Thing Called Love" by the Legion of Decency.

Stein, who operates the Out-Wickenburg-Way Theatre, Wickenburg, Ariz., has something to say. Of course and now and always, he and all other comers get their chance:

Reading your editorial in the February 22 issue of BOXOFFICE prompts me to make a few remarks:

As you outline, since the advent of the picture, "Vivacious Lady," more and more pictures are being made by Hollywood which punch below the belt.

Recently, the number has been increasing in leaps and bounds.

Why?

We'll have to go back a bit for the answer.

When motion pictures found their voice the people in the industry became enthusiastic about the future. They worked very hard, reinvested every cent they could make in their own business and spared nothing to make the talking picture "our greatest entertainment." With public appreciation of this effort reflected in boxoffice takes, the production people were spurred on to even greater efforts. They enjoyed their work obviously, for it showed through on the screen.

Eventually, these people began to make large sums of money.

Soon the wrinkles in their bellies disappeared.

Unfortunately, with the wrinkles there also disappeared the zest for work and the singleness of purpose. Making motion pictures became only a job and the zest was saved for horse racing and kindred diversions.

The LACK of zest for what was being done also showed through on the screen and it was not long before the public sensed the lack and failed to line up at the boxoffice.

That about brings us up to date.

Now what is going on?

Instead of the producing people getting back down to business and cutting away the dead wood of outside interests, they are trying to give languidly-made product a shot in the arm through the use of risque and suggestive material.

What result can be expected?

Already people all over the country are beginning to keep their children away from the movies until they investigate individual pictures.

If the epidemic continues to spread what is going to happen?

With the loss of FAMILY TRADE, movies will slip back to the status they enjoyed (?) during the era when every picture had either an illegitimate child or a killing. Belts were worn very tight in those days.

Something over a year ago your magazine reported the happenings at an important gathering in the east at which an experienced old-timer in the entertainment business made a reply to the assertion that talking pictures had "killed" vaudeville. He said " . . . talking pictures were not responsible. Vaudeville was killed by its own dirt and smut."

"Let those with understanding give heed."

Unquote.

And Now Ohio

AMONG the all other comers are two communications from Pete Wood, secretary of the ITOA of Ohio. First is a letter dispatched directly to this desk:

Felicitations upon your editorial, "This Thing Called Censorship" which, taken in conjunction with Jack Cohn's letter to the Legion of Decency, is simply another indication of the spinelessness of some of the leaders of the industry.

Here we have an instance of a script O. K.'d by Joe Breen which contains matter that he **must know** is fundamentally objectionable to the Legion of Decency; Columbia is given the green light to go ahead, they spend their money and then, because a few individuals suffer from indigestion on the day they review the picture, they raise a howl, and the producer, instead of showing just a mite of courage, cringes and apologizes, admits that he has sinned and agrees to meet a demand that he correct something **that does not need correction.**

I saw all of the pictures you list in your editorial and, as all of them except, of course, "No Time for Love" were given a "B" rating or better, it is high time that the Legion of Decency consulted the dictionary to learn the meaning of the word, "consistent."

I sent you a copy of the letter I wrote Father McClafferty yesterday and I hope that you can see your way clear to give both that and this communication space in your publication.

Wood's Letter

THE space, indeed, is available and now Wood's letter to Father McClafferty, executive secretary of the Legion of Decency:

I have noticed the agitation in connection with "This Thing Called Love" and, after viewing the picture as it was passed by the Ohio board of censors, I am wondering why the Legion has objected so strenuously.

First, let me say to you that no one has

(Continued on page 34)

"A National and International Force"

WASHINGTON—*Highlights of the President's remarks to the 13th annual awards dinner of the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences appeared in the eastern edition of* BOXOFFICE *last week.*

The complete text now follows:

I am happy to greet the motion picture industry of America, whose representatives are gathered from far and near for the Annual Awards Dinner of the Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences.

In these days of anxiety and world peril our hearts and minds and all of our energies are directed toward one objective. That objective is the strengthening of our national defense. Every day we realize that more and more things in our life must be evaluated in just such proportion as they contribute to the national defense.

The American motion picture as a national and international force is a phenomenon of our own generation. Within living memory we have seen it born and grow up into full maturity. We have seen the American motion picture become foremost in the world. We have seen it reflect our civilization throughout the rest of the world—the aims and aspirations and ideals of a free people and of freedom.

That is the real reason that some governments do not want our American films exhibited in their countries. Dictators—those who enforce the totalitarian form of government—think it a dangerous thing for their unfortunate peoples to know that in our democracy officers of the government are the servants, never the masters, of the people.

In all that I have said on that all important subject through many months past I have emphasized that in the assault on the democratic form of government which imperils world civilization today, our problem of national defense has become one of defending the entire Western Hemisphere—all three of the Americas—North, Central and South. We can no longer consider our own problem of defense as a separate interest. It involves the defense of all the democracies of all the Americas—and therefore in fact, it involves the future of democracy wherever it is imperiled by force or terror.

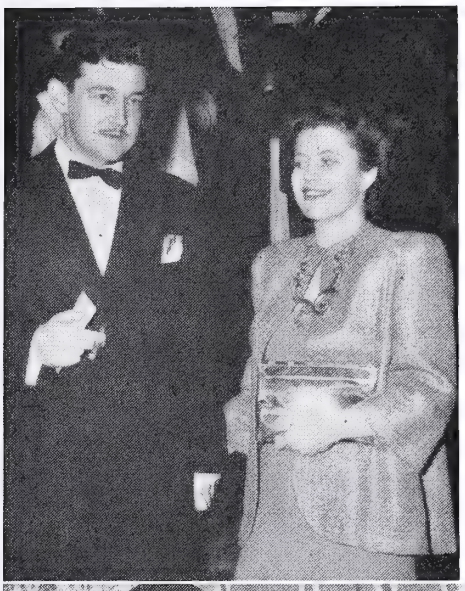
An all important factor in hemispheric defense is the Lend-Lease Bill, whose early enactment by the Congress we confidently anticipate. It is a pleasure here and now to acknowledge the great service which the newsreels have performed in acquainting the public with all of the implications of this measure as it takes its way through the various legislative stages.

Acceptance of the task of cooperating with all the Americas in defending the entire Western Hemisphere, implicit in our plans for national defense, is a natural growth of our good neighbor policy in our relations with the other American Republics. Happily for democracy, the Americas stand forth today as a notable example of international solidarity in a world in which freedom and human liberty are threatened with extinction.

We have been seeking to affirm our faith in the Western World through a wider exchange of culture, of education, of thought, and of free expression among the various nations of this hemisphere. Your industry has utilized its vast resources of talent and facilities in a sincere effort to help the people of this hemisphere to come to know each other.

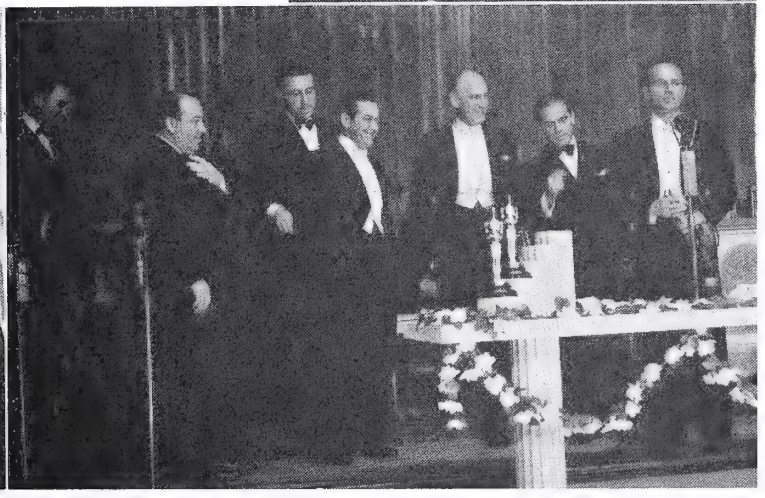
In carrying on this program of advancing the spirit of inter-American solidarity and continental defense our government has established machinery to coordinate

(Continued on page 16)









Here Are Some Who Carried Off the Academy's Well-Known Oscars—

On the left, Preston Sturges, winner of the award for the best original screenplay, "The Great McGinty," enters the Biltmore Bowl on the night of the dinner, accompanied by Mrs. Sturges. On the right, Alfred Newman, left, poses with Darryl F. Zanuck as the latter holds the plaque which Newman won for scoring "Tin Pan Alley." Immediately above and to the left are Jimmy Stewart, Ginger Rogers and Bob Hope, winners all. Stewart, of course, won the best actor award for "The Philadelphia Story;" Miss Rogers, the best actress award for "Kitty Foyle," while Hope was especially cited for his "unselfish services" to the industry. To the right of them, Frank Capra, who handed out the best-direction Oscar, has called the five nominees to the rostrum before opening the envelope containing the name of the winner. Only four showed, because John Ford, who won, was fishing off the Mexican coast at the time. The group, however, includes Alfred Hitchcock, fingering his tie; George Cukor, William Wyler, Sam Wood, Capra and Zanuck at the "mike."

Ascap Signs Decree Ending Gov't Suit

NEW YORK—A consent decree ending the battle between Ascap and the department of justice was signed early in the week by Federal Judge Henry Warren Goddard.

The court approved it following a long session at which time attorneys for Ascap and Lieut. Gov. Poletti, as well as Victor O. Waters, special assistant to the attorney general, delivered addresses praising the document and declaring that it opened the way to free competition.

Despite the approval, future trouble may be ahead. The National Association of Broadcasters objected seriously to the entry of the decree without certain changes which the court refused to grant and it is reported the NAB will endeavor to force Ascap to accept its terms for Ascap's music regardless of whether the society agrees or not. Some hold this would be a violation of the Sherman act on the part of the broadcasters and could result in government action against their use of combined power.

Felt Ascap Went Too Far

The day in court was started off by Waters declaring the government recognized the necessity of an organization such as Ascap but that he felt it had gone too far in exploiting its songs. The decree removes all possible violations and leaves only one point to be settled, namely an agreement on price with the broadcasters. Poletti also spoke, telling of the effort applied in coming to the agreement, and stated the decree is for the public welfare. "No attempt will be made by Ascap to circumvent either the letter or the law of the decree," the counsel stated.

First objector was Milton R. Weinberger, representing the League of New York Theatres. He stated "legit" producers frequently use programs on the air of an hour's duration, but he feared Ascap would object to less than an hour unless the court added a ruling into the decree. Then he asked Ascap be forced to keep a log of its songs so that producers would be able to tell which of their songs was the most popular, and on that basis ask for royalties.

Denies Both Applications

Judge Goddard denied both these applications by stating what was being asked was going much too far and that he could recommend but not change an agreed-on decree. In this case he said he would not recommend anything.

Next objector was Neville Miller for the NAB. He complained on two points, the first was his claim Ascap can secure an exclusive license from its members for a long period of time, which Miller said was a restraint of trade. Secondly, he averred that per performance licensing is granted to everybody but the broadcasters, who still must buy the entire catalogue. A dispute over the second point arose with Waters pointing out to the court that Miller, on behalf of BMI, had agreed to a similar provision in that organization's decree. The court finally denied Miller's applications.

Last objector was Harold Seligson, attorney representing Schroder Gunther & Co., music publishers, and Ascap licensees. He objected to a clause which he stated only allowed the re-election of officers at the rate of two every year, or 12 years for the entire 24. Waters denied this, declaring that eight are elected yearly, and Goddard agreed with the U. S. attorney. That concluded the objections and the court reserved decision declaring that he would sign the decree the next day.

Present in court were Gene Buck, Ascap president; John G. Paine, Herman Greenberg, E. C. Mills, Milton Diamond, Herman Finkelstein, and Louis Frohlich, the latter three Ascap attorneys.

9 O'Clock Plan Now Reaches Bridgeport

Bridgeport, Conn.—The so-called 9 o'clock plan which puts the big half of the double feature bill on then so that audiences can escape at a reasonable hour made its appearance here on Friday. Described as an "early bird" show, the Poli launched the idea which, if successful, will be extended to include the Majestic and Globe.

The Loew management states the shift is designed to make shows available to defense factory workers on 3-to-11 o'clock, or 11-to-7 o'clock, shifts. Much advance ballyhoo has been directed at factory bulletins.

New Britain, Conn.—The State has switched to a noon opening to catch factory workers on other than normal shifts. Other houses throughout the state, particularly in industrial towns, are considering moving up their opening hour.

"National, International Force"—Roosevelt

(Continued from page 15)

our growing commercial and cultural relations with the American Republics. Our government has invited you to do your share of the job of interpreting the people of the Western Hemisphere to one another. And all of us in all the 21 American Republics are grateful that your response is so immediate and so wholehearted.

I do not minimize the importance of the motion picture industry as the most popular medium of mass entertainment. But tonight I want to place the chief emphasis on the service you can render in promoting solidarity among all the people of the Americas.

For all this and for your splendid cooperation with all who are directing the expansion of our defense forces, I am glad to thank you. In the weeks and months that lie ahead we in Washington know we shall have your continued aid and support.

Delays MPTOA Meet; June Board Huddle

NEW YORK—Because of a number of state exhibitor unit meetings, the SMPE spring convention and Variety Club conclaves in May, Ed Kuykendall, president, has decided to forego a May convention of the MPTOA and instead hold a gathering of the directors the first week in June.

The place is not definitely set, although there has been some talk of holding the session in Hollywood.

Kuykendall came on from his home in Columbus, Miss., to attend the national defense meeting at the Hays office Tuesday, following which he went to Washington to look over the general situation. He expects to attend a number of the Variety Club and state exhibitor organization conventions, he stated before entraining for the Capitol.

Urges Careful Study Precede Complaints

NEW YORK—Declaring there are indications considerable unreliable and misleading advice and counsel are being given out by both professional and amateur lawyers on arbitration, E. L. Kuykendall, MPTOA president, in an organization bulletin warns against such "expert" advice unless it "is your own lawyer on whom you know you can depend."

Taking the position "the arbitration system can easily be over-emphasized," the MPTOA head observes, "To most country-town exhibitors it may mean little or nothing. Generally it is only the theatres in the big cities that have any of the important difficulties that can be arbitrated under the decree, as the serious complaints are confined to unreasonable clearance and arbitrary refusal to sell a particular run at all. Theatres that have no serious problem of clearance and run will have little interest in this sort of arbitration."

Kuykendall declares there are recent indications that several distributors "intend to make a more serious effort to adjust exhibitor complaints and grievances than they have in the past." If this is true, he says, "many of our difficulties can be adjusted by the simple act of taking up the complaint with the branch manager of the distributor, rather than going through the expense and uncertainties of arbitration or legal action. It's worth considering."

"Wings" Debut Set

NEW YORK—Premiere of "I Wanted Wings" will take place at the Astor here March 26 when the picture opens on a two-a-day roadshow policy. Currently at the Astor is "The Great Dictator."

Max Gordon on Coast

HOLLYWOOD—Max Gordon is here from New York to produce "My Sister Eileen," which he recently sold to Columbia for $225,000. Sam Briskin closed the deal after seeing the play in New York.

It's

ROUGH



ROWDY



and ROMANTIC

THE BIG SURPRISE OF ALL LAUGH SENSATIONS . . . .

A GIRL A GUY and A GOB







HAROLD LLOYD'S bombshell of laugh dynamite!...All about the sailor's sweetie who drove the navy nutty!...It's FUN from the FLEET—and you get it while the angle's HOT!...Spectacular two-ocean world premiere at San Francisco's Golden Gate Theatre to launch the screen's big all-out comedy smash!



WITH

GEORGE MURPHY
LUCILLE BALL
EDMOND O'BRIEN

HENRY TRAVERS · FRANKLIN PANGBORN

Directed by **RICHARD WALLACE**

Screen play by Frank Ryan and Bert Granet





RKO RADIO





Produced by

HAROLD LLOYD

Assumed Hays Under Pact

New York—Although officially all is silent, the automatic assumption, as indicated consistently in BOXOFFICE, is that Will H. Hays is now functioning under a new five-year contract. Hays, who entered his 20th year as head of MPPDA Wednesday, currently is in Hollywood but is returning shortly for the annual meeting on March 31. Meanwhile, his organization here proceeds on 1941 activities conscious of, and anticipating, no change. If Hays actually has not signatured a new pact, that is a mere technicality.

New Nathanson Deal Confidently Awaited

NEW YORK—Signposts flapping in the breezes here and in Toronto indicate Paramount will make a new deal with N. L. Nathanson, president of Famous Players Canadian whose five-year contract expires in June.

The Canadian company operates under a 25-year franchise for Paramount product in the Dominion. This franchise expires on or about the time Nathanson's contract does, but the two matters are declared to have nothing in common.

Nathanson is due here in the next couple of weeks to actively launch negotiations looking toward a renewal.

Canadian Theatre Pot Is Steaming

TORONTO—Sensational developments in the theatre business of Canada are expected to break in June when the five-year contract of President N. L. Nathanson with Famous Players Canadian Corp. is due to expire and already rapid movements are under way across the Dominion which tend to indicate the formation of a large circuit of theatres, either through absorption or construction, which would be independent of the Famous Players chain of 200 direct or affiliated houses. N. L. Nathanson has denied from Florida that he is interested in the formation of the new group, but there are interesting, and perhaps significant, developments.

Oscar R. Hanson, president of Hanson Theatres Corp. and president of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., has been away from his office for several weeks on an undisclosed mission, all enquiries at his office bringing the bare reply that he is "away."

The first announcement was that Hanson, Vice-President Paul Nathanson, son of N. L. Nathanson, and General Manager A. W. Perry of Empire-Universal had gone to the Canadian west on business in connection with the film exchange. Paul Nathanson and Perry returned to Toronto, and with Clair Hague, Canadian Universal representative, attended the Universal convention in Chicago but Hanson was still absent in western Canada.

N. L. Nathanson suddenly broke his holiday in Florida to return to Toronto for a few days, after which there were other moves.

Announcement was made at Kingston, Ontario, that Odeon Theatres of Canada, Ltd., which had received its Dominion federal charter in January, had secured a site in Kingston of which a 1,000-seat theatre would be erected according to plans prepared by H. G. Duerr, well-known theatre architect of Toronto who has drawn plans for various Famous Players' and Allen theatres.

Duerr has declared that he does not know the identity of the persons behind Odeon Theatres of Canada and that he received his instructions through a Toronto lawyer, S. S. McNairn, the solicitor for Odeon Theatres, who would not disclose names.

Hon. J. Earl Lawson, Toronto lawyer for Hanson companies, made a trip to Ottawa and Kingston, Ont., the reason for which was not announced—it might have been political or business purposes.

H. C. D. Main, supervisor of theatres for Hanson Theatres Corp., made a trip of several days through western Ontario last week with no details given during his absence.

W. J. Long, proprietor of the Rialto at Edmonton, Alta., an independent house seating 1,200, has been announced as British Columbia supervisor for Odeon Theatres and admitted that a large circuit of theatres would be created across the Dominion. Long has been the first-run outlet for Universal and British features released by Empire-Universal and has cooperated with Empire officials in the past. J. H. Booth, proprietor of the Dunbar in Vancouver, is to be associated with Long in the Odeon development at the coast, the Dunbar being one of the houses taken over by Odeon when Hanson was at the coast. Booth is the president of the Independent Booking and Buying Circuit of British Columbia.

A company sponsored by N. A. Taylor of Toronto, 20th Century Theatres, Ltd., has been quietly organizing a theatre circuit in Ontario, through construction, lease and purchase, a number of which are principal situations.

When 20th Century Theatres leased the Madison from the Brady Estate for a 10-year term, intimation was forthcoming that one of its two opposition houses, the Alhambra, would be remodeled and modernized to keep up with the Madison which would be rebuilt by the Taylor interests. The Alhambra is one of the first Famous Players' houses. A short time later, it was stated that the Alhambra would not be reconstructed. This local happening may mean nothing—or it may mean everything.

A comparatively recent visitor in Canada was Jeffrey Bernard of Gaumont British Pictures, but no information was available as to the reason for his trip from England. In the past Harry Weedon and Richard Ford, representing Oscar Deutsch, Odeon and Gaumont British interests, have made trips from England which were accompanied by many reports. One Toronto theatre executive, not connected with Nathanson, tried hard to make a deal with Weedon for Canadian theatres but finally gave up the idea. The general view is that anything can happen in the next few months.



—Metropolitan Photos

Hal Roach: Arrival—

The producer, as he arrived in New York from Hollywood, to check over final arrangements on nation-wide trade shows for "Topper Returns."

Sees RKO Backing Away From Units

NEW YORK—RKO is reversing its trend toward unit production and again is heading for increased, centralized studio supervision, writes Thomas Brady from Hollywood for the New York *Times*. This is his case:

"The term of office of Harry Edington, who replaced Pandro Berman as head of production last year, has been brief and unstable with (George J.) Schaefer lately conducting operations and negotiating all the company's deals. As of January 1, Edington's name was taken off RKO pictures as executive producer, though he is still with the company producing single pictures, his current assignment being 'Before the Fact.'

"At the same time, the studio has reversed its trend toward unit production and is heading for increased central supervision. (J. R.) McDonough, before he replaced (Lee) Marcus, was the company's liaison man with the independent producers who released through RKO, and the vacancy he left has not been filled. The Gene Towne-Graham Baker unit will leave RKO after one more picture; William Hawks, who was to have contributed 10 films, will settle for one. Gregory La Cava and Leo McCarey, unit producer-directors, left the studio last year without replacement. Max Gordon and Harry Goetz have washed up their deal without making 'The American Way' and two smaller units—Stephens-Lang, which made the 'Dr. Christian' series, and Lou Ostrow, who produced 'Li'l Abner'—have departed."

5-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSIONS VOTED FOR 7 "U" EXECUTIVES

To "Assure Continuity" Of Management, Says Board Chairman

NEW YORK—Universal's present management remains in the saddle for seven more years. With two more years to go under existing pacts, generally signed as of January 1, 1938, these agreements have been extended another five years, thereby terminating them at the close of 1947.

The return sweep was made known on Tuesday by J. Cheever Cowdin, chairman of the boards of Universal Pictures Co., Inc., and the Universal Corp., holding company of which the former is the chief subsidiary. The action was voted at special meetings of the boards of both corporations and are to be submitted to stockholders for approval.

The executives with whom the new pacts have been executed are:

Cowdin.

Nate J. Blumberg, president.

Charles D. Prutzman, vice-president and general counsel.

Cliff Work, vice-president in charge of studio operations.

William A. Scully, vice-president in charge of domestic sales.

Joseph H. Seidelman, vice-president in charge of foreign sales.

Matty Fox, vice-president and executive assistant to Blumberg.

"The contracts, in most instances, represent a five-year extension of the periods for which these men are currently under contract to the Universal companies," stated Cowdin. "This will assure continuity of the executive management which has been responsible for increasing gross sales from $18,150,876 to $27,677,627 in the last

(Continued on page 24)



MATTY FOX



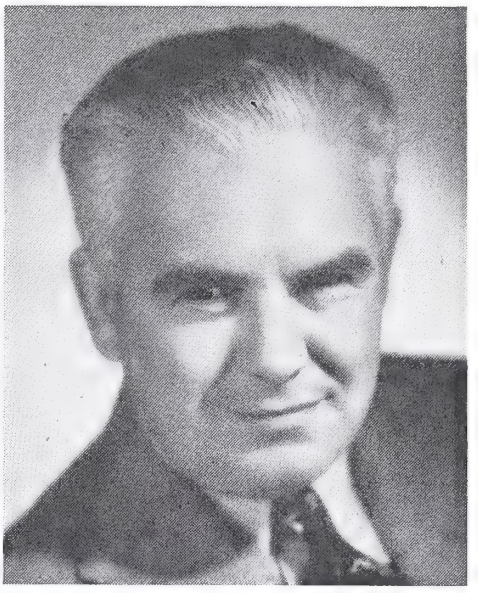
J. CHEEVER COWDIN



CLIFF WORK



JOSEPH H. SEIDELMAN



NATE J. BLUMBERG



WILLIAM A. SCULLY



CHARLES D. PRUTZMAN

THE TWO ACADEMY

TOGE





Ginger Rogers, best performance by an actress..in "Kitty Foyle."

GINGER ROGERS

Vivaci

RKO RADIO PICTURES

PANDRO S. BERMAN
IN CHARGE OF PRODUCTION

with **JAMES ELLISON · BEULAH**

NEW PRINTS; NEW ADS; NEW ACC

AWARD WINNERS

THER!



James Stewart, best performance by an actor..in "The Philadelphia Story."

JAMES STEWART

us Lady

NATIONAL RELEASE DATE MARCH 28

ONDI · CHARLES COBURN

A GEORGE STEVENS PRODUCTION

Screen Play by P. J. Wolfson and Ernest Pagano

SSORIES; FOR A NEW CLEANUP!

Flashes From the News Front

Stiff Tax Threatens S. C.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Passed in the senate and reported on favorably by the house finance committee, a stiff theatre admissions tax bill now awaits action in the house. It would impose a tax of from 3 to 10 per cent on gross receipts of theatres according to population.

Top Depinet Drive

NEW YORK—After four weeks of the Ned E. Depinet drive, RKO exchanges in Atlanta, Philadelphia, New Orleans and Indianapolis are in the top brackets for awards. The branches are under management of H. M. Lyons, C. Zagrans, A. N. Schmitz, P. M. Baker and R. E. Churchill, respectively.

Ascap Law to Top Court

LINCOLN — Nebraska's law regulating music copyright collections will reach the U. S. supreme court. The state has appealed a district court decision declaring the statute inoperative.

Cassil Suit Starts Tuesday

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—Trial will start Tuesday in the federal $452,775 suit by Frank Cassil against the Dubinsky circuit and major distributors.

Second-Run Product Jam

DETROIT—The gap between first and second run of a considerable number of features is widening here as second runs hold back on playdates. The situation may have an appreciable effect on buying of new product.

Strike Notice to Chain

DETROIT—A strike notice has been filed against the Schulte circuit here by the Theatre Managers and Assistant Managers union, charging discriminatory action.

May Hear Two Soon

CHICAGO—Hearings are expected soon on two cases, those of the Ken Theatre and the State Theatre against Loew's, before the local arbitration tribunal.

No Anti-Decree Bill Foes

MINNEAPOLIS—No opposition was posed against the Northwest Allied measure to vitiate certain portions of the consent decree when that bill came up for hearing before a senate committee.

W. W. Anderson Dead

ATLANTA—W. W. Anderson, for the past ten years Columbia manager, died Sunday of a heart attack.

Two More Toward Ten Field Men for Morgan

NEW YORK—The appointment of two additional district representatives that will ultimately round out a total of ten for the newly created separate sales department for Paramount short subjects is announced by Oscar A. Morgan, shorts sales manager. The newest additions are Charles Duer at Denver, and Harry Dodge at Atlanta.

Metro Launches Second Half of Honor Roll

NEW YORK—M-G-M has launched the second half year of its exploitation honor roll. During the first six months, the company states more than 100 showmen in the U. S. and Canada received special lapel buttons for campaigns on M-G-M pictures. To begin the new period, more than 1,000 campaigns are on hand for judging and elimination.

LYNN FARNOL

announces an office for

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in the various fields of

PUBLIC RELATIONS

250 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

TELEPHONE
PLAZA 8-0228

Five-Year Contracts To Universal Heads

(Continued from page 21)

three years and, in the same period, has converted a net loss of $1,084,999 into a net profit of $2,390,772."

Under the terms of the contracts with Universal Pictures the annual salaries of this group will range from $62,400 to $91,000 during the first two years and thereafter from $75,400 to $117,000.

Additional incentive compensation is also provided, Cowdin explained, through a profit-sharing plan under which the executives will receive a percentage of the operating income up to $2,500,000 and an additional percentage of operating income above that figure. Individual participations will range from one-half of one per cent to one per cent of operating income up to $2,500,000 and from one per cent to two per cent of operating earnings in excess of that amount. The contracts provide these percentages are to be reduced proportionately to any future increase in tax rates and that balances blocked in Great Britain are to be excluded in computing operating income for any year, any adjustment with respect to these amounts to be made only when and as these balances are actually transferred into dollars.

Under the terms of the contracts with Universal Corp., each of the five vice-presidents is to receive each year warrants to purchase 3,000 shares of Universal Corp. common stock at $10 a share, expiring in April, 1946, the chairman and president receiving 5,000 such warrants. The warrants now held by members of the executive group, running for five years and giving them the right to buy stock at prices scaling from $6 to $10 a share, are to be exchanged for the longer-term warrants stipulating the higher price.

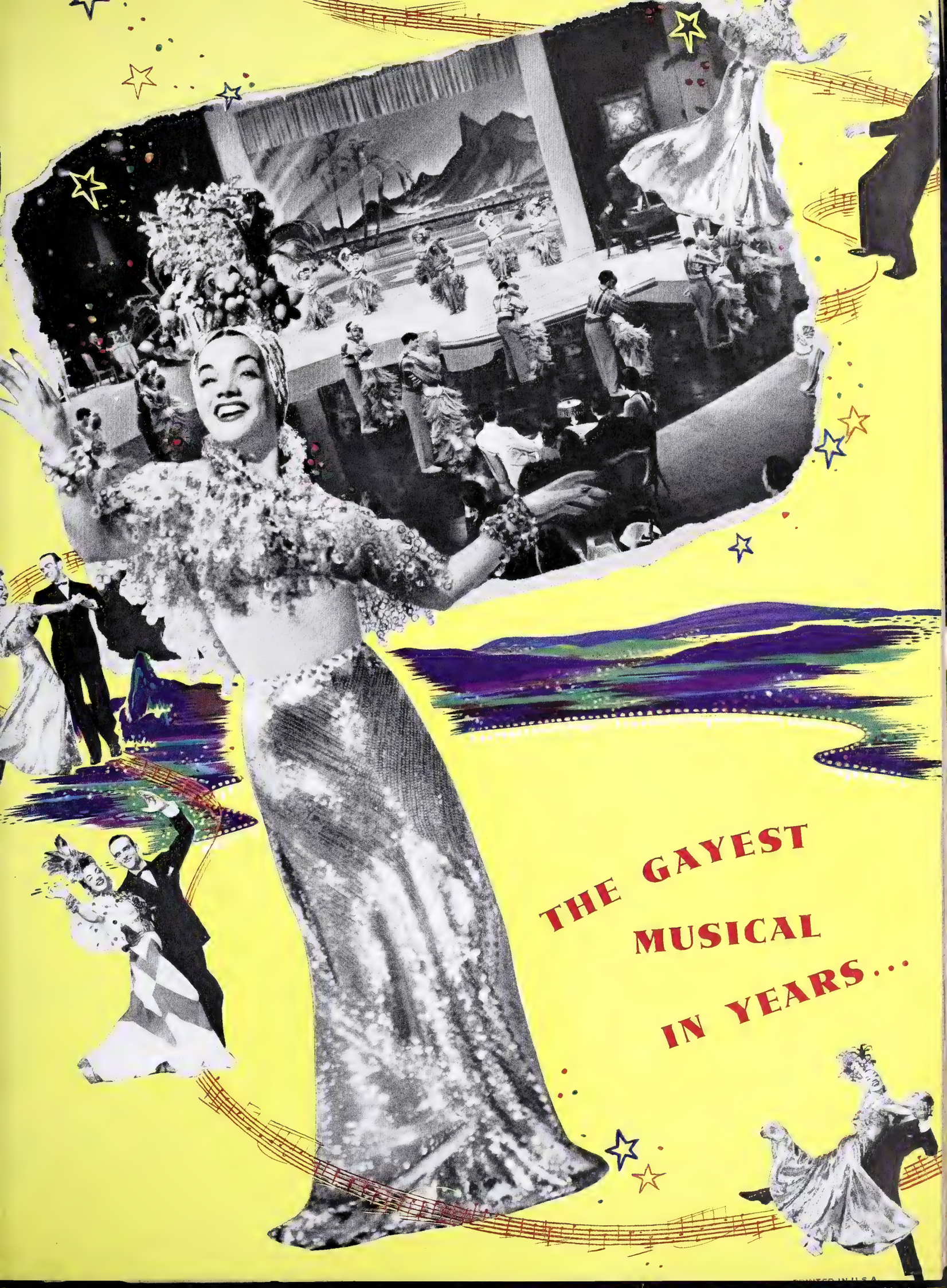
Republic Meeting Sets New Season's Plans

NEW YORK—Plans for the new season were discussed Thursday and Friday at the Republic home office when an eastern delegation of franchise holders and branch managers met with H. J. Yates and James R. Grainger for the last of four domestic regional sales meetings.

In attendance were Morris Epstein, local branch manager; Arthur Newman, Albany; Jack Bellman, Buffalo; M. E. Morey, Boston; Sam Seletsky, New Haven; Jake Flax, Washington; Max Gillis, Philadelphia; Nat Lefton, Cleveland and Cincinnati; Sam Seplowin, Detroit; Sam Gorrel, Cleveland; George Kirby, Cincinnati; J. H. Alexander, Pittsburgh, and Sam Fineberg, Pittsburgh.

Has English Film

NEW YORK—With the proceeds to go to England, 20th-Fox will distribute "Men of the Lightship," produced by the British Ministry of Information. The subject is in 1,700 feet. The company will handle it in the U. S. and Canada.


THE GAYEST
MUSICAL
IN YEARS...

and it sings of Boxoffice!



Glorious! in TECHNICOLOR!

Alice FAYE

Don AMECHE

Carmen MIRANDA

That Night in Rio

Song Hits!

"I'yi, Yi, Yi, Yi"
(I Like You Very Much)
"Chica, Chica, Boom, Chic"
"Boa Noite" (Good Night)
"They Met in Rio"
"The Baron Is In Conference"
by Mack Gordon and Harry Warren

S. Z. SAKALL • J. CARROL NAISH
CURT BOIS • LEONID KINSKEY

Directed by **IRVING CUMMINGS**

Associate Producer Fred Kohlmar. Screen Play by George Seaton, Bess Meredyth and Hal Long Additional Dialogue by Samuel Hoffenstein. Based on a play by Rudolph Lothar & Hans Adler. Adapted by Jessie Ernst. Dances staged by Hermes Pan.

• 1941's great musical thrill from the company that made 1940 famous for its musicals . . . 20th Century-Fox!

20th CENTURY FOX

The Lady Eve

F — Comedy

Paramount (4022) — 97 Minutes — Rel. Mar. 21, '41

In the sophisticated romantic comedy vein this has seldom been equalled this season. Written and directed by Preston Sturges, who was responsible for "The Great McGinty," it looks like a certain success wherever smart, sparkling entertainment is in demand. Barbara Stanwyck, co-starred with Henry Fonda, has been provided with a gay and sympathetic role such as she has not had in several pictures, and one which should considerably enhance her already brilliant reputation. Fonda proves an able foil, and a supporting cast headed by Charles Coburn paces them all the way. Both as scenarist and megaphonist, Sturges again distinguishes himself by displaying a comprehensive understanding of the elements that go into the making of a potential hit. His story is of the nonsensical variety in which Miss Stanwyck, portraying a transatlantic card sharp, falls in love with her victim—Fonda—is jilted by him, poses as another to win him back, marries him to gain revenge, and then discovers it was love from the very first.

Barbara Stanwyck, Henry Fonda, Charles Coburn, Eugene Pallette, William Demarest, Melville Cooper, Eric Blore.

EXPLOITIPS: Three names are worthy of space on the marquee—Barbara Stanwyck, Henry Fonda and Charles Coburn. Preston Sturges, who wrote and directed, might also be a selling name, calling attention to his earlier success, "The Great McGinty." Miss Stanwyck's role as a card-shark suggests a lobby layout of marked cards, loaded dice and other "you-can't-win" gambling paraphernalia.

CATCHLINES: She Was Brilliant at Dealing Off the Bottom of the Deck . . . Until She Fell in Love With One of Her Suckers.

It's the Latest Comedy Triumph From Preston Sturges . . . The Man Who Gave You the Unforgettable "Great McGinty."

A New Pair of Screen Lovers . . . Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda . . . In the Comedy Delight You've Been Waiting For.

Melody for Three

F — Com.-Drama With Music

RKO (124) — 68 Minutes — Rel. Feb. 28, '41

This can be recommended without reservation to fans of the "Dr. Christian" series starring Jean Hersholt, for it possesses the same blend of down-to-earth hokum and comedy which characterized its predecessors. Additionally, it presents a promising juvenile player, by name Schuyler Standish, who performs miracles with a violin. Hersholt, of course, misses no bets in his performance as the kindly small-town physician who mends people's souls as well as their ailing bodies. Young Standish portrays the son of Fay Wray, who had divorced her musically-talented husband years before. The husband returns via an airplane crash and Dr. Christian takes it upon himself to reunite the couple, which he accomplishes through his usual understanding of human nature. Erle C. Kenton directed.

Jean Hersholt, Fay Wray, Schuyler Standish, Walter Woolf King, Maude Eburne, Astrid Allwyn, Andrew Tombes.

EXPLOITIPS: As a pre-booking ballyhoo stunt, have a theatre attendant go down the aisle calling for "Dr. Christian." Don't neglect to point out that this is one of the series based on the radio program of the same name, which also has Jean Hersholt as the star. The musical backgrounds in this one suggest you promote a contest for juvenile instrumentalists on the stage, with music teachers as judges.

CATCHLINES: It's Another Triumph for Lovable Dr. Christian . . . Who Uses Psychology . . . Not Medicine . . . To Right a Thwarted Marriage.

You'll Like Dr. Christian in This Vivid Picture of Surpassing Tenderness . . . As Big as All Humanity.

You'll Hail It as Dr. Christian's Best Picture . . . The Story of a Boy With an Amazing Talent . . . And a Mother Who Sacrificed Her Happiness So That He Might Achieve Fame.

A Girl, a Guy and a Gob

F — Comedy

RKO (120) — 91 Minutes — Rel. Mar. 14, '41

Harold Lloyd, erstwhile ace screen comic, has many material reasons for remembering the formula of motion picture story and situation which brought him fame and fortune. Dragging his well-thumbed primer from the moth balls, he read its lessons to an aggregation of competent and eager Thespics and technicians. Then they went to work and made a typical Harold Lloyd comedy, although he chose to exercise his shrewd showmanship from behind the cameras as producer, rather than before them as star. For all of its streamlining, the film is strikingly reminiscent of those Lloyd photoplays in which he appeared during the hey-day of his acting career. And that's by way of predicting he has produced a hit, with the profit potentialities of which exhibitors can acquaint themselves by dusting off and reviewing their ledgers of a decade or more ago. A comparative newcomer, one Edmond O'Brien, fills the characteristic Lloydian role of a sensitive, shy and self-effacing youth about whom the motivation revolves. He looks like Franchot Tone but, for this part, at least, was endowed with many of the tricks and charms of the comic-turned-producer. George Murphy and Lucille Ball are toplined and they, along with all members of a hand-picked supporting cast, contribute good performances. The capable direction of Richard Wallace plays no small part in accomplishing the above-described celluloid alchemy.

George Murphy, Lucille Ball, Edmond O'Brien, George Cleveland, Henry Travers, Lloyd Corrigan, Kathleen Howard.

EXPLOITIPS: Harold Lloyd, as producer, deserves marquee and advertising mention along with Lucille Ball, George Murphy and Edmond O'Brien, who top the cast. Make over the lobby in a naval atmosphere, dressing attendants as sailors. Stage special showings for army and navy recruits in your area. Try to obtain some naval recruiting posters for lobby decorations.

CATCHLINES: The Fleet's In . . . And You're Out of Luck . . . If You Miss This Happy, Scrappy Comedy of Gobs and Their Girls.

Footsteps in the Dark

F — Mystery-Comedy

WB (509) — 93 Minutes — Rel. Mar. 8, '41

Errol Flynn forsakes swashbuckling and action to play the debonair amateur detective. His celluloid laboratory for the transformation is a murder mystery which specializes in comedy rather than suspense. Throughout, the approach to the crime angles of the screenplay is definitely tongue-in-cheek, with most of the formula situations of such features having been dragged in and subjected to subtle ribbing. Flynn's performance as the dilettante sleuth is noteworthy, as are other elements of the picture, which sums up as an acceptable parcel of diverting entertainment which should easily pay its way up and down the line. He portrays a high society, blue-blood financier who leads a double life although madly in love with his wife and completely afraid of a domineering mother-in-law. His deception, however, manifests itself through gratifying his yen for writing detective novels under a nom-de-plume and which ridicule the social set in which his family moves. By becoming involved in a real murder mystery his masquerade is exposed and it is only through solving the crime that he is able to square himself. Lloyd Bacon directed.

Errol Flynn, Brenda Marshall, Ralph Bellamy, Alan Hale, Lee Patrick, Allen Jenkins, Lucile Watson, William Frawley.

EXPLOITIPS: Errol Flynn, Brenda Marshall and Ralph Bellamy are all marquee names. Have house artist construct a huge pair of compo-board "footprints" to be mounted above the marquee or in the lobby as the centerpiece. Stencil footprints, imprinted with theatre and picture billing, on the streets surrounding the theatre. Make window display tieups with shoe stores and shoe repair shops.

CATCHLINES: He Thrilled You in "The Sea Hawk" . . . Now Errol Flynn Is Back Again . . . This Time in the Mystery-Comedy Sensation of the Year.

It's a Thriller-Diller . . . Packed With Laughs and Chills . . . And It's Errol Flynn at His Best.

REVIEW DIGEST
AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
	A										
	Across the Sierras (Col)								±		1+ 1–
32	Adam Had Four Sons (Col)		##	+	±	##	##	##			10+ 1–
16	Aldrich Family in Life With Henry (Para)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2–
20	Along the Rio Grande (RKO)		+	±	∓		+	±	±		6+ 4–
	Always a Bride (FN)		∓	∓	∓	–	–	±	–		4+ 7–
36	Andy Hardy's Private Secretary (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	##			12+
	Angels Over Broadway (Col)		±	+	∓	+	##	+	+	+	9+ 2–
	Ape, The (Mono)		+	–	–	+	+	+		±	5+ 3–
	Arise, My Love (Para)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	##	15+
	Arizona (Col)		##	##	+	##	##	##	##	+	14+
14	Arkansas Judge (Rep)		±	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 2–
	B										
21	Back Street (Univ)		##	+	##	##	##	##	±	+	13+ 1–
	Bad Man, The (M-G-M)								+		1+
	Bank Dick, The (Univ)		##	+	+	##	##	+	+	±	11+ 1–
	Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2–
	Behind the News (Rep)		±	+	±	+	##	+	±	±	9+ 4–
	Beyond the Sacramento (Col)								+		1+
	Billy the Kid in Texas (PRC)				∓						1+ 1–
	Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		##	+	##	+	##	##	+	+	12+
	Blackout (UA)		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+
30	Blonde Inspiration (M-G-M)		±	±	∓	±			±		5+ 5–
32	Blondie Goes Latin (Col)		+		+	+	+	+		±	6+ 1–
	Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3–
	Border Legion (Rep)		+		∓	+	##	+	±	±	8+ 3–
	Boss of Bullion City (Univ)								±		1+ 1–
2	Bowery Boy (Rep)		∓	±	–	+	±	±	±	±	7+ 7–
	Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		–		±	–	±		3+ 5–
	Brigham Young—Frontiersman (20th-Fox)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	+	13+
22	Buck Privates (Univ)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
	Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+
	C										
19	Case of the Black Parrot (FN)		–	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 6–
	Caught in the Act (PRC)					±			–	∓	2+ 3–
	Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2–
	Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±					±		3+ 3–
	Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		∓	+	–	+	##	±	+	±	8+ 4–
9	Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##		14+
	Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		##	+		7+ 1–
	Christmas in July (Para)		##	+	±	##	##	##	+	+	12+ 1–
	City for Conquest (WB)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
	Colorado (Rep)		±		–	+			±	±	4+ 4–
17	Come Live With Me (M-G-M)		##	±	–	##	##	##	±	+	11+ 3–
	Comrade X (M-G-M)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	##	14+
11	Convoy (RKO)		+	+		+			+	±	5+ 1–
	D										
	Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±	±	+	∓	+	∓	8+ 5–
	Dangerous Game, A (Univ)								–		1–
	Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		–	±	+	±			+		4+ 3–
	Dead Man's Shoes (Mono)			±							1+ 1–
	Devil Bat, The (PRC)				=	±				±	2+ 4–
31	Devil Commands, The (Col)		±	–	=	+			–	∓	3+ 6–
	Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6–
	Diamond Frontier (Univ)		∓	±	–	±	+	∓	–	∓	6+ 7–
	Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+
	Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
9	Doomed Caravan (Para)		##		+	##	##	##	+		10+
	Down Argentine Way (20th-Fox)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	+	13+
	Drums of the Desert (Mono)		±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4–
	Dulcy (M-G-M)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2–
	E										
	East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5–
	Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
34	E. Queen's Penthouse Mys. (Col)		±			+	+	+			4+ 1–
	Escape (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	+	##	##		15+
	Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+	±		6+ 2–
	F										
26	Face Behind the Mask (Col)		+	±	∓	±		+	±	±	7+ 5–
	Fantasia (Disney)		##	##	##	##		##	##	##	14+
	Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±	±		+	+	+		6+ 2–
31	Father's Son (WB)		±	±	±	±	–	∓	±	∓	6+ 9–
	Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	–	–	3+ 9–
	Fight for Life, The (Col)		+						##	+	4+
	Flight Command (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
4	Flight From Destiny (WB)		+	+	±	##	##	##	+		10+ 1–
	Flying Wild (Mono)						+	+			2+
	Footsteps in the Dark (FN)						##	+			3+
	Four Mothers (WB)		##	+	±	+	+	##	+	+	10+ 1–
	Four Sons (20th-Fox)		##		+	##	##	+	+	+	10+
	Freedom Radio (Col)				+						1+
	Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5–
	Frontier Vengeance (Univ)		o		–	∓			±		2+ 3–
	Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		–	±	±	6+ 5–
	G										
	Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	##	+	±	±	9+ 3–
	Gay Caballero, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	–	+	+	±	7+ 4–
1	Girl in the News (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	##	+	+		8+
	Girls Under 21 (Col)		–	±	±			±	±	±	5+ 6–
	Give Us Wings (Univ)		–	±	±			+	±	–	4+ 5–
	Glamour for Sale (Col)		±	±	±		=	±	–	∓	5+ 8–
29	Golden Hoofs (20th-Fox)		±	±	+		+	+	+		6+ 1–
	Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	##	+	##	+	±	##	11+ 1–
	Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	16+
	Great Commandment (20th-Fox)								##		2+
	Great Dictator, The (UA)		##	##	+	##	∓	+	##	+	12+ 1–
	Great Mr. Nobody (WB)			±					±		2+ 2–
	Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4–
	Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	##	##	+	##	+	±	11+ 2–
	H										
33	Hard-Boiled Canary (Para)		±	±	±		##	+	+		7+ 3–
	Haunted Honeymoon (M-G-M)		+	±	±	±	=	±	+	+	7+ 6–
	Her First Romance (Mono)		+	+		+	##	+	+		7+
	Here Comes Happiness (WB)						–	±			1+ 2–
	Here Comes the Navy (WB)								##		2+
16	High Sierra (FN)		##	±	±	##	##	##		+	11+ 2–
	Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	##	+	+	+	∓	9+ 3–
	Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		–	±	+	–		±	4+ 4–
13	Honeymoon for Three (WB)		±	±	±	±	±	##	+	±	9+ 6–
	Howards of Virginia (Col)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+
	Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	±	+	##	+	+	9+ 3–
	Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6–
	I										
	I Want a Divorce (Para)		+	##	+	##	##	##	+	+	12+
	I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2–
	I'm Still Alive (RKO)		∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
34	In Old Colorado (Para)		+		+		+	+	+		5+
1	Invisible Woman, The (Univ)		##	+	+	##	##	##	+	±	12+ 1–
	It Happened to One Man (RKO)				±	+			+		3+ 1–
	J										
	Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+			+	+	+		5+
	K										
4	Keeping Company (M-G-M)		–	±	–	##	##	±	+		7+ 4–
	Kitty Foyle (RKO)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
	Knute Rockne—All American (WB)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+
	L										
	Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4–
	Lady Eve, The (Para)			##	##	##	##	##	+	+	12+
	Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	##	+	+	±	9+ 2–
15	Land of Liberty (M-G-M)		##	±	+			##	+		7+ 1–
	Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+ 1–
	Let's Make Music (RKO)		+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4–

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week.

The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:
Very Good; + **Good;** ± **Fair;** ∓ **Mediocre;** – **Poor;** = **Very Poor.**
In the summary ## is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.
(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number.)

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

Flying Wild F
Melodrama

Monogram (——) 63 Minutes Rel. Feb. 19, '41

Probably because the general idea was too ambitious for its budget limitations, this melodrama featuring the "East Side Kids" is far less acceptable and entertaining than the average previously established by the series being produced by Sam Katzman. The story is fundamentally weak and an attempt to cover its shortcomings with a hypo of trite slapstick comedy serves only to amplify them. The picture is roughly directed and cut, making it too obvious that its mountings and backgrounds are unauthentic. The "Kids" are working in an airplane factory and undertake to uncover those responsible for a series of mishaps attributable to saboteurs. They trace the foreign agents to the border and capture them after an air chase and battle which will inspire laughs rather than thrills. Directed by William West.

Leo Gorcey, Bobby Jordan, Joan Barclay, Dave O'Brien, George Pembroke, Sunshine Sammy Morrison, David Gorcey.

EXPLOITIPS: The aviation background in this one should suggest a number of exploitation stunts. Have house artist construct a facsimile of an airplane wing to be mounted above the marquee and lettered with picture billing. Give the "East Side Kids" the marquee credits. Capitalize on the nation-wide interest in the defense program and the "sabotage" scare by issuing throwsheets in the form of newspapers, illustrated with mats from the press book, relating the story of the sabotage plot which the "East Side Kids" break up. Hold a model airplane meet for juvenile air enthusiasts, with an "East Side Kids" trophy ear-marked for the winning entries.

CATCHLINES: From Neighborhood Nuisances to National Heroes . . . That's What Happens When the East Side Kids Smash a Sabotage Ring.

They're Up in the Air . . . Are the East Side Kids . . . In Their Fastest, Funniest Film Adventure.

When Duty Calls, the East Side Kids Forget Their Quarrels and Unite to Serve the National Defense Program.

Trail of the Silver Spurs F
Western

Monogram (——) 60 Minutes Rel. Jan. 5, '41

The elements which make for reliable western entertainment are incorporated in sufficient quantities herein to please most sagebrush addicts. Starring the "Range Busters," it combines action, gunfights, a chase or two and rangeland music with a desert mystery comparable in some respects to the famous real-life "Death Valley Scotty." As produced by George W. Weeks and directed by S. Roy Luby, it should gross on a par with past entries in the series. It seems, according to the plot, that a mysterious character named "Jingler" is spending vast quantities of gold which he claims to have mined from a secret pocket. Federal authorities suspect, however, that the precious metal is the same as that stolen from the Denver mint, and after considerable action and excitement the "Range Busters" pin the rap on the "Jingler."

Ray Corrigan, John King, Max Terhune, I. Stanford Jolley, Dorothy Short, Milt Morante, George Chesebro.

EXPLOITIPS: The top marquee names here are the "Range Busters"—Ray Corrigan, Max Terhune and John King—who have built up some fan following in several previous pictures. The usual fanfare for westerns is indicated as to lobby decorations, mailing pieces and other promotional enterprises. If you have not already done so, organize a "Range Busters" club among the juvenile element, handing out inexpensive membership buttons and other paraphernalia. Spot blowups of the three leading players in lobby.

CATCHLINES: The Range Busters Are Riding Again . . . Bringing You Thrills, Action, Romance . . . In a Whale of a Western.

Three Daredevil Buckaroos Fight Against Injustice . . . As the Range Busters Throw Bullets and Fists . . . On the Rangeland.

Yipee . . . Let 'Er Go . . . Here Come the Range Busters Again . . . In a Wide-Open Yarn Loaded With Sagebrush Excitement.

Meet Boston Blackie F
Melodrama

Columbia (2027) 61 Minutes Rel. Feb. 20, '41

In the supporting feature classification "Meet Boston Blackie" should do the trick effectively at the boxoffice. An action story of a shady character who plays cat and mouse with the police while he chases and runs to earth a gang of spies intent on stealing the navy's bombsight, the script has many neat snatches of smart dialogue and vivid action against a Coney Island carnival atmosphere. Robert Florey's direction places movement and chase above the usual detail. The romantic thread woven by Chester Morris, who plays the title role, and Rochelle Hudson, snaps at the conclusion and gives rise to the theory that this is the first of a series. It should do well. Humor and background effects are evident in plentitude.

Chester Morris, Rochelle Hudson, Richard Lane, Charles Wagenheim, Constance Worth.

EXPLOITIPS: Arrange to have a print of the film come to town with a police escort. Tie in with dispensers of Coca Cola. Invite amateur magicians to demonstrate their prowess with handcuffs. Morris pulls a few nifties in the story. Get leading citizens to give their opinions of the film and display them in type in a street case. There is a cartoon mat available for newspaper planting. "Boston Blackie" is a not unfamiliar screen character.

CATCHLINES: That Beloved Rogue Is Back Again . . . Up to His Neck in Murder. Espionage and Fantastic Adventure.

It Happened to One Man F
Drama

RKO (——) 80 Minutes Rel. ——

Only the performance of Wilfrid Lawson will attract spectators to "It Happened to One Man." At times unintelligible, this British import offers a story about a Threadneedle Street stock manipulator, a dealer in phoney securities, and a two-timing husband who runs the gamut of jail, murder and regeneration surrounded by a cast of seeming amateurs. This supporting cast is doubtless a realistic assortment of English types from varying classes, but they will probably seem strange birds to American audiences. Lawson plays the chief role with skill and fire. The action is set against picturesque locales in unbombed London, Mexico, the West Indies and, at length, in Devonshire. The yarn concludes on a rather awkward family reconciliation note.

Wilfred Lawson, Nora Swinburne, Marta LaBarr, Ivan Brandt.

EXPLOITIPS: The chief exploitation angle is the recent appearance of Lawson in "Pastor Hall." It should be easy in view of the current international situation to plant publicity copy about Lawson in local dailies. Print up a fancy mailing piece to look like a stock certificate, include dope about the film, and circulate it through the mailing list.

CATCHLINES: Crook, Two-Timer and Swindler . . . He Was Caught . . . Freed After Serving Time . . . He Came Back to England Where His Past Caught Up With Him . . . And He Stayed to Prove Himself an Honest Man.

The Great Train Robbery F
Melodrama

Republic (021) 61 Minutes Rel. Feb. 28, '41

On the hokum side from start to finish, "The Great Train Robbery," titled like an earlier and historical namesake, is a solid, more than adequate supporting production. Most of the drama takes place in cleverly handled sequences that constantly keep the action elements in the fore. Real trains and locales were utilized. And there is more drama in a moving locomotive than can normally be created by humans. Storywise: Bob Steele, railroad dick, discovers his brother is about to knock off a gold shipment on the "Commanche." Setting out to foil the stickup, Steele has himself a thrilling time locating a stolen train, corraling the crooks. His brother is killed in the melee. There is hardly a dull moment throughout. Joe Kane directed.

Bob Steele, Claire Carleton, Milburn Stone, Helen MacKellar, Si Jenks.

EXPLOITIPS: Veteran filmgoers will remember the Edison film made in 1903. In localities where there is close contact with trains, the exhibitor might promote something novel with the local division. Insert handbills in timetables at the local depot. Get the newsdealer to attach stickers to "Railroad Stories."

CATCHLINES: It's Brother Against Brother When the Gold Shipment Aboard the Commanche Limited Is Hi-jacked.

‡ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor. In the summary ‡ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		Letter, The (FN)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	14+
1		Li'l Abner (RKO)		+	∓			∓	±	−		4+ 4−
		Little Bit of Heaven (Univ)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
		Little Men (RKO)		−	±	=	±	‡	+	±	±	7+ 7−
		Little Nellie Kelly (M-G-M)		‡	‡	+	±	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 2−
35		Lone Rider Rides On (PRC)		∓						+		2+ 1−
		Lone Star Raiders (Rep)		+		±	∓		+	±	∓	6+ 4−
		Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (Col)		+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
		Long Voyage Home (UA)		+	‡		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	13+
		Love Thy Neighbor (Para)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Lucky Devils (Univ)			±	∓	+			+	∓	5+ 3−
		M										
26		Mad Doctor, The (Para)		∓	+			+	±	+	+	6+ 2−
5		Maisie Was a Lady (M-G-M)		+	±	+	∓	‡	‡	+	+	10+ 2−
		Margie (Univ)		−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
		Mark of Zorro, The (20th-Fox)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
		Meet Boston Blackie (Col)					+				±	2+ 1−
28		Meet the Chump (Univ)		±	−	±		+	+	±	∓	6+ 5−
		Meet the Missus (Rep)		±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
		Meet the Wildcat (Univ)		−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
		Melody and Moonlight (Rep)		∓	±		‡	‡	+	±		8+ 3−
		Melody for Three (RKO)						‡	+			3+
		Melody Ranch (Rep)		+	+	+	‡		‡	+	∓	9+ 1−
		Mexican Spitfire Out West (RKO)		+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
		Michael Shayne, Private Detective (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Misbehaving Husbands (PRC)		+	±	=	+	‡	+		∓	7+ 4−
27		Monster and the Girl (Para)		+	±			+	±			4+ 2−
		Moon Over Burma (Para)		+	+	±	+	‡	+	+	±	9+ 2−
		Mortal Storm, The (M-G-M)		+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	+	13+
13		Mr. and Mrs. Smith (RKO)		‡	+	+	‡	±	‡	+	+	11+ 1−
		Mummy's Hand, The (Univ)		+	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 5−
		Murder Among Friends (20th-Fox)									±	1+ 1−
		Murder Over New York (20th-Fox)		±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
		N										
36		Nice Girl? (Univ)		+		‡	‡	‡	+			8+
		Night at Earl Carroll's (Para)		=	±	−	±	±	±	±	±	6+ 9−
		Night Train (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	‡		+	‡	9+
18		Nobody's Children (Col)		±	−	∓	±	±	±	±	±	7+ 8−
8		No, No, Nanette (RKO)		‡	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		North West Mounted Police (Para)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
		O										
		Ol' Swimmin' Hole (Mono)		+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
		On the Spot (Mono)		+		−	+	+	±	±	∓	6+ 4−
		One Million B. C. (UA)		±	±	−	+	±	∓	±		6+ 6−
		One Night in the Tropics (Univ)		±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
		Outlaws of the Panhandle (Col)								−		1−
		Outlaws of Rio Grande (PRC)				+	+					2+
		P										
		Passport to Alcatraz (Col)		+	−	±	+	∓	−	±		5+ 5−
31		Petticoat Politics (Rep)		∓	−	∓	+	−	+	−		4+ 5−
		Phantom Cowboy (Rep)					+			±		2+ 1−
		Phantom of Chinatown (Mono)		±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
30		Phantom Submarine, The (Col)		±	±	−	±			±	±	5+ 6−
		Philadelphia Story (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
23		Pinto Kid (Col)		+		±	+			±	±	5+ 3−
		Play Girl (RKO)		+	±	±	±	‡	+	+	±	9+ 4−
		Pony Post (Univ)		±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
		Prairie Law (RKO)		+	±	+	+		+	±	∓	7+ 3−
		Prairie Pioneers (Rep)				±	±					2+ 2−
		Prairie Schooners (Col)		∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
15		Pride of the Bowery (Mono)		+	±	=	±	+	−	+	∓	6+ 6−
		Public Deb. No. 1 (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+	+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
		Q										
		Quarterback, The (Para)		±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		R										
		Ragtime Cowboy Joe (Univ)		+		±	+			+	∓	5+ 2−
		Rangers of Fortune (Para)		+	±	‡	‡	‡	‡	±	+	12+ 2−
		Remedy for Riches (RKO)		+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
25		Ride, Kelly, Ride (20th-Fox)		±	−	−		=	−	±		2+ 7−
19		Ridin' on a Rainbow (Rep)		∓		∓	+	+	+			5+ 2−
35		Ridin' the Cherokee Trail (Mono)		+				+	+			3+
25		Road Show (UA)		+	−	∓	±	−	+	+	±	6+ 5−
10		Robin Hood of the Pecos (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	∓	+	±	7+ 4−
17		Rolling Home to Texas (Mono)		=		+	+	+	±	±		5+ 4−
5		Romance of the Rio Grande (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		Roundup, The (Para)								±		1+ 1−

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		S										
		Safari (Para)		±	∓	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
3		Saint in Palm Springs (RKO)		+	±	=	∓	=	+	+	+	6+ 6−
		Sandy Gets Her Man (Univ)		+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		Sandy Is a Lady (Univ)		+	∓	∓	+	+	±	+	±	8+ 4−
		San Francisco Docks (Univ)		∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
		Santa Fe Trail (FN)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
27		Scattergood Baines (RKO)		+	±	+	+	‡	‡	+		8+ 1−
		Second Chorus (Para)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	14+
23		Secret Evidence (PRC)		+	±		+	+	−	±	−	5+ 4−
		Seven Sinners (Univ)		±	+	±	‡	+	+	±	+	9+ 3−
		She Couldn't Say No (FN)		+	±	±	±	∓		±	±	7+ 6−
12		Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga (Univ)		+	±	±	+	∓	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
		Sky Murder (M-G-M)		±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+10−
		Slightly Tempted (Univ)		±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
20		So Ends Our Night (UA)		∓	+	±	‡	+	‡	‡	+	11+ 2−
		So You Won't Talk (Col)		−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
		Son of Monte Cristo (UA)		+	±	∓	±	∓	‡	±	±	9+ 6−
		South of Suez (WB)		+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
		Spellbound (UA)				+						1+
		Spring Parade (Univ)		‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	14+
29		Strawberry Blonde (FN)		‡	±	+	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	13+ 1−
		Street of Memories (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
		Strike Up the Band (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		T										
		Take Me Back to Okla. (Mono)		+			‡	+	+	+		6+
14		Tall, Dark and Handsome (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	12+
		Texas Rangers Ride Again (Para)		+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
		Texas Terrors (Rep)		+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
		That Gang of Mine (Mono)		±	±	=	+	−	±	−	±	5+ 8−
		That Uncertain Feeling (UA)								+		1+
		They Knew What They Wanted (RKO)		‡	±	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	14+ 1−
		Thief of Bagdad (UA)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
		Third Finger, Left Hand (M-G-M)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
		This Thing Called Love (Col)		+	+	‡	‡	‡		±	+	10+ 1−
		Three Men From Texas (Para)		+		‡	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Thundering Frontier (Col)		−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
		Tin Pan Alley (20th-Fox)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
33		Tobacco Road (20th-Fox)		‡	±	±	‡	‡	‡		+	11+ 2−
		Too Many Girls (RKO)		+	±	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	11+ 1−
		Torpedo Raider (Mono)		∓								1+ 1−
		Trail Blazers (Rep)		+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
		Trail of the Silver Spurs (Mono)				+				+		2+
		Trail of the Vigilantes (Univ)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		Trailin' Double Trouble (Mono)		∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
28		Trial of Mary Dugan (M-G-M)		+	+	+	‡	‡	+	+		9+
		Triple Justice (RKO)		+	±	+	+			+	±	6+ 2−
		Tugboat Annie Sails Again (WB)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		U										
		Under Texas Skies (Rep)		+		±	+	+	±	+	±	7+ 3−
		V										
		Victory (Para)		+	+	±	‡	‡	+	+	‡	11+ 1−
		Villain Still Pursued Her (RKO)		±	∓	−	±	±	∓	±		6+ 7−
12		Virginia (Para)		‡	±	±	‡	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 3−
		W										
		Wagon Train (RKO)		+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
		Wagons Westward (Rep)		+	+	±	+	−	∓	±	±	7+ 5−
		West of Pinto Basin (Mono)		±		±	+	‡	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
		Westerner, The (UA)		±	+	+	‡	‡	+	+	+	10+ 1−
24		Western Union (20th-Fox)		‡		‡	‡	‡	‡		+	11+
		Where Did You Get That Girl (Univ)		+	±		±	+	+	±		6+ 3−
		Who Killed Aunt Maggie? (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
		Wild Horse Range (Mono)								±	∓	2+ 2−
24		Wild Man of Borneo (M-G-M)		+	−					+		2+ 1−
30		Wildcat of Tucson (Col)		o		±						1+ 1−
		World in Flames (Para)		+		‡	‡	+		+	+	8+
8		Wyoming Wildcat (Rep)		+			+			+		3+
		Y										
		Yesterday's Heroes (20th-Fox)		+	±	±		±	+	+		6+ 3−
		You'll Find Out (RKO)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Young Bill Hickok (Rep)		±		∓	+		+	±		5+ 3−
11		You're Out of Luck (Mono)		±	±			∓	±	±		5+ 5−
21		You're the One (Para)		+	∓	∓	∓	‡	+	−	±	8+ 5−
		Youth Will Be Served (20th-Fox)		±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
		Yukon Flight (Mono)		+			+					2+

SO STARTS 2nd SMASH WEEK RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL!

as

SO *ENDS OUR NIGHT*

adds another hit engagement to its record, with

SO MUCH PRAISE . . . from Walter Winchell who says: "Orchids to 'So Ends Our Night'. Good cinema with Sullavan and March being their talented selves!" . . from Time Magazine which reports: "It has the pace of a thriller!" . . from the New York Daily News which writes: "An outstanding picture, poignantly dramatic!"



starring FREDRIC MARCH · MARGARET SULLAVAN · FRANCES DEE

with Glenn Ford · Anna Sten and Erich Von Stroheim

Directed by JOHN CROMWELL · Screenplay by Talbot Jennings · From the novel "Flotsam" by Erich Maria Remarque ·

What the Studios Are Doing

Detail Immediate Plans For Howard Hughes

HOLLYWOOD—Spiking numerous rumors as to his future plans, spokesmen for Howard Hughes, multimillionaire oil field tool equipment manufacturer and film producer, declare he has only one definite project in mind when he has completed "The Outlaw" for 20th Century-Fox . . . That will be to make a second picture, labeled "'Production Number X," for an unset release. Leo McCarey is working with Hughes on the story and will direct . . . The report, among others, that Hughes is mulling the formation of a distribution company, possibly in association with Samuel Goldwyn, is scouted here as "pure conversation."

Twelve Weekly Before Cameras in March

Not for the past year or more has the production pace been as rapid as at present. Twelve pictures a week are set for camera work during the balance of March . . . Already lined up for April are 17 more features . . . Paramount heads the parade, with nine starters for March, eight more in April . . . Columbia is also at peak, with six to go this month. Other centers of activity are Universal, with five, Metro with the same number, and Warner and Fox, with three each.

National Theatres Meeting Sets New Season Plans

A review of accomplishments in various National Theatres divisions in the past year and discussion of tentative plans for the new season featured the three-day annual NT divisional managers' conclave at Lake Arrowhead, March 6, 7 and 8 . . . Spyros Skouras, NT president, was in charge . . . Plans were formulated for another campaign similar to 1940's Spyros Skouras Showmanship drive . . . Those in attendance came from Denver, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York.

Extras May Leave SAG By Majority Vote

If extra players want to withdraw from the Screen Actors Guild, a constitutional provision permits them to do so by a majority vote, Kenneth Thomson, SAG secretary, told one group of extras when informed they have appealed to federal authorities in an effort to force the SAG to give them a vote in the organization's affairs.

Employment, Payrolls Down; Armour Is Schaefer Aide

Studio employment and payrolls dropped again in January. Exclusive of executive and talent brackets, average weekly payroll was $539,645 . . . In December, 1940, the average was $543,640, itself a decrease from November . . . Reginald Armour, former European sales manager for RKO Radio, has been named President George J. Schaefer's personal assistant, in charge of studio relations as contact executive . . . For a series of conferences to arrange

De Sylva Finding It Very Different Now

New York—John Chapman, who covers Hollywood for the "Daily News," reports this one:

"Buddy De Sylva, new head man at Paramount, says there's been a change in the way underlings address him since he became the main boss. They used to greet him with: 'Hello Buddy.'

"Now they say: 'Hello, Buddy, and how's your wife?'"

United Artists' 1941-42 releasing program, Clarence E. Ericksen, vice-president and general manager of Walter Wanger Productions, has joined Murray Silverstone, UA head, and Arthur W. Kelly, general salesmanager, in New York . . . Ericksen will return in about a month, with Silverstone expected to accompany him.

21 on UA's Lineup For Next Season

(Continued from page 4)

signed as a permanent setup to extend financial aid to producers desiring to distribute through UA as a means of "developing new producers." The financing arm will be privately operated and headed by "important" California persons known in film circles, although their names are not revealed. UA executives will not direct its operations, nor will there be a public stock issue in its formation, Silverstone declared. He would not hint the amount of capitalization involved.

Two for Korda

Neither would he set a ceiling on the amount of money that a prospective independent producer would be required to invest if he sought aid from UA's proposed financial bureau. This, he suggested, was a matter that required consideration of many factors. However, Silverstone said it was not the intention of the finance subsidiary to help UA's current producers, because "they don't need it."

He used the words "nonsense, untrue, no intention or desire or wish" in referring to reports that Alexander Korda was "getting out of UA" and "this is independent of the fact he has a contract with us." On the contrary, Silverstone declared, Korda is preparing to release two "big" pictures through the company. One is "Jungle Book," the other to star Merle Oberon.

The operating head declined to discuss the "hitch" that has held up negotiations for acquisition of Samuel Goldwyn's stock in UA, beyond saying negotiations are "still pending," and that some "important plans for the stock" are being considered if the deal is consummated.

"Personally," he added, "I'd like Goldwyn to stay with us as a stock owner-producer."

He said Arnold Pressburger has been signed to a long-term producing contract and that William Szekeley, who is finishing "New Wine" for UA distribution next season, will not be among the producers in 1941-42. Szekeley has been signed by M-G-M.

Silverstone listed 12 producers who will contribute to the new program. Including Pressburger, they are David O. Selznick, Hal Roach, Ernst Lubitsch, Walter Wanger, the David Loew-Albert Lewin combination, Korda, Sol Lesser, Richard A. Rowland, Gabriel Pascal, Edward Small, James Roosevelt and Charles Chaplin.

Preparation Indicates Steady Production Pace

Larry Darmour rolls his next "Ellery Queen" sleuther for Columbia, "The Devil Pays," in April . . . Also pegged for April is Frank Lloyd's "I, James Lewis," to be made for Universal release . . . The Loew-Lewin unit for UA is preparing "Landfall," story of the R. A. F. . . . Jules Levey is readying "Tight Shoes" and "Butch Minds the Baby" as Mayfair productions for Universal . . . RKO borrowed Robert Preston from Paramount, and Nancy Kelly from 20th Century-Fox, for toplines in "Parachute Battalion" . . . Robert Sinclair will direct M-G-M's "Men From the City" . . . Warner re-titled "Hard to Get" as "Man Power" . . . Republic's "Angels Without Wings" is now "Angels With Broken Wings" . . . RKO changed "The Devil and Daniel Webster" to "A Certain Mr. Scratch" . . . Tyrone Power tops the cast of Fox's "A Yank in the R. A. F."

Story Market Still Active; "Louisiana Purchase" to Para't

Story market was unusually active . . . Columbia bagged "My Sister Eileen," play by Jerome Chodorov and Jerome Fields, and signed Max Gordon, on an 18-month contract, to supervise its production . . . B. G. DeSylva's "Louisiana Purchase" went to Paramount, where DeSylva is now executive producer . . . Metro bought "The Dam" from Lester Cohen . . . "In This Our Life," by Ellen Glasgow, went to Warner . . . Columbia also took "Women of the Navy" from Hilary Lynn, "Just Another Dance" from Robert Hyde, and "Take Back Your Dream" from Frank Fenton and Lynn Root.

Bell to Produce "Aloma;" Cummings Helms "Belle Starr"

Monta Bell will produce Paramount's "Aloma of the South Seas" and "Birth of the Blues" . . . Republic's "County Fair" will be directed by Frank McDonald . . . Irving Cummings will pilot Fox's "Belle Starr."

WHEN 5 HOLLYWOOD PRODUCERS CHEER THE WORK OF ANOTHER—

That IS news!



DAVID O. SELZNICK

says: "I have seen 'CHEERS FOR MISS BISHOP'. It is a tender and touching piece of Americana!"

WALTER WANGER

says: "I have seen 'CHEERS FOR MISS BISHOP'. It is MARVELOUS!"

HUNT STROMBERG

says: "I have seen 'CHEERS FOR MISS BISHOP'. It is a beautiful picture and will be a strong contender for 1941 honors!"

MERVYN LeROY

says: "I have seen 'CHEERS FOR MISS BISHOP'. It is a GREAT picture."

LOUIS B. MAYER

says: "I have seen 'CHEERS FOR MISS BISHOP'. Dick Rowland has made a MAGNIFICENT picture that should achieve outstanding business at the box-office!"



Richard A. Rowland

presents

Cheers for Miss Bishop

An Unforgettable Love Story

with MARTHA SCOTT • WILLIAM GARGAN

and featuring EDMUND GWENN • SIDNEY BLACKMER • DOROTHY PETERSON

and introducing MARY ANDERSON • Directed by TAY GARNETT

From the novel "Miss Bishop" by BESS STREETER ALDRICH • Screen adaptation by STEPHEN VINCENT BENET • Screenplay by ADELAIDE HEILBRON and SHERIDAN GIBNEY • Released thru United Artists

Men and Events

(Continued from page 14)

objected more vehemently to obscene and vulgar pictures than have I. However, I appreciate there are certain fundamentals to which you and I might not see eye to eye, but, if the print of "This Thing Called Love" that I saw in Columbus was a duplicate of the one which you reviewed, I am at a loss to understand your reason for objecting to the picture and classifying it under the "C" heading.

I will admit that the ending is risque and that a certain amount of levity was poked in the direction of the marriage vows. However, I cannot believe that these two incidents alone are serious enough to provoke your vociferous objections. If I am wrong, I hope you will straighten me out.

The American producers of motion pictures are trying to do a good job and, while they may not, according to your way of thinking, always hew to the line, I do believe that the activities of your group have compelled them to be somewhat more careful in their selection of the subject matter going into the production of pictures. However, it occurs to me that you perpetrate an injustice upon the producer and theatre operator when you condemn a picture **after** it is completed when you could, through the medium of the Joe Breen organization, assert your objections **before** the picture was even started.

There is no doubt that in certain communities your general condemnation of a picture is harmful to the boxoffice and, in view of the fact that Mr. Breen was undoubtedly selected to head the production code committee because of his religious faith, I certainly think that he should be more careful before he finally gives his approval to a script which he knows is fundamentally objectionable to the Catholic church. If he does not know what these fundamental objections are, he should be definitely informed.

Frankly, I can see less harm to the adolescent in a picture of this type than in certain other forms of amusement to which your group voices no objection. I have in mind the situation presently existing in the city of Cincinnati, where Bingo games are operated in or under the auspices of practically all of your churches in strict violation of the laws of the state of Ohio. To my way of thinking, the encouragement of this form of gambling is much more harmful to the youth and adolescents of that city than any picture of the type of "This Thing Called Love."

In many instances, the money used by the participants in playing these games is "bread and butter" money and the "take" is so enormous that the average player has little or no chance to win. As an evidence of this, I cite the fact that last year there was gambled in Bingo in the churches of Cincinnati the vast sum of $2,381,575, out of which the sponsoring organizations kept for themselves $1,609,233. In other words, for every dollar spent by the participants there was paid back to them only 24 cents.

From a moral standpoint, I see more harm to children (and I have three of them) in encouraging them to participate in these Bingo games than I do their witnessing a picture of the type of "This Thing Called Love" because they become parties to an action that is illegal under the laws of our state.

If there are certain themes that your group holds to be objectionable, it would seem to me that Mr. Breen should be definitely apprised of what they are so that he might be in a position to lay the facts before the producers so that they can give consideration to the matter of excluding the objectionable matter to meet your views, or leave it in knowing full well that they run the risk of your condemnation.

After 16 years in this business, I have never had the pleasure of personally meeting the Messrs. Cohn, nor do I own any stock in Columbia Pictures and this letter is simply an expression of my personal views.

In closing, I can only make reference to St. John, 8:7.

Footnotes

ST. JOHN, 8:7 to which Wood refers: "So when they continued to ask Him, He lifted up Himself and said unto them:

" 'He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.' "

Words or phrases in boldface are emphasized in the original communications.

Thirty-three word comment from Father McClafferty:

"I want to express my appreciation to BOXOFFICE for calling to my attention a letter which I thought had been addressed as a personal and private letter to me by Mr. Peter Wood."

"We Give Up" Item

IF HIS reporting is accurate, the following story by John Chapman out of Hollywood for the New York "Daily News" just about stops all others:

To Pathe to watch the start of the Rogers flicker. The first scene shot is the opening scene of the picture, which is against all Hollywood rules. It's a movie theatre. The camera opens on a couple of hundred faces, then moves in on a crane and picks up Miss Rogers and George Murphy. It catches them just as they are about to leave (the newsreel starts and they've seen it) and it follows them out and up the aisle. On the sound track is heard the voice of Hitler; George and Ginger stop, turn screenward and hiss. Garson Kanin had a time getting this one past the Hays office. At first the H. O. said nix, because the movies want to discourage hissing in theatres. Kanin said the scene was important. The Hays office said it wished he could take it out. "All right," agreed wily Kanin, "but how will it sound to say the Hays office wouldn't allow a picture of a couple of people hissing Hitler?"

That won him the okay for the scene.

Ponder War Taxes; Would Be Sky High

(Continued from page 4)

of war, to keep democracy alive, and for other purposes."

This is further amplified in a "statement of intention" that "no person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States shall profit in any manner whatsoever from the conduct of any war to which the United States is or may be a party."

While the purpose of the legislation is to take the profit out of war, no distinction is made between income derived from the war effort and that secured in the ordinary channels of commerce.

Stars Would Dig Deep

Motion picture stars would find themselves turning the greater part of their earnings over to the treasury, and the surtaxes run so high that there is some question whether they would be able to satisfy the tax demands of the federal government and of the state in which they live without digging into capital from previous years, since income in excess of a net of $23,000 would be subject to a total of 99 per cent in taxes under the proposed federal act.

Corporations would be in little more enviable situation, since they would turn over to the federal government every cent they made in excess of six per cent of the adjusted declared value of their capital stock, income being computed on the basis of sharply cut deductions.

Personal Holding Company Out

Personal holding companies would be taxed out of existence by a levy of 98 per cent on the undistributed adjusted net income up to $100,000 and 100 per cent on all in excess of that amount.

Corporations would be deterred from declaring stock dividends by a tax of $100 upon each share or fraction of a share so distributed, to be paid by the issuing corporation.

As the capstone of the tax edifice which would be erected, violation of the act or any rules and regulations thereunder would be subject to a fine of not exceeding $100,000.

It is not expected that the confiscatory taxes proposed in the legislation would ever be approved by Congress. The measures are interesting, chiefly, as evidencing the extent to which groups in Congress will seek to go in taking the profit out of war. The measure incidentally would be effective only after war was declared and for the period of hostilities.

More "Topper" Shows

NEW YORK—Additional trade shows of "Topper Returns" follow:

March 10—St. Louis Park Theatre, Minneapolis; New Granada, Pittsburgh.

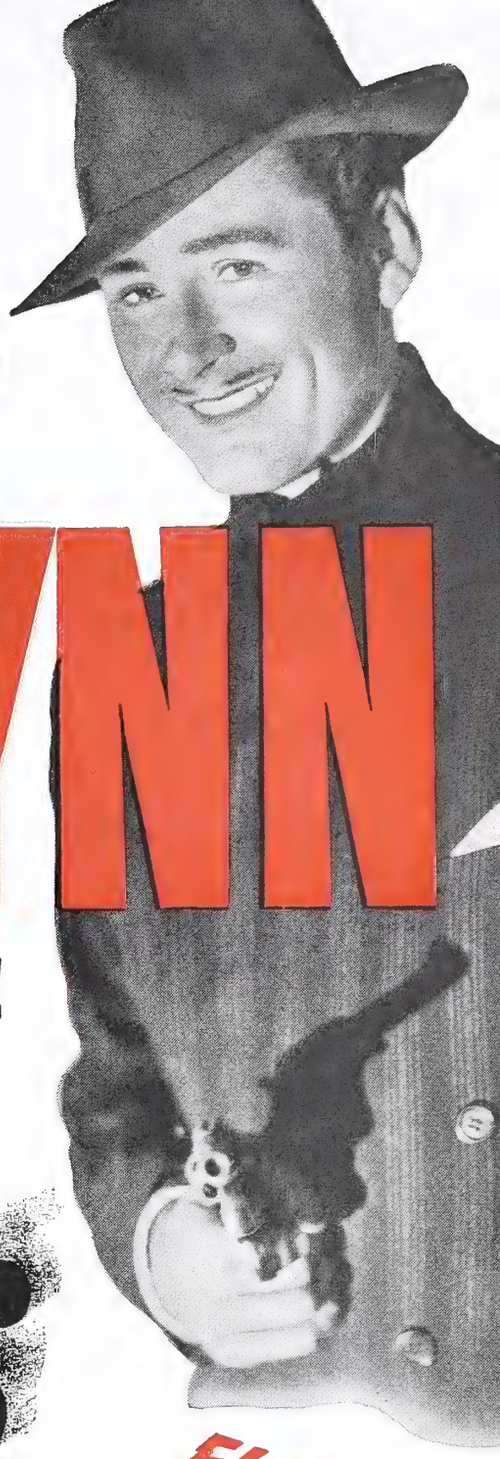
March 11—Tower, Dallas; Astor, New York; Studio, Salt Lake, and Egyptian Seattle.

March 12—Alhambra, San Francisco.

Reissues "Vivacious Lady"

NEW YORK—"Vivacious Lady," with Ginger Rogers and James Stewart, is being reissued by RKO with a March 28 release date set.

IT'S WARNERS Again!



ERROL FLYNN

in his big M-O-D-E-R-N Adventure!

Footsteps in the Dark

with

BRENDA MARSHALL

RALPH BELLAMY • ALAN HALE

Also Lee Patrick • Allen Jenkins and Lucile Watson

Directed by LLOYD BACON

Screen Play by Lester Cole and John Wexley • From the Play by Lazlo Fodor, Bernard Merivale and Jeffrey Dell • A Warner Bros.-First National Picture



FLASH from HOLLYWOOD REPORTER:

"THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE MOST ENTERTAINING TONGUE-IN-CHEEK MYSTERY YET MADE! IT IS HILARIOUS SATIRE! IT TAKES ALL THE SACRED COWS OF THE FILM DETECTIVE YARN FORMULA AND MANHANDLES THEM UNMERCIFULLY VIA THE LAUGH ROUTE!"





"Virginia" Is Blue Ribbon Award Winner for February

"Virginia," Paramount's screen story of a modern romance of the South, has been voted by members of the National Screen Council as the outstanding film released in February, and winner of the BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award for that month.

Filmed in Technicolor, "Virginia" was produced and directed by Edward H. Griffith, and co-stars Madeleine Carroll and Fred MacMurray. The supporting cast includes Stirling Hayden, Marie Wilson, Helen Broderick and the child star, Carolyn Lee. Madeleine Carroll received a BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon plaque for her performance as April Logan in "North West Mounted Police," Paramount picture which won the November, 1940, award.

"Virginia" is the story of a Southern girl who returns to her ancestral home in Virginia after living in the North for many years. Having lost her feeling toward Southern tradition, and returning broke, she tries to sell the homestead, but falls in love with a Southerner who brings her to an appreciation of her Southern heritage.

Production Staff

Producer-Director .....EDWARD H. GRIFFITH
Based on a Story by .....EDWARD H. GRIFFITH and VIRGINIA VAN UPP
Screenplay.....VIRGINIA VAN UPP
Directors of Photography .....BERT GLENNON, A.S.C. WILLIAM V. SKALL, A.S.C.
Process Photography .....FARCIOT EDOUART, A.S.C.
Music Score.....VICTOR YOUNG
Art Directors .....HANS DREIER, ERNST FEGTE
Edited by.....EDA WARREN
Sound Recording .....HUGO GRENZBACH, WALTER OBERST
Costumes ..... EDITH HEAD
Technicolor Art Director .....NATALIE KALMUS
Associate.....HENRI JAFFA

Cast of Characters

Charlotte Dunterry .....MADELEINE CARROLL
Stonewall Elliott .....FRED MACMURRAY
Norman Williams .....STIRLING HAYDEN
Theo Clairmont..HELEN BRODERICK
Pretty Elliott.....CAROLYN LEE
Connie Potter.....MARIE WILSON
Thomas.....PAUL HURST
Carter Francis....TOM RUTHERFURD
Ezechial.....LEIGH WHIPPER
Ophelia.....LOUISE BEAVERS
Joseph.....DARBY JONES

This Award is given each month to the film receiving the highest number of votes by the members of the National Screen Council, whose selection is governed by outstanding merit and suitability of the film to whole-family entertainment. Members of the Council include over 225 motion picture editors of leading newspapers throughout the country, motion picture reviewing committee of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, and state motion picture chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

"REBECCA"

Academy Award for the
Best Production of 1940

With gratitude to
the makers and
the voters.

David O. Selznick



1940 ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES AWARD

To Limit "Fantasia" Showings to Twelve

HOLLYWOOD—With two additional "Fantasia" openings Wednesday, bringing the total of current roadshow engagements to seven, Walt Disney declares he will limit early 1941 showings to 12 due to the restrictions placed on manufacture of his Fantasound units by the national defense boards. Further bookings will depend upon lifting of restrictions on the equipment companies which make the sound units.

The film now is playing in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco and Pittsburgh, the latter two having opened Wednesday, at the Geary and Fulton, respectively. The Hanna, Cleveland, is set for March 18. Plans are under way for openings shortly in Washington, Buffalo, Minneapolis and Detroit.

So. American Short Series Get RKO Accommodation

NEW YORK—An unnamed series of RKO's current program of short subjects will be dropped in order to accommodate the three one-reelers known as the South American series, according to a spokesman. The company has launched an intensive campaign on the latter. They were filmed by Julien Bryan, who also supplies the commentary.

Thanks Everybody

Pete Smith



Academy Award
for
One-Reel Short
"QUICKER'N A WINK"
M-G-M



Thanks to the Academy, to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and to the cartoon staff who helped make this award possible.

Rudolph Ising

Best Cartoon
ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
"The Milky Way"

BIGGER PROFITS FOR MAJORS IN 1941 ARE NOW ANTICIPATED

Writer Sees Return to Near Normal Status Late in Spring

NEW YORK — "Substantially improved profits" are in prospect for most of the companies this year, in the opinion of the *Wall Street Journal*. Sydney B. Self, reporter who frequently covers trends and developments in the industry for his paper, reaches this conclusion on the basis of the first quarter.

"By late spring or summer," he observes, "it seems likely that the industry, as a whole, will be back close to normal earning power, although deriving its income principally from the home market."

Remarking what every film man knows that quality is the primary factor "outweighing all others, even one so important as the export markets." Self then states:

"This season Paramount, for example, which for years lost money on its studios due to poor films, suddenly has burst into the spotlight with two notable successes, 'North West Mounted Police' and 'I Wanted Wings,' which preliminary reports indicate will be a big money maker. As a result, Paramount may be said to be well on the way back to regaining its old position of one of the two leaders of the industry. From current indications, Paramount should be able to earn over 75 cents a share and perhaps around $1 a share in the quarter to end March 31, against 53 cents a year ago. Paramount has been fortunate, as it turned out, in doing a relatively small portion of its total gross business abroad."

Loew's "Holding Up"

He finds Loew's, "which has had the largest earning power in the industry for years, is holding up fairly well" in spite of the fact that it has had the largest share of British business. "Current earnings however, will suffer by comparison with a year ago because then large profits from the phenomenal 'Gone With the Wind' were included in income account," he writes. "Loew's has started this film on the rounds again in a general release at popular prices. Since its substantial income from the current release will be nearly all profit. However, the real effects of this will not be shown until later in the spring.

"In the first quarter of the 1941 fiscal year, net was $1.04 a share which was ahead of the comparative 1939 showing. Nevertheless, net for the 28 weeks ending about March 15 will be well below the corresponding period a year ago. Much heavier film amortization has been required to take care of the writing down of films which, in the past, could count on large income from abroad over a protracted period. Thus in the 1940 fiscal year, Loew's wrote off $52,000,000 film amortization, against $46,000,000 in the preceding year and $42,000,000 in 1938. From now on, write-offs should be less because studio costs have been reduced and, even more important, production budgets have been cut down in line with anticipated domestic markets.

"While it is too early to say definitely whether or not Loew's can earn as much this year as the $4.82 a share earned in the fiscal year ended August 31, 1940, there is at least a good chance that this year's profits will be around last year's levels."

The analysis figures Warner will report a 12-week net, as of February 22, of slightly more than $1,276,316, equivalent to earnings of 31 cents a share on the common. Self views "Santa Fe Trail" and "Strawberry Blonde," as "good new films in release" and adds others are in prospect. "As a result of borrowing money in Great Britain, Warner has been able to show as profit all of its income from that country," he says. "It has been bringing over its quota of current income alloted by the British government and has been applying the balance of British income to sterling debts contracted there before the war."

Self is optimistic on 20th Century-Fox. His slant on that company:

"Twentieth Century-Fox which a few years ago was one of the largest and most consistent earners among producing companies, has, as a result of foreign writeoffs and unsuccessful films, had the most drastic drop in profits of any company in the industry. There are indications now, however, that 20th Century-Fox has passed through the worst of its heavy going and that profit again will be on the upgrade toward the middle of the year."

British Like Idea of Production in U. S.

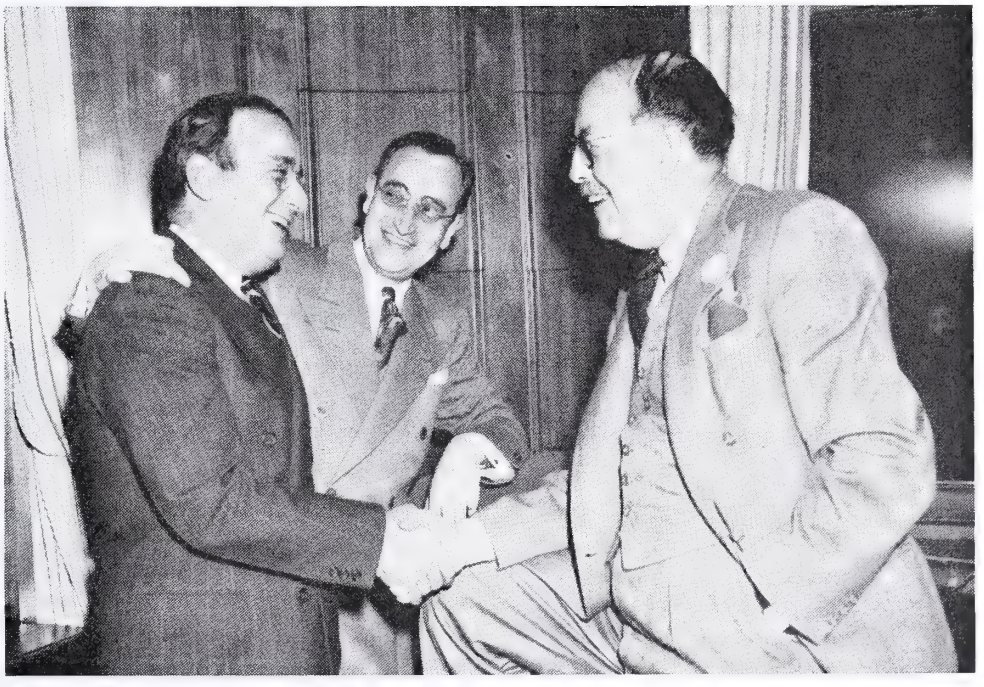
LONDON—A possibility that resources of the Amerian industry will be made available for British production in the States currently intrigues the English producing industry.

This possibility ties in with the recent visit of Arthur Jarratt, former chief film buyer for the GB circuit and now in the government service on films. While in Hollywood, he was tendered a dinner at which Louis B. Mayer stated, "The British government will find Hollywood ready and anxious to place its entire resources at the service of the democratic cause."

Might Unify Production

This leads *Kine Weekly*, British trade paper, to ponder the issue and to report this in its news columns:

"Commander Jarratt afterward admitted that a more wholehearted participation in British production was under discussion by the whole industry. In fact, this might actually be a unification of output. The issue has been primarily brought about by British studio difficulties and British sponsored pictures may be made in California as a result. For this purpose, all angles of the question of 'frozen assets' in Britain are being carefully examined."



Just Three Happy Columbians—

Part of the business of getting the "Columbia Exhibitor Goodwill Campaign," or sales drive, under way. Jack Cohn, on the right, is officially handshaking Rube Jackter, chairman of the committee in charge, on the left. As Abe Montague, general sales manager, smilingly looks on.



Agnew and Morgan, Plus Quiz Kids—

The first finished, the Quiz Kids, whose program is broadcast coast-to-coast by NBC, are to make five more for Paramount's 1941-42 schedule. The five Quiz Kids are to appear in each release with Joe Kelly, quizmaster, acting as master-of-ceremonies. This called for the inevitable picture, to wit: Joan McCullough, Oscar A. Morgan, Paramount's general sales manager of shorts and newsreels; Joan Bishop, Gerard Darrow, Neil F. Agnew, vice-president in charge of sales; Jack Lucal, Richard Williams and Van Dyke Tiers.

BROADWAY

FELIX JENKINS, 20th-Fox counsel, is touring the south on the decree. Incidentally, his nephew, Alger Jenkins jr., has gone to England to join the RAF . . . J. Carlo Bavetta, Brazilian managing director for 20th-Fox, has returned to his headquarters in Rio where he is joining Sol Wurtzel who is making a tour of Latin-American countries . . . Richard de Rochemont, March of Time managing director, spoke at the German American Congress for Democracy gathering at the Picadilly Hotel over the weekend . . . Melvyn Douglas appears in a special trailer for the Greek War Relief drive which is to be furnished all local theatres cooperating the week of March 25-30 . . . Nate Golden of the department of commerce was in town for a short stay.

Milton Berle is due on the coast shortly to begin work in "Sun Valley" . . . Alice Faye and Don Ameche are due in Rio de Janerio next month for the opening of "That Night in Rio" . . . Christy Wilbert has been in Baltimore and Richmond in advance of "Tobacco Road" for 20th-Fox . . . J. J. Milstein was in Lake Placid for a long weekend . . . Richard Dwight of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey has been vacationing in Honolulu . . . Joe Ornstein of the 20th-Fox branch in Pittsburgh spent the weekend in New York . . . Nate Spingold is due back soon from a vacation at Palm Beach . . . Carter Barron will leave for Miami Beach as soon as Joe Vogel returns from Havana.

Si Seadler postcards from the B-Bar-H ranch out Coachella Valley way: "This is the usual heaven revisited. Come soon" . . . George A. Smith, western sales manager for Paramount, has been here . . . Bob Gillham heading coastward again . . . Sam Dembow was in Chicago earlier in the week, as was Leonard Goldenson. The significance is, however, that this marks Sam's first out-of-town trek since his accident . . . Paul Benjamin is in Florida. For two weeks . . . Walter Gould is back from Florida. He and a friend did it in 25 hours driving time and that's what you might call driving it hard.

Bob Benjamin will take a plane to the coast Monday. He returned early in the week from a vacation in Miami . . . Ben Sherman is back from Miami Beach after a month in the winter resort. His candy partner, Charles L. O'Reilly, is still in the south and is due back in a week or so . . . Ed Saunders and Jack Bowen have returned from Coral Gables and fishing and golfing vacations . . . Bill Scully, who was in the party, decided to stay over a couple of extra days. He hurried back to New York to sign that five-year sales managers contract, and then shot back to Miami, where he will linger on to the 15th . . . Pete Lewis of the N. Y. Film Board has been out a few days with la grippe. Henry Danziger of the same office was bothered with a bad cold but staunchly reported for duty daily.

Joe Seider, happily enough, is recuperating from his recent illness at Miami Beach after a brief visit to Havana. His brother, Isidore, is due back at the office Monday, having spent the better part of a month relaxing in the sun, what there's been of it in Miami . . . Max Cohen, head of Cinema Circuit, is a full-fledged member of the glass-wearing clan . . . Nicholas M. and Joseph M. Schenck spent Monday night at the Golden Gloves finals at the Garden . . . Herman Starr, N. J. division manager for the Skouras circuit, is continuing to show signs of improvement from his recent emergency appendectomy . . . Willard McKay was in Albany and Canada during the week . . . Hal Roach and Eddie Peskay are in from the coast. Peskay spent a week at the studios before accompanying his boss east . . . Samuel Kreisler has joined the UA publicity forces. Two years ago he won a short story contest conducted by *Scribner's*.

Dave Weinstock, local independent circuit operator, leaves Monday for a six-week siesta at Miami Beach. The missus goes along . . . Haskell Masters, UA western sales head, spent a few days in Toronto . . . Arthur Gottlieb of DuArt Labs was in from Montreal for a short spell . . . Add to those spotted at the Golden Gloves finals at the Garden: Marvin and Mrs. Schenck, Sam Meinhold, Mike Rosen, Jack Goetz and Harold Corbin . . . Hal Horne has been on the coast conferring with the Disneys . . . O. Henry Briggs has returned from a trip to Hollywood, with stopovers en route . . . Harry M. Goetz is on the coast conferring with George J. Schaefer on the possibility of producing "The American Way" for RKO . . . Fred Schwartz injured himself slightly on the train while returning from his home in Lake Placid. He was out for a few days but is on the job again, none the worse for his experience . . . Alec Moss is due back Monday from Miami.

James Whale, Warner director, arrived from California on the *America* . . . Hiller Innes, manager of Paramount's home office production department, is in Florida and Jamaica, B. W. I., for fun and sun . . . Phil Engel of Warner's eastern exploitation staff is in Buffalo on the "Strawberry Blonde" engagement . . . Irving Ludwig of Walt Disney's theatre staff is managing the Geary, San Francisco, which opened with the film Wednesday . . . William Fadiman, M-G-M's book and story editor, discussed "Do Great Books Make Great Movies?" before the Women's Club of Douglaston on Tuesday . . . A. A. Schubart, manager of RKO exchange operations, is on a visit to exchanges in Chicago, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

L. W. Conrow, Altec president, has returned from a month's trip that took him through the Panama Canal and up and down the coast . . . Irving Rapper, having completed his first directorial assignment for Warner, is in town for a short visit . . . Quentin Reynolds is slated to return to London in three weeks to make "London Can Give It" for Warner, a sequel to two previously released subjects on the war and which was proposed by Frank Capra during his Academy banquet speech . . . Harry Carey is due in Hollywood for a role in RKO's "Parachute Battalion" . . . David Hempstead, producer of "Kitty Foyle," again is here from the coast for a brief visit. His next is "'Journey Into Fear" . . . Spencer Tracy is reading two scripts and with one of them will do a play for the Theatre Guild within a year. His last Broadway appearance was 10 years ago in "The Last Mile."



An open letter to the Motion Picture Industry

History repeats itself—with Greece and Fascism enacting the roles of David and Goliath.

The heroic valor of the Greeks in their defense of democracy, has aroused the admiration of every liberty loving American. This little country—and it's a very small country—has stood up and fought Fascism to a standstill. It has put new heart into all little countries.

Today, we of the Amusement Industry, are asked to do our small part. The suffering, the struggles of millions of valiant men, women and children, will be lightened by knowing that here in the United States are fellow humans who want them to win and furthermore—are willing to do something about it! John H. Harris and Gradwell L. Sears have very kindly volunteered to aid me in organizing all exhibitors and distributors for this great cause. We have set aside the period of March 25-30 as the days to raise the funds through the active participation of all theatres everywhere. As Chairman of the Amusement Industry Division of the Greek War Relief Association, I appeal to you to do your share in making our drive a complete success.

The Greeks love liberty so much they're willing to die for it. The least we of this thrice blessed country can do is to help the women and children of these gallant defenders of democracy. We have nothing to lose if they gain. We have nothing to gain if they lose.

Sincerely,

Adolph Zukor

ADOLPH ZUKOR, *Chairman*

Johnston at Helm; Dunlap Heads Unit

NEW YORK—With the annual convention of franchise holders to be held shortly, W. Ray Johnston, president of Monogram, reveals Trem Carr has replaced Scott Dunlap as production head, with the latter assuming charge of a production unit on the lot.

At the same time titles to many of the new season's crop of 26 features and 24 westerns were divulged. On "Army Hostess," "Navy Bound," "God's Country and the Law," and "Land of the Sky Blue Water," budgets will be increased 18 per cent.

Among other titles are "Chinatown Mystery," "The Pride of Third Avenue," "Clancy Street Mob" and "'Neath Brooklyn Bridge," all to star the East Side Kids.

Then there will be "The Monster Strikes," "Girl of My Dreams," "King of the Zombies," "Aunt Emma Paints the Town," "Old Fashioned Girl," "Million Dollar Mystery," "Beating Back," "Nights of Horror," "False Colors," "Thirty Fathoms Down," "On the Stroke of 12," "The Fighting Cadet," "Isle of Terror," "Freckles Comes Back," "Lil' Louisiana Lady," "Flaming Terror," "Man From Headquarters" and "Hill Billy Romance."

Reissues will consist of eight John Wayne westerns and "Yesterday's Hero," with Mickey Rooney; "Boy of the Streets," with Jackie Cooper, and "Siren of the South Seas," with Movita.

The other 16 westerns will be divided into eight "Range Buster" pictures to be produced by George W. Weeks, and a new group entitled "Rough Riders."

The annual meeting of franchise holders will be held in Los Angeles the first week in April.

Early in the week Johnston tendered William J. Gell, managing director for Pathe Pictures of London, a cocktail party at the Warwick. Pathe distributes Monogram product in England and by virtue of a reciprocal deal Monogram will release 12 Pathe films made in England.

Gell will remain here about a month while Johnston plans to head back for the coast in a few days.

Shows $730,387 Loss

NEW YORK—Paramount Broadway Corp. reports a net loss of $730,387 for 1940 as against a loss of $756,688 for 1939.

$281,138 to Fund In Last Three Years

New York—The combined branches of the local industry have contributed $281,138 over the past three years to the Greater New York Fund of an aggregate of $11,000,000 collected from all sources, it was revealed with announcement that James G. Blaine, president of the Marine Midland Trust Co., has been elected president of the fund for the fourth successive year.

Republic '40 World Gross $8,330,000

NEW YORK—Republic did a world-wide gross of $8,330,000 last year, an increase of 4.7 per cent over 1939 "notwithstanding the continued adverse effect of the war upon European distribution and particularly in the British Isles." The figures appear in the annual report of Consolidated Film Industries, Inc., which controls the company.

Hitherto undivulged is the acquisition since January 1 of an additional 139,000 shares of Republic stock by Consolidated.

In 1940, Consolidated itself netted $590,031 after deducting charges including depreciation and federal taxes, compared with $628,297 the previous year. Its total business ran to $7,235,337 as against $7,409,452 in 1939, or a decrease of $174,115. Last year's net is equivalent to earnings of $1.47 per share on the 400,000 shares of preferred issued and outstanding. This compares with earnings of $1.57 per share on the same number of preferred shares the preceding year.

'Philadelphia Story' Strong After Prolonged Runs

PHILADELPHIA—"The Philadelphia Story" and "Gone With the Wind," now running in second-run houses, are still doing first run business to head the downtown parade. "Fantasia" had plenty of pull in its second week, but slipped a bit from the opening week. Holiday business on Washington's birthday didn't hurt the grosses any.

Detail for the week:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Fantasia** (Disney), 2nd wk. 145
Arcadia—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), 2nd run 80
Boyd—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA).... 95
Earle—**Playgirl** (RKO), plus Ray Noble's orchestra on stage 115
Fox—**This Thing Called Love** (Col), 2nd wk.... 90
"Christmas Under Fire" was added feature.
Karlton—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 2nd wk., 2nd run 180
Seventh week downtown.
Keith's—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd run....135
Still hitting with plenty of punch after four weeks at the Stanley.
Stanley—**Flight Command** (M-G-M) 105
Stanton—**The Mad Doctor** (Para't)....115

Blumberg Will Attend Latin American Meet

NEW YORK—Universal will hold a Latin American convention, its first in several years, in Panama April 2 to 6 with President Nate J. Blumberg actively participating. J. H. Seidelman, vice-president in charge of foreign affairs, will preside. The New York group also will include C. C. Margon, Latin American supervisor, and Fortunat Baronat, foreign publicity director. All Latin American managers will attend.

MPPDA Meet March 31

NEW YORK—Annual meeting of the MPPDA will be held March 31. Will H. Hays, now in Hollywood, is due to return in about 10 days to prepare for it.

Dollars From Italy Go to Aid Britain

New York—There is a touch of irony in the fact that $26,650 from Italy will be spent to buy sea ambulances for Great Britain.

The figure represents the sum paid to Selznick International by Italian interests for distribution rights in Italy to "Rebecca" and "Intermezzo." Selznick is remitting the money to England for the purchase of small boats to rescue victims of ships torpedoed by the Axis powers, according to Winthrop W. Aldrich, president of the British War Relief Society.

Most Films Wait Out Slow Broadway Week

NEW YORK—With the exception of "The Lady Eve" at the Paramount, and "Strawberry Blonde" at the Strand, most of the Broadway first run managers seemed to be waiting only for the week to expire so that new attractions might move in. The effects of a snow storm of blizzard proportions which hurt badly that day and most of the next, coupled with Lent, seems to be the answer.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 21st roadshow week 90
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 16th roadshow week 125
Capitol—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M).... 90
Criterion—**The Mad Doctor** (Para't)....100
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 10th week....100
Paramount—**The Lady Eve** (Para't), plus stage show 115
Radio City Music Hall—**So Ends Our Night** (UA), plus stage show....100
Rialto—**Meet Boston Blackie** (Col).... 90
Rivoli—**Back Street** (Univ), 3rd week....100
Roxy—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox), 2nd week, plus stage show 100
Strand—**Strawberry Blonde** (WB), 2nd week, plus stage show 115

Prolonged Runs Dominate Capital First Run Scene

WASHINGTON — Candidates for favor at the first run precincts tallied pleasing "vote" with "Back Street" and "Philly Story" evenly matched throughout a three week campaign. "Virginia," also in the third stanza, made a garrison finish. "Strawberry Blonde" proved to be a natural. "Tall, Dark and Handsome" accompanied by the fanfare from Henry Busse's band, drew notable support.

Detail for week ending February 27:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), plus Henry Busse band on stage 130
Columbia—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M)....100
Earle—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), plus stage show..150
Keith's—**Back Street** (Univ), 3rd wk....135
Metropolitan—**Virginia** (Para't), 3rd wk....150
Palace—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 3rd wk....135

Delays Suit Against Two

NEW YORK—Date for setting the government suit against George Skouras and Harvey Newins has been postponed by Judge Liebell to March 10. Indications are that the case will not be heard for several months.

Denies Request for Metro Judgment

NEW YORK—Court news of the week was featured by a victory for Loew's, its officers and directors when Justice Ferdinand Pecora in supreme court denied a plea by Ruth Kirby, a minority stockholder, for summary judgment against the company. She is seeking $100,000, the amount paid Joseph M. Proskauer, attorney for Loew's, and its directors in a stockholder action against the company two years ago.

The plaintiff claims that, since the stockholders won a judgment of $500,000, Loew's was the actual victor by that amount and the directors should have paid Proskauer. The court, in denying the plea, stated that under the circumstances the directors had a right to hire defense counsel. Directors who are being sued are Nicholas M. Schenck, J. Robert Rubin, David Bernstein and Al Lichtman.

Chaplin Suit Restored

Suit of Film Sonores Tobis, Societe Anonyme against Charles Chaplin, UA and Charles Chaplin Film Corp., which had been dismissed for lack of prosecution in January, was restored to the active list by Federal Judge Samuel Mandelbaum. The plaintiffs stated its president, Georges Lourau, was to be examined before trial but had not been heard of since the fall of France. As soon as he is located, he will be examined and trial started. The suit seeks an injunction, accounting of profits and damages against "Modern Times," claiming the film to be a plagiarism of "A Nous la Liberte."

Scores Over Republic

Marquis James, author, scored over Republic in federal court when Judge Samuel Mandelbaum denied Republic's request for an additional bill of particulars and a more definite statement. The plaintiff claims plagiarism of his original, "The Raven," a biography of Samuel Huston in "Man of Conquest." An injunction, accounting of profits and damages are asked.

Sues Over "Alley"

Harry Seaman, producer, filed suit in magistrate's court against 20th Century-Fox, Darryl F. Zanuck, Sidney R. Kent, and W. C. Michel, claiming violation of the New York civil rights law in allegedly using his name without permission in "Tin Pan Alley." The plaintiff indicates he will shortly seek an injunction and $50,000 damages against the company in supreme court in a civil action.

Eastman-Agfa Settlement

Suit of Eastman Kodak against Agfa Ansco Corp. in federal court, which sought an injunction, accounting of profits and damages for alleged infringement of a patent for manufacturing motion picture film, was settled and discontinued out of federal court. The defense claimed Eastman was seeking to create a monopoly on an unpatentable product, namely photographic film.

Sues Over a Theatre

James Crapanzano filed a supreme court action against Benjamin, Meyer and Yetta Brodie, Ben-Jim Amusement Corp., and Ben-Mir Amusement Corp., claiming the defendants breached a contract whereby plaintiff and defendants were to share equally in a theatre to be erected on Sixth Avenue. The defendants are accused of having retained all earnings and refused an accounting.

Amusement Firms Pay Heavy Federal Tax

WASHINGTON—An all-over balance sheet prepared by the treasury department for 9,165 amusement corporations active in 1938 shows that the group had a gross income of $1,140,769,000 and a taxable net income of $51,906,000 on which it paid income and excess profits taxes of $11,702,000.

Designed merely to give a general picture of the operations of the amusement industry, one of a large number covered in the analysis, the survey made no breakdown to show the various types of amusement industry represented so that, in addition to motion picture production, distribution and exhibition, it includes legitimate theatres, race tracks and other operations.

The largest item of revenue was gross receipts from operations, $1,023,426,000, but the amusement corporations also received $58,358,000 from sales; $2,915,000 in interest, $22,680,000 in rents and royalties, $2,085,000 in net capital gain, $14,945,000 in dividends from domestic corporations and $3,041,000 in dividends from foreign corporations, and had other receipts of $12,660,000.

On the debit side, the reporting corporations showed $349,017,000 as cost of operations, $37,660,000 as cost of goods sold, $29,836,000 as compensation of officers, $85,730,000 for rent, $2,603,000 for bad debts, $22,122,000 in interest paid, $33,593,000 in taxes other than income and excess profits, $37,983,000 in depreciation and unitemized deductions of $488,417,000. The total of all deductions was $1,088,785,000.

After payment of $11,614,000 in income and $88,000 in excess profits taxes, the reporting corporations had a net profit of $40,281,000. Dividends paid during the year included $43,285,000 in cash and $319,000 in stock, it was shown.



On His Own Now—

Lynn Farnol, former director of advertising and publicity for UA who has opened his own public relations office on Park Avenue. Current accounts include representation for Samuel Goldwyn in the east, special engagements on "I Wanted Wings" for Paramount, a radio account, an apparel manufacturer, an aircraft account and the Cypress and Middleton Gardens at Charleston, S. C.

Screen Publicists to Name Negotiating Committee

NEW YORK—The Screen Publicists Guild will elect a negotiating committee of five on March 13 to appear at all future negotiations between the SPG and producers for a contract covering the advertising and publicity employes at home offices. Hearings of Warner and M-G-M before NLRB trial examiner Dan Baker have been completed, thus closing this phase of the SPG's demands, since the other six majors previously have been before Baker.

Charles E. Richardson Dead

PHILADELPHIA—Charles E. Richardson, financial man formerly identified with three of the majors, is dead at Bryn Mawr. He was onetime treasurer of RKO, a vice-president of Fox Film and a trustee in receivership for Paramount-Publix.

Ericksen Here

NEW YORK—Clarence Ericksen, general manager for Walter Wanger, is here from the coast to confer with UA officials on the producer's program for 1941-42.

What Complaints Are Like

With this issue, BOXOFFICE continues publication of initial complaints, filed in each tribunal city under the arbitration provisions of the decree. In some instances, as in the Ellet case which was the first to be filed in Cleveland, the texts will reveal full detail of the initial demands filed. In others, as in the instance of the Esquire-Great Neck demand published last week, the text will be designed to show what the AAA regards as model complaints, as to preparation and presentation.

This week, four more appear.

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Westway Clearance Complaint

WASHINGTON, D. C.—*Leo H. Homand, vice-president of the Westway Theatre, Inc., operating the Westway Theatre in Baltimore, Md., has filed a clearance complaint with the arbitration tribunal, charging subjection to unfair clearance.*

Text of the complaint follows:

To H. B. Barton, Clerk of the Tribunal:

The undersigned, in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration and Appeals, demands that the controversy hereinafter described be submitted to Arbitration under the Motion Picture Consent Decree, and files herewith a Submission dated Feb. 20, 1941, in accordance with the provisions of Section XXII, subdivision 9, of said Decree.

1. *Statement of Claim and Relief Sought:*

The producers and distributors promised to supply us with picture needs and on this promise the Westway Theatre was built, and not until we were ready to open were we told we would be subject to a clearance of 14 days after the Edgewood (a larger theatre), 2.1 miles from the Westway, owned and operated by the Frank H. Durkee Theatre Enterprises, also owning and operating 19 other theatres in Maryland.

This 14 day clearance has forced us to accept a clearance by Alpha and Irvington, both smaller theatres but who have been given the right to run pictures immediately after the Edgewood.

The Westway Theatre opened April 22, 1939, and has lost money due to the clearance given the Edgewood, the Alpha and the Irvington steadily ever since.

We ask relief from this injurious, unreasonable and unjustifiable clearance against us—granting us pictures on day and date with other neighborhood theatres of its class.

The Westway is a modern up to date theatre and one of the loveliest in Baltimore with a seating capacity of 700.

The Westway is 2.1 miles from the Edgewood, seating capacity 1,100. The Westway is 2 miles from the Alpha, seating capacity 500. The Westway is 3 miles from the Irvington, seating 450.

2. *Name and Address of Each Exhibitor or Distributor Against Whom This Complaint is Made:*

20th Century-Fox Film Corp., 932 New Jersey Ave., N. W.; Loew's Incorporated, 1009 New Jersey Ave., N. W.; Vitagraph, Inc., Distributors of Warner Bros. Pictures, 901 New Jersey Ave., N. W., all of Washington, D. C.

3. *Name and Address of Each Theatre Involved in Controversy:*

The Edgewood Theatre, 3900 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore, Md. This protection of the Edgewood's automatically benefits the Alpha and Irvington theatres who are permitted to run immediately after the Edgewood. The Irvington Theatre is located at 1413 Frederick Ave., Baltimore, Md. The Alpha Theatre is located at Catonsville, Md.

4. *Name and Address of Each Other Exhibitor and Distributor Whose Property Complainant Believes May Be Affected by an Award in the Arbitration Proceeding:*

None other than the above mentioned.

Dated: February 20, 1941.

Date of Filing: February 24, 1941.

Filing Fee Received: February 24, 1941.

(Signed) H. B. Barton, Clerk.

WESTWAY THEATRE, INC.
By Leo H. Homand, vice-president,
Complainant.

Address: Edmondson Ave. & Aldershot Road, Baltimore, Md.

Walbrook Principals Select Arbitrators

WASHINGTON—Paving the way for a hearing on the first arbitration complaint to be filed under the consent decree, parties involved in the Walbrook Theatre case have selected E. Barett Prettyman, former District of Columbia corporation counsel, as arbitrator.

The case, the first to be filed in the country, was brought by the Walbrook Amusement Company of Baltimore. Distributors named are Vitagraph and 20th Century-Fox, and the complaint protests the seven-day clearance granted three other theatres—the Ambassador, Forest and Gwynn—operated by the Frank H. Durkee Amusement Enterprises, after the Walbrook for a number of years had enjoyed 21 days subsequent run clearance after the first run houses.

Parties in the case, in which the Forest Theatre has filed as intervenor, are now attempting to fix a date for the hearing, which probably will be held within the next two weeks.

Start Depositions in Lansdowne Action

PHILADELPHIA—Harry N. Ball, attorney for Harrison Bros., operators of the Lansdowne, began taking depositions last week from managers of the major local exchanges, as prelude to the Harrisons' $210,000 anti-trust suit against the majors and the Warner circuit.

Ball was authorized to take the depositions by Federal Judge George A. Welsh. Pre-trial examinations were scheduled to start Friday, with William Mansell, Warner branch manager; Lester Krieger, Warner Theatres booking head, and John Turner, booker, summoned to the stand.

Warner executives have agreed to produce records requested by the Lansdowne's operators, thereby averting a special hearing that was to be called on a petition to subpoena their records.

Allied's Frank Lydon In Grave Condition

BOSTON—Frank Lydon, president of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., and Allied's eastern regional vice-president, is on the danger list at St. Margaret's Hospital, Dorchester.

Five New Arbitration Demands Announced

NEW YORK—The filing of four new arbitration cases in the east and one in the south is reported at AAA headquarters.

The fourth case to be filed with the New York tribunal has Jack Fields, operator of the Cameo, Jersey City, N. J., as the complainant. The "Big Five" are named as defendants. Fields claims the Cameo, purportedly seating 1,450, holds unreasonable clearance against three theatres he alleges to be only one mile from his theatre. He cites the Apollo and Fulton, both Skouras units, and the Orient, operated by Rosenblatt & Welt. Fields seeks day and date clearance.

The first complaint to be filed with the Buffalo tribunal is brought by Richard De Toto, operator of the Genessee at Mount Morris, N. Y. Warner and 20th Century-Fox are defendants. The two distributors are alleged to have refused to license 1940-41 product to De Toto despite his claim he has operated the Genessee since 1931. The complaint alleges the competitive New Family has monopolized the product he seeks to license.

The second case to be filed at the Buffalo tribunal is brought by A. A. Carlson, operator of the Carlson, Mayville, N. Y. The complaint alleges the Carlson is forced to wait 30 days for product after the Jamestown, also in Mayville. Carlson seeks day and date availability. The "Big Five" are named defendants.

The first case filed in Philadelphia has John Geyser, operator of the Florence, Florence, N. J., as complainant. It is against the "Big Five." Geyser charges the Fox, Burlington, N. J., holds unreasonable clearance.

The southern case, the second to be filed with the New Orleans tribunal, is brought by Charles J. Woolner, who also instituted the first complaint at that point. Both involve some run. The second complaint alleges that Woolner's Drive-In is unable to license M-G-M product. The first complaint alleges the same theatre is unable to license Paramount product.

Two Talks by Braden On Arbitration Set

NEW YORK—J. Noble Braden, executive director of the arbitration tribunals, will deliver two addresses on the subject, "Arbitration in Action," next week. The first will be before the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia on March 11, to be followed the next day at a luncheon of the Harvard Business School at the Harvard Club in New York.

Nominate Arbitrators In Hilary N. Y. Case

NEW YORK—A list of prospective arbitrators has been mailed to interested parties in the clearance complaint filed here by Hilary Theatre Corp., operator of the Regent, Brooklyn, against the "Big Five." The deadline for selection of the arbitrators is March 13, which makes it conceivable that the New York case, the first to be filed here on February 22, may be heard before the Walbrook case, scheduled in Washington for March 25.

Sights New Period of Trade Cooperation

NEW YORK—Declaring the existence of arbitration should go a long way toward minimizing misunderstandings, William F. Rodgers, M-G-M's general sales manager, told an audience of about 400 members and guests attending an Ampa luncheon that "progress together" can be achieved if complaints are not permitted to smoulder. It was his "hope," and he urged it strongly, that every effort be made to conciliate differences before they reach arbitration.

"Let's abandon all thoughts of distrust," he urged. "It is high time we all recognized this new era of doing business. We have a common objective; what difference does it make if we sell one picture at a time, five at a time or 20 at a time so long as there is fair dealing on both sides?"

Rodgers devoted the bulk of his remarks to the general theme of friendship, cooperation, harmony and respect that he suggested should manifest itself "during this national crisis." He dwelt particularly on the fact the industry is the first to be called upon in public and charitable endeavors and lauded its contributions during times of stress. In a reverse observation of these efforts, he thought it "deplorable" that the industry is, paradoxically, the first to be attacked from the outside, and offered the view that "we don't toot our horns loud enough."

Urges Role in Public Service

Stressing an approach which is discussed editorially in BOXOFFICE this issue, Rodgers also expressed his belief that more and more will the industry be asked to play its part in the cause of public service.

In this general connection he cited the fact that about 27,000 subjects were last year provided gratis to shut-ins, schools, educational groups, etc. He said that "Land of Liberty," which M-G-M is distributing "at a loss," and the proceeds of which will go to overseas relief, has played to 1,000,000 in the first 500 engagements and that he expects it to show to 21,000,000 persons in order to realize the largest possible benefits.

Employing M-G-M's slogan of "The Friendly Company" as a sounding board, Rodgers declared this could never have been accomplished without the support he has received from his superiors and those who have helped develop a sense of fair dealing. In this respect he said that 80 per cent of the deals for "Gone With the Wind" were written without exhibitor demands for a guarantee, which, he declared, was proffered. He also brought out that 4,500 exhibitors voluntarily agreed to advance admissions for "Boom Town." His reason for mentioning these instances, he added, was because they exemplified the value of confidence and good will.

This same confidence and good will, he observed, should and can exist in the "proper and efficient" execution of the decree. He scored those organizations, who, although seemingly sincere in their efforts, are "misguided," and declared: "Let us all look forward to harmony; it can only help all of us to progress. This is no time for any branch of the industry to quarrel with the other."

Dietz Analyzes It

New York—Accustomed as he is to public speaking, Howard Dietz, M-G-M's director of advertising and publicity, probably couldn't resist the temptation to go off on one of his humorous tantrums when he was asked merely to take a bow at the Ampa luncheon honoring William F. Rodgers, general sales manager. Smack away, he offered: "There are only two departments that count, production and publicity and advertising. The sales organization is merely a super-clerical force."

M-G-M, he said, did not arrive at the slogan, "The Friendly Company," with ease. "First," he jibed, "it was the unfriendly company. Then the fairly friendly company. And then the friendly company. However, there was a moment's hesitation when Al Lichtman joined us. But under Rodgers it may yet turn out to be the affectionate company."

Dietz, waxing nostalgic, referred to an old photograph he recently uncovered of the "sales council" of the old Goldwyn Pictures Co. "This sales council was sort of an interim affair between presidents. We were all vice-presidents. But a vice-president under Goldwyn is like a private under Schenck."

Nicholas M., naturally.

'Out to Hang Schenck,' Counsel Charges; Denies Tax Deficiency

NEW YORK—That the government is "out to hang" Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board of 20th-Fox, and that "the prosecution is the most outrageous thing ever seen in the federal court," highlighted the opening remarks of Harold H. Corbin, counsel for Schenck in the income tax trial now under way before Judge Grover Moscowitz.

Also, defense counsel held, Schenck's income for the years 1935-37 totaled $2,014,000, on which he paid taxes aggregating $517,000.

On the basis of stock transactions made by Schenck the government owes him upwards of $165,000, which was overpaid, according to Corbin's statement. Included in the amount is $125,000 which the defense claims is due on the taxes to the government in 1937 when Schenck paid on his 20th-Fox stock dividends which were disbursed out of capital investment, not earned profits.

Corbin asserted Schenck's business is not to only draw a salary, but to make money for the company in order to pay dividends to the stockholders, of which he is a large one. Refuting the government contention Schenck spent 83 per cent of each dollar earned on entertainment, Corbin said the actual percentage in 1935 was three per cent and 1936 eight per cent.

After delving into the history of the defendant, Corbin stated his client has the respect of everyone in the motion picture industry.

"He didn't achieve success by sitting at his desk from 9 to 5, but worked at his job from the time he got up until he went to bed," he told the court.

Schenck's real accomplishments, the attorney continued, were not performed in his office. In order to achieve success he had to have the respect of the entire industry. He knew people. He grew up with them, all kinds. He had talent, genius in organizing. Schenck had an affable and generous disposition. So continued the attorney.

"He has established a reputation for fair and honest dealing in the industry," Corbin added, "and, step by step, rose to the position he has today."

The lawyer then brought out the fact he intends to introduce character witnesses to testify to the integrity of Schenck and Joseph H. Moskowitz, eastern studio representative for 20th-Fox, and a co-defendant.

"These men are not trying to cheat the government out of a penny. That would be utterly foreign to their disposition and way of life."

Corbin then stated that, if Schenck had hired real tax experts instead of turning over those matters to Moskowitz, he would have saved a lot of money in taxes. That experts would be brought in to prove his contention was another point he tipped off to the government.

Before closing, the counselor held that Schenck "had no chance to settle the tax claim. There was no review. The government just indicted him instead of waiting for the usual 90 days in which to appeal and go over the matter."

Whether the incident means anything or not, it happened nevertheless. Corbin had turned to his law partner to check a certain figure, while talking to the jury. Judge Moscowitz interrupted and informed Corbin he could not openly discuss such matters. Following which Corbin said, "We're in America today!"

Most of the case will concern figures and figures and more figures, which are already taxing the newspaper men covering the assignment.

Schenck Confident As Trial Opens

New York—Declaring his complete innocence of any attempt allegedly to defraud the government of income tax payments, Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the 20th-Fox board, stated on the opening of the trial Wednesday, "I enter this trial with complete confidence. No man ever complained that I did him any wrong, much less have I wronged my government."

The case is expected to take several weeks.



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

Hopalong Hits the Big Town—

William Boyd, accompanied by Grace Bradley, his wife, are in New York on a 10-day holiday. They traveled east aboard the America. *He's played Cassidy 38 times.*

Marvin Schenck Arranging Greek Benefit for Mar. 28

NEW YORK—Marvin Schenck, eastern M-G-M talent head and assistant to C. C. Moskowitz, is in charge of producing the special show to be held March 28 at the Music Hall for the Greek War Relief. The midnight benefit will be called "Greek Festival for Freedom." A special souvenir program is being prepared and it is anticipated the affair will net the drive approximately $40,000.

An imposing array of screen, stage and radio personalities is being assembled. All branches of the amusement industry are cooperating under the chairmanship of Adolph Zukor.

NEW YORK—P. S. Harrison, publisher of *Harrison's Reports* and publicity director for the Greek War Relief Ass'n, states he has completed plans for an international cartoon exhibition to raise funds for the drive. The stunt is being handled by John McGrail, formerly of the Hays office and 20th-Fox, who conceived it.

PRC Enters Canada With Own Distributing Setup

TORONTO—Effective Monday, Producers Releasing Corp. enters the Canadian field with its own distributing organization. Known as P.R.C. of Canada and Newfoundland, the company is a re-incorporation of the exchanges formerly operating as Grand National Films, Ltd.

H. B. Shawn and H. J. Allen are Toronto representatives; Harold Goltman, Montreal; Sam Jacobs, St. John; I. H. Allen, Winnipeg; W. C. Kelly, Calgary, and Willard Adamson, Vancouver.

PHILADELPHIA

GEORGE ECKERT JR. of the Perry, New Bloomfield, was in town with his father to give a fond farewell to the industry, preparatory to his trip to Aberdeen, Md., as a lieutenant in the artillery . . . William Yost, Grand, Harrisburg, is sunning himself in Florida . . . Among out-of-towners seen around were Vic Austin, Grand, E. Stroudsburg; Tommy Thomas, Thomas, Taylor; John Shreck, Majestic, Tamaqua; Pete Marinos, Wyoming, Wyoming; Stanley Peters, Ritz, St. Clair, and Jimmy Dukas, Grand, Edwardsville.

Bob Foreman, Vitagraph clerk, has hied himself off to Indiantown Gap with the National Guard . . . Ed O'Donnell, Vitagraph booker, has just got over a grueling bout with the dentist . . . Harriet Fox has succeeded her sister, Rose—who got married—at 20th-Fox exchange . . . George P. Aarons, UMPTO secretary, is writing his friends that the weather out at Hot Springs is much worse than the weather he left behind in Philadelphia . . . Lester Wurtele, Columbia's office manager, is vacationing in a quiet, undisclosed location.

Jeff Davis, former UA salesman here, now UA district sales manager in Atlanta, is mourning the death of his wife . . . Sylvia Rubine is the new girl at Republic, succeeding Florence Rosenberg as booker's assistant. Florence, recently married, has moved to Detroit, where her husband, an arsenal worker, has been transferred . . . The Film Exchange Employes Union will hold a general meeting at the Showmen's Club next Friday. The executive board, which was to meet a week ago, had to postpone its meeting to this weekend because of the blizzard.

Regular Loew Dividend; To Vote on Preferred

NEW YORK—Loew stockholders of record March 18 will receive the regular common dividend of 50 cents on March 31. Directors again meet April 2 to then vote on the preferred dividend of $1.62½, payable about the middle of next month.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

DOUBLE DATE (Univ)—Unpretentious but entirely wholesome comedy of family life which has more than its share of diverting elements, considering its modest cost and claims. The picture is admirable supporting material, credited largely to a well-done story and workmanlike performances by Edmund Lowe, Una Merkel and Peggy Moran. Joseph Sanford produced; Glen Tryon directed.

MURDER AMONG FRIENDS (20th-Fox)—Seldom, if ever, has there been a murder mystery with more slayings. And this offering's claim to distinction begins and ends right there. The story revolves about a joint insurance policy involving a large number of men, who as survivors on a given date will share its benefits. It will serve as supporting fare. Marjorie Weaver, John Hubbard. Ray McCarey directed.

RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M)—Robert Montgomery is again cast as a homicidal paranoic in a heavy and sombre melodrama which deals principally with insane jealousy, suicide and other unpleasant phases of the psyche. Although he, his co-star, Ingrid Bergman, and the remainder of the cast turn in fine performances, the film is strictly adult entertainment, designed for the more profound exponents of the drama. Its appeal to rank and file will probably be limited. Gottfried Reinhardt produced; W. S. Van Dyke II directed.

THAT NIGHT IN RIO (20th-Fox)—Taking off to a flying start with a production number precedentally breath-taking in its lavishness and beauty, this filmusical never slackens its speed as engrossing entertainment for an instant. In many respects it touches a new ceiling for screen musical comedies. Story, cast, music, production, direction, costumes and sets, the magnificent colors of which are photographed in Technicolor, all contribute their shares toward assembling a truly superb picture, one which will probably crowd revenue records in its classification. Alice Faye and Don Ameche are starred. Irving Cummings directed; Fred Kohlmar produced.

THE GREATEST LOVE STORY IN SOUND PICTURE HISTORY!

OSCAR LOVES ERPI!



It is significant that throughout its eleven year history, the sound recording award of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has been made every year to ERPI licensees using Western Electric equipment. Congratulations to the individuals and Sound Departments who have won the awards!

This Year's Winner:

Douglas Shearer... MGM..."Strike Up The Band"

Electrical Research Products Inc.

195 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Subsidiary of

Western Electric Company

"OSCARS" SPELL "SUCCESS"
IN THE PRODUCTION FIELD

"RESULTS" SPELL "SUCCESS"
IN THE ADVERTISING WORLD



THE CLEARING HOUSE GETS RESULTS!

Bussa Film Exchange
Friendship, Ohio

BOXOFFICE,
4804 E. 9th St.
Kansas City, Mo.

Gentlemen:

Well, I must say the results we are getting from our ad is most pleasing. Never saw anything like it before.

We spend plenty of advertising money each year and from the results we are getting from our first ad with your paper, it looks like you are going to get plenty of ads from us in the future.

Very cordially yours,

Chester Bussa,

CB/DB Bussa Film Exchange

PRINCESS THEATRE
WAUSEON, OHIO

BOXOFFICE,
Kansas City, Mo.
Gentlemen:

A few weeks ago I used your Classified columns for one week, running a blind ad. Within ten days of publication date I had received 127 answers.
I have used similar advertising mediums on several occasions and never have approached the above results. The replies came from the State of Washington to Connecticut, and from Duluth, Minn., to Dallas, Texas. It would seem that BOXOFFICE really covers the nation.

Yours very truly,

P. R. Touney
PRINCESS-CHIEF THEATRES



These Letters Are Typical of Many Received Regularly From Satisfied Clearing House Advertisers.

LET THEIR EXPERIENCES BE YOUR TESTING GROUNDS

THE CLEARING HOUSE GIVES SERVICE THAT SERVES!

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER

(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

"Meet John Doe" Will Debut in Hollywood

Having been denied for some time, the privilege of running the gamut of klieg lights and autograph hounds for a Hollywood premiere, industry notables by the dozens are preparing to end the long dry spell when Warner's "Meet John Doe" is world premiered March 12 at Warner's Hollywood. It will be one of the few local gala screenings of the season, film exploiteers having been concentrating on out-of-town junkets. The reserved-seat affair will precede day-date showings, at advanced prices, at the Hollywood and Downtown. Bleachers will be erected for the fans.

Paramount's "The Hard-Boiled Canary" was premiered in Dallas, Tex., March 8, with proceeds going to the British War Relief Fund. Allan Jones, Susanna Foster and Dolly Loehr, stars of the film, made stage appearances.

Harold Lloyd's first RKO Radio production, "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob," was given its coast premiere March 5 at the Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco, with Lucille Ball, Edmond O'Brien, George Murphy, Lloyd, Nancy Kelly and Desi Arnaz on hand. Screening followed the March 4 world premiere at the Hawaii Theatre in Honolulu.

Warner executives are discussing the possibility of premiering "The Sea Wolf" in the Valley of the Moon, Jack London's residence, near Sonoma.

Dispatched to Mexico City to work out arrangements for the world premiere there of James Roosevelt's first United Artists production, "Pot O' Gold," were Don Roberts and Charles Arthur Powell, working under instructions from John P. Miles, Roosevelt's publicity director. Affair is scheduled for mid-April, with stars and the working press to be transported to the Mexican metropolis from Hollywood and New York by air.

Discuss Improvements in 16mm Kodachrome Film

Discussions and demonstrations of improvements in 16mm Kodachrome film featured a meeting of the Pacific Coast Section of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers in the review room of the Samuel Goldwyn studios. Those attending also discussed the increased use of Kodachrome by studios for pre-production tests.

Extras Can Leave SAG, Says Kenneth Thomson

If any group of extra players wants to withdraw from the Screen Actors Guild, and can secure a majority vote of the extra membership to that effect, the SAG will "willingly" release it.

That is the answer of Kenneth Thomson, SAG executive secretary, to a group of extra players, members of the ousted "B" council, who have lodged an appeal with government authorities including Thurman Arnold, assistant U. S. attorney-general, and Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, seeking federal aid in a projected battle to force the SAG to give them a vote in the organization's affairs.

Pointing out that extras, in 1933, petitioned the SAG to admit them to membership and appointed it their bargaining agent, Thomson cited the many improvements in working conditions the SAG has obtained for day and bit players. He pointed out that, as recently as last June when judgment in favor of the SAG was handed down against an extra seeking the same privilege, the court ruled that extras had "willingly made a clear-cut contract" with the SAG and that they were "not deprived of any constitutional rights." Last November in a general referendum extras voted to abolish their "B" council and place their affairs directly in the hands of the SAG's "A" board of directors. A provision in the SAG constitution gives the extras the power to withdraw at any time by a majority vote.

Appeal to governmental authorities was guided by Harry Mayo, who was chairman of the now-defunct "B" council. He claims extras and bit players contribute most of the upkeep of the SAG through dues and initiation fees and consequently should be given a voice in the selection of personnel, policies and wage agreements.

The SAG board met March 3 to study the new extra flare-up and to discuss the progress of negotiations with producers whereby a reclassification of extra players, and a blanket wage increase for them, is being sought.

Hammond Will Complete "American Broadcast"

With Kenneth Macgowan resigning his $2,500 weekly post as associate producer at 20th Century-Fox to accept an $8,000 yearly job as non-theatrical director for the South American Amity Committee, the unfinished assignment on his slate, "Great American Broadcast," has been handed to Len Hammond, Macgowan's assistant, for completion. Other films, including "Man Hunt," "Belle Starr" and "Flight Surgeon," will be distributed among other producers on the lot. Macgowan has already left for New York, where he will headquarter in pursuit of his new duties.

Wage Increase Demands At Present Are Out

Although indicating they will consider no demands for wage increases at this time, producer representatives have agreed to negotiate with the representatives of several IATSE studio unions on standardization of working conditions, overtime pay, location calls and other matters. Harold V. Smith, business manager of the sound technicians, is handling negotiations for the IA crafts.

Painters' Union Business Manager Sees Job Done

Herbert Sorrell has resigned as business manager of the Moving Picture Painters Local, declaring his services are no longer essential since most of the important negotiations affecting the union have been completed.

Screen Writers Discuss New Agreement Draft

The executive board of the Screen Writers Guild met to discuss the preliminary draft of the new basic agreement which it will submit shortly to the producers. A meeting of the producer-Screen Directors Guild conciliation committee was scheduled for March 5 to review the SDG's demands for a new contract to replace the current agreement, calling for a minimum wage scale, 90 per cent Guild shop and other adjustments. Present pact expires March 13.

Studio policemen and firemen at 20th Century-Fox voted to retain their own independent union as collective bargaining agent in an election supervised by the national labor relations board. Contesting as the other name on the ballot was the American Federation of Labor's Building Service Employes union.



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Mood Militaire—

When Major-General J. O. Mauborgne, chief signal officer, U. S. Army, came to Hollywood to view the first two visual training shorts produced for the War Department by the Academy Research Council, it was the occasion for a banquet, given in the general's honor by Lieut.-Col. Darryl F. Zanuck. Glimpsed at the affair were: (1) *Zanuck and Col. Nathan Levinson, ranking officers in Hollywood's photographic division of the signal corps. Will H. Hays is in the center background.* (2) *Harry M. Warner, Major-General Mauborgne and, with his back to the camera, Col. Levinson.* (3) *Walter F. Wanger, Academy president, and Louis B. Mayer.*

Bowling Tourney for British War Relief

Next charitable undertaking on the Hollywood front, this one for the British War Relief campaign, will be in the form of a bowling tournament in which a list of Hollywood notables and would-be keglers will compete not only against each other but also against the picked teams of some of the larger local industrial leagues.

Sponsoring the tournament, scheduled for March 30, are Ida Lupino, Mrs. Ronald Colman, Mrs. Charles Boyer and Heather Angel. Alleys at the Sunset Bowling Center have been donated by Harry M. Warner and Harry Charnus, manager of the establishment. Entry fees, $50 for each team, as well as spectator admissions and concession profits, will go into the fund.

The Greek War Relief Fund was enrichened by an estimated $17,000 as the result of the recent Shrine Auditorium concert, attended by approximately 5,000, it was announced by the motion picture permanent charities committee, headed by Samuel Goldwyn. Ascap leaders, including President Gene Buck, aided in staging the affair, in which such film names as Mary Martin, Judy Garland, Frances Langford, Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Tony Martin, Eddie Cantor and Cole Porter participated.

The industry's part in the 1940-41 Community Chest drive, which ended some weeks ago, received formal recognition and appreciation when the board of directors of the Los Angeles Welfare Federation adopted a resolution commending Hollywood, "its personalities, its leaders and its personnel" for an "unusual demonstration of cooperative endeavor for the sake of those less fortunate, and for the sake of our common welfare."

That Hollywood's contribution to the national defense program is of "vital importance" and is as valuable to the U. S. army as is the steel industry's contribution, was the assertion of Major-General J. O. Mauborgne, chief signal officer, during his two-day visit to the film colony.

Viewing the first two visual education training shorts completed by the Academy Research Council for use by the War Department, General Mauborgne called them "splendid" and declared they will enable the army to teach new enlisted and drafted men "more quickly and more thoroughly than ever before." Films were "previewed" for him at a dinner in his honor given by Lieut.-Col. Darryl F. Zanuck, who, with Col. Nathan Levinson and Capt. Gordon S. Mitchell, is supervising production of the shorts. Guests included other army officers and George J. Schaefer, Walter F. Wanger, David O. Selznick, Louis B. Mayer, Harry M. Warner, William Goetz, Frank Capra, Samuel Goldwyn, Will H. Hays, William LeBaron, Harry Cohn and Edward Arnold.

"The army is indebted to the motion picture industry for another fine accomplishment on our behalf over the past nine years," General Mauborgne declared. He left for San Francisco after the banquet, while Zanuck, Levinson and Mitchell pulled out for Washington, D. C., to deliver the completed films to the War Department and spend a week there in active service.

Active Travel Week For Executives

After spending several days at the Disney studio in Burbank, Hal Horne, Walt Disney's eastern representative, and Richard Condon, his New York publicity director, left for San Francisco, where they handled the March 5 opening of Disney's "Fantasia." While at the Burbank plant, Horne and Condon conferred with Disney and other company officials on exploitation campaign plans for "The Reluctant Dragon," his next feature-length attraction, due for release early this spring. The subject stars Robert Benchley and combines live action and cartoon animation.

Ericksen to East

To join Murray Silverstone, United Artists chieftain, and Arthur W. Kelly, general salesmanager, in a series of preseasonal distribution conferences, Clarence E. Ericksen, vice-president and general manager of Walter F. Wanger Productions, has pulled out for New York. He followed Silverstone east, the latter having returned last week after six weeks in Hollywood. Ericksen will act as representative of a committee of UA producers comprising Wanger, Edward Small and Sol Lesser in arranging UA's 1941-42 release program. He will be east for about a month. Silverstone is expected to return here following conclusion of the conferences to clean up the deal whereby Samuel Goldwyn withdraws as a UA owner-member, relinquishing his stock in the corporation.

Loew, Spring Arrive

Arthur M. Loew, in charge of foreign operations for Loew's Inc., and his executive aide, Morton Spring, are in from New York for conferences at M-G-M. They are discussing and looking over product pegged for release in South America and other foreign countries.

Jack Warner in East

Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of Warner production, is in New York conferring with eastern executives on release plans for "The Bride Came C. O. D.," "The Great Lie" and "The Sea Wolf."

Schaefer Returns

George J. Schaefer, RKO Radio president, checked in from a quick trip east in time to attend the 13th annual Academy Awards banquet. He visited Chicago and New York on personal business.

Armour Named Schaefer's Aide in Realignment

Continuing the realignment of studio personnel which began when President George J. Schaefer took personal charge of all RKO Radio studio operations, Reginald Armour, general manager of European sales for the company, has been named Schaefer's personal assistant. He has been placed in charge of studio relations as a contact executive. Armour has been in Hollywood for several months, having come here from abroad with Michele Morgan, French star whom he signed for RKO Radio.

Studio Employment In January Down

For the second successive month studio employment and payroll figures, exclusive of the executive and talent brackets, showed a decrease, with figures for January as issued by the California labor statistics department disclosing a drop for that month under December, 1939.

Average weekly payroll in January, statistics reveal, was $539,645, as compared to $543,640 in December. An increase was shown, however, in salaries per individual worker, each of whom earned $44.06 in January as against $43.87 in December. They worked an average of 0.6 per cent more hours weekly, however, for their paychecks during the first month of 1941.

Darmour Readies One; Others Also Active

As the third in his series of "Ellery Queen" detective thrillers for release by Columbia, Producer Larry Darmour is now readying "The Devil Pays." Ralph Bellamy will appear again as the sleuth, with production to start in April from a script being prepared by Eric Taylor.

Other Activity

Heading an independent unit for Monogram release, Scott R. Dunlap will turn cameras shortly on "Widows of the Press," with Phil Rosen directing from an Albert Duffy screenplay. Producer I. E. Chadwick's second for Monogram will be "Redhead," from a story by Dorothy Reid, Conrad Seiler and Betty Burbridge. His initialer was "Her First Romance," starring Edith Fellows.

"The Barefoot Boy's Secret" has been added to Producer E. B. Derr's Crescent Pictures schedule, with a May starting date. He also lists "Confession" and "I Give My Life," all in preparatory stages.

Million Dollar Productions has rolled "Take My Life," with Clifford Sanforth producing and Leo C. Popkin directing, as the first in a group of four for state-right release.

Herbert T. Silverberg has been elected to the directorate of Gloria Films, headed by William Szekeley. Company's first, "New Wine," is now being edited for early distribution by United Artists.

RAF a Theme

Frank Lloyd's next independent production for Universal release, "I, James Lewis," is being readied for an April 15 start. His initialer, "The Lady From Cheyenne," will be released shortly. Lloyd also plans "The Flying Yorkshireman" as part of his schedule.

"Landfall," story of the Royal Air Force by Neville Shute, will be next on schedule for the David L. Loew-Albert Lewin unit, releasing through United Artists. Talbot Jennings is now preparing the screenplay.

With both scripts now ready, Jules Levey of Mayfair Pictures will set starting dates shortly on "Tight Shoes" and "Butch Minds the Baby," Damon Runyon originals, to be made for Universal release.

Newsreel Theatre Patrons, P. T. A. Pick Favorites

Audiences and the Parent-Teachers Ass'n participate in the Teleview Corp.'s News View Theatre's annual poll to select outstanding short subjects and newsreel coverage each year. Here the cameraman catches some of the winners in the second annual poll:

1. Pete Smith of M-G-M receives two trophies from Maureen O'Sullivan. His specialty, "Quicker'n a Wink," won one of the statuettes, while Maureen is about to give him the trophy for being selected the most popular commentator for 1940, which marks the second time in succession Smith has won that award.

2. Again from Miss Sullivan, Jack Chertok, producer of M-G-M's short subjects, receives a pair of trophies for turning out 1940's top shorts.

3. For the second successive year, Leon Schlesinger, producer of "Merrie Melodies" and "Looney Tunes" cartoons for Warner, bagged the poll in his division. "A Wild Hare," a "Merrie Melodie" starring "Bugs" Bunny, was voted the favorite for 1940. Schlesinger won the 1939 award with his patriotic cartoon, "Old Glory."

Other winners included:

Most outstanding foreign newsreel coverage—Paramount, "The Retreat from Narvik."

Most outstanding national newsreel coverage—M-G-M, "Tacoma Bridge Disaster."

Most outstanding dramatic short—"The Baron and the Rose," a John Nesbitt Passing Parade for M-G-M.

One-reel dramatic historical—"More About Nostradamus," a Carey Wilson Miniature, M-G-M.

One-reel documentary—"London Can Take It," Warner.

One-reel outdoor division—Paramount's "Breezy Little Bears."

One-reel travelogue — Paramount's "River Thames—Yesterday."

One-reel sport division—"Sword Fishing," Warner.

Two-reel historical division—Metro's "The Flag Speaks."

Two-reel documentary—"R. A. F.," a March of Time, RKO Radio.

Most outstanding performance in short subjects—Sidney Blackmer as Theodore Roosevelt in Warner's "Teddy the Rough Rider."

Simone Simon to Role in "A Certain Mr. Scratch"

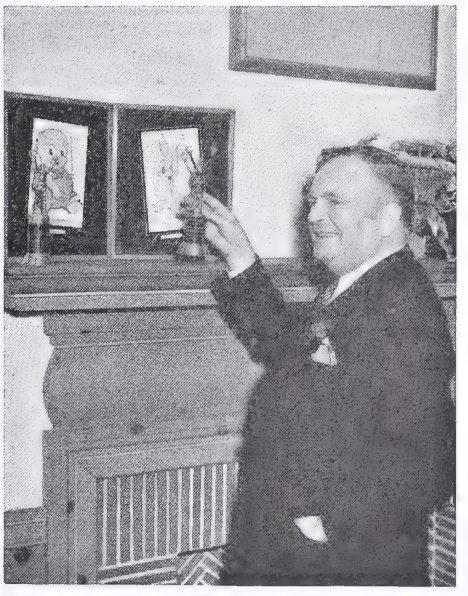
Off the American screen since 1938, Simone Simon will return to Hollywood shortly for a topline in RKO Radio's "A Certain Mr. Scratch." In the William Dieterle production Miss Simon joins a cast including Walter Huston and Thomas Mitchell.



1.



2.



3.

Hollywood—
—Personnelities

Barnstormers

Metro

JEANETTE MacDONALD has returned from her annual winter concert tour and is preparing for her next assignment, "Smilin' Through."

Monogram

EDITH FELLOWS launched a ten-week p. a. tour in connection with "Her First Romance," in which she stars, in Dayton, Ohio, March 7. Her itinerary includes Pennsylvania and such cities as Boston, New York, Newark, Syracuse, Albany, Washington and Charlotte, N. C.

20th Century-Fox

J. CARROL NAISH is set for a p. a. tour, taking him to New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington and Baltimore, when he has completed his role in "Blood and Sand."

Blurbers

Helen Ferguson

DOLLY CONNELLY joins publicity staff.

Producers Releasing Corp.

WILLIAM E. RAYNOR JR. succeeds Edward Graneman as west-coast director of advertising and publicity. Raynor was pressbook editor for Monogram.

Universal

BOB MOAK joins staff as a unit man, with "Cracked Nuts" as his first assignment.

NORMAN RIVKIN, of the studio publicity staff, has been ordered to report March 11 for service with Uncle Sam's conscription army.

Warner Bros.

S. CHARLES EINFELD, publicity-advertising director, has returned from a three-week Hawaiian vacation.

Briefies

Warner Bros.

"White Sails," short revealing the resumption of activity by old-fashioned clipper ships in bearing food to Britain, is in production with Gordon Hollingshead supervising. Owen Crump scripted and is doing the narration.

"Soldiers of the Saddle," next national preparedness short, rolls March 10 at Fort Bliss, Texas, with B. Reeves Eason directing.

Cleffers

Columbia

MORRIS STOLOFF supervising musical arrangements for "He's My Uncle," "Eadie Was a Lady," "But Beautiful" and "Pal Joey."

Walt Disney

ARTHUR QUENZER signed as lyric writer.

Monogram

EDWARD KAY set as musical director on "King of the Zombies," a Lindsley Parsons production.

Paramount

FRANK LOESSER writing a special nautical tune for Cecil B. DeMille's "Reap the Wild Wind."

RKO Radio

FRANZ WAXMAN, on loan from M-G-M, scoring "Before the Fact."

Loanouts

Republic

WILLIAM WRIGHT, featured player, borrowed from Paramount for a topline in "Rookies on Parade."

RKO Radio

ROBERT PRESTON borrowed from Paramount, and **NANCY KELLY** from 20th Century-Fox, for toplines in "Parachute Battalion," the Howard Benedict production to be directed by Leslie Goodwins.

20th Century-Fox

WALTER PIDGEON borrowed from Metro for a topline in "Man Hunt," with George Sanders.

Warner Bros.

FRED MacMURRAY borrowed from Paramount for a topline in "Dive Bomber," next Errol Flynn. Deal was set in return for the loan of Olivia de Havilland to Paramount for "Hold Back the Dawn."

Meggers

Columbia

LAMBERT HILLYER to direct "The Return of Daniel Boone," next Bill Elliott western.

Metro

JOE NEWMAN to pilot "Coffins on Wheels," new Crime Does Not Pay short.

ROBERT SINCLAIR to direct "Men From the City," an Edwin Knopf product featuring Robert Sterling, Marsha Hunt and Virginia Weidler. Maury Grashin wrote the original.

J. WALTER RUBEN to produce "Enemy Within," from an original by him and Wells Root.

Paramount

MONTA BELL, newly-signed associate producer, assigned supervision of "Aloma of the South Seas" and "Birth of the Blues."

Producers Releasing Corp.

JEAN YARBOROUGH to pilot "South of Panama" for Producer Ted Richmond.

Republic

LEW LANDERS to pilot "Singing Hills," forthcoming Gene Autry western, which Harry Grey will produce.

ROBERT NORTH to produce "Hurricane Smith," a Charles Booth original.

FRANK McDONALD to pilot "County Fair" for Producer Armand Schaefer.

20th Century-Fox

IRVING CUMMINGS to direct "Belle Starr," Alice Faye vehicle.

Universal

GEORGE WAGGNER directing "Horror Island" for Producer Ben Pivar. Dick Foran and Peggy Moran head the cast.

CHARLES LAMONT to direct "Sing Another Chorus" for Producer Ken Goldsmith.

HAROLD YOUNG to "Sandy Steps Out," a Burt Kelly production.

JOHN RAWLINS to direct "Mutiny in the Arctic."

Options

Columbia

RICHARD WALLACE, currently piloting "She Knew All the Answers," given term deal calling for two pictures yearly.

Paramount

BOB BURNS, on a one-picture deal, to star in "The Good Fellow," a play by George S. Kaufman and Herman J. Mankiewicz. Sol C. Siegel will produce. Burns was formerly under contract to the studio for several years.

FRITZ LEIBER signed for a supporting role in "Aloma of the South Seas."

HARRY TUGEND, now scripting "Birth of the Blues," given term contract.

PATRICIA MORISON, featured player, held for another year.

JUNE PREISSER signs long-term acting contract, with a role in "Henry for President" as her first assignment.

ARCHIE TWITCHELL given a topline in "Nurses Don't Tell."

ESTHER FERNANDEZ, Mexican player, held for another term.

Republic

LOIS RANSON, featured player, held for another term.

HENRY STEPHENSON joins cast of "Lady From New Orleans."

20th Century-Fox

ALLAN SCOTT given one-year writing ticket.

REGINALD GARDINER joins cast of "A Yank in the R. A. F."

Universal

WILLIAM FRAWLEY draws a topline in "Cracked Nuts."

Warner Bros.

CHARLES WALDRON draws featured role in "Three Sons O' Guns."

DANIEL FUCHS, scenarist, and **STEPHEN LONGSTREET,** novelist, given long-term writing contracts.

KAREN VERNE given feminine lead in "Underground."

Scripters

Columbia

ROBERT ANDREWS to "The Boogie Man Will Get You," comedy-horror story to co-star Boris Karloff and Peter Lorre, with Jack Fier producing.

FELIX ADLER and **CLYDE BRUCKMAN** to "The Private General," two-reel comedy to star Buster Keaton. Jules White produces and directs.

THEODORE REEVES to "Ten Cents a Dance" for production by Irving Briskin.

Larry Darmour

ERIC TAYLOR to "The Devil Pays," next in the "Ellery Queen" sleuth series starring Ralph Bellamy. Columbia will release.

E. B. Derr

OTIS DONALDSON to "The Barefoot Boy's Secret." It will roll May 10.

Paramount

SIDNEY BIDDELL to "War Town," from his own original. It relates the overnight metamorphosis of a sleepy village into a cantonment city.

JEANNE BARTLETT teamed with **DALE EUNSON** on "You Go Your Way."

JEROME CHODOROV and **JOSEPH FIELDS** in "Louisiana Purchase."

Republic

GEORGE SKLAR writing added dialogue for "The Lady From New Orleans."

ISABEL DAWN polishing "Rookies on Parade" for Producer Albert J. Cohen.

JAMES WEBB to an untitled Roy Rogers western.

JOE HOFFMAN to an untitled Judy Canova starrer.

Harry Sherman

J. BENTON CHENEY to "Sheik of Buffalo Butte," a "Hopalong Cassidy" western for Paramount release.

Edward Small

ERNEST VAJDA to "My Official Wife." United Artists will release.

20th Century-Fox

FRANK NUGENT and **JERRY SACKHEIM** to "The Golden Touch," from a novel by Stephen Longstreet.

LEE LOEB and **HAROLD BUCHMAN** to "Accent on Love," which Harry Joe Brown will produce.

Universal

LARRY RHINE and **BEN CHAPMAN** to "Bombay Clipper." Marshall Grant will produce.

JOHNSON McCULLY to "Overland Mail," serial to be produced by Henry MacRae. Johnny Mack Brown and Andy Devine will topline.

Warner Bros.

JULIUS and **PHILIP EPSTEIN** to "George Washington Slept Here," Broadway play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart.

KEN GAMET teamed with **RALPH SPENCE** on "The Smiling Ghost."

Story Buys

Columbia

"Just Another Dame," by Robert Hyde. Irving Briskin will handle production.

"Take Back Your Dream," a musical by Frank Fenton and Lynn Root.

"My Sister Eileen," Broadway play by Jerome Chodorov and Joseph Fields, for a reported $225,000. Max Gordon has been set to produce the film version.

"Women of the Navy," by Hilary Lynn.

Republic

"Pardon My Stripes," by Adrian Johnson. Albert J. Cohen will produce.

David O. Selznick

"Some Must Watch," by Ethel Lina White.

20th Century-Fox

"Private Confusion," by Hardie Albright and Austin Parker. Play was first produced in London.

Warner Bros.

"In This Our Life," by Ellen Glasgow. Errol Flynn and Olivia De Havilland will be co-starred.

Technically

Columbia

WILLIAM CASTLE named as dialogue director on "Time Out for Rhythm."

TED MEYER, of Black-Foxe Military Academy, signed as technical advisor on "Naval Academy."

Metro

ART SMITH named unit manager on the new untitled "Dr. Kildare" feature.

CHESTER FRANKLIN, JAY MARCHANT and **PAUL GROESSE** head a crew of ten technicians going to Ocala, Florida, to make production preparations for the main unit of "The Yearling."

DOLPH ZIMMER named assistant director on the next "Dr. Kildare" film.

Paramount

NATALIE VISART to design feminine costumes for "Reap the Wild Wind."

MEL EPSTEIN, assistant director, named assistant to Producer Arthur Hornblow jr.

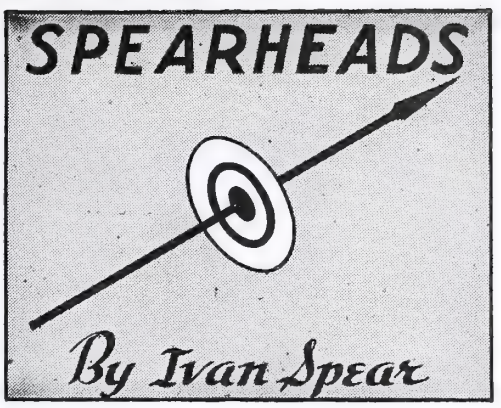
RKO Radio

GEORGE SCHAEFER JR., son of the company president, boosted from assistant director on shorts to assistant director on feature pictures. He will be Alfred Hitchcock's second assistant on "Before the Fact."

DORAN COX set as assistant director on "Hurry, Charlie, Hurry," forthcoming Leon Errol comedy.

Warner Bros.

BILL KISSELL set as assistant director and **JACK SAPTER** as unit manager on "Underground." **ERNST FICHTER,** former French film director, is technical advisor.



HOLLYWOOD's chronic avidity for limitless publicity about any and all of its activities and its resultant propensity toward usually making the wrong public relations gestures are apparently determined to prevail even as concerns the admirable part the film capital is playing in the national defense program.

Normally, the public would accept without question that it is an extremely important part. Permitted to do their own thinking, and without benefit of overzealous publicists, fans would never for a minute doubt the sincerity and patriotism of the men most active in the industry's program for helping the government during the existing emergency. The attitude and appreciation of the army were voiced by Major-General Joseph O. Mauborgne, chief signal officer, when he spent two days here to confer with industry executives engaged in making a series of visual education training shorts for use by the war department in tutoring new conscripted men.

General Mauborgne hailed motion pictures' contribution as of "vital importance" and as being as significant "as is the steel industry's contribution." Viewing the first two training subjects completed by the Academy Research Council, he called them "splendid" and declared they will enable the army to teach new soldiers "more quickly and thoroughly than ever before."

At a special "preview" following a banquet given in his honor by Lieut.-Col. Darryl F. Zanuck, General Mauborgne paid further tribute by declaring:

"The army is indebted to the motion picture industry for another fine accomplishment on our behalf." He praised the Research Council and the committee, including Zanuck, Col. Nathan Levinson and Capt. Gordon S. Mitchell, which is in charge of production on the training shorts.

The beneficial effects of such well-deserved and glowing tribute are, however, discounted and jeopardized by publicity releases of the type which are being broadcast by the motion picture production defense committee. For example, there is the verbose story, so constructed as to invite misleading headlines, which announced that "three ranking army reserve officers, prominent in the motion picture industry, today were ordered for active service in Washington, D. C." More careful perusal of the release reveals that the "three reserve officers," Col. Levinson, Lieut.-Col. Zanuck and Capt. Mitchell, were making the trip to the national capital to "confer with members of the general staff of the United States Army regarding the first two training films, now completed, which they will take with them personally to Washington to deliver to the war department." Further, it is revealed that "their tour of active duty" will last for exactly—one week.

Then there were the photographs taken at the banquet tendered General Mauborgne by Lieut.-Col. Zanuck, which showed the host, Col. Levinson and Capt. Mitchell resplendent in uniform and insignia, although it is reasonable to assume that they spent the balance of the day pursuing their productional and executive duties garbed in ordinary Hollywood mufti.

All of which probably will incite plenty of laughs, ranging from reflective chuckles to derisive guffaws. It should prove especially amusing to the butcher, baker or candlestick-maker who, as a National Guardsman, volunteer or draftee, finds that his "tour of active duty" ranges from one year to "the duration," the fellows who left modest jobs to do "squads right" in the mud of training camps at San Luis Obispo and points east.

The industry's contribution to preparedness is whole-hearted, essential and entirely praiseworthy. It can automatically go a long way in recapturing for motion pictures and the people who make them the public esteem which comparable publicity folly has been discouraging for so many years. It will be deplorable if that opportunity is abrogated because an ambitious press agent is over-anxious to justify his comparatively unimportant place on a payroll.

→

With Kenneth Macgowan's resignation from a $2,500-a-week producership to assume the post of non-theatrical director of the South American Amity Committee at $8,000 yearly, Hollywood has probably lost its last frontier for ideals.

→

George Brown's description of Macdonald Carey, stage star just signed to a term contract at Paramount:

"Carey is 27 years old, six feet tall, has dark brown hair, and a beautiful speaking voice. His tests reveal him as an actor of remarkable versatility, with a beautiful speaking voice."

Yeah, and he can talk pretty good, too.

→

Republic signs Slingin' Sammy Baugh, all-American football star, for a part in its $900,000 serial, "King of the Texas Rangers," which opens a wide range of possibilities. There's Slammin' Sammy Snead. And, right at home, Sizzling Sammy Goldwyn, Scintillating Sammy Briskin, Scrivening Sammy Marx and Stuttering Sammy Abarbanel, Republic publicist who planted the yarn on Slingin' Sammy Baugh. But, let it be remembered, Warner still has exclusive rights to the screen services of Uncle Sammy.

→

Add Amazement Department:

George Schaefer jr. is promoted from assistant director on shorts to assistant director on features at RKO Radio studio.

→

Hedda Hopper wishes that "Metro would buy James Street's story, 'Oh, Promised Land,' then borrow Dean Jagger from 20th-Fox to star in it."

Who is she insulting? And does she opine that Fox could not make the picture satisfactorily or that Metro has no male star qualified to play in it?

Sailors, Sleuths, Sawbones, Six-Guns

Hollywood's great, and those who report their activities, were so occupied during the past week with the distribution of Academy kudos for past performances, that little attention could be paid to current celluloid. Hence a meager four features were shown at preview, of which number RKO Radio's "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob" seemed to garner the lion's share of the critics' affections.

It was produced by Harold Lloyd, erstwhile ace screen comedian, who has many material reasons for remembering the formula of film story and situation which brought him fame and fortune. And that formula he applied here, tutoring an aggregation of competent and eager Thespics and technicians who then proceeded to turn out a typical Harold Lloyd comedy—although Lloyd chose to exercise his shrewd showmanship from behind the cameras rather than before them. Streamlined, it nevertheless is strikingly reminiscent of those Lloyd photoplays which marked the hey-day of his career, from which it can safely be predicted that he and RKO Radio have a hit on their hands. In the characteristic Lloydian role of a sensitive, shy and self-effacing youth around whom the motivation revolves is one Edmond O'Brien, a comparative newcomer, and talented. Resembling Franchot Tone, he was—for this part at least—endowed with many of the tricks and charms of the comedian-turned-producer. Toplined are George Murphy and Lucille Ball. They, with the rest of a hand-picked cast, contribute sterling performances, while Richard Wallace's expert direction is no small factor in the picture's excellence. Frank Ryan and Bert Granet scripted from an original story by the late Grover Jones.

Further in the first division was Warner's "Footsteps in the Dark," in which Errol Flynn forsakes swashbuckling action to play a debonair amateur detective. A murder mystery, the film specializes in comedy, rather than suspense, and throughout the screenplay by Lester Cole and John Wexley the approach to the crime angles is definitely tongue-in-cheek. Most of the formula situations in this type of feature were dragged in and subjected to a subtle ribbing. Flynn's performance is noteworthy, as is Robert Lord's produc-

(Continued on next page)

New Production Push Sets 12 Weekly for Cameras

A productional push unequalled in the past year or more will find an average of 12 pictures weekly slated to go into work on Hollywood's major lots during the remaining three weeks of March, with 17 others already lined up for April cameras.

Paramount has the heaviest foot on the throttle, with nine starters in March and eight in April. This month they include "Henry for President," "Aloma of the South Seas," "Birth of the Blues," "Nothing But the Truth," "Buy Me That Town," "World Premiere," "College Mystery," "Parson of Panamint" and "Forced Landing." In April it will launch "Dildo Cay," "Sullivan's Travels," "Sing a Song of Homicide," "Reap the Wild Wind," "Two Bad Angels," "Among the Living," "Joan of Arkansas" and "Secret of the Wastelands."

Columbia's March lineup includes "The Return of Daniel Boone," "Bedtime Story," "The Officer and the Lady," "Blondie in Society," "Tillie the Toiler" and "Texas." In April "Betty Co-Ed" will get under way. Universal this month will roll "Horror Island," "Sandy Steps Out," "Mutiny in the Arctic" and "Sing Another Chorus." For April it lists "Almost an Angel," "Ready for Romance," and "Men of the Timberlines." Monogram will gun "Widows of the Press" this month, "King of the Zombies" in April.

Metro's March program comprises "The Yearling," an untitled "Dr. Kildare," an untitled "Tarzan," "Step This Way" and "Smilin' Through." Republic lists "County Fair" and "Puddin' Head," with "Down Mexico Way" to start next month. At RKO Radio "A Certain Mr. Scratch," and "Hurry, Charlie, Hurry," will get under way. Warner's schedule includes "Bad Men of Missouri," "Hard to Get" and "Dive Bomber."

Twentieth Century-Fox will launch "Man Hunt," "Belle Starr" and "A Yank in the R. A. F," with "Fraternity" pegged for an April start. For United Artists, Alexander Korda will gun "Our Heaven Is Now" this month. In April, Sol Lesser will begin work on "Strange Victory" and Hal Roach plans to start "Niagara Falls."

: SPEARHEADS :

(Continued from preceding page)

tion guidance and Lloyd Bacon's direction, and the film sums up as diverting and potentially profitable entertainment. Script was from a play by Lazlo Fodor, Bernard Merivale and Jeffrey Dell. Appearing to good advantage opposite Flynn is Brenda Marshall, while Ralph Bellamy delivers a strong supporting characterization.

* * *

RKO Radio's "Melody for Three" can be recommended without reservation to fans of the "Dr. Christian" series starring Jean Hersholt, as it possesses the same blend of down-to-earth hokum and comedy which typified its predecessors. Further, it presents a promising juvenile player, Schuyler Standish, who performs miracles with a violin and can act a bit as well. Hersholt, of course, misses no bets in his now-familiar role as the kindly small-town doctor. Erle C. Kenton's direction extracts every particle of humor, drama and suspense from the vehicle, a Stephens-Lang production, supervised by William Stephens.

* * *

In the sagebrush division the lone contribution was George W. Weeks' new "Range Busters" western for Monogram release, "Trail of the Silver Spurs." The elements which make for reliable boots-and saddles entertainment have been incorporated in it in sufficient quantities to satisfy most fans. It combines action, gunfights, a chase or two and rangeland music to good effect and is on a par throughout with past entries in the series starring Ray Corrigan, John King and Max Terhune. Anna Bell Ward served as Weeks' associate producer. S. Roy Luby directed from a script by Earle Snell, based on Elmer Clifton's original.

Cinémarks

Guest of honor at the Cocoanut Grove's weekly "celebrity night" was Mitchell Leisen, Paramount director. William Holden, Jackie Cooper, Wayne Morris and several others were his guests for the occasion . . . Producer Richard A. Rowland has returned from an extensive nation-wide junket on behalf of his United Artists release, "Cheers for Miss Bishop."

*

Robert Riskin, Frank Capra's production partner and scenarist, has returned from a New York holiday to assist in preparations for the "Meet John Doe" premiere here March 12. Film will open simultaneously in New York.

*

Frank Donovan, who produces "Picture People," a shorts series, for RKO Pathe, has left for the east. While here he signed Boris Karloff for a guest spot on "Information Please."

*

Collier Young, RKO Radio's studio story head, is in New York for two weeks searching for new material . . . Also heading for New York was David Hempstead, RKO Radio producer, to confer with Ben Hecht on the script of "Journey Into Fear," Hempstead's next assignment . . . Alexander Korda, United Artists producer, has returned from a business trip which took him to Gotham.

*

Henry Ginsberg, Paramount studio general manager, is vacationing in Palm Springs, his first holiday in more than a year.

*

William Keighley, Warner director, has been made a member of Delta Kappa Alpha, cinema fraternity, in recognition of his work at the University of Southern California, where he teaches a class in motion picture direction. Keighley was presented with a scroll and key on the set of his current picture, "The Bride Came C. O. D."

*

Trem Carr, member of Monogram's directorate, has returned from New York, where he conferred with President W. Ray Johnston and other executives on the company's 1941-42 production plans.

Film to Follow "Outlaw" Seen on Hughes' Calendar

In the face of countless rumors and conjectures as to the future plans of Howard Hughes, multi-millionaire oilfield tool manufacturer and motion picture producer, spokesmen for Hughes aver he has but one definite film purpose in mind at the present time.

That is to produce another film following "The Outlaw," which he is making for 20th Century-Fox release. The second, bearing the label "Production Number X," is in nebulous stages, Hughes having formed an association with Leo McCarey, who will direct it, and with whom he now is working out story details. No release has been set for it and no cast or writers have been assigned, Hughes attaches declare.

Scouted here as "pure conversation," among other reports, is one that Hughes is mulling the formation of a distribution company, according to which rumor he will be associated with Samuel Goldwyn. Spokesmen brand it as just another in the long list of conjectures relating to Hughes and which, to date at least, have no basis in fact.

"The Outlaw" now is in the re-take stage and is scheduled for release early in April.

Producers Association Postpones Meetings

Postponed indefinitely because of the lack of business to consider was the regular monthly meeting of the producers association, originally scheduled for March 3. It was indicated that association directors felt all important business matters for the time being had been disposed of at the annual meeting two weeks ago, when new officers were elected.

Meantime Central Casting Corp. is continuing the rotating layoff system for casting directors which was established when activity in extra placements reached a low ebb. Going off the payroll for 30 days are David Landauer and Ralph Acton, while Frank Roderick and Al Smith are back on the job again after a month's layoff.

They Win the Oscars



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(*More Pictures on page* 15)

1. To Ginger Rogers and James Stewart as best actress and actor.

2. To Jane Darwell and Walter Brennan as best actress and actor in supporting roles.

3. To Bob Hope (left) from Walter Wanger for "unselfish service to the industry."

4. To Col. Nathan Levinson (right) from Maj. Gen. J. O. Mauborgne for "outstanding service to the industry and the army during the past nine years."

5. To Alfred Newman (right) from B. G. DeSylva for best musical score without regard to source of music ("Tin Pan Alley").

6. To George Perinal from Rosalind Russell for color photography in "The Thief of Bagdad."

7. To George Barnes from Miss Russell for black and white photography in "Rebecca."

8. To Anne Bauchens for film editing on "North West Mounted Police."



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Screen Club Names Year's Committees

DENVER—With an extensive list of committees the Rocky Mountain Screen Club starts its second year under the presidency of Frank H. "Rick" Ricketson, manager of the Fox Intermountain Theatres. The club expects to have its biggest year. Plans are being made for the annual picnic, golf tournament, banquet and dance to be held this summer. The club will also keep up its charity work, the principal item the past year being the giving of $3,000 to a new Denver hospital to be used in equipping several rooms exclusively for children. The ladies of the club have adopted three girls and are seeing to it that they are clothed, fed and put through school.

The complete list of committees, named by Ricketson, are: Executive, R. J. Morrison, Harry Graham, Emmett Thurmon, Gus Kohn, Chet Bell and Mickey Gross; house, Jap Morgan, Sam Feinstein, Joe Ashby, Frank Culp and Dan Foley; entertainment, Joe Ashby, Bernie Hynes, Bob Hill, Mickey Gross, Joe Stone, Albert J. Gould, Bob Ryan, Ralph Batschelet, Edward Miller and Jap Morgan; finance, Henry Friedel, Duke Dunbar, Harry Goodridge, Ross Bluck and Joe Graham; welfare, Louis Finske, John Zarit, Al Hoffman, John Anderson, Frank Culp, Harry Nolan, Lon Fidler, Tom Anglen, Dave Davis, A. P. Archer and Bill Agren.

Other Committees

Membership, Harold Rice, Robert Cain, Barney Shooker, Sam Cramer, Sam Reed, Dan Foley, Hugh Rennie, Sam Feinstein and Neil Beezly; luncheon, Bill Agren, Fred Brown, Chet Bell, Louis Finske, John Denman and Bernie Hynes; founders day, A. P. Archer, Charles Gilmour, Joe Dekker, R. J. Morrison, Ray Davis, James Micheletti and Joe Graham; publicity, Ted Halmi, Bob Selig, A. De Bernardi, James Briggs and John Denman; nineties, Jack Langan, Bill Agren, Bernie Hynes, Dan Lehrburger, Derek Sydney, C. J. Duer, John Voss, Jap Morgan and Duke Dunbar; picnic, Jack Langan, Bob Selig, Jap Morgan, R. J. Morrison, Duke Dunbar, Buzz Briggs, Mike Lee, Fred Brown, Louis Finske, Fred Zekman and Hugh Rennie; greater movie season, H. E. Huffman, Mickey Gross, Dave Davis, R. J. Morrison, Bernie Hynes, Henry Freidel, Bob Ryan, Charles Gilmour and A. P. Archer.

Salesmen Invited

All film salesmen are invited to attend meetings of the board of directors, and the salesmen are ex-officio members of all committees. With the necessity of having a quorum when the board or a committee convenes, it is impossible to place salesmen on committees that meet weekly.

The officers for the year are Rick Ricketson, president; Joe Ashby, vice-president; Bob Hill, second vice-president; Henry Friedel, treasurer; Ross Bluck, secretary; Albert Gould, counsel. On the board of directors are Bill Agren, Buzz Briggs, Jack Langan, Dr. John Zarit, Tony Archer, Duke Dunbar, Jap Morgan and Bob Garland.

: *Goodstein's Longmont Complaint* :

DENVER—*J. J. Goodstein, president of the Jos. J. Goodstein Enterprises, Inc., operating the Longmont Theatre in Longmont, Colo., has filed a licensing complaint charging that the Fox Longmont Theatre has exclusive output of seven distributors.*

This complaint is held up by the AAA as a presentation made in model form. The text, consequently, is published:

To John B. Milton, clerk of the tribunal:

The undersigned, in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration and Appeals, demands that the controversy hereinafter described be submitted to Arbitration under the Motion Picture Consent Decree, and files herewith a Submission dated Feb. 18, 1941, in accordance with the provisions of Section XXII, subdivision 9, of said Decree.

1. *Statement of claim and relief sought*:

Longmont Theatre, operated by complainant, and Fox Longmont Theatre, operated by Fox Intermountain Theatres, Inc., a subsidiary of National Theatres Corp., which in turn is affiliated with 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., are competitive theatres in the city of Longmont, Colorado, Longmont Theatre being the older of the two theatres. 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. has contracted its output with Fox Longmont Theatre, which theatre also, to the knowledge of 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., has exclusive output of the following distributors: Loew's Incorporated, Paramount Pictures, Inc. (parties to the consent decree), and Universal Film Exchange, Inc., Columbia Pictures Corporation, United Artists Corp., Monogram Pictures Distributing Co. (not parties to the consent decree), leaving for the Longmont Theatre the products of only the following three distributors: Vitagraph, Inc., and RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. (parties to the consent decree), and Sheffield Exchange System (distributing Republic pictures) (not a party to the consent decree), the result being that the seven distributors above named, as exclusive contractors with Fox Longmont Theatre, refused to license any of their pictures for exhibition in Longmont Theatre, thereby giving to Fox Longmont Theatre more pictures than they can reasonably use, and depriving the Longmont Theatre of a sufficient amount of pictures reasonably necessary for its operation, all contrary to the purpose and intent of the Motion Picture Consent Decree. Complainant prays: that the distributors being parties to the consent decree, and refusing to license its pictures to Longmont Theatre, may be found to have refused to so license its pictures to the complainant, in violation of Section 6 of said consent decree, and that an award be entered directing a redistribution of pictures on a basis that will be fair and equitable as between said Longmont Theatre and said Fox Longmont Theatre.

2. *Name and Address of Each Exhibitor or Distributor against Whom This Complaint Is Made*:

Loew's Incorporated, 2100 Broadway, Denver, Colo.; Paramount Pictures, Inc., 2100 Stout Street, Denver, Colo.; 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., 2101 Champa Street, Denver, Colo.

3. *Name and Address of Each Theatre Involved in Controversy*:

Longmont Theatre, Longmont, Colo.; Fox Longmont Theatre, Longmont, Colo.

4. *Name and Address of Each Other Exhibitor and Distributor Whose Property Complainant Believes May Be Affected by an Award in the Arbitration Proceeding*:

Loew's, Incorporated, 2100 Broadway; Paramount Pictures, Inc., 2100 Stout St.; 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., 2101 Champa St., all of Denver, Colo.

Dated: February 18, 1941.

Date of Filing: February 18, 1941.

Filing Fee Received: $10.00.

(Signed) J. B. Milton, *Clerk*.

JOS. J. GOODSTEIN ENTERPRISES, INC.

By J. J. Goodstein, President,

Complainant.

Address: c/o Samuel S. Ginsberg, 850 Equitable Building, Denver, Colo.

• REVIEW FLASHES •

MURDER AMONG FRIENDS (20th-Fox)—Seldom, if ever, has there been a murder mystery with more slayings. And this offering's claim to distinction begins and ends right there. The story revolves about a joint insurance policy involving a large number of men, who as survivors on a given date will share its benefits. It will serve as supporting fare. Marjorie Weaver, John Hubbard, Ray McCarey directed.

RAGE IN HEAVEN (M-G-M)—Robert Montgomery is again cast as a homicidal paranoic in a heavy and sombre melodrama which deals principally with insane jealousy, suicide and other unpleasant phases of the psyche. Although he, his co-star, Igrid Bergman, and the remainder of the cast turn in fine performances, the film is strictly adult entertainment, designed for the more profound exponents of the drama. Its appeal to rank and file will probably be limited. Gottfried Reinhardt produced; W. S. Van Dyke II directed.

San Francisco Take Is Above Average

SAN FRANCISCO—Despite continuation of unseasonal and unwanted rainy weather, the first runs did exceptionally well. "Gone With the Wind" dropped considerably after a terrific first week but was doing better than the rest of the theatres. Mickey Rooney's latest Hardy impersonation was drawing well at the Fox and the Golden Gate was getting along splendidly with "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," in its second week. The rest of the first run houses had nothing to kick about.

Detail for week ending February 26:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Murder Among Friends** (20th-Fox) 125
Golden Gate—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), plus stage show, 2nd wk. 115
Orpheum—**The Face Behind the Mask** (Col); **The Devil Commands** (Col) 90
Paramount—**Virginia** (Para't); **Wild Man From Borneo** (M-G-M) 110
St. Francis—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **You'll Find Out** (Para't), 2nd wk. 110
United Artists—**Road Show** (UA) 90
Warfield—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 140

"Wind" Doubles Par in Day-Date L. A. Run

LOS ANGELES—It was "Gone With the Wind" week in first-run receipts here. In its first popular-priced, day-date engagement at the United Artists and Four Star Theatres, the Vivien Leigh-Clark Gable starrer topped anything else the town had to offer, doing twice normal business at the UA, with three shows a day.

Detail for week ending February 26:

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); **Trial of Mary Dugan** (M-G-M) 100
Downtown—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Father's Son** (WB), 2nd wk. 100
Four Star—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 150
Hillstreet—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Let's Make Music** (RKO), 2nd wk. 100
Hollywood—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Father's Son** (WB), 2nd wk. 100
Pantages—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Let's Make Music** (RKO) 100
Paramount—**Virginia** (Para't), 2nd wk.; **Life With Henry** (Para't), plus Bob Crosby and Orchestra on stage 90
State—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); **Trial of Mary Dugan** (M-G-M) 120
United Artists—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 200

Good Weather, Product Potent Team in Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY—With good weather conditions continuing to prevail in this vicinity, and some especially attractive programs offered at the local theatres, box-office receipts have been holding their own nicely and in some cases in an unusual manner. "Gone With the Wind" lined them up for over a block, at one time, during the opening here a few days ago. "Western Union," much of it filmed in Utah, continued to do big in its second week here. "Escape to Glory and Boston Blackie" packed the Capitol as well as other good reports.

Detail for week ending February 28:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Escape to Glory** (Col); **Meet Boston Blackie** (Col) 115
Centre—**Virginia** (Para't); **Her First Romance** (Rep); **Sons of the Navy** (Mono), plus stage show 100
Paramount—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 150
Rialto—**Spring Parade** (Univ); **Arkansas Judge** (Rep) 110
Studio—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 110
Utah—**The Bank Dick** (Univ); **One Night in the Tropics** (Univ) 95
Victory—**Cherokee Strip** (Para't); **Moon Over Burma** (Para't) 105

LOS ANGELES

GETTING under way March 8, and scheduled to run until March 12, Dave Rector's Ebell in Long Beach is featuring an all-film "classical music" show comprising features and short subjects. Rector himself is vacationing for a few days and Nate Tanchuck is pinch-hitting for him . . . Booking: Gus Acosta, Rex Theatre, Fresno; Joe Sloate of the Maynard.

To help out with general office work, Amando Barrios has joined the staff at the Azteca exchange . . . Astor Pictures has acquired distribution rights to the film version of "The Passion Play" for this territory.

Here for a stay of several weeks is Haskell Masters, western divisional manager for United Artists. He'll headquarter at the local UA exchange and is scheduled to hold a number of business conferences with Ben Fish, western district chief, who has just returned from a Honolulu vacation.

After a month's holiday here, William Grieme, operator of the Vitaphone in Winetchi, Wash., has returned home . . . Ruben A. Calderon, manager of the Azteca exchange, is in from a trip through the San Diego territory.

Asher Levy and Sidney Spiegel, theatre operators from Chicago, vacationing at Palm Springs . . . Fred Gage, United Artists salesman, is trekking through his Arizona territory.

Bert Lentz is in Bakersfield selling film for Columbia . . . Booking: Phil Greenbaum, Castle and Mecca theatres; Ben Bronstein of the Bronstein circuit; Jimmy Edwards, who operates theatres in the San Gabriel Valley.

A visitor at M-G-M's Culver City studio was Mrs. E. C. Beatty, wife of the manager of the Butterfield Theatres circuit. She was the guest of Robert Taylor on the set of "Billy the Kid" . . . Mrs. Foster Jackson of the Elsinore Theatre, Elsinore, came in for bookings . . . Ditto Al Galston, Marcal and Hawaii, Hollywood.

Bess Emanuel of Foreign Films exchange has returned from a business trip to Tucson . . . That was some send-off the Paramount exchange gave George Smith, new western division manager, when he departed for New York to take over his new job . . . Ben Fish, United Artists' western district chief, returns from his Honolulu vacation next week.

Add freak accidents: Jack Valpi, M-G-M's head booker, slipped and fell over a gas heater—and burned all the hair off his chest . . . Ruth Whitney, of M-G-M's accounting department, is taking a few days off to try to regain her voice, which disappeared when she caught a severe cold recently.

"Virginia" Doubles Par In Second Denver Week

DENVER—"Gone With the Wind," in its second week at the Orpheum, ducked a third under the opener, and moved to the Broadway for a run. "Virginia" at the Denham held nearly to the opening week gross.

Detail for week ending February 27:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Back Street** (Univ), after wk. at the Denver 125
Broadway—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Let's Make Music** (RKO), after wk. at Orpheum 100
Denham—**Virginia** (Para't), 2nd wk. 200
Denver—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col) 140
Orpheum—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 175
Paramount—**Flight From Destiny** (WB); **Arkansas Judge** (Rep) 110
Rialto—**Buck Privates** (Univ), after wk. at the Paramount; **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), after wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin 115

Seattle Theatre Row on Even Business Keel

SEATTLE—Nothing spectacular in the way of business around the theatres this week. "GWTW" moved over. "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" was campaigned by personal recommendation. "Western Union" featured displays in the WU windows. In all, with the mayoralty campaign coming up, what is doing in Olympia, the raise in rents of all apartments, most folks are holding on to their dough.

Detail for week ending February 28:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Virginia** (Para't); **Life With Henry** (Para't), 2nd wk. 90
Fifth Avenue—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox) 110
Liberty—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Phantom Submarine** (Col), 4th wk. 90
Music Box—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), moveover 3rd wk. 100
Orpheum—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Behind the News** (Rep) 90
Palomar—**Meet the Chump** (Univ); **Father's Son** (WB), plus stage show 90
Paramount—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M) 110
Roosevelt—**Buck Privates** (Univ), 3rd wk., moved over from Orpheum 90

Chief to Long Circuit

CASA GRANDE, ARIZ.—The Louis K. Long circuit has purchased the Chief from W. E. Cox.

Johnny Hester in Los Banos

LOS BANOS, CAL.—Johnny Hester, former manager of the Roxy at Pleasanton, now is operating the Rio here.

Ruby Adapts "Oyster"

HOLLYWOOD—Harry Ruby will adapt "The World's Our Oyster," a Joseph Mankiewicz production for Metro.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
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LOS ANGELES

S' FRANCISCO

WEDNESDAY was certainly a day for those seeking entertainment. Three outstanding events took place without conflicting and all played to capacity houses. At the Geary, the ermine and orchid crowd turned out for the premiere of "Fantasia." The San Francisco Opera Guild sponsored the opening night and the society people did not let the Guild down. A few streets southward, patrons of the standard motion picture stopped traffic trying to get into the Golden Gate for the world premiere of "A Girl, a Guy, and a Gob." Personal appearances by the stars kept the boxoffice hot all day. At the Civic Auditorium the local pride and joy of the sports field drew a house full. Alice Marble and the professional tennis troupe performed for a single night and gave the other attractions plenty of competition.

Deanna Durbin and her fiance, Vaughn Paul, flew into town for the wedding of John Rogers, Hollywood producer, and Shirley Misrach, local society deb. Another from the film capital to attend was Richard Steenberg, Eddie Cantor's son-in-law . . . Jerry Mayer of M-G-M in town at the bedside of his son who was injured in a peninsula motor accident while en route south . . . Ike Hables booking on the Row for his Reel Joy in King City after being in Canada for several months . . . The National Broadcasting Co. has announced plans to open its own booking agency some time this month. The new office will be for broadcast talent but outside dates will be served . . . "Gone With the Wind" started its fourth and final week at the Warfield.

Warner has just about taken over nearby Sonoma for the world premiere of Jack London's "The Sea Wolf." The tentative date is March 22 . . . Ted Lewis is showing the local folk that he still has what it takes at the Bal Tabarin . . . Sid Weisbaum, Sid Martenstein, Bill Boland and Jimmy Myers of Republic returned from Hollywood where they participated in a regional meeting . . . Lew Maren in the Bay area to publicize United Artists product . . . Hal Perry in town because of his father's illness.

Pat Patterson has moved into the former offices of the PRC (and incidentally also formerly Pat's address) and will operate under the name of Astor Pictures. Patterson has acquired 19 *Mohawk films and all of the Dorothy Page westerners. He has already booked "Scarface" and "Sky Devils" into the Redwood and T&D chains . . . A bevy of screen celebs will be among the guests of honor at the Shrine's annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon March* 15. *Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Harold Lloyd, Tony Martin, Maureen O'Hara, Gene Tierney and Cesar Romero are those who have already signified their intention of attending. Louis B. Mayer is the main speaker at the event which will be attended by an estimated* 10,000.

The engagement of Ruth Chatterton in "Pygmalion" at the Curran has been extended until March 12. The play, which has been doing nicely at the boxoffice, would remain longer but must make way for "The Time of Your Life," scheduled on March 13. This double prize-winning comedy, written by San Franciscan William Saroyan and with San Francisco as its setting, will have Eddie Dowling and Julie Hayden as co-stars . . . "Strawberry Blonde," enjoying the best business there of any Warner product since "The Fighting 69th," will move to the Paramount for a second week. Marty Weiser, Warner publicist up for exploitation of this and other products, pulled a neat stunt when he sent newsmen a box of juicy strawberries with a tag reading, "Strawberries are in season—'Strawberry Blonde' is the reason."

E. M. Graybill has opened the San Miguel in San Miguel . . . Jim Patterson of the Capitol is the latest to march off to camp . . . Jimmy Myers is back at Republic after several weeks on the sick list . . . The Rio in Merced is installing fluorescent lighting . . . Ben Fish, UA division manager, in town after 10 *days in Honolulu . . . Milton Nelson, formerly with the Harvey circuit, now in the ad sales department at Universal . . . Lima and Peters have taken over the Roseville in Roseville and will reopen in the near future . . . John Moore in booking during the day and enjoying the fights at night.*

Booking on the Row: Bill Tamm, Amador, Jackson; Alfred Wilkens, Oakdale, Oakdale; Henry Udell, American, Winnemucca; C. Macway, Star, Sonora; M. D. McConnell, State, Modesto . . . "Tobacco Road" went into the Fox amid one of the largest ad campaigns put on by this theatre. Business for the first two days more than justified the expected rush at the boxoffice.

A National Theatres Drive Meeting Topic

LOS ANGELES—A review of accomplishments in the various National Theatre divisions for the past year and a discussion of tentative plans for the new season, including another campaign similar to the Spyros Skouras Showmanship drive of 1940, highlighted the three-day annual NT divisional managers' conclave at Lake Arrowhead March 6, 7 and 8.

Presiding over the sessions was Spyros Skouras, NT president, who planed in from Florida for the affair. The Southern California delegation attending was headed by Charles P. Skouras, president of Fox West Coast, and included Charles A. Buckley, head of the legal department; District Managers E. V. Sturdivant, Thornton Sargent and Dick Dickson, and Larry Kent, chief film buyer and booker.

Attending from other divisions were:

Rick Ricketson, Denver; Harold J. Fitzgerald and E. L. Alperson, Milwaukee; E. C. Rhoden, Kansas City; Arch M. Bowles, FWC's northern California manager; Al Finke, Al Rosenberg, John Hamrick and Frank L. Newman of the Evergreen circuit, Portland, and, from the homeoffice, William T. Powers, Harry T. Cox, Edward Zabel, Milton Hossfeld, Aubrey Schenck and John Healy.

SALT LAKE

SALT LAKE department store sales are 13 per cent ahead of the same week last year and for the year to date are 25 per cent ahead of 1940 . . . The new theatre at Heber, Utah, to be known as the Wasatch, is nearly completed. It is expected to open within a few weeks. Bliss Titus, the owner, will manage . . . Seats for the Lunt-Fontanne stage appearance in Robert E. Sherwood's "There Shall Be No Night" are practically sold out many days in advance of the presentation at the local Utah. Prices range from $1.68 to $2.80.

"Gone With the Wind" opened here at popular prices at the Paramount, with throngs lining up for this four-hour long film and the theatre omitting the intermission . . . The Lake featured for a one-night showing Hedy Lamarr in "Ecstasy." Companion piece was "Ski Patrol" . . . Buck Wade, Universal branch manager, has returned from a company convention in San Francisco . . . George Cloward, in charge locally for Ross Federal Service, is back from a trip into Idaho cities where he says he found business improving and the populace optimistic.

United Artists was planning to screen "That Uncertain Feeling" . . . RKO previewed "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob" . . . Al Mabey was working nearby situations for RKO last week; Al Sheperd and Norman Sprowl were in Montana and Giff Davison in Idaho . . . R. P. Haas attended the annual meeting of branch managers for National Theatre Supply in the east . . . F. H. Smith, branch manager for Paramount, reports "Virginia" is being booked widely throughout the territory and that "Lady Eve" opens at the Centre here right away.

G. A. Smith, newly-appointed western division manager for Paramount, was here for a sales meeting. On hand were Branch Manager F. H. Smith and these salesmen: H. M. Glanfield, Montana; Don Hicks, Idaho, and Allen Heid, Utah . . . Earl McClurg has taken over the Main at Smithfield, Utah. He formerly operated a theatre in Preston, Ida. . . . Ned Depinet, vice-president for RKO, has sent out letters to 6,800 *public relations contacts in connection with "Scattergood Baines."*

Robert Porterfield, founder of the Barter Theatre, an unique enterprise in the theatrical field, is appearing as a speaker at Provo, Utah, on the BYU lecture course . . . Phil Guss, manager of Intermountain Theatre Supply Co., is reported branching out into the radio service field.

Fox West Coast Polio Collections Net $64,526

LOS ANGELES—A check for $64,526 has been turned over to Joseph M. Schenck, vice-chairman of the national infantile paralysis campaign, by President Charles P. Skouras of Fox West Coast, representing collections taken in FWC theatres during the recent drive. The amount was approximately $5,000 over last year's FWC contribution.

Collections from other theatres, circuit and independent, in the state amounted to $42,000.

SEATTLE

THE local AAA office is open for business, but so far there's not even the sign of a complaint . . . Basil Gray, labor counsellor for the Theatrical Federation, announces negotiations with theatres by the Theatrical Federation and Building Service Union, Local 6, have resulted in pay raises to start January 1, 1942. Next on the program is a contract for Theatre Employes Union B-22, controlling some 300 ushers and doormen in Seattle showshops. Pay increases are sought . . . Willard Coghlan has resigned as manager of the Hollywood in Portland to return to his first love, the daily. Willard is now drama editor for the Seattle *Star*. Del Milne, in the past an orchestra leader of note in these parts, will take over at the Hollywood, one of the Evergreen chain.

Speaking of drama editors, Dick Hays is getting close to the 25 year mark with the Seattle Times. *On the last day of February, Dick and his wife, Bess, celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary. A grand pair well liked among the show gang . . . Eddie Rivers, former theatre owner and for the past few years with Evergreen in the publicity and exploitation department, announces he is leaving that spot to joint RKO in Minneapolis . . . Sammy Siegel, publicity ace for UA, is again an uncle. His sister-in-law presented the family with a girl. What worries the Siegels is the fact that the family is "dying out." No boys . . . A new girl at the switchboard of National Screen Service. Melva McPeak is missing from the spot. Yep. A new mother in the world . . . Mrs. MacKenzie writes from Los Angeles that she was in a theatre and the newsreel showed an interview in a bomb shelter in England. One lady being interviewed hoped her sister in America was fine. The lady being interviewed was Mrs. MacKenzie's sister. Dot Cooper is the daughter of Mrs. MacKenzie.*

That new gal taking dictation in the Republic exchange is Jean Cornwell. She is taking the place of Mary Sheffield, now working in a government office . . . Jack and Kay Mickleson, man and wife, are the appointed representatives of Alexander Films of Colorado Springs. The couple tell of the death of J. Van Name, well known out here as former representative. The Micklesons will cover Washington . . . Archie Holt over from Spokane to attend a sales meeting held by Manager Herndon Edmonds of 20th Century-Fox . . . Ralph Ravenscroft of Paramount studio's publicity department in town for "Lady Eve" . . . Warren and Sally Good out celebrating Sally's birthday . . . Herb McIntyre, RKO division head, in for a couple of days, then out by plane . . . Ray and Dorothy Ackles over from Spokane. Ray handles that part of the northwest for Columbia.

J. T. Sheffield and Eddie Walton back from the Republic sales convention; Eddie Loy of the Butte office also along, but in town for only a day. Thanks, Walt Compton and Al Wilson, for your kind regards which the boys delivered . . . Bill Duggan jr., manager for Monogram, giving out a little rib that he was called in the draft. Be careful, Bill. There are more numbers coming up . . . Ralph Abbott, field man for Jam Handy, here from Detroit and introducing Carl Kruger of the home office . . . Henry Herbel, western division head for Warner, spending some time here conferring with Bill Shartin and his gang of the local office . . . With Fox West Coast holding its managers meeting in Los Angeles, we find John Hamrick already in that city; Al Rosenberg taking a short California vacation before the meet; Frank Newman being joined in Portland by Al Finke on the way down; Kenny Schultz off for the gathering and telling that it will be held at Lake Arrowhead.

Bernice Zimmerman celebrating a birthday with the gang at Metro. Pat Madigan of the same office celebrated his on the same day as George Washington's . . . Ed Halberg down from Port Angeles and bringing along his brother, Evar. This is the first time in two years Evar has been on the Row . . . Phil Zeller is the new manager of the Hoquiam, Hoquiam. It's a Warner spot . . . Wally Rucker and Harry Blatt out for eastern Washington . . . Ray Paulson on the Row meeting friends. Ray has been shooting commercial pictures the past few years . . . J. von Herberg entertaining his brother, John Coyle, who is here from Peru, Ind. Along with Gene von Herberg and sons, Dennis and Jay, they spent a few days in Vancouver . . . Dorothy Mercy and Marion Walton back from their California motor trip. They wished they had taken a row boat . . . Senior and Beryl Mercy over from Spokane and attending the preview of "Tobacco Road."

Visitors: E. Pollock and son, Eldon, from Mount Vernon; Charles White, Concrete; Jimmy Ewing, Auburn; Mrs. Corrine Brown, Edmonds; Dorothy Perunko, Tacoma; O. M. Durham, Mount Vernon; Walt Graham, Shelton; Al Fernandez, Pysht; Gus Graf, Shelton; Mrs. Bessie Maylor, Oak Harbor; Mrs. Edward Casey of the Unga, Unga, Alaska; Dad Abbott of Sedro-Wooley; E. S. Olson, Port Blakely; Hal Murphy, Olympia; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Clyde, Langley; J. H. Trimble, Toppenish; A. G. Basil, Raymond; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Cochran, Snoqualmie . . . Art Kallen of Universal looking okay behind the wheel of a new car . . . Mercedes Harvey spending Washington's Birthday at Seaside, Ore.

J. Zimmerman of Metro and Walter Mackintosh of Paramount, auditors both, out about the same time for California . . . Tommy Olson in from Olympia and announcing he is opening new quarters for his radio station . . . Jack Flannery giving his sales talk on trailers and posters, and good too . . . Pete Higgins in conference with Leroy V. Johnson . . . John Danz on the Row for the first time in moons . . . A Saint Patrick's party will be held in Film Club headquarters on Friday. All gags are surprises. See you next issue.

Union Talks New Pact In Seven FWC Spots

LOS ANGELES—IATSE projectionists in Fox West Coast houses in Long Beach, San Diego, Santa Ana, San Bernardino, Ventura, Hemet and Palm Springs are negotiating with Charles P. Skouras, FWC president, for new contracts calling for wage increases and adjustments in working conditions.

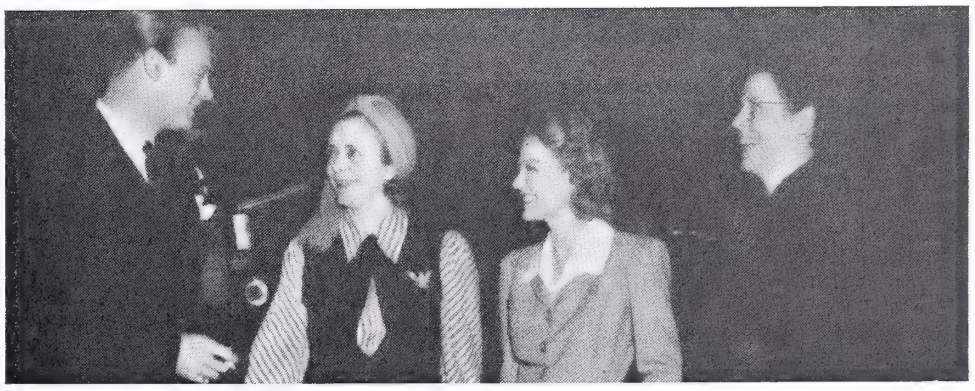
Union representatives are affiliated with district council No. 2, IATSE, which does not include the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

New PRC Frisco Address

SAN FRANCISCO — Producers Releasing Corp. has moved into new headquarters at 125 Hyde Street. Dave Nathanson is manager.

Bandits Get $1,500

SAN FRANCISCO—Two gunmen held up the Royal and escaped with $1,500 taken from the office of William Nasser, manager.



On "Mr. District Attorney" Set—

Dennis O'Keefe and Florence Rice, leads in Republic's "Mr. District Attorney," are hosts at the studio to Mrs. Eddie Walton, wife of Republic's Seattle branch manager, and Mrs. Frederick Mercy jr., wife of the head of the Mercy chain in Washington. Left to right are O'Keefe, Mrs. Walton, Florence Rice, and Mrs. Mercy.





At Republic's Initial Regional—

A few of the 50 exchange managers, bookers and salesmen who attended Republic's recent western division regional sales meeting, the first of four, at the company's North Hollywood studio. Upper, left to right: E. M. Loy, branch manager, Butte, Mont.; Francis Bateman, branch manager, Los Angeles; J. T. Sheffield, Northwest franchise holder; Pat Pinnell, branch manager, Salt Lake City; Eddie Walton, branch manager, Seattle (rear); Gene Gerbase, branch manager, Denver (in front of Walton); Joe Kane, booker, San Francisco; Bill Bowland and Jimmy Myers, salesmen, San Francisco; and Sid Weisbaum, exchange manager, San Francisco.
Lower photo, left to right: E. M. Loy and Pat Pinnell, branch managers, Butte and Salt Lake City, respectively; J. T. Sheffield, Northwest franchise holder; Gene Gerbase, J. H. Sheffield and Eddie Walton, branch managers respectively of the Denver, Portland and Seattle exchanges.
Those in attendance heard Herbert J. Yates, chairman of the board, and James R. Grainger, sales manager, announce a 66-picture program for 1941-42, to be filmed with a $15,000,000 budget—an increase of approximately 50 per cent over 1940-41 expenditures.

A Rousing Sendoff For Harold Lloyd

SAN FRANCISCO — Harold Lloyd's first venture into the field of producing was given a rousing sendoff Wednesday when the world premiere of his "A Girl, a Guy, and a Gob" was held at the Golden Gate.

Representatives from the industry, the government, and the navy were on hand. From Hollywood came Lucille Ball, George Murphy, Edmond O'Brien, Desi Arnaz, Carl Brisson and Lloyd. All made personal appearances during the opening day. Governor Olson of California attended the evening performance and also put in an appearance at the afternoon reception in the St. Francis Hotel.

Admiral Hepburn and his official staff from the 12th naval district, members of the premiere party, gave a good salty tang to the affair. Charlie Koerner and Ed Depinet handled the host's duties along with George Bole, manager of the Golden Gate. Charlie Huy, Gate publicity director, handled the detail work.

"Americanism-Defense" Week a Drawing Card

GLENDALE, CAL.—Top boxoffice results and increased community goodwill for the Glendale Theatre resulted when Manager Ed Harris of the Fox West Coast house staged an "Americanism and National Defense Week" program between Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays. The stunt netted considerable publicity in a local newspaper and received the endorsement of the city manager and leading civic and service organizations.

Highlight was a nightly stage show on which appeared such celebrities as the city manager, police and fire chiefs, coaches and faculty members of Glendale Junior College and Loyola University, American Legion members and Major Kinney of the U. S. Army air corps. Affair was climaxed by a "Junior Americanism Week" program on a Saturday matinee, at which the Meglin Kiddies appeared on the stage.

Screenings during the week were "Soldiers With Wings," a short filmed inside the Lockheed airplane factory; "Knute Rockne—All American," and "He Stayed for Breakfast." Marty Brill, former Notre Dame football star, appeared on one evening's program.

Flu Keeps Albert Law From Rapping Ascap

LOS ANGELES—Succumbing to the influenza germ which has been prevalent locally for some time, Albert J. Law, general counsel for the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, has involuntarily been forced to delay his preparation of a bill of complaint against Ascap.

PCCITO spokesmen declare the bill will probably be completed within a week, however, at which time Law will go into federal court to launch suit against the musical organization seeking to kill the "dual scoring" charge which exhibitors must now pay for the privilege of screening films containing Ascap music.

Meantime Robert H. Poole, PCCITO executive secretary and director of the ITO of So. Calif. and Ariz., and W. E. Calloway, Warner exchange manager, are continuing their preparations for "Greek Independence Week," in which all Southern California exhibitors, circuit and unaffiliated, will participate. Poole and Calloway head the committee in charge of arrangements. Collections for the Greek War Relief campaign will be handled by clubwomen and civic leaders in each community.

PORTLAND

THE news front was livelier this week with the completion of the Warner office remodeling, the public hearing on the bill to eliminate the music tax on theatres and Judge Dobson's decision that the Quiz Games as conducted by the Hollywood and Oriental theatres, Hamrick - Evergreen houses, are a lottery and should be discontinued.

Earleen Verry, booker's secretary at Warner, has left Portland to become a secretary in the Navy department in Washington, D. C.

Ted Gamble has taken over the theatres at Hood River from Art Kolstad who is stepping out of the picture business. The Rialto and Cascadian will be managed by Roy Gamble, Ted's brother.

Del Milne, formerly assistant manager of the Orpheum, is now at the Hollywood replacing Willard Coghlin who resigned to become drama editor of a Seattle daily. Bob Martin replaces Milne at the Orpheum . . . Al Finke is on a business trip to Los Angeles . . . E. P. Loy, manager of the Republic office in Butte, stopped on his way home from the convention.

Elaine Sigsbee, Heppner and Condon, has taken over the operation of the Kinzua Theatre at Kinzua . . . A. M. Dunlop, Astoria, was a visitor . . . Al and Bill Forman are in Portland arranging for personal appearances of Roy Rogers in theatres throughout the state.

The public hearing on the new bill sponsored by the Oregon Theatre group was held Friday night and should go to the senate floor within a short time. The measure is designed to eliminate the music tax on theatres. Banjo Miller, secretary of the Oregon PCCITO, has waged a hard fight to put the bill over as have Bob White, Jim Hone of Seattle, Ray Stumbo and many others.

Permanent Quarters For AAA Tribunal

Milwaukee—The local AAA tribunal, headed by John L. Loell, has moved from temporary quarters in Room 311 in the Loyalty Bldg. to its permanent offices in Room 319 in the same building.

Arbitration Panel For Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS—Initial appointments to a panel of arbitrators for the Indianapolis film tribunal have been announced by the American Arbitration Ass'n as follows:

C. D. Alexander, general manager, Bemis Bros. Bag Co., 1940 Barth Ave. and Belt R. R.

Louis J. Borinstein, capitalist and industrialist, 207 S. East St.

Dr. C. B. Camp, professor of economics and business administration, Butler University, 238 W. 44th St.

Henry Holt, attorney, partner in Thomson & McKinnon, Thomson & McKinnon.

Fred Bates Johnson, attorney, 1011 Fletcher Trust Bldg.

Gustave C. Klippel, credit manager, Van Camp Hardware & Iron Co., 401 W. Maryland St.

Prof. James E. Moffatt, head of department of economics, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

Murray H. Morris, manager of Merchants Ass'n, Merchants Ass'n Bldg.

Prof. George W. Starr, director of bureau of business research, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

Troy G. Thurston, CPA, partner in George S. Olive & Co., 528 Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

Dozen Essaness Houses Are Playing Screeno

CHICAGO—An even dozen Essaness houses are now playing Screeno with some of the circuit's houses playing the game as much as four times weekly.

Houses, together with the nights the game is being played: American, Wednesday; Argmore, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday; Biograph, Saturday; Broadway Strand, Friday and Saturday; Byrd, Friday and Saturday; Center, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday; Crawford, Wednesday; Devon, Wednesday and Thursday; Embassy, Friday and Saturday; Irving, Saturday; Vogue, Friday and Saturday, and Vic, Sunday.

Personnel Shifts By WB and I-I

CHICAGO—Two local circuits, Warner and Indiana-Illinois, have made considerable changes in personnel.

Following are the WB changes: George Finley, assistant manager, Orpheum, to assistant manager, Oakland; Stephen Sanis, chief-of-service, Startford, to assistant manager, Orpheum; Leonard Anderson, doorman, Ogden, to chief-of-service, Shore, and William Siebert, usher, Stratford, to doorman, Ogden.

All Indiana-Illinois changes involved managers. Jack Alberson, Indiana, East Chicago, is now on the road for the circuit; Chick Tompkins, Hoosier, Whiting, and Art Wartha, Elco, Elkhart, have exchanged posts; Harold Sexton, Vogue, East Chicago, is now at the Roxy, La Porte; Bud Borns, Roxy, has resigned; Roy Hanson, Jefferson, Goshen is now at the Vogue, East Chicago; Helson, Forsythe, East Chicago, is now at Jefferson, Goshen; M. Ross, Capitol, Whiting, is now at the Indiana, East Chicago; Don Johnson, Gayety, South Chicago, and Bob Griffith, Lex, Chicago, have exchanged posts.

Ned Depinet Drive Squad In Visit to Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS—A squad of Ned Depinet Drive officials met here Wednesday with the staff of Branch Manager R. E. Churchill of RKO.

Captain Leo Devaney, Bob Mochrie, eastern division sales manager; Harry Michalson, short subject sales manager and Charles Boasberg, east central manager, were in the visiting delegation.

New Poster Exchange Formed in Chicago

CHICAGO—The Midwest Poster Exchange, first independent poster firm to be organized here since the Chicago Poster Exchange was absorbed by National Screen last year, has been formed by M. H. Lipp.

Lipp managed the old Chicago Poster Exchange until its absorption by National Screen in March, 1940.

Hearing Soon on Two in Chicago

Chicago—Hearings are expected shortly before the local arbitration tribunal of two cases filed by exhibitors. The complaint of E. F. Van Derveer, State, Morris, Ill., against Loew's may be heard within a week. A list of ten arbitrators has been submitted to Loew's in the case of the Ken Theatre here against that distributor. When the arbiters are agreed upon, Clerk John F. Sullivan will signify the day on which a hearing can be held, giving the principals five-day notice of such date.

Ken Theatre Clearance Plaint

CHICAGO—*Ken Theatre Corporation, operators of the Ken Theatre in Chicago, has filed a clearance complaint with the arbitration tribunal, charging three major distributors with granting unreasonable clearance to two theatres over the Ken Theatre.*

The complaint is held up by the AAA as a presentation made in model form. The text, consequently, is published:

To John F. Sullivan,

Clerk of the Tribunal:

The undersigned, in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration and Appeals, demands that the controversy hereinafter described be submitted to Arbitration under the Motion Picture Consent Decree, and files herewith a Submission dated February 18, 1941, in accordance with the provisions of Section XXII, subdivision 9, of said Decree.

1. *Statement of Claim and Relief Sought:*

Ken Theatre, a corporation and an exhibitor within the meaning of the Consent Decree, claims that the clearance granted to the Shakespeare Theatre by Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Distributing Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Radio Keith Orpheum Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Keith L. B. Orpheum Corp., RKO Proctor Corp., and RKO Midwest Corp., to grant to the Ken Theatre clearance over the Pix Theatre is unreasonable; and the Ken Theatre asks that the arbitrator shall find that the said clearance granted to the said Shakespeare Theatre by the above named distributors is unreasonable and that the failure of the above named distributors to grant to the Ken Theatre clearance over the Pix Theatre is unreasonable, and that the arbitrator enter an award fixing the clearance between the said Ken Theatre and the Shakespeare Theatre and Pix Theatre.

2. *Name and Address of Each Distributor Against Whom This Complaint Is Made:*

Paramount Pictures, Inc., 1306 South Michigan Ave.; Paramount Film Distributing Corp., 1306 South Wabash Ave.; 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., 1260 South Wabash Ave.; Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., 1023 South Wabash Ave.; RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 1023 South Wabash Ave.; Keith L. B. Orpheum Corp., 1023 South Wabash Ave.; RKO Proctor Corp., 1023 South Wabash Ave.; RKO Midwest Corp., 1023 South Wabash Ave.

3. *Name and Address of Each Theatre Involved in Controversy:*

Ken Theatre, 1225 East 47th St.; Shakespeare Theatre, 940 East 43rd St.; Pix Theatre, 824 East 47th St.

4. *Name and Address of Each Other Exhibitor Whose Property Complainant Believes May Be Affected by an Award in the Arbitration Proceeding:*

Arthur Schoenstadt, 1014 South Michigan Ave.; H. Schoenstadt & Sons, 1014 South Michigan Ave.

Dated: February 18, 1941.

Date of Filing:

Filing Fee Received:

(Signed)
KEN THEATRE CORP.
Complainant.

Address: 1225 East 47th St.

"Fantasia" Leads Way in Chicago

CHICAGO—By grossing $19,000 in its initial week at the Apollo, Walt Disney's "Fantasia" jumped into the boxoffice lead in the loop—a position it will undoubtedly hold for some time to come. Receipts at other loop houses were big over the weekend but were counteracted the latter part of the week because of Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Besides "Fantasia," other top-grosser was Universal's "Back Street" at the Palace.

Detail for week ended February 27:

(Average is 100)

Apollo—**Fantasia** (Disney), 1st roadshow week....300
Chicago—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 115
Garrick—**Virginia** (Para't) 130
Picture doing fine business in its 2nd loop week.
Oriental—**Hell's Angels** (re-issue), plus stage show 100
Palace—**Back Street** (Univ); **Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga** (Univ) 140
Tom Gorman says house did $19,000 first week, with $15,000 figured on for second week. Will probably run three weeks.
Roosevelt—**High Sierra** (FN), 2nd week....100
State-Lake—**Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox), plus stage show....115
Studio—**Living Dead** (SR) 125
Horror show held for second week.
United Artists—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 5th wk. 85
United Artists—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M), 2nd part of wk. 125

"Philadelphia Story" on Dual Indianapolis' Best

INDIANAPOLIS—With the weather very cold, most first runs held up very well. "Philadelphia Story" dualling with "Gallant Sons" turned in a snappy 150 per cent for its second week.

Detail for week ended February 28:

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**Law and Order** (Univ); **Girl From Havana** (Rep) 80
Circle—**Virginia** (Para't); **Let's Make Music** (RKO) 110
Indiana—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Convoy** (RKO) 90
Loew's—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 150
Lyric—**Roadshow** (UA); Maxine Sullivan and John Kirby orchestra on stage.... 95

Flesh Shows Credited for Garnering Best Grosses

MILWAUKEE—Best grossers for the week were Fox's Wisconsin and the Riverside, both playing flesh. Former coupled Earl Carroll's "Vanities" with "Romance of the Rio Grande," while the latter played the Andrews Sisters plus Joe Venuti's orchestra and "The Invisible Woman."

Detail for week ending February 27:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**Virginia** (Para't); **Life With Henry** (Para't) 120
Riverside—**The Invisible Woman** (Univ); Andrews Sisters on stage 150
Strand—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **The Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M)....100
Warner—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **She Couldn't Say No** (FN) 110
Wisconsin—**Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox); Earl Carroll's Follies....175

Schinebaum Heads Shorts For Para't in Chicago

CHICAGO—Richard Schinebaum, a member of the Paramount 100 per cent club and with the company for the past 10 years, has been appointed Paramount district short subject representative here.

"9 O'Clock Plan" Moves Westward

Racine, Wis.—Stanley Lambert, manager of Warner's Venetian, announces as "a new innovation for the benefit of the average working and business man who must get home early," that "Western Union" would start promptly at 8:45 p. m. every night during its run.

This follows the pattern of the so-called "9 O'clock Plan," which originated in the east with the RKO circuit. Designed to meet objections of single-feature adherents in double-feature houses, the idea is to screen the top picture at 9 p. m., thereby allowing an early getaway from the theatre.—Editor's Note.

Liberty in Vandalia Is Destroyed by Flames

VANDALIA, ILL.—Fire of unknown origin destroyed the Liberty building in the heart of the downtown district, with a loss estimated at $80,000. Damage to the three-story structure was estimated at $40,000. A $20,000 air-conditioning system in the theatre was lost, and IOOF lodge equipment on the third floor suffered a $20,000 loss.

The E. J. Williams to Build in the Spring

KNOXVILLE, ILL.—Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Williams plan on building a theatre here this spring. The Williams were in Chicago recently conferring with equipment houses regarding equipment for the new theatre.



Investiture—

Miss Marian Oliver, 19, of Chicago, was selected "Miss Strawberry Blonde of 1941" by 210 executive chefs from leading hotels throughout the country, at the National Salon of Culinary Art, held at the Hotel Stevens, Chicago. Warner Bros., currently releasing "Strawberry Blonde," starring James Cagney and Olivia de Havilland, lent a promotional hand to the proceedings.

: SPRINGFIELD :

MORE than 1,000 children attended a motion picture on major league baseball and heard a talk by Gov. Dwight Green at the Roxy as a climax to "Recreation Appreciation Week" . . . Max Tschauder, manager of the Roxy, made a business trip to Marshalltown, Ia. . . . Employes of the five Springfield Frisina theatres were entertained at a party and dance.

William E. Kilgore, manager of Kerasotes' Modernistic Theatre at Onarga, Ill., was married to Lona Betzer of that city . . . M. E. Berman, manager of the Orpheum, is promoting "Come Live With Me" with a scrambled proverbs contest in conjunction with the Illinois State Journal *in which prizes are offered for the three best sets of corrected proverbs.*

Film men visiting the Kerasotes office during the week: Al Kent, Universal, Chicago; Milton Simon, 20th-Fox, Chicago; Frank Young, UA, Chicago; M. Schwartz, M-G-M, Chicago; Jack Shumow, Warner, Chicago; Wally Gleason, Warner, St. Louis . . . Nicholas Kerasotes went to Chicago to hear a talk by Leland Stowe, noted foreign correspondent . . . Dave Jones, manager of the Senate, has been elected vice-president of the Springfield junior chamber of commerce.

Gus Constant, theatre operator of Decatur, Ill., is planning a new house at Danville, Ill. . . . New RCA sound has been installed at the Kerasotes Strand in Springfield and Palace in Chillicothe, Ill. . . . The Constance Bennett cosmetics giveaway is pulling customers to the Fox-Lincoln.

Among those attending the appreciation dinner for officers of the Springfield Federation of Labor at the Leland Hotel were C. C. Murray and operators of the Fox-Lincoln Theatre and George Kerasotes of the Kerasotes chain. One of the officers honored was Sam Bonansinga, president, who is also business agent of the local stage employes union . . . Mrs. Pauline Drury, cashier at the Fox-Lincoln, and Mrs. Mary Holland, Orpheum cashier, went on a shopping spree to St. Louis.

Dominic Frisina announces that the new 900-*seat,* $125,000 *Varsity Theatre being built by the Frisina chain in Decatur, is nearing completion. Max Tschauder, manager of the Roxy, and Dominic Giachetto, Frisina treasurer, were in Decatur arranging an exploitation campaign for the theatre's opening, probably in April . . . "Meet John Doe" will be given a test premiere March* 14 *at the Roxy at increased prices.*

George and Gus Kerasotes will attend the silver anniversary of the Peoria motion picture operators' union, of which John Wald is president . . . J. B. Giachetto and his family are vacationing in Miami. Ada Iocca, cashier at the Tivoli, is with them . . . C. C. Murray, manager of the Fox-Lincoln, is looking forward to spring, moving from an apartment into a real house in the near suburbs with a garden and plenty of fresh air.

CHICAGO

JOHN PANE-GASSER, national known concert singer, is working as a projectionist at the Apollo during the "Fantasia" run . . . Seen at the opening of "Today," Chicago's new newsreel theatre: John McPherson, formerly with National Screen Service in Chicago, but now with NSS in Detroit; Peck Gomersall, Universal's popular district manager, and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smythe.

Al Simon, Filmrow restaurateur, celebrated his third anniversary recently by giving flowers to all customers. Al is now vacationing in Mexico . . . Danny Newman, legit press-agent, has been made assistant to Norman Kassel, head of Essaness exploitation department . . . Mike Todd's Oriental is playing first-run Paramount picture, "Dancing on a Dime" . . . Tom Gorman at RKO Theatres says "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and "Nice Girl?" will follow "Back Street at Palace. Tom says he hasn't been given go-ahead signal on "Citizen Kane" to date.

Bob Farrell vehemently denies Filmrow reports that 32 W. Randolph Street Corp. is going to sue Jones, Linick & Schaefer for back rental on the Oriental . . . J. H. Hoffberg Productions, New York, has been dickering for house in town to play their twin-bill: "Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands." Would like to take loop-house over and pay owners a flat-rental.

John Luebbing has been appointed assistant to Richard E. Beck, manager-owner of the new newsreel theatre, "Today" . . . Simone Simon was first film guest star on the new "What's Your Idea" NBC radio show last Sunday . . . Latest Warner theatre draftees include: Hugh Ward, chief of service at the Shore; Richard Hagstrom, assistant manager, Oakland, and Joseph Real, assistant manager, Highland.

J. E. Flynn, M-G-M district manager, together with Mrs. Flynn, are planning on leaving today (March 8) for a two or three-week vacation in Miami . . . Bennie Eisenberg, UA branch manager here, reports that "Road Show" goes into the Oriental this Friday while "Blackout" plays there the following week . . . Allen Usher, Paramount district manager, pleased with the following "Lady Eve" bookings: Chicago Theatre, Chicago, March 21; Palace Theatre, Milwaukee, March 28, and State Theatre, Minneapolis, April 4.

UA will screen "Topper Returns" for the trade on Thursday . . . Irving Schlank, UA's district manager, met Hal Roach, producer of the film when Roach came through town last Monday . . . On same train was Gordon S. Mitchell, manager of the research council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Mitchell, a captain in the U. S. Army Corps, was en route to Washington with two army training films which he planned on showing top-ranking army officers.

Steve Cokins, manager of the Empress, says he got so fed up with night life, that he decided to turn over a new leaf and reform. The result: He got himself engaged to Angyline Tulupan, a Chicago girl, with the agreement that he can still have his Monday nights off for bowling with the boys. Wedding date has not been set . . . Robert Farrell of 32 W. Randolph Street Corp., told BOXOFFICE that reports the Oriental would me made into a theatre-cafe were utterly without foundation . . . Bob Snyder of Al Dezel Roadshows back from Peoria where he closed a deal with the Palace for "Monster and the Girl" and "The Mad Doctor."

Jim Thomson, who was transferred from Garrick to Apollo for duration of "Fantasia" at latter house, is co-manager of house and not assistant as reported last week. George Handy, Walt Disney man from New York, is also at the Apollo for duration of "Fantasia." Now at the Garrick are: George Rosenthal, Phil Solomon and Jimmy Cassin—latter was formerly assistant manager at Maryland.

Allen Usher has transferred from Variety Club Tent No. 10 (Indianapolis), to Variety Club Tent No. 12 (Minneapolis) . . . Lucia Perrigo (Rob Reel), film critic of the *Herald-American*, participated on round-table discussion on "Fantasia" over WGN. Mae Tinee, critic of the Chicago *Tribune*, which owns WGN, declined to make an appearance . . . Bob Montgomery, exploiteer for "Fantasia" here, plugged Disney music-film when he appeared on Elizabeth Hart's WMAQ show Saturday morning.



Welcomed in Chicago—

Murray Silverstone, president of United Artists Corp., and Mrs. Silverstone arrive from Hollywood en route to New York, after attending the Academy Award dinner and reviewing $15,000,000 *worth of UA productions.*

In "The Boogie Man"

HOLLYWOOD—Columbia will co-star Boris Karloff and Peter Lorre in "The Boogie Man Will Get You." Robert Andrews is scripting the comedy-horror story for Producer Jack Fier.

MILWAUKEE

MILWAUKEE'S own Pat O'Brien was properly saluted with his name in electric lights on the front of the city hall during his personal appearance at the Riverside. O'Brien was accompanied by George Meeker, stage and screen actor . . . After a trial of several weeks of single features on Monday nights, H. J. Mirisch's Oriental goes back to the duals every night in the week.

E. J. Weisfeldt, managing director of the Riverside, is confined to his home with a couple of crushed toes sustained when an automobile drove over them . . . Fox's Strand in Manitowoc is now operating continuously from 1:30 *p. m. to* 11:30 *p. m. It is the city's only house with such a policy . . . Wayne Berkely, manager of the Majestic at Madison, double aisled it with Miss Adeline Hellekve at Stoughton, Wis.*

Plans are under way for remodeling the auditorium in Durand and leasing the building to the Durand Theatre Co. . . . W. A. Porter, manager of the Parkway at Greenwood, is convalescing from a hip injury suffered in a fall . . . John Marquis, projectionist at the Parker in Green Bay, was married to Miss Florence Dionne.

Horace B. Carpenter, who has played parts in 646 *films since starring in "The Great Train Robbery," recently visited his son, Dr. E. E. Carpenter, in Superior. The elder Carpenter worked on a Superior newspaper before entering the films . . . The Strand in Oshkosh, for years a twin feature house, played "Virginia" solo with a number of selected shorts.*

Fox's Strand here combined "The Devil Commands" and "The Face Behind the Mask" as "a new kind of thrill show" . . . The Kewaunee at Kewaunee was host to Green Bay *Press-Gazette* carrier boys at a theatre party.

TRADE DIRECTORY

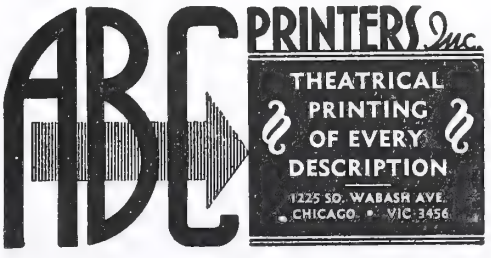
A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

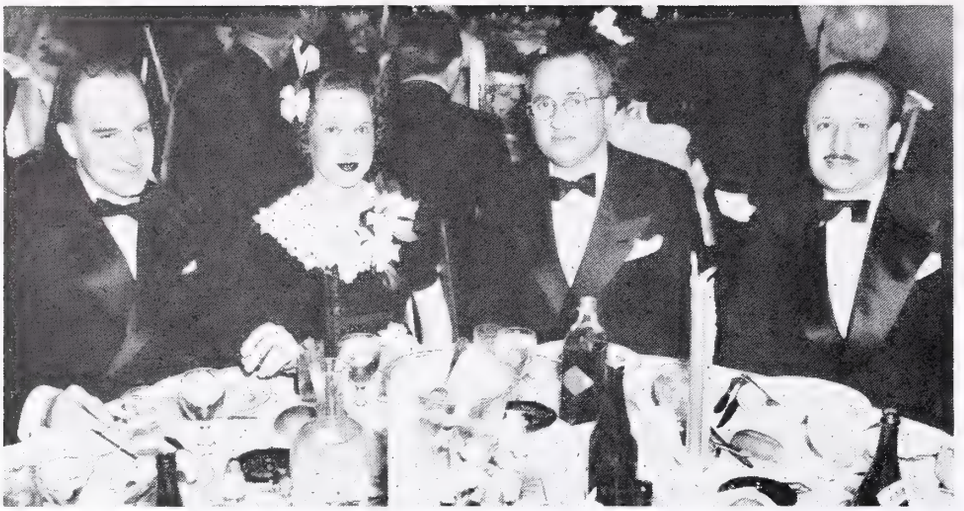
CHICAGO

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THEATRICAL PRINTING





—Metropolitan Photo Service

It's Their Club Affair—

Among those who attended the recent Columbian Club dance in New York are the above pictured, left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Russell Downing, Phil Dunas, Columbia midwestern division manager, stationed in Chicago; and Carl Shalit, Columbia central division manager, headquartering in Detroit.

INDIANAPOLIS

VISITORS: A. McCarthy, Roxy, Pendleton; Joe Schilling, Auditorium, Connersville; Arthur B. Thompson, Ritz, North Vernon; Harry Van Noy, Paramount, Anderson; Harmon Allison, Ritz, Mooresville; Harold V. Neese, Dana, Dana; A. H. Kaufman, Fountain, Terre Haute; Roy E. Harrold, Princess, Rushville; Lowell Brewer, Grove, Beech Grove . . . W. R. McCormack joins the Hudson circuit as manager of the Strand, Kendallville, Ind. He was formerly with Settos in Linton, Ind. . . . Fourth Avenue Amusement Co. of Louisville announces that a new theatre seating 800 is getting started at West Lafayette. The town has a population of 5,000, and no other theatre.

Alliance Theatre Corp. added another theatre to its group with the acquisition of the Moon at Vincennes from Theodore Charles. This makes a total of 17 theatres operated by Alliance, which is directed by S. J. Gregory of Chicago . . . Mr. and Mrs. Marc J. Wolf have returned after spending a week in Wheeling, W. Va. . . . Mildred Winer, booker for Capitol-Monogram, has been enjoying a winter vacation . . . The bill originally entered in the Indiana legislature making legal Sunday night baseball, then amended to include ice hockey, has another addition now to permit Sunday fishing. As such, it is expected to pass . . . Another bill passed was one making Good Friday a legal holiday, and setting the official date of Thanksgiving one week earlier than the last Thursday in November.

Louisville exhibitors received a break when Safety Director Lindsey stated he did not see any reason to change the status of Bank Night and Bingo in that city after a statement by Assistant Attorney General Lewis that both forms were in violation of Kentucky state laws . . . The Circle in Indianapolis staged another "sneak preview" with the running of "Buck Privates" as the feature shown. In the cast are the Andrews Sisters, whose act opened the following day on the Lyric stage . . . Theatrical Managers, Inc., found themselves out of Knightstown, with H. W. Watts acquiring the Strand from them. The other theatre in Knightstown is the New Alhambra, which is also operated by Mr. Watts . . . Had Hull, branch manager for Universal, is spending his vacation in the south with Mrs. Hull . . . The Dream in Jeffersonville, closed since the flood in 1937, is undergoing a complete remodeling in preparation to its reopening.

Morris Remkin, operator of the Swan at Terre Haute, announces the modernization of the theatre's front . . . Ross Garber, Terre Haute exhibitor, recovered from his recent illness, is back on the job . . . F. T. Murray, Universal manager of branch operations, paid the local exchange a visit . . . Ben Kalmenson, Warner western division manager, was in town to help open the campaign for "Meet John Doe." This Capra production is said to be set for a two-week run at the Circle at advanced admission prices . . . The Riley, Fort Wayne, recently taken over by Pete Mallers, is undergoing extensive remodeling. The major part of the work is being handled by the local branch of National Theatre Supply.

Claude McKean, Warner salesman, was given a surprise shower by the staff in honor of his 23rd wedding anniversary . . . After demolishing the building that was situated there, Universal began breaking ground for its new exchange . . . Sol Binder is the new booker at Columbia, coming from the home office in New York to fill the position. He replaces Abe Baker, now in the army . . . The bill advocated by Associated Theatre Owners of Indiana, regulating less than 35mm exhibitions, has been shelved by the committee which is tantamount to death for the measure.

ST. LOUIS

MARY FRANCES TEMME, secretary at Fanchon & Marco's Fox, attended the Naval Reserve Midshipmen's graduation dance recently in New York. She went east to see Bob Schumacher, former St. Louis Amusement Co. employe, get his diploma . . . Police of Chicago, New York and Newark, N. J., are on the lookout for Charles S. Miller, 50, who claiming to be a New York vaudeville producer, breezed into town and went through the motions of reopening the Shubert-Rialto as a musical comedy and vaudeville house, only to leave behind him here a flock of checks that bounced.

Celess Cason, M-G-M, and Uric Storz are victims of a Cupid shot as is Ida Berg, Universal, who announces her engagement to Oliver I. Kaplan . . . That real hot heart interest of Harry Hines jr., Universal, and Rayetta Larson, Warner Bros., takes time out as Harry anxiously waits a call from Uncle Sam.

The father of Mrs. Julia M. Moors, cashier at the Will Rogers, is dead . . . John X. Quinn, M-G-M manager, and his family are enjoying a vacation in Florida . . . Michael J. Nash, retired veteran theatre owner, who was reported missing, is home after a sojourn in Florida.

Matt Schulter, in the Fanchon & Marco-St. Louis Amusement Co. booking office, is spending a couple of weeks in and around Hot Springs, Ark. . . . Recently called in the draft were: Lester Sol Levy, a film salesman, and Conrad Peter Heib, a theatre usher . . . Iris Deskin, cashier of the Yale, foiled a would-be bandit by dropping to the floor of her cage when he demanded money.

"Frankie and Johnnie" bobbed up in circuit court here again when Miss Frankie Baker of Portland, Ore., plaintiff in a $200,000 damage suit in which she claims her reputation was defamed in a motion picture based on the celebrated story of "Frankie and Johnnie," through her attorney sought to include Republic Pictures Corp. as an additional defendant because it is the parent company for other concerns already named as defendants in the action. An agreement was worked out by the attorney and a representative of Republic under which the company agreed to enter its appearance in the suit.

Premier Naborhood Theatres of Evansville, Ind., plans to spend about $50,000 each on two new theatres in that city.

William Chevalier Dies In an Auto Accident

CHICAGO—William Chevalier, 20-year-old chief of service at the Warner Jeffery, was killed when the car he was driving skidded on a slippery pavement and crashed into a trolley pole. Chevalier is survived by his mother and by a brother, James, chief of service at the circuit's Capitol.

Joseph Drake, 19 years old, doorman at the Jeffery, who was riding with Chevalier at the time of the accident, suffered cuts and bruises.

Shape Up Plans to Aid Greek Drive

KANSAS CITY—The part to be played by the industry in raising funds for Greek war relief is rapidly being shaped up here.

Following the general meeting of committees for the Kansas City exchange area, of which E. C. Rhoden and T. R. Thompson are co-chairmen, two committees have been working out their respective programs, one for exhibitors in Kansas City, the other for exhibitors of the territory.

Thompson, chairman of the distributors committee, has with committee members, laid out suggested details which will be announced after further sessions soon to be held. R. F. Withers, branch manager for Republic, will be in charge at these sessions.

The committee appointed to plan the campaign for Kansas City under the chairmanship of Jerry Zigmond, has laid out that work and is proceeding to put it into effect. Both midnight shows and direct solicitation are provided for as well as some special devices that individual exhibitors may want to use.

Midnight shows will be held at the downtown Midland and at the Oak Park and Isis. In the main, however, exhibitors will raise money for the drive by means other than midnight shows. Direct solicitation is being particularly urged.

A "midnight show committee" has been set up, with John McManus, manager of the Midland, as chairman. Other members are Barney Joffee, James Lewis, William Lansburg and Zigmond.

A Plea for Help in Drive for Greece

OMAHA—A "plea for help" has been issued to all exhibitors, theatre owners and managers in the Omaha trade territory for their assistance in the Greek War Relief Drive, by the co-chairmen of the Omaha zone, Joe Kinsky, Tri-States district manager, and Ted Mendenhall, Paramount exchange manager.

Kinsky represents the exhibitors, and Mendenhall the distributors, in handling the drive in the Nebraska-Western Iowa area. The Omaha territory quota is $9,800.

"This is a job so big and so important that it will require the complete cooperation of every member of the amusement industry in Omaha and its exchange trade area," said a letter to exhibitors by the co-chairmen. "This is the first time that the Omaha exchange territory has been called upon to function as a unit for a noble cause. Let's prove beyond question that we are capable of doing our bit towards a great humanitarian cause."

Mendenhall said he already had received some contributions from exhibitors in this territory. Each will be contacted personally by a representative from one of the film distributors or an exhibitor in the district, Mendenhall told BOXOFFICE.

Mendenhall and Kinsky have appointed the following Omaha zone committees:

South Platte territory—C. W. Allen and Norman Nielsen, RKO; Carl Reese, Republic; Ike Rubin, Paramount; Charlie Lieb, Metro; Oscar Johnson, Falls City, Neb.; R. A. Davis, Superior, Neb.; I. N. Kuhl, Seward, Neb.; P. A. Haeker, Alma, Neb., and Ralph Falkinburg, Lexington, Neb.

Iowa section—Harry Shumow and Carl Nedley, Metro; Joe Scott and H. P. Ironfield, Fox; Iz Weiner, Universal; Frank Hannon, Warner; Toby Stewart, Shenandoah, Ia.; R. Kerberg, Sheldon, Ia.; Ray Brown, Harlan, Ia.; Dale Goldie, Cherokee, Ia., and Henry Saggau, Denison, Ia.

North Platte territory—Joe Jacobs, Columbia; Otto Siegel and R. Cadman, Universal; Fred Thortsen, Metro; B. A. Tomte, Paramount; Harry Levy, Fox; Leon Mendelson, Warner; Howard Kennedy, Broken Bow, Neb.; Phil March, Wayne, Neb.; Harold Dunn, Valentine, Neb.; Walt Bradley, Neligh, Neb., and Mons Thompson, St. Paul, Neb.

South Dakota section—Don McLucas, United Artists; C. K. Olson and Harry Schiffrin, Warner; Ed Rostermundt, United Artists; George March, Vermillion, S. D.; H. Tanneman, Yankton, S. D., and E. D. Nash, Canton, S. D.

Circuits—Joe Kinsky and Ted Emerson, Tri-States; Harry Warren and E. M. McClain, Central States; Ted Mendenhall, Paramount.

Lincoln—R. R. Huffman.

Sioux City—L. E. Davidson.

C. B. Stiff Heads Relief Group in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—C. B. Stiff, head of the Twin City theatres of the Minnesota Amusement Co., has been named chairman of a committee representing Minneapolis and St. Paul show people to arrange a huge benefit midnight performance in each city for the benefit of the Greek relief drive.

The Northwest quota in a film industry $1,000,000 drive for the Greeks is $25,000.

H. B. Johnson of Universal represents the distributors on the committee and E. R. Ruben of Welworth circuit and Fred Strom, Northwest Allied executive secretary, represent the independent exhibitors. John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Co. president, is general chairman.

Iowa Exhibitors Launch Drive to Raise $13,000

DES MOINES—Iowa exhibitors launched the campaign to raise their $13,000 quota in the film industry's million dollar Greek relief campaign with a luncheon meeting.

Featured guest at the session was Brenda Joyce, here for the Greek relief ball that evening.

A. H. Blank as chairman and Elmer Tilton as co-chairman are directing the Iowa campaign which will include special midnight shows, previews and the sale of badges to theatre audiences during the March 25-30 period. Special caps have been ordered for theatre employes to wear promoting the campaign.

All exchange managers are members of a distribution committee with Lou Levy as chairman. Art Stolte is chairman of the Greek relief drive's publicity committee, assisted by Emil Franke, Dorothy Day, Lou Elman and Leo Wolcott of Eldora.

Wolcott also heads the exhibitors' committee. Warner Grossman of Nevada, Cliff Niles of Anamosa and G. Ralph Branton are other members.

All film salesmen are on a special committee designed to carry the campaign into all cities in the state. They are devoting a portion of their time to contacting exhibitors in a bid for 100 per cent cooperation.

Anti-Decree Measure Advances Unopposed

MINNEAPOLIS—Failure of opposition to manifest itself has buoyed the hopes of Northwest Allied for passage of its anti-consent decree bill in the Minnesota legislature. When the measure, which is designed to contravene the groups-of-five sales plan of the consent decree, was up for hearing before the senate committee on general legislation no one showed up to talk against it.

Because he's anxious that any possible foes should have a full opportunity to present their arguments, Fred Strom, Northwest Allied executive secretary, requested the committee to continue the hearing for a week. The committee complied with the request.

In the interim, Strom said, all distributors and circuit heads will be notified to appear before the committee if they wish to be heard. In case no opponents show up again it will be unnecessary for Northwest Allied to present any arguments.

The anti-consent decree bill requires distributors to offer for sale to Minnesota exhibitors their entire season's product, the same as at present, and to grant a minimum of 20 per cent cancellation. Forced selling of shorts, newsreels, foreigns, westerns and trailers is outlawed by the measure.

Theatre Building Curb Is Contested by Goodman

MINNEAPOLIS—The city council edict against any additional theatre construction on the grounds that the city now is overseated faces opposition with the filing of a petition by Louis Goodman to build a new showhouse in north Minneapolis. Another new independent neighborhood theatre is scheduled for St. Paul where there is no ban against such building.

Pace Estimates Damage At $7,000 in Malvern

OMAHA—Fire damaged F. E. Pace's Empress Theatre at Malvern, Ia., to the extent of $7,000. The blaze started in the basement and was discovered about 3 a. m.

The stage and screen were destroyed, and the entire interior and other equipment badly damaged.



For Kinsky and Grove —

This dinner was in honor of Joe Kinsky, manager of the Mississippi district for Tri-States Theatres Corp., before he left to take charge of the company's Omaha district, and H. D. Grove, his successor in the Mississippi territory. Around the dinner tables are members of the Quad City Theatre Managers' Ass'n, which sponsored the affair, and their families and friends. In behalf of the association's members, President Barney Brotman presented Kinsky an office radio and Grove a luggage set. Standing at the head table in the background are, in the left to right manner, Mrs. Brotman and her husband, then Mrs. Kinsky and her husband, and finally Mrs. Grove and her husband.

To Hear Big Names In Cassil Trial

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—Representatives of major distributors will be among the witnesses who will testify in Eugenia and Frank Cassil's suit for $452,775 damages against Dubinsky Bros. Enterprises and the film companies. The suit will be tried in federal court here beginning Tuesday.

Attorneys believe a week or ten days may be required to complete evidence in the suit, in which the Cassils allege the Dubinskys and the distributors conspired in violation of the anti-trust laws to prevent them from obtaining first-run product for their Rialto in the South Side.

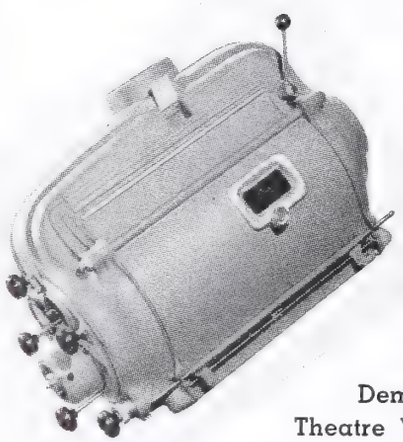
Judge Merrill E. Otis, who will preside over the trial, received the Cassils' motion for a continuance last Saturday in Kansas City and agreed to postpone the trial if the plaintiffs waived a jury. That the Cassils did not do, so the case will be tried as scheduled.

Louis Kranitz, St. Joseph attorney for the Cassils, said the continuance was sought so voluminous depositions obtained recently by counsel for both plaintiffs and defendants could be studied.

Besides Kranitz, the Cassils will be represented by Henry Monsky and Harry B. Cohen of Omaha and Paul Good, Lincoln. Floyd Sprague and Charles H. Mayer are the St. Joseph attorneys for the defendants, along with Paul R. Stinson of Kansas City and Edward C. Raftery of New York.

Numerous important names in the industry will come here to testify in the trial, said Sprague. They will represent Paramount, 20th Century-Fox, Loew's, Inc., RKO, Vitagraph, Universal, Columbia and United Artists.

Modern Projection Demands the Best in Arc Lighting



Buy Strong Utility Arc Lamp for Marvel of Efficiency

Twice as much light as is possible with any low intensity arc and at an increased combined current and carbon cost of less than 2c an hour.

Projects light of the same characteristics as that used in the studios where the pictures are shot.

Demonstration in Your Theatre Without Obligation

Exclusive Distributor in Kansas and Western Missouri

Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.

"The Independent Exhibitor's Best Friend"

1804 Wyandotte St. — Kansas City, Mo.

KAYCEE

ON THE ROW: Hal Parker, Jewell, Paola, Mo.; Louie Griefe, Windsor, Windsor, Mo.; Frank Weary, Ferris, Richmond, Mo.; A. E. Jarboe, Ritz, Cameron, Mo.; H. H. "Count" Dula, Holyrood, Holyrood, Kas.; Frank Anderson, Family, Kirksville, Mo.; M. S. Heath, Plaza, Liberty, Mo.; H. L. Hyde, Cozy, Geneseo, Kas.; Ward Spielman, Gem, Baldwin, Kas.; Dick Wright, Landers, Springfield, Mo.; Nick Kotsis, Holden, Holden, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Otto, Linn, Pleasanton, Kas.

*Making the rounds of Filmrow, your correspondent passed on more information than he received. Everyone was asking about Ken Force, ex-*BOXOFFICE *reporter, who recently graduated to an editorial post on the National Underwriter's mag in Chicago. Knowing you will continue to read* BOXOFFICE, *Ken, we'll use this column to pass on to you wishes for success and happiness from your many Filmrow friends.*

Jean Fiske, secretary to O. W. Williamson, Warner branch manager, has just returned to her home after a two-week sojourn in the hospital. Reason: A broken ankle. It'll be a month before she's back in the office . . . George W. Owens of Seymour, Mo., is building a new theatre. He hopes to have it finished in May . . . E. W. Brooks and son of Marshfield, Mo., are installing new RCA sound in their Ritz . . . Walt Talbutt, Victory, Rogers, Ark., is the proud father of a girl . . . Jerry Zigmond and family returned from a vacation in Florida . . . Ed Hartman, manager of the Murray, attended the funeral of his mother, who died in Wichita. Burial was in Emporia.

Silent comment on the double feature policy of a theatre in Hutchinson, Kas., was furnished by a nine-year-old boy who not only slept through the last feature but was locked in by homeward bound employes unaware of his presence. Until officers awakened him, however, the boy, Fred H. Mettscher jr., didn't even know he'd been locked in . . . Otis Cowan, Stillwater, Okla., replaces Vernon McGinnis as manager of the J. F. Griffith Theatres in Manhattan, Kas. McGinnis goes back to Tulsa to take over the Griffith theatres there.

Discarded papers left at the Fred Harvey restaurant, are left open to the film

(Continued on page 63

Hoodlums Assail Minny Ushers

Minneapolis—Ushers in loop theatres on several occasions in the past few weeks have been set upon and beaten by gangs of hoodlums trying to crash the show houses without paying. As a result, the theatres are asking for additional police protection.

One usher, who caught and turned over to the police a youth trying to sneak in, later was cornered outside the theatre by the fellow and his gang who beat his head against a stone pavement until he was unconscious.

Get Ready to Press Anti-Ascap Test

LINCOLN—Atty-Gen. Walter Johnson's office, represented by William J. Hotz, special prosecutor of Omaha, is getting ready to press the state's anti-Ascap law test with the U. S. supreme court.

Hotz, in appealing from a reversal in U. S. district court which called Nebraska's 1937 law inoperative, will stress a section from the lower's court's opinion which states that an individual member of the music organization has "no right to combine with others to insure control of prices and the consequent power of an entire field by combination."

Up This Term

The Nebraska case, said Hotz, will probably come up during this term of the high bench in Washington, but, as yet, no dates have been set for hearings.

The Nebraska law was introduced in the 1937 session by Sen. Frank Brady, a rancher from Atkinson, Neb.

As he drew it up, the 3-judge court here found it full of invasions of constitutional rights, and in direct stand to the privileges guaranteed an individual under the copyright laws. The hope of the supreme court test is that, even though the law may not survive, some avenues by which Ascap may be controlled will show themselves.

9 O'Clock Plan Going Over in Omaha

Omaha—Joe Kinsky announces the Orpheum and Omaha theatres here have put into effect the "9 O'Clock Plan" to satisfy both single and double feature fans.

The scheme is to start the main feature every night (except Saturday and Sunday) at about 9 o'clock, followed by the companion feature. Previously the schedule was the reverse.

The plan is working out "very successfully," according to Kinsky.

Rennie Joins Tri-States As Rock Island Manager

OMAHA—Orville Rennie, former Nebraska theatre manager, has been named by Tri-States Theatres as manager of the Fort at Rock Island, Ill. Rennie formerly managed the Rivoli at Hastings, Neb., for Tri-States before he resigned last fall to become program director of a radio station at Hastings.

Rennie succeeds H. G. "Herb" Grove, who has been moved up to the district managership of the Davenport, Ia., section. Grove takes the place of Joe Kinsky, who is the new district manager in Omaha.

The eastern Iowa office for Tri-States was moved from Davenport to the Fort Theatre.

Divorcement Bill Seen Stymied

LINCOLN—There is little likelihood of the legislature's divorcement bill making its appearance this session, goes the opinion in the unicameral corridors.

The bill, which seeks to cut production-distribution off from exhibition, has been pigeonholed, and is at stymie unless it might be sprung for some reason not now apparent.

Two other Nebraska bills, one taxing each ten cent or fraction of ticket ten per cent, and another licensing distributors for $1,000 annually, plus $1 a reel for each spool circulated, were killed.

Inspection and Bond on Theatre Signs in Omaha

OMAHA—Theatre signs here will have to be inspected once a year and exhibitors will be required to have a bond covering possible damage to passers-by, according to a city ordinance here which becomes effective April 11.

Exhibitors will have to have a bond ranging from $5,000 to $12,500, depending on the size of the sign and canopy. They will have to obtain a permit each year from the building department showing their theatre's sign has been duly inspected.

FRANK H. BOWEN

Takes Pride in Announcing His

Association With

INTERNATIONAL SEAT CORPORATION

UNION CITY, IND.

DES MOINES

GIRL-OF-THE-WEEK: Carmen du Vignau Olson, whose mom was born in Persia and whose pop was an interpreter for the French government . . . Carmen says her mother came to this country when she was only eight years old and now lives near Britt, Iowa . . . The family has a coat of arms dating back to Marie Antoinette, which may be responsible for that clandestine look in Carmen's eyes. Grace Simons says aw that's nothin' I got French blood in me veins and a coat of arms with a fleur-de-lis that ain't no fakeroo . . . and we might get editorial and comment that maybe that explains a look or two in our Gracie's eyes.

Jack Carr isn't at the Paramount Theatre any more, so Knight is assistant manager now . . . Mel Evidon can tell a good story about his uncle and how he bargained for serapes and baskets all over Mexico just for the heck of it . . . less than halfway home, it was decided that either uncle or the baskets must go, so the latter were left on the top of some tall mountain peak . . . We went in to Stearn's to buy a blouse from Chuck Parish's nice wife, Cora . . . we ended up with not only the blouse, but with a pair of slacks, shorts, a skirt, a jerkin, and a jacket . . . now that we know how she is we'll know better than to go in planning to buy a dress . . . Chuck has six hours solo time now.

The fellas and gals at the Fox shipping and inspection departments gave a dinner for Frank Johnson out at Wally Long's . . . Frank's over at the Iles & McKinney's Iowa Film Depot now . . . W. J. Heineman, Universal western division manager, was here March 4 en route from the coast . . . Lou Levy was just stalling last week when he said he'd been too busy to find out what the new girl's name was . . . Lou simply didn't know how to spell it . . . neither did anyone else in the office but Maxine Kaltonhouser will give you a general idea.

Used to be a day when Harry Holdsberg had the curliest head on the Row . . . now Jerry Slutzky's come to town . . . Jean Post says Filmrow is getting unreasonable, it's so quiet . . . Dot stuck her head in at Universal the other evening just long enough to tell Jean not to worry about the car and to ask how she was going to tell by driving by whether he really was working behind that high booking counter . . . just bide your time, Dot, Levy's no copy cat but he's gonna copy Fox and install those nice low stall-type booking places with fluorescent lighting all over the place.

Joe Smith may have his short-comings, but you gotta admit he's cute . . . "Oh, what a beautiful blue-eyed pike," murmured Joe in his busted-up English, when he lamped one of those fresh frozen fish Larry Hensler brings back from Grundy Center or Marshalltown . . . Joe is also reported to have enthused over the sea gal's long, curly lashes, but we'll settle for the blue-eyed remark . . . besides this last would haunt our plate every Friday when the meat course appeared.

Art Stolte's still eating Harkert's hamburgers . . . the National Screen kids are really sold on the company's latest campaign . . . Betty Clemmer and Dolores Maine both swear that it's different and interesting—to the tune of $3,000 which they think their gang is going to win . . . they were tenth last week and they're fourth this week . . . it's a Par drive and has something to do with billing, but we won't bother you with the details . . . also a buck-a-week prize to the employe selling or doing anything unusual is enlivening the kids' existence no end . . . but Grace Simons still has time for one new love, and we won't bother you with the details of that, either . . . if you want the low-down on who really has the most love affairs, etc., you ought to listen in on some of Lou Benning's telephone calls, we hear.

.....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By KEN and RENE CLAYTON

THAT man's here again! Yessir, when doings are dull, it's Ed Mason who shines 'em up. This time he's done it with the red-ink addenda on his Osage Theatre stationery. The scarlet letters (ahem) inform all of Ed's correspondents that the mighty Mason is conducting a one-man drive. It's not for Lou Levy, Lou Elman nor Lou Patz. It is for one person only—Ed Mason. And if word-of-mouth plugs along the DM Row can help out his Osage boxoffice, Ed must be putting customers on in layers.

If Ed neglects to call BOXOFFICE & Co. next time he's in town we're gonna make a special trip to Mitchell county just to sit in Clint Hill's office across the street and ignore Ed.

While Uncle Sam is listening to some harsh name-calling March 15, he may find solace in the fact he's getting a pat on the back for bringing in the news that the Grand at Grand Junction, Ia., has been purchased by Victor Mantz, manager of the New Ogden Theatre at Ogden. The Grand was being operated by William H. Downey, who turned it back to the previous owner, T. J. Reinhart of Grinnell. Mantz plans to take an active part in the operation of the Grand, but will continue to reside in Ogden. Clarence O'Neal is managing the newly-purchased house temporarily.

Marvin Fosse's theatre operations with the Mars at La Porte City and the Grand at Wellman is a two-man chore these days and his brother, Ames Fosse, is handling part of the job.

Surprising history—Frank Shipley is another Lee township boy (rah) . . . Class of '18, but you'd never believe it could have been that long ago. He's operating the State at Lenox, now.

Just discovered—W. B. Franke's "W" stands for Wayne. The head man from the Humbolt Humota checked up on the DM Row this week.

Cute trick—Leonard Kaplan's sister, Billy, who trotted in and out of exchanges with her brother while he talked about this and that in connection with his Iowa City, Waterloo and Mason City operations.

Comers and goers—Uncle Bob Bernau of Lake City and M. L. Dickson of Mt. Pleasant.

Delayed in transit—Eben Hayes' Missouri drawl makes the other fella wait to hear what he's got to say—and the other fella likes it. 'Most anybody in the business smiles when they hear the Time Theatre operator from Memphis, Mo., is coming 'round, just because they like to hear him talk.

TO ALL OF OUR IOWA FRIENDS!

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
WE HAVE OPENED A
DES MOINES OFFICE!

POPPERS SUPPLY COMPANY

511 LOCUST STREET PHONE 3-8581

ALL MERCHANDISE GUARANTEED!

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR FOR GENUINE **FLAV-O-NUT** AND FINEST POPCORN GROWN

RUBE MELCHER 1717 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, Mo., GR. 0672

EXTRA SPECIAL!

450 new spring cushion, seven-ply veneer back theatre seats. Priced at balance on unpaid contract. Here's a break for some exhibitor needing seats.

WESTERN THEATRE SUPPLY
OMAHA, NEBR.

Bank Statistics Show Prosperity in Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS—While Twin City independent exhibitors continue to complain of "the worst business ever," Federal Reserve Bank statistics show a high degree of prosperity generally for the section. The bank's latest report reveals that January, 1941, business activity reached the highest level for the month since 1929 or 1930. The upswing was resumed after some slight recession in business volume during December, according to the report.

Practically all lines of business in the Northwest participated in the rise, the report asserts. However, it points out, the advance was felt particularly in banking and agriculture. City and country department store sales indexes, however, attained the highest point for any January since 1930.

Iowa Measure Would Tax Theatres for Schools

DES MOINES—Even the school kids are looking for a slice of the theatre take now. A bill introduced in the Iowa legislature calls for a one-cent tax on all theatre tickets up to 50 cents and a two-cent tax from 50 cents to $1 to help replace some of the county school levies.

Three million dollars would be the estimated revenue from the theatre tax. With seven other special tax measures the proposal before the legislature would raise $8,000,000 for the schools.

Already introduced is a bill to license film distributors at $1,000 a license and being talked about is a special tax on Bank Night awards with proceeds tagged for the poor fund.

KAYCEE

(Continued from page 60)

advertisements in most cases, reports Manager Walter Rouser. The financial section and the editorial page, follow, in that order . . . High winds in Wichita blew away the 15 by 20 foot sign on the Roxy. The sign traveled 30 feet over the sidewalk and several parked cars, but the only casualty was an auto.

Mrs. Marion Miller, formerly operator of the Casino at Boonville, Mo., was in seeing old friends . . . A new face on Filmrow: William D. Pickard, U. S. Army Motion Picture Service, pinch hitting for Ted Kemper, who is still recovering from an illness . . . If most of Filmrow shows up for the Police Circus, blame it on Genevieve Roberts, M-G-M switchboard operator, who has been selling tickets right and left.

For 14 months J. W. Davis, operator of Davis in Higginsville, Mo., has been confined to his home, because of a heart attack. The first day he's out of the house, where does he go—to Filmrow, of course.

The Zephyr Cocktail Lounge at the popular Bellerive Hotel is fast becoming a favorite rendezvous for the film trade. It is known from New York to Hollywood. Many celebrities have stopped at the famous spot.

LINCOLN

PICTURES AND THINGS: Now that R. L. Cochran is no longer governor, Bob Livingston saw need of another phiz for his wall—and you should see the fancy endorsement he has in autograph from the present governor, Dwight Griswold. Cochran, now an army colonel, still smiles down in state—because, Bob says, he being only 34 (?), he's apt to be drafted . . . When Joe Scott screened "Western Union" at his 20th-Fox exchange projection room in Omaha, he invited Ed Creighton, grandson of the guy played by Dean Jagger in the picture. Lad came—and brought a lawyer . . . Hearing that Tex Ritter is a draft registrant sent Sol Francis, the Monogram franchise holder, into training. He goes horse-backing every Sunday, getting ready to offer himself to Monogram, should Ritter get called. He's been riding the plains for years selling the company's film, so saving a heroine with the help of a script writer looks easy for him.

Still no word to relieve the minds of Bob Huffman and Gene Shanahan as to whether their Nebraska theatre grocery giveaway, "Abner Askit's Basket," is legal or not . . . Dean Pohlenz, Sunday Journal *and* Star's *acting film editor, is readying to send the 10 best poll winner, Elise Searight, a 14-year-old high school girl, to Hollywood, all expenses paid . . . Chuck Miller, who radioed all the stuff relative to the "Cheers for Miss Bishop" premiere here last January, fathered a boy last week . . . Bill Miskell says showmen in Lincoln have it all over showmen in Omaha when it comes to getting soldier theatre patronage. "If a rookie goes to Lincoln," said Bill, "what else is there for him to do but go to a show?"*

The Mailbag: Orville Rennie, proud to use Tri-States stationery again, pens a note from the Fort, Rock Island, Ill., which is his new stand, replacing Herb Grove, who went to Davenport, Ia. Rennie had about six months of radio in Hastings after he quit Tri-States there, but that's all he wants . . . Gabe Yorke finally got back on the coast after more than two months in the midwest. Says he had the taxi driver who took him home, introduce him to his wife and family . . . Ted Gill, the APer, says Hollywood is quited down to a point where Anatole Litvak and Ciro's can look each other in the face again . . . Earl Wingart of 20th-Fox, New York—tickled because a stunt with Sonja Henie in Nebraska got so much newspaper spread.

Fourth Estate: Keith Wilson, Omaha World-Herald, *took the top half of his column Sunday, March 2, to chide Lucius Beebe for referring to former film critic and now Capt. Barney Oldfield, as a "veteran of foreign bars" in a stint for his papers about premieres. Capt. B. O., correctly states Br'er Wilson, is a total-teetler . . . Anyway, the north is good-natured: Harvey Traylor, manager of the Stuart, points out that only two films have played the house so far this year, making a very fancy profit—"Gone With the Wind" and "Virginia"—and in each case the south was allowed to win the war!*

Odds and Ends: If you want the racing news, hot from Hialeah, don't buy the *Racing Form*, see George and Mrs. Munroe, who reported back to the Colonial here this week . . . Vincent J. DiFiore is laying wires for one of those finance office jobs with the army so he can juggle figures in lieu of hand grenades, if drafted . . . Joe Rosenberg gets the most insulting letters, now that news is out he's gone into the cosmetics business . . . Nothing is so perpetual as Metro's Fay Farber hunting for a new room-mate.

Twin City Showmen Ready Gala Affair

MINNEAPOLIS—Twin City exhibitors and film men, Northwest Allied members, will combine their showmanship talents to put on a "Gold Days Rush of 49" show at the Hotel Nicollet Saturday night, March 15.

It will be a gala affair, according to Barker Eddie Ruben who is in charge. Fun of every sort is promised—a really hot time in the old town. Ruben and his assistants have stayed awake nights thinking up entertainment features. A large advance ticket sale indicates a record crowd.

Net proceeds of the affair will be split three ways. A part will defray the cost of 16 radio sets installed by the club in the Minneapolis General Hospital children's wards. The Milk Fund, the club's principal charity project, also will benefit. What's left will be pooled to be split among members making the trip to Atlantic City for the national convention next May.

Attention Showmen!!!

NOW DOING BUSINESS FOR PAST EIGHT MONTHS

AND STILL GOING STRONG

BHASCO

POSTER SERVICE

221 WEST 18TH ST., KANSAS CITY, MO.

EVERYTHING IN USED PAPER

Except 40x60's and Banners

YOU NOW HAVE A CHOICE OF WHERE TO BUY ADVERTISING

SEND YOUR ORDERS AND USED PAPER TO

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INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

HArrison 5199

Showmanship Stunts Get Space in Paper

OMAHA—The Tri-States lads here have been showing their new district manager, Joe Kinsky, a display of super showmanship.

Ted Emerson, advertising director, and Manager Don Allen of the Omaha and Manager Bill Miskell of the Orpheum have been using stunts that not only helped sell pictures, but landed some nice play in the Omaha *World-Herald*, acknowledged a "tough" paper to crack.

For "Western Union" a replica of the first Western Union office in Omaha in 1861 was built in the Orpheum lobby. The office was equipped with the old-time equipment, including a coil of the original wire borrowed from a local museum. Since the original job was handled by Omaha people, stringing the lines to the west coast, the Tri-States boys had a lot of local angles.

Emerson also clicked on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of airmail to the west coast, when a pilot who flew the original deal repeated with films for Omaha usage.



- 5 Minutes to Filmrow
- Air-Conditioned Rooms
- Free Parking
- French Cuisine
- Zephyr Cocktail Lounge

Affiliated With
SANTA RITA HOTEL
Tuscon, Arizona

You'll Enjoy Your Stay at Kansas City's
Cheerful, Air-Conditioned Film Men's Headquarters . . . . .



Hotel Bellerive

Every Room an Outside Room
RATES from $3.00 up

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"Western Union" Tops Kansas City Runs

KANSAS CITY—Two first run theatres, Esquire downtown, Uptown suburban, chalked up extra good results for their first week with "Western Union," and held it over. "Virginia" brought about the best results of the week for the Newman, what with the picture itself, and advantage taken of opportunity for tie-ins, such as contact with the local Confederate society. Two holdovers fell below average on their second week; but they had enjoyed heavy response their first. "Ridin' on a Rainbow" with Gene Autry gave the Tower a big week, a good stage show being appreciated but hardly credited with major pulling power when the public wanted to see and hear Gene on the screen.

Detail for week ending February 28:

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Western Union** (20th-Fox) 140
Midland—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 85
Newman—**Virginia** (Para't) 130
Orpheum—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN), 2nd wk. 90
Tower—**Ridin' on a Rainbow** (Rep), plus Clyde Hager on stage 110
Uptown—**Western Union** (20th-Fox) 130

"Strawberry Blonde" Is Des Moines' Best Bet

DES MOINES — "Strawberry Blonde," which drew columns of advance publicity here last December with Rita Hayworth's visit to Des Moines, set the pace among the city's first runs last week. The picture headed the Orpheum bill and gave the house its tenth consecutive week of above average business. Widespread word-of-mouth comment after "Night Train" had been shown in suburban houses resulted in that picture being spotted at the downtown Paramount where returns were only fair.

Detail for the week ending March 6:

(Average is 100)

Des Moines—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox) 90
Orpheum—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Meet Boston Blackie** (Col) 115
Paramount—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Night Train** (20th-Fox) 80

'Virginia' on Dual Omaha's Sole Average Topper

OMAHA — Tri-States' Omaha Theatre, managed by Don Allen, was the only first-run house to report a profit as the Lenten season opened.

"Virginia" and "South of Suez" pulled above average business at Allen's theatre. "Back Street" and "Night Train" were very mediocre at the Orpheum.

"Santa Fe Trail" and "Let's Make Music" were held for a full second stanza at the Brandeis, making the fourth consecutive double-week bill at the Mort H. Singer house. Prospects point to a possible extension of this record, says Manager Will Singer.

Weather was fair and warm, helping business slightly. Sport events were giving some competition but the theatre situa-

tion recently has been favorable, along these lines.

Detail for week ending February 28:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**Santa Fe Trail** (FN); **Let's Make Music** (RKO), 2nd wk. 85
Omaha—**Virginia** (Para't); **South of Suez** (WB)....125
Orpheum—**Back Street** (Univ); **Night Train** (20th-Fox) 95

"Virginia" Sets Best Record in Lincoln

LINCOLN—Everything looked "Virginia" way during the week past, and it shouldered the only sizeable moneybags on Theatrerow. "Back Street" was a slow number, and "So Ends Our Night" was doing no better.

Layoff may have been partly due to the weather, which was nice and conducive to outdoor amusements.

Detail for week ending February 28:

(Average is 100)

Colonial—**Sued for Libel** (RKO); **Trail Blazers** (Rep), split with **You Can't Fool Your Wife** (RKO); **Ridin' on a Rainbow** (Rep) 115
Lincoln—**Back Street** (Univ) 90
Nebraska—**Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ); **Haunted Honeymoon** (M-G-M) 105
Stuart—**Virginia** (Para't) 140
Variety—**Housekeeper's Daughter** (UA); **Petticoat Politics** (Rep) 95
Varsity—**So Ends Our Night** (UA) 95

"Mr. & Mrs. Smith" Garners Minneapolis Big Take

MINNEAPOLIS—"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" created the biggest boxoffice commotion the past week, turning in a highly profitable week at the State. It has moved over to the Century for an extension of its loop first-run. The International Casino Revue stage show in combination with the film "You're the One" fared poorly at the Orpheum. "Road Show," at the Gopher, did so badly it was yanked after four days.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**Face Behind the Mask** (Col); **Let's Make Music** (RKO) 90
Century—**Virginia** (Para't), 2nd wk..... 100
Gopher—**Road Show** (UA) 70
Orpheum—**You're the One** (Para't), plus stage show 80
State—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO)..... 150
World—**Flight From Destiny** (WB), 2nd wk..... 90

Bowen to International Seat Corporation Post

KANSAS CITY—Frank H. Bowen, for 19 years in the theatre seating field, has returned to that branch with International Seat Corporation, he said on his return from the factory at Union City, Ind.

Joining International in a sales capacity, Bowen's duties and territory will be defined on his return to the factory, for which he departed this week.

Bowen started with Heywood-Wakefield in the Kansas City territory in 1920, moving from this area to New York in 1925. In 1929 he returned to Kansas City and handled the H-W line until 1932. He also did special sales assignment work out of the Chicago office. Lately, Bowen has been central division manager in the theatre department of Salem China Co.

Gets New Screen

CARL JUNCTION, MO.—A new screen has been installed in the local theatre managed by Mr. Travis, who is also planning to put a new front on the building and replace the seats.





At Republic Kansas City Meeting—

Herbert J. Yates, left, chairman of the board, and James R. Grainger, president, who outlined production plans to the Republic regional convention in Kansas City. Present were Robert F. Withers, Kansas City; Lloyd Rust, Dallas; Nat Steinberg, St. Louis; F. R. Moran, Des Moines; C. F. Reese, Omaha; L. W. Marriott, Indianapolis; Jack Frackman, Milwaukee; Gilbert Nathanson, Minneapolis; Sol Davis, Oklahoma City

Buys Dixie in Belton

BELTON, MO.—Whitlow Mustion, manager of the telephone company, has purchased the Dixie. He plans to make a number of improvements in the theatre.

Presley to Appleton City

BELTON, MO.—Jim Presley has moved from here to Appleton City where he will manage the theatre. He managed the Dixie here.

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MINNEAPOLIS

WARREN BRANTON, new 20th-Fox South Dakota salesman, delivering in a big way . . . Cerna Martin of Columbia's office staff out of commission with flu . . . Bill Scholl, RKO exploiteer, departed for Cleveland, his new headquarters . . . Ben Blotcky, Twin City Variety Club chief barker, in Atlantic City for meeting of committee to complete arrangements for national convention next May . . . Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, reached Madison, Wis., to appear as a witness in the LaCrosse Theatre company suit just as the court was throwing it out. He visited the Des Moines branch this week.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included Leo Backer, Browns Valley, Minn.; Fred Schnee, Litchfield, Minn.; "Doc" Reynolds, Princeton, Minn.; Bernie Larkins, Madelia, Minn., and Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn. . . . Ben Landy, Columbia booker, pays his rent—and promptly—but has the moving habit. He has moved three times in the past few months.

Those government defense program reels, indorsed at the recent Northwest Allied convention, are being distributed by Universal, its branch manager, LeRoy J. Miller, wants the trade to know . . . The second of the season Twin City Variety club "Kings for a Day" luncheon was moved forward from March 10 to 17 . . . John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Company president, in Chicago on business.

Twentieth-Fox bunch raving over "That Night in Rio," screened this week . . . Eddie Ruben the recipient of many congratulations because of his victory in the LaCrosse Theatre Company suit . . . President E. L. Peaslee of Northwest Allied back from an extended eastern trip and on the job again . . . Sol Bloom, 20th-Fox exploiteer, in from New York to work three weeks ahead on "Tobacco Road," scheduled for the State March 21.

Columbia has new "Good Will Campaign" under way . . . Warner gang presented Herb Blass, office manager, a singing telegram on the occasion of his birthday last week . . . Morrie Abrahams, veteran exploiteer, one of the best of the bowlers among the local film crowd . . . Twin City Variety club held a party this week for members of the International Casino Revue, playing the Orpheum, and for Ann Corio, the star, and other Gayety Theatre performers. Prior to the party, they attended the Alvin en masse as a token of friendship for Barker Harry Hirsch who operates the house with Harry Katz.

J. J. Rost, Warner's home office auditor, in town . . . The 16 radio sets donated by Twin City Variety to the children's wards of the Minneapolis general hospital, were installed this week . . . Joe Podoloff, 20th-Fox branch manager, off to Florida for a three weeks rest. His wife accompanied him . . . Abe Kaplan, independent circuit operator, gave his annual party at the Hotel Nicollet to celebrate his dad's birthday. At the age of 85 the elder Kaplan is hale, hearty and active.

Mort Van Praag, National Screen district manager, a visitor . . . Joe Numero of Air-Loc seats vacationing in Florida . . . Mother of Cliff Gill, Welworth circuit publicity department head, seriously ill . . . Art Koivermackie, Camden theatre manager, engaged to wed his cashier, Elaine Johnson.

Sidney and Bill Volk, independent circuit managers, gave a party for Wayne Eckstein, the manager of their Falls Theatre, before he entered the U. S. army . . . Twin City Variety club to toss a free dinner March 10 in connection with the induction of new members. It's scheduled for the Hotel Nicollet.

It just leaked out that Kenneth Erickson, Nile Theatre manager, has been married since last August.

One Cent Amusement Tax Near in N. D.

Bismarck, N. D.—Passage by the state legislature of a bill to place a tax of one cent on each theatre and other places of amusement tickets is indicated. The measure carried in the state senate and little opposition is anticipated in the lower house.

Francis Kappler Joins DM Republic Booking Staff

DES MOINES—Francis Kappler's jump from the Iowa Film Depot to the booker's desk at Republic causes repercussions from one end of Filmrow to the other, reading west to east.

Dick Kappler filled in at the Iowa Film Depot shipping chores temporarily until Frank Johnson was hired from the Fox shipping department. Ray Butcher was shifted to the assistant shipper's position at Fox and Bill Olive of National Screen Service's Advertising Accessories force was hired.

Bob Kurtz, a former National Screen employe, went back to work there as a result of the vacancy created on the staff by the changes.

Morton Van Praag Ill In Kansas City Visit

KANSAS CITY—Morton Van Praag, midwest division manager of Advertising Accessories, was hospitalized several days at Menorah as the result of food poisoning suffered early in the week. His condition indicated release some time Friday.

Van Praag stopped in a tour of AA branches to confer with Homer Blackwell, in charge of the National Screen subsidiary.

Steinman Succeeds Rosen At Monogram Branch

MINNEAPOLIS—Morris Steinman is the new Monogram branch manager. He succeeds Eph Rosen who has resigned. Steinman formerly was a salesman with Monogram, but went out a few months ago when the duties of manager and salesman were combined. Rosen will take a vacation in New York and Atlanta before making any new business plans.

OMAHA

LOU EGART, Brandeis treasurer, probably will be the industry's first contribution to national defense from the Omaha area . . . Cleo Dixon, Omaha treasurer, is recovering nicely from an appendicitis operation in a local hospital . . . Jimmy Winn, Warner district manager, was here from Kansas City visiting C. K. Olson and the local exchange.

Henry Schoenthal, new employe at the Town, has a very interesting background. He and Mrs. Schoenthal are war refugees from Vienna . . . Don McLucas, the pride of United Artists' current sales drive, passed out some fancy cigars to Earl Kerr, Iowa circuit owner, and BOXOFFICE *. . . Tom Kenyon of Paramount has decided Filmrow doesn't want a ping-pong tourney . . . Slim Fraser, the smiling exhibitor from Havelock, Neb., was on Davenport Street.*

L. A. Bramson, exhibitor at Elk Point, S. D., has purchased an airplane and is taking flying lessons. When the new consent decree system of screening pictures is put into effect, Exhibitor Bramson expects to commute to Omaha for the showings . . . Frank Good, Red Oak, Ia., has recovered from the flu and was back on Filmrow "hard to get along with as ever," to quote Frank.

The first month under the consent decree setup of arbitration has passed and so far no complaints have been filed in the Omaha territory . . . Shep Owens, out-spoken member of Local 343, IATSE, says he would like a little personal publicity in BOXOFFICE. *As soon as you submit a few of those poems you write, Shep, we'll print them . . . Leon Mendelson, Warner salesman, finally had those dents taken out of his car's fenders, after much kidding by Harry Schiffrin.*

The spring weather has been causing some of the exhibitors to wonder what's coming up for spring and summer business, as well as competition. What will replace jack-rabbit circuits and softball this year? Will the national defense situation help Nebraska-Iowa-South Dakota any? . . . The Variety Club committees will be announced in BOXOFFICE as soon as a few chairmen are lined up.

Popcorn Supply Office Open in Des Moines

DES MOINES—The Poppers Supply Co. of Kansas City has opened a branch office here to care for increasing trade in the Iowa territory. Tony Rand is local representative.

The new office was opened here by Rube Melcher, who has been dealing in popcorn and seasoning in Kansas City for several years.

Buy Isis Building

MARYSVILLE, KAS.—The Isis Theatre Co. has purchased the building in which it has been operating. Plans are under way for installation of a marquee, cushioned seats and the redecoration of the auditorium. Leonard Smith is manager.

Herrington's Eye on Harrisburg Solons

HARRISBURG—Fred J. Herrington, AMPTO secretary, has been attending house and senate sessions of the Pennsylvania general assembly and visiting the offices of state representatives and senators.

There are a number of bills now in committee which he is interested in keeping there. Herrington has been on the legislative firing line in defense of the motion picture industry, particularly in the exhibition field, for 30 years.

A month ago, when he was here, Herrington stated he did not expect the passage of any legislation particularly injurious to theatres. He has not commented on the matter so far during this visit.

Deny Winograd Another Sunday Referendum

BEAVER, PA.—Rochester, Beaver county's only large community without Sunday motion pictures, must wait until 1945 before another referendum can be taken, Judge Henry H. Wilson ruled, in upholding the ban on the issue by refusing to void the results of last November's election.

Emil Winograd, Rochester exhibitor, brought the action, a complaint against the county board of elections charging voting irregularities in the community's five precincts. Winograd had petitioned the court not to certify the November 5 results and also asked for the re-submission of the issue to the voting public at another special referendum.

State Churchmen Fight Blue Law Repeal

HARRISBURG—Opposition against further blue law repeal was framed here this week by organized churchmen, with Rev. William L. Forney, secretary of the Pennsylvania Lord's Day Alliance, as spokesman.

Cry Room for Emporium

EMPORIUM, PA.—A cry room at the Emporium is being outfitted by A. E. Andrews.

Clearance Gap Increasing In Subsequent Run Jam

By H. F. REVES

DETROIT—Checkup of some individual pictures that have not played second runs indicates that the gap between first and seconds is gradually increasing considerably beyond the normal four weeks' protection—or six weeks in case of a picture that went two or more weeks at a first run.

The situation has a somewhat ironical aspect, in that neighborhood theatre operators have annually complained that the first runs were holding up pictures, based largely on extended runs at the big downtown houses, so that comparatively fewer pictures were available in a given length of time for the neighborhoods; whereas, the holdup now appears to center in the neighborhoods themselves, beginning with second runs and keys.

The situation appears to have arisen partially from the fact that some major product deals were not completed until a few weeks ago for larger neighborhood groups, such as Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan. The delay in booking for second and later runs has thus started very naturally, but the effect is becoming cumulative, and even key run exhibitors have complained privately that they have been unable to get pictures they want, although the normal protection period over first runs has long since expired, because they have not been given playdates at the seconds.

May Affect New Season

The practical result of this situation is likely to be that neighborhood theatres will have a sizeable number of pictures from their 1940-41 contracts still unplayed when the new consent decree terms become effective in September. Should this occur generally, individual exhibitors are likely to have a strong bargaining position in dealing with distributors.

Another possibility that may loom on the local film horizon with the block-of-five setup is a concerted move for single bills. Every house in town now plays duals consistently, and the situation has been accepted, albeit unwillingly. Local exhibitors, however, would welcome the move for singles, and may see their way to such a move, through some common policy, because of the apparent greater freedom to choose strong pictures under the new buying policy of the decree.

One possible solution of the "reserve" of pictures that exhibitors will apparently have, was pointed out by C. R. Buermele, general manager of Co-Operative Theatres, in the suggestion that major companies may fail to make all the pictures called for on 1940-41 schedules. Should this occur, the surplus may almost automatically disappear, with exhibitors having to buy "fives" right from the start.

Problem for Bookers

Aside from the origin of the film surplus in late film deals, much of it has come about very naturally from the routine problems faced by film bookers in setting schedules and programs. Detroit typically plays the same two pictures on a dual bill at perhaps half a dozen second runs, a dozen keys, and so on down the sequence, with the same two pictures traveling together right down to about the last runs in many instances. These combinations are originally set by the bookers for second runs and keys, who exercise, probably unwittingly, a heavy influence on the film fare combinations that most Detroiters see.

The problem faced by the bookers is to work out a practical combination, and many factors enter into this—so many that when a suitable combination is achieved, the tendency is to hold on to it. Faced with the necessity of considering all these problems, bookers frequently pass individual films aside, planning to spot them on later bills, and the total set aside continues to multiply, especially as holdovers for more changes occur in the neighborhoods as managers increase the trend by holding strong bills for extra playing dates.

New Wage-Hour Law Pends in Lansing

DETROIT—A new wage-and-hour law introduced in the legislature at Lansing will affect all Michigan theatres. It applies to employers not now covered by the federal labor act.

Under the bill, the basic wage scale for all employes would be: 40 cents the first year; 45 cents second to sixth years; 50 cents thereafter on an hourly basis.

Maximum hours of work are set as: 44 first year, 42 second year, and 40 third to seventh years.

An earlier bill establishing a $16-a-week minimum wage for women has been temporarily sidetracked pending the fate of this new measure.



—Klingensmith

"White Hope" Enright Guest—

Billy Conn, world's light-heavyweight champion (center) and "white hope" opponent of Joe Louis for the heavyweight crown in June, attended the seventh anniversary of the Enright's Saturday morning Kiddie Club. William "Happy" Hock, manager of the East Liberty (Pittsburgh) theatre, is pictured on the right. His assistant, Milton Ripp, is at the left.

Machinery Ready for Greek Relief Drive

CLEVELAND—I. J. Schmertz and John D. Kalafat, co-chairmen of the local Greek War Relief Committee, are all set to press the button which will set in motion the machinery to raise the $50,000 quota pledged for this territory.

Assisting them on the general committee are: Charles Raymond, Loew division manager; Nat Holt, RKO theatre division manager; Bert Stearn, UA district manager; Frank D. Drew, M-G-M branch manager; Charles Rich, Vitagraph branch manager Nat Barach, NSS manager; Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager; Sid Andorn of WGAR; Henry Greenberger, Community Theatres circuit, and M. B. Horwitz, general manager of the Washington circuit, who is treasurer for the drive.

A. M. Goodman, UA branch manager, and Jack Sogg, M-G-M city salesman, are in charge of in-town pledges, while Lester Zucker, Columbia branch manager, and George Elmo, Paramount branch manager, have charge of out-of-town pledges.

Publicity committee consists of Charles Raymond, chairman; Maurice Druker, Loew State manager; Joe Longo, Loew exploiteer; Clem Pope, RKO exploiteer; Ed Fisher, UA exploiteer; C. C. Deardourff, M-G-M exploiteer, Maxwell Joice, Paramount exploiteer, and Sid Andorn of WGAR.

M. B. Horwitz heads the committee to collect contributions from film employes. He is assisted by Charles Rich and Nat Barach.

Trailers, buttons and flowers to be sold in theatres for the cause are being handled by Nat Barach, Louis Gross and Eddie Johnson.

To help raise the $50,000, the Variety Club will hold a benefit party March 22, with Stearn and Horwitz in charge of entertainment. On March 26, a city-wide entertainment will be held at the Arena, with Raymond, Holt and Stearn in charge.

Schmertz and Kalafat suggest the following ways for theatres to cooperate with the committee in raising the funds pledged by the industry in this territory: Collections in theatre lobbies, a benefit performance in cooperation with newspapers and radio stations, and minute men to speak from the stage, same selected from Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary clubs and chambers of commerce.

The Warner publicity department is preparing stock ads and making them into mats for use over the territory. It is also promoting a dozen trailers for use in theatres advertising the special benefit shows.

It is also recommended that a committee be appointed in all towns participating to consist of leading citizens, business men, newspaper people, or society and welfare workers, to assist in handling the campaign. This, it is pointed out, will lend dignity to the effort and assure its success.

At the end of the drive, each theatre manager is to forward his check for the money realized from the benefit shows to M. B. Horwitz, 211 Film Bldg., 2100 Payne Ave., Cleveland, Ohio. All checks should be made payable to the Greek War Relief Association, Inc.

Benefit Shows Exempt From Federal Tax

CLEVELAND—The committee in charge of the local Greek War Relief Drive has an important message for theatre owners who plan to offer benefit performances in this territory.

The law provides that such shows are exempt from federal tax. It further provides that theatres holding benefit performances must secure tax exemption certificates from the federal bureau. In addition, special admission tickets must be provided for benefit performances. These special tickets are required to state the admission scale and must be stamped "tax exempt."

The committee has arranged with the local federal bureau whereby it will secure (1) tax exemption certificates and (2), the special tax exempt admission tickets for all exhibitors who will notify the committee of the date of the benefit show and the admission scale.

Send this information as soon as possible to M. B. Horwitz, treasurer of the Greek War Relief Drive, 211 Film Bldg., 2100 Payne Ave., Cleveland, or to John D. Kalafat, 300 Film Bldg., Cleveland, or to I. J. Schmertz, 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., 2219 Payne Ave., Cleveland.

Stoia Restrainer Bid To Mich. High Court

DETROIT—Suit brought by Joseph Stoia to restrain operation of the new Carmen Theatre for four years—till 1945—is before the supreme court at Lansing. As reported some weeks ago in BOXOFFICE, Stoia secured his injunction, and the owners, Gorelick and Marshall, were estopped from using it as a theatre by circuit court order.

Defendants (in the original case) sought a temporary injunction on their appeal to the supreme court, but this was denied, and the restraining order stands until the high court hears the case—probably six months in the future.

Canton Theatres Tie In on Greek Relief Campaign

CANTON, OHIO—All theatres in the Canton district have cooperated in forming the Canton chapter of the motion picture division of the Greek War Relief Association, Inc., and will devote the week of March 25 to 30 to a campaign for raising funds for civilian relief in Greece.

Contributions will be accepted from patrons every day during the week and on Saturday night, March 29, all of the cooperating theatres will present a big stage and screen show at Loew's Theatre here with the proceeds going to the fund.

District Chairman is George A. Delis, district manager for the A. G. Constant circuit, and co-chairman is Orville W. Crouch, manager of Loew's.

All Columbus Theatres To Aid Greek Cause

COLUMBUS—Local theatre owners met at the Variety Club to discuss the Greek war relief drive. All Columbus theatres will cooperate. Russ Bovim, manager of Loew's Ohio, is acting as chairman for local participation.

Pidgeon for "Man Hunt"

HOLLYWOOD—Twentieth-Fox has borrowed Walter Pidgeon from Metro for a leading role in "Man Hunt."

CINCINNATI

THE Variety Club party staged by the Barkerettes—wives and daughters of members—was one of the season's outstanding successes, according to Chief Barker Bill Onie . . . Monogram's Edith Fellows made a p. a. at the Colonial, Dayton, with "First Romance" . . . Shea has taken over the houses in Marietta and Cambridge formerly operated by the C&M Amusement Co. . . . Col. Arthur Frudenfeld of RKO Theatres and Allan Moritz, Columbia, are co-chairmen for the Greek War Relief Week fund in this territory.

Gene Custer, operator of the State and Custer, Charleston, W. Va., is reported planning a new theatre on the west side . . . Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Rosselot, exhibitors, have returned from a stay in Florida . . . Gene Hensley of the Black Diamond circuit is confined to St. Mary's Hospital, Huntington, W. Va., where he underwent an operation for the removal of a kidney stone. He is reported coming along nicely . . . United Artists reports "So Ends Our Night" opened to outstanding business at RKO Albee and Loew's Dayton.

R. L. Costello was in booking for the new Lincoln, soon to be opened by Charley Behlen at Stanford, Ky. . . . Manny Marcus, operator of the Esquire here and a chain in Indiana, has taken over the Columbus, Dayton, from Homer Guy. Guy who has been in the business 28 years, will reportedly take over the Mayfair, burlesque house . . . Warner's Irene Cook is on the sick list . . . Patrons of the Pekin here watched the show undisturbed while firemen extinguished a fire in the attic of the building which houses the theatre. No damage was reported.

Paramount's "Lady Eve," co-starring Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda, is noted "extra" screen fare following its recent screening . . . 20th-Fox's "That Night in Rio," musical, is also one of the top-notchers judging from preview reaction . . . Lloyd and Bill Rogers visited the Row to book for their West Virginia chain . . . George B. Myers, Winchester and Frankfort, also visited . . . Stephen Lang's Liberty in Whitesville, W. Va., recently destroyed by fire, has been rebuilt and reopened.

CLEVELAND

JOE SHAGRIN, Youngstown theatre owner, is on the west coast visiting his twin, Max, who heads the Max Shagrin Agency . . . William N. Skirball, circuit owner, left for a vacation in Florida . . . Frank D. Drew, M-G-M branch manager, was inducted as a member of the Cleveland Notary Club . . . Miss Rickie Labowitch, secretary to G. W. Erdmann of Cleveland Motion Picture Exhibitors Ass'n, is back at her desk after a six-week illness . . . Mrs. Lucille Knopp, owner of the Royal, Oak Harbor, braved heavy snows to visit the local exchanges.

March 10 is the date and the Variety Club the place for the "Welcome Home" party friends of Matt Goodman, United Artists branch manager, are staging to celebrate his return to active duty following an illness of three months . . . Sadie Meckler, a member of the local M-G-M family for the past 12 years, will become Mrs. Fred Wolf April 6 . . . United Artists will trade screen "Topper Returns" at 2 p. m., March 12, at the Cedar Lee Theatre . . . Sam Gillman, manager of Loew's in Dayton, tied up with radio station WHIO to change its signing off slogan to "So Ends Our Night." For that picture, of course.

For the information of all film folks who lunch at the Payne Avenue-24th Street restaurant, Eddie Baukair has exchanged his white apron for a uniform of Uncle Sam's manufacture and his present address is Fort Thomas, Ky. . . . Harold Saltz, Universal assistant booker, took a weekend off to go to New York and marry Bella Apell, who was with Universal in the Big Town until she moved to Cleveland as a bride . . . Alexander Newman, Universal cashier here, has been transferred to the St. Louis branch in a similar capacity. He left the middle of the week to take over his new job.

Eva Urdang, secretary to M. B. Horwitz, general manager of the Washington circuit, is back in the harness minus her appendix and none the worse for it . . . Jack Lefton's son, Godfrey, of Pittsburgh and Iris Spitalny, youngest daughter of Maurice Spitalny, formerly of Cleveland and now of the Steel City, will be married

(Continued on page 70)

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MAURICE ZELL

Hollenden Hotel Cleveland, Ohio

PITTSBURGH

DANNY DAVIS has brought a real touch of Hollywood to Filmrow. Preparing to film "It Happened in Pittsburgh," he has been busy in the PRC screening room making tests of candidates for the leading roles in the three-reel feature. Sponsoring committee has been active in arranging tieups, one of which will be a national pictorial magazine . . . The John J. Maloneys are in Hollywood, Fla. . . . Mrs. Lew Lefton honored Miss Iris Spitalny at a shower in the Variety Club, and the latter's bridegroom-elect, Godfrey "Duddy" Lefton, will be the guest of friends at a bachelor dinner in the William Penn Hotel, Monday evening. The young couple will be married March 23 . . . Lou Ponsetta, who recently acquired the Woodies, Apollo, is now calling it the Warren. Lou has the Strand, Apollo, too . . . William E. Kane, a school teacher at Pitcairn, takes advantage of any school holiday to visit Filmrow on business. He has been operating the Nemo, Pitcairn, since the death of his father, the late John B. "Pop" Kane.

Bob Brown, manager of the State, Wilkinsburg, submitted to a blood transfusion to aid his sister Gretchen, who became seriously ill following several operations. She is now on the road to recovery. Their brother, Dick, manages the Rowland, Wilkinsburg, across the street from the State, and their father is the veteran manager of the legitimate Nixon, Harry Brown . . . City council is studying an ordinance to regulate design and installation of air-conditioning and forced draft heating units. The measure is designed to prevent spread of fire in buildings and other hazards . . . Jack Cohen is handling two dozen individual theatre premium deals. He has quite a selection, you will agree . . . Alex S. Moore seems particularly interested in the weekly informal meetings of the AMPTO. He says they should be encouraged.

Eddie and Fred Beedle will place before the Canonsburg council all "parking meter straw ballots" returned in a poll which they conducted through their weekly theatre program, "Yours for Fun." Approximately 60 column inches, including the ballot, in the March 1 issue, was devoted to this community's parking problem. The Beedles made no recommendation but they certainly did stir up a lot of interest in the matter while selling their current and coming attractions at the Alhambra and Continental.

Jim Alexander and Sam Fineberg, co-owners of the Republic franchise for this area, were in New York attending the fourth and final regional sales meeting of this company. The Finebergs are celebrating their 20th anniversary and will remain in New York for several days . . . The Peter Danas are vacationing in Texas . . . "The Little Foxes," with Tallulah Bankhead, returns to the Nixon the week of March 24, and "DuBarry Was a Lady" has a May 5 opening date here.

The Lion Roars (or notes from M-G-M): Tom Connors jr., popular young film man here who had been a member of the booking staff, is now a student salesman. He is making the rounds here and there, usually with one of the regular representatives . . . Beverley Robin has resigned and joined her husband, Lt. Dr. Gilbert Robin, at Petersburg, Va. . . . Beulah Marena is the new telephone operator, coming from the inspection department . . . Leona Felik is a new inspectress and Joe Stack is now the regular night shipper . . . Allen Tolley, formerly of the inspection department, is now in the shipping room right with his father, the veteran Ted Tolley . . . Eddie Mackin, formerly night shipper, is now a student booker, and Tony Semplice, of the general office, is also working from time to time in the booking department . . . Charlie Baron, exploiter, has won his third merit award button, and is busy covering the entire area for "GWTW" . . . All M-G-M employes contributed to the Greek War Relief.

In addition to the New York merchants' group seeking national daylight saving time, Robert Garland, former local councilman and generally regarded as the father of "fast" time, is active in urging enactment of such an act . . . Lulu Antonoplos, daughter of the Peter Antonoploses, heads the local Greek War Relief's Junior Auxiliary . . . Announcement is made of the engagement of Geneva Harris, daughter of Mrs. John P. Harris, and Kenneth Cook Hahn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer P. Hahn of Bellevue.

Irving Dietz, well known on Filmrow, arrived from New York the other day and will offer Screeno here. Also, he is handling a special short subject, "Wrestling Follies" . . . Sam Clark, Warner exploiter, was around for a short visit in the interest of Frank Capra's "Meet John Doe" . . . "The Great Dictator" opens March 21 in Loew's Penn at customary prices . . . Milton Golden departs March 17 for Albany, Ga., where he joins Uncle Sam's flying cadets.

Three thousand children, more or less, attended the Enright's seventh anniversary of its Saturday morning Kiddie Club. Billy Conn, light-heavyweight champ, appeared on the stage along with several amateur acts.

He Gave 'Em Candy And It Worked

Detroit—When Paramount's "North West Mounted Police" proved such an attraction for the kids at a Sunday matinee at the Lincoln that they were all set to stay and see it over and over again until curfew time, I. J. London, the manager, bought up the candy stock in neighborhood confectioneries, went on the stage and invited the youngsters to meet him outside and receive a gift of free candy. It worked.

Newspapers Keep Them in Hand

Detroit—When about 100 patrons waiting in the Parkside lobby gave signs of becoming restless, Manager Eddie Jacobson went out and bought up a supply of morning newspapers and gave them out gratis to the standees. Result: A lobby full of people all reading the morning paper, and not a single demand for a refund.

CLEVELAND

(Continued from page 69)

March 23 . . . Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner, is embarrassed. He says he has had no less than 40 requests from exhibitors for dates on "Sis Hopkins" and he can't give them any because no release date on the picture has, as yet, been announced . . . Oscar Bloom, Columbia salesman, has joined the Cleveland colony vacationing in Florida.

The boys at Columbia are all pepped up over the "Good Will" drive just under way. They are asking the cooperation of all exhibitors in the territory to help them hit the top spot in the push . . . Bad weather didn't keep the following exhibitors from trekking into town: Max Federhar and J. O. Flemm, Akron; J. O. Guthrie sr. and jr., New London; Bert Schoonmaker, Delta; Paul Heuter, Toledo; Joe Trunk, Youngstown; Paul Ellis, Warren; George Delis, Canton . . . Saul Bragin, Warner theatre booker, pulled out by train for Chattanooga where he was to meet friends from Chicago and drive from there to some vacation spot in Florida. Charles Albert, assistant to Bragin, returned from his vacation in Dallas just in time to take over before Bragin left.

Billy Banks, manager of the Detroit, and Harry Henderson, manager of the Lorain Fulton, report audience reaction was excellent when they introduced the new game, "Pot Luck," sold locally by John Himmelein . . . First run business was up approximately 13 per cent last week. Big attraction was at the RKO Palace where Glenn Miller, on the stage, and "Night Train," on the screen, offered the biggest amusement dish on the Avenue.

Peter Zaleski of Art Guild Studios, who makes miniature model airplanes in his spare moments, won first prize at the New York World's Fair for the model he submitted. Only recently he won first prize in the Cleveland Air Cadet contest. The winning model, measuring 15 inches from tip to tip, has been entered in the national contest to be held in Chicago . . . M. B. Horwitz, general manager of the Washington circuit, has been appointed treasurer in charge of funds received for the Greek War Relief Drive. Co-Chairmen are John D. Kalafat and I. J. Schmertz.

In "Parachute Battalion"

HOLLYWOOD—RKO has borrowed Robert Preston from Paramount and Nancy Kelly from 20th-Fox, for toplines in "Parachute Battalion."

Pittsburgh Grosses In a Steady Climb

PITTSBURGH—Slowly, but surely, managers hope, revenue from increased production in the defensive industries is finding its way to the downtown boxoffices. Or it might be a little spurt in theatre takes due to better product. Or a combination of the two. But the fact remains that theatre grosses are on the up and up here generally. And this despite the grip of the longest cold spell of the winter. Nixon packed 'em to the doors at all performances in "Hellzapoppin'" second week.

"Western Union" ticked out a merry boxoffice tune in the Senator and was held over for a second week. "Kitty Foyle" hit about average and was moved over to the Warner. "Back Street" made its showing in the Fulton and held on until the house was closed for the special reopening engagement of "Fantasia." "The Philadelphia Story" had a "lot on the ball" in its third downtown week and its telling was continued into an engagement in the Ritz, following Warner and Penn showings. "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" dipped under par at the Stanley, where it played without a stage show, and "GWTW" finally petered out in the Ritz, after five weeks downtown.

Detail for week ended February 28:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Behind the News** (Rep); **The Devil Commands** (Col) 110
Fulton—**Back Street** (Univ) 120
Penn—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 115
Ritz—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 5th d. t. wk... 80
Senator—**Western Union** (20th-Fox) 150
Stanley—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), no stage show 80
Warner—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 3rd d. t. wk. 125

Business Scale Average For Cincy First Runs

CINCINNATI—Business continues not satisfactory, although holding on a fairly average scale, there really has been no colossal boxoffice grosses to warm the exhibitor's heart. The feminine patrons like "Virginia." Cagney in "Strawberry Blonde," polled 130 per cent, which was peak here for several weeks, but not peak for Cagney in Cincinnati. "Western Union" slipped into its third week. Sneak previews have not helped, to any appreciable extent.

Detail for week ended February 27:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Virginia** (Para't), held over 105
Capitol—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., held for 3rd wk. 90
Grand—**Flight From Destiny** (WB) 90
Keith's—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 100
Lyric—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), 3rd wk. 85
Palace—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), held over 130
Shubert—**Blondie Goes Latin** (Col), plus Blackstone on stage 115

"Night Train" Plus Stage Show Cleveland Champs

CLEVELAND—The RKO Palace couldn't miss this week when RKO division manager Nat Holt offered "Night Train" on the screen and Glenn Miller on the stage in a boxoffice proof double barrelled program. As predicted by all the local sages, business shot up to double the usual take. "Back Street" and "Virginia," the other two new attractions on Play House Square, trailed in popular favor, neither of them coming quite up to par. Holdovers made better showings with "Western Union" topping the average by 20 per cent, "Philadelphia Story" going 10 per cent over the top in its third week and the Lake holding its high pace set with its opening week of "The Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" which, from the record, wins a third week on the Avenue.

Weather was cold and snowy. Outside competition was offered by the Garden Club Show at the Public Auditorium that drew heavy crowds, the Ice-Capades at the Arena and Dante presenting his magic at the Hanna.

Details for week ending February 28:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**Western Union** (20th-Fox) 120
2nd week downtown, moved over from the Hippodrome.
Hippodrome—**Back Street** (Univ) 85
It moves to the Allen for a 2nd week.
Lake—**The Virgin Bride** and **School for Husbands** (SR), 2nd wk. 150
Palace—**Night Train** (20th-Fox) 200
Stage show was headed by Glenn Miller and his locally popular orchestra.
State—**Virginia** (Para't) 80
Stillman—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M) 110
3rd week on the Avenue—one week at the State followed by two at the Stillman.

Extended Runs Prevail In Detroit First Runs

DETROIT—Extended runs became an important factor among first runs again, with seven out of ten pictures staying over for a second to fourth week—in fact, all except "Back Street," which had three weeks to its credit, "Meet the Champ," "The Phantom of Chinatown," which had run two weeks. Situation is by no means a move to extended playing time, as periodically complained of by subsequent

Strike Notice Against Schulte Circuit Filed

DETROIT — Strike notice against the Schulte circuit has been filed by the Theatre Managers and Assistant Managers' Local, following a contract with three units of the Broder circuit. The union claims a majority of Schulte managers, and cites alleged discriminatory action against two of its members, including a transfer from a large to a small house.

William Schulte, owner of the circuit, has been in Florida, and was not reached for a statement. The strike notice, under new state law, is presumably effective in 30 days.

run operators, but indicates the natural run value of better class pictures currently available.
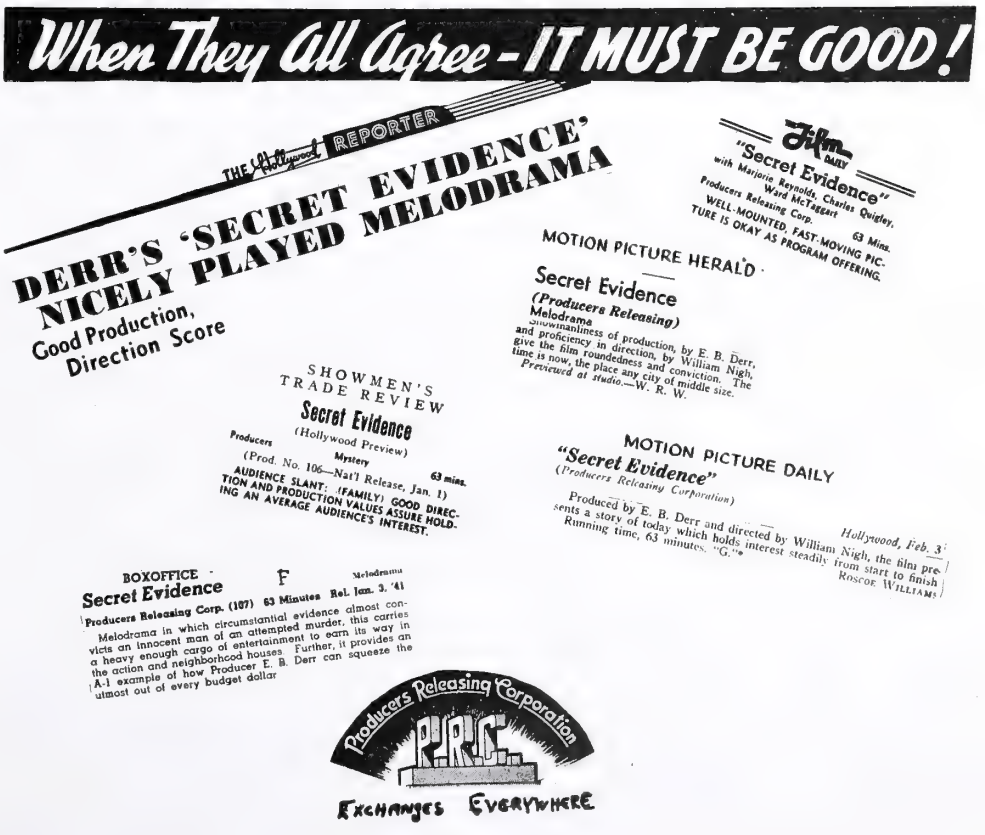
Weather has been about the coldest of the year in the past week, and attendance has been off for this reason. Another factor has been the Shrine Circus, which drew record crowds the past two weeks. The flu situation continues bad.

Michigan ranked highest of all 48 states in defense contracts, government figures show, for February.

Detail for week ending February 27:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Back Street** (Univ) after week at the Fox; **Meet the Champ** (Univ) 105
Cinema—**One Frightened Night** (SR); **The Devil Bat** (PRC) 100
Fox—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col), 2nd wk. 105
Michigan—**Virginia** (Para't); **You're the One** (Para't) 125
Palms-State—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO); **Phantom of Chinatown** (Mono), 2nd wk. 110
United Artists—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 170
Wilson—**Fantasia** (Disney) 100



DETROIT

JULIUS D. and Milton London have formally taken title to the Midtown as a father and son partnership, while Rose London formally takes title to the Arcadia . . . Barney Adair of National Screen rolled a 645 in the Traveling League . . . Evelyn Cass of National Screen was runner-up in the Variety Spelldown (Bea Mattingly, Paramount, was winner) . . . Fred Schader of the Wilson had the City Council all stirred up over the question of okaying the big Mickey Mouse he had hung over the marquee of the house for "Fantasia."

Courtney Anderson is moving to the New York office for Jam Handy, on the public relations contact staff . . . Barney Kilbride, circuit operator, staged a special show at the Knights of Columbus hall as a farewell party for the 210th Coast Artillery . . . Don Calbes, who came here to manage the new Royal, is justly proud of his house . . . Sol Krim off to Chicago for the weekend—well, part of it . . . L. H. Gardner, former UDT executive, now makes his permanent home out at Franklin.

Val Clare, who was toastmaster at Variety's installation banquet, was speaker too for the Caravan Shrine luncheon . . . Bert Wheeler and other celebrities will entertain UDT employes at a special employe party at the Michigan, Monday . . . Daniel Z. Pyne, former press agent for Tom Mix, and Robert C. Byers, who were writing a biography of the western star jointly, have enlisted in the army . . . Charles N. Agree, Detroit theatrical architect, is formally incorporating his business as Charles N. Agree, Inc. . . . Earl Hudson, UDT president, away for several days.

Alban J. Norris of Michigan Film Library is back to stay, after spending most of the past several months in Pittsburgh . . . The Sloans—it's Eugene this time—have another new theatre name registered—the Liberty (the old house of this name was demolished several years ago) . . . Ed F. Hyman, who is leaving UDT to go in the Paramount Theatres home office, was guest at a surprise luncheon given by the circuit managers at the Statler Hotel. He was presented with a brief case . . . Rabbi Leon Fram, chaplain of Variety, is new vice-president of the Michigan Chapter, Religious Education Ass'n, embracing all faiths.

Joseph Stoia's new Edison at Dearborn is going right out in the farm country—in the fields at Greenfield and Rotunda Roads . . . Joseph Miskinis, another Dearbornite, is going to open his new Civic about April 1, but is having trouble getting steel for Carthay, also under construction . . . Charles Shafer, who usually manages his father's house at Wayne, pinch hits over at Garden City when Manager Roy Campbell is away.

D. Gregory, who formerly had a theatre at Howard City, is building a new 300-seater at Beulah to be called the Crystal. It will open in June . . . Childs Kaufman, who used to run the Strand at Bellevue, has given up the house and is now operating a store in Detroit . . . New Bloomfield in Birmingham—the second house in the town—is slated to open early in March. UDT is the operator.

Lou Emery, manager of the RKO Uptown in Highland Park, was host to his circus friends during the Shrine Show . . . Warren W. Seaver is joining Jam Handy as slidefilm writer on industrial training films. He used to be news editor of the Wilmington Sunday *Star* . . . Larry Kohsin, stagehand, is seriously ill and unable to receive visitors, at the Paul Revere Hotel . . . Stagehands met Tuesday at the Hotel Tuller.

Midwest-Coop Hearing Devoted to Finances

DETROIT—The federal suit of Midwest Theatres against Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, Detroit's *case celebre*, has resumed after several weeks delay. The week's session was largely devoted to highly detailed book figures by attorneys and auditors for the plaintiff.

Figures involved film rentals, operating costs, grosses and net profits of the plaintiff theatres, as well as of defendant houses, particularly the houses of the Cohen circuit which are in direct opposition to Midwest houses on lower Woodward Ave. Intent of the presentation, according to Sam Shapero, attorney for the plaintiff, was to show the damages to which the plaintiff is supposedly entitled from the losses assertedly suffered because of difficulty in booking suitable pictures caused by alleged action of the defendant.

A motion to dismiss from the defendant was anticipated late this week, upon completion of this accounting evidence, and argument upon the motion, tending to sum up evidence to date, was expected.

A Resolution Clears Up Jurisdictional Point

DETROIT—Complications of union relations when two AFL unions both claim jurisdiction in a situation are clarified, as far as Detroit is concerned, by a resolution passed by the Detroit and Wayne county Federation of Labor. Text of the resolution states:

"Placing pickets in front of a place of business employing members of the AFL by a union that is part of the AFL whose members are not employed on the premises and have no jurisdiction on the premises, but because of a jurisdiction fight with another union of the AFL, is unfair to the unions employed on such premises."

IATSE Begins Drive to Unionize Grand Rapids

DETROIT—The IATSE has started a drive to organize seven houses at Grand Rapids not now employing union projectionists, according to Roger M. Kennedy, international vice-president.

Picketing was started recently against the Savoy, operated by Murray and Goodrich, and now getting attention is the Fulton, operated by Leo J. Robinson.

Vera Diamond Engaged

CLEVELAND—Announcement is made of the engagement of Vera Diamond, secretary to Lee Goldberg of Producers Releasing Corp., to Dr. J. Maurice Jacobson, formerly of Kansas City and now of Cleveland. The wedding will take place on March 19.

Accord Farewell Party to Fisher in East Liverpool

EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO—Approximately 50 theatre executives and employes attended a recent "farewell party" at the Travelers Hotel here in honor of James Arthur Fisher, manager of the American Theatre, who enters the army for a year's training.

The affair arranged by Co-Chairman Earl A. Ochsenbein and William Tallman, managers of the State and Ceramic theatres respectively, included a program at which George A. Ellis, district manager of the A. G. Constant circuit, was toastmaster.

Among those attending were Leland S. Swain, president of Local 123 of the IATSE; George D. Otte, theatre executive of Wheeling, identified with the American Amusement Co.; Hugh J. McDermott, chief of police; R. W. Russell, James Ellis, Raymond McWilliams and Paul Hayman, all of Canton, and Lee Chapman, Jack Lefton, Frank Masek, Lou Harz and S. Jacobs, all of Cleveland.

Bank Night Put Under Ban in Royal Oak

DETROIT—Bank Night comes under ban in the north end suburb of Royal Oak, following action started by the "Motion Picture Censorship Committee." Upon the committee's suggestion, the city commission ordered the city attorney to prepare the necessary ordinance.

A further recommendation of the committee, not yet adopted, was for a 7:00 p. m. curfew law for children, prohibiting them from attending theatres unless accompanied by an adult.

Television Under State Control

Columbus—House Bill 125, giving the state jurisdiction over television theatre buildings, has been approved. The bill now is in the senate awaiting a final vote. The administration has given assurance it will pass.

"Celebrating" Lent With "Objectionable" Films

PITTSBURGH—"As if to present a double test of the sincerity of Catholics in the cause of decent entertainment, the opening of Lent, when ordinary amusements are supposed to be avoided, is being "celebrated" by motion picture houses in this district with an outbreak of objectionable and condemned films," according to a front-page editorial in The Pittsburgh *Catholic*.

The Legion of Decency Committee of the Holy Name Society during the past week has been active in calling attention of pastors to offensive shows being billed in their parishes, and the official organ of the Diocese of Pittsburgh listed "B" and "C" films on its first page February 27, but discontinued its weekly listing of all pictures and classifications for the duration of Lent.

50th Wedding Anniversary Observed by A. A. Bowers

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO—A. A. Bowers, widely known New Philadelphia theatre executive, with Mrs. Bowers observed their 50th wedding anniversary February 26. A veteran theatreman, he has had perhaps the most extensive experience in show business of any person in Tuscarawas county.

Son of a theatre manager and father of a theatre operator, he himself was instrumental in the building of the Union Opera house here, now known as the Union Theatre, and was its manager for 19 years.

Bart Dattola Will Build A De Luxe 1,000-Seater

NEW KENSINGTON, PA.—A de luxe theatre will be erected here for Bart Dattola. The house will have a seating capacity of at least 1,000. Planned for a number of years, the New Kensington showman only recently determined that now was the time to get the project started.

Dattola, who first entered exhibition in Belle Vernon, is this year observing his 25th anniversary as a theatre operator. In addition to his local theatre interests, he owns and operates a new theatre at West Tarentum.

John Weitzel Dies

CINCINNATI—John Weitzel, father of Frank Weitzel of the Alpine circuit, and Miss Edna Weitzel of Columbia Pictures, died at his home following an illness of several years. He was employed at Paramount as custodian for a number of years, and was well known along Filmrow.

Two-Hour Weekly Show

MENDON, MICH.—Ideal Talking Pictures Co., Chicago, is presenting a weekly two-hour show here every Wednesday at 7:00 p. m. Admission prices are 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children and students.

BOWLING

DETROIT—The four leaders remain unchanged in the close race for the championship of the Film Bowling League. Only three 200 scores were rolled last week. Ben Zimner's 213; Max Englander, 200, and Walter Goryl, 205. Team standings:

Team	Won	Lost
United Artists	55	33
Co-Operative	54	34
Republic	49	39
Film Drug	48	40
20th Century-Fox	3d	5[illegible]
Film Truck	38	46
Amusement Supply	34	50
Monogram	32	56

DETROIT—Motiograph and National Carbon are tied for the top in the Nightingale Club Bowling League. Team standings:

Team	Won	Lost
Motiograph	51	37
National Carbon Co.	51	37
Lorenzen Flower Shop	50	38
National Theatre Supply	45	43
McArthur Theatre Equipment	45	43
Ernie Forbes	39	49
Amusement Supply Co.	36	52
Brenkert Projectors	36	52

"GWTW" Breaks Records In Popular Engagements

CLEVELAND—"GWTW," in its popular-priced engagements, is establishing an attendance record in all theatres in which it has played in this territory, according to Frank Drew, local M-G-M branch manager.

In Cleveland it played four weeks downtown at Loew's State and Loew's Stillman, followed by one week at the Park and Granada. March 2 it broke on the east side, playing the Colony, Center Mayfield, Commodore, Doan, Knickerbocker, Liberty, Shaker, Shore, Shaw, Hayden, Union Square, Globe, Embassy, Corlett, Heights, Euclid and Windemeer theatres. The week of March 9 it plays the following west side houses: Capitol, Garden, Hilliard Square, Broadvue, Lorain Fulton and Lyric.

In the territory, "GWTW" has met with such success that many theatres have booked repeat engagements, including the Park, Painesville, and the Rivoli, Elyria, which originally gave it extended runs.

Shea Acquires Control in Cambridge, Marietta

CAMBRIDGE, OHIO — Shea Theatres, Inc., has acquired the Colonial and Strand theatres here and the Hippodrome and Putnam, in nearby Marietta, E. C. Grainger, president of the circuit, has announced. Acquisition of the four houses resulted from purchase of stock owned by the late Edwin Finch and Edward Steward in the C&M Amusement Co. Deal gives Shea control of all theatres in the two cities.

With the acquisition of the Colonial in Wheeling, W. Va., during the past month the Shea circuit now operates more than 60 theatres, many of them in Ohio.

Forney Bowers is manager here and Joe Scanlon, formerly of Zanesville, is manager of the theatres in Marietta.

Remodeled Roosevelt Is Now the 18th Street

ERIE, PA.—Herman Lorence, who recently purchased the Roosevelt on West 18th St., has extensively remodeled the house and changed its name to the 18th Street.

A number of years ago Lorence was a district manager for the Warner circuit in Pittsburgh and later he operated a theatre at Youngsville, Pa. For the past five years he was at Cattaraugus, N. Y., where he recently sold his theatre there.

The 18th Street is ready to open, but Lorence stated this week he has been unable to obtain any product.

Stahl Joins Paramount; District Shorts Head

CLEVELAND—Max Stahl, former United Artists branch manager in Cincinnati and more recently connected with the local office of National Screen Service, has joined the local Paramount exchange as district short subject sales manager. Stahl will cover Harry Goldstein's district, which is Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati and Indianapolis.

Defense Demands on Steel Delay Newark Building

NEWARK, OHIO—Work has been halted on construction of the new 1,300-seat theatre being built here by the Schine Theatre Co., because of the shortage of steel resulting from national defense priority. The foundation and most of the brick work have been completed.

The new house was to have been completed for a spring opening.

Mrs. S. Neaman Transfers Natrona House to Padolf

PITTSBURGH—Roxy, Natrona, has been transferred from Mrs. Samuel Neaman to Lou Padolf. The latter assumed management March 1. Widow of the late Samuel Neaman had operated the Natrona house for several months. Padolf, who is a brother-in-law of Mrs. Neaman, also has a theatre in Parkersburg, W. Va.

Hensley Acquires House

BEARDS FORK, W. VA.—Gene Hensley, who is interested in theatres at Belle and Clay, has taken over the Princess here. Contracts for new booth equipment, screen and RCA sound have been signed.

Closes Elmac

MAPLE RAPIDS, MICH.—A. J. Morris, operator of the Elmac here, closed up last Sunday. The house was opened Dec. 14, 1938.

WB Borrows MacMurray

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has borrowed Fred MacMurray from Paramount for a top-line in "Dive Bomber," Errol Flynn starrer.

INFORMATION BUREAU

Readers of BOXOFFICE will find this page a ready source of information on products which have been filed for reference with The MODERN THEATRE INFORMATION BUREAU.

Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

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MT100 Attraction Board Letters
MT101 Bulletin Boards
MT102 Cut-Out Machines
MT103 Display Frames and Cases
MT104 Flashers, Sign
MT105 Insert Frames
MT106 Lamp Coloring
MT107 Letter Mounting Units
MT108 Marquees
MT109 Poster Projectors
MT110 Signs, Admission
MT111 Signs, Electric
MT112 Signs, Neon, Zeon

AIR CONDITIONING

MT120 Air Circulators
MT121 Air Conditioning Motors
MT122 Air Conditioning Systems
MT123 Air Filters
MT124 Air Washers
MT125 Blowers
MT126 Boilers and Furnaces
MT127 Coils, Cooling
MT128 Compressors
MT129 Condensers
MT130 Cooling Equipment
MT131 Cooling Towers
MT132 Dehumidifiers
MT133 Diffusers, Air
MT134 Electric Motor Controls
MT135 Exhaust Fans
MT136 Grilles and Registers
MT137 Heating Equipment
MT138 Oil Burners
MT139 Refrigeration
MT140 Spray Nozzles
MT141 Stokers
MT142 Temperature Control Devices
MT143 Thermostats and Humidistats
MT144 Unit Heaters
MT145 Ventilating Systems
MT146 Water Cooling Systems

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MT156 Aisle Lights
MT157 Boxoffices
MT158 Carpets
MT159 Carpet Cushion
MT160 Design Service
MT161 Directional Signs
MT162 Door Controls
MT163 Draperies and Curtains
MT164 Drinking Fountains
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MT166 Foam Rubber Seat Cushions
MT167 Interior Decoration
MT168 Interior Wall Finishes
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MT171 Mirrors
MT172 Ornamental Metal Work
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MT174 Railings, Lobby
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MT176 Seating, Auditorium
MT177 Slip Covers
MT178 Speaking Tubes
MT179 Ticket Choppers and Boxes
MT180 Theatre Chairs
MT181 Upholstery Materials
MT182 Wall Coverings, Fabric

LIGHTING

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MT195 Gelatine Sheets
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MT201 Reflector Lamps
MT202 Spot and Flood Lamps
MT203 Spot and Flood Lights
MT204 Storage Batteries
MT205 Switches, Safety
MT206 Switchboards
MT207 Transformers, Neon

MAINTENANCE

MT210 Bolts, Expansion and Toggle
MT211 Carpet Spotting Compounds
MT212 Drills, Rotary
MT213 Fire Extinguishers
MT214 Fireproofing Compounds
MT215 Gum Removers
MT216 Safety Ladders
MT217 Seat Patching Kits
MT218 Seating Repairs
MT219 Vacuum Cleaners

MISCELLANEOUS

MT225 Coin Changing Machines
MT226 Fireproof Safes and Files
MT227 Music Stands
MT228 Organs, Electric
MT229 Popcorn Machines
MT230 Popcorn & Confection Supplies
MT231 Staff Uniforms
MT232 Tickets
MT233 Ticket Machines
MT234 Water Coolers

PROJECTION

MT240 Booth Doors and Ports
MT241 Carbon Savers
MT242 Carbon Waste Cans
MT243 Change-Over Devices
MT244 Condensing Lenses
MT245 Dowsers
MT246 Film Cabinets
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MT254 Motion Picture Screens
MT255 Motor Brushes
MT256 Motor-Generators
MT257 Portable Sound Projectors
MT258 Projection Arc Lamps
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MT268 Reflector Equipment
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MT270 Rheostats
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MT275 Stereopticons
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SANITATION

MT285 Cleansing Compounds
MT286 Deodorants and Disinfectants
MT287 Flush Valves
MT288 Hand Driers, Electric
MT289 Insecticides and Germicides
MT290 Odor Absorbers
MT291 Ozone Generators
MT292 Paper Towels and Cabinets
MT293 Perfumes
MT294 Plumbing Fixtures
MT295 Sanitary Supplies
MT296 Soaps and Cleansers
MT297 Suction Cleaners
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SOUND

MT305 Amplifiers
MT306 Amplifier Tubes
MT307 Hearing Aids
MT308 Horn Lifts and Towers
MT309 Intercommunicating Systems
MT310 Lamps, Exciter
MT311 Lens Assemblies, Sound
MT312 Microphones
MT313 Photoelectric Cells
MT314 Public Address Amplifiers
MT315 Public Address Systems
MT316 Radio Tubes
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MT319 Sound Heads
MT320 Sound Service, Contract
MT321 Speakers

STAGE EQUIPMENT

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MT331 Curtain Controls
MT332 Curtain Tracks
MT333 Stage and Effect Lighting
MT334 Stage Hardware
MT335 Stage Rigging
MT336 Stage Scenery

STRUCTURE

MT340 Architectural Service
MT341 Facing Materials, Exterior
MT342 Flashed Opal Glass
MT343 Flooring Materials
MT344 Glass Blocks
MT345 Insulation Materials
MT346 Metal Trim and Mouldings
MT347 Pipe Hangers and Brackets
MT348 Plate Glass
MT349 Steel and Iron Roofing
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MT352 Theatre Fronts, Porcelain
MT353 Theatre Fronts, Structural Glass
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Mullin Names Greek Relief Committee

BOSTON — Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres Corp. partner and New England chairman of the amusement industry's division of the Greek War Relief Ass'n, has named a committee to work with him in the drive to raise $1,000,000 for relief in an industry nation-wide campaign during the six days from March 25 to 30.

The local central committee, the outcome of numerous meetings at 60 Scollay Square held since Adolph Zukor named Mullin as local drive chairman, is composed of Jack Goodwin and Robert Sternberg of the M&P Theatres Corp., Harry McDonald of RKO, Charles Kurtzman of Loew's, Norman Ayers and I. J. Hoffman of Warner Bros., Nathan Yamins of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., and Exhibitors Harry Zeitz of New Bedford and Archie Silverman of Providence.

Also named was a publicity committee including Harry Browning of M&P Theatres Corp., Joseph A. DiPesa of Loew's, Martin Glazer of the Paramount and Fenway, Jack Granara of RKO, and Paul Levi of the Metropolitan.

Goodwin, managing director of the Mettropolitan in Boston, announced that the house, the largest in New England, would put on a special so-called sneak preview at midnight Saturday, March 22. Tickets, Goodwin said, will be on sale at all downtown Boston theatres.

Elaborate Stage Show With "Americans All"

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. — Manager Morris Rosenthal arranged an elaborate stage show in connection with the world premiere showing of the March of Time's "Americans All" at Loew's Majestic here.

On the stage was the Russian Orthodox Church Choir of 50, a Hungarian orchestra, Polish dancers and orchestra, a Boy Scout delegation, John Martin, soloist, and Mayor Jasper McLevy, who spoke. Director Jack Glen, who headed a guest list composed of city and civic officials, also spoke on the opening night.

Drive on Gaming

MANCHESTER, N. H.—Launching one of their biggest drives in years against gaming devices, sheriffs' officers and state police swooped down on many business establishments in several parts of the state, seizing slot machines, pin-ball games and punchboards.

March 15 Deadline On Tax Payments

Hartford—Amusement tax reports and payments are due on or before March 15, Charles J. McLaughlin, state tax commissioner, announces.

The commissioner points out that a 10 per cent penalty is imposed for delinquency in filing reports or paying taxes.

Reports should be filed with the excise division, Commissioner McLaughlin said. Information concerning the tax and blank forms may be obtained from the excise division of the state tax department in Hartford.

Would Open Up Cash "Gift" Situation

BOSTON—Seeking to open up the cash giveaway situation in Massachusetts theatres, George Solomon, operator of the Columbia in Boston, is fronting a legislative petition that would authorize the department of public safety to issue licenses to Bay State film houses to conduct Beano and similar games.

Bank Night is the only cash giveaway legal in Massachusetts theatres throughout the many parts of the state. In a recent Middlesex county shut-down, Lucky was definitely closed down following a test case but Bank Night, in a similar test case, was given a "not guilty" decision by Superior Court Judge Frederick Fosdick in Cambridge.

George S. Ryan, attorney for Bank Night in the action, had previously cleared the Bank Night plan in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Maine and in Middlesex, Suffolk and Bristol counties in Massachusetts.

No prizes in excess of $100 in the aggregate would be awarded in any one game under the provisions of the petition. A special license fee of $100 would be set up for exhibitors using such giveaways. The money would be ear-marked for the old-age benefit fund.

Connecticut Bingo Bill Is Rejected

HARTFORD—A measure introduced by Senator Kiernan in the general assembly which would have permitted the playing of Bingo on Sundays in Connecticut, has been rejected by the judiciary committee.

Hearings are slated soon on the following bills:

H. B. No. 252: Calls for the legalization of horse racing.

H. B. No. 253: Would legalize bookmaking establishments for horse race betting.

H. B. No. 257: Would permit a state lottery.

H. B. No. 436 which concerns Bingo prizes; H. B. No. 1,048 which would allow the creation of a commission for control and direction of Bingo, and S. B. No. 703, which concerns Bingo regulations.

S. B. No. 754: Calls for the regulation of carnivals.

A hearing will be held March 13 on S. B. No. 201. This bill would license music brokers. On the same day, S. B. No. 1,085, which deals with copyrighted music, will be reviewed.

S. B. 68, which calls for the establishment of a labor relations board for Connecticut similar to the national labor relation boards set up by the Wagner act, was brought up for discussion before the judiciary committee last Wednesday.

New Members for Boston Variety

BOSTON—A number of new members, largely from the M&P Theatres Corp., were inducted into the Boston Variety Club when the organization held its inaugural meeting at the Hotel Statler. Martin J. Mullin, chief barker and successor to Steve Broidy who resigned upon his appointment as Monogram national sales manager, announced at the time that the charter of the former Boston Friars Club had been accepted by National Variety headquarters and that organization was now Tent No. 23.

Brought in the fold were Thad C. Barrows, James Dempsey, William Spragg, Harry Browning, Harry Wasserman, Chester Stoddard, Hy Fine, Henri Schwartzberg, Al Bevan, Frank McManus, Edward Cuddy, Marion Coles, Walter Higgins, Cliff Tinkham, Ed Canter, Joseph O'Hern and Leonard Dunn.

Plans were discussed for the enlarging of present film district quarters. Discussed, too, were the proposed Boston visits of Bob O'Donnell, John Harris and other prominent Variety executives.

Officers of the newly formed Tent No. 23 include Al Kane of Interstate, assistant chief barker; Ted Fleischer of Interstate, second assistant chief barker; Harold Stoneman of Interstate, dough guy; and William Erbb of Paramount, property master.

The board of directors is composed of Edward Ansin, Norman Ayers, Steve Broidy, Edward Callahan, Joe Cifre, John Dervin, Lou Gordon, A. C. Kilpatrick, Joseph Levenson, Phil Margot, Max Melincoff, Ed Morey, Herman Rifkin, Phil Seletsky, Phil Smith, Stanley Sumner, Murray Weiss and Maurice Wolf.

Al Kane, local Paramount branch manager, is chairman of the house committee which includes Norman Ayers of Warner Bros., Ed Ansin of Interstate and Murray Weiss, Joseph Cifre associate. Joe Smith, independent circuit owner, is chairman of the entertainment committee.

Find Nothing Wrong With 74

Boston—The last 74 motion pictures to go before the Massachusetts department of public safety, according to latest report, have been licensed, without eliminations. The list includes Paramount's "The Lady Eve," Harry Segal's "City of Missing Girls," UA's "That Uncertain Feeling," and M-G-M's "Trial of Mary Dugan."

Arlene Judge, Lola Lane, and 42 other acts were licensed for Sunday showings, but permits were refused to two acts, while ten others were ordered to comply with recommended deletions.

'Story' and 'Roadshow' SRO Team in Boston

BOSTON—"Philadelphia Story," combined with "Roadshow," was SRO more often than not at Loew's State and Orpheum last week where the program was a natural holdover. "Virginia," bolstered by several personal appearances by local featured player, Stirling Hayden, was over the top at the Metropolitan.

Detail for week ending February 28:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN), 2nd run 120
Keith's Memorial—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox); **Invisible Woman** (Univ), 2nd wk..... 75
Loew's Orpheum—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Roadshow** (UA) 200
Loew's State—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Roadshow** (UA) 210
Metropolitan—**Virginia** (Para't); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox) 150
Paramount—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 115

"Virginia" on Dualler Stars for New Haven

NEW HAVEN—Full week of school vacation and cold but open weather helped business. Bulk of adult business continues to be concentrated in the weekend. "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary," dualled with "The Lone Wolf Keeps a Date," was a holdover for a second week.

Detail for week ending February 28:

(Average is 100)

College—**Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) **Laddie** (RKO).. 65
Loew-Poli—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col)..... 120
Paramount—**Virginia** (Para't); **Blackout** (UA)..... 155
Roger Sherman—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Father's Son** (WB) 130

Dearth of Product Threat Eliminated by Holdovers

PROVIDENCE—Lack of product, an instigating factor in early summer closing of first-run houses here in past years, will not prove true this season. All first-run houses have been fortunate with holdover attractions since the start of 1941, with the Albee setting something of a record in having played only two programs since New Year's—"Kitty Foyle" for six weeks, followed by "Buck Privates," now in its third stanze at that house.

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Invisible Woman** (Univ), 2nd wk. 140
Carlton—**So Ends Our Night** (UA); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 90
Majestic—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Father's Son** (WB) 120
Fays—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 100
State—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col) 100
Strand—**Virginia** (Para't); **Girls Under 21** (Col).... 175

Copyright Tax Hearings Of Interest to Allied

NEW HAVEN—At an Allied meeting Tuesday, plans were made in connection with a hearing on a bill that would impose a 25 per cent gross tax on copyright societies.

The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, before the judiciary committee at Hartford. A boiler safety device bill also will be heard.



A Premiere Visitor—

En route to Vermont for the "Scattergood Baines" premiere, Guy Kibbee visits the RKO exchange in Boston. Left to right: John Downing, Boston exchange; Barney Pitkin, New Haven branch manager; Gus Schaefer, Northeastern district manager; Larry Gardner, Boston; Ross Cropper, branch manager, Boston; Bernie Kranze, branch manager, Albany; Elmer Lux, Buffalo branch manager, and Frank Ross, Boston salesman.

Revivals Gaining In Popularity

HARTFORD — Revivals are gaining in popularity in this sector, it is revealed in a BOXOFFICE survey.

Last week, for example, the Lincoln, New Haven, brought back "Pygmalion," while the Plymouth, Worcester, had "The Awful Truth," and the Loew's Poli Plaza, Worcester, double-billed "Wings Over Honolulu" and "Diamond Jim." The Roxy, New Britain, offered "They All Come Out."

Some theatres in Hartford specialize on presenting popular old favorites. These are the Proven Pictures and the Schulmans' Webster, while many houses in this area continually bring back Gene Autrys and other cowboy productions.

The Proven Pictures allows its patrons, via ballot, to choose old favorites for screenings every Wednesday.

State and Orpheum Find A Harvest in "Story"

BOSTON — "Philadelphia Story" gave Loew's State and Orpheum their biggest weekend business since "Northwest Passage." Both programs had the advantage of falling on school holiday weeks, but it was the former that garnered the most from this phenomenon. "Story" lined them up all week at both houses and, held for a second week, was regarded as a strong probability for a third.

Cinema Club Set

BOSTON—The Cinema Club, film bookers' organization, will hold its annual charity dinner-dance at the Cocoanut Grove March 16. Last minute reservations may be secured from Abe Barry of Columbia.

Seeks to Regulate 16mm Slot Films

BOSTON—Arthur K. Howard, business manager for Independent Exhibitors, Inc., has filed a petition with the Massachusetts legislature for "an act to supervise and license the showing of 16mm and 35mm films or other sizes for public or private exhibition by means of an automatic coin-in-the-slot, or similar talking motion picture devices, sometimes called 'juke boxes.' "

The action, scheduled for hearing last Thursday, was indefinitely postponed upon request. No future public hearing date had been set at the time of going to press.

Howard is petitioning that the location of all such devices be approved by the Massachusetts department of public safety and that an annual license shall be required from this department at a charge of $50 per machine. Howard also seeks that each individual subject be supervised and approved by the department of public safety before any public showings. There would be an inspection charge of $10 per subject and an additional $50 charge for each certificate of approval.

Peace Would Be Unfamiliar

Providence, R. I.—Max Nathanson's Hope Theatre saw the beginning of a fifth year of picketing over a controversy he says began 10 years ago when he refused to discharge the house musician, an AFL man. Herbert Slater, business agent for Local 223 of the IATSE, the union doing the picketing, says the dispute arose over an attempt by operators to form a union and affiliate with CIO. The marathon picketing hasn't hurt business, contends Nathanson.

Erbb Upholds Right to Clearance Knowledge

BOSTON—Taking a different stand from most previous witnesses, William Erbb, local Paramount district manager, testified in the Waldo Theatre Corp. anti-trust suit that he had asked Al Bevan, M&P Theatres Corp. booker, what protection other distributors were giving him.

"I have insisted on his telling me," Erbb told George S. Ryan, plaintiff's attorney. Erbb said that he didn't ask that question in regard to every house in the M&P circuit but that when disagreements have come up and he (Erbb) wanted to change the existing clearance for what he considered good and sufficient reasons, or when Bevan wanted to make changes for similar reasons, Erbb would probably ask what clearance the other distributors were giving in the situation under discussion.

"My reason for it," Erbb said, "is that I do not want to be in any disadvantageous position with the subsequent-run account from the standpoint of selling that exhibitor my product and selling it at the most advantageous price. If what Bevan is trying to get from me is more clearance than he gets (than Metro has agreed to give him, or he and Metro have actually agreed) then I am in the particularly disadvantageous position if I grant such a clearance."

Erbb said that he definitely did not want to give M&P any better terms, generally speaking, than the circuit gets from other distributors. He said, however, that if the circuit could justify that its reasons were fair and reasonable and if he could see that the requests would improve Paramount's position with the prior run, then he would agree to "better terms."

Schedules From Others

Ryan asked Erbb if, during the course of the last six years, the local Paramount branches ever received protection schedules from the exhibitors other than M&P. Erbb replied in the affirmative, saying that it was his belief that Paramount had received such schedules, from time to time, from Maine and New Hampshire Theatres Co., Warner Bros., Western Massachusetts Theatres, and "also from the Interstate circuit."

Erbb said that "generally speaking" it is a common practice for exhibitors other than M&P to seek the same protection as that accorded them by other distributors.

"In your negotiations for setting up a clearance with an exhibitor," Erbb said, "at the time you make a sale of your product you go into the clearance rather thoroughly because it is usually written into the contract . . . It is a very easy argument for the exhibitor to use (and I think a pretty good one) when he says, 'I am getting my product on such an availability, and I have such clearance over this situation in question from all other distributors. And I see no reason why I should make any change just because you are asking for it'."

Ryan asked Erbb if there were any principles which are generally recognized in the motion picture industry as are given to apply to a given situation.

"I think the fundamental is that larger cities are getting and are entitled to clearance over smaller situations, certainly from the distributors' standpoint," Erbb said. "I believe that clearance probably originated with the distributor end of the business, that the distributor is vitally interested in clearance in the standpoint of protecting the account that gives him the most money for his film."

Pep Meeting for Depinet Drive

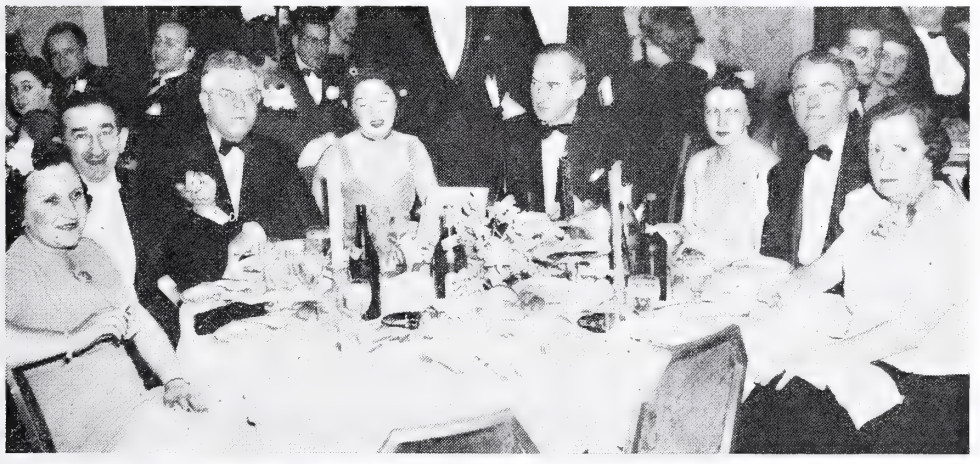
Boston—Giving impetus to the current Ned Depinet sales drive, a pep meeting was held at the RKO exchange at which talks were given by Bob Mochrie, eastern division sales manager; Harry Michalson, short subjects sales manager, and Leo Devaney, drive captain.

Bridgeport Trying 9 O'Clock Plan

BRIDGEPORT—Harry F. Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager, reports the Poli here will inaugurate a new experimental policy of 9 a. m. openings, as of March 7, and continuous performances thereafter. If successful, the policy will be carried over to the Majestic and Globe.

The show will be called "Early Bird," and is designed to make films available to factory workers who are on 3 to 11 o'clock shifts or 11 to 7. Matt Saunders, manager of the Poli, has conducted an extensive campaign on the early show, using factory bulletin boards, circulars, etc.

The State, New Britain, has changed to 12 noon opening with a similar idea in mind, and other theatres over the state, in industrial towns especially, are considering a moveup in openings.



Columbians Frolic—

Pictured to the right and above are some of the prominent New Englanders at the recent Columbia Club dance in New York. Above, seated left to right: Mr. and Mrs. L. Germain, Major and Mrs. Healy, Mr. and Mrs. G. Landers, Mr. and Mrs. Tim O'Toole, Columbia's New Haven branch manager.

To the right, and standing left to right are Arthur Lockwood, I. H. Rogovin, Columbia Boston branch manager; Ed Reed and Harry Zeitz. Seated are Archie Silverman and Max Finn.



Dinner-Dance Honors Trio of Showmen

HARTFORD—A dinner dance at the Club Ferdinando was held to honor Jack A. Simons, former manager of Loew's Poli here and now managing director of Loew's State in Providence, Lou Cohen, former Palace manager who took over the Poli reins, and Frederick R. Greenway, now manager of the Palace.

Simons came in from Providence for the affair.

The committee in charge included James F. McCarthy, Strand; George E. Landers, E. M. Loew's; Walter B. Lloyd, Allyn; Henry Zaccardi, Musicians' Union; J. B. Tuthill, Hartford *Times*, and Reubin K. Lewis, Stagehands' Local 84.

Delegations from Bridgeport, New Haven, Meriden, Waterbury and Springfield were on hand to make the affair a long-to-be-remembered event.

Club for Youngsters

NORWALK, CONN.—Last Saturday morning saw the beginning of a new undertaking by the local Empress Theatre. The 10 o'clock club, an organization of youthful patrons, held its first meeting. Acting Mayor Edward Kelley addressed the youngsters and told them what the programs on future meetings are going to be like.

Concludes Course on Theatre Management

BOSTON — Joseph H. Brennan, local MPTO business manager, discussed legislative activities and censorship problems as the final guest lecturer among the 15 theatrical motion picture leaders who took part in the State University Extension course in Theatre Management held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under the direction of Arthur L. Tuohy, former Loew's manager, now an executive in the Massachusetts department of education. The comprehensive lecture series was scheduled to conclude this week with a summary by Tuohy of ground covered.

Louis Chiaramonte, poster artist at National Screen Accessories, appeared the week previous and gave an illustrated talk on poster designing and newspaper advertising layouts.

"Here Is Ireland" Sets Another Mark in Hub

BOSTON—Although at the time "Here Is Ireland" was in its seventh week at the Fine Arts, it broke all house records for Washington's Birthday. George Kraska, Fine Arts operator, reported that the novel 16mm feature, the first miniature ever to have a regular run in town, was holding up strongly and might well run another ten weeks at the Back Bay house.

Present Cooking School

MANCHESTER, CONN.—The State, in cooperation with the Manchester *Herald*, presented a cooking school on its stage.

BOSTON

CLIFF LEWIS of Paramount was in town with Susanna Foster and company . . . Stirling Hayden, the Paramount featured player, made a number of personal appearances in the Bay State . . . William Levy, former local National Screen Service booker, has gone to the Canal Zone . . . Phil Fox, former local city manager for Columbia and present branch manager in Buffalo, entertained Ben Lourie of Columbia in New Haven . . . Nellie McLaughlin, veteran film district booker, has resigned as office manager for Harry Segal of Select Attractions.

Sam Soroker is again on the sales force of Producers Releasing Corp. . . . Joe Mathieu, the circuit operator, is back from Florida . . . Arthur Viano, Somerville exhibitor, has also returned to town following an extended trip . . . Harry Rogovin, local Columbia branch manager, has officially inaugurated the annual Columbia sales and booking drive here. The competition ends May 30 . . . Harry Asher of Producers Releasing Corp. was in New York on business . . . Marcel Mekelburg of Northeastern Film was in New York . . . Oliver Unger, J. H. Hoffberg associate, was in town . . . Larry Stessin, public relations director for the AAA, was in the Hub.

Mrs. Ben Bebchick, wife of the M-G-M salesman, has been recovering from an operation at Forest Hills Hospital . . . Peter Gagne plans renovations at the Somersworth in the New Hampshire town of the same name . . . E. M. Loew has con-

CINEMA CLUB OF BOSTON

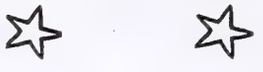
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tracted with Edward Kleine of the Bay State Film Co. for a rebooking of "Fools of Desire."

Frank Venette has been appointed city manager for Rutland, Vt., by the M&P Theatres Corp. which controls a Grande, a Strand, and Paramount there . . . Nathan Press, formerly assistant to Harry Botwick at the State in Portland, has been named manager of the Opera House in Bath, Me., succeeding Venette there . . . Ed McBride, manager of Loew's State in Boston, was in Providence . . . Harry Aaronson, manager of the Rialto in Scollay Square and Theatrical Post of American Legion commander, called a special meeting in the film district Monday.

George Green, formerly in the advertising department of the M&P Theatres Corp. at Scollay Square, is now assistant manager at the Garden, Nathan and Sam Goldstein house in Greenville . . . Renovations are set for the Strand in Newport, R. I. . . . Joe Dobesch has made new draperies for Joe Faith in Bristol, Conn. . . . Roy E. Heffner jr., manager of the Tower in Lowell, has become a benedict.

Frank Gooch now manages the Temple in Houlton, Me. . . . Ralph W. Pinkham has been transferred from Houlton by Armand J. Moreau, M&P Theatres Corp. district manager, to the manager's post at the Uptown in Bath, Me. . . . William Riseman, Alex Lercari and Joe Dobesch are completing decorations at the Star in Westbrook, Me. . . . Alex Hurwitz solved a $150 *safe burglary at the Taunton in Taunton when a passer-by happened to jot down the registration number of an automobile he saw parked early one morning near the M&P house. Two youths were arrested and, according to police, admitted the break.*

Lou Newman held over "Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" at the Trans Lux . . . Joe Lieberman and Mitchell Bernstein of New Brunswick have taken over the Savoy in the northern Maine community of Fort Kent . . . Ed Dwyer is now managing the Globe in Clinton . . . Maurice N. Wolf, M-G-M district manager, was expected to return from Florida this week.

When a Cat Lost Its Dignity

Boston—A film personality here recently said that the finest example of stage presence he ever saw was given one night by George Arliss when he was playing the title role in "The Devil."

In the second act the theatre cat suddenly appeared through the fireplace, walking daintily across the painted "hot" coals and straight up to Arliss.

The audience snickered. Arliss looked down and saw the animal. Coolly he screwed the monocle more firmly in his eye, fixed his gaze on the cat, and demanded, "Have you a message for me?"

The cat gave one startled look and dashed back into the fireplace and behind the scenes.

Fete George Curran

Boston—George Curran, former IATSE Stagehands' Local official and for many years with the Majestic in Boston, is being given a benefit show at the Boston Opera House March 16. The charitable affair is being sponsored by the Boston Lodge of Elks.

May Meet in May

Boston—Frank Lydon, eastern regional vice-president of Allied, intimated here this week that the next eastern regional meeting might be called in May, possibly to discuss distributor sales policies.

Would Require Hiring Of Licensed Firemen

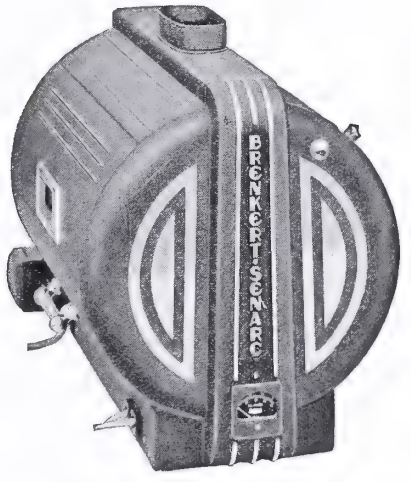
Boston—Max Levenson and Arthur K. Howard of Independent Exhibitors, Inc., with Joseph Brennan and Lebaron Simpson of the MPTO appeared at the state house to request a bill that would necessitate theatre operators hiring licensed firemen to take care of the boilers, etc. Strong union support was registered. The matter was taken under advisement.

Also of industry interest in the legislature was the hearing on a bill to establish a three-member board to guide the legislature in setting up license fees and taxation scales for pari-mutuel tracks in the Bay State.

YOUR PATRONS SEE THE DIFFERENCE ON THE SCREEN . . . . .
YOU'LL SEE THE DIFFERENCE AT THE BOXOFFICE . . . . .

The endeavor to use low intensity lamps to show modern color films to best advantage results in operating costs equal to if not higher than the cost for HIGH INTENSITY SENARC PROJECTION LAMPS.

This lamp, a ready source of SNOW WHITE light for the smaller theatre, is yours at a low first cost and low operating cost.



Our Policy Is Based Not on Salesmanship—But on Service.

Capitol's Guarantee of Satisfaction Is a Guarantee of Service.

Drop in today and see Capitol's complete line of Brenkert products. Brenkert engineered and Brenkert built means that these products are highly efficient, high in quality and low in first and operating costs.

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CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

A NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZATION FOR NEW ENGLAND EXHIBITORS

28-30 PIEDMONT STREET • BOSTON, MASS.

NEW HAVEN

OF THE board of 15 arbitrators announced for the New Haven arbitration tribunal under the consent decree, four are members of the Yale faculty. Two others are bankers, one a liquor man, one the active chamber of commerce retail secretary, a few manufacturers and five attorneys. New Haven tribunal clerk, Oliver Bishop, had not had the New York-announced list confirmed as BOXOFFICE went to press. It had been expected the New Haven list would comprise 30 men. No cases have as yet been filed for hearing . . . Jack O'Connell, assistant, and Stanley Wilchonski, chief usher of the Roger Sherman, received lifetime pens as going-away gifts from the staff as they left with the National Guard . . . Benny Siegel, assistant to George Miller at the Whalley, was given a farewell dinner at Ceriani's before leaving with the Guard. Myer Bailey, Sam Bailey, William Hutchins, Franklyn Ferguson, and other film men were among the 50 present. Siegel was presented with a nice check.

Pete Canelli of Warner's, who was to be married to Laura Villano this April, has received his class 1A rating for service and may be called before the wedding date . . . Sidney Lax, Columbia shipper, passed his examination 1A . . . Sperie Perakos, son of Peter Perakos, is reported off to camp . . . Bob Schaefer, son of Lou, of the Paramount, New Haven, is already with the National Guard . . . Greek War Relief theatre participation is in charge of I. J. Hoffman, Warner theatre department head, for this territory, and exhibs met at the Hoffman office to discuss ways and means. Lobby collections were decided on for the designated week of March 25-30. All theatres will also cooperate in a midnight show, to be held at one of the downtowns, with proceeds going to the fund. Picture has not yet been chosen. Warner is distributing gratis defense short, "Power of Defense" . . . Joe Faith is finishing up details before opening his 652-seat Carberry in Bristol on or before March 15.

Palace, Stamford, has changed its policy to six days of pictures and one-a-week vaudeville . . . Two-reel International Forum, with Dorothy Thompson, Wythe Williams and other important political commentators, receiving excellent comment at the E. M. Loew, Hartford. Booked for the Roger Sherman soon . . . Paramount opened its doors mornings 9 to 12 for the annual *Journal Courier* cooking school for four days . . . Michael Daly will start extensive alterations at the Plainfield soon . . . Al Schuman of the Black Rock has given up the idea of building a theatre on his new site, and instead will build a 36-apartment house this spring . . . Fred Quatrano and reported other interests will start their 700-seat Newington house at very first letup in weather.

Lee Alderman of the Warner exchange office is recuperating from a recent operation at the home of her sister, Mrs. Moses . . . Fred Quatrano of the Lido, Waterbury, will fly to Miami and Cuba with Mrs. Quatrano and their young son . . . Maurice Bailey and Jack Halprin cut their New Orleans stay short after encountering too much rain . . . Charles Stern of United Artists spent a few days of two successive weeks in the New Haven office . . . Lou Brown was speaker at the New Haven Ad Club luncheon. He plugged "Land of Liberty" . . . Vernon Burns, assistant at the Bijou, on leave of absence, has a temporary theatre job in Windsor, Ontario . . . Jack Glackin of the Arch Street, New Britain, is sporting a new Chevrolet two-tone green job . . . Susanna Foster, young star of "Hard-Boiled Canary," got a big hand at her New Haven p. a. . . . Jim Casey rumored married in New Canaan last Saturday.

Bowling continues weekly or semi-weekly, but interest has not widened as much as expected and tournament plans are not yet made . . . Columbia team, composed of Tim O'Toole, Sid Swirsky, Al Parizer, and Ringers Morey Goldstein and Henry Germaine beat a 20th-Fox team of Sam Germaine, Sal Popolizio, Domenick Somma and Ringers Eddie Ruff and Larry Germaine. Sid Swirsky piled up highest score of the evening . . . Leo Bonoff of Madison and Saybrook is on the sick list . . . Nick Marlemes of the Roxy, New Britain, is so cold-shy he won't come back from Florida now until Easter . . . Harry F. Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager, and Mrs. Shaw celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary Saturday . . . Fred Greenway, new Palace manager, Hartford, pulled a stunt immediately after his arrival on the job. He contacted all the buses, and had them announce, "Palace Theatre, next stop," instead of the street.

Pete Brancato and John Mongillo are starring in the Loew-Poli staff bowling matches at the Crown alleys Saturdays . . . Jeanette Berliner, Republic booker, took in the AAU meet and other attractions in New York over the weekend . . . Ben Simon took his entire vacation in one-day stands, returning like a busman on holiday to dear old Meadow Street . . . Leo Devaney, RKO division manager, Canada; Bob Mochrie of the home office; Gus Schaefer, Boston RKO district manager, and Harry Michalson, general manager short subjects, were in for an RKO drive meeting. The local exchange was reported over quota in the drive for last week . . . Flora Cohen, with Casey & Wheeler for the past three years, who resigned recently, spent some time at Grossinger's in New York and later visited Meadow Street . . . The "Four Mascoli Bandits" were also visitors on Meadow Street . . . Frank Mullen, Metro office manager, is back on the job with a cane for support.

C. B. Fogel, Metro auditor, in the district for a few days . . . Devon recreational field will be improved and enlarged . . . Barney Pitkin and Edward Ruff in Boston for a managers' meeting, and visited with Tom Donaldson . . . Al Schuman entertaining his niece and nephew from Montgomery, Ala. . . . Twenty-four week Wonder Book sold the Dixwell exclusive for New Haven.

BRIDGEPORT

A ROMANCE that began in the theatre has ended in marriage and the two principals—Katharine Oleynik, cashier at the Hippodrome, and Frank Musante, projectionist at the same theatre—are honeymooning in Washington and points south . . . Robert and Ann Carney observed their ninth wedding anniversary. Carney is assistant manager at Loew's Majestic and his wife is cashier at Loew's Globe . . . Jack Sidney jr., assistant manager at Loew's Poli, was in New York to see his father when the Arlene Judge unit played Loew's State. The elder Sidney is company manager of the unit . . . Vincent Matera is the newest addition to the usher corps at the Globe . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jarad Wiggins have returned to Montgomery, Ala., after being the guests of the A. M. Schumans of the Black Rock Theatre.

Andrew J. Collins of Norwalk has left for a vacation in Florida . . . Manager Matt L. Saunders of the Poli has finally decided against a southern trip this winter . . . Aaron Fishman of the Community, Fairfield, among Miami Beach visitors . . . The Poli is considering one morning show a week for defense workers on the night shift . . . William A. Konstance, former orchestra leader in several theatres, died here after a short illness . . . Charles Ferron, orchestra leader at the Lyric, a patient in Bridgeport Hospital . . . Anthony Faugno is operating old time films at the Women's Civic Auditorium in Stamford three days a week. Top admission is a quarter . . . Dan Quatrella has been succeeded as Warner usher by Robert Whyland.

Frederick Hellman has resigned as doorman at the Barnum . . . A. M. Schuman was a business visitor in Hartford . . . Edward Madden and Max Rudnick, operators of the Lyric, have taken a 10-year lease on the Stratfield annex hotel. They plan to spend $20,000 in renovations. Rudnick recently sold his interest in the Eltinge in New York.

Capitol Manager Samuel Haddleman's sister, Dorothy, is to become a bride this month. Edward Arrons of New Haven is the lucky man . . . Ernest Gilbert is substituting in the booth at Hippodrome and his place at the Rivoli is being filled by Charles Prakas, nephew of A. G. Prakas, owner of the theatre. This marks young Prakas' advancement from apprentice to full-fledged projectionist . . . Thomas Russell has resigned from the usher corps at the Hippodrome . . . Lyric Manager Ed Madden is all excited over being asked to be God-father to his new nephew.

Michael Carroll is still hoping to see someone wearing some of those stolen clothes . . . Otto Esposito's son, Donald, is now 10 years old . . . "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" was shifted from the Loew's Poli to the Majestic for a second week . . . The Lyric, usually doing five shows on Sundays, had to add an extra performance for Tommy Dorsey.

SPRINGFIELD

LEWIS LAMBERT, projectionist at the Garden, and Simone Sirois of this city were married last week. They are honeymooning in New York . . . Al Gould of the Majestic, West Springfield, was in Boston on business . . . Lawrence L. LaVoy, house artist at GB's Paramount, is taking his year's military training at Fort Devans. Ray Salo, GB's Paramount door man, was to have left for the fort some time this week . . . Harry Smith, division manager and director of publicity for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., visited Charlie Fredericks, manager of the Garden in Greenfield . . . Victor Shumway, Broadway usher, has left for other fields . . . A meeting of Local 186, IATSE, was held at the Central Labor Union Hall, Monday.

Boyd Taylor Sparrow, Loew-Poli assistant manager, reports that Louis Clarker and Samuel Hanna are new ushers there . . . Ben Hull has been filling in at Loew's-Poli booth for Steve Coller, while the latter vacations in Miami . . . The mother of Elliott Hood, Broadway usher, died last week . . . Russell Monroe, manager of the New Adams, Adams, has been re-elected to the board of directors of the Adams board of trade . . . Fred Vorspohl, assistant projectionist at the Strand, Clinton, has returned from a Florida vacation . . . Edward Wyer has replaced John Ryder at the Globe in Clinton . . . Mickey Vallotta, assistant manager at the Richmond, North Adams, was out with the grippe . . . Mrs. Dick Owens, wife of the manager of E. M. Loew's Plymouth in Worcester, has been on the sick list.

Majestic, Burlington, has been renovated . . . F&M's Art will soon be recarpeted, reports Eddie Powers, assistant manager . . . Joseph Boyvin has succeeded Roy Varney as a member of the service staff at the Loew's-Poli Plaza, Worcester . . . Gilbert Bevan, assistant manager at the GB's Paramount, may soon be leaving for his military training at Fort Devans . . . Central, Lawrence, has started a new quiz program with cash prizes . . . Mrs. Addie Scanlon, wife of William C. Scanlon, stage manager at the Warner, Lynn, is recuperating from an illness . . . William Carroll of the Warner in Lynn is back at work after an operation for appendicitis.

Eddie Dowling and Julie Haydon of "The Time of Your Life" company, which gave matinee and evening performances of the William Saroyan play at the E. M. Loew's Court Square, were guests of the Kiwanis Club at a luncheon . . . New popcorn machine has been installed in the lobby at the Broadway . . . Nathan E. Goldstein, president of the Western Masachusetts Theatres, Inc., was in New York last week for a few days on business . . . E. M. Loew has relamped the big chandeliers at the Court Square. New carpet at the theatre looks fine . . . Richard Udler, Garden doorman, was in Boston . . . W. H. McGhee, field representative for E. M. Loew, was in Worcester, Lynn, Salem and Pittsfield last week . . . Dick Larsen, Arcade usher, had the grippe . . . Academy, Northampton, managed by Mildred Walker, had an extensive advertising campaign for "This Thing Called Love."

The boys at E. M. Loew's Court Square received a letter from Mrs. Olive J. Simms, formerly cashier at that situation and now living in Canada . . . Hy Nozak, assistant manager of the Arcade, visited in Providence . . . Eddie O'Brien has replaced Eddie Dolan as doorman at the Capitol . . . Andrew A. Sette, manager of WB's Capitol, was in Hartford for a managers' meeting at the Hotel Garde . . . Leon Dismault is the new porter at the WB Capitol, succeeding Edward Levesque, resigned.

Riverside Amusement Park, Agawam, will open in May . . . Louis S. Goodman, film advisor for the recent series of Film Forums sponsored by the Bureau of Adult Education and the Springfield Council of Adult Education, addressed a luncheon meeting of the Greater Boston Council on Adult Education. His subject was "Visual Aids in Adult Education" . . . Attempts now being made by certain state legislators to tax Bingo games would be a blow to several large churches in this area . . . New railings have been installed in the second balcony at the E. M. Loew's Court Square . . . Charlie Lowe, sound engineer in Hartford for Warner, visited Andrew A. Sette, manager of WB's Capitol . . . Many characters of the films were portrayed by members of the Artists' Guild at their second annual Beaux Arts ball.

In honor of the birthday of George Rabb of the Forest Park Phillips last Wednesday, managers and executives of the Herman Rifkin circuit gathered at the Rabb household for a birthday party where Rabb was presented a wrist watch. Those attending included: Harold Moreau, Strand; Carl Jamroga, Jefferson; Freddie I. Frechette, Garden; Charlie Curley, Liberty; William Powell, Rifkin's division manager; Herman and Julian Rifkin, the circuit's Boston office . . . Paul Kessler, manager of the Suffolk, Holyoke, may soon get his pilot's license . . . Strand's new marquee is a honey.

Mrs. Annie Melvin of the Broadway, Lawrence, is back at work after having been out with a broken wrist . . . Henry Smith, son the Paramount manager, is now with an army corps at Birmingham, Ala. . . . Al Anders of the Bijou and his missus have returned from their annual Florida vacation . . . George E. Freeman of the Loew's-Poli has started an advance campaign on "Tobacco Road" . . . Bill Halloran of the Capitol in Worcester had the grippe . . . Last week's chilly weather injured boxoffice receipts in this area.

Al McEvoy, manager of the Bates in Attleboro, recently had a special program in that theatre for the benefit of Attleborough, England . . . Florence Townsend has succeeeded Catharine MacDonald as a member of the Warner, Lynn, service staff . . . Mrs. Elizabeth Devine of the Broadway, Lawrence, has recovered from a siege of pneumonia . . . Guido Luminello, assistant manager of the Palace, Lawrence, has returned to work after an absence due to illness . . . Hobby of Melvin M. Aronson, assistant manager of the Strand, Westfield, is fencing.

NEW BRITAIN

JOHN CATTA, formerly owner of the State, New Britain, is now vacationing down in Miami . . . Jack Glackin's Arch Street Theatre has started a blue and gold cook set giveaway . . . Peter Perakos, owner of the Palace, was in New Haven . . . Joe Bornstein, manager of WB's Embassy, reports that the play, "Tobacco Road," is due at the Capitol March 17 for a three-day run . . . Joe Faith, operator of theatres in Collinsville, Unionville and Terryville, was in New York for several days . . . New rug has been laid at the State . . . Pat McMahon, State manager, reports a new marquee may soon be installed at that house as well as air conditioning.

Admissions at the State, Waterbury, have been raised from 44 cents top to 50 cents Sundays only . . . The State now has a new policy of four changes per week, with a "defense matinee" daily, starting at 11 a. m. The only other theatre in Hartford county having a similar show is the M&P Allyn, Hartford . . . William Clancy is the new doorman at WB's Embassy, succeeding Angelo Hanishisis, resigned . . . Joe Smith and John Marshall have replaced John Sheppard and Charlie Casma as Palace ushers, the latter having resigned to join the National Guard corps at Jacksonville, Fla.

National Theatre Supply has installed a new screen at the State . . . Edward Abrahams has been added to WB's Embassy service staff as relief usher . . . Mildred Jones has been added as an usherette at the State . . . Pat McMahon, manager of the State, and a New Britain girl are said to be contemplating marriage some time this spring . . . Booth at the State has been renovated . . . Eleanor Barkiskis is the new WB's Strand cashier, succeeding Mary Sheean, resigned . . . Caroline Adams is the new relief cashier at the Embassy.

Mrs. Thomas Hepburn, mother of Katharine, was a speaker on "Marriage" at Wesleyan University in Middletown . . . Joe Walsh of the Colonial, Southington, had a cold . . . Alhambra, Torrington, presented Tommy Tucker and his orchestra . . . Strand, Winsted, had "Gone With the Wind" at 55 cents top . . . White Way Casino Revue was presented at the State in Torrington . . . Theatres in this area are finding it increasingly difficult to keep theatre help, due to higher-paid jobs in factories.

Mayfair, Terryville, presented Tommy Reynolds and his orchestra . . . Jack Teagarden's orchestra played at the Hamilton Park, Waterbury . . . Park Playhouse has started a blue orchid dinner set giveaway.

HARTFORD

JOSEPHINE MURASKI, Lyric cashier, and Ray O'Neil of this city were married in Hartford last fortnight. The couple spent their honeymoon in New York. The bride is continuing to work at Manager Bill Flanaghan's theatre . . . Martin Kelleher, Princess manager, and Mickey Daly of the Daly Theatres were in New Haven on business . . . Jules Frank, formerly chief of service at the Loew's Poli, is now employed at Plimpton's, Hartford . . . Universal's "Buck Privates" was held over for a second week at the RKO Albee, Providence . . . Tommy Dorsey's orchestra was featured at the Harris Brothers' State.

Wallie Cooper, Loew's Poli assistant manager, reported swell business on "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" . . . Children's Museum of Hartford presented a program of winter sports sound pictures, including "Ski Trails of New France," "Take Your Pick," and "Ski Chase" . . . Ernest Dorau of the Middletown Theatres was on the sick list with flu . . . Plans are now being prepared by Architect A. Raymond Ellis for a new broadcasting station for WNBC . . . Jadwiga Smosarska, Polish stage and screen star, appeared in a performance at the Polish National Home for the benefit of a fund for Polish refugee artists in the United States.

Mrs. Rita O'Hara has succeeded Rosalie Brassleo as relief cashier at the Proven Pictures . . . For the first time in almost a year, Bernie Levy, manager of the Proven Pictures, did not make his regular Tuesday trip to Boston last week . . . The opera, "Carmen," will be presented at the Bushnell's in Hartford March 11 . . . New fluorescent lighting has been installed in Manager Jim McCarthy's office at the Strand . . . In New York was Frankie Ramsey, Strand assistant manager . . . I. J. Hoffman, Warner executive, visited Jim McCarthy.

Johnny Monaco has joined the service staff of Morris Keppner's Glastonbury, Glastonbury . . . Alice Ericson, Strand cashier, is currently on a month's sick leave in Los Angeles . . . Warner Club dance will probably be held some time in March . . . Fine Arts, Westport, has installed air conditioning . . . Lou Brown, publicity chief for the Loew's Poli circuit, and Mrs. Brown were in New York recently . . . "Tobacco Road" is due at the Loew's Poli here soon, reports Lou Cohen, manager . . . Lou Brown and Harry Shaw, Loew's Poli, New Haven executives, visited the local Loew's Poli.

Merrill Rome, student assistant at the Loew's Poli Palace, now takes his day off on Monday . . . Earl McGennis has replaced William White as usher at the M&P Allyn . . . In New Haven to attend a managers' meeting were Lou Cohen and Fred R. Greenway of the Loew's Poli and Palace, respectively . . . Albert Stapleton, usher at E. M. Loew's, has resigned . . . Oscar Cappuccio, engineer at E. M. Loew's, had a bad cold and sore throat . . . Paul Smith has joined the ushers' corps at the Regal . . . Vincent Fantious is the new doorman at E. M. Loew's, succeeding Ernest Wattress, resigned . . . Charles Cuneo, formerly of the Norwalk, Norwalk, has been named chief of the service staff at the Capitol in Allston.

Richard A. Smith is the new Loew's Poli Palace usher, replacing Vincent Calano . . . Hillmer D. Robinson, E. M. Loew's assistant manager, left for service at the army camp in Fort Devans, Mass. . . . Charlie Repass' Crown had Amateur Night on its stage last Thursday night . . . Joe Cappuccio, son of the E. M. Loew's engineer, has an offer to tap dance with a Major Bowes unit . . . Due to an attack of laryngitis at the last minute, Allan Jones was unable to appear at the local State last week. Management presented Lanny Ross instead.

Protest Titles That Do Not Fit the Picture

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The Springfield M. P. Council, at its monthly meeting, decided to request authorities in charge, to select titles of motion pictures to coincide with the theme of the film. The council's action resulted following numerous protests that films of high standard and cultural interest had been advertised under misleading titles.

Mrs. John Homer Miller made a report on "Cheers for Miss Bishop," "Come Live With Me," "Night Train," "Western Union," and "Virginia" and there was a discussion on "Land of Liberty." Mrs. Alfred L. Converse, president of the council, presided.

May Add Holiday

CONCORD, N. H.—A measure has been introduced in the state legislature which would make Abraham Lincoln's birthday anniversary a legal holiday. If this proposal becomes law, there will be a total of 12 legal holidays in this state.

Warner Managers Talk Plans for "John Doe"

HARTFORD—Plans for selling Capra's "Meet John Doe" were made at a meeting here of Warner managers.

In attendance from here were: David Sugarman, Colonial; Thomas L. Maller, Lenox; Kenneth Faye, Rialto; William B. Flanaghan, Lyric; Frank Morin, Regal, and James F. McCarthy, Strand. Out-of-towners included Hugh Campbell, Central, West Hartford; Andrew A. Sette, Capitol, Springfield; John Hesse, Roger Sherman, New Haven, and I. E. and B. E. Hoffman, Warner executives, and Henry Needles, Hartford district manager.

Dinner and Charity Ball By Salesmen April 20

BOSTON—The annual dinner and charity ball of the Motion Picture Salesmen's Club will be held April 20 this year at the Cocoanut Grove. Reservations are in charge of Maynard Sickles of Capitol Theatre Supply Co.

More Responsible Role Desired for Films

HARTFORD—"A sense of responsibility in educating the American public to national defense" is the latest "lack" attributed to the motion picture industry.

The opinion was voiced by Guy C. Larcom, research director of the Federal Housing Authority in Hartford, speaking at a recent Open Forum.

"The war news presented in the movies is given at a much higher pitch than in the newspapers," Larcom pointed out, "and it plays up the melodrama without giving a fair, unbiased treatise on the subject."

Praising the industry for entertainment value, the speaker declared that such pictures as "The Grapes of Wrath" presented a good characterization of a social problem, but added it was the popularity of the book that caused the picture, and not the industry attempting to educate the public.

Another speaker on the forum, H. T. Kneeland, chairman of the Hartford Greek War Relief Committee, criticized films for "softening us, making us adverse to facing an issue" and then stressed the value of "using American motion pictures to propagandize the American way of life in order to combat the most subtle, deadly German propaganda ever seen in this country," but cautioning that propagandizing be done with fairness, so as not to instill a bitter race hatred for the German race."

A series of shorts, featuring national defense and portrayals of a democratic way of life, was recommended by the speaker.

New Hampshire Defense Orders, $94,377,884

CONCORD, N. H.—Figures announced by Laurence M. Meyer, industrial agent of the state planning and development commission, show that defense orders awarded to New Hampshire firms up to February 1 totaled approximately $94,377,884.

Army supplies account for $3,717,169 of this sum, and $1,726,867 is for army construction. The latter includes contracts let or negotiated for new buildings, and repairs and improvements to existing buildings, fields and facilities.

Navy contracts and expenditures include $57,931 for supplies, $3,435,096 for navy construction and $84,415,000 for new ships under construction in New Hampshire.

Charge 15-Year-Old With Starting Theatre Fire

WEST HAVEN, CONN.—Patrolman Edward Keeney said Sunday that he arrested a 15-year-old boy for setting a fire in the Park Theatre in Allingtown which caused damage estimated by the fire department at $3,000.

The officer said the boy told him he broke into the closed theatre early Sunday morning, ignited a bundle of papers in the orchestra pit, and then remained in the building for five hours until the heat of the flames caused him to leave.

Rally Texas-Okla. Trade to Greek Aid

DALLAS—All film salesmen out of Dallas and the Oklahoma City markets are calling on southwestern exhibitors in the interest of special midnight shows for Greek War Relief.

A general meeting among Texas film men was held in the office of Co-Chairman H. Biersdorf, 20th-Fox manager. R. J. O'Donnell, chairman for the Oklahoma City and Dallas territories, pledged 100 per cent cooperation over the Interstate circuit. The same pledge came from Robb & Rowley-United, Jefferson Amusement Co., and R. E. Griffith Theatres here.

The showings will be held over these circuits on or about March 22 as availability of prints will permit. Relief dates over the territory will be filled in about the same period.

Biersdorf, chairman of the distributor group here, is working with Louis Charninsky, chairman of the theatre division. First day following the meeting, Fox salesmen obtained 20 pledges from independent exhibitors, Biersdorf said.

Following the midnight shows and during the week March 25 to 30, all theatres will be furnished a 200 foot trailer with narration by Melvyn Douglas and donations will be asked to be taken up in all theatre lobbies with solicitations to be made by women of various social and civic clubs.

Charninsky is now working on plans for a big dance for Greek relief to which all film and theatre employes, friends and families are to be invited. He is seeking the Plantation Club for the occasion and the date will be later on in the month. The Variety Club of Texas will sponsor the dance, Charninsky said, and tickets will go at $1 each.

All communications in reference to film and the midnight shows should be addressed to H. Biersdorf, 1801 Wood St., Dallas. Quota for the Texas area is $39,000.

Memphis Barkers Supervise Trade's Greek Relief Aid

MEMPHIS—The Variety Club of Memphis assumed responsibility the past week for the supervision of a series of benefit shows to be given throughout this trade area March 25-30 for the Greek War Relief Fund, with $12,500 set as the goal for the amusement division.

Major effort locally will center on an elaborate stage and screen show to be given at the Malco Theatre, Thursday night, March 20, with a matinee March 21. In all 19 of the city's leading neighborhood houses will participate. Scores of houses in the cities surrounding Memphis will give special midnight shows for the cause.

Parent-Teacher organizations of Memphis will conduct a sales campaign in connection with the neighborhood programs, and will share in the proceeds, receiving 20 per cent, while the balance goes to the Greek Relief.

M. A. Lightman is division chairman for this section, with Frank Willingham, Metro branch manager, territory manager; and Ed Sapinsley of Malco Theatres, city manager. Todd Ferguson, M-G-M publicist, will have charge of promotion for the main downtown revue at the Malco with Chalmers Cullins supervising production.

Competitive teams have been formed for selling of tickets on the Row. Al Avery, RKO branch manager, and Homer Hisey, Warner branch manager, have divided the men, while Jimmy Rogers' team is composed of the girls.

MacEachron a Leader in Greek War Relief Drive

JACKSON, TENN.—J. R. MacEachron, local manager for Malco Theatres, is chairman of the motion picture division of the Greek War Relief Campaign for theatres in Jackson, Bemis, Bruceton, Camden, Dickson, Henderson, Huntingdon, Lexington, McKenzie, Milan, Paris, Parsons and Waverly. Theatres are planning midnight and special morning shows, with half of the receipts to go to the Greek cause.

: *Woolner's Complaint* :

NEW ORLEANS—*Charles K. Woolner, president of Modern Theatres, Inc., operating the Drive-In Theatre here, has filed a licensing complaint with the arbitration tribunal, charging Paramount Pictures Distributing Co., Inc., with refusal to negotiate with him for a contract of pictures.*

The complaint is held up by the AAA as a presentation made in model form. The text, consequently, is published:
To Charles Q. Blomquist, Clerk of the Tribunal:

The undersigned, in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration and Appeals, demands that the controversy hereinafter described be submitted to arbitration under the Motion Picture Consent Decree, and files herewith a Submission dated Feb. 15, 1941, in accordance with the provisions of Section XXII, subdivision 9, of said Decree.

1. *Statement of Claim and Relief Sought:*

Complainant states defendant, in violation of the Consent Decree has refused to negotiate with complainant for a contract of pictures.

Wherefor complainant prays for full relief under the Consent Decree, whereby defendant distributor may be ordered to contract with complainant on fair terms and conditions and license him on a fair basis.

2. *Name and Address of Each Distributor Against Whom This Complaint Is Made:*

Paramount Pictures Distributing Co., Inc., 215 S. Liberty, New Orleans, La.

3. *Name and Address of Each Theatre Involved in Controversy:*

Drive-In Theatre, 7201 Canal Blvd., New Orleans, La.

Dated:
Date of Filing: February 15, 1941.
Filing Fee Received:

(Signed)
CHARLES Q. BLOMQUIST,
Clerk.
MODERN THEATRES, Inc.
By Charles K. Woolner, President.
Complainant.

Address: 7201 Canal Blvd.

Austin Drive-In Files First Dallas Case

DALLAS—Some run of product and establishment of clearance in accordance with the consent decree is asked by Eddie Joseph for his Joseph's Drive-In Theatre at Austin in the initial demand for arbitration filed Tuesday with the local tribunal.

Defendants are Warner, Vitagraph, 20th-Fox and Loew's-M-G-M.

Contending that he can satisfy reasonable standards of theatre operation and that he is reputable and responsible, Joseph demands that the three distributors be forced to sell him product. He charges they have refused to do so.

Joseph also asks that his clearance be established under Section 8 of the decree.

The arbitrator will be selected from a list of ten from the AAA panel here to be submitted by C. C. Williams, tribunal clerk. Already nominated are J. B. Adoue jr., Fred A. Dewey, Roy R. Ray, Lawrence H. Fleck, L. M. Jordan, L. W. Klingman, Lewis W. McNaughton, R. J. Smith and C. H. Zachery.

Northeast Texas May Get The Biggest Army Camp

DALLAS—Current reports are that the biggest army camp yet for Texas will be located in northeast Texas near Honey Grove or near Bonham, the exact location not being determined at this time, so far as is known. A national electrical company here is reported to be storing supplies in 100-ton lots to be used in construction of this particular project.

In the area, as far as shown business is concerned, Major H. S. Cole has three theatres in Bonham, and in Honey Grove B. R. McLendon has one house and C. V. Caver and Preston Tate the other.

Republic Sales Regional Is Held in Atlanta

ATLANTA—Republic Pictures Corporation has completed its southern sales convention at the Henry Grady Hotel.

Those attending were: Herbert J. Yates, Jimmy Grainger, Arthur C. Bromberg, Lee Seicshnaydre, William Snellson, Henry Glover, Harold Laird, "Cy" Dillon, Marsh Funderburk, Jack London, G. Y. Harrell, George Nunguessor, Sam Wilson, Lloyd Miller, Merritt Davis, Porter Laseter and Publicity Director Perry Spencer.

New Heating Plant

HARTSVILLE, TENN.—A new heating plant has been installed in the Eveska.

'Philadelphia Story' at Top Second Week

NEW ORLEANS—Held over for a second week at Loew's "The Philadelphia Story" led the list of grosses. "Virginia" at the Saenger ran its opposition across the street a close second and the Orpheum did not trail very far behind. "Tall, Dark and Handsome" moved into the Tudor more or less unannounced, and did mighty nice business.

The week just closed was devoted to Carnival. Just what the first week of Lent will bring is worrying local managers.

Detail for week ending February 26:

(Average is 100)

Center—**Face Behind the Mask** (Col).....100
Liberty—**Back Street** (Univ)..... 90
Loew's—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M).....175
Saenger—**Virginia** (Para't) 150
Orpheum—**Nice Girl?** (Univ) 150
Tudor—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox).....100

Abundance of Westerns a Brake on Dallas Grosses

DALLAS—Week ending March 1 on Elm Street was not out of the ordinary by any means, yet it was reported satisfactory. Opinion expressed the other day was there have been too many big westerns lately and these are forced into the A houses and since feminine appeal is lacking, the daytime receipts are way off.

There was no holdover film and "Long Voyage Home" opened in the Tower, designated holdover house.

Detail for the week ending March 1:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**The Plainsman** (Para't), 1st half..... 85
Capitol—**Case of the Black Parrot** (FN); **Crime School** (FN), 2nd half 120
Majestic—**High Sierra** (FN) 100
Palace—**Virginia** (Para't) 110
Rialto—**Let's Make Music** (RKO)..... 90
Played three days starting Tues.
Rialto—**Victory** (Para't) 95
Playing four days starting Friday.
Tower—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd wk.....100

Schneider, Burke Plan a Dallas Suburban House

DALLAS—Plans are being completed for a new theatre on the western rim of Oak Cliff here, the owners being L. E. Schneider and Barry Burke, according to reliable information. The area is undergoing considerable development and is close to the big airplane works at Grand Prairie.

Burke was manager of the Palace here years ago and lately has been working under John Friedl in the Minneapolis area. Schneider was a theatre district manager for Interstate circuit until recently.

Mrs. C. P. Smith Adding Seats in Center, Tex.

CENTER, TEX.—Mrs. C. P. Smith, veteran Texas independent exhibitor and owner of the Crystal and Shelby theatres here, has started remodeling and modernizing of the Shelby. Improvements include a 300-seat balcony in addition to the 500 seats downstairs. New equipment will be installed throughout.

"Glamour Girl No. 2" Viewed in Pensacola

Pensacola—Maurice (Red) Kann in a recent edition of BOXOFFICE speaks of a new "Glamour Girl," to wit, television: and suggests that a powerful competitive attraction for motion pictures is on the way.

This reviewer unhesitatingly labels the new "Soundies" as Glamour Girl No. 2, and suggests that while this so-called "menace" is at present only a ripple in the stream, it may yet grow to tidal wave proportions.

One of the new machines that project motion pictures lasting a minute or two for a dime a peep, was set up Saturday in the lobby of the swanky San Carlos Hotel.

We don't know how many dimes the machine registered; suffice to say that the novelty went over big the first day, and the blooming automaton was worked to death by a group of younger folk who were in the lobby. A college crowd, it seemed to be.

Our first impression, after the novelty of the first two "acts" wore off, was one of boredom. Our impression, apparently, was not shared by the aforesaid younger set, who were "eating up" the reels far into the night.

One of these so-called "Soundies" certainly isn't going to make or break Pensacola, but one wonders, looking into the future, if and when they become as plentiful as "juke" machines, if established motion picture interests will not be affected by this influx of coins that properly belong to the boxoffice, or, at least, from the exhibitor viewpoint.

One wonders, too, what the future will hold. As, for instance, in the case of local events, filmed at the scene and rushed into the machines locally.

New Equipment in Three B&B Houses Installed

CHARLOTTE—Ellis Blumenthal, president of the B&B circuit, reports that the Hollywood, Winston-Salem, N. C., is being treated to new sound and carpets; the Star, Savannah, Ga., to carpets, projectors and paint, and the local Tryon to a Neon border for the entire front, interior decorations and carpets. Local work is under the supervision of General Manager C. A. Matthews.

Blumenthal recently returned from a Florida vacation.

Lee Scarborough Will Operate in Bremond

DALLAS—Lee Scarborough, who until a few days ago owned and operated the Van Theatre at Van, has located in Bremond, where he has made a deal to operate a theatre now under construction.

W. H. Frye, formerly of Forney, purchased the Van from Scarborough and has already taken over with plans for extensive improvements.

A Sliding Gross Tax Threatens in S. C.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—A stiff theatre admissions tax bill, reported on favorably by the house finance committee, passed on third reading in the senate, and now awaiting action in the house, confronts South Carolina exhibitors.

It calls for a 3 per cent tax on gross receipts for theatres in towns of not more than 5,000 population; a 5 per cent tax in towns up to 10,000; 7 per cent in towns up to 20,000, and a 10 per cent tax on gross receipts in towns or cities with a population in excess of 20,000.

Debate on the measure was expected to start in the house Wednesday.

Taylors Win Again Over Sunday Show Charges

KINGSPORT, TENN.—For the third time, charges of violating the Sunday show law against the Fox, Highland Park, have been dismissed in a local court, and Ralph, Malcolm and Bascum Taylor, co-operators of the suburban house, exonerated.

Attorney for the defense produced evidence attesting that a majority of the citizens of the community favor Sunday shows and denying Sunday operation of the theatre is "detrimental to health and morals."

Claude Summers, minister of the community, was charged with "malicious prosecution."

North Carolina Theatres Shift Five Managers

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Curtis H. Mees, formerly in charge of the Strand, has been moved to the Ritz in succession to T. Grayson Poats who has been shifted to Rockingham, N. C., as city manager for North Carolina Theatres, Inc. Jack Jordon, formerly at the Palmetto, succeeds Mees at the Strand, and in turn is replaced at the Palmetto by Tom Allen, formerly assistant manager at the Ritz. Frank D. Bryan of Marion, S. C., succeeds Allen.

Everett Enterprises Add Holloway's Newton House

CHARLOTTE—Everett Enterprises has acquired the State in Newton, N. C,, from I. C. Holloway, making it three for the H. H. Everett circuit there. The others are the Catawba and North Newton. The latest acquisition gives the circuit 22 houses in the two Carolinas.

Ponders Convention

CHARLOTTE—Charles H. Arrington, president of the Theatre Owners Ass'n of North and South Carolina, has been going over plans for the organization's mid-summer convention. The date and place are not yet determined.

Concerning Florida

By A. JULES BENEDIC

TALLAHASSEE—As we tumble into Tallahassee, conviction grows that, by and large, almost every section of this state is witnessing theatre expansion. In this, the capital of the Peninsula State, Mr. Sparks recently opened the Florida, his third theatre here, while it is definitely understood that independent interests are scouting for a "main drag" location, upon which a house will be built to run Warner product.



BENEDIC

Then, too, the Leon, devoted to colored patronage, was to have opened March 1. This house is in the Negro section, has 450 seats, is modern in every respect, and will be operated in competition to the long-established Capital, operated by Margaret Yellowhair, a house with a seating capacity of approximately 450. Eugene H. Pichard and associates are financing the Leon venture, and have named Marshall F. Stone as manager.

Palofax St. Gets New Pictorium

As we pilot our Plymouth into Pensacola, getting into Saenger territory, again the theatre-building tocsin is ringing. It is definitely understood, and newspaper announcements have been made to the effect that the Pryor interests of Virginia, through Chester Hester, will shortly begin construction on The Florida, a house to seat 600, on the main thoroughfare, Palofax, on a site now occupied by the Nobles Building. It is understood that tenants have been served notice to vacate.

There is no pronounced boom in Pensacola, so to speak, but the town looks better than on the occasion of our last visit some half dozen years ago. The Pensacola Naval Air Station—the Annapolis of the Air—as it is called, is doing much to stimulate matters hereabouts, in which the motion picture business certainly will get its share.

Another Cinema for Crestview

As we cross into Crestview, we find that Neal Robinson, heretofore at Fort Walton, has erected a new theatre in this lively little western Florida town, in competition to one already established. Activities at Eglin Field, nearby, a government project, is responsible for this new venture. Mr. Robinson has leased his theatre at Fort Walton to other parties. He is seeking permission, we were told, to name his new Crestview Theatre, The Eglin, in honor of the field.

We meander into Macclenny, finding E. B. Chessman and his wife piloting the Baker Theatre there, as well as operating two houses nearby, an active setup. Mr. Chessman formerly was with the National Cash Register Co. . . . At Lake Butler, H. A. Dale has a tiein with the merchants on giving away some electrical equipment, that has proven quite a business-getter . . . Brandon Warren is no longer at the helm of the Mayo in the town of that name; he has disposed of his interests to Homer T. Putnall and Edward S. Winburn . . . Mrs. S. G. Owen has the combination Madison and Greenville cinematic setup; a very pleasant lady to meet.

Our stay in Pensacola a bit foggy, so to speak. We were struck by a truck on the main thoroughfare while on our way to see Clint Vucovich at the Belmont. Our stay at the Pensacola Hospital was considerably enlivened by the appreciated visits of Johnny Jones and John C. McKenna of the Saenger setup, as well as additional courtesies extended by Warren McGee of the Rex, also a Saenger institution.

M. F. Stone Gets a Full House

Everything happens at once, as M. F. Stone, manager of the newly-opened Leon at Tallahassee, found out. Drawing to a hand of four, Marshall now has a full house, so to speak. At least, it's four queens and a king. Before the wee bit of femininity was ushed in, shortly before the opening of the new theatre, Mr. Stone had three girls and a boy; now he has four girls, plus the boy, and he intends to stand pat on the present holdings, at least for a while, he says.

Things are going nicely at Niceville, where the Fry-Wald Theatre is getting some play from the embryonic aviators nearby . . . C. S. Dunn of the Chattahoochee-Havana setup believes in advertising. He has immense wooden signs advertising his week's programs, placed at vantage points in the surrounding countryside . . . B. A. Donnan at Chipley proves a pleasant chap to talk to on a rainy cross-country tour of western Florida . . . See you all again soon, we hope, after a projected tour back into Atlanta-land.

HOUSTON

LOEW'S STATE exploited "So Ends Our Night" with a breakfast preview on opening day. House opened at 6 a. m. and coffee and doughnuts were served to patrons . . . "Lucky Star Night," described as a new type of talent hunt, was explained at the Kirby by Ronald K. Perkins, originator of the plan. He instructed the audience how they may participate in the weekly talent searches, and be paid from $1 to $100 for their efforts.

R. P. MacDonald has replaced Wayne Peters as manager of the Iris. Peters left to accept a civil service job . . . Howard Nutt, Loew's usher for more than two years, is now with the Kirby . . . Local houses are helping the police department acquaint the public with the new speed limit—30 miles an hour during the day and 25 at night . . . Jimmie Pate, Uptown candy lass, reports a big time at the Plantation. Hyman Werner, Kirby assistant manager, says that they really got away with the fried chicken and hot peppers . . . Bill Lewis, drummer for Warner Bros., came to town in behalf of "Footsteps in the Dark."

Efforts are being made to bring to Houston Gracie Fields, noted English comedienne, for a performance for the benefit of English child victims of Nazi bombings. Frank S. Coan of New York, general secretary of the English-speaking Union of the United States, came to confer with officials of Houston War Relief, Inc., Bundles for Britain and the Canadian Legion, to arrange a Houston appearance for the near future.

Thompson Will Reopen

GRAHAM, N. C.—A. B. Thompson will reopen the Alco here March 20. The house is now being remodeled.

"There Must Be a Reason"

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For Complete Theatre Equipment

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NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

Dallas, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Charlotte and Oklahoma City

DALLAS

O. B. BRIDGES, former Houston exhibitor who lately has been engaged in theatre work in New Orleans, is planning to again make Dallas his home. Before going to Houston he sold films out of Dallas and engaged in roadshow work throughout the southwest.

Ed Loader, head booker in the 20th-Fox office, has resigned for a similar job with the U. S. Army Motion Picture Service. V. J. Gregg moves up to succeed Loader. Altogether there will be seven advancements in the Fox office resulting from the change, according to H. Biersdorf, branch manager.

John N. Stewart, Plaza at Kaufman, is back from a sojourn in Florida . . . Alex Blue, who recently took over management of the R&R houses in McAlester, was in town Monday and says he likes the new location fine. He was formerly with the circuit at Palestine, working under J. F. Jones.

Joe Vaughn, owner of the Star at Hillsboro, out in a day of booking and dropped by to renew his subscription to BOXOFFICE *for a year . . . J. Preston Tate, who lives in Comanche and operates the Queen in Santa Anna, had his young daughter in a local sanitarium here for a few days but the patient is now completing her recovery at home.*

S. G. Fry, owner of the Joy in Tyler, has been elected a director of the Chamber of Commerce there. He is also up for re-election next month as a city commissioner.

Wallace Rucker, owner of the Rock Theatre in Round Rock, was in town Tuesday on a booking trip and says he is about to buy a home there. The place is about 100 years old, built of native rock, and was first used as a stagecoach stop. The house was recently remodeled by a former owner and Rucker plans further improvements.



Heads Dallas Branch—

William E. Finch, who has been appointed manager of the Dallas exchange for Consolidated National Film Co., a combination of Million Dollar Productions and Dixie Film Exchanges. Finch has been active in the trade with major companies for many years.

Tent Theatre Moved

FORT SILL, OKLA.—The tent theatre at the 45th division training center has been moved to Camp Barkeley, Abilene, Tex.

En route to his new theatre in Bremond, Lee Scarborough stopped off at BOXOFFICE headquarters to renew his subscription to this industry's pulse.



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"Fair Treatment and Adequate Service Always"

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MEMPHIS

ORRIS COLLINS of the Capitol and Majestic theatres in Paragould, Ark., was seen hurrying on the Row, taking care of all last minute details, prior to his departure for Florida . . . Mrs. Lucille Cobb of the Richards at Fayette, Ala., paid the Memphis Row her first visit since the beginning of her career in the show business several years ago. Fayette is on the dividing line between the Memphis and Atlanta territory, with the greater part of her product being supplied from Atlanta.

Charles Morel, owner of the Star at El Dorado, Ark., announces the appointment of Mrs. Leta Cornish as manager and booker for this house . . . Filmrow was saddened to learn of the death of Gordon Lee Hutchins. Gordon operated the State at Corning, Ark.

Exhibitors seen along the Row: Mrs. Louise Mask, Luez, Bolivar, Tenn.; W. O. Taylor, Uptown, Dresden, Tenn.; G. H. Goff, Rustic, Parsons, Tenn.; Mrs. J. C. Noble, Temple, Leland, Miss.; Horace Stanley, Radio, Beebe, Ark.; John Staples, Franklin, Piggott, Ark.; C. N. Jenkins, McCrory, McCrory, Ark.; Roy Dillard, Dillard, Wardell, Mo.; John Shannon, Maxon, Portageville, Mo.; Norman Fair, Fair, Somerville, Tenn.; Mrs. M. B. Stegar, Palace, Tunica, Miss.; H. G. Brewer, Savoy, Clarksdale, Miss.; Burris & Henley Smith, Imperial, Pocahontas, Ark.

Earl Vandiver is doing extensive remodeling and redecoration of his Ritz in Kennett, Mo., prior to opening within the next few weeks. This theatre has been closed for several years. Vandiver also operates the Vandiver in this city.

Sam M. Berry has joined the sales staff of National Theatre Supply Co. here . . . An unusual visitor was Ray Wilson who came to arrange his bookings for his new theatre which opened in Gillette, Ark., last week, and to visit his ten-year-old grandson who is recuperating after an appendectomy.

Winfield Snelson, Republic branch manager, together with Merritt Davis and Loyd Miller, salesmen, and Eddie Interbitzen, booker, are back from a district meeting in Atlanta . . . Roy Dillard is getting ready for summer in a big way, having just purchased new cooling equipment for his theatre in Wardell, Mo.

G. W. Schierbaum has taken over the operation of the Shelby at Shelby, Miss. . . . Jimmy Rogers, Columbia's branch manager, was "King for the Day" at the monthly luncheon of the Variety Club Monday when a most novel entertainment was arranged, and his efforts were rewarded with the largest attendance yet at a luncheon in the club.

Wedding bells will be ringing for M. A. Lightman jr. within the next few weeks, when he marries Miss Jean Sand of Lincoln, Neb. . . . Another erstwhile bachelor exhibitor who is forsaking the flock is Sidney Wharton of the Pastime and Avalon at Warren, Ark., who will be married sometime this month.

Heart Attack Fatal To W. W. Anderson



ATLANTA — Walter W. Anderson sr., branch manager for the Columbia Pictures Corp., and one of the most popular figures on Atlanta's Filmrow, was fatally stricken suddenly last Sunday morning at his residence.

Anderson came to Atlanta about 20 years ago from Chicago, where he had been connected with the Pathe film company. He was with Pathe in Atlanta for a time, then joined the staff of Erpi and became branch manager for Columbia about eight years ago.

He is survived by his wife and a son, Dr. Walter W. Anderson jr., of Bremen, Ga.

Mrs. T. L. Davis Rites

ATLANTA—Funeral services were held here Monday for Mrs. Thomas L. Davis, wife of the United Artists district sales manager. Burial was in West View Cemetery here.

Santley Directs "Rookies"

HOLLYWOOD—Joseph Santley will direct "Rookies on Parade" for Republic.

SANTONE

JERRY O'DONNELL, assistant manager at the Empire, has been called into military service with the medical detachment and is now stationed at Fort Sam Houston. The new assistant skipper is Chester Nunn, who has been with Interstate here a little over four years. Other changes and promotions at downtown Interstate houses include: Malcolm Handcock, new chief of service, Aztec; Charlie Miller, Empire doorman, has been called to the colors and Jack Clements has taken his place as chief doorman; Jack Dodge is a new addition to the Empire service staff; Joseph McNeal has been upped to assistant chief usher at the Texas and Lionel Stiglets has taken over as the new chief of service at the State.

Eddie Miller attracting plenty of attention these days spieling out in front of the Prince . . . Douglas Largen jr., the Drive-In service staff member, did a swell job of covering the three-day Texas dairymen's convention for the Atlanta Dairy Products Journal *. . . Among the recent visitors to Santone's Theatrerow were Ed Blumenthal jr., Monogram, Dallas, and a Mr. McDonald, Republic, Dallas.*

We learn belatedly that Frank Dallas, who used to spiel for local theatres, died about two months ago . . . Lines a block long in each direction formed for the daily showing of "GWTW" at the Majestic . . . Manager Paul Garza of the Obrero and Progresso says he intends to keep in step with eastern exhibitors along the consent decree views . . . Your correspondent had a jaw tooth yanked last week . . . The Independent Film Supply Co. has put in a new line of radio mikes.

South San's new playhouse opened with "Comin' Round the Mountain" . . . "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" owled at the Majestic Saturday . . . Wally Overman, clown-cartoonist, made a personal appearance in the Texas lobby, giving autographed caricatures to theatre patrons. The act was an added attraction to the screen fare, "Tall, Dark and Handsome" . . . I. C. Rothafel, son of the late "Roxy" of New York theatre fame, is now in Uncle Sam's army and is stationed at Dodd Field here.

Jeff Davis, the former columnist-critic of the San Antonio *Light,* postcarding back from the Pacific Coast . . . "Tobacco Road" was set to open at the Majestic March 8 for a week's engagement . . . Jimmie Weis, an Ohio theatrical entertainer, is now in military service at the Fort Sam Houston reception center . . . Three Mexican film stars appeared in person on the National stage. They were Carlos Lopez, known to the Spanish speaking public as "El Chaflan," Senorita Emma Roldan and Rafael Icardo.

The Motion Picture and Visual Education Committee of the San Antonio Council of Parent-Teacher Ass'n met to make a report on "What Other Texas Cities Are Doing in Visual Education" . . . Eddie Moran is now running his free show out on Pleasanton Road in Harlendale each Sunday and Wednesday nights . . . Recent visitors here for the Ascap-BMI meeting were: Carl Wyler, El Paso; B. F. Orr, Houston; Harold Hough, Fort Worth; Martin Campbell, Dallas; Karl Haverlin, BMI stations relations director, New York City, and C. E. Arney jr., assistant to the president of the NAB, Washington, D. C. O. L. Taylor of Amarillo was re-elected to his third term as director of the NAB from the 13th district.

San Antonio's Motion Picture Council gathered at a luncheon session to pay honor to their president, Mrs. J. K. Beretta, whose ancestral home, where she spent her girlhood days, is used in the Paramount picture, "Virginia," currently showing at the Majestic. Mrs. Alex Adams, vice-president, and Mrs. A. S. Shackleford, secretary, were among other special invited guests . . . Photos advertising 20th-Fox's "Western Union" were prominently displayed in all local Western Union branch offices and windows to plug the showing of the film at the Aztec.

Isley House Nears Completion

MINERAL WELLS, TEX.—Phil Isley is rapidly completing the Brazos Theatre here. The house will seat 1,000 and is being equipped with RCA sound.

Partners Build in Santone

SAN ANTONIO—RCA sound is going into the new theatre that B. W. Johnson and R. R. Knight are putting up in South San Antonio.

AUSTIN

OUTSTANDING event of the week was the Varsity Theatre spring style show, presented by two of Austin's leading style sources in cooperation with the house. Collegiate models included Harold "Buster" Novy, son of Louis Novy, city manager for Interstate . . . The Novys have added a Chevrolet to the family fleet.

A holdover of "Gone With the Wind" is indicated by the huge crowds attending the you-all epic at the State . . . Elmo Hegman, skipper of the Ritz, and the missus took in the plays at the U. of T. Experimental Theatre the other evening . . . "Sign of the Cross" had its umpteenth showing at the Texas . . . Paramount Manager Dick Waite on a quickie trip to San Antonio.

Bobbye Meredith, "Sweetheart of Austin Interstate," has rearranged her office beyond recognition . . . Max Hoegerl, former *American-Statesman* theatre adman who is now soldiering at Camp Bowie, was in town for a day's visit . . . Charlie Root, Queen foreman, may be in khaki in another few months, according to his draft number.

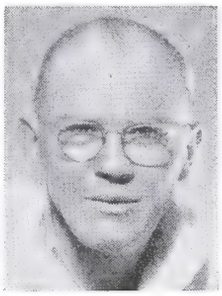
Elnora, the Interstate office goldfish, is expecting a blessed event . . . Varsity Manager Jesse Melinger to Brownwood and back.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
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RKO Drive Will Honor David Prince Birthday

ATLANTA—Southeastern District Manager David Prince will be honored by RKO exchanges in the territory through the setting aside of a special week of the Ned Depinet Drive as a tribute to him. The week of May 3-9 will be heralded as Dave Prince's Birthday Week. His birthday is May 6. Exchange managers joining in the tribute include H. M. Lyons, Atlanta; J. B. Brecheen, Charlotte; P. M. Baker, New Orleans, and A. M. Avery, Memphis.



DAVE PRINCE

Strickland Film Co. Will Move to New Quarters

ATLANTA—R. B. Strickland of the Strickland Industrial Film Co., has acquired the building at 141 Walton St., N. W., now occupied by Consolidated National Film exchange, and will extensively remodel it as new quarters for his firm.

The move will not be made until October, when Strickland's present lease expires.

E. A. Patton Will Remodel Building for Theatre

MANSFIELD, ARK.—E. A. Patton, operator of two houses, is planning to remodel a brick building here into a 400-seat modern theatre.

The name tentatively selected for the house is Maryland.

M. M. Lewis Builds

HOUSTON—M. M. Lewis, operator of the Park and Lyon theatres here, is building another to be known as the Highway Theatre. He has signed with RCA for sound.

Manages the State

KNOXVILLE—Joe Alexander, formerly of Elizabethton, has been made manager of the State, recently taken over by Wilby-Kincey.

New House for Elkin, N. C.

ELKIN, N. C.—Louis Mitchell, presently operating the Lyric here, will shortly open his new de luxe 790-seater here. A name for the "A" house will be chosen by a popular contest.

Build Profits-Patronage With

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ATLANTA, GA.

ATLANTA

THE Atlanta Variety Club, Tent No. 21, held its regular monthly meeting in the Henry Grady Hotel Monday, with Barker Sid Reams as "King for a Day." Fifi D'Orsay, who is appearing on the stage of the Capitol Theatre, was a special guest. Dr. Pierce Harris, minister of the First Methodist Church, was the principal speaker.

The marriage of Miss Lena Katz, sister of Ike and David Katz, of Producers Releasing Company, to Dave Laken of Atlanta, was solemnized Thursday, February 27 . . . Ann C. Jackson, formerly with United Artists, has assumed duties as secretary to John Mangham and P. H. Savin, of Monogram Southern Exchange . . . Fannie Kinstein of Monogram is leaving for New York.

Eddie B. Tomberlin, of the Brundidge Theatre, Brundidge, Ala., spent several days in town booking and reported the installation of a modern ice cream and candy bar in his lobby . . . Walter Brandenburg of the Liberty Theatre was confined to his home by flu . . . M. A. Watson, Theatrical Printing Co., is in St. Joseph's Infirmary for an appendectomy.

Miss Barbara Woodall is the new switchboard operator at 20th-Fox . . . Mrs. Ola Williams, 20th-Fox, is spending her vacation in Miami . . . William Shiell jr., James Gillespie, "Hap" Barnes and Lynn Dunn, salesmen for United Artists, were in town to attend the funeral of Mrs. T. L. Davis, wife of the UA branch manager.

VISITORS: Frank Merritt, Empire, Birmingham, Ala.; Fred McLendon, Union Springs, Ala.; G. H. Coats, Tiger, Auburn, Ala.; Col. Thos. E. Orr, All Amusements, Inc., Albertville, Ala.; O. C. Lam, Rome, Ga.; L. J. Duncan, West Point, Ga.; Wendell Welch, Strand, Dallas, Ga.; A. L. Cowart, Legion, Cartersville, Ga.; and it is news when H. J. Woodward, of Strand, Winder, Ga., doesn't come in.

Eleanor Ann Arban, file clerk at Warner Bros., announced her engagement to R. J. Martin jr., this week. The marriage will take place at a very near date . . . A. Jules Benedic, roving representative for BOXOFFICE, *arrived in Atlanta Tuesday night for a rest and recuperation following his recent accident in Pensacola, Fla.*

Warner employes are working hard in the Sears Play Date Drive to top the list. They are now in second place in the southeastern district . . . Arthur C. Bromberg, president of Republic Pictures of the S. E., has announced the appointment of H. Porter Laseter to his sales staff working out of the Atlanta branch. Laseter at one time was connected with the Fox Film sales staff.

Joe Fink has been appointed assistant manager of the Rhodes Theatre to succeed H. E. Marshall who enters military service. Fink, for the past several years, has been a member of the staff at the Ritz Theatre, Barnesville, Ga.

Gus Sun jr. of the Gus Sun booking offices, Springfield, Ohio, spent some time here this week setting in attractions for the Southeastern Fair and looking over the vaudeville situation . . . Earle M. Holden, manager of the Capitol Theatre, has been appointed chairman of the Red Cross Roll Call for the theatres in Atlanta.

William Scruggs, manager of the Cascade, reports a burglar broke the lock off of the back exit and robbed his Coca Cola and candy machines . . . Miss Harriett Hudson replaces Mrs. Frances Hynds as secretary to H. P. "Dusty" Rhodes, booker for Lucas and Jenkins Theatres. Rhodes spent several days of the past week in Columbus with I. L. Shields, city manager for L. & J. Theatres.

The Queen Feature Service, Inc.

Quality Theatre Equipment & Supplies

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Columbia Branch Heads Meet Jackter in Atlanta

ATLANTA—Sam Moscow, southern division manager, and the branch managers of his district, met at the Ansley Hotel for a conference with Rube Jackter, Columbia Pictures' assistant general sales manager. At the session presided over by Jackter, who is chairman of the "Columbia Exhibitors' Good Will Campaign," plans for the drive, which got under way March 1 and will continue for three months through May 30, were discussed.



RUBE JACKTER

The branch managers who attended the meeting were R. J. Ingram, Charlotte; J. B. Underwood, Dallas; J. J. Rogers, Memphis; C. A. Gibbs, Oklahoma City, and H. Duvall, New Orleans.

Horror Tale for Heisler

HOLLYWOOD—"Among the Living," a horror tale to star Albert Dekker, will be directed for Paramount by Stuart Heisler.

Lets the Public Sample a Film

Atlanta—There is something new in show business. W. J. Collins of the Ritz Theatre, Toccoa, Ga., was so impressed with "The Philadelphia Story" that he offered to buy admissions for the Atlanta showing of the picture and give them to native Toccoans as an inducement to get them to go to Atlanta to see the film. Collins, a live-wire exhibitor, figured that they would return to Toccoa walking, talking advertisements for the picture, soon to be shown at his house. They did. He limited the offer to the first 10 volunteers.

Defense Activity a Construction Spur

By LES KETNER

SAN ANTONIO—National defense is helping to boost theatre construction in south Texas as well as nearby army training centers.

The detail is as follows:

Brownsville—Archer & Holding, valley construction firm, have been awarded the contract for building a new theatre on the Fort Brown grounds, Lieut. C. F. Schupp, adjutant, announced. The Brownsville contractors were low bidders at $21,148 for the theatre and a military fire station. Workmen have begun to assemble the buildings and work will be completed on the two structures about May 15.

Lavernia—This town will get its first theatre when H. H. Linne opens his showhouse here early this month.

South San Antonio—Scheduled for opening this month is B. W. Johnson's South Santone house located on Quintana Blvd. near Main St. This theatre is only a short distance from Camp Normoyle and Duncan Field.

Books Massie String

CHARLOTTE—Mrs. Grace Senteney, formerly with Reagan Theatres of North Carolina and the UA exchange in Atlanta, is taking over all booking for the J. E. Massie theatres. She will headquarter in Waynesville, N. C.

Book Night Spreads

NEW ORLEANS—"Book Night," tested in six United Theatres here, has merited an extension, and the circuit has spotted it in eight more houses in New Orleans.

CHARLOTTE

VISITORS: W. D. VanDerburgh, Pageland, Pageland, N. C.; W. F. Caudell, Capitol, Fairmont, N. C.; C. M. Bowden, Palace, New Bern, N. C.; Jimmy Earnhardt, Taylor, Edenton, N. C.; J. Francis White jr., Sunset and Capitol theatres, Asheboro, N. C.; A. Fuller Sams jr., State, Playhouse and Crescent theatres, Statesville, N. C.; Boyd B. Horton, State, Concord, N. C.; Charles H. Arrington, Cameo, Rocky Mt., N. C.; Charles A. Harper jr., Anne, Estill, S. C.; C. A. Turnage, Turnage and Rieta theatres, Washington, N. C.; J. W. Watts, Watts and Marco, Williamston, N. C.; J. R. Herlong, Saluda, Saluda, S. C.; S. J. Workman, Hollywood, Woodruff, S. C.; Dan Holt, Troy, Troy, N. C.; Ralph Simpson, Carolina, Gastonia, N. C.; J. R. and Everett Qualls, State, Burlington, N. C.; W. M. Dodgen, Graniteville, Graniteville, S. C.; G. F. Lundy, Dulamae, Denmark, S. C.; Lewis Saunders, Grove, China Grove, N. C.; C. B. Andrews, Lyric, Bishopville, S. C.; Pete Webb, Webb, Shelby, N. C., and George Carpenter of Valdese, Granite Falls and Madison, N. C.

Cy Dillon, Jack London, Marsh Funderburk and Roy Bradley of Republic were in Atlanta attending a sales convention . . . George Carpenter and associates of Valdese, N. C., who are constructing a new theatre in Conover, N. C., will call it the Conora . . . The new 500-seat theatre in Augusta, Ga., built by H. B. Ram, will be known as the Lake View. Policy will be second run and it will open March 9.

Property Master Johnny Bachman of the local Variety Club attended a meeting of chief barkers in Philadelphia. He substituted for Chief Barker Everett who was unable to attend. Plans were made for the national convention to be held in Atlantic City in May . . . District Manager Ralph McCoy of Warner Bros. spent two days here discussing various sales and distribution plans with Johnny Bachman and the sales force . . . Benn Rosenwald, Metro manager, is taking his vacation by motor car through the middle west . . . Fred Powell, who in association with H. H. Everett, operates theatres in Chester and Gaffney, S. C., is spending some time in Lake Orange, Fla.

John Kirby, former local Paramount exchange manager, spent two days in conference with the local selling force. Kirby now has supervision over Charlotte, New Orleans and Atlanta . . . Ray and Mrs. Ervin have returned from Florida well tanned. Ray is Metro salesman for South Carolina . . . Jay Schrader, manager at United Artists, which exchange has been designated by the Motion Picture Committee Cooperating for National Defense to handle all defense trailers in this territory, announces that prints have been received and booking is progressing in a most gratifying manner. The first independent exhibitor to arrange bookings was Morris Littman, for his Sylvan in Ruthferfordton, N. C.

New chairs have been installed in the Carolina, Hendersonville, N. C., and the New Center in Lenoir, N. C. . . . J. E. Shew announces installation of new chairs in his Yadkin in Yadkinville, N. C. . . . The Carolina in Fayetteville, N. C., gets new draperies . . . Shep Brinkley of the Plymouth in Plymouth, N. C., has just completed installation of projector lamps and lenses . . . Air conditioning system goes into the Dunn, Dunn, N. C., for the Everett Enterprises, Inc. . . . Benn Rosenwald, prior to his departure on a vacation, announced the opening of Metro's new exchange the week of March 22.

Bob Boovy and Hank Hearne, salesmen for United Artists, have been ill . . . Chief Barker Heck Everett of the local Variety Club announces that among the celebrities to attend the Charter Dinner on March 10 will be James G. Balmer, national dough guy, of Pittsburgh; Paul Short, chief barker of the Texas Tent, and former Chief Barker Bob O'Donnell of Dallas . . . Marion Simons, editor of The Distributor, *a publication for Metro employes, spent several days in Charlotte.*

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS, VARIETY!

CHARLOTTE—With the arrival of this issue of your favorite trade publication in the Carolinas, we are day and date with the birth of an organization which will do much for the good fellowship and closer relationship of a grand bunch of real hefellows. Of course, Variety Club—the one organization known to everyone everywhere.

John Harris, the originator, with his diligent and untiring years of effort, will be well repaid when he hands this newest Tent No. 24 its charter. In so doing he will realize, as we feel sure that he has already realized, that he is welcoming men who will be an outstanding credit to his and Variety's high ideals. Welcome to the Carolinas, Variety.—PAULINE GRIFFITH.

From the Newspapers

ACKERMAN, MISS.—A modernization program undertaken by C. N. Eudy, owner of the local theatre, is nearing completion.

DECATUR, ALA.—Remodeling of the Princess Theatre here, undertaken by Crescent Amusement of Nashville, is expected to be completed by May. G. P. Banniza is manager.

OCALA, FLA.—Bids are in for the construction of Sparks' new theatre. C. "Ted" Chapin is manager of the company's two houses here.

MARTINSVILLE, VA.—Work is under way on a 600-seater for Dr. E. M. McDaniel.

RALEIGH, N. C.—The Ritz-Wilmington Corp. has been incorporated here to operate theatres. Milton Starr, G. Tom Bailey, Frederick Willett and E. Moseley Fonviele are stockholders.

PENSACOLA, FLA.—A building is being remodeled into a 600-seat theatre for J. C. Hester of Greensboro, S. C., owner of a theatre chain.

CLINTON, S. C.—J. Leland Young succeeds the late O. I. Sheely as manager of the Casino and Broadway.

ROCKINGHAM, N. C.—Mrs. Henry C. Wall has leased two theatres here to the Wilby-Kincey chain for a term of 10 years.

AHOSKIE, N. C.—City council granted the Howell Theatre interests a permit to operate on Sundays until another election is called.

LYONS, GA.—Fire here destroyed the Pal Theatre as well as damaging adjoining buildings.

LENOIR, N. C.—Dan Austell is manager of the newly opened Center. The theatre, seating 855, is part of the Wilby-Kincey chain.

GREENVILLE, N. C.—T. Y. Walker, local theatre manager, announces the North Carolina Theatres Co. has acquired a site for a new house and work will get under way shortly.

ARKANSAS

BENTONVILLE will be host to the children of its trading territory this coming spring and summer, Carl Burger, president of the chamber of commerce announces. Principal feature of the program will be a free show at the Plaza each Saturday from 1 to 5 o'clock. Two complete shows will be given for children 12 years of age and under.

Clint Dunn, manager of Clint's, Greenwood, has installed 250 cushion seats, which puts the seating capacity at more than 400. The front of the house was recently remodeled and new carpets placed in the lobby and aisles. A new screen is to be installed and other improvements made in the near future.

Roy Hale, manager of the Paramount, Helena, announces his 750 seats have been completely re-upholstered and repaired . . . Bruce Young, who has been doorman at the Ritz, Russellville, for several years, has been given a leave of absence by Malco Theatres, Inc., owners of the house, for a year of army training with the 206th Coast Artillery.

The Royal at Newark, which was recently destroyed by fire, will be rebuilt in the near future . . . Henry A. Brownlee, manager for Malco Theatres at Russellville, won third prize in a Malco "Holiday Festival" campaign to increase business. He received a check for $40 and congratulatory letters from officials of the company . . . Mrs. Tom Mosley is the new manager of the Mack at Eudora.

A new projection system has been installed at the New, DeWitt . . . Van Emmerson of Lewisville has bought the Crystal at Stamps . . . Hoy Hale, manager of the Paramount and Pastime at Helena, has been named chairman for 14 towns which will take part in the Greek relief campaign, March 25-30 . . . T. K. Jenkins and Stellamae Matthews, cashier and secretary at the Strand, Jonesboro, were married recently.

T. B. Autry jr. Wed

FLORENCE, S. C.—T. B. Autry jr., manager of the B&B Amusement houses here, was married recently to Miss Helen Rhodes of Lexington, N. C.

Bandit Is Shot in Front of Theatre

Humboldt, Tenn.—Action more realistic than the western thrillers shown on its screen occurred in front of the Rex Theatre here recently when Mrs. R. D. Cox, cashier, was held up by a masked man and robbed of the day's receipts. Turning from the boxoffice the robber was met with police gunfire and fell shot through the head. Unmasked the dead man proved to be the son of a local family, but with a penitentiary record.

"Tobacco Road" Sets Miami Top

Miami Beach—"Tobacco Road" broke all records for a single day's business in its dual premiere at the Lincoln and Surf here, according to Sidney Meyer of Wometco, operator of both houses. Opening day's receipts were the biggest of a week day in the history of the Lincoln alone, and the third largest ever registered at that house, being exceeded only by two Sunday performances.

Plan Deluxe Suburban Unit for Griffith

TULSA, OKLA.—The Palace Theatre Building Corp. has announced that plans have been completed for erection of one of the finest modern suburban houses in the state in the 1200 block on Harvard, for lease to Griffith-Southwestern Theatres.

The building will be air-conditioned and will have a seating capacity of 1,088 seats, 325 of which will be in a balcony. Two storerooms will be available.

The corporation is a local group which owns the Palace Theatre here, now under lease to Griffith, and the Ritz Theatre building in Stroud, Okla., under lease to Lewis Barton.

Standard Theatres Gather Scrap Metal for Britain

OKLAHOMA CITY—Oklahoma City school children contributed 4,150 pounds of scrap iron and steel at benefit shows held in four neighborhood Standard units.

Hundreds of children were admitted to the Ritz, Warner, Plaza and Circle theatres on presentation of five pounds or more of iron or steel for their admission tickets; the iron and steel to be given Great Britain.

Film companies and theatres donated their services to the idea which originated in Seminole.

J. E. (Jack) Huey Rites Are Held in Dallas

DALLAS—Funeral services for J. E. (Jack) Huey, RKO's south Texas representative who died suddenly in Edinburg, were held in Dallas Saturday with burial in Grove Hill cemetery. He was 51 years old.

Huey was a native of Dallas and had been in the film business 25 years. He was manager of the old Vitagraph company when the exchange was located on Commerce Street. He was later manager of the Tiffany exchange. In later years he sold for Warner, Fox and for the last five seasons has been with RKO. He is survived by his wife and one son, Don Huey.

Pallbearers were Sol Sachs, C. J. Wheeler, Vernon Adams, W. V. Adwell, Clarence Wilson and Jack Walton, all of the RKO organization here.

Directs Alice Faye

HOLLYWOOD—Irving Cummings will direct Alice Faye in "Belle Starr" for 20th-Fox.

College Students Select "GWTW"

AUSTIN, TEX.—Choice of more than one-fourth of America's college students, "Gone With the Wind" was easily ranked the collegians' No. 1 picture shown in 1940, a nation-wide poll conducted by Joe Belden's Student Opinion Surveys of America reveals.

Based on a scientifically-representative cross-section of the U. S. college enrollment, the survey showed "GWTW" as the choice of 27 per cent. Only one other picture was the preference of even half that many—"Rebecca," with a showing of 14 per cent.

The top ten pictures of the year, in the opinion of American collegians, are:

1. "Gone With the Wind"
2. "Rebecca"
3. "The Grapes of Wrath"
4. "All This, and Heaven Too"
5. "Foreign Correspondent"
6. "Knute Rockne—All American"
7. "Northwest Passage"
8. "North West Mounted Police"
9. "The Mortal Storm"
10. "Boom Town"

Interviewers asked students on campuses throughout America to name the best picture "they had seen" during 1940; so many of the favorites mentioned were not necessarily released during the last year. Often a pollee named one of the classics Hollywood filmed in a year prior to 1940.

Cash Games Forbidden In Springfield, Tenn.

SPRINGFIELD, TENN.—Following the recent incident at the Capitol Theatre when a $600 Bank Night allegedly was fraudulently won, Judge Dancey Fort of Robertson county circuit court has ordered discontinuance of all cash drawings, Bank Nights, Treasure Chests, etc., within the county, as a result of the findings of the county grand jury in the Capitol case.

The Capitol management had already discontinued such drawings. Two people are in jail charged with obtaining the theatre's cash prize by fraudulently substituting numbers for those in the drawing basket.

Two Sign With Altec

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—C. H. McCroskey, who operates a chain of Arkansas theatres, has signed up Altec Service. R. Applebaum, operator of the Roosevelt in the Mississippi Delta, too has signed Altec.

Films in Defense a Topic

WACO, TEX.—"How Should Movies Aid in National Defense?" was the subject chosen for discussion at the WPA-Retail Credit Men's radio forum.

P. A.'s by Rubinoff

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.—Rubinoff made a p. a. here, then went to McAllen, Laredo and Del Rio for other appearances.

Hanson Exploitation Award to Garrette

TORONTO—The award for the best exploitation campaign of the month for any feature among the managers of Hanson Theatres Corp., Ltd., was made to Grant Garrette of the Geneva at Orillia, Ont., for his work on "North West Mounted Police," the second award going to Tom McKnight, manager of the Patricia, London, for the campaign on "The Letter." Fifteen managers of the circuit in Ontario participated in the competition which is a part of the contest for the first three months of 1941 with cash prizes being given for the period.

Garrette had a tie-up with an Orillia newspaper in the form of a lucky number stunt in which he secured a full-page spread while another newspaper gave a lengthy reader on the organization of the famous constabulary in which the theatre engagement was mentioned. An Orillia store had a newspaper advertisement in which a scene cut from the picture was featured and a local clothier had a window display with Mountie dolls and theatre cards, stills being placed in other store windows. The theatre had a special front for the occasion which included large cut-out letters and Mounted Police pennants.

Manager McKnight of the Patricia mailed 950 personal letters on "The Letter;" inserted heralds in magazines sold at news stands; secured several spot announcements at a big dance; used many window cards and one-sheets and had colored stills in downtown store windows. He had a special lobby display and arranged special announcements from the stage of the theatre while he used the four-star angle in newspaper publicity.

High in the contest standing for the month were Henry Marshall of the Rideau, Ottawa; W. C. Tyers, Granada, St. Thomas; Roy Miller, Marks Theatre, Oshawa; Emmett Stark, Palace, Timmins; Leo Coyle, Granada, St. Catharines; Lorne Moore, Grand, Sudbury; H. E. Nelson, Goldfields Theatre, Timmins; Gordon Beavis, Royal, North Bay; Harry B. Neun, Granada, Chatham; Lloyd Taylor, Granada, Hamilton, and Tom Mascaro, Capitol, Belleville.

At the end of March, cash prizes for exploitation totaling $100 will be distributed among the first three managers, with $50 being awarded for the highest total of points for the three months. Further contests will be staged every three months during 1941 for similar cash prizes and the grand winner at the close of the year will receive a handsome trophy in addition to various cash bonuses for his campaigns.

W. Evan-Jones National Sound Agent in Ontario

TORONTO—W. Evan-Jones has become Ontario representative for National Sound Service of Montreal. Evan-Jones formerly was with Dominion Sound here and is well-known to the trade.

Four Rubin Boys In the Forces

Ottawa—No one can point a finger to the Rubin boys when it comes to national service in war time, no less than four of them being officers or non-commissioned officers in the Canadian Army or the Royal Canadian Navy. The youngest of the quartette in uniform is Sub-Lieutenant Dave Rubin, formerly manager of Rialto, Ottawa, and for some time manager of the Westdale in Hamilton, this being a unit of the Allen chain. Dave is in the Navy.

The other brothers are Sergt.-Major Michael Rubin of the Royal Canadian Air Force headquarters in Ottawa; Flight-Sergt. Alex. Rubin of the R. C. A. F. and Sergt. Harold Rubin of the Governor-General's Foot Guards of Ottawa, now in training at Toronto. Michael has been with the Air Force for 17 years.

French Film Production In Canada Suggested

TORONTO—In connection with a move to transfer French art and literature along organized lines to the sections of Eastern Canada where the French language is jealously guarded and encouraged, intimation has been made by the French-Canadian patriots that consideration is being given to the development of French film production to replace the product which formerly was imported in from what is now known as the State of France.

This move is contemplated despite the information that the Canadian distributor of French pictures, La Compagnie Cinematographique Canadienne Limitee of which J. A. DeSeve is the representative, has a considerable supply of Made-in-France films on hand, some of which apparently were rushed out of France before the filtration of the German troops. Exhibitors using French-language product have signed an iron-clad contract for the exclusive use of films released by this company but some question has arisen as to future supply because of the embargo imposed by the Dominion Government on trade with any part of European France.

The development of a French film industry would conceivably prevent expansion in the distribution of pictures made in Hollywood and England. There are approximately 100 theatres in three Provinces of Canada which use French films either wholly or in part.

Canadian Sound Equip. Company to Custodian

TORONTO—The Canadian Sound Equipment Co., Toronto, has gone by the boards, the firm having made an assignment under the bankruptcy act. The company was organized some months ago to take over the Technical Service Co. by Walter Evan-Jones, projection engineer and electric equipment specialist, for the purpose of sales and service for RCA special products. E. G. Clarkson of Toronto is the custodian under the winding up proceedings.

Federal Amusement Tax for Dominion

TORONTO — A leak from government sources indicates that Canada will have its first federal amusement tax in the near future, with the announcement to be made in connection with the bringing down of the next wartime budget.

The levy is to be labeled a war measure but that was the way it was started in the province of Ontario during the last war—and continued for more than 20 years. Incidentally, it started in Ontario as a one-cent tax on every admission ticket for every form of amusement, entertainment, recreation and diversion but grew to the 10 per cent stage. Ontario has no amusement tax now.

The tax to be imposed by the Dominion government, which will be collected regardless of imposts in seven provinces, will not require the use of extra tickets or coupons but will be taken from the box-office reports of theatres from month to month, it is reported. This virtually amounts to a tax on theatre receipts and not a tax on patrons. Therefore it would be an indirect tax with the exhibitors feeling the pinch.

A federal amusement tax will undoubtedly bring an increase in theatre admissions because, under present conditions, increased theatre patronage, due to war stimulus and wartime employment, is not bringing increased profit because of higher levies on income, imports and corporation profits. One rumor has it that the federal amusement tax would bring $10,000,000 to the Dominion chest but this is believed to be a high estimate because the total gross receipts of all theatres in the country last year will be around $36,000,000. Such a government net would mean a tax of approximately 30 per cent.

The highest amount collected by the Ontario government, prior to the dropping of the impost in 1937, was $2,000,000 in one year and that was rated a 10 per cent levy. Ontario theatres will, as usual, pay the biggest part of the shot because Ontario produces almost 50 per cent of Canada's total theatre gross.

"It will be uniform throughout Canada and will not interfere with our field of taxation," was the statement of an Ontario government official with respect to the federal tax proposal.

"Dictator" Run Near

TORONTO—The first Toronto run of "The Great Dictator" has been disclosed at Loew's as due after the national release date on March 7. The picture will be shown here at regular prices, according to Manager Jules Bernstein. It is expected that the opening will follow "The Philadelphia Story," currently at Loew's for its Canadian premiere.

"Our Life" for Warner

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has acquired "In This Our Life," a story by Ellen Glasgow, as a co-starring vehicle for Olivia DeHavilland and Errol Flynn.

TORONTO

PRESIDENT N. L. NATHANSON of Famous Players Canadian Corp. and Mrs. Nathanson have returned to their residence at Miami Beach, Fla., to spend the remainder of the winter. Their address is 4839 Pine Tree Drive . . . J. Add Wilson has been appointed manager of the Carlton in Toronto, a unit of the B&F chain. Wilson, who was formerly in charge of the Christie, Toronto, has been in the film business locally for 31 years, having made his start with the General Film Co.

Lou Appleby, manager of the Toronto Casino, pulled a smart stunt for the British War Victims' Fund when he set up a patriotic display in the lobby which included 10 bottles as receptacles for cash donations. There was a bottle for each of the Canadian provinces and the tenth was for the United States, the stunt being called "The March of Dimes." At the end of ten days, the bottle with the USA label contained more money than any other receptacle, with Ontario in second place.

More than 300 merchandise prizes, contributed by merchants of the community, were distributed at the annual midnight frolic in the Bedford, North Toronto, which was organized by Manager W. G. Hunt in behalf of the Bedford Park Business Men's Association for charity purposes . . . Jack W. Nelson, the veteran showman who has been manager of the Capitol, North Bay, for many years, is the first Canadian to earn a place on the Honor Roll of M-G-M for exploitation achievements. His campaign on "Escape," which included a 16-page newspaper section and a slogan contest, brought the award to Nelson.

A special performance arranged at the Biltmore, an independent house of Oshawa, Ont., by Manager William Bradbury brought a nice donation for the Lord Mayor's War Victims' Fund. Among those on the stage were Sir Charles Roberts, noted Canadian poet; Nathaniel Benson, author; John Elson of the University of Toronto, and Mayor J. C. Anderson of Oshawa.

A real opportunist is Manager A. C. Simpson of the Toronto Hollywood. The day after the Acadamy Awards were announced, he was featuring "Vivacious Lady," starring Ginger Rogers and James Stewart, the two 1940 winners of statues for best performances . . . Mrs. Joshua Smith, proprietor of the Avenue and Pylon, Toronto, was the hostess of a tea at the Royal York Hotel in honor of Lady Eaton and Mrs. James McBaxter, retiring officers of the Women's Executive of the Summer Symphony Ass'n. Many prominent society women were among the guests.

Col. John A. Cooper, chairman of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada, retired as president of the Ontario Red Cross Society at the annual meeting of the society in Toronto, his successor being Wallace R. Campbell, head of the Ford Motor Co. of Canada . . . Nicholas Dotsch lost four fire extinguishers when thieves broke into his Hillcrest Theatre, Toronto, the equipment being taken from the projection room. The office safe was untouched.

W. Helm, manager of the Classic in the northern Ontario mining town of Cobalt, gained wide attention as chairman of the Cobalt committee for the War Savings Drive under the auspices of the Dominion government. The Classic is a unit of the Allen chain . . . Thomas J. Connors, sales representative for M-G-M, has returned to New York after conferring with officials of Regal Films, Ltd. head office in Toronto.

Wolfe Cohen of Toronto, Canadian district manager of Warner Bros., has been making a tour of the Dominion to check with branch managers of the company . . . B. Calvert, who resigned as manager of the Granada at Dunnville, Ont., to go into another line of business, is back with his first love, being with the Bayview at Leaside, the manager of which is C. F. Ingram.

Manager Gordon J. Forhan of the Belle, Famous Players house at Belleville, Ont., has observed the 25th anniversary of his arrival in that city to manage a theatre and was accorded an editorial tribute in the local newspaper. During his 31 years in the show business, Forhan has had theatres at St. Thomas and St. Catharines as well as Belleville.

Among the theatre managers of Ontario who were officials for the War Savings Campaign in their respective communities were Frank Miley, Granada, Napanee; E. L. Moore, Grand, Sudbury; Gordon Beavis, Royal, North Bay; Roy Miller, Marks, Oshawa; W. C. Tyers, Granada, St. Thomas, and Henry Marshall, Rideau, Ottawa.

Filmrow is still wondering about the local radio retailer who became so enthusiastic over the Dominion's war effort, that he advertised the advice that people should not go to the show in order to buy war savings stamps. This merchant, handling a line of goods on which there has been placed a 25 per cent war luxury tax, told Torontans in a display: "I did not go to a show this week and saved these .....," followed by three 25-cent war savings stamps. In the past he has enjoyed the cooperation of a local theatre in staging shows for community purposes and similar events.

ST. JOHN

OUTDOOR fairs are dwindling down to almost nil this year as opposition to theatres in the eastern provinces. The Nova Scotia exhibition commission has sold its fair plant to the Dominion government for defense purposes. This includes the Forum rink in Halifax, N. S., and is likely to witness the suspension of this 6,000-seat arena for public skating, hockey, wrestling, boxing, as well as for the annual fair. The St. John, Fredericton, St. Stephen, Woodstock, Moncton, Charlottetown, fair plants are being used for army and air force objectives. At Amherst, the maritime winter fair buildings, including a new arena, have been taken over by the Dominion. Outdoor ice skating, which has been substantial opposition for the theatres since about December 1, will end during March.

The B&L Theatres, operated by M. S. Bernstein and J. Lieberman, and with headquarters in St. John, are expanding in Nova Scotia and Maine. Added to the Capitol at Antigonish have been the Strand at Sydney, Capitol at Shelburne and King's at Annapolis Royal. Added to the Star at Madawaska in Maine has been the Savoy, at Fort Kent.

Stepping in at the eleventh hour, the New Brunswick censor board "suggested" an age limit of 16 years on the three-day showing of "Chad Hanna," at the St. John Capitol. A short time previously, the board ordered a 16-year limit on "They Drive By Night," at the neighboring Strand, but not until the film had been showing without restriction for a day.

Ernie Whelpley, who has been selling film for over 25 years, and who has been out of circulation since being replaced as manager of the RKO exchange in St. John, by Les Plottel, of Toronto, is back as a road man for 20th-Fox. Gerry Hoyt, another veteran distributor, is manager for 20th-Fox at St. John, and covering New Brunswick, Nova Scotia.

Archie Mason of Springhill, N. S., a pioneer exhibitor, has been elected vice-president of the Nova Scotia Fish and Game Protective Ass'n. He is chairman of the exhibitors-distributors conciliation board which has been functioning in Nova Scotia the past year.

John Farrow, husband of Maureen O'Sullivan, and a veteran studio writer and director, has ceased to be press agent for the Canadian Navy at Ottawa, and is now on duty on the Atlantic Coast patrol against submarines, surface raiders and bombers.

The Film Girls' Patriotic Club, composed of feminine workers in the St. John, N. B., exchanges, played group hostess to officers and members of the crew of a coastal defense patrol boat of the Canadian Navy. The club had "adopted" the crew last fall, and had been supplying the sailors with knitted wear and luxuries not covered in the naval rations and issues. The girls entertained their "adoptees" in a St. John restaurant with a supper and musical numbers.

Wally Humby of the operating staff at the Mayfair, St. John, N. B., is convalescing from injuries inflicted on one hand while it became entangled with the gears in a projection machine. One finger was so badly crushed, it was amputated . . . Business at all the Halifax theatres continues at capacity, with seats scarce after 7 p. m. daily, and lines waiting in lobbies and on streets after that.

Topline in "Leisure"

HOLLYWOOD—A topline in "Repent at Leisure" has been handed to Dorothy Lee by RKO.

MONTREAL

"EVERYWHERE in the World" is the title of a new release in the "Canada Carries On" series prepared by the national film board. Associated Screen News completed recording of the sound track for this production a few days ago, with Lorne Green handling narration, and Lucio Agostini directing the orchestra for musical background. A French version is also in preparation, with Tony Leclerc handling narration.

Consolidated Theatres gave a cocktail party for Stirling Hayden, star of "Virginia," who made two personal appearances at the Capitol . . . Snowdon Business Men's Association held their annual "At Home," a midnight affair, at the Snowdon . . . The Bernstein Lieberman string in New Brunswick has taken over the Savoy, of Fort Kent, Me., which is on the international border.

Gratton Keily, booker in Warner-Vitagraph Montreal office, has been promoted to salesman . . . Ken Soble's "'Good Humor" contest winners, who have been appearing at the Outremont, Wednesdays, are now occupying the stage of the Empress every Thursday evening.

Theatre managers were for some time puzzled at the number of silk stockings found by the cleaners. The explanation turned out to be that women and girls who discovered a serious run in their hosiery or had it badly spattered with mud, purchased new stockings and made their way to the theatre dressing room as the most convenient place to change.

Fred W. Jordan, known all over the continent for 40 years as a theatrical agent, died recently in Westchester, N. Y. He brought to Montreal the original "Rose Marie" company which broke records at His Majesty's and also came here with the Abbey Players of Dublin.

Savoy Theatre, Verdun house of the Confederation Amusements, managed by Eugene Maynard, is listed as a "Gold Star" firm on the Honor Roll issued by the War Savings campaign and containing names of those with 100 per cent employe participation . . . Empire Theatre, north end independent house, is giving free War Savings certificates to holders of lucky number coupons every Wednesday evening.

Six Incorporate

VICTORIA, B. C.—Six new theatre companies incorporated and published in B. C. *Gazette* this week. The Odeon Theatres of Canada, Ltd., office 902 Royal Trust Bldg., Vancouver, B. C.; Cambie Theatre, Ltd. ($10,000); Rio Theatre, Ltd. ($10,000); Granville Theatre, Ltd. ($10,000); Kingsway Theatre, Ltd. ($10,000); all with their registered offices at 902 Royal Trust Bldg., Vancouver. The Trail Theatre Co., Ltd., office 968 Spokane St., Trail, B. C. ($50,000).

Megs "Return of Boone"

HOLLYWOOD—Lambert Hillyer will direct "The Return of Daniel Boone," next Bill Elliott western for Columbia.

Michael J. O'Brien Estate Probated at $5,229,020

OTTAWA—Probate of the will of Michael J. O'Brien, Canadian mining magnate, industrialist and owner of the Ottawa Valley Amusement Co. operating four theatres in Renfrew, Pembroke, Arnprior and Almonte, showed that he left properties and other assets valued at $5,229,020, of which the Ontario government will collect approximately $1,300,000 in succession duties.

In addition to large bequests to immediate survivors, O'Brien provided for gifts to many employes of his associated companies which were not disclosed. O'Brien left $5,000 cash to each of 24 grandchildren, one of whom is Mrs. Margaret Ritza, wife of L. B. Ritza, assistant general manager of the Ottawa Valley Amusement Co.

: From the Newspapers :

CALGARY, ALTA.—Writing the local paper, a theatregoer expresses the belief that it is the duty of management to request women patrons to remove their oft screen-obstructing hats, rather than leaving such requests to the individual.

OSHAWA, ONT.—A recent program at the Biltmore Theatre realized $47.18 for the *Evening Telegram* British War Victims' Fund. William Bradbury is manager of the theatre.

MONTREAL—The Quebec Government will consider a proposal made by organized labor suggesting amendment of the law so that children under 16 years of age could be admitted to theatres when accompanied by an adult.

HAMILTON, ONT.—A recent blaze that damaged the screen of the Century Theatre here, is under investigation.

WINNIPEG

THE biggest film event of the year, the Academy Awards, proved of special service to Harold Bishop, whose Capitol is currently showing Ginger Rogers' "Kitty Foyle." With the announcement of the award, Bishop heralded the occasion to boost his showing of the film . . . At the Bijou, Garnet Wright is making local film history by carrying the British comedy, "It's in the Air," over into its straight sixth week. To fully appreciate what this means it should be realized that the Bijou is a Main Street house playing this feature in its third city run.

Harold Gray's Tivoli was the setting for a special preview of "Peoples of Canada." It was attended by the lieutenant-governor of Manitoba, the mayor, provincial and civic dignitaries and representatives of different national groups . . . The current showing of Kay Kyser's "You'll Find Out" was well publicized through the concerted efforts of members of the Metropolitan staff . . . "Gone With the Wind" is now playing E. A. Retalick's Uptown after a run at Bill Novak's Gaiety.

Robert Hurwitz, supervisor of Main Street houses, heading the list in sales for War Savings Stamps, reports that practically all employes have joined 100 per cent . . . Wolfe Cohen of Warner Bros. passed through the city on his way west . . . S. Swartz, well known booker with United Artists, has returned from Toronto to work with the company in Winnipeg.

N. Rothstein, head of the Rothstein circuit, left for Yorkton and Saskatoon . . . Joe Freed of the Elm, who has been on the sick list, is now back at his desk . . . Industrial short subjects, produced by Jack Pechet of Canadian Screen Publicity, are earning a good reception at various points where they are now playing in the prairie provinces and British Columbia.

Nichols on "Swamp Waters"

HOLLYWOOD—Dudley Nichols is adapting "Swamp Water," from the Vereen Bell novel, for 20th-Fox.

EDMONTON

BEFORE a capacity house, 37 Royal Life-Saving Society awards were made to members of the YWCA, swimming club on the stage of the Capitol last week. Awards were made by His Honor Lieut.-Gov. J. C. Bowen, while introductions were made by Walter Wilson, manager of the Capitol.

In addition to employes of the four theatres of the Entwisle chain, members of the staff of the art department of the same firm have pledged 100 per cent contribution to the Canadian War Savings. All other theatres have pledged full co-operation.

When showing the picture, "Britain's Heritage in the Making" the Garneau, under the management of Bill Wilson, offered two admissions for the price of one to all members of the armed forces.

As well as being enthusiastic patrons of America's most northerly motion picture theatre at Aklavik, Eskimos in that part of the north land have taken up amateur films according to H. Peffer, fur trader and proprietor of the Aklavik Theatre, who is a visitor to Edmonton. Keen on seeing pictures of seal hunting and other northern operations, the Eskimos now own two cameras while Peffer gives advice on picture taking and arranges for the development of their films.

The weekly radio contest, "Robin Hood on Parade," when an Edmonton man was contestant for a $200 prize, was presented from the stage of the Capitol by arrangement of Walter Wilson, manager.

OTTAWA

JOHN GRIERSON of London, England, commissioner of the National Film Board, made a special trip to Montreal to offer a speech before the Canadian Club on Germany's propaganda methods . . . Manager Henry Marshall of the Rideau prevailed upon the school board to permit football players of Ottawa schools to take Friday morning off from studies to attend a private screening of "Knute Rockne," the pupils paying the juvenile admission price. The board chairman advised Marshall that he would be glad to cooperate with the theatre in similar manner when a picture of strong moral or educational value was to be shown in the future.

The Royal Canadian Air Force, through Air Vice Marshal L. S. Breadner, chief of air staff, has extended full cooperation to Warner Bros. for the making of "Bush Pilot," dealing with the exploits of Canada's airmen in Arctic and other remote areas. Intimation has been made that Errol Flynn, Cary Grant, Burgess Meredith and Olivia DeHavilland will visit Ottawa this summer to work on the picture at Rockcliffe Air Station.

Complaint has been made that the National Film Board's release "Peoples of Canada" has been given two previews, including one before a large gathering of the Canadian Geographical Society, before the picture was made available for theatre first runs.

T. R. Tubman, manager of the Capitol, cooperated with the Ottawa Journal *in the publication of a full-page advertisement sponsored by many local merchants to boost the sale of war savings certificates. Tubman also organized a second Sunday concert at the Capitol for the war drive in his capacity as chairman of the local publicity committee.*

Lloyd Mills, Elgin manager, twice held over "This Thing Called Love," the complete engagement running for two weeks. Manager Isser Singerman also had "Gone With the Wind" for longer than a week at the Imperial, advertising that this run would be the "last chance" for Ottawa theatre-goers.

J. Earl Lawson of Toronto, a member of the Canadian Picture Pioneers, spent last weekend in Ottawa, later proceeding to Kingston on business . . . According to the records of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, one of the 8,692 *non-resident aliens who have been issued wartime permits to carry guns or weapons in Canada is none other than Gene Autry who has sported firearms in many a feature film. Autry took out the permit in order to do some hunting in the Dominion.*

Staffs Pledge War Savings

VICTORIA, B. C.—Dominion, Capitol and Atlas theatres in Victoria are on the "War Savings Honor Roll," the staffs having pledged themselves one hundred per cent for the regular purchase of War Savings Certificates.

Anniversary Celebration Becomes Notable Event

TORONTO—The 20th anniversary of the Palace on Danforth Avenue was a big occasion because of the manager, Charles L. Querrie, through his associations with the theatrical and sport worlds and his general activities in the community. The event was heralded by the publication of a souvenir program which was built in the proportions of a film press book and everybody from Caretaker Sam Finnie to President N. L. Nathanson of Famous Players had a part in it. Congratulations were showered upon Querrie by W. A. Summerville, member of the Ontario legislature, Mayor Conboy, members of the city council, and business friends.

Features of the anniversary week included vaudeville in addition to the screen program; the personal appearance of professional hockey stars; a birthday cake and a weight guessing contest for 12 prizes; a lucky number program each day for free passes, and the distribution of 20 silver dollars among the juveniles at a matinee.

Among those who started with Querrie at the Palace and have been employed the 20 years are Mrs. Charles Fetherston, the cashier, and Bert Sherwin, first an usher and then the doorman. Wally Brown, projectionist, has also been with Famous Players for more than 20 years, while William Rossborough, also in the booth, made his start 30 years ago. Peter Simms, the stage hand, has been in the show business for 40 or more years. Sam Finnie, the caretaker, has been employed by the company for a score of years. The whole staff had a big week.

VANCOUVER

MAYNARD JOINER of the Capitol put on an extensive advertising campaign for the initial showing in Canada of Universal's "Back Street" . . . Norm Duncan is very busy at the Strand where they have been playing the legitimate show, "Naughty Marietta," proceeds of which are being donated to the Red Cross. Sterling Holloway and Hope Manning are the featured stars.

Bill Long of Odeon Theatres in Edmonton on a short business trip . . . The Projectionist's Society is very pleased with the results of their ball last Sunday, as a result of which the group was able to donate a considerable sum to the war fund.

Of particular interest to Canadian exhibitors is the fact that Deanna Durbin has made a special ending for her latest picture "Nice Girl?" wherein she sings "There Will Always Be an England" . . . It is understood tentative plans are being drawn up for new theatres at 16th and Cambie and Knight Road and Kingsway.

Messrs. Friesen and Little are busy putting an entire new front on their theatre at Abbotsford. It will be of stucco. In addition to the new front, they are installing two new rest rooms . . . Fred Bannister of the Victory, Mission, arranged a special musical show, proceeds to be donated to the Red Cross.

SASK'WAN

CHARLIE BAHRYNOWSKI of the Met Theatre, Regina, gave "Pastor Hall" an advance boost by staging a morning preview for the press, members of military, officials of the churches and government ministers. Bahrynoski, incidentally, is installing new Canadian-made seats in the theatre.

Citizens of Moose Jaw attending the Orpheum the other day were thrilled when they spotted Sergeant Observer D. S. Craik, R. C. A. F., formerly of Moose Jaw, among a group of Canadian airmen shown in newsreel shots of the men landing in England. Since the pictures were taken, sometime in November, Craik was reported "missing" after action over the English channel. Two clips were taken from the newsreel by Les Pugsley, manager of the Orpheum, who turned them over to the flier's family.

Sponsored by the rural committee of the Melfort board of trade in cooperation with the Melfort merchants, a Farmers' Day was held in Melfort recently. By special arrangement with the Grand Theatre, two free shows were given during the afternoon. A feature of the shows was a quiz contest.

First of a series of Sunday evening concerts in aid of the Red Cross was held on a recent Sunday in the Royal Theatre, Canora . . . Charlie Horning, assistant manager of the Met, Regina, down with the flu recently.

Larry Graburn, manager of the Capitol, Regina, back on the job again after an attack of the flu in time to help handle the big business occasioned by the first anniversary showing of "Gone With the Wind."

Capitol Theatre, Saskatoon, was taken over on a recent Sunday evening by the Officers' Wives Auxiliary who put on the concert party of the Infantry (M. G.) Training Center of Military District 12 *titled "Warriors at Ease."*

Rescue Operator

MONTREAL—Quick thinking on the part of two city constables who were in the Majestic Theatre when a fire broke out on the night of February 24 in the projection room, prevented a possible panic among the 300 persons in the theatre. The constables told the audience that there was a little trouble and asked them to leave the theatre. The patrons complied in orderly manner, and the two constables then rushed to the projection room, where they arrived in time to carry out Aime Gauthier who was overcome by smoke.

School After Films

REGINA—Estimates of the Saskatoon public school board, to be considered soon, will include an item of $500 for motion picture equipment and films, the board decided acting on a recommendation of Dr. C. A. Oulton, superintendent. Dr. Oulton said the films had been of great benefit in teaching some subjects.

Neighboring Community Nights

Contact school officials and civic leaders in neighboring towns surrounding your town or city, and arrange for a night honoring that particular community. Friday night is usually picked.

Secure the school band of that particular community to make an appearance, and strive to have the band appearance on a competitive basis with other communities, so that a final winner can be determined at the conclusion of Neighboring Community Nights. Other stage activity can be arranged to honor the particular community.

Arrangements with bus companies between the two towns are in line with this stunt.

The promotion was tried successfully several years ago by the Schine circuit in Gloversville, N. Y., and is being revived in a number of situations.

Four From Paramount Will Be Plugged by Kate Smith

NEW YORK — Four Paramount pictures will be heavily plugged on the coast-to-coast CBS Kate Smith program in coming weeks, through a deal closed recently by Robert M. Gillham, Paramount advertising and publicity director. In each case, plugging will tie in closely with the film's national release.

The Kate Smith troupe will go to Hollywood for the broadcasts. First will be heard March 28, an adaptation from "Road to Zanzibar," the Hope-Crosby picture to be released April 11. "The Roundup," a Harry Sherman special, will be next aired April 4, to tie with April 18 release.

The third broadcast will follow the world premiere of "I Wanted Wings." This one goes on the air April 11.

"Reaching for the Sun" excerpts will be broadcast April 18, timed in with the premiere of the picture late in April.

Kate Smith's noon program, "Kate Smith Speaks," which goes on the air every weekday to the same list of stations, will give plugs to the Friday program to follow and to the Paramount pictures involved.

Shorts Bulletin Service Is Launched by Metro

NEW YORK—Anticipating an increased interest in short subjects as a result of the consent decree, M-G-M this week inaugurated a new shorts bulletin service to motion picture editors of 1,200 daily newspapers.

Titled "A Line on Shorts," the bulletin will be mailed at regular intervals to keep film editors informed of such developments in the shorts field as are considered to be of wide interest and significance.

Star Album Popular

WATERTOWN, WIS. — Oscar Bauman, Classic Theatre, reports doubling Saturday matinee business by distributing star albums to youngsters and then passing out small star stills for insertion in the album on subsequent Saturdays.

Chas. Taylor Award Winner Third Time

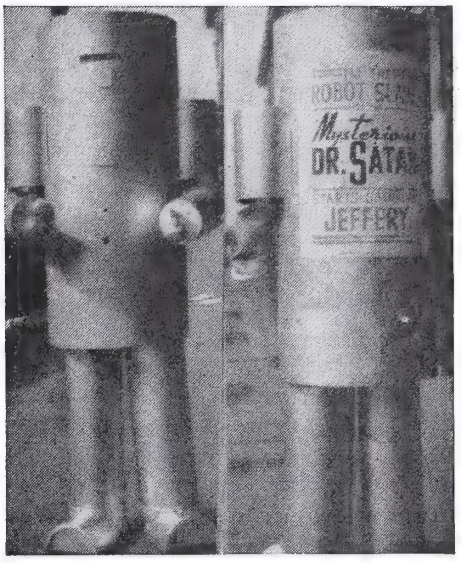
BUFFALO, N. Y.—Charles Taylor, advertising and publicity director for Shea's Great Lakes Theatre, is the first showman to be honored for a third time by having a campaign reproduced in Metro's cooperative service sheet. He was cited for his outstanding promotion of "Flight Command." Taylor was the first to win an Honor Roll Button in this competition and also was the first to come through with a second winner.

Highlights of the "Flight Command" campaign:

Special advance screening for newspapermen and famous test pilots. This was good for plenty of story and art breaks. Arrangement was made for a demonstration of powerful anti-aircraft searchlights of a local battalion. School co-operation was obtained and cards posted on all bulletins in educational centers. Outstanding display of model airplanes placed in lobby ten days in advance of opening. Radio announcements used on two local stations at frequent intervals for one week before playdate. Special front built, with airplane action featuring big sign placed over boxoffice.

Promotes Blackout Of a Town

Biscoe, N. C.—Manager Jeff Wilson of the Biscoe secured a proclamation from the mayor declaring a blackout for the town one evening at 10:30. The local power company pulled the main switch at the given time for a few minutes. Two powerful spotlights were played skyward and police cars used their sirens to good effect. Several hundreds posters over the county helped make the populace aware that "Blackout" was the picture at the Biscoe.



Robot—Front and Rear—

Robert Busch, manager of the Jeffery Theatre in Chicago, constructed this robot at a cost of $3.00 to ballyhoo the opening of the serial, "The Mysterious Doctor Satan." The body is made of a large cardboard drum with sheet metal at the bottom to give it greater length. The legs were made of cardboard tubes and the arms also were made of tubes, with the upper parts made of old innertubes to give it flexibility. The claws were made so that the wearer could operate them. A buzzer fastened inside the body made a noise as he moved. It made a great visitor to schools in the neighborhood a week in advance.

Warner Kiddie Check Is Growing in Popularity

PHILADELPHIA—The Kiddie Check (reproduced in the February 22 issue of BOXOFFICE) is entering its 16th month of existence with ever-expanding popularity, Warner officials report. Many added dollars worth of business have been garnered by this practically cost-free stunt which was originated by Al Zimbalist of the Warner publicity staff.

A recent tieup for the checks was effected with Coca Cola by Marty Aninsman of the Leader Theatre Cups in the automatic drink vending machine were numbered, lucky numbers winning free checks, paid for by Coca Cola.

NOW BOOKING the only original version on "THE LIFE OF OUR SAVIOR"

Complete from the manger to the cross. Adapted from Behold the Man. Descriptive talking version. 72 Brand New Prints Available. Positively a record-breaker! Only first-class theatres should apply. Beware of patched-up versions. Direct shipments everywhere. Western Feature Films, 1018 S. Wabash, Chicago.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT — A newspaper contest to identify news pictures of the past ten years promoted the showing. Cash and theatre tickets were the prizes.

MEET THE FLEET—A dummy in aviator's costume; airplane propeller and motor, a radio set and a series of photos, loaned by the navy office, made a lobby display. A radio amateur in the lobby sent messages for patrons.

MR. & MRS. SMITH—The Kansas City *Journal* cooperated with a contest rewarding tickets for the best 50-word answer to: "If you found out, after three years of marriage, that you weren't legally married after all . . . and that your husband had made the same discovery but hadn't told you . . . what would you do?" Star photo was granted space.

COMRADE X—A park bench in front of the house four days in advance, informed: "Reserved for those waiting to see Clark Gable and Hedy Lamarr in 'Comrade X'." A hay wagon, driven about town, offered "a free ride to the laugh riot."

PHILADELPHIA STORY — A "press room" was constructed in the outer lobby with a sign above it reading: "Scenario department of M-G-M Pictures." Six college girls pounded away at typewriters, typing out bits of dialogue from the production on stationery carrying printed copy on the film, theatre and playdate. As items were finished, they were handed to patrons.

PHILADELPHIA STORY—A sign on a bed in the lobby notified: "Reserved for those who laugh themselves sick."

SO ENDS OUR NIGHT—A special breakfast premiere was arranged for six o'clock on the morning of the opening. A leading department store tied in to serve coffee and doughnuts to the audience. Ads, news stories, radio and special windows plugged the show. The trailer two weeks in advance, contained the following copy: "And how do you spend your nights? Working, playing or just sleeping? At any rate here's a chance to end your night a little differently. You're invited to a breakfast premiere of 'So Ends Our Night.' Have breakfast (coffee and doughnuts) on the house. Doors open at 6 a. m."

INVISIBLE WOMAN — A chair, a microphone (very sensitive) and a young lady (out of sight) were the lobby accoutrements. Copy invited patrons and when they ankled over closer, the microphone picked up their remarks. Hearing this through a peephole, the young lady would then answer as the Invisible Woman.

BACK STREET—2,000 book marks in the high school; window displays at book shops and a department store; notices on bulletin boards in service organizations; trailerettes; 25 11x14s in restaurants, beauty shops, barber shops, bowling alleys and cigar stores; 75 Nap-ads; daily radio announcements and special plugs at women's clubs.

HONOR ROLL

Showmen whose exploitation activities flank this column.

Bennie Blumberg
Philadelphia

Art Clark
Indiana, Bloomington

Charlie Crowley
State, Chester, Pa.

Jules Curley
Strand, Albany, N. Y.

Francis Deering, Frank Bruner
Loew's, Houston, Texas

E. R. Erickson, Waldon Ryan
Rhodes, Chicago

H. T. Grisson jr.
Colony, Portsmouth, Va.

Paul Harvey
Capitol, York, Pa.

E. L. Kidwell
Kent, Kent, Ohio

Lawrence Lehman
Orpheum, Kansas City, Mo.

M. E. Lofgren
Sun, York, Neb.

Haddon Matthews
69th Street, Philadelphia

Sid Munter
Grand Opera House, Wilmington, Del.

Harry Olmstead
Strand, York, Pa.

Lester Pollock
Loew's, Rochester, N. Y.

Bill Reisinger
Loew's-Poli, New Haven

Roy Robbins
Karlton, Philadelphia

Joe Ruddick
Gillioz, Springfield, Mo.

Cassius Smith
Annex, Detroit

Eugene Street
Tennessee, Knoxville

Sammy Tietelbaum
Commodore, Philadelphia

GIRLS UNDER 21—A young boy in a dead end girl outfit went through town bannered: "I am one of the dead end girls in 'Girls Under 21'—(theatre, playdate)."

QUEEN OF DESTINY — Contacted all schools by letter then followed up by a personal visit. Press book cover blown up to a 40x60 lobby piece.

LITTLE MEN—A picket, dressed like a bull, paced before the house. His sign read: "Unfair to Ferdinand the Bull. The producers of the screen's newest surprise hit, 'Little Men,' refuse to let Elsie, the beautiful Borden cow, make a date with me. P. S. She's great in (title) at (theatre)." Critics invited to a premiere were each presented a can of Borden's milk autographed with Elsie's hoof print. A giant telegram inviting the mayor to attend made a lobby display, and Elsie lampooned the Harvard *Lampoon* by picking the glamor boys she'd like to spent a desert isle vacation with.

KITTY FOYLE — Cellophane wrapped around a ginger cookie, was imprinted: "If you think this ginger is snappy—wait until you see Ginger Rogers as Kitty Foyle at (theatre)."

KITTY FOYLE—Feminine patrons of the theatre and a local dress shop were invited to enter a popularity contest, the winner of which would receive a $16.75 dress. An ad reproduced an entry coupon which women who wished to enter the contest filled in with their names and addresses and left at either the store or theatre. Voting coupons were given with purchases and adult admissions at both the store and the theatre and on these the patrons could write the name of their nominee, and leave it at the store or theatre. Double coupons were given with $1.00 purchases and with tickets to "Kitty Foyle." The contest was launched a week before playdate.

BANK DICK—A cartoon one-sheet was mounted on a large board in the lobby. The one-sheet shows W. C. Fields' nose very prominently, its end painted red. Copy invites: "Win a free pass to see 'Bank Dick.'" Patrons are handed a dart and if they can stick it in the end of the nose they win a pass.

SON OF MONTE CRISTO—A costumed man handed out cards, reading, "I am the Son of Monte Cristo—now playing at (theatre)."

NICE GIRL?—A Deanna Durbin for a Day contest conducted with the cooperation of the local daily invited girls who considered themselves doubles for the star to submit photos. A committee of the manager and newspaper staff members were the judges. The winner earned a suite at a hotel, a new spring outfit, a beauty treatment and a civic reception. She broadcast the night of the opening.

BUCK PRIVATES—A fellow in uniform in a five and ten cent store peeled spuds.

GO WEST—A series of old trailers were run upside down and followed with another stating: "If you think this is nuts, wait till you see the Marx Bros. in 'Go West'."

CHAMBER OF HORRORS—Rigged up in the lobby, appropriately captioned: Wool stockings for people who get cold feet; smelling salts for those who will faint; hot water bottles for those who will get chills; hair dye for hair turning gray with horror; rubber gloves to keep patrons from biting their nails; a candle for those afraid to go home in the dark.

FLIGHT COMMAND—Distributed 500 autographed photos of Robert Taylor with co-op ad and picture credits on reverse.

FLIGHT COMMAND — A parade opening night, including a contingent of local Boy Scouts. The scouts distributed window cards.

SHORT SUBJECT REVIEWS

Adventures of Captain Marvel

Republic 1*st Episode,* 31 *Min.*
(12 Part Serial)

Excellent. Hitting all the high notes in action, mystery, highfalutin' science and the myriad angles that contribute to the construction of a first-rate serial, "Adventures of Captain Marvel," should prove a lodestone in attracting the juvenile trade. And grownups won't mind the far-fetched story, either. Fawcett Publications has a nationwide campaign in work together with a special theatre job. There's money to be made with this package.

In Siam a group of explorers uncover an ancient tomb while hostile natives lurk in the shadows. They find a gadget that brings on a wide assortment of weird complications and the creation of a superman who can do the damndest things—just like that. Well, that's how it starts off, and when things begin to happen the sky and wildest flights of imagination is the limit.

Fight, Fish, Fight

Vitaphone (Sports Parade) 10 *Mins.*

Very good. This natural color subject takes its place with some of the best that have exposed the excitement and thrill that goes with deep sea fighting. It stars Michael and Helen Lerner, said to be about tops in the field. It features, also, some beautiful scenery off New Zealand's Bay of Islands. The Lerners hook into some prize marlin and the slow motion camera heightens the thrill of the sport.

Take the Air

Vitaphone (Broadway Brevities) 20 *Mins.*

Attractive. This musical two-reeler combines just enough story and variety talent to make it pleasing for any type of audience. Featured are William Orr, Eddie Foy jr., Joan Leslie, new Warner "find," Andrew Tombes, Frank Ferguson and a happy group of stooges. Foy is looking for talent for an air show in the capacity of scout for his father's radio network. His weakness is imitators, while his dad hates them. Foy bags an Indian chief and hopes to make him a sensation, since the chief claims he has never spoken a word. When he is finally presented on the air, he goes into an imitator's routine.

2,000 Years of France

French Cinema Center 10 *Mins.*

"With a message." Famed Gallic taste went out the window when the footage for this reel was assembled. What it shows, scenically, is all too familiar. What it puts across is that, in her history, France has been overrun by invaders before, and each time a national figure—Joan of Arc for instance—has arisen to liberate the people. The narration hopes and prays for the next redeemer.

Americans All!

RKO (March of Time) 18 *Mins.*

This release fits well into the March of Time standards. It is an interesting and quick narration of the melting pot aspects of America, explaining how the citizens of virtually the world's nations settled here and the part they have played in welding the American of 1941. In agriculture and in industry, the emigrants of another day share in the gradual and steady development of the country. Striking an editorial note at the conclusion, the subject issues an assurance that in these times of crises and the need for national defense the once foreign sons of once foreign fathers and mothers may be depended upon to meet their obligations.

Quiz Biz

M-G-M (Pete Smith Specialty) 9 *Mins.*

Entertaining. Professor Pete pops such sticklers as: What is an onion? What language does Syzygy come from? How do you weigh a dog that won't stand still on a scale? The questions are unique, there is an undercurrent of humorous relief to heighten the Pete Smith gags and the quiz business is wholly on the comical side.

Trailing the Incas

Central Films 10 *Mins.*

Good travel fare. The accent at every turn these days is on South America. For this reason this short deserves playing time. Neatly filmed and edited, a varied assortment of native detail is shown. The locale is Peru.

Two for the Zoo

Paramount (Fleischer Cartoon) 7 *Mins.*

Average. Gabby takes charge of a "Kango," a hybrid. It looks like an elephant crossed with a kangaroo. Gabby's task is to get it to a zoo. The Kango has other ideas, an attack of hiccups and finally it gets mad and chases Gabby into a lion's cage. In Technicolor.

Information Please, No. 6

RKO 11 *Mins.*

Up to snuff. Jan Struther, novelist, is the guest expert. Kieran contributes to the Rogers Fund when he misses on the identification of warships. Levant misses out on music. Miss Struther has a few private laughs. Entertaining, as usual.

Mat Men

RKO (Sportscope) 9 *Mins.*

Good. How they train 'em at Lehigh University for intercollegiate wrestling competitions. The pursuit in its scientific aspects has more attention-holding angles than the professional variety. Topping off the academic treatment there is an hilarious burlesque.

BIG-NEWS ON A BIG PICTURE

REPUBLIC'S new national **ADVERTISING** program in **ALL** important fan **MAGAZINES** starts with **"A MAN BETRAYED,"** starring **JOHN WAYNE** with beautiful **FRANCES DEE.** For Republic **WANTS** every lover of **FINE** motion pictures to **KNOW** about this **DYNAMIC** drama that brings **PULSING** life to the **STRANGE** and darring **STORY** of a **GREAT** city, torn by **GREED** and corruption. **MILLIONS** of readers of



FAN magazines will be **PRE-SOLD** on this picture, **AND** they will provide a **WAITING** audience to **SWELL** the grosses at the **NATION'S BOX OFFICES.**

JOHN WAYNE, fresh from his **TRIUMPHS** in Republic's **"DARK COMMAND"** and **"LONG VOYAGE HOME"** **TOPS** his every previous **ACHIEVEMENT** in **"A MAN BETRAYED,"** and **LOVELY FRANCES DEE** lends rare **ENCHANTMENT** to the **VIBRANT** romance that is the **HEART-STIRRING** story of **AMERICAN** youth.

EDWARD ELLIS, truly a **"MAN TO REMEMBER,"** heads a **FINE** supporting cast including **WALLACE FORD,** Ward Bond, **HAROLD HUBER,** Alexander Granach. **JOHN H. AUER,** directed the picture. **REMEMBER** it's a nationally **ADVERTISED**

Republic PICTURE

BOOKING CHART

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ◌ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ◎ indicates color photography.

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JULY 27	[25] Comedy **1012** **Blondie Has Servant Trouble** (70) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—July 27	[26] Com. Drama **47** **Gold Rush Maisie** (82) Ann Sothern Lee Bowman R—Aug. 3	[29] Melodrama **4024** **Orphans of the North** (57) R—Nov. 9 [29] Western **3957** **Rainbow Over the Range** (59) T. Ritter R—Aug. 10	[26] Drama **3941** ◌**Untamed** (83) Ray Milland Patricia Morison R—June 29	[30] Drama **904** **Girl from God's C'ntry** (71) R—July 27 Chester Morris	[26] Western **085** **Stage to Chino** (59) G. O'Brien R-Aug. 24 [26] Com. Drama **037** **Millionaires in Prison** (63) L. Tracy R—June 29			[26] Com. Dr. **4023** **You're Not So Tough** (72) R—June 1 [26] Outd'r Dr. **4006** **When Daltons Rode** (81) R—Aug. 3	[27] Comedy **FN474** **Ladies Must Live** (58) Rosemary Lane Wayne Morris R—July 27	
AUG. 3		[2] Costume Com. **46** ◌**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	[5] Melodrama **3908** **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	[2] Melodrama **3942** **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	[30] Western **956** **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R—July 27	[2] Drama **061** ◌**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov. 26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	[2] Drama **101** **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		[2] Melodrama **4039** **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	[3] Drama **FN460** **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	[3] Western **15** **Gun Code** (55) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	[7] Drama **1008** **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	[9] Com. Drama **50** **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		[9] Melodrama **3943** **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	[10] Musical **910** **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	[9] Melodrama **042** **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	[9] Com. Drama **104** **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	[9] Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	[9] Comedy **4003** **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	[10] Ac. Dram. **WB414** **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	[15] Melodrama **1039** **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 [15] Western **2201** **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	[16] Comedy **49** **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	[12] Mys. Drama **3913** **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 [19] Western **3958** **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	[16] Comedy **3944** **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	[16] Western **071** **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	[16] Drama **041** **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	[16] Melodrama **103** ◌**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	[16] Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		[17] Drama **WB417** **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	[22] Com. Drama **1006** **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		[19] Melodrama **3939** **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 [22] Western **RB-1** **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	[23] Com. Drama **3945** **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		[16] Propaganda **171** **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 [23] Drama **043** **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R—Aug. 24	[23] Drama **106** **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			[24] Act. Dr. **WB412** **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		[30] Drama **48** **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	[26] Melodrama **3903** **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		[29] Western **069** **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 [31] Comedy **924** **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	[23] Comedy **046** **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 [30] Drama **038** **Lucky Partners** (101) R. Colman R-Aug. 24	[30] Comedy **109** **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	[30] Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		[31] Drama **WB401** **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	[28] Mystery **10** **Marked Men** (69) Warren Hull R—Feb. 1—PG-18
SEPT. 7	[1] Comedy **1022** **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	[6] Drama **101** **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	[2] Drama **3920** **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	[6] Mus. Com. **4001** **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	[6] Western **043** **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	[6] Act. Drama **101** **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	[6] Melodrama **110** **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	[13] Drama **Pastor Hall** (52) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	[6] Com. Mus. **5013** **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	[18] Com. Dr. **WB519** **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	[5] Melodrama **2032** **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) [17] Melodrama **1024** **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	[13] Act. Drama **102** **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carrillo R—Sept. 14	[9] Com. Drama **3914** **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		[11] Melodrama **017** **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept. 14	[13] Comedy **102** **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	[13] Comedy **105** **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		[13] Com. Dr. **5006** **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 [13] Melodrama **5051** **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	[14] Comedy **FN554** **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	[19] Drama **1001** ◌**The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	[20] Mus. Com. **104** **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	[23] Melodrama **4021** **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordan R—Oct. 5	[20] Drama **4002** **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	[15] Western **051** **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	[20] Western **086** **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	[20] Drama **116** **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	[20] Action Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	[20] Melodrama **5020** **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 [20] Western **5061** **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	[21] Drama **WB506** **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	[16] Western **15** **Arizona Gang Busters** (60) Tim McCoy
SEPT. 28	[27] Melodrama **1040** **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 [30] Drama **1009** **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct. 12	[27] Comedy **103** **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 [27] Mystery **105** **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	[30] Melodrama **4001** **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	[27] Melodrama **4003** **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	[30] Western **062** **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	[27] Drama **103** **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	[27] Drama **107** **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		[20] Melodrama **5046** **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 [27] Mus. Com. **5001** **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		[30] Western **15** **Billy the Kid in Texas** (55) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	[30] Western **2209** **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	[4] Comedy **106** **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter	[7] Act. Drama **4022** **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	[4] Melodrama **4004** **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell	[10] Western **072** **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	[4] Western **181** **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt R—Whitley	[4] Act. Drama **108** **Gay Caballero, The** (57) George Bancroft		[4] Drama **5019** **Diamond Frontier** (71)	[5] Drama **WB502** **Knute Rockne, All American** (98)	

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OCT. 12	3 Com. Drama **2018** **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama **107** **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western **RB-2** **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 Drama **4005** **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 Mus. Com. **005** **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 Burl. Com. **105** **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R—Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 Mus. Com. **113** **Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		17 Melodrama **5017** **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 Comedy **FN559** **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama **2030** **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows R—Feb. 1—PG-18		7 Com. Dr. **4010** **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 Drama **4006** **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 Mus. Com. **001** **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 Melodrama **107** **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama **114** **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 Western **5062** **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. **WB511** **Dispatch From Reuter's** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama **2038** **Girls Under 21** (64) R—Nov. 30 21 Western **2202** **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy **109** **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 Drama **4007** **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 25 Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	21 Western **052** **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 Melodrama **104** **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 Comedy **111** **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy **5024** **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 Drama **5007** **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	26 Com. Dr. **FN561** **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy **2016** **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama **106** **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 Musical **4008** **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 Mystery **006** **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 Comedy **109** **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 Comedy **5036** **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 Melodrama **5052** **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	2 Comedy **FN570** **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical **110** **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western **4051** **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 Musical **4009** **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 Mus. Comedy **007** **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 Comedy **106** **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 Melodrama **117** **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy **5021** **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 Western **5063** **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama **FN562** **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	
NOV. 16	14 Western **2210** **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama **111** **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery **4012** **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western **4050** **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western **063** **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy **111** **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama **102** **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		16 Drama **5015** **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama **WB513** **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Brenda Marshall R—Dec. 21	11 Western **Riders of Black Mountain** (59) Tim McCoy
NOV. 23	23 Mystery **2021** **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30 28 Drama **2012** **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30	22 Comedy **112** **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 Western **RB-3** **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western **041** **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 22 Western **073** **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. **108** **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy **119** **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy **5023** **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama **R5048** **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama **FN552** **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	30 Mystery **2024** **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **115** **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 Comedy **018** **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karnes R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **113** **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama **120** **Tin Pan Alley** (94) R—Nov. 30 Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable	29 Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy **5010** **Bank Dick, The** (72) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama **WB512** **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western **2203** **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy **114** **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. **4011** **Night at Earl Carroll's, A** (63) Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western **053** **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western **182** **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama **118** **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy **5026** **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy **FN571** **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	
DEC. 14	9 Drama **2031** **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama **113** **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		13 Western **4012** **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy **008** **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery **121** **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama **5008** **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Com. Mys. **Devil Bat** (69) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 21	20 Mystery **2033** **Phantom Submarine** (69) Anita Louise R—Feb. 22—PG-30			27 Outd'r Dr. **3946** **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama **009** **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama **114** **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	20 Comedy **122** **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama **5025** **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 Reissue **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Drama **Misbehaving Husbands** (66) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	25 Outd'r Dr. **2101** **Arizona** (128) R—Nov. 23 31 Western **2211** **Wildcat of Tucson** (64) Bill Elliott R—Feb. 22—PG-30	27 Comedy **116** **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 Drama **4003** **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western **4052** **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) R—Feb. 1—PG-17	27 Comedy **4013** **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western **064** **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama **112** **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Herbert Marshall R—Dec. 21	27 Drama **123** **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Com. **5018** **Invisible Woman** (72) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan. 4—PG-1	28 Adv. Dr. **FN551** **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Western **Billy the Kid's Gu Justice** (63) Bob Steele
JAN. 4	2 Comedy **2205** **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama **117** **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical **4014** **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama **019** **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 Drama **161** **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	3 Drama **115** **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama **5030** **Where Did You Get That Girl** (65) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama **5053** **Lucky Devils** (62)	4 M'drama **WB503** **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	
JAN. 11	9 Western **2204** **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett R—Feb. 8—PG-23	10 Com. Drama **118** **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western **RB-4** **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (60) Range Busters R—Mar. 8—PG-38	10 Western **4051** **Doomed Caravan** (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 Western **074** **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 Drama **110** **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama **124** **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western **5064** **Boss of Bullion City** (59) 10 Drama **5027** **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama **FN572** **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon R—Feb. 1—PG-19	10 Western **Lone Rider Rides C** (61) George Houston R—Mar. 1—PG-35

BOOKING CHART

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JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. **2029** **Face Behind the Mask** (69) Peter Lorre R—Feb. 15—PG-26	17 Drama **119** **Philadelphia Story** (112) R—Nov. 30 **Gone With the Wind** (225) R—Dec. 23, '39	15 Mystery **Dead Man's Shoes** (....) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 Drama **4015** **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western **054** **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers R—Jan. 18—PG-10	17 Musical **115** **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama **125** **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 Comedy **5022** **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (62) Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Dr. **WB510** **Honeymoon for Three** (76) George Brent R—Jan. 25—PG-13	17 Comedy **10** **Caught in the Act** (62) Henry Armetta
JAN. 25		24 Comedy **121** **Wild Man of Borneo** (78) R-Feb. 8-PG-24 24 Historical **Land of Liberty** (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	20 Melodrama **4014** **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 Comedy **4016** **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (82) R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western **044** **Riding on a Rainbow** (79) Gene Autry R—Feb. 1—PG-19	24 Mystery **116** **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama **128** **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (78) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 25—PG-14	24 Comedy **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carole Landis R—Feb. 15—PG-25		25 Drama **FN556** **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western **16** **Billy the Kid's Rang War** (....) Bob Steele
FEB. 1	3 Melodrama **2028** **The Devil Commands** (65) Boris Karloff R—Feb. 22—PG-31	31 Drama **122** **Come Live With Me** (86) James Stewart R—Feb. 1—PG-17			28 Comedy **010** **Arkansas Judge** (72) Weaver Bros. R—Jan. 25—PG-14	31 Comedy **117** **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard R—Jan. 23—PG-13	31 Drama **127** **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Comedy **5011** **Buck Privates** (84) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello R—Feb. 8—PG-22	1 Drama **WB520** **Father's Son** (57) John Litel Frieda Inescort R—Feb. 22—PG-31	31 Mystery **10** **Secret Evidence** (64 Marjorie Reynolds Chas. Quigley R—Feb. 8—PG-23
FEB. 8	13 Western **2212** **Across the Sierra** (58) Bill Elliott	7 Comedy **123** **Blonde Inspiration** (72) John Shelton R—Feb. 22—PG-30	6 Western **4053** **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (61) Tex Ritter R—Mar. 1—PG-35	7 Mus. Com. **4017** **You're the One** (81) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker R—Feb. 8—PG-21	31 Comedy **020** **Petticoat Politics** (67) Higgins Family R—Feb. 22—PG-31	7 Western **183** **Along the Rio Grande** (64) Tim Holt R—Feb. 1—PG-20	7 Comedy **129** **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (59) Eugene Pallette R—Feb. 15—PG-25		7 Drama **5002** **Back Street** (89) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer R—Feb. 8—PG-21	8 Drama **WB514** **Flight From Destiny** (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	18 Drama **Adam Had Four Sons** (81) Warner Baxter R—Feb. 22—PG-32	14 Drama **125** **Trial of Mary Dugan** (90) Robert Young R—Feb. 15—PG-28		14 Mystery **4018** **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone R—Feb. 15—PG-26	14 Western **075** **Phantom Cowboy** (56) Don "Red" Barry	14 Drama **121** **Play Girl** (77) Kay Francis James Ellison R—Dec. 14	14 Com. Drama **130** **Golden Hoofs** (68) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers R—Feb. 22—PG-29	14 Drama **So Ends Our Night** (121) Fredric March Margaret Sullavan R—Feb. 1—PG-20	14 Comedy **5032** **Meet the Chump** (60) Hugh Herbert R—Feb. 15—PG-28	15 Comedy **WB515** **The Great Mr. Nobody** (71) Eddie Albert Joan Leslie	
FEB. 22	20 Drama **2027** **Meet Boston Blackie** (61) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson R—Mar. 8—PG-39	21 Comedy **126** **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (101) R—Mar. 1—PG-36	19 Air Drama **Flying Wild** (63) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan R—Mar. 8—PG-38	21 Drama **4019** **Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	16 Western **065** **Prairie Pioneers** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Mar. 1—PG-35	21 Com. Drama **123** **Scattergood Baines** (69) Guy Kibbee R—Feb. 15—PG-27	21 Drama **126** **Western Union** (95) Robert Young R—Feb. 8—PG-24		21 Mus. Comedy **Nice Girl?** (95) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone R—Mar. 1—PG-36	22 Com. Dr. **FN559** **Strawberry Blonde** (91) James Cagney Olivia de Haviland R—Feb. 22—PG-29	
MAR. 1	27 Comedy **2015** **Blondie Goes Latin** (69) R-Feb. 22 PG-32 27 Western **2205** **Outlaws of the Panhandle** (59) Charles Starrett	28 Com. Dram. **127** **Free and Easy** (55) Ruth Hussey Robert Cummings	28 Drama **Sign of the Wolf** (....) Grace Bradley Michael Whalen	28 Drama **4020** **The Monster and the Girl** (65) Ellen Drew Rod Cameron R—Feb. 15—PG-27	28 Act. Drama **021** **Great Train Robbery** (61) Bob Steele Claire Carleton R—Mar. 8—PG-39	28 Drama **118** **Citizen Kane** (....) Orson Welles Dorothy Comingore	28 Mystery **132** **Murder Among Friends** (67) John Hubbard Marjorie Weaver	1 Comedy **The Great Dictator** (129) R—Oct. 26 Charles Chaplin Jack Oakie Paulette Goddard	28 Drama **5040** **Dark Streets of Cairo** (59) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7	1 Mys. Drama **Shadows on the Stairs** (63) Frieda Inescort Paul Cavanagh	28 Western **16** **Lone Rider Crosses the Rio** (....) George Houston
MAR. 8	28 Drama **2044** **Missing Ten Days** 6 Mystery **Lone Wolf Takes a Chance** (....)	7 Drama **128** **Rage in Heaven** (....) Robert Montgomery Ingrid Bergman		7 Comedy **4021** **Hard-Boiled Canary** (79) Allan Jones R—Mar. 1—PG-33	7 Drama **011** **A Man Betrayed** (....) John Wayne Frances Dee		7 Drama **133** **Tobacco Road** (84) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau R—Mar. 1—PG-33		7 Comedy **Mr. Dynamite** (....) Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey	8 Mys. Dr. **WB509** **Footsteps in the Dark** (96) Errol Flynn R—Mar. 8—PG-37	7 Western **15** **Outlaws of the Rio Grande** (53) Tim McCoy
MAR. 15		14 Drama **The Penalty** (....) Lionel Barrymore Edward Arnold Gene Reynolds		14 Western **In Old Colorado** (66) R—Mar. 1—PG-34 William Boyd	14 Western **045** **Back in the Saddle** (....) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	14 Comedy **120** **A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (91) George Murphy Lucille Ball R—Mar. 8—PG-37	14 Drama **134** **Sleepers West** (....) Lloyd Nolan Lynn Bari		14 Drama **Double Date** (....) Peggy Moran Edmund Lowe	15 Comedy **Here Comes Happiness** (58) Mildred Coles Edward Norris	
MAR. 22		21 Musical **Ziegfeld Girl** (....) Judy Garland James Stewart Hedy Lamarr		21 Comedy **4022** **Lady Eve** (97) Barbara Stanwyck Henry Fonda R—Mar. 8—PG-40		21 Musical **119** **Footlight Fever** (....) Alan Mowbray Donald McBride	21 Drama **135** **The Outlaw** (....) Walter Huston Thomas Mitchell	21 Comedy **Topper Returns** (....) Joan Blondell Carole Landis Roland Young	21 Drama **The Man Who Lost Himself** (....) Brian Aherne Kay Francis	22 Drama **The Sea Wolf** (....) Edw. G. Robinson Ida Lupino John Garfield	22 Western **16** **Billy the Kid's Trigger Pals** (....) Bob Steele
MAR. 29	24 Mys. Drama **Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery** (68) Ralph Bellamy R—Mar. 1—PG-34	28 Drama **124** **The Bad Man** (....) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore		28 Musical **4023** **Las Vegas Nights** (89) Phil Regan Tommy Dorsey	27 Drama **Mr. District Attorney** (....) Dennis O'Keefe Florence Rice	28 Drama **124** **Melody for Three** (68) Jean Hersholt R—Mar. 8—PG-40	28 Mystery **136** **Dead Men Tell** (....) Sidney Toler Jean Rogers		28 Drama **Man-Made Monster** (....) 28 Mystery **Horror Island** (....)	29 Drama **Knockout** (73) Arthur Kennedy Olympe Bradna	29 Drama **Federal Fugitives** (....)
APR. 5	31 Western **2213** **North From the Lone Star** (....) Bill Elliott			4 Drama **The Roundup** (90) Richard Dix Pat Morison	1 Western **In Old Cheyenne** (....) Roy Rogers	4 Drama **125** **Repent at Leisure** (....) Kent Taylor Wendy Barrie	4 Mystery **131** **Scotland Yard** (....) John Loder Nancy Kelly Edmund Gwenn		4 Outdoor Dr. **Lady From Cheyenne** (....) Loretta Young Robert Preston 4 Melodrama **Mutiny in the Arctic** (....)		
APR. 12				11 Comedy **4025** **Road to Zanzibar** (92) Bing Crosby Bob Hope Dorothy Lamour	6 Comedy **Sis Hopkins** (....) Judy Canova	11 Comedy **122** **The Devil and Miss Jones** (....) Jean Arthur Charles Coburn	11 Musical **That Night in Rio** (....) Alice Faye Don Ameche		11 Drama **The Flame of New Orleans** (....) Marlene Dietrich Bruce Cabot		
APR. 19	17 Com. Drama **Penny Serenade** (....) Irene Dunne Cary Grant			18 Western **4053** **Border Vigilantes** (62) William Boyd		18 Western **184** **Robbers of the Range** (....)	18 Outd'r Drama **Ride On, Vaquero** (....)				

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ## Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. ◐ Indicates short of the week. ◎ Indicates color photography.

Columbia

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	ALL-STAR COMEDIES			
2425	Blondes and Blunders (16)	11-29	±	12- 7
2424	Bundle of Bliss, A (18)	11- 1		.....
2423	Cold Turkey (16)	10-18		.....
2628	Fresh as a Freshman (....)	1-29		.....
2426	His Ex Marks the Spot (18)	12-13		.....
2421	Pleased to Mitt You (18)	9- 6		.....
1421	Skinny the Moocher (16½)	9- 8		.....
2422	Spook Speaks, The (18)	9-29	+	10-19
2627	Watchman Takes a Wife (16)	1-10	±	1-25
	CINESCOPES			
2975	Feathers (Cosmocolor) (9)	1-31		.....
2972	Floating Elephants (8)	10- 4	+	10-19
2971	Hobby Lobby (11)	8-30	+	9-21
2972	Industrial Green Island (10)	9-20		.....
2973	Nice Work If You Can Do It (9)	11- 8	+	11-23
2975	◎Ocean Trails (....)	1-31		.....
2974	Unusual Crafts (9)	12-25	±	1-25
	COLOR RHAPSODIES (In Technicolor)			
2505	A Helping Paw (7)	1- 7	+	2-15
2502	Mr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½)	10- 4		.....
2503	Mad Hatter, The (7)	11- 3		.....
2501	Tangled Television (7½)	8-30	+	10-19
2506	Way of All Pests (7)	2-28		.....
2504	Wise Owl (7)	12- 6	∓	12- 7
	COLUMBIA TOURS			
2556	Beautiful British Columbia (10½)	12-20	+	1-25
2557	From Singapore to Hong Kong (De La Varre Prod.) (10)	1-10		.....
2554	Islands of the West Indies (10)	10-25	##	11-23
2553	Old and New Arizona (Special) (9)	9-27		.....
2552	Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10)	9-13	##	10-23
2555	Sojourn in Havana (La Varre Prod.) (9)	11-25	±	12- 7
	COMMUNITY SING			
2851	No. 1 (Jolly Tunes—D. Baker) (10)	10- 2		.....
2852	No. 2 (Popular Songs—D. Baker) (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
2853	No. 3 (Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)	12-13		.....
2854	No. 4 (Gay Tunes) (10)	1- 1		.....
2855	No. 5 (10)	2- 7		.....
	Fun with Songs—L. White.			
	FABLES CARTOONS			
2751	Farmer Tom Thumb (6)	9-27	+	10-19
2755	It Happened to Crusoe (....)	3-14		.....
2752	Mouse Meets Lion (6)	10-25	∓	12- 7
2753	Paunch 'n' Judy (6½)	12-13	±	1-25
2754	Streamlined Donkey (6)	1-17		.....
	NEW YORK PARADE			
2951	New York Parade (10)	1-24	+	2- 8
	PHANTASIES CARTOONS			
2705	Little Theatre, The (....)	2- 7		.....
1755	Peep in the Deep, A (6½)	8-23	+	8-31
2701	School Boy Dreams (5)	9-24	+	10-19
2705	There's Music in Your Hair (....)	3-28		.....
2704	Tom Thumb's Brother (....)	1-17		.....
2703	Wallflower, The (....)	11-29		.....
	QUIZ REELS			
2601	Take It or Leave It (9½)	12- 5	o	12- 7
2602	Take It or Leave It, No. 2 (11)	12-25	∓	1-25
2603	Take It or Leave It, No. 3 (....)	2- 7		.....
2604	Junior I. Q. Parade (....)	3- 7		.....
	SCREEN SNAPSHOTS			
2851	No. 1 (10)	9- 6		.....
	Ken Murray.			
2852	No. 2 (9)	10-18	o	11-23
	Don Wilson.			
2853	No. 3 (9)	11-22	±	12- 7
	Ken Murray.			
2854	No. 4 (9)	12-27		.....
	Ken Murray.			
2855	No. 5 (9)	2- 2	∓	1-25
	Bob Hope.			
	SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)			
2441	Puss in Boots (reissue) (40)	11-21		.....
	SPORT REELS			
2803	Ali the Giant Killer (10½)	12-27	∓	1-25
2802	Hunting Wild Deer (9)	11-22	=	12- 7
2804	Ice Capers (....)	1-24		.....
2801	Master of Cue With Willie Hoppe (9)	10- 4	+	10-19
2805	Splits, Spares and Strikes (....)	2-21		.....
	THREE STOOGES COMEDIES			
2404	Boobs in Arms (18)	12-27	±	1-18
2403	Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)	11-15	±	12- 7
2401	From Nurse to Worse (16)	8-23	+	8-31
2402	No Census, No Feeling (16)	10- 4		.....
2405	So Long Mr. Chumps (....)	2- 7		.....
	WASHINGTON PARADE			
	Series 2			
1906	No. 6 (Our Nat'l Defense) (10)	8-30		.....
	Series 3			
2901	No. 1 (The Mint) (10)	10-25		.....
2902	No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (10)	12-13	±	1-18
2903	No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (10)	1- 3	+	1-25

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	CRIME DOESN'T PAY			
P-201	◐Eyes of the Navy (20)	10-26	##	10-26
P-204	Forbidden Passage (21)	2- 8	±	2-22
P-203	Respect the Law (20)	1- 4		.....
P- 6	Soak the Old (20)	8-24	±	9-28
P-815	Think First (21)	9- 9		.....
P-202	◐You, the People (21)	11-30	##	1-18
	FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS (In Technicolor)			
T-218	Alluring Alaska (9)	3- 8		.....
T-214	Beautiful Bali (9)	11-23	∓	12-14
T-211	Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)	9- 7	##	9- 7
T-212	Cavalcade of San Francisco (9)	9-28	∓	9-28
T-216	Mediterranean Ports of Call (9)	1- 4		.....
T-213	Old New Mexico (10)	10-26	+	11- 9
T-215	Old New Orleans (9)	12-21	+	1-18
T-217	Redmen on Parade (9)	2- 1	+	2-22
	METROSCOPIX			
A-100	◎Third Dimensional Murder (7)	3- 1	##	2-22
	MINIATURES			
M-232	Great Meddler, The (11)	12- 2	##	2- 8
M-233	Happiest Man on Earth (11)	12-28	##	2- 8
M-234	More About Nostradamous (Sepia) (10)	1-18	+	2-22
M-231	Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia)	10- 9	±	12-14
	M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series) (Technicolor)			
	Abdul the Bulbul Ameer (8)	2-22		.....
W- 94	Gallopin' Gals (8)	10-26	+	11- 9
W- 93	Homeless Flea, The (8)	10-12	##	12- 7
W-241	Lonesome Stranger (9)	11-23	##	12- 7
W-242	Mrs. Ladybug (8)	12-21		.....
W- 92	Papa Gets the Bird (8)	9- 7	∓	9-28
	M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY Released Twice Weekly			
	OUR GANG COMEDIES			
C-296	Baby Blues (9)	2-15		.....
C-293	Goin' Fishin' (10)	10-26	±	11- 9
C-291	Good Bad Boys (11)	9- 7	+	9- 7
C-295	Fightin' Fools (9)	1-25		.....
C-294	Kiddie Kure (11)	11-23	+	12-28
C-292	Waldo's Last Stand (11)	10- 5	∓	12- 7
	PASSING PARADE (New Series)			
K-281	American Spoken Here (Sepia) (10)	11-30	##	12- 7
K-126	Baron and the Rose, The (11)	9- 7	##	9-28
K-128	Dreams (10)	11-16	+	12-14
K-127	Utopia of Death (10)	10-12	+	11- 9
K-282	Whispers (10)	2- 8	##	2-22
	PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES			
S-113	Football Thrills of 1939 (10)	9-21	##	9-28
S-264	◎Penny to the Rescue (10)	1-25		.....
S-112	Please Answer (9)	8-24	##	9- 7
S-261	◐Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9)	10-12	##	12- 7
S-265	Quiz Biz (Sepia) (9)	2- 8		.....
S-263	◐Sea for Yourself (10)	12-21	##	1-18
C-262	Wedding Bills (10)	11-30	##	12- 7

Paramount

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	ANIMATED ANTICS			
H0-4	Bring Himself Back Alive (7)	12-20	∓	12-21
H0-1	Dandy Lion, The (7)	9-20	±	10- 5
H0-3	Mommy Loves Puppy (7)	11-29	+	12- 7
H0-5	Pop and Mom in Wild Oysters (11)	2-14	+	2-15
H0-2	Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7)	10-25	±	11-23
	BENCHLEY COMEDIES			
S0-1	Trouble With Husbands (11)	11- 8	##	12- 7
S0-2	Waiting for Baby (11)	1-24	##	2-15
	COLOR CLASSICS (In Technicolor)			
C9-6	You Can't Shoe a Horsefly (7)	8-23	+	8-24
	FASCINATING JOURNEYS (Technicolor)			
M0-1	◐River Thames—Yesterday (10)	11- 8	##	11-23
M0-2	Sacred Ganges, The (11)	12-27	+	1-18
M0-3	Village in India (11)	1-31	##	2-15
	FLEISCHER CARTOONS			
FF0-1	Raggedy Ann (19)	12-20	##	12-21
	GABBY CARTOONS			
G0-3	All's Well (7)	1- 3		.....
G0-2	Constable, The (7)	11-15	+	11-23
G0-1	King for a Day (7)	10-18	+	10-26
G0-4	Two for the Zoo (7)	2-21		.....
	HEADLINER			
A0-4	Gene Krupa and Orch. (11)	1-31	+	2-22
A0-3	Johnny Messner and Orch. (11)	12-13	±	12-21
A0-2	Listen to Larry (10)	10-25	+	10-26
A0-1	◐Moments of Charm in 1941 (10)	9-13	##	10- 5
	MADCAP MODELS (In Technicolor)			
J0-1	Western Daze (9)	1-17	##	1-18
	PARAMOUNT NEWS Released Twice Weekly.			
	PARAGRAPHICS			
V0- 3	◐Breezy Little Bears (11)	12-27	##	1-18
V0- 1	Nature's Nursery (10)	10-11	∓	10-26
V9-10	Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)	9- 9	±	8-24
V0- 2	Seeing Is Believing (11)	11-22	+	12- 7
	POPEYE CARTOONS			
E0- 4	Eugene, the Jeep (7)	12-13	±	12- 7
E0- 2	My Pop, My Pop (7)	10-18	∓	10-26
E0- 1	Popeye Meets William Tell (7)	9-20	##	10- 5
E0- 5	Problem Pappy (7)	1-10	±	1-18
E9-12	Puttin' on the Act (7)	8-30	+	8-24
E0- 3	With Poopdeck Pappy (7)	11-15	o	12- 7
	POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)			
J0-1	(11)	9- 6	+	10- 5
J0-2	(10)	11- 1	+	12- 7
J0-3	(10)	1- 3	+	12-21
	GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS			
R0-6	Acrobatic Aces (10)	2- 7	+	1-18
R0-1	Diving Demons (10)	9- 6	##	10- 5
R0-5	Feminine Fitness (10)	1-10	+	12-21
R0-4	Marine Roundup (10)	12- 6	+	12- 7
R0-3	Motorcycle Stunting (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
R0-2	Sporting Everglades, The (10)	10- 4	##	11- 9
	STONE AGE CARTOONS			
B9-11	Pedagogical Institution (7)	9-13		.....
B9-10	Springtime in the Rockage (7)	8-30		.....
B9-12	Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)	9-27		.....
	UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)			
L0-1	No. 1 (11)	9- 7	+	10- 5
L0-2	No. 2 (11)	11-29	+	12- 7
L0-3	No. 3 (10)	1-24	+	2-15

Producers Releasing Corp.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	AMERICAN HISTORY			
0.1	Our Bill of Rights (21)	3- 1		.....
0.2	Our Declaration of Independence (22)	3- 1		.....
0.3	Our Constitution (22)	3- 1		.....
0.4	Our Monroe Doctrine (22)	3- 1		.....

Republic

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	MEET THE STARS			
028-1	No. 1 (10)	12-24	+	12-28

RKO Radio

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	DISNEY CARTOONS (In Technicolor)			
04,114	Fire Chief (8)	11-22	##	12- 7
14,102	Gentleman's Gentleman (7)	3-28		.....
14,101	Golden Eggs (8)	3- 7		.....
04,113	Gooty's Glider (8)	11- 1	+	12-14
04,118	Little Whirlwind (8)	2-14		.....
04,112	Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8)	10-11	+	11-23
04,115	Pantry Pirate (8)	12-27	+	2- 8
04,110	Pluto's Dream House (8)	8-30	+	9-21
04,117	Pluto's Playmate (8)	1-27		.....
04,116	Timber (8)	1-10		.....
04,111	Window Cleaners (8)	9-20	##	10-26
	EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES			
13,403	Drafted in the Depot (19)	12-20		.....
13,401	Sunk by the Census (18)	9- 6	±	9-21
13,402	Trailer Tragedy (17)	10-18	+	11- 9
	LEON ERROL COMEDIES			
13,703	Fired Man, The (20)	1-10	+	2- 8
13,701	He Asked for It (18)	9-27	∓	9-21
13,404	Mad About Moonshine (19)	2-21		.....
13,702	Tattle Talevision (19)	11-29		.....
	MARCH OF TIME			
03,113	◐No. 13 (20) Gateways to Panama.	8-24	##	8-31
13,101	No. 1 (10) On Foreign Newfronts.	9-13	##	9-21
13,102	No. 2 (18) Britain's R. A. F.	10- 4	+	10-19
13,103	No. 3 (19) Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.	10-25	±	10-26
13,104	No. 4 (19) Arms and the Men.	11-22	+	12- 7
13,105	No. 5 (19) Labor and Defense.	12-20	+	12-28

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Movietone News, No. 49

Bomber in New York for shipment to England; New Orleans Mardi Gras; Gene Tunney with cadets; CCC members learn auto mechanics; California crew in practice row; women's bowling tournament; Greg Rice breaks track record; Miami pulchritude.

News of the Day, No. 247

New school for navy enrollees; mosquito fleet in Gulf Stream; British defense; select Miss Florida; women bowl in Chicago; track meet; skating in Washington; Flamingo Stakes in Florida.

Paramount News, No. 52

Torpedo bombers in maneuvers; bomber here for shipment; cargo boat leaves for undisclosed port; Adventists rehearse war duties; Windsor at Nassau dog show; beauties at Coral Gables; Hialeah racing; collect cables to Hitler; New Hampshire skiing; track meet; women's bowling match.

RKO Pathe News, No. 52

Skating in Washington; mosquito boats in maneuvers; Adventists do military medical work; test new railway gun; women army hostesses; New Orleans Mardi Gras; beauty contest in Rio de Janeiro; bowling; Flamingo Stakes.

Universal Newsreel, No. 957

Mosquito boats in maneuvers; bomber for Britain ready for shipment; army balloon tactics; New Orleans Mardi Gras; fashions; ice skating; crew practice; track meet; bowling; racing.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Movietone News, No. 50

General Weygand in Dakar; quadruplets born in Kentucky; army school for cooks; work on dam in Australia fashions; Giants train in Florida; midshipmen in fencing school; yachting on west coast; Chicago see sportsmen's show; swimming.

News of the Day, No. 248

Crisis in Pacific; quadruplets born in Kentucky; carnival in Rio de Janeiro; sled dog contest; baseball training; midshipment in fencing exercise; bob sledding.

Paramount News, No. 53

Quadruplets born in Kentucky; preview of Mellon Gallery in Washington; story on Martinique; Japan-Siam conference; free-for-all wrestling.

RKO Pathe News, No. 53

Fire in Chicago; Indo-China truce; new gunpowder plant; Mellon Gallery ready in Washington; naval reservists show efficiency; new ship for Key West-Havana run; young diving star; Tampa beauties in pie-eating contest; Giants start spring training.

Universal Newsreel, No. 958

Indo-China-Japan pact; aluminum for aircraft industry; army school for cooks; quadruplets born in Kentucky; dogs get film award; Giants in spring training; sportsmen's show in Chicago; midshipmen in fencing practice; ski meet; bobsledding.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
13,106	No. 6 (21)	1-17	‡‡	1-25
	Uncle Sam—Non-Billigerent.			
13,107	No. 7 (19)	2-14		.....
	Americans All.			
	PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE			
14,201	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204	No. 4 (11)	11-29		.....
14,205	No. 5 (11)	12-27	+	2- 8
14,206	No. 6 (11)	1-24		.....
	PATHE NEWS (Released Twice Weekly)			
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
14,307	Caballero College (9)	2-14		.....
14,302	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,306	Mat Men (9)	1-17		.....
14,301	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,305	Snow Eagles (9)	12-20	+	2- 8
14,304	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	‡‡	12-14
14,303	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404	No. 4 (10)	12- 6	+	12-14
14,405	No. 5 (10)	1- 3	±	2- 8
14,406	No. 6 (10)	1-31		.....
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)			
13,501	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
13,502	Prairie Schooners (13)	1-31		.....
	SPECIALS			
14,501	Eyes on Brazil (11)	2-21		.....

20th Century-Fox

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN			
1201	Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	‡‡	10-19
1202	Training Police Horses (10)	1-17	+	2-15
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	‡‡	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
1303	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1304	The Rodeo Comes to Town (10)	1- 3	±	2-22
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1103	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		.....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS			
	PARADE			
1401	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402	Tale of Butch the Parrot (....)	2-28		.....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102	Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
1105	Spotlight on Indo-China (9)	12-20	±	2-15
	TERRY-TOONS			
1501	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		.....
1503	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		.....

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
1553	How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554	Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
1552	Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		.....
1504	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12- 7
1557	Mississippi Swing (7)	2- 7	+	2-15
1555	Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
1505	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		.....
1556	Temperamental Lion (7)	12-27	+	2-15
1502	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19
1506	What a Little Sneeze Will Do (7)	1-10	±	2-22

Universal

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	LANTZ CARTUNES (Technicolor)			
5241	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		.....
5246	Fair Today (6¾)	2-24	±	2-15
5243	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5245	Mouse Trappers (6¾)	1-27	+	2- 8
5242	Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	‡‡	11- 9
5244	Syncopated Sioux (6¾)	12-31		.....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
5351	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352	No. 82 (9)	10-14		.....
5353	No. 83 (9)	11-11		.....
5354	No. 84 (9)	12-23		.....
5355	No. 85 (9)	1-20		.....
5356	No. 86 (9)	2-17	±	2- 8
5357	No. 87 (9)	3-17		.....
5358	No. 88 (9)	3-31		.....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 3
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
5371	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		.....
5373	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		.....
5374	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		.....
5375	No. 85 (9)	1- 6		.....
5376	No. 86 (9)	2- 3	±	2- 8
5377	No. 87 (9)	3-10		.....
5378	No. 88 (9)	3-24		.....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
5226	Bagdad Daddy (17) Gertrude Niesen, Ambassadorettes, Fuzzy Knight, Johnson Bros.	2-19	±	2- 8
5225	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (17) The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.	1-22		.....
5221	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		.....
5223	Congamania (17) Jose Cansino Dancers. Eddie Durant & Orch.	10-16	±	12- 7
4233	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		.....
5227	Music in the Morgan Manner (....) Russ Morgan and His Orchestra, Southern Swingsters.	3-19		.....
5224	Tickled Pinky (18) Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.	12-25		.....
5223	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
	UNIVERSAL NEWS Released Twice Weekly			

Vitaphone

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	BROADWAY BREVITIES			
6202	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6204	Dog in the Orchard (20)	1-25	+	1-18
6201	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		.....
6203	Love's Intrigue (20)	12-28		.....
4008	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		.....
6205	Take the Air (20)	2-22		.....
	THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)			
5410	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		.....
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6102	Lady and the Lug (20)	3-22		.....
6101	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6305	Boar Hunt, The (10)	1-15		.....
6301	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6304	History Repeats Itself (10)	1-18		.....
6303	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		.....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		.....
6607	Haunted Mouse, The (7)	2-15		.....
6608	Joe Glow, the Firefly (7)	3- 8		.....
5616	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	‡‡	8-24
6609	Porky's Bear Facts (7)	3-29		.....
6604	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6606	Porky's Snooze Reel (7)	1-11		.....
6602	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		.....
6605	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		.....
	MELODY MASTERS			
6506	Cliff Edwards and His Buckaroos (10)	3- 8		.....
6503	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	2- 1		.....
6502	Joe Reichman & Orch. (10)	10-26		.....
6501	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	‡‡	8-24
6504	Skinnay Ennis & Orch. (10)	1- 4	+	12-28
	MERRIE MELODIES (In Technicolor)			
6706	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		.....
6713	Cat's Tale, The (7)	3- 1		.....
6712	Crackpot Quail, The (7)	2-15		.....
6709	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)	1- 4	o	12-28
6710	Fighting 69th½, The (7)	1-18	‡‡	1-18
6704	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		.....
6715	Goofy Groceries (7)	3-29		.....
6703	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11- 9
6701	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		.....
6708	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6711	Sniffles Bells the Cat (7)	2- 1		.....
6702	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
6714	Tortoise Beats the Hare (7)	3-15		.....
6705	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
	SPECIAL			
6801	London Can Take It (....)	10-26	‡‡	11- 9
6850	They Spent Christmas Under Fire (10½)	1-24	‡‡	2- 8
	SPORTS PARADE (Color)			
6404	California Thoroughbreds (10)	1-11	±	12-28
6403	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6405	Fight, Fish, Fight (10)	3- 1		.....
6401	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
6001	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002	March on Marines (20)	12-14	‡‡	12-28
6003	Meet the Fleet (20)	2- 8	+	1-18
5008	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		.....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		.....

Serials

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
1120	Green Archer, The 15 Chapters. Victor Jory.	10-25	∓	11- 9
2120	White Eagle 15 Chapters. Buck Jones.	1-31		.....
	REPUBLIC			
080	Adventures of Capt. Marvel 12 Chapters. Tom Tyler.	3-28		.....
081	King of the Royal Mounted 12 Chapters. Allan Lane.	9-20	‡‡	8-24
082	Mysterious Doctor Satan 15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.	12-13	+	11-23
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	Green Hornet Strikes Again 15 Chapters. Warren Hull.	12-24	+	11- 9
5681	Junior G-Men 12 Chapters. Dead End Kids. Little Tough Guys.	9- 1	+	8- 3
5881	Sky Raiders 12 Chapters.	4- 8	±	2-15

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The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

MARCH 15, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION

PRODUCTION INDEX



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BOXOFFICE The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

Is Price the Way?

SOONER or later, and probably sooner, you may expect something akin to an organized campaign let loose with fire and shot in the cause of increased admissions. All the major circuits have had their reflections on the possibilities, yes and no, and have done nothing about it. So far.

While the golden stream pouring out for national defense was largely words in the mouths of Washington, the realization prevailed the time for price hikes had not yet arrived, although certainly the desire had. With the golden stream leaving its glittering impress on profit curves upward and unemployment downward, the idea begins to intrigue again.

It is not improbable, not at all, that the major chains and all others who would have to follow, may get away with it. But what we urge here today is an extreme word of caution.

Caution on several counts. Whatever wisdom may drip from this page will not bear on isolated instances. Here and there, dependent upon what goes on locally, admissions can be stepped up, no doubt. Whether they can in terms of the national picture might be another tale.

It seems to us that the faithful—the ones who are expected to sit through smash pictures, good pictures and downright bad pictures—rate some attention beyond any pre-determined plan, or plot, to make their film entertainment cost more. Maybe they ought to be left alone by not playing around with their allegiance.

Alternative Route

AND PERHAPS, too, the road to increased revenue just possibly could be found by a real study of the market, leading to a method of increasing weekly attendance while the overall, mass entertainment tariff stays approximately where it is now.

This is hardly a new idea. If the constant follower of this forum can be found, he might attest to occasional leaps here at this very situation. For, it has been made clear on this page that the audiences now enrolled have, or ought to have, a few rights, among them rewards in the guise of outstanding pictures at prices they are accustomed, and geared, to pay. They suffer enough.

We arrive now at the throwback stage and a portion of an address made a few weeks ago by Joseph Bernhard before the AMPA. The general manager of the Warner circuit made a great deal of sound, and we think unassailable, sense when he remarked:

"What is it that decides whether the family will turn the radio switch or go downtown or around the corner to see a movie? I admit it may be a particular picture; it may be for general entertainment; it may be that the theatre is a pleasant, comfortable place to go and experience that change of scenery, thrill or excitement.

"However, we don't play outstanding attractions 52 weeks in the year in a weekly change house and surely less in a two or three change, double feature house in the neighborhoods. Our steady patronage comes from the goodwill which keeps the people coming to the theatre during the weeks and days when we don't have major attractions. They come because they have a friendly feeling toward the theatres which we must not lose . . . if we had to live on outstanding pictures alone this business could not survive. It is the average pictures which constitute our bread and butter. Good pictures—meaning smash pictures—are just dessert and the kind of dessert that is not served often enough. It is impossible to survive on a handful of important pictures every year.

"Only a national movie habit, the faithful patronage of millions paying for the average movie, as well as the smash hit, keeps us in business. This movie habit, the inclination of people toward the product of Hollywood, is absolutely indispensable if the industry is to remain profitable."

Nub and Kernel

NOTE CAREFULLY, if you will, that last paragraph. It is the nub and the kernel of the argument, as our eyes view it. Every possible safeguard should be thrown around that which the business now has. Experimentation, which is exactly what fiddling with the price structure would be, ought to be dealt with sparingly.

Time and circumstance in these stringent days finally may compel a different kind of approach. Inflation, for instance. But between now and a hypothetical then we believe it makes sense for us to suggest the advisability of letting well enough strictly alone and of concentrating energies on Hollywood, the calibre of its product, and the job of bringing total attendance back to its one-time level. That's enough to keep all hands occupied.

Kann

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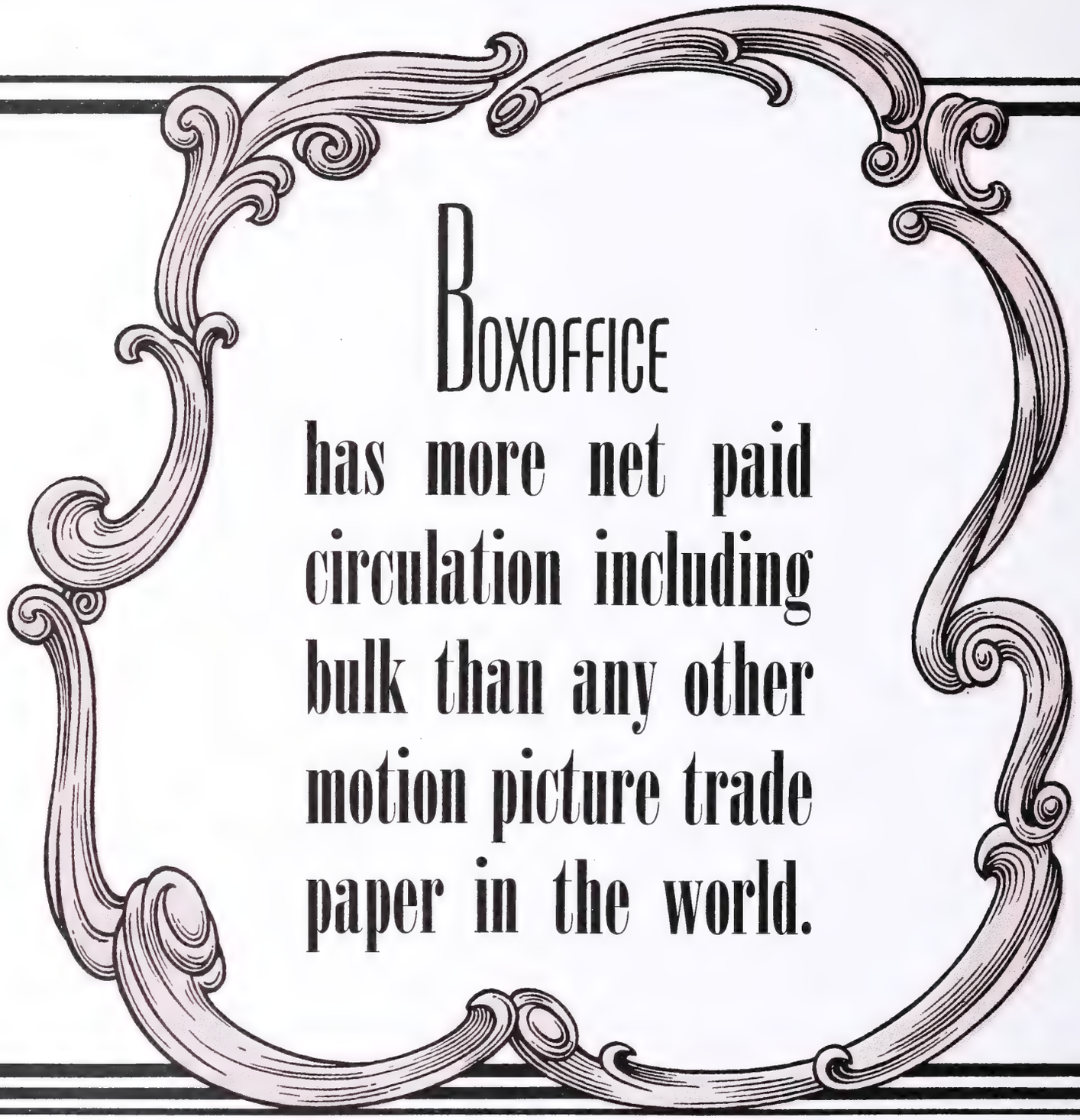
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NOW---


BOXOFFICE
has more net paid
circulation including
bulk than any other
motion picture trade
paper in the world.

***NET PAID CIRCULATION INCLUDING BULK**

Based on the November 2, 1940, issue:

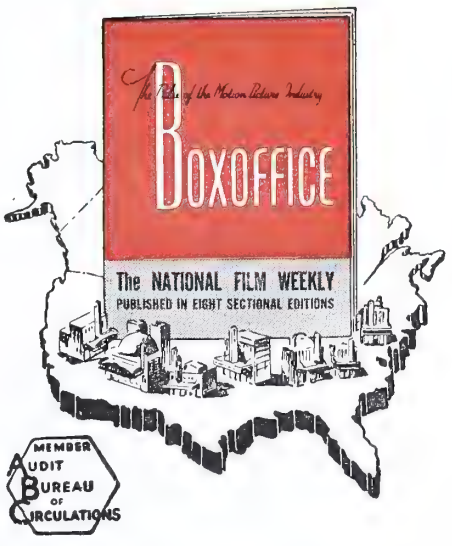
	BOXOFFICE	M. P. HERALD
UNITED STATES	**14,625**	13,125
U. S. Territories	**78**	116
Canada	**744**	767
Foreign	**29**	947
Grand Total	**15,476**	14,955

***AVERAGE TOTAL NET PAID**

including bulk for 6 months ending Dec. 31, 1940

BOXOFFICE	**15,527**
M. P. HERALD	15,073

*See A.B.C. Publishers' Statements for 6 months ending December 31, 1940.



BOXOFFICE *U. S. and Canada circulation is greater than total world circulation of Motion Picture Herald.*

'BIG FIVE' FEARFUL OVER DECREE; WASHINGTON EYES STATE LAWS

Attacks on Five-Block Sales Are Mounting; Georgia Is Latest

NEW YORK—Fears are mounting among the "Big Five" that enactment of the first state law kicking out blocks of five sales will clear the road for similar statutes to follow in other states, thereby culminating in a virtual "sabotaging" of the decree.

Therefore, their worries are mounting.

Responsible spokesmen for the decree signatories say it fails to make much difference which state is first across the line. In Georgia, where the development came swiftly and with little warning, such a statute has passed the senate and a house committee already has reported favorably on it. It would allow maintenance of the current system of selling in full line, but legislatively set up a 20 per cent cancellation. Blocks of five selling, of course, would be superseded under that clause of the decree itself which recognizes state laws to take precedence over the context of the consent.

Minnesota First

In Minnesota, first legislature to consider a like measure, Northwest Allied is now set with ample counsel seeking to argue down the argument of unconstitutionality advanced by David Shearer, attorney jointly representing Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warner. Significantly, perhaps, Paramount is absent.

Press hour rumors, furthermore, revolved around reports a measure, like the one in Georgia, may pop up momentarily in North Carolina.

Despite a general reluctance to bring their reactions into the open, majors' spokesmen, nevertheless, incline toward the belief that no national wave of anti-decree laws is required to effectually cut the ground from under the decree.

"Even if that kind of law is enacted in as few as half dozen states, we are in trouble and a great deal of it," one opinion goes. "Not only would such an eventuality make it impossible for us to maintain one national sales system, but it would be obvious that the decree, designed to function equally throughout all of the states, would be largely nullified."

While the majors are concerned over the two-way play anti-decree state laws would introduce where selling is concerned, at the same time they appear confident of their ability to cope with what is described as an "unprecedented" situation. There is no evidence on the surface or below it, for that matter, that state-wide enactments would force any one of the "Big Five" out of operations in such state or states. "We would continue to sell as the laws of a given state dictate we would have to sell, but the problem thrown on the table by an eventuality such as the one now threatening is our general position with the department of justice and the federal government. We have agreed to do certain things and observe certain practices. In this potential situation, we would be prevented from doing so, whether this, in turn, would lead to some sort of summary action on the part of the federal government is only a guess. I, for one, do not know and I do not propose taking any leaps at it," another executive informs BOXOFFICE.

Those familiar with experiences growing out of statutory regulation reflect considerable gloom. They feel laws, like the ones proposed in Minnesota and Georgia, would tend to place the film industry in the category of "public property" and open the door wide to additional regulation in the future and, some insist, to the ultimate discomfiture of those who may countenance restrictions now merely confined to blocks of five sales. Likewise do they envision as a probability the concentration of inimical interests seeking to impose on the industry their own forms of regulation, using already enacted state laws on selling methods as a springboard. The impression along these lines is that, with passage of this type of statute, reform groups, or groups generally anti-film, might find amendments embodying their own causes easier to put over by grafting them onto laws already in existence.

Meanwhile, the Hays organization finds itself in a peculiar spot. The "Big Five" are committed to observe the letter of the decree and, consequently, stand behind unwound selling. "The Little Three," also Hays members, are not party to the decree and subscribers to the current method. Any pro or con program contemplated by the MPPDA in connection with statutes of the Georgia and Minnesota type at once becomes a tough organizational knot to unscramble.

Section XXIII

Provisions of the consent decree must bow before laws which the states may pass in connection with that decree. This is emphasized in Section XXIII, which reads:

"Whenever obligations or prohibitions are imposed upon the defendants by the laws of any state or by rules or regulations made pursuant thereto, with which the defendants, by law must comply, the court, upon application of the defendants, or any of them, shall from time to time enter orders relieving the defendants from compliance with any requirement of this decree in conflict with such laws, rules or regulations, and the right of the defendants to make such applications and to obtain such relief is expressly granted."

Sees Chances Rise For Conciliation

NEW YORK—Major distributor spokesmen are openly pleased with the anticipated effect of the withdrawal of the clearance arbitration in Washington upon future disputes which they feel can be conciliated before reaching the hearing stage.

"If the decree has done nothing else," one important executive declares, "it has cleared up in less than one month a case that is, and could be, the forerunner of many others to come and proves we can regulate our own affairs."

Meanwhile, the demand of John H. Taylor, operator of the Charles, La Plata, Md., against the "Big Five," charging unreasonable clearance after the Marlboro, Marl-

(Continued on page 28)

Congress May Get Block Booking Problem If Decree Flounders

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—There are indications here that, if the consent decree flounders because of state laws overriding groups of five selling, the whole question of block booking will be thrown back into the laps of congress.

Department of justice officials are watching closely efforts in state legislatures on enactment of laws for full line sales, but are taking no position, at this time, with respect to measures such as that passed by the Georgia senate where distributors, on demand, must license their entire programs with a minimum 20 per cent cancellation clause.

Text of the proposed Georgia law which would compel distributors, on demand, to sell their full programs appears on page 28 of this issue.

Declining to comment, justice department officials thus far merely point out that the proposed legislation is primarily the concern of the states considering it, such as Minnesota in addition to Georgia. They make it clear the federal government cannot interfere in this activity and they, too, are careful to draw attention to section XXIII of the decree (*see column two*) which provides that, in the event any state enacts legislation which conflicts with the decree signatory companies may appeal to the courts for relief from compliance with the decree provisions affected.

However, in the event legislation such as is proposed in Georgia and Minnesota extends to a sufficient number of states so as to render the block booking provisions of the decree void, or generally inapplicable, it is viewed here as quite likely that agitation for federal legislation barring blocks will be revived with what is described reliably as "good chances of success."



"ZIEGFELD GIRL" by John La Gatta, one of the celebrated artists' series in M-G-M's national competition to capture the spirit of the Ziegfeld Girl of 1941. Among other famed artists who have contributed are McClelland Barclay, Neysa McMein, Gilbert Bundy and Albert Varga.



"Take Your Seats, America!"

You've got a date with the girls from the Follies!
M-G-M has kept its promise to top "The Great Ziegfeld"!
It took money to do it!
It took months of planning, months of dreaming dreams!
With no expense spared!
M-G-M proudly presents "The Ziegfeld Girl"
It is a Pageant of Stars and Song and Spectacle!
Ten marquees could not hold its names in lights!
JAMES STEWART • JUDY GARLAND • HEDY LAMARR • LANA TURNER
And countless other great entertainers and Girls! Girls! Girls!
Darlings in diamonds, honey-haired blondes, red-heads, brunettes
M-G-M combed America for its most famous beauties.
Celebrated models, famed faces from the magazine covers
Never such a wealth of feminine loveliness!
Spectacular musical numbers one after another!
"Minnie from Trinidad" • "You Stepped Out of a Dream" and others!
More than you'd find in a whole season of Broadway musicals!
Lights! Curtain! Bravo!

ZIEGFELD GIRL

Starring

JAMES STEWART
JUDY GARLAND
HEDY LAMARR
LANA TURNER

with TONY MARTIN • JACKIE COOPER • IAN HUNTER • CHARLES WINNINGER
EDWARD EVERETT HORTON • PHILIP DORN • Screen Play by Marguerite Roberts and Sonya Levien • Directed by ROBERT Z. LEONARD • Produced by PANDRO S. BERMAN • An M-G-M Picture

LITHO U S A

NEW STEP IN ALL-OUT "PEACE" MOVE IS CENTERING IN BUFFALO

Gov't Plans to Dismiss "Big Five" From Schine Anti-Trust Suit

NEW YORK—Behind the government's intention on Monday to seek dismissal of its anti-monopoly complaint against the "Big Five" in the specific case of the Schines is another progressive step looking toward the ultimate establishment of an "all peace" front in the industry. That is, insofar as monopoly litigation introduced by the department of justice may be concerned.

A Routine Procedure

With the entry of the decree, as it applies to Loew's, Paramount, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warner, the proposed dismissal in Buffalo, of course, becomes a routine and long-anticipated procedure on the part of government attorneys. Yet, those same insiders whose views on an all-out peace were first reported exclusively in BOXOFFICE, February 8, this week clung to their confidence that Monday's formality, nevertheless, tied in definitely with the larger desire on the part of the justice department for general accord and litigation-less days as rapidly as men and events can evolve them.

As a continuing frame of mind, it is understood, now as in early February, that the department of justice's attitude is one of cooperation and a willingness to call off bets, provided the defendants concerned in various still pending actions display a friendly attitude and an open mind on the matter of compromises.

See Schine Turn

The difficulty seen, on the other hand, is a necessary meeting of the minds in that Washington may take one view of what comprises a friendly attitude and an open mind while the defendant groups may have an entirely different interpretation. In fact, this specifically applies in the Schine case where the crux of an out-of-court settlement hinges on a definition of theatre expansion.

A Washington dispatch points out the department is insistent that the Schines stop expanding whereas the circuit operators oppose on the theory no such halt has been placed on the theatre activities of the consenting "Big Five."

Schine Decree Talk Still Under Way

WASHINGTON—Despite reports, published widely but not in BOXOFFICE, that negotiations for a decree to end the anti-trust suit had been called off, Willard S. McKay, New York counsel for J. Myer and Louis W. Schine, was scheduled to confer here during the week with Thurman Arnold and his assistants in a desire to work out a quick settlement.

It is understood the Schines are willing and anxious to sign a decree similar to the one handed the "Big Five," but the department of justice is reported holding out for better terms on the theatre expansion angle. It is said the department is at present determined to have the Schines curtail all their expansion activities, but the independent circuit operators are fighting this demand on the ground there is no such provision in the "Big Five" decree.

Expect Third Party

From time to time, BOXOFFICE has reported the theatre expansion angle would result in impasses, but eventually the settlement would be worked out by compromise. Since both sides are determined to have it their own way, a third party may be brought in to effect the compromise.

If, and when, the Schine decree is set, it is stated this will be used as a basis for similar decrees in the Crescent and Griffith Brothers suits.

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from the first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. Average is 100 per cent.

FANTASIA—
Chicago 275

MAD DOCTOR, MONSTER AND GIRL—
Denver (dual) 230

GONE WITH THE WIND—
Salt Lake City 200
Chicago 180
Detroit 175

MR. AND MRS. SMITH—
Washington 200

VIRGINIA—
Boston (star's P. A.) 180

Dismissal Actually Covers "Big Five" and 2 Subsidiaries

BUFFALO—Notice filed in federal court by Herbert Borkland, special assistant to the attorney general, advises the government on Monday will move for a dismissal of anti-monopoly complaints against the five decree signatories in the Schine action. Actually, the proposal is to dismiss against seven corporations, two of them—Vitagraph, Inc., and Paramount Film Corp.—being subsidiaries of Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc. and Paramount Pictures, Inc.

While Joseph J. Doran, assistant United States attorney, states he has had no word from Borkland outlining reasons for the contemplated move, film men familiar with the general pattern of the litigation, of course, understand that the step to come follows the routine designed to prevail now that the "Big Five" are parties to a decree already functioning aside from, chiefly, the blocks of five selling provisions.

The move has no bearing on the government's position insofar as its action against the Schine circuit is concerned.

Schenck Lists 44 as Minimum From Fox

NEW YORK—Twentieth Century-Fox will produce a minimum of 44 next season, according to Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board.

Playing a dominant part in the lineup will be comedy-dramas along with eight musicals, but biographies are out and, generally speaking, so are costume pictures. However, Schenck explains, "Ben Blake," a period story, is included, although he does not consider this in the category of costume films.

"If an important outdoor picture comes up, it will be made in Technicolor," he adds. Westerns will have no place on the forthcoming program.

"How Green Was My Valley" may be made in England, although it has not been finally determined. Indecision applies as well to the number 20th-Fox will make in London, although British quota requirements, he emphasizes, will be met.

There will be no overall budget for the year's production, but each picture will be made on a basis of what the subject is worth. Asked whether films will be made longer, Schenck made a negative reply.

He still holds to his contention of several years that extended runs are the only salvation of the business. "We will try to make subjects worthy of extended runs," he declares.

On the question of furthering a move for single features, the 20th-Fox executive says this is entirely up to the exhibitor. "It is outside our jurisdiction to dictate policy. What exhibitors will do will be based on public reaction."

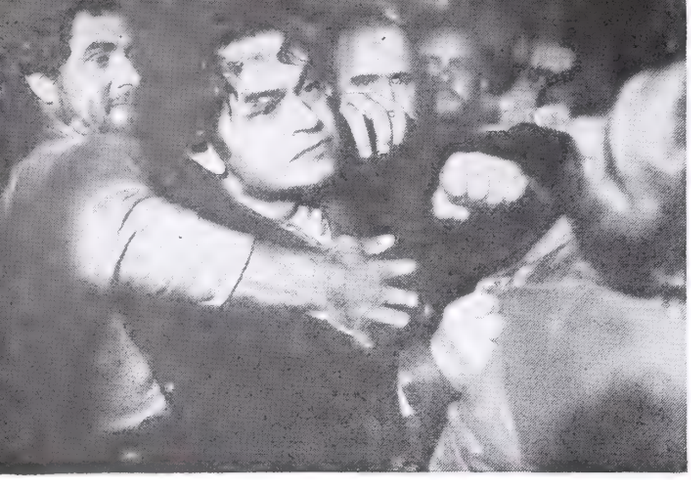
Enthusiastic over the acquisition of Ernst Lubitsch, Schenck declares that, while the company is not negotiating for other outside producers, it is always interested in the men of Lubitsch's calibre.

He explains Lubitsch has one more to make for UA, but this can be produced at any time and will not conflict with the deal signed by Darryl F. Zanuck. The number of pictures is indefinite, as is the first story.

Schenck also points out that Zanuck "needs some help" and the acquisition of Lubitsch as a producer and William LeBaron as an executive was to make things easier for Zanuck. "Lubitsch can make as many as he wants," according to the 20th-Fox chairman.

As to the operation of the decree, Schenck personally thinks it will work out very well. It will give a great deal more satisfaction to the producer, for each picture will either stand or fall on its own merit, he believes.

Later, a press release placed the number of forthcoming musicals at a round dozen.

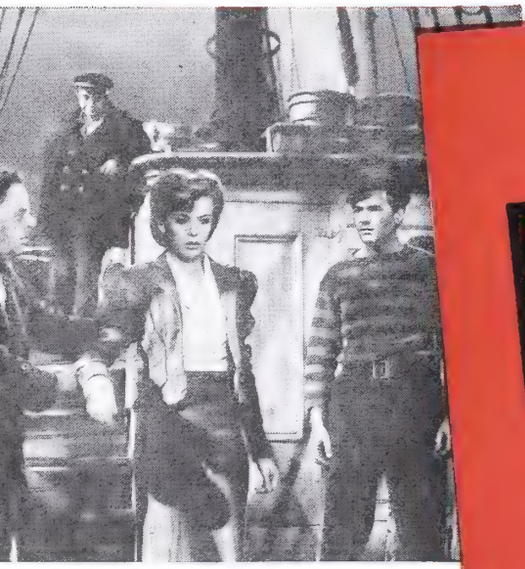






NEVER SO MUCH WARNER ACTION!





EDWARD. G.

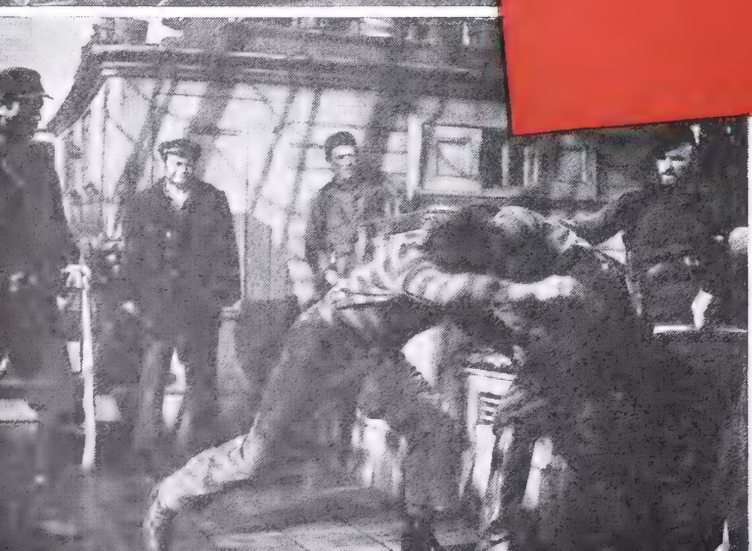
ROBINSON · LU

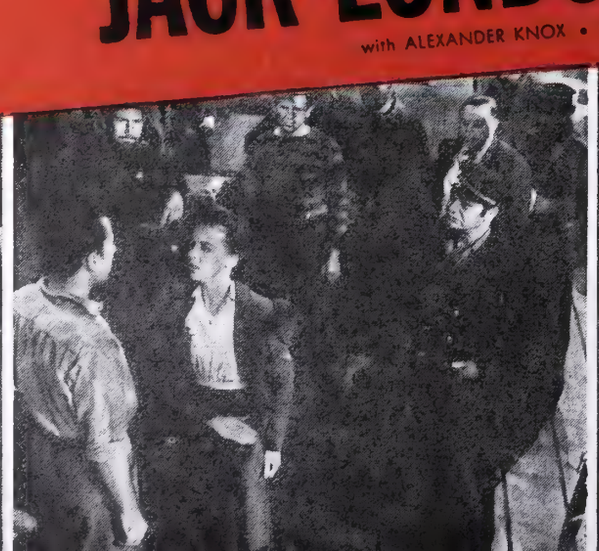
THE Sea

JACK LONDON'S ST

with ALEXANDER KNOX • GENE LOCKHART • BARRY FITZG















NEVER SO MANY WARNER THRILLS!

JOHN

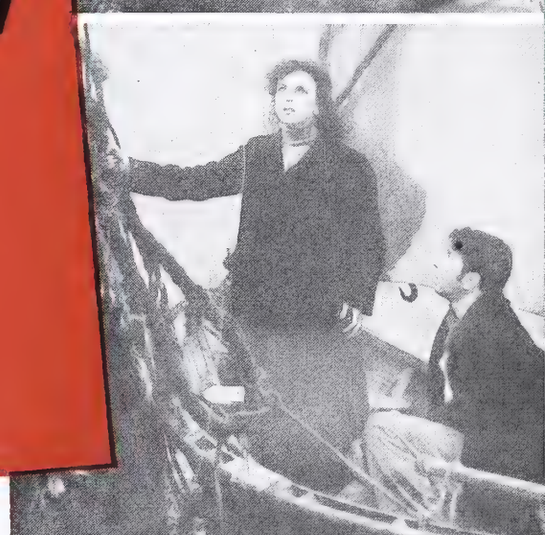
...NO·GARFIELD

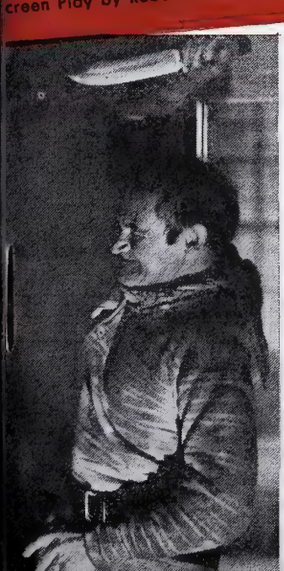
...Wolf

...RY OF TERROR AFLOAT

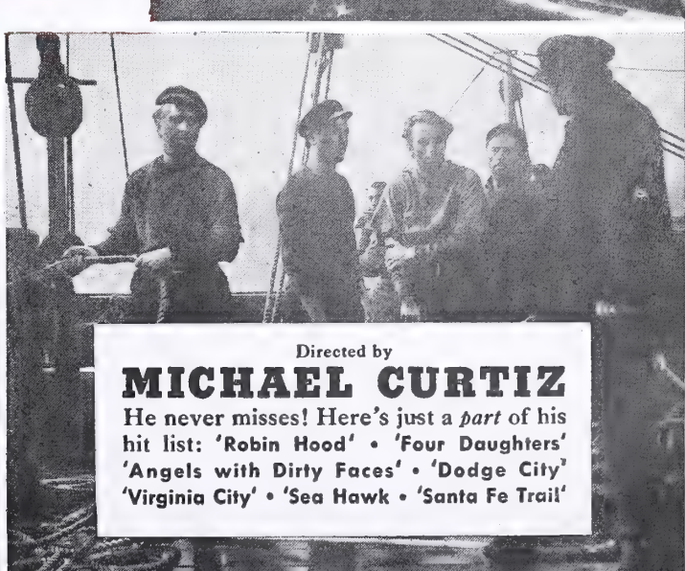
...creen Play by Robert Rossen • Music by Erich Wolfgang Korngold











Directed by

MICHAEL CURTIZ

He never misses! Here's just a *part* of his hit list: **'Robin Hood' • 'Four Daughters' 'Angels with Dirty Faces' • 'Dodge City' 'Virginia City' • 'Sea Hawk • 'Santa Fe Trail'**

Favors Clearance Revamp; Would Sell It for Price

NEW YORK—Impelled by the revivification, in which he played a prominent part during Film Boards of Trade administration, Samuel A. Moross, former secretary of the Theatre Owners Chamber of Commerce here, and now retired after 20 years in the industry, believes a "radical change in the present system of granting clearance would be the first step toward a better understanding between the distributors and exhibitors."

In line with this observation, Moross, who represented Universal during the old system of compulsory arbitration and later was "trouble shooter" for UA, recommends a plan, the basis of which is that clearance should be declared a commodity, and the exhibitor should buy and pay for it as such, instead of securing it as a "gratuitous privilege."

Based on License Fee

Clearance has a value in its own right and such value should not be incorporated in the price of a picture, Moross declares. "The value of clearance should be based in proportion to the price agreed upon for the license fee of the picture," his plan suggests, adding: "I believe that 25 per cent of the license fee should be added as a fair valuation for clearance, provided the picture plays one full week, and to increase the price for clearance if and when the picture is held over for a longer period, in which case, the theatre will be justified in asking for, and the distributor equally as justified in granting, a longer period of clearance on such picture."

Specifically, Moross illustrates his plan with a hypothetical scale of figures, using $1,000, flat rental, as the basis for the illustration, as follows:

	License Fee	*Price of Clearance*	*Clearance Period*
1st Week	$750	$250	28 days
2nd Week	750	275	35 days
3rd Week	750	300	42 days
4th Week	750	325	49 days

Moross calls attention, under this plan, to the fact the increase of 10 per cent each succeeding week is computed on the price for clearance paid for the first week of showing, for 28 days of "clearance period." The theatre under this table would be given an option to pay the increased price for clearance, or forfeit the increased "period of clearance." The exercise of either option would be fair to both parties to the contract, he argues.

Franchise Holders Plan

Moross takes the position the same computation can be applied to any percentage contract with equal fairness.

In anticipation of the question "What, if anything, can be done with franchise holders?" he supplements his plan with this reasoning:

"The answer is, that the number of franchise holders is negligibly small, even though they represent a considerable source of revenue, perhaps even greater than the total revenue of individual contract holders. A revision and modification of certain terms of such franchises could be made, without the least sacrifice or detriment to either party to such franchise. In any event this new method could be applied to agreements made after the expiration of existing franchises."

In key cities, as well as in towns of smaller populations, the established first-run theatre, or a theatre which the distributor selects and designates as his choice for a first run for his product, the clearance period over the subsequent run or runs envisioned by Moross' plan would not exceed 28 days. In situations where there are one, two or more suburban first runs, the latter would be given priority over the first subsequent runs within the city proper, during and within the 28 days clearance secured by the established first run in the key city over such subsequent runs.

In other words, Moross declares, the key city first run shall not have full 28 days clearance over the suburban first runs. Clearance should be extended only to first, second, third and possibly fourth subsequent runs in any key city, where the city is divided into zones. Should there be more theatres in such a key city, all other runs beyond fourth should be sold on a "first come first served" basis. At all times, however, in the first four runs, clearance between them should be established and an appropriate value charged for it.

Set Four Runs As Limit

Moross asserts that at summer or winter resorts where exhibition is seasonal no operator would be given the right to buy more than four runs with a maximum clearance of seven days between each run of theatres owned and operated by such an exhibitor. All runs desired by such exhibitor in excess of four, as above mentioned, could be contracted for on the basis of "first come first served" on an equal footing with all other competing exhibitors.

The reasoning Moross employs in his plan stems from the belief that any picture which plays first run at least one full week in any situation should not be given more than 28 days' clearance. If it plays two full weeks the clearance may be "justifiably" increased to 35 days, or proportionately longer if the same picture continues to play at the same theatre.

Unreasonable Clearance Hurts

"The first run theatre owner," the author of the plan observes, "Whether he is an independent operator of a single theatre, a chain of theatres or a circuit, if he is vociferous, influential or big enough as a source of revenue, can and will advance every argument imaginable why he should be favored with the maximum of clearance in respect of time and area as well. Most of the arguments so advanced are unfounded on facts and unreasonable. Unreasonable clearance works a decided hardship and disadvantage to subsequent runs and reflects unfavorably at the latters' boxoffices. It does not in any way benefit the distributor, nor does it improve business relations between them.

"It is my honest conviction and belief that, if and when a monetary value is placed upon clearance on a par with the relative value of a license fee for the picture, the question of clearance will be nearer to a permanent solution and will tend to eliminate the opprobrium now cast upon the donor and the recipient of this gratuitous privilege as it is now in vogue."

The Docket

Under the above heading, BOXOFFICE *will publish weekly in each of its editions a case history of arbitration complaints filed in each of the tribunal cities.*

Each demand and submission will be designated as to priority, plus date as well as essential detail, to the end that a permanent and progressively maintained record may be available of complaints filed throughout the country. Here is a sample of the style to be pursued:

Chicago

CASE No. 1—Filed February 13. Demand and submission involving some run dispute. E. F. Van Derveer, owner, State Theatre, Morris, Ill. With: Loew's, Inc. Named as interested parties: Morris, Times theatres, both of Morris, Ill.

Sees Theatreman on His Own Via Decree

NEW YORK—The advent of trade showings under the decree places a greater responsibility on the exhibitor because he will henceforth "buy on a basis of what he thinks the pictures will do for him, whereas formerly he relied on past performances of the distributor he dealt with and trusted on adjustments if his judgment was wrong."

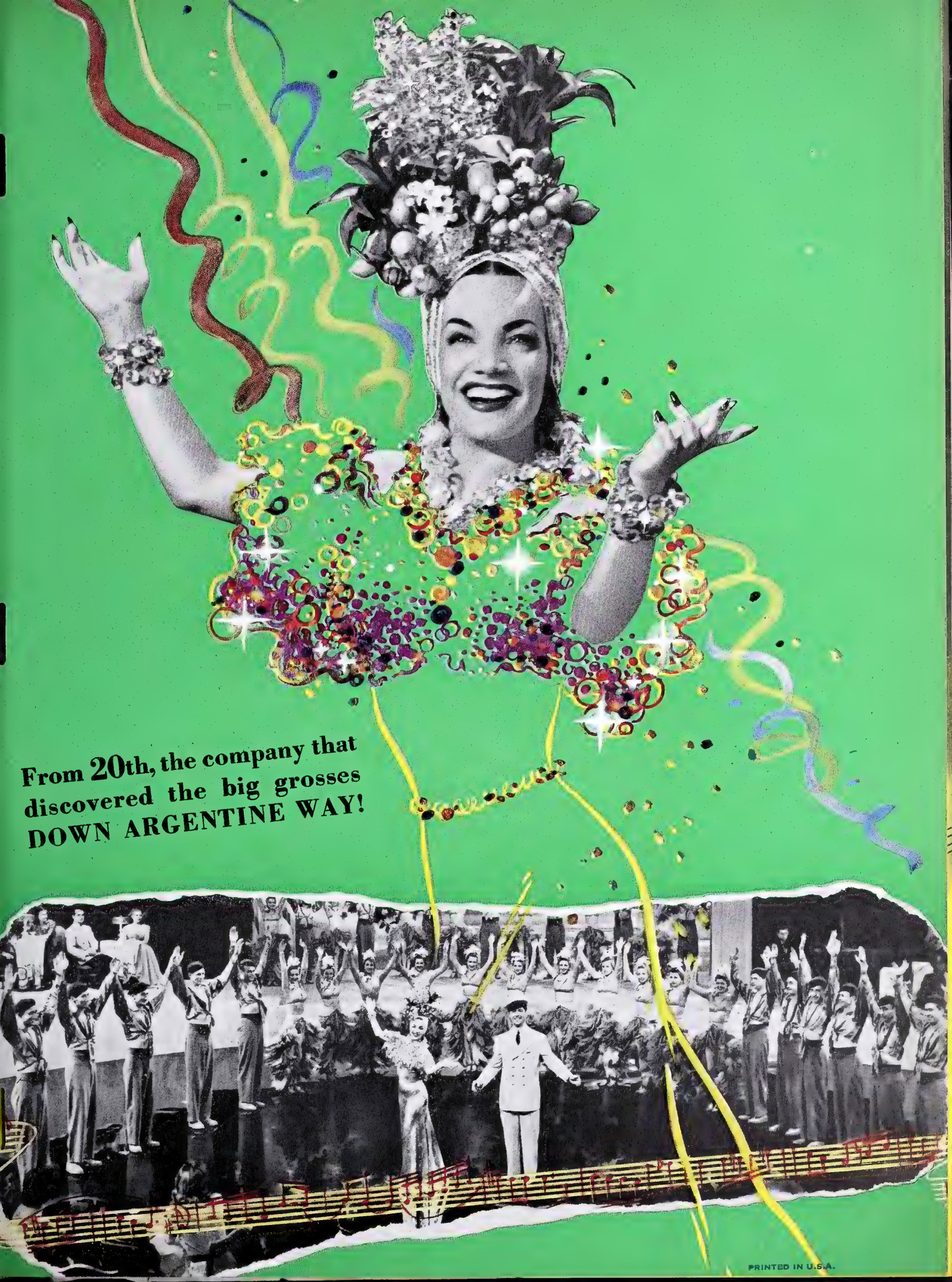
This is the tone of a Paramount theatre executive in sizing up the significance which new problems under the decree will impose upon the company's theatre partners at their meeting at Hot Springs, Va., March 27-29. Matters pertaining to production will be given the partners first hand by Y. Frank Freeman, in charge of studios, and former New York head of Paramount's theatre enterprises. Although their plans may be altered, Barney Balaban and Neil F. Agnew intend to appear at one of the sessions.

Paramount Is Outlet For Greek Relief Reel

NEW YORK—Paramount will distribute "Greece Fights Back," one-reeler produced by the March of Time, as its contribution to the industry's Greek relief campaign.

The sales plan will follow the pattern evolved by Gradwell L. Sears for "London Can Take It" and "They Spent Christmas Under Fire" when all net proceeds, less a low-geared distribution cost, went to Britain.

The distribution committee of the drive, of which Sears is national chairman, screened the film for the press Thursday at "Toots" Shor restaurant and, additionally, signalized the event with a cocktail party.



PRINTED IN U.S.A.

1941's great glamor-musical . . . the show of your dreams!







Alice
FAYE

Don
AMECHE

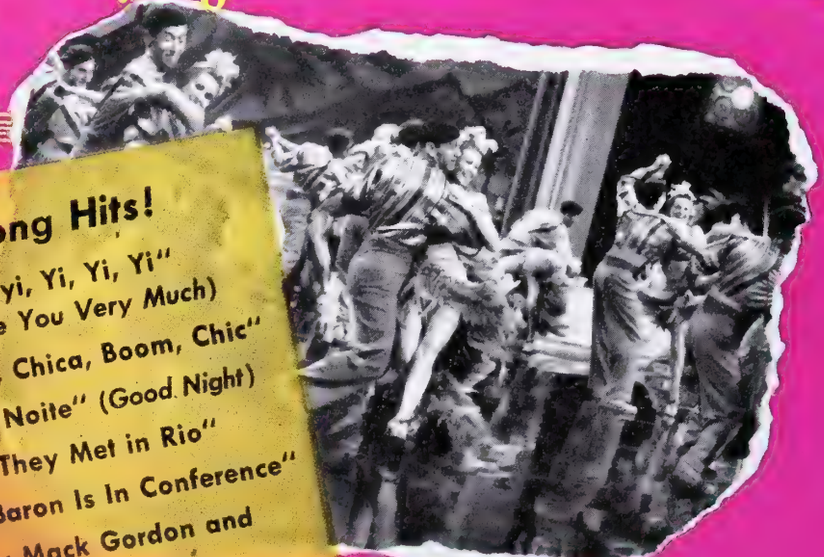
Carmen
MIRANDA

in

That Night in Rio

Imagine it! IN TECHNICOLOR!





Song Hits!

"I'yi, Yi, Yi, Yi"
(I Like You Very Much)
"Chica, Chica, Boom, Chic"
"Boa Noite" (Good Night)
"They Met in Rio"
"The Baron Is In Conference"
by Mack Gordon and Harry Warren

S. Z. SAKALL
J. CARROLL NAISH
CURT BOIS
LEONID KINSKEY

Directed by
IRVING CUMMINGS

Associate Producer Fred Kohlmar
Screen Play by George Seaton, Bess Meredyth and Hal Long • Additional Dialogue by Samuel Hoffenstein
Based on a play by Rudolph Lothar and Hans Adler • Adapted by Jessie Ernst
Dances Staged by Hermes Pan



20th CENTURY FOX

Shift in Accounts May Be in Offing

NEW YORK—In the wake of M-G-M's publicly declared policy under the decree of continuing in the future, as in the past, "to first offer our product to our present customers" emerges a reverse manifestation that suggests the possibility of wholesale switching from regular accounts to competitors once small block sales gets under way.

M-G-M, of course, is excluded from the picture by virtue of a commitment to its customers through a letter sent by William F. Rodgers, general sales manager, explaining his company's decree-dictated sales position. The suggestion, however, that others of the "Big Five" may find it desirable to shop around for customers deemed more desirable than "present customers" is present largely through the absence of other and similar declarations of policy.

"Excuse" Now to Sell Away

It comes from a high-counciled circuit executive who gives as his personal observation, said to be gained from specific incident as well as close personal contact with other operators, that substantial evidence is around indicating distributors may be experiencing a change of heart in their customer relations. This stems, the view continues, from the allegation that a few of the majors who, in the past, have cherished the idea of selling away from regular accounts merely because "other fields are greener," but have not because of possible reprisal, now have a "wide open excuse" to do just that.

Many situations have arisen, the observer claims, which have been embarrassing to a distributor because he has refused to offer his product to one exhibitor on the grounds he already has a customer in that town. His position invariably has been, it is held, that he would gladly entertain a bid for his product if he did not have that customer. "That opportunity will soon be at hand," the circuit executive contends. "You may see a wild scramble for customers. You can be sure some distributors have many, many situations where they have not been happy with their customers and would have liked to have given them the gate."

Metro's Position

Further, the source adds, some of the distributors have been sincere when they have said they "would like to give the other guy a break." Of course, this could also be another way of saying that if "the other guy" will pay the price he will get every possible opportunity to bid against that distributor's "present customer."

Rodgers' letter to all M-G-M accounts follows:

"The consent decree seems to be the topic of conversation on all sides and its application and effect subject to speculation ranging from an unnecessary instrument to the bald statement that its adoption carries certain ruination.

"It appears to me that there is far too much emphasis placed upon the mistaken theory that it is impractical, and too little evidence of a desire to give its principles the support necessary for at least a fair trial.

"The time has passed for debate regarding either its virtues or its disadvantages. It is a matter of record and an instrument under which we will conduct our business to the best of our ability. We did not desire a consent decree, but it seemed to be the best means of settling the dispute between us and the government.

"That it will be costly to us is admitted. It is not flawless, and undoubtedly under its administration some will be dissatisfied; yet I am unwilling to admit that it is either unworkable or impractical.

"As an industry we have faced and met many problems and I believe sincerely we will meet this issue from an approach that we all have a part in protecting a great industry and our individual interests.

"The position of our company can be summed up in a very few words. We will respect the consent decree in all of its content; we will not tolerate, much less countenance any violations on the part of our representatives.

"We have no idea of placing our product on the auction block; but will, wherever the relationship is satisfactory, continue in the future, as in the past, to first offer our product to our present customers.

"We will not price our merchandise beyond the possibilities of our customers to pay; we are not now, nor will we in the future, seek any subterfuges in selling short subjects, newsreels or trailers. Every unit of our output will stand on its own merit.

"We have confidence in our product and in our staff and an everlasting confidence in our policy of fair dealing being recognized and supported by our customers.

"We will recognize any claim for arbitration as provided for in the decree, and will vigorously yet fairly defend our position where we feel we are right; yet in any instance where the final judgment is rendered against us, it will be accepted graciously and without any hard feelings in any direction.

"We will deliver not less than our minimum obligation of features and short subjects this year, and be prepared to trade show and offer a group of pictures for early fall release, sometime in June or July we hope, but in any event, far enough in advance to protect the playing time of our anticipated customers.

"I firmly believe that we, as an industry, are big enough and sufficiently visionary to recognize that we are on the threshold of an era of great opportunity.

"It, therefore, seems to me that full advantage should be taken of that which is before us and use to the fullest extent whatever talents we possess in a supreme effort to bring to the theatre those patrons who may be seeking their amusements in other directions.

"We now have a yardstick by which it is decreed we must conduct our business and a unified effort in the direction of harmony can only lead to progress.

"If the consent decree was necessary to bring about a closer understanding it can safely be regarded as beneficial to all of our interests. We owe it to ourselves; to our industry, and to our given word, to give it a fair trial and we will do just that. We have accepted it 100 per cent and what is more will support its administration that it be given full and proper opportunity to demonstrate its values. We hope they are many."

Flashes From the News Front

12 Die in Theatre Fire

BROCKTON, MASS.—Twelve firemen were killed and 21 others injured in fighting a fire which destroyed the Strand early Monday morning, two hours after hundreds of Sunday night patrons left the theatre. Most of the victims were trapped when the roof collapsed.

Odeon Ahead in Canada

VANCOUVER—Odeon Theatres of Canada has acquired six more suburbans and plans to build two additional units to be in operation by mid-July. Its local houses, secured and projected, now number 12.

Deny Suit Scope Limit

NASHVILLE—Defendants in the federal anti-trust suit against Crescent Amusement Co. and its affiliates must answer by April 28 all the government interrogatories except two relating to gross and net income over a five-year period.

Ben Stapleton Dead

OTTAWA—Ben F. Stapleton, one of two original Canadian franchise holders in First National, is dead here at 68.

Urges Anti-Decree Bill O. K.

MINNEAPOLIS—Northwest Allied's anti-consent decree bill, opposed by Metro, Warner Bros., 20th-Fox and RKO, has been recommended for passage by the judiciary committee of the Minnesota state legislature lower house, 18 to 2, following hearings. Contravening the groups-of-five sales plan, the measure requires distributors to sell entire season's product, same as at present, grant minimum of 20 per cent cancellation and refrain from forced selling of shorts.

When the general legislation committee of the state senate held a hearing on the same measure, United Artists joined the other four distributors to oppose it, and claimed the company couldn't operate under its sales plan. The committee continued the hearing until March 19 to give proponents a chance to argue.

Detroit NLRB Action

DETROIT—Action against the Schulte circuit has been filed with the national labor relations board by the Theatre Managers and Assistant Managers. The union served strike notice on the chain last week.

MARCH 21ST STARTS
UNIVERSAL HELPS YOU



Brian AHERNE and Kay FRANCIS

in

The MAN WHO

SPRING—Officially!

START IT—Box-Officially!

It's the release date for a comedy-honey... that will rib-rouse the whole country... set ten million wives laughing and thinking about the gal whose husband "doubled" up on her!



LOST HIMSELF

with

HENRY STEPHENSON • S. Z. SAKALL • NILS ASTHER
SARAH PADDEN • DOROTHY TREE

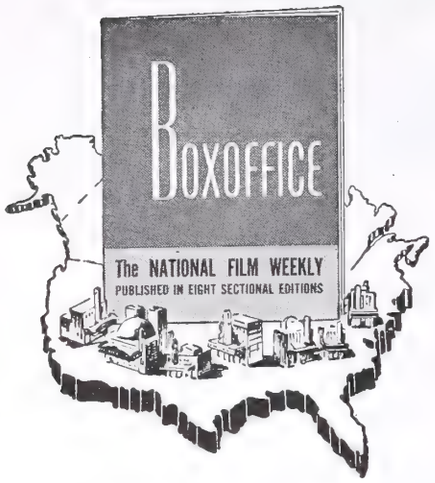
Screenplay by Eddie Moran
Based on the novel by H. DeVere Stacpoole

Directed by
EDWARD LUDWIG

Produced by
LAWRENCE W. FOX, Jr.

Associate Producer, Ben Hersh

A UNIVERSAL PICTURE • NATIONAL RELEASE MARCH 21



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ST. LOUIS—5149 Rosa Ave., David F. Barrett. Flanders 3727.
SALT LAKE CITY—167 South State St., Viola B. Hutton. WAsatch 165.
SAN FRANCISCO—1095 Market St., Al Scott. Market 6580.
SEATTLE—2418 Second Ave., Joe Cooper. Seneca 2460.
WASHINGTON—1426 G St., Earle A. Dyer.

IN CANADA

CALGARY—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
HAMILTON—20 Holton, N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON—97 Adelaide St., S., John Gore.
MONTREAL—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Walnut 5519.
REGINA—The Leader-Post. Bruce Peacock.
ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings., C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St., Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave., Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

FOR some time now, the socially-conscious Frank Capra has been revolving in his mind a picture based on a frontier-less world where man might learn to live in something akin to complete understanding with his fellow man. Several individuals in Europe, of course, have kicked such an idea solidly in the midriff, but now and in a form revamped, geographically and otherwise, Capra follows through in "Meet John Doe."

The first to be made independently by the producer and Robert Riskin, his associate, this carries all of the hallmarks of the meticulously plotted and executed workmanship which is now accepted as their tradition both in and out of the business.

If "Meet John Doe" were to be boiled down to a phrase, it would be a re-emphasis of the "love thy neighbor" theme. The film seeks to tell the story of all the John Does, all the susceptible Mr. Average Man, their hopes and their aspirations for a kindlier and more friendly way of living. Capra essays this through the personalized experiences of Gary Cooper who is thrown up from the mob as the pivot of a newspaper circulation stunt which grows and catches the imagination of millions of other John and Jane Does throughout the nation. As a gag, the original idea in the film gets well out of hand. As a symbol of hopes and aspirations, it finds a definite, if loosely defined and temporary, place in the American scene. That is, until the oil magnate, turned newspaper publisher, uses the thousands of these personally-financed John Doe Clubs and John Doe himself as a catapult from which to launch a Fascist government.

The political plot fails because Cooper threatens to expose it. But, as it fails, it also tears down the John Doe movement, disillusions millions of its followers and propels Cooper to the verge of suicide until he is convinced the idea, once deliberately murdered, can rise and flame again out of its own ashes.

This, quickly, is the idea. Capra, no doubt about it, had a message to deliver and this is his method of delivery. But this is not to suggest at all that he has foregone entertainment in doing so. Definitely he has not. "Meet John Doe" has comedy, strong drama, a love story, firm direction, intelligent writing, always topnotch production values, and a laudable, if highly visionary, idea. Too, its performances, led off by Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck, Walter Brennan, Jimmy Gleason, Edward Arnold, Gene Lockhart and Regis Toomey are excellent.

We think "Meet John Doe," Capra-blessed and the superior picture it is, will get money. We also think Capra's cause definitely emerges first and the human beings he has had created to document that cause come next.

No Comment Item

A LETTER from Milton F. Samis, Hester Theatre, San Jose, Calif., to Thomas Aspell of M-G-M:

Replying to your inquiry concerning my attempt to eliminate double bills, I can now state that, based upon the results of the first six weeks, the new policy is a huge success.

I started out by single billing on just one change a week, but soon increased that to two changes a week out of three. The results have been hundreds of phone calls and letters of commendation, unsolicited resolutions of praise by three parent-teacher associations and editorials in both daily newspapers commenting on the policy. But best of all, as nearly as I can estimate, I have increased my business by about 25 per cent. It has made the people of San Jose more conscious than ever of the presence of the Hester Theatre in their midst. Lobby comment has been very enthusiastic about the new shows and, strange to say, we could count the kicks on the fingers of one hand.

I think the thing that puts it over is my idea of a Variety Hour—an hour's program of short subjects. By giving the short subject program a name, we have taken the curse off the single bill, at least in a spot as competitive as this one is. In our newspaper ads we give the Variety Hour as much space as the feature, listing each subject, and on telephone inquiries, we are able to say that we have such-and-such a feature, plus "The Hester's Variety Hour." We are actually getting phone calls now wanting to know when the Variety Hour starts!

Of course, one swallow doesn't make a summer, and this thing may prove to be a flash in the pan. However, I have recounted to you frankly the results of the first six weeks.

Recommended

Ben Hecht's incisive defense of Joe Schenck. Well worth anybody's reading. Page 26, please.

And of particular interest to students of the trend to state laws designed to vitiate certain portions of the consent decree is the text of the Georgia proposal. Page 28 for that.

From the HOTTEST TOWN in America...

LAS VEGAS

comes the HOTTEST BAND in America!

TOMMY DORSEY

AND HIS ORCHESTRA







Paramount Pictures


In the HOTTEST PICTURE of the year...
Paramount's "LAS VEGAS NIGHTS"
HEAR TOMMY DORSEY and his great Orchestra sing and play these famous Dorsey arrangements: "SONG OF INDIA" • "ON MIAMI SHORES" • "I'LL NEVER SMILE AGAIN" • "THE TROMBONE MAN" • "SHADOW WALTZ" • "THE TROMBONE MAN IS THE BEST MAN IN THE BAND"
Hear these brand new hits: "DOLORES" • "MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY" • "MOMENTS LIKE THIS" • "I GOTTA RIDE"
TOMMY DORSEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA • BERT WHEELER
Constance Moore • Phil Regan • Betty Brewer • Lillian Cornell • Virginia Dale • Red Donahue and His Mule "Uno"
Directed by Ralph Murphy • Original Screen Play by Ernest Pagano and Harry Clork • Additional Dialogue by Eddie Welch • A Paramount Picture
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Men of Boys Town

F — Drama

M-G-M (——) — **106 Minutes** — **Rel. Apr. 11, '41**

Since it is not considered necessary here to question the efficacy of a sociological subject—see "Boys Town" grosses for fall, 1938—as screen entertainment, it would seem most important to report how "Men of Boys Town" stacks up with its predecessor. The news, then—and it is news—is that this superb drama is better than the first one that took up Father Flanagan, and his sincere efforts toward the reclamation of juvenile delinquents. Somehow, as it unfolds, the impression is gained that this film couldn't miss; the commendable public impression created by the first effort, plus virtually the identical personnel—professional and technical—crystallizing into a triumph of straightforward, human and touching drama. Hokum, as it is known in the trade, plays a large part in the proceedings, but in such capable hands it emerges not as maudlin sentimentality, but gripping in its appeal for a more enlightened attitude toward the nation's "greatest natural resource," its youth—and those, especially, who have strayed. Tremendous mass appeal should be its award. Again there are Spencer Tracy, ruggedly idealistic as Father Flanagan; Mickey Rooney, "Mayor" of Boys Town, devout and loyal charge; Norman Taurog, directing with adroitness and a supporting cast of rare qualifications for the work at hand.

Spencer Tracy, Mickey Rooney, Bobs Watson, Larry Nunn, Darryl Hickman, Henry O'Neill, Mary Nash.

EXPLOITIPS: Hardly a dollar or an ounce of effort should be stinted in capitalizing on the original "Boys Town" when you sell this one. Almost routine should be your approaches to Catholic, parent, civic, penal, teachers, judiciary, educational and Boy Scout groups. The followers of Tracy and Rooney are legion, which makes it merely a matter of effort and ingenuity in reaching them. You could wrap a separate campaign around Rooney himself, bulking his versatility in musicals, the Hardy series and this one as the big topic.

CATCHLINES: Your Heart Will Be Stirred by the Man Who Has Reclaimed the Lives of Thousands of Boys.

The Miracle of Boys Town . . . As It Mends Small Hearts and Minds That Are Weak.

Rage in Heaven

A — Drama

M-G-M (128) — **82 Minutes** — **Rel. Mar. 7, '41**

Robert Montgomery is cast again as a homicidal paranoic in a heavy and sombre melodrama which deals principally with insane jealousy, suicide and other unpleasant phases of chronic psychalgia. Although he, his co-star—Ingrid Bergman—and the remainder of the cast turn in fine performances, the film is strictly adult entertainment, designed and executed for the more profound and analytical exponents of the drama. Its appeal to the rank and file of ticket buyers will probably be limited. The film is an adaptation of a James Hilton novel and in general theme may be compared to Montgomery's one previous sally into the realm of psychiatry, "Night Must Fall." It is opulently produced and ably directed by W. S. Van Dyke II. Montgomery has the role of a man mentally tortured by the erroneous belief that his bride, Miss Bergman, is in love with his closest friend and business associate, George Sanders. In an effort to gain revenge for this fancied wrong, he concocts an intricate plan to commit suicide by which it would appear he was murdered by Sanders. His machinations fail, of course.

Robert Montgomery, Ingrid Bergman, George Sanders, Lucile Watson, Oscar Homolka, Philip Merivale, Matthew Boulton.

EXPLOITIPS: The top selling name is, of course, Robert Montgomery, while Ingrid Bergman and George Sanders each deserve supporting credits. Too, the author, James Hilton, might be a selling factor through his reputation as the writer of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" and "Lost Horizon." Appeal to adult audiences by inviting comparisons with Montgomery's role in "Night Must Fall."

CATCHLINES: The Tale of a Tortured Mind . . . Of a Man Consumed by Jealousy . . . And of a Plot That Failed.

It's More Dramatic . . . More Suspenseful . . . More Enthralling Than Robert Montgomery's Great "Night Must Fall."

Human Loves and Human Passions Thread Their Way Through This Story of a Mind That Could Not Grasp the Meaning of Loyalty.

Road to Zanzibar

F — Comedy

Paramount (4025) — **90 Minutes** — **Apr. 11, '41**

As long as Paramount has the Crosby and Hope comedy combination, shapely Dorothy Lamour to serve as the pulchritudinous leg of the triangle, and access to a reasonably accurate geography, such tuneful, boisterous, nonsensical and thoroughly captivating entertainment should be possible. Of course, there will always be the further need for writers to supply the endless chain of gags and the sparkling dialogue which contribute substantially toward making this a very worthy successor to "Road to Singapore." That it should fare as well in raves and revenues as that previous jaunt of the above-mentioned, slap-happy trio seems a certainty. The only times when Mr. Average Customer will not be uproariously amused is when he is enjoying the few highly acceptable musical numbers. The locale is Africa where Crosby and Hope are chiseling themselves a bankroll through operating fake carnival sideshows, but just when they manage to accumulate enough money to run home, they encounter adventure in the form of two stranded Brooklyn show girls who take them for a large-sized buggy ride, which includes a safari, capture by cannibals, the ultimate happy and romantic ending, and countless other mirth-provoking doses of hokum. Directed by Victor Schertzinger.

Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour, Bob Hope, Glenda Farrell, Joan Marsh, Eric Blore, Douglas Dumbrille, Iris Adrian.

EXPLOITIPS: Point out that the starring combination of Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour and Bob Hope is the same one that scored in "The Road to Singapore." Make over the theatre front and lobby to resemble a jungle, with plenty of potted palms and greenery. The Crosby and Hope radio shows offer possibilities for a number of merchandising tie-ups. Contact music dealers on displays of Crosby records.

CATCHLINES: You Roared at Them in "The Road to Singapore" . . . Now Bing, Bob and Dorothy Are Back Again . . . Faster, Funnier Than Ever.

Watch Darkest Africa Grow Darker . . . When Two Timid Americans Pick Up With a Native Girl in the Jungles.

It's a Guaranteed Laugh Riot . . . As Bob and Bing Jive Through the Jungles in Their Newest Musical Funfest.

That Night in Rio

F — Musical

20th Century-Fox (——) — **90 Minutes** — **Rel. Apr. 1, '41**

Taking off to a flying start with a production number precedentally breath-taking in its lavishness and beauty, this filmusical never slackens its speed as engrossing entertainment for an instant. In many respects it touches a new ceiling for screen musical comedies. Story, cast, music, production, direction, costumes and sets, the magnificent colors of which are photographed in Technicolor, all contribute their shares toward assembling a truly superb picture, one which will probably crowd existing revenue records in its classification and in all of its showings. Alice Faye and Don Ameche are starred. The former was never more appealing, her beauty and coloring revealing themselves to their very best advantage through the color photography. Then, too, she and other femmes in the cast are gowned so magnificently that the women customers will gasp for joy. And for the man of the house there is a collection of pulchritude the like of which has seldom been assembled on one set. Don Ameche does a dual role—and exceedingly well. He portrays an American entertainer working in Rio. One of his specialties is the impersonation of a local millionaire, the husband of Miss Faye. When the husband finds himself in a financial jam, Ameche is called upon to carry the masquerade into his social and business circle, which develops numerous situations more replete in story values and humor than is customary in pictures of this type. Irving Cummings directed.

Alice Faye, Don Ameche, Carmen Miranda, S. Z. Sakall, J. Carrol Naish, Curt Bois, Leonid Kinskey, Frank Puglia.

EXPLOITIPS: Plug the Ameche-Faye combination, give the lobby a South American atmosphere and emphasize the new hit tunes in the film.

CATCHLINES: All the Gaiety and Glamour of Romantic Rio . . . Intriguing Romance . . . Latin Love Songs . . . And Laughs.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

The Penalty F

Drama

M-G-M (——) 81 Minutes Rel. Mar. 14, '41

The final result arrived at after the various dramatic elements of "The Penalty" are melted down is a solid program film. Like a friendly blend of tobacco, it is composed of quality grains of good acting, comedy, pungent dialogue, fine production and direction and a story that manages to strike a fair departure from the routine. Edward Arnold is seen as a gangster whoses specialty is bank robbing and ruthless killing. His son, Gene Reynolds, admires the paternal life with its thrill elements and bravado. But he shudders at the sight of blood. It is a smartly contrived police trap and a dramatic insight into character that brings about a different order. The script has utilized backgrounds of farm life and the criminal way of life to good advantage. It's a neat package of dramatics.

Edward Arnold, Lionel Barrymore, Marsha Hunt, Robert Sterling, Gene Reynolds.

EXPLOITIPS: Word-of-mouth should account in a large measure for the success of this film. There are names to exploit. But the film belongs to young Reynolds who has been socking in one outstanding performance after another. Play up the human interest angles. The title suggests tieups on the "penalty" angle. They can be arranged for beauty shops, clothing stores, shoe stores and shoe repairers, etc., all pointing up the penalty for neglect of personal appearance. There are a number of interesting "man hunt" exploitation stunts, "gun moll" sex appeal angles, sidewalk stencil gags and others. You'll find them in a snappy press book arrangement.

CATCHLINES: The Saga of "Killer" Nelson vs. the FBI . . . A Story Tense With One of the Most Exciting Man-Hunts in Recent Screen History.

Loyalty Made Him a Criminal . . . And Loyalty Brought Him a New Life.

His Business Was Slaughter . . . And He Paid the Penalty That His Son Might Find a Better Trade.

Mr. Dynamite F

Melodrama

Universal (——) 63 Minutes Rel. Mar. 7, '41

The explosive qualities of this are limited to the title, unless they should extend to the patience and tempers of the customers who catch it on the underside of dual programs, which booking position it is barely qualified to grace. Although three fairly well established and normally competent mummers are at the top of the cast, any efforts they may have made to elevate the offering from the doldrums are hamstrung by a wild and unbelievable story. That literary enterprise gathered a spy-ring, counter-espionage, a big-league baseball pitcher, a world's series, a few feeble passes at comedy and sundry other elements; wrapped them all in one package; shook them up vigorously; and then, apparently, didn't know where to ship them. The feature will find its most receptive audiences among habitual Saturday-matinee patrons and the fans who crave action—regardless of credibility. Directed by John Rawlins.

Lloyd Nolan, Irene Hervey, J. Carrol Naish, Robert Armstrong, Ann Gillis, Frank Gaby, Elisabeth Risdon.

EXPLOITIPS: Build interest around the title. Plant posters around town with Lloyd Nolan's picture, and the caption: "Who Is Mr. Dynamite?" Get spot plugs on radio stations in similar vein. Give title credits to Lloyd Nolan and Irene Hervey. Emphasize the timely sabotage angles by preparing throwsheets as a tabloid newspaper, with headlines reading: "Baseball Pitcher Uncovers Sabotage Ring."

CATCHLINES: A World Series Pitching Ace . . . Finds Himself in the Middle of a Sabotage Plot . . . And Scores Three Strikes in Defense of His Country.

Can You Solve the Riddle of the Ventriloquist's Dummy? The Astrology Student? The Club-Footed Woman?

A Carnival Gal and a Baseball Pitcher Match Wits With a Dangerous Gang of International Spies.

She Was a Sweet Old Lady . . . Whom Nobody Suspected of Heading a Sinister Plot to Weaken Our National Defense.

Back in the Saddle F

Western

Republic (——) 71 Minutes Rel. ——

There is certainly nothing in this galloper to jeopardize Gene Autry's established position as the screen's leading action star. By the same logic it differs but slightly from the more recent features in which the crooning celluloid cowhand has appeared. Noteworthy is the fact that his pal, Frog (Smiley Burnette), has less to do than customarily. In its productional details, the film maintains the high standards characteristic of the series. Supporting cast is adequate and there is the usual sprinkling of musical numbers interspersed among the shootin', sluggin' and ridin'. The story concerns a feud which develops between ranchers and the crooked operator of a copper mine and smelter when by-products from the latter poison the range waters and kill off stock. Autry, heading the cattlemen, wins the argument, of course. Directed by Lew Landers.

Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Mary Lee, Edward Norris, Jacqueline Wells, Addison Richards, Arthur Loft.

EXPLOITIPS: Gene Autry and Smiley Burnette are, of course, the names to conjure with on marquee and in exploitation. Mary Lee, juvenile singing star, should also come in for an advertising buildup. Otherwise, the picture can be exploited along the lines laid down for all westerns—making over the lobby in rangeland fashion, dressing attendants as cowhands, and playing hillbilly music over the public address system in the foyer.

CATCHLINES: The Nation's Number One Cowboy . . . And His Laughable, Lovable Pal . . . Back Again to Thrill You.

It's Western Entertainment the Way You Like It . . . The Way Only Gene Autry and Smiley Burnette Can Dish It Out.

Gene Autry Against a Crooked Mining Operator . . . Which Means Action, Thrills and Suspense.

It's Gene Autry's Best Picture . . . Which Means It's the Best Western to Hit the Screen in Many a Day.

Murder Among Friends F

Melodrama

20th-Fox (132) 67 Minutes Rel. Feb. 28, '41

Seldom, if ever, has there been a murder mystery with more slayings. And this offering's claim to distinction begins and ends right there. In all other departments, story, cast, production and direction, it is just another whodunit, with an average amount of suspense, an occasional chill and an even more limited quota of laughs, which were probably injected into the script in an attempt to bolster obvious plot inconsistencies. The film will serve as supporting fare but will do little to help its big brother on the dual programs drag in additional shekels. There is a joint insurance policy involving a large number of men which provides that the remaining survivors on a given date will share in its benefits. As the date approaches, the beneficiaries die with amazing rapidity. Murders are suspected and established and ultimately traced to the wife of one of the insured, probably because, following formula construction, preceding incidents subject her to less suspicion than any other member of the cast. Directed by Ray McCarey.

Marjorie Weaver, John Hubbard, Cobina Wright jr., Mona Barrie, Douglas Dumbrille, Sidney Blackmer.

EXPLOITIPS: Give Marjorie Weaver and John Hubbard the marquee credits, with a special build-up for Cobina Wright jr., the debutante, in her film debut. The murderer in the plot is captured because he is a "doodler." Sponsor a "doodling" contest in which entrants decorate newspaper photos and ads with moustaches, etc. Get out a special herald resembling an insurance policy, guaranteeing an evening's enjoyable entertainment for those who see the picture.

CATCHLINES: $200,000 to the One Who Stays Alive . . . In This Mysterious, Spine-Tingling Sequence of Insurance Murders.

Invitations to Murder . . . Ten Persons Signed a Strange Pact . . . With the Last One Alive to Gain $200,000.

REVIEW DIGEST AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
	A										
37	A Girl, a Guy and a Gob (RKO)		##	##	##	##	##	##			12+
	Across the Sierras (Col)								±		1+ 1—
32	Adam Had Four Sons (Col)		##	+	±	##	##	##			10+ 1—
16	Aldrich Family in Life With Henry (Para)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2—
20	Along the Rio Grande (RKO)		+	±	∓		+	±	±		6+ 4—
	Always a Bride (FN)		∓	∓	∓	—	—	±	—		4+ 7—
36	Andy Hardy's Private Secretary (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+
	Angels Over Broadway (Col)		±	+	∓	+	##	+	+	+	9+ 2—
	Ape, The (Mono)		+	—	—	+	+	+		±	5+ 3—
	Arise, My Love (Para)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	##	15+
	Arizona (Col)		##	##	+	##	##	##	##	+	14+
14	Arkansas Judge (Rep)		±	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 2—
	B										
43	Back in the Saddle (Rep)		+								1+
21	Back Street (Univ)		##	+	##	##	##	##	±	+	13+ 1—
	Bad Man, The (M-G-M)								+		1+
	Bank Dick, The (Univ)		##	+	+	##	##	+	+	±	11+ 1—
	Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2—
	Behind the News (Rep)		±	+	±	+	##	+	±	±	9+ 4—
	Beyond the Sacramento (Col)								+		1+
	Billy the Kid in Texas (PRC)				∓						1+ 1—
	Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		##	+	##	+	##	##	+	+	12+
	Blackout (UA)		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+
30	Blondie Inspiration (M-G-M)		±	±	∓	±			±		5+ 5—
32	Blondie Goes Latin (Col)		+	±	+	+	+	+	—	±	7+ 3—
	Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3—
	Border Legion (Rep)		+		∓	+	##	+	±	±	8+ 3—
	Boss of Bullion City (Univ)								±		1+ 1—
2	Bowery Boy (Rep)		∓	±	—	+	±	±	±	±	7+ 7—
	Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		—		±	—	±		3+ 5—
	Brigham Young—Frontiersman (20th-Fox)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	+	13+
22	Buck Privates (Univ)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
	Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+
	C										
19	Case of the Black Parrot (FN)		—	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 6—
	Caught in the Act (PRC)				±			—	∓		2+ 3—
	Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2—
	Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±				±			3+ 3—
	Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		∓	+	—	+	##	±	+	±	8+ 4—
9	Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)		##	##	##	##	##	##			14+
	Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		##	+		7+ 1—
	Christmas in July (Para)		##	+	±	##	##	##	+	+	12+ 1—
17	Come Live With Me (M-G-M)		##	±	—	##	##	##	±	+	11+ 3—
	Comrade X (M-G-M)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	##	14+
11	Convoy (RKO)		+	+		+			+	±	5+ 1—
	D										
	Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±	±	+	∓	+	∓	8+ 5—
	Dangerous Game, A (Univ)				=				—	=	5—
	Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		—	±	+	±			+		4+ 3—
	Dead Man's Shoes (Mono)			±					+		2+ 1—
	Devil Bat, The (PRC)				=	±				±	2+ 4—
31	Devil Commands, The (Col)		±	—	=	+			—	∓	3+ 6—
	Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	—	±	+	±	±	±	7+ 6—
	Diamond Frontier (Univ)		∓	±	—	±	+	∓	—	∓	6+ 7—
	Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+
	Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
9	Doomed Caravan (Para)		##		+	##	##	##	+		10+
	Double Date (Univ)						±	+			2+ 1—
	Down Argentine Way (20th-Fox)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	+	13+
	Drums of the Desert (Mono)		±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4—
	Dulcy (M-G-M)		+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2—
	E										
	East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5—
	Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5—
34	E. Queen's Penthouse Mys. (Col)		±			+	+	+		∓	5+ 2—
	Escape (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	+	##	##	15+
	Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+	±		6+ 2—
	F										
26	Face Behind the Mask (Col)		+	±	∓	±		+	±	±	7+ 5—
	Fantasia (Disney)		##	##	##	##		##	##	##	14+
	Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±	±		+	+	+		6+ 2—
31	Father's Son (WB)		±	±	=	±	—	∓	±	∓	6+ 9—
	Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	—	—	3+ 9—
	Fight for Life, The (Col)		+					##	+		4+
	Flight Command (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
4	Flight From Destiny (WB)		+	+	±	##	##	##	+		10+ 1—
38	Flying Wild (Mono)		—				+	+			2+ 1—
37	Footsteps in the Dark (WB)		+	±	+	±	##	+			7+ 2—
	Four Mothers (WB)		##	+	±	+	+	##	+	+	10+ 1—
	Four Sons (20th-Fox)		##		+	##	##	+	+	+	10+
	Freedom Radio (Col)				+						1+
	Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5—
	Frontier Vengeance (Univ)		o		—	∓			±		2+ 3—
	Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		—	±	±	6+ 5—
	G										
	Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	##	+	±	±	9+ 3—
	Gay Caballero, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	—	+	+	±	7+ 4—
1	Girl in the News (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	##	+	+		8+
	Girls Under 21 (Col)		—	±	±			±	±	±	5+ 6—
	Give Us Wings (Univ)		—	±	±			+	±	—	4+ 5—
	Glamour for Sale (Col)		±	±	±		=	±	—	∓	5+ 8—
29	Golden Hoofs (20th-Fox)		+	±	+		+	+	+		6+ 1—
	Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	##	+	##	+	±	##	11+ 1—
	Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	16+
	Great Commandment (20th-Fox)								##		2+
	Great Dictator, The (UA)		##	##	+	##	∓	+	##	+	12+ 1—
	Great Mr. Nobody (WB)			±					±		2+ 2—
	Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4—
	Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	##	##	+	##	+	±	11+ 2—
39	Great Train Robbery (Rep)		+	+	±						3+ 1—
	H										
33	Hard-Boiled Canary (Para)		±	±	±		##	+	+		7+ 3—
	Her First Romance (Mono)		+	+		+	##	+	+		7+
	Here Comes Happiness (WB)			—			—	±			1+ 3—
	Here Comes the Navy (WB)								##		2+
16	High Sierra (FN)		##	±	±	##	##	##		+	11+ 2—
	Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	##	+	+	+	∓	9+ 3—
	Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		—	±	+	—		±	4+ 4—
13	Honeymoon for Three (WB)		±	±	±	±	±	##	+	±	9+ 6—
	Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	±	+	##	+	+	9+ 3—
	Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6—
	I										
	I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2—
	I'm Still Alive (RKO)		∓	±	+	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5—
34	In Old Colorado (Para)		+		+		+	+	+		5+
1	Invisible Woman, The (Univ)		##	+	+	##	##	##	+	±	12+ 1—
39	It Happened to One Man (RKO)		±		±	+				+	4+ 2—
	J										
	Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+			+	+	+		5+
	K										
4	Keeping Company (M-G-M)		—	±	—	##	##	±	+		7+ 4—
	Kitty Foyle (RKO)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
	Knute Rockne—All American (WB)		##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+
	L										
	Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4—
40	Lady Eve, The (Para)		##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
	Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	##	+	+	±	9+ 2—
15	Land of Liberty (M-G-M)		##	±	+				##	+	7+ 1—
	Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+ 1—
	Let's Make Music (RKO)		+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4—
	Letter, The (FN)		##	+	##	##	##	##	+	##	14+

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week.

The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:

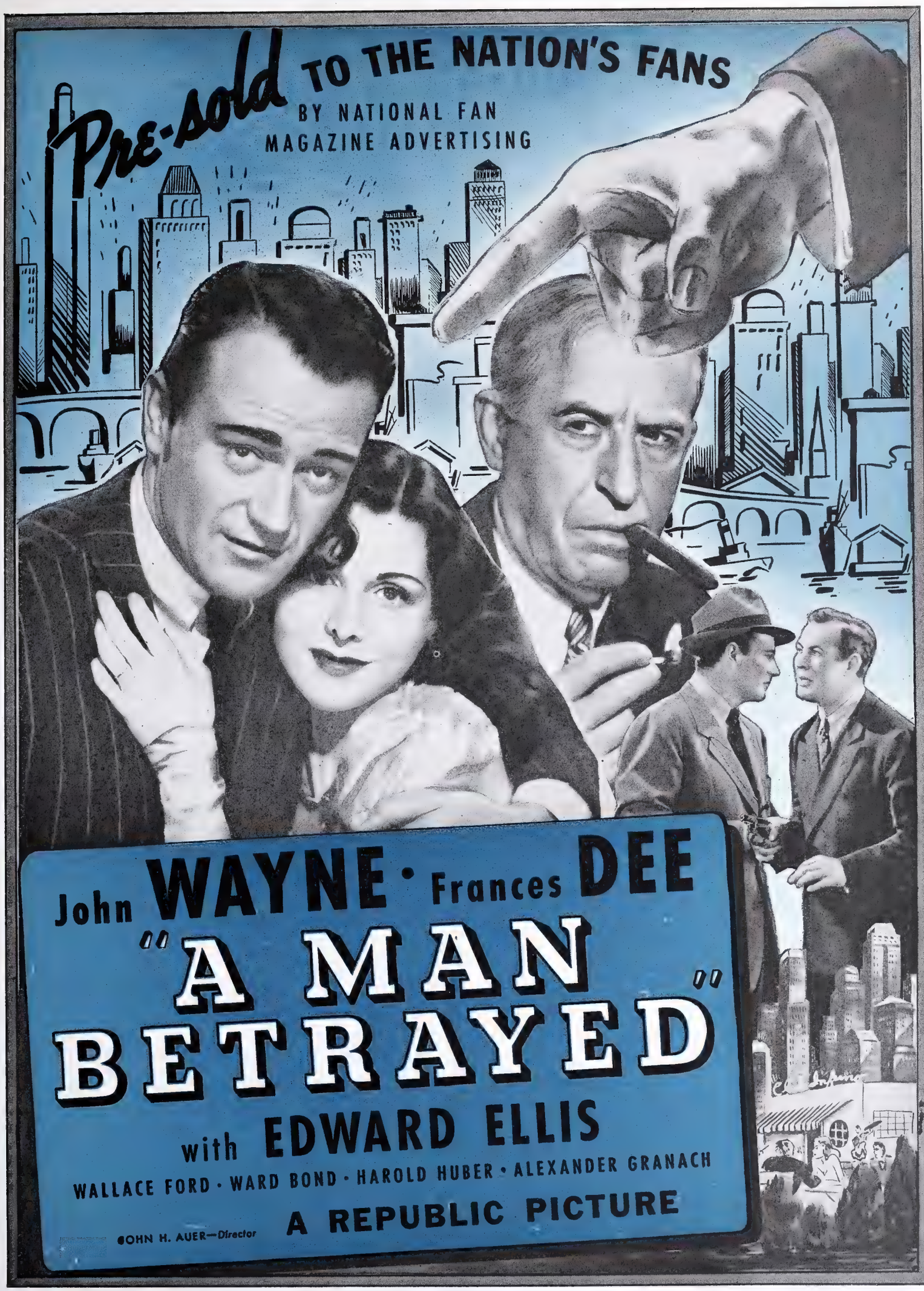
Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; — Poor; = Very Poor.

In the summary ## is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number.)

Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor. In the summary # is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
1	Li'l Abner	(RKO)	+	∓			∓	±	−		4+ 4−
	Little Bit of Heaven	(Univ)	#	+	+	#	#	#	+	+	12+
	Little Men	(RKO)	−	±	=	±	#	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Little Nellie Kelly	(M-G-M)	#	#	+	±	#	#	+	±	12+ 2−
	Lone Rider Crosses the Rio	(PRC)			±						1+ 1−
35	Lone Rider Rides On	(PRC)	∓						+		2+ 1−
	Lone Star Raiders	(Rep)	+		±	∓		+	±	∓	6+ 4−
	Lone Wolf Keeps a Date	(Col)	+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
	Lone Wolf Takes a Chance	(Col)					+	±			2+ 1−
	Long Voyage Home	(UA)	+	#		#	#	#	#	#	13+
	Love Thy Neighbor	(Para)	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	+	14+
	Lucky Devils	(Univ)		±	∓	+			+	∓	5+ 3−
	M										
26	Mad Doctor, The	(Para)	∓	+	=	+	+	±	+	+	7+ 4−
5	Maisie Was a Lady	(M-G-M)	+	±	+	∓	#	#	+	+	10+ 2−
	Margie	(Univ)	−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
	Mark of Zorro, The	(20th-Fox)	#	+	+	#	#	#	+	+	12+
39	Meet Boston Blackie	(Col)	±	±	−	+				±	4+ 4−
28	Meet the Chump	(Univ)	±	−	±	±	+	+	±	∓	7+ 6−
	Meet the Missus	(Rep)	±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
	Meet the Wildcat	(Univ)	−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
	Melody and Moonlight	(Rep)	∓	±		#	#	+	±		8+ 3−
	Melody for Three	(RKO)			±	#	#	+	+		7+ 1−
	Melody Ranch	(Rep)	+	+	+	#		#	+	∓	9+ 1−
44	Men of Boys Town	(M-G-M)	#						#		4+
	Mexican Spitfire Out West	(RKO)	+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
	Michael Shayne, Private Detective	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
	Misbehaving Husbands	(PRC)	+	±	=	+	#	+		∓	7+ 4−
27	Monster and the Girl	(Para)	+	±			+	±			4+ 2−
	Moon Over Burma	(Para)	+	+	±	+	#	+	+	±	9+ 2−
	Mortal Storm, The	(M-G-M)	+	#	#	#	#	+	#	+	13+
42	Mr. Dynamite	(Univ)	=								2−
13	Mr. and Mrs. Smith	(RKO)	#	+	+	#	±	#	+	+	11+ 1−
43	Murder Among Friends	(20th-Fox)	∓	±	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 4−
	Murder Over New York	(20th-Fox)	±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
	N										
36	Nice Girl?	(Univ)	+	+	#	#	#	+	#		11+
	Night at Earl Carroll's	(Para)	=	±	−	±	±	±	±	±	6+ 9−
	Night Train	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+	#		+	#	9+
18	Nobody's Children	(Col)	±	−	∓	±	±	±	±	±	7+ 8−
8	No, No, Nanette	(RKO)	#	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	North West Mounted Police	(Para)	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	16+
	O										
	Ol' Swimmin' Hole	(Mono)	+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
	On the Spot	(Mono)	+		−	+	+	±	±	∓	6+ 4−
	One Million B. C.	(UA)	±	±	−	+	±	∓	±		6+ 6−
	One Night in the Tropics	(Univ)	±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
	Outlaws of the Panhandle	(Col)							−		1−
	Outlaws of Rio Grande	(PRC)			+	+					2+
	P										
	Passport to Alcatraz	(Col)	+	−	±	+	∓	−	±		5+ 5−
42	Penalty, The	(M-G-M)	+								1+
31	Petticoat Politics	(Rep)	∓	−	∓	+	−	+	−		4+ 5−
	Phantom Cowboy	(Rep)				+			±		2+ 1−
	Phantom of Chinatown	(Mono)	±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
30	Phantom Submarine, The	(Col)	±	±	−	±			±	±	5+ 6−
	Philadelphia Story	(M-G-M)	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	16+
23	Pinto Kid	(Col)	+		±	+			±	±	5+ 3−
	Play Girl	(RKO)	+	±	±	±	#	+	+	±	9+ 4−
	Pony Post	(Univ)	±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
	Prairie Law	(RKO)	+	±	+	+		+	±	∓	7+ 3−
	Prairie Pioneers	(Rep)			±	±			+		3+ 2−
	Prairie Schooners	(Col)	∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
15	Pride of the Bowery	(Mono)	+	±	=	±	+	−	+	∓	6+ 6−
	Public Deb. No. 1	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+	+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
	Q										
	Quarterback, The	(Para)	±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
	Quiet Wedding	(Para)			+						1+
	R										
	Rangers of Fortune	(Para)	+	±	#	#	#	#	±	+	12+ 2−
44	Rage in Heaven	(M-G-M)	+		∓		+	+			4+ 1−
	Remedy for Riches	(RKO)	+	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 1−
25	Ride, Kelly, Ride	(20th-Fox)	±	−	−		=	−	±		2+ 7−
19	Ridin' on a Rainbow	(Rep)	∓		∓	+	+	+	+		6+ 2−
35	Ridin' the Cherokee Trail	(Mono)	+				+	+	±		4+ 1−
25	Road Show	(UA)	+	−	∓	±	−	+	+	±	6+ 5−
41	Road to Zanzibar	(Para)	#						+		3+
10	Robin Hood of the Pecos	(Rep)	+		∓	+	∓	∓	+	±	7+ 4−
17	Rolling Home to Texas	(Mono)	=		+	+	+	±	±		5+ 4−
5	Romance of the Rio Grande	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	Roundup, The	(Para)							±		1+ 1−
	S										
	Safari	(Para)	±	∓	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
3	Saint in Palm Springs	(RKO)	+	±	=	∓	=	+	+	+	6+ 6−
	Sandy Gets Her Man	(Univ)	+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
	Sandy Is a Lady	(Univ)	+	∓	∓	+	+	±	+	±	8+ 4−
	San Francisco Docks	(Univ)	∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
	Santa Fe Trail	(FN)	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	15+
27	Scattergood Baines	(RKO)	+	±	+	+	#	+	+		8+ 1−
	Second Chorus	(Para)	#	+	#	#	#	#	#	+	14+
23	Secret Evidence	(PRC)	+	±	=	+	+	−	±	−	5+ 6−
	Seven Sinners	(Univ)	±	+	±	#	+	+	±	+	9+ 3−
	She Couldn't Say No	(FN)	+	±	±	±	∓		±	±	7+ 6−
12	Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga	(Univ)	+	±	±	+	∓	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
	Sky Murder	(M-G-M)	±	±	−	∓	=	=	−	∓	4+10−
	Slightly Tempted	(Univ)	±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
20	So Ends Our Night	(UA)	∓	+	±	#	+	#	#	+	11+ 2−
	So You Won't Talk	(Col)	−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
	Son of Monte Cristo	(UA)	+	±	∓	±	∓	#	±	±	9+ 6−
	South of Suez	(WB)	+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
	Spellbound	(UA)			+						1+
	Spring Parade	(Univ)	#	#	+	#	#	#	#	+	14+
29	Strawberry Blonde	(FN)	#	±	+	#	+	#	#	#	13+ 1−
	Street of Memories	(20th-Fox)	±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
	Strike Up the Band	(M-G-M)	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	+	14+
	T										
	Take Me Back to Okla.	(Mono)	+			#	+	+	+		6+
14	Tall, Dark and Handsome	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	#	#	#	+	#	12+
	Texas Rangers Ride Again	(Para)	+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
	Texas Terrors	(Rep)	+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
41	That Night in Rio	(20th-Fox)	#			#	#	#			8+
	That Uncertain Feeling	(UA)							+		1+
	They Knew What They Wanted	(RKO)	#	±	#	#	+	#	#	#	14+ 1−
	Thief of Bagdad	(UA)	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	15+
	Third Finger, Left Hand	(M-G-M)	#	+	+	#	#	#	+	+	12+
	This Thing Called Love	(Col)	+	+	#	#	#		±	+	10+ 1−
	Three Men From Texas	(Para)	+		#	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
	Thundering Frontier	(Col)	−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
	Tin Pan Alley	(20th-Fox)	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	+	14+
33	Tobacco Road	(20th-Fox)	#	±	±	#	#	#		+	11+ 2−
	Too Many Girls	(RKO)	+	±	+	#	#	#	+	+	11+ 1−
	Torpedo Raider	(Mono)	∓								1+ 1−
	Trail Blazers	(Rep)	+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
38	Trail of the Silver Spurs	(Mono)	+		+	±	−	+	+		4+ 2−
	Trail of the Vigilantes	(Univ)	+	±	+	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
	Trailin' Double Trouble	(Mono)	∓		+	−	+	±	+	±	7+ 4−
28	Trial of Mary Dugan	(M-G-M)	+	+	+	#	#	+	±		10+ 1−
	Tugboat Annie Sails Again	(WB)	+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	−	8+ 3−
	U										
	Under Texas Skies	(Rep)	+		±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 3−
	V										
	Victory	(Para)	+	+	−	#	#	+	±	#	11+ 1−
	Villain Still Pursued Her	(RKO)	±	±	−	±	±	±	±		6+ 7−
12	Virginia	(Para)	#	±	±	#	#	#	+	±	12+ 3−
	W										
	Wagon Train	(RKO)	+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
	Wagons Westward	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	−	∓	±	±	7+ 5−
	West of Pinto Basin	(Mono)	±		±	+	#	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
24	Western Union	(20th-Fox)	#		#	#	#	#	#	+	13+
	Where Did You Get That Girl	(Univ)	+	±		±	+	+	±		6+ 3−
	Who Killed Aunt Maggie?	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
	Wild Horse Range	(Mono)							±	∓	2+ 2−
24	Wild Man of Borneo	(M-G-M)	+	−					+		2+ 1−
30	Wildcat of Tucson	(Col)	o		±						1+ 1−
	World in Flames	(Para)	+		#	#	+		+	+	8+
8	Wyoming Wildcat	(Rep)	+			+			+		3+
	Y										
	You'll Find Out	(RKO)	#	#	#	#	#	#	+	+	14+
	Young Bill Hickok	(Rep)	±		∓	+		+	±		5+ 3−
11	You're Out of Luck	(Mono)	±	±			∓	±	±		5+ 5−
21	You're the One	(Para)	+	∓	∓	∓	#	+	−	±	8+ 5−
	Youth Will Be Served	(20th-Fox)	±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
	Yukon Flight	(Mono)	+			+					2+


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1001 *Afternoons in New York*

by BEN HECHT

Joe Schenck of Hollywood



Many ironic things happen in Hollywood.

Overnight idiots become geniuses and geniuses become idiots, waitresses turn into duchesses and what duchesses turn into won't bear mentioning. Overnight in Hollywood panhandling hams blossom into Coquelins and Lorenzos and vice versa. The boulevards are crowded with royal coaches turning into pumpkins before your eyes.

It's an Aladdin's Lamp of a town, and whichever way you rub it, genii jump out and make sport of the laws of gravity and sanity.

Everybody in Hollywood is used to irony, used to every mirage and monkeyshine of Fate. There is even the irony that people in Hollywood work harder than boilermakers and that this happy land of glamour is a tougher locale for survival than the Yukon. And there is yet the more inscrutable irony that out of this wedding of Jabberwock and the Muses called Hollywood a most astonishing lot of worthy enterprise emerges, full of beauty, wit and high purpose.

But the most ironical of events ever to happen in Hollywood is occurring today in its eastern suburb, the city of New York. It is the trial of Joe Schenck.

A "Juicy Scapegoat"

Our government has decided that Joe is a criminal and should be sent to jail. Federal barristers are lambasting the hell out of Joe in open court, charging him with swindles and chicaneries against the income tax laws. And The Press of the land is happily focusing its wits and derision on this latest and juiciest of Hollywood scapegoats.

And therein, I assure you, is enough irony to give a hangman a bellyache. For of all the Nabobs and Satraps, Caliphs and Pooh-Bahs who make movies in Hollywood, Joe Schenck is the last man who belongs in a prisoner's dock. It is as ironical a piece of miscasting as was ever indulged in by his own 20th Century Company which, if you saw Tyrone Power in "Mark of Zorro," is a considerable statement.

I have never worked for Joe nor any of his companies and none of his silver has ever crossed my palm. Nor am I an intimate of his. I am merely one of the thousands who know Hollywood a little too well and who are looking on wide-eyed at the irony of the pillorying of that town's most humane and gallant gentleman.

Joe's case will never be put into the evidence, however bright his lawyers. He will sit stolidly and take the rap for whatever misdemeanors are accredited to him and like the classy gambler he has always been he will take his licking without compromising friend or foe.

Befriender of Has Beens

There will be no evidence of another fact. This is the fact that many of the hundreds of thousands of dollars Joe is accused of having deducted fraudulently in his income tax returns were dollars squandered in secret charities. Joe shelled out a goodly part of his fortune weekly and yearly to hundreds of broken down hams and glamour girls, to hundreds of one-time jolly people wriggling finally at the bottom of the heap. Joe has been the Santa Claus of the Hollywood and Broadway rubbish heaps. He has supported more burned-out stars and buried more penniless alcoholic, harlots, mimes and scribblers than any gentleman of his time. Joe won't hand in the names of these who have known his largesse as extenuating evidence because that would be against his theory of deportment.

And how the hell is Joe going to get it explained to a jury that his squandering money for entertainment expenses —parties costing from two to four grand a clip—was his honorable way of serving his company and his stockholders?

In these parties Joe created Joe Schenck and, once created, Joe Schenck became a figure of importance in a major, if cockeyed, industry. In these parties Joe learned wisdom, made friendships, dispensed cheer, consolidated talent deals, eavesdropped on ideas, rhumbaed with starlets and furthered the cause of movie-making as much as any single man connected with it. That the cause is a humptydumpty one and that it needs swimming pools and casinos and mixed quartets on the Pacific sands at dawn for furthering is none of Joe's doing. He furthered it for 30 years without making an enemy, turning down a touch, growing a deaf ear or a concrete bosom.

The Press, ever ready to pin its peacock feathers on any big name scapegoat, will see Joe's life as a dizzy and protracted Hollywood orgy. Wine flowed and women laughed and wriggled on divans, poker chips clicked and dress suits dived into swimming pools. But this was no orgy. It was Joe loving life and creating out of his doting not only a humane and gallant gentleman but an industry which brought cheer to millions and great fortune to thousands.

"Guilty of Nothing"

Joe says calmly he is guilty of nothing. But he is modest in his protest. For along with some of his other claims, Joe is also a philosopher.

"My father once told me," he says, "that if you are cold sober and haven't had a drink in weeks and five sane and intelligent people look at you and tell you you are dead drunk, the best thing to do is not to argue but lie down and take a nap for an hour."

Joe is for the present having his little nap. And as Hemingway wrote of another gentleman in trouble, Joe snoozing a bit at his counsel's table "looks pretty good out there."

Hecht Goes All Out Defending Schenck

NEW YORK—Ben Hecht, author, playwright and occasionally identified with the industry, leaps with iron-shod typewriter and typical forceful word-slinging to the defense of Joseph M. Schenck, now on trial for allegedly having defrauded the government of income taxes.

He sallies forth with that defense in "Joe Schenck of Hollywood," Tuesday contribution to his "1001 Afternoons in New York" column in *PM*. The article is copyrighted and is reprinted by special permission of that newspaper.

Hecht is not kind to Hollywood. He is less kind to "The Press," as he dubs it, for being "ever ready to pin its peacock feathers on any big name scapegoat" and remarks it (The Press) "will see Joe's life as a dizzy and protracted Hollywood orgy."

But, aside from the over-all cudgels taken up on Schenck's behalf, the Hecht piece also turns out to be invigorating reading. As the adjoining column demonstrates.

Para't Decree Analysis To Most Exchanges

NEW YORK—With the exception of four southern exchanges, all Paramount branch personnel have had the benefit of personal analyses of the decree by Austin C. Keough, vice-president and chief counsel, and Louis Phillips, his assistant. The latter has completed his itinerary, while Keough will visit the southern cities some time after it is determined if his presence is required in the trial of the anti-trust suit brought by Frank Cassil in St. Joseph, Mo.

First Annual PRC Meeting in Chicago

NEW YORK—First annual convention of Producers Releasing franchise holders will be held at the Congress Hotel, Chicago, March 22-24. To be represented will be 28 domestic branches and six from Canada. William Gell, general managing director for Pathe Pictures, Ltd., distributors in the United Kingdom, also will attend.

Financing arrangements have been completed for 63 features, 26 of which will be westerns. Budgets for individual pictures have been set by Leon Fromkess, chairman of the budget finance committee, and George Batcheller jr., in charge of production.

After the opening session, O. Henry Briggs, president, will call a meeting of the board, which consists of Briggs, Fromkess, George Gill, Harry Asher, Abe Fischer, Bert Kulick, M. and L. Lefton, Jack Adams, Louis Rutstein and William Flemion. Following this meeting the franchise holders will discuss mutual problems.

Various home office and studio executives will address the delegates in the last two days of the meeting.

Franchise holders to attend include: Ike Katz, Atlanta; Harry Asher, Boston; Edward E. Heller, Charlotte; Abe Fischer, Chicago; Nat B. Kaplan, Cincinnati; Lee L. Goldberg, Cleveland; Jack Adams, Dallas; Bernard Newman, Denver; William Flemion, Detroit; Sam H. Abrams, Indianapolis; John Muchmore, Kansas City; S. A. Arnold, Little Rock, Ark.; Louis Rutstein, Los Angeles; Charles Weiner, Minneapolis; F. F. Goodrow, New Orleans; Bert Kulick, New York; E. B. Walker, Oklahoma City; Herbert Given, Philadelphia; M. & L. Lefton, Pittsburgh; A. R. Dietz, St. Louis; Dave Nathanson, San Francisco; Ollie Wog, Seattle, and George Gill, Washington, D. C.

Boston Is First With Arbitration Hearing

BOSTON—The first hearing before the new motion picture tribunals was held Friday in the demand of Benjamin Gold for arbitration under the "some run" clause of the decree. Arthur S. Brown, Boston University Law School professor, was the arbitrator, with George S. Ryan, attorney, and Arthur K. Howard, representing the local Allied unit, sitting in for Gold.

J. Noble Braden, executive director of the tribunals, sat in as an observer. From here, he went to Chicago to attend the first hearing before that tribunal.

Chicago Case Second For Formal Action

CHICAGO—The first local case, filed here February 13 by E. F. Van Derveer of the State at Morris, Ill., was heard Saturday before Arbitrator Charles Zane Henkle, vice-president of the Continental Illinois National Bank. It involves "some run" and names Loew's as the defendant.

What the Studios Are Doing

Decree May Change Preview Routine

HOLLYWOOD—Already experiencing evolutionary pains during the past several weeks, it appears probable the film colony's system of previewing new pictures is slated for further changes . . . Because the federal consent decree provides all new product must be screened by distributors at trade showings for exhibitors, in this territory as well as in other key spots throughout the country, it is considered not unlikely that studios may arrange with their local distribution representatives to combine press previews with regular trade screenings . . . Trade showings are always held during the day, for the convenience of showmen who must be at their theatres in the evening, which time element fits in with the recently-adopted and already abused ruling of the Hays office's publicity directors committee banning evening showings of press previews in theatres . . . However, this regulation is being circumvented in several thinly-veiled ways, a fact which may be conducive to establishing the combined trade-and-press screening idea . . . First step in this direction was taken when "Topper Returns," new Hal Roach comedy for United Artists, was given a dual trade-and-press showing March 11 . . . Heretofore press previews have always preceded trade screenings by several weeks.

Selznick Signs Maugham For Original Screenplay

David O. Selznick has signed W. Somerset Maugham, noted British novelist, to write an original screenplay . . . Selznick has also purchased "Claudia," play by Rose Franken and William Brown Meloney . . . "Autumn Glory," football yarn by Richard Goldstone and Stanley Rauh, went to Columbia . . . Metro purchased "Strange Adventure," by Clyde Brion Davis . . . To Monogram went John D. Comfort's "Isle of Missing Ships" . . . Sam Marx sold "Side Streets" to M-G-M, where he is a producer . . . Warner will film "Passage From Hongkong," story purchased from the estate of the late Earl Derr Biggers.

Edward Gross to Produce "Lone Ranger" for Columbia

Edward Gross will produce four "Lone Ranger" features, budgeted at $125,000 each, independently for Columbia release . . . Arnold Pressburger, European producer-director, has joined United Artists and will produce "The Shanghai Gesture" . . . Gregory Ratoff has secured a Columbia release for "Tonight Is Ours," which he will produce and direct starring Loretta Young . . . Also for Columbia, Producer Larry Darmour has rolled a new serial, "The Spider Returns."



Proposed Georgia Law on Selling

ATLANTA—*Text of the law which would compel distributors to offer for license their full programs, including a minimum* 20 *per cent cancellation clause, follows. The statute, already passed by the senate, would vitiate the blocks of five selling method provided in the consent decree:*

To be entitled an Act to govern and regulate the distribution of motion picture films; to provide terms under which distributors or producer-distributors shall hereafter license feature motion picture films to exhibitors; to provide under what conditions exhibitors shall have the right to cancel license agreements; to bar distributors or producer-distributors from requiring exhibitors to license short subjects, newsreels, trailers, serials, reissues, foreign and western motion picture films, and/or road shows, in order to obtain feature motion picture films; to declare void any provision of any license entered into hereafter, which is contrary to the provisions of this Act; to provide penalties for violation of the provisions of this Act; to define certain motion picture film terms as applied to this Act; to cite the need of governing and regulating the distribution of motion picture films, as a preamble to this Act; to provide a separability clause as to the constitutionality or validity of the respective provisions of this Act; to repeal all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act; and for the other purposes.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the motion picture industry is made up of three branches, namely, production, distribution, distribution and exhibition; and

WHEREAS, the production and distribution branches are dominated and controlled by producing and distributing companies with great economic power; and

WHEREAS, these producing and distribution companies license, lease and distribute substantially all of the feature motion pictures exhibited in the State of Georgia and the other States of the Union; and the needs of the exhibitor requires that he license or lease feature motion pictures from substantially all the distributors and/or producer-distributors; and

WHEREAS, by reason of arbitrary terms and conditions imposed by the distributors and/or producer-distributors, the exhibitor has been:

(a) Compelled as a condition precedent to licensing feature motion pictures, to also license short subjects, newsreels, trailers, serials, reissues, foreign and western pictures far in excess of his needs or requirements;

(b) Unable to cancel feature motion pictures injurious and damaging to his business, and therefore compelled to play pictures undesirable and harmful to the public; and

WHEREAS, the long established trade practice of licensing feature motion pictures for a full season (one year) is essential to the best interests of the producer-distributors, exhibitors, and the public; but the above conditions imposed by the distributors and/or producer-distributors have subjected the exhibitors to unfair disadvantages, preventing him from responding to the community and local public influence and preferences with respect to selection of desirable feature motion picture films and are more inimicable to public welfare and against public policy; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AND IT IS HEREBY ENACTED BY AUTHORITY OF THE SAME:

Section 1. DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this act, unless the context otherwise provides:

(a) The term "person" includes an individual, partnership, association, joint stock company, trust or corporation;

(b) The term "distributor" includes any person who engages or contracts to engage in the distribution of motion picture films;

(c) The term "exhibitor" includes any person who engages or contracts to engage in the exhibition of motion picture films;

(d) The term "license" includes the offering, intending or making of a license agreement, contract, or any type of agreement whereby a film, the distribution of which is controlled by one of the parties is to be supplied to and/or exhibited in a theatre owned, controlled or operated by the other party;

(e) The term "feature motion picture film" means all motion pictures, whether copyrighted or uncopyrighted, including positive and/or negative prints and copies or reproductions of such prints, which films contain photoplays or other subjects and are produced for public exhibition. The terms shall not include films commonly known as short subjects, newsreels, trailers, serials, reissues, foreign and western pictures and/or road shows;

(f) The term "exhibition season" shall mean a period of 12 months as may be selected by the distributor and/or producer-distributor; provided, however, that there shall be no lapse of time between the termination of one season and the beginning of the next.

Section 2. No distributor or producer-distributor shall hereafter license feature motion picture films to an exhibitor in this State unless the license provides:

(a) That all the feature motion picture films, which such distributor will license during the exhibition season or the unexpired portion thereof shall be included;

(b) That the exhibitor shall have the right to cancel a minimum of 20 per cent of the total number of feature motion pictures included in such license. Such cancellation shall be made proportionately among the several price brackets, if there be such price brackets in the license agreement. Any number of cancellations, to which an exhibitor is entitled, may be made from the lowest price bracket at the exhibitor's option. The right to cancellation shall not be effective, unless the exhibitor exercises such right by giving notice thereof, to the distributor, within 15 days after being notified of the availability of a feature motion picture. The right to cancellation may be waived by the exhibitor before or after the making of a license agreement, but such waiver shall be in writing.

Section 3. No distributor or producer-distributor shall hereafter license feature motion picture films to an exhibitor in this State upon the condition that the exhibitor must also license short subjects, newsreels, trailers, serials, reissues, foreign and/or western motion picture films, and/or road shows.

Section 4. Any provision of any license entered into hereafter, which is contrary to any of the provisions of this Act is hereby declared to be against public policy and void.

Section 5. Every person violating any provisions of this Act, or assisting in such violation, shall upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding $1,000 or, in default of the payment of such fine, by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year. In the case of a corporation, the violation of this Act shall be deemed to be also that of the individual directors, officers or agents of such corporation who have assisted in such violation, or who have authorized, ordered or done the acts or omissions constituting, in whole or in part, such violation, and upon conviction thereof, any such directors, officers or agents shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, as in this section provided.

Section 6. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Act and the applicability of such provisions to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Anti Block-of-Five Bill Is Killed

Atlanta—An 11 to 7 vote in committee killed the Georgia measure, delineated on the left, which would have compelled distributors to offer for license their full programs and thus have abolished the blocks of five selling method provided in the consent decree. The bringing in of a minority report, a right the seven who favored the bill reserved, is held unlikely.

See Chances Rise For Conciliation

(Continued from page 6)

boro, Md., operated by Sidney Lust, is off the Washington tribunal calendar. This was done after all parties agreed a satisfactory settlement could be effected without a hearing.

Lust-Taylor Accord On Availability

WASHINGTON—Sidney Lust, operator of the Marlboro, Marlboro, Md., has agreed to permit John H. Taylor of the Charles, La Plata, Md., to calculate the latter's 14-day availability after the Marlboro regardless of how late Lust books films into his house. This is the basis for withdrawal of the complaint from the local arbitration tribunal.

Taylor had complained Lust's practice of holding up dates for the Marlboro had caused him to wait an unreasonable length of time. Although the 14-day clearance remains, availability to Taylor is based on the date films first become available to Lust, regardless of how long Lust takes to play the pictures. If, for instance, Lust waits two weeks beyond his availability date to play a film, it automatically becomes available to Taylor, which would then become a day and date booking.

The distributor defendants—Paramount, Loew's, RKO, 20th Century-Fox and Warner have agreed to service Taylor in the aforementioned manner.

Jersey City Complainant Will Argue Own Case

NEW YORK—Jack Fields, operator of the Cameo, Jersey City, who filed a clearance complaint against Skouras' Fulton, same city, states he will argue the case himself without benefit of counsel. Skouras' lawyer is expected to be Louis Weber.

The complaint is the fourth registered with the local AAA board and no date has been set for the hearing. Fields had previously attempted to work out an amicable arrangement with the Skouras circuit through Emil K. Ellis, attorney, but he says without success.

Fields says he has maps and other data necessary for the presentation of his case and feels that, knowing the situation as he does, there is no need for outside counsel to be retained.

Prior to his becoming an exhibitor, he was a booker at the Paramount New Jersey branch for several years. He states he wants to follow the Fulton without waiting for pictures to run in all other Skouras houses in the zone before he gets them.

River Corp. Files Plaint Against the "Big Five"

NEW YORK—The fifth complaint filed with the local arbitration tribunal involves clearance and is brought against the "Big Five" by the River Theatre Corp., operator of the Central in Pearl River, Rockland County, N. Y. The complaint alleges that the Rockland in Nyack, N. Y., which is also in Rockland county, holds 49 days' clearance over the Central, which is claimed to be unreasonable. River seeks day and date or seven days clearance.

May Return to Features

NEW YORK—Sam Sax, long Vitaphone producer for Warner in the east, contemplates a return to feature production. He declines detail.

The Docket

Buffalo

CASE No. 1—Filed March 3. Demand and submission involving "some run." Richard De Toto, operator of Genessee, Mt. Morris, N. Y. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Other theatre named in controversy: New Family, Mt. Morris, N. Y.

CASE No. 2—Filed March 6. Demand and submission involving clearance. A. A. Carlson, operator of the Carlson, Mayville, N. Y. With: Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Other theatre named in controversy: Jamestown, Mayville.

New York

CASE No. 1—Filed February 18. Demand and submission involving clearance. Hilary Theatre Corp., operating Regent, Brooklyn, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested party: Apollo Theatre, operated by Argosy Amusement Corp.

CASE No. 2—Filed February 21. Demand and submission involving clearance. Esquire Great Neck Corp., operating Squire, Great Neck, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Theatre named in controversy: Great Neck Playhouse, Great Neck, N. Y.

CASE No. 3—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance. Monseigneur Enterprises, Inc., operating Forum, Metuchen, N. J. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Film Corp. Other theatres named in controversy: Paramount, Oxford, Strand, all in Plainfield, N. J. Named as interested party: Walter Reade Theatres, 701 7th Ave., New York.

CASE No. 4—Filed March 3. Demand and submission involving clearance. Jack Fields, operator of Cameo, Jersey City, N. J. With: Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Other theatres named in controversy: Apollo and Fulton, Skouras Theatres Corp. and Orient, operated by Rosenblatt and Welt.

CASE No. 5—Filed March 5. Demand and submission involving clearance. River Theatre Corp., operator of the Central, Pearl River, N. Y. With: Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Other theatre named in controversy: Rockland, Nyack, N. Y.

Philadelphia

CASE No. 1—Filed March 5. Demand and submission involving clearance. John Geyser, president, High Bridge Corp., operating the Florence, Florence, N. J. With: Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Other theatre named in controversy: Fox, Burlington, N. J.

Washington

CASE No. 1—Filed February 7. Demand and submission involving clearance. Walbrook Amusement Co., Baltimore. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested parties: Ambassador, Forrest and Gwynn theatres.

CASE No. 2—Filed February 13. Demand and submission involving clearance. John H. Taylor, owner Charles Theatre, La Plata, Md. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Columbia Pictures Corp., Loew's, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Named as interested party: Sidney Lust, owner, Marlboro. *Settled by agreement before a hearing.*

CASE No. 3—Filed February 24. Demand and submission involving clearance. Westway Theatre, Inc., Baltimore. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc. Other theatres named in controversy: Edgewood, Alpha and Irvington.

Complainant Winner First Board Case

BOSTON—Distributors bowed Friday by unanimous consent in the first film case in the country settled after a hearing under the AAA. The decision, in favor of Benjamin Gold, operator of the Park, Nashua, N. H., came just 29 days after Gold had filed his complaint with the local tribunal asking relief under Section VI (some run) of the consent decree.

Companies filing the consents were Paramount, Vitagraph, RKO and 20th Century-Fox. M-G-M had been named in the original complaint, but was later relieved after instituting negotiations and eventually selling Gold after the latter filed his complaint.

In his statement marking the abrupt termination of the case which was filed February 13, Arthur I. Brown, the arbitrator, decreed:

Statement by Arbitrator

"At the hearing before me, an opening statement was made by George S. Ryan, attorney for the complaining party, Paulston, Inc., at the conclusion of which the defending parties above named, filed written consents. Evidence was introduced but I find from uncontradicted statements made by the counsel, that the above named distributors have heretofore refused to license their pictures to the complainant for exhibition in the Park Theatre of Nashua, N. H.

"In accordance with the consents filed with the arbitrator, I direct the above named distributors to offer their pictures for license to said Paulston, Inc., for exhibition in the Park Theatre to the extent of pictures released for exhibition to July 31, 1942, inclusive, on a run to be designated by said distributors and upon terms and conditions fixed by said distributors which are not calculated to defeat the purpose of Section 6 of the consent decree."

Trade Backs Defense To Hilt—Schenck

NEW YORK—"The entire industry with all its resources is firmly behind President Roosevelt's national defense campaign," Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board of 20th-Fox, declared in an interview in federal court. "Each of 10 companies will be represented with at least one feature and one short," the executive stated. Schenck hesitated to estimate the cost of the films but declared they total "millions of dollars."

He pointed out for his own company, that Darryl F. Zanuck had recently been appointed a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve Corps, and spent a weekend in Washington recently on the subjects which deal with social hygiene.

Zanuck is chairman of the committee, which includes Gordon S. Mitchell, manager of the research council of the Academy, and Nathan Levinson, vice-chairman. The committee, according to Schenck, is spending considerable time on promotion of the national defense campaign and has signified its intention to continue making available its services.

Twentieth-Fox will dramatize American volunteers in the RAF in "A Yank in the RAF," starring Tyrone Power, with Henry King directing. "Flight Surgeon" is in preparation, as well as "Nazi Ace in the U. S.," which is a story of an interned German ace who escapes to this country. Another will be "Pearl of Pearl Harbor," a musical with the U. S. base in Honolulu as background. "Our company also has a series of shorts under consideration along the line war officials have suggested. It is our intention to continue cooperating with the government in whatever we can do to make this country a better and safer place to live in," he stated.

Lists Other Efforts

"The whole-hearted spirit behind the whole idea in Hollywood is just another indicator that the film industry has never failed to give its best when called upon," Schenck asserted. Looking over other companies efforts he stated Columbia plans to make "He's My Uncle," a conscriptional musical starring Fred Astaire, and will also make "Red, White and Blue," which will have a military background. Important stars and directors will be added to the films as they pass the preparation stage.

Monogram is making "Navy Bound." It is one of the two independent companies to pledge support. Republic, the other, has "Rookies on Parade" in production. Top names are being selected for the casts.

M-G-M has "Flight Command" in distribution as well as "Land of Liberty." The company also has produced a short called "Our Flag." A number of important stories concerning the European strife similar to "The Mortal Storm," have been acquired and will be placed into production shortly.

Paramount, which recently completed "I Wanted Wings" as a roadshow attraction, has "Caught in the Draft," starring Bob Hope, "Little Miss Muffett" with Ann Shirley, "Power Drive" and "Forced Landing," both with Richard Arlen ready for release. Another by this company is "Among the Living," a spy melodrama.

RKO has two in preparation, entitled "Army Surgeon" and "Parachute Squadron." Harold Lloyd will release "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob" in the next few weeks and his next personal appearance will be in "My Favorite Spy," which deals with an actor's life as a draftee.

UA has "Landfall," dealing with the RAF and starring Glenn Ford. "The Angel Squadron" will be produced by Walter Wanger. Richard A. Rowland will make "The Battle of Britain."

Universal recently released "Buck Privates" with Abbott and Costello and has a sequel in work now, Schenck added.

Nine by Warner

Warner has "Three Sons O' Guns" with Wayne Morris, Lucille Fairbanks and Arthur Kennedy in production. Others by Warner will include "Sergeant York" with Gary Cooper; "Eagle Escadrille," another RAF subject; "I've Got Your Number," dealing with sabotage of communication systems; "Bomb Shelter" concerning London's underground activities during air raids; "Navy Blues" with Jack Oakie and Jack Haley; "Mother's Boys," a conscription comedy; "Dive Bomber," by Commander Frank Wead, and "Parachute Jumpers." All are scheduled to go into production soon.

This company, Schenck pointed out, produced a dozen patriotic shorts last year, some of which were winners of Academy awards, and recently intended to make a short called "The Tanks Are Coming." The story built so well a feature is now being planned. The Warner-Vitaphone shorts lineup boasts a series of "Preparedness Shorts," such as "Young America Flies," produced in cooperation with the Civilian Aeronautics Authority; "Service With Colors," produced in cooperation with the U. S. Army; "March on Marines," produced in cooperation with the U. S. Marines; "Meet the Fleet" in conjunction with the navy; "Wings of Steel" in conjunction with the army air corps, and "Soldiers of the Saddle" in cooperation with the cavalry.

Lastly the executive remarked that the Production Defense Coordinating Committee had been formed recently with Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president of Paramount as chairman. This is an affiliate of the National Defense Coordinating Committee. It includes representatives of producers, writers, directors, actors and studio craftsmen who will serve in an advisory capacity on all films being made in cooperation with the various governmental departments.

Concluding the discussion, it was declared the affiliation of the Academy research council and the U. S. Signal Corps photographic division is of great importance. Working with Capt. Charles Stodter of the Signal Corps are Zanuck, Levinson and Sam Briskin, the latter having received a captain's commission for a series of visual educational training films, the first two of which were sent by Zanuck to Washington.

SPG Goes Host; Cocktails Served

New York—The trade and daily metropolitan press were guests of the Screen Publicists Guild at a cocktail party at the Hotel Astor Friday. The fact that the SPG the day before concluded hearings with an NLRB field examiner in its petition for certification as bargaining representatives for its members in home office advertising and publicity posts was said to have played no part in the celebration.

"No ulterior motive," declared a spokesman, "just a get together." The SPG had about 40 present; the heads of various committees. The organization now awaits the decision of the NLRB in Washington, based on the findings of Examiner Dan Baker.

Buys Consolidated; Al Suchman Is Out

By BILL ORNSTEIN

NEW YORK—With the acquisition of 18 Consolidated Amusement circuit houses by Julius Joelson, Sunday, Al Suchman, chief buyer and booker for more than 10 years, has resigned and Harold J. Klein, who held the same spot at the Cocalis circuit, has replaced him. Sam Steifel, general manager of the Cocalis circuit and formerly a Quaker City exhibitor, assumes Klein's former duties in addition to his own.

First reported in BOXOFFICE, January 11, Laurence Bolognino denied a deal was cooking with Joelson. On two more occasions these columns mentioned the deal was on. However, since last October, when negotiations were first begun, the transfer of the houses had been kicked out and the deal off six different times.

Louis Nizer represented Joelson, while Charles Seigel acted for Bolognino. It has been known for some time that Bolognino has been anxious to retire due to ill health. Various circuits over the past number of years have dickered for the theatres, but were unable to get together with Bolognino. Among those who had previously talked about the houses were RKO, Si Fabian and one or two others.

Three Not Involved

Three houses are not involved. They are the Squire, Chelsea and Morningside. The 18 taken over are Ascot, Avalon, Casino, Earle, Fleetwood, Forum, Jerome, Kent, Kingsbridge, Luxor, Mt. Eden, Ogden, Oxford and Surrey, in the Bronx, and Arena, Bryant, Times and Rivoli, Manhattan. Total seating capacity involved amounts to 23,386, including 2,320 seats in the Forum, now closed.

The houses will operate under the J. J. Theatres, Inc., of which Joelson is the head. He is well known in the metropolitan area, having sold a circuit some years ago to Fox Film when Fox Metropolitan Playhouses was developing a local chain. He was next heard of in New England and recently sold his string to Mullin & Pinanski for a handsome figure.

No other changes are being made in the Consolidated personnel, it is stated.

Schenck Trial Now Enters Third Week

NEW YORK—Trial of Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board of 20th Century-Fox, and Joseph H. Moskowitz, eastern representative, on alleged income tax evasion went into its second week in federal court with the government case against the film executive regarded as weak and depending on circumstantial, and not too clear, evidence.

During the week Victor Johnson, captain of Schenck's yacht, *Carolina,* was called as a witness in an attempt to prove the yacht was used for pleasure only and not for business. Both prosecution and defense succeeded in establishing nothing more important from the captain's testimony than a "yacht is called a she because she is so expensive to keep up."

John B. Codd, comptroller of 20th-Fox's coast studio, was a witness whose most important testimony was to the effect Schenck had lost $63,894 in gambling in 1937. Harold H. Corbin, defense counsel, has firmly implanted the fact in the jury's mind that the producer wagered on anything and always paid his losses. The implication here is if he paid gambling losses which could only be collected by a code of honor, he certainly was not going to attempt to defraud the government. The so-called loan of $100,000 to William Bioff, and Schenck's strong boxes in New York, where he kept his cash, were also discussed.

Marx Brothers Appear

The most important witnesses from the courtroom standpoint were Harpo and Chico Marx, who told of gambling losses and winnings with the producer while visiting his home, his yacht and clubs. The government attempted to prove no discussion had been held regarding the possibility of the brothers joining 20th-Fox, but Chico refuted this later to the annoyance of chief government counsel, Mathias H. Correa. He stated Schenck had tried to secure his services on several occasions. The government charged this was not what Chico told its investigator in California, but the actor retorted he had been mistaken then.

Catherine Sullivan, secretary to Moskowitz, was also on the stand and gave her employer a great send off. She related how he worked night and day on the job. She stated Nicholas M. Schenck, brother of the defendant and president of Loew's, had the right to sign as power of attorney on Joseph Schenck's New York bank accounts.

Sam Silver, Schenck's barber, testified he was paid $10 weekly by the studio for shaving Schenck, but also declared Schenck reimbursed the studio.

Dolph Schadler, head of the Loew's tax department, stated he made up Schenck's returns from 1927 on with the aid of Moskowitz. He vigorously denied that either he or Moskowitz ever attempted to "cheat" the government.

Schadler also said Schenck had nothing to do with the preparing of his report, but just approved it when it was finished.

Francis T. Kelly, accountant and auditor for 20th-Fox, stated Schenck received a salary of $2,500 weekly plus "reasonable traveling and living expenses" while away from home.

Fred L. Metzler, 20th-Fox treasurer and manager of the studio, was said to impair the government's case on alleged deductions for the use of Schenck's yacht when he revealed, in a letter of Sidney R. Kent, that the yacht had been loaned for three months to the company to allow Darryl F. Zanuck, head of production, to secure a much-needed vacation and rest. It was stated by Kent that while the price seemed high it was not too costly when Zanuck's health was taken into consideration.

This was designed to refute the government charge the yacht was used for pleasure only and for no useful purpose in its loan-out.

Grace Poggi, dancer, was called to testify that Schenck had given her a car and paid her transportation to various places and parties. Her maid, Loretta Bruce, also testified her fare was paid by 20th-Fox. Mrs. Janice Dawson Pierce, 20th-Fox contractee, told of various parties on the yacht and at clubs. The government is trying to establish that Schenck charged off these parties as business expenses, while actually they were for pleasure. The defense asserts that many valuable contracts arose as a result of them. Jay Paley, brother of William Paley, head of CBS, told of financial transactions with Schenck and of gambling parties. He insisted he always paid his own bills and produced vouchers to prove it.

On cross-examination Paley revealed Schenck had visited almost every 20th-Fox office on each of the yacht's trips to South America. He declared the trip had been termed a "goodwill tour." Among some of the people who visited with Schenck on the trip were Samuel Goldwyn, Louis B. Mayer, Darryl F. Zanuck, and William Goetz. Exhibitors from Mexico, Jamaica and Panama City, all visited with Schenck on the trip and were wined and dined. The insinuations tossed by the prosecution about Graciella Avril, who joined the trip in Havana and went to California, were squashed by Paley who told of her being introduced to the party, securing a job and being taken to California for that purpose.

Praise Prosecutor's Appointment

Her parents' consent was obtained before she made the trip. The government was obviously annoyed at the testimony and Correa uttered remarks concerning "obviously friendly witnesses."

Paley also testified that election bets on the Roosevelt-Landon campaign were won by Schenck and were intended to be paid by check. He stated there was no significance in these being paid in cash.

The court then dismissed the jury and flattered Correa on his appointment as U. S. attorney for the southern district. The defense joined in praise of the prosecutor.

Harry Wilson, yacht broker, came on the stand next and told of selling the yacht, *Invader,* to Schenck for $96,000 and of the producer reselling it to him some years later for $35,000. Schenck complained his friends were getting more use out of it than he was, Wilson said. The yacht was lent to Douglas Fairbanks to make a picture in the South Seas in 1932.

The witness said that there were many business conferences on board and mentioned numerous producers and other executives whom he saw on it.

Correa attempted to discredit the witness by asking if he expected to sell Schenck any more yachts and a squabble between attorneys ended this part of the testimony.

Al Wertheimer, cafe man, testified he had used Schenck's home for gambling purposes in the summer of 1937, and the producer "bawled the hell out of him" when he found it out on his return. Lou Wertheimer also testified on various trips and gambling with Schenck, and the day's last witness was Ruth Nolander, Schenck's secretary from 1925 to 1940, when she resigned to get married.

Wants U. S. Charter On Interstate Units

WASHINGTON—Enactment of a law providing for the federal licensing of corporations doing an interstate business will be sought in Congress by Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D., Wyo.)

Inclusion of a recommendation of such legislation in the final report of the temporary national economic committee was urged by the senator, who is chairman of the committee, at its final session for the submission of suggestions for dealing with monopoly in trade and industry.

The federal licensing of national corporations, strict enforcement of the anti-trust statutes and tax relief for small businesses, the senator declared, will pave the way for the halting of the trend toward domination of our national economy by a few large corporations and "avoid the continued expansion of government control over private business."

"Do Away With Regulation"

"Such a system," he told the committee, "would make unnecessary the creation of new boards and commissions because it could be used to define so clearly the responsibilities and the duties of all national corporations that discretionary regulation would be unnecessary."

Senator O'Mahoney did not refer specifically to the film industry, which was not one of those investigated during the two years and nine months of the TNEC's studies. He did, however, refer to the oil industry, whose structure and practices closely parallel those in the film industry, in terms which could well be applied to motion pictures.

"The maintenance of free, private enterprise demands first of all that small enterprise should be effectively protected against attack by what we call monopoly," he said. "The big company which crushes its small competitor by underselling, that is to say, by selling at a loss, commits the unforgiveable economic sin. That is not competition. That is economic war.

"The national oil company, for example, which enters a little community and builds a filling station across the street from an independent dealer and, by selling at a loss, forces him to sell out or suspend, destroys the very basis of a free economy."

Civil Rights Law Action Dismissed

NEW YORK—Court news of the week slowed down considerably with the most important suit being a dismissal of an action by Harry Seaman against 20th-Fox, Darryl F. Zanuck, Sidney R. Kent and W. C. Michel, by City Magistrate Joseph Ringel after trial. The plaintiff claimed the company violated the civil rights law by using his name without permission in "Tin Pan Alley." Despite the dismissal the plaintiff claims he will file a $50,000 damage action in supreme court against 20th-Fox.

Warner examined Louis Macconnach, secretary of NBC, before trial in federal court in connection with a $100,000 suit by Booth Tarkington. The author claims Warner made "Penrod and his Twin Brother," not based on any story of his. An injunction is also sought. The film company, in its defense, claims the public associates it, and not the author, with the character as a result of the many films it made about Penrod.

Suit of Forrester Parant Productions against Marlene Dietrich was shifted from supreme to federal court because of diversity of citizenship. Action seeks $98,450, claiming the actress breached a contract made in 1938 to make a film for the plaintiff in France.

Uphold Local 306

Local 306 was the winner in a supreme court dispute against the ITOA and the People's Cinema when Justice Aaron Levy confirmed an award and ordered the defendant not to use any but local 306 men. The award was made by the American Arbitration Ass'n last month. People's Cinema claimed it was not bound by the ITOA-306 contract since it joined the ITOA after the contract was made in January, 1937, but the court ruled otherwise.

Geza Herczeg, author and writer well known in Hollywood, filed a voluntary petition of bankruptcy in federal court listing $150 in assets and $71,129 in liabilities. Among creditors are W. K. Sheehan, $2,800; Alexander Korda, $2,000, and Frank Orsatti, $250. Largest creditor is his wife, Leopoldine, $52,000.

Lee Morrison was examined before trial in supreme court in connection with a $25,000 suit against Joan Crawford. The producer claims the actress backed out on a deal to appear in a play of his, "Death Wears a Rose," and as a result of her withdrawal he lost his financial backing.

John Norling, film producer of the firm of Loucks & Norling, will be examined before trial in supreme court in connection with a $3,750 suit by Emerson Yorke, producer. Yorke claims that amount is due him on percentages under a contract whereby he introduced the defendants to the Chrysler company which gave them $80,000 for the production of two-third dimensional films. The defense claims the deal was for one film only, and that the plaintiff had been paid in full for services.

Kenneth P. Steinreich, Leopold Porrino and Milton C. Weisman, all trustees of Fox Theatres Corp., filed a plea in supreme court which will be heard March 31, asking that their plan of operation for dissolution of the estate of Fox Theatres for 1941 and their report on 1940 operations be approved, that compensation to them be fixed by the court and that they be permitted to sell land owned by Fox Theatres in the Bronx.

Trustees were appointed February 24, 1939. Their 1940 report shows a total of $167,937 in assets left, which includes $87,187 in cash, $80,000 held in reserve for a claim of $7,000,000 against Fox Theatres by William Fox, and $750 for attorneys fees to prosecute a claim for a similar amount against William Fox. Fox Theatres filed a bankruptcy petition in federal court about nine years ago, listing assets of over $35,000,000 which are practically all gone now.

Universal and its officers and directors have asked the supreme court to make William Freiday serve them with an amended complaint separately stating and numbering causes of action. Feiday is suing for $2,000,000 damages, claiming waste and mismanagement.

Seven former members of Allied M. P. Operators have filed a supreme court action against Local 306, claiming the union has not kept its agreement to employ them under an agreement made in 1937. Court action forcing the union to admit them to membership is asked.



For Friendship—

This was Willian F. Rodgers' keynoter in an Associated M. P. Advertisers address. As he was stressing the need to abandon distrust, his letter outlining M-G-M's intent, as well as much of its sales policy, under the decree was on its way to approximately 10,000 *accounts.* BOXOFFICE *now publishes the complete text, having highlighted it last week.* *(See page* 15*).*

Buys Japanese Bonds

NEW YORK—The Associated Press reports Tokio newspapers as stating Paramount had purchased Japanese government bonds worth $179,000 from "frozen" funds for which it could not obtain a permit for conversion into American dollars.

Other companies are reported planning similar procedure.

Production in '39 Cost $144,577,050

WASHINGTON — Completing its over-all picture of the film industry, the United States Census Bureau this week reported that the producers expended $144,577,050 on the production of theatrical films in 1939, the film exchanges received $243,482,000 in rentals and the exhibitors took in $673,045,000 in admissions.

Reporting on the business of the exchanges, the bureau announced that the 1939 rentals were 10.4 per cent above the $220,605,000 reported for 1929. The number of exchanges, in the same period, declined from 533 to 517, but the average receipts per exchange increased from $413,893 to $470,952.

The distribution branch of the industry provided employment for 11,332 persons, who were paid $21,195,000 in salaries and wages during 1939, the average annual earnings per employe being $1,870. In 1929, there were 9,342 employes and salaries and wages were $17,978,000. Salaries and wages amounted to 8.7 cents out of each dollar of rentals in 1939 against 8.1 cents in 1929.

Total operating or "overhead" expenses, including pay roll but not the cost of films, amounted to $33,839,000, or 13.9 per cent of sales, against $34,639,000, or 15.7 per cent in 1929.

The bureau pointed out that the producer exchanges comprise the important branch of distribution, accounting for approximately 60 per cent of the number of exchanges and over 85 per cent of the total receipts.

There were 303 producer exchanges in 1939, with total rentals of $210,938,000, an average of $696,000 per exchange, and 214 independent exchanges with total receipts of $32,544,000, an average of $152,000.

The operating expenses of the producer exchanges were $26,914,000, or 12.8 per cent of net sales, while those of the independent exchanges were $6,925,000, or 21.3 per cent. The labor cost of the independents was 50 per cent greater than that of the producer establishments, or 12.8 cents per dollar of sales against 8.1 cents.

Slightly more than one-fifth of the dollar volume, 20.4 per cent, was reported for the state of New York, California being second with 10.7 per cent and Pennsylvania third with 8.9 per cent.

Para't Sells Debentures

NEW YORK—Paramount Pictures, Inc., in a report to the SEC, tells of sale to five banks of $2,492,800 in 3¼ per cent debentures, due in 1947. The sale was made at 95.2 per cent and interest from September 1, of last year. The money is to go to payment of obligations and retirement of securities.

Harold F. Wilkes Dead

NEW ORLEANS—Harold F. Wilkes, former Paramount district manager, with the company for 27 years, died Thursday night in a local hospital.

BROADWAY

REPRESENTATIVE was the cross-section of industry executives who attended a cocktail party Thursday at which "Greece Fights Back," the March of Time's contribution to the forthcoming Greek relief drive among theatres, was unfurled for the first time. The place was Toots Shor's restaurant. By general agreement, it was voted the subject is first class and a job of careful and adroit showmanship . . . Neil F. Agnew flies west Tuesday to testify in a lawsuit. Back in a few days . . . The Warner crowd, having finally gotten the word, expects to embark for Hollywood and those 1941-42 production conferences on Tuesday . . . The Metro home office and Florida are happy for each other, to wit: "Ted" O'Shea, Joel Bezahler, Ruth Lewis, Henrietta and Eleanor Klein—sisters of Rose, Alan F. Cumming's assistant—Amy Schiff, "Lep" Friedman's niece, Helen Poyas of Bezahler's staff, Ruth Gillis of Bill Kelly's film department, Harold Goldgraben of Joseph R. Vogel's staff, and Tom Donaldson, Boston branch manager, are down that way. Tom Connors is back from the same spot, alleging he caught eight sailfish. When asked for photographic evidence, he chortled: "I threw the fish back."

Carl Moss, formerly in the advertising department of 20th Century-Fox, on Monday joins S. Barret McCormick's department at RKO . . . Burt Champion has resigned his post with the UA publicity department and, on the same day, joins Lynn Farnol's recently opened public relations office . . . S. Charles Einfeld arrived from Hollywood Sunday . . . Felix A. Jenkins and Fred Pride, who were on the coast on 20th-Fox decree business, are back . . . Charles Feldman, agent, and his wife have been in from Hollywood for the past week . . . Paul Williams, who took an active part in the prosecution of the all-industry suit, was in town Thursday. He was visiting certain important circuit operators, although he told BOXOFFICE *he has no interest, at present, in motion picture affairs . . . Cresson E. Smith on Monday will meet with the St. Louis RKO staff on the Ned E. Depinet drive. He will continue west with Leo Devaney and Harry Michalson . . . Morris Goodman, in charge of foreign activities for Republic, has gone to Mexico on the first lap on his annual tour of Latin American countries. He will be away four months.*

Barney Balaban and Austin C. Keough are back from almost a month in Florida . . . The Motion Picture Bookers' Club will hold a dinner dance at the Hotel Astor, Sunday, May 18 . . . Rose Slaten, head of Columbia's film cutting department, is mourning the loss of her mother . . . Louis Hyman, general sales manager for Lubitsch-Lesser, is on a swing of the middle west on screenings of "That Uncertain Feeling" . . . Marjorie Leczer, secretary to William F. Rodgers, is back from a vacation in Havana . . . Charlotte Sachs, secretary to Edwin W. Aaron at M-G-M, leaves Thursday for Florida . . . Harry Ruskin, who has written considerable of the Hardy family dialogue, was in town from the coast . . . A. A. Schubart, manager of exchange operations for RKO, is back from a business trip to the midwest . . . Vincent G. Hart, formerly of the MPPDA here, has been appointed a captain in the Adjutant General's office on the State staff.

Si Seadler won't be back from the coast for a few more weeks . . . John J. O'Connor, head of RKO circuit operations, spent a day at home to shake a cold. He did . . . His secretary, Norma Davis, heads for a Caribbean cruise on April 18 *aboard the* Amapala *. . . Major F. L. Herron of the MPPDA is in Arizona, recuperating from an attack of influenza . . . Howard Dietz, for years a downtown resident "off the Avenue," is about to transplant to a house at Port Washington . . . Morton Freedgood of the UA publicity staff is completing an historical novel which will be published by Reynal and Hitchcock . . . Arthur Hornblow jr., producer of "I Wanted Wings," is in town from Hollywood to look into details leading up to the film's premiere at the Astor March* 26 *. . . Sonja Henie has returned to the 20th-Fox studios . . . Harry Langdon, he of slapstick silent film fame, is here from the coast with plans for a return to the vaudeville and revue stages.*

Hal Horne flew back from the coast Wednesday and says he is now on a three-

(Continued on page 33)



—Metropolitan Photos

They Watch Topper Return—

Many local exhibitors turned out for the trade show of the new Roach comedy at the Astor the other day, as this photographic foray reveals. Top row shows Jack Hattem, chief buyer and booker of the Interboro circuit; Sam Goodman of the Century circuit and Henry Siegel of the Little Carnegie Playhouse. Below is a Randforce circuit group, including Harold Rinzler, George Longbart, Sid Dreyer, Irving Kaplan and Jack Langbaum. Finally, Ed Peskay, the producer's eastern representative, and Jack Shea of the Feiber and Shea chain.

"Doe" in Gala Debut At 7 in 4 Cities

NEW YORK—Many Broadway and theatrical personalities turned out for the premiere performances of "Meet John Doe" at the Hollywood and Rivoli, Wednesday night. Arc lights were focused at both theatres and also formed a triangle between both theatres as a slushy snow made traffic difficult. Every Warner home office executive in town was on hand for the event. Both houses held two special shows, the first at 7:30 and the second at 10 p. m.

At the same time, similar openings were held at the Hollywood and Downtown in Los Angeles, the Miami and Beach in Miami, and at the Criterion, Oklahoma City.

Warner to Decentralize Film Buying Personnel

NEW YORK — As the Warner circuit's long-term franchises with at least two distributors near the expiration mark and all buying becomes localized as dictated by the decree, the chain will further decentralize its film buying personnel, zone managers attending a meeting at the home office were informed. The session was presided over by Joseph Bernhard, general manager.

Routine operating problems consumed most of the meeting, which was followed by a dinner at Toots Shor's restaurant. Zone managers attending included James Coston, Chicago; Nat Wolf, Cleveland; I. J. Hoffman, New Haven; Don Jacocks, Newark; Moe Silver, Albany; Ted Schlanger, Philadelphia; Harry Kalmine, Pittsburgh, and John J. Payette, Washington.

From the home office, besides Bernhard, were Clayton Bond, Ed Hinchy, Harry Goldberg, Leonard Schlesinger, Frank Phelps, Sam Harris, Nat Fellman, Abel Vigard, W. S. McDonald, Harry Rosenquest, Louis Kaufman, Herman Maier and Frank Cahill.

Two More Objectionable "In Part" to Legion

NEW YORK—Two more major company releases go into the Legion of Decency's "B," or objectionable in part, classification. "That Night in Rio" is one because of "suggestive dialogue and scenes." "That Uncertain Feeling" is another, the reason being "suggestive lines; light treatment of marriage."

"Adolescence," released by Select, is condemned, the Legion maintaining "the story greatly emphasizes sex; very suggestive scenes."

UA and Universal File Reply to Gov't Suit

NEW YORK—UA and Universal have filed answers in the federal court to the government anti-trust suit against them. Both companies listed general denials of all charges and asked for a dismissal.

REVIEW FLASHES

ROUND-UP, THE (Para)—Melodrama of the triangle plot variety, with an early west locale, this should prove popular among those seeking a combination of dramatics and six-gun action, particularly inasmuch as the cast is topped by two names, Richard Dix and Preston Foster, with established following in that market. Harry Sherman produced; Lesley Selander directed.

SLEEPERS WEST (20th-Fox)—Further adventures of Michael Shayne, private detective. This is long on dialogue, short on action and story and devoid of suspense. It classifies no better than as fair to middlin' supporting material. Sol M. Wurtzel produced; Eugene Forde directed.

THAT UNCERTAIN FEELING (Lesser-Lubitsch-UA)—Triangular farce, with bedroom overtones. Story and situation are decidedly on the skimpy side, and the footage to cover both is stretched pretty thin. Has amusing situations, if far apart. Burgess Meredith takes acting honors. Merle Oberon and Melvyn Douglas are good, but trail. Directed by Ernst Lubitsch.

300 Prints and Trailers Of "Power for Defense"

NEW YORK—More than 300 prints and the same number of trailers of "Power for Defense," the first reel officially approved by the Motion Picture Committee Cooperating for National Defense, are now available to all exhibitors who have signed pledges to cooperate in this industry effort. The reels, which run 11 minutes, are gratis. The trailer runs one minute and deals with the defense training program.

To avoid any confusion with regular shorts which might be considered as part of the defense program, the committee, which is headed by Joseph Bernhard, head of Warner circuit operations, emphasizes that only those reels approved by the committee are official and that no exhibitor is required to pay for showing approved reels.

Universal Net

NEW YORK—Universal Pictures and subsidiary companies report net profit of $703,795 during the 13 weeks ended February 1, the first quarter. The figure, which is after all charges but before federal income and excess profits taxes, compares with a similar computed profit, but after provision of $60,000 as a special amortization reserve, of $395,631 in the corresponding quarter in 1940.

Extend Nugent Pact

HOLLYWOOD—Frank Nugent, former film critic of the New York *Times*, whose first year's contract as a writer for 20th Century-Fox expires in April, has been given a year's extension.

To Open Theatre for Commercial Films

NEW YORK—Harold McCracken, formerly in the shorts department of RKO and more recently president of Courier Prod., has incorporated National Documentary Theatre Co., Inc., and has taken a long-term lease on the Belmont which will be re-named the Documentary Theatre and run a combination of commercials and documentary films.

Purpose of the project is to provide an outlet for these types of films which have long been an industry headache. Major companies generally have refused to handle commercials in their theatres and advertisers have been forced to purchase playing time in independent and circuit houses.

The Documentary, which will open on or about April 5, will show commercially sponsored films daily from 10:30 to 6:30 p. m. Programs will be repeated six times daily with four to eight sponsors represented on each program. Admission will be by free ticket, obtainable only at the respective offices of the sponsors. This is designed to eliminate the prospective "bench warmers" and housewives whose desire or ability to purchase the product is lacking. An effort will be made to show films which are analagous, such as an auto manufacturer, an oil distributor, and a radio manufacturer on the same bill.

The theatre will be staffed to handle special needs of sponsors such as giveaways, samples, literature, etc. Space will be made available for advertising displays and demonstrations.

From 7 p. m. to closing documentaries will be shown at a nominal admission. Both shorts and features will be exhibited and factual Hollywood features also will be included.

Associated with McCracken will be Doti Edouard, one of the pioneers in sound recording, as sales manager. Fitelson and Mayers are attorneys for the company.

Western Electric Paying 75 Cents on Common

NEW YORK—Directors of Western Electric declared a 75 cents dividend on the common, payable March 31 to stockholders of record March 26.

Guy W. Vaughan, president of Curtis Wright Corp., has been elected a director of Western Electric. At the same time it was announced Frederic H. Leggett, treasurer and director of the company, will retire April 1 after 43 years of service. George B. Proud, assistant treasurer, succeeds Leggett.

Atlanta Leads 10 Over Depinet Drive Quotas

NEW YORK—Headed by Atlanta, 10 RKO exchanges have exceeded their quotas in the first five weeks of the Ned E. Depinet drive. The other nine branches are Philadelphia, New Orleans, St. Louis, Oklahoma City, Kansas City, Washington, Milwaukee, Indianapolis and Buffalo. The southeastern district has the leading number of exchanges in the drive.

Attacks Hays Office; Scores "Lobbying"

WASHINGTON—Lobbying activities of the MPPDA have been an important factor in enabling the producer-distributors to dominate the industry, it is charged by Donald C. Blaisdell, TNEC economist.

Reporting to the temporary national economic committee on economic power and political pressures, Blaisdell, analyzing the lobbying activities of several hundred trade and financial organizations, recommended federal registration of all lobbyists and full publicizing of their operations.

"The need for registration of lobbyists and adequate machinery for publicity grows out of the obscurity in which lobbies operate to affect public policy, and the extent to which such pressure groups distort the right of petition," he explained. "Only when Congress exercises its investigating power does the public begin to have access to the facts about legislative lobbying."

"Big Eight Controls"

The motion picture industry, he contended, is one in which the producing and distributing functions are to a large extent combined in a field which is dominated by a few large corporations.

"The smaller producing companies are compelled to permit 'the Big Eight' to distribute their films in order to have them shown at the larger theatres," the monograph stated. "In addition to this control, the movie industry exercises other controls in the form of block booking and blind selling. The producers sell their films in blocks to the independent exhibitor. In order to obtain the outstanding films the exhibitor must buy several other films which are often inferior. The independent exhibitors claim that they are often compelled to take the entire year's output of three or four of the 'Big Eight' distributors in order to get the pictures they really want. The exhibitor usually has the privilege of rejecting ten per cent, and he is not compelled to show all the films he agrees to buy, although he is required to pay for them. Contracts are made before the films are produced, and the exhibitor frequently signs without seeing a synopsis of the films; hence it is beyond his power to exercise his own choice in the type of films he will show."

Seeks Aid Since 1928

Since 1928, the report continued, the independent exhibitors have been seeking congressional aid in solving their problem. In this they have been confronted with the lobbying activities of the MPPDA, which the monograph proceeded to outline as evidenced in the consideration of the Neely bill, originally introduced in 1936.

"A similar bill easily passed the Senate in 1938, and was referred to the House interstate commerce committee, of which Representative Lea (California) was chairman," it said. "Chairman Lea said: 'I just don't see how we can do anything about the bill this session. I should not like to report it out without hearing and I cannot see where we can find time to have any at this late date.' Thus the bill was not acted upon by the House.

"The Hays organization (the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America) brought powerful pressure against the bill. It did not reach the floor of the House in 1938, and in July, 1939, it again passed the Senate, only to be again held up in the House. Hearings were held in the spring of 1940 by the House interstate commerce committee but no action was taken."

Blaisdell pointed out that many organizations and groups supported the bill and that "familiar arguments were raised on both sides." As an example of the effort made to sway Congress, he referred to the statement of one committee member that he had received letters from child stars, such as Shirley Temple and Mickey Rooney, discussing the moral and economic factors involved in the bill.

"It is quite probable that registration and publicizing of lobbyists and their activities will not wholly meet the problem confronting us," the report concluded. "However, the adoption of such a law would probably throw more light on the relationship between political activity and the concentration of economic power than any other proposal likely of adoption."

Metro Deals Alone on Next British Quota

NEW YORK—M-G-M will negotiate remittances from England with the British government on an individual basis as soon as the current agreement expires October 31, 1941, it is learned. For the current year the figure permitted to leave England is $12,900,000, this to be allocated over the eight majors.

M-G-M has objected to the method of allocating the funds because of its low operating setup in the United Kingdom. Recently, the company permitted the matter to go before arbitration and Milton J. Handler, Columbia law professor, ruled against the company in favor of the other seven majors.

Insofar as arbitration is concerned, one executive said it will never come to that again. This, in itself, is deemed indicating that, in the future, Sam Eckman, general manager for M-G-M in UK, will enter upon negotiations with the British board of trade on a basis of what the company is entitled to transmit rather than as a party to a general agreement.

Golden Plans Roadshow Social Hygiene Film

NEW YORK—E. A. ("Eddie") Golden, former Monogram sales manager, has formed University Film Productions to produce a social hygiene film tentatively entitled "The Kiss of Death," which he plans to roadshow in key centers. Monogram will not participate in the deal, although Golden has an interest with George Weeks in the latter's deal for distribution of two series of westerns through the company. Golden's first independent venture is due for release June 1.

The story is an original by M. C. Ransone and the script has been prepared with the cooperation of health and scientific authorities.

Poll Will Plumb Problems of Day

NEW YORK—The American Institute of Public Opinion, better known as the Gallup Poll, is the latest entrant in the film field.

Through a contract concluded with the American Institute of Motion Pictures, independent producers headed by Edmund Lawrence Dorfman, selected samplings of American opinions conducted by Gallup will be dramatized in a series of one-reelers, to be released one a month. The contract runs for two years, with an option for five more.

Issues of the day, such as aid to Britain, United States policy in the Far East, labor and defense industries and other topics of domestic and overseas importance, will be depicted on the basis of the poll returns, just as the 126 newspapers which sponsor Gallup's organization print them. The films will be so timed for release to follow closely the publication of the Gallup Poll findings.

The deal provides for the 126 newspapers, known in publishing circles as the "Tiffany list," to give wide publicity to the subjects as they are shown locally. Production is to start in the next few weeks, with a major distribution deal said to be virtually closed. Dorfman, a 30-year-old Harvard Law School graduate, has produced a few subjects for Columbia. Last year, during the Presidential election, he turned out a series of documentary shorts on the lives and opinions of leading candidates for the office.

Last year Gallup conducted a poll on double features which showed a slight majority of theatregoers in favor of single bills, and two weeks ago polled the country on the most popular stars.

Appeals Board Reception For Industry Leaders

NEW YORK—Van Vechten Veeder, George W. Alger and Albert W. Putnam, members of the national arbitration appeals board, tendered a reception to industry leaders and attorneys Wednesday at the Rockefeller Center Lounge.

Among those attending were Tom Connors, Leonard Goldenson, Sam Dembow, Joseph H. Hazen, Tyree Dillard jr., Howard Levinson, Robert W. Perkins, James V. Hayes, Louis Phillips, Bertram Shipman, William Zimmerman, Gordon E. Youngman, Robert Mochrie, Austin C. Keough, Charles F. Young, J. Noble Braden, Myron E. Bull, Stanley C. Thompson, R. R. Irvine, Leon Netter, W. J. Merrill and Louis Weber.

Universal Directors Renamed for a Year

NEW YORK—All Universal directors have been re-elected for another year. They include Nate J. Blumberg, Paul G. Brown, D. C. Collins, J. Cheever Cowdin, Preston Davie, Peyton Gibson, Ottavio Prochet, Charles D. Prutzman, J. Arthur Rank, Budd Rogers, Daniel M. Schaeffer and William H. Taylor jr.

NT May Move Film Buyers to Field

LOS ANGELES—Some of National Theatres' home office film buyers may be transferred to the field to assist divisional operating heads on new deals under the decree, it was indicated by Spyros Skouras, president, at the annual get-together of home office executives and zone heads at Arrowhead Springs.

At the sessions, Skouras gave considerable stress to the importance of local film buying under the new order. E. L. Alperson, at one time film buyer for the entire circuit, has been working out of Milwaukee for the past year. Milton Hossfeld, who has a home here, spent several weeks here working with Larry Kent, FWC film buyer, after his vacation.

It is stated preliminary negotiations on 1941-42 deals, where the circuit does not have franchises, will be started in New York and completed in the field with the home office executives splitting up their duties into divisions, each to take over the buying of one, where necessary.

Charles P. Skouras has been named field marshal again for the new Skouras Showmanship Campaign, which will get under way April 13 and wind up July 4. Approximately $25,000 in cash awards were distributed to winners in the recent drive which lasted 17 weeks.

Explain Effect of Decree

John F. Caskey and Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, New York, explained the effect of the decree on theatre operations. A special manual has been gotten up for the theatre group for reference.

Also on the tapis was the old age pension plan which has been discussed from time to time, and is yet not finally completed.

Various divisional heads spoke as well as a number of equipment dealers. The circuit is now planning its greatest rehabilitation drive to meet the contemplated business increase under the new national defense spending program.

Several easterners left for the east immediately following the sessions. In that group were Skouras and William T. Powers.

Among those who attended, in addition to those named, are Dan Michalove, Edward Zabel, Aubrey Schenck, Harry T. Cox, Irving Barry, Peter Lundgren and John Healy, from the home office. From the field were Arch Bowles, San Francisco; Harold J. Fitzgerald, Milwaukee; E. C. Rhoden, Kansas City; David Idzal, Detroit; Frank (Rick) Ricketson, Denver; Al Finke, Seattle; Harry Huffman, Portland; Frank L. Newman sr., Seattle. From the FWC office were Charles A. Buckley, John Bertero, Clarence Ennis, and others.

$526,628 Carrier Net

SYRACUSE—The Carrier Corp. reports a record net of $526,628 for 1940, or $1.34 per share. It compares with $18,788 for 1939. J. I. Lyle, president, reports that a record backlog of unfilled orders on hand amounting to $4,903,000 carried over to 1941.

Now It's Premiere On the Briny Deep

Hollywood—There has been that occasional premiere on board ship, but the ship has been tied neatly and safely to the pier. Along come the Warners now—they started this thing with the cross-country train of "42nd Street"—with a new high.

That new high is the momentary premiere of "The Sea Wolf" aboard the "America" as it beats its way up the California coast from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

Film celebrities will be aboard, of course.

Deal Finally Set, Goldwyn, UA Part

NEW YORK—Samuel Goldwyn and UA finally have called it a day. The distribution deal between the two which UA has constantly maintained ran until 1945, is washed up and the producer's one-fifth stock interest in the company purchased by UA itself.

The company wrote "finis" to a long and hectically argued situation with brief official word. Its statement, in strictly legalistic language, read:

"Samuel Goldwyn and United Artists Corp. announce the final consummation and formal execution of the agreement whereby Mr. Goldwyn is relieved of the obligation of distributing any future productions through United Artists Corp. and the purchase by United Artists Corp. of his unit of stock in that company.

"The agreement was ratified by the board of directors of United Artists Corp. at its meeting today (Tuesday, March 11, 1941)."

Britain and Australia On Equal Level Here

NEW YORK—UA's answer to the opposition of the Australasian Exhibitors' Congress to paying 50 per cent for "The Great Dictator" on the ground "so wicked a price for films . . . is a luxury Australia cannot afford," infers that, if exhibitors in Great Britain can afford the 50 per cent scale, so can its sister nation.

Murray Silverstone, UA's general manager of world operations, referred BOXOFFICE to his foreign sales manager, Walter Gould, for the record of correspondence which, he said, would show that the CEA in England recommended to the trade the film be booked at 50 per cent.

More for Navy Shows

WASHINGTON—Anticipating increases in the number of ships and shore stations, Congress has provided $125,000 for the Navy's motion picture service during the fiscal year beginning July 1, next, an increase of $40,000 over this year's fund.

Warner May Focus On All Big Ones

NEW YORK—Warner will concentrate on big pictures only next season, it is stated by a home office executive. The number of films to be made for 1941-42 is yet undecided, but within the next few weeks Harry M. and Jack L. Warner will get together with Gradwell L. Sears and other sales executives for final plans for the new season.

Home office executives who have been advocating the plan for only top pictures, say this is becoming more apparent in view of operations under the decree which provides for blocks of five, it is asserted.

With Harry Warner arriving from the coast Monday and Albert from Miami Beach, tentative conferences will be held with Sears, these to be followed by a coast meeting next month. Sears and a number of other home office sales executives were scheduled to leave for the coast early in the month, but postponed the trip because of the recent eastern visit of Jack Warner and the arrival Monday of Harry and Albert.

Would Ban Importation Of German Pictures

NEW YORK—In a wire to the state department, the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League urges the government to place an embargo on the importation of German films.

"Such an embargo," read the telegram, "would serve both as a measure of retaliation and a protest against the anti-American and anti-democratic propaganda contained in the films now shown in 'German quarters,' to quote Herr Hippler."

The Hippler statement referred to a cable to the New York *Times* from Berlin in which Fitz Hippler, head of the cinema department of the Reich Ministry of Propaganda, answered the President's address to the Academy. He stated Germany's ban on American film was "a necessity forced on us by America and demanded by our national honor and political self defense."

Metro Reported Dealing With Lunt & Fontanne

NEW YORK—M-G-M is reported negotiating with Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, who appeared in "The Guardsman" some years ago for the company, to make "There Shall Be No Night" by Robert E. Sherwood. Under the rumored deal, Sherwood would write the script. The stars have been on the road with the play, after a run on Broadway, and are expected to take a vacation on their Wisconsin farm before going to Hollywood, if at all.

It is understood J. Robert Rubin, general counsel for M-G-M, is handling the deal with Sherwood.

Goodemote Closes Cozy

ALBANY—Clarence Goodemote has temporarily closed the Cozy, Broadalbin.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 29)

cigars-a-day diet. Walt Disney has plans for a number of features, Horne said, but he declined to name them or discuss his trip. Dick Condon, publicity head for the company, continues on the coast for the time being, Horne stated . . . Sid Grauman, the coast showman, is in town . . . Moe Sanders of the local 20th-Fox exchange leaves Wednesday for Miami and a vacation. He will be accompanied by Murray Schoen, local exhibitor, and Leo Miskoff, theatre realtor. In Washington they will pick up Max Cohen, Universal Washington branch manager, and stop over at Pinehurst for a round of golf before proceeding to the winter resort . . . The Lion Five, M-G-M's basketball team undefeated last season, has begun practice for the new season. The first game will be against National Screen, March 29.

Charles L. O'Reilly flew in from Hollywood, Fla., to attend the annual meeting of Loft directors. He returned south Wednesday to resume his vacation . . . Billy Brandt returned early in the week from Miami Beach and reports brother Harry will be back Tuesday, from the same spot . . . Jack Goetz was in Washington Wednesday on DuArt Lab. business . . . J. J. Milstein left Friday for Mexico City and a vacation . . . Arthur Gottlieb has gone back to Canada, after a few days in town . . . Jim Mulvey, Samuel Goldwyn's eastern representative, has a new line when he's seen with the UA crowd. Now that Goldwyn has sold out his interest as a UA partner, Mulvey says he's "a guest" when in the company of UA men.

Bob Perkins, who has been ill with pneumonia, is in fine fettle again after a vacation in Georgia, most of which was spent hunting . . . Arthur Seigel, whose exhibition activities now center in Jacksonville, Fla., is due to arrive Monday for a short stay . . . Lou Johnson, head shipper at the local M-G-M exchange and president of Local B-51, returns Monday from a vacation at Miami . . . Gene Fowler is another visitor from the coast . . . Charles Moss and the missus left over the weekend for Miami . . . James Coston left Wednesday night by train for his headquarters in Chicago after a few days in town. He reports business as good in his home town . . . Charles Goetz is still around, which means that coast vacation trip is off again . . . Ben Amsterdam, the Philadelphia exhibitor, got back from Miami complaining about the 14 days of rain he ran into on his vacation.

Herman Wobber, 20th Century-Fox's general sales manager, is on the coast . . . Ditto S. Barret McCormick, for RKO . . . Lou Johnson, head shipper at the M-G-M exchange, is in Florida. From the same office, Sue Armand, Ben Abner's secretary, and Moe Rose, New York booker, are on vacations . . . Rose Mirell, secretary to Leon Netter, Paramount circuit executive, is nursing a torn leg ligament as a result of a trolley accident . . . March 10 appropriately enough rounded out the 10th anniversary for Mitzi and Arthur Jeffrey—he is one of Monroe Greenthal's UA staff . . .



Well Wishers—

A toast to "Arizona" was in order when these five met this week at the Hollywood Beach Hotel, down on the edge of the Gulf Stream in Florida. Four of his friends are sharing Louis Weinberg's hope for the continued success of the feature whose premiere at Tucson he attended prior to coming south for his midwinter vacation. Weinberg, second from left, is circuit sales executive for Columbia. The others are, left to right, Mrs. Weinberg, Eddie Goldstein, former sales manager for Warner, Mrs. Louis Goldstein, wife of an executive of the Schine circuit, and Mrs. Eddie Goldstein.

William F. Rodgers, Mrs. R., and daughter, Myrtle Anne, are in Hollywood, the one in Florida . . . Bernie Brooks, film buyer and general manager of the Rosenblatt-Welt Circuit, has been nursing a bad cold at home . . . Ditto Oscar Doob.

Eddie Schnitzer is back from Miami where he went to recuperate from a recent gallstone operation . . . Adam Adams, Paramount partner in Paterson and Newark, is south to take in a bit of that Miami sun . . . Mort Spring has returned from a three-week vacation at Tucson . . . Collier Young, studio RKO story editor, is back on the coast after a two-week visit in the east . . . Leo Abrams started Monday as local exchange head of National Screen. The post is newly created . . . Moe Silver has returned to his desk at Albany after a Miami layoff . . . Leo Spitz has gone back to the coast . . . J. Robert Rubin, although he is not keen about the coast as a general rule, is there spending part of his vacation, the rest of which will be taken at resorts in the desert . . . Loretta Young has been here from Hollywood . . . James Whale and William Boyd are visiting the Great White Way.

Morris Kutinsky is back from Miami and Matty Kutinsky was due over the weekend after a 10-day siesta on the southern beaches . . . Arthur Loew returned from the coast the latter part of the week. His South American trip has been delayed for the time being, but he will make it later on . . . Joe Rosthal of M-G-M's foreign department is back after being out three months due to illness . . . Max Fellerman has returned from a West Indies cruise and a few weeks at Miami Beach . . . Zella Smith, secretary to R. H. Emde, RKO division manager, has left for Hollywood on a six-week vacation . . . Sol Schwartz did a terrific job on that "Kitty Foyle" contest in his Bronx and Manhattan RKO houses . . . Myer Schine is in Miami. He has been there a few weeks, taking his wife who had been ill and is now on the road to recovery.

Ned E. Depinet returns Monday from a three-week business trip to the RKO studios. There is no telling when George J. Schaefer will head for his headquarters in the RKO Building again . . . Joe Ornstein, cashier at the 20th-Fox branch in Pittsburgh, is a father for the second time, the latest arrival being a seven-pound boy . . . Joe Schoen has returned from Miami climes . . . Mike Rudin of Rapf and Rudin left over the weekend for Miami Beach . . . I. Seider has returned from the Keys with a goodly quota of fish. He reports brother Joe doing well, but not so much with the rod. He is an expert fisherman when in fine fettle . . . Louis Nelson, Herman Becker and Dan Seider are in the south on vacations . . . Joe Under is winding up his first week at Palm Beach . . . Sam Rinzler, who has been away a month, is due back Monday from Miami . . . Joe Hornstein's wife has returned to Florida after spending a week here. She came back with her husband and is now with her son who will finish college in Miami.

Hal Roach left for the coast a few days ahead of the trade screening at the Astor of "Topper Returns." Among those who were on hand for the local showing were Jack Hattem, Sam Goodman, Harold Rinzler, Irving Langbard, Irving Kaplan, Jack Langbaum, Jack Shea, Henry Seigel, Irving Renner and a number of others . . . Lee Kamern, manager of the Astor, is boasting of the fact his great danes, Sondra and Yak, are parents of six females and two males . . . Richard Baer and Perry Ferguson, production assistant and art director for Orson Welles, are in from the coast discussing plans for the next picture to be made in Mexico, starting mid-April.

Operating Weekends

ALBANY—The Regent, one of three Schine houses in Amsterdam, is now operating weekends. It was closed last summer, but was not relighted in September, as expected.

Republic Has 17 of 34; Want No More

CHICAGO—Now directly owning 17 of the 34 exchanges distributing Republic product, the company does not plan to acquire any more, James R. Grainger, president, reveals.

Denying that Republic might adopt the old First National sub-franchise plan, Grainger says that about 37 per cent of the company's business is handled by the 17 exchanges it owns.

Republic Inks Pact for "Ice Capades" Feature

KANSAS CITY—Herbert J. Yates and M. J. Siegel for Republic and John H. Harris for Ice Capades, Inc., formalized here Thursday a contract for the production by the studio of a feature based on the ice show current at the Pla-Mor rink here. Also participating in the conference was Bobby North, who will produce the film, tentatively said to be titled "Ice Capades of 1941." Joseph Santley is said to be top nominee for the directorial berth.

All executives departed early Friday morning by plane for their respective offices; Yates to New York, Harris to Pittsburgh, and Siegel and North to Hollywood.

The entire cast of the ice show is to be used in the film.

National Film Carriers Likely to Retain Clark

NEW YORK—James P. Clark, head of Horlacher's Delivery Service, is slated to be re-elected president of the National Film Carriers at the annual convention to be held at the Park Central, May 12-14.

Home office executives of the various companies will speak to the delegates, as is the usual custom. Clint Weyer, secretary, is in charge of details and arrangements.

Columbia Sets Awards In Goodwill Campaign

NEW YORK—A series of awards to Columbia branch managers, salesmen, office managers and bookers has been set up as a further stimulus for the "Columbia Exhibitors Goodwill Campaign," under the direction of Rube Jackter, assistant sales manager. In addition, there will be special cash bonuses to the 10 leading salesmen who show the greatest improvement in accounts sold by May 30, as compared to those sold by June 8, 1940.

Eastman Net $21,537,577

NEW YORK—Eastman Kodak net for 1939, including all wholly-owned subsidiaries except those in Germany, was $21,537,577, equivalent to $8.55 on each share of common. Consolidated net, including only net profits of the parent company and wholly-owned subsidiaries in this hemisphere, was $20,076,739. This is equivalent to earnings of $7.96 on each of the 2,488,242 shares of no par common outstanding after deducting dividends paid on the preferred.



Excited About Her—

This is Veronica Lake, who plays the feminine lead in "I Wanted Wings." Paramount is much enthused and much excited over her. Miss Lake came east for a day or so from Canada and, as this is read, is back once more in Hollywood.

Depicts Decree as Easing "Huge Economic Burden"

NEW YORK—Speaking on the general subject, "Arbitration in Action," J. Noble Braden, executive director of the arbitration tribunals, told audiences at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and the Harvard School of Business here that the decree and its provisions for arbitration of disputes "lifted a huge economic burden from both the government and the movie industry at a time when all our resources should be directed towards maintaining internal unity and peace."

"Pot O' Gold" Premiere Welcomed in Mexico

NEW YORK—The enthusiastic cooperation of the Mexican government in the forthcoming premiere of James Roosevelt's film, "Pot O' Gold," to be premiered in Mexico City, April 12, has been assured by an official proclamation setting April 12 to 15 as Motion Picture Industry Festival days.

The proclamation, issued by Senor Don Miguel Aleman, Mexican secretary of state, assures a personal invitation from President Avila Camacho to industry leaders to attend the premiere.

Trans-Lux Profit

NEW YORK—Trans-Lux reports a net profit of $76,083 for the year ended Dec. 31, 1940, after depreciation, amortization and other charges. This amounts to 10 cents a share on the 724,803 capital stock, excluding 60,357 shares in the treasury. In 1939, the company reported a net of $85,858, which amounted to 12 cents a share.

Government Fines Ascap $35,250

MILWAUKEE—Total fines of $35,250 were assessed by Federal Judge F. Ryan Duffy against Ascap and 19 corporate members in the government's anti-trust action against the society after pleas of *nolo contendere* had been entered by all defendants.

Gene Buck, head of Ascap; E. C. Mills, chairman of the administrative committee, and John G. Paine, general chairman of the society, were each fined $1,500, while the remaining 23 directors were assessed $500 each. In addition, the society was fined $5,000 and the 19 corporative members $750 each.

Victor O. Waters, special assistant to the attorney general, recommended to the court that the maximum fine be assessed against the society, inasmuch as the department has long complained about Ascap's activities. He declared that the real objections to the society's activities are corrected by the consent decree entered into by Ascap March 4 and as a result he said he felt jail sentences were not required.

All directors of the association, with the exception of six who were unable to be present because of illness or because they were out of the country, were in the courtroom.

As a further restriction upon Ascap activities in Wisconsin, the state senate passed and sent to the assembly the Cashman bill, which authorizes the secretary of state to enforce the 1937 statute providing for a $25 annual license fee for all Ascap agents and the collection of a 25 per cent tax on the total receipts of the society in Wisconsin.

Schaefer Staying Out of Orson Welles Incident

NEW YORK—George J. Schaefer, RKO president, advises BOXOFFICE from Hollywood that he will not be drawn into the Orson Welles release-it-or-go-to-court incident occasioned by the company's refusal to set a date on "Citizen Kane." Schaefer confined himself to the remark: "When a definite release date is set, we will advise those interested."

Welles, who produced, directed and stars in the film, issued an "ultimatum" to RKO to release it by March 30 or face possible legal action. He denied, as charged, that the script followed the life pattern of William Randolph Hearst, who has demanded that RKO hold up release on that account.

Welles told the press the script had been approved both by RKO and the Hays organization.

Chain Cuts Losses

NEW YORK—Wilmer and Vincent Corp., operating theatres in Pennsylvania and Virginia, report a loss of $31,661 for the year ended July 31, 1940. This compares with a loss of $71,878 for the preceding fiscal year.

Ten Arbitrators Are Designated in Albany

ALBANY—Ten arbitrators, representing a minimum panel only, have been designated to hear complaints filed here. The selections follow:

John Braun, attorney, 100 State St.

John B. Cantwell, CPA and vice-president, Delaware Telephone Co., 100 State St.

Thomas Fitzgerald, investment broker, 483 State St.

Louis Groch, manager, J. S. Bache & Co., Hotel Ten Eyck.

Morton J. Hall, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., 11 N. Pearl St.

Addison Keim, executive vice-president, First Trust Co. of Albany.

Eugene Orvis, industrialist, 112 State St. (home).

David M. Schneider, director, Bureau of Research and Statistics, department of social welfare, 112 State St.

Alfred J. Sporborg, Stefel Bros., Inc., 80 State St.

Charles J. Tobin, lawyer, 100 State St.

First Cleveland Case Hearing March 26

CLEVELAND—The first case filed with the local arbitration tribunal on February 15, involving clearance and brought by Ellet Amusement Co., will be heard March 26 with Dan B. Cull as arbitrator. Cull is a former municipal judge, two times member of the Civil Service Commission, one of the leading members of the Chamber of Commerce arbitration panel and member of the law firm of Cull and Fuller.

The complainant, Louis Israel, owner of the 800-seat Ellet now under construction on the outskirts of Akron asks for an irrespective run. He also asks that existing contracts between W. L. Hart, operator of the Norka and Rialto and the "Big Five" granting seven days' protection to these theatres be declared inoperative.

Legal Lights for Capital Hearing

NEW YORK—Two "Big Five" attorneys who were prominent participants in the formulation of the decree will represent their companies in the arbitration demand filed in Washington by Thomas D. Goldberg, operator of the Walbrook, Baltimore, against Warner, 20th Century-Fox and the Durkee circuit on clearance. The hearing will be before Arbitrator E. Barrett Prettyman, March 25, and Howard Levinson of Warner's home office legal staff will plead his company's case, while John F. Caskey, of Dwight, Harris, Koegel and Caskey, counsel for 20th Century-Fox, will represent the latter.

M-G-M Not a Party to Ben Gold Proceedings

BOSTON—On advice from Tyree Dillard jr., home office counsellor, Tom Donaldson, local M-G-M branch manager, has worked out an arrangement with Ben Gold of the Park, Nashua, N. H., whereby M-G-M will not be a party to the defense arbitration proceedings brought by the independent exhibitor.

Insofar as the M-G-M angle is concerned, the case is settled and other distributors are reported to be interested in the procedure.

In his complaint, Gold contends he has been unable to buy major product for his theatre on the allegation that the Shea circuit tied it all up for its two Nashua houses.

It's Excellent

New York—"Greece Fights Back," approximately 10 minutes in length, is the March of Time's contribution to the Greek War Relief drive about to get under way by the entertainment world.

It is a topnotch subject, handled in the distinct style which punctuates all of the March of Time's efforts. Succinct, dramatic, shy of overstatement, it tells in stirring photographic terms and in narration the fight of the Greeks for freedom. Proceeds go to the campaign fund, of course, but of additional importance here is the fact the subject is highly worthwhile and deserving of any exhibitor's screen time. —K.

Confirms M-G-M Settlement With Nashua Exhibitor

NEW YORK—Tyree Dillard, M-G-M lawyer who was secretary to the NRA appeals board in New York during its operation, confirms settlement of the Nashua action as it concerns M-G-M, but declines to give details. He says the action was worked out between the M-G-M Boston manager and Ben Gold, the exhibitor involved.

Dillard also admits there are a number of other cases pending in which M-G-M is a defendant and which the company is trying to work out amicably.

Ken Theatre Case Hearing March 20 in Chicago

CHICAGO—March 20 has been set as date for the hearing in the "some run" arbitration case of the Ken Theatre against Paramount and RKO, with the Arthur Schoenstadt circuit named as interested parties.

Case No. 2 before the local tribunal, it was filed February 18.

RKO, Reade Associates Tender Showman Party

NEW YORK—Walter Reade was tendered a party by his associates and RKO executives at the Rockefeller Center Luncheon Club on the opening of the new Trent, Trenton. On Thursday ground was broken for a new RKO theatre to be erected on Brunswick Ave., same city, in which Reade also has an interest.

Malcolm Kingsberg presented a watch as a token. Another gift was given Junior Reade on his entrance into the army air corps. Among those present were J. J. O'Connor, Leon Goldberg, Fred Meyers, Leslie Thompson, Alex Reoch, James M. Brennan of RKO, and Richard Huber, Allan Wolf and Charles Bryan of the Reade office.

Wintry Blast Chills Broadway Grosses

NEW YORK—In one of those delayed action passes that caught most of the town off guard, Old Man Winter swooped down on Broadway and threw it for a substantial retreat. By the time some fresh opposition in the form of Lent, the city-wide bus strike and the need for hip boots to venture out were thrown in, the whole week represented something of a loss. The entire weekend was ruined, boxoffice wise, and it carried over to a devastating Monday, never an especially good day at best.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 22nd roadshow wk. 90
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 17th roadshow wk. 115
Capitol—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M) 95
Criterion—**The Trial of Mary Dugan** (M-G-M) 90
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 11th wk. 90
Paramount—**The Lady Eve** (Para't), 2nd wk., plus stage show 100
Radio City Music Hall—**So Ends Our Night** (UA), 2nd wk., plus stage show 90
Rialto—**Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery** (Col). 85
Rivoli—**Back Street** (Univ), 4th wk. 85
Roxy—**That Night in Rio** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 110
Strand—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), 3rd wk., plus stage show 100

See Top-Flight Product Overcome Philly Storm

PHILADELPHIA—A record snowstorm failed to put much of a blanket on business, although it tied up transportation. Good product brought the customers out to most of the houses in spite of the weather. "Fantasia" went into its third week, still strong, and "Philadelphia Story," though in its second run, registered its seventh week downtown with a healthy gross.

Detail for the week ending March 7:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Fantasia** (Disney), 3rd wk. 145
Boyd—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M) 95
Earle—**Life With Henry** (Para't), plus Lou Holtz on stage 115
Fox—**Western Union** (20th-Fox) 95
Karlton—**The Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 2nd run, 3rd wk. 150
Keith's—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA), 2nd run. 100
Stanley—**Virginia** (Para't) 110
Stanton—**Flight From Destiny** (WB) 100

Capital Par Doubled by "Mr. and Mrs. Smith"

WASHINGTON—Romance had its innings last week as "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" topped the menu, with "Come Live With Me" and "This Thing Called Love" in the entree brackets. "So Ends Our Night" failed to clock, despite the timeliness of refugee themes. "High Sierra," with good cast and favorable reviews, aided by a stage presentation, surprisingly out of the running.

Detail for week ending March 6:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M), plus stage show 135
Columbia—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA), 2nd run. 70
Earle—**High Sierra** (FN), plus stage show. 90
Keith's—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO) 200
Metropolitan—**This Thing Called Love,** moveover from Earle 125
Palace—**So Ends Our Night** (UA) 80

Formulate Plans for Variety Convention

NEW YORK—Offering evidence that considerable effort is under way to make the National Variety Clubs convention in Atlantic City, May 15 to 17, surpass last year's success, the organization has formulated a tentative program as follows:

Opening day, arrival and registration of delegates and guests at the Traymore Hotel. There will be a meeting of national officers and canvassmen the same morning to be followed by a luncheon. There will be a fishing and boating party in the afternoon and a boxing and wrestling exhibition in the evening.

May 16 will be consumed with business activities; reports of national officers and committeemen, reports of charitable efforts and commitments for the ensuing year. In the evening there will be a lobster dinner at Hackney's, to be followed by a night club party at the largest club in town.

On Saturday morning there will be a golf tournament, at which exhibition golf will be played by outstanding professional and amateur golfers. That afternoon there will be a boardwalk parade and pageant. The evening will feature a farewell banquet, which will be limited to 1,000.

The following additional committees are announced by John H. Harris, National Chief Barker:

Trailer and Shorts—George F. Dembow, National Screen.

Banquet—Earle F. Sweigert of Philadelphia.

Printing Supplies—Harry Kalmine, Pittsburgh.

Pier and Theatre Courtesies—Frank Gravatt, Atlantic City.

The complete national publicity committee now stands as follows: Chick Lewis, *Showmen's Trade Review*, chairman; Red Kann, BOXOFFICE, co-chairman; James Cunningham, *Motion Picture Herald;* Abel Green, *Variety;* Chester Bahn, *Film Daily;* Sam Shain, *Motion Picture Daily;* Eli Sugarman, *Billboard;* Ray Lewis, *Canadian Moving Picture Digest;* Herb Miller, *The Exhibitor;* Arthur Ungar, *Daily Variety;* William Wilkerson, *Hollywood Reporter;* Mo Wax, *Film Bulletin*, Lionel Toll *The Independent;* Welford Beaton, *Hollywood Spectator;* Pete Harrison, and Jim Finn, *International Projectionist.*

Harris Sees Biggest Convention to Date

KANSAS CITY—Here to close a deal with Republic for production of a picture based on his "Ice Capades" show, John H. Harris, president of Variety Clubs of America, predicted that the annual Variety convention in Atlantic City would top any in the series of spectacular affairs.

Another activity occupies Harris wherever he goes. As general chairman of the Greek Relief Drive, he discussed plans for the campaign in this area with Robert F. Withers, Kansas City chairman. Enthusiastic about the national reaction, Harris predicted that the exhibition branch would exceed the $1,000,000 quota by a substantial margin.

Good Greek Relief Terre Haute Net

Terre Haute, Ind.—Abe Kaufman reports good Tag Day and midnight shows for the Greek War Relief drive. Promoted by the Orpheum and the Fountain, the single day netted $1,700 for the Greeks.

Over 6,000 Theatres in Greek War Relief Drive

NEW YORK—More than 6,000 theatres throughout the country will participate in the Greek War Relief Drive and approximately 500 houses will hold special midnight variety shows supplementing the regular film program, according to Adolph Zukor, chairman of the amusement industry division. The drive period is from March 25 to March 30.

M-G-M has produced, and National Screen will service gratis, a special trailer to be shown during the period of lobby collections. It features Melvyn Douglas and runs 175 feet.

Gala midnight shows will be run by Jules J. Rubens and John Balaban in Chicago; the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra will be the feature of a special show in Minneapolis arranged by John J. Friedl; Shea's Great Lakes in Buffalo is sponsoring a special event under the direction of Vincent McFaul; in Boston, M. J. Mullin has arranged an elaborate event at the Metropolitan as well as 55 special midnight shows throughout New England; the Griffith Amusement Co. will put on 50 special shows in Oklahoma, and 48 shows have been set for the Pittsburgh area by Harry Kalmine.

Albany Perfects Plans For Greek Relief

ALBANY—The second meeting to perfect plans for the Albany exchange territory's observance of Greek War Relief Fund Week, March 25-30, was held at Warner Theatres upstate headquarters here. Chain and independent exhibitor leaders and representatives of other branches of show business, attended. Reports on pledges of cooperation were read. The highlight of the celebration in Albany will be a midnight vaudeville and film show at Fabian's Palace March 22. Other local theatres are helping to sell tickets for it.

Co-chairmen of the drive in this territory are M. A. Silver, Warner zone boss, and Bernard G. Kranze, RKO branch manager. Working with them are these exchange managers: Herman Ripps, M-G-M; Clayton Eastman, Paramount; M. A. Grassgreen, 20th Century-Fox; Paul Krumenacker, Warner-Vitagraph; Jere Spandau, Universal; Joe Miller, Columbia; Arthur Newman, Republic, and Nate Sodikman, Monogram. Charles Ost, National Screen manager, is also on executive committee.

Circuit executives cooperating are: J. Myer and Louis Schine, Mike Kallett, William E. Benton, William E. Smalley, Walter Reade jr., James P. Faughnan, Warner Theatres contact manager; Lou Golding, Fabian division manager, and Joe Shure, booker.

Exhibitors: Harvey English, Hancock; Chris Buckley, Bennington; Ernie Dodds, Lake Placid; Jim Papayanakos, Gouverneur; Alex Papayanakos, Canton; Sid Dwore and Johnny Gardner, each operating two theatres in Schenectady; Henry Frieder, Hudson; John Yanakis, Potsdam; Charley Wilson, Troy; John Yanakis, Potsdam.

Alex Sayles, Palace manager, and Charles A. Smakwitz, Warner Theatres district manager, are on the publicity and entertainment committee. Andrew Antoinette, president of the operators' union, and Henry Harris of the stagehands' local, are among others assisting.

Way Open for Sunday Shows in Delaware

DOVER, DEL.—The state legislature has paved the way for Sunday shows, provided Delaware's cities and towns can persuade their councils they want them.

Both houses passed a bill revising the 200-year-old blue laws, and have sent it to Gov. Walter W. Bacon, who says he will study the measure before acting on it. Most political observers expect him to sign.

The measure would place a flat ban on Sunday shows and other Sunday amusements in rural districts, and also in cities and towns during the hours before noon and between 6 and 8 p. m. During the rest of the day, amusements would be up to the discretion of the city and town councils.

Passage of the bill followed a hectic Sunday during which Atty.-Gen. James R. Morford directed a campaign for strict enforcement of the old laws' ban on all worldly activities, resulting in the arrest of 500 trolley motormen, milkmen, paper deliverers, etc. That demonstration of the unworkability of the ancient statutes under modern conditions hastened the legislature's action.

Film men generally have stayed aloof from the controversy. However, they are expected to join the campaign for a liberalized Sunday in their respective communities if the governor signs the bill providing for "home rule" in that regard.

No New Skouras Drive; Stress Greek Relief

NEW YORK—There will be no spring drive for the Skouras circuit this spring, it is stated at the home office. All theatres will put on special shows for the Greek War Relief Drive the week of March 25. Chamberlin Brown, the theatrical producer, is cooperating on lining up talent.

Affiliated Units Clash

DETROIT—A suit over clearance involving the Uptown, RKO affiliate, and the Royal, jointly operated by United Detroit Theatres, Paramount affiliate, and the Wisper & Wetsman independent chain, was ready to start Friday in circuit court here.

Charles Pathe to U. S.

NEW YORK—Charles Pathe, French film pioneer, is due here on a business trip, reputedly, however, not on pictures.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

A Handsome Turnout Greets "John Doe"

Stars, executives, writers, directors and other film colony notables by the hundreds dusted off their ermine wraps and polished up their patent-leathers to be on hand when Warner gave the Frank Capra-Robert Riskin production, "Meet John Doe," its world premiere at Warner's Hollywood.

The first such gala event to be on the local social calendar for many a month, the premiere was of the lavish variety, all seats reserved, and those attending were forced to brave hordes of autograph fans who packed the bleachers erected for the occasion on each side of the theatre lobby. To keep order, 150 Los Angeles police and 30 studio guards were pressed into service. Attending, in addition to the Capras, Riskin and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Cooper, were:

Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Taylor, Walter Brennan, Edward Arnold, Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, Gene Raymond and Jeanette MacDonald, Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman, Marlene Dietrich, Deanna Durbin, Charles R. Rogers, Harry Cohn, Jesse L. Lasky, Cecil B. DeMille, Harry Rapf, Y. Frank Freeman, Ernst Lubitsch, Leo McCarey, Richard A. Rowland, David Butler, Al Lichtman, Sam Zimbalist, Mitchell Leisen, Mark Hellinger, Preston Sturges, Wolfgang Reinhardt, Walter F. Wanger and Joan Bennett, and B. G. DeSylva, in addition to scores of others.

As a part of the ceremony, Capra was presented with a scroll signed by players who have appeared in his past pictures—Cooper and Miss Stanwyck, Gable, James Stewart, Claudette Colbert, Myrna Loy, Jean Arthur, Ronald Coleman and Arnold.

Other Premiere Activity

The new Alexander Korda production for United Artists, "That Hamilton Woman," will make its world debut at the Four Star here. The Vivien Leigh-Laurence Olivier co-starrer will be presented at a $5 top, the entire proceeds to go to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. Korda is vice-president of the British flyers' organization. An attempt is now being made to work out a short wave hookup so that Olivier and Miss Leigh can greet first-night audiences from London.

Western premiere of RKO Radio's "Scattergood Baines" will be staged at the Golden Gate in San Francisco. Guy Kibbee, who stars in the Jerrold T. Brandt production, will make personal appearances.

Twentieth Century-Fox world premiered "That Night in Rio," co-starring Don Ameche and Alice Faye, at the Roxy in New York on Thursday. There were no pre-release bookings on the Technicolor musical.

Paramount's "The Road to Zanzibar," with Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour and Bob Hope, was given its first pre-release engagement in St. Petersburg, Fla., March 11. Another pre-release booking is set Saturday for Miami.

To build interest in its short subjects, Warner is launching regular weekly showings of them in key cities. Screenings will be primarily for newspapermen and critics, although exhibitors and exchange men will also be invited. First showing will be of March product, including "Meet the Fleet," a Technicolor preparedness short; two cartoons and two one-reel musicals.

Will Hays Leaves Coast After Two-Month Stay

Concluding a stay of almost two months in the film colony, Will H. Hays, president of the MPPDA, has returned to his New York headquarters. It is not anticipated he will return to the coast until late this summer, according to producers association attaches, unless unexpected local business developments should require his personal attention here before that time.

To lay the groundwork for shaping a co-ordinated program to exploit Hollywood product in Latin-America and by so doing build goodwill for the industry and the nation, the Hays office's foreign publicity directors' committee, headed by Robert Vogel of M-G-M, met at that studio with Jock Lawrence, public relations counsel for the Hays office, presiding.

Screenplay by Maugham For David Selznick

David O. Selznick has concluded a deal whereby W. Somerset Maugham, noted British novelist, will come to Hollywood to write an original screenplay. Until now Maugham has refused all Hollywood overtures. The script on which he will work is based on a story idea by Selznick.

May Combine Press, Trade Screenings

As a result of two factors, it appears probable the system of reviewing new films in Hollywood—which for the past several weeks has been experiencing evolutionary pains—is slated for further changes. The two influencing elements are:

1. That part of the federal consent decree which rules that all new product must be screened by distributors at trade showings, for attendance by exhibitors, before any picture may be sold, booked and shown at a regular performance in a theatre.

2. The constant vacillation and apparent inability to make up its mind on the part of the publicity committee of the producers association as to just how the new system, agreed upon several weeks ago, is to operate.

Roach Leads Way

In view of the fact that films will have to be given trade screenings in this territory as well as in other key spots throughout the country, which showings are always held during the day because showmen must be at their theatres in the evening, it is considered not unlikely that studios may arrange with their local distribution representatives to kill two birds with one stone. They may, in short, combine their press previews with the regular trade screenings and discontinue the practice of holding separate showings to gain critical reaction to their new product. First step in this direction was taken when Hal Roach's new United Artists release, "Topper Returns," was given a combined trade and press showing at the Fox Boulevard, March 11. Screening was held at noon. Heretofore press previews have always preceded trade screenings by a matter of several weeks.

Press previews, meanwhile, are continuing to be a source of constant headaches for all concerned. Several weeks ago the aforementioned Hays office publicity directors' committee ruled that henceforth there were to be no more evening previews in theatres; that press previews were, thereafter, to be all that the name implied—screenings to which the press—and the press alone—was to be invited. No more was a press preview to be peopled with agents, actors, writers, technicians, directors and their assorted friends, relatives, acquaintances and stooges. The idea worked out splendidly for a short time.

(Continued on next page)

Wage-Hour Ruling Causes Confusion

Ruling of the wage-hour division of the U. S. Department of Labor, after a year's survey, that 22,000 Hollywood studio employes are classified under the wage-hour law's provisions, and immediate action by the studios to place these workers on an hourly, instead of a daily or weekly pay scale, is currently complicating the labor scene in the film capital. Several crafts —notably process projectionists affiliated with the IATSE—are protesting the shift to an hourly scale on the grounds they will receive no overtime, and claim it is a violation of the basic agreement they have with the producers.

Wage-hour administrators have ruled that 6,000 workers—including actors, directors, writers, first assistant directors, top cameramen, producers, executives and executive secretaries—are exempt. The status of 2,200 others, over which there is some controversy, will be determined at a public hearing here starting March 25. Included in the questioned class are 778 actors, 447 sound men, 151 prop men, 131 set designers, 155 cameramen and 56 second assistant directors.

Being discussed also by producer representatives and union officials is the question of retroactive pay for those now ruled eligible for wage-hour benefits and who, until now, have not been working under its provisions. Survey on which the present rulings are based was launched by E. M. Cocking, sent from Washington, and breaks the Hollywood labor front into 535 separate classifications. Agreement has been reached on 514 of them, the 21 remaining to be threshed out at the pending hearing.

Several IATSE crafts have decided, after an informal meeting to discuss the matter, to appeal to the IA international for assistance in negotiating new producer agreements. Unions which will seek to enlist the IA's aid include projectionists, costumers, grips, and utility workers. Technicians, electricians, makeup artists and cameramen did not attend the session and may continue producer negotiations individually and on their own.

The producer-Screen Directors Guild conciliation committee held another meeting March 10 to discuss the SDG's demands for a minimum wage scale for low-salaried directors, a 90 per cent Guild shop and guaranteed employment. B. B. Kahane and Roy J. Obringer represent producers, Phil Rosen and George Stevens the SDG.

Offered a salary boost and a new three-year contract, Herbert Sorrell has withdrawn his resignation as business representative of the moving picture painters.

Another meeting of producers and Screen Actors Guild representatives was scheduled for March 13 to resume negotiations for revision of working conditions and wage scales for bit players and extras. Meantime the SAG has ruled that bit and day players who joined the organization prior to February, 1938, may accept calls for extra work. Most such players will, it is felt, be reluctant to accept such calls, however, since it would jeopardize their standing as higher-salaried actors. Extras now seeking the right to vote on the affairs of the SAG as a whole have no intention of withdrawing from the Guild, Harry Mayo, leader of a group of dissatisfied extras, told Kenneth Thomson, SAG secretary, replying to Thomson's declaration that displeased extras can always withdraw.

Associate members of the Screen Publicists Guild held a routine business meeting March 12.

Median earnings for motion picture players have decreased steadily since 1937 and, in 1939, stood at $4,700 yearly, the Screen Actors Guild has revealed in publishing one phase of the survey of the motion picture industry conducted by Dr. Leo C. Rosten of the Motion Picture Research Project. Rosten, who will include these findings in a projected three-volume series detailing every phase of films, based his findings on the answers supplied by actors and actresses in more than 300 questionnaires.

Actors earn more than actresses, it was disclosed. The median for actresses in 1939 was $4,150 as compared to $4,700 for actors. Further, the salaries of players tend to increase over their original paycheck—ranging from 50 per cent upward, with the greatest increases in the top brackets. The higher the actor's original salary, the larger the increase he is likely to receive, statistics showed.

Lowest earnings reported in 1939 was less than $50, the highest $300,000. Average earnings were $14,867, with 54.9 per cent of the actors receiving more than $4,000 yearly. Only 3.9 per cent received $100,000 or more for the year, however, while 25.7 per cent were paid less than $2,000.

Negotiations for new contracts between producers and electricians, musicians, teamsters and carpenters, signatories to the basic studio agreement, will be delayed until after the hearing on wage-hour rulings in the film industry, set for March 25. After completion of that hearing, Pat Casey, chief labor contact, is expected to go to New York to open discussions on new contracts with heads of the four internationals.

May Combine Press, Trade Screenings

(Continued from preceding page)

Then came thinly-veiled efforts to circumvent the ruling, and, studio by studio, pictures began slowly to creep back into regular theatre previews. The methods employed were three-fold and all circuitous. In some instances—as witness Paramount's "Virginia," Universal's "Buck Privates" and Warner's "Footsteps in the Dark"—the press was invited to a studio dinner beforehand, then transported in busses to an "unknown" destination for the preview, which in each instance turned out to be the Alexander Theatre in Glendale bravely displaying banners heralding a "major studio feature preview" for that night.

Method number two has been to have a dinner party on the lot and screen the film in a studio projection room. Paramount did it with "The Lady Eve," Warner with "The Strawberry Blonde" and Universal with "Nice Girl?" Even more thinly camouflaged were two other cases in which the studios announced a "sneak press preview" at the Alexander in Glendale. Columbia handled its showing of "Blondie Goes Latin" in this way, as did RKO Radio with "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob."

Now the publicity committee has ruled there shall be no more studio dinners preceding previews in a new effort to eliminate efforts by individual studios to circumvent the recently-established ruling.

Cinémarks

Sam Bischoff has returned to his Columbia production desk after a flying business trip through the northwest.

*

Irene Rich is vacationing in New York for a week, having completed her role in Warner's "Three Sons O' Guns."

*

Guests of Y. Frank Freeman and Cecil B. DeMille at luncheon at Paramount were members of the house naval subcommittee of the appropriations committee. The seven congressmen included James G. Scrugham, Nevada; Joseph E. Casey, Massachusetts; Harry Sheppard, California; Harry P. Beam, Illinois; Albert Thomas, Texas; Charles A. Plumley, Vermont, and Noble Johnson, Indiana. They were accompanied by Capt. Ezra Allen, naval representative in Congressional matters.

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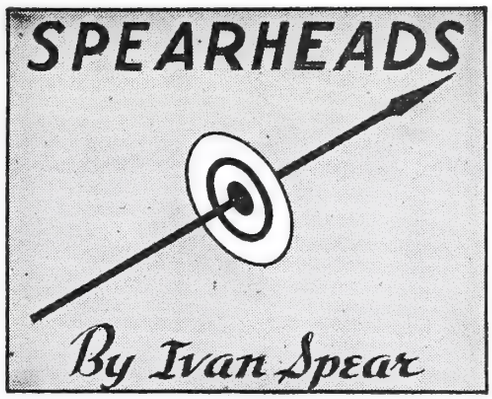
Reported doing well after an appendectomy is Producer William Cagney. He will spend another two weeks or so in the Queen of Angels Hospital before returning to his Warner desk . . . Kenneth Macgowan has returned to 20th Century-Fox for about a month to clean up details of the associate producership which he resigned recently to become connected with the South American Amity Committee.

*

Jack Moss, Walter F. Wanger's new production executive, and Director Henry Hathaway have moved into offices in the Wanger unit, Moss coming in from a New York vacation and Hathaway returning from Mexico. They have begun preparations on "Sundown," Wanger's next production . . . Arthur Hornblow jr. has left for New York to attend the world premiere of his Paramount film, "I Wanted Wings," at the Astor Theatre, March 26.

Dmytryk Megs "Betty Co-ed"

Edward Dmytryk will direct "Betty Co-ed." Ruby Keeler, Ozzie Nelson and Harriet Hilliard will star in the 20th-Fox film.



PRODUCERS who are constantly on the watch for those stories of adventure which consistently find a profitable market among the customers would do well to delve into a volume titled "Bushman at Large," written by Aubrey Wisberg and detailing the true-life escapades of a soldier-of-fortune in Australia, Egypt and the Near East. It looks like good motion picture material and very probably could be made the basis of a timely and exciting film.

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If Warner can manage as many bookings for its forthcoming "The Sea Wolf" as places that have been named and considered for its premiere, the picture should gross enough to lift the mortgage. For weeks the Burbank orchid-growers have kept agog the junket-loving Hollywood press with stories about plans to show the picture at the Valley of the Moon, Jack London's home, near Sonoma, north of San Francisco, because much of the book was written there. Now, without explanation, that idea has been abruptly junked, probably because the Chamber of Commerce of Sonoma shunned the dotted line, and there comes a yarn that Warner is negotiating with the United States Steamship Lines to premiere the film aboard the S. S. "America." The vessel is now en route here through the Panama Canal and will arrive March 20, two days before the picture is nationally released. Studio publicists assert they are planning the first "sea world premiere" during a round trip to San Francisco.

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BALLYHOODLUMS: Please have it definitely understood that Jock Lawrence, erstwhile publicist, is "assistant to the president" of the "Association of Motion Picture Producers." And that "isn't the Hays office," which popular designation applies only to the New York organization officially known as the "Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc." If anyone doubts that such fine distinctions exist, let him but call Ex-Press Agent Lawrence in an attempt to confirm such tidbits of news as the signing of a new contract by Mr. Hays. All of which is a bit confusing to those short-memoried trade reporters who seem vaguely to recall an announcement made at the time Lawrence joined the Hays office (beg pardon, the Association of Motion Picture Producers), and to the effect that he was to have something or other to do with public relations—or words to that effect. That was shortly after he had included himself out of Samuel Goldwyn's fold, where the prosaic pursuit of publicity occupied his attentions . . . Harry Barris is signed to play a press agent in Paramount's "Kiss the Boys Boodbye." Observes John Peere Miles, "When a tired and very lazy press agent hasn't anything better to do, he can revert to the cliches of his business." Honest John, he was known as in them days.

Melody, Mirth, Morbidity, Murder

A musical with comedy and one which was vice versa furnished the frosting for the week's preview cake and, while they blended to concoct a delectable confection, they had to be stretched to their limits to cover the underlayers which emerged from the productional ovens, some of which were soggy, others only half-baked.

Twentieth Century-Fox's "That Night in Rio" gets off to a flying start with a production number that is precedentally breath-taking in lavishness and beauty, and from there the filmusical never slackens for an instant its speed as engrossing entertainment. In many respects the Fred Kohlmar production touches a new ceiling for screen musical comedies and emerges as one which probably will crowd all existing revenue records in its classification in all its showings. Contributing to the making of a truly superb picture are the cast, story, music, costumes and sets, filmed in gorgeous Technicolor. Alice Faye and Don Ameche, co-starred, were never better. The South American locale furnishes a perfect setting for the general theme, as scripted by George Seaton, Bess Meredyth and Hal Long, with additional dialogue by Samuel Hoffenstein, and based on a play by Rudolph Lothar and Hans Adler, adapted by Jessie Ernst. Mack Gordon and Harry Warren wrote the hip-swaying, toe-tickling songs and musical numbers. Irving Cummings' experienced and competent direction is in evidence throughout.

Such tuneful, boisterous, nonsensical and thoroughly captivating entertainment as "The Road to Zanzibar" should be possible as long as Paramount maintains the comedy combination of Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, with Dorothy Lamour contributing the pulchritude. Frank Butler and Don Hartman turned out the dialogue from an original by Hartman and Sy Bartlett. All in all, it is a very worthy successor to "The Road to Singapore," and should fare as well in raves and revenue as did the earlier Crosby-Hope-Lamour funfest. Paul Jones was the producer and Victor Schertsinger handled the directorial reins.

* * *

While its ingredients were of the best, Metro's contribution, "Rage in Heaven," could hardly be considered an entertainment sweetmeat. It is strictly adult entertainment. Robert Montgomery is again cast as a homicidal paranoiac, and the melodrama is heavy and sombre, dealing as it does with insane jealousy, suicide and other unpleasant phases of chronic psychalgia. Although he, his co-star, Ingrid Bergman, and the remainder of the cast turn in fine performances, the feature's appeal to the rank-and-file of ticket buyers probably will be limited. It is an adaptation by Christopher Isherwood and Robert Thoeren of a novel by James Hilton. W. S. Van Dyke II keyed his direction to the required mood. Gottfried Reinhardt was the producer.

* * *

Representation from the Valley included a pair each from Universal and Republic.

There is nothing in the latter's "Back in the Saddle" to jeopardize Gene Autry's standing as the screen's leading action star. And the picture differs only slightly from the more recent films in which the croning celluloid cowhand has appeared, although it is a noteworthy fact that his pal, Smiley Burnette, has less to do than is customary. Harry Grey has maintained the high productional standards characteristic of the series, and Lew Landers' direction keys up the shootin', sluggin' and ridin', interspersed with the usual sprinkling of musical numbers.

"A Man Betrayed" is a creditable and well-made entry on this North Hollywood studio's slate. A trio of fine performances by John Wayne, Frances Dee and Edward Ellis paces an equally good directorial job by John H. Auer, with Armand Schaefer as the associate producer. Isabel Dawn contributed the screenplay from a story by Jack Moffitt.

Considering its modest cost and claims, Universal has an unpretentious but entirely wholesome comedy of family life in "Double Date." Admirable supporting material, it features a well-done story and workmanlike performances by Edmund Lowe, Una Merkel and Peggy Moran, all of whom register capitally. Working under the productional guidance of Joseph G. Sanford, Glenn Tryon turned in a first-rate megging job. Scott Darling, Erna Lazarus and Agnes Christine Johnston scripted from an original by the Darling-Lazarus combination.

Not so impressive, however, was the same company's "Mr. Dynamite." Its explosive qualities are limited to the title, unless they should extend to the patience and tempers of customers who catch it on the underside of dual programs, which booking spot it is barely qualified to fill. Efforts of three ordinarily competent players, Lloyd Nolan, Irene Hervey and J. Carrol Naish, to elevate the offering from the doldrums are hamstrung by a wild and unbelievable story by Stanley Crea Rubin. John Rawlins directed for Producer Marshall Grant.

* * *

"Murder Among Friends," a second offering from 20th Century-Fox, has but one possible claim to distinction—seldom, if ever, has there been a mystery with more slayings. In all other departments it is just another whodunit, imbued with an average amount of suspense, an occasional chill and an even more limited quota of laughs, evidently injected in an attempt to bolster obvious inconsistencies in the script by John Larkin. Marjorie Weaver and John Hubbard top the cast and deliver average performances, while Ray McCarey's direction is on the same level. Film was co-produced by Ralph Dietrich and Walter Morosco.

Hollywood—
—Personnelities

Barnstormers

Columbia

ARTHUR LAKE, LARRY SIMMS and **DAISY** of the "Blondie" family, checked in from Dallas, where they made p. a.'s for British War Relief.

Paramount

STIRLING HAYDEN, leading man, has checked in from eight weeks of p. a.'s along the Atlantic Coast, during which he visited more than 70 cities and towns. Hayden's next assignment will be in Edward H. Griffith's "Dildo Cay."

Blurbers

Russell Birdwell

GENE COUGHLIN joins staff.

Paramount

LYLE ROOKS rejoins publicity staff. She was with the unit a year ago.

Henry Rogers

EDWARD GROSS, who is producing four "Lone Ranger" features for Columbia, has retained Rogers as his publicist.

Warner Bros.

LEONARD MARKS of the publicity department has been ordered to report for a year's military training. He leaves for camp March 17.

BILL BLOWITZ named head planter, succeeding Bill Hebert, resigned. **IRVING PARKER** has joined the staff and **JOHN MEYER** has moved from the special assignment division to the planting office.

Briefies

Leon Schlesinger

Production is being speeded on a new Merrie Melodie cartoon for Warner, "Gone With the Draft." Short is being made in Technicolor and is being rushed through in 12 weeks, record time.

Metro

"The Do's and Dont's of Dancing" will be the next Pete Smith Specialty. Arthur Murray, dancing instructor, will be featured.

Next in the "Romance of Celluloid" series will be "You Can't Fool a Camera." Frank Whitbeck will produce and serve as commentator.

Warner Bros.

LEO REISMAN and his orchestra starring in a "Melody Master" short which Jean Negulesco is directing.

Cleffers

Columbia

MORRIS STOLOFF completes recordings of songs and dance music for "Time Out for Rhythm."

Metro

BRONISLAU KAPER named musical director on "Man From the City."

Universal

FRANZ WAXMAN, on loan from M-G-M, scoring "Unfinished Business."

CHARLES PREVIN scoring "The Lady From Cheyenne," the Frank Lloyd production.

CHARLES PREVIN completes musical score for "The Man Who Lost Himself," a Lawrence Fox production.

Warner Bros.

FRANK LOESSER, on loan from Paramount, teamed with **FREDERICK HOLLANDER** on a song for "Manpower."

AL DUBIN teamed with **ARTHUR SCHWARTZ** on tunes for "Navy Blues."

FREDERICK HOLLANDER scoring "Miss Wheelwright Discovers America."

Loanouts

Producers Releasing Corp.

VIRGINIA VALE borrowed from RKO Radio to appear opposite Roger Pryor in "South of Panama."

Meggers

Columbia

DIRECTOR EDWARD DMYTRYK will roll "Betty Co-Ed," with Ruby Keeler, Ozzie Nelson and Harriet Hilliard, April 1. Film is being produced by Irving Briskin.

SAM WHITE to pilot "The Officer and the Lady."

Monogram

JEAN YARBOROUGH to direct "King of the Zombies," rolling March 21 as a Lindsley Parsons production. Edmond Kelso has completed the script from a story by Al Martin.

Paramount

SOL C. SIEGEL to produce "Government Girl," story of a small-town woman who becomes a cog in the governmental machinery in Washington.

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL to produce "Sing a Song of Homicide" as his first assignment since being promoted from assistant to Producer Arthur Hornblow jr. Script is being written by James R. Langham, author of the original, in collaboration with Jonathan Latimer.

Picture Corp. of America

GORDON WILES to pilot "Forced Landing," next aviation feature starring Richard Arlen. Paramount will release.

Republic

MARTIN BROONES to produce "Cindy," forthcoming Judy Canova starrer, which Joseph Hoffman is scripting.

LEONARD FIELDS to produce "Backdoor to Happiness," from a story by Charles Royal and Earl Snell. Royal is scripting.

20th Century-Fox

RAY McCAREY to pilot "The Man With the Shovel" for Producers Ralph Dietrich and Walter Morosco.

Universal

ARTHUR LUBIN to direct "We're in the Navy Now," next Bud Abbott-Lou Costello comedy.

Warner Bros.

LEW SEILER to pilot "The Smiling Ghost." Ben Markson did the script.

Options

Columbia

HARRY BARRIS draws a singing role in "Time Out for Rhythm."

CHARLES VIDOR, director, held for another term.

ELINOR TROY joins cast of "Time Out for Rhythm."

Alexander Korda

JOSEPH COTTEN, stage player, signed for the male lead opposite Merle Oberon in an untitled vehicle, Korda's next for United Artists.

Metro

FELIX BRESSART, character actor, handed term contract.

CHIC CHANDLER draws comedy topline in the new untitled "Dr. Kildare" feature.

ANITA LOOS joins writing staff on term ticket.

PETER LORRE joins cast of "The Uniform."

ANNE GWYNNE joins cast of "Washington Melodrama."

JOHN McCLAIN, writer, given new long-term pact.

BARRY NORTON handed a featured role in "Lady Be Good."

Paramount

ALICE WHITE given a topline in "The Night of January 16."

JANET BEECHER joins cast of "Little Miss Muffett."

WILLIAM HOLDEN given new long-term contract. His last picture for the studio was "I Wanted Wings."

JOHN WAYNE signed to star in Cecil B. DeMille's "Reap the Wild Wind."

FRITZ FELD draws comedy topline in "Skylark."

MIKE FRANKOVITCH joins cast of "Little Miss Muffett."

JOHN BARRYMORE signed for a top role in "World Premiere."

Producers Releasing Corp.

LIONEL ROYCE signed for the heavy role in "South of Panama," which T. H. Richmond is producing.

Republic

ROY ROGERS, cowboy star, held for another term. His next is "Sheriff of Tombstone."

David O. Selznick

GEORGE BARNES, cinematographer, draws long-term pact. He photographed Selznick's "Rebecca" and received the Academy Award for his lensing job.

Harry Sherman

CHARLIE RUGGLES, ELLEN DREW and **PHIL TERRY** named to head cast of "The Parson of Panamint," based on the Peter B. Kyne novel to be made for Paramount release.

ERNST LUBITSCH signs producer-director contract for a three-year term, to begin his duties when he has completed another picture for United Artists in association with Sol Lesser.

20th Century-Fox

BARBARA LYNN, stock player, draws new contract.

LYNN ROBERTS, featured player, held for another term.

FRITZ LANG wins new term directorial contract. "Man Hunt" is on schedule as his next.

JOAN BENNETT signed for feminine lead opposite Walter Pidgeon in "Man Hunt."

Universal

BABY SANDY held for another year. Infant star is now in "Sandy Steps Out."

HELEN PARRISH, featured player, held for another year.

Warner Bros.

ALICE TALTON, Atlanta model, given term acting ticket.

SUZANNE CARNAHAN, stock player, held for another term.

MARIS WRIXON and **PEGGY DIGGINS,** contract players, held for new terms.

Scripters

Columbia

GEORGE BRICKER to "Singapore." Jack Fier produces.

SIDNEY BUCHMAN and **RICHARD FLOURNOY** complete "Bedtime Story," to roll March 24 with Alexander Hall directing for Producer B. P. Schulberg.

KAREN DE WOLF to "Cowboy Joe" for Producer Robert Sparks.

WILLIAM and **MILARDE BRENT** to "Harmon of Michigan," to star Tom Harmon, all-American grid star.

DAVID SILVERSTEIN to "Mystery Ship."

ALBERT DUFFY to "Girls From Panama."

Mayfair Pictures

ART ARTHUR to "Tight Shoes," from the Damon Runyon story, which Jules Levey will produce for Universal.

Metro

LYNN STARLING to an untitled comedy which Robert Z. Leonard will direct.

ABEM FINKEL to "The Road Away From Home," from a story by Clifford Dowdey and Richard English. Milton Bren will produce.

Paramount

LOUIS KAYE writing comedy sequences for "Nothing But the Truth."

DORIS ANDERSON to "World Premiere."

WILKIE MAHONEY teamed with **DON HARTMAN** and **KEN ENGLUND** on "Nothing But the Truth."

GEORGE BRUCE to "War Town," collaborating with **SIDNEY BIDDELL.**

Republic

MICHAEL SIMMONS to "How to Die Young."

HENRY MYERS polishing "Puddin' Head."

HAROLD YATES to "Angels With Broken Wings."

TED REEVES to "Doctors Don't Tell."

20th Century-Fox

ROBERT ELLIS and **HELEN LOGAN** to "The Straight Left." Fred Kohlmar produces.

SAM HELLMAN to "My Gal Sal," from the Theodore Dreiser original.

JOAN HARRISON to an untitled melodrama for Producer Harry Joe Brown.

Warner Bros.

CHARLES GRAYSON to "Bad Men of Missouri," which William K. Howard will direct.

CASEY ROBINSON completes "King's Row," from the Henry Bellaman novel.

EVERETT FREEMAN to "Two Steps to Heaven," from an original by Arthur Stawn and Jan Leman.

JAY GORNEY to "Carnival in Rio."

OWEN CRUMP to "The Jumping Jacks," national defense short dealing with parachute troops. B. Reeves Eason will direct.

Plan Four Features On "Lone Ranger"

Plans to produce four features based on the "Lone Ranger" character of radio and the comic strips have been announced by Edward Gross, who has secured a Columbia release for the group. The initialer, now being cast, will go into work about April 1 for a May 15 release date, and is being budgeted at $125,000. Gross is headquartering temporarily at the RKO Pathe studios in Culver City, but may move over to Columbia to shoot the film. He was formerly associated with both David L. Loew and Sol Lesser as an associate producer. Rights to the "Lone Ranger" were acquired from the author, Fran Striker.

Pressburger to UA

Added to the roster of United Artists producers is Arnold Pressburger, former European producer-director, who joined the UA fold via a deal set in New York with Murray Silverstone, UA chieftain. Pressburger is expected out here shortly to set up offices and begin work on his initial feature, "The Shanghai Gesture," to which he has acquired film rights from Milton Shubert.

Golden Sets Next

Edward A. Golden, former Monogram sales chief and organizer of University Film Productions, Inc., checked in from the east to arrange details of filming "The Kiss of Death." He will turn out the picture for distribution on a state-right basis.

Columbia Ratoff Outlet

The deal whereby he was to produce and direct "Tonight Is Ours," starring Loretta Young, for Paramount release, having been abrogated by mutual agreement, Gregory Ratoff has taken the property and star to Columbia, for whom he will make the picture independently.

Other independent activity:

Pyramid Pictures rolls "Scattergood Pulls the Strings," second in the series for RKO Radio, March 17, with Christy Cabanne directing for Producer Jerrold T. Brandt.

Roger Pryor and Virginia Vale head the cast of T. H. Richmond's "South of Panama," now in work for Producers Releasing Corp.

Martin Mooney is scripting his original, "Queen of the Underworld," for K. B. Productions.

Larry Darmour has gunned his latest serial for Columbia, "The Spider Returns," with Warren Hull and Mary Ainsley in the toplines. James Horne is directing.

O'Shea, McCarthy Open a 16mm Studio Laboratory

Barrett O'Shea, dance director, and John McCarthy, film megaphonist, have opened a sound-proofed 16mm studio, completely equipped to serve producers of films for army camps, women's clubs, schools, commercial enterprises and major studios making screen tests of new talent.

The $25,000 building offers complete production service, including photography, recording, pre-recording, transcriptions, processing and other items.

Kanin and Stewart Are Called for Service

The long arm of conscription, which has been felt to some extent in Hollywood through the drafting of technicians, back lot and white collar workers, has reached into the upper studio brackets to pluck Director Garson Kanin and Actor James Stewart for a year's service with the nation's armed forces.

Kanin has been deferred, however, until June 1, when he has cleaned up the megging job on RKO Radio's Ginger Rogers starrer, "Tom, Dick and Harry," the draft board having taken into consideration the fact that the studio has a $750,000 investment in the film which would be jeopardized should Kanin be inducted immediately. Kanin declares he will report immediately upon completion of the picture, probably late in April.

Stewart is expected to check into camp in about two weeks. The 1940 Academy Award winner's contract with M-G-M will be suspended for the duration of his military training and will be waiting for him when he returns. Meantime he will be replaced by another actor in the top male role in the Jeanette MacDonald starrer, "Smilin' Through."

With proceeds to go toward the purchase of mobile kitchens for the British army, Gene Lockhart will present a stage revue at the Hawthorne School in Beverly Hills, beginning March 23. Lined up to appear in the initialer are Doris Lloyd, Montague Love, Walter Kingsford, Kathleen Lockhart and John Qualen. Following its local run, the revue will go on tour, with stops already scheduled for Santa Barbara, San Diego, Pasadena, Riverside, San Bernardino and Lake Arrowhead. Lockhart is writing, producing and directing.

Expected here before the end of the week was John Hay Whitney, head of the Committee on National Defense for the motion picture industry, who has appointed Kenneth Thomson, executive secretary of the Screen Actors Guild, as director of a Hollywood office to be set up immediately. On a part-time arrangement Thomson will serve as a studio contact under a plan whereby each company will send two of its top stars on personal appearance tours through Latin-America during the year to build good-will for the United States and the film industry. Thomson will continue his SAG duties.

Hellinger Quits Warner Post; Up Jerry Wald

After three years at the studio as writer and associate producer, Mark Hellinger has resigned his Warner post, effective immediately. During his stay he turned out five pictures, of which "Affectionately Yours," now in final stages of completion, was the last. He had been preparing "Manpower," co-starring Marlene Dietrich and George Raft, which will be assigned to another producer. Hellinger, who had differed with Warner executives on story handling and other matters, has announced no plans for the future.

At the same studio Jerry Wald, of the writing team of Wald and Richard Macaulay, has been boosted to an associate producership, effective when he has completed his scripting chore on "Navy Blues." He has been at the studio for five years. Warner has also promoted Robert Buckner, a writer there for the past three years, to associate producer. No assignment has been set for either Wald or Buckner.

Upon completion of his contract, Lou Brock left the RKO payroll, where he was head of the shorts department for the past two years. He has just completed "They Met in Argentina," feature-length musical, for the studio.

Paramount has given a directorial contract to Theodore Tetzlaff, first cameraman on the lot for several years. His first assignment as a megger will be announced shortly. At the same studio Patricia Morison, featured player, has been suspended for refusing to accept a loanout assignment to Republic for the femme lead opposite Gene Autry in "The Singing Hills."

Go East to Discuss WB Sales Policy

To discuss with homeoffice executives the company's selling policy for 1941-42, under the consent decree, Harry M. Warner, president of Warner, and S. Charles Einfeld, publicity-advertising director, pulled out for New York. They followed Jack L. Warner east, the vice-president in charge of production having left several days before. In on the eastern huddles are Gradwell L. Sears, sales head, and Major Albert Warner.

After three days in Hollywood, Robert M. Gillham, advertising-publicity director for Paramount, returned to New York. While here he discussed exploitation and selling plans for "I Wanted Wings," aviation special, with Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of studio operations, and other local executives.

Civita Visits Disney

Making his annual visit to Hollywood is Cesar Civita, Walt Disney's South American representative. Civita is headquartering, during his stay, at the Disney plant in Burbank.

Sam Katz, Metro executive, spent ten days in Chicago on a personal business trip. Still at 20th Century-Fox, where he arrived last week, is Felix A. Jenkins, of the company's New York legal staff. He is huddling with local officials on production policies under the consent decree.

Leo Spitz, former RKO Radio president and now a practicing attorney and counsel for the company, is in from New York, where he spent several days on business matters.

Here for conferences with President George J. Schaefer and Perry Lieber, studio adertising-publicity director, is S. Barret McCormick, publicity and advertising head of the company. McCormick will look at new product and map tentative exploitation campaigns on them. After a month at the studio, Ned E. Depinet, vice-president in charge of sales, has returned to New York.



An open letter to the Motion Picture Industry

History repeats itself—with Greece and Fascism enacting the roles of David and Goliath.

The heroic valor of the Greeks in their defense of democracy, has aroused the admiration of every liberty loving American. This little country—and it's a very small country—has stood up and fought Fascism to a standstill. It has put new heart into all little countries.

Today, we of the Amusement Industry, are asked to do our small part. The suffering, the struggles of millions of valiant men, women and children, will be lightened by knowing that here in the United States are fellow humans who want them to win and furthermore—are willing to do something about it! John H. Harris and Gradwell L. Sears have very kindly volunteered to aid me in organizing all exhibitors and distributors for this great cause. We have set aside the period of March 25-30 as the days to raise the funds through the active participation of all theatres everywhere. As Chairman of the Amusement Industry Division of the Greek War Relief Association, I appeal to you to do your share in making our drive a complete success.

The Greeks love liberty so much they're willing to die for it. The least we of this thrice blessed country can do is to help the women and children of these gallant defenders of democracy. We have nothing to lose if they gain. We have nothing to gain if they lose.

Sincerely,

Adolph Zukor

ADOLPH ZUKOR, *Chairman*

The Docket

The arbitration picture in the Denver area to date:

Denver

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 19. Demand and submission involving dispute under Section VI (some run). Joseph J. Goodstein Enterprises, Inc., operating Longmont, Longmont, Colo. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Paramount Pictures, Inc. Named as interested party: Fox Longmont, Longmont, Colo.

Measure Legalizing Lotteries to House

PORTLAND, ORE.—Passed by the senate and now headed for a vote in the house, is a bill to legalize theatre giveaways and other lotteries in Oregon.

Oregon theatremen are pretty well split on the measure, with about half of them for it and the others opposed. Pros and cons arguing the measure, contributed to the normal excitement of the capital city last week.

Need for Data Delays Suit Against Ascap

LOS ANGELES—Continued delay in the filing of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owner's suit against Ascap is attributed by local spokesmen to the fact that a number of northwestern exhibitor-members have not, as yet, compiled and forwarded to Albert J. Law, PCCITO general counsel, certain vital facts and figures which he needs to complete the drafting of a bill of complaint.

Statistics concerning the amount of money these showmen have paid Ascap for the privilege of screening films containing Ascap-controlled music over the past several years are required by Law when he goes into federal court to launch suit against the musical organization seeking to kill the dual scoring charge which exhibitors must pay—one charge to Ascap, one to the distributors.

NT Divisional Managers Discuss Decree, Drive

ARROWHEAD SPRINGS—Its operations under the consent decree, business prospects for the new year, the question of advanced admissions and extended runs, building and rehabilitation projects and plans for the annual Spyros Skouras drive were the chief topics discussed at the yearly conclave of National Theatres Corp. divisional managers, which opened here March 6 and was expected to wind up March 14.

Chief among the changes in policy to be instituted because of the decree, operating heads attending were informed by President Spyros Skouras, will be the necessity for decentralization of film buying, with each division instructed to set up its own buying department or expand its department if one is now in existence. Terms of the decree were explained in detail by Skouras and NT attorneys, John Caskey and Fred Pride.

Sees Better Product

Skouras predicted that constantly improving product and the national defense spending program will result in a prosperous year for exhibitors in general and NT in particular, declaring that conditions in the exhibition field are considerably better than they were last summer, when the war and resultant loss of foreign revenue and upset domestic conditions threatened to result in production, distribution and exhibition chaos. The NT president stressed the necessity for continuing the policy of advanced admission prices and extended runs on films meriting such treatment, but warned divisional chieftains that boosting prices and extending runs could be applicable only where the particular picture was worthy.

Charles P. Skouras, president of Fox West Coast, was again named field marshal in the annual Spyros Skouras drive, to be launched April 13 for a 13-week period. Importance of the drive at this time was emphasized by Frank H. "Rick" Ricketson, divisional head of Fox Intermountain, who declared competition from other forms of amusement is steadily cutting in to that portion of the amusement dollar spent in motion picture theatres.

Talk Reseating Project

A reseating project in a number of NT houses, at an estimated expense of $1,500,000, was discussed. Another $2,000,000 will be ear-marked for new theatres and other rehabilitation, Skouras declared. Improvements in theatre seating were outlined by Hilliard Brooke, western district manager of the American Seating Co.; Al Hoven, assistant general sales manager; Ralph Zimmerman, Los Angeles branch manager, and Oscar Oldknow of National Theatre Supply Co., the American Seating Co.'s parent organization.

Plans to set up a workable fund for use in a retirement or old-age pension plan for NT employes were subjected to considerable discussion. The corporation is setting aside a percentage of its annual profit for the venture and will also devote the proceeds from the sale of candy in theatres to the fund, which proceeds are now turned over to an NT welfare fund for employes.

Draftees Protected

All drafted workers will be given a two-week bonus, it was announced, and their positions will be guaranteed for them upon their return. Their group insurance will be paid by NT during their absence.

Attending the session, in addition to Spyros and Charles Skouras, were:

From New York—Harry Cox, Peter Lundgren, John Caskey, William T. Powers, Fred Pride, John Healy, Milt Hossfeld, Aubrey Schenck, Ed Zabel, I. Barry; from Detroit—David Idzal, in charge of theatre operations there; from Milwaukee—Harold Fitzgerald, E. W. Alperson, John Brown; from Kansas City—E. C. Rhoden, Lon Cox, J. Pope; from Denver—Frank H. "Rick" Ricketson, Hall Baetz, William Woods, H. Stuart, J. Franz; from Seattle—Frank Newman, Al Finke, James Ennix, H. Schultz; from Portland—John Hamrick, Al Rosenberg; from San Francisco—Arch M. Bowles, Charles Thall, Mike Naify, Harry Seipel, Elmer Hanks, Dick Spier, Phil Phillips; from Stockton, Calif.—Dick Turner; from Los Angeles—Charles A. Buckley, Mike Rosenberg, John Bertero, Andy Krappman, Tom Page, George Topper, W. H. Lollier, Larry Kent, Fred Stein, R. H. McCullough, Dick Dickson, Irving Epstein, Cullen Espy, B. V. Sturdivant, Thornton Sargent, George Bowser, William Lyris, George Watters, Ed Klassen; from Bakersfield—Homer Gill; from Tucson, Ariz.—Lou Christ. Also attending were Elmer G. Hines, General Theatres Corp., New York; Oldknow of National Theatre Supply, and American Seating Co. representatives, Ownbey, Hoven, Zimmerman and Brooke.

PORTLAND

GEORGE HUNT, chief of the George Hunt Theatres, has a nine-and-a-half pound son. This production is receiving far more attention than any million-dollar epic to play at his theatres . . . Tom Shearer laid new carpets in both the Bob White and Downtown theatres . . . L. W. Conrow, president of the Altec Service Corp., and E. C. Shriver, western district manager, stopped here while on an inspection tour of the various Altec offices.

Mr. Nelson, AAA tribunal clerk, is leading a dull life these days waiting vainly for arbitration cases to come before the board . . . Visitors were few in town during the week. Outside of the regulars, filmites saw Dutch Stover, Guy Garrison, Dick Fisk, Bernadine Richards, Roy Webster and Loring Schmidt.

Al Forman was busier than the proverbial duck during a rainstorm the past two weeks arranging personal appearance dates for Roy Rogers, western star, at various theatres throughout the state. He will appear at the Tower, Bend; Orpheum, Baker; Alta, Pendleton; Rialto, Hood River; Grand, Salem; the Roseway and St. Johns, Portland; Columbia, St. Helens, and the Liberty, Kelso, Wash.

Mary Alice Randall will open the new Rand in Sutherlin, Ore., in cooperation with her father, E. H. Randall, a pioneer Oregon theatreman. They are putting in new equipment throughout. Sutherlin is noted for the manufacture of quicksilver, having the largest plant in the country there.

Horror Duo Stirs Up Grosses in Denver

DENVER—Dave Cockrill pulled a bit of showmanship when he booked two mystery and horror films on the same bill. By so doing he catered wholly to that type of fans and packed the Denham time after time to a smash gross. "Mad Doctor" and "Monster and the Girl," both Paramount films, were the ones that turned the trick. The house played to more children than it had in the past three months otherwise, and most of them brought one or both parents.

Detail for week ending March 6:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), after wk. at the Denver 125
Broadway—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), after 2 wks. at the Orpheum 125
Denham—**Mad Doctor** (Para't); **Monster and the Girl** (Para't) 230
Denver—**Nice Girl?** (Univ) 115
Orpheum—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Play Girl** (RKO) 120
Paramount—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M) 140
Rialto—**Back Street** (Univ), after wk. at each the Denver and Aladdin; **You're Out of Luck** (Mono) 125

"Buck Privates" on Dual Leads First-Runs in SF

SAN FRANCISCO—The return of pleasant weather gave impetus to local business and the theatres shared in general upward trend. The first of the anticipated films about the draftees and army camps, "Buck Privates" got a nice play at the Orpheum. "Gone With the Wind" still did better than average and started its fourth and final week. The beginning of Lent probably hurt the boxoffice on Market Street a bit.

Detail for week ending March 5:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Honeymoon for Three** (WB) 115
Golden Gate—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), plus Salici's Puppets on stage, 3rd wk. 85
Orpheum—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Meet Boston Blackie** (Col) 120
Paramount—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Murder Among Friends** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 110
St. Francis—**Virginia** (Para't); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 95
United Artists—**Blackout** (UA) 85
Warfield—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 110

Seattle Show Shops Cling To a Low-Average Week

SEATTLE—Spring weather and fairly warm evenings, coupled with excitement of the "blackout" test left the show shops with very little business this week. "Tobacco Road" garnered the most publicity and best exploitation but the picture did not do the outstanding business enjoyed by the stage play. However it was satisfactory. Palomar for the past week featured its stage show and also is building its next week's bill the same style. No theatre reports outstanding business.

Details for week ending March 8:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100
Fifth Avenue—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Play Girl** (RKO) 110
Liberty—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Phantom Submarine** (Col), 5th wk. 90



Visitors Broadcast—

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Disney at the opening of "Fantasia" at the Geary Theatre in San Francisco, are interviewed for the NBC network by Mildred Robbins, S. F. Chronicle *society editor on the left and Ruth Dunbar Burke, KGO commentator.*

Music Box—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 90
Orpheum—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Behind the News** (Rep) 90
Palomar—**Devil's Pipeline** (Univ); **Arkansas Judge** (Rep), plus Gary Nottingham and Orchestra on stage 90
Paramount—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M); **Trial of Mary Dugan** (M-G-M) 90

Sunny Weather Profits Salt Lake Theatres

SALT LAKE CITY—Almost cloudless skies and a large high-pressure area over northern Utah resulted in spring weather for Salt Lake and adjacent regions for the past several days. Theatres are enjoying very good attendance, not as yet having the summer resort question to combat and enjoying unusually early warm weather.

Details for week ending March 7:

(Average is 100)

Centre—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB) 100
Lake—**The Outsider** (SR), plus stage show 100
Paramount—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 200
Studio—**Virginia** (Para't), 3rd wk. 105
Utah—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); **Flight From Destiny** (WB) 95

Good Weather Bolsters First-Run Business

LOS ANGELES—A few days of sunshine after weeks of rain aided considerably in bolstering first-run business, every house but one reporting normal or better-than-average takes for the week. Most surprising disappointment was "Gone With the Wind" in its second week at the Four Star, which managed to garner only 75 per cent of normal trade, a phenomenon considered inexplicable by the management.

Detail for week ending March 5:

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M) 125
Downtown—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Here Comes Happiness** (WB) 125

Dispose of Detail In Colcatta Suit

LOS ANGELES—Disposition of preliminary detail and the entering of documents and stipulations in evidence, featured a pre-trial hearing in the suit by the Colcatta Corp. against Fox West Coast Theatres, bankrupt circuit organization succeeded several years ago by Fox West Coast Corp. and affiliated firms. Regular trial date has been set for March 21.

Through the law firm of Wolfson and Schwab, Colcatta, of which Ben Bard is president, is seeking $1,200,000 in damages, charging monopoly and conspiracy in restraint of interstate commerce. It charges FWC with illegally cancelling its lease on the Colorado in Pasadena in 1935, as a result of which, the plaintiffs contend, the house has since not been able to acquire sufficient major studio product to insure profitable operation. Aiding the Colcatta Corp. is Albert J. Law, general counsel for the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners.

Defendant attorneys include Charles A. Buckley, chief of the FWC legal staff; John Bertero, Gordon Hall, and the law firms of Loeb and Loeb and Wright and Millikan.

Improve With RCA

PORTLAND, ORE.—The new Tower being built in Klamath Falls, Ore.; the Venetian in Albany, Ore., operated by A. W. Adamson, and the Avenue at Yakima, Wash., will be outfitted with new RCA sound.

"Hard" for Marlene

HOLLYWOOD—Warner has signed Marlene Dietrich for the feminine starring role in "Hard to Get," with George Raft and Humphrey Bogart in the other top spots. Raoul Walsh will direct for Producer Mark Hellinger from a script being prepared by Jerry Wald and Richard Macaulay.

Bob White Building Third

PORTLAND, ORE.—Bob White, operator of the Thirteenth Avenue and Bob White theatres, is putting up another house to be known as the Highway Theatre. He has signed for RCA sound.

"Ukulele Ike" Bankrupt

LOS ANGELES—Cliff Edwards has filed voluntary bankruptcy in federal court, listing liabilities of $25,859 and $460 in assets. In the assets column, he placed a $10 value on two ukuleles.

Four Star—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. 75
Hillstreet—**Back Street** (Univ); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col) 140
Hollywood—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Here Comes Happiness** (WB) 125
Pantages—**Back Street** (Univ); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col) 130
Paramount—**Buck Privates** (Univ), plus stage show 115
State—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M) 140
United Artists—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 100

LOS ANGELES

FUNERAL services and burial at Hollywood Cemetery were held Monday for Max Lazarus, 67, father of Al Lazarus, manager of Fox West Coast's LaBrea Theatre. The elder Lazarus died two days earlier at Methodist Hospital after a lingering illness . . . In for bookings: Louis Long, head of the Long circuit in Arizona; Harvey Perrizzo, Dreamland Theatre; Dick LeMucchi, operator of houses in Bakersfield, Oildale and Arvin . . . Local Republic exchange is geared to make a good showing in the James R. Grainger Sales Drive, which got under way March 1 and continues until May 31.

Lowell Winfield, operator of the Glendora in Glendora, has reported for a year's military training. His mother is going to run the house until he returns . . . Earl Strebe has closed his Newport at Newport Beach for the remainder of the winter season. He will reopen the house when summer weather comes.

A. J. O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, spent a few days in Portland . . . C. A. Simons, Needles theatre operator, came in for bookings; ditto Art Brick, Palace, Las Vegas; Frank Plumlee of the Louis Long circuit, Safford, Ariz., and Frank Ullman, Broadway, El Centro . . . Harry Stern, franchise holder here for Film Alliance, is branching out into independent distribution, having acquired west coast rights to "Night of the Mayas," winner in the Mexican government's annual awards for 1940 . . . M. J. E. McCarthy, Monogram salesman, is hitting the high spots through his Arizona territory.

Resignation of George Milner, Fox West Coast booker, has brought about the transfer of Sidney Pink into the office from his post as manager of FWC's California Theatre in Pomona. Milner is leaving for Jacksonville, Fla., to become associated with his brother in the steel business. No replacement has been named for Pink at the Pomona house . . . Harry Rackin has announced plans to build a new theatre in Hollywood. No further details as yet.

Mike Levinson, independent distributor, has received word "Lash of the Penitentes" has been passed by the National Board of Review in New York . . . George Hickey, Metro's western district manager, returned from a San Francisco trip . . . In from New York is Louis Rutstein of Producers Releasing Corp. . . . No motion picture queen could have received more attention than did four-month-old Nancy Lee Wilson, daughter of Gordon Wilson, M-G-M booker, when she visited the exchange with her mother.

Herb McIntyre, western district manager for RKO, is on a two-week trip to San Francisco, Seattle and Denver . . . Dean Howell, artist at National Screen Service, has reported for a year's draft training at San Diego . . . Rene Amter, Universal secretary, in from Denver, where she spent two weeks visiting her family.

Recuperated from a major operation performed several weeks ago, Dick Pritchard, operator of the Ambassador Hotel Theatre, has checked out of the Methodist Hospital . . . On the sick list: Jack Dillon, branch manager for 20th Century-Fox . . . Tony Moreno's "Crazy Auction," new box-office stimulant, has been booked into Harry Vinicoff's Centro here . . . Mike Levinson has acquired distribution rights to "Pition," exploitation special.

Jenne Dodge, operator of the Mission and Mayfair theatres in Ventura, came in for bookings. Ditto Irwin Kanowitz of the Union; Jack Goldberg, booker for the Ben Bronstein circuit . . . J. G. Justison, engineer for Altec Service stationed in Phoenix, has been called by the army for a year's active duty, reporting March 19. He holds a reserve commission as a major.

Wayne C. Ball, branch manager at Columbia, checked out for a tour of the Arizona territory . . . Katherine Johnston of the M-G-M billing department is at home recuperating from an attack of ptomaine poisoning . . . He spent the weekend in Palm Springs, but not until Jack Valpi, Metro booker, got home into his own back yard did he acquire that nifty shade of sun tan he's now sporting . . . United Artists' "Topper Returns" was given a combined press and trade showing at the Fox Boulevard.

Ruben A. Calderon, manager of the Azteca exchange, is spending a few days in Palm Springs with his family . . . The offices of Mike Levinson, independent distributor, and the Foreign Films exchange have moved from 1909 to 1912 S. Vermont . . . S. L. O'Brien, Altec engineer, to Phoenix on a temporary assignment . . . On the Row: Harvey Levinson, operator of the Cozy; Mac Sinift, Normandie, Barbara and Delmar theatres; Murray Hawkins, general manager of the Swan circuit.

Frank Larson Earns Honor by Campaign

IDAHO FALLS, IDA.—M-G-M has awarded an Honor Roll Button to Frank Larson, Paramount Theatre, for his outstanding exploitation campaign for "Escape."

Highlights of the campaign follow:

Special posters consisted of two 3-sheets and two 24-sheets. One 3-sheet was pasted on the sidewalk in front of the post-office while the other was pasted on the sidewalk between the two busiest and largest stores in the city. One 24-sheet was posted across the city's busiest intersection while the other was placed directly in front of theatre. These posters were put down Saturday afternoon, during peak traffic of the day. The stunt drew a large crowd.

Six special easels on "Escape" were spotted on the busiest back bars and music machines. One hundred heralds, mounted on cardboard, were placed in most conspicuous counters and display racks in the local stores. Street ballyhoo was carried on by use of a P. A. system mounted on a car driven through the streets. Local radio station aided with spot announcement several times a day, at lunch and dinner hours and surrounding news broadcasts.

SALT LAKE

AN ORDINANCE regulating the showing of motion picture films with a nitrocellulose base in places other than licensed theatres was being studied by the Salt Lake City commission following its submission by Fire Chief L. M. Hanson. The ordinance which would affect churches, clubs, schools and similar organizations, would require the filing of an application for a permit for each showing except where films are shown at regular intervals, where 90-day permits would be issued. Applications would show the experience of the operator and the availability of fire extinguishers.

"Virginia" is in its third week in Salt Lake City, now at the Studio and had its first week at the Centre. "Flight Command" is packing them in at the Gem, second run. "The Thief of Bagdad" is going big also, second run at the Rialto.

M-G-M held a trade showing of "Rage in Heaven." "Man Betrayed" was also an enthusiastically received screening held here this week by Republic-Pictures, Inc. . . . The Lake here is publicizing a "Big Midnight Frolic" for the weekend with special stunts and a special show. Andy Floor is manager . . . Gracie Fields, who appeared here December 4, will again appear for British war relief March 18.

Al Sheperd and Norman Sprowl are reportedly signing contracts in Montana on an extended trip for RKO this week while Giff Davison is busy in Idaho in the same capacity and Al Mabey is working in Utah situations . . . R. P. Hass is back from the National Theatre Supply meeting held recently in the east . . . Branch Manager F. H. Smith of Paramount here has left, accompanied by Mrs. Smith, for Detroit, and they will shortly drive home in a new car . . . G. S. Pinnell, in charge of operations for Sheffield-Republic, is back from the Pacific Coast where he attended the Republic convention.

Division Manager Jerome Safron held a sales meeting in Salt Lake City with the local sales force and Manager Bill Seib, recently. "Adam Had Four Sons," Columbia release, is going good throughout the territory, it is reported . . . "Prison Without Bars," a United Artists release, is receiving some good bookings in this region.

A motion picture entitled "Pay Loads," produced by the Eleven Western States conference of the American Trucking Associations, Inc., heads the list of non-theatrical films in the latest bulletin of the industrial reference service of the U. S. department of commerce . . . History and duties of the U. S. coast guard were depicted in motion pictures before 200 Boy Scouts here this week.

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LOS ANGELES

SEATTLE

EXCITEMENT of the week was the blackout. Seattle was the first city of its size to be used for the experiment. After weeks of advance publicity the folks got the thrill of being without light for 20 minutes. Event happened at 10:30 in the evening. Theatres continued with their shows but all marquee and front lights were out. The broadcast giving opinions from the planes, high building points, and points in various city districts was a thriller.

Cultural devotees in this territory are in for a period of entertainment. Personal appearances booked so far include: Marian Anderson, Helen Louise Oles, Kirsten Flagstad, Arthur Rubenstein, Alec Templeton, San Carlo Opera, Albert Spalding, Mischa Elman. All are booked in the near future and will appear, some in the Moore Theatre, others in the Metropolitan, and the Civic Auditorium. The Met will also feature Ruth Chatterton in person . . . Sneak previews this week were held at the Liberty where the picture was "Cheers for Miss Bishop," and at the Paramount where an RKO picture was given the double o.

In town this week was Tommy Olsen, president of KGY radio station in Olympia. Tommy was here to negotiate for a new United Press radio service. He was formerly a member of the sports staff of the Seattle *Star* and all the gang remember him as manager of theatres for Fox-Evergreen and Warner in this territory. Tommy announces open house for the big day and B. F. Shearer Company get the credit for the grand job of laying carpet and other equipment.

A card from Paul McElhinney and his wife Mildred, tells that the new youngster is okay and has been named Richard . . . Virgil Rogers of the 20th Century-Fox office being notified that he could be heir to $35,000 when all is settled . . . Al Goldstein, head of Principal Pictures, getting ready to move his office to the old RKO offices building.

Marty Weiser of the Warner praisery in Hollywood on his way here to shout about Frank Capra's "Meet John Doe" . . . Fred and Mrs. Ford back from the Portland jaunt . . . Word from California and good old Doc Howe tells that he is now with the Walt Disney organization . . . Ernie Rose busy moving his family from Spokane.

Frank Jenkins back from his California trip and negotiating once more for the Montlake. Frank has lined up a series of foreign pictures . . . Lucille Saffle out for San Francisco to be with her daughter, Betty, now Mrs. Don Condon. Friends please note. As reported in this column there will be no youngster due to complications. However at this writing Betty is doing nicely.

Buddy Myers of Producers Releasing Corp. getting an early number in the draft . . . Gabe Yorke, new head of the exchange publicity for 20th Century-Fox, due in this territory any day now. Gabe will appoint exploitation representatives in the various spots . . . Tom Dempsey entertained a gang on his boat to witness the "blackout." Among those present were Don Hoidale, Vivian Johns, Ethel Howland, Eddie and Zella Lamb, plus Tom . . . Howard McBride out for Spokane.

W. B. McDonald (Mac to us) writing and sending greetings from New York . . . Mrs. Dick Ackles getting over that attack of the flu . . . Willard Coghlan, new drama editor for the Star, *dropping in to tell of photos on his desk from Fred Carter, requested by your columnist . . . Pete Higgins getting a birthday greeting via singing Western Union boy. Both Pete and the boy were embarassed for the entertainment happened in the Rendezvous during the rush hour.*

Allen de Feyter, relief operator for Lee Kirby in his Snohomish, Monroe, and Sultan theatres, is a proud pop. A baby girl arrived last week to join the de Feyter family . . . Cap Lathrop in from Fairbanks, Alaska . . . Bill Sullivan, brother of A. J. of United Artists, here for a visit . . . Eddie Lamb getting hundreds of enthusiastic comment cards turned in by the folks who enjoyed the sneak preview of "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob."

Terry Turner, head of national exploitation for RKO Radio Pictures who came to the coast to attend a world premiere in San Francisco will drop in on Seattle for a short visit . . . Eddie Rivers getting ready to leave for the middle west . . . Irving Stept and his wife planning a trip east to get a new car . . . Whispers tell of a new theatre that is being planned just outside of the city limits.

Society Premiere for "Fantasia" in Frisco

SAN FRANCISCO—The swankiest premiere in the history of this city's motion picture openings occurred on March 5 when the local 400 and several hundred more attended the initial showing of "Fantasia." The opening night was sponsored by the San Francisco Opera Guild and prices scaled from $5 to $1.

Hollywood methods prevailed and this conservative town went big for the kleig lights, the radio introductions of celebrities, and the battery of cameramen. Walt and Mrs. Disney represented the motion picture industry together with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Disney. Kathleen Norris was an outstanding seat holder. Ted Malone, the radio poet of note, was on hand to handle the microphone interviews, helping the local radio men. Topnotchers from the city's ermine and orchid set all took their turn at the mike to wish the film success.

The Geary, normally a legit theatre, was wired for "Fantasia" and will run the picture as long as the public demands. Complete sellout for the first week's showing indicates a lengthy stay.

New Seats for Three

SEATTLE — The Colonial, Grandview, Wash.; the Oregon State in Corvallis, Ore., and the Wheeler, Wheeler, Ore., have been outfitted with new General seats.

DENVER

SI GERTZ, manager of the Egyptian and publicity director for Civic Theatres, has passed his physical examination, and expects to be called for military duty any day.

Rick Ricketson, manager of the Intermountain Division Fox Theatres, headed the local delegation to the National Theatre convention held in California. Others were George Frantz, purchasing agent; Press Woods, candy manager, and Al Bates, district manager at Salt Lake City.

Brian Hendricks, purchasing agent for the Victory theatres, Denver, has been called in the draft, and is leaving for El Paso for military training . . . The Trail Theatre, Deertrail, Colo., will operate two days a week, Saturday and Sunday, instead of four.

The Major Bowes Amateur unit at the Denham packed the house repeatedly and again placed that house at the top of the money intake among the first runs here. On the screen and getting a large share of the credit was "You're the One," thanks to the popularity of Orrin Tucker and Bonnie Baker, who appeared here some time ago.

Robert Dane, assistant manager of the Ogden, who went to California for a screen test by 20th Century-Fox and landed a contract, is back at the Ogden job, awaiting a call . . . Someone filed off a padlock and broke into the Denver Theatre and made away with 41 organ pipes. Police think they were stolen for the lead and zinc in them.

"Gone With the Wind" goes into the Federal on the north side, one of the Civic theatres, at the same prices as charged here first run—40 cents matinees and 50 cents nights. The run will be for four days . . . Walter Wanger will be the guest of honor at the 26th annual Founders' Day celebration of the Rocky Mountain Screen Club on March 28. Rick Ricketson, president of the club, made the arrangements, and Wanger will also address the noon meeting of the Denver Chamber of Commerce on the same date.

Gilbert Martinez, for several years office manager and booker for the Coppell exchange, has been named assistant head of the Latin American export division of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co. . . . Fred Morton, formerly in Denver as an Erpi representative, returns as salesman for United Artists, taking the northern territory.

A new theatre is being opened at Lowry Field, Denver, an air school of the U. S. Army. William D. Pickard, army booker from the St. Louis headquarters, was in Denver arranging dates for the new house. By the end of the year about 11,000 men will be stationed at the field.

Seen on the Row and arranging dates and buying supplies. George Allan jr. and sr., of the State Theatre, North Platte, Neb.; E. J. Touey of Grant, Neb.; C. G. Diller of Cripple Creek, Colo.; Mrs. Marie Goodhand of Kimball, Neb., and Dennis F. Baca of Bernalillo, Neb.

SAN FRANCISCO

THE Blumenfeld Theatres officially added the Orpheum to its chain when the transfer was made by the Fanchon & Marco interests. This house, operated for the last eight years by F&M, becomes the key theatre for the Blumenfeld circuit which includes first run houses in all large northern California cities. Joe Blumenfeld will manage the theatre assisted by Al Goodwin who was in the same spot for the former owners. Hal Neides, manager of the Orpheum for the entire time it was operated by F&M, has affiliated with Walt Disney and will manage the showing of "Fantasia" in this and other cities.

Ellis Levy returned to town after two months in the east. Ellis opened the Telenews in Cleveland and plans to journey eastward again soon to open Telenews houses in New Orleans and Detroit . . . Free literature was plentiful this week. The Warfield handed out copies of the March 3 issue of Time *to exploit "Meet John Doe" and the United Artists exchange distributed the February edition of* Stage *for "That Hamilton Woman" . . . Sid Newman, Warner contract clerk, down with chicken pox, but now fully recovered and back at work . . . At the same exchange, Jesse Wright, has taken the shipping department vacancy which occurred when Frank Noege moved to Monogram.*

Harry Rice, Embassy publicist, at home nursing an infected nose . . . Guy Kibbee makes a one-day personal appearance at the Golden Gate, March 19, the day his "Scattergood Baines" opens . . . Paul Gatt is poring over plans to completely renovate his Bayview . . . "Tobacco Road" finished a fine week at the Fox and moved over to the St. Francis for a second Market Street week . . . Sadie Schofield has taken the film inspectress' job for Pat Patterson who sells Astor products . . . M-G-M previewed "The Penalty" and "Rage in Heaven," Monday.

Two legitimate openings this week. Eddie Dowling and Julie Haydon brought a New York cast directly from the Big Town for a two-week engagement of "The Time of Your Life" at the Curran. Local author and local setting is giving the play added attraction. At the Alcazar, "Wedding Night" began an indefinite run with the same cast that presented "Maid in the Ozarks" which amazed everyone by drawing good crowds for four weeks.

Walter Reinhertz, Warner assistant poster clerk, is the first from that office to answer the draft call. He left for camp on the 14th . . . Republic's "Behind the News" goes into the Paramount for a Market Street first run on the 20th . . . Sid Shuster, M-G-M salesman, on the sick list . . . W. C. Cornwell has resigned as manager of the Rio in Merced, and Charlie White has stepped into the spot . . . Myrtle Lynch, M-G-M inspectress, is taking a three-month leave of absence . . . Producer's Releasing Corp. is marketing a one-reeler, a most timely short, called "Heroic Greece" and has booked it into a number of theatres.

William G. Dennis, western supervisor for the Fawcett publications, in town to work with Ben Bray on campaigns for "Captain Marvel," the serial based on the comic strip . . . Glen Gray, a local favorite, back on the bandstand at the Palace and drawing big crowds into the Rose Room Bowl . . . United Artists held an invitational preview on "Topper Returns" at the Alhambra . . . Jack Tillman, Columbia manager, has been confined to his home for more than a week with a cold . . . Sam Levin of the San Francisco Theatres has purchased the Vogue from the Blumenfeld circuit . . . "Gone With the Wind" bowed out of the Warfield after a four-week return. It did splendid business right up to the end.

The Mendota in Mendota reopened on the 14th after being closed two weeks because of fire . . . Carl Krueger of the Jam Handy company in from Detroit . . . "This Thing Called Love" ended a five-week run at the Roxie in Oakland.

Alexander Preview Co. Opens Branch in L. A.

LOS ANGELES—A branch office has been opened here at 1928 S. Vermont by the Alexander Preview Co., stocked with a complete library of preview trailers on all attractions, both new and old. Harold Schwartz is managing the office, working under Harry Denny, west coast district manager. Company also has an office in San Francisco.

Ownbey in Charge for NTS in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—Succeeding Arthur de Steffani as branch manager for National Theatre Supply here is Lloyd C. Ownbey of the NTS office in San Francisco. De Steffani has been transferred to Dallas to replace J. I. Roberts, branch manager, who was killed in an automobile accident.

ANY NEWS TODAY?

Planning a new theatre? Remodeling? Being promoted? Getting married? Got a new baby (infant)? Buying new equipment? Been elected mayor? Son or daughter graduating? Proud of a new exploitation stunt? Hired a new staff member? Solved a knotty problem?

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MT106 Lamp Coloring
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MT108 Marquees
MT109 Poster Projectors
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MT142 Temperature Control Devices
MT143 Thermostats and Humidistats
MT144 Unit Heaters
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DECORATIONS & FURNISHINGS

MT155 Acoustical Materials
MT156 Aisle Lights
MT157 Boxoffices
MT158 Carpets
MT159 Carpet Cushion
MT160 Design Service
MT161 Directional Signs
MT162 Door Controls
MT163 Draperies and Curtains
MT164 Drinking Fountains
MT165 Exit Signs
MT166 Foam Rubber Seat Cushions
MT167 Interior Decoration
MT168 Interior Wall Finishes
MT169 Lounge Furniture
MT170 Matting, Rubber
MT171 Mirrors
MT172 Ornamental Metal Work
MT173 Paint Products
MT174 Railings, Lobby
MT175 Sand Urns
MT176 Seating, Auditorium
MT177 Slip Covers
MT178 Speaking Tubes
MT179 Ticket Choppers and Boxes
MT180 Theatre Chairs
MT181 Upholstery Materials
MT182 Wall Coverings, Fabric

LIGHTING

MT190 Dimmers and Controls
MT191 Effect Lighting Devices
MT192 Elec. Measuring Instruments
MT193 Engines, Diesel
MT194 Fluorescent Lamps and Fixtures
MT195 Gelatine Sheets
MT196 Incandescent Lamps
MT197 Lighting Fixtures
MT198 Lighting Plants, Emergency
MT199 Cove Lighting
MT200 Reflectors
MT201 Reflector Lamps
MT202 Spot and Flood Lamps
MT203 Spot and Flood Lights
MT204 Storage Batteries
MT205 Switches, Safety
MT206 Switchboards
MT207 Transformers, Neon

MAINTENANCE

MT210 Bolts, Expansion and Toggle
MT211 Carpet Spotting Compounds
MT212 Drills, Rotary
MT213 Fire Extinguishers
MT214 Fireproofing Compounds
MT215 Gum Removers
MT216 Safety Ladders
MT217 Seat Patching Kits
MT218 Seating Repairs
MT219 Vacuum Cleaners

MISCELLANEOUS

MT225 Coin Changing Machines
MT226 Fireproof Safes and Files
MT227 Music Stands
MT228 Organs, Electric
MT229 Popcorn Machines
MT230 Popcorn & Confection Supplies
MT231 Staff Uniforms
MT232 Tickets
MT233 Ticket Machines
MT234 Water Coolers

PROJECTION

MT240 Booth Doors and Ports
MT241 Carbon Savers
MT242 Carbon Waste Cans
MT243 Change-Over Devices
MT244 Condensing Lenses
MT245 Dowsers
MT246 Film Cabinets
MT247 Film Cement
MT248 Film Handling Devices
MT249 Film Preservatives
MT250 Film Reels
MT251 Film Rewinders
MT252 Fire Shutters, Projection
MT253 Intermittent Movements
MT254 Motion Picture Screens
MT255 Motor Brushes
MT256 Motor-Generators
MT257 Portable Sound Projectors
MT258 Projection Arc Lamps
MT259 Projection Lenses
MT260 Projection Slides
MT261 Projector Carbons
MT262 Projector Parts
MT263 Projector Pedestals
MT264 Rectifiers, Bulb Type
MT265 Rectifiers, Copper-Oxide
MT266 Rectifiers, Copper-Sulphide
MT267 Reel-End Signals
MT268 Reflector Equipment
MT269 Rewind Tables
MT270 Rheostats
MT271 Safety Devices
MT272 Slide Projectors
MT273 Sound Projectors, 35mm
MT274 Sound Projectors, 16mm
MT275 Stereopticons
MT276 Tool Kits

SANITATION

MT285 Cleansing Compounds
MT286 Deodorants and Disinfectants
MT287 Flush Valves
MT288 Hand Driers, Electric
MT289 Insecticides and Germicides
MT290 Odor Absorbers
MT291 Ozone Generators
MT292 Paper Towels and Cabinets
MT293 Perfumes
MT294 Plumbing Fixtures
MT295 Sanitary Supplies
MT296 Soaps and Cleansers
MT297 Suction Cleaners
MT298 Washroom Accessories

SOUND

MT305 Amplifiers
MT306 Amplifier Tubes
MT307 Hearing Aids
MT308 Horn Lifts and Towers
MT309 Intercommunicating Systems
MT310 Lamps, Exciter
MT311 Lens Assemblies, Sound
MT312 Microphones
MT313 Photoelectric Cells
MT314 Public Address Amplifiers
MT315 Public Address Systems
MT316 Radio Tubes
MT317 Record Reproducers
MT318 Sound Equipment, Complete
MT319 Sound Heads
MT320 Sound Service, Contract
MT321 Speakers

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT330 Costumes
MT331 Curtain Controls
MT332 Curtain Tracks
MT333 Stage and Effect Lighting
MT334 Stage Hardware
MT335 Stage Rigging
MT336 Stage Scenery

STRUCTURE

MT340 Architectural Service
MT341 Facing Materials, Exterior
MT342 Flashed Opal Glass
MT343 Flooring Materials
MT344 Glass Blocks
MT345 Insulation Materials
MT346 Metal Trim and Mouldings
MT347 Pipe Hangers and Brackets
MT348 Plate Glass
MT349 Steel and Iron Roofing
MT350 Steel and Iron Sheet Metal
MT351 Structural Glass
MT352 Theatre Fronts, Porcelain
MT353 Theatre Fronts, Structural Glass
MT354 Wood Veneers

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Macklin Asks Arbiters For Clearance Relief

MILWAUKEE—In the second arbitration case, filed March 12, before the local tribunal, Lee Macklin, operator of the Grand Theatre, New London, Wis., claims that Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Distributing Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., and Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., are giving unreasonable clearance to the Rio and Appleton theatres, Appleton, Wis.

The complaint sets forth that the Grand is approximately 21 road miles from Appleton and that Macklin is unable to date pictures until they are shown in Appleton. This creates a penalty on the theatres in New London, it is charged, inasmuch as other theatres in this vicinity are able to date and play this product from the said distributors all of 30 to 50 days sooner than New London can play it.

The other theatres involved in the controversy are the Grand and Times in Clintonville, operated by Dr. W. H. Finney, and the Waupaca and Palace in Waupaca, operated by the Adler Theatre Co., Marshfield, Wis.

Macklin further claims that, on the basis of the admission price charged, the general conditions in the area, character and location of the theatres and policy of operation, are comparable with said theatres at Clintonville and Waupaca and that no clearance exists between Clintonville and Waupaca over New London.

It is also contended by Macklin that unreasonable clearance is being demanded by the Appleton theatres that is detrimental to his business. He does not demand the right to play pictures ahead of Appleton theatres, but does demand the right to book and play the pictures he does buy under the same conditions as are available to the Clintonville and Waupaca theatres and seeks a finding that said clearance is unreasonable and an award that said theatres are entitled to no clearance over said Grand Theatre.

The original case filed here also involved clearance—with Evansville Theatre, Inc., charging Paramount with giving unreasonable clearance to the Jeffris in Janesville.

Van Derveer Plaint Now Being Heard

CHICAGO—The first arbitration demand filed here on February 13 by E. F. Van Derveer, operator of the State, Morris, Ill., was heard March 15 before Arbitrator Charles Zane Henkle, vice-president of the Continental Illinois National Bank. The case involves "some run" and names Loew's as the only distributor, and the Morris and Times theatres, both in Morris.

Harry Lorch Resigns as Republic Exchange Head

CHICAGO—Harry Lorch, local exchange manager for Republic, has resigned to devote his time for the present to the two local theatres he operates, the Harvard and East Side. The resignation becomes effective about April 1. To date no successor has been named.

Sosna Demands First Runs In Mexico, Mo., House

ST. LOUIS—Louis M. Sosna, 805 South Williams St., Moberly, Mo., owner-manager of the Sosna, Mexico, Mo., has filed the first complaint with the arbitration tribunal for the St. Louis territory. He charges the national distributors have declined to furnish 1940-41 first-run pictures for his theatre.

The distributors mentioned in the complaint are: Columbia Pictures Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Paramount Pictures Corp., Republic Pictures Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Universal Film Exchange, Inc., United Artists Corp. and Vitagraph, Inc.

Sosna's complaint, filed under the "some run" provisions of the consent decree, is the first complaint to be filed with the local tribunal. The next step will be to provide an arbitrator to hear and pass on the evidence. It is probable, however, that the case will not actually get to trial for about 30 days.

Sosna in his submission sets forth that various distributors of film encouraged him to open a new theatre in Mexico, and promised to supply the Sosna Theatre with a sufficient number of first-run pictures for profitable operation.

The Sosna was opened in June, 1940, but only Vitagraph sold the house first run pictures and these were for the 1938-39 season. When the new selling season opened about July, 1940, Sosna charges that none of the distributors mentioned in his complaint offered to sell their new 1940-41 first run pictures to the Sosna, and when Louis M. Sosna, manager, demanded pictures the distributors gave the excuse that their product had already been sold to the opposition theatre in Mexico.

He further charges that the Sosna cannot obtain sufficient number of desirable first-run pictures for profitable operation. He sets out that the only remedy for the situation that now prevails in Mexico is that arrangements be made for the Sosna to secure approximately 208 first-run pictures from five of the major and independent distributors.

The submission also stated that the theatres that would be affected by a decision reached in connection with his complaint would be the Frisina houses in Mexico, the Liberty and the Rex.

When Sam and Louis Sosna announced their intention of opening a new theatre early in May, 1940, the opposition houses, the Liberty, an 800-seater, and the Rex, with 450 seats, were being operated by C. M. Clay.

The Sosnas spent some $40,000 to convert a former mercantile building into a 400-seat motion picture theatre with modern equipment.

Late in October, 1940, Clay entered into a deal with the Frisina Amusement Co. of Springfield and Taylorville, Ill., headed by Dominic Frisina, to take over the operation and management of the Liberty and Rex. The Frisina circuit has approximately 40 theatres in southern Illinois, eastern Missouri and southeastern Iowa under its banner. It is one of the largest renters of film in the middlewest. So far as is known it has no producer or distributor financial hookup, being regarded as an independent circuit in the trade.

In his submission to the arbitration tribunal, Sosna does not make any charges against the Frisina circuit. He merely mentions that the circuit's houses in Mexico would be affected by the case that he has brought against the nine film distributors.

C. W. Hudson is in charge of the local tribunal in suite 823 Cotton Belt Bldg.

The Docket

The arbitration picture in the Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Louis territory to date:

Chicago

CASE No. 1—Filed February 13. Demand and submission involving some run dispute. E. F. Van Derveer, owner, State Theatre, Morris, Ill. With: Loew's, Inc. Named as interested parties: Morris, Times theatres, both of Morris, Ill. *Hearing held March* 15.

CASE No. 2—Filed February 18. Demand and submission involving some run (Section VI). Ken Theatre Corp. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., B. F. Keith Orpheum Corp., RKO Proctor Corp., RKO Midwest Corp. Theatres involved: Shakespeare, Pix. Named as interested parties: Arthur Schoenstadt, H. Schoenstadt and Sons.

Milwaukee

CASE No. 1—Filed February 25. Demand and submission involving clearance. Evansville Theatre, Inc., operator of Rex, Evansville, Wis. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp. Other theatre named in controversy: Jeffris, Janesville, Wis.

CASE No. 2—Filed March 12. Demand and submission involving clearance. Lee Macklin, operator of the Grand Theatre, New London, Wis. With: Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Distributing Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc. Theatres involved: Grand and Times in Clintonville, operated by Dr. W. H. Finney, and the Waupaca and Palace in Waupaca, operated by the Adler Theatre Co., Marshfield, Wis.

St. Louis

CASE No. 1—Filed March 10. Demand and submission involving some run. Louis M. Sosna, Moberly, Mo., operating the Sosna, Mexico, Mo. With: Columbia Pictures Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Paramount Pictures Corp., Republic Pictures Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Universal Film Exchange, Inc., United Artists Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as party likely to be affected: Liberty and Rex theatres in Mexico, Mo., operates by the Frisina circuit.

Construction, Clearance in Defense Activity Wake

By DAVID F. BARRETT

ST. LOUIS—Careful attention to small towns and villages that heretofore have not been considered seriously as candidates for theatres is trailing the mushrooming of new army camps and national defense projects in this area. Some of these towns have suddenly taken the spotlight and, almost overnight, there is a mad rush of trade interests to get in on the ground floor.

Intensification of competition thus engendered is expected to aggravate trade problems, with the result that some of the first arbitration cases in this area are expected to deal with the new trend.

Typical of the sudden development of a town when a national defense project locates in its vicinity is Waynesville, in central Missouri, where some 15,000 men are employed in constructing a camp to house 45,000 soldiers. Newcomers to the town to date have boosted its original 300 population to ten times the number, and its promise of growth is inviting to businesses looking about for desirable locations.

Neighboring towns of Rolla, Lebanon, Vienna, Tuscumbia and Dixon and even Jefferson City and Springfield have taken on new importance from a motion picture standpoint because of this new army camp and already a number of new theatres have been announced for this general area, with independents, affiliated and unaffiliated chains all on the alert.

In Waynesville, J. T. Ghosen, who operates theatres at Sedalia and several other spots, has started the conversion of a building into a 500-seat theatre. Commonwealth-Waynesville Corp. is speeding completion of a 1,000-seater, to be opened Sunday, April 13, in the town. The incorporators of this firm are James W. Taylor, Byron Spencer and M. White, all of Kansas City, in which area Commonwealth has a number of theatres.

In Rolla a new 700-seat house is to be built by Mrs. Mildred Karsch, at present operating in Farmington, Mo. C. Berutt, who owns the 740-seat Rollamo here at present, is breaking ground for a 500-seater. In Lebanon a 500-seater has been started by F. L. Lowe who is connected with the Star Theatre Co. of Lyons, Kas.

Incipient in the situation are competitive disputes over product and clearance when the houses are ready to operate. This has already been highlighted by the oil boom in southern Illinois where the opening of several new houses in a specific area has made them immediately competitive.

Expansion of some of the independent chains also has created situations of competitive conflict.

For example the Frisina circuit, which is particularly active, came into Mexico, Mo., where the smaller operators, Sam and Louis Sosna, had started a 400-seater in the summer of 1940 in opposition to C. M. Clay, operator of a 450-seater and an 800-seat house. Clay, later in the year, entered into a deal with the Frisina interests to take over the operation of the two houses, and again the situation in the city was entirely changed.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

SIGNS - MARQUEES AND MAINTENANCE

White Way Electric Sign & Maintenance Co.
Tom Flannery, President
315-17 W. Walton Street
Phone DELaware 9111

THEATRICAL PRINTING



Oscar Schenk, Amusement Ad Manager, Stricken

CHICAGO—Oscar E. Schenk, 46, manager of the amusement advertising department of the *Herald-American,* died of a heart attack at his home in suburban Wilmette last Saturday.

Schenk joined the Hearst paper in 1915. Under his guidance, the *Herald-American* reportedly carried more theatrical advertising lineage than any other paper in the country.

Schenk is survived by his widow. His only son, Robert, was killed in an auto accident near Murdo, South Dakota, in 1939.

Wally Amann, veteran ad salesman for the paper who has been specializing in hotel and night club advertising, has been appointed Schenk's successor.

Charles E. Ward

FAIRBURY, ILL.—Charles E. Ward, 68, operator of a theatre in Odell, was fatally injured when he became ill while driving.

Fire in Vandalia, Ill.

VANDALIA, ILL.—Fire of undetermined origin recently destroyed the Liberty Theatre here. The house was managed by Herman Tanner.

Tax Fears Fading; Fast Time Again

MADISON, WIS.—The legislative cauldron continues to bubble along at an even pace with the biggest news of the week the passage by the assembly of the joint finance committee's budget bill, which appropriates $73,858,270 and the revival of the daylight saving measure.

Exhibitors are hopeful that if the budget bill passes the senate, it will mean they have little left to fear this session from possible new taxes. What deficit there is between the budget for the coming biennium and actual expenditures is expected to be met by diversion of highway funds.

The daylight saving measure was rescued by night session senate action. It has been amended so it now affects Milwaukee only. The original bill was statewide, but to mollify upstate opposition, it was amended, 17-12, to apply only to Milwaukee county.

The Doyne bill was introduced to boost the penalty for violation of state laws against obscenity in photographs, literature or motion pictures. It would increase the penalty from a $500 fine to a minimum fine of $1,000. The measure prohibits the "publication, printing or exhibition of obscene literature, pictures or motion pictures" and also makes it illegal to possess them.

A Wage-Hour Bill Is Up for Wisconsin

MADISON, WIS.—Introduced in the assembly by Robert Tehan, Milwaukee, is a bill to set up a state wage and hour act for intrastate industries.

Limiting its provisions to persons earning less than $250 a month, it would set a minimum hourly wage of 30 cents for the first five years of the law's operation and 40 cents thereafter.

Hours would be limited to eight a day and 44 a week, with payment of time and one-half for overtime.

Exemptions would include agricultural and domestic employes and persons employed temporarily for two weeks before Christmas.

Sectional Newsreel Plan Launched in Illinois

CHICAGO—Archie Spencer, formerly special representative with Publix Great States Theatres, Inc., has formed the Teletone News Company at 10 S. La Salle St. to distribute and sell sectional newsreels. Initial "shots" are expected to be released May 1.

According to Spencer, the company will take newsreel shots in six central states—Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa and Missouri. The new Teletone firm plans to have a tieup with the local daily paper with the paper given credit for presentation of the newsreel on the screen. It is stated that member newspapers of the Illinois Daily Newspaper Markets, Inc., a non-profit organization which promotes and publicizes daily newspapers in Illinois, have agreed to the Teletone News plan.

It is planned to have two cameramen in Illinois—one in Chicago and another in Springfield.

CHICAGO

PICKED up at B&K: Back from Florida vacations are Bill Hollander and Harry Lustgarten. Now vacationing there are the brothers Platt, Nate and Abe . . . Gertrude Studdert, secretary to Walter Immerman, is vacationing in Havana for couple weeks . . . Helen Stahl, secretary to John Mitchell, manager of the Palace, South Bend, is Dave Wallerstein's new secretary. Miss Stahl succeeds Mel Rainey, who is now with the infantry in San Francisco.

Holden Swiger, one-time manager of the Tivoli, is now in Cleveland managing the new Telenews . . . Virgil Cory is new TWA publicity chieftain here. His predecessor, Bill Westlake, is a captain in charge of communications and is stationed at the municipal airport . . . Norman W. Alley, ex-Chicagoan and long-time Hearst news-reel cameraman, is now taking pictures in South America . . . Burt Ofstie has moved his New Midwest Trailers headquarters from 831 S. Wabash to 2901 Prairie.

Moe Weels, local exhibitor, has sold several tunes to BMI. Written in collaboration with his wife, Lottie, the names of the songs are: "Just a Heartache," "I Forgive But Can't Forget You," "You're the Sunshine of My Heart" and "What Is It About You?" . . . Amusement Division of Greek War Relief Ass'n will hold "Show of Shows" at Grand Opera House on April 2. John Balaban is chairman. Prices will range from $3.50 to $10.00.

Couple of Warner theatre men expecting visits from the stork within the next few months. Ed Hendrickson expects to become a papa in June while Cliff Farmer expects a little Farmer in August. Ed Hickey, engineer at the Beverly, recently became the father of a boy . . . The Eli Arkins recently celebrated their 12th anniversary . . . ABC Printers doing cover and bindery work on the Warner Bros. theatres weekly publication, "Chicago and Wisconsin Manager."

B&K Employes Club held a television dance at their State-Lake Bldg. clubrooms. Many saw the circuit's television station, W9XBK, in operation . . . Gertrude Cobb, wife of Babe Cobb, manager of the Howard, has joined the Actor's Company of Chicago. Mrs. Cobb is a former New York actress . . . Isadore Stein, manager of the Alba, is mourning the recent death of his sister, Eda.

Harry Nepo, who sold his Lindy to Elmer Benesch, has purchased the Kimbark from Fecher & Nortman . . . Tom Gorman has arranged a tieup with the Hub Department Store. Latter's radio show, "Hub's High School Aces," broadcast over station WGN, now originates from the stage of the Palace every Saturday morning at 10 . . . Eric Von Stroheim will be in town soon to star in "Arsenic and Old Lace."

Archie Herzoff, Chicago Theatre publicist, invited press to dinner at Rickett's with Pat O'Brien the guest of honor. Pat finished up nice week at the Chicago on Thursday . . . Geraldine Hamburg, daughter of the local Paramount sales manager, Harry Hamburg, was recent guest on the BOXOFFICE-Joy Candy Shoppes Sunday radio show on WAAF. Geraldine, who is one of the famous "Quiz Kids," was interviewed by Hal Tate and his wife, Nikki Kaye, radio continuity writer.

Abe Teitel due back Monday from New York trip . . . Bob Hartman of International Enterprises now traveling in south on business. Mrs. Hartman recently returned from a Hot Springs vacation . . . Jim Donohue, Paramount branch manager, invites all exhibitors to a trade showing of "Road to Zanzibar" at the Esquire Thursday morning at 11 . . . Harry Santley, formerly with Sports Films, is now in charge of theatre booking department of Col-Nil Advertising Co., 39 S. La Salle St. The firm is now contacting theatres all over the country on their theatre display cases.

Picked up at the RKO exchange: Branch Manager Jack Osserman reports that "Vivacious Lady" has been bought by Publix-Great States for the entire circuit. Osserman also pleased over Mae Tinee's review of the film in last Sunday's *Tribune*.

MILWAUKEE

WARNER-SAXE'S Uptown has been newly decorated . . . Earl Fischer, south side exhibitor, is back in town after an extended visit to Florida . . . Warner-Saxe's Modjeska, Garfield and Uptown theatres were to present the Milwaukee premiere of the American and National Leagues' official baseball films Saturday free of charge through a hook-up with the Milwaukee *Journal*.

Max Krofta, Racine exhibitor and secretary of the ITPA of Wisconsin, served on a committee observing the 17th annual Mygatt's Corner celebration . . . Charles B. Reed, old-time theatre musician here, died recently at the age of 74. Reed at one time played in orchestras in the old Crystal and Alhambra here and the Rialto in Racine.

The Nicolet Area council of Boy Scouts were guests of the Bay in Green Bay at a special motion picture performance made possible by donation of the theatre by the management and donation of services by Local 477, Theatrical Stage Employes and Motion Picture Operators . . . Fox's Wisconsin is promoting the "9 o'clock plan" under which the main feature begins about 9 o'clock every night and is followed by the companion attraction. The announcement declares that the plan "is designed to please both double and single feature fans."

Return of "Gone With the Wind" at Fox's Palace at popular prices is being shown under a policy of four-a-day with the theatre opening at 8:30 a. m. . . . Sheboygan at Sheboygan has changed its week-day program policy by showing the main feature first on the evening program . . . Both Reuben Rosenblatt, manager of the Rialto in Kaukauna, and J. H. Silliman, operator of the Rio and Appleton in Appleton, have announced new houses for Appleton. The former plans a 600-seat theatre and the latter an 800-seat house.

Renewals for theatre licenses here can now be made by mail instead of in person as in the past as the result of a new policy adopted by Mayor Carl F. Zeidler . . . Theatre Equipment & Supply Co. has filed articles of incorporation here with Michael Levin, H. R. Vogel and Oscar E. Olson as incorporators . . . A. N. Donnellan is now showing pictures in the Winter town hall.

Threaten Chain With Four-Hour Shows

ST. LOUIS—Complaining that the "special celebrations" at the St. Louis Amusement's Gravois and Kingsland have extended some 60 days or so, a number of independents are threatening to retaliate with four-hour shows, cut prices and the like.

Fred Wehrenberg, president of the local MPTOA unit, reveal that the Apollo is putting on a four-hour show several nights a week. It has also slashed its admission price from 28 cents to 20 cents, he says. A number of the local theatres have been using triple bills with great frequency. Others go in for merchandise gifts in a big way.

The Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis has protested in vain to exhibitors against these lengthy shows. Within the next few days a bill to "protect" the children of the community from too lengthy motion picture shows, will be presented to the general assembly, now in session at Jefferson City.

St. Louis Theatres Join Greek War Relief Drive

ST. LOUIS—Upwards of 200 motion picture theatres in St. Louis and surrounding territory have signified their intention to join in the nation-wide drive to raise funds for the Greek War Relief Committee.

Plans for local participation were worked out at a meeting held here this week, and attended by some 80 theatre owners and managers. A five-day drive starts Tuesday, March 25.

The motion picture industry has assumed the responsibility for raising $1,000,000 of the $10,000,000 national quota for the providing of food, clothing, medical supplies, etc., for the Greek civilian population.

Harry C. Arthur, president and general manager of Fanchon & Marco, and Maurice Schweitzer, local manager for Paramount, have been named co-chairmen for the St. Louis division.

A special trailer starring Melvyn Douglas will be shown at all of the theatres during the five-day drive. "Flying squads" of girls in native Greek costumes will visit all of the local night clubs and taverns in the interest of this drive.

Reinheimer Renews Altec

CHICAGO—L. Reinheimer has renewed his agreements with Altec for sound and service for three houses here, one in Lombard, Ill., and one in Hammond, Ind.

ST. LOUIS

BARNEY ROSENTHAL, veteran exchange man who lost his wife several weeks ago, was grieved again last week when his sister, Mrs. William Simpson of Chicago, died in that city. She had been ill for some time . . . Russell Armentrout, who operates theatres in Pittsfield and Barry, Ill., and Louisiana and Shelbina, Mo., was a visitor. Other visitors to the Row included Tom Ronan of Danville, Ill., division manager for Publix-Great States; Percy Hoeffler, in charge of the Publix-Great States houses in Quincy, Ill., and I. Weinsheink, who looks after Publix-Great States houses in East St. Louis, Alton, Edwardsville and Wood River, Ill.

Joe Goldfarb, who has the Uptown and Gem theatres in Alton, Ill., came in for the marriage of his nephew . . . Jules and Jake Leventhal of the Rivoli have gone to Florida for a vacation . . . Everett Hayes, former manager of the St. Louis here and now of Sullivan, Ill., will take the 32nd (Consistory) degree of Scottish Rite Masonry at Bloomington, Ill., on April 4 . . . Bob Taylor, Monogram manager, traveled southern Illinois Tuesday and Wednesday . . . O. F. Lessing of Variety Pictures went to St. Charles, Mo., on business . . . Lester Levy, former film salesman, is now a doughboy with Company D, 138th Infantry, at Camp Robinson near Little Rock, Ark.

F. J. O'Donnell, home office auditor for Monogram, in our midst for several days . . . Steve Broidy, Monogram general sales manager, stopped off for business confabs with Bob Taylor, local manager . . . State Auditor Forrest Smith has had a bill introduced at Jefferson City to impose a two per cent "use" tax on out-of-state merchandise sold to Missourians . . . Sally Foster, warblist with Pappy Cheshire's radio troupe, is en route home after appearing as a guest on Al Pearce's Hollywood program . . . Jack Shea, former state senator and theatre manager, is vacationing in Havana, Cuba.

A bill to make Missouri a "divorce mecca" is in the legislative hopper at Jefferson City . . . Paul Beisman, manager of American and Municipal theatres, has returned from New York where he signed up Helen Hayes and her "Twelfth Night" . . . The Grand, burley on Market Street near Sixth, was to be reopened March 15 with Richard Zeisler in charge . . . Glenn Miller and his orchestra are at the Fox for a week . . . Alexander Newman, formerly of Cleveland, is the new cashier at the local Universal exchange.

More competition for the theatres in St. Louis and the Village of Lemay. A new 600-seat theatre is being completed at Jefferson Barracks, army post just south of here, where some 5,000 draftees and regulars are to be stationed.

Glenn Miller's orchestra completing a week's run at Fanchon & Marco's Fox here . . . Jack Shea, former state senator and motion picture theatre owner and manager, is enjoying things down New Orleans way.

"Fantasia" Towering Over Chicago Runs

CHICAGO—"Fantasia" and "Gone With the Wind" at the Apollo and Roosevelt respectively are the town's top-grossers with the Disney music-film holding down top honors. Business at other loop theatres was a little above average.

Detail for week ended March 6:

(Average is 100)

Apollo—**Fantasia** (Disney), 2nd roadshow wk.....275
Chicago—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 120
Garrick—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), here for 2nd week after week at Chicago.....130
Oriental—**Comrade X** (M-G-M), plus stage show....105
Palace—**Back Street** (Univ); **Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga** (Univ), 2nd wk.....120
Roosevelt—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....180
State-Lake—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 110
Studio—**Living Dead** (SR), 2nd wk..... 80
United Artists—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M).....120

"This Thing Called Love" Indianapolis Sole Draw

INDIANAPOLIS—With the weather cold and fair, most first runs found business to be disappointing. Loew's made by far the best showing with "This Thing Called Love" and "Escape to Glory."

Detail for week ended March 7:

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**Behind the News** (Rep); **Texas Terrors** (Rep) 75
Circle—**The Mad Doctor** (Para't); **Monster and the Girl** (Para't) 80
Indiana—**Footsteps in the Dark** (FN); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox) 70
Loew's—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Escape to Glory** (Col) 135
Lyric—**Father's Son** (WB); Andrews Sisters and Joe Venuti's Orchestra on stage..... 95

Stage Show Does the Top Business in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—Neatest take for the week was turned in by the Riverside show starring Pat O'Brien and the Merry Macs on the stage with "Here Comes the Navy" on the screen. Weather was fairly decent during the week but the beginning of Lent slowed down business somewhat.

Detail for week ending March 6:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**Virginia** (Para't); **Life With Henry** (Para't), 2nd wk. 100
Riverside—**Here Comes the Navy** (WB), plus **Pat O'Brien, Merry Macs** on stage 175
Strand—**The Devil Commands** (Col); **The Face Behind the Mask** (Col) 110
Warner—**Back Street** (Univ); **Road Show** (UA).....125
Wisconsin—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) 135

Plan in St. Louis for "Sis Hopkins" Debut

ST. LOUIS—Plans are in progress here for the world premiere at Fanchon & Marco's 5,000-seat Fox on April 4 of Republic's "Sis Hopkins." It is expected the stars of the picture will come in for personal appearances.

Clear Site

DANVILLE, ILL.—A site, recently acquired by the four Constan brothers, has been cleared for construction of a theatre.

INDIANAPOLIS

VISITORS to Filmrow: E. K. Crouch, Palace, Fairmount; Harry Van Noy, Paramount, Anderson; Mrs. Annette Kuebler, Astra, Jasper; Joe Gutzweiler, Tivoli, Jasper; Abe H. Kaufman, Fountain, Terre Haute; Mrs. William Luckett, Indiana, Scottsburg; William H. Haney, Albion, Albion; H. L. Kreighbaum, Char-Bell, Rochester; Roy Kalver, Adams, Decatur; William Studebaker, Logan, Logansport; Leonard Sowar, Rivoli, Muncie; Jack Van Borssum, West, West Terre Haute; J. B. Sconce, Playhouse, Edinburg; Roy E. Harrold, Princess, Rushville; Joseph Finneran, Elwood, Elwood; Joe Schilling, Auditorium, Connersville; Harold Hargis, Rio, Rockport; Arthur B. Thompson, Ritz, North Vernon; W. Lowell Brewer, Grove, Beech Grove.

The Granada has installed a new screen and sound preliminary to showing of "Gone With the Wind" . . . J. B. Sconce, operator of several theatres in Indiana, announces a $55,000 theatre for Greenwood, Ind. The house is to be built this spring, and will include storerooms . . . Bob Herrell, assistant shipper at Warner, resigned to join the booking staff at Paramount . . . Claude McKean, Warner salesman, reports that his son, Tom, has received top rank in the radio school at Camp Shelby, and is eligible to become an instructor after six weeks of training . . . Sam Clark, Warner publicity man, was in town to work on the forthcoming release of "Meet John Doe."

RCA engineer in town studying the local theatres in an effort to determine which is best suited for the showing of "Fantasia" . . . Frances van Trees is the new secretary to J. H. Stevens, Paramount branch manager . . . In checking through some old newspaper files, it was discovered that Indianapolis had double features even as far back as 1922. On June 25 of that year, the old Isis (a downtown house) advertised two features for the price of one. The attractions were Dustin Farnum in "Strange Idols" and Al St. John in "The Village Sheik" . . . James Q. Thrasher, for the past five years dramatic critic for the Indianapolis *Times*, has accepted a position with the Walt Disney organization. He will assist in the exploitation of "Fantasia."

Earl Cunningham of Fountain Square Theatre, Indianapolis, had as his guests many members of the American Legion for his showing of "Land of Liberty." A parade and a short patriotic service preceded the showing . . . Indianapolis is to have another ice revue. This one is "It Happened on Ice," presented by Sonja Henie and Arthur Wirtz. It will feature Joe Cook, Evansville, Ind., comedian, besides several members of the Henie troupe. Incidentally, Sonja's show grossed $115,000 in a six-day stand which it made here . . . A bill permitting Indianapolis to adopt daylight savings time was sent to the governor for signature, after being passed by both the house and the senate.

The Lyric, in conjunction with Radio Station WFBM, staged a "Laugh Quiz" program on the stage.

Repudiate Testimony By Helen Lynch

New York—The National Legion of Decency repudiates the testimony of Helen Lynch who supported the anti-five block bill before the Minnesota house judiciary committee Monday, presumably reflecting the Legion's attitude.

Through Mrs. James F. Looram, chairman of the Legion's reviewing committee, the Legion states that its only authorized spokesmen in Minnesota are the Rev. Donald J. Gregory, chancellor of the diocese of St. Paul, and Father Martin Larkin of Duluth.

Product Demand to Reach Arbitration

MINNEAPOLIS—Hearing of the first complaint filed with this district's arbitration board will be held in approximately 30 days when the question will be answered as to whether the White Bear Theatre, White Bear, Minn., is entitled to some run of RKO, Warner, 20th-Fox and M-G-M, now allegedly denied it.

Seeking a subsequent-run of these products, David Ratner, operating the house in opposition to the State Theatre which has been in White Bear long before, filed the complaint.

The complaint, alleging the inability to obtain any run of the defendant companies' pictures, claims the White Bear Theatre is entitled to some run on a reasonable clearance as between it and the State and "on such terms as will not defeat the consent decree's purpose, and particularly Sections 7 and 8." It demands "that said controversy and its right to some run from these companies upon a reasonable clearance be afforded to against such producers and distributors."

It is pointed out that "licensing of said pictures will be of no value unless the arbitration fixes a reasonable clearance between the run of said pictures now licensed to the State."

Four Added to K. C. Arbitration Panel

KANSAS CITY—The following local business men have been added to the arbitration panel of the motion picture tribunal here, John F. Brink, clerk, announces:

Edward Fraser, accountant, Fraser, Dell & Co.

Cliff C. Jones, Kansas City Fire & Marine Insurance Co.

E. N. Ronnau, assistant vice-president of Cook Paint & Varnish Co.

R. Carter Tucker, lawyer, Harding, Murphy & Tucker.

Opens Louisburg Sun

LOUISBURG, KAS.—Bill Kubitzki opened the Sun here Wednesday.

Urges House Approval Anti-Decree Measure

MINNEAPOLIS—Acting in the face of belated opposition from four major companies, the house judiciary committee recommended by a vote of 18 to 2 passage of the Northwest Allied measure to vitiate certain portions of the consent decree. Arrayed against the bill were Metro, 20th-Fox, RKO and Warner.

United Artists joined the other distributors when the senate general legislation committee held a hearing on the same measure, claiming the company couldn't operate under its sales plan. The committee continued the hearing until March 19 to give proponents a chance to argue.

When the house judiciary committee met this week to consider the measure again, following last week's public hearing, it permitted a representative of the Catholic Legion of Decency to appear and make a plea for its enactment. Northwest Allied leaders had feared that the Legion might oppose it.

The bill would require film distributors in Minnesota to offer for sale to exhibitors their entire season's product, the same as at present, to grant a minimum of 20 per cent cancellation and to refrain from forced selling of shorts, newsreels, trailers, westerns and foreigns.

David Shearer, local attorney, was retained by the four film companies to argue against the bill. Northwest Allied members, who spoke in its behalf, were Fred Strom, executive secretary, President E. L. Peaslee and W. R. Frank.

Shearer declared the consent decree should be given every chance to succeed because it represents a U. S. governmental department's policy and constitutes a bona fide attempt on the film industry's part at self-regulation.

It also was argued by Shearer that the proposed legislation would result in a reversal of governmental policy and throw the industry, locally and nationally, into confusion. Separate sales policies would be required for Minnesota, on the one hand, and North and South Dakota and western Wisconsin, also a part of the Minneapolis trade territory, on the other, he pointed out. The passage of similar acts elsewhere would necessitate as many different office set-ups as there were laws, according to Shearer who also questioned the bill's constitutionality.

Another point made by Shearer—and denied by proponents—was that the measure is undesirable because it would make split deals and spot booking illegal.

Sees Decree Time-Consuming

In arguing for the bill, Peaslee explained that film prices are largely a matter of negotiation between exhibitors and distributors. Under the consent decree groups-of-five selling plan, he claimed, so many negotiations would be necessary that the average exhibitor would have to devote much additional time to buying film. The result would be much more grief for the exhibitor and likely neglect of other phases of his business.

Strom said the law is desired by exhibitors so that they can buy at wholesale instead of at retail. The cancellation privilege is essential, he declared, so that exhibitors may eliminate pictures which are injurious to their business. It's wrong to make them pay for films which they can't or don't play, he asserted.

Such a picture as "Susan and God" may be a big drawing card in the large cities first runs, Strom pointed out, but worthless to the smaller town theatre owners who should have the right to exclude it from their contracts. In order to obtain the comparatively few good pictures produced by each company, exhibitors have to buy all products and pay for pictures which they don't use, but the cancellation privilege would help to correct this, according to Strom.

Faith in Arbitration

Frank, owner of a large independent circuit, charged that the consent decree would take from many exhibitors their power to negotiate and would put them at distributors' mercy in the matter of prices.

It was pointed out by Frank that, after the Paramount-affiliated loop first-run houses had run a group of five pictures, the independent neighborhood exhibitor, obtaining the pictures 56 days later, would have to buy these films in order to have sufficient product to operate his house and, in such a situation, the distributors could dictate the price and he'd have no choice in negotiation.

Friedman, another leading independent circuit owner, expressed wonderment why, if the decree is the answer to the industry's problems, the large affiliated theatre circuits have run to cover by making long-term franchise deals, covering entire products, with all the major companies.

Small-town exhibitor constituents of Representative A. L. Boze, a committee member, advised him that, in their opinions, there'd be eight to ten times as many percentage pictures as at present and film costs would be boosted many fold, he said.

The opinion was expressed by Shearer that the consent decree's arbitration plan, which, he said, was set up at tremendous cost to the distributors, would correct grievances. Peaslee replied that the exhibitors would have to bear the cost of arbitration, in the final analysis, by paying higher film prices.

The Docket

The arbitration picture in the Minneapolis area to date:

Minneapolis

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 7. Demand and submission involving some run. David Ratner, operating White Bear Theatre, White Bear, Minn. With: RKO, M-G-M, Warner, 20th-Fox. Theatre named in controversy: State, White Bear, Minn.

Iowa-Neb. ATO Ponders Upon New Organization

DES MOINES—At a two-day conference of the Allied Theatre Owners of Iowa and Nebraska here Monday and Tuesday, the board of directors was appointed as a committee to further investigate the feasibility of a new Iowa-Nebraska organization.

Leo F. Wolcott of Eldora, who, as president of the group, called the meeting, declined to make any statement as to the possible purpose of reorganization.

The Iowa-Nebraska operators went through the formality of voting to give the consent decree a fair trial.

The two-day session opened with a luncheon at which H. M. Richey and Ed Kuykendall were the principal speakers. Richey, formerly Michigan Allied manager, is now exhibitor-relations chief for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; Kuykendall is the president of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America.

Richey, who flew to Des Moines from New York for the meeting, discussed ways and means of preventing adverse legislation. He feels that "unfortunately, too few theatre owners keep close contact with the men they elect to office and too many times these men get a distorted picture of our business . . . I believe this industry faces the greatest future it has ever faced, but it will have to chart its course with more care than at any other time."

Kuykendall criticized present amusement taxes for theatres. He said he didn't believe they would be increased for some time, however. (An admission tax bill calling for a one-cent tax on all theatre tickets up to 50 cents and a two-cent tax on tickets from 50 cents to $1 is pending in the Iowa legislature currently).

Describing exhibitors as the "shock-absorbers" of the industry, Kuykendall declared praise or blame regarding the quality of films reaches the exhibitor first. "Unfortunately too few (exhibitors) give enough time to arranging balanced programs," he said.

Richey returned to New York Tuesday evening. Kuykendall went to Omaha.

Representatives from Tri-States, Central States, Pioneer Theatre Circuit, and most of the exchanges attended the luncheon. A snowstorm held the number of independents present down to 120.

Wolcott Re-Elected

The first day of the meeting closed following discussion of pending legislation, including a Bank Night bill, the admission tax bill and the reel bill, all of which are opposed by the organization. The group is sponsoring a fire regulation bill, Senate File 375, which provides for fire prevention specifications on all new theatre buildings.

Tuesday was given over for the most part to the election of officers and a discussion of the double feature problem. Officers who were re-elected were Leo F. Wolcott, Eldora, president; W. B. Franke, Humboldt, vice-president, and W. A. Dutton, Manchester, secretary. A. C. Myrick, Lake Park, and Harold H. Hall, Elkader, were elected to the board of directors.

According to Wolcott, small town theatre audiences in Iowa and Nebraska don't like double feature films. Double bills seem to be more popular in the larger cities such as Des Moines, he said, and as a result, independent operators in the two states are providing single features in small communities.

W. B. Franke is of the opinion that the double bill is enjoyed more by the man with the small income. He believes it is the poor man's entertainment, and that the man with the large family who has to watch his budget wants all the picture he can get for his money.

Franke thinks the occasional theatregoer, who follows the bills at first run establishments, does not favor double features. He prefers his bridge, golf or bowling.



On Tour—

Ed L. Kuykendall, MPTOA president, who returned Thursday to Kansas City after a side trip to Des Moines and Omaha for informal discussion with exhibitors. The national exhibitor leader was in Kansas City to study facilities of Excelsior Springs for the annual convention to be held the first week in June.

Iowa-Nebraska ATO Hears Richey Urge New Unity

DES MOINES—Allied Theatre Owners of Iowa-Nebraska at a meeting here Monday and Tuesday were warned against expecting any tremendously improved Hollywood product and were advised that now is the time for the motion picture industry to put its house in order.

H. M. Richey, personal envoy of W. F. Rodgers, general sales manager for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, was the spotlighted speaker of the meeting.

"It is probable that with the pictures being made before they are sold and then sold in groups of five, some improvements in story selection and in casting may result," Richey admitted, "but I don't believe it will result in any particular improvement in production because . . . I am convinced Hollywood knows how to produce good motion pictures and that they are doing a good job.

"It would rather seem to me that the big task ahead would be to have every element of the industry attempt to make the consent decree work . . . Should there develop in the decree parts that are obviously unworkable, it will then be a combined industry dictating changes that may at some time be made.

"It does offer a platform on which the industry can tie and little time need be wasted in abstract discussion of problems within the industry."

Adverse legislation, a major topic of the Iowa-Nebraska session, drew Richey's attention, too. He advised each exhibitor to maintain friendly contact with his own legislator instead of counting on pressure activity at the statehouse by the "big fellows."

"I am firmly convinced that it isn't possible for any element in this business to tear down the other to feather his own nest or to win his point at the time," said Richey. "Yet, I have seen . . . statements by men in this business who should know better, that would convince any legislator, not knowing the other side, of the justification for the particular taxation legislation.

"I stress this point because it seems to me that the new formula of tomorrow in this business is going to be to count ten before anything of a derogatory nature is expressed about our business. I feel this industry faces the greatest future it has ever faced, but by the same token will have to chart its course with more care than at any other time."

After listing efforts being made to improve production, distribution and pre-selling, Richey closed his talk with a plea for greater showmanship on the part of the exhibitor, himself.

"After all," he observed, "unless we and you can get more people through the boxoffices of the United States, whatever financial problems we may have will not be solved."

Zuelch Heads Metro Club

MINNEAPOLIS—Holding its annual election, the M-G-M club chose Art Zuelch, booker, as president. Norman Pyle, exploiteer, was named vice-president; Dorothy Kielty, treasurer, and Mary Lou Brown, secretary.



Kaycee Visitor—

John H. Harris, Pittsburgh showman, president of the National Variety Club and owner of the "Ice Capades" show current at the Pla-Mor rink, arrived Thursday in Kansas City to talk over with Republic executives plans for production of a motion picture based on the ice show. Present for Republic were Herbert J. Yates and M. J. Siegel, the latter in charge of production. Harris also conferred with Robert F. Withers, local chairman, on plans for the Greek War Relief drive.

Contract Signed for "Ice Capades" Film

KANSAS CITY—A contract was finalized here Thursday by Herbert J. Yates and M. J. Siegel of Republic with John H. Harris, president of Ice Capades, Inc., for the production of a feature based on the ice show current at the Pla-Mor. The entire cast is slated to appear in the picture.

Also present at the conferences was Bobby North, who will produce the film tentatively titled "Ice Capades of 1941." Joseph Santley is said to be scheduled to direct.

Arriving by plane, the executives departed for their offices via the same type of transportation.

Double Thanksgiving Again for Nebraska

OMAHA—Exhibitors in Nebraska are going to get a double Thanksgiving day again in 1941, which probably will mean double holiday business for a lot of them. At least it did in 1940.

The state legislature has officially declared the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving day in the state. The day will be celebrated a week earlier by many, in keeping with the federal declaration.

That means many federal employes and office workers will be off one day, while firms and stores will be closed on another day. In 1940 the exhibitors got holiday prices only the one day, which they'll probably do this year, but they got extra business on both days.

Charges Dubinsky Rein On St. Joseph Runs

ST. JOSEPH—Frank Cassil testified that business difficulties at his Rialto in the South Side began when the Dubinsky brothers' enterprises assumed control of theatres in downtown St. Joseph as the $452,775 damage suit he and his wife, Eugenia, filed against the Dubinskys and eight major distributors began in federal court here Tuesday.

Cassil said that in 1932 he learned at the Paramount booking office at Kansas City that he could not play subsequent run films at the Rialto until two weeks after they had played the Crystal, a Dubinsky house.

Because of that situation, he was forced to cut his admission from 20 cents to 15 cents to match the Crystal's price, with a consequent loss, Cassil said. He said he protested to Paramount and was told that the firm had made a deal with Dubinskys giving them protection over other St. Joseph theatres in connection with a transaction in which the Dubinskys obtained the Paramount interests in houses in St. Joseph.

Another official of the company told him Dubinskys and Paramount had entered into a ten-year agreement on booking and nothing could be done to help him, Cassil testified.

He also had the same experience with other distributors, Cassil testified. Some first-run pictures have been shown at the Rialto in the last eight or nine years, but they had been offered to Dubinskys and refused, Cassil said. He also said that since 1933 no first or second runs had been shown in any St. Joseph theatre unless the Dubinskys had passed them.

Conspiracy Alleged

The Cassils allege in the suit that the Dubinskys and the distributors conspired, in violation of anti-trust laws, so that Dubinskys would enjoy a monopoly on first and second runs in St. Joseph, and prevented Cassils from obtaining subsequent runs for their house until the Dubinskys had used them at the Crystal, a second-run Dubinsky house. Cassil testified Tuesday that because of that situation he had to cut admission at his second-run house to match the Crystal's price of 15 cents, and was unable to arrange his programs more than two weeks in advance.

Much of the day and night sessions Tuesday were given over to introducing into the records contracts between Cassil and the distributors.

Most of the second day of the trial was given over to introducing depositions relating to booking contracts between Dubinsky brothers and the distributors. Attorneys for the Cassils sought to show by the depositions that protection given the Dubinskys in the contracts was part of the conspiracy to keep the Cassils from obtaining pictures on subsequent runs until after Dubinskys had used them.

Depositions read Wednesday, the second day, were those of managers of branch distributing offices at Kansas City. The depositions were those of Ralph LiBeau, Paramount; Frank Hensler, Loew's, Inc., and Ward E. Scott, 20th-Fox.

Efforts by the Cassils' attorneys to introduce into trial records information on prices paid by the Dubinskys for pictures were denied by Judge Merrill E. Otis.

Judge Otis ruled that the information was not relevant to the case, and since it was a business matter which the Dubinskys desired to keep secret it should not be revealed unless proven relevant.

"The distributor certainly would be able to make a lower price to an exhibitor for a second run if he also took the first run," commented the judge, adding that no evidence of conspiracy or monopoly could be derived from that fact.

Paul Stinson, Kansas City, attorney for the defendants, had argued that to disclose the prices the Dubinskys paid would be to disclose trade secrets.

Central States Theatres Have a Flying Manager

LINCOLN—It used to be that the local manager for a circuit expected his boss to come in via train or car, but the Central States (Harry Warren) Theatres, Inc., men of Iowa and Nebraska must look to the skies.

During the past week, M. E. McClain, the Central States district manager, inaugurated what will be his new method of patrolling his territory.

Recently having moved Ed Schoenthal from the Sun in Holdrege to the home office in Fremont, McClain had two things in mind. Schoenthal was not only made manager of the Fremont, in Fremont, but, being a licensed pilot, he became McClain's air chauffeur.

Now, when comes time for the district checkup, Schoenthal pilots McClain whereever he wants to go. First manager to be surprised in this fashion was M. E. Lofgren in York.

Commonwealth to Open in Waynesville April 13

KANSAS CITY — Commonwealth Amusement Corp., headquartering here, will open its new Fort Wood Theatre at Waynesville, Mo., on Easter Sunday, April 13.

Waynesville is currently experiencing a boom due to a large army camp there.

EXTRA SPECIAL!

450 new spring cushion, seven-ply veneer back theatre seats. Priced at balance on unpaid contract. Here's a break for some exhibitor needing seats.

WESTERN THEATRE SUPPLY
OMAHA, NEBR.

Blank Circuit Wins a Round With Goldberg

DES MOINES — Tri-States Theatres this week reported progress in their federal court suit to enjoin operation of the State Theatre as a motion picture house in Omaha.

Judge James A. Donohoe issued a memorandum favoring the A. H. Blank circuit, but I. J. Dunn, attorney for Ralph Goldberg, president of the State Investment Co., which operates the State Theatre, said he would appeal and that the company would post a bond to continue operation pending the appeal.

The Tri-States circuit, which operates the Omaha and Orpheum theatres in Omaha, began the court action in September, 1939, charging the opening of the State violated Tri-States' lease of the Omaha Theatre property from the World Realty Co. of which Goldberg also is president.

Branton Silent on Report Anti-Trust Charge Filed

DES MOINES—G. Ralph Branton, general manager of the Tri-States Theatres Corp., refused to make any comment Tuesday on the petition filed in Washington recently by a group of independent Iowa theatre operators requesting investigation of the Tri-States and Central States Theatres Corporations.

"I have not been notified of the action and have no statement to make," Branton said.

Several independent operators who disclaim any connection with the action, express the belief that a well-known "silent" partner of a number of small Des Moines houses is the real momentum behind the petition which charges the two corporations with violation of the Sherman anti-trust laws.

Another protest is being filed by a group of independents against the Tri-States Theatres Corporation in connection with the building of a new theatre in East Des Moines. The theatre is now under construction at a location which has long been discussed by theatre people as an ideal spot for a suburban house. The lot on which the new house is being built adjoins the building which formerly housed a theatre, but which has been converted into a second-hand shop for a number of years.

The location has been the subject of much speculation by interested parties, not acquainted with the details as to why no attempt to build a theatre there has been successful heretofore.

Show Aviation Films

DES MOINES—Two sound films dealing with naval aviation were shown at the Hotel Savery Friday evening (March 7) under auspices of the aviation committee of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. "Navy Wings of Gold" demonstrated the training of a navy flying cadet. "Eyes of the Navy" showed navy flight maneuvers. A forum discussion of qualifications for a civilian pilot's license followed.

$1,751 for Greek Aid From Des Moines

Des Moines—The Greek War Relief ball here featured by a personal appearance of Brenda Joyce, 20th Century-Fox star, raised $1,751 for the Iowa Greek War Relief fund, a final accounting on the benefit shows.

Greek Relief Drive Plans Complete in Northwest

MINNEAPOLIS—Elaborate plans have been completed for the theatre and film industry's drive in behalf of Greek relief in the Northwest. The territory has been broken down into districts, with a supervisor appointed for each of them and responsible for staging a benefit show the week of April 1 in every community.

John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement company president, is general chairman of the committee in charge. C. B. Stiff of the same company heads the committee arranging the Minneapolis and St. Paul benefit shows to be given April 2 and 3, respectively. One of the features of the Minneapolis show will be a 30 minute concert by the full Minneapolis Symphony orchestra.

Full Support for Greek Drive in Kansas City

KANSAS CITY—Two hundred thirty-three houses in the Kansas City exchange area have pledged their support for the Greek War Relief Week, March 23 to 29 inclusive, the distributor committee, under the chairmanship of Robert P. Withers, reported, with the final total expected to go over the 300 mark.

Plan A, which includes a special trailer by Melvyn Douglas, a direct appeal made by a local speaker wherever possible, and a collection from the audience, is the plan practically all the houses will use, according to Senn Lawler, who is replacing E. C. Rhoden as chairman of the exhibitor committee for the area.

Arm bands, buttons, lobby material, and publicity material to be used in conjunction with the trailer, will reach cooperating dealers shortly.

In downtown Kansas City, only the Midland will have a midnight showing. Present plans call for a combination stage screen show. Jerry Zigmond, chairman for the local committee, reports that all other downtown theatres will boost this showing. Tickets are 50 cents each.

In the suburban area, present plans indicate houses will use the trailer and direct collection.

Fast Time, Divorce Bills Are Killed

Minneapolis—A proposed daylight saving law before the state legislature, opposed by independent exhibitors, was killed in committee, along with a theatre divorcement bill, which Northwest Allied refused to support.

"Days of '49" Set For April 11-12

KANSAS CITY—"Days of '49," an annual event put on by Variety Club, Tent 8, has now been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, in the clubrooms. Plans are rapidly taking shape under the direction of Leland Allen, Commonwealth, who heads the entertainment committee. This is one of the four events in 1941 open to the public.

H. J. Griffith, Harold Harris and W. G. McKinney of the H. J. Griffith Theatres, were the hosts and Mrs. "Jimmy" Griffith and Mrs. Juanita Harris were the hostesses for the second Variety "get together" party, in the clubrooms Friday evening. Members were allowed to bring guests to the affair, which featured a buffet dinner followed by games.

Tom Collins Variety Speaker Monday

KANSAS CITY—Tom Collins, paragrapher for the Kansas City *Journal,* will speak at the regular Variety noon luncheon Monday at the clubrooms. Collins is noted for the humorous slant he can give the ordinary business of daily living.

Twin City Barkers Greet Large Initiates Class

MINNEAPOLIS—Twin City Variety Club this week initiated its largest class of new members, 26 coming into the organization. Twelve more applications have been signed and will be acted upon shortly. Growth of body is a tribute to the fine work of the membership committee under the chairmanship of Maitland Frosch.

Chief Barker Ben Blotcky welcomed the new body and told of the club's charity work and social life. He also gave an account of his recent trip to Atlantic City, explaining plans for the national convention there in May.

Club this week held its "Gold Rush Days of '49" affair to raise money for the Milk Fund, its principal charity project, and to defray the cost of 16 radio sets installed in the children's wards of the Minneapolis General Hospital. A big St. Patrick's Day stag will be held the night of March 17 in the clubrooms. Rhumba lessons and dancing will be resumed next Saturday night.

Iowa Bank Night Bill Seeks Regular Awards

DES MOINES—Newest Bank Night bill appearing in the Iowa legislature would require the awarding of a prize at each drawing and would require all patrons to register for each particular drawing.

The measure, which is being drafted by Rep. Joseph Wagner of Ottumwa, would also prohibit more than three theatres within any municipal corporation from taking part in one drawing.

KANSAS CITY

VISITORS: Charlie Fisk, Fisk, Butler, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Coffman, New Osceola, Osceola, Mo.; Frank Weary, Farris, Richmond, Mo.; Paul Oetting, Lyric, Concordia, Mo.; Warren Swank, Ritz, Burlingame, Kas.; Walt Talbutt, Victory, Rogers, Ark.; J. M. Hobbs, Madison, Madison, Kas.; A. J. Simmons, Plaza, Burlington, Kas.; S. F. Wilson, Camden, Camdenton, Mo.; "Curly" Wilson, Plaza, Liberty, Mo.; E. O. Briles, Lyric, Emporia, Kas.; C. H. "Tippy" Zile, Ritz, Emporia, Kas.; George Lehman, Plaza, St. Joseph, Mo.; H. T. Nokes, Ozark, Ozark, Mo.; George Hayob, Marylou, Marshall, Mo.; D. A. Peterson, Plaza, Greenfield, Mo.; Bob Spencer, Uptown, Columbia, Mo.; Crump Taylor, Plaza, Howard, Kas.; E. P. Michaels, Michlo, Braymer, Mo.

The Florida Parade: Back from Florida, George W. Fuller, 20th-Fox manager; George Fisk, Fisk, Butler, Mo.; J. E. Garrison, Universal. Gone to Florida, O. K. Mason, vice-president of Commonwealth Theatres. Some comments on the state:

"Business in the South is booming."—Fuller.

"The weather is lousy in Florida."—Fisk.

"Golfing was fine."—Garrison.

Just to be different, Helen Mary McLatchey, George Baker's secretary, goes to Mexico for two weeks.

Freddy Greenberg, former K. C. Paramount salesman, now Indianapolis branch manager, was back on the Row this week, saying hello and goodbye to former coworkers.

Did you notice anything South American about C. P. Shaner, Dixie, Odessa, Mo., when he went along the Row this week? The effects of his vacation in Mexico haven't completely worn off yet.

Buying things: Seats for Ray Walsh's Mainstreet in Chanute, Kas.; a popcorn machine for Louise Block's soon-to-be-opened Civic in Sabetha, Mo.; carpet for George Baker's Manor at McPherson, Kas.; seats for the Fort Riley, Kas., draftees, by Purchasing Agent C. S. Wilder.

"Chet" Borg of Paramount, laid up for the past six weeks by gallstone and appendicitis operations, is now home from the hospital, ready to greet Filmrow friends. He hopes to be back at work by April 1.

If he isn't careful Martin Stone will be going high hat on us. He bet Lou Sutter, Castle, that the Greeks wouldn't take Valonna by March 1, which they didn't. He bet Charlie Gregory, National Screen Service, that the Greeks wouldn't take Valonna by April 1, and from the way things look now, they won't. He hasn't collected on either bet yet, however. Remember the old saying, Martin—don't count your chickens before they're hats.

"Clee" Bratton, Ritz, Council Grove, Kas., is a dangerous man with a shotgun. He won enough prize money at the Trap Shoot at Elliot's Shooting Park to pay the expenses of his trip into Kansas City.

Marguerite Bruegging wishes she could file away a suit she recently instituted (began). It's a suit for this fall, but at the rate she's sewing, she'd better plan on finishing it the fall of 1942.

Art Phillips supplants Cy Lebedoff as National Screen Service salesman in this territory. Art was formerly based in Chicago. Cy will now be selling in the Minneapolis territory.

Morril "Em-em" Moore of the Isis pleasantly surprised the guests at his own birthday party by showing up after his daughter, Margery Moore, Commonwealth Theatres, had predicted he would forget about it. The party, which took place Saturday evening at the Moore home, had a second guest of honor: Gretchen Brown, Commonwealth, whose birthday is Mar. 9.

June Medcalf, KMTA secretary, is spending her evenings preparing surgical bandages at Red Cross headquarters. Anyone else interested should query June for details.

Steve Broidy, national Monogram sales manager, was in from Hollywood this week.

Filmrow looks partly deserted, so many film men having gone to the Dubinsky-Cassil trial in St. Joseph.

"Peck" Baker is delighting Filmrow by appearing now at his office following confinement to home and hospital since last July.

John H. Harris, national Variety Club president, was a visitor in behalf of the "Ice Capades," currently wowing them at the Pla-Mor rink.

A $100,000 House For West Omaha

OMAHA—Blank and Green Enterprises plan to build a $100,000 theatre in West Omaha, about two miles from the main business section and near one of the better class residential districts.

Blank and Green are Ralph R. Blank and Walter M. Green, both well known to the film industry, especially in the middlewest.

Blank is a nephew of A. H. Blank, president of Tri-States Theatres at Des Moines. Up until a few months ago, Ralph Blank was district manager for Nebraska, with headquarters at Fremont, of Central States Theatres, also of Des Moines. He has also been with Fox West Coast in the past as manager of de luxe theatres on the west coast. He is the senior partner in the new firm.

Green is head of FEPCO (Film Exhibitors Printing Co.), a theatre advertising firm with headquarters in Omaha. Green started the business 15 years ago with one small press in his home. Recently he completed an expensive home west of Omaha.

Headquarters of the new theatre firm will be at Green's offices on Filmrow.

The new theatre will be named the Admiral and it will seat 1,000 patrons. A navy scheme will be carried out in the decorations and style of architecture. The house will be equipped with hearing aids and arrangements for television.

Work will start about April 1 and the theatre will be completed for patronage by next fall.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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Stebbins Theatre Equipment Co.
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C. H. Badger, Mgr. Phone: GRand 0134

Southwest Theatre Equipment Co., Indp't
Wichita, Kas.
C. D. Peck, Mgr. Phone 2-2153

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R. R. Biechele, Pres. Fred Meyn, Sec.-Treas.

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DES MOINES

MYSTERY MAN OF THE WEEK: The sober-looking gent leaving a familiar-looking package wrapped in brown paper at the Hotel Savery desk for Lou Levy . . . time: Exactly 5:21 . . . we will appreciate any information as to his identity . . . we would have asked him ourselves, excepting we were too busy penning a note to Leo Wolcott, and we couldn't decide whether we should draw a golf ball, a putter, and a green on the envelope to insure the Wolcott's attention (we wisely decided against this device, because we knew he'd never get to the note, he'd be so busy trying to figure out what we were trying to draw).

Francis Kappler is still doing a monk act over at Republic . . . but if you're really minding your own business that closely, Francis, how'd you get that tap on the forehead? Cannonball Lee and Bert Thomas are now dubbed "The Rover Boys," and it has something to do with wandering in and outa the dog house so much. That was Morton Van Praag, National Screen's division manager, with Gertrude and Lou Patz at the Fox screening the other night. W. C. Gehring and M. A. Levy were in town Thursday 3/13).

The next time you see Mrs. Stan Mayer, look sharp . . . she may be wearing one of those New York Movietone News creations . . . and these Vyvyan Donner bonnets are the money . . . $35 and up; Stan says H—— no I can't afford that black turban she wears, but Donner happens to be my maw's cousin, and the snazzy chapeau was a gift. Harold Lyons is the new salesman at Fox . . . Harold came here from Minneapolis and is handling the northwest territory formerly occupied by Harry Gottlieb (you'll probably find it a little large on you, Harold) . . . Harry draws circles in the dust (or snow) with his toe and blushes a modest denial when you mention it, but we still think he's got a new-type haircut . . . Looks shorter and more youthful, we think . . . Larry Paulson accounts for it by saying that Harry cuts his hair with a pencil sharpener.

"GWTW" is slated for its regular price openings at the Tri-States' houses around Iowa and Nebraska during March as follows: March 21 *at the Paramount in Cedar Rapids, the Capitol in Davenport, and the Fort in Rock Island; March* 28 *at Des Moines, Waterloo, Ottawa, Oskaloosa, Iowa City, and Sioux City in Iowa, and in Bonham and Fairbury in Nebraska; March* 29 *at the Capitol in Grand Island, Nebraska and on March* 30 *at the Rivoli in Hastings, Nebraska.*

Number 201 (Bob Gottlieb) will shoulder his baton and volunteer in June . . . Ann Rose of Paramount is volunteering in June too, but his name is Ted Groves, not Uncle Sam. Isabelle Conkling isn't going to wait that long . . . she's declaring war on David McCurin, March 29. Joe Manfre was in Kaycee last Sunday. Ann Rose, Mildred Begley, Henry Peterson and Bill Curry were all gathered up at Paramount the other evening to console Charlie Alderson and help him along some . . . Charlie's wife died.

Tri-States was plugging "Tall, Dark and Handsome" as the first feature at the Paramount this week until Saturday when the Music Educators' National Conference opened . . . "The Hard-Boiled Canary" banners started to wave then. Dr. Joseph F. Maddy, founder of the National Music Camp, featured in "The Hard-Boiled Canary" was scheduled to direct the all-Iowa High School Orchestra at the conference here . . . To the lay observer the delayed action tastes like a discreet grain of salt flavoring the comment cards that followed Susanna Foster's p. a. here a few weeks ago.

The guy lugging the mustache around the Orpheum is Bob Haley, pinch hitting for Emil. Bill Lansburg stopped in with a cold, a handkerchief and a stack of stills on "The Lady Eve." Bill insists that those lids droop solely because of trying to fold his six-feet-so-much into lower berths and not from trying to evolve new "Lady Eve" ideas . . . Bill's sticking to fig leaves. Louis Hellborn kicked through with some fine comments about that two-page spread on "Land of Liberty" . . . Louis slipped into town Tuesday just in time for a quick look at H. M. Richey before the New Yorker pulled out. Betcha Louis takes more than a quick look at the "Ziegfeld Girl" layout in this Sunday's roto, though.

Flu-flu: Jimmy Foley, Georgia Bricker, Loretta Morris, Marian Stoll and probably a lot of others we didn't hear about. Doug and Dorothy should be on their way away from DM by the time this comes out . . . & Co. received the cutest cookie jar with "Sis Hopkins" in the lid (but we ate her) . . . Kinsky, Stolte and Groves conferred in DM Monday.

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OMAHA

SID McARDLE, United Artists booker, and Mrs. McArdle have adopted a cute, red-headed little girl. She's been named Joyce . . . Tom Pilley, Filmrow's golf playing mailman, is getting awfully anxious to play the game. Please don't get so tied up in golf, Tom, that you forget to get all those copies of BOXOFFICE along Davenport Street on time! . . . Joe Scott, Fox manager, and his neighbors believe someone is poisoning pets in his neighborhood.

Sol Yeager will be in Minneapolis on a new job by the time this column hits your desk. Sol will be a salesman for Universal there. He has formerly worked for several exchanges on Omaha's Filmrow and last was with Monogram. One of these days he's liable to be in the army! . . . A smart exchange manager: C. K. Olson of Warner was seen walking down Filmrow, his brief case under one arm and the latest copy of BOXOFFICE *under the other.*

DeWitt Green, former poster clerk at the RKO layout, is moving to Dallas where he has a job, we are told . . . Lou Egart, Brandeis treasurer, may have left for the army by the time this issue hits the press . . . Joe Kinsky and Ted Mendenhall are hard at work on the Greek relief drive and they want plenty of help from you and you and you!

Ray Brown, exhibitor at Harlan, Ia., goes soon to Salt Lake City where his daughter, the former Mrs. Carl Ernst, will join a man from California, whom she will marry. Ernst, who formerly ran the theatre at Avoca, Ia., later went to California where he was connected with the theatre industry. Now he's in the army and passed through Omaha the other day en route to a new post in Georgia. We're told Carl looked very smart in a new uniform, driving a new car.

L. E. Burkey, exhibitor at Deshler, Neb., who runs a theatre as a sideline since his main interest is collecting pencils, will soon be surprised by Bill Wink, Warner booker. Bill has two fancy pencils for Burkey. The catch: Burkey will have to give Wink some dates to help him along in the Sears drive . . . The Paramount exchange steps have been painted, so watch your step even more closely than usual when you enter that layout.

Mortmorency Troxell failed to check in this week and his father, "Trox," was full of profuse apologies . . . Bob Whelan is the new manager of the Orpheum at Mapleton, Ia. . . . United Artists folks had a party at the Omaha Variety Club for Harriett Wolsky, who recently married, and the McArdle baby . . . Fred Thortsen, Metro salesman, is getting that farming urge again, now that spring is coming.

F. R. Thompson is the new owner of the Rose at Audubon, Ia. . . . Ed Kuykendall, prexy of MPTOA, was due in Omaha some time the last part of the week. He has been concerned about the future of MPTO of Nebraska and Western Iowa, which has shown little activity since the death of Charlie Williams . . . Three-cornered argument in the Republic office: Carl Reese, Toby Stewart and Harry Lefholtz, with the exhibitor in the middle!

Joe Jacobs, Columbia boss, has been pretty modest about his product lately but we imagine he's just getting all wound up for a big blast . . . Keith Wilson, drama critic, selected Lee Purcell, Brandeis, as the "most pleasant doorman in Omaha" and we say it's a dandy selection . . . Anybody seen or heard from Mike Roth, who gave up the distributor side of the business to become an exhibitor? . . . See ya in camp, Joe Smith.

Starling on Comedy

HOLLYWOOD—Lynn Starling is scripting an untitled comedy which Robert Z. Leonard will direct for Metro.

MINNEAPOLIS

DAVE BADER of National Screen is reported to be in line for a public relations' position with one of the major film companies. He could not be reached for confirmation . . . Lou Goldberg of the Major Bowes' shows stopped over en route east from the coast and hobnobbed with his pal, Ted Bolnick, La Crosse, Wis., showman, up in the big town for a few days . . . C. B. Stiff of the Minnesota Amusement Co. hard at work on the Greek relief benefit shows to be given in Minneapolis and St. Paul April 2 and 3, respectively.

Alvin Theatre stock burlesque, under the sponsorship of the two Harrys, Hirsch and Katz, off to a flying start, with first week one of biggest in local theatrical history for that type of entertainment . . . Arch Zacherl, veteran Universal salesman, up and around again following recovery from a heart attack . . . 20th-Fox very much in the spotlight in downtown Minneapolis the past week, no less than three of its releases being on deck. They were "Western Union," "Hudson's Bay" and "Michael Shayne, Private Detective," at the State, Orpheum and Gopher, respectively.

"Mr. and Mrs. Smith" held over in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. "Virginia" moved from the Century to the World for a third week in Minneapolis downtown. It started at the State . . . With "Back Street" due at the State, Minneapolis, and Paramount, St. Paul, and "Buck Privates" scheduled for the Gopher, Universal anticipates an extra big week March 14 . . . "Nickey" Goldhammer, RKO district manager, visited the Omaha exchange.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Film-row included John Piller, Valley City, N. D.; W. J. Carter, Plainview, Minn.; Louis Edelstein, Hibbing, Minn.; Harry Green, Windom, Minn.; Harvey Thorpe, Crosby, Minn., and Louis Deutsch, Virginia, Minn.; Jack Heywood, New Richmond, Wis., and Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn. . . . Jack Irving up from Chicago to organize performers, night clubs, hotels and booking agents for the American Guild of Vaudeville Artists.

Twentieth-Fox screened "That Night in Rio" and you still can hear the raves . . . Gilbert Nathanson, Republic branch manager, visited northern Minnesota accounts . . . Harry Dryer back from a Florida vacation and has a healthy tan to show for his trip. He and his wife visited with W. A. Steffes at Miami and Mrs. Steffes accompanied them back home. On the return trip they stopped over in New Orleans. Steffes' condition still is such that he'll have to remain in Florida until May, probably, but Al is in good spirits and his condition is improved, according to Harry.

Cyril Lebedoff has been promoted by being moved from the Kansas City to the Minneapolis territory by National Screen. He joined the company's sales staff a couple of months ago . . . Mort Van Praag, National Screen district manager, a visitor . . . Twin City Variety Club to have stag in clubrooms March 17. It's a St. Patrick Day's affair.

"Philly Story" Campaign Wins Ruddick an Award

SPRINGFIELD, MO.—Joe Ruddick, manager of the Gillioz Theatre, has been awarded an Honor Roll Button by M-G-M for outstanding exploitation on "The Philadelphia Story."

Highlight of Ruddick's campaign was a novel advance stunt which included the construction of a "press room" in the outer lobby of the house with a sign above it reading: "Scenario department of M-G-M pictures." Six attractive college girls pounded away at typewriters, typing out bits of dialogue from the production on stationery carrying printed copy on the film, theatre and playdates. As fast as items were finished, they were handed patrons.

Improves the "Dug"

KENSINGTON, KAS.—New equipment has been installed in the "Dug" Theatre. C. W. Dugan is the new owner.

De Wolf on "Cowboy Joe"

HOLLYWOOD—Karen De Wolf is scripting "Cowboy Joe" for Producer Robert Sparks at Columbia.

AGVA Agent Rallies Minny Performers

MINNEAPOLIS—Jack Irving of Chicago is here organizing vaudeville performers, booking agencies and night clubs and hotels for AGVA. The move forecasts higher costs for establishments using floor entertainment.

Conditions here have been chaotic, with wildcat booking agents collecting as much as 50 per cent of performers' salaries and acts paid as little as $10 a week, minus $1 for agent's commission, for singles and $37.50 gross for dance teams, according to Irving.

Irving is enlisting support of other AFL trade unions and will sign up hotels, night clubs and theatres along with enrolling performers and licensing agents, he says. He is encountering considerable opposition, however.

Abem Finkel Chore

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has set Abem Finkel to do the script of "The Road Away From Home," from a story by Clifford Dowdey and Richard English.

.....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By KEN and RENE CLAYTON

NOSSUH, Bill Eddy, we won't take back a one of those things we said about you and old style lager . . . After Monday night we're convinced that any such mention is a compliment to your good judgment. Since we've had O. S. L. the rest are S. O. L.

Tim Evans stayed away from his Lyons house two days this time.

Cutest double feature in the business: Mrs. George Storm's dimples.

Dale McFarland from the Davenport Capitol visited the home office (Tri-States) and the DM Row last week.

Snooping around during the Allied Owners meeting:

Exhibitors gave themselves away when they laughed so hard at the "Lady Eve" screening you could hear 'em upstairs. How you gonna keep 'em down on the price that way, boys?

Shivering in the cold at 13th and High were Jack and Warren Eddy, all because the "That Night in Rio" screening didn't even have standing room left. If you happened to be looking, the one who had to chase his hat is Jack. He's from Mt. Ayr. The other is Warren, who does the best job of dead-reckoning, box camera photography in all Sigourney. If we've got 'em wrong, they won't know it. The Row has mixed 'em up so often now they can't even tell themselves apart.

The suave gentleman you heard praising BOXOFFICE (the magazine) for its fair treatment of all motion picture problems was Leo Wolcott, the Big Boss of the Allied from Eldora.

Nodding his head agreeably in back of that cigar which the conference at the corner of the Fox corridor called for, was Henry Rehfield of Bloomfield. Beside him was Harold Field (a field day, huh?), down from Minneapolis to represent his Pioneer circuit at the gathering.

The fella in the tan coat and the soft hat which he doffed with such intriguing gallantry was Harold's cousin, Herman Field from Clarinda.

IT'S Smart TO STAY AT
KANSAS CITY'S



Fifth-Time Holdover At Omaha First Run

OMAHA—The Brandeis Theatre continues to be the top industry news here with the fifth straight holdover, "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and "Case of the Black Parrot," at the Singer house. The house's double-week record is inviolate since Jan. 1, 1941.

"Western Union" and "Lady With Red Hair" did fairish business at the Orpheum. Manager Bill Miskell and Ted Emerson, Tri-States press agent, rated some nice newspaper space with stunts. "Son of Monte Cristo" and "Keeping Company" were mediocre at the Omaha.

Ice hockey at the Ak-Sar-Ben coliseum and several large basketball games furnished the week's competition. Now in its second year here, hockey is drawing 5,000 to 6,000 patrons twice to three times a week and high school sports are pulling several thousands away from the boxoffices.

Fair and warm weather has been one redeeming feature, anyway.

Details for the week ending March 7:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN).....150
Omaha—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M).....100
Orpheum—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Lady With Red Hair** (WB).....125

Two in Tie as Greatest Grossers in Lincoln

LINCOLN—"Western Union" and "Come Live With Me" rode neck and neck to the finish during the past week here for money supremacy on Theatrerow. Wind-up was a tie.

Blast of cold and snow popped into the middle of the week which curtailed all gates a bit.

Details for the week ending March 7:

(Average is 100)

Colonial—**Texas Terrors** (Rep); **Wildcat Bus** (RKO), split with **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (Rep); **Beyond Tomorrow** (RKO).....95
Lincoln—**Western Union** (20th-Fox).....125
Nebraska—**Gallant Sons** (M-G-M); **Six Lessons from Madame La Zonga** (Univ).....95
Stuart—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M).....125
Variety—**Kit Carson** (UA); **Meet Boston Blackie** (Col).....90
Varsity—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN).....115

Kaycee Week Above Par Despite Competition

KANSAS CITY—First-run theatres in nearly every case ran way ahead of average—ignoring, or gaining in spite of, extraordinary competition. The Better Homes show chalked up 110,000 attendance for eight days, ending March 1—overlapping two weeks of programs, apparently affecting grosses in neither week. The police circus got a reported gross of $40,000 for the police benefit fund, attendance including some 3,500 underprivileged children admitted free. Both events were at the Municipal Auditorium. The circus, also, overlapped on two weeks' programs. But there is another theory, namely that when the public is specially stirred to "go some place," for example downtown, by numerous attractions, enough do go so that the "regulars" share in the extra patronage. If next weeks' total gross of theatres is below average, the counter attractions need not be blamed; bad weather hit the tag end of the week under review.

Top rank for the week went to the Tower, with Pinky Tomlin and orchestra in person, being the attraction the public rushed to see and hear, but "Night Train" also having a strong pull. "Virginia" at the Newman was held over, making an unusual record of considerably over average for the second week. The second week for "Western Union" at the Esquire and Uptown also brought better than average returns after big first-week grosses.

The anomaly in this week of good business was at the Midland, where "This Thing Called Love" and "Wild Man of Borneo" fell below average. A newspaper story, at the beginning of the run, reported the action of the Legion of Decency on the first-named picture; but nobody ventures comment on whether the action and the report of it helped or hurt patronage.

Detail for week ending March 8:

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 6 days, 2nd week.....105
Midland—**This Thing Called Love** (Col); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M).....90
Newman—**Virginia** (Para't), 7 days 2nd wk.....110
Orpheum—**High Sierra** (FN); **Play Girl** (RKO), 7 days, 2nd wk.....110
Tower—**Night Train** (20th-Fox); Pinky Tomlin and orchestra, Betty Bennett, on the stage.....140
Uptown—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 6 days, 2nd week.....105

SUNDAY *Journal and Star's* ten best poll winner has just done her week in Hollywood, all expenses paid. She, Elise Seright, came nearest to the official list of 6,500 entries in the *Journal's* 1940 contest . . . Doris Price, of M. E. McClain's Central States district office in Fremont, turned BOXOFFICE a swell feature on her flying boss this week. Thanks! . . . R. W. Huffman booked "Night at Earl Carroll's" at the Nebraska with newly married Gene Shanahan (the house manager), just to tantalize him . . . Bob Livingston claims Ralph Goldberg better come back from Mexico before somebody decides to anchor him there as foundation for one of those new bases they're talking of building.

That new Ralph Blank-Walter Green house ($100,000 worth) in Omaha is causing quite a stir of wonderment among outstate showmen . . . Alvin Hendricks is so sure the draft's going to get him soon, he totals up all columns of addition around the office every night, so everything will be in order when he checks out—to check in . . . Bernie Evens was in with a bad cold to bally a good opening for "Pastor Hall" at the Variety. He and Bill Knight were both amazed at the boxoffice strength of the British-made flicker . . . Monroe Rubinger, in behalf of the Warner, was press visiting, too.

Howard Federer has changed his ways. He comes down to the theatre some nights now . . . The George O. Monroes are still resting from their "rest" at Hialeah in Florida, where their percentage was pretty good. George believes he'll be about ready for the Omaha Ak-Sar-Ben ponies when they start in May.

Harvey Traylor sat through "Tobacco Road" so many times he got used to Gene Tierney's face being dirty and didn't mind it any more . . . Sunday shows may have meant a lot to the show business in Beatrice, Neb., but it took Manager B. M. Montee off the Sunday butterfly list . . . Aside to Bill Youngclaus, in Grand Island: When is that prospective heir to arrive? . . . Ft. Crook, Neb., gave up half a squad of men a week for Bill Miskell's plugging of "Buck Privates" in Omaha.

Sample of salesmanship: When Sol Francis goes forth to peddle "Secrets of a Model," he doesn't say anything about the picture itself, but confides: "Boy, you oughta see that trailer."

After gypsying all over the United States since December 15, Gabe Yorke writes from Los Angeles that he's finally got himself a permanent office and a secretary in the L. A. 20th-Fox exchange . . . Some people are betting 9 to 5, Maynard Nelson has forgotten how to write a letter . . . Former doorman Roger Emrich, of the Varsity, is now 2nd Lieut. Emrich at Camp Murray, Wash. . . . New cashier at the Varsity is a former artist's model, Jean Forbes.

Hold George Barnes

HOLLYWOOD—George Barnes, cameraman, has been given a long term pact by David Selznick.

"Western Union" Draws Best in Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS—"Western Union," at the State, led the field the past week, winning much praise and drawing fine business. Jane Froman and the Gray Gordon band topped the Orpheum stage show which was supported by "Hudson's Bay" on the screen. The stage entertainment was very well liked, but business proved exceedingly disappointing. "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and "Virginia" continued their loop first runs, the former in its second week and "Virginia" in its third.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**Blackout** (UA); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox).....95
Century—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), 2nd wk.....100
Gopher—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M).....95
Orpheum—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox), stage show.....85
State—**Western Union** (20th-Fox).....125
World—**Virginia** (Para't), 3rd wk.....95

"Andy Hardy" Picture on Dual Best in Des Moines

DES MOINES—Impetuous Andy Hardy, always ready to rush in where angels fear to tread, showed the Grand Avenue first run houses that a stage show down the street doesn't mean motion pictures should get an inferiority complex. Extrovert Andy and his private secretary helped the Des Moines Theatre to break par.

Detail for the week ending March 13:

(Average is 100)

Des Moines—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M).....110
Orpheum—**Scattergood Baines** (RKO), plus stage show.....110
Paramount—**The Trial of Mary Dugan** (M-G-M); **Cherokee Strip** (Para't).....65

Strong Committee for Greek War Relief

DETROIT—Eddie Heiber, Universal manager, who is chairman of the Detroit Greek War Relief Committee, has enlisted a strong committee for this activity that includes: Edward Beatty, president of Butterfield Theatres; Earl J. Hudson, UDT president; David M. Idzal, managing director of the Fox; Ray Branch, president of Allied Theatres of Michigan; and Carl R. Buermele, general manager of Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan.

Outstanding event for the cause will be a midnight benefit at the Fox on Monday, March 24, with principal theatres agreeing to run trailers plugging it. Upstate theatre cooperation will be secured through contacts made by salesmen for all exchanges.

Will Play Off Shorts At Benefit Show

OBERLIN, OHIO—Jerry Steel, owner of the Apollo, has an idea by which to cure two ills at one and the same time. Steel says that he has so many short subjects booked that he doesn't know how he can ever get them played. So this is what he plans to do about it. He will run a Greek Relief Benefit show. The show will consist of a long list of shorts. His present plan is to hold the show some Saturday morning charging ten cents for children and 15 cents for adults.

A Preview on March 22 For Greek War Relief

CINCINNATI—A Hollywood preview will be staged March 22 at the Grand by Col. Arthur Frudenfeld in cooperation with the Pan-Hellenic Council of the University of Cincinnati, for the Greek War Relief Fund. Students of the university will serve as ushers and sell tickets. All employes will donate their services. The name of the feature is being kept secret. Greek letter sorority members will wear Greek and authentic peasant costumes.

Head Benefit Shows

CANTON—Ben Schwartz, manager of the Ohio, is chairman of the Greek War Relief show at Loew's.

MANSFIELD — William Harwell, Ohio manager, is chairman of the local Greek War Relief drive.

Selecting Arbitrator in Akron Protection Tiff

CLEVELAND—The parties involved in the first local arbitration case to be heard under the consent decree are now in the process of selecting an arbitrator. It is expected that when this case comes up for hearing sometime near March 20, the distributors will be represented by an array of New York legal talent.

Louis Isreal, owner of the Ellet, Akron, complainant, who claims unfair protection against his house, will be represented by Benesch, Marsteller, Friedlander and Morris, local firm.

Detroit Affiliated Units Clash Over Clearance

By H. F. REVES

DETROIT—Scheduled to come to trial Friday was the unique suit filed by one affiliated unit against the house of another major affiliate—that of the Montcalm Theatre Corp. against United Detroit Theatres, Paramount, Universal, Warner, Columbia and United Artists.

Filed in Wayne County circuit court, the suit charges discrimination in clearance. A preliminary hearing on the 26-page bill of complaint resulted in denial by Judge Henry G. Nicol of a temporary injunction and setting of the trial date.

The Montcalm company, organized in 1934, is disclosed as operator of the Uptown, only RKO house in the territory, and involved UDT, Paramount affiliate, as first defendant. This is said to be the first suit of this nature, brought by an affiliate of a major against another affiliate involving clearance of this type. Observers who considered it significant that action was sought under new court action, instead of through arbitration, failed to note that three of the companies involved—Columbia, Universal, and UA—were not parties to the consent decree.

An amended bill of complaint was filed, largely to include the Royal Theatre Corp., which has been added as a co-defendant, although reluctantly from the terms of the plaintiff's motion. The Royal company, operating the house, involves both UDT and Wisper and Wetsman Theatres, local independent circuit, each of which, according to statements given when the house was opened, have a half-interest. Inquiry at the Co-Operative Theatres office—where W&W houses are regularly booked—disclosed the information that bookings are handled specially by Earl Hudson, UDT president, and that Frank Wetsman, and Co-Op are not involved in this matter.

The plaintiff alleges that UDT operates the Royal "in competition with the plaintiff," and then takes contracts and dealings of each five defendant distributors. Quotations from the Paramount clauses, first on the list, are taken below, for example primarily, and essentially the same allegations are made concerning each other defendant distributor:

The plaintiff alleges that its contract (with Paramount) provides for "second run Detroit" or "first run neighborhood," and that the Riviera, Hollywood, Roosevelt, Cinderella, Broadway-Capitol, and Fisher would have same day and date privilege, and for giving seven-day clearance over the Varsity, Palmer Park, Tuxedo, Alhambra, Berkeley, Clawson, Hazel Park, and Ferndale. (It is presumed the last four refer to protection over the cities and villages of those names rather than to theatres, some of which do not yet exist, although two—Berkeley and Clawson—are planned under Detroit's present construction-wave.)

The essential clause is presented as: "If clearance is granted against a named theatre or theatres indicating that it is the intention of distributor to grant such clearance against all theatres in the immediate vicinity of exhibitor's theatre, then, unless otherwise provided in schedule, such clearance shall include any theatre in such vicinity thereafter erected or opened."

Citing the opening of the Royal on January 31, after its difficulty over employment of a stagehand which delayed opening a month, the plaintiff alleges the Royal to be in its own "immediate neighborhood, i. e., in Detroit neighborhood area and outside the downtown area . . . Geographically much closer than other theatres over which the plaintiff has clearance, and from area of patronage standpoint, much closer than any theatre permitted to exhibit day and date." Accordingly, seven days' clearance over the Royal is claimed.

Careful measurements on a map show the RKO Uptown and the Royal to be just over four miles apart by the shortest road distance.

Substance of the case, after going into details of industry practice, is the contention: "Priority of showing of leading films is a most essential prerequisite for profitable operation, and loss of this priority has already resulted in substantial loss."

Like an echo of the familiar plea of independents, this time coming from an affiliated house, is a reference to the "superior bargaining position" of the defendant circuit with some 18 theatres.

The Docket

The arbitration picture in the Cleveland-Detroit area to date:

Cleveland

CASE No. 1—Filed February 15. Demand and submission involving clearance dispute. Ellet Amusement Co. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., Loew's Film Dist. Co., RKO Radio Pictures Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., W. L. Hart, Cooperative Theatres of Ohio, Inc., Milton Mooney. Named as interested parties: Norka, Rialto and Ellet theatres.

Detroit

CASE No. 1—Filed February 17. Demand and submission involving clearance (Section VII). Booth Theatre, Julius D. London, owner. With: Vitagraph, Inc., Paramount Pictures, Inc. Other theatres named in controversy: Del, De Luxe, Whittier, East End, Cooperative Theatres of Michigan.

CASE No. 2—Filed February 21. Demand and submission involving clearance and some run. Julius D. London and Milton London, co-partners doing business as Midtown Theatre, Detroit, Mich. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Other theatres named in controversy: Coliseum, Majestic, Globe, all Detroit. Named as interested parties: Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, Inc., Mutual Theatres, both Detroit.

Proposed Legislation Has A Focus on Industry

HARRISBURG—*Many of the 900 bills in the 134th regular session of the Pennsylvania general assembly in its tenth week would affect the industry. Most of those under this classification are of the "indirect" type of legislation, with several bills of direct and vital interest.*

In the house of representatives first:

H-496; Rush—Requiring two projectionists in the booth at all times; before committee on labor.

H-510; O'Brien—Providing amendment to the Sunday motion picture law of 1935 to require for future referendums the signatures of 51 per cent of the community voters before such referendums could be authorized; before committee on law and order.

H-200; Baker and Heatherington—Providing for legalized basketball on Sundays through referendum; before law and order committee.

H-196; Baker and Heatherington—Providing for bowling on Sundays and the issuance of permits after adoption by referendum; before committee on law and order.

H-367; Baker and Heatherington—Legalizing the operation of bowling alleys and participation in the sport of bowling on Sunday; passed first reading in law and order committee.

H-362; Baker and Heatherington—Permitting Sunday hockey contests if approved by electors; before law and order committee.

H-22; Bretherick—Requiring self-flushing or foot-flushed public toilets and urinals; before committee on public and health and sanitation.

H-224; Baker and Heatherington—Permitting Bingo and other similar games for profit, with tax imposed for such license; before law and order committee.

H-678—Creating a "Painting and Paper Hanging License Board."

H-506; Bradley—Providing for the licensing and legalizing of daily lotteries or pools operated by bona fide clubs; before committee on law and order.

H-118; Powers—Licensing dog racing and betting and wagering on such races; referred to committee on law and order.

H-369—Falkenstein—Creating a state lottery; before committee on ways and means.

H-270; Pettit and Polen—Amending "unlawful gaming" law by further defining gaming and revising penalties; before committee on judiciary general.

H-566; Sarraf and Baker—Licensing and taxing coin or token operated vending machines, devices or equipment; before ways and means committee.

H-79; R. E. Cohen—Prohibiting the recording of any broadcast performance or rendition without permission and providing penalties for offering for sale of any such recordings; before judiciary special committee.

H-497; Rush—Prohibiting public performance of school bands and orchestras at certain functions; referred to committee on education.

H-592; Krise—Providing for the levy of a Sunday sales tax and licensing vendors; before ways and means committee.

H-606; O'Brien—Amending the "Penal Code" by further extending and regulating the provisions regarding worldly business on Sunday; before committee on judiciary general.

H-28; Eckels—Regulating certain motor vehicle races; before committee on motor vehicles.

H-275; Holland—Repealing and amending the 1923 wrestling matches and exhibitions law; before committee on state government.

In the senate are a number of gambling bills:

S-11; Haluska—Licensing and taxing pin-ball, hi-score and other games; before committee on finance.

S-14; Haluska—Licensing Bingo; committee on finance.

S-16; Haluska—Licensing coin operated music boxes, and such mechanical musical devices; committee on finance.

S-18; Haluska—Permitting Bank Nights at theatres and imposing a license based on population and imposing a tax on gifts or prizes; committee on finance.

S-20; Haluska—Legalizing, licensing and taxing slot machines; committee on finance.

S-96; Haluska—Permitting horse racing and wagering on the results and imposing license fees; committee on judiciary general.

S-133; Haluska—Another Bingo bill; committee on judiciary general.

S-134; Haluska—Licensing slot machines and devices which pays off in cash; committee on judiciary general.

S-135; Haluska—Another pin-ball bill; committee on judiciary general.

S-204; Heyburn—Regulating, and removing in certain incorporations, advertising signs; committee on judiciary general.

S-234; Dent—Regulating sale, licensing and other disposition of rights to publicly perform for profit any copyrighted composition of music, lyrics verse or drama and requiring registration in Pennsylvania of such ownership, with fees; committee on judiciary special.

House resolution Serial 33, No. 12, petitions for a joint committee to investigate operations of chain systems, retail syndicates and other active combinations, and is before the committee on rules.

House resolution Serial 41, No. 19, petitions Congress to designate December 15, 1941 as a national holiday, this date being the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights embodied in the Constitution. This has been adopted by the committee on military affairs. Senate committee also has adopted this resolution.

PITTSBURGH

E B. MORTON, NTS manager, reported back on the job to find a modernized storeroom and offices . . . AMPTO forwarded a second appeal to all theatre owners and managers to sign pledges for Greek War Relief. Fred A. Beedle, president, and M. A. Rosenberg, chairman, stated that "To date, we have received the utmost cooperation" . . . Columbia exchange is decorated with a dozen or more banners announcing the company's "exhibitors' good-will drive" and coming attractions. The quarters have never looked so inviting and Joe "TGG" Gins says "neither has the product." Art Levy, manager, has been out in the territory spreading the word . . . George Harrison of Harris Amusements is vacationing in the south . . . Martha Guthrie of Grove City has taken a cottage at Conneaut Lake for the summer . . . Art Cinema here returned "Rebecca" and "Night Train" as a double bill.

Edward Horner, manager of the Shapiro-Fineman Temple, Sheraden, is a resident of Wilkinsburg and lives but a few blocks from this correspondent, we recently discovered. He is a graduate of Carnegie Tech and entered the industry a number of years ago as an usher. Horner managed the Sheraden for the S-F circuit prior to the opening of the Temple . . . Variety's board of directors hosted the March 7 family night party and no Monday dinner was scheduled because of the "Duddy" Lefton bachelor dinner that evening. New head steward at the club is Joe Ferris . . . Gus Vaveris was around and reported that John Demas, nephew of the veteran Pete Demas, is engaged to wed Loraine Kotsalis. John is now in the advertising business in Johnstown . . . Harry Goldberg, Warner advertising chief, was here for conferences with Joe Feldman and members of the circuit's publicity staff and house managers.

Pitt's annual "Cap and Gown" show at the Nixon is set for the week of April 21 . . . Toni Spitzer replaced Helen Hoerle as "Fantasia" publicity director here immediately after the press preview last Tuesday evening . . . A double wedding on March 23 in Euclid Room of Hotel Statler, Cleveland, is planned by two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Spitalny. Jean Sylvia Spitalny is engaged to Simon Ackerman of Indianapolis, and her sister, Iris Ruth, is the financee of Godfrey Lefton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lefton of Cleveland.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Goldberg of the Regent, Beaver Falls, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lilyan, to Frederick B. Oliker of Aliquippa, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Oliker of Fairmont, W. Va. . . . Harry M. Kalmine is co-chairman of the 1941 membership drive of the Pittsburgh Lyceum . . . C. C. Kellenberg, Variety's chief barker, returned to duties at his 20th-Fox office after a southern sojourn . . . AMPTO forwarded Allied Information Department bulletins to all local area exhibitors several days ago . . . Mrs. Irene Fisher of the Republic exchange has resigned. She had been employed at the Alexander-Fineberg office for many years.

Managers Dick Brown, Bob Brown and Marty Seed of Wilkinsburg's Rowland, State and Regal, respectively, have announced a cooperative automobile giveaway promotion which is creating no little interest in the borough . . . The Plaza in Bloomfield celebrated its 25th anniversary and Joe Miller, projectionist, at the same time completed a quarter-of-a-century in the booth of this house. Like many others, Miller's first experience was in the booth of the old Wonderland, lower Fifth Avenue, and he shifted to the Bloomfield house for its grand opening in March, 1916. David Wald, Plaza's manager, was not yet born when Rowland & Clark opened this theatre on Liberty Avenue . . . Al Skegan, formerly assistant manager of the Enright, is now the manager of the new Oakland, recently acquired by Warners and since renovated and remodeled.

Joe Ornstein, 20th-Fox cashier, became the father of a son last Thursday. The boy, unnamed at this writing, and mother are doing well in Magee Hospital. The Ornsteins have a four-year-old daughter . . . William and Belle Richman of the Century-Family have returned from a vacation in Florida. They were accompanied by their daughter, Ruth . . . Martha Raye is booked for the Stanley stage the week of March 21 . . . New RCA equipments will be installed at Steve Lang's Liberty, Whitesville, W. Va., and the Alpine circuit's Mound, South Charleston, W. Va.

Abe Weiner staged a trade screening of Hal Roach's "Topper Returns" last Monday morning at the new Granada . . . John H. Harris and James G. Balmer were in Charlotte, N. C., this week for the opening of the 24th Variety Club . . . Lew, Milt and Duddy Lefton and Joe Fleshin of PRC here will attend a company convention at Chicago, March 22-24 . . . Jim Alexander of Republic was back on the job Monday after attending a company regional sales conference in New York last week. Sam Fineberg, co-owner of the local Republic franchise, and Mrs. Fineberg remained in the big town for several days celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary.

Ben Amdur has a "second business" and is very busy these days. His twin brother, Sam, the jeweler, is ill and the Garden exhibitor is managing both the theatre and the store . . . Harry Kalmine was in New

(Continued on page 68)

CLEVELAND

FRANK DREW, M-G-M branch manager, and Mrs. Drew flew down to Florida the end of the week for a two-week treatment of sunshine . . . Charles Kranz, president of Select Attractions, was in town visiting Herb Ochs and Col. Harry Long, Select franchise owners . . . When the second annual national PRC convention convenes in Chicago, March 22-24, this territory will be represented by Lee Goldberg, franchise owner; Bernard Rubin, office manager of the Cleveland exchange, and Jay Goldberg, booker (unless he gets orders to report for active military duty before that date).

Louis Lamm jr., son of the manager of the Capitol, is working for Uncle Sam under civil service, in the U. S. employment department at Peoria, Ill. . . . Harry Henderson, manager of the Lorain Fulton, in his spare moments has organized the West Side Exchange Club, composed of West Side merchants. Object is to extend to each other a helping hand . . . Wally Caldwell, manager of the Esquire, Toledo, will play the first run in the territory of "Sacred Evidence," PRC feature, starting March 27. The picture is also booked into the Schine circuit, the State, Canton, and the Strand, Alliance.

Holden Swiger, manager of the Telenews, set forth in a letter to Columbia's branch manager, Lester Zucker, that the "International Forum," a short on a round-table discussion with Dorothy Thompson, Wythe Williams, William L. Shirer and Linton Wells, proved a definite boxoffice attraction . . . Billy Bein, NSS division manager, stopped off to visit with Nat Barach, local NSS manager, saying that he is happily returning to make his headquarters in Cincinnati where he formerly operated his own independent poster service.

Otto Braeunig, former RKO office manager here and now an RKO home office representative, is spending several weeks in the local exchange . . . Harry Stegeman has succeeded Alexander Newman as Universal cashier . . . Charles School, who stepped from the job of local M-G-M cashier to home office auditor, is spending some time in town, accompanied by Auditor Ben Wolf. School is expecting to take extended leave for one year, to do his turn in the army.

What would no doubt be listed under the heading of wasted effort, was removal of a 350-pound safe from the Moreland the other night when there was practically no cash in it . . . Louis Levine, manager of the Lake, now operating under a foreign film policy, is so pleased with the results of "Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" on a first run double bill, that he is holding the show for a fourth week . . . Jimmy Shrake staged a snappy style show at the Jewel.

"Hard-Boiled Canary" was screened by Paramount for an enthusiastic group of representative club women. Heimo Haitto, 15-year-old Finnish refugee violinist, who has a prominent role in the picture, attended the screening. He was in Cleveland for a concert . . . Herb Horstemeier reports he is now handling booking for 17 theatres . . . Harry Lance is the new M-G-M checking supervisor, succeeding John Hanna, who has joined PRC in a sales capacity.

Extend Helen Parrish

HOLLYWOOD—Helen Parrish, Universal feature player, has been held for another year.

CINCINNATI

QUEEN CITY Variety Club's stag dinner for the charity fund was an outstanding social and financial success, with a 100 per cent turnout from members and exhibitors. Delegations from Ohio and Kentucky attended . . . Donald Williams is reported to have closed the Ace in Seaman, Ohio . . . Lawrence Burns, Columbus, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nally, Nitro, W. Va., visited the Row . . . Harry "Moe" Weaver, Planter Theatre, Miamisburg, Ohio, also in town. Moe and his brother, Harry, have been in the business since 1912, and three boys of the family were recently inducted in the army.

Local Warner office reports "John Doe" will be shown at an early date at the Victory, Dayton. Bill Keyes, owner, and John Redelle, manager, will stage an extra campaign on this Capra feature . . . The brother of Ann Keck, secretary to Robert Dunbar of Warner Bros., has been inducted into the army, as has Bill Burkhart, son of Ed Burkhart, 20th-Fox ace salesman. Young Bill, with National Screen, was also in the National Guards . . . E. R. Custer, Charleston exhibitor, is spending some time in Florida . . . Ike Libson, RKO Theatres, is still vacationing in the southland . . . Mr. and Mrs. Fon Sexton, Ironton and Ashland, were in New Orleans for the Mardi Gras.

Nat Kaplan of PRC announces the release of a series of four patriotic shorts, which are meeting with ready response. The films: "Our Bill of Rights," "Our Declaration of Independence," "Our Monroe Doctrine" and "Our Constitution" . . . Marcelle Bimstein of PRC and Jack Goller of Lexington, Ky., are engaged. Wedding is set for early April . . . Charley Alberts has returned from a successful fishing trip in the south . . . Leo Devaney, Depinet drive captain for RKO; Harry Michalson, short subject sales head, and Division Manager Boasberg were here visiting Branch Manager Stanley Jacques.

Bertha Wolf of the Pastime, Owenton; A. B. Crissman, Barboursville, W. Va., and Frank Mandros, Rubel, Logan, visited . . . Sam Gilman and Tom Delbridge, Loew's, Dayton, are jubilant over business on the return engagement of "The Great Dictator" . . . Columbia's auditor, Irving Hanower, left for Pittsburgh . . . Republic salesmen and managers met with Nat Lefton at the Plaza for a regional meeting, setting forth the new season lineup . . . Bill Onie of Monogram announces the release of "After Mein Kampf."

Variety was to hold a St. Patrick party Saturday in the club rooms. The affair was open to members and friends . . . Leon Pickle is opening the house at Henderson, Ky., recently serviced by Altec . . . Billy Bein, Advertising Accessories, Inc., is here on business.



TO ALL

THEATRE MANAGERS

OF THE

SHEA-CHAIN, INC.

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE

MAURICE ZELL'S

GIGANTIC PROPOSITION

KINDLY MAKE RESERVATION WITH YOUR MAIN OFFICE RIGHT NOW

OTHERWISE YOU WON'T PLAY IT BEFORE 1942

3,000 Nickels Greet A 'Soundie' Debut

By B. O. TELLER

DETROIT—The new "soundies" came to town and drew over 3,000 nickels—$150—in the first week at Joey's Stables, west side cafe. Considerable of the first week's patronage was undoubtedly attracted by the novelty, and no figures on average gross can be estimated yet. By comparison, a conventional automatic phonograph in the same room drew in less than $1.

A visit to Joey's Stables indicates that theatre operators have little real cause for alarm. The new machine will undoubtedly draw from the trade that patronizes night spots, restaurants, etc., but not appreciably more than automatic phonographs and other diversions did in the past.

Consideration of the censorship problem, which is being reviewed by the city council now, in framing an ordinance regulating the new machines, indicates little difficulty from the films being shown locally. They are orchestra recordings of popular songs, showing the artists playing their instruments, and vocalists singing, with occasional shots of dancers, etc., nothing to cause any censorship headaches.

Local managers for Phonovision have stated that they will seek censorship only under the same rules as now apply to theatres, and do not believe that any new regulation on this point is required, but that they do desire such censorship, to assure the proper caliber of films being shown, and prevent the possibility of "unscrupulous" operators bringing in objectionable films, and thereby jeopardizing their own investment.

Leading exhibitors state that they believe no new censorship authority should be set up for the "soundies," on the ground that any spread of censorship control would have its automatic repercussion upon the theatre business itself.

Variety Again Honors Groups on Saturdays

DETROIT—Variety is resuming a practice of two or three years back, of dedicating each Saturday night to an individual or organization in the industry. First of such affairs was "RKO Night," which proved a big success.

A schedule has been worked out by Wade Allen, entertainment chairman. "Twentieth Fox Night" was held last Saturday. United Artists was to be the honored guest this Saturday, with M-G-M and Universal to follow on successive weeks thereafter.

New Royal Oak House For Moon and Krass

DETROIT—Raymond E. Moon, general manager of Mutual Theatres, and Jack Krass, Detroit circuit operator, are forming a partnership to operate a new 500-seat theatre they plan to erect in the northend suburb of Royal Oak. It will be called the Main Street. This will be Moon's first venture as a theatre owner.

LOUISVILLE

CONTRACTS have been awarded for a $100,000 neighborhood theatre to be located at Bardstown Road and Trevelian Way. The theatre will seat 1,000 and a long-term lease is held by an out-of-town circuit operator, represented by G. G. Bowling . . . Ford Tracey has resigned as manager of the local Vogue to go with Settos Theatres. Ford has been replaced by Bob Enoch, former manager of the Shelby, Shelbyville, Ky. . . . Plans have been announced by J. B. Sconce for a new $55,000 theatre building to be erected on West Main St., Greenwood, Ind., this spring.

Work has also begun on a new theatre in Milan, Tenn. It is one of the many buildings planned as a result of increased activities in the shell-loading plant there . . . Ira B. Dyer has acquired the Clinton, Albany, Ky., from F. C. Hassler . . . The Franklin and Woodlawn theatres, Evansville, will be renovated . . . William J. Otto, long with the trade in Louisville, is dead . . . W. P. Slusher is manager of the New Bell, Pineville, Ky., recently opened by Dr. J. S. Cornn and W. H. Gaddie . . . Keith Siegrist, formerly a booker for Paramount, is now with Theatrical Managers, Inc., Indianapolis. Arthur Manning of Bowling Green, Ky., takes his place with Paramount.

Albert Boudouris of Strong Electric Corp. spent several days at the Falls City Theatre Equipment Co. . . . New sound has been installed in the Strand, Crawfordsville. RCA also reports installation of new sound in the Cine at Linton, Ind., owned by the Settos chain, and in the Bonny Blue, Bonny Blue, Ky., owned by Don Reda . . . Stoner Hadden of Falls City has been confined to his home with influenza . . . Theatre business in and around Louisville has had a noticeable increase, due to the defense work.

Recent visitors: Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Luckett, Dream, French Lick; R. L. Harned, Empire, Sellersburg; A. N. Miles, Eminence, Eminence, Ky.; Mrs. Paul Sanders, Alhambra, Campbellsville; Dr. W. H. Race, Butler; J. E. Denton, Majestic, Owingsville; C. D. Arnold, Crystal, Bardstown; M. H. Sparks, Edmonton; George William Lindsey, Auburn; W. H. Mayfield, Clay, Celina, and J. V. Snook, Griffith, LaGrange, Ky.

Paul Sanders of the Alhambra, Campbellsville, who has been sick for quite some time with the flu, got out of bed the other day, only to be swamped by film salesmen. Result: Paul is now back in bed feeling worse than before . . . For the showing of "Footsteps in the Dark," the local Mary Anderson had huge footprints painted on sidewalks reading "Don't Miss 'Footsteps in the Dark'" . . . The New Lincoln, Stanford, Ky., recently built by C. H. Behlen and H. C. Congleton, both of the Nicholasville Amusement Co., was to open Wednesday.

PRC Shorts to Warner Houses

CLEVELAND—Warner theatres in this area will play the series of eight patriotic two-reelers released by PRC.

New Goodwill Fete Set for April 16

PITTSBURGH—The third annual "Goodwill Get-Together" of exhibitors and salesmen covering the "main line" has been dated for Wednesday, April 16, and again the place will be the Penn Alto Hotel, Altoona, Pa.

Jack Judd, of the Judd Poster Service, is general chairman, as usual. "That friendly feeling" will prevail, he says, in announcing that the banquet will offer "the best food—the most fun—and the worst show."

Stag affair has attracted around 150 members of the industry for each of the first two events and the third annual shindig will bring out an even greater crowd, according to Judd and committeemen. Tickets are $3.50 and may be purchased from any booker on Filmrow.

In addition to theatre owners and managers on the "main line" a large number of Pittsburgh area exhibitors are expected to attend the Altoona party.

Committeemen include Charles Mergen, Paramount; Austin Interrante, 20th-Fox; Bill Scott, United Artists; Leo Cantor, Universal; Sam Fineberg, Republic; Max Shulgold, Crown; Saul Perilman, Monogram; Milt Brauman, M-G-M; Morris Lefko, RKO; F. D. "Dinty" Moore, Warner-First National; George Tice, Columbia; Lew Lefton, PRC, and Walter Dyke, Superior M. P. Supply.

Exhibitor Labor Committee Headed by Harry Walker

PITTSBURGH—Harry Walker, Crafton and Sharpsburg exhibitor, has been elected chairman of the committee of the independent exhibitors doing business with the IATSE's Local No. 171. Approximately 75 theatres were represented in the election Monday afternoon.

Three other members were named to this labor committee, and one of them will act as an alternate member. They are Harry Hendel, Archie Fineman and Morris Finkel. Bennett Amdur served as chairman of the special committee for the nominations and elections.

Herb Greenblatt Weeks Set at Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—RKO Radio's Pittsburgh exchange has set aside the first two weeks in March as Herb Greenblatt Weeks, in honor of the branch chief. The Greenblatt Weeks is a phase of the current Ned Depinet Drive. Greenblatt will be on vacation during this period.

Hertner Dispute Holds

CLEVELAND—Negotiations to settle the Hertner Electric Co. strike which began February 10, were broken off in the federal labor conciliator's office when agreement could not be reached on the demand of the CIO Electrical Workers Union.

Lent Finds Detroit Grosses in a Spin

DETROIT—Opening of Lent furnished a further excuse for continuation of the spectacular nosedive which Detroit grosses have indulged in since about the first of the year. Downtown houses appear to have been less affected than neighborhoods, but the condition is serious even in the big spots, with limited exceptions. Popular pictures draw far better, in proportion to average grosses elsewhere, than they normally would when all houses were sharing business fairly evenly.

Formal issuance of Lenten Rules by Archbishop Edward Mooney included the formal duty to pastors to "exhort the faithful to avoid all public amusements"—a condition which has had a serious effect upon patronage in many districts where there are large Catholic populations. Weather conditions were slightly more favorable this week, despite a continued cold, and the incidence of flu appears to have dropped, auguring improved conditions after Easter.

Detail for week ending March 6:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), after 2 wks. at Fox; **Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga** (Univ) 100
Cinema—**Lovers of Claudine** (SR) 60
Fox—**Adam Had Four Sons** (Col); **Michael Shane, Private Detective** (20th-Fox) 90
Michigan—**Virginia** (Para't); **You're the One** (Para't), 2nd wk. 105
Palms-State—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 3rd wk.; **High Sierra** (FN), after wk. at Michigan 100
United Artists—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 175
Wilson—**Fantasia** (Disney), 2nd wk 115

"High Sierra" Abetted by Stage Show, Pitt Leader

PITTSBURGH—"High Sierra," with Cab Calloway's orchestra and stage show at the Stanley and Loew's Penn's "Virginia" were bell ringers here. "Kitty Foyle" was strong in its second downtown week at the Warner and was moved over to the Ritz. Fulton closed after the second week of "Back Street" in preparation for the showing of a special engagement of Walt Disney's "Fantasia." Nixon's legit attraction was "The Male Animal." Winter's longest cold spell continued.

Detail for week ending March 7:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Face at the Window** (SR); **Torso Murder Mystery** (SR) 85
Fulton—**Back Street** (Univ), 2nd wk 80
Penn—**Virginia** (Para't) 130
Ritz—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 4th d. t. wk 90
Senator—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk 95
Stanley—**High Sierra** (FN), plus **Cab Calloway** stage show 155
Warner—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 2nd d. t. wk 125

Cleveland First Runs Strike Lull in Takes

CLEVELAND—But definitely this was not a gala week in the show business. There was variety of entertainment, with most of it on the comedy side and fewer holdovers than usual. Maybe it was just a lull between high grosses, the first two months of the year showing a big jump in receipts and the forthcoming releases promising the same high averages.

Whatever may be the reason, the fact remains that this was a low week at the first run houses with "Strawberry Blonde" the only picture to draw any kind of business. "Back Street" made a good showing in its second week at the Allen and the Lake did so well in the third week of "The Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" that it is holding over a fourth week. The weather was clear, the roads likewise, but folks were not picture-minded. Result was that the total first-run take was off approximately 20 per cent.

Detail for week ending March 7:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**Back Street** (Univ) 100
Second week on the Main Stem on a moveover from the Hippodrome.
Hippodrome—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN) 110
Lake—**The Virgin Bride** (SR); **School for Husbands** (SR), 3rd wk. 100
Palace—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 80
Stage offered Ray Noble and his band with well balanced vaudeville.
State—**The Son of Monte Cristo** (UA) 75
Stillman—**Road Show** (UA) 50

Stage and Film Show Is Cincinnati's Strongest

CINCINNATI—Glenn Miller and his orchestra and Lupe Velez in the film "Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga," sailed to peak grosses at RKO Shubert, demonstrating the increasing popularity for stage and film shows here. Jimmy Cagney in "Strawberry Blonde," second week, drew 130 per cent. "So End Our Night," war subject spotted at the Albee, was practically the only let down. Cincy audiences downtown pass up the war features repeatedly, no matter how good they come. At RKO Paramount, neighborhood house, news hawks gave wide space to the short, "Nostradamus," added feature, which sneaked in and out downtown without creating a ripple.

Detail for week ending March 6:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**So Ends our Night** (UA) 90
Capitol—**Virginia** (Para't), 2nd wk 100
Grand—**You're the One** (Para't) 90
Keith's—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), 2nd wk 130
Lyric—**Back Street** (Univ), 3rd wk 85
Palace—**Nice Girl?** (Univ), held over 120
Shubert—**Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (Univ), plus stage show 170

Business Holdings A Suit By-Play

Detroit—Unexpected legal by-play in the Midwest vs. Co-Op suit occurred when some defense evidence was introduced to the effect that Attorney O. Adelman was owner of record for the corporation controlling the Roxy, Cohen circuit house. Defense Attorney A. J. Levin was on his feet with a motion to dismiss the case on the ground that the wrong parties were being sued if this were true. Adelman is attorney for the Cohens. The incident was passed off lightly with a comment by the court on the humor of the situation.

Nothing Unusual in Week of Testimony

DETROIT—A week's court sessions in the case of Midwest vs. Cooperative Theatres developed little unusual testimony. Time was taken up largely with accountants' figures. Counsel for Midwest has been seeking to prove losses from booking problems, which lie at the heart of the suit.

George W. Sampson, a former president of the Film Board of Trade, who managed the Esquire when it was opened, testified briefly as to his difficulties in booking pictures for that theatre. Raymond E. Moon, former Co-Op general manager, and now with a rival organization, Mutual Theatres, was recalled to the stand for some additional evidence.

Fred DeLodder, president of Co-Op, was called by the plaintiff. He testified that Co-Op assists member theatres in obtaining product. Otherwise, he said, the organization would be unable to hold its membership.

Managers File Case With the NLRB

DETROIT—A new turn in the organizational activities of the Theatre Managers and Assistant Managers Union was taken with filing of an action against the Schulte circuit with the NLRB. A strike notice with the state labor board was filed a week ago, but the union apparently plans to seek action under the NLRB rather than through a strike call.

The position of the union in seeking national, rather than state, action was explained by Clayton Bordner, attorney for the union.

"There has always been a question whether theatres are in interstate commerce or not. The board has advised us, however, that they will take jurisdiction. While enforcement of the state law is ineffectual, the national law penalizes severely any attempt to discourage unionization.

"We are asking the board to issue an order requiring Schulte to discontinue discouraging union activities, and asking for union recognition, and to negotiate with us."

Demands of the union are stated by officers to be a $40 minimum weekly wage for managers.

A Move in Michigan to End Musty Blue Laws

DETROIT — Michigan's antiquated blue laws may be discarded as a consequence of legislation introduced by Senator Ben Carpenter. The present law forbids attendance "at any dancing, or at any public diversion, show or entertainment, or (one to) take part in any game, sport, or play."

A dead letter for half a century or more, the law, according to some legislative authorities, prevents the enactment of similar laws by local municipal bodies. Therefore, some opposition to its repeal may develop.

Del A. McDermid

DETROIT—Del A. McDermid, convention director for Jam Handy Picture Service, is dead at 52.

DETROIT

JOSEPH MISKINIS' projected City Theatre title has been dropped in favor of the Carthay for his new one on the west side . . . Harry Danzig, manager of the Delray, is thinking up a good answer to the filmites who want to know if his contracts grant clearance over nearby Joey's Stables—where the first coinbox soundies in town started this week.

Mrs. David Newman, wife of the Pasadena owner, gave a card party Saturday at Variety Club for Mrs. Harris Silverberg, wife of National Screen's Chicago manager . . . Mike Chargot's son entertained Friday at Variety for his young friends . . . Harold Sandelman, Lou Lobar, and Eugene Cohen, M-G-M salesmen, all had attacks of flu in sequence.

Frank Woodruff of Aromatix Company has been conducting experiments with dramatic zephyr's at Wisper and Wetsman's Roosevelt . . . J. Grant Trombley, solo pianist, who has appeared in almost every house of the Butterfield circuit, was the subject of a feature story in the Detroit *Free Press* on his 58th birthday.

Carl Buermele, Co-Op general manager, back from a sojourn at Miami . . . Joe Portel, late owner of the Virginia and Greenwood, always busy in the southern resort . . . Jake Schreiber also seen on the beach . . . Bob Buermele, Universal booker, in the hospital for a hernia operation . . . Gar Wood II (remember when his dad talked at Variety Club) and June Preisser—who met here—are on the marriage list.

Jack Broder has completed a series of managerial shifts: M. Resnick is assistant at the Time Square . . . Arthur F. Brock moved from the Rainbo to the Seville . . . Abe Broder, Jack's brother, whose entry in the army was delayed, is staying on as Rainbo manager . . . Lawrence Yonchas is new assistant at the Time . . . Jerry Siddock, Time manager, reads his BOXOFFICE en route to work . . . Danny Clark, ex-manager of the Park, is managing the candy concession at the Times Square . . . Hank Harris, Times Square manager, refuses to disclose how he got that thumb cut.

J. C. Leasia has installed fluorescent lighting in his office at the Castle, still keeps the Dunbar ready to open—"when ready" . . . Homer King Gordon, film writer and novelist, is joining the writing staff of Jam Handy Picture Service . . . George Ranshaw, manager of John Tatu's Nortown, eating his supper after checkup time . . . Fred Chantler, former manager of the Radio City at Ferndale, is reported in Canada.

Old-timers Lloyd Hammond and Charlie Garner lunching together Thursday . . . Lieutenant Royal A. Baker, police film censor for 25 years, back from retirement to lunch on Filmrow Friday.

Hyman Bloom, manager of UDT's Madison, won a blue ribbon and silver first place for his Chow in the Dog Show, in the open limit class . . . George Sanders, projectionist at the Imperial, raised the pup up to the age of about six weeks, and takes some credit for his kennel . . . Moe Dudelson, UA manager, was host Tuesday to the trade at a screening of "Topper Returns" at the Fine Arts.

Lou Mitchell, manager of the Beverly, runs a sort of neighborhood checkroom in his office . . . Hazen Funk of the Great Lakes once walked from there to the Grande—12 miles—three days in a row—once . . . Roy Campbell, manager of the Shafer at Garden City, is working out a novel lobby letter cut-out display.

Jack Ferentz, musicians' prexy, is on Mayor Jeffries' committee for the Amity Dinner . . . A. Milo (B. M. B.) De Haven, late manager of the Grand, was up from White House, Ohio, for two days.

WOLVERINE DOINGS:

Malcolm Rose is manager of the new Bloomfield at Birmingham, being opened by United Detroit Theatres. He used to be assistant manager at the Palms-State, in Detroit.

Eddie Pasco of the White Star and Campau in Hamtramck is off for six weeks in Florida—leaving his brother Al in charge.

Walter Shafer puts those rumors to rest—he's not selling out the Wayne and Garden City houses, and will go ahead with his new Academy construction probably in the fall.



He Scores—

Alert to tieups, Edward Jacobson (holding a copy of BOXOFFICE*), brought a bowling short, "Set Them Up," into his Parkside, Detroit, when Andy Varipapa (right), a champ bowler who is featured in the short, appeared in person at the Parkside Bowling Hall in the same building. Jacobson plugged the personal appearance of the bowler and the alley plugged the film. Varipapa also appeared on the stage of the Parkside.*

Warner Circuit Partner In New Pitt Theatre

PITTSBURGH—Shadyside Theatre, under construction for a number of months, will open Friday, March 21. The house was erected by the Mt. Oliver Theatre Company, officers of which are Alex S. Moore, Morris Finkel and O. F. Habegger. This group last week concluded negotiations with Warner Bros. Theatres whereby the latter named circuit became partners in the ownership. Operation and management of the de luxe Walnut Street house will be under Warner direction.

"Fantasia" Opening in Cleveland March 18

CLEVELAND—"Fantasia" will open its Cleveland engagement March 18 at the Hanna. The opening performance will be sponsored by the British War Relief, and tickets for this performance only will sell at $1.50 to $5.00. Thereafter the admission scale will be 75 cents to $1.50 for matinees Monday through Friday; 75 cents to $1.65 evenings, Saturday, Sunday and holiday matinees. Performances will be held at 2:30 p. m. and 8:30 p. m. with all seats reserved.

Frankfort, Ky., Grand Is Closed for Remodeling

FRANKFORT, KY.—Manager Gene Lutes has closed the Grand Theatre to permit extensive remodeling. The present theatre will be converted into a huge lobby entrance to the theatre proper, to be housed in a new building under construction.

The house, which is operated by the Frankfort Amusement Co., will be shut down for about three months.

Lefton Follows Up With Two Regional Meetings

CLEVELAND — Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner, followed up the company's national sales conference in New York at which plans were formed for the James R. Grainger sales and date drive, with two regional meetings. On Tuesday, he conferred with his Cincinnati office and on Wednesday, with his Cleveland office.

Ups Prices Nickel for Bargain Night Shows

DETROIT—Walter Shafer, operating the Wayne in the west side suburb of that name, is raising prices from 15 to 20 cents for Bargain Night shows on Wednesday and Thursday. Second run double features are shown on those nights.

Books "Devil Bat"

CLEVELAND—Lee Goldberg, PRC franchise owner, announces that Fred J. Dolle of the Fourth Ave. Amusement Co., Louisville, has booked "Devil Bat," PRC feature release, for his entire circuit. It opens at his de luxe Strand in Louisville.

Proposes Referendum on Daylight Saving Time

HARRISBURG—Representative J. P. Moran, of Allegheny county, has introduced in the House a bill urging a state-wide referendum on daylight saving time. It is proposed for next fall's primary election.

For two decades many Pennsylvania communities have "adopted" daylight saving time simply because the mayor or burgess had issued a proclamation, and the issue, hotly contested from time to time, has never been submitted to the voter.

Now, the Moran bill would authorize a vote on the question: "Should daylight saving be adopted by the commonwealth as official time during a part of each year?" The governor would be empowered to fix by proclamation the period over which daylight saving time would apply.

Patrons Pick Premiums At DeLodder's Aloma

DETROIT—Letting patrons pick their own premiums was the experiment tried out successfully by Albert W. Heuser, manager of the DeLodder circuit's Aloma in Grosse Pointe.

With several companies competing for the contract, Heuser had each place a complete display in the long lobby of the house for a few weeks, then invited patron comment and selection.

Union Moves to Conduct Negotiations Separately

CINCINNATI—Local B-37 (film exchange employes union) has voted to change its classification from "B" to "A" as a result of which the IATSE-affiliated group will conduct its own negotiations separately. The change, however, is contingent on similar action by all other exchange unions throughout the country.

Mike Goldie Rites

CLEVELAND—Funeral services were conducted here for Mike Goldie, 47, local theatre manager, who died suddenly. Goldie was associated for many years with Ernest Schwartz, as manager of Schwartz' Broadvue.

Open at Midkiff

MIDKIFF, W. VA.—Lonnie Spurlock enjoyed a packed house at the recent opening of his new 300-seat theatre here. The house is known as the Guyan.

D. F. Shiflet May Remodel

HAMLIN, W. VA.—D. F. Shiflet, formerly of the Mecca Theatre in Huntington, W. Va., plans to remodel his newly acquired Palace Theatre here, and possibly the construction of a new and larger house.

Spending Week at PRC

CLEVELAND—John Consentino, PRC playdate auditor, is spending the week at the local exchange.

"Dramatic Zephyrs" Undergoing Test

Detroit—Use of the "dramatic zephyrs" installation at United Detroit's Vogue has been temporarily discontinued after a several weeks' experiment. The results are now being studied by the Aromatix Company, which produced the system. The idea, as previously reported, is to waft odors into the auditorium in harmony with the mood of the scene being shown on the screen.

Vote Recount Nets Greensburg Shows

GREENSBURG, PA.—Sunday motion pictures were presented here March 9 after Judges J. Hilary Keenan and Richard D. Laird had certified to the Westmoreland county election board a recount that reversed an anti-Sunday show ban by 12 votes. Initial programs were staged as benefits for the Greek War Relief.

Proponents of Sunday motion pictures demanded a recount when the proposal was rejected last November at a referendum by a 57-vote margin. The recount, under the court's inspection, showed the issue had been favored by a margin of a dozen votes. There had been opposition and considerable "talk" for an appeal to a higher court to void the recount, but no action has been taken.

Broadway, Parkersburg, Leased by Tom Piatt

PITTSBURGH—Thomas Piatt has leased the Broadway, Parkersburg, W. Va., which he plans to open around the middle of March. The house at Fort Neal has been closed for a long period. Piatt was formerly employed in exhibition with R. J. Hiehle and George C. Davis.

Scripting Defense Short

HOLLYWOOD—Owen Crump is scripting "The Jumping Jacks," Warner defense short dealing with parachute troops. B. Reeves Eason will direct.

BOWLING

DETROIT—Steady rolling marked the week in the Film Bowling League, with high scores turned in by Moe Dudelson, 216; Lou Metzger, 216; Al Grasgrin, 214; Bert Holmes, 209, and Al Wagner, 201. Team standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
United Artists	57	35
Co-Operative	56	36
Republic	53	39
Film Drug	48	44
Film Truck	42	46
20th Century-Fox	38	54
Amusement Supply	36	52
Monogram	34	58

Pittsburgh Stag Dinner Honors "Duddy" Lefton

PITTSBURGH—Godfrey "Duddy" Lefton, PRC salesman, was honored by 80 friends at a stag bachelor dinner Monday evening in the William Penn Hotel. He was presented with handsome saddle leather luggage. C. C. Kellenberg, Variety's chief barker, served as toastmaster. Entertainment was furnished by the Tap Time orchestra, Mary Martha Briney, Bob Carter, Gene Baird and Buster & Joe.

Among those present were Jack Lefton, Cleveland film man and father of "Duddy" and Milton Lefton, and Maurice Spitalny, orchestra leader and radio star, father of Iris Ruth Spitalny, fiancee of "Duddy." This young couple will be married March 23 in Cleveland, and the event will be a double wedding as at this time Miss Spitalny's sister, Jean Sylvia, will become Mrs. Simon Ackerman.

In Windy City for PRC's Second Annual Meeting

CLEVELAND—Attending PRC's second annual convention in Chicago this week were: Cincinnati branch manager, Nat V. Kaplan; Don Duff, office manager; and Joseph W. Goldberg, sales. Indianapolis: Sam H. Abrams, branch manager; Joseph W. Bohn, office manager. Cleveland: Lee Goldberg, franchise owner for the Cleveland, Cincinnati and Indianapolis territories; Bernard Rubin, office manager, and Jay Goldberg, booker. Mrs. Goldberg went along for the buggy ride.

Deane in the Army

CLEVELAND—Buell Deane, Republic assistant shipper, leaves March 19 for a year of military training. The exchange gave him a farewell dinner party.

MANSFIELD, OHIO—Ralph Shaffer, manager of the Park, reports for military training April 1.

Zuckers in South

CLEVELAND — Lester Zucker, Columbia branch manager, and Mrs. Zucker have gone to New Orleans. They will also tour the southern gardens in Charleston, S. C., and Natchez.

Sterns to Build

ROCHESTER, MICH. — Charles L. Sterns will build a new theatre here. Three other houses are scheduled to rise shortly in this vicinity. They will be a Royal Oak, at Clawson and Berkley.

Estimates Fire Damage

CORBIN, KY.—A recent fire in the building housing the Viv Theatre is estimated by Manager Louis Merenbloom to have done $5,000 damage.

Girl to the Frank Matthews

ALLIANCE, OHIO—A daughter was born recently in a Canton hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matthews. He is house manager of the Morrison here.

Gratifying Cooperation In Greek Relief Drive

PITTSBURGH—Exhibitor cooperation with the Greek War Relief is more than gratifying, Harry A. Seed, division co-chairman, stated this week. Although the big week is March 25-30, the local campaign is already under way with receipt of accessories, buttons and headbands, which were distributed through film salesmen soliciting pledges or Exhibitors' Service Company. The buttons are used in connection with collections to be taken at theatres where the exhibitor elected this type of aid for the fund. Head bands are to be worn by the girls taking the collections. Trailers were shipped direct from National Screen Service, New York City.

Harry M. Kalmine is chairman of the film area's committee and M. A. Rosenberg is the independent exhibitor chairman.

"Fantasia" Garners Much News Space in Pitt

PITTSBURGH—"Fantasia," now on display at the Fulton, enjoyed two openings—a press preview and the initial public showing, which was a Greek War Relief benefit. The Walt Disney offering gathered more news space than any motion picture exhibited here in a year or longer, and the general campaign has been elaborate. No less than two great department stores cooperated with several complete window displays and there were numerous merchandising tieups. The Gillespie Art Galleries exhibited a collection of original drawings for the production. Music critics vied with the drama desk editors in having their say regarding the fantasy and its panoramic sound reproduction.

PITTSBURGH

(Continued from page 62)

York early in the week attending a Warner zone managers meeting. He expected to depart for a Florida holiday after a few days at his office here. Harry Feinstein, Warner circuit booker, also was geared to get started for the same spot . . . The Peter Danas were to return here from a southwestern vacation late this week.

Tony Colose has closed his Star, Glassflat, and Morris, Morrisdale . . . Veteran Columbia home office representative, Irving Hanower, is camping at the local branch exchange . . . Mrs. Glen Floyd, wife of the Follansbee and Monaca exhibitor, underwent a major operation in the Ohio Valley Hospital, Sewickley . . . E. W. Smith, former manager of the local Melrose, who was recently named as manager of the Colonial, Wheeling, W. Va., was a Filmrow visitor this week. M. A. Shea circuit has acquired this house, and Smith states that he's glad to be working for this circuit—it's like being home. Some years ago he had been connected with the outfit.

Pittsburgh council is considering a $1 *tax on all merchandising vending machines . . . Billy ZeVan, theatre decorator, who is entering exhibition at Elizabeth, W. Va., stated this week that the new house, named the Wirt, would be opened March* 25. *ZeVan has taken a long term lease on the first floor of the Masonic Lodge Hall and has remodeled this property. The business property adjoining has been purchased by him and will be opened as a restaurant . . . Sgt. Harold Banks,* 176 *F. A., until recently assistant manager of the Rowland, Wilkinsburg, is stationed at Fort Meade, Md.*

Ohio Trade Will Be Guests Of F. & Y. on March 20

COLUMBUS—About 150 exhibitors from Ohio and adjacent states will be guests of the F&Y Building Service, Theatre Division, on March 20 when Leo Yassenoff, with the cooperation of Mrs. Marie MacDonald and Louis Wiethe, holds an open house at the recently opened Boulevard and Beechwold theatres. Of particular interest will be the application of "dark light" in both houses, plus the new Cyclex lamps in the projection booths.

In the evening the exhibitors will be guests at a dinner at the Variety Club.

Charlie Kennedy Succeeds Hardgrove at Columbus

COLUMBUS—"Mike" Cullen, western division manager for Loew's, has announced that Charlie Kennedy, former student assistant at the Ohio, succeeds John Hardgrove as Russ Bovim's chief aide. He has been associated with Loew's since 1936.

Hardgrove resigned March 1 to go to San Diego. Urban May, student assistant manager at the Broad, has been shifted to the Ohio.

Walters to Renovate

HUNTINGTON, W. VA.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walters, owners of the Park Theatre, Second Avenue near 20th Street, have retained the F&Y Building Service of Columbus to draw plans for a renovation project to cost approximately $12,500.

Propose Providence, Ky., House

PROVIDENCE, KY.—A new theatre is being proposed for this town.

ANY NEWS TODAY?

Planning a new theatre? Remodeling? Being promoted? Getting married? Got a new baby (infant)? Buying new equipment? Been elected mayor? Son or daughter graduating? Proud of a new exploitation stunt? Hired a new staff member? Solved a knotty problem?

Then Tell It To BOXOFFICE

BOXOFFICE,
4804 E. Ninth St.,
Kansas City, Mo.

NAME ..... THEATRE ..... LOCATION .....

Hartford Prepares For Greek Drive

HARTFORD—A midnight "sneak preview" and vaudeville show, for the benefit of Greek War Relief, will be given at the Poli here Saturday, March 29, as part of the local trade's contribution to a $1,000,000 fund which the industry at large is currently endeavoring to raise for the cause.

Plans for the show were formulated at a luncheon meeting held at the Hotel Bond when Louis A. Cohen, Poli manager, was named chairman of the Hartford Theatre Committee for the drive.

At the Meeting

Among those at the meeting were: I. J. Hoffman, WB executive and state chairman for the industry; Louis A. Cohen, Loew's Poli; Fred R. Greenway, Loew's Poli Palace; George E. Landers, E. M. Loew's; Walter B. Lloyd, M&P's Allyn; Charlie Repass, Crown; Martin Kelleher, Princess; James F. McCarthy, WB's Strand; Mickey Daly, Daly Theatres; Frankie Morin, Regal; Dave Sugarman, Colonial; Thomas L. Maller, Lenox; Henry Needles, WB executive.

Victor Morelli, Bristol, Bristol; Joseph Bornstein, Embassy, New Britain; Dennis Rich, Cameo, Bristol; Jack Sanson, State, Manchester; Randy Maller, Strand, New Britain; Tommy Grace, Circle, Manchester; Hugh J. Campbell, Central, West Hartford; Kennie Faye, Rialto; William G. Flanagan, Lyric; Morris Schulman, Schulman Theatres; Bernie W. Levy, Proven Pictures, and J. Anger, Astor, East Hartford.

From March 25 to March 30, collection boxes for Greek relief will be placed in the lobbies of all Hartford theatres.

Names of committee members for the show were announced last week. At the same time, honorary chairmen of the show were named. They are Mayor Spellacy, Dr. H. C. Jaquit, provost of Trinity College; Henry H. Conland, publisher of the Hartford *Courant*, and F. S. Murphy, general manager of the *Times*.

Louis A. Cohen, Loew's Poli manager, is chairman of the general committee for the midnight benefit stage and screen show. Wallie J. Cooper, Loew's Poli assistant manager, is secretary, and other members are John R. Reitemeyer, city editor of the "Courant;" Max I. Farber, city editor of the "Times;" James Starr, district governor of the AHEPA Greek society, and Henry T. Kneeland, secretary of the local AHEPA chapter.

Subcommittees are announced as follows:

Stage show, Rudy Frank (Harris Brothers' State), chairman; Gustave J. May, Rubin Lewis (Loew's Poli Palace), Rocco Matarese (Harris Brothers' State), Henry A. Zacardi and Wallie J. Cooper (Loew's Poli). Projection, Charlie North, chairman; Donald McDonald and Kennie Faye (Rialto). Publicity, George E. Landers (E. M. Loew's), chairman; Morris Schulman (Schulman Theatres), Charles Repass (Crown) and Hugh Campbell (Central, West Hartford).

Coin box collections, David E. Sugarman (Colonial), chairman; Martin Kelleher (Princess) and William G. Flanagan (Lyric). Music, Henry Zacardi, chairman; Sammie Kaplan (Harris Brothers' State) and Theodore Harris (Harris Brothers' State). Tickets, Mickey Daly (Daly Theatres), chairman; James F. McCarthy (Strand), Frankie Morin (Regal) and Russ Grant (Loew's Poli). Trailer, Fred R. Greenway (Loew's Poli Palace), chairman; Thomas L. Maller (Lenox) and Bernie W. Levy (Proven Pictures). Radio, Walter B. Lloyd (M&P's Allyn), chairman; Sammie E. Harris (Harris Brothers' State) and Bernard H. Schulman.

Organizing Aid for Greek War Relief

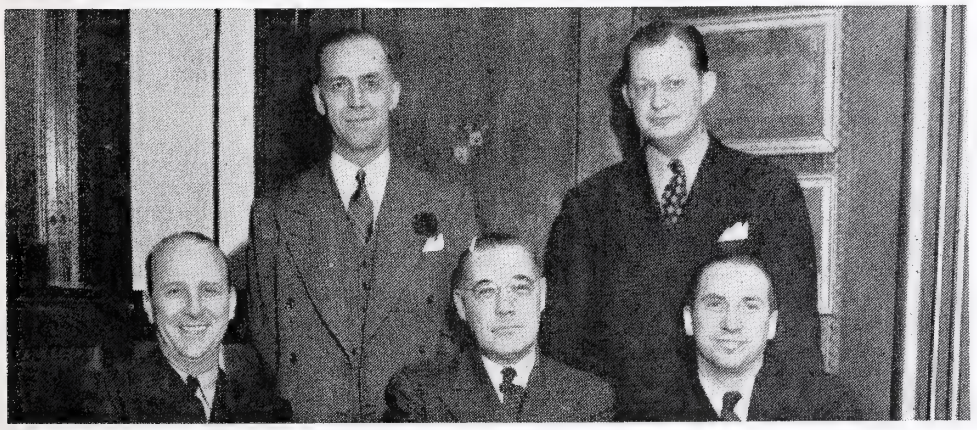
NEW HAVEN—I. J. Hoffman, Warner theatre department chief who is in charge of all Greek War Relief theatre activities for this zone, reports Robert E. Russell, Loew-Poli manager, will act as chairman of the midnight benefit screen and stage show to be held at the Loew-Poli here Saturday, March 29.

Simultaneously, similar midnight shows will be held in all Loew-Poli "A" houses in Hartford, Bridgeport, Worcester, Waterbury and Meriden. In Springfield, the Paramount, Goldstein house, will have the show.

Committees have been appointed, and affiliated and independent exhibitors have pledged cooperation with lobby collections, trailers advertising the midnight shows, and sale of tickets at 75 cents.

Aiding Russell in New Haven are Lou Schaefer, Paramount manager, radio and newspaper publicity; John Hesse, Roger Sherman manager, trailers; William Reisinger, Bijou manager, committees; and Sam Badamo, College manager, entertainment. Chief of Police Philip T. Smith and Fire Chief Paul Heinz are on the ticket committee.

In Bridgeport, Matt Saunders heads the show committee; Peter Benard and Charles A. Wheeler are on the mayor's committee; Morris Rosenthal, Manuel E. Kugell, Harold B. Dow, Sam Haddleman, James Fensore, tickets; Joseph Lopez, radio; Jack Schwartz, trailers; Harry Rose, Humphrey Doulens, Harry Neigher, entertainment. Lou Cohen is the Hartford chairman. Committees are being organized in Meriden and Waterbury.



Aiding an Ally—

The committee in charge of the midnight show to be presented March 29 at the Loew's Poli Theatre, on behalf of Greek War Relief, are, left to right: John Hesse, in charge of publicity accessories; Bob Russell, chairman and in charge of ticket sales; Lou Schaefer, in charge of newspaper and radio publicity; Bill Reisinger, in charge of collection committees, and Sam Badamo, in charge of show and production.

Mass. Theatres in '40 Pay Ascap $50,000

BOSTON—Massachusetts motion picture theatres paid Ascap $50,000 during 1940, John Paine, Ascap general manager, testified before a state legislative committee on constitutional laws. Paine was opposing three bills aimed to curb Ascap activities in Massachusetts.

Stating that Ascap took in $326,000 from Massachusetts accounts during the past year, Paine said that radio contracts accounted for $193,000 of this. Restaurants, he said, followed with $54,000, while hotels brought $16,000 and dance halls $6,900.

"Radio Nets Behind Legislation"

The motion picture industry took no active part at the hearings. Harold Fellows, manager of NBC-leased WEEI and chairman of a state broadcasting association, opposed the three bills as being allegedly unconstitutional.

It was indicated that should the Bay State legislature pass any of the measures, Ascap would immediately seek to prevent enforcement by applying for an injunction.

Louis Frohlich, general counsel for Ascap, told the committee that NAB, NBC, and CBS were behind the legislation. He said that if the measures were passed, Ascap would be unable to operate in this state.

One of the bills would require registration of all compositions with a Massachusetts board. Another would stiffen copyright laws. The third would place the department of labor in charge of all musical bills in Massachusetts.

Otto Harback, New York composer and Ascap director, also appeared against the measure as did Composers William Orme Fisher, Grace Gulesin, and Dr. Mabel Walker, the latter two being of this city. John Devlin, local Ascap lawyer, also appeared at the hearings.

Boston Committee Active In Greek Aid Campaign

BOSTON—Work continues in preparation for New England's participation in the motion picture industry's six-day drive to raise $1,000,000 for Greek War Relief. Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatre Corp. partner, is heading local activities, assisted by Jack Goodwin, Robert Sternberg, Harry MacDonald, Charles Kurtzman, Norman Ayers, I. J. Hoffman, Nathan Yamins, Joseph A. DiPesa, Harry Browning, Marty Glazer, Jack Granara, and Harry Zeitz.



Their Campaign Recognized—

M-G-M honor medals are being awarded by Joseph A. DiPesa (center), advertising manager for Loew's State and Orpheum, to Edward McBride (left) and Al Longo for their campaign on "Philadelphia Story" at the State in Providence. Since then McBride has been promoted from the helm of the Providence house to manager of Loew's State in Boston. Longo is advertising director at the Providence house.

NEW HAVEN

GREEK WAR RELIEF activities exerting concerted action of theatres to raise funds in most cities. Midnight shows will have excellent talent . . . In Worcester boxes and loges has been auctioned off to various Greek societies . . . In Waterbury, where the Italian population is high, call for organization of nabes had poor responses . . . Best story of the campaign is the one about a meeting in one of the towns, to which a Greek priest was invited . . . Talk came around to securing Ann Corio and auctioning off each article of clothing she discards so well. One of the managers assured the priest it would be done with finesse; at the end Ann would still wear a modest bathing suit. "What if somebody wants to buy the bathing suit?" the priest asked . . . J. R. Mahan's crew at the Warner exchange pledged itself to contribute a sum each week until the campaign is over. Hannah Ginsberg is treasurer and Jack Mullen, chairman.

Although there was no luncheon and joint action, as many exhibitors who could attended hearing Thursday on the various anti-Ascap bills, by terms of which copyright societies must license in the state and pay 25 per cent gross tax annually . . . Ed Canelli, Warner assistant shipper, left for military training . . . Sidney Lax, Columbia shipper, was called for final examination at Hartford . . . Jerry Massimino, Warner poster chief, is expecting to be called soon . . . With Speri Perakos gone in the draft, Peter Perakos' second son, John, who had taken over the Strand, Thompsonville management, has now enlisted in the Marines . . . New Paramount assistant shipper replacing Billy Nutile, who's off to the colors, is Harold Garceau . . . Jack O'Connell, Roger Sherman assistant, made quite a picture when he visited the theatre in his uniform before entraining with the National Guard.

E. M. Loew will soon open the Milford Drive-In, operated for the past two seasons by Milford Drive-In Corp. and DiMauro . . . E. M. Loew is an old hand at drive-ins, operating in Miami, Washington, Lynn, Providence and other spots . . . Joe Faith was scheduled to open his new 650-seat Carberry, Bristol, Wednesday . . . Al Schuman reported to have renewed his lease on the Black Rock for five years . . . Colonial, Walnut Beach, finally has its 15 foot vertical Neon sign up and it's the talk of the town, combining gold, orange, blue and rose, with a zig-zag flasher . . . Bob Russell's Loew-Poli office has been recarpeted in blue and will be redecorated . . . New carpet strips have replaced worn sections in the lobby of the house . . . Corner piece for "Ziegfeld Girl" is a Russell-Rubin creation of a Broadway scene with glittering lights and a special effect obtained with a new fluorescent paint . . . For "Tobacco Road," the boys used mounted 2-foot letters from the 24 sheet extending down one side of the outer lobby, with 24-sheet figures of Jeeter and Ellie Mae perched on first and last letters, and a ramshackle background . . . Colonial, Southington, will remodel in June.

Morris Nunes of Progressive Premium and Mrs. Nunes off for a southern vacation via boat to Jacksonville, stopover at Atlanta to visit with Sam Moscow of Columbia and on to Miami Beach . . . Jack and Harry Fishman write "having a wonderful time" in Miami . . . Zelig Fishman spent the weekend in New York . . . Harry Egert, National Screen division sales manager, in town for a few days in connection with the Beat Par Drive . . . George Haupert, Columbia traveling auditor, visiting the local exchange . . . Sam Rosen flew down to Miami when he had word of his father, Abe Rosen's sudden illness . . . Lee Alderman of the Warner exchange office back at her desk March 17 after recuperating from an operation . . . Helen Platt, Warner inspectress, has been out ill six weeks with a jaw infection . . . Harry Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager, made a natty picture in his polo cruise outfit and cap . . . Lou Brown and Mrs. Brown, Elliott Kronish, Nat Rubin, and Abe Mattes drove down to see the Shaws off for Panama on the S. S. Cristobal.

George Weber is at the Cleveland Metro exchange to break in a few new checking supervisors . . . Ruth Goldberg, RKO cashier, is visiting her sister and seeing the sights in Washington . . . Chester Nejmeco, brother of Lucy Flack, Milford exhibitor, is managing the soldiers' theatre at Fort Terry, New London . . . Mrs. Lou Brown and Shirley Lou, family of the Loew-Poli publicity chief, get off by train for Orlando Sunday, Lou to join them early in April for a few weeks . . . Abe Mattes is joining Mrs. Mattes and Mickey in Miami on the 18th . . . Sid Swirsky is sporting a new falcon grey Oldsmobile coach . . . Seen at Eddie Ramm's or Harry's: All of Meadow Street . . . Testimonial dinner to Jack Simons and Lou Cohen at Hartford drew 200, among them the chief of Police, Senator J. P. Cooney, the acting mayor, the press, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shaw, Lou Brown, George Freeman, Joe Samartano, Bob Russell, Jack Halprin, Ernie Gaw, Wally Cooper, Russ Grant, James McCarthy, Walter Lloyd, Henry Needles, Ted Harris, George Landers, and Edward Fitzgerald, Elliott Kronish, Charlotte McGuigan . . . Simons, who was recently promoted to the State, Providence, was presented with a portable radio and a bronze testimonial plaque.

Adolph Johnson was first in town to play "GWTW" at the Strand . . . Hy Levine is handling the new Select Attractions, beginning with "City of Missing Girls" . . . 30x40 blowups of the Columbia trio, Tim O'Toole, Ben Lourie and Sid Swirsky, on the handsome silk Good Will Campaign banner, are attracting the customers in droves . . . Warner exchange standing first in district in the 20th Year for Sears Drive . . . As of February 22, Universal here was sixth in its current drive . . . Crown, Hartford, is trying a late show week again, with "Thou Shalt Not Wed" and "How to Take a Bath" featured at 10:30 p. m. . . . Also a ladies only 10 a. m. show on same . . . Hugh Maguire designed a Yale-Harvard barometer for the RKO Ned Depinet Drive, with the office divided into teams . . . Stratford beat Columbia at the pins this week.

Majestic, Bridgeport, had a *Times-Star* contest with "Roadshow" offering guest tickets for best letters on "What Gave You Your Biggest Laugh?" . . . Joe Samartano got front-page notice in the Meriden *Record* when arrangements were announced that the Meriden National Guard parade from the Armory to the Loew-Poli with military band, and the program he had planned on his stage, with mayor and local celebs in attendance, would actually be the band's farewell, as they marched to the train from the theatre . . . Sam Lind is now handling American Merchandise Corp. of Boston's multiple glassware and other premium deals, as well as books, and has made his New Haven headquarters at 128 Meadow St.

BOSTON

ROBERT RATZKOFF, former M-G-M local checker, is now a clerk in the booking office here . . . Solly Levin of the M-G-M office is now checking . . . Helen Fosdick of Republic, who recently became the bride of Daniel J. Clifford, has returned from a New York honeymoon.

Dorothy Haig of UA has returned from a honeymoon . . . Harry Shaw, Loew's Poli divisional manager, is away to Panama . . . Morris Perlstein, local theatre executive, has been taking the Florida cure . . . Maurice N. Wolf, local M-G-M district manager, back in town after some Florida golf . . . Tom Donaldson, present Boston exchange manager for M-G-M, left Friday along the southern route.

Louis Stern, Barre, Vt. exhibitor, is back from Florida . . . Betty Ash, local National Screen Service veteran, has resigned . . . Nathan Yamins, Fall River exhibitor, is expected back from Florida sometime in April . . . E. Harold Stoneman, Interstate partner, has returned from Florida . . . Arthur K. Howard, business manager of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., is one of three comprising the tournament committee for the New England championship contract bridge matches to be held here March 14, 15, and 22. Open pair championships and team of four championships will be decided.

Walter Higgins of the M&P Theatre Corp. booking office has lost his father-in-law . . . The father of John Donahue, assistant manager of the Central Square in Cambridge, is dead. He was a retired fire captain.

Bill Canning, manager of the Empire in Fall River which Edward Ansin and E. Harold Stoneham operate, has temporarily discontinued flesh . . . Al Zalis of the Globe Poster was in from Baltimore . . . Morris Bailey, Connecticut exhibitor, is south . . . Ed Morey, Republic district manager here, was in New York on business concerning the present James R. Grainger Sales and Playdate Drive which ends in May.

Joe Reilly, Metro head poster clerk, was guest of honor at an exchange party Thursday. Dorothy Gardner, in charge of the entertainment committee, was assisted by Bertha Harris and Matt Donoghue. Reilly was presented with a portable radio for use in camp. He had previously been given a party by shippers, poster clerks, and inspectresses, at the home of Dorothy Galvin where he was presented with a wrist watch.

Frank Dean, Manchester Depot, N. H., exhibitor, was a visitor . . . H. E. Neveau, operator of the Mutual in Saco, was down from Maine . . . Sam Seletsky, Republic district manager in New Haven, was in New York . . . Bob Cobe, operator of the Drive-In in Salisbury, is in Florida for the winter. He writes that he recently met George Moore, former Cape Cod exhibitor.

Herbert Zidel of Select Attractions, Inc., is off on another exodus, this time to Florida . . . William Avin, film district letter carrier, is accompanying Zidel . . . Ed Markell, operator of the Porter Square in Cambridge, is back from the sunshine as is E. M. Loew, independent circuit owner . . . Fred Sharby, New Hampshire exhibitor, and the missus planned to be in Florida now . . . Maurice Schwartz has been appearing at the Plymouth this week . . . Harry Zeitz has reportedly signed with Universal for 13 weeks at the former Keith's in Portland which he has taken under his wing and put back into commission.

Tom O'Brien, Monogram head booker, kept the exchange very much in the extant dating contest by setting a band-box opening of "Flying Wild" for this week at the RKO Boston and "Sign of the Wolf," for April 8 at the same de luxe house . . . George Kraska, operator of the Fine Arts in Boston, was in New York on a picture-buying trip . . . Private offices of George Kraska in the State Theatre building are being redecorated . . . Lillian Jacobson of the Fine Arts was out several days because of illness.

F. T. Carr, operator of the Idle Hour in Hardwick, plans to return to the Green Mountains soon from Florida . . . Newell Kurson, Graphic theatre executive, is wearing the Florida sun . . . Jack Granara, Keith's Memorial publicist, pulled a natural on "Son of Monte Cristo" by tying in the Boston Fencing Club in exploitation . . . Ben Welansky, operator of the Globe and Stuart here, is back from the south . . . James Marshall of Decker's Film Exchange Transfer was hospitalized at Beth Israel last week after being rushed there for emergency treatment . . . Harry Aaronson, manager of the Rialto in Scollay Square, called a special Legion meeting here Monday. Aaronson commands the film district Post.

Steve Broidy, Monogram sales manager, has been appointed to the Motion Picture Industry Committee for Catholic Charities . . . D. J. Dugan has put the Strand in Newport in darkness for renovation work . . . James Tobin, formerly manager of the 820-seat Premier in Newburyport, has been shifted to the Strand in Clinton . . . Lloyd Nordgren, formerly manager of the Globe in Clinton, has taken over the management of the Premier in Newburyport.

Joseph Liss, formerly manager of the Strand in Clinton, is now managing the Broadway in Lawrence . . . Christopher McHale, at one time manager of the Broadway in Lawrence, is now managing the Palace in Lawrence.

Samuel Pinanski, M&P Theatres Corp. partner, continued in Florida last week . . . Stirling Hayden returned to the coast last week after several weeks of personal appearances among New England theatres. His next vehicle will be "Dildo Cay" in which Dorothy Lamour will be co-starred. Harry Browning, M&P advertising director, got off some advance publicity by breaking the dailies with a yarn that the schooner *Gertrude L. Thebaud,* international racing boat on which Hayden once sailed professionally, may be secured by Paramount for the picture.

Larry O'Toole, former Paramount, RKO and 20th-Fox artist, accompanied Hayden on most of the latter's New England personal appearances. O'Toole and Hayden were T Wharf cronies . . . Skip Dunn is decorating the Olympia in Lynn with new lighting effects.

Martin J. Mullin, chief barker of the local Variety Club, continued this week to work on plans for the near-future visit of John Harris and Edward O'Donnell, national Variety heads. Their appearance here will be marked by a party and, on the serious side, a general business meeting . . . George Markell is planning extensive renovations at the Hudson in Hudson. Markell also controls the State in the same city . . . Ed Cuddy, M&P division manager, has opened the Star in Westbrook, Me. . . . Ben Domingo, RKO city manager, held both

(Continued on page 76)



Pressed Into Service—

Stirling Hayden, Paramount's new star visiting New England, is selling Harry Wasserman, district manager for M&P Theatres, a box of candy at the Oriental Theatre, Mattapan, Mass. Paramount's "greatest find of the year" is making personal appearances throughout M&P theatres in New England in conjunction with the showing of his first picture, "Virginia."

Holdovers Do Best For Hub First Runs

BOSTON — Second-runs and holdovers were the big noise in the Hub last week where "Philadelphia Story," combined with "Road Show," played to near-capacity its second week at the State and Orpheum. Stirling Hayden made personal appearances at the Fenway and Paramount, bolstering the second-run there of "Virginia" and "Ride, Kelly, Ride." "Son of Monte Cristo," hitched with "Play Girl," was steady at Keith's Memorial and was held over for a second week.

Details for week ending March 8:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**Virginia** (Para't); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox), 2nd run, plus **Stirling Hayden** on stage 170
Keith's Memorial—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Play Girl** (RKO) 130
Loew's Orpheum—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Road Show** (UA), 2nd wk. 180
Loew's State—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M); **Road Show** (UA), 2nd wk. 175
Metropolitan—**Strawberry Blonde** (M-G-M); **The Monster and the Girl** (Para't) 145
Paramount—**Virginia** (Para't); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox), 2nd run, plus **Stirling Hayden** on stage 180

Two Top Par by 20% in New Haven First Runs

NEW HAVEN—"Nice Girl?" at the Roger Sherman, and "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" at the College, the latter in its second week, both registered at 20 per cent above the normal take to lead the week's downtown business. "Virginia" was a holdover at the Paramount.

Detail for the week ended March 6:

(Average is 100)

College—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (Col), 2nd wk. 120
Loew-Poli—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox) 85
Paramount—**Virginia** (Para't); **Blackout** (UA), 2nd wk. 85
Roger Sherman—**Nice Girl?** (Univ); **Romance of the Rio Grande** (20th-Fox) 120

Providence Snow Storm Slows Opening Grosses

PROVIDENCE—A driving northeast storm which blanketed Rhode Island with snow Friday night (opening date for several first-run houses) was felt at boxoffices when week's grosses were tallied. State with "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" topped list for week.

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Invisible Woman** (Univ), 3rd wk. 110
Carlton—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Father's Son** (WB), 2nd wk. 110
Fay's—**Robin Hood of the Pecos** (Rep), plus Singers' Midgets on stage 75
Majestic—**Nice Girl?** (Univ); **Murder Among Friends** (20th-Fox) 85
State—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M) 150
Strand—**Virginia** (Para't); **Girls Under 21** (Col), 2nd wk. 100

Exploitation Product Earning Holdovers

BOSTON—George Kraska has held the 16mm "Here Is Ireland" for a tenth week at the Fine Arts. Lou Newmann and Spencer Rudnick have held "Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" for a third week at the Trans Lux. Ben Domingo kept "Son of Monte Cristo" and "Play Girl" for a second week at Keith's Memorial.

"Fantasia" Drawing In Sixth Week

Boston—"Fantasia" in its sixth week at the Majestic in Boston, is still drawing heavily. Special Saturday morning shows, beginning at 10:30 a. m., have been inaugurated in addition to regular afternoon and evening performances. In an additional juvenile patronage campaign, a one-half price schedule for children under 16, applying to all performances, has been put into effect. Joseph Ehrlick is now handling the local publicity campaign for the Walt Disney release.

12 Firemen Die in A Theatre Fire

BROCKTON, MASS.—Twelve firemen were killed and 21 others injured in fighting a fire which destroyed the Strand early Monday morning two hours after hundreds of Sunday night patrons left the theatre.

Most of the victims were trapped when the snow-laden roof over the theatre balcony caved in with a terrific roar. Rescuers, pulling away theatre seats, ceiling plaster and roof timbers, to free them, made possible quick emergency hospital treatment, but two bodies were carried out along with the living.

A Catholic priest entered the burning building to administer last rites to the dying and most dangerously injured.

The cause of the disastrous fire was undetermined at press time.

Damage to the house, operated by Frederick Lieberman, was estimated at $100,000.

Wolf and Weiss Named Variety Delegates

BOSTON—Maurice Wolf, M-G-M district manager, and Murray Weiss, associate of equipment dealer, Joe Cifre, have been named by the executive committee of the Variety Club, Tent No. 23, as official delegates to the National Variety convention in Atlantic City on May 14, 16, and 17. Martin J. Mullin, chief barker, will attend, by virtue of his office, as a member of the National Board. All local members are eligible to participate in the convention activities.

Dinner and Preview for Boston Barkers March 18

BOSTON—A buffet dinner and sneak preview for Variety Club members and their ladies has been scheduled for March 18 at the Hotel Statler. Bridge will follow.

Joe Cifre, equipment dealer, and Herman Rifkin, circuit owner and Monogram director, comprise the committee in charge. Cifre will install special equipment for the screening. Indications are that similar festivities will be held periodically.

Names House Carberry

BRISTOL, CONN. — Joseph Faith's new theatre here, has been named the Carberry.

Game Legalization Bill Hearing on April 1

BOSTON—A special legislative hearing has been set for April 1 on the bill filed by George Solomon, operator of the Columbia in Boston, to make "Beano and similar games" legal in Massachusetts theatres. At the present time, Bank Night is the only cash giveaway legal in theatres throughout many parts of the state.

Solomon and the interests involved would bring in Lucky and other giveaways under special $100 licenses, the fees going for the Old Age Benefit.

Wants Investigation of Beano in Massachusetts

BOSTON—Charging that "criminals and racketeers" are operating a $50,000,000 Beano business in Massachusetts for what he terms "flim flam" charities, Representative P. D. Chase of Boston appeals to the Massachusetts legislative committee on legal affairs to approve his bill for an investigation by an especially appointed commission which would subsequently advise the state governing body regarding proposed changes in the present Beano law.

Chase points to the manner in which former Mayor Mansfield "stopped racketeering" by allowing but one game weekly by recognized charities only and requiring the operators to file financial statements regularly with the city clerk.

Upholds Lower Court in Personal Injury Case

NEW HAVEN—The superior court ruled "no error" in a personal injury case brought by a patron against Poli-New England Theatres, Inc., which was decided against the theatre company in a lower court and was subsequently appealed to the higher court by the defendant.

The patron, Katherine Falso, claimed she purchased a balcony ticket at the Palace, Hartford, and after passing through the entrance tunnel, stood for a minute or two beside an usher who informed her there were seats available in the right lower section, but did not assist her to a seat. As she descended, she claimed she plunged forward and sustained injuries.

The lower court concluded the defendant had failed to employ reasonable care for the plaintiff's safety, in that it neglected to provide lighting for the steps. In upholding the ruling, the higher court maintained that "the defendant, charged with knowledge that the step was dangerous and in complete darkness, by its usher directed the plaintiff to proceed over it, and yet failed to use a flashlight to illuminate the place of danger. This is considered a breach of the theatre's duty under the circumstances."

Candy Division

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The candy division of Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., has been established here under the supervision of George M. Richardson.

Affair for Simons Is Well Attended

HARTFORD—Theatre managers and circuit executives from Connecticut and Western Massachusetts numbering around 100 were in attendance at the Club Ferdinando for a midnight dinner-dance in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Simons. Simons, for several years manager of the local Loew's Poli, is now managing director of the Loew's State, Providence, R. I.

Harry F. Shaw, Loew's Poli division manager, traveled from New Haven to be a guest of honor, along with Louis A. Cohen, who succeeded Simons at the Loew's Poli, and Fred R. Greenway, who has replaced Cohen at the Loew's Poli Palace.

Mr. and Mrs. Simons were presented with a portable radio, and Simons was given an inscribed plaque.

Joseph P. Cooney, an attorney, acted as master of ceremonies.

Curran's Testimonial Is Set for March 16

BOSTON—Arrangements continue for the testimonial all-star show for the benefit of George Curran, former local IATSE stagehands' official and for years with the Majestic here. The affair will be held at the Boston Opera House on Sunday evening, March 16, at 8:00.

Charles Van, Shubert manager, was chairman of the committee in charge. This group, numbering many local theatrical personalities, includes:

Francis E. Killen, Max Ulin, James J. O'Brien, T. Frank Meagher, John J. O'Connor, William J. Strout, Herbert Swartz, Hugo J. Lundgren, D. David Berig.

Frank Fine, Charles S. O'Connor, Harry B. Grages, Albert Carnes, Jerry Mahoney, John J. Keilty, John Bartlett, Joseph L. McGovern, John Buckley.

Hyman Kolen, George Demeter, Charles Levine, John H. Howard, Newman C. Fielding, Spear Demeter, John J. Daunt, Joseph L. Murphy, Dr. Patrick J. Foley.

Edward A. Spry, Al Luft, John W. Shanley jr., Arthur McCarron, Charles Haskins, Clayton Hartford, Ignatius O'Connor, Edward Powers sr., Edward Powers jr., F. J. Dobbratz, William Bonner, Joseph L. McCarthy, Ben Goodman, W. J. Goldston and John J. Levy.

Mekelburg Furthers Plan For Billerica Drive-In

BOSTON — Marcel Mekelburg, veteran New England film man, is tentatively planning to go ahead with construction of a new open-air motion picture theatre in Billerica, it is understood.

Mekelburg, at present heading the Fine Arts exchange in Boston, has reportedly been granted a permit by the Billerica board of selectmen. Connected with the Milford Drive-In in Connecticut, he formerly operated the Century exchange here and later became northeastern divisional manager for Gaumont-British.

BRIDGEPORT

MATT SAUNDERS is chairman of the Greek War Relief midnight show to be held at the Loew-Poli March 29. Morris Rosenthal of the Majestic is ticket chairman and Harry Rose of the Globe is in charge of entertainment. Manager Manny E. Kugell of the Warner is on the Mayor's committee . . . The Loew-Poli has upped the pay scale of usherettes. Theatres are finding it increasingly hard to keep help.

Morris Rosenthal is keeping bachelor quarters now that his wife, Molly, is vacationing in Florida . . . Harry F. Shaw was here to see his mother before leaving for a Panama vacation. In New York to bid him bon voyage were Harry Rose, Morris Rosenthal and Matt Saunders . . . The Fine Arts, Westport, held a special morning children's show with Dagmar's Puppets as the main attraction.

Pearce Parkhurst has returned to Torrington as a manager. Formerly in charge of the State in that city, he now has succeeded Lou Carroll as manager of the Alhambra. He came back to Torrington from the Larcom in Beverly, Mass. . . . The Stamford and Avon theatres in Stamford have a new reduced scale of admissions on Saturdays between 1 and 3 p. m.: Children 15 cents and adults a quarter.

A general alarm fire in an adjoining building threatened the Globe, but it escaped with a good smoking. There was no show at the time. Rumors that the theatre was heavily damaged in the fire spread through the area and Manager Harry Rose had to use special newspaper stories to combat the rumors.

A heavy weekend snow storm cut into grosses . . . In New Britain the Capitol runs the same program as the Embassy on Sundays. House is dark on other days, but lighted three days for a road company of "Tobacco Road," the first legitimate attraction to play the city in years . . . Cash awards and amateurs are now being used in connection with the old-time movies at the Women's Civic auditorium in Stamford.

First morning show at the Loew-Poli for night workers proved a decided success and the policy will be continued, probably spreading to the other Loew houses here later. All factories were personally contacted by Manager Matt Saunders and plenty of cards displayed prominently in the shops. Civic and industrial leaders endorsed the show in newspaper stories and generally cooperated in getting the news to their night shift workers.

The Hairdressers' Guild of Litchfield county held a fashion show on the stage of the Alhambra, Torrington . . . Manager Edward Madden of the Lyric now answers to the title of "Commissioner" . . . Mary Prescott has resigned as relief cashier and special office girl at the Loew-Poli . . . John Zofcak has resigned from the Globe usher corps.

Harold Engle, assistant manager at the Globe, was in New York to see "Pal Joey" and visit the Loew offices.

The Docket

The arbitration picture in the Boston-New Haven territory to date:

Boston

Case No. 1—Filed February 13. Demand and submission involving dispute under Section VI (some run), Paulston, Inc., Benjamin Gold, general manager. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., and 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Interested party: Colonial, Nashua, N. H.; M. A. Shea circuit.

Case No. 2—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance dispute. Garbose Bros., Athol, Mass. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., RKO Theatres, Maine and New Hamshire Theatres Co., Loew's Boston Theatres. Other theatres named in controversy: York, Metropolitan, Paramount and Fenway, Boston; Fitchburg, Fitchburg. Named as interested party: George A. Giles Co., Cambridge, Mass.

Four Bills Affecting Trade Are Rejected

HARTFORD—The following state senate bills have been rejected:

S. B. No. 60: Permitting playing of Bingo after 2 p. m. on Sunday.

S. B. No. 775: Requiring full time attention of operators while operating motion picture machines.

S. B. No. 1,082: Concerning installation of a safety control device on cinematograph apparatus to eliminate fire hazards.

S. B. No. 792: Creating a board for Sunday observance.

Hartford day in the general assembly, when bills affecting this city will be heard, has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 31, instead of March 17, as previously announced.

Sen. James P. Geelan, chairman of the labor committee, announces several bills for the enactment of a state wage-hour law have been assigned for hearing before his committee on Tuesday, March 25.

Projector License Boost Proposal Is Unopposed

BOSTON—There was no industry opposition at a public legislative hearing last week on the bill of Eugene M. McSweeney, commissioner of the department of public safety, to increase the license fees of projectors and to lift the cost of tagging projectors.

Projection machine inspection costs necessary only once, would go up to $3 from $2. Fees for projectionists licenses would be upped $1 and made annual.

This Week We Meet

LOU A. COHEN

ONE of the old Poli crop retained through all the changes and viccissitudes of the Poli theatre chain, Lou Cohen recently made another move up in a long and faithful record of accomplishment, when he was promoted from manager of the 1,700-seat Palace, Hartford, to the helm of the 3,057-seat Loew-Poli in the same city. The other old Poli-teers, Bob Russell, Matt Saunders, and Ed Fitzpatrick, as well as all of Lou's friends and associates offered cheers and congratulations.

Lou was born in 1897 down Thomas, W. Va., way, but when he was still kicking the slats out of his cradle, the family decided to move to Bridgeport. Whether it was the uniform, the money, or a dim realization that his future lay in the theatre, Lou could hardly wait until he was a high school lad of 13 to get an usher's job at the old Plaza, Bridgeport, Poli's first house in the town, on Fairfield Avenue, since burned down. Then he moved over to the Poli (now the Globe), working under Harry Reichenbach, whom he considers one of the greatest publicity men in the country. Those were the days when there was two-a-day vaude through the winter months, and Poli stock company shows in the summer. There was a chance to make 50 cents a show giving out programs, and an occasional $6.00 to sub in on the stage, and the opportunity looked so good to Lou, that he decided to quit high school and give his undivided attention to the theatre field. Not that the footlights beckoned. Although he played extra on the stage frequently, it was theatre operation that he was always interested in.

From the Poli, Lou moved back to the Plaza, then a de luxe house, and gradually worked his way up to the managership. Under the Harry Arthur regime of the chain, Lou was already an established part of the operation, and was moved to the College as manager, under Delmo Vanni. When the College was closed in May, 1933, he worked at the Poli, Hartford, under Vanni, and five years ago, when Loew's, Inc., took over operation of the chain, he was named manager of the Palace.

In the meantime, Lou has had time to get married, and now has a son, Ben, who is a junior at the University of Connecticut. His outstanding hobby is pinochle, in which, if he doesn't have brilliant success, at least he breaks even.

He comes to the Poli with the ability and assurance of years of experience and a thorough knowledge of Hartford, its people, and its ways.

HARTFORD

MARY FARLIZO, formerly cashier at the State, is the new cashier at the Strand, succeeding Mrs. Alice Ericson, who is now on sick leave in Los Angeles . . . In New Haven was Charlie Repass, manager of the Crown . . . Maurice Schulman, managing director of the Schulman Theatres (Webster, Rivoli, Plaza-Windsor), spent several days in New York . . . Harry F. Shaw, Loew's Poli division manager, and Louis A. Brown, that circuit's publicity chief, were in town to see Louis A. Cohen, Poli manager . . . Jack Galinsky is the new part-time Poli usher, replacing Morton Lang, who has been upped to full-time, succeeding Louis DeMayo, resigned . . . Jimmie Pappas of the Poli service staff now takes his day off on Tuesday.

Proven Pictures brought back "All Quiet on the Western Front" and "The Awful Truth" . . . Louis J. Konoir has rejoined the Poli service staff . . . Mickey Daly of the Hartford Daly and the Plainfield, Plainfield, was in New Haven on business . . . Jack A. Simons, formerly manager of the Poli here, and now managing director of the State in Providence, a visitor . . . Louis A. Cohen, Wallie Cooper and Russ Grant of the Poli have already started a campaign for "Tobacco Road," due at that house soon . . . Bernie Levy of the Proven Pictures was in Boston.

When Ralph Civitello of the Devon, Devon, was ill recently, Ann Chernin filled in . . . Julia Smith, manager of the State, Waterbury, has returned from a Miami vacation . . . Viola Sansier is a new usherette at the main stem Proven Pictures . . . Joe Bernard, chief of the service staff at the Strand, will observe his fifth anniversary in the employ of the Warner circuit, March 19 . . . Jim McCarthy, Strand manager, seen fox-trotting at the Bond Hotel . . . William Cook of the Capitol, Meriden, has been ill at the Meriden Hospital with the flu . . . Ernest Gracula has launched a dinnerware deal at the State, Torrington.

Bill Siraca of the Lido, Waterbury, has returned from a Florida vacation . . . A. M. Schulman, owner of the Black Rock, spent a week in Hartford . . . Bob Schaefer, son of the Paramount, New Haven, manager, is now a member of the National Guard . . . Dorothy Haddleman, sister of Sam Haddleman, Capitol, Bridgeport manager, will wed E. Aarons of New Haven next month . . . Hymie Schwartz of the Hillcrest, Taftville, had the flu . . . Bijou, Springfield, played up Columbia short, "International Forum," with Dorothy Thompson, by the use of window cards . . . A. M. Schulman of the Black Rock, reports have it, has dropped plans to construct a Bridgeport neighborhood theatre . . . Martin Harris, New York booker for Harris Bros.' State, was in town.

Andrew Ryack, usher at the Palace, has resigned . . . In Hartford to see Walter B. Lloyd, Allyn manager, was Hy Fine, district manager for M&P . . . The Laurel Cinema Club held a meeting last Friday at the clubroom . . . Seymour Kimenker has joined the ushers staff at the Palace . . . A visitor to Manager George E. Landers' office at the E. M. Loew's was Val Arms, former Hartfordite who is now working as a theatrical artist on Broadway.

Mrs. M. Oakley Christoph, film critic for the Hartford Courant, *weekended in New York . . . Lou Cohen, Poli manager, placed the congratulatory telegram from Winchell to Darryl F. Zanuck regarding 20th-Fox's "Western Union" in an empty store window for all to see.*

Paul D'Amaddeo, E. M. Loew's house usher, now is student assistant at that theatre. Norman Long, also an usher, has been named chief of the service staff, replacing Edward Boggs, resigned.

Theatre Management Course Concluded

BOSTON—Arthur L. Tuohy, former Loew's manager now with the Massachusetts Department of Education, last week concluded a University Extension course in Theatre Management. Tuohy, the final lecturer, generally reviewed the talks and discussions periods held throughout these past few months by numerous local film executives he had collared for the instruction course.

It is expected that about one dozen certificates will be awarded to students of the course in Theatre Management. Requirements include that the registrant must have been present for at least three-quarters of the session and must have passed the final examination.

Tuohy informed this publication that a similar theatre management course may be repeated next year under the auspices of the University Extension Division of the Massachusetts department of education, "if the demand is sufficient."

The "demand" this year has been viewed by state education officials as extraordinary. Tuohy, for instance, recently received a request from Sydney, Australia, for details covered by Ben Domingo the evening the RKO city manager lectured on stage productions.

Loew Affiliate's Gold Bond Issue Redeemed

NEW YORK—The annual report of Loew's to SEC for the year ended Aug. 31, 1940, reveals that an instrument of guarantee, dated June 15, 1926, guaranteeing an issue of 600,000 first mortgage leasehold six per cent gold bonds of the Chapel State Theatre Co., an affiliate, is no longer effective, the bond issue having been redeemed on March 15, 1940. By an agreement dated Jan. 15, 1940, between Chapel, Loew's and the First National Bank of Boston, Loew's unconditionally guarantees the payment of principal and interest of the promissory note of $370,000 made by Chapel to the First National Bank.

SPRINGFIELD

Waldo Hearing Recess Ends on March 18

BOSTON—Hearing on the Waldo Theatre Corp. vs. the late Joseph Dondis, et al., anti-trust case is scheduled to resume March 18 following a recess taken at the request of defendant's counsel.

Hearings in the litigation have been under way these past few months before Francis P. Freeman, U. S. district court appointee as master.

Catholic Guild Retreat Invites Film Men

BOSTON—The next Retreat of the Catholic Motion Picture Guild will be held at Campion Hall, North Andover Jesuit Retreat house, on April 4, 5, and 6. The weekend will begin Friday at 7:00 p. m. and will end Sunday at 7:00 p. m. Reservations may be arranged through William Murphy, Frank McManus, Tom Duane, and Major Patrick F. Healey.

"A sincere invitation is extended to non-Catholics," the committee in charge states. "Their attendance at strictly religious activities is optional.

"Retreat routine is not altogether serious and sober," the Guild directors state. "Considerable free time is provided for recreation. Resolve to attend this Retreat now."

Keith's Memorial Staff Forsake Their Union

BOSTON—Reverse English to union activities has come up in Boston where Keith's Memorial members of the Theatrical Employes front-of-the-house Local have resigned in a body from the AFL local. The action followed mounting protests on dues payments and professed confidence in RKO fair dealings.

A similar move is understood to be under way at the RKO Boston, sister de luxe house, where a number of Theatrical Employe members are said to have declined to continue to pay dues. Signs of a similar trend have been evident for some time in other theatres in the city.

Boston Exchange Union Will Nominate Officers

BOSTON—Nominations for a new 1941-42 slate of officers will be in order when the Exchange Employes Union, Local B-3 meets March 31. Matthew Moriarty of Universal has been president of the local for the past two terms. Max Magovsky, of National Screen Service, held the post the first year of the union's existence.

Theatre for Newington

NEWINGTON, CONN.—Plans for a theatre here are announced by Fred R. Quatrano of the Lido, Waterbury. This town, a suburb of Hartford, at present has no theatre.

GILBERT BEVAN, student assistant at GB's Paramount, is scheduled to leave March 17 for one year's service at Fort Devans under the Selective Service Act . . . In New Haven for a WB managers' get-together was Andrew A. Sette of the Capitol . . . Loretta McDonald, formerly cashier at the Arcade, is now at the Art, succeeding Mrs. Mabel Moccia Bodge, resigned . . . W. H. McGhee, field representative for E. M. Loew, visited in Worcester, Fitchburg, Lynn, Salem and Boston last week . . . James Bussey is the new E. M. Loew's Court Square usher, succeeding Donald Bernard, who left to join the ushers' corps at the GB's Paramount . . . Herman Rifkin of the Rifkin circuit was in Springfield to look over his theatres . . . Henry Cook, chief engineer at the GB's Paramount, was on the sick list.

Horace Beal, assistant manager at the Brockton, Brockton, and his missus observed their fifth wedding anniversary . . . Tommie Thomas of the Paramount, North Adams, resigned to enlist in the Navy . . . Frank A. Vennett of the Opera House, Bath, Me., is now managing the Paramount up in Rutland, Vt. He succeeded George Sargent, who is now in the Army . . . Joe Mathieu, manager of the Capitol, Winchendon, has returned from a Florida vacation . . . George Rabb, manager of the Forest Park Phillips, reports that Ann Sullivan and Lillian Driscoll are new usherettes at that theatre. Local Loew's-Poli, Bijou, and Phillips are the only houses in this area currently employing usherettes . . . Guy Kellogg has rejoined the service staff at the GB's Paramount, replacing George B. Mackenzie, who has been upped to doorman.

Joe Egan, GB's Paramount assistant engineer, who has been recuperating for several months from an operation, returned to work last Wednesday . . . Nick Damcci has replaced Harry Felix as usher at the GB's Paramount . . . Billy Viau, F&M's Art usher, has left for other fields . . . Ray Title, manager of the F&M's Art, was in Boston . . . Steve Colter, Loew's-Poli projectionist, is still on vacation in Miami. Bennie Hull has been filling in . . . John F. Gatelee jr., Garden projectionist, has returned after a week at Lake Placid. He sustained an injured hand in a skiing accident . . . Joseph Fleger has succeeded Ray Blair as usher at the WB's Capitol.

In Worcester last Sunday to visit his folks was Eddie Powers, F&M's Art assistant manager . . . Earl F. King, assistant manager of the Walden, Williamstown, has enlisted in the air corps. He is the son of Clarence A. King, Walden manager . . . Hy Nozak, assistant manager of the Rivoli, Chicopee, recently visited friends in Providence . . . Regent, Worcester, has reopened and will show Swedish films . . . Strand, Amesbury, is slated to be renovated next month . . . Byron Vinton of the Brockton, Brockton, will leave for Navy service in April . . . Thomas F. Slowey jr., assistant manager of the Colonial, Brockton, and Marguerite F. Theriault are now Mr. and Mrs.

Margery Piper, F&M's Art cashier, is now wearing glasses . . . E. M. Loew's Court Square brought in a Major Bowes' revue . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Lambert are back from their honeymoon. He is staff projectionist at the Garden here . . . Edmund Patrie is new on the Paramount, North Adams, service staff . . . Merle Holmes of the Colonial, Brockton, and his missus are expecting a visit from the Stork some time in May . . . Brockton Colonial romances—Evelyn Jarvis of the theatre's staff recently was engaged to Frederick Malcolm of Quincy. Carlton L. Phelan of the Colonial announced recently his marriage to Thelma Pike . . . Ed Dyer has succeeded John Ryder at the Globe in Clinton . . . Bill Canning, manager of the Empire, Fall River, spoke on "What the European War Has Meant to the American Picture Industry" before St. Luke's Episcopal Church Men's Club.

Gene Campopiano of the Capitol, Lawrence, awarded passes to winners in a newspaper contest for "Western Union" . . . Chris W. McHale, manager of the WB's Broadway, Lawrence, has been named manager of the WB's Palace in that town, succeeding Harry Furst, resigned. J. P. Liss of Lawrence, who was handling the WB's Strand in Clinton, has been appointed to the managership of the Lawrence Broadway, while James Tobin of Newburyport has been moved to the Warner Strand, Clinton . . . Hy Nozak, formerly assistant manager of the Arcade, Springfield, and now assistant manager at the Rivoli in Chicopee, visited the local Arcade boys . . . Thieves broke into the Strand, Taunton, and got away with about $150.

RKO Boston Will Test Film Flesh Shows March 17

BOSTON—Ben Domingo, RKO city manager, will inaugurate experimental film and flesh bookings at the RKO Boston on March 17 when he will introduce split weeks at the de luxe house. Domingo has heretofore been spotting weekend vaudeville at the de luxe house.

The RKO Boston will go into two weekly changes of stage shows and first run double features. Dates have already been set for March 17-19, 20-23, 24-26, and then a full week of Clyde McCoy, beginning March 27. If the new policy has shown fruit by then, Domingo states, it will probably be resumed following the McCoy engagement.

The RKO Boston has for the past few years been the only Hub deluxer to employ flesh.

Have "Shark Woman"

BOSTON — Edward Kleine and Joe Schmuck have taken over the New England distribution rights on "Shark Woman."

Higgins to New Offices

BOSTON—Herbert Higgins, independent theatre booker, has taken over new offices in the film district at 37 Winchester St.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE Simonds Free High School in Warner is planning to purchase a sound film projector . . . An article in the warrant for Danville's annual town meeting asks an appropriation of $250 for the purchase of new seats for the Town Hall.

Richard Sanborn, son of Ansel N. Sanborn, prominent exhibitor and governor's counsellor, has been appointed postmaster in Sanbornville. The young man was a baseball and football star while a student at Brewster Free Academy in Wolfeboro.

Robert A. Shaw, editor and photographer of the colored film, "Skiing the Andes," was present when the reel was shown in Keene under auspices of the Keene Outing Club.

The Scenic in Rochester held a special after-school matinee during its showing of "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary."

Current Crop of 43 Films Obtain Censor Approval

BOSTON—The Massachusetts bureau of Sunday censorship found nothing wrong in the latest batch of motion pictures reported last week as being approved for Sunday showing in the Bay State. Forty-three films were okayed without eliminations.

The Bon Ton Revue and Dale Winthrop were refused permits for Sunday vaudeville performances in Massachusetts. Ben Bernie, Bobby Henshaw, Cass Daley, Fields & Georgie, Samuel Bros. & Vivian, and the World's Fair midgets were given permits after following recommended modifications. Thirteen other acts were okayed without cuts.

Thomas J. McIntyre

LACONIA, N. H.—Thomas J. McIntyre, 63, who formerly operated the Gardens Theatre and in recent years leased the house to a chain, died here following a long illness.

Film Deletions Drop in 1940

Boston—Motion picture deletions, as ordered by the strict Massachusetts department of public safety under Sunday laws that date back to days when it was a sin for a man to kiss his own wife on Sunday, hit a new low in the Bay State here during the past year when only 60 out of a total of 1,350 motion pictures got the scissors. Eleven of the 60 were newsreels, clipped mainly because of wrestling and boxing scenes which just aren't Massachusetts' ideas of what theatregoers should see on the Sabbath. Of the remaining 49 censored films, 14 were majors and 25 were independents. The latter was composed mainly of foreign importations.

Western Massachusetts Chain Managers Meet

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Attending a managers' meeting of Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., at the circuit's local headquarters were:

Louis Levine, Rivoli, Chicopee; Charles Fredericks, Garden, Greenfield; George Laby, Victory, Holyoke; Horace Decelles, Richmond, North Adams; Francis Faille, Paramount, Northampton.

David Perkins, Plaza, Northampton; Gerald Savoie, Capitol, Pittsfield; Louis Marcks, Strand, Westfield; Norman Prager, Palace, Westfield; Francis Beaupre, Strand, Pittsfield; Don Barhytd, Strand, Holyoke, and Clifford Boyd, Paramount, Brattleboro, Vt.

Local theatre managers present were Edward Smith, Paramount; George W. Coleman, Arcade, and Charles R. Smith, Broadway. Nathan E. and Samuel Goldstein presided.

Western Massachusetts Chain Makes Personnel Changes

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—Harry V. Smith, division manager and director of publicity for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., announces the following personnel changes:

Melvin M. Aronson, assistant manager at the Strand, Westfield, to assistant manager of the Arcade, Springfield, succeeding Hy Nozak, who has been switched to the Rivoli, Chicopee, in the same capacity. Nozak replaces John Morrison, who becomes assistant manager at the Strand, Westfield. Smith also announces the appointment of George "Nickie" Green, formerly with the Metropolitan, Boston, to assistant manager at the Garden, Greenfield.

BOSTON

(Continued from page 71)

"Son of Monte Cristo" and "Play Girl" for a second week at Keith's Memorial.

Sam Berg, president of the Boston Cinema Club, called a special meeting at the Warner exchange Tuesday for compiling final arrangements for the annual Cinema Club Dinner-Dance . . . Reginald Morse, Morse & Rothenberg circuit executive, and Mrs. Morse left Wednesday for a southern cruise.

Bill Riseman and Alex Lercari, local theatre decorators, are rejuvenating the lobby of the Rivoli in Salisbury . . . "Fools of Desire," on a return engagement at the Gayety in Boston, reportedly pulled a substantial $3,000 at the E. M. Loew house in the best business for weeks . . . Charles Morse, Morse & Rothenberg chain partner, returned from the south, following a business stop-over in New York . . . Louis Rothenberg, M&R partner, also back from the sunny climes.

Philip Schwartz is planning rebuilding activities for the Parkway in Bridgeport . . . Fred Quantrano plans a new motion picture house for Newington, Conn. . . . Jack Melincoff, manager of the Warner in Lawrence, is garnering good will again this year by turning over the house for religious activities for churches of various denominations throughout the Lenten period . . . Sam Torgan is lending his house, the Keith's in Lowell, for similar services.

Martin Weinstein is rejuvenating the Keith's in Fair Haven . . . Max Melincoff has set rebuilding activities for the Strand in Amesbury, a Warner house . . . Leon Gorman, Maine exhibitor, may put up a new house in Cape Elizabeth, Me.

PROVIDENCE

ASH WEDNESDAY personal appearance booking of Susanna Foster and Dolly Loehr, juvenile stars of "Hard-Boiled Canary" at the Strand helped measurably in bolstering gross for the day at the theatre. Manager Ed Reed and Don Chambers, Paramount press representative out of the Boston office, arranged a press luncheon interview at the Biltmore that netted nice newspaper space while in the afternoon the R. I. Federation of Women's Clubs and Providence musical organizations turned out about 75 women for a reception.

Jack Simons, resident manager at Loew's, has the boys at Central Police Station puzzled. Calling at headquarters to get acquainted with the department heads, they insisted on his posing for a rogue's gallery photo. Simons acquiesced and they clamped a pair of handcuffs on one of his wrists and posed him with one of the captains of detectives wearing the other bracelet. Then as the detective fumbled in his pocket for keys to the cuffs, Simons slipped out of his and walked away. The bluecoats are still puzzled— not knowing Simons is a magic enthusiast.

Services for Catherine A. Anthony, wife of Edwin W. Anthony, Strand projectionist and president of the Providence projectionists' local, were held last Monday.

Ted Rosenblatt, manager of the Community Theatre, Centredale, has been elected president of the North Providence Chamber of Commerce . . . Edward L. Reed, manager of the Strand, and Archibald Silverman, president of theatre corporation, have left for a two-weeks cruise to Havana.

Fred Newcomb, Strand's veteran stage manager, is up and around again after his recent serious illness. Joe Dooling continues back-stage at the Strand until Fred is again able to take up his duties . . . Building permits for enlargement of M&P's Strand, Newport, were taken out last week. Present marquee will be removed, the box-office changed to sidewalk line, new foyer constructed and balcony seating plane rearranged to provide greater capacity.

Ushers of the Paramount, E. M. Loew circuit house at Newport, have been collecting second-hand clothing in recent weeks, turning over a huge carton of same to the Salvation Army recently . . . Competition: Metropolitan had Bill Robinson as stage starring attraction last weekend. Fays countered with booking of Stepin Fetchit as its headliner.

Cole and Walker in Accord on Decree

DALLAS—Col. H. A. Cole, national Allied president, says he is in complete accord with the communication from Judge Roy L. Walker, president of the Theatre Owners Protective Ass'n, which appeared on the editorial page of BOXOFFICE for March 1.

In his communication, Walker, whose ideas as a rule don't jibe with Cole's pointed out that those trade practices which the department of justice claimed were illegal during the government suit against the industry, are legalized by the consent decree. The government suit, he went on, asked for divorcement of exhibition and production-distribution, but the decree legalized distributor-owned theatres. Likewise, he said, whereas the government originally sought the abolition of block-booking, the decree gave it official approval with certain limitations.

Finally, according to Walker, the government suit charged a monopoly on the part of the eight majors, but the decree gave five of them a monopoly on 75 per cent of the features and 87 per cent of the industry's gross income.

Andy Smith Joins Depinet Drive Touring Squad

ATLANTA—Sales Manager Andy Smith joined the Ned Depinet Drive touring squad in a meeting at the local exchange Tuesday, and continued on visits to several other offices. Drive Captain Leo Devaney, Short Subject Sales Manager Harry Michalson and Southeastern District Manager David Prince were present with Smith to meet with the staff of Branch Manager H. M. Lyons.

The Atlanta branch is leading the United States and Canada in the Ned Depinet Drive. Eastern Division Sales Manager Bob Mochrie returned to New York after accompanying the delegation from New York.

R&R-United Managers to Meet on April 9 and 10

DALLAS—The Robb & Rowley-United circuit will hold a two-day managers' meeting here April 9 and 10 at the Adolphus. All managers and resident partners will attend, it is said.

Confer on Film

NEW ORLEANS—Irving Briskin, Columbia producer, was here conferring with Ozzie Nelson and Harriet Hilliard on a film in which they will appear. The bandleader and his wife leave for the coast around March 20 to fulfill the assignment.

Show "International Forum"

DALLAS—The Majestic featured "International Forum," a two-reeler in which Dorothy Thompson, William Shirer, Wythe Williams and Linton Wells discuss the war.

Plea to Limit Crescent Suit Scope Denied

The Docket

The arbitration picture in the Dallas and New Orleans areas to date:

Dallas

CASE No. 1—Filed February 28. Demand and submission involving clearance and some run. Joseph's Drive-In Theatre, Austin, Tex. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., M-G-M Pictures Corp., Loew's, Inc., M-G-M Dist. Corp. of Texas, Warner, Vitagraph. Named as interested parties: Interstate Theatres, W. G. Underwood and Claude Ezell, both of Dallas.

New Orleans

CASE No. 1—Filed February 17. Demand and submission involving some run (Section VI). Modern Theatre, Inc., (drive-in theatre), Charles J. Woolner, president. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp.

CASE No. 2—Filed March 6. Demand and submission involving "some run." Charles J. Woolner, president of Modern Theatre, Inc., operating the Drive-In. With: Loew's, Inc.

Sees Amusement Tax Yielding $500,000

SAN ANTONIO—Rep. J. N. Reed of Texarkana, Tex., who is advocating a 1½ per cent gross receipts tax on amusements, declares such a levy would yield $500,000 yearly. It would be applied to theatre tickets, sports and athletic events throughout the state.

Only entertainments furnished by educational, religious and charitable institutions would be exempt from the tax.

New Tax Hinted

NEW ORLEANS—Unconfirmed reports from the City Hall intimate that the city is contemplating a one-cent tax on theatre admissions, including 10-cent houses, as a means of building up a depleted treasury.

NASHVILLE—Denying efforts by defense counsel to limit investigation in the federal anti-trust suit against the Crescent Amusement Co. and its affiliates, Federal Judge Elmer Davis has given counsel until April 28 to prepare answers to plaintiff interrogations in the brief.

Numbering 26, after Judge Davis had sustained defense objection to two questions, the interrogations are designed to bring out the complete personnel and financial setup of the defendants and all financial transactions by and between the several defendant companies.

Defendants are Crescent Amusement Co., Lyric Amusements, Inc., New Strand Corp., Cumberland Amusement Co., Strand Enterprises, Inc., Rockwood Amusements, Inc., Cherokee Amusements, Inc., and Kentucky Amusement Co., Inc.

Sustain Objection on Gross

One question to which objection was sustained asked for the gross income of defendants for the fiscal years of 1935-36-37-38 and 39, and also net earnings for the same years. The other asked for total boxoffice receipts during the same years, with a separation as to first run houses and other units. Defendants are not required to furnish information involved in these two questions.

The government still may use as evidence transactions by the defendant exhibitor companies with the five major distributors who are parties to the consent decree, despite the dismissal of the Crescent suit against them, the court ruled.

Objections were overruled to interrogations filed in the government's suit against Nettie Sudekum and Louis Rosenbaum, doing business as the Muscle Shoals Theatres, Inc., except as to two questions identical with those stricken from the Crescent suit.

Objections to two of the six questions in the suit against R. E. Baulch were sustained, and overruled as to the other four. These questions concern loans by and to the defendant by corporate defendants in the main suit. Objections to these questions were sustained only to the extent that loans of less than $500 should not be included in the answer.

Counsel must prepare answers to interrogations in the Muscle Shoals and Baulch suits by April 28.

Ga. Anti-Decree Bill Killed

Atlanta—A measure that was occasioning considerable trepidation in trade ranks, calling as it did for distributors to offer for license their full programs, this vitiating the blocks of five selling method provided in the consent decree, was killed by a Georgia legislative committee in an 11 to 7 vote. (The measure as it was proposed, and in the form in which it had already passed the senate appears on page 28 of this issue). The bringing in of a minority report is held unlikely.

Nat Williams of Thomasville, Ga., spoke for the measure and Robert Sams, John I. Kelly and Benjamin Pepper spoke against it.



Republic Meeting in Atlanta—

Republic salesmen, bookers and executives convene at a regional meeting in Atlanta. Clockwise around the table are Leo Seichsnaydre, New Orleans manager; Perry Spencer, director of publicity for the south; G. Y. Harrell, Roy Bradley, Jack London, Marsh Funderburk, Henry Glover, Atlanta manager; Harold Laird, Tampa manager; Cy Dillon, Charlotte manager; Ernest Rogers, Atlanta Journal *film critic; Herbert J. Yates, chairman of the board of Consolidated Film Industries; Arthur C. Bromberg, president of Republic Pictures of the Southeast; James R. Grainger, president of Republic Pictures Corp.; Lee Rogers, film critic on the Atlanta* Constitution; *Sam Wilson, Porter Laseter, William Snellson, Memphis manager; Lloyd Miller, Ed Indrebitzen, Merritt Davis, Roscoe Gann and George Nunguessor.*

"Doe" Premieres at Three in Miami

MIAMI—It was a triple, triple world premiere that the Beach, Surf and Paramount shared Wednesday on "Meet John Doe" as, in addition to the concurrent showing at these three Miami Beach and Miami houses, the feature also premiered in New York and Los Angeles.

The Miami showing will give "Doe" the equivalent of 21 playing days in the week's run it is to have at these three houses. The playing schedule of introducing first runs for a week's showing at these three houses simultaneously was inaugurated last week with "The Lady Eve." The three represent 5,000 seating capacity.

Although staged without the usual premiere fanfare, the Beach did line up the celebrities, with Winchell and Runyon leading off the list of big names.

Beauty Contest Plugs "Lady Eve" Opening

MIAMI BEACH—As a promotion stunt for the showing of "Lady Eve" which inaugurated the triple, first run policy, day and date, at the Surf, Beach and Paramount, Tom Jefferson and Jack Worley engineered a "measurement" contest for the new Dade Boulevard spot, the Beachcomber.

There was a $25 cash prize and a substantial slice of publicity given a visiting bathing beauty from Oklahoma, whose physical proportions resembled most closely those of Barbara Stanwyck.

Constructing Drive-In

DALLAS—Building has begun on a new drive-in on Northwest Highway for W. G. Underwood and C. C. Ezell.

Would Replace Sales Tax With Gross Tax

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—A bill passed in the Arkansas house would replace the present retail sales tax and place a two per cent tax on the gross receipts of merchants. If the bill is approved by the senate the measure will become effective July 1.

The original bill stipulated that the merchant could either collect the tax or absorb it. In either case, however, the state would collect two per cent of his gross receipts.

To collect the tax, the merchant will charge $1.02 for products instead of $1, plus two per cent sales tax. The merchant would also be allowed to deduct two per cent from the amount of tax due the state to pay him for maintaining records and collecting the tax. Every merchant in the state would be required to procure a permit to do business. The permit, however, would be issued without charge.

Columbia Holds Vidor

HOLLYWOOD—Charles Vidor, Columbia director, has been held for another term.

A Place for Popeye At Spinach Festival

Crystal City, Tex.—For years now Zavala county has held its Spinach Festival early in the spring with Popeye a conspicuous character at the celebration. Being the spinach center of the world, a large statue of the comic cartoon star adorns this town's main street.

Popeye's guest of honor this year will be Pat Neff, president of Baylor University and former governor.

$30,000 Raised for British War Relief

DALLAS—Almost $30,000 was raised at the "Premiere for Britain" stage and screen show in Fair Park Auditorium and at the $10-a-plate banquet preceding it by a day at the Baker Hotel. Newspapers, radio and local theatre people sponsored the affair.

Hollywood celebrities who came in for the affair by plane and train, included Allan Jones, Gracie Fields, Errol Flynn, Maureen O'Sullivan, Arthur Lake, Dinah Shore, Susanna Foster, Bob Hawk, emcee of the "Take It or Leave It" radio show; Bruce Cabot, Alan Mowbray, Maureen O'Hara and Dolly Loehr.

Hawk was master of ceremonies and Miss Fields, with her songs and moods, lived up to her reputation as a top entertainer. Jones was repeatedly called back. Miss O'Hara brought down the house with one sentence, "Down with Hitler, and God Bless You." Flynn, Cabot and Mowbray sort of clowned about in an impromptu way and Jacques Singer and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra played several selections.

The southwestern premiere of "Hard-Boiled Canary" followed the stage show.

Show business was well represented at the banquet. R. J. O'Donnell introduced the guest speakers and celebrities, including Sir Louis Beale, member of the British purchasing commission here, and Winthrop W. Aldrich, president of the Chase National Bank, New York, and a leading figure in the British War Relief Society.

Variety Club of Texas represented the local trade in putting on the premiere. Besides O'Donnell, other active workers included I. Adelman, Paul Short, John Adams, J. O. Cherry, Ed Sullivan, E. C. Zrenner, John Rosenfield of the Dallas *News*, Eddie Barr of the *Journal* and Jimmie Lovell of the *Times Herald*.

Silver Plaque to Actors Attending Premiere

DALLAS—A silver plaque framed in gold leaf was presented by Dallas newspapers and the British War Relief Society to the actors who participated in the British premiere here last Saturday. Bob Hawk, emcee at the premiere, presented the plaque to Alan Mowbray, who accepted in behalf of the visiting celebrities. The emblem will hang in headquarters of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood, Mowbray said.

Plan Benefit Shows for Greek War Relief Fund

ATLANTA—Benefit shows for the Greek War Relief Fund will be given by a number of exhibitors in this territory during the week of March 25. Collections will also be taken up in theatre lobbies by girls dressed in authentic Greek costume.

Plans for the benefit shows were outlined by the committee in charge at a meeting held at the Variety clubrooms. In charge of the drive in District No. 8 (Atlanta, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Tennessee) are William K. Jenkins, Willis Davis, Roy Avey and Frank Miller.

NEW ORLEANS

ED ORTEE, a former salesman for Republic but now operating a theatre in Bay St. Louis, Miss., was in telling about the wonders of that thriving little city. Ortee expects a banner season this summer . . . R. L. Osborne, owner and manager of the Harlem in Belzoni, Miss., took time out to call on exchanges and friends. To BOXOFFICE, he extended his best wishes and said it was the brightest trade paper that came to his desk. Thanks.

The Famous, recently taken over by the United chain, is undergoing renovation . . . Department and book stores are featuring bound volumes of "Kitty Foyle," "Grapes of Wrath" and "Tobacco Road" at the uniform price of $1 each . . . During the recent cold snap, distributors were swamped with cancellations from upstate, many houses declining to open owing to weather and road conditions.

Visitors: From Louisiana — Vic Maurin, Fox, Houma; Morris Meltz, Arcade, Ferriday; A. Marrelo, Rendevois, Grand Isle; Eugene Drake, Ponchatoula; Claude Darce, Morgan City; G. M. Butterfield, Lafayette; Sidney Haup, Donaldsonville; Anthony Sumpia, Raceland; A. J. Broussard, Crowley; John Caldwell, Bernice. From Mississippi—Ed Delaney, Magnolia; Stanley Taylor, Crosby; T. R. Lawrence, Laurel; Bill Baker, Macon, and Guy Adams, Vicksburg.

Top-notch product playing the neighborhoods are getting special attention in the Sunday Times-Picayune *in the form of a separate listing . . . W. H. Cobb of Exhibitors Poster exchange, returning from a trip upstate, said Lent has not materially affected grosses at theatres in towns he visited.*

A Sportsmen's Show at the Municipal Auditorium featured cowboys, cowgirls, fly casting and log rolling . . . June Preisser, a New Orleans native, wired her brothers here that she has broken her acting pact with Metro and signed a new one with Paramount.

Hicks, Enloe Earn Awards For "Liberty" Campaign

RALEIGH, N. C.—A collaborative campaign on "Land of Liberty" earned Metro Honor Roll Buttons for Norman Hicks, manager of the State Theatre, and W. G. Enloe, city manager of the Wilby-Kincey Theatres.

The Hicks-Enloe campaign was featured by the complete cooperation of civic, patriotic, religious and educational organizations, with the governor issuing a proclamation in behalf of the picture.

Leave Two Million

NEW ORLEANS—Two million dollars were left in New Orleans by out-of-towners who came in for the Mardi Gras, it is estimated by the convention bureau of the Association of Commerce.



New Role for Baugh—

Slingin' Sammy Baugh, who made football history at Texas Christian University and then as a professional with the Washington Redskins, is now in Hollywood preparing to start work in the title role of "King of the Texas Rangers," a 15-episode serial for Republic. He is seen here with Judy Canova, who has just completed "Sis Hopkins," a top-budgeted musical comedy for the same studio.

P. A. With "Canary"

DALLAS — Susanna Foster and Dolly Loehr made personal appearances at the opening of "The Hard-Boiled Canary" at Interstate's Tower immediately following its southwestern premiere here, proceeds of which went for British war relief. Both have leading roles in the Paramount film.

MEMPHIS

M A. LIGHTMAN, president of Malco Theatres, is off on a combination business and pleasure trip. The business will take him to New York and the pleasure to Miami, Fla. . . . A rare visitor was H. J. Pitman of the Paradise at Cotter, Ark. Pitman makes about two trips to the Row a year . . . F. W. Franke, home office representative, is visiting the local Universal office . . . Dave Woolner of the Drive-In at N. Little Rock leaves soon for a year at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.

K. H. Kinney of the Hays at Hughes, Ark., seen on the Row for the first time in several weeks due to illness . . . Jimmy and Mrs. Sharum saw "Hellzapoppin'" while on their last booking trip here. They operate the Sharum at Walnut Ridge, Ark. . . . Lloyd Hutchins of the Ozark Amusement Co. at Hardy, Ark., spent several days here advancing bookings and very happy over the recent trend of business . . . William Marsh of the home office is visiting the local Metro exchange.

Visitors: Mrs. Lela Flippin, Grand, Cardwell, Mo.; Lyle Richmond, Missouri, Senath, Mo.; Tom Ford, Ford, Rector, Ark.; Gordon Lee Hutchins, State, Corning, Ark.; Burris Smith, Imperial, Pocahontas, Ark.; Harry Shaw, Ritz, Aberdeen, Miss.; S. T. "Doc" Lyles, Ritz, Oxford, Miss.; Nathan Flexer, Waverly, Waverly, Tenn.; Wayne Smothers, Dixie, Camden, Tenn.; R. B. Gooch, Ritz, Selmer, Tenn.; Buster Clark, Alamo, Pine Bluff, Ark.; G. H. Goff, Rustic, Parsons, Tenn.

Bill Mick, field representative for Jam Handy, spent several days in Memphis calling on accounts . . . M. B. Hasty of the Joy at Dardanelle, Ark., was in on his regular monthly booking trip . . . Ray Morrow, R&R's partner in Malvern, Ark., in town . . . Barney Haberfeld of the Varsity at Amory, Miss., spent a couple of days in town booking.

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Entirely new from STEM TO STERN! A streamlined beauty of greater comfort with complete elimination of every objectionable feature any chair has ever had . . . !

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George Gaughan Leads New Club in Dallas

DALLAS—The Film Club of Texas was the official name adopted at a second organization meeting of male employes of theatre and film companies in the White Plaza Hotel.

Sixty-three members were signed up at this session. Officers elected were George Gaughan (Paramount), president; Mat Dowling (R. E. Griffith), vice-president; W. W. Spruce (M-G-M), treasurer, and Lynn Harrington (RKO), secretary.

The executive committee is composed of Lloyd Rust, Republic manager; Bob Davis, Griffith; Debbs Reynolds, Interstate; Bob Euler, independent booker, and Ed Green, Universal.

DeStafeno in Territory Renewing Friendships

DALLAS—Arthur DeStafeno, new manager here for National Theatre Supply, was on a trip over the territory last week renewing old acquaintances. DeStafeno started in the equipment business here under the late J. I. Roberts. He was transferred to Memphis as manager and then to the coast before returning here.

RCA for Four

DALLAS—RCA sound has been ordered for the Granada, which Phil Isley is opening at Brownwood, Tex.; for the Ritz, Beaumont; Lindell, Humble, Tex., and for the 1,000-seater, John and Drew Eberson are building at Daytona Beach, Fla.

You CAN Buy a PROFIT!!!

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Prices Are Going Up!

Two in Dallas Tie for First Run Leadership

DALLAS—Rain half the week seemed to have helped rather than hindered Elm Street grosses as the important runs did better than average.

"Long Voyage Home," dispelled earlier fears by doing better than anticipated.

Detail for week ended March 8:

(Average is 100)

Majestic—**Western Union** (20th-Fox) 125
Palace—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M).....125
Rialto—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB)..... 90
Tower—**Long Voyage Home** (UA).....120

Tri-States Takes Over Honey Grove Strand

DALLAS—After hanging in the balance several weeks, sale of the Strand at Honey Grove, owned by Preston Tate and C. V. Caver, was completed early in the week to Tri-State Theatres, of which B. R. McLendon is general manager. McLendon built and opened the new State in Honey Grove last year. He will confine the Strand to Friday and Saturday operation, it is said.

Seventh for Brownwood; L. D. Brown to Build

BROWNWOOD, TEX.—L. D. Brown, now operating the Queen and Gem here in affiliation with the Interstate circuit, announces plans for a new 400-seater to be called the Ritz and to feature "action" fare. It will be Brownwood's seventh theatre and is a direct result of renewed activity due to the defense program. Camp Bowie is located nearby.

Five Theatres to Care For Initial Draftees

MINERAL WELLS, TEX.—Nearly a week ahead of the arrival of a contingent of draftees, construction on Camp Wolters is virtually completed. Five theatres are now in operation here, three as a result of the defense program.

"Hellzapoppin'" Four Days

DALLAS—"Hellzapoppin'," New York stage success with Olsen & Johnson, opens a four-day engagement March 20 at the Melba.

Hearings Shortly In Woolner Case

New Orleans—Hearings were expected to start Monday in the Charles J. Woolner case against Paramount in which the drive-in theatre operator charges he is unable to obtain product from the distributor.

Woolner has a second complaint pending with the arbitration tribunal, in which he charges inability to get M-G-M product.

Santone Film Council Honors Mrs. Beretta

SAN ANTONIO—The fact that Mrs. J. K. Beretta, president of the local Motion Picture Council, spent her childhood at Dunterry, home of her grandparents which is used as a setting by Paramount in "Virginia," occasioned a celebration in her honor at a recent meeting of the council.

Mrs. Kurt Beckman read a paper on the story of "Virginia" and other remarks were made by Mrs. Fred Maurer, on Mrs. Beretta's girlhood; Douglas Largen, Interstate employe and trade reporter, and Manager John T. Floore of the Majestic, who invited the group to see the picture at his theatre. Mrs. Alex Adams presided at the meeting.

Mrs. Clarence Echols to National Review Board

DALLAS—Mrs. Clarence Echols, organizer of the Dallas Motion Picture Council, has been named a member of the organization's National Board of Review, she has been advised by James Hamilton, head of the board.

Mrs. Echols is a member of the National Screen Council, which each month selects the Blue Ribbon Award film under BOXOFFICE sponsorship.

Sister of Rubin Frels Succumbs to Illness

VICTORIA, TEX.—Normana Frels died at the home of her brother, Rubin, following an illness of several months. Burial was in Columbus, Tex., former home of the family.

She had been in show business for a number of years with her brother, operating theatres in El Campo and Cuero.

Many Tradefolk Attend Alex Schulman Rites

NEW ORLEANS—Many from the local theatrical colony attended the funeral for Alex Schulman, a colorful trade figure here in the days of NRA. At one time he operated the Coliseum, and at the time of his death he had the Casino and Best theatres. He was 51.

Harold Wilkes Dead

NEW ORLEANS—Harold F. Wilkes, former Paramount district manager, with the company for 27 years, died Thursday night in a local hospital.

Rites for Rehm

DALLAS—Funeral services, with burial in Oak Cliff Cemetery, were held here for C. A. Rehm, former Dallas exhibitor who drowned December 22 last while on a duck hunting trip. His body was recovered only last week.

William Hutchins Dies

CORNING, ARK.—William Hutchins is dead at 49. He and his son, Gordon L. Hutchins, operated the State.

DALLAS

PETE DAILY, publicist for Columbia studios, has been in town contacting newspapers on advance publicity for forthcoming films . . . Frank Benson and the Lutzer Bros. are building a new theatre near their Ritz at Bowie . . . Jerry Stout, manager of the Nocona at Nocona, and Mrs. Stout almost lost their lives when they were overcome by gas in their home. Mrs. Stout gained consciousness long enough to rouse neighbors. Both were in the hospital for a week.

Sigmund Hellman, former exhibitor in Vienna, Austria, has purchased the Elk at Italy, Tex., from Green & Price. He was on the Row Tuesday checking up on his films and making arrangements with Forrest White of Ind-Ex Booking Service to handle his dates . . . Tommy White of the Burntex at Burnet spent a couple of days on the Row and Jim Tobola of the Best at West made a one-day stand.

Fort Worth's annual Theatrical Golf Tournament will be held Monday at Glen Garden Country Club. A banquet and other entertainment follows the all-day contest to which ladies and guests are invited. Tickets sell for $1.50. Registration fee is $3.50. Frank Weatherford, Palace, Ft. Worth, is in charge of arrangements. R. J. O'Donnell will be master of ceremonies.

J. E. "Uncle Joe" Luckett of Interstate spent a few days in west Texas calling on exhibitors he knew when he was manager for United Artists and First National . . . W. J. "Dutch" Cammer, Monogram booker and office manager, is back on the job after a few days leave due to illness . . . Bill Mick, the Jam Handy shorts representative, was in one one of his regular trips through the territory.

Ernest Rockett, who hasn't missed a week on Filmrow in years, says he has plans to remodel the front of his Pastime in Itasca . . . Forty golfers from the theatres and exchanges here plan to be in Fort Worth Monday for the big theatrical golf tournament . . . E. M. Yorke, who represents Monogram out of Oklahoma City, and Johnny Cummings, selling for the same company out of New Orleans, were in. Cummings formerly represented RKO out of Dallas.

Pete Blackshear, who opened the new Queen at Aspermont a few days ago, was in Dallas Wednesday buying a cooling system for the house. With him was a daughter, Mrs. R. W. Johnson, whose husband is principal of the Aspermont schools . . . S. G. Fry of Tyler has been in bed with the flu . . . Ugo Martini, nephew of A. Martini, was in town on business . . . B. L. Turner, who has leased the Royal in Archer City from James Roberts, was a visitor Wednesday, booking and calling on equipment houses preparatory to taking over his new situation. He also put in his order for BOXOFFICE.

Wilton Smith, who has moved the Palace at Hemphill into a new building, was on the Row booking. He also operates a theatre in Mansfield, La. . . . J. B. Underwood, Columbia manager, returned from the company's regional sales convention in

(Continued on page 35)

Interstate Pushes "Land of Liberty"

DALLAS—The Interstate circuit is going "all out" for "Land of Liberty" in its territory by offering special reduced-price tickets to school students. Announcement of the offer came coincident with the arrival here of Gordon White of the Hays office in the interests of the industry-sponsored feature.

Following a recent showing of the film for the Texas legislature at Austin, the body issued a formal resolution describing "Land of Liberty" as a "factual, entertaining and deeply inspirational pageant of America's heroic progress."

The resolution stated further that "the motion picture industry and the theatres of Texas (should) be commended for outstanding patriotism and loyalty in making this epic production available to the people of Texas on the basis of contributing to the nation's war emergency welfare work."

Proceeds from the picture go for British war relief.

Henry Sidney Wharton Is Wed in Warren, Ark.

WARREN, ARK.—Henry Sidney Wharton, well known exhibitor, and Vivian Myrteel May were married March 3 at the First Methodist Church in Warren. Wharton is owner and operator of the Pastime and Avalon theatres in Warren.

Following the ceremony the couple left for Florida and the east coast. They expect to return home about March 20.

In Charge of Jackson Day

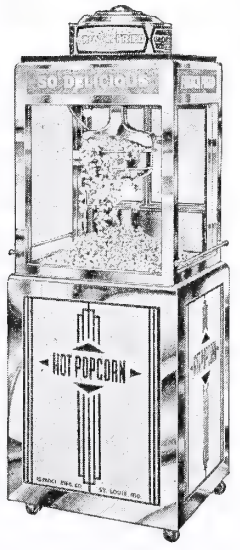
DALLAS—Richard "Dick" Stout, an attorney for Interstate, will be in charge of Dallas county's Jackson Day festivities.

SANTONE

ELMER ZRENNER, Interstate chief sound technician, Dallas, was here for his father's funeral . . . Sylvan Barry, assistant manager of the Texas, has gone to a San Angelo sanatorium for treatment. Interstate student manager, Guy Lee Perkingson, is taking his place . . . Thelma Miller has returned to the State candy counter after a recent tonsillotomy . . . And Velma Haggerty's smiling face now greets the customers at the Majestic concession stand . . . J. Dodge is the new usher at the Empire . . . New acting chief of service at the Majestic is Lee Chitwood . . . Jim Weber, a reporter for the San Antonio *Light*, was a guest for a day at the Majestic during the showing of Paramount's "Virginia" . . . Interstate City Skipper Eddie Collins is mighty proud of the scrapbook of publicity on the President's Birthday Ball which Norfleet made up for him.

Dates for the Interstate theatremen's golf tourney have been set for April 6 and 7. Prizes for winners are on display in the Aztec lobby. Money raised from the tournament will go to help send 35 underprivileged boys to summer camp for two weeks, according to J. T. Floore, who is a director and member of the local Boys Club . . . "GWTW" was held over four extra days at the Texas . . . Anne Gwynne, San Antonio's gift to Hollywood, was seen in Universal's new release, "Nice Girl?" at the Aztec . . . Walter Grubb, erstwhile Aztec doorman, was in town from Fort Bliss en route to Fort Brown, down on the border. Walt is with the Texas National Guards.

The newly appointed chief of service at the Drive-In is J. Watts . . . Mrs. Jimmie Grimes is the new cashier at the Palace. She formerly acted in a similar capacity at the Prince . . . "Hell's Angels," an Astor release, was the Saturday-Sunday attraction at the Uptown.



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CHARLOTTE—On leaving Charlotte for a trip down east, the sun shines beautifully, which perhaps is a good omen. This thought is dispelled, however, in Albemarle where we miss both George Hughes (Stanly) and E. L. Hearne (Alameda). However, we learn that the Stanly is doing its usual spring cleaning with what appears to be new carpets and drapes. The Alameda is all dressed up with a new marquee.

On leaving Albemarle, we keep plugging over some delightfully new roads which have eliminated hairpin turns en route to see one grand guy in Asheboro. The last time we visited Francis White, he made apologies for his makeshift office. This visit is really worthwhile, despite the fact we pass Francis en route to Charlotte. However, we are cordially received by his pretty black-haired secretary (can Francis pick 'em). She's Dorothy Cavaniss and certainly is a picture in the surroundings of his new office which is spaciously located across the street from the Sunset. The fixtures are modern to the last degree, and it's no wonder Francis can conceive such successful ideas in this environment. Incidentally, and with much pleasure, we note that the only visible trade paper is BOXOFFICE.

How the Elder Got Its Name

So on to Siler City where we plan to remain until our curiosity is satisfied as to how Runa Curtis and T. C. Frazier derived the name for their new theatre, the Elder. We find T. C. in the midst of a farmers' show which, he states, he operates annually for the benefit of his county patrons. There are almost 300 toilers of the soil enjoying this performance, and it doesn't take us long to acquire the necessary information regarding the Elder and how it was named. A very successful local merchant built the theatre at a cost of between $20,000 and $30,000. He propositioned T. C. that he would buy and pay for the marquee on condition that the theatre be given his name. An idea for other exhibitors. Again we're pleased to find on T. C.'s desk a copy of BOXOFFICE.

From there to Pittsboro where S. G. "Staff" Rogers is a most congenial host. Reminiscences bring to light that "Staff" is one of the real old timers, having operated houses in both North and South Carolina. Curiosity again prevails and we learn that "Staff" procured his nickname from another old-timer—the deceased Frank Bryan, who was once a Warner manager. We exit from Pittsboro with a BOXOFFICE subscription.

With nothing between Pittsboro and Raleigh, we arrive in the law-making center where everyone is talking an early adjournment. We confer briefly with our exhibitor-senators—Roy Rowe of Burgaw and J. B. Benton of Benson—and accept an invitation to attend a session of the upper house. This being our first visit, we are agreeably surprised at the dispatch with which our laws are enacted. To our greater surprise, the activities are halted long enough for Lt. Gov. Harris to recognize and extend courtesies to us. We leave the senate with that irrepressible politician, Harry Buchanan, who is graccious enough to accompany us to a session of the lower house.

We proceed to Clayton where we find, our old friend, W. M. Knott, attired in overalls and surrounded by all the necessary tools for a real renovation. Clayton can be proud of the theatre that Knott is giving them.

Smithfield and Pete Howell

Twelve miles into Smithfield and the home of H. Pete Howell, where we delve into the past to ascertain how Pete got into exhibition. In 1918—location Severn (near Murfreesboro)—a gentleman came to town with two Powers projectors and presented a performance which necessitated a "grinder," so Pete was the "grinder." He became so interested that he worked out a deal for one of the Powers. On time, he paid for it the little fortune of $175. After securing the necessary gas lamps, he experimented for 60 days and eventually opened up on a five cent basis. He's now operating a most successful chain of six.

We stop in Kenly and learn from his wife that J. M. O'Neill is out of town. So to Wilson where the day before the lady exhibitor, Jane Paradis, had gone to a hospital for observation. However, we manage a pleasant visit with Jane (in the hospital) and her sister, Una, a most charming person. It's not difficult to understand why the Oasis, under the management of these lovely girls, is operating with such success. We visit the Kincey operations, but due to the hour are unable to contact the head man And, naturally, we view Worth Stewart's and Heck Everett's newest—the Drake. These boys sure know how to build 'em.

Elaborate Convention Plans

To Rocky Mount where our first contact is President Charlie Arrington of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina. He loses no time in telling of the elaborate plans for the forthcoming summer convention and advises that the organization, at the moment, is enjoying the greatest membership in its 29 years of existence; also that shortly he will issue a bulletin to members with the privilege of voting as to where and when the convention will be held. He insists that we abandon our chariot and accompany him for the rest of our tour in his new de luxe Cadillac. We discover on visiting Kincey's new Center that Manager Orr is in a meeting at the chamber of commerce making plans for a festive week.

On to Tarboro where we encounter our old friend, Alf Miller. Alf is really one of the young "olders," having been schooled by one of the pioneer exhibitors, the late H. J. Paradis. Alf is doing a good job for Jane Paradis at the Majestic and Colonial.

In Bethel we wait for the arrival of W. R. James jr., and during this wait we talk to James' next-door neighbor, the mortician, who is slightly grieved over the fact that he's had only one funeral since January 1. We advance the thought that this indicates a healthy condition, but our friend seems inclined not to agree. We find James a most interesting person. He not only operates the "show," but is also active in civic affairs.

In Robersonville we miss J. H. Highsmith, who is down on the farm, but meet his son, who seems a chip off the old block in filling his father's place in a most capable manner.

En route to Williamston, we anticipate seeing Wig's new Marco which has been constructed since our last visit. We don't find Wig, who is away on some business but we do see the Marco—a credit to Wig and to Williamston.

From Williamston, we make a 24-mile leap to Washington where we find C. A. "Cat" Turnage very busy compiling what is usually customary prior to March 15, which reminds President Charlie that he hasn't made out his. "Cat" has two beautiful houses—the Turnage and the Rieta—and he's most insistent that we spend more of our time with him, so we promise to come back some other time.

Then to Plymouth where we meet a beaming Shep Brinkley enjoying the best of health. President Charlie secures a promise here, as he does in practically every stop, of the attendance of the boys at the summer convention. While only a few years ago Plymouth was just another stop in the road, today it's a thriving city. Shep's is a modern theatre, and with the recent opening of the enormous pulp mills, he's in holiday mood.

A Sight to See

The next jump is looked forward to, for it carries us directly across the historical Albemarle Sound, with its new bridge of 3½ miles of concrete built at a cost of a million and a half and NO TOLL. 'Tis a sight to see. Shortly afterwards, we arrive in Edenton where we are welcomed by old friends, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Taylor. "Cap" Taylor is just in the midst of his fishing season and doesn't pay much attention to the theatre which is handled by Mrs. Taylor and Jimmy Earnhardt, who manages.

We turn west to Windsor where Manager A. J. Smithwick is having his day off, but we locate Owner Roy Thompson. We marvel at the theatre until informed that Thompson is in the construction business, and that the theatre is really one of his sidelines.

We double back to Williamston and a long chat with Wig Watts, who promises President Arrington he'll be with him at the convention.

Then back to Rocky Mount, after a hard but pleasing day, where we meet Charlie's charming and capable assistant, Aureola Wharton.

On leaving Rocky Mount, we tarry long enough to visit with C. C. Whitacre who is assisted in his operation by the affable "Mrs. Whit." We are asked to stay for lunch, but time makes this impossible.

Into Spring Hope, where we miss R. B. McGowan but do have a chat with his manager, E. L. Avant.

Louisburg, the home of Glenn Davis, is next and final for this trip. To our regret, Glenn is away but we find a copy of BOXOFFICE on his desk.

So back to the home base for more work and 864 miles behind us.

CHARLOTTE

MRS. JACK LAMONT, wife of Monogram's local manager, has gone to California, her former home, for a three-month visit . . . H. B. Meiselman is converting a building into a theatre in Wilmington, N. C. He expects to open in about six weeks. It will be named the Manor . . . Ellis Blumenthal, president of the B&B circuit, apparently likes Florida, for after only a week and a half stay here he's returned to Miami . . . Friends of Barney Slaughter are glad to welcome him back to Charlotte. Barney, connected with Paramount for several years, returns as local booking manager.

Johnny Bachman, Warner manager, reports a delightful visit with John F. Miller in Hickory. He states Miller is in the best of spirits after an illness of several years . . . H. C. Kaufman, manager of exchange operations for Columbia, was in town conferring with Bob Ingram, local manager . . . Ed and George Harris, operating drive-ins here and in Durham, were on the Row. They will reopen in two or three weeks . . . H. F. Kincey of North Carolina Theatres, Inc., is building a new suburban theatre near State College in Raleigh, N. C.

W. P. Benner and family of the William Penn in Carthage, N. C., and the Village in Hemp, N. C., have returned from a vacation in Florida . . . The Republic personnel, especially Cy Dillon, manager, are all hepped over forthcoming product and the James R. Grainger drive . . . The South Carolina house killed the admission tax bill . . . Fred A. Rohrs, manager for UA in Washington, D. C., is visiting the local office.

A sales meeting in the interest of the Ned Depinet drive was held at RKO. Attending were Dave Prince, district manager; Leo M. Devaney, Canadian sales manager, and Harry Michalson, short subject sales manager. They were guests of Joe Brecheen, local manager, at the Variety Club charter dinner . . . Mrs. Margaret Brown, a veteran in the film business and secretary to Benn Rosenwald, Metro manager, is ill in a sanatorium at Huntersville, N. C. . . . Charlie Hunsuck, formerly with Columbia, is now a booker for Warner.

Mrs. Dorothy DeBerry has returned to her duties at Universal after a severe attack of asthma . . . Mrs. H. T. Green of the Hollywood in Manning, S. C., was a visitor this week—and an excited one. She had just returned from a trip to New York and Washington . . . R. O. Holland is rebuilding Dr. H. C. Carr's and H. H. Everett's house in Carolina Beach, N. C.

Mrs. W. G. Milwain has joined her husband, who was recently transferred here by NSS from Memphis . . . Louis M. Wade has installed new RCA Photophone in his Apex at Apex, N. C. . . . Visitors: Benner Bros., Carthage, N. C.; Mrs. H. T. Green, Manning, S. C.; Mrs. W. A. Mitchell, Hazelwood, N. C.; Cecil Ward, Little, King, N. C.; P. C. Osteen jr., Carolina, Anderson, N. C.; B. G. Reeves, West, Jefferson, N. C.; E. L. Swinson, Lagrange, N. C.; Mrs. Runa Curtis, Liberty, S. C.; T. C. Frazier, Elder, Siler City, N. C.; W. V. Brockman, Westminster, S. C.; G. L. Faw, Troy, N. C.

Trade Optimistic, Says Prewitt

New Orleans—W. A. Prewitt, who as traveling representative for American Desk Mfg. Co. sees a great deal of the state, says exhibitors of Louisiana are anticipating a banner spring and summer, principally due to accelerated activity in defense work.

Pascal Arranging for "Barbara" Premiere

MIAMI—Producer Gabriel Pascal arrived at Miami Beach Thursday to complete arrangements for the world premiere of his "Major Barbara." After a conference with Mitchell Wolfson, Sidney Meyer and Sonny Shepherd, Pascal and the Lincoln manager are flying to Nassau where it is expected they will arrange for this island's first major premiere.

The showing of "Major Barbara" is anticipated at the big new Savoy where Ira McKinney, recently manager of the Grove in Coconut Grove, now has his office as supervisor for Wometco of the island's three houses. March 20 is the tentative date for this first showing of this George Bernard Shaw opus. Sponsorship of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor will be sought in connection with plans to make the premiere a British benefit.

Nashville Operators Union Celebrates Anniversary

NASHVILLE, TENN.—Motion Picture operators Union Local 626 observed the 26th anniversary of their organization with a midnight banquet March 1 at the Andrew Jackson Hotel to which were invited executives of the Crescent Amusement Co., managers of all local theatres, and city officials. Among the speakers were the mayor, and the president of the Trades and Labor Council, J. L. Byrnes, who is an operator. Out-of-town guests were present.

W. J. Brown, secretary of the local, served as toastmaster with Bob Friedman as master of ceremonies.

Escape With $4,000

BATON ROUGE, LA.—Two bandits got away with $4,000 when they tied up the cashier and two male employes of the Paramount, including Manager Robert Hines.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

DALLAS

(Continued from page 33)

Atlanta . . . John Jenkins and Tod Toddy of Consolidated National Film Co. were in town conferring at the branch office. Their next expansion move will be to open an exchange in Chicago, Jenkins said.

T. H. "Billy" Ducket jr. is now working in the Warner advertising accessories department . . . The new Arcadia in east Dallas, being rebuilt after a fire, will open about the first week in April, according to R. H. Clemmons, manager . . . Mitchell Lewis, alert Houston operator of Negro shows, said a theatre now under construction for him there, is about ready to open and that he will start another in the next few days. This will make five under the Mitchell banner.

Praise is being heaped upon the Interstate organization for its share towards the success of the British premiere. From Karl Hoblitzelle and R. J. O'Donnell on down, the circuit worked on the project for over a month. O'Donnell brought in the Hollywood talent. J. O. Cherry was responsible for the auditorium shows. E. J. Sullivan, Majestic manager, was head of the committee that put on the banquet, and E. C. Zrenner put the auditorium in shape for the screen and stage presentations.

P. G. Cameron has painted the Airway a buff white. The house opened only a few months ago . . . D. C. Carraway, owner of the Clif-Tex at Clifton, was on the Row looking over equipment . . . Bob Hooks of the Select at Mineola, on a visit here, said things have not taken shape as expected in Hawkins, scene of the latest East Texas oil strike.

Lloyd B. Rust, Republic branch manager, attended a regional sales meeting in Kansas City . . . A private entrance to the office of W. G. Underwood and C. C. Ezell has been made through the hallway at 2009-11 Jackson Street, at the floor of the stairway . . . Roy Boomer, general sales manager for Motiograph, Inc., was here several days visiting Henry Sorenson, distributor for Texas.

Stock Show Headliner

FORT WORTH—Ken Maynard was featured at the Fat Stock Show here, and Rufe Davis appeared at a night spot on the show grounds.

Republic Assigns Harold Yates

HOLLYWOOD—Harold Yates is scripting Republic's "Angels With Broken Wings."

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
1026 SANTA FE BLDG. **BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC.** DALLAS, TEXAS

ATLANTA

H. T. BUTLER of the Lakewood is enlarging and re-equiping his theatre . . . Tommy Read, manager of the Fox, gave away 20,000 apples in exploiting "The Lady Eve" . . . Mrs. Elizabeth Cowen Pitts, in the accounting department of the Georgia Theatre Service, has resigned. She is leaving to take up residence in another city . . . Marriages seem to be running in the Katz family, for soon after the marriage of Lena Katz was solemnized, Dave, a younger brother, announced his engagement to Sadie Koplon of Birmingham, Ala. M. S. Katz, the father, is a PRC franchise holder.

Visitors: Mrs. W. B. Smith and son, Erin Theatre, Tennille, Ga.; W. P. Gammon, Ocilla, Ocilla, Ga.; Mrs. Estelle Swearingen, Rochelle, Rochelle, Ga.; R. L. Redmond, Troup, LaGrange, Ga.; Jay T. Yancey, LaGrange, LaGrange, Ga.; Ross Arnold, Alamo, Newnan, Ga.; Rader Stewart, Carroll, Carrollton, Ga.; Mack Jackson, Strand, Alexander City, Ala.; Nat Williams, Rose, Thomasville, Ga.; Spurgeon Dunn, Gibson, Chattahoochee, Fla., and Bob Dunn, Camilla, Camilla, Ga. . . . Two very infrequent visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Scott Rutherford of the Ritz at Bowling Green, Fla. . . . Gus King, Capitol City Supply Co., has just returned from a business trip to Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa and Lakeland, Fla.

John Evins, Tenth St. and Plaza theatres, has just moved into his new home on Palisades Road . . . Doug Avey, formerly with Lucas & Jenkins, and now in the army, spent the weekend with his family and brought the news that he has been promoted to corporal . . . John Mangham, Monogram Southern Exchange, is in New York on business . . . Wil-Kin Theatre Supply has started spring cleaning.

Oscar Howell, Capitol City Supply Co., is on a business trip to Gadsden, Birmingham and Albertville, Ala. . . . O. S. Barnett, booker for Monogram Southern Exchange, spent the weekend in Charlotte . . . Charles Kessnich and T. J. Conners, Metro executives both, enjoying sailfishing at Stewart and Key West, Fla., last week. Roy M. Avey went down to join them for several days . . . Thomas Brandon and son, Jack, of the Magnolia, Titusville, Fla., spent several days on the Row booking.

Aubrey Nesbit, manager of the Fairfax, East Point, Ga., held a real wedding on the stage of his theatre . . . Lionel H. Keene of the Kirkwood has Joyce Donaldson, Atlanta's winner on the Major Bowes' Amateur Salute to Atlanta program, booked for Thursday, March 20.

Seeks Factory Site

DALLAS—A new type sign readily adaptable to theatres, may soon be manufactured here. Mrs. Jess Way Schott of Tulsa is here seeking a location for a factory to produce her idea, on which patents are pending. The sign is of glass and transparent plastic, is illuminated in daytime by the sun and at night by light of any kind, it is said.

Make Big Plans for Variety Convention

By HELEN HARDY

ATLANTA—Variety already is making plans to take at least 100 members to the national convention in Atlantic City, May 15-16-17.

Assistant Chief Barker Harry G. Ballance, who is chairman of the "On to Atlantic City" committee, is now hard at work on preliminary plans and urges that all barkers, both resident and non-resident, make early reservations through him. The club is going to pay transportation expenses for all barkers making the trip, and if the treasury permits, there is a possibility that the club may also stand the hotel expenses.

Four compartment cars, a dining car and a special club car have already been engaged for transporting Atlanta barkers to the convention.

Honor Paul Robinson and Wife at Dinner-Dance

HOLLYWOOD, FLA.—The manager of the three houses here—the Florida, Ritz and Hollywood Beach Hotel Arcade—Paul Robinson and his wife, were guests of honor when employes of these theatres staged their first annual formal dinner-dance at the Spotlight Club.

Arrangements for the affair were made by Monroe MacMillan and Jimmie Painton. Staff members who joined in inaugurating what it is hoped will become an annual institution, included: Monroe, Jimmie, Katie Kirksey, Francis MacMillan, Anthony Ross, Barrie Parkell, Pat Crawford, George Fogle, Billy Hartley, West Keefe, Harry Seigler, Leonard Banta, Janet Kemp, Mildred Peene and Cleta Jones.

Brode Has "Kampf"

DALLAS—John Franconi and Ed Blumenthal of Monogram are relinquishing any distribution rights they might have to "After Mein Kampf" in Texas. After being notified from New York they would get the picture, it developed here that I. Brode had a contract to distribute the feature in this territory.

Handle "After Mein Kampf"

CHARLOTTE — Monogram will distribute "After Mein Kampf" in the Charlotte territory, John Mangrum of the local office announces.

Bonnecarre a Father

NEW ORLEANS—E. Bonnecarre, an employe at the Orpheum, is the father of a girl.

General Seats for Beach

ST. PETERSBURG BEACH, FLA.—New General seats have been installed by Stephen S. Girard in his Beach Theatre here.

MIAMI

AMONG local theatremen marching off to Camp Blanding were Charles Safer, artist for Wometco Theatres, and Max Christian, assistant manager of the Rex. During the latter's period at camp, Milton Speer is serving as Austin Moon's assistant at this Flagler Street house.

It's a girl at the Walter Clements (Wometco booker), where the little lady was particularly welcomed by two brothers . . . While we were doing our checklist last month as to where in Miami visiting theatremen would find their manager friends, we're wondering if we properly noted Erwin Waite's occupancy of the managerial chair at the Sheridan? We know lots of you will be wanting to know.

Patrons of the Capitol are still mystified over the stunt used during showings of "Buck Privates" and "Show Boat." By using a wireless record player in the theatre and a small portable radio in the lobby, a continuous broadcast of "song hits you can't hear on your radio" from these two pictures capitalized effectively on the Ascap-BMI battle.

Crescent Will Remodel House in Clarksville

CLARKSVILLE, TENN.—The Crescent circuit, operating out of Nashville, will award contracts soon for the remodeling of its local theatre. The entire interior will be rebuilt and a new front and marquee installed. Plans for the work were prepared by Speight & Hibbs, local architects.

Moore Ballys Benefit

NEW ORLEANS—Gar Moore of the Orpheum was in charge of publicity for the annual Kiwanis Club benefit show for underprivileged children, held at the Municipal Auditorium. "Hooray, America" was the theme and local talent was used.

Work in Vain

DALLAS—After knocking the knob off the safe at C. V. Caver's Rita, cracksmen left without taking anything of value. The padlock on a cabinet in the ticket booth also was battered.

New Office for Korn

DALLAS—Oskar Korn has opened a new office on Jackson Street, just around the corner from his old location on Pearl, from which he will operate his Lisbon in Lisbon and the new Lindale, Houston.

Slight Fire Damage

FAYETTE, MISS.—Only slight damage was done by a fire at the Fayette here. The program was not interrupted.

Present Passion Play

NEW ORLEANS—The Passion Play will be presented at the Municipal Auditorium, starting March 19 and running through March 24.

Woof Buys Theatre In Amherstburg

TORONTO—W. S. Woof, who has operated the Liberty, a 450-seat house at Amherstburg, Ont., for a number of years, has become the owner of the theatre, the purchase price being $27,500. The name of the previous owner has not been disclosed.

The opening of the Park, an 800-seat theatre which is being constructed at Welland, Ont., by Famous Players Canadian, is scheduled for late in May. Manager T. Forhan of the Welland Capitol, a unit of the chain, is supervising local details for the completion of the second house and its opening.

A new theatre is projected for Owen Sound, Ont., another industrial city, by the recently formed Canadian company, Odeon Theatres of Canada, Ltd. L. D. Kniffen, proprietor of the Capitol at Kincardine, Ont., was recently reported as being behind a move to open a new house in Owen Sound as well. The two present theatres in Owen Sound are the Classic, operated by Paramount Theatres, and the Savoy, owned by Chris Georgas.

Negotiations are reported under way for the purchase of the Palace at Galt, Ont., by Odeon Theatres of Canada from Harry Goldhar. The Palace, which seats 685, is opposition to the Capitol and Grand, which are Famous Players houses.

The Centre is scheduled to open at Pembroke, Ont., in April. This 500-seat theatre is being erected by Sam Ulster of Toronto, owner of the Embassy and Photodrome, Toronto. Pembroke, which is adjacent to a large military camp, has one theatre, the O'Brien.

Calgary Downtown Units Using Stage Assists

CALGARY—Advance of the season to spring in Calgary finds every downtown house now using a stage assist to their screen programs. Latest to join is the Capitol, with a radio "Quiz" program and cash awards. Tied up with an air sponsor, cash prizes may be tripled. Coupons are given away with queries and correct ones get a prize which is doubled if the winner is in the audience, tripled if sponsor's product label is enclosed.

Two houses present a weekly orchestral interlude with local assisting artists. One house has a three-night vaudeville bill and another runs an amateur night.

Famous Players Elect Officers in July

TORONTO—The routine announcement has been made that Famous Players Canadian Corp. will hold its election of officers in July, following the termination of the five-year contract of the president, N. L. Nathanson, with the Canadian chain. The directors have extended the option which he holds for the purchase of the last block of 11,000 common shares of the company until April, the price being $16.

Odeon Boosts Vancouver Holdings to Twelve

Asks City Power to Tax Amusements

Kingston, Ont.—The city council has sent a resolution to other city councils in the province asking them to support a movement to give municipalities power to tax amusements for the benefit of hospitals and other social services.

VANCOUVER—Quick extension of the Odeon Theatres of Canada holdings here is revealed in the announcement by W. J. Long, district manager, that the company has acquired six additional suburban houses and plans to build two more to be in operation by mid-July.

New acquisitions are the Fraser, Kingsway, Nova, Olympia, Rio and Varsity. One of the new houses will be a 750-seater at Cambia and 18th St., for which contract already has been let. It will be a $40,000 structure. The other, to seat 1,000, will be located at Knight Road and Cambie.

The circuit, "allied" with Odeon Theatres of England, recently launched its campaign here with the acquisition of the Dunbar, Paradise, Plaza and Vogue, the last-named still under construction and due to open in April. Mr. Long at that time admitted the circuit planned a coast-to-coast chain. Its Vancouver units, acquired and projected, now number 12.

Four New Companies For Odeon Units

VICTORIA, B. C.—Capitalized at $10,000 each, four new companies have been formed for houses acquired by Odeon Theatres of Canada. Incorporated here, with headquarters listed as 902 Royal Bldg., Vancouver, are:

Circle Theatres, Ltd.; Fraser Theatres, Ltd.; North Vancouver Theatres, Ltd., and Olympia Theatres, Ltd.

War Swells Gifts To Red Cross

TORONTO—In his report for the past year as president of the Ontario division of the Red Cross Society of Canada, Col. John A. Cooper announced that total receipts had been $2,500,000, which was five times greater than the total of 1938 contributions—before the outbreak of war.

This amount was received at the Ontario headoffice of the society while the 451 Ontario branches had been the medium for the raising of $4,500,000, almost half of which had been turned over to the main office in Toronto. During the year 3,000,000 articles or sets of articles had been made or donated to the Ontario Red Cross and 500,000 members had participated in the work.

Able assistance had been extended to the Red Cross by the film exchanges and theatres which had organized their own campaigns for the raising of funds for the society while the theatres had cooperated in the use of Red Cross trailers and in other publicity.

Col. Cooper, who is the chairman of the Motion Picture Distributors of Canada, has now retired from the Red Cross office, having been succeeded as Ontario president by Mrs. Wallace R. Campbell of Windsor, wife of the head of the Ford Motor Co. of Canada.

Boxoffice Treatment for 'Wind' Repeat Showings

ST. JOHN—There were some minor boxoffice treatments for "Gone With the Wind's" repeat showings simultaneously at the Halifax and St. John Capitols of the Famous Players circuit.

The same prices, 40 cents, with tax included, and 50 cents, tax extra, applied. However, at the Halifax Capitol, there were four shows, beginning at 9 a. m., while at the "sister city" house, the start was not until 12 noon. At Halifax, the 40 cents prevailed from 9 to 11 and at St. John, from 12 to 2. Children were admitted to the Halifax for 25 cents up to 11 a. m., while the deadline at the quarter in St. John was 6 p. m.

Ben F. Stapleton, 68, Succumbs in Ottawa

TORONTO — Ben F. Stapleton, owner of the Centre Theatre in Ottawa and one of two original Canadian franchise holders of First National, died at Ottawa after living in retirement ten years.

Stapleton was born in Indianapolis 68 years ago and opened his first theatre in 1908.

His son, Don B. Stapleton, will continue operating the Ottawa Centre.

Two Pay Dividends

MONTREAL — Dividend declarations include a declaration of the regular quarterly 25 cents on Famous Players Canadian Corp., Ltd., payable March 29, of record March 13, and the regular 1¼ per cent on the preferred stock of Hamilton United Theatres, Ltd., payable March 31, of record March 15.

Plumb to Yorkton

WILKIE, SASK.—Forrest Plumb, manager of the Roxy here since the time it came under new ownership and changed its name from the Marnel, has been transferred to Yorkton. A. Warner, Saskatoon, has taken over the Roxy managership.

TORONTO

WORD was flashed to the headoffice of Famous Players Canadian Corp. of the sudden death of R. J. Macadam, veteran manager of the Casino at Halifax, N. S., and prominent as a real showman and community booster. He took an important part in the organization of the War Savings Campaign of Canadian theatres in the Maritime district last summer, his work coming to the attention of President N. L. Nathanson and other Toronto officials by reason of the fact that the Casino was responsible for one of the largest collections in the campaign.

President N. L. Nathanson of Famous Players has returned to Toronto from his winter vacation in the south . . . Bert Sherwin, who has been an employe of the Palace, Toronto, since this house was opened 20 years ago, has joined the colors, having enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Sherwin, who is now stationed at the training center at Brandon, Man., started as an usher and had been the doorman for years.

Paul Frost, formerly in radio at St. Catharines, Ont., has now been named manager of the Regent at Sudbury, recently leased from Robert Stevens by 20th Century Theatres, in succession to Jack Alexander who has returned to Toronto to be manager of the Lansdowne. Alexander became ill shortly after going to Sudbury . . . Gordon W. Hogarth, proprietor of the Roxy at Kingsville, Ont., has written that he broke all records with a two-day run of "The World in Flames." He advertised the picture as a "Five Star Special," the five stars being listed as Winston Churchill, F. D. Roosevelt, Adolf Hitler, Il Duce and Stalin.

M. A. Milligan, general manager of Paramount Film Service, Ltd., Toronto, is having a big trip for his health, the state of which had made him consider his resignation. After a stay in Florida, Milligan has gone to South America and was at Rio de Janeiro, it was last reported. J. L. Hunter, Ontario branch manager, has been looking after the Canadian district in the meantime.

Wolfe Cohen, Canadian district manager for Warner Bros., has returned to his Toronto office after a business trip to the Pacific Coast. Syd Taube of Canadian Picture Pioneer fame is back from a three-month rest in California much improved in health, although he was kept busy with visits among former Canadians in the Hollywood colony. J. L. Smith has resumed the management of the Avenue, Toronto, after a stay in Arizona.

Thomas Pringle, proprietor of the Ideal in Toronto's East End, has donated the use of his theatre for a special show of the Main Street Businessmen's Ass'n for the purpose of raising money for the British War Victims' Fund. Manager Ernie Moule of the Capitol, Brantford, has reported extensive work in connection with the War Savings Campaign of which he was the Brantford Theatres' chairman. Manager William Bradbury of the Biltmore, Oshawa, staged a second Sunday evening benefit performance for patriotic purposes, featuring many local artists. Manager Jack Campbell did an excellent job in organizing a patriotic Sunday midnight show at the Capitol, Brampton, films being loaned by Warner Bros., Columbia and 20th Century Century-Fox and theatre employes donating their services.

Sir Henry Drayton of Toronto was the speaker at a patriotic performance in the Gregory at Georgetown which had been loaned for the purpose by R. L. Gregory. The Brock in Toronto staged another in its series of Sunday night shows under the auspices of the Dundas-Brockton Business Men's Ass'n for war relief, the proceeds being $60.56 through a silver collection.

Jack Arthur, district manager of Famous Players, was featured in the national network radio program of the "Aldrich Family" from Toronto, with Ezra Stone, actor, making the trip to Canada at his own expense for the appearance to aid the war cause. Jack Arthur arranged the music for the one-hour program and directed the large orchestra, getting a mention several times in the broadcast . . . Manager Bob Eves at the Toronto Eglington finally cleared the screen of "Spy in the Pantry" which had a run of three weeks, to be followed by the premiere of "Flight From Destiny."

Theatre managers of North Toronto who had combined for a simultaneous auction of personal articles donated by numerous Hollywood stars to help the British War Victims' Fund have had to hold off the stunt because of the prolonging of the War Savings Campaign of the Dominion government, according to Manager Al Sedgwick of the Belsize. The stars' gifts were made ready for the first display this week but a postponement to prevent overlapping was found necessary.

Art Ducharme, manager of the new Park at Windsor, Ont., is the secretary-treasurer of the Ottawa Street Business men's Ass'n in that city and has been busy with patriotic work, including a Sunday evening benefit. Jack Allen, proprietor of the Brock at Niagara-on-the-lake, turned over $250 as the gross proceeds of the first night's performance to the Red Cross.

Decker a 100 Percenter

MONTREAL—S. H. Decker, veteran RKO salesman, has stepped into the list of RKO field men who have sold one hundred per cent of their 1940-41 possibilities.

MONTREAL

ADVENT of Lent has had a less disturbing effect on motion picture audiences this year than usual, although a few neighborhood houses, mostly in French-speaking districts, report a slightly diminished attendance. A very large number of Montrealers observe Lent by depriving themselves of some luxury, such as cigarettes or alcohol, but comparatively few nowadays decide to cut out the theatre.

The consensus among local theatre managers is that the improved attendance this winter is due in large part to a better range of pictures than has ever before prevailed. The other explanation is that there is more money around owing to increased employment in war industries, while the presence in the city of so many soldiers and airmen also contribute to the prosperity of the theatres.

United Amusement houses are doing their bit to boost the War Savings, the various houses displaying beneath the announcement of the current films an appeal to purchase War Savings Stamps. Phil Godel, manager of the Westmount, has been an aggressive pioneer in this direction, arranging for the sale of War Savings stamps at the boxoffice, and even through the caretaker when the theatre is closed.

Bill Wright, manager of the Rialto, and former manager of the Monkland, is back on duty at the former theatre following a fortnight's absence due to illness. Pinch-hitting for Wright at the Rialto during his illness, was his assistant manager, A. Blondin.

A mystery theft of $473.50 from the safe of the Century Theatre was reported to the police by F. P. Dunning, manager. The building is equipped with a burglar alarm which did not sound, and police say there was no appearance of the safe having been tampered with or of anyone breaking into the building.

Associated Screen News notes: Roy Tash, cameraman, attended a demonstration of new Made-in-Canada universal carriers, pictures of which will soon be shown to Canadian theatre audiences . . . Bob Martin covered the activities of the Belgian military camp in Ontario and arrived back in time to film scenes of the fire which destroyed the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Montreal . . . Lucien Roy is on his way to the Peace River district where he will shoot a newsreel story of construction of new airfields in the U. S.-Alaska airway project . . . Ross Beesley is in Newfoundland filming progress of defense preparations.

CALGARY

WOLFE COHEN, general manager of Warner for Canada, stopped off in Calgary for a day on his semi-annual tour of the branch offices in the key cities.

The amusement tax collected by the government of Alberta from the theatres in the province during 1940 *amounted to* $175,721.46. *Censorship fees for the same period amounted to* $26,653.00.

The War Savings Bonds drive still continues in Alberta, with quotas being passed daily. Film and theatre men have taken a prominent part in this drive. Last week, Harvey Harnick of Columbia went to Three Hills where he organized a district committee, gave a few speeches and got the campaign off to a good start.

OTTAWA

OFFICIAL notice has been given of the transfer of property in the retail business section of Ottawa from Famous Players Canadian Corp. to the F. W. Woolworth Company for the sum of $200,000 on which a new "5 and 10" will be built. Famous Players bought the site some years ago for a large theatre, but the work was never started, the vacant part of the property having been used as a parking lot for the Capitol in recent years . . . Finley McRae, administrator of the estate of Harry M. Brouse, has been elected a director of the Ontario division of the Red Cross Society of Canada.

John Grierson of London, England, Canada's film commissioner, gave a speech before the Ottawa Film Society at the National Museum in which he declared that the first documentary film to be produced was "Nanook of the North" which was released about 20 years ago. He traced the development of this type of picture to the propaganda war films of the present day.

Lloyd M. Mills, manager of the Ottawa, Elgin, supervised a preview of "Cheers for Miss Bishop" before an invited audience . . . Clarence Markell, prominent exhibitor of Cornwall, has been busy all winter as manager of the Cornwall Flyers, a formidable team in the hockey group, and made numerous trips to Ottawa when his team engaged the Senators in lively tussles. He is now looking forward to next season.

Manager Herb Marshall of the Rideau has found the newsreels so important in these war days, that he has adopted the policy of providing a copy of the newsreel synopsis to the cashier so that the latter can give details to telephone inquirers. That Marshall is quick to seize opportunities, is indicated by the fact that, immediately following an announcement that Errol Flynn would come to Ottawa for the making of a picture, "Bush Pilot," he played "The Sea Hawk" and featured the name of Flynn.

The Ottawa Fair, which had been called off because of the war, is to be revived this year, it has been announced. The Fair, which is held during the third week in August, brings many visitors to the capital and the theatres were among those who benefited.

Allen Acquires PRC's Canadian Franchise

TORONTO—Harry J. Allen, general manager of Grand National Films, Ltd., has secured the Canadian franchise for 10 features of Producers Releasing Corp. In addition, arrangements have been made to import eight western features. Canadian Grand National, which is a separately organized independent distributing company, has booked several serials.

Negotiations have resulted in the securing of 12 British features from the British Picture Corp., Ltd., for distribution in Canada. These include both comedies and war dramas.

Defends Production Progress in Canada

OTTAWA—There is a kickback on a recent quoted declaration of John Grierson of London, England, who is continuing as Canadian film commissioner, to the effect that "production of any sort, except newsreels, had never been developed here," the "here" meaning Canada.

This comment caused some conversational criticism in film trade circles but it has remained for E. C. Roberts of Associated Screen News, Ltd., to discuss openly Grierson's reported remarks, which were used in a statement apparently issued from the commissioner's office.

Roberts has pointed out quite emphatically that "there is more than one company producing motion pictures of one type or another in Canada." He says that he does not question the capabilities of Grierson, but takes issue with the suggested lack of production progress in the Dominion. Roberts has asked that an opportunity be provided, in a more or less official manner, for "due recognition to those motion picture producers who are extending every effort to serve Canada well."

As an example of Canadian film producing value, Roberts points to the current three-reel picture, "Peoples of Canada," which, incidentally, was made by Associated Screen News, Ltd., for the Nation Film Board of which Grierson is the general supervisor.

ST. JOHN

MITCHELL FRANKLIN was in New York on an equipment-buying mission for the Franklin-Herschorn circuit. Mitchell is the son of Joseph M. Franklin, head of the "Frankhorn" theatres, who is now sojourning in Miami Beach for the winter . . . The Capitol in St. George, N. B., operated by the Sprague Bros., replaces the old theatre of the same name which will be kept fully equipped and used on occasion.

Reg March, in charge at 20th-Fox, has had a very active season as a curler. He is not only enthusiastic but a worthy manipulator of the stones, thus keeping faith with his Scottish ancestry . . . M. E. Walker of Halifax, N. S., has added two theatres to his string, in Barrington Passage and New Germany, both in Nova Scotia . . . William R. Steen, employed in the 20th-Fox exchange, is also an amateur actor and director of note.

Charles E. Staples, operating the Queen at St. Stephens, N. B., is the father of Dee Staples, one of the first Canadians killed in action with the Royal Air Force . . . Film exchanges and theatres of St. John were represented by floral tokens and staff members at the obsequies of James A. "Sandy" Golding, who had been assisting his brother, Walter R. Golding, in the operation of the Community, West St. John.

WINNIPEG

AT THE TIVOLI, Harold Gray is in his element with his current British hit, George Formby in "Let George Do It." Gray has gotten to work, giving his show wide publicity through the medium of throwaways distributed through *Liberty* magazine and wide newspaper advertising. Located in a thickly populated English district, the Tivoli should do well with the Formby film . . . A film dealing with the inside of Nazi Germany and billed as "The Curse of the Gestapo" has been announced for early showing in this territory.

Harold Bishop is still walking around wreathed in smiles at the break he got when Ginger Rogers received the Academy Award for her work in "Kitty Foyle" concurrently with his playing of the show. Harold took full advantage of the opportunity to exploit the occasion . . . The Garrick got a nice break when a glowing eulogy of "So Ends Our Night" broke in one of the papers from the typewriter of Frank Morriss, local film writer.

Grand National's "Mein Kampf" is still going strong, this week playing an engagement at the Times . . . Vic Rackow has been elected president of the Winnipeg Film Board of Trade to replace D. Brickman, who resigned recently . . . Jack Swartz, managing director of the Regent, was honored by his many friends on his 18th wedding anniversary.

E. A. Zorn, western district manager for Famous Players, has left on a tour of the circuit . . . Sam Rosenblatt, supervisor for Western Theatres, reports great improvement in the condition of Mrs. Rosenblatt, who found it necessary to go south for her health.

Jack Miles, president of Western Theatres, Ltd., and Sam Weiner of Main Street houses are both holidaying in Florida . . . Jim Hobman of the Rose has been doing some outstanding exploitations at that house. As has Jack Randall at the College.

A. M. Knowles, secretary of the Manitoba Motion Pictures Ass'n, has been confined to the hospital . . . Sim Rost, Garrick manager, who has been on the sick list for a long time, is making good progress . . . Nate Rothstein, head of the Rothstein circuit, has been confined to his home since his return from a visit over the circuit.

Visitors to the city included Paul Nathanson of Minneapolis; Harry Hurwitz, formerly of Winnipeg and now of the Tivoli, Saskatoon; Carl Reluf of McKenzie Island, and F. Chickowiski of Grandview.

"It's in the Air" Into Seventh Bijou Week

WINNIPEG—Setting a record for Main Street house holdovers, Garnet Wright has taken the British film hit, "It's in the Air," into its seventh straight week at his Bijou. Popularity of the film is on the increase and business is getting better as time goes on. At present it looks good for another seven weeks.

VANCOUVER

IVAN ACKERY of the Orpheum is very busy these days. He is reseating his house and also in the midst of promoting a seven-week contest called "Search for Talent." Over 3,000 people cast votes for participants in the first show. Winners of each of the seven contests will receive a watch, and will be matched in the closing contest. The final winner will receive $100 in cash and the runner-up, $50.

According to Ben Plottel, British Columbia branch manager, all employes of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., have been organized in pledges to invest a percentage of their salaries in government war certificates . . . Ted Bobier of the South Wells Theatre, South Wells, B. C., is the proud father of twin girls. Mrs. Bobier is doing well, and Ted is just managing to survive.

Empire-Universal announces its annual sales convention will be held this year, March 27 to April 2. It is planned to have all managers and salesmen attend these meetings when various products released by the company will be discussed . . . Extremely mild weather has helped business in local houses considerably.

Arthur Graburn, former booker for independent interests, has been appointed booker for the Odeon Theatres of Canada . . . J. E. Archer of Sovereign Films announces the company's new offices are located at 1014 Davie St. . . . A number of local theatremen are planning to attend the Empress Golf Tournament at Victoria, B. C.

Complete Improvements At Swift Current Lyric

SWIFT CURRENT, SASK.—Swift Current Amusement Co. has finished a $10,000 renovation program on the Lyric.

Seating capacity has been increased from 504 to 550. There are now two aisles 4½ feet wide instead of three at three feet. Aisle lights have been added.

Interior walls have been re-designed and covered with new insulite in color. The back partition has been built in the staggered style to better control sound. The aisle entrances now have two doors, eliminating drafts, noises, etc.

Lorre in "Uniform"

HOLLYWOOD—Metro has added Peter Lorre to the cast of "The Uniform."

"Wind" Calgary Return Draws Long Lines

Calgary—Heartening to local showmen have been the lines forming daily during the return engagement of "Gone With the Wind." Reminiscent of oldtime enthusiasm and of "movie consciousness," the steady attendance held up to closing day. A four-inch snowfall with temperatures hovering around the 20's proved no hindrance. The first showing on the Saturday morning, starting at 8:45, drew a near-capacity crowd.

Tribute to Newman Before Departure

WINNIPEG—More than 80 members of the local trade attended a function last week in honor of Eddie Newman, one of the most popular members of the fraternity here. The occasion was the departure of Newman for Toronto, and the showmen were present to pay their respects and bid him farewell.

Eddie, long-time manager of the Lyceum here, resigned his post to become manager of Nat Taylor's Midtown in Toronto. His friends and associates turned out en masse to make the occasion the biggest affair of its kind ever held here.

Together with countless expressions of good wishes, Eddie was presented with a steamer trunk, the collective gift of the members of the trade.

Harry Gray Succeeds Newman at Lyceum

WINNIPEG—The departure of Eddie Newman for Toronto has resulted in a number of changes in the personnel of local houses. Taking his place as manager of the Lyceum is Harry Gray, hard-working manager of the Starland. Replacing Gray at the Starland is Bernie Beach, formerly doorman at the Capitol, who received his training under able Harold Bishop. Bernie is a brother of Ken Beach of Western Theatres, Ltd.

A Winning Program in London

LONDON, ONT.—Both stars who won the Academy Awards as 1940's best, appeared on local screens simultaneously, when Manager William Trudell of the Capitol booked "Kitty Foyle" which stars Ginger Rogers, and Manager Fred Jackson at Loew's booked "Philadelphia Story" in which James Stewart earned his award.

Rifle Candy Machine

LONDON, ONT.—The Century, in nearby Kitchener, lost $60 from a candy machine, to a thief who evidently hid in the house until it was locked up, and then went to work on the machine with a screwdriver.

Whelpley to Universal

ST. JOHN, N. B.—Ernest A. Whelpley, onetime manager of the RKO exchange here, has been added to the sales staff at Empire-Universal.

Bows to Opposition

SHERBROOKE, QUE.—"This Thing Called Love" was withdrawn from the Granada after Roman Catholic opposition.

R. A. Herring Dead

MONTREAL—Robert Allan Herring, co-operator of the Mount Royal Theatre, is dead here at 56.

The "Jersey Lily" Recalls Memories

New Glasgow, N. S.—When "The Westerner" played the Roseland here, N. W. Mason, operating that theatre, went back in memory to his youth.

Now 78, and one of the oldest active showmen in Canada, he was a callboy in a Boston legit theatre when 10. One of those he summoned to the stage from dressing rooms, was the late Lily Langtry. Mason went nostalgic when Lily was depicted on lithos and in the flesh as the remote control inamorata of Walter Brennan and Brennan's inspiration for renaming the prairie town he provided the totalitarian government for as Judge Bean.

Mason, who saw the picture every time it was run at his theatre, says the screen flash of Langtry, the "Jersey Lily," was lifelike.

EDMONTON

CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S "The Great Dictator" will be shown for one week at the Rialto beginning March 15, according to Manager Jay Lieberman.

H. A. Friedman, proprietor of the Rialto, has left for a combined business and pleasure trip which will take him to Toronto, Montreal, New York and Buffalo.

The Princess has added a weekly community sing to its stage entertainment. Amateur contests for adults and children are already held weekly by this house.

Stage specialties have been added to the performance at the Varscona. These include jitterbug, singing and step dancing turns.

In his new capacity as manager for Alberta and British Columbia of the new Odeon coast-to-coast chain of picture houses, Walter J. Long, former manager of the Rialto, was a recent visitor to Edmonton.

: SASKATCHEWAN :

JACK ZAITZOW, owner of the Roxy, was in Watrous recently conferring with his manager, F. E. Phomin.

Dreamland, Rockglen, has added new seats . . . Owing to uncertain weather conditions, the Climax, Climax, is billing only two shows monthly.

H. B. Narfason, manager of the Foam Lake Theatre, Foam Lake, has returned from a business trip to Winnipeg where he booked "Gone With the Wind" for May.

The Roxy at Yorkton was damaged by smoke when fire swept an adjacent store. About 100 patrons retired and came back later when the fire was under control.

Metro Honor Roll Plan Gains in Popularity

NEW YORK—With the names of more than a hundred showmen representing every section of the United States and Canada already inscribed on its roster, the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Exploitation Honor Roll has launched its second half year in operation, an undisputed success in spurring managers on to greater exploitation efforts and higher boxoffice returns.

More than a thousand campaigns have been submitted to date and the winners arrived at through a process of selective elimination by the Honor Roll judges committee.

The service was created by Howard Dietz, executive in charge of promotion for M-G-M, and supervised by W. R. Ferguson, director of exploitation. It was designed to bestow some sort of tangible credit—something a man could show—for putting across a distinctive campaign on any Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture.

A striking lapel button with blue and gold border and inset with the figure of a lion is sent to showmen sending in campaigns which are judged suitable for Honor Roll placement. A committee of three in New York studies all qualifying campaigns and passes on their merit.

The idea to reward showmen for exploitation campaigns caught on instantly. Campaigns have been received from managers of independent theatres, and circuit and chain theatres. One large group of managers in a Northwest chain even went so far as to sign an elaborate round robin pledging that each signer would achieve the Honor Roll at some future date. Branch offices have started vying with each other for the distinction of being the country's top Honor Roll award winner.

Eligible for Plaque

After an exhibitor is placed on the Honor Roll he is eligible to try for an award plaque which will be presented to those submitting six successful Honor Roll campaigns within a period of one year. A lapel button is awarded for the first campaign, and for each succeeding campaign, to the sixth, the winning showman receives a differently colored card, congratulating him on his achievements.

After the campaigns are accepted for the Honor Roll they are reprinted and distributed throughout the country to exhibitors, trade papers, daily newspapers, executives of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and officials of various theatre chains and circuits.

Since its inception M-G-M announces a tremendous increase in the number of complete campaigns being staged in theatres about the country.

The Honor Roll is open to every showman and campaigns are received at the Exploitation Department, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 1540 Broadway, New York City.

"Kisses for Breakfast"—



How They Get 'Em—



How They Want 'Em—

"They" are the 300 Chicago housewives who have banded together to demand more attention from their husbands in the mornings. To that end has been organized the "Kisses for Breakfast" Club, with every housewife in the country having a standing invitation to join. The organizational hand of Publicist Monroe Rubinger may be discerned when it is recalled that Warner has "Kisses for Breakfast" coming up for release. At any rate, the wire photo news services have the stunt.

The Ad on the Lobby Floor

New Haven—On the lobby floor of the Loew-Poli Theatre are long walks of rubber matting, laid in segments. Removing several of these segments from different parts of the matting, Manager Bob Russell substituted plywood inserts that announced the forthcoming "Tobacco Road."

Heavy Radio Buildup for "Road to Zanzibar"

NEW YORK—One of the heaviest radio buildups given a picture is scheduled for "Road to Zanzibar," the Crosby-Hope-Lamour starrer, according to Robert M. Gillham, Paramount director of advertising and publicity.

The week-to-week breaks set for the picture over the major networks are as follows:

February 17—Dorothy Lamour guest-starred on the Lux CBS program.

February 23—Bob Hope and Bing Crosby guest-starred on the Gulf Oil Screen Guild program.

April 1—Kate Smith will guest star on Bob Hope's program.

April 4—Hope and Lamour will appear on the Kate Smith program.

April 8—Crosby will guest star on Bob Hope's program, plugging their picture. Hope will reciprocate on Crosby's program.

April 7, 9, 11—Hedda Hopper program (CBS) will carry a dramatization of Crosby's life.

Silent Paging

HARTFORD—Manager Frederick R. Greenway has put up a specially designed shadow box with a series of numbers to facilitate paging at the Palace. Medical men attending shows are assigned numbers from 1 to 10, and if they are needed during the performance their numbers are flashed on the board.

March of Time on Three Hit Show

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.—The Loew Poli Majestic here gave the March of Time "Americans All" equal prominence in advertising and the theatre front with two other features in a program billed as "3 Hit Show."

PHILADELPHIA STORY—Patrons were permitted to make records in the lobby, over a radio set with a recorder attached, reading from the film's script.

PHILADELPHIA STORY—Records made by local film critics endorsing the picture were run just before the trailer.

TRIAL OF MARY DUGAN—A tab-sized herald with a giant "Extra" across the top was distributed.

LAND OF LIBERTY—A private screening for city officials, club officers and school leaders netted endorsements that made up a 40x60 lobby board display. The mayor made a proclamation for the film which broke the front page of the local paper and the school superintendent sent an endorsement to all school heads in the state. Stores cooperated with a two-page tieup in the paper and displayed flags during the engagement. Sixteen hundred county school children came to a special morning matinee in bannered busses.

KITTY FOYLE—A typing contest was held in a business school with the winning typist given a prize and employed at the theatre the day before the film's opening, to type notes advertising the picture and hand them to patrons.

BUCK PRIVATES—A potato chip company cooperated by furnishing small cellophane bags of their product to be stapled to a card, 10½"x4½" and printed with playdate copy and the catchline: "Here's your first taste of army life." These cards with the potato chip bags attached were piled in a bushel basket in the lobby. Alongside the basket sat a young soldier peeling potatoes. A sack of the spuds and a pup tent near him lent the atmosphere. A lobby board read: "Step up and get your first taste of army life, free, then see (title and playdate copy)." A line or so credited the cooperating potato chip company.

INVISIBLE WOMAN—A two-column by five-inch ad in the paper consisted of a framed blank space, captioned "This is a famous portrait of the 'Invisible Woman' . . . So you don't see anything . . . Well, you will see something that's completely different when you see (cast, title and playdate)."

SO ENDS OUR NIGHT—Five thousand numbered cards, 25 of the numbers matching, were printed up on three separate colors of paper and distributed to boys and girls at the schools and to factory employes. The colors identified the cards whether a boy's, girl's or employes. Copy on the cards invited recipients to match numbers for free admission and carried picture copy. Also 5,000 heralds, copy slanted to: "Girls, what sacrifices would you make to win the man you love?" were distributed to women and girls in offices and factories.

SO ENDS OUR NIGHT—A radio station nightly signed off with "This is station WHP signing off—'So Ends Our Night.'"

HONOR ROLL

Showmen whose exploitation activities flank this column.

Eli Arkin
Avalon, Chicago
Woody Barritt
Miller, Wichita, Kans.
Mort Berman
Orpheum, Springfield, Ill.
M. J. Blair
Regent, Cedar Falls, Ia.
Al Blasko
Parthenon, Chicago
Louis Charninsky
Rialto, Dallas
Marlowe Conner
Sheboygan, Sheboygan, Wis.
David Dallas
Kansan, Parsons, Kans.
Bill Elder
Loew's, Harrisburg, Pa.
Harry Frederickson
Lafayette, Lafayette, Ind.
Henry Hall
Jefferson, Charlottesville, Va.
Gene Lutes
Capitol, Frankfort, Ky.
Harold H. Marshall
Metro exploiteer.
Joseph D. Nevison
Bromley, Philadelphia
Lester Pollock
Loew's, Rochester, N. Y.
Charles Raymond, Joe Longo
Loew's, Cleveland
Jack Simons
Loew's State, Providence, R. I.
E. J. Sorenson
Grand, Esterville, Ia.
Arnold Stoltz
Avon, Utica, N. Y.
Edward J. Sullivan
Majestic, Dallas

A leading clergyman used the title as the theme of a lecture. Daily for 10 days in advance, a bridge club was phoned and a pair of guest tickets offered to the person answering the phone providing they could name two stars from the picture.

LAND OF LIBERTY—A screening was held for chamber of commerce members, educators, city officials, American Legion members and representatives of various clubs. Mayor designated a "Land of Liberty" Day. PTA plugged picture at special meetings and sent letters to membership. Double page cooperative ad in the paper, local merchants paying for space. Metro representative interviewed over university radio station in advance of opening. Phone calls, letters and cards were made by officers to their organizations. Schools posted notices on their bulletin boards and 50 busses were placarded.

GO WEST—Inside a chicken wire cage, mounted on a platform in the lobby, were three stuffed squirrels with napkins around their necks and the floor set with dishes, silver, glasses, etc. Card in front of the cage read "Please don't feed the animals." A larger card, made up as a menu and captioned "Ye Olde Squirrel Food Inn Menu" read on: Walnuts, pecan nuts, chestnuts, peanuts, butternuts." Through each of these a line was drawn, as though scratched from the menu, and below, labeled "special," were listed "Nuts a la Groucho Marx; nuts a la Chico Marx; nuts a la Harpo Marx, signed 'Go West.'"

Another display was a nut counting contest in which a double glass door was stuffed with peanuts and a card in the center of the display offered 25 passes for the closest guesses. Nearby was a ballot box and mimeographed slips of paper for patrons to sign and mark their guesses thereon.

ANDY HARDY'S PRIVATE SECRETARY—A radio contest asked listeners to name the films in which Mickey Rooney has appeared to date and to write a short letter telling which they liked best. Cash prizes and guest tickets went to winners.

STRAWBERRY BLONDE—Advertising that strawberry blondes accompanied by two escorts would be admitted free to midnight show, netted a feature story in the paper to the effect the management was experimenting as to whether men preferred "Strawberry Blondes."

HONEYMOON FOR THREE—In the personals column of the daily recently appeared the following ad: "Rialto Theatre wishes to contact couple marrying Friday with added guest to attend showing of 'Honeymoon for Three,' as guests of honor Friday night. Also complimentary dinner, dancing and nuptial chambers night of wedding. Guest MUST leave couple at midnight. Call Louis Charninsky, Rialto 7-8401." The newspaper cooperated with a story.

MR. AND MRS. SMITH—In a tieup with a newspaper for a want-ad campaign, free tickets were given all Smiths placing ads in the publication. The newspaper also called all Smiths in town notifying them of the picture and soliciting ads.

SECOND CHORUS—Special teaser cards on Artie Shaw with "jive" vocabulary were distributed by ushers at their high schools. Also at various dance spots. Copy led off with "C'mon gates—get in the groove with Artie Shaw and his band in 'Second Chorus,' . . . etc."

THIEF OF BAGDAD—A library's collection of "Arabian Nights" in 53 languages made up a crowd-attracting exhibit in the Cleveland union station. It was displayed against a background of costumes from the film. Five thousand bookmarks were distributed through libraries.

THIEF OF BAGDAD—A dozen vari-colored balloons, with a pair of passes attached to each, were released in front of the theatre at noon on opening day. The local newspaper took pictures of the act.

Red, White and Blue Hawaii

Paramount (Paragraphic, in color) 11 *Mins.*

Timely. In second-rate color the sugar and pineapple industries are documented. Then the accent is on the strategic position of the islands and the armed forces stationed there. If the emphasis were placed wholly on the latter, audiences would relish it at the moment. As it evolves, it's a so-so offering.

Speaking of Animals

Paramount (Animated Antic) 9 *Mins.*

Excellent. Subtitled "Down on the Farm," this reel is solid, laughter-laden entertainment. Regulation shots of horses, chickens, ducks, pigs, cows and other barnyard denizens have been doctored up with a unique kind of animation. The animals appear to speak—the lip and mouth movements having been dubbed in. Each beast or fowl has something amusing to say. In any case, the short will hand audiences a pleasant surprise.

Variety Reel

Republic (Meet the Stars) 9 *Mins.*

Fair. A fashion show with the children of big name players wearing the clothes; between scenes at the Republic studios with Gene Autry, Jimmy Durante and Ann Miller; tea at Louella Parson's ranch and the presentation of the *Redbook* film award at Ciro's make up the issue. It's all quite average.

Splits, Spares and Strikes

Columbia (World of Sports) 10 *Mins.*

Worthwhile. Bowling as pursued by women makes up the subject in this offering. There is comic relief, not too funny; trick shots, slow-motion effects and hints to those interested. Trillie Taylor is the expert. She's good. Everybody bowls these days. Get 'em interested.

Caballero College

RKO (Sportscope) 9 *Mins.*

Very good. The Chilean cavalry school near Valparaiso and members of the internationally famous timber topping team go through their paces, the net result being a fine collection of thrilling photographic compositions. Everybody likes horses; everybody should like this short.

Prairie Spooners

RKO (Ray Whitley) 13 *Mins.*

Good. This is a neat item to run in with a western feature program. Musically, it rates with the best outdoor items. A slight story thread serves effectively as a frame for the tunes.

International Forum

Columbia 18 *Mins.*

(Round Table of the Screen)

Controversial. Exhibitors should view this subject very carefully before booking it. While such prominent radio broadcasting and journalistic names as Dorothy Thompson, Wythe Williams, William L. Shirer and Linton Wells are the opinionators, the question arises as to whether the newspapers, radio, magazines and even the people met on the streets have not all gone over Hitler's aims in this country as well as abroad. Some audiences may agree with the remarks of the four spokesmen; others may not, but the fact is theatre owners must resolve for themselves whether this subject could be classified as entertainment.

Despite the frightening aspects of the conclusions drawn from the informal debate by the four speakers, they all agree 1941 spells doom for Nazism.

Take It or Leave It No. 3

Columbia 11 *Mins.*

Routine. Bob Hawk has a new collection of stooges who answer his queries on precious stones, comic strips, sports, animals. One makes off with $64.

Sniffles Bells the Cat

Vitaphone (Merrie Melodie) 7 *Mins.*

Swell. This color cartoon is generally above par for its story and treatment. Meek little Sniffles is chosen by his "gang" to string a bell around the household cat the better to hear it when there's pilfering going on. The task is accomplished through some dangerous escapades, but Sniffles reports the incident as though it was executed with the greatest of ease.

Pluto's Playmate

Disney-RKO (Cartoon) 8 *Mins.*

Good. In his nosing around on a beach with a rubber ball, Pluto runs into the playful capers of a baby seal who promptly snitches the ball and starts out to sea. Pluto, in pursuit, tangles with an octopus. The seal saves Pluto's life, revives him and they hit it off amicably.

Community Sing

Columbia (Series 5, No. 5) 10 *Mins.*

Fair. Where this sort of thing has been successful in the past, this is worth booking. Songs are on the schmaltzy side, liberally corned.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Movietone News, No. 51

War scenes: England, Libya, India; U. S. defense; Rickenbacker in airplane crash; Roosevelt in address to Academy dinner; Cleveland Indians in training; Chicago Cubs in spring practice; Santa Anita Handicap.

News of the Day, No. 249

British army advances toward Tripoli; Balkan crisis; royal family visits "blitzed" Portsmouth; bombing planes flown to England; Roosevelt praises film industry; settle steel strike; accident in Miami outboard motorboat race; roller skating in Chicago; Santa Anita Handicap.

Paramount News, No. 54

Steel strike settled; dedicate bridge over Niagara River; plane crash near Atlanta; naturalization ceremonies in Portland, Ore.; triplets born to cow; Churchill inspects defenses; British forces in Africa; baseball in Havana; New Orleans girls team in practice; racing, Miami, Santa Anita.

RKO Pathe News, No. 54

End steel strike; fall of Tobruk; Winant leaves for London; President lauds film industry; troop movement completed in Oklahoma; fire at Fort Myers; Chicago roller skating; Santa Anita and Miami racing; new citizens at Portland, Ore.

Universal Newsreel, No. 959

Roosevelt lauds film industry in radio talk; Italian fort in Libya taken by British; Italian prisoners in India; steel strike ends; troops at Fort Sill, Okla.; seven dead in Georgia plane crash; roller skating derby in Chicago; regatta in Miami; Widener Handicap in Miami.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Movietone News, No. 52

Ford turns out scouting cars for army; 20,000 in steel mill work at top speed for defense output; free French navy in Scotland; schoolboys of 16 train for RAF; largest California family on picnic; Red Cross finds country havens for London children; Golden Gloves bouts; basketball.

News of the Day, No. 250

Schoolboys train for RAF; Red Cross evacuates children from London; England motorizes machine gun units; carnival climax in Rio de Janeiro; scouting cars made by Ford tested in Michigan; baseball training roundup; basketball.

Paramount News, No. 55

Golden Gloves bouts; Connie Mack in California prepares for baseball season; skiing; trappers and fishermen from remote Louisiana marshlands celebrate belated Christmas; Academy awards; President addresses film industry; Texas inventors show inventions; search for lost baby in New York City.

RKO Pathe News, No. 55

Day in sergeant's life at Fort Dix; Lord Baden-Powell buried in Africa; army tests Ford combat cars; launch ship for South American trade; Vice-President Wallace addresses South American group; carnival time in Rio de Janeiro; chefs display art at Chicago show; California's biggest family on picnic; basketball; Golden Gloves.

Universal Newsreel, No. 960

British hold invasion maneuvers; British coast patrol busy; army tests combat cars; navy graduates radio class; plane engines donated to England; launch new cargo ship; inventors show inventions in Texas; auto race on ice; basketball; Golden Gloves; skiing.



Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ✪ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
AUG. 3		2 Costume Com. **46** ⊙**Pride and Prejudice** (118) Greer Garson Laurence Olivier	5 Melodrama **3908** **Doomed to Die** (67) Boris Karloff R—Aug. 10	2 Melodrama **3942** **Golden Gloves** (69) Richard Denning Jean Cagney R—Aug. 3	30 Western **956** **Ranger and the Lady** (59) R. Rogers R—July 27	2 Drama **061** ✪**Queen of Destiny** (95) R-Nov. 26, '38 as "60 Glorious Years"	2 Drama **101** **The Man I Married** Joan Bennett (77) Francis Lederer R—July 20		2 Melodrama **4039** **South to Karanga** (69) Charles Bickford R—Aug. 3	3 Drama **FN460** **They Drive by Night** (95) R—July 20 George Raft Ann Sheridan	3 Western **152** **Gun Code** (55) Tim McCoy
AUG. 10	7 Drama **1008** **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama **50** **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama **3943** **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical **910** **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama **042** **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama **104** **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy **4003** **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram. **WB414** **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama **1039** **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 15 Western **2201** **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy **49** **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama **3913** **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 Western **3958** **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	16 Comedy **3944** **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western **071** **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama **041** **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama **103** ⊙**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama **WB417** **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama **1006** **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama **3939** **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western **RB-1** **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama **3945** **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda **171** **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama **043** **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R—Aug. 24	23 Drama **106** **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. **WB412** **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama **48** **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama **3903** **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western **069** **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy **924** **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy **046** **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama **038** **Lucky Partners** (101) R. Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy **109** **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama **WB401** **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 Mystery **103** **Marked Men** (69) Warren Hull R—Feb. 1—PG-18
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy **1022** **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama **101** **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama **3920** **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. **4001** **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western **043** **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama **101** **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	6 Melodrama **110** **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (?2) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. **5013** **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. **WB519** **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama **2032** **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama **1024** **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama **102** **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carrillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama **3914** **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama **017** **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept. 14	13 Comedy **102** **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 Comedy **105** **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. **5006** **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama **5051** **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 Comedy **FN554** **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama **1001** ✪**The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 Mus. Com. **104** **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama **4021** **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordan R—Oct. 5	20 Drama **4002** **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western **051** **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western **086** **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama **116** **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Action Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama **5020** **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 Western **5061** **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 Drama **WB506** **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 Western **153** **Arizona Gang Busters** (60) Tim McCoy
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama **1040** **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama **1009** **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct. 12	27 Comedy **103** **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery **105** **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama **4001** **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama **4003** **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western **062** **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama **103** **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama **107** **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama **5046** **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. **5001** **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 Western **158** **Billy the Kid in Texas** (55) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western **2209** **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy **106** **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama **4022** **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama **4004** **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 Western **072** **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western **181** **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama **108** **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama **5019** **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama **WB502** **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Drama **2018** **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama **107** **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Lov	7 Western **RB-2** **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-	11 Drama **4005** **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix	11 Mus. Com. **005** **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs	11 Burl. Com. **105** **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R—Aug. 3 Anita Louise	11 Mus. Com. **113** ⊙**Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche		11 Melodrama **5017** **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean	12 Comedy **FN559** **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell	

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
OCT. 19	[17] Drama **2030** **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows R—Feb. 1—PG-18		[7] Com. Dr. **4010** **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	[18] Drama **4005** **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	[15] Mus. Com. **001** **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	[18] Melodrama **107** **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	[18] Drama **114** **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		[18] Western **5052** **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	[19] Hist. Dr. **WB511** **Dispatch From Reuter's** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	[24] Drama **2038** **Girls Under 21** (64) R—Nov. 30 [21] Western **2202** **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	[25] Comedy **109** **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		[25] Drama **4007** **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 [25] Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	[21] Western **052** **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	[25] Melodrama **104** **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	[25] Comedy **111** **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		[18] Comedy **5024** **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 [25] Drama **5007** **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	[26] Com. Dr. **FN561** **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	[31] Comedy **2016** **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	[1] Drama **106** **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		[1] Musical **4008** **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	[1] Mystery **006** **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	[1] Comedy **109** **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			[1] Comedy **5036** **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 [1] Melodrama **5052** **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	[2] Comedy **FN570** **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		[8] Musical **110** **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	[11] Western **4051** **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	[8] Musical **4009** **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	[7] Mus. Comedy **007** **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	[8] Comedy **106** **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	[8] Melodrama **117** **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		[8] Comedy **5021** **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 [8] Western **5063** **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	[9] Drama **FN562** **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	
NOV. 16	[14] Western **2210** **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	[16] Drama **111** **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	[18] Mystery **4012** **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	[15] Western **4050** **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	[11] Western **063** **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	[15] Comedy **111** **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	[15] Drama **102** **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		[15] Drama **5015** **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	[16] Drama **WB513** **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Brenda Marshall R—Dec. 21	[11] Western **154** **Riders of Black Mountain** (59) Tim McCoy
NOV. 23	[23] Mystery **2021** **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30 [28] Drama **2012** **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30	[22] Comedy **112** **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	[25] Western **RB-3** **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		[15] Western **041** **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 [22] Western **073** **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	[22] Mus. Com. **108** **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	[22] Comedy **119** **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	[22] Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	[22] Comedy **5023** **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 [22] Drama **R5048** **Next Time We Love** (87)	[23] Drama **FN552** **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	[30] Mystery **2024** **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	[29] Drama **115** **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			[29] Comedy **018** **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karnes R—Nov. 30	[29] Drama **113** **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	[29] Drama **120** **Tin Pan Alley** (94) R—Nov. 30 Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable	[29] Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	[29] Comedy **5010** **Bank Dick, The** (72) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	[30] Drama **WB512** **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	[5] Western **2203** **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	[6] Comedy **114** **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		[6] Mus. Com. **4011** **Night at Earl Carroll's, A** (63) Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	[5] Western **053** **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	[6] Western **182** **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	[6] Drama **118** **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		[6] Comedy **5026** **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	[7] Comedy **FN571** **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	
DEC. 14	[9] Drama **2031** **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	[13] Drama **113** **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		[13] Western **4012** **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	[6] Comedy **008** **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		[13] Mystery **121** **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		[13] Drama **5008** **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		[13] Com. Mys. **105** **Devil Bat** (69) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 21	[20] Mystery **2033** **Phantom Submarine** (69) Anita Louise R—Feb. 22—PG-30			[27] Outd'r Dr. **3946** **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	[20] Drama **009** **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	[20] Drama **114** **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	[20] Comedy **122** **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		[20] Drama **5025** **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	[21] **Reissue** **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	[20] Com. Drama **104** **Misbehaving Husbands** (66) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	[25] Outd'r Dr. **2101** **Arizona** (128) R—Nov. 23 [31] Western **2211** **Wildcat of Tucson** (64) Bill Elliott R—Feb. 22—PG-30	[27] Comedy **116** **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	[22] Drama **4003** **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 [29] Western **4052** **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) R—Feb. 1—PG-17	[27] Comedy **4013** **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	[23] Western **064** **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	[27] Drama **112** **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Dennis Morgan R—Dec. 21	[27] Drama **123** **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	[25] Fantasy **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	[27] Mys. Com. **5018** **Invisible Woman** (73) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan. 4—PG-1	[28] Adv. Dr. **FN551** **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	[27] Western **159** **Billy the Kid's Gun Justice** (63) Bob Steele
JAN. 4	[2] Comedy **2205** **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	[3] Drama **117** **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		[3] Musical **4014** **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	[27] Drama **019** **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	[3] Drama **161** **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	[3] Drama **115** **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		[3] Com. Drama **5030** **Where Did You Get That Girl** (65) R—Dec. 28 [3] Adv. Drama **5053** **Lucky Devils** (62)	[4] M'drama **WB503** **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	
JAN. 11	[9] Western **2204** **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett R—Feb. 8—PG-23	[10] Com. Drama **118** **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	[5] Western **RB-4** **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (60) Range Busters R—Mar. 8—PG-38	[10] Western **4051** **Doomed Caravan** (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	[6] Western **074** **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	[10] Drama **110** **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	[10] Melodrama **124** **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	[10] Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	[10] Western **5064** **Boss of Bullion City** (59) [10] Drama **5027** **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	[11] M'drama **FN572** **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon R—Feb. 1—PG-19	[10] Western **163** **Lone Rider Rides On** (61) George Houston R—Mar. 1—PG-35
JAN. 18	[16] Mys. Dr. **2029** **Face Behind the Mask** (69) Peter Lorre R—Feb. 15—PG-26	[17] Drama **119** **Philadelphia Story** (112) R—Nov. 30 **Gone With the Wind** (225) R—Dec. 23, '39	[15] Mystery **Dead Man's Shoes** (....) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	[17] Drama **4015** **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	[14] Western **054** **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers R—Jan. 18—PG-10	[17] Musical **115** **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	[17] Act. Drama **125** **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		[17] Comedy **5022** **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (62) Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	[18] Com. Dr. **WB510** **Honeymoon for Three** (76) George Brent R—Jan. 25—PG-13	[17] Comedy **107** **Caught in the Act** (62) Henry Armetta

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
JAN. 25		[24] Comedy 121 **Wild Man of Borneo** (78) R-Feb. 8-PG-24 [24] Historical **Land of Liberty** (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	[20] Melodrama 4014 **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	[24] Comedy 4016 **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (82) R—Jan. 25—PG-16	[24] Western 044 **Riding on a Rainbow** (79) Gene Autry R—Feb. 1—PG-19	[24] Mystery 116 **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	[24] Drama 128 **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (78) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 25—PG-14	[24] Comedy **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carole Landis R—Feb. 15—PG-25		[25] Drama FN556 **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino R—Jan. 25—PG-16	[24] Western 16 **Billy the Kid's Range War** (61) Bob Steele
FEB. 1	[3] Melodrama 2028 **The Devil Commands** (65) Boris Karloff R—Feb. 22—PG-31	[31] Drama 122 **Come Live With Me** (86) James Stewart R—Feb. 1—PG-17			[28] Comedy 010 **Arkansas Judge** (72) Weaver Bros. R—Jan. 25—PG-14	[31] Comedy 117 **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard R—Jan. 23—PG-13	[31] Drama 127 **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		[31] Comedy 5009 **Buck Privates** (84) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello R—Feb. 8—PG-22	[1] Drama WB520 **Father's Son** (57) John Litel Frieda Inescort R—Feb. 22—PG-31	[31] Mystery 10 **Secret Evidence** (64) Marjorie Reynolds Chas. Quigley R—Feb. 8—PG-23
FEB. 8	[13] Western 2212 **Across the Sierra** (58) Bill Elliott	[7] Comedy 123 **Blonde Inspiration** (72) John Shelton R—Feb. 22—PG-30	[6] Western 4053 **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (61) Tex Ritter R—Mar. 1—PG-35	[7] Mus. Com. 4017 **You're the One** (81) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker R—Feb. 8—PG-21	[31] Comedy 020 **Petticoat Politics** (67) Higgins Family R—Feb. 22—PG-31	[7] Western 183 **Along the Rio Grande** (64) Tim Holt R—Feb. 1—PG-20	[7] Comedy 129 **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (59) Eugene Pallette R—Feb. 15—PG-25		[7] Drama 5002 **Back Street** (89) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer R—Feb. 8—PG-21	[8] Drama WB514 **Flight From Destiny** (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	[18] Drama **Adam Had Four Sons** (81) Warner Baxter R—Feb. 22—PG-32	[14] Drama 125 **Trial of Mary Dugan** (90) Robert Young R—Feb. 15—PG-28		[14] Mystery 4018 **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone R—Feb. 15—PG-26	[14] Western 075 **Phantom Cowboy** (56) Don "Red" Barry	[14] Drama 121 **Play Girl** (77) Kay Francis James Ellison R—Dec. 14	[14] Com. Drama 130 **Golden Hoofs** (68) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers R—Feb. 22—PG-29	[14] Drama **So Ends Our Night** (121) Fredric March Margaret Sullavan R—Feb. 1—PG-20	[14] Comedy 5032 **Meet the Chump** (60) Hugh Herbert R—Feb. 15—PG-28	[15] Comedy WB515 **The Great Mr. Nobody** (71) Eddie Albert Joan Leslie	
FEB. 22	[20] Drama 2027 **Meet Boston Blackie** (61) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson R—Mar. 8—PG-39	[21] Comedy 126 **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (101) R—Mar. 1—PG-36	[19] Air Drama **Flying Wild** (63) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan R—Mar. 8—PG-38	[21] Drama 4019 **Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	[16] Western 065 **Prairie Pioneers** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Mar. 1—PG-35	[21] Com. Drama 123 **Scattergood Baines** (69) Guy Kibbee R—Feb. 15—PG-27	[21] Drama 126 **Western Union** (95) Robert Young R—Feb. 8—PG-24		[21] Mus. Comedy **Nice Girl?** (95) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone R—Mar. 1—PG-36	[22] Com. Dr. FN559 **Strawberry Blonde** (91) James Cagney Olivia de Havilland R—Feb. 22—PG-29	
MAR. 1	[27] Comedy 2015 **Blondie Goes Latin** (69) R-Feb. 22 PG-32 [27] Western 2205 **Outlaws of the Panhandle** (59) Charles Starrett	[28] Com. Dram. 127 **Free and Easy** (55) Ruth Hussey Robert Cummings	[28] Drama **Sign of the Wolf** (....) Grace Bradley Michael Whalen	[28] Drama 4020 **The Monster and the Girl** (65) Ellen Drew Rod Cameron R—Feb. 15—PG-27	[28] Act. Drama 021 **Great Train Robbery** (61) Bob Steele Claire Carleton R—Mar. 8—PG-39	[28] Drama 118 **Citizen Kane** (....) Orson Welles Dorothy Comingore	[28] Mystery 132 **Murder Among Friends** (67) John Hubbard Marjorie Weaver R—Mar. 15—PG-43	[1] Comedy **The Great Dictator** (129) R—Oct. 26 Charles Chaplin Jack Oakie Paulette Goddard	[28] Drama 5040 **Dark Streets of Cairo** (59) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7	[1] Mys. Drama **Shadows on the Stairs** (63) Frieda Inescort Paul Cavanagh	[28] Western 16 **Lone Rider Crosses the Rio** (....) George Houston
MAR. 8	[28] Drama 2044 **Missing Ten Days** [6] Mystery **Lone Wolf Takes a Chance** (76)	[7] Drama 128 **Rage in Heaven** (82) Robert Montgomery Ingrid Bergman R Mar. 15—PG-44		[7] Comedy 4021 **Hard-Boiled Canary** (79) Allan Jones R—Mar. 1—PG-33	[7] Drama 011 **A Man Betrayed** (....) John Wayne Frances Dee		[7] Drama 133 **Tobacco Road** (84) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau R—Mar. 1—PG-33		[7] Comedy **Mr. Dynamite** (63) Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey R—Mar. 15—PG-42	[8] Mys. Dr. WB509 **Footsteps in the Dark** (96) Errol Flynn R—Mar. 8—PG-37	[7] Western 15 **Outlaws of the Rio Grande** (53) Tim McCoy
MAR. 15		[14] Drama **The Penalty** (....) Lionel Barrymore Edward Arnold R—Mar. 15—PG-42		[14] Western 4052 **In Old Colorado** (66) R—Mar. 1—PG-34 William Boyd	[14] Western 045 **Back in the Saddle** (....) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—Mar. 15—PG 43	[14] Comedy 120 **A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (91) George Murphy Lucille Ball R—Mar. 8—PG-37	[14] Drama 134 **Sleepers West** (....) Lloyd Nolan Lynn Bari		[14] Drama **Double Date** (60) Peggy Moran Edmund Lowe	[15] Comedy **Here Comes Happiness** (58) Mildred Coles Edward Norris	
MAR. 22				[21] Comedy 4022 **Lady Eve** (97) Barbara Stanwyck Henry Fonda R—Mar. 8—PG-40		[21] Musical 119 **Footlight Fever** (69) Alan Mowbray Donald McBride	[21] Drama 135 **The Outlaw** (....) Walter Huston Thomas Mitchell	[21] Comedy **Topper Returns** (....) Joan Blondell Carole Landis Roland Young	[21] Drama **The Man Who Lost Himself** (....) Brian Aherne Kay Francis	[22] Drama **The Sea Wolf** (....) Edw. G. Robinson Ida Lupino John Garfield	[22] Western 16 **Billy the Kid's Trigger Pals** (....) Bob Steele
MAR. 29	[24] Mys. Drama **Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery** (68) Ralph Bellamy R—Mar. 1—PG-34	[28] Drama 124 **The Bad Man** (....) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore		[28] Musical 4023 **Las Vegas Nights** (89) Phil Regan Tommy Dorsey	[26] Drama **Mr. District Attorney** (....) Dennis O'Keefe Florence Rice	[28] Drama 124 **Melody for Three** (67) R—Mar. 8—PG-40 [28] Comedy **Reissue** **Vivacious Lady** (....)	[28] Mystery 136 **Dead Men Tell** (....) Sidney Toler Jean Rogers		[28] Drama **Man-Made Monster** (....) [28] Mystery **Horror Island** (....)	[29] Drama **Knockout** (73) Arthur Kennedy Olympe Bradna	[29] Drama **Federal Fugitives** (....)
APR. 5	[31] Western 2213 **North From the Lone Star** (....) Bill Elliott	[4] Com. Drama **Washington Melodrama** (....) Frank Morgan Ann Rutherford		[4] Drama **The Roundup** (90) Richard Dix Pat Morison	[28] Western **In Old Cheyenne** (....) Roy Rogers	[4] Drama 125 **Repent at Leisure** (....) Kent Taylor Wendy Barrie	[4] Mystery 131 **Scotland Yard** (....) John Loder Nancy Kelly Edmund Gwenn		[4] Outdoor Dr. **Lady From Cheyenne** (....) Loretta Young [4] Melodrama **Mutiny in the Arctic** (....)	[5] Mys. Drama **A Shot in the Dark** (....) William Lundigan Nan Wynn	
APR. 12	[10] Act. Drama **The Great Swindle** (....) Jack Holt Marjorie Reynolds	[11] Drama **Men of Boys Town** (....) Spencer Tracy Mickey Rooney R Mar. 15—PG-44		[11] Comedy 4025 **Road to Zanzibar** (92) Bing Crosby Bob Hope R—Mar. 15—PG-41	[6] Comedy **Sis Hopkins** (....) Judy Canova	[11] Comedy 122 **The Devil and Miss Jones** (....) Jean Arthur Charles Coburn	[11] Musical **That Night in Rio** (90) Alice Faye Don Ameche R—Mar. 15—PG-41		[11] Drama **The Flame of New Orleans** (....) Marlene Dietrich Bruce Cabot	[12] Drama **The Great Lie** (....) Bette Davis George Brent	
APR. 19	[17] Com. Drama **Penny Serenade** (....) Irene Dunne Cary Grant	[18] Musical **Ziegfeld Girl** (....) Judy Garland James Stewart Hedy Lamarr		[18] Western 4053 **Border Vigilantes** (62) William Boyd		[18] Western 184 **Robbers of the Range** (....) Tim Holt	[18] Outd'r Drama **Ride On, Vaquero** (....) Cesar Romero			[19] Drama **Strange Alibi** (....) Arthur Kennedy Joan Perry	
APR. 26	[24] Act. Drama **Under Age** (....) Nan Grey Alan Baxter	[25] Drama **People vs. Dr. Kildare** (....) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore		[25] Act. Drama **Power Dive** (....) Richard Arlen Jean Parker	[21] Drama **Lady From New Orleans** (....) Ona Munson John Wayne	[25] Musical 128 **They Met in Argentina** (....) Maureen O'Hara [illegible]son	[25] Mystery **Inspector Hornleigh Goes to It** (....) Gordon Harker	[20] Com. Drama **That Uncertain Feeling** (....) Melvyn Douglas Merle Oberon	[25] Comedy **Model Wife** (....) Joan Blondell Dick Powell	[26] Drama **Wagons Roll at Night** (....) Humphrey Bogart [illegible]	

Looking Ahead at Forthcoming Pictures Now in the Making

PRODUCTION INDEX

COMPANY / TITLE	TYPE	STARS	THUMBNAIL SYNOPSIS	RELEASE DATE
COLUMBIA				
Blondie in Society	Comedy	Arthur Lake Penny Singleton Larry Simms	In which Mrs. Dagwood Bumstead (Penny Singleton) goes highbrow and tries to crash the upper crust, much to the discomfort of Dagwood, Baby Dumpling and their dog, Daisy. Director, Frank R. Strayer.	Not Set
Chain Gang	Melodrama	Otto Kruger Gloria Dickson John Litel	Two brothers, one good, the other bad, choose conflicting careers. One becomes a gangster, the other a crusading attorney, with the inevitable clash. Charles Barton, director.	Not Set
Naval Academy	Drama	Freddie Bartholomew Jimmy Lydon Joe Brown jr.	A sequel to the same company's "Military Academy," this concerns training at a naval defense station. The cast is largely juvenile and adolescent. Erle C. Kenton, director.	Not Set
The Return of Daniel Boone	Western	Bill Elliott Dub Taylor Betty Miles	Another in the series of sagebrush adventures. Musical contributions are by the Rodik Twins, a radio duo hailing from Oklahoma. Lambert Hillyer, director.	Not Set
Tillie the Toiler	Comedy	Kay Harris	First in a proposed series of comedies bringing to the screen the famous cartoon strip. Kay Harris, in the title role, is a new discovery. Director not set.	Not Set
Time Out for Rhythm	Musical	Rudy Vallee Rosemary Lane Glen Gray and Orchestra	Such radio favorites as Brenda and Cobina and the singing aggregation of the Six Hits and a Miss will lend their talents to this musical comedy. Sidney Salkow, director.	Not Set
M-G-M				
Man From the City	Drama	Virginia Weidler Robert Sterling Marsha Hunt	A young married couple from the city moves to the country, where, after a brush with gangsters and other disturbing elements, they find peace and happiness.	Not Set
The Uniform	Drama	Clark Gable Rosalind Russell Jessie Ralph	Story of international intrigue, its locales Burma and Hongkong. Gable portrays an officer who, discharged from the British army as a card sharp, redeems himself. Clarence Brown, director.	Not Set
Untitled Dr. Kildare	Drama	Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore Laraine Day	Further adventures of young Dr. Kildare, in which he confronts another problem of medical ethics and is shown the right path by his crotchety friend and counselor, Lionel Barrymore. Harold S. Bucquet, director.	Not Set
Washington Melodrama	Melodrama	Frank Morgan Kent Taylor Ann Rutherford	Topical story of adventure and romance in the nation's capital, with a behind-the-scenes slant on the political scene. S. Sylvan Simon, director.	Apr. 4
The Yearling	Drama	Spencer Tracy	Story of a boy, his father and a deer. This is being filmed entirely on location in and around the swamp country near Ocala, Fla., locale of the novel by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Victor Fleming, director.	Not Set
MONOGRAM				
King of the Zombies	Melodrama	Mantan Moreland	Horror melodrama in which the comedy relief will be supplied by Mantan Moreland, Negro comic. Director not set.	Not Set
PARAMOUNT				
Among the Living	Melodrama	Albert Dekker	Horror tale, starring Albert Dekker, who created the role of "Dr. Cyclops" in the horror-fantasy of that name produced by the same company. Stuart Heisler, director.	Not Set
Birth of the Blues	Musical	Bing Crosby Mary Martin Carolyn Lee	Delves into the origin and history of modern popular music. Its locale is New Orleans, where "jazz" is said to have originated. Director, not set.	Not Set
Buy Me That Town	Comedy	Lloyd Nolan Constance Moore Albert Dekker	A pair of New York racketeers who endeavor to "take over" a typical small mid-western town. Miss Moore will portray the nemesis of the sharpers. Director not set.	Not Set
Dildo Cay	Drama	Dorothy Lamour Stirling Hayden	Adapted from the Nelson Hayes novel of the love of a wealthy owner of a Caribbean island for the daughter of his overseer. Edward H. Griffith, director.	Not Set
World Premiere	Comedy-Mystery	John Barrymore	In which the Hollywood custom of premiering new pictures in remote spots around the country is subjected to satirical treatment, with a murder thrown in for good measure. Otis Garrett, director.	Not Set
P. R. C.				
South of Panama	Drama	Roger Pryor Virginia Vale	Espionage is the subject of this topical melodrama, in which foreign agents attempt to sabotage Uncle Sam's Panama Canal. Jean Yarbrough, director.	Not Set

COMPANY	TITLE	TYPE	STARS	THUMBNAIL SYNOPSIS	RELEASE DATE
REPUBLIC					
	Pals of the Pecos	Western	Bob Livingston Bob Steele Rufe Davis	The "Three Mesquiteers" become involved in a battle between villainous railroad men and a stagecoach line, through which they are falsely accused of murder and fight their way out. Les Orlebeck, director.	Not Set
	The Singing Hills	Western	Gene Autry Smiley Burnette Mary Lee	Relates further sagebrush adventures of Gene Autry and his comedy side-kick, Smiley Burnette. Musical interludes are interspersed through the action. Lew Landers, director.	Not Set
RKO RADIO					
	A Certain Mr. Scratch	Drama	Thomas Mitchell Walter Huston Anne Shirley	From "The Devil and Daniel Webster," by Stephen Vincent Benet, this is an allegorical subject in which Daniel Webster is beset by Satan and outwits him. William Dieterle, director.	Not Set
	The Father Takes a Wife	Comedy	Anne Shirley Adolphe Menjou Signe Hasso	Concerns the romantic adventures of a wealthy widower, Adolphe Menjou, who turns playboy and weds a glamorous actress. Jack Hively, director.	Not Set
	Hurry, Charlie, Hurry	Comedy	Leon Errol Mildred Coles Russell Gleason	Wherein Leon Errol, famed rubberlegged comedian, becomes involved in ludicrous adventures as the head of a screwball family. Charles Roberts, director.	Not Set
	Parachute Battalion	Drama	Robert Preston Nancy Kelly Harry Carey	Topical drama based on a phase of national defense, this relates the adventures and romances of the army's "suicide" squad—men in the parachute division of the air force. Leslie Goodwins, director.	Not Set
	Scattergood Pulls the Strings	Comedy-Drama	Guy Kibbee Dink Trout	Second in the series based upon Clarence Budington Kelland's fictional character, the sage of Coldriver. Guy Kibbee repeats in the title role. Christy Cabanne, director.	Not Set
20TH-FOX					
	Man Hunt	Drama	Walter Pidgeon George Sanders Roddy MacDowall	Action is laid in wartorn Europe, and concerns the adventures of a British citizen, wanted by the Nazis, and his efforts to escape from Germany. Fritz Lang, director.	Not Set
	A Yank in the R. A. F.	Drama	Tyrone Power	Topical story of the Americans who volunteer for service with Britain's valiant Royal Air Force. Director not set.	Not Set
UNIVERSAL					
	Cracked Nuts	Comedy	Mischa Auer Una Merkel Stuart Erwin	Farce in which a group of zaney inventors creates a mechanical man which gets out of control. Eddie Cline, director.	Not Set
	Horror Island	Melodrama	Dick Foran Leo Carrillo Peggy Moran	Horror story concerning a mad killer on an isolated island, and his ultimate capture by the hero after a reign of terror. George Waggner, director.	Not Set
	Mutiny in the Arctic	Melodrama	Richard Arlen Andy Devine	Action drama, costarring Richard Arlen and Andy Devine, who have appeared together in a number of similar features in the past. John Rawlins, director.	Not Set
	Ready for Romance	Com.-Drama With Music	Deanna Durbin	Deanna Durbin ascends another step in her development from child actress to adult stardom. Several musical interludes, in which she sings both popular and classical selections, are included. William Seiter, director.	Not Set
	Sandy Steps Out	Comedy	Baby Sandy Edw. Everett Horton Raymond Walburn	Further comic and action-packed adventures of Baby Sandy, who plays havoc with the nerves and tempers of her guardians, Edward Everett Horton and Raymond Walburn. Director, Harold Young.	Not Set
	Sing Another Chorus	Musical	Johnny Downs June Frazee	A patriotic motif is woven into this musical comedy, in which Johnny Downs, in the lead, both sings and dances. Charles Lamont, director.	Not Set
	We're in the Navy Now	Comedy	Bud Abbott Lou Costello	After upsetting army routine in "Buck Privates," Abbott and Lou Costello, former radio comedians, become gobs in Uncle Sam's Navy. Arthur Lubin, director.	Not Set
WARNER					
	Dive Bomber	Drama	Errol Flynn Fred MacMurray Ralph Bellamy	Aviation drama with a navy atmosphere. Much of this is being filmed against the backgrounds of the Naval Air Corps training station at Pensacola, Fla. Director, Michael Curtiz.	Not Set
	Manpower	Comedy-Drama	Marlene Dietrich George Raft	George Raft is a rough, tough lineman for a power company, who mingles his work with a turbulent romance with Marlene Dietrich. Raoul Walsh, director.	Not Set
	Underground	Drama	Jeffrey Lynn Philip Dorn Karen Verne	Anti-Nazi story concerning efforts of Germans who are against Hitler's rule to overthrow the government via internal revolt. Vincent Sherman, director.	Not Set

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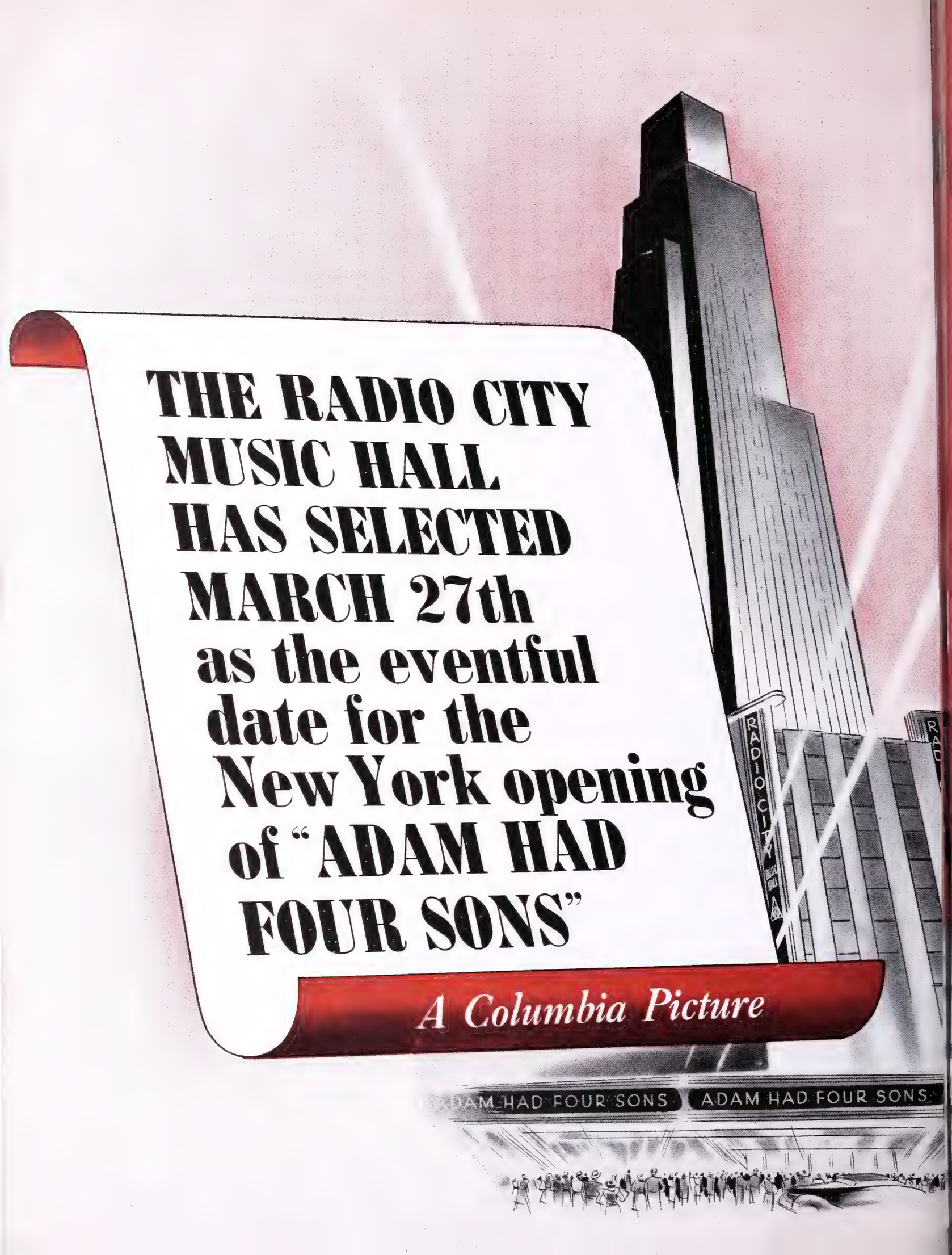
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ADAM HAD FOUR SONS
ADAM HAD FOUR SONS

The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

MARCH 22, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION

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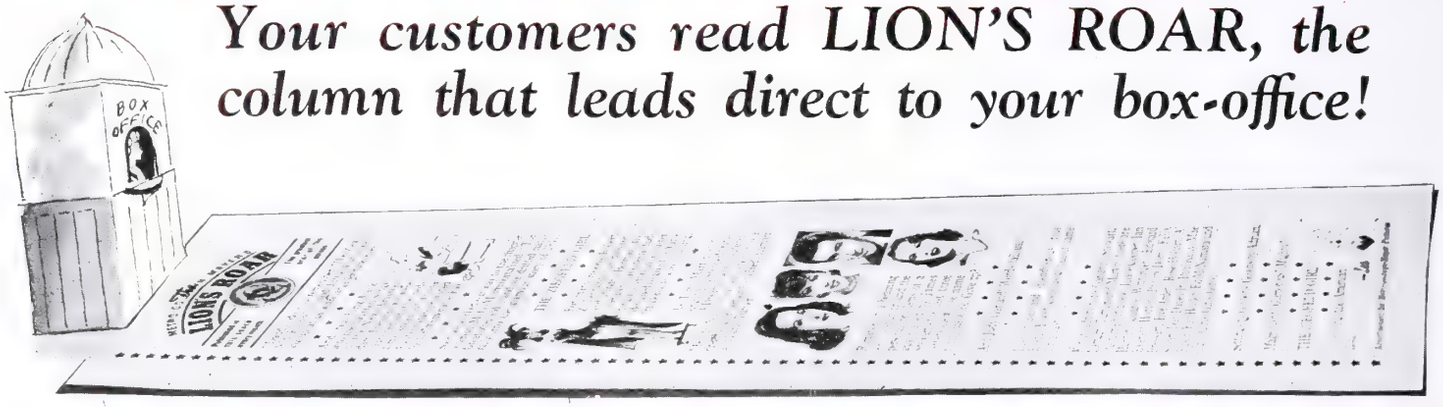
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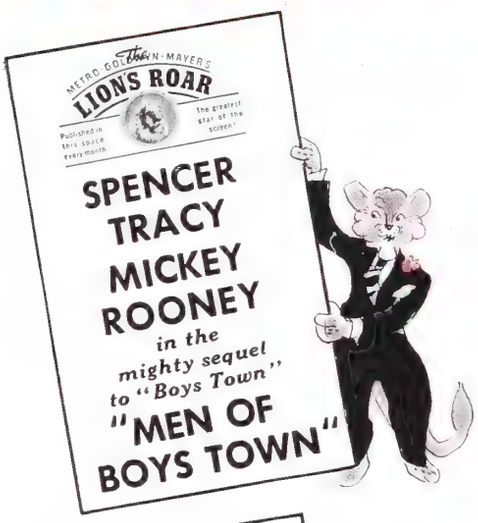
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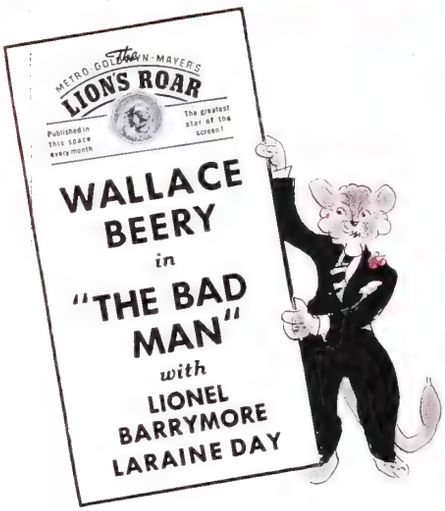
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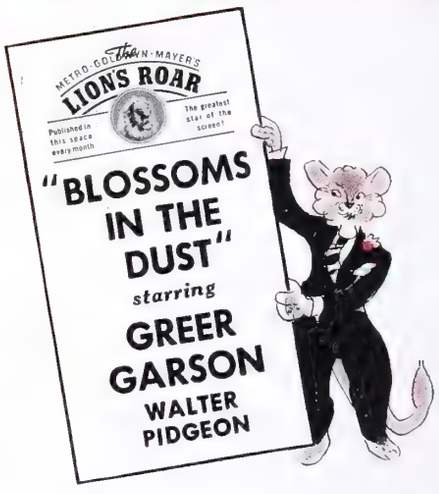
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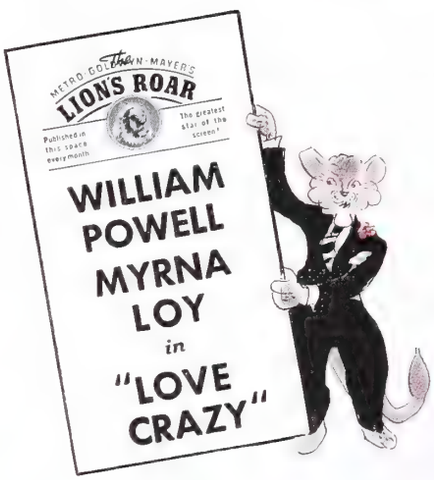
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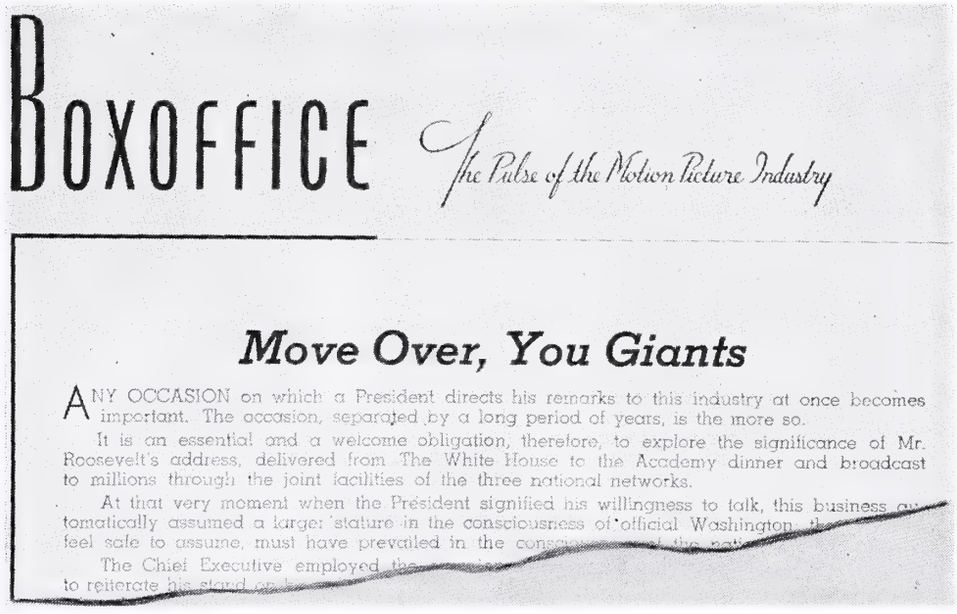




ONLY ONE COMPANY DOES IT!

BOXOFFICE *The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

A Reaction With a Bang



BOXOFFICE *The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

Move Over, You Giants

ANY OCCASION on which a President directs his remarks to this industry at once becomes important. The occasion, separated by a long period of years, is the more so.

It is an essential and a welcome obligation, therefore, to explore the significance of Mr. Roosevelt's address, delivered from The White House to the Academy dinner and broadcast to millions through the joint facilities of the three national networks.

At that very moment when the President signified his willingness to talk, this business automatically assumed a larger stature in the consciousness of official Washington. [illegible] feel safe to assume, must have prevailed in the [illegible]

The Chief Executive employed the [illegible] to reiterate his stand on [illegible]

ASIDE from recognizing the significance of the President's recognition of the industry, the recent editorial in BOXOFFICE, partially reproduced above, advanced this thesis:

"This industry, believing itself a private enterprise, actually is nothing of the sort. Constantly in the national spotlight, its performance goes beyond entertainment. It is, or can be, a vital adjunct to social and economic progress. In those directions, much of its future job reposes."

What happened is important not because of the praise, but because of the agreement with the view.

Wrote Will H. Hays—You are right. This matter certainly rates attention, and I have read the article with much interest. I am sure that in the days ahead, the industry will carry out fully its responsibilities in the field of public service.

Murray Silverstone, chief of world-wide operations for UA—I fully agree with your remarks so capably expressed and I am glad you are bringing it to the attention of the industry.

Hal B. Wallis, executive producer for Warner—Congratulations on your editorial.

W. G. Van Schmus, managing director of the Radio City Music Hall—I am always delighted to see any words of wisdom which come from your pen. Your point is well taken and I believe the sooner people in the industry wake up to the fact that it is full-grown and no longer in its swaddling clothes, it will be better for all concerned.

Walter Wanger—I think the editorial is splendid. More power to you.

William F. Rodgers, general sales manager of M-G-M—It is so well to the point and possesses so much fact. I hope it will impress its readers as it has me.

Cliff Work, vice-president in charge of the Universal studio—Excellent.

Ned E. Depinet, vice-president in charge of RKO distribution—I enjoyed your editorial, "Move Over, You Giants," very much.

Austin C. Keough, vice-president of Paramount—I have read it with interest and a great deal of satisfaction. Congratulations and thanks as usual.

Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of the Paramount studio—It was through the untiring efforts of Walter Wanger, president of the Academy, that arrangements were made for the President to make his address. I think it is one of the most constructive pieces of work that has been accomplished in behalf of our industry and on the brow of Walter Wanger should be planted the crown of accomplishment in working it out. There is no way to measure the good that can accrue to the industry through the President's address and the recognition, as you state in your editorial, by the President of the position of the industry as a national and international force.

Kann

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MARCH 22, 1941
Vol. 38 No. 18

THAT JUKE BOX FILM "MENACE" NOW LOSING MUCH OF ITS LEER

Scant Distribution and Spotty Returns Build Problems for Idea

By IVAN SPEAR

HOLLYWOOD—Juke-box motion pictures, which a year ago had the exhibition world in a dither of unnecessary worry, have failed to develop into the multi-headed competitive monster which scare-easy showmen predicted.

A survey by BOXOFFICE of the present status of the industry reveals that, despite more than a year of comparatively intensive activity on the part of those engaged in manufacturing the cocktail-lounge projectors and films for use therein, the dime-in-slotters have, to date, been given surprisingly little distribution.

Now in operation throughout the entire country, according to reliable estimates furnished by spokesmen for several manufacturing and producing organizations, are not more than 500 machines of various makes and delivering to spotty revenues and equally spotty satisfaction. Casualties, both among the makers of the boxes themselves and among the producers of film for them, have been nothing short of terrific, and the path down which the juke-boxers have trod are paved with the remains of many who took one flier and were forced, by one difficulty or another, to give up the ghost.

Stumbling Blocks

Apparently the stumbling-block is a double-edged affair. On the one hand, mechanical difficulties in the production of the projectors have, as yet, not been satisfactorily overcome. The boxes require extensive servicing and film breakage is common, which facts are freely admitted by spokesmen for a number of firms in the field. Then, too, there is the problem of obtaining sufficient product—rather a paradoxical one in view of the fact that numerous organizations have sprung up to turn out 16mm film for the jukers—but explainable, according to reliable sources, on the grounds that the subjects turned out by most of them did not measure up to the required standards of novelty, brevity and, most important, cheapness of manufacture.

Undoubtedly the ranking organization in the field is the Mills Bros.-Soundies Corp., with Mills turning out projectors and James Roosevelt's Soundies unit manufacturing a portion of the film used in them. Yet even this company, considered to be the most soundly financed and with extensive technical facilities at its command, does not boast an impressive record to date. So far, attaches say, some 400 "Panoram" projectors are being operated on a commercial basis, while it is reported some 15 to 25 are being manufactured weekly. Representatives here assert Mills has unfilled orders for 20,000 more. Equally slow is the Soundies Corp., which, since its inception, has turned out only 24 reels—less than half of the 52-reels-a-year promised at its inception. To supplement the shortage, Mills has been forced to go into the open market and to date has purchased 32 other reels, including eight subjects manufactured by Sam Coslow's recently-organized Cameo Productions.

Spokesmen here say Roosevelt's unit will probably swing into action again within three or four weeks, but to date no announcements have been made as to definite plans.

It was the Mills organization which sponsored the first—and, so far, only—"national" convention of slot-machine projector operators and manufacturers. This affair, held last September in Hollywood, was distinguished by considerable fanfare and ballyhoo, including the importation of slot-machine impresarios from the east, midwest and south for the purpose of interesting them in the purchase of "Panoram" franchises. Other manufacturers and producers were invited to participate in the exhibits, and the affair exuded showmanship—but apparently little else in the way of concrete results.

Probably the most impressive example of an attempt that failed to click is the Phonovision Corp., organized as a Delaware corporation in July, 1940, by Frank Orsatti and Sam Saxe. Evidently established on a promissory basis, the company never graduated beyond that stage. One projector was constructed for demonstration purposes and was exhibited at the aforementioned Hollywood convention, while another machine is being operated

(Continued on page 36)

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from the first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is 100 per cent.*

TOBACCO ROAD—
- Kansas City 235
- New Orleans 175

GONE WITH THE WIND—
- Minneapolis 225
- Milwaukee 180
- Detroit 165

GREAT DICTATOR—
- Philadelphia 200

COME LIVE WITH ME—
- New Orleans 175

KITTY FOYLE—
- Pittsburgh (dual) 155

Many Casualties Among Promoters; Product Shortage Evident

The Hitching Post, Featuring Cowboys, Prospers in H'wood

LOS ANGELES — Apparently Hollywood, where ultra-sophisticated glamour is a prime stock-in-trade, likes a change of pace and a return to the simple life once in a while.

For in this community, where the bon mot runs rampant and sables are for every-day wear, that reliable staple of the corn belt and the Saturday matinee trade —the six-shootin' western—is getting its first exhibition break, to the tune of continually-mounting revenue, at the Hitching Post, first theatre in the film colony to screen nothing but westerns.

The management—the Teleview Corp.—is a bit coy about revealing actual figures. Nevertheless, spokesmen for Greg Carter, one of the owners, and for Russell Desmond, who manages the house, submit that since the policy and name of the theatre were changed about a month ago, grosses have steadily risen. Friday-Saturday-Sunday business, they assert, is of the sell-out variety, at 30 cents per copy for adults and 15 cents for the juveniles. Now their goal is to build up week-day business on a similar scale, to which end a series of Thursday-night personal appearances of sagebrush stars has been launched.

For example, "The Range Busters"—Ray Corrigan, John King and Max Terhune—appeared March 6. Columbia's Bill Elliott and Dub Taylor were on hand March 13, as was Andy Clyde and Russell Hayden of the "Hopalong Cassidy" series. Johnny Mack Brown and Fuzzy Knight, as well as Tex Ritter, were dated for March 20, while Roy Rogers and Don Barry were to appear the following week.

The Hitching Post, a 300-seater located on Hollywood Blvd. near Vine St., that world-famous intersection, has had a varied career. Originally it was a newsreel house. Then the Teleview Corp. opened another newsreeler a few blocks away and changed the first showcase over to a revival policy. This clicked, too, but the management found it too difficult to secure sufficient old product that was in any condition to exhibit. Then came the Hitching Post.

On its screen, matinee and evening, seven days a week, the hero rescues the heroine from the runaway stagecoach, pauses to sing a nasal rangeland ballad, and shoots it out with the villain.

And Hollywood, specialist in the smart crack, loves it.





has more net paid circulation including bulk than any other motion picture trade paper in the world.



BOXOFFICE *U. S. and Canada circulation* is greater than the total world circulation of its nearest competitor.*



In those areas producing virtually all the income of the motion picture industry **BOXOFFICE**'s *circulation lead is 1,439.*

*

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U. S. Territories	**78**	116
Canada	**744**	767
	15,447	14,008

**See A.B.C. Publishers' Statements for 6 months ending December 31, 1940.*

MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

TRADE GETS INITIAL TASTE OF HOW ARBITRATION PLAN WORKS

Boston Hearing Ends in Defendants' Consent To Award Entry

By BRAD ANGIER

BOSTON—The "little man" won out in the first motion picture dispute to be heard by the AAA under the new consent decree setup. The initial hearing came to an abrupt closing a few minutes after its start when attorneys for the distributors involved entered consents to an award. The arbitrator subsequently ordered these distributors to make their product available to the complaining exhibitor.

The hearing followed a demand for arbitration filed February 13, by Benjamin Gold, treasurer of Paulstan, Inc., which operates the Park in Nashua, N. H. Gold complained that M-G-M, Paramount, Warner, RKO and 20th-Fox "have refused, and do refuse, to license any of their feature pictures for exhibition . . . on any run, in violation of Section 6 of the consent decree."

M-G-M Proceeding Withdrawn

The proceeding was later withdrawn against M-G-M following that concern's introduction of negotiations with Gold that resulted, before the Boston hearing, in the sale of a block of five M-G-M features to the Park.

Arthur L. Brown, young Boston University Law School professor and present Harvard Law's Brandeis Research fellow, was mutually accepted as the first arbitrator. Brown called the initial hearing to order shortly after ten o'clock Friday morning with a terse, "You may proceed, gentlemen."

George S. Ryan, the nationally prominent anti-trust attorney who is representing the first two exhibitors to file arbitration pleas in Boston, stood up. He had been seated on the arbitrator's left.

"In this proceeding," Ryan said, "I represent the plaintiff, Paulstan, Inc. The company operates a motion picture theatre in the city of Nashua in the state of New Hampshire. It has operated that theatre since the fall of the year."

"You mean the fall of 1940?" asked Brown.

Under Section 6

"Yes," Ryan said. "The complaint here is under Section 6 of the consent decree, because of the refusal of the distributors named in the complaint to license their pictures for application in the plaintiff's theatre on some run.

"The theatre of the plaintiff is the Park Theatre. It is what is known in the trade as an upstairs theatre. The main floor is not on or near a level of the street but must be reached by going up some stairs. The policy of the theatre as to admission prices is as follows:

"Matinees: Children, 10 cents; adults, 15 cents.

"Evenings: Children, 10 cents; adults (the balcony) 15 cents, (orchestra) 20 cents.

"Sundays: Children, 10 cents; adults (balcony) 15 cents, (orchestra) 20 cents.

"It is also the policy that whenever vaudeville is shown, the prices will be: Children, 10 cents; adults (balcony) 20 cents, (orchestra) 28 cents.

"In that city of Nashua, there are two theatres operated by the Shea circuit, so-called. That is not a corporate name but the name by which the circuit is generally referred to in the trade. The operating company is the Colonial Theatre Co. of Nashua, N. H., which is named as a respondent in the complaint.

"This company," Ryan continued, "operates the Tremont Theatre, using first run pictures, with admission prices as follows:

Cites Admission Prices

"Matinees: Children, 10 cents; adults, 20 cents.

"Evenings: Children, 10 cents; adults, 33 cents.

"It operates the State Theatre with prices as follows . . ."

"Is that a first run theatre?" the arbitrator asked.

"That is also a first run theatre," Ryan said. "The prices are as follows:

"Matinees: Children, 10 cents; adults, 28 cents.

"Evenings: Children, 10 cents; adults, 39 cents.

"The pictures of all the so-called major companies, including the companies named as correspondents and three other companies, have been and are being shown in those Shea theatres.

"In addition, there is the Colonial Theatre, operated by Nashua Theatres, Inc. It has substantially the same admission prices as the complainant's Park Theatre.

"The complainant also has used, and intends to use, what is known in the trade as giveaways. I believe the first run houses are also using at the present time giveaways in the nature of money awards by chance. Giveaways, in the trade, would include such giveaways of money by chance and also would include such things as

(Continued on page 26)

Nos. 1 and 2

The better to convey an idea of how arbitration hearings are, or may be, conducted BOXOFFICE staff men in Boston and Chicago sat in at those two hearings, the first under the decree.

The Gold case before the Boston tribunal was settled hardly had it gotten under way. The Van Derveer case in Chicago turned out to be a more extended affair and the decision is yet to come.

What happened and who said what are told in full detail in dispatches to the left and right.

Day-Long Session Gives Problem to Arbiter In Chicago Case

By HAL TATE

CHICAGO—Unlike the country's first arbitration case in Boston, which was settled amicably shortly after the hearing started, the country's second hearing, held here, involving Loew's, Inc., and the State, independent house in Morris, Ill., proved to be an all-day affair with Charles Z. Henkle umpiring the proceedings.

Despite the general informality of the all-day session, the hearing nevertheless had a bit of court-room atmosphere. Each side's lawyer quizzed the witnesses testifying. At times each lawyer "objected" to certain questions asked of the witness by the opposing lawyer on the grounds that the information was not relevant to the issue at hand.

Two Witnesses for Each Side

Daniel P. Nagle, of the Chicago law firm of Cummings & Wyman, represented E. F. Van Derveer, operator of the State. Edmond W. Lee II of the M-G-M New York legal staff, represented Loew's.

Each side called two witnesses. S. A. Shirley, who is acting as M-G-M branch manager in Chicago while "Doc" Banford is recovering from an operation, and Johnny Kemptgen, M-G-M salesman, testified for Loew's. Testifying for the State were Van Derveer and Charles D. Jeffries jr., manager.

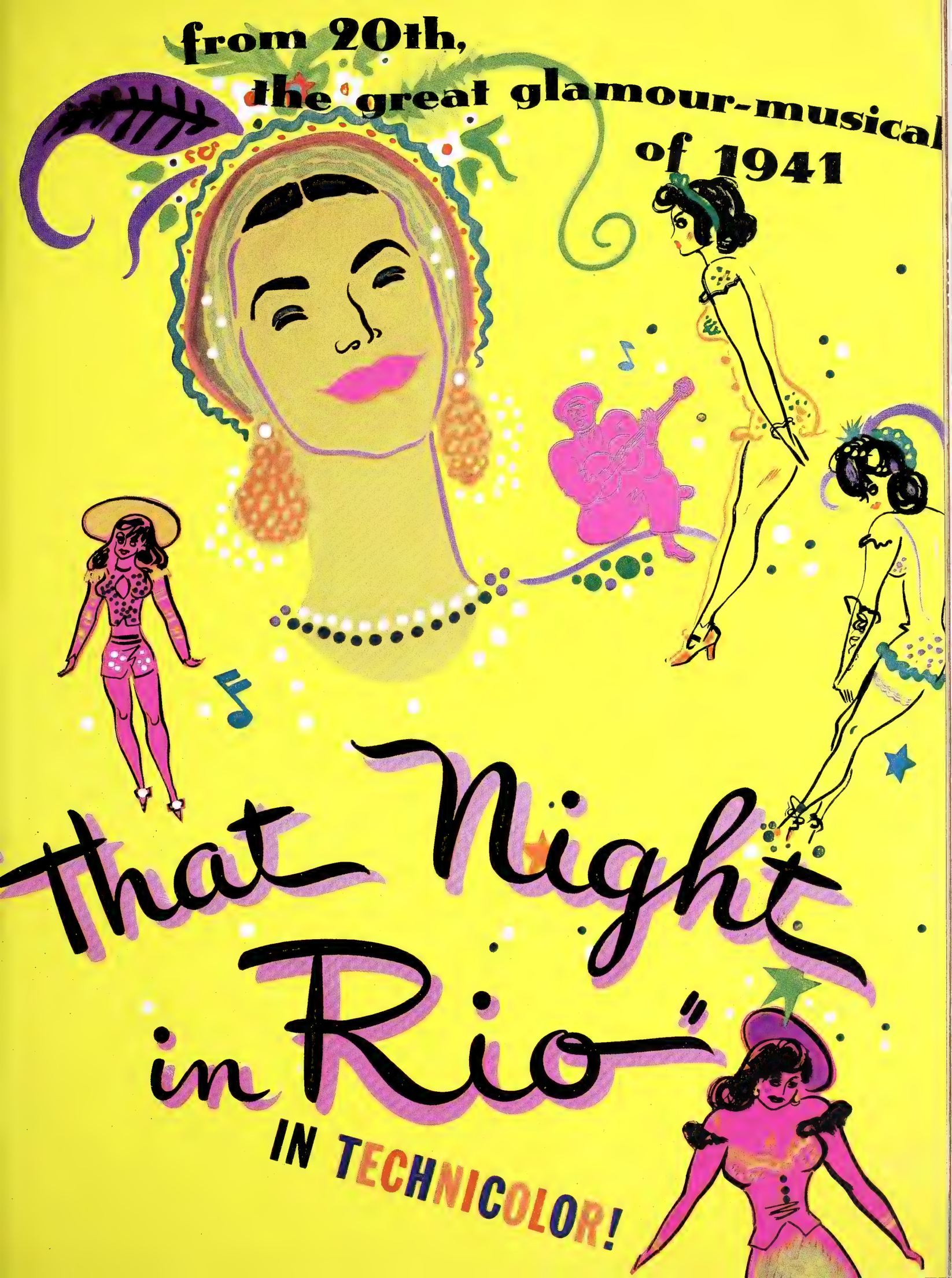
Van Derveer contended that he was entitled to second run of M-G-M's 1939-40 product because his State was the second to be built in Morris and because he had asked for second run prior to F. W. Anderson, whose Times was finished about two weeks after the State. Anderson also owns the first run Morris Theatre. Van Derveer said that he felt Loew's would gain more revenue if their pictures played at his house since it had a larger seating capacity than the Times.

"Threatened" Van Derveer

Before the theatre was completed, Van Derveer charged that Anderson had threatened "to put him out of business" if he (Van Derveer) went ahead with plans to erect the State. This portion of the testimony was "objected to" by the M-G-M lawyer on the grounds it had nothing to do with the issue at hand—namely the selling of M-G-M product to Van Derveer.

M-G-M contended that it had always been a policy of the company not to sell a complete second run of its season's product to a town the size of Morris. (Population is estimated at 5,500.) However, in endeavoring to conform to the decree, Loew's had offered ten second-run pictures of the 1939-40 season to the Times and ten third-run 1939-40 pic-

(Continued on page 11)


from 20th,
the great glamour-musical
of 1941
that Night
in Rio"
IN TECHNICOLOR!


a Rio Night come to life . . .
"That Nig

with its tropical romance . . . and its laughter

and its Samba dance-rhythms . . .

Alice
FAYE

Don
AMECHE

Carmen
MIRANDA

in

and its torrid songs!

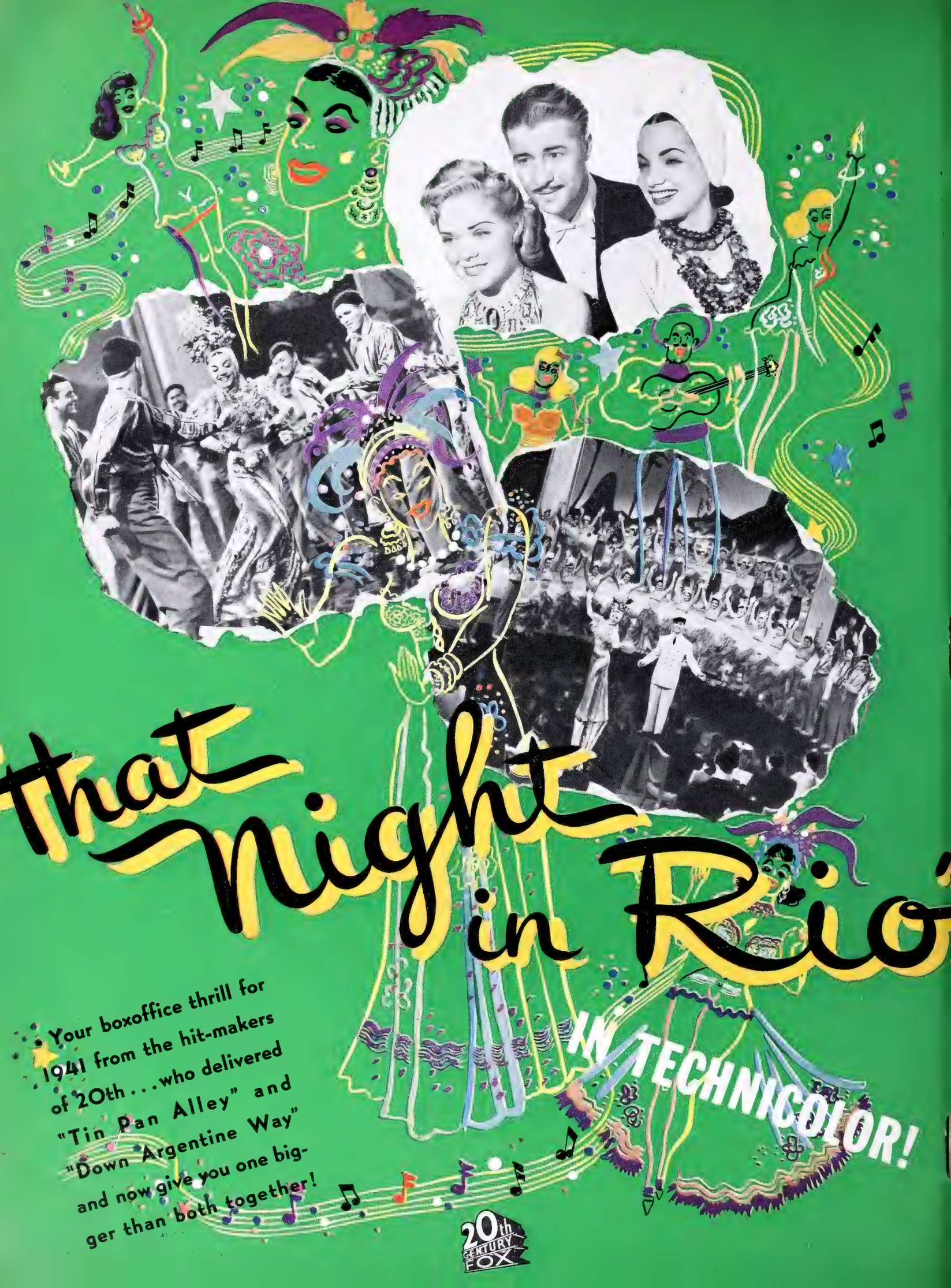
"I'yi, Yi, Yi, Yi"
(I Like You Very Much)
"Chica, Chica, Boom, Chic"
"Boa Noite" (Good Night)
"They Met in Rio"
"The Baron Is In Conference"
by Mack Gordon and
Harry Warren

hit in Rio"

made more glamorous in glorious TECHNICOLOR

S. Z. SAKALL · J. CARROL NAISH · CURT BOIS · LEONID KINSKEY

Directed by Irving Cummings • Associate Producer Fred Kohlmar • Screen Play by George Seaton, Bess Meredyth and Hal Long • Additional Dialogue by Samuel Hoffenstein • Based on a Play by Rudolph Lothar and Hans Adler • Adapted by Jessie Ernst • Dances staged by Hermes Pan


that Night in Rio
IN TECHNICOLOR!
Your boxoffice thrill for 1941 from the hit-makers of 20th . . . who delivered "Tin Pan Alley" and "Down Argentine Way" and now give you one bigger than both together!
20th CENTURY FOX

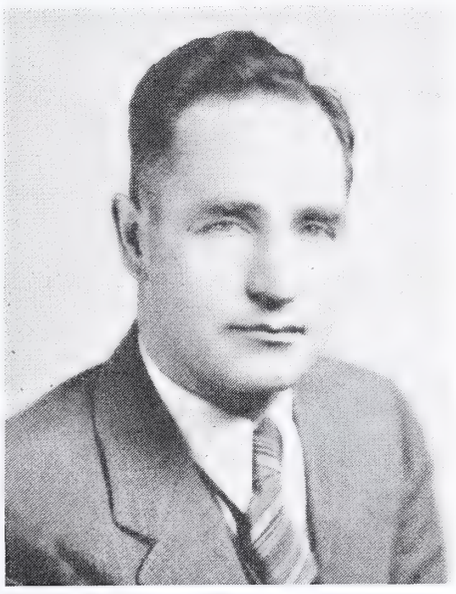
"CONSENT TO AWARD" TEXT IN BOSTON CASE; IS FIRST OF KIND

Granting Demands, It Reserves Distributor Relief Plea Right

BOSTON—*One distributor (Metro) settled before the hearing and four (Paramount, RKO, 20th-Fox and Warner) filed a Consent to Award shortly after the hearing started in the "some run" arbitration case of Benjamin Gold's Park at Nashua, N. H. The full text of the Consent to Award follows:*

In the above entitled case the distributor Paramount Film Distributing Corp. and Vitagraph, Inc., and RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., respectively says as follows:

This distributor is of the opinion and belief, and has been so for the last ten years, that its total film revenue in the competitive area of the Park Theatre in Nashua would be injuriously affected and reduced by licensing its films to theatres other than the State Theatre and Tremont Theatre in Nashua if satisfactory license contracts are obtainable from those theatres. This opinion and belief has been challenged by George S. Ryan, the attorney for the applicant Paulstan, Inc., in an action in the district court of the United States for the district of Massachusetts, the trial of which before a master was begun in December, 1938, and has been tried before the master for more than 200 days and is now awaiting his report. This report is not to be expected for some months to come or before the above entitled arbitration would be concluded. To try this issue before the arbitrator would involve to a considerable extent traveling over the same ground covered in the hearing before the master. Such a second hearing, thoroughly carried out will be essentially a waste which can be avoided under these unusual circumstances by an experimental test of the effect of licensing other theatres in Nashua. This distributor accordingly, without prejudice to itself, in the opinion and belief above set forth, or to the conduct of its business, and with the averment which it now makes that it has never, contrary to the provisions of Section VI of the consent decree, refused to license its pictures to Paulstan, Inc., for exhibition in its theatre, consents to an award by consent by the arbitrator directing this distributor to offer its pictures for license to said Paulstan, Inc., for exhibition in the Park Theatre to the extent of pictures released for exhibition up to July 31, 1942, inclusive, on a run to be designated by the distributor and upon terms and conditions fixed by the distributor which are not calculated to defeat the purpose of said Section VI, subject, however, to the right of the distributor to institute a further arbitration proceeding to be relieved of said award, as provided in said Section VI of the said decree.





—Metropolitan Photos

They Made a Bit of History—

On the left is John H. Taylor; he runs the Charles, La Plata, Md. On the right is Sidney Lust; he runs, among others, the Marlboro, Marlboro, Md. Taylor had filed a complaint under the decree in Washington, charging Lust's practice of holding up dates at the Marlboro made the Charles wait unreasonably long for product and naming the "Big Five." But the complaint never reached an arbitrator, the interested parties agreeing to conciliate. The Marlboro's 14-day clearance over the Charles sticks, but the latter's availability is to be based on the date films first become available to Lust regardless of how long his Marlboro takes to play them. Thus, if Lust waits two weeks beyond availability date, the film at once becomes available to Taylor. Under that circumstance, both houses would run the film day and date. The settlement is of interest and somewhat on the historic side in that it is the first of its kind under the decree.

Chicago Hearings Prove to Be An Informal, All-Day Session

(Continued from page 6)

tures to the State. During the hearing, Loew's sought to prove the point that it had offered "some run" to the State. Loew's also contended that the company had the privilege of choosing its customers.

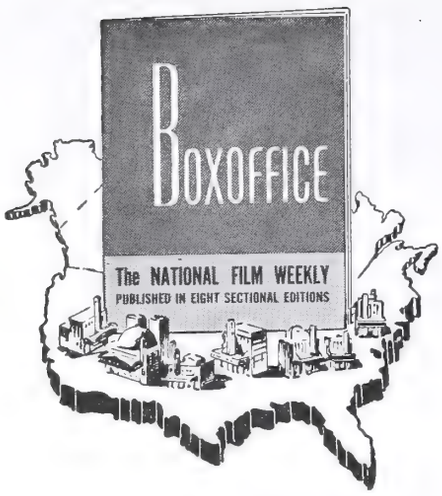
Van Derveer said he had made money when he played first and second-run pictures, but had lost money when playing third-run films. Though he had been offered the ten Metro third-run films between the time he filed his complaint on February 13 and the hearing last Saturday, he had not accepted the offer because he felt that if he were forced to play third run he would go out of business.

Van Derveer also testified that prior to building his State, his representative, Robert Lucas, had contacted the Fox, RKO and Columbia exchanges regarding product and had been assured of second-run films from those companies. Metro at that time refused to commit itself on product because it was the company's policy not to sell any product to a theatre until it was built.

Expanding on the subject, M-G-M said it had offered to cut clearance from second run on the group offered the State from 60 days down to 21 days. Second runs in Morris play 60 days after first runs.

The State claimed that M-G-M had sold it "Andy Hardy Meets Debutante" for second run. Shirley admitted this, but said that though M-G-M might in rare instances license second run pictures in a town the size of Morris, as a general rule the company did not deem it profitable to show them in such a small town.

In contending that Morris was not large enough to support a theatre playing second run pictures, and to prove that the showing of such runs decreased the revenue of first runs, Shirley cited figures on playing time of "Babes in Arms" and "Strike Up the Band."



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Stay as Co-Conspirators In Schine Action

Schenck Denies Reports Linking Goldwyn, Fox

New York—Reports Samuel Goldwyn either would produce or distribute through 20th-Fox are denied by Joseph M. Schenck, chairman of the board. The rumors on Goldwyn and 20th-Fox are as active as those linking the producer with Warner and Paramount ever since he and UA amicably parted.

"Dictator" at About $700,000 on B'way

NEW YORK — "The Great Dictator" wound up its two-a-day run at the Astor Sunday. The picture played 23 weeks but for 22 the gross at this house approximated $275,000. In seven weeks at the Capitol the take was close to $400,000.

The Astor will darken for two days to make way for "I Wanted Wings," which also will follow the two-a-day plan. On the evening of March 25, Paramount will hold a press showing and open the picture for the public the following day.

The first regular Loew opening of the Chaplin picture starts March 27 at the Metropolitan, Brooklyn, where the popular price policy will prevail. It is set for one week and, if it holds up, may be held for a second.

Loew's recently signed a new year lease on the Astor and will continue to operate until April 1, 1942.

Goetz Set on Making "The American Way"

NEW YORK—Returning from the coast for a four-day stay, Harry Goetz stated he is determined to make "The American Way." RKO has a half interest in the rights, but the indication now is the play may be produced and released by another major company. One important Hollywood producer has taken an interest in the play and Goetz left for the coast Thursday to follow this up.

Max Gordon, who is a partner of Goetz, recently signed a producer's contract with Columbia providing for 12 months out of 16 on the lot. The deal also provides that Columbia will have first call on any and all shows Gordon and Goetz may produce. The picture company also has the right to participate in the financing. Gordon is expected to make one picture before "My Sister Eileen," which Columbia recently purchased for $225,000.

Bank Night Bill Dies

DES MOINES—A bill designed to regulate Bank Night died in the legislature by a vote of 50 to 43.

BUFFALO—Following the same procedure as in the all-industry, Crescent and Griffith suits, the "Big Five" were dismissed as party defendants in the government's anti-trust action against Schine early in the week. The five companies—Loew's, 20th-Fox, RKO, Warner and Paramount—are retained however as co-conspirators in the action which still pends.

Reports here continue optimistic for an amicable settlement of the Schine action by a decree similar to that entered into by the "Big Five." Only detail holding it up, according to reliable sources, is the expansion angle in which there is a wide difference of opinion.

It is understood the government is determined to stop Schine from further acquiring theatres, while counsel for the independent circuit is asking that the same provision on new theatre holdings in the "Big Five" decree be made with Schine.

Cassil Dismissal Halts Defense Testimony

ST. JOSEPH, MO.—Defense counsel in the anti-trust action by Frank and Eugenia Cassil against Dubinsky Brothers and the major distributors did not have a chance to complete their presentation when Federal Judge Merrill E. Otis granted a plaintiff motion to dismiss the case "with prejudice." Exchange heads of the major companies denied any conspiracy to deny the plaintiffs' first run product, holding Dubinsky was sold because his theatres brought in more revenue.

Cassil, president of the Kansas-Missouri Theatre Owners Ass'n, filed the case three years ago and it has been carried over from year to year. He sought $425,775 in damages. Several attorneys from New York came on for the trial.

RKO Sales Force "On Toes" For Decree Operation

NEW YORK—RKO's sales force is on its toes insofar as the decree is concerned, William Zimmerman, home office attorney who recently completed a tour of exchanges, states. "The reaction of the men was very favorable," he adds, concluding his trip was well worthwhile.

Whether or not he will make another tour before the new season gets under way has not been decided. Zimmerman also sat in on the negotiations which led up to the decree.

Sussman, Jenkins Discuss Decree at Pitt Meet

PITTSBURGH—William Sussman, eastern divisional sales manager, and Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel for 20th-Fox, on Tuesday held a meeting with the local sales force on the decree.

Sussman has a few more exchanges yet to cover before he completes a tour of all branches under his supervision.

GOV'T MEN SEE LITTLE RELIEF FOR THEATREMEN IN 5-BLOCKS

No Such Simple Answer To Problems, States Report by TNEC

By EARLE A. DYER

WASHINGTON—Exhibitors will find little relief through sales in blocks of five, it is indicated in a monograph written by Daniel Bertrand, administrative assistant, with W. Duane Evans of the department of labor and E. L. Blanchard of the TNEC staff for the temporary national economic committee.

Problems of the industry, symptomatic of those of many great American enterprises cannot be remedied by any "simple solution," it is further adduced.

Designed to take the place of a TNEC investigation, for which there was neither time nor funds, the report traces the history and rise of the industry to its present position of "an important social and cultural force."

Today, it is pointed out, the industry is attempting to solve its difficulties under the consent decree, but in the opinion of the authors, that decree has many holes and the future course of events is doubtful.

Dubious on Arbitration

The report appears dubious of the success of arbitration, pointing out that it involves expenditures on the part of complaining exhibitors which may be too heavy to bear, particularly if an appeal is taken to the appeals board, which will hold hearings only in New York. To the extent that it has turned the settlement of controversies over to arbitration, the department of justice has relinquished enforcement of the decree, it is declared, but since the department's only other course would be to invoke the contempt procedure, which is a not "wholly impressive" method of securing compliance, there is room for argument that arbitration, while it leaves much to be desired, is to be preferred.

Competition "Blocked"

The authors of the report, two of whom, Messrs. Bertrand and Evans, were with the NRA in the days of the amusement codes, find that it has been made extremely difficult, if not impossible, for important new competition to enter production or distribution, against the existing companies.

"The control of production and distribution by these companies is confirmed by their ownership of a most important segment of the motion picture theatres of the United States," they explain. "A pretentious independent production in order to be profitable must be shown in at least some of these theatres, and in general this can be achieved only by entering into a distribution contract with one of the major companies. This fact makes it extremely difficult to finance any independent production unless such arrangements have already been made.

"In their relationships with exhibitors these companies have demonstrated similarity in policy and action. Various practices have been developed to maintain their control over this field and to render it profitable. Where competition has proved counter to the joint interests of these companies, cooperation has been substituted. Many of the practices initiated and perpetuated by these companies must be considered definitely inimical to the interests of the consumer."

However, the committee is told, the film industry is not unique in the sense that it is dominated by a few large companies. An even higher degree of concentration may be found in some other industries, but in many of those industries it has re-

(Continued on page 30)

Bertrand, Evans, Blanchard

Washington—Among the highlights of the monograph on films prepared for the TNEC:

The decree has many holes.

The success of arbitration is dubious.

As a result of the decree, the government case against the "Little Three" is weaker.

The industry exhibits problems common to many "of our great enterprises." Therefore,

"More than anything else, perhaps, intelligent and sympathetic study is indicated."

System of Federal Charters Held Reflecting Advantages

NEW YORK—The theory and application behind any federalization of companies engaged in interstate commerce is complex, but one sector of legal opinion in New York tends toward the belief such an eventuality might have its benefits insofar as the film industry is concerned.

This reaction is re-kindled on the basis of despatches from Washington indicating Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, chairman of the temporary national economic committee, will seek a law calling for the federal licensing of all corporations engaged in business between the states.

Some lawyers envision benefits in that one such charter would blanket the activities of the major companies throughout the union and in some aspects, give these companies a legal status such as they do not now enjoy under the system of incorporating, or obtaining permission to function, in each state.

Reference to his intention of seeking such congressional action was included in the final report of the TNEC. O'Mahoney listed the possible chartering of companies engaged in interstate commerce along with rigid enforcement of the anti-trust statutes and tax relief for small businesses as a three-cornered method of halting the trend toward domination of the national economy by a few large corporations and of avoiding "the continued expansion of government control over private business."

He explained his theory by declaring such a system would make unnecessary the creation of new boards and commissions in that it could be used to define the responsibilities and duties of all national corporations so that discretionary regulation would not be required. The theory was general and made no specific mention of films.

O'Mahoney urged congress to undertake a "thorough-going" study of the whole tax structure with a view to developing relief for small concerns, plus their protection through strict application of the anti-trust laws.

"For two generations," he observed, "the concentration of economic power and wealth has proceeded at such a pace that the welfare of the masses in agriculture and industry has been seriously jeopardized. Small business has been swallowed up by big business and big business is now confronted with the danger of being swallowed up by government.

"The way to reverse this trend is not to be found in further expanding the powers of government, nor in releasing business from so-called 'government interference.' The only remedy to save a democratic economy is to be found in making the economy democratic. If we are to avoid an all-powerful central government, we have no recourse but to re-establish and encourage free, private enterprise, that is to say, private enterprise which will be free from the arbitrary control of private organization as well as of public organization."

COMEDIES AND STRAIGHT DRAMA HOLLYWOOD TOPS; 35 EN ROUTE

Westerns and Musicals Come Next; Mysteries, Aviation Films Trail

HOLLYWOOD—Comedies—of which 20 are already being planned—and straight dramatic offerings, in second position with 15 titles so far announced, dominate the production lineup for the next two months. Westerns are in third position with 12 scheduled. Musicals slated total nine for fourth spot, while mysteries and horror stories together in one classification, and properties having to do with aviation share fifth spot.

In the comedy division are Paramount's "Buy Me That Town," "Henry for President," "Nothing But the Truth," "Sullivan's Travels," "Joan of Arkansas" and "Two Bad Angels." Columbia lists "Bedtime Story," "Officer and the Lady," "Blondie in Society" and "Tillie the Toiler." On RKO's schedule are "Scattergood Pulls the Strings," "True to Form" and "The Father Takes a Wife." Twentieth Century-Fox will start "The Man With the Shovel" and Universal plans "Almost an Angel" and "Were in the Navy Now." Republic has an untitled "Higgins Family," plus "Cindy" and "Puddin' Head." M-G-M will roll "Step This Way."

Dramatic offerings include "Dildo Cay," "Aloma of the South Seas" and "Reap the Wild Wind" from Paramount; "A Certain Mr. Scratch" and an untitled "Dr. Christian" from RKO Radio; "Widows of the Press" and "Redhead" at Monogram; "The Black Swan" and "Fraternity" at 20th-Fox; Warner's "Manpower;" United Artists' "Our Heaven Is Now" and "Strange Victory;" "Men of the Timberlines" at Universal, and an untitled "Tarzan" and an untitled "Dr. Kildare" from M-G-M.

Columbia's western entry is "Texas." Paramount plans "The Parson of Panamint" and "Secrets of the Wasteland," both Harry Sherman productions. RKO Radio lists "Valley of the Sun." Warner will roll "Bad Men of Missouri," while 20th Century-Fox plans "Belle Starr" and "Sun Valley," and Republic will roll "Sheriff of Tombstone," "Down Mexico Way" and "Kansas Cyclone." Monogram will have "The Pioneers."

In the musical category are "Birth of the Blues" and "Paramount on Parade" from Paramount; "Betty Co-Ed" from Columbia; "Sing Another Chorus" and "Ready for Romance" at Universal; Metro's "Smilin' Through" and "Republic's "The Old Grey Mare" and "Angels With Broken Wings."

Paramount's "World Premiere" will have a murder prominently identified with its motivation, while the same studio lists "Among the Living," "Sing a Song of Homicide" and "College Mystery." Warner has "The Smiling Ghost" and "Passage From Hongkong," while Republic is rolling "Alibi at Midnight." Monogram is preparing "The Phantom Monster" and "King of the Zombies." As to aviation features, 20th Century-Fox is readying "A Yank in the RAF," United Artists lists "The Eagle Squadron," Paramount will roll "Forced Landing," "Dive Bomber" and "The Flight Patrol" will take off at Warner, and "Parachute Squadron" is on RKO Radio's schedule.

What the Studios Are Doing

Two-Month Fast Pace Seen in Production

HOLLYWOOD—There is still no dearth of activity on the production front, which tentative schedules indicate will continue to operate at a fast pace for at least another two months . . . A minimum of 44 features is slated for camera work during the period . . . Paramount, out in front, plans to film 12 subjects before May 1 . . . M-G-M is at a six-month peak with 11 now in work, two others to roll shortly . . . Columbia, planning five starters, has 38 writers working on 31 vehicles . . . Also active are Republic, to start six, and Warner, with five on schedule.

Relief Fund Buys Land For Actors' Rest Home

With $800,000 now in its coffers, the Motion Picture Relief Fund has purchased land near Calabasis, close to Hollywood, for the home it will construct for elderly industry veterans and younger actors in need of rest and recuperation . . . Money was collected in three years through the Screen Guild airshow . . . All proceeds from the annual "Gambol of the Stars," sponsored jointly by the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio Artists, went to the MPRF. Highlight of the event was the auctioning of President Roosevelt's campaign hat, with Edward G. Robinson and Melvyn Douglas, each bidding $3,200, splitting the chapeau and the purchase price.

Colcatta Case Starts; Wurtzel Back From Tour

The $1,200,000 suit brought by the Colcatta Corp. against Fox West Coast, charging monopoly and conspiracy in restraint of interstate commerce, is now on trial in U. S. district court. Plaintiff charges its Colorado in Pasadena has been illegally deprived of major company product by the defendants . . . Returning from a three-month tour of Latin America, Sol M. Wurtzel, 20th Century-Fox executive producer, predicts better Hollywood product will open new and rich markets below the border . . . Wurtzel warns, however, that Hollywood producers may soon face genuine competition from native film-makers, especially in Argentina and Brazil . . . His United Artists affiliation now completely severed, Samuel Goldwyn is rushing preparations for filming "The Little Foxes," starring Bette Davis, with William Wyler directing.

Columbia Pacts Hayden; Bob Hope's Next Set

After several years as William Boyd's buddy in the "Hopalong Cassidy" westerns, Russell Hayden graduates to dress-up roles with a long-term Columbia contract. He has been replaced in the "Hopalongs" by Brad King, genuine Nevada cowboy . . . Columbia has also re-signed Charles Starrett to star in 22 westerns during the next two years, with William Berke ticketed to produce the first two . . . Tay Garnett will direct RKO Radio's "Unexpected Uncle" . . . Rose Franken and William Brown Meloney will script Miss Franken's play, "Claudia," for David O. Selznick . . . Bob Hope will star in Paramount's "Louisiana Purchase," to be filmed in Technicolor . . . William K. Howard will direct "King Rubber" instead of "Bad Men From Missouri" for Warner. Ray Enright substitutes on the latter assignment.

Important Story Buys; Universal Casts Vallee

Important story buys included Frank Lloyd's purchase of Houston Branch's "River Lady" for $50,000 . . . Republic paid $17,500 for Theodore Pratt's "Mercy Island" . . . Warner has secured screen rights to the biography of George Gershwin, together with many of his songs . . . Ilona Massey draws a term acting contract from Edward Small, with the starring role in "G-Men vs. Scotland Yard" . . . Paramount's "Pioneer Woman" is now titled "The Great Man's Lady" . . . Tony Martin gets the juvenile lead in M-G-M's untitled Marx Brothers comedy . . . Rudy Vallee will star in Universal's "Too Many Blondes."

Omaha Goodwill Meeting

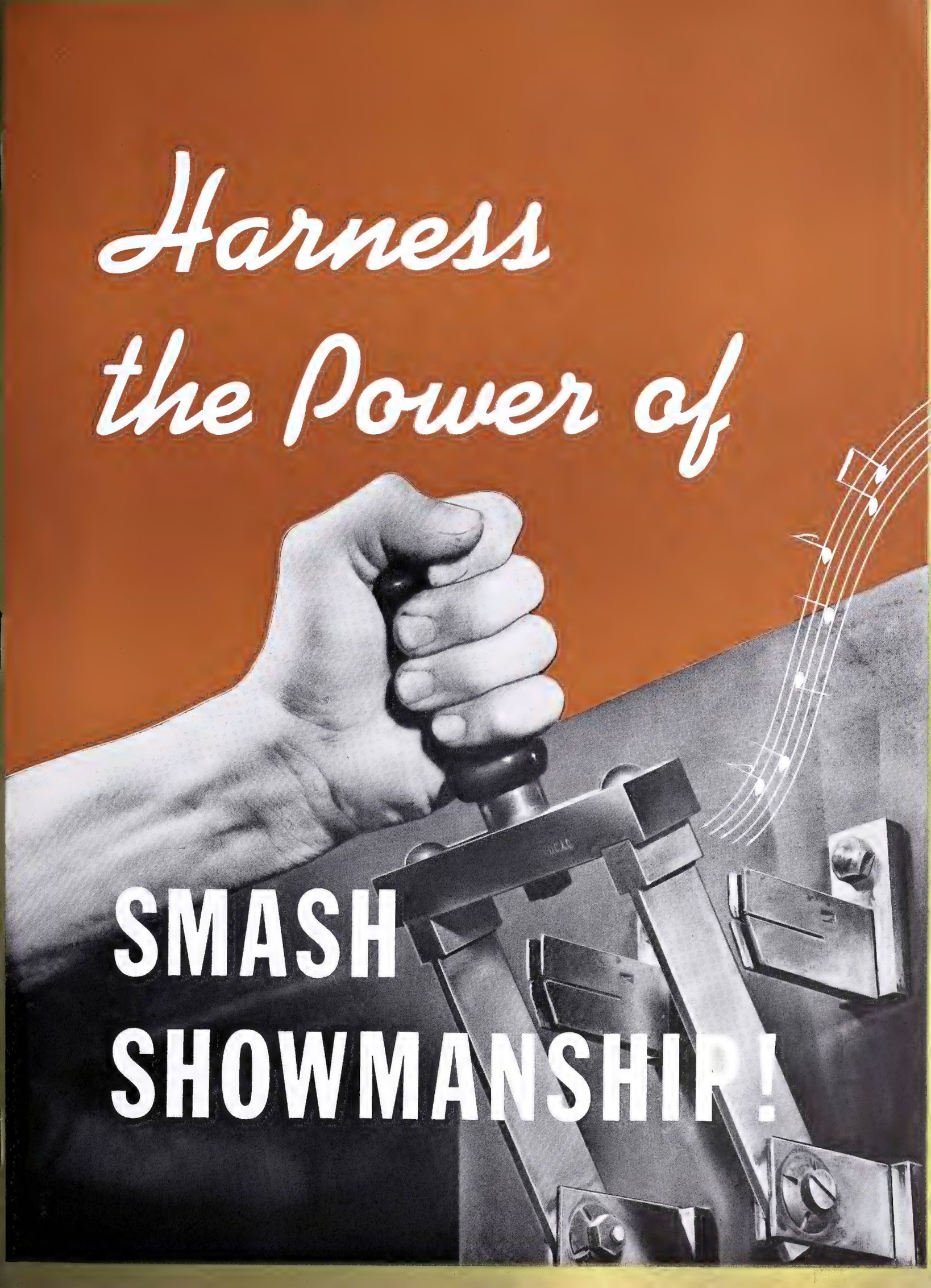
OMAHA—An all-industry goodwill gathering will be held by the Variety Club here April 22 in conjunction with a business meeting of the MPTO of Nebraska and Western Iowa to elect officers. The late Charlie Williams was MPTO president.

Product Talks Take WB Executives to Coast

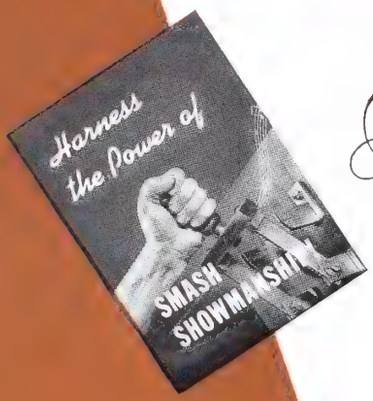
HOLLYWOOD—With Harry M. Warner, president, delayed here, home office executives are here for meetings on the new product lineup. Among them are Gradwell L. Sears, general sales manager; Carl Leserman, Roy H. Haines, Ben Kalmenson, Sam Schneider and Mort Blumenstock.

The coast palavers are slated to take about a fortnight, the principal discussion centering around a greater number of "A" pictures and the elimination of lesser quality product.

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SMASH SHOWMANSHIP!



International Premiere
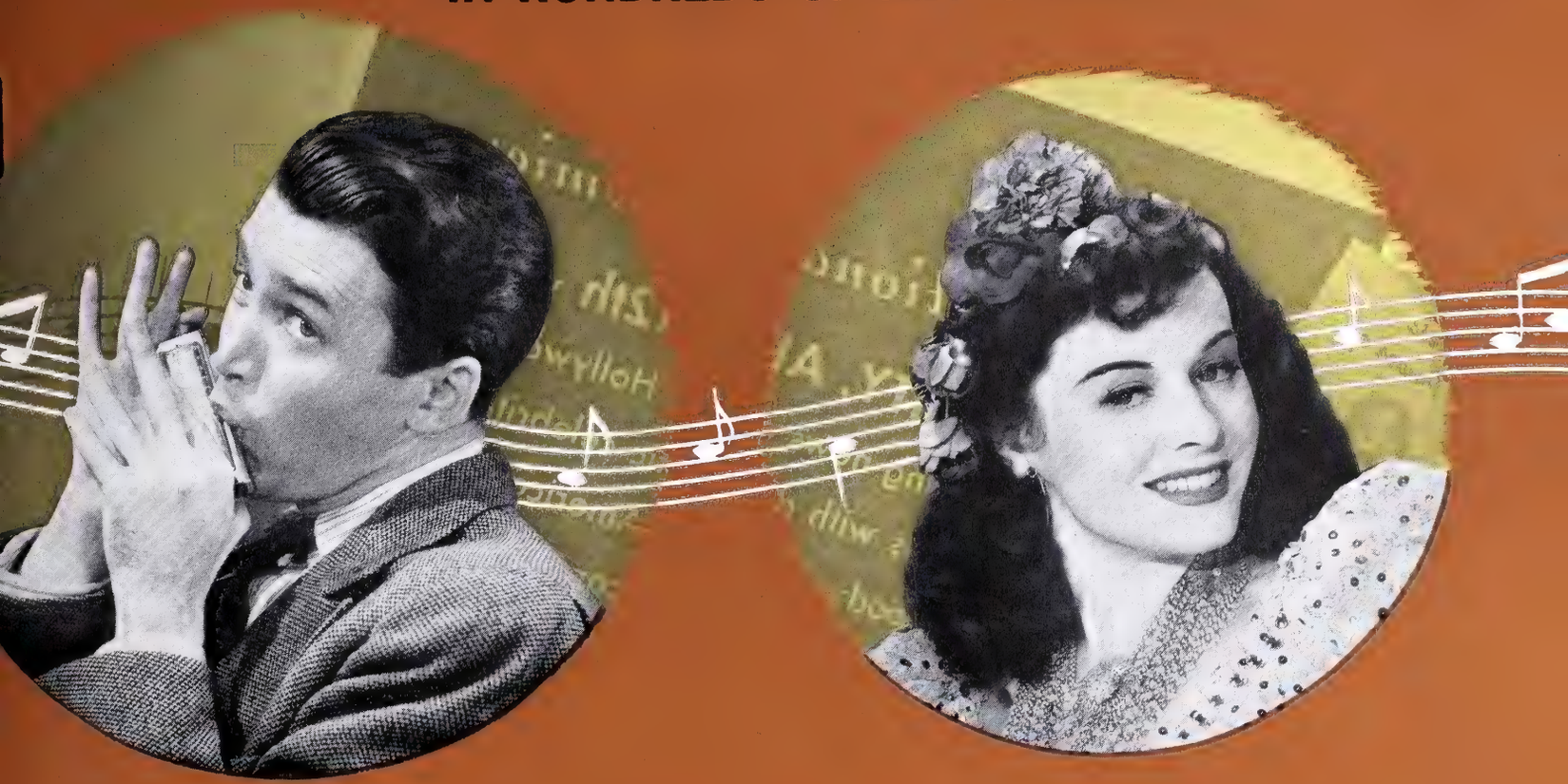
MEXICO CITY, APRIL 12th will be a world-encircling news event! Hollywood stars will join hands with diplomatic celebrities in a gesture of goodwill to Latin America as it prepares to celebrate Pan-American Day, April 14th. Wire service news coverage such as no other premiere has had...as James Roosevelt becomes the first producer to set premiere in a foreign capital...a stroke of showmanship to herald **your** engagement across your city ...across the country...around the world!

POW





RELEASED EASTER WEEK COAST-TO-COAST
IN HUNDREDS OF KEY CITIES!



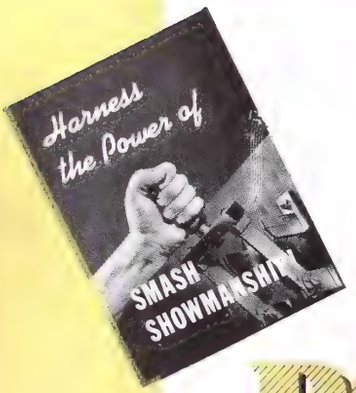
JAMES ROOSEVELT
presents

James STEWART ★ Paulette GODDARD

O' GOLD

with Horace HEIDT and his MUSICAL KNIGHTS and Charles WINNINGER

Directed by GEORGE MARSHALL Story by Andrew Bennison • Monty Brice and Harry Tugend
Screenplay by Walter de Leon • A Globe Production • Released thru UNITED ARTISTS



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. . . capitalizing every aspect of the popularity achieved by radio's top coast to coast program heard by millions each week.

. . . publicizing two top box-office stars presented by Hollywood's newest producer whose first picture sets a new pace in gayety, originality and box-office timeliness.

. . . ready . . set-to-go with scores of big time tie-ups including Tums, Philco Radio, Wurlitzer, Columbia Recording, United States Rubber Company, Mabs Bathing Suits . . and so many others that it takes a pressbook to list them all!



The Sea Wolf

F — Stirring Drama

WB (501) — **99 Minutes** — **Rel. Mar. 22, '41**

A modernized version of the famous Jack London novel, and a good one at that. New situations have been introduced which competently sustain the dramatic values. However, there is no reason to recall this as a remake, for it stands on its own, a worthy boxoffice contender for patronage. To the principals goes praise for fine characterizations. To Michael Curtiz, an accolade for splendid direction. The story, as currently brought to the screen, has Garfield and Miss Lupino fugitives from justice. Garfield signs on the "Ghost" to get out of 'Frisco. Miss Lupino is aboard a ferry and asks Knox to befriend her. Instead he turns her over to the police. There is a crash, the ferry sinks and Knox and Miss Lupino are saved by the "Ghost." "Sea Wolf" Larsen, in the person of Robinson, has his reasons for his plundering activities, with his brother the victim. As the story progresses, Garfield and Miss Lupino are brought closer together in the common cause of escape. How they ultimately do is dramatically told. Robinson, of course, tries to prevent the escape, even while his schooner is sinking, but Knox sacrifices his life to release the lovers from the uncompromising captain.

Edward G. Robinson, Ida Lupino, John Garfield, Gene Lockhart, Barry Fitzgerald, Alexander Knox, Stanley Ridges.

EXPLOITIPS: Convert the theatre front into a miniature schooner and have the ushers dressed as some of the picture's characters. Have window cards inserted in bookstores and libraries. Exhibitors can stage contests on various knot-tying tricks with the winner, or winners, getting passes for their efforts. Contact nautical clubs with special appealing copy and stress the fact that this is a modernized version of Sea Wolf Larsen and his famous "Ghost" ship.

CATCHLINES: Romance and Mutiny on the High Seas . . . Wolf Larsen, the Gangster of the Seas, Steals From His Own Brother.

Love Has No Place on the "Ghost" When Captain Edward G. Robinson Is Around . . . Semi-Blindness Defeated Wolf Larsen, Which No Man Could Do.

Topper Returns

F — Comedy-Mystery

United Artists (——) — **88 Minutes** — **Rel. Mar. 21, '41**

As a murder-mystery-chiller, complete with a full assortment of secret stairways, sliding doors and clutching hands, this is well equipped to stand on its own two feet and hold up the top side of any program. As the third in Producer Hal Roach's "Topper" series, specializing in the trick photography, burlesqued ghosts, gag situations and bright dialogue which made its predecessors so popular, the film could win wide acclaim as the best of the trio. As a smoothly-blended combination of the two, it is good comedy for the mob and should so solidify the screen popularity and revenue records of films featuring the fictional characters conceived by the late Thorne Smith that there will be a general demand for more. Billie Burke and Roland Young are inherited from the original "Topper" gang. Their antics are bolstered through the recruiting of such established masters of humor as Joan Blondell, Patsy Kelly, Donald MacBride and, last but far from least, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson. Old or new, they all make concerted bids for their shares of Thespic honors and laughs, which competition, spurred by a brilliantly-paced script, develops into a funfest which will have the customers roaring from start to finish. Roy Del Ruth cracked the directorial whip which kept the circus moving at break-neck clip.

Joan Blondell, Roland Young, Billie Burke, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, Patsy Kelly, Donald MacBride, Dennis O'Keefe.

EXPLOITIPS: Rig up a shadow box in the lobby in which lights, flashing on and off, reveal Joan Blondell first as a real being, then as a nebulous ghost. Make bookstore tieups on the "Topper" novels. Give marquee credits to Miss Blondell, Roland Young and Billie Burke.

CATCHLINES: A Gay, Gorgeous Ghost in a Lonely Castle . . . With Only Timid Topper to Keep Her Company.

It's the Best of the "Topper" Pictures . . . And the Funniest Show You've Seen in Years.

Meet John Doe

F — Drama

WB (——) — **123 Minutes** — **Rel. ——**

Frank Capra, once more surveying the scene, senses that the average American in these troubled times needs a hitching post to which he can tie his emotions and faith in the future. "Meet John Doe" turns out to be that hitching post, a focal point around which John Doe, et al., may fraternize and slap backs with his neighbors. The inference, of course, is that, once this happens—if it ever does—common problems can be met and licked because they are understood and because the battle let loose against them is representative of the whole people. This is told in terms of Gary Cooper who becomes John Doe for newspaper circulation purposes and finds himself swept out of bounds by the wildfire manner in which his simple credo of homely and home-like philosophy catches hold. Thousands of John Doe Clubs form in the one, big-happy-family manner; then Edward Arnold, the financier, shows his political claws by endeavoring to use Cooper as a rocket ship to a Fascist presidency. Cooper rebels, because by this time he believes the sweet things he has been handing out to the gullibles; Arnold cracks the Doe movement by exposing its fake beginnings and Cooper, confronted by Barbara Stanwyck, foregoes suicide for another crack at the same idea. "Meet John Doe," with its causes, is a sterling job. Beautifully performed, superbly produced, lightened by comedy, distinguished in its direction and intelligent, if idealistically lofty, in its conception, nevertheless it is Capra. And that means a great deal.

Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck, Walter Brennan, Edward Arnold, James Gleason, Gene Lockhart, Spring Byington.

EXPLOITIPS: The Capra stamp, by all means, should be emphasized. And, of course, the attraction power of the Cooper-Stanwyck names, as well as others if they mean anything locally. Ordinary ballyhoo methods should be watched carefully in this case. The subject matter is serious, even if frequently underlined with comedy and so perhaps, announcement copy is the pitch.

CATCHLINES: Meet 130,000,000 John Does . . . You Could Be Any One of Them . . . You Are All of Them.

That Uncertain Feeling

F — Farce

UA (——) — **89 Minutes** — **Rel. Apr. 20, '41**

Here is one that meanders casually in, out and around the bedroom for its allotted running time. A triangular affair, it's a case of Merle Oberon, six years married and taken for granted; Melvyn Douglas, successful insurance man and responsible for the situation at large, and Burgess Meredith, second-rate pianist on the crack-brain side. Miss Oberon and Meredith meet in a psychoanalyst's office and from that point carry on innocently enough until a divorce looms hull up on the horizon. At about that juncture, Douglas, advised to re-sell his marriage as he does his insurance, goes to work and, of course, wins out. Pretty thin stuff, with moderately amusing moments but never hilarious enough to warrant its 89 minutes. In fact, the footage is stretched tighter and tighter although it never actually bursts. Meredith is No. 1 in point of performance, while Miss Oberon and Douglas just about even it off in second place. Production values are excellent and present, from time to time, are those bits of direction long since defined as the "Lubitsch touch." The chief trouble here seems to be a lack of story to cover the entire distance.

Merle Oberon, Melvyn Douglas, Burgess Meredith, Alan Mowbray, Sig Rumann, Eve Arden, Olive Blakeney.

EXPLOITIPS: Cast names are strong; don't overlook them. The psychoanalysis angle suggests an amateur entertainer, ribbing audiences for laughs; the snoring sequence prompts the pressbook suggestion for a snoring contest. Surrealism, another element, might be good as an art angle. Woodbury face powder will advertise Miss Oberon in national magazines; local hookups could be made to follow. Clothing and hat promotions are another possibility and that goes as well for a limerick competition.

CATCHLINES: Some Fun When a Woman Gets That Uncertain Feeling . . . It's Merry and Romantic.

It's Love—With a Laugh . . . That Uncertain Feeling, a Tonic for Spring.

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

REVIEW DIGEST
AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

P. G. Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
	A										
37	A Girl, a Guy and a Gob	(RKO)	##	##	##	##	##	##			12+
	Across the Sierras	(Col)							±		1+ 1–
32	Adam Had Four Sons	(Col)	##	+	±	##	##	##			10+ 1–
16	Aldrich Family in Life With Henry	(Para)	+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2–
20	Along the Rio Grande	(RKO)	+	±	∓		+	±	±		6+ 4–
	Always a Bride	(FN)	∓	∓	∓	–	–	±	–		4+ 7–
36	Andy Hardy's Private Secretary	(M-G-M)	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+
	Arise, My Love	(Para)	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	##	15+
	Arizona	(Col)	##	##	+	##	##	##	##	+	14+
14	Arkansas Judge	(Rep)	±	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 2–
	B										
43	Back in the Saddle	(Rep)	+				+	##			4+
	Bad Man, The	(M-G-M)							+		1+
	Bank Dick, The	(Univ)	##	+	+	##	##	+	+	±	11+ 1–
	Barnyard Follies	(Rep)	+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2–
	Behind the News	(Rep)	±	+	±	+	##	+	±	±	9+ 4–
	Beyond the Sacramento	(Col)						+	+		2+
	Billy the Kid's Range War	(PRC)			∓						1+ 1–
	Bitter Sweet	(M-G-M)	##	+	##	+	##	##	+	+	12+
	Blackout	(UA)	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+
30	Blondie Inspiration	(M-G-M)	±	±	∓	±			±		5+ 5–
32	Blondie Goes Latin	(Col)	+	±	+	+	+	+	–	±	7+ 3–
	Blondie Plays Cupid	(Col)	+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3–
	Border Legion	(Rep)	+		∓	+	##	+	±	±	8+ 3–
	Boss of Bullion City	(Univ)							±		1+ 1–
2	Bowery Boy	(Rep)	∓	±	–	+	±	±	±	±	7+ 7–
	Bride Wore Crutches	(20th-Fox)	±		–		±	–	±		3+ 5–
22	Buck Privates	(Univ)	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
	Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie	(Univ)							+		1+
	C										
18	Case of the Black Parrot	(FN)	–	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 6–
	Caught in the Act	(PRC)				±			–	∓	2+ 3–
	Chad Hanna	(20th-Fox)	±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2–
	Chamber of Horrors	(Mono)	±	±					±		3+ 3–
	Charter Pilot	(20th-Fox)	∓	+	–	+	##	±	+	±	8+ 4–
9	Cheers for Miss Bishop	(UA)	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	16+
	Cherokee Strip	(Para)	+	+	±	+		##	+		7+ 1–
	Christmas in July	(Para)	##	+	±	##	##	##	+	+	12+ 1–
	Citizen Kane	(RKO)					##				2+
17	Come Live With Me	(M-G-M)	##	±	–	##	##	##	±	+	11+ 3–
	Comrade X	(M-G-M)	##	+	##	##	##	##	+	##	14+
11	Convoy	(RKO)	+	+		+			+	±	5+ 1–
	D										
	Dancing on a Dime	(Para)	±	+	±	±	+	∓	+	∓	8+ 5–
	Dangerous Game, A	(Univ)		–	=	±			–	=	1+ 7–
	Dark Streets of Cairo	(Univ)	–	±	+	±			+		4+ 3–
	Dead Man's Shoes	(Mono)		±					+		2+ 1–
	Devil Bat, The	(PRC)			=	±				±	2+ 4–
31	Devil Commands, The	(Col)	±	–	=	+			–	∓	3+ 6–
	Devil's Pipeline	(Univ)	∓	±	–	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6–
	Diamond Frontier	(Univ)	∓	±	–	±	+	∓	–	∓	6+ 7–
	Dispatch From Reuter's	(WB)	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+
	Dr. Kildare's Crisis	(M-G-M)	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
9	Doomed Caravan	(Para)	##		+	##	##	##	+	±	11+ 1–
	Double Date	(Univ)			±		±	+			3+ 2–
	Down Argentine Way	(20th-Fox)	##	+	##	##	##	##	+	+	13+
	Drums of the Desert	(Mono)	±		∓	+	+	±	+	∓	7+ 4–
	Dulcy	(M-G-M)	+	±	+	+	∓	+	+	+	8+ 2–
	E										
	East of the River	(FN)	±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5–
	Ellery Queen, Master Detective	(Col)	+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5–
34	E. Queen's Penthouse Mys.	(Col)	±	±	+	+	+	+		∓	7+ 3–
	Escape	(M-G-M)	##	##	##	##	##	+	##	##	15+
	Escape to Glory	(Col)	+	±	+		+	+	±		6+ 2–
	F										
26	Face Behind the Mask	(Col)	+	±	∓	±		+	±	±	7+ 5–
	Fantasia	(Disney)	##	##	##	##		##	##	##	14+
	Fargo Kid	(RKO)	+	±	±		+	+	+		6+ 2–
31	Father's Son	(WB)	±	±	=	±	–	∓	±	∓	6+ 9–
	Father Is a Prince	(FN)	±	±	±		=	=	–	–	3+ 9–
	Fight for Life, The	(Col)	+					##	+	+	4+
	Flight Command	(M-G-M)	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
4	Flight From Destiny	(WB)	+	+	±	##	##	##	+		10+ 1–
38	Flying Wild	(Mono)	–				+	+			2+ 1–
37	Footsteps in the Dark	(WB)	+	±	+	±	##	+			7+ 2–
	Four Mothers	(WB)	##	+	±	+	+	##	+	+	10+ 1–
	Four Sons	(20th-Fox)	##		+	##	##	+	+	+	10+
	Freedom Radio	(Col)			+						1+
	Friendly Neighbors	(Rep)	±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5–
	Frontier Vengeance	(Univ)	o		–	∓			±		2+ 3–
	Fugitive From Justice	(WB)	±	∓	+	+		–	±	±	6+ 5–
	G										
	Gallant Sons	(M-G-M)	+	+	+	±	##	+	±	±	9+ 3–
	Gay Caballero, The	(20th-Fox)	+	±	±	+	–	+	+	±	7+ 4–
1	Girl in the News	(20th-Fox)	+	+	+	+	##	+	+		8+
	Girls Under 21	(Col)	–	±	±			±	±	±	5+ 6–
	Give Us Wings	(Univ)	–	±	±			+	±	–	4+ 5–
29	Golden Hoofs	(20th-Fox)	+	±	+		+	+	+		6+ 1–
	Go West	(M-G-M)	+	+	##	+	##	+	±	##	11+ 1–
	Gone With the Wind	(M-G-M)	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	16+
	Great Commandment	(20th-Fox)							##		2+
	Great Dictator, The	(UA)	##	##	+	##	∓	+	##	+	12+ 1–
	Great Mr. Nobody	(WB)		±					±		2+ 2–
	Great Plane Robbery	(Col)	+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4–
	Great Profile, The	(20th-Fox)	+	±	##	##	+	##	+	±	11+ 2–
39	Great Train Robbery	(Rep)	+	+	±						3+ 1–
	H										
33	Hard-Boiled Canary	(Para)	±	±	±	##	##	+	+		9+ 3–
	Her First Romance	(Mono)	+	+		+	##	+	+		7+
	Here Comes Happiness	(WB)		–			–	±			1+ 3–
	Here Comes the Navy	(WB)							##		2+
16	High Sierra	(FN)	##	±	±	##	##	##		+	11+ 2–
	Hit Parade of 1941	(Rep)	+	±	±	##	+	+	+	∓	9+ 3–
	Hold That Woman	(PRC)	+		–	±	+	–		±	4+ 4–
13	Honeymoon for Three	(WB)	±	±	±	±	±	##	+	±	9+ 6–
	Hudson's Bay	(20th-Fox)	+	±	∓	±	+	##	+	+	9+ 3–
	Hullabaloo	(M-G-M)	+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6–
	I										
	I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now	(Univ)	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2–
34	In Old Colorado	(Para)	+		+		+	+	+		5+
1	Invisible Woman, The	(Univ)	##	+	+	##	##	##	+	±	12+ 1–
39	It Happened to One Man	(RKO)	±	–	±	+				+	4+ 3–
	J										
	Jennie	(20th-Fox)	+	+			+	+	+		5+
	K										
4	Keeping Company	(M-G-M)	–	±	–	##	##	±	+		7+ 4–
	Kitty Foyle	(RKO)	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
	Knute Rockne—All American	(WB)	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	15+
	L										
	Laddie	(RKO)	∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4–
40	Lady Eve, The	(Para)	##	##	##	##	##	##	+	+	14+
	Lady With Red Hair	(WB)	+	±	+	+	##	+	+	±	9+ 2–
15	Land of Liberty	(M-G-M)	##	±	+				##	+	7+ 1–
	Law and Order	(Univ)	±		+	+					3+ 1–
	Let's Make Music	(RKO)	+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4–
	Letter, The	(FN)	##	+	##	##	##	##	+	##	14+
1	Li'l Abner	(RKO)	+	∓			∓	±	–		4+ 4–
	Little Bit of Heaven	(Univ)	##	+	+	##	##	##	+	+	12+

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week.

The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:
Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; – Poor; = Very Poor.
In the summary ## is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.
(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number.)

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

Sleepers West F
Melodrama

20th Century-Fox (134) 74 Minutes Rel. Mar. 14, '41

Further adventures of Michael Shayne, private detective, this is long on dialogue, short on action and story, and devoid of suspense. It classifies as no better than fair-to-middlin' as supporting fare and may prove disappointing to even the most rabid mystery fans, since there is nary a murder. Most of the picture is filmed aboard a train on which Shayne is returning to San Francisco with a girl scheduled to be the surprise witness in a murder trial. She is the only person who can clear the accused, but her testimony will involve the son of a Mr. Money Bags who is running for governor. Hence, there is an effort made to block her appearance, which simple plot is slightly complicated through the introduction of the inevitable girl reporter, an absconding husband and a train wreck. Eugene Forde directed.

Lloyd Nolan, Lynn Bari, Mary Beth Hughes, Louis Jean Heydt, Edward Brophy, Don Costello, Ben Carter.

EXPLOITIPS: Play up Lloyd Nolan as Detective Michael Shayne in this second of the Shayne series. Railroad background suggests the picture might be screened aboard a local train for dramatic critics. Dress doorman as a railroad conductor and use him as a sidewalk barker shouting "All aboard for 'Sleepers West'" and swinging a lantern. Use toy trains in store windows and lobby.

CATCHLINES: For Gay Adventure and Action-Packed Drama . . . Hop Aboard the Comanche Limited . . . With That Different Detective, Michael Shayne.

An Exciting Mixture of Murder and Merriment . . . With Detective Michael Shayne and the Two Pretty Girls in His Life.

Find the Woman! . . . It's an Exciting Pursuit of a Much-Wanted Murder Witness . . . Aboard a Speeding Express Train.

Hop Aboard the Comanche Limited to Join Michael Shayne, Detective, in a Deadly Game of Hide and Seek.

He Was Hunting a Murder Witness . . . Aboard an Express Train . . . Hurtling Along the Rails to Its Doom.

A Man Betrayed F
Drama

Republic (011) 83 Minutes Rel. Mar. 7, '41

Lacking effective execution all down the line, "A Man Betrayed" doesn't stack up. In the line of performance it seems that as long as the players delivered the dialogue word for word it was all right. The story is a disconnected affair with many loose ends trailing. They don't quite get caught up in the general drift of things. Politicos, a youthful small-town lawyer, murder, racketeering, ballot-box stuffing, romantic overtones—the latter set in night clubs and in an amusement park—are thrown into the presentation pot. The resulting dish emerges along pattern lines in which the perseverance and slick maneuvering of the aforementioned lawyer cleans up a dirty political mess, gets his girl and he takes her home.

John Wayne, Frances Dee, Edward Ellis, Wallace Ford, Ward Bond, Harold Huber.

EXPLOITIPS: A heavy barrage of advance publicity will have to be laid down to garner business for this one. The cast names, particularly the leads, have fair pulling power. To bolster this end, make sure the supporting players' faces are liberally displayed. A few ballot box gags in the lobby might draw interest. Have a few hundred newspapers printed with a superimposed headline strip calling attention to the film. Election poster gags also are called for. There is a John Wayne shirt tieup.

CATCHLINES: Political Corruption Undermines a Great Metropolis Until One Man Smashes the Machine.

What Can a Woman Do When She's Torn Between Two Loves? . . . Her Sweetheart and Her Father.

See What Happens When a Small-Town Lawyer Goes Gunning for a Corrupt Political Machine.

Politics and Murder . . . Racketeering and Election Stealing . . . Action and Romance.

The Round-Up F
Western

Paramount (4024) 90 Minutes Rel. Apr. 4, '41

Melodrama of the triangle-plot variety and with an early west locale, this should prove popular among those seeking a combination of dramatics and six-gun action, particularly inasmuch as the cast is topped by two names, Richard Dix and Preston Foster, with established followings in that market. Harry Sherman produced, and his long experience in making the top-flight westerns depicting the adventures of "Hopalong Cassidy" reflected itself in the wise administration of the increased budget allocated to this sally into a wider field. The feature is substantial in all of its productional accoutrements. The emphasis is on story and portrayals rather than standard sagebrush details, the riding, shooting Indians, etc., having been employed principally to furnish backgrounds and atmosphere. Acting chores throughout are performed in noteworthy fashion, with top honors the easy victory of Foster. Dix and Foster are buddies. Dix marries Patricia Morison, with whom Foster also is in love, and the ensuing complications find Foster making the supreme sacrifice. Lesley Selander directed.

Richard Dix, Preston Foster, Patricia Morison, Don Wilson, Ruth Donnelly, Douglass Dumbrille, Jerome Cowan.

EXPLOITIPS: The teaming of Richard Dix and Preston Foster should be marqueed for action fans, while Don Wilson, popular radio announcer, might also be given an exploitation buildup. Hold a "Round-Up" night at which patrons are invited to attend in western costumes, and have a "chuck wagon" set up in the lobby to serve pancakes, doughnuts and coffee. Make over the lobby to look like a pioneer town.

CATCHLINES: Your Two Top Action Favorites . . . Richard Dix and Preston Foster . . . In the Kind of Rip-Roarin' Western Entertainment You Love.

Two Men and a Woman . . . Fighting Side by Side to Carve a New Civilization Out of the Untamed West.

It's Got Everything to Satisfy Your Craving for Action . . . Adventure . . . Excitement and Romance.

Double Date F
Comedy

Universal (——) 60 Minutes Rel. Mar. 14, '41

Unpretentious but entirely wholesome comedy of family life, which has more than its share of diverting elements, considering its modest cost and claims. The picture is admirable supporting material, creditable largely to a well-done story and workmanlike performances by Edmund Lowe, Una Merkel and Peggy Moran. No small factor, also, is a skillful directorial job by Glenn Tryon. Lowe, a widower with a snobbish son, Rand Brooks, falls in love with Miss Merkel, maiden aunt of Miss Moran. They want to marry. Learning of the impending match, the two youngsters drop all other plans, even though they dislike each other intensely, to break up the romance between their elders. Their efforts result in a stolen-car mixup and an attempted elopement, climaxed when the older couple marries and the youngsters fall in love.

Edmund Lowe, Una Merkel, Peggy Moran, Rand Brooks, Tommy Kelly, Hattie Noel, Eddy Waller, William Ruhl.

EXPLOITIPS: Edmund Lowe and Una Merkel are the selling names here, while Peggy Moran also can be cited as a possible marquee draw. The title can be tied into exploitation stunts in several ways. For example, offer special admission prices to all "double-dating" couples. Have a drugstore sponsor a "Double Date" sundae. Prepare mailing-pieces as heart-shaped folders.

CATCHLINES: A Retired Widower, He Took Another Fling at Romance, But Hay Fever Almost Snuffed Out the Flame of Love.

She Cherished Her First Love Affair . . . But Her Niece Stepped In Because She Thought Aunt Elsie's Ardour Was Too Arduous.

It's a Problem for Modern Children . . . When Their Parents Get Too Old to Know How to Handle Affairs of the Heart.

A Cast of Comedy Favorites . . . In a Delightful Romantic Comedy That We Know You're Going to Enjoy.

‡ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor. In the summary ‡ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		Little Men (RKO)		−	±	=	±	‡	+	±	±	7+ 7−
		Little Nellie Kelly (M-G-M)		‡	‡	+	±	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 2−
		Lone Rider Crosses the Rio (PRC)				±						1+ 1−
35		Lone Rider Rides On (PRC)		∓						+		2+ 1−
		Lone Star Raiders (Rep)		+		±	∓		+	±	∓	6+ 4−
		Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (Col)		+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
		Lone Wolf Takes a Chance (Col)				−		+	±			2+ 2−
		Long Voyage Home (UA)		+	‡		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	13+
		Love Thy Neighbor (Para)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Lucky Devils (Univ)			±	∓	+			+	∓	5+ 3−
		M										
26		Mad Doctor, The (Para)		∓	+	=	+	+	±	+	+	7+ 4−
5		Maisie Was a Lady (M-G-M)		+	±	+	∓	‡	‡	+	+	10+ 2−
46		Man Betrayed, A (Rep)		−		−	+	+	±			3+ 3−
		Margie (Univ)		−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
		Mark of Zorro, The (20th-Fox)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
39		Meet Boston Blackie (Col)		±	±	−	+				±	4+ 4−
28		Meet the Chump (Univ)		±	−	±	±	+	+	±	∓	7+ 6−
		Meet the Missus (Rep)		±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
		Meet the Wildcat (Univ)		−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
45		Meet John Doe (WB)		‡			‡	‡	‡		‡	10+
		Melody and Moonlight (Rep)		∓	±		‡	‡	+	±		8+ 3−
		Melody for Three (RKO)			±	±	‡	‡	+	+		8+ 2−
		Melody Ranch (Rep)		+	+	+	‡		‡	+	∓	9+ 1−
44		Men of Boys Town (M-G-M)		‡			‡			‡		6+
		Mexican Spitfire Out West (RKO)		+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
		Michael Shayne, Private Detective (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Misbehaving Husbands (PRC)		+	±	=	+	‡	+		∓	7+ 4−
		Missing Ten Days (Col)			±							1+ 1−
27		Monster and the Girl (Para)		+	±			+	±			4+ 2−
		Moon Over Burma (Para)		+	+	±	+	‡	+	+	±	9+ 2−
		Mortal Storm, The (M-G-M)		+	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	13+
42		Mr. Dynamite (Univ)		=		±		∓	+		±	4+ 5−
13		Mr. and Mrs. Smith (RKO)		‡	+	+	‡	±	‡	+	+	11+ 1−
43		Murder Among Friends (20th-Fox)		∓	±	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 4−
		Murder Over New York (20th-Fox)		±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
		N										
36		Nice Girl? (Univ)		+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	‡		11+
		Night at Earl Carroll's (Para)		=	±	−	±	±	±	±	±	6+ 9−
		Night Train (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	‡		+	‡	9+
18		Nobody's Children (Col)		±	−	∓	±	±	±	±	±	7+ 8−
8		No, No, Nanette (RKO)		‡	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		North West Mounted Police (Para)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
		O										
		Ol' Swimmin' Hole (Mono)		+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
		On the Spot (Mono)		+		−	+	+	±	±	∓	6+ 4−
		One Million B. C. (UA)		±	±	−	+	±	∓	±		6+ 6−
		One Night in the Tropics (Univ)		±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
		Outlaws of the Panhandle (Col)								−		1−
		Outlaws of Rio Grande (PRC)				+	+					2+
		P										
		Passport to Alcatraz (Col)		+	−	±	+	∓	−	±		5+ 5−
42		Penalty, The (M-G-M)		+	−	=	±	‡	+			5+ 4−
31		Petticoat Politics (Rep)		∓	−	∓	+	−	+	−		4+ 5−
		Phantom Cowboy (Rep)					+			±		2+ 1−
		Phantom of Chinatown (Mono)		±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
30		Phantom Submarine, The (Col)		±	±	−	±			±	±	5+ 6−
		Philadelphia Story (M-G-M)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	16+
23		Pinto Kid (Col)		+		±	+			±	±	5+ 3−
		Play Girl (RKO)		+	±	±	±	‡	+	+	±	9+ 4−
		Pony Post (Univ)		±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
		Prairie Law (RKO)		+	±	+	+		+	±	∓	7+ 3−
		Prairie Pioneers (Rep)				±	±			+		3+ 2−
		Prairie Schooners (Col)		∓		−	=			+	∓	3+ 5−
15		Pride of the Bowery (Mono)		+	±	=	±	+	−	+	∓	6+ 6−
		Public Deb. No. 1 (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+	+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
		Q										
		Quarterback, The (Para)		±	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		Quiet Wedding (Para)				+						1+
		R										
44		Rage in Heaven (M-G-M)		+	±	∓	‡	+	+			7+ 2−
		Remedy for Riches (RKO)		+	±	±	+	+	+	+		7+ 2−
25		Ride, Kelly, Ride (20th-Fox)		±	−	−		=	−	±		2+ 7−
19		Ridin' on a Rainbow (Rep)		∓		∓	+	+	+	+		6+ 2−
35		Ridin' the Cherokee Trail (Mono)		+				+	+	±		4+ 1−
25		Road Show (UA)		+	−	∓	±	−	+	+	±	6+ 5−
41		Road to Zanzibar (Para)		‡		+		‡	‡	+		8+
10		Robin Hood of the Pecos (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	∓	+	±	7+ 4−
17		Rolling Home to Texas (Mono)		=		+	+	+	±	±		5+ 4−
5		Romance of the Rio Grande (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
47		Roundup, The (Para)		+				+	±	±	∓	5+ 4−
		S										
		Safari (Para)		±	∓	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
3		Saint in Palm Springs (RKO)		+	±	=	∓	=	+	+	+	6+ 6−
		Sandy Gets Her Man (Univ)		+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		Sandy Is a Lady (Univ)		+	∓	∓	+	+	±	+	±	8+ 4−
		San Francisco Docks (Univ)		∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
		Santa Fe Trail (FN)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
27		Scattergood Baines (RKO)		+	±	+	+	‡	+	+		8+ 1−
48		Sea Wolf, The (WB)		‡								2+
		Second Chorus (Para)		‡	+	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	14+
23		Secret Evidence (PRC)		+	±	=	±	+	−	±	−	5+ 7−
		Seven Sinners (Univ)		±	+	±	‡	+	+	±	+	9+ 3−
		She Couldn't Say No (FN)		+	±	±	±	∓		±	±	7+ 6−
12		Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga (Univ)		+	±	±	+	∓	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
46		Sleepers West (20th-Fox)		±				+	±			3+ 2−
		Slightly Tempted (Univ)		±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
20		So Ends Our Night (UA)		∓	+	±	‡	+	‡	‡	+	11+ 2−
		So You Won't Talk (Col)		−	±	±	±	−	∓	±	±	6+ 8−
		Son of Monte Cristo (UA)		+	±	∓	±	∓	‡	±	±	9+ 6−
		South of Suez (WB)		+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
		Spellbound (UA)				+						1+
29		Strawberry Blonde (FN)		‡	±	+	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	13+ 1−
		Street of Memories (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
		T										
		Take Me Back to Okla. (Mono)		+			‡	+	+	+		6+
14		Tall, Dark and Handsome (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	‡	12+
		Texas Rangers Ride Again (Para)		+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
		Texas Terrors (Rep)		+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
41		That Night in Rio (20th-Fox)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡		+	13+
45		That Uncertain Feeling (UA)		±			+			+		3+ 1−
		They Knew What They Wanted (RKO)		‡	±	‡	‡	+	‡	‡	‡	14+ 1−
		Thief of Bagdad (UA)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	15+
		Third Finger, Left Hand (M-G-M)		‡	+	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	12+
		This Thing Called Love (Col)		+	+	‡	‡	‡		±	+	10+ 1−
		Three Men From Texas (Para)		+		‡	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Thundering Frontier (Col)		−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
		Tin Pan Alley (20th-Fox)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
33		Tobacco Road (20th-Fox)		‡	±	±	‡	‡	‡		+	11+ 2−
		Too Many Girls (RKO)		+	±	+	‡	‡	‡	+	+	11+ 1−
48		Topper Returns (UA)		+		±	+	+	+			5+ 1−
		Torpedo Raider (Mono)		∓								1+ 1−
		Trail Blazers (Rep)		+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
38		Trail of the Silver Spurs (Mono)		+		+	±	−	+	+		4+ 2−
		Trail of the Vigilantes (Univ)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		Trailin' Double Trouble (Mono)		∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
28		Trial of Mary Dugan (M-G-M)		+	+	+	‡	‡	+	+	±	10+ 1−
		Tugboat Annie Sails Again (WB)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		V										
		Victory (Para)		+	+	−	‡	‡	+	+	‡	11+ 1−
		Villain Still Pursued Her (RKO)		±	∓	−	±	±	∓	±		6+ 7−
12		Virginia (Para)		‡	±	±	‡	‡	‡	+	±	12+ 3−
		W										
		Wagon Train (RKO)		+	+	+		+	+	±		6+ 1−
		Wagons Westward (Rep)		+	+	±	+	−	∓	±	±	7+ 5−
		West of Pinto Basin (Mono)		±		±	+	‡	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
24		Western Union (20th-Fox)		‡		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	13+
		Where Did You Get That Girl (Univ)		+	±		±	+	+	±		6+ 3−
		Who Killed Aunt Maggie? (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
		Wild Horse Range (Mono)								±	∓	2+ 2−
24		Wild Man of Borneo (M-G-M)		+	−					+		2+ 1−
30		Wildcat of Tucson (Col)		o		±						1+ 1−
		World in Flames (Para)		+		‡	‡	+		+	+	8+
8		Wyoming Wildcat (Rep)		+			+			+		3+
		Y										
		You'll Find Out (RKO)		‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	+	+	14+
		Young Bill Hickok (Rep)		±		∓	+		+	±		5+ 3−
11		You're Out of Luck (Mono)		±	±	=		∓	±	±		5+ 7−
21		You're the One (Para)		+	∓	∓	∓	‡	+	−	±	8+ 5−
		Youth Will Be Served (20th-Fox)		±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
		Yukon Flight (Mono)		+			+					2+

RKO leads the EASTER PARADE with a show made to order for *Holiday* Playing Time

RKO RADIO PICTURES



SWING INTO SPR



FRANK ROSS and NORMAN KRASNA PRESENT

JEAN ARTHUR

The "Devil" an

Directed by
SAM WOOD
Director of "KITTY FOYLE"
and "MR. CHIPS"

NG

With the gayest, freshest, brightest comedy romance you could ever hope for! A sprightly, speedy, spicy delight directed by the man who gave you "Kitty Foyle," and written by the author of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."... BOOKED AS THE GALA EASTER WEEK ATTRACTION BY SCORES OF FIRST RUNS EVERYWHERE!



d Miss Jones

with ROBERT • CHARLES

CUMMINGS • COBURN

EDMUND GWENN • SPRING BYINGTON • S. Z. SAKALL

WILLIAM DEMAREST • PRODUCED BY FRANK ROSS

WRITTEN BY NORMAN KRASNA

RKO RADIO PICTURES

Nation's First Board Hearing in Boston

(Continued from page 6)

dishes and crockery, which are given out to each patron.

"At, or about, the time the complainant started to operate this theatre, it made extensive improvements at a cost which I understand was around $16,000. It is a reputable theatre. Mr. Gold, who is the head of the organization, is an experienced man with more than ten years' experience in the business.

"We feel, therefore," Ryan said, "that the exhibitor has reasonable minimum standards of theatre operation and is reputable and responsible. I do not understand there is any contest as to that."

"Let me stop you there," Brown broke in. "Is there any contest that the exhibitor does not fulfill the requirements of the consent decree?"

Presents Consent to Award

Edward H. McClennan, chief defense counsel who has been pitted against Ryan in the majority of the motion picture anti-trust actions heard in Boston, then arose from his seat at the arbitrator's right.

"We are not in a position to concede it," McClennan said, "as we are not in a position to concede some of the other statements which have been made. But I can briefly cover the situation by handing to Your Honor the Consent to Award which I now hand you."

McClennan then passed to Brown a Consent to Award by Paramount, Warner and RKO. He then introduced C. F. Young of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey of the New York Bar who passed to the arbitrator in behalf of 20th-Fox a similar document.

"I didn't want to interrupt you," Brown apologized. "I didn't know it was in the offing."

"While this is a Consent to Award," Ryan said, "it reserves the right (which right it would have, of course, after the pictures of the distributors consenting have been shown in the theatre) to institute a further arbitration proceeding to be relieved of the award.

"That, of course, is a right they would have later, if they so desired, after pictures were shown. I wish merely to put on the record at this time the situation of the plaintiff so that if at any later time a proceeding is brought, Your Honor would then have that situation in mind."

Brown nodded.

"I am sorry to have interrupted you," he said.

"That is perfectly all right," Ryan said. "There is one other distributor named here, other than the four for which the consents have been filed, Loew's, Inc. That company made an arrangement with the complainant for licensing of five films, to some extent on an experimental basis. Therefore, these incorporators are being withdrawn from the arbitration proceedings."

"I should have said," put in McClennan, "that Mr. Ryan this morning has been furnished with copies of the two consents which were handed to Your Honor."

"Well, now," said Brown, "are there any distributors that have not consented?"

"Only the Loew's, Inc., against which the proceeding has been withdrawn so far as we may withdraw it," Ryan answered.

"Is there anyone else who cares to say anything in the proceedings?" Brown asked. He looked around inquiringly. No one spoke. "I suppose, all the parties having agreed, there is very little to do but to award in accordance with the Consent to Award. If there is nothing further to report at this time, the proceedings will be adjourned."

Brown signed and sealed his award by 11:00 a. m.

"In accordance with the consents filed with the Arbitrator," he tersely decreed, "I direct the above named distributors to offer their pictures for licenses to said Paulstan, Inc., for exhibition in the Park Theatre to the extent of pictures released for exhibition up to July 13, 1942 inclusive, on a run to be designated by said distributors and upon terms and conditions fixed by said distributors which are not calculated to defeat the purpose of Section 6 of the Consent Decree."

Negotiates for Product

Gold, that very afternoon, entered negotiations with 20th-Fox and RKO for product. Norman Ayers, Warner branch manager, declined to talk deals before being advised officially of the award. Arthur K. Howard, business manager of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., has been sitting in with Gold in many of his buying discussions.

The entire affair was as much a victory for the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., as for Gold himself. This Allied organization, which Gold joined only a few months ago, was behind his putting the matter in AAA hands. It is also backing Abe Garbose, only other local pleader to date, and has a number of other cases in the works.

"This office stands ready to prepare complaints for presentation to the arbitration tribunal and to represent all members who wish it," Howard commented. "The importance of filing complaints should not be overlooked by anyone. In order to get a true picture of the effectiveness of the consent decree, the department of justice must, at the end of the three-year trial period, have a complete picture of the relief gained by independent exhibitors under the setup."

Howard advised members not to conciliate privately, averring that in most instances "you will settle for less than you will get from arbitration."

J. Noble Braden, executive secretary of the AAA, attended the Boston hearing and left the same day to be present in Chicago for the country's second case. Samuel S. Perry, eastern supervisor for the AAA, was also at hand. Only other spectators besides the press at the lightly attended hearing were Tom Bailey, Edward X. Callahan and Harry Alexander of 20th-Fox and Ross Cropper, RKO Boston branch manager.

"We're Effective Anyway," Lobby Charge Retort

NEW YORK—"At least we're effective," is the cryptic and unofficial rejoinder of the MPPDA to the lobbying activities charged against the Hays office in the TNEC report in Washington of Donald C. Blaisdell, who recommended federal registration of all lobbyists and full publicizing of their operations.

Only when Congress exercises its investigating power does the public begin to have access to the facts about legislative lobbying, the report asserts, accompanying Blaisdell's contention that the industry is one in which the producing and distributing functions are to a large extent combined in a field which is dominated by a few large corporations.

"The smaller producing companies are compelled to permit 'the Big Eight' to distribute their films in order to have them shown at the larger theatres," he adds. "In addition to this control, the movie industry exercises other controls in the form of block booking and blind selling. The producers sell their films in blocks to the independent exhibitor. In order to obtain the outstanding films the exhibitor must buy several other films which are often inferior."

Since 1928, the report continues, independent exhibitors have been seeking congressional aid in solving their problem, but have been confronted with the lobbying activities of the MPPDA.

Urges Managers Get Extended Runs

NEW YORK—Declaring "big attractions are only scratching the surface of possible theatre attendance in first run houses," John J. O'Connor, general manager of the RKO circuit, exhorts all theatre managers in a letter "to get the extended runs which producers have warned us must be obtained." He adds that "the means or method" by which the runs are to be obtained the producers "have not suggested but left to us as exhibitors to find and carry out."

Obviously showing displeasure with the practices of some subsequent run operators, O'Connor has this to say to his managers:

"It is fully realized that in the struggle for patronage, second and subsequent runs are violating the rule against advertising before prior runs and we are up against vicious trade practices of all kinds, such as propaganda to the effect 'wait and see it here at lower prices;' dish giveaways; Bank Nights and Bingos. We also know the parking problem is acute for most downtown houses and the further inducement of two 'A' pictures is prevalent in many second and subsequent run houses throughout the country."



"ZIEGFELD GIRL" by Gilbert Bundy, one of the celebrated artists' series in M-G-M's national competition to capture the spirit of the Ziegfeld Girl of 1941. Among other famed artists who have contributed are John La Gatta, McClelland Barclay, Neysa McMein and Albert Varga.

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S

LION'S ROAR

Published in this space every month

The greatest star of the screen!

"Daddy, do you remember 'The Ziegfeld Follies'?", said Little Cub, looking up at us with large leonine eyes.

★ ★ ★ ★



And, reaching back into the haunted wings of the New Amsterdam Theatre, we were launched on the bedtime story of those nights of stars provided by the memorable Flo.

★ ★ ★ ★

Soon we worked our way to the chapter wherein M-G-M immortalized "The Great Ziegfeld", and we drifted naturally into the glamour story of 1941:



★ ★ ★ ★

THE ZIEGFELD GIRL

★ ★ ★ ★

For many moons Robert Z. Leonard, the director, and Pandro Berman, the producer, have been studding the stars in a cluster designed to give the Aurora Borealis second billing.

★ ★ ★ ★

As Tony Martin softly sings "You Stepped Out of A Dream", which is Public Melody No. 1, you will step into a dream of glorified girls—of Hedy Lamarr and Lana Turner.





Romance, in a beaming web, is spun around the personal problems of a guy played by James Stewart, the last three letters of whose name typify his work. Give up?

★ ★ ★ ★

And Judy Garland! Words fail us.

★ ★ ★ ★

Lush, plush and splendiferous, this Eyeful Tower gives us a hall of fame for a cast.

★ ★ ★ ★

For in addition to Garland, Stewart, Lamarr, Turner and Martin, there are (to name but a few) Jackie Cooper, Ian Hunter, Charlie Winninger, Edward Everett Horton, Philip Dorn, Felix Bressart, Eve Arden, Rose Hobart, Al Shean, Dan Dailey Jr., Paul Kelly, Mae Busch, Fay Holden, Ed McNamara and Girls, Girls, Girls, Girls.

★ ★ ★ ★

Settings by Gibbons, Gowns by Adrian.

★ ★ ★ ★

Magnificent! Glamorous! Mighty!

★ ★ ★ ★

THE ZIEGFELD GIRL

★ ★ ★ ★

Glorifying the American lion.



—*Leo*

Advertisement for *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures*

This column appears in: Cosmopolitan, True Story, Redbook, American Magazine, Ladies' Home Journal, Parents' Magazine, Liberty, Saturday Evening Post, Look, Hollywood Screen Life, Movie Story, Motion Pictures, Photoplay-Movie Mirror, Screen Romances, Modern Screen, Silver Screen, Screenland Movies, Movie Life, Screen Guide, Glamour, Picture Play, Country Gentleman, Capper's Farmer, Successful Farming, Farm Journal & Farmers' Wife, Progressive Farmer & So. Ruralist.

The Spotlight, America!



ZIEGFELD GIRL

Discuss Continuation Of Rogers Memorial

NEW YORK—Discussions are under way with the Will Rogers Memorial Commission for an extension of the five-year contract whereby the industry will continue its support to the organization for another such period. The current agreement ends this year.

It is estimated $150,000 is necessary for the annual operation of the Saranac institution which also maintains a number of beds at a local hospital, in addition to other benefits for industry unfortunates in need of medical care. Annually, a drive is conducted in theatres throughout the country for contributions.

Industry executives are desirous of continuing support to the institution which has been running efficiently ever since the industry became active in it. It is felt it would be a mistake to withdraw from the work and it is with this view in mind that negotiations for a new contract are now being held.

Great Exhibitor Response To Greek Aid Campaign

NEW YORK—The Greek War Relief theatre campaign is eliciting greater exhibitor response than had been predicted, according to Gradwell L. Sears and John H. Harris, chairmen, respectively, of the distributors' and exhibitors' committees, who estimate more than 6,000 theatres will participate in the campaign and over 800 situations will hold midnight shows from March 25 to 30.

Among the cities which are planning extensive campaigns are Detroit, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Atlanta. These and other cities have secured the cooperation of officials in proclaiming special Greek Aid Weeks.

Paramount has 700 prints of "Greece Fights Back" ready for immediate distribution. This one-reeler, produced by the March of Time, will be sold and all proceeds, without reduction, are to go to the fund.

Approve U Contracts

WILMINGTON, DEL.—Common stockholders of Universal Pictures Co. at their annual meeting here approved, as was expected, the new seven-year contracts for the seven chief executive officers of the company. Holders representing 231,427 shares voted in favor of the pacts, while 100 were against the agreements. All directors were re-elected.

Officers Re-Elected

NEW YORK—Universal's complete roster of officers was re-elected by the board at a meeting Monday.

Heywood-Wakefield Ups Wages

BOSTON—The Heywood-Wakefield Co., theatre chair manufacturers, have granted a five per cent wage increase to their 14,000 odd employes as a result of "improved business conditions."



—Ed Sullivan Photos

Greek Drive Moves Up Another Notch—

Made by the March of Time and distributed by Paramount, "Greece Fights Back" got its official start at a cocktail party in New York where the one-reeler was screened for New York film men for the first time. Among the attendance were those represented in this gallery. From top to bottom: Louis de Rochemont, the producer; Nicholas Lely, Greek consul in New York; George P. Skouras, very active in the campaign, and Gradwell L. Sears, chairman of the distribution committee. Then, Sam Dembow jr. and Leonard Goldenson of the Paramount theatre division, Martin Quigley and Joseph Bernhard, general manager of the Warner circuit. Next Red Kann, George A. Smith, western sales manager for Paramount, and Neil F. Agnew, vice-president and general sales manager of that company. Finally, Oscar A. Morgan, shorts and newsreel sales manager for Paramount, and A. J. Richard, editor of Paramount News.

(See page 43 for review of "Greece Fights Back")

See Little Exhibitor Aid In Blocks of 5 Selling

(Continued from page 13)

sulted in real economic benefits to the consumer. Such is not the case, it is concluded, in the film industry.

Citing the ability of United Artists to operate with only a limited number of releases a year, the report raises the question whether a larger number of producing units, each making a smaller number of films, would increase costs of production or lower the standard of film entertainment.

"Hollywood has been the target of repeated charges of extravagance and economic waste," it is pointed out. "It is unnecessary to detail these here. But inefficiency or extravagance of the type ordinarily alleged is seldom possible except in very large organizations. One must admit the possibility, then, that unit costs of production might actually be less if the producing companies were of smaller average size."

"No Saving" in Concentration

On the other hand, in the distribution branch, the report admits that there is a real cost advantage in having each distributor handle as large a number of pictures as possible. This was qualified, however, with the statement that distribution costs in general are a rather small factor in the industry.

At the same time, it is charged "the concentration existing in the production and distribution branches of the industry has permitted the concerted use of practices which insure a return from the consumer on all products, regardless of quality." The large units are generally unresponsive to consumer pressure and the economic forces tending to produce steady improvement in the goods offered have to some extent been vitiated.

"For the production and distribution branches of the industry together, then, there is no strong evidence to show that the existing degree of concentration has resulted in economic savings for the consumer," it is concluded.

Theatre Chains "Cost" Consumers

Concentration also is an important factor in the exhibition branch, the report continues. "Individual theatres have been combined under common ownership and welded into huge chains of enormous pooled buying power. The economic strength of these chains has been used to enhance their profits and extend their sway at the expense of consumers and the smaller elements in the industry. Various practices have been developed and used when necessary to destroy the possibility of successful competition. Overbuying of films, unfair and unwarranted clearance and zoning agreements, and a variety of other practices have been actively employed in this way.

"These practices represent more, however, than a simple abuse of the power conferred by size," it is charged. "They form a part of the larger problem of local monopoly in the exhibition field. Distributors of motion pictures frequently describe themselves as wholesalers. By inference, exhibitors are to be likened to retailers. On closer examination, however, the parallel vanishes. Virtually any retail article sold at a nominal price may be marketed in a variety of retail outlets. Motion pictures, on the other hand, can be offered to the public only in motion picture theatres. Each theatre represents a large investment and, unlike the usual retail establishment, it can be used only for a single specialized purpose.

"Control of all theatres in a locality, therefore, gives the possessor the means of monopoly."

On Local Monopoly

Countering contentions that anyone is free to construct a new theatre and that there can be no local monopoly since inordinate profits would draw competition, the report points out that frequently suitable pictures are not available. That factor alone is sufficient to deter investment.

"One may inquire whether real economies to the consumer may not result from chain operation," it is observed. "The most significant answer to this question is given by the fact that acquisition of a theatre by a chain is seldom followed by a reduction in the charged admission price. Rather, the reverse has more commonly been the case. The spread of chain exhibition organizations has accomplished a steady increase in the number of local exhibition monopolies, the effect of which has been gradually to strip the consumer of the protection formerly accorded him by competition."

Point Up Decree Opposition

In the discussion of conditions and practices in the industry, the monograph offers little that has not been presented before, its observations being based upon testimony taken at Congressional hearings on block booking, the hearings of the NRA and the various anti-trust suits.

It does, however, analyze the consent decree, pointing out that when it was offered to the court, it was opposed by representatives "of virtually every important exhibitor association in the industry and of the three non-consenting defendants."

The stipulation in the decree that it does not determine that the defendants have been guilty of violation of the anti-trust laws, it is declared, "insures that any proof which the department of justice may have had of evidence of violation of the anti-trust laws by the five major companies will not be presented to the court and will not become available to the general public or to the Congress. Moreover, any evidence which might indicate that the problems of the industry cannot be met within the existing framework of the anti-trust laws is likewise not disclosed. The efforts of the department of justice in gathering and sifting information over a period of years are thus nullified. Neither the Congress nor other interested parties are able to draw on this experience in order to appraise: (a) The extent or validity of complaints of combination in the industry; (b) the extent to which a consent decree will correct these conditions; (c) the extent to which additional or different remedies are necessary to restore a healthier competitive situation."

Also as a result of the decree, it is held, the government case against the "little three" is much weaker.

Exhibitors will find little relief through the application of the five-film block, it was indicated, and while the forcing of shorts is prohibited "there is no assurance that a distributor will view sympathetically the feature-picture requirements of an exhibitor who has failed to contract for short subjects."

Limitation of contracts to exchange districts, it is held, is a "long way short" of requiring bargaining for films on a local basis, and the provisions respecting further acquisition of theatres are "vague if not meaningless."

"Readers of economic reports of this type have come to expect a diagnosis of sickness, to be followed by the author's pet patent medicine for the cure of all troubles," the monograph concludes. "In the present case the authors are content to indicate the cause without attempting to make a sale on some particular cure."

TNEC Challenged By Justice Dep't

WASHINGTON—Department of justice officials challenge the TNEC report on the industry, taking issue with the monograph's findings on the decree.

It was felt among those who worked on the decree that the monograph was a plea for anti-block booking legislation, in that it found little or nothing in the decree worthy of commendation.

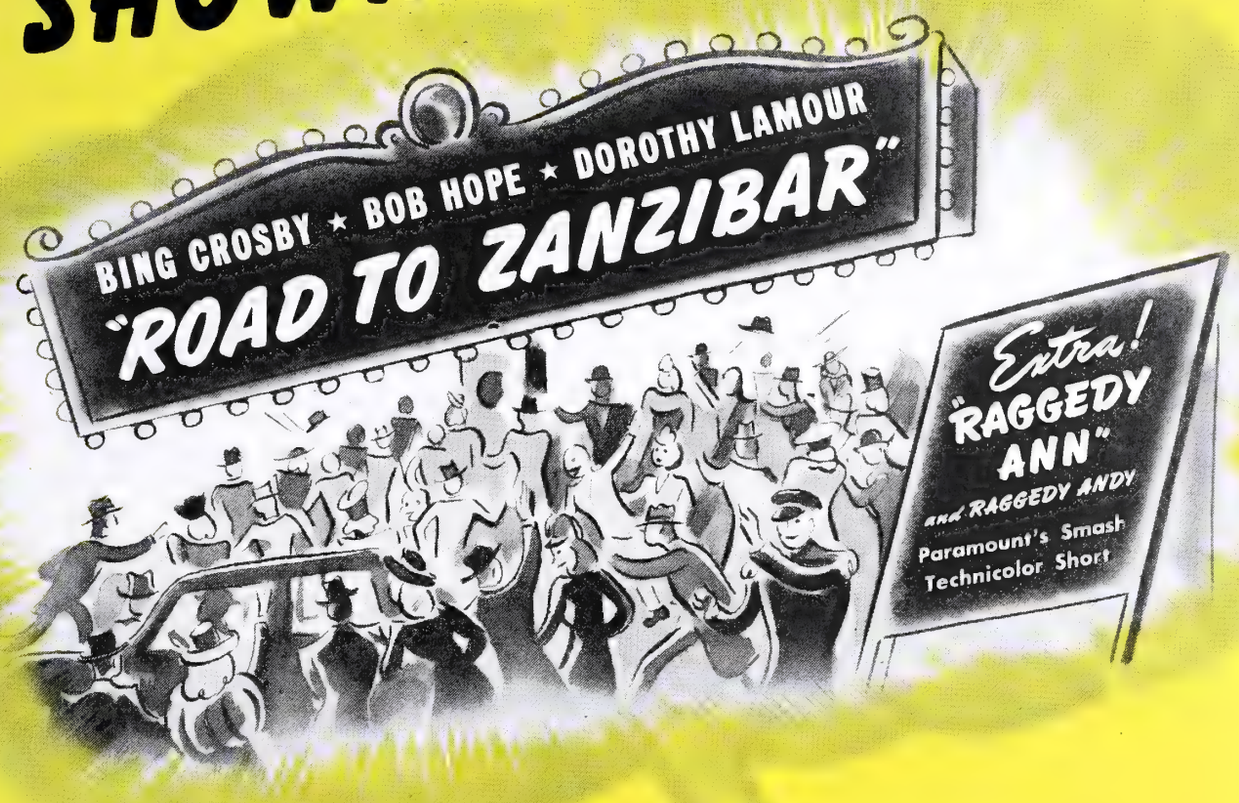
It was indicated that a formal reply might be issued, presenting the department's side of the argument, directed especially toward answering the charge that the arbitration system had been adopted so as to relieve the department of the burden of enforcement.

A Notice With Report

The monograph was written by the TNEC staff. Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold is department of justice member of the TNEC. The report was published with a notice by Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, chairman of the committee, that its issuance "in no way signifies nor implies assent to, or approval of, any of the facts, opinion, or recommendations, nor acceptance thereof in whole or in part by the members of the TNEC, individually or collectively."

Principal author of the report, Daniel Bertrand, was with the NRA during the period of the amusement codes and later wrote an analytical report on the codes and their operation in which he was highly critical of the integrated companies and the business policies of the industry. There was some question in Washington whether the undertaking of a study of the industry by the TNEC had the approval of the department of justice member, and it is pointed out that it is one of a number of subjects which the TNEC itself did not go into, for one reason or another.

A SHOWMAN'S DREAM!...



Paramount gives you the industry's greatest Easter combination!





"One of the greatest pieces of entertainment ever! Should write boxoffice history!" —Hollywood Reporter

BING CROSBY • BOB HOPE • DOROTHY LAMOUR

"ROAD TO ZANZIBAR"

with Una Merkel • Eric Blore

Screen Play by Frank Butler and Don Hartman

Directed by Victor Schertzinger

+



"A distinctive addition to programs everywhere!" —M. P. Daily

"RAGGEDY ANN and RAGGEDY ANDY"

Adapted from the works written by Johnny Gruelle

A Max Fleischer Cartoon in Technicolor

Direction: Dave Fleischer

= RECORD HOLIDAY GROSSES!

NT to Decentralize Buying Shortly Now

NEW YORK—Decentralization of National Theatres buying will take definite shape within the next few weeks, it was indicated with the return of Spyros Skouras, William T. Powers, Milton Hossfeld, Aubrey Schenck, Harry T. Cox, Pete Lundgren and John Healy from Arrowhead Springs where divisional managers held an annual meeting.

Several names were mentioned at the sessions as likely possibilities to transfer their activities from the home office in New York to the field. However, during the next three or four weeks Skouras will go into the matter more thoroughly and decide the buyers to be shifted to key operating points.

The new plan would be to ease buying under the decree's limit of five in a block. John F. Caskey and Fred Pride of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey spent three days explaining various phases of the document as they apply to operations. Suggestions for a handbook were made by the theatre men and these are being correlated for the manual.

$30,000 in Drive Prizes

It was decided, also, to hold the third annual Spyros Skouras Showmanship Campaign for 13 weeks starting Easter Week. More than $30,000, the highest ever, will be distributed in awards among managers and district heads. Under the plan set up, each theatre will be classified as A, B, C or D and compete among themselves, rather than by districts, as in the drive recently completed.

While nothing has yet been definitely decided, the old age pension plan was discussed and left in the hands of a committee headed by Cox, treasurer of the parent company.

Louis B. Mayer and Hal Roach were the only two outside speakers. The M-G-M production head informed the theatre men that come what may in the next year the company was geared to go ahead making outstanding pictures. He added it is the intention of eliminating "B" productions entirely from the program and hoped this would be achieved in 1941-42.

Roach, who some weeks ago spoke to Paramount theatre partners at a Chicago session, sounded out the National Theatres group on views for his contemplated four-reel features.

Edward Zabel, assistant to Skouras, did not return, having gone to Palm Springs for a vacation. Irving Barry, short subjects buyer, remained on the coast until Sunday to line up talent for the Greek War Relief shows. The first home office contingent to return were Powers, Hossfeld, Schenck and Lundgren, who flew in Tuesday. Skouras, Cox and Healy arrived by plane Wednesday.

Other district and divisional heads returned to their headquarters the early part of the week, as did Caskey and Pride.

Oppose Ascap Curb

DETROIT—Cooperative Theatres of Michigan opposes restriction of Ascap on the ground any increase in cost of doing business will be passed along to the theatres.

"That Hamilton Woman!"

New York—An air of the distinctive and the distinguished swirls all through and around "That Hamilton Woman!" and the credit for the stunning results must be divided in a number of directions.

This story, romanticized of course, of the affair of Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton is blessed with a fine treatment and splendid writing from the hands and minds of Walter Reisch and R. C. Sherriff. It has been directed intelligently and cannily by Alexander Korda whose best picture this is. Or, certainly, his best since "Henry the Eighth."

It stars Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier, supported by an excellent cast which includes Alan Mowbray, Gladys Cooper, Henry Wilcoxon, Sara Allgood and Heather Angel, but definitely it stars the enormously capable Miss Leigh. Once more she is so capable and so good a performer here that there should be no future surprises at all if her Emma Hamilton is compared favorably and minutely with her Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With the Wind." Olivier, too, is splendid, but nothing near or far in this attraction succeeds in dimming Miss Leigh's shining work.

History parades all through "That Hamilton Woman!" Napoleon is astride Europe and England twice is threatened. In fact, the two principal characters are out of the history books, yet what Korda has done very well indeed, and wisely at that, is to make this the story of a man and a woman. They were affected by history. In fact, they helped to pattern it, but this, nevertheless, is their own story. This is why the film holds so well together dramatically and why it is moving and entertainingly solid.

If BOXOFFICE indulged in star ratings, the decision would be easy. Four for "That Hamilton Woman!" —K.

Bonus for 10 Men Totals $1,406,541

NEW YORK—In addition to normal salaries to officers and board members for the year ending Aug. 31, 1940, Loew's paid an aggregate of $1,406,541 to ten men in the form of bonuses, it is shown in the company's report to SEC. The report lists those only who received bonuses of $30,000 or more and is broken down as follows:

Louis B. Mayer, $541,048; Nicholas M. Schenck, $188,881; J. Robert Rubin, $128,070; David Bernstein, $113,329; E. J. Mannix, $96,356; Sam Katz, $96,356; Hunt Stromberg, $72,267; Al Lichtman, $72,267; Bernard H. Hyman, $49,789, and Benjamin Thau, $48,178.

Mayer's total income was $697,049 as against $688,369 the previous fiscal year. Schenck's total was $318,882, and Stromberg's $332,267.

The report also states 12 directors, unnamed, received a total of $1,271,598, and 11 officers, other than those who are directors, also unnamed, received an aggregate of $949,131. The total to all employes who received in excess of $20,000 numbered 228 for a total remuneration of $16,104,869, the report reveals.

The net amount of the company's assets in all foreign countries is given at $14,456,999, of which net current assets amounted to $3,168,544 for the year ended Aug. 31, 1940. Cash in foreign countries, all subject in some degree to export restrictions, totaled $4,399,302. Up to January 2, the report adds, "$1,275,283 has been received in the United States."

For all productions released on and after Sept. 1, 1939, cost has been amortized in accordance with a revised weekly table, after apportioning costs on a revised basis of 75 per cent to domestic, including Canada, and 25 per cent to foreign. "Through such revision," the report asserts, "operations for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 1940 have been charged with approximately $3,150,000 more film amortization expense than would have resulted had the table not been changed." The previous amortization table was based on 65 per cent to domestic, including Canada, and 35 per cent to foreign.

Under the heading "Operating and General Expense." the report lists an expenditure of $9,061,194 as "outside producers' share of film rentals." The bulk of this figure presumably is David O. Selznick's share on "Gone With the Wind."

Legion Approves 528 Of 539 in Year

NEW YORK—The National Legion of Decency approved 528 features of the 539 domestic and foreign films it reviewed from November, 1939, to November, 1940, according to its annual report. Of the films reviewed, 497 were domestically produced while 42 were foreign. The organization condemned 10 features, while one was placed in a "separately classified" category.

A breakdown shows 271 were rated as unobjectionable for general patronage; 210 were unobjectionable for adults, while 47 were rated as objectionable in part.

The report states there has been an increase in "indecencies" in films "not only quantitively . . . but qualitatively in terms of the growing boldness of producers in the choice of film treatment and story material."

From November, 1937, to November, 1940, the report declares there has been an increase of three per cent in the number of pictures rated objectionable in part; five per cent in those considered unobjectionable for adults, and a decline of nine per cent in those regarded as unobjectionable for general patronage.

Of the foreign pictures reviewed, 12 were English; 21 French; two Irish; one each Italian and Mexican; four Spanish and one Yiddish.

SERVICE FROM WARNERS!



"TEDDY THE ROUGHRIDER"

In Technicolor with SIDNEY BLACKMER • Pierre Watkin • Theodor Von Eltz
Arthur Loft • Original Screen Play by Charles L. Tedford • Directed by RAY ENRIGHT

THE BEST 2-REEL SHORT FOR 1940!

Available For Repeat Bookings Everywhere!

And with grateful acknowledgement to the U. S. ARMED SERVICES for cooperation in filming these 2-reel Patriotic Service Subjects:

"YOUNG AMERICA FLIES"	"SERVICE WITH THE COLORS"	"MARCH ON MARINES"	"MEET THE FLEET"	"WINGS OF STEEL"
Civil Aeronautics Authority	United States Army	United States Marine Corps	United States Navy	United States Army Air Corps
	In Technicolor	In Technicolor	In Technicolor	In Technicolor

You 'MUST PLAY' These 'MUST SEE' VITAPHONE SHORTS!

Flashes From the News Front

New Georgia Circuit

ATLANTA—A new circuit, headed by Oscar Housner of New York and N. E. Savini of Atlanta plans to erect 10 or 12 new houses in Georgia. To be of small seating capacity, units first will be built in Columbus and Athens. Considered also are Augusta and Macon.

Paramount Meeting

NEW YORK—Paramount district managers and home office executives meet at the Waldorf-Astoria, March 27, to discuss promotional plans for "I Wanted Wings."

Awards to Draftees

NEW YORK—Columbia employes who are drafted will receive two to four weeks salary, dependent on length of employment.

Attendance Awards

PITTSBURGH — Two unique attendance awards will be made at the National Variety convention at Atlantic City, May 15-17. One will be the "Mileage Attendance Trophy," now held by Pittsburgh, and the new "Capita Attendance Trophy," which will be awarded on the basis of greatest percentage of club membership present at the convention.

Oppose Censorship Bill

BOSTON — Industry representatives appeared at a committee hearing here to oppose a bill to create a three-member state film and vaudeville commission.

No Provincial Tax

TORONTO—The year ending March 31 with a huge surplus, Canada will not have a provincial amusement tax. The year-old corporation tax, however, will continue.

Navy Film Budget Up

WASHINGTON—The navy will spend in excess of $300,000 on its motion picture service in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Technicolor Profit

HOLLYWOOD—Technicolor reports a net profit of $882,125 for the year ended December 31, 1940. The latter part of the year the company cut the print cost by one cent per foot.

Herron to Army Duty

NEW YORK — Frederick L. Herron, MPPDA foreign manager, has been called from the army reserve list to active military service with the adjutant general's office in Washington. Carl E. Milliken, MPPDA secretary, takes over Herron's duties.

9,000 Theatres in Defense Program

NEW YORK—More than 9,000 theatres are in line with the Motion Picture Committee Cooperating for National Defense and 3,000 more are expected to join up, according to Harry Brandt who has been active in perfecting the field organization among theatremen.

The committee is an all-out industry effort to work hand and glove with Washington in furthering the defense program through the production, distribution and exhibition of films illustrative of the effort. The week saw an expansion of the original committee to embrace all branches of the business. Francis S. Harmon, defense coordinator by title, declared all members of various committees had agreed to serve. On the national committee are these 30 men:

Edward Arnold, president Screen Actors' Guild; Barney Balaban, president Paramount, Nate J. Blumberg, president Universal; Harry Brandt, president ITOA of New York; Frank Capra, president Screen Directors' Guild; I. E. Chadwick, president Independent M. P. Ass'n; James P. Clark, president National Film Carriers; Harry Cohn, president Columbia; H. A. Cole, president Allied States Ass'n; Y. Frank Freeman, president M. P. Producers Ass'n; Sheridan Gibney, president Screen Writers' Guild; James R. Grainger, president Republic; John H. Harris, president National Variety Clubs; Will H. Hays, president MPPDA; Emery Huse, president Society Motion Picture Engineers; W. Ray Johnston, president Monogram; Sidney R. Kent, president 20th Century-Fox; E. L. Kuykendall, president MPTOA; Frank W. Lovejoy, president Eastman Kodak; Robert H. Poole, executive secretary PCCITO; Herman Robbins, president National Screen; George J. Schaefer, president RKO; Nicholas M. Schenck, president Loew's; Murray Silverstone, chief of world-wide operations, UA; T. Kennedy Stevenson, president Erpi; J. K. Throckmorton, president RCA Mfg. Co.; W. G. Van Schmus, managing director Radio City Music Hall; Walter Wanger, president Academy of M. P. Arts and Sciences; Harry M. Warner, president Warner, and Herbert J. Yates, president Consolidated Film Industries, Inc.

Functioning for this group is a national coordinating committee of which Schaefer is chairman and Harmon, coordinator. Its members include Balaban, Joseph H. Hazen, William C. Michel, Schenck, Walter Vincent, Robert B. Wilby, Nathan Yamins, Joseph Bernhard, Freeman, E. B. Hatrick, Martin Quigley and William A. Scully.

The theatre division has Bernhard, general manager of the Warner circuit as chairman and E. V. Richards of the Saenger circuit, New Orleans, as co-chairman. Its members include A. H. Blank, Brandt, Si Fabian, Harris, Kuykendall, Charles C. Moskowitz, Sam E. Morris, John J. O'Connor, R. J. O'Donnell, Spyros Skouras, Wilby and Yamins. This committee, in turn, breaks down into three sub-committees:

Coordinating: Wilby, chairman; Blank, Moskowitz, Richards and Skouras.

Organization: Brandt, chairman; Harris, Kuykendall, O'Connor and Yamins.

Field Organization: John Balaban, E. C. Beatty, Carl Buermele, William F. Crockett, Jay Emanuel, Fabian, Harold J. Fitzgerald, John J. Friedl, Julius C. Gordon, L. C. Griffith, Harry Kalmine, Jack Kirsch, Kuykendall, Ike Libson, M. A. Lightman, Frank Newman, O'Donnell, Samuel Pinanski, Poole, E. C. Rhoden, Rick Ricketson, Samuel Rinzler, John Rugar, J. Myer Schine, Fred Schwartz, Mort H. Singer, William Skirball, Charles P. Skouras and Roy Walker.

Publicity: Oscar A. Doob, chairman; Harry Brand, Harry Goldberg, Claude F. Lee, Harry Mandel and Aubrey Schenck.

Finance: Fabian, chairman and treasurer; Yamins, Leonard Goldenson, Kuykendall and Spyros Skouras.

Chairman of the production division is Freeman, vice-president of Paramount. His group has this personnel:

Sam J. Briskin, E. J. Mannix, Sol Lesser, Hal B. Wallis, Wanger, and Darryl F. Zanuck, producers; Jack Chertok and Gordon Hollingshead, shorts; Capra, Screen Directors' Guild; Arnold, Screen Actors' Guild; Gibney, Screen Writers' Guild; Fred Beetson, M. P. Producers Ass'n; Richard Day, art direction; Nathan Levinson and Edward Hanson, sound; John Arnold, cameramen; John Nickolaus, laboratories; Alfred Newman, music; Charles Boren and Fred Myers, industrial relations; Howard Strickling and Robert Taplinger, public relations; Mandel Silberberg, counsel, and Jock Lawrence, secretary.

W. A. Scully, vice-president and general manager of Universal, is chairman of the distributors' division. His committee is composed of Neil F. Agnew, George Dembow, Ned E. Depinet, William F. Rodgers, Gradwell L. Sears and Herman Wobber.

Edgar B. Hatrick of News of the Day is chairman of the newsreel division with these running mates: Louis de Rochemont, Thomas Mead, Albert J. Richard, Walter C. Ament and Truman H. Talley.

Martin Quigley of *Quigley Publications* heads the trade paper division as chairman. His associates in that group are Jack Alicoate, *Film Daily;* Jay Emanuel, *The Exhibitor;* John C. Flinn, *Variety;* Charles E. Lewis, *Showman's Trade Review;* Ben Shyen. BOXOFFICE; Arthur Ungar, *Daily Variety,* and William R. Wilkerson, *Hollywood Reporter.*

See Quick Passage Anti-Decree Bill

MINNEAPOLIS—Observers predict passage within three weeks of Northwest Allied's bill to vitiate the consent decree. Following similar committee action in the lower house, the senate general legislation committee recommended passage by a vote of 8 to 0.

The measure compels distributors to offer their full line of product and grant a minimum cancellation of 20 per cent. It also prohibits enforced sale of short subjects. M-G-M, 20th-Fox, RKO, UA and Warner have been actively opposing it.

Legion "Hands Off" in State Legislation

NEW YORK—The policy of the National Legion of Decency has not changed in respect to interference with state legislation, Mary Harden Looram, secretary, informs BOXOFFICE, reiterating a stand taken earlier in disavowing the action of Helen Lynch, representative of the Archdiocese Council of Youth, in supporting the anti-blocks of five bill introduced there by Northwest Allied.

Mrs. Looram made the point when asked to comment on the report that the Rev. R. G. Bandas, legion director of the Minneapolis and St. Paul archdiocese, had approved the action taken by Miss Lynch when she endorsed the bill despite the "hands-off" policy of national headquarters here. "The National Legion of Decency has not stepped into that legislation and any developments in Minneapolis are purely of a local character," Mrs. Looram declared.

Studies Detroit Motion

DETROIT—Federal court here has under advisement a plea by Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan for dismissal of the Midwest suit against it. Ground for the motion is a challenge to jurisdiction and the charge that plaintiff had not proved "conspiracy."



FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

"ADAM HAD FOUR SONS"

ELD OVER SECOND WEEK LAFAYETTE, BUFFALO;

BIJOU, SPRINGFIELD, MASS; E. M. LOEW'S, HARTFORD;

RIALTO, ATLANTA! TOP GROSSES AT FOX,

DETROIT; PALACE, CANTON; MALCO, MEMPHIS;

PALACE, YOUNGSTOWN; ORPHEUM, NEW ORLEANS;

EARLE & AMBASSADOR, WASHINGTON; LINCOLN,

MIAMI BEACH; HILL ST.

& PANTAGES, LOS ANGELES!

INGRID BERGMAN ★ WARNER BAXTER

Adam Had Four Sons

SUSAN HAYWARD · FAY WRAY · HELEN WESTLEY · RICHARD DENNING · JOHNNY DOWNS · ROBERT SHAW

Based upon "LEGACY", the best-selling novel by Charles Bonner

Screen play by William Hurlbut, Michael Blankfort

A ROBERT SHERWOOD PRODUCTION • Directed by GREGORY RATOFF

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Film Slot Machines Losing as 'Menace'

(Continued from page 6)

in Chicago, using product purchased on the open market. Not since last September, however, has the company made any announcements as to its intended plans, and there is no indication, insofar as local sources of information are aware, that any further plans are being cogitated. Spokesmen here for Orsatti proclaim ignorance of the status of the company.

Having manufactured 32 reels during the past year and a half, Neil McGuire Productions ranks among the most active producers of films for the juke-boxes. McGuire opened a new studio about six weeks ago but is, at present, idle. For a time his product was being consumed by Phonofilm, an organization with about 50 machines in operation along the Pacific Coast, but which has not been active of late.

McGuire and other producers also have booked product with Meter-Movies, San Francisco concern with some 50 machines on the commercial market. The company was organized in January, 1940, but has not manufactured any projectors for several months.

Only other producer who is either currently active, or has definite plans at present, is the Papalini Film Exchange, distributor of foreign films on the Pacific Coast, which has made five subjects and intends to produce three more, for distribution in the open market.

The list of casualties includes:

A company organized by Cecil B. DeMille, Paramount producer-director, and William H. Pine, his associate producer, which announced plans to acquire studio space and begin production on an ambitious schedule. No further steps were ever taken, and Pine has now become a partner in a feature production unit turning out films for Paramount release, a fact which spokesmen declare automatically precludes him from pursuing the juke-box enterprise.

Visograph, the incorporation of which, late last fall, was accompanied by spectacular promises and plans for producing both projectors and film. Shortly after its organization Rudy Vallee was elected president, and the company made four machines and one reel of eight subjects. Shortly thereafter Vallee resigned, and Visograph, now headed by William C. Kemball, is inactive.

Edgar Bergen, who produced four subjects starring Charlie McCarthy, not yet marketed, and then halted operations.

Television Film Corp., which made two reels under the supervision of Dan Milner last summer.

Cinematone, a laboratory and process company, which announced plans to manufacture automatic projectors but, so far, has placed nothing on the market.

Mills Planning 18,000 "Jukes" This Year

CHICAGO—Herbert Mills, general superintendent and factory manager of the Mills Novelty Co. here, announces that the company plans to produce 18,000 Panoram film machines for the Mills-Roosevelt Soundies this year. Mills reports that the first factory order for 5,000 Panoram machines is now coming off the production line.

Cabinets are being built at the local Mills factory. The entire sound system is manufactured by RCA.

Columbia Net Increase For Last Half of 1940

NEW YORK—Columbia reports a net profit increase of $91,424 for the last six months of 1940 as compared with the same six months of the preceding year. Net for the last half of '40 is $307,006 after all charges and provisions for taxes. The comparable period showed $215,582.

Harry Cohn, president, points this out: "Columbia does not include in its figures any revenues until they have been converted into dollars. For example, in Japan, Spain and Denmark where the corporation is doing a substantial business, it is impossible to convert local monies into dollars. These returns are not included and, furthermore, such assets as are held by local operating companies have been completely charged off."



SALE
ON
TICKET REGISTERS
GOLD SEAL and SIMPLEX
ELECTRIC MODELS

2 UNIT $123.90
3 UNIT 148.90
4 UNIT 173.90

Genuine Modernized Reconditioned Registers Offered While They Last and Subject to Prior Sale . . . . .

NO MONEY DOWN
2 YEARS TO PAY
Unconditionally Guaranteed. Liberal Allowances on Old Machines.

TICKET REGISTERS CORPORATION of AMERICA
910 South Michigan Avenue
CHICAGO, ILL.

The Docket

Albany

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 17. Demand and submission involving clearance. Alec Papayanakos, American Theatre, Canton, N. Y. With: RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Strand and Pontiac theatres in Ogdensburg, N. Y., operated by the Schine circuit. Complaint cites the clearance enjoyed by the Schine units over the American.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 17. Demand and submission involving clearance. Alec Papayanakos, American Theatre, Canton, N. Y. With Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Strand and Pontiac theatres in Ogdensburg, N. Y., operated by Schine circuit. Complaint cites the clearance enjoyed by the two Schine units over the American.

Buffalo

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 3. Demand and submission involving some run. Richard De Toto, operator of the Genessee, Mount Morris, N. Y. With: Warner, 20th Century-Fox. Named as interested party: New Family. Complainant alleges the two distributors have refused to license 1940-41 product, charging the New Family with having monopolized the product he seeks to license.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 6. Demand and submission involving clearance. A. A. Carlson, operator of the Carlson, Mayville, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Complainant alleges the Carlson is forced to wait 30 days for product after the Jamestown, also in Mayville. Carlson seeks day and date availability.

New York

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 18. Demand and submission involving clearance. Hilary Theatre Corp., operating Regent, Brooklyn, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested party: Apollo Theatre, operated by Argosy Amusement Corp. Complainant claims the Apollo is one mile distant and holds seven days' clearance over the Regent. Hilary seeks equal availability.

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 21. Demand and submission involving clearance. Esquire Great Neck Corp., operating Squire, Great Neck, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th-Fox Film Corp. Named as interested party: Great Neck Playhouse, Great Neck, N. Y. Complaint charges 30 days availability after the Playhouse is unreasonable and seeks "fair and reasonable" clearance.

CASE NO. 3—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance. Monseigneur Enterprises, Inc., operating Forum, Metuchen, N. J. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Film Corp. Other theatres named in controversy: Paramount, Oxford, Strand, all in Plainfield, N. J. Named as interested party: Walter Reade Theatres, 701 7th Ave., New York. Complainant, Jack Davis, seeks day and date availability with Paramount, Oxford and Strand.

CASE NO. 4—Filed March 4. Demand and submission involving clearance. Jack Fields, operator of the Cameo, Jersey City, N. J. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Apollo and Fulton, both Skouras operations, and Orient, operated by Rosenblatt & Welt, all in Plainfield, N. J. Fields seeks day and date availability.

CASE NO. 5—Filed March 5. Demand and submission involving clearance. River Theatre Corp., operator of the Central, Pearl River, N. Y. With: Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested party: Rockland, Nyack, N. Y. Complainant charges the 49 days clearance held by the Rockland is unreasonable and seeks equal availability.

Philadelphia

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 5. Demand and submission involving clearance. John Geyser, operator of the Florence, Florence, N. J. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. Named as interested party: Fox, Burlington, N. J. Complainant seeks equal availability.

Washington

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 7. Demand and submission involving clearance. Walbrook Amusement Co., Baltimore. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested parties: Ambassador, Forrest and Gwynn theatres. Walbrook, operated by Thomas D. Goldberg, seeks the same availability granted the Ambassador, Forrest and Gwynn, operated by Frank Durkee.

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 24. See "Disposals."

CASE NO. 3—Filed February 24. Demand and submission involving clearance. Westway Theatre, Inc., Baltimore. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested parties: Edgewood, Alpha and Irvington. Leo H. Homand, operator of the Westway, protests the 14-day clearance held by the three theatres named, operated by Frank Durkee, and seeks a day and date availability "with other neighborhood theatres in the Westway's class."

Disposals

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 13, disposed of March 10 by withdrawal from arbitration tribunal. John H. Taylor, operator of the Charles, La Plata, Md. With: Paramount, RKO, Columbia, Loew's, 20th Century-Fox. Taylor protested 14 days clearance held by Marlboro, Marlboro, Md., operated by Sidney Lust. The latter agreed that in cases where he holds up dating of pictures when they become officially available this shall constitute time off his clearance over the Charles.

Baltimore Arbitration Hearing on April 8

WASHINGTON—With one of its three arbitration cases disposed of by a mutual consent agreement and a second ready for hearing March 25, the Washington arbitration board is preparing to speed the third on its way, announcing the selection of Sefton Darr, Washington attorney, as arbitrator and tentatively setting April 8 as the date for a hearing.

Darr will arbitrate the complaint brought by the Westway, Baltimore, against Loew's, Inc., Vitagraph and 20th Century-Fox, protesting the 14-day clearance granted by them to the Edgewood Theatre.

On March 25, E. B. Prettyman, former District of Columbia corporation counsel, will preside at a hearing on the complaint of the Walbrook Theatre, Baltimore, protesting the seven-day clearance granted by Vitagraph and 20th Century-Fox to the Ambassador, Forest and Gwynn theatres.

No further complaints have been filed with the Washington arbitration board, but it is understood a number have been prepared for submission but are being held to see how the first cases are handled. So far as could be learned, they all involve clearance, the only point raised in the three complaints so far filed.

First Board Appeal Due From Chicago

CHICAGO—The nation's first appeal from local arbitration boards is in the making following a ruling in the Chicago tribunal adverse to the Ken Theatre in its complaint against Paramount, RKO, 20th-Fox and the Schoenstadt circuit.

Alvin Landis, plaintiff counsel, says that an appeal will be filed Tuesday from the decision of Arbitrator Charles P. Megan dismissing the complaint "for want of jurisdiction under Section VIII of the consent decree." The verdict upheld the Schoenstadt contention that the complaint involved run under Section X and not clearance under Section VII. Board jurisdiction under Section X will not begin until September 1.

The arbitration demand, filed February 18, asked that the Ken be allowed to show Paramount, RKO and 20th-Fox product in the second week of Chicago general release along with Schoenstadt's Shakespeare and ahead of the chain's Pix. The latter now plays in the third week.

Two Clearance Plaints Are Filed in Albany

ALBANY—Two complaints involving clearance have been filed with the American Arbitration Ass'n office here by Alec Papayanakos, operating the American in Canton.

One complaint is against RKO and the other against Warner. Both ask relief from clearance extended the Strand and Pontiac in Ogdensburg, as against the American in Canton. The two Ogdensburg houses are operated by the Schine circuit.

Atlantic Intervenes in John Geyser Complaint

PHILADELPHIA—Atlantic Theatres, operator of the Burlington, Burlington, N. J., has intervened in the clearance arbitration case brought before the local arbitration tribunal by John Geyser, operator

(Continued on page 40-D)



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

Into One of Those Hollywood Huddles—

They're there now, but this is the Warner group as it left New York for product palavers with Harry M. and Jack L. Warner, as well as Hal B. Wallis and S. Charles Einfeld. Left to right, Mort Blumenstock, eastern advertising manager; Sam Schneider, sort of special aide-de-camp to H. M., in New York; Gradwell L. Sears and Carl Leserman.

BROADWAY

WILLIAM A. SCULLY, Universal's general sales manager, is due from Florida Monday. It has been mostly vacation, although the past seven days has been devoted to calling on southern circuits . . . Senator Walters of the RKO circuit is back from almost two months in Hawaii . . . Irving Windisch, Strand press agent, is confined to his home with a unique malady . . . Rutgers Neilson has finally gotten around to procuring a set of keys to his new office after having been locked out a couple of times . . . Ruth Weisberg of Mort Blumenstock's staff was in Cleveland on Warner Club affairs . . . Nat Fellman, Warner Club president, is in Florida . . . Harry Kugel, cashier at the M-G-M exchange, was married Saturday to Ruth Feiring . . . King Vidor is here from the coast for a brief visit . . . M. J. Siegel, Republic production chief, is in town for conferences with Herbert J. Yates and James R. Grainger . . . We like John J. O'Connor's crack about the gross of a certain picture: "It hit a snappy nothing" . . . Irving Fleischer, manager of the Warner home office restaurant, is reported on the road to recovery in his recuperation stand in Florida.

Norton V. Ritchey will close the Monogram foreign office in the RKO Building's 23rd floor for another location on the 19th floor the first of the month . . . Vincent McFaul of Buffalo visiting with Joseph R. Vogel . . . William Wyler and Arthur Kober, his scenarist, are here from Hollywood via Washington, where they took in a performance of "The Little Foxes," which Wyler will direct for Samuel Goldwyn . . . Norma Shearer, Quentin Reynolds, Sylvia Fairbanks, the Oscar Levants, Sally Eilers, Joan Blondell and Dick Powell enjoying and being enjoyed at "Mr. and Mrs. North" . . . George J. Schaefer did not come in from the coast as expected. Maybe Thursday, now . . . Bill Danziger of Howard Dietz's staff left Friday for Cuba . . . Harry Pimstein of the RKO legal department is holding all golf plans in abeyance until further notice from the weather department . . . Fred Meyers of RKO film buying circles was in Detroit . . . Milton Smith of the UA 14th floor receptionist staff has left the company.

Morris Epstein's wife returned from Miami Saturday after spending the winter there . . . Abe Levy, who operates the Grand and the Howard, says he is dickering for a few houses and expects to close for one any day. The reason he dropped the New United in Brooklyn is because the city took the property for a new housing project . . . Lew Wertheimer is still around town and going around hatless . . . Mary Vachion, who appears at the Whirling Top, will appear in the soundies being made by James Roosevelt. She also is being screen tested by 20th-Fox . . . Charles Goetz insists he'll leave for the coast next week, making the trip by car.

Norman Elson is back after a vacation at the Raleigh, Miami Beach. He's general manager of Trans-Lux . . . John Benas, Skouras circuit buyer, plans to leave next month on his vacation. No plans set as yet, he informs . . . Henry Reiner's children are over their colds, which means happy days are here again . . . Henderson M. Richey is bragging about his new M-G-M office which is far removed from the elevator and the one where he formerly parked his portable typewriter . . . Joe Pincus is somewhat lonesome these days what with J. J. Milstein on vacation with Arthur Gottlieb in Mexico . . . B. S. Moss is back from a sojourn in southern climes. Ditto Charles L. O'Reilly.

Paul Behrke, assistant to Jack White, Skouras circuit treasurer, left Friday for a Miami vacation . . . Herman Starr, New Jersey divisional head for the circuit, is recuperating at his home in Teaneck, N. J., following a serious operation. He may go to Florida for a vacation before returning to his post . . . Herman Robbins is planning a house warming for the trade as soon as the various new offices in the Film Center are completed . . . Steve Broidy, Monogram's sales manager, has been on the coast the past week . . . Louis Frisch is back at his desk after a six-week Miami vacation. His partner, Sam Rinzler, returns Monday.

Harry Brandt took an extra week in Miami and is not due back until Monday . . . Bill Gedris, head of Ideal Seating, was in town the other day for conferences with Joe Hornstein . . . Ed Lee of M-G-M's legal department was in Chicago on an arbitration clearance case . . . Bob Gillham flew to San Antonio, Tex., over the weekend on the premiere of "I Wanted Wings" . . . Oscar Morgan and Manny Reiner spent the weekend at Asbury Park working on a Paramount short subject campaign . . . Abbott & Costello will be hosts to a press luncheon at "21" Monday afternoon before leaving for Hollywood to make a second picture for Universal . . .



—Metropolitan Photos

"The Most Glamorous"—

Joan Blondell descends upon New York on her first vacation here in some time, now that "Topper Returns" is in the can. Miss B. recently was voted by some group or other as "America's most glamorous mother."

Nat Cohn, Columbia district manager for the metropolitan area, has gone to Florida beaches for a siesta.

Dick Rowland reached New York from the coast just in time to learn his "Cheers for Miss Bishop" went into the Music Hall for a second week . . . Sidney R. Kent is in Florida. His usual vacation there on or about this time of the year . . . Jack Cohn returns from a quickie trip to Florida Monday or Tuesday. Nate Spingold is due on or about the same time . . . Hank Kaufman, manager of exchange operations at Columbia, is back from an extended tour of branch offices. It was in connection with the company's sales drive . . . The Warner crowd—Sears, Leserman, Blumenstock, Schneider, et al. —will be in Hollywood about two weeks . . . Beulah Livingstone, a recent weekender at the Arthur Mayer's farm at Mt. Ivy . . . Sam Dembow is down to one cane now. Any minute, free and easy as of yore.

Marvin Schenck, now that he has added duties of eastern talent scout for M-G-M, will forego his vacation this winter . . . A. W. Smith jr. is back from a tour of southern RKO exchanges . . . H. M. Richey also is back from a visit to the mideastern section . . . Mel Morganstern, Loew home office booker, is back from a two-week Miami vacation with plenty of color to show for it . . . Gene Picker is due back from the coast Monday. He made a stopover on the desert. Herman and Rose Gluckman accompanied the Pickers . . . Max Wolff, assistant to Charles Sonin in the Loew purchasing department, has returned to work after a siesta at Hot Springs. He's reported on a buttermilk diet . . . Leo Cohen, head of WHN's talent bureau, has written his second song, "Feeling This Way." The first was "With Your Permission" for which Abner Silver wrote the music. On the second one Dick Ballou inserted the clefs and bars.

Dave Gould, who is no relation to Walter Gould, foreign head of UA, is in Trinidad in charge of the UA office in the British West Indies for a few weeks . . . Moe Goldman has reopened the Century on Second Ave. . . . Maximilien Abromovith, French producer, arrived from abroad the other day on the *Excambion* . . . Wallace Beery flew in from the coast for a short stay between pictures . . . Leon Netter, Paramount theatre executive, returned Wednesday from Greensboro, N. C. . . . Louis Hayward has gone back to the coast after consulting with a number of Broadway play producers. He is anxious to return to the New York stage between picture assignments . . . William M. Horne, circuit contact representative for RKO, is back from a two-week Caribbean cruise . . . Arthur T. Cremon, director of N. Y. Schools of Music, is working on a "musical portrait" of Walt Disney which will have its premiere at Carnegie Hall in the fall.

Sam Zimbalist, one of M-G-M's preferred producers, has been in town the past week looking over plays and things

(Continued on page 40-D)

IN PERFECT AGREEMENT

EASTMAN negative films—each in its special field—work in perfect agreement with director and cameraman to capture completely the beauty of every scene.
Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N.Y.

J. E. BRULATOUR, INC., *Distributors*
Fort Lee Chicago Hollywood

PLUS-X
for general studio use

SUPER-XX
when little light is available

BACKGROUND-X
for backgrounds and general exterior work

EASTMAN NEGATIVE FILMS

His Job to "Gorify American Ghoul"

NEW YORK—Arthur Mayer, who is dead serious in his operation of the Rialto, knows the value of advertising as well as, if not better than, most Broadway operators, because, as he put it himself at an Ampa luncheon meeting, "Our policy is to Gorify the American Ghoul."

Perhaps that's what led him to tell the roomful of producer advertising executives that "if the Rialto waited until it got good pictures to advertise, we would never advertise at all." Mayer waxed facetious over his unique situation which, in his own words, is his claim to be "America's leading expert in selling bad pictures."

It seems very much in order, in fact, to reproduce here just a few of Mayer's witticisms. Being a Harvard graduate he takes oral liberties few others would dare to, which is readily discernible, as follows:

"Glamorous Ancestry"

"Talking of ladies going to questionable places like the Rialto reminds me of an actor's remark about his ex-wife. 'She was the sort of girl who would only go to places where her mother would go—and her mother would go anywhere'.

"I have been called a tradesman in terror. I sell, however, horror, not hardware, thrills not pills, blood curdles not ladies' girdles. Department store advertising was recently recommended to you as a guide and model. We of the theatre business, we showmen, have an older tradition and a more glamorous ancestry. We are of the circus breed. From Barnum to Brandt, we smell of sawdust and tan bark. We learned our three 'R's' of exploitation from Reichenbach, Roxy and Riesenfeld.

"Experiment in Creation"

"Thank Zukor an Zanuck, we are not selling a standardized product. The quality of pig iron, unlike mercy, can be strained and definitely ascertained in advance, but every picture, even the sluffs I play, is an experiment in creation and an adventure in transplanting some man's dream or, for that matter, some man's nightmare, to the screen."

Mayer, in his more serious moments, declared his belief that "we must inevitably sell our product, whether we personally consider it good or bad, with warmth and color, with vivid phrases and glowing adjectives. I believe our patrons have been conditioned to expect such advertising and will respond to nothing else."

The Rialto operator was frank in his disagreement with W. G. Van Schmus, a recent Ampa speaker-guest, who advocated conservatism in advertising, when he said: "It is easy for an operator showing approximately 20 hand-picked pictures a year to say that theatre men should carefully discriminate in their advertising between the good and the bad. What does such an operation really know about pictures—the pictures that 15,000 theatres around the country have to play weekly? Such advice is of absolutely no benefit to the average exhibitor who formerly had to buy five blocks of 50 pictures each and play them and sell them, and now, thanks to Thurman Benedict Arnold, has the inestimable privilege of buying 50 blocks of five pictures each and playing them and selling them. In the process of liberation by the department of justice, we have lost our cancellation privilege, but we still have our chains."

Mayer was introduced by Louis Pollock, eastern director of publicity and advertising for Universal, who, in the spirit of the occasion, had plenty of unkind things to say about the guest speaker. However, the piece de resistance was a bit of inventive horse-play Pollock devised when, in the course of ripping apart the Rialto's nightmarish offerings, he asked if there might not be a Rialto patron in the room. Up stepped a lad who delivered as amusing a dish of oral and graphic cliches of typical Rialto product as any comedy producer would be proud to have under contract. He was Jack Guilford, star of the current "Meet the People."

Agnes Mengel Grew, director of the Women's Institute of Audience Reaction, urged a closer study of women's opinions in film tastes. She offered the results of some polls to illustrate her point that women, generally speaking, would "like to see some changes in entertainment."

Among the guests who took bows were Barney Balaban, Lou Phillips, Walter Cokell, Boris Morros, Leon Netter, Leonard Goldenson, Marty Mullin, Sam Pinanski, Joseph Bernhard, Alec Moss, George Smith, Eddie Klein, Charles Prutzman, Arthur Israel and Bill Sussman.

The next meeting will be April 10, with Ned E. Depinet as guest speaker.

"That Day We Are Sunk"

New York—As Arthur Mayer, Rialto operator, says he understands it, "the object of advertising is to make the reader or passerby believe that you have something preferable to what he has. Most theatres have to sell from 100 to 300 pictures annually." He said so in a speech before an Ampa luncheon group, adding: "They cannot do this with under-emphasis or apologizing for three-quarters of their product. The day that advertisers in this industry stop believing that every motion picture is by its very nature the greatest of all forms of entertainment, that day we are all sunk. The day that every producer, whether he is making an 'A' picture or 'B' picture or an 'XYZ' picture, regains that faith, that day our worst troubles are over."

Second "Dictator" Week Is Big Philly Noise

PHILADELPHIA—"The Great Dictator," in its second week at the Stanton on a popular-price return engagement, is netting one of the biggest grosses the house has ever had. Next in this week's hit parade is "Strawberry Blonde" at the Fox. The other houses were at par, or slightly below, hit by the sudden and rip-roaring return of winter, which seemed about finished during several warm days at the beginning of the week.

Detail for the week ending March 21:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Fantasia** (Disney), 5th wk. ... 60
Arcadia—**Virginia** (Para't), 2nd run ... 100
Boyd—**Back Street** (Univ) ... 95
Earle—**Blonde Inspiration** (M-G-M), with Orrin Tucker's orchestra on stage ... 110
Fox—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN) ... 150
Karlton—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M), 2nd run ... 100
Keith's—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), 2nd run ... 105
Stanley—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M) ... 95
Stanton—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 2nd wk. ... 250

Broadway's Grosses Bow to Blizzard

NEW YORK—At very best, the week on Broadway was dull. At worst, it was downright bad. Two reasons are advanced: Only fair-to-middlin' product and a snowless blizzard that rode in from the west Monday and raised havoc with everything in sight.

Despite the fanfare accompanying "Meet John Doe," with a simultaneous day-and-date run at the Warner-operated Hollywood and the Rivoli, the film isn't pulling as expected. In fact, the weakness in its draw is seen in the reduction of admissions at both houses from 55 cents to 40 cents for opening, and from 77 to 65 cents between 1 p. m. and 6 p. m. The 99 cents evening scale remains. The Rivoli drew a fair $35,000, while the Hollywood just managed a poor $18,000.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 23rd roadshow wk. ... 90
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 18th roadshow wk. ... 110
Capitol—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M), 2nd wk. ... 85
Criterion—**The Roundup** (Para't) ... 90
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 12th wk. ... 90
Hollywood—**Meet John Doe** (Capra-WB) ... 90
Paramount—**The Lady Eve** (Para't), plus stage show, 3rd wk. ... 100
Radio City Music Hall—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA), plus stage show ... 90
Rialto—**Mr. Dynamite** (Univ) ... 85
Rivoli—**Meet John Doe** (Capra-WB) ... 100
Roxy—**That Night in Rio** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk., plus stage show ... 100
Strand—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB), plus stage show ... 95

"Private Secretary" Holds Washington Top Spot

WASHINGTON—Comedy ruled the ticket lanes this week, evidencing the choice of themes in the lighter vein, with Mickey Rooney, a local favorite, in "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary," and "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" in its second week, providing the laughs. "Philadelphia Story" in its fourth week on the stem appears record-bent. "Western Union" had a colorful message, but lacking in readers.

Detail for week ending March 6:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M), stage show ... 140
Columbia—**Philadelphia Story (M-G-M)**, 4th wk. ... 125
Earle—**Adam Had Four Sons** (Col), stage show ... 100
Keith's—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), 2nd wk. ... 140
Palace—**Western Union** (20th-Fox) ... 85

Schenck Tax Trial Seen Near Finish

NEW YORK—The trial of Joseph M. Schenck and Joseph H. Moskowitz, chairman of the board and eastern representative of 20th-Fox, respectively, by the government on alleged income tax evasion, is in its third and possibly last week for the prosecution. The government's evidence, instead of gaining strength, is, perhaps, more circumstantial than ever and Prosecutor Mathias F. Correa appears to be depending more and more on statements that his witnesses are "unfriendly."

During the week the most important witness was William Goetz, vice-president of 20th-Fox, who testified on the stock transaction whereby he acquired 133,844 shares of the Agua Caliente Jockey Club from Schenck for $5,000. Goetz told how Moskowitz approached him on the deal, of talks with John B. Codd, 20th-Fox comptroller, with Schenck, and his ultimate purchase of the stock.

The witness declared the transaction was a legitimate one, and that the stock at the time was worthless, but might have later become worth money. Under the circumstances, Schenck, not wanting to sell worthless property to a friend, gave back the purchase money with the proviso that it was to be paid if the stock was ever worth any money.

Goetz testified he was worth several hundred thousand dollars so the deal could not affect him one way or another.

Agent's Report Aids

Another witness who boomeranged on the government was Internal Revenue Agent Leo Colin, who went over Moskowitz's books in 1938. The witness admitted that, according to his figures, Schenck had overpaid $800 on a $22,000 tax payment in 1935. The witness was saved from this line of questioning by Judge Grover Moscowitz, to the indignation of Harold H. Corbin, defense counsel, who, on being stopped by the court, declared that Moscowitz was "making rulings directly in conflict with the record."

Other witnesses of the week included Enrique Niedhart, manager of the Hotel and Jockey Club, who testified that after the Mexican law prohibiting gambling went into effect the property was worthless, supporting Schenck's contention that the stock he sold was not of any immediate value.

Harry Sackman, accountant of the Clover Club, testified Schenck was only a patron of the club and never financially interested in it. The government tried but seemingly failed to establish a connection between the club and Schenck.

Stock brokers and bankers were represented in the persons of Paul Zuckerman, Joseph E. Redpath and Joseph Rosenberg, who told of Schenck's winning on the Roosevelt 1936 election. The government has been claiming the executive failed to report winnings, but has introduced no evidence to substantiate the claim.

The latter witness told of how Schenck arranged and paid off loans to Roland West and Arthur Stebbins through the Bank of America.

Erwin Leuttmoser, accountant for West, told of seeing the shares of stock in West's home long after the transaction, proving they had actually changed hands.

Kathryn Sullivan, secretary to Moskowitz testified again, this time identifying papers from her files.

Ruth Nolander, Schenck's secretary from 1925-1940, was also on the stand telling of the Bioff "loan." She said Schenck called her into his office and handed her $100,000 with Bioff present and had her put it away. She gave it to Codd for safekeeping. The government tried to put over a point by claiming Schenck deducted $7,525 in taxes as amounts spent on his home, etc., but Correa was forced to admit that $7,179 of that amount had not been deducted, this being money spent in redecorating his home. The prosecutor sought to carry through proof on the other few hundred dollars. In rebuttal to this testimony Corbin brought forth the fact Schenck had deducted only $23,500 during the year out of $242,000 actually spent.



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

Winter Met Them—

Freezing weather and a 40-mile gale greeted Bud Abbott and Lou Costello upon their arrival in New York from the coast for a brief vacation between pictures.

Goldwyn Suit Against UA Formally Discontinued

NEW YORK—Suit of Samuel Goldwyn against UA was discontinued. The action was settled as a result of Goldwyn's leaving UA. The suit had sought damages of $1,000,000 for alleged interference with the distribution of "The Westerner" and court approval of Goldwyn's breaking his UA contract.

Samuel I. Posen, Universal director, who is suing the company for $2,000,000 damages in a stockholder action, has applied to the supreme court to examine the records of the Cellofilm Corp. whose stock is 100 per cent owned by Universal.

M-G-M Answers Roach With Counter Suit

NEW YORK—Court news of the week was highlighted by a denial and a counter suit for $500,000 damages by Loew's and M-G-M against Hal Roach Studios, Inc., in federal court. Roach had filed an action against Loew's for $1,263,993, claiming that, since the first distribution contract entered into March 16, 1926, Loew's had deducted percentages due him had charged him extra for prints, gave him no credit for old prints sold as junk and no rebate on Canadian distribution on which the company had received a rebate.

Loew's claims in its countersuit that Roach violated his contract by falsely representing his production costs to be in excess of what they actually were and included in these costs items which were prohibited. Loew's had advanced moneys to Roach for production and received it back from rentals. It is claimed the exact amount is unknown and it will be necessary to examine Roach's books to determine it, but approximately it totals $500,000.

The answer denies charges and raises two defenses. The first is that all portions of Roach's suit dealing with events prior to 1934 are banned by the seven-year statute of limitations and, secondly, it is claimed that since Roach approved all contracts made with Loew's and saw the company's books, he is stopped from suing now since the company believing him satisfied, made other contracts with him which it would not have entered into if it had not believed Roach was satisfied. A dismissal is asked.

To Examine 16

Sixteen officials of Loew's and M-G-M will be examined before trial in the federal court March 31 in connection with Hal Roach's suit against them. Officials to be examined are C. K. Stern, assistant treasurer; J. T. Mills, comptroller; W. F. Rodgers, sales manager; A. F. Cummings, contract department head; Howard Dietz, head of advertising; A. M. Loew, Al Lichtman, J. Robert Rubin, Leopold Friedman, vice-presidents, and David Bernstein, secretary.

Columbia Answer by Mar. 31

Columbia was given until March 31 to file its answer to the government antitrust suit in a stipulation between counsel and Thurman Arnold and entered in federal court. UA and Universal entered general denials and seek a dismissal. The Columbia answer is expected to be more substantial and present affirmative defenses.

Suit by Captain John C. Fremont and Jesse Fremont, grandsons of John Fremont, against Paul Murphy, manager of Loew's Ziegfeld, for criminal libel was dismissed in magistrate's court by Justice William Ringel. The suit charged John Fremont was shown as a bigamist; that he committed an execution contrary to articles of war; that he was stubborn and stupid; and that he was ambushed. The court found no libel in the film "Kit Carson," subject of the controversy.

Joelson Names Josephs Manager of Circuit

NEW YORK—Paul Josephs, who operated the West End, Newark, and is a brother-in-law of Julius Joelson, has been appointed general manager of J. J. Theatres, Inc., formerly the Consolidated circuit. Headquarters are in the Bryant Theatre Bldg. For the time being, Laurence Bolognino is continuing at the offices of Consolidated in the Bond Bldg.

It is reported $300,000 in cash changed hands with the transfer of 18 theatres, another $300,000 to be paid out and the mortgages and leases to be assumed by Joelson.

Herron to Army Service; Milliken Takes Over

NEW YORK—Carl E. Milliken, secretary of the MPPDA and director of the organization's community service department, has been named acting foreign manager in a realignment brought on through the calling up for active military service of Frederick L. Herron, foreign manager, as a lieutenant colonel attached to the adjutant general's office in Washington. Herron is a West Point graduate and has been on the army reserve list for some time. He is on a leave of absence but retains title of foreign manager of the MPPDA, of which he also is treasurer.

Harold L. Smith, who until recently was the MPPDA representative in Paris, has been named assistant to Milliken, who continues to direct activities of the service department.

Fay W. Allport, who has been the MPPDA London representative for some time, gets the title of European manager. He continues his office in London.

"This Is England" Set for 200 Bookings March 27

NEW YORK — There will be 200 simultaneous bookings in the metropolitan area the week of March 27 of "This Is England," Columbia-distributed short recently brought over by Harry Hopkins, President Roosevelt's special envoy to Britain. It will be a benefit proposition, with the net proceeds going to the RAF's "Spitfire Fund." The reel features a commentary by Ed Murrow, European director of CBS.

Canada Free of Provincial Amusement Tax for Year

TORONTO—Canada will not have a provincial amusement tax for the next 12 months, it was revealed when Premier M. F. Hepburn officially announced in tabling the budget before the Ontario legislature that the fiscal year, ending March 31, will close with a huge surplus. Hepburn disclosed, however, that the new corporation tax, which he introduced a year ago as a temporary measure, would be continued.

More Money and Stations On Navy Film Service

WASHINGTON—The navy will spend in excess of $300,000 on its motion picture service in the fiscal year beginning July 1 and, while congress has increased the appropriation by $40,000, more than $225,000 of the total will be contributed from the profits of ship's stores.

Four prints instead of three will be used and 11 new stations brought into service in the next 12 months. Additionally, $44,000 is provided for new projection equipment.

Testifying on the operations of the film service before the committee which considered the increased budget, Rear Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, chief of the bureau of navigation, stated films are the "most important element" in the building up and maintenance of morale.

Sunday Shows for Georgia

ATLANTA—The senate has passed the Sunday show bill. It permits films on the Sabbath provided 25 per cent of voters so petition it.

REVIEW FLASHES

DEAD MEN TELL (20th-Fox)—Closely woven mystery which Charlie Chan solves with characteristic emphasis on suavity and Confucianisms. Audiences will be kept in suspense until the final footage as to whodunit, which is the principal asset in qualifying the film as high grade support material. Walter Morosco and Ralph Dietrich produced; Harry Lachman directed.

LAS VEGAS NIGHTS (Para)—Audiences may not respond to the lure of Las Vegas after they see it in celluloid, but they will be amused by the fiction that went into this film. It is good average program fare. Tommy Dorsey and his band are the chief seat-fillers.

MAN WHO LOST HIMSELF, THE (Univ)—Light farce with Brian Aherne essaying a dual role, and in which the story line is at times spun so thin as to overstep the bounds of credibility. Nevertheless, it has its amusing moments, is well enacted by Aherne and Kay Francis, and should be found satisfactory for general audience consumption. Lawrence W. Fox jr. produced; Edward Ludwig directed.

MAN-MADE MONSTER (Univ)—Audiences delighting in the macabre will be satisfied with this synthetic gem. It's a definite contribution to the gallery of horror portraits that are a natural for exploitation. Lon Chaney jr., Samuel S. Hinds, Ann Nagel.

Executive Jan. Stock Trading Is Light

WASHINGTON—Activities of film corporation officers and directors in the securities of their companies were light in January, following heavy year-end trading, it is shown by the first report of the securities and exchange commission for the month. Only five companies were involved, as follows:

Consolidated Film Industries: E. H. Seifert, director, Fort Lee, N. J., disposed of 100 shares of preferred, leaving him with none. Walter P. Stevens, director, Scranton, Pa., submitted a December report showing the net acquisition of 100 shares of preferred and the net disposition of 347 shares of common, and a January report showing the acquisition of 400 shares of preferred, holding 59 shares of common and 800 shares of preferred at the close of the month.

General Theatres Equipment Corp.: R. B. Laure, officer, New York, reported the sale of 100 shares of capital stock, holding 500 shares at the end of the month.

Loew's Boston Theatres: Loew's, Inc., reported the acquisition of 60 shares of common stock, holding 117,847 shares.

Paramount Pictures: Stanton Griffis, director, New York, reported the purchase of 1,000 shares of common stock to give him a total of 7,500 shares.

Universal Corp.: Daniel M. Sheaffer, director, Philadelphia, submitted a December report showing the acquisition of 100 common voting trust certificates and for January reported the sale of 100 certificates, leaving him with 20,500.

Await Australian Word On New Allocations

NEW YORK—Major companies are awaiting word from the Australian government on new remittance allocations for the year started March 1. During the past 12 months, Australia has permitted $3,100,000 out, but for the new year is considering paring this to $2,100,000 on a basis of lines adopted by Great Britain. England currently is permitting the majors to withdraw $12,900,000, including $1,500,000 for Universal. This compares with $17,500,000 the year prior.

In New Zealand, which has changed its remittance schedule to the calendar year, the entire industry is allowing 300,000 pounds, 40,000 of which must go to British producers. Of the 260,000 pounds, 12,000 pounds may be remitted in sterling to London. The balance of 248,000 pounds is allocated by the government itself. This differs from the English plan which sets aside a lump sum and then permits the producers themselves to allocate according to billings.

Rubin Ends Vacation

HOLLYWOOD—J. Robert Rubin, general counsel for M-G-M, is here after a vacation on the desert. He expects to spend several weeks at the studio, this being his first trip west in several years.

PHILADELPHIA

HERBERT J. YATES, Consolidated Film Industries president, was a Republic visitor . . . United Artists screened "Topper Returns" for the industry at the Uptown . . . The Fays was the scene of a successful Sunday benefit show for the widow of the late Jimmy Jones, orchestra conductor at the house . . . Herman Tucker, Quality Print, is still celebrating the newest addition to the family, a baby named Marna Susa . . . The street heard reports of a new house planned in Bryn Mawr . . . Max Miller, William Goldman's publicity impresario, is back from Florida, looking tanned, rested and heavier.

The Variety Club's Ladies Auxiliary is planning a dinner dance April 26, with charity to benefit from the proceeds . . . Singer and Wolf's renovated Hill reopened . . . Herman Comer, Capitol, played host to a squad of British refugee children at a showing of the British-made "Missing Ten Days" . . . Lester Wurtele, Columbia office manager, is back after an unobtrusive vacation . . . Milt Young, Warner publiciteer, is sitting in the seat of Everett Callow during latter's absence on trip to Hollywood . . . Among out-of-towners on the street were Eddie Jones, of the Magazzu circuit; Pete Marinos, Wyoming Theatre, Wyoming; Si Venus, Lyric, Throop, and Harry Stiefel, Campus, Lewisburg.

Sid Poppay, Majestic, Gettysburg, had a full cooperative page in the local papers for "Gone With the Wind" . . . Lee Kline, Orpheum, got a tieup with the Germantown *Globe* on a "Comrade X" stunt. A man representing the comrade was spotted at different places in the neighborhood, and readers were told to try to identify him, for ducats . . . John Latimer, Waverly, Drexel Hill, got half a dozen art schools and high schools behind his showing of "Thief of Bagdad" . . . Abe Goldsmith, Cross Keys, is distributing patriotic pledge cards emblazoned with the American flag to kid patrons . . . Art Cohn, Roosevelt, recently had latest Autry film delivered by Gene in person. He used a picture of the event for ballyhoo.

District Advertising Manager Bill Brooker, Paramount, who arranged an experimental engagement of the double feature shock bill, "Mad Doctor" and "Monster and the Girl," at the Embassy, Reading, helped the Wilmer & Vincent house break its boxoffice record. Now his fellow district advertising manager, Arnold Van Leer, is in Pittsburgh, doing ballyhoo work for other bookings of the dual . . . District Manager Earle W. Sweigert is touring the Washington exchange area with Branch Manager J. E. Fontaine.

Lilla Ruth Evans, daughter of Frank Evans, Altec inspector at Atlantic City, is now Mrs. Edgar F. Horner . . . George Beattie, Paramount's sales manager, is a proud pappy. It's a boy, named Robert Schuyler.

Hellman Drive-In by May

ALBANY—The new Drive-In which the Hellman circuit is building at Latham, on the Albany-Saratoga Road, will be ready for operation by May 15.

Maryland Showmen's Club Considers Morals Board

BALTIMORE—At a meeting of the newly formed Showmen's Club of Maryland, attended by 40 members, a proposal was introduced that a morals board be set up.

Delegates John A. Novak and Chester Kosakowski of the first district, Baltimore, who suggested the board, would have it examine or supervise the examination of all shows, carnivals, vaudeville, theatrical performances, or any other exhibit, either public or private at which entertainers perform. It is especially provided that the board shall not infringe upon the territory of the state board of motion picture censors.

The assembled showmen named a membership, location and constitution committee, and set the next meeting for Monday, March 24, at the Rivoli, at which time officers will be elected.

Profit by Technicolor "Despite a Price Cut"

NEW YORK—Technicolor reports net profit of $882,125 for the year ended December 31, 1940, "despite a voluntary reduction of one cent per foot in print cost which became effective the latter half of 1940." The reduction would have amounted to $800,000 for the year, the report states, adding net sales for the year totaled $5,103,404, of which 28.59 per cent was paid to labor; 10.63 to taxes, and 4.24 per cent for executive officers, management and general clerical salaries. Profit in 1939 was $912,614; in 1938, $1,050,536; in 1937, $468,169 and in 1936, $482,113.

: ROCHESTER :

LESTER POLLOCK of Loew's, Harry Stearn of the Schine organization, and Bill Cadoret were on the airwaves last week when they appeared on "For Men Only" over WHEC. They discussed the theatre . . . Charley Freeman's Century had "Vivacious Lady" on the screen the week after Ginger Rogers and James Stewart won their Oscars . . . Wesley M. Angle, president of Stromberg-Carlson Co., has accepted an appointment to the employment relations committee of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Father Flanagan of Boys Town spoke here last week . . . Local theatres are doing their best for the Greek War Relief Fund. Bill Cadoret is chairman of the theatre committee, aided by Lester Pollock, Jay Golden and a Schine representative. They're planning a big midnight show soon, with Art Argyries aiding in booking vaudeville acts. They'll also show "Greece Fights Back" . . . RKO Palace was packed to the rafters last Saturday. Jay Golden opened the house for the school safety patrol rally.

Ruth and Paul Draper played the Auditorium last Saturday . . . Toby Ross, manager of the Elmwood in nearby Penn Yan, has been honored by the American Legion Post in that village for his service to the Legion.

BALTIMORE

A ST. PATRICK'S DAY toast in the form of a green flower was sent to all Baltimore exhibitors by Universal's Bernie Kreisler . . . Elmer Nolte of the Frank H. Durkee circuit has been nominated for exalted ruler of the BPOE No. 7 . . . Two lectures illustrated by motion pictures which he took while on foreign travels, were given by the Rev. William R. Moody at Christ Church, of which he is rector . . . Lower admission prices are being sought for soldiers to theatres in Baltimore.

Admitted to practice law in the state was James F. Price, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Price of the Aurora . . . The wife of Hymie Tabor, Pennington manager, underwent an operation . . . Tommy Dorsey did one of his weekly coast-to-coast broadcasts from the stage of the Hippodrome . . . Mark Silver, UA salesman, is in Florida . . . Francis Susie, assistant manager at the Hippodrome, is on the sick list with a sore throat . . . Jack Dausus has had his station wagon painted green.

Leo Holman has instituted "Gift Nights" Monday through Friday at the Westway . . . A trade showing was held at Loew's Valencia of "Topper Returns."

KOA and Subsidiaries Report $780,004 Net

NEW YORK—Keith-Albee-Orpheum and subsidiaries report a net of $780,004 for 1940 after all charges as against $976,427 for the previous year. This is a decline of $196,623.

Last year's earnings are equivalent to $12.26 per share on the 63,586 shares of seven per cent cumulative preferred outstanding, but before provision for federal excess profits tax. The '39 net was equivalent to earnings of $15.18 a share on the 64,304 shares of seven per cent cumulative preferred then outstanding.

B. F. Keith Corp. and subsidiaries show a net of $543,614 after all charges for 1940 as against $575,271 for 1939, or a decline of $31,657. This does not allow provision for federal excess profits tax.

K-A-O's theatre admissions in 1940 totaled $13,293,852.

Paramount District Heads To Promotional Parley

NEW YORK—Formulation of promotional and exploitation plans for "I Wanted Wings" will be the purpose of a meeting of Paramount's district managers and home office executives at the Waldorf-Astoria, March 27, the day following the world premiere of the film at the Astor, which the field men will attend.

Scheduled to attend are William H. Erbb, Boston; Harry H. Goldstein, Cleveland; E. W. Sweigert, Philadelphia; Allen Usher, Chicago; R. C. LiBeau, Kansas City; Hugh Braly, Los Angeles; Hugh Owen, Dallas; J. F. Kirby, Atlanta; Del Goodman, Canada; Milt Kusell, New York, and the new Denver manager.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 38)

. . . Morris Helprin, after a fling at play producing, is back with Alexander Korda handling publicity for "That Hamilton Woman" . . . Joan Blondell and Dick Powell are in from the coast for a vacation . . . E. C. Grainger is due back from Ft. Lauderdale the first of April . . . Jack Shea of Feiber & Shea has been visiting Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh the past week . . . Helen McNulta, E. C. Grainger's secretary, has gone to Atlantic City for a rest . . . One of the courtroom spectators during the week at the Schenck trial was "Pansy" Schenck, wife of N. M. Schenck . . . Walter Reade was there also, as were Charles Goetz and a number of others in the industry.

Joe Vogel cut his Miami vacation short and is back on the job after only one week away. He had planned to go to Cuba with Harry Bernstein, but business returned him back ahead of time. Bernstein is now in Havana and due here momentarily . . . Irving Greenfield is back at the Loew office after a three-week siesta in Miami . . . Ed Lee of the M-G-M legal staff spent his vacation at Naples, Fla. . . . Father Flanagan was in from Boys Town and meeting up with his M-G-M friends . . . Marvin Schenck is all pepped up over the Greek War Relief show at the Music Hall the night of March 28 and for which he is lining up a stellar roster of talent . . . Louis Nizer dropped in on the Schenck trial for a brief stay the other morning . . . Harpo Marx has gone back to the coast and brother Chico is on the way. They have another picture to do for M-G-M.

Bernie Kreisler, Universal's short subject head, was at it again on St. Patrick's Day, sending out green carnations and reminding the recipients that "Riders of Death Valley" are on the way . . . Jack Kerfoot of 20th-Fox publicity department has taken on an added responsibility, now that Mae McNally is the missus . . . Edgar Moss is back at the Philadelphia 20th-Fox exchange after recuperating from a recent illness at Hot Springs . . . Kenneth Macgowan, former 20th-Fox associate producer, and now non-theatrical director of the South American Amity Committee, will make his headquarters in New York . . . Norma Shearer has been around town, her hair changed to blonde.

Ed Raftery has been spending some time in St. Joseph, Mo., on the Frank Cassil anti-trust suit against Fox Midwest and majors . . . Harriet Seiden, biller at the local UA exchange, has resigned to become a housewife . . . Harry H. Buxbaum has returned from a vacation in Miami . . . Ted O'Shea has gone south for a fishing vacation. He will spend some time on E. V. Richards' yacht, the southern Paramount partner having invited him on one of his recent trips north . . . Jack Cohen, National Screen division manager in the east, spent the past two weeks touring a half dozen branches under his supervision . . . Roland West, former producer, was in town during the week . . . William Goetz flew in from the coast March 16 and returned to the 20th-Fox studios the latter part of the week . . . Rube Jackter has added another coat of tan to his dark complexion, having taken time off from his Columbia sales duties to rest under the Miami sun.

C. C. Moskowitz has indefinitely delayed his Miami vacation, which means the earliest he can get away is in May . . . Lawrence Fox jr., Universal producer, was in from the coast to confer with his attorney, William B. Jaffe . . . Dick Condon is back from Hollywood, a week after Hal Horne returned from a visit to the Walt Disney studios . . . Charles Feldman, coast agent, and his wife are back in their Beverly Hills home after a brief visit to these parts . . . Edwin L. Weisl is on the coast for talks with Floyd Odlum . . . Mabel Willebrandt, Washington attorney, has been spending the past week in town on important business . . . Mrs. Frances Webb, secretary to William Goetz, 20th-Fox vice-president, plans to remain here for another few days before heading back to the coast . . . Boris Morros is visiting . . . Eddie Schnitzer, eastern district manager for Warner, was in Hollywood over the weekend with Mrs. Schnitzer to attend the marriage of their son, Gerald, to Janet Feiler on Sunday. Gerald is a writer on the Universal lot.

Saturday Inoperative For 9 O'Clock Plan

NEW YORK—The RKO metropolitan circuit's experiment with a plan to get the main feature before audiences at 9 o'clock has recoiled at some 20 units that run off a midnight show on Saturdays. This fact, coupled with the purported realization that it matters little how late patrons get home on that night because they can sleep late on Sunday caused John J. O'Connor, general manager, to switch back to the original procedure over the weekend. The 9 o'clock plan, however, continues the other six nights of the week.

In respect to the latter, the management feels there has been "no difference" in boxoffice returns. At best, the idea may be welcome to those patrons who "only go to see a certain picture," but this segment is described as a "hopeless minority." The feeling persists a marked majority still prefer the two-for-one deal and don't care much about the order in which they are presented.

RKO-Skouras Forest Hills House Starts on May 1

NEW YORK—Construction on the new RKO-Skouras house to be built in Forest Hills, behind the Forest Hills Theatre, will get under way May 1. There will be 2,000 seats, as exclusively reported in the February 22 issue of BOXOFFICE. Work is expected to be completed for a Christmas opening. Thomas W. Lamb of New York and Charles Lee of Los Angeles are the architects.

February Ticket Tax Up Nearly Million

WASHINGTON—February admission tax collections were $6,495,283.66, compared with $6,583,277.97 in January and $1,852,763.82 in February, 1940, it is shown by the monthly report of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The report disclosed that collections have been dropping steadily since last November, when the 1940 top of $7,124,225.19 was received, but for the first two months of the year the revenue of $13,078,561.63 was nearly $10,000,000 above the $3,339,298.46 reported for 1940.

The loss to exhibitors generally in February as compared with the preceding month was much greater than indicated by the total figures, since collections in the Broadway sector of New York increased more than $300,000, making a decline for the remainder of the country of nearly $400,000.

On the basis of returns since the application of the 20-cent exemption, the Treasury will derive an increased income of some $45,000,000 from the admission tax during the current fiscal year which ends June 30, next. This estimate is based on figures for eight months, which show collections of $45,394,102.94 against $14,059,382.93 last year, an increase of $31,334,720.01.

Atlantic Intervenes in John Geyser Plaint

(Continued from page 37)

of the Florence, in Florence, N. J. He named the five major distributors, with the Burlington as an "interested party," giving it the right to intervene.

William Elliot, secretary of the local arbitration office, has sent the parties a panel of ten arbitrators, of which they are to get together on one.

Progress of the case, only one in this territory so far, is being watched by the entire industry, to get a clue to how the arbitration procedure will work out in practice.

Joseph's Drive-In Plaint Against Metro Resolved

DALLAS—Through individual settlement with Joseph's Drive-In Theatre of Austin, which brought the first complaint to the local arbitration tribunal, M-G-M is no longer involved in the case. However, Warner and 20th Century-Fox remain as distributor defendants. The complaint is over some run. M-G-M settled by offering to license the complainant's theatre.

Agree on Arbitrator in Garbose Bros. Case

BOSTON—John A. Daly, Boston lawyer, will arbitrate the clearance complaint of the Garbose Bros., Athol, Mass., against Paramount, Loew's, 20th-Fox, Vitagraph, RKO and Maine & New Hampshire Theatres. No hearing date has been set as yet. George S. Ryan will represent the Garbose Bros.

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)



A Five-Time Winner—

Winning of a 1940 Academy Award by David O. Selznick when his "Rebecca" was adjudged the year's best production brings to light the fact that the film is the only one ever to win five major achievements. The Selznick production for United Artists release was cited as follows:

1. *The* BOXOFFICE *Blue Ribbon Award, presented when the National Screen Council voted it the best picture released during the month of April,* 1940.
2. *First in the* Film Daily's *poll of* 546 *newspaper critics.*
3. *Chosen the "most popular picture" by the National Board of Review.*
4. *Named "best picture of the year" by Canadian critics.*

Extras' Earnings Up In February

Registering the first increase since the fall of 1940, extra earnings during the month of February were approximately $58,000 higher than in January, totaling $190,469.98, as compared to $132,636.90 in the previous month. Job placements were also more numerous, work calls for February totaling 16,232, as compared to 12,114 in January. February payroll was an increase of about $17,000 over the earnings for February, 1940, but some $60,000 lower than in February, 1939. Average daily wage was $11.10 and average daily placements were 269.

IA to Represent Locals At Wage-Hour Talks

After remaining aloof from the affairs of its affiliated studio locals for more than a year, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes will step into the local labor scene once more by representing the IA locals at the forthcoming wage-hour hearing scheduled for March 25.

Notification came from George E. Browne, IATSE president, together with the demand that IA employes who had been classified as non-exempt under wage-hour rulings, and subsequently placed on an hourly wage basis by producers, be returned to their former status, under which they receive weekly paychecks.

Workers have been returned to their status quo position by the producers pending the outcome of the wage-hour sessions, at which the IATSE will be represented by Joseph Padway, general counsel for the international.

Postponement Denied

A request that the hearings be postponed until March 28 has been turned down by the wage-hour administration. To be represented, in addition to the IATSE, to protest rulings on certain worker classifications, are the Screen Cartoonists Guild, the Script Clerks Guild and other crafts. About 40 classifications of workers remain to be ruled on as to exemption or non-exemption from the provisions of the act.

Following the wage-hour conclave, Pat Casey, chief labor contact for the producers, will go east to begin negotiations with international heads of the carpenters, teamsters, painters and electricians concerning possible revisions in their basic studio agreement.

Meantime it is expected that the IATSE also will take over negotiations for new contracts which were launched by the various IA locals several weeks ago and on which, to date, little progress has been made.

Society of Motion Picture Film Editors announces it has signed basic contracts with Alexander Korda, Howard Hughes, Gloria Productions, Picture Corp. of America and Cameo Productions, all independent units.

Cartoonists Induct 150

The Screen Cartoonists Guild inducted 150 new members, the bulk of them Walt Disney employes, at a general membership meeting. Negotiations for basic pacts are now being conducted with Leon Schlesinger, Screen Gems and George Pal Productions. The National Labor Relations Board is expected to hold a hearing shortly on the SCG's charge that Disney is guilty of unfair labor tactics and that the Federated Screen Cartoonists, which Disney recognizes, is a company-controlled union.

Jurisdictional claims to studio title writers have been relinquished to the moving picture painters by the Society of Motion Picture Artists and Illustrators.

Discuss Reclassification

Producers and the Screen Actors Guild met to discuss the reclassification of various brackets of extra players. The SAG is seeking the establishment of a straight $10 call to replace the current $8.25 and $11 classifications.

To discuss pending negotiations with producers concerning revisions in its current contract, the board of directors of the Screen Directors Guild held a meeting. The SDG is asking a minimum wage scale, guaranteed employment and a 90 per cent Guild shop.

Screen Publicists Guild held a general membership meeting to discuss various routine business matters, the wage-hour situation and other items.

Represented at the wage-hour hearing also will be the teamsters, carpenters, plasterers, utility workers and electricians, each of which craft claims workers in disputed classifications. Unions are all members of the Studio Basic Agreement. Frank Carothers, secretary of the Motion Picture Internationals Committee, will head the delegation.

Negotiations for a new basic agreement were opened by the Screen Writers Guild when representatives met with the producers March 20. Current SWG contract expires April 10, and writers are demanding a minimum wage scale, abolition of speculative writing, complete control of screen credits and other adjustments.

"Purchase" in Color

Paramount has announced plans to produce "Louisiana Purchase," the New York musical comedy, in Technicolor.

"Sea Wolf" Premiere On Pacific Ocean

Exploitation premiere junkets, dear to the hearts of studio publicists, took on a nautical aspect when Warner debuted "The Sea Wolf," starring Edward G. Robinson, aboard a ship at sea March 21 with stars, studio executives, reviewers and photographers as passengers. The vessel employed was the *S. S. America* and the arrangement was worked out with the United States lines, the film being screened en route from Los Angeles to San Francisco. After docking at the Bay City, the premiere party was convoyed to Oakland as guests of that city's chamber of commerce, attending a special breakfast honoring Jack London, who authored the story.

From Oakland the junketeers went to the London ranch in the Valley of the Moon to be guests at a Jack London Festival. Following entertainment at the home of Mrs. Charmian London, widow of the author, the "Sea Wolf" premiere party was returned to Oakland, going on to Hollywood aboard five transport planes.

Army Cooperation Promised

Paramount has been promised U. S. Army cooperation when "I Wanted Wings" is premiered at the Astor in New York, March 26. Key figures in the war department, the army air corps and other government officials will join social, diplomatic, civic and Hollywood celebrities attending the event. Preceding the Astor opening, the film was to be given a special showing March 22 at Randolph Field, army aviation training base in Texas, where much of it was photographed, and which screening will be attended by William Holden, Veronica Lake and Wayne Morris, who have leading roles.

Festival for "Pot O' Gold"

When James Roosevelt's first United Artists production, "Pot O' Gold," is world-premiered in Mexico City, April 12, it will be the first event in a three-day Motion Picture Festival officially proclaimed by President Avila Camacho. Several planeloads of stars, industry notables and press representatives will be flown from New York and Hollywood for the event. President Camacho will personally invite leading American stars to be his guests. Roosevelt himself, now on active duty as a captain with the marine corps in San Diego, will attend and deliver a speech of thanks in Spanish. Through his secretary of state, Miguel Aleman, President Camacho asserted that "the increasing friendship between our two nations cannot but be further cemented by this meeting of the two great cultural industries and by the celebrations attendant upon the festivities here."

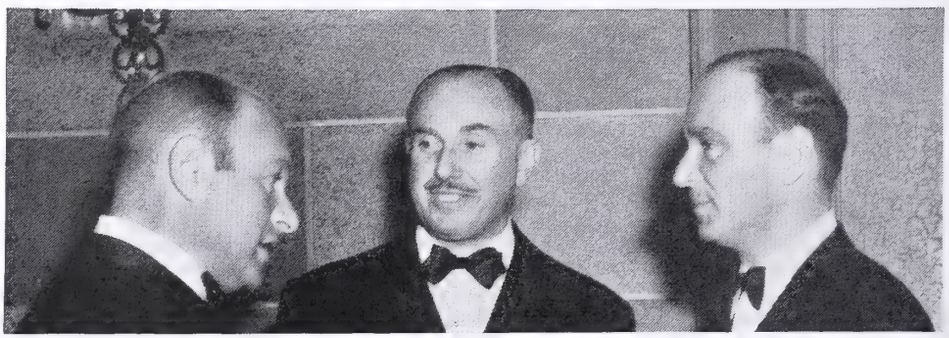
Western premiere of RKO Radio's "Scattergood Baines," produced by Jerrold T. Brandt's Pyramid Pictures, was held at the Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco, March 19. Guy Kibbee, who portrays the title character, made personal appearances.



(1)



(2)



(3)

"Meet John Doe"—

The Frank Capra-Robert Riskin production that Warner world-premiered at the Hollywood brought out in full force top-ranking stars, producers and industry notables. The Gary Cooper-Barbara Stanwyck co-starrer is in the house for an extended run, day-date with Warner's Downtown. Among those attending: (1) *Harry M. Warner, president of the motion picture company.* (2) *Jesse L. Lasky sr. (center), who is producing "Sergeant York" for Warner, flanked by Joan Leslie, Warner starlet, and his son, William Lasky.* (3) *A before-the-show conference. Left to right, S. Charles Einfeld, Warner advertising-publicity director; Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of production; and Robert Riskin, Frank Capra's production partner and author of "Meet John Doe."*

"Little Foxes" Pegged For an Early Start

An early starting date, after a long productional hiatus, is pegged for Samuel Goldwyn's "The Little Foxes" following the announcement that his relationship with United Artists has been completely severed. Therese Wright, stage player, has been signed for a supporting role in the Bette Davis starrer, and William Wyler, who will direct, is in New York conferring with Lillian Hellman, who is writing the script from her play. Gregg Toland will handle the cameras. To date no announcement has been made as to what release will be sought for the production, Goldwyn's first since "The Westerner."

Three for Monogram

Three independent units are readying vehicles for Monogram release. To roll this month are Sam Katzman's "The Phantom Monster," initialer in a series of three starring Bela Lugosi, and "King of the Zombies," which Lindsley Parsons will produce. I. E. Chadwick will gun "Redhead" early in April.

Roll All-Negro Feature

Million Dollar Productions has rolled "Take My Life," an all-Negro feature, with Leo C. Popkin directing. Al Westen, of the company's New York office, checked in as production supervisor.

"Trigger Pals" for PRC

In work for Producers Releasing Corp. is Sigmund Neufeld's "Billy the Kid's Trigger Pals." Sherman Scott is directing the fifth in the series of Bob Steele starrers.

Four Through UA

Being prepared for early starts as United Artists releases are Argosy's "The Eagle Squadron," to be released through Walter F. Wanger; Hal Roach's "Niagara Falls;" Loew-Lewin's "Landfall" and Sol Lesser's "Strange Victory."

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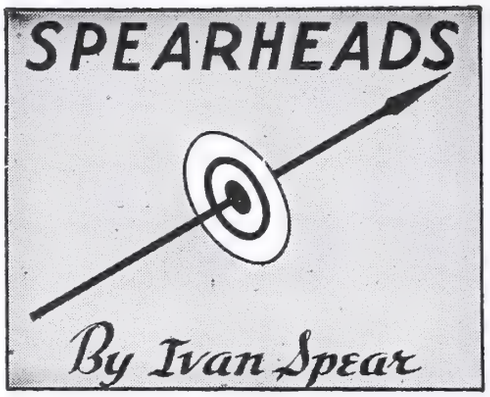
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EASTMAN NEGATIVE FILMS



THE 13th annual Awards Banquet of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has gone and is forgotten—forgotten by everyone, with the possible exception of those fortunate few who were recipients of the coveted kudos.

But behind one of the awards is a story of a smart and subtle publicity campaign, so foreign to Hollywood's normal drumbeating practices that a few words in observation thereof are not amiss, even at this late date.

Among the ten features nominated for consideration as recipients of the No. 1 Oscar, recognition as the most outstanding motion pictures of the year, was "Rebecca," produced by David O. Selznick for United Artists. In that crowded and highly-competitive field, Mr. Selznick's entry was given only an outside chance by the railbirds. Those prognosticating dopesters predicated their predictions on the fact that DOS had carried home the trophy last year when his "Gone With the Wind" breezed under the wire lengths ahead of the pack. They opined that the give-somebody-else-a-chance element would influence enough voters to divorce "Rebecca" from favorite status.

But the wise gentlemen who held figurative stopwatches on the trial runs for the Academy sweepstakes failed to take into consideration the aforementioned campaign, which was launched and kept sailing during the period when 12,000 Academy voters were marking their ballots and which kept the name of Selznick and the list of his achievements continuously and very much in the Hollywood limelight during the voting period.

It began when Harold Heffernan of North American Newspaper Alliance conducted a "stars-turn-critics" poll in which "Rebecca" was voted the best picture of the year. Then, in rapid order, came various individual newspaper awards, the National Board of Review balloting and the *Film Daily's* poll, in which 546 participating critics chose it the No. 1 film. At that time Selznick appeared on the Rudy Vallee airshow to receive the award. A week later Selznick received another tradepaper award as the leading boxoffice producer over the past nine years, and made another radio appearance in connection therewith on the Cecil B. DeMille-Lux Theatre broadcast. This was followed by a poll of Canadian critics, naming "Rebecca" the number two production. Hedda Hopper picked it as the best of the year, and Selznick as the man who did the most for the industry by making "Rebecca" and "Gone With the Wind"; George Fischer named "Rebecca" the year's best dramatic offering, and Canadian exhibitors voted it number one. Each of these accolades was stressed in the tradepapers and in other media widely-read in the film colony.

Then, while the Academy balloting was going on, the climax was capped when "Rebecca" opened a reissue engagement at the Hawaii here, after it had already played the ten-cent houses. Although in substance just another revival run, the event was dubbed the "Critics' Award Premiere," top admission prices were in effect, and all of the above-named awards were widely publicized during the profitable four-week booking. Stars attended, there were radio broadcasts and every other reliable form of exploitation ordinarily accorded to a film's first-run engagement was employed.

There is not the slightest intention in these paragraphs to hint that "Rebecca" was not richly deserving of the Academy recognition it received. Further, there is always the possibility that it might have been named the winner without the pre-banquet buildup. No one will ever know.

But, if there is anything of practical truth in the general theory of publicity and ballyhoo and their influences on voters in any election, it seems entirely reasonable to credit the campaign for playing its important part in the unexpected victory for a long-shot darkhorse.

Victor M. Shapiro, a streamlined oldtimer in the gentle art of public relations, conceived and conducted the campaign, having rejoined the Selznick organization as director of publicity several weeks in advance of the Academy Banquet date. And for him—a bow.

→

While delving into the ancient history of the banquet, one word about the only sour note in an otherwise efficiently conducted and highly satisfactory affair. The reference is to the directors' disinclination to select a producer for the Irving Thalberg Memorial Award. Since its creation, the honor has previously gone each year to the producer who is deemed to have maintained the most consistently high quality of productional effort. Their stated reason for the surprising omission was their opinion that no producer had sufficiently distinguished himself to deserve it. Certainly this was a tacit admission that the quality of production during 1940 *was below the standards of previous years, which seems diametrically in opposition to the principal function of and justification for the Academy.*

→

From George Brown:

"Hollywood's strangest location-hunting expedition will get under way from Hollywood in a week or two when Associate Director Arthur H. Rosson starts reconnoitering the floor of the Atlantic Ocean for his boss, Cecil B. DeMille."

If Rosson fails to locate "The Great C. B.," he might try exploring the floor of the famous DeMilleian bathtub, which, after all, has been nearly as widely publicized as the Atlantic Ocean.

→

20th Century-Fox again renews the writing pact of Frank Nugent, erstwhile motion picture critic extraordinary, and after the former New York *Times* reviewer has spent a year as a scripter in the Zanuck fold playing around with countless and constantly-shifting assignments.

Options, options everywhere and not a line of screen credit.

Sociological, Spooky, Saccharine, Sherman

Warner's "Meet John Doe" was the big frog in the week's preview puddle, and could have been even if that apothegmatic waterhole had been of much larger proportions. There are countless approaches to commentation on the initial Frank Capra-Robert Riskin independent production. So much has been printed regarding its social import that anything further in that vein would be repetitious. The same goes for the characteristic Capra artistry which manifests itself throughout the long feature. Suffice, at this late date, to declare that the film has all of the markings of a top-money hit with limitless mass and class appeal. Riskin's writing is, as was to be expected, forceful and intelligent. Capra gave the script firm direction and topnotch production values, while the performances, notably those of Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck, Edward Arnold and Walter Brennan, are as excellent as the reputations of these reliable performers would indicate.

Additionally in the high-scoring division was Hal Roach's "Topper Returns," a United Artists release. It smoothly blends the trick photography, burlesqued ghosts, gag situations and bright dialogue, which makes its two predecessors so popular, with a full assortment of secret stairways, sliding doors and clutching hands such as are usually associated with murder-mystery-chillers. The combination results in the best of the "Topper" films to date—superlatively fine comedy which should result in a general demand for more. Furnished with a brilliantly-paced script by Jonathan Latimer and Gordon Douglas, with additional dialogue by Paul Gerard Smith, Roy Del Ruth directed the offering at break-neck clip. Billie Burke and Roland Young are inherited from the original "Topper" gang, their antics bolstered through the recruiting of such masters of humor as Joan Blondell, Patsy Kelly, Donald MacBride and, last but far from least, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson. Their mummery develops into a funfest that will have the customers roaring from start to finish.

A substantial pair included Harry Sherman's "The Round-up," for Paramount

(Continued on next page)

A Home for Actors in San Fernando Valley

Motion Picture Relief Fund has acquired property near Calabasis, in the San Fernando Valley, as a building site for the home which it will construct for elderly veterans of the industry and as a rest and recuperation home for younger actors.

Jean Hersholt, MPRF president, announced that the organization now has $800,000 in its building fund, gathered during the past three years by Hollywood actors donating their services for broadcasts on the Screen Guild's airshow. The $10,000 weekly received from the sponsor has been set aside for construction of the home.

"Gambol" Replenishes Finances

Architect William Pereira of Paramount has volunteered to design the buildings and is now at work in cooperation with the Screen Set Designers Guild. Pereira and Keith Glennan, Paramount studio manager, will direct the work.

Meantime the MPRF's financial status was further improved when all proceeds from the annual "Gambol of the Stars," sponsored jointly by the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio Artists, was staged Monday at the Ambassador Hotel's Cocoanut Grove. Highlight of the occasion, attended by some 700 industry notables, was the auctioning of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's campaign hat. Edward G. Robinson and Melvyn Douglas, each bidding $3,200, split the chapeau and the selling price.

REVIEW FLASHES

DEAD MEN TELL (20th-Fox)—Closely woven mystery which Charlie Chan solves with characteristic emphasis on suavity and Confucianisms. Audiences will be kept in suspense until the final footage as to whodunit, which is the principal asset in qualifying the film as high grade support material. Walter Morosco and Ralph Dietrich produced; Harry Lachman directed.

LAS VEGAS NIGHTS (Para)—Audiences may not respond to the lure of Las Vegas after they see it in celluloid, but they will be amused by the fiction that went into this film. It is good average program fare. Tommy Dorsey and his band are the chief seat-fillers.

MAN-MADE MONSTER (Univ)—Audiences delighting in the macabre will be satisfied with this synthetic gem. It's a definite contribution to the gallery of horror portraits that are a natural for exploitation. Lon Chaney jr., Samuel S. Hinds, Ann Nagel.

Cinémarks

The Women's University Club heard Dr. Herman Lissauer, head of the Warner research department, and Hobart Bosworth, veteran actor, lecture on "The Sea Wolf." Bosworth, who produced the first film version of the Jack London novel, told of the early production and showed stills, while Lissauer discoursed on the new Warner version.

*

Funeral services were held here, with burial following in Dayton, Ohio, for Stuart Walker, 53, playwright and film producer, who died of a heart attack March 13. He is survived by a son, Arthur.

*

Priscilla Lane is in from a three-week vacation in Victorville and Sun Valley . . . Mr. and Mrs. James Stephenson are back in town after a Yosemite holiday, on which they were accompanied by the Melville Coopers.

*

Loretta Young and Basil Rathbone are winners in the American Institute of Voice Teachers' "Voice Personality" awards. Selection is based on enunciation, clarity, tonal quality, range and sex appeal. Miss Young previously won the same award in 1939.

*

William (Hopalong Cassidy) Boyd and his wife, Grace Bradley, returned from a month's vacation in New York.

*

Sol M. Wurtzel, 20th Century-Fox executive producer, has returned to the studio from an extended holiday in Mexico and South America. He was accompanied on the jaunt by Lester Ziffren, contract writer.

In to supervise production of two shorts sponsored by the government and dealing with federal housing is Frank Donovan, producer of RKO Pathe's "Picture People" and "Information Please" . . . Walter F. Wanger and David O. Selznick were the principal speakers when 700 students of Stephens College of Columbia, Mo., here for a vacation tour, were guests at a dinner at the Cocoanut Grove. Maude Adams, former actress and now a dramatic teacher at Stephens, also spoke, and Rudy Vallee served as master of ceremonies . . . Director William Keighley and his wife, Genevieve Tobin, have gone east on a six-week holiday.

*

Director Roy Del Ruth, just signed to an M-G-M termer, has checked out for New York to catch the new Broadway plays . . . Jack Skirball, Frank Lloyd's business manager, has pulled out for Dallas to stage the first of ten key-city previews of "The Lady From Cheyenne." He will go as far east as Boston.

*

Funeral services were held at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills for Mrs. Hal Roach, 45, wife of the producer, who died of pneumonia after a week's illness. She is survived, in addition to her husband, by a son and daughter, her parents and two sisters.

*

George Batchellor, executive producer for Producers Releasing Corp., checked out for Chicago to attend the company's sales meeting, a three-day affair scheduled to begin Saturday.

*

Irving Rapper, Warner director, has returned from a two-week vacation in New York.

Spearheads

(Continued from preceding page)

release, and Metro's "The Penalty."

The former, a melodrama of the triangle-plot variety and with an early-west locale, should prove popular wherever a combination of dramatics and six-gun action is sought. Cast is topped by two well-established names in that particular market, Richard Dix and Preston Foster. Allocating an increased budget to this sally into a wider field, Producer Sherman demonstrated the experience he has gained through that series of topflight westerns, the "Hopalong Cassidy" films. This venture is substantial in all of its productional accoutrements. Harold Shumate's script, from a story by Edmund Day, emphasizes plot and portrayals rather than standard sagebrush details. Lesley Selander's direction is deft and well-paced.

Although it occasionally becomes too heavily coated with saccharinity, "The Penalty" is, by and large, composed of elements which should evoke audience satisfaction. Produced to the usual opulent M-G-M standard by Jack Chertok, erstwhile shorts supervisor, it is exceptionally well enacted by a solid cast topped by Edward Arnold, Lionel Barrymore and Gene Reynolds. Based on the Martin Berkeley play, "Roosty," the script by Harry Ruskin and John C. Higgins fulfills all of the requirements. Harold S. Bucquet's direction is well balanced and competent.

Comes the caboose and aboard it a 20th Century-Fox film, "Sleepers West"—which is long on dialogue, short on action and story, and devoid of suspense. No better than fair-to-middlin' as supporting fare, it may be found a disappointment by even the most rabid of mystery fans, since there is nary a murder. The feature is second in the series in which Lloyd Nolan portrays "Michael Shayne," a private detective. Eugene Forde directed for the Sol M. Wurtzel production unit.

Hollywood—
—Personnelities

Barnstormers

Pyramid Pictures

GUY KIBBEE made a p. a. at the Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco, March 19, in connection with the western premiere of "Scattergood Baines," in which he starred. RKO Radio is distributing.

Blurbers

Hal Roach

JULES SELTZER is serving temporarily as publicity director until a definite successor to **FRANK SELTZER**, who resigned, has been named. The latter has moved over to the association of motion picture producers as assistant to Jock Lawrence.

Edward Small

AL VAUGHAN has been named studio publicity director, moving over from a similar spot with the Sol Lesser production unit. Lesser will not appoint a successor for several months, until his next production for United Artists, "Strange Victory," goes before the cameras.

Warner Bros.

IRVING RUBINE, WILL YOLEN and **TOM FOUDY**, of the publicity staff, established headquarters in San Francisco for the world premiere of "The Sea Wolf" and the Sonoma County celebration of Jack London Week. Premiere was held aboard the "S. S. America," March 21.

Briefies

Metro

Next Pete Smith Specialty will demonstrate dancing techniques. Untitled, it is based on Arthur Murray's book, "How to Become a Good Dancer."

Leon Schlesinger

A deal has been set whereby the Whitman Publishing Co. will issue a series of comic books featuring characters in Schlesinger's "Merrie Melody" and "Looney Tunes" cartoons.

Warner Bros.

First of the 1941-42 shorts scheduled to roll is "Those Good Old Days," featuring Nan Wynn and William T. Orr. Jean Negulesco is directing.

LEO FORBSTEIN is writing musical scores for three shorts, "Hunting the Hard Way," "White Sails" and "Then and Now."

"Robert E. Lee" will be first in the 1941-42 series of historical shorts, with Sidney Blackmer signed to portray the famous Confederate general. Owen Crump is scripting the Technicolor two-reelers, which Gordon Hollingshead will produce.

KNOX MANNING doing commentary on "Then and Now," short for which Owen Crump is writing the narration.

GORDON HOLLINGSHEAD will supervise a new series of two-reel shorts dramatizing popular short stories, under the title "Miniature Melodramas." First to go will be "The Bells," from the story by Leopold Lewis, to be followed by "The Monkey's Paw," from the W. W. Jacobs story.

Cleffers

Columbia

PAUL MERTZ and **FELIX ADLER** writing three songs for "The Private General," Buster Keaton two-reeler.

W. FRANK HARLING scoring "Penny Serenade."

MORRIS STOLOFF scoring "She Knew All the Answers."

SAUL CHAPLIN and **SAM CAHN** writing tunes for "Betty Co-Ed."

Metro

HAL BORNE, musical arranger and composer, is working on numbers for the new Marx Brothers comedy, now in production.

Loanouts

Paramount

EDWARD ARNOLD borrowed from M-G-M for a lead in "Nothing But the Truth," the Bob Hope-Paulette Goddard co-starrer.

FRANCES GIFFORD borrowed by Republic to star in "Jungle Girl," a serial.

Meggers

Columbia

EDWARD DMYTRYK to direct "Betty Co-Ed" as his first assignment under a recently-signed four picture deal.

Forum Films, Inc.

LLOYD FRENCH to pilot "Courtesy Comes to Town," third in a projected series of 26 two-reel non-theatrical productions for use as classroom movies. Michael Simmons scripted and Bill Christy will supervise for James S. Burkett, Forum president.

K. B. Productions

PHIL ROSEN to direct "Paper Bullets," from a Martin Mooney original. Producers Releasing Corp. will distribute.

Mayfair Productions

AL ROGELL to direct "Tight Shoes," which Jules Levey will make for Universal release.

Paramount

HUGH BENNETT to pilot "Henry for President." It is his first directorial assignment since promotion from a film editorship.

WILLIAM McGANN to direct "The Parson of Panamint," a Harry Sherman western.

Producers Releasing Corp.

TED RICHMOND to produce "Gambling Daughters," rolling April 3. He has just completed "South of Panama."

Republic

BERNARD VORHAUS to direct "Angels With Broken Wings," rolling in April.

Harry Sherman

HOWARD BRETHERTON to pilot "The Sheik of Buffalo Butte," forthcoming "Hopalong Cassidy" western for Paramount release.

20th Century-Fox

WILLIAM LE BARON's first assignment as producer for the Westwood studio will be "Caribbean Cruise," Technicolor musical with Carmen Miranda in a topline. A camera crew will be dispatched to Havana in April to pick up background footage.

WILLIAM LE BARON to produce "Miss Pilgrim's Progress" and "A Straight Left."

ARCHIE MAYO to direct "Charley's Aunt," forthcoming Jack Benny starrer which William Perlberg will produce.

Warner Bros.

LEW SEILER to pilot "The Smiling Ghost."

WILLIAM K. HOWARD to direct "King Rubber," story with a South American background by Barry Trivers. Film rolls March 24. Howard was originally scheduled to direct "Bad Men of Missouri," which has been taken over by **RAY ENRIGHT.**

Options

Columbia

SLAPSY MAXIE ROSENBLOOM signed for a topline in "Harvard Here I Come!" to be made by the Irving Briskin unit.

LOIS ANDREWS signed for a featured role in "Girls From Panama," a Wallace MacDonald production.

LUPE VELEZ signed to star in "Honolulu Lou." Irving Briskin will produce.

Samuel Goldwyn

THERESE WRIGHT, stage actress, signs term contract. She will debut in "The Little Foxes."

Sam Katzman

BELA LUGOSI signed to star in three horror features for Monogram release. Initialer will be "The Phantom Monster."

Metro

JONATHAN HALE joins cast of the new "Dr. Kildare" feature.

CAROL HUGHES and **DON COSTELLO** given roles in "Washington Melodrama."

TONY MARTIN signed for the juvenile lead, opposite Virginia Grey, in the new untitled Marx Brothers comedy.

ROY DEL RUTH given term directorial contract. His last chore for the studio was "Broadway Melody of 1938."

PAUL KELLY draws a topline in "Man From the City."

BRONISLAU KAPER, composer and scoring director, given new term contract.

FAY BAINTER handed new term acting ticket.

Paramount

JUDY CANOVA signs five-year contract to appear in one film a year, in addition to her long-term deal with Republic.

FRED MacMURRAY, PAULETTE GODDARD, BETTY FIELD, VIRGINIA DALE and **MARTHA O'DRISCOLL** all held for extended terms on their respective acting contracts.

BARBARA STANWYCK, now starring in "The Great Man's Woman," signed to a one-picture deal for 1941-42.

BRAD KING replaces **RUSSELL HAYDEN** as sidekick to William Boyd in Harry Sherman's "Hopalong Cassidy" westerns, appearing first in "Secret of the Wastelands." King, a guitar-player and singer, is a genuine cowhand from Nevada.

Pyramid Pictures

MILDRED COLES signed for feminine lead in "Scattergood Pulls the Strings," to be produced by Jerrold T. Brandt for RKO Radio release.

Republic

JUNE CLYDE and **GUINN (BIG BOY) WILLIAMS** join cast of "County Fair."

RKO Radio

RAY BOLGER given an option on a possible term contract. He has just completed a role in "Sunny."

Edward Small

ILONA MASSEY given term contract. She will star first in "G-Men vs. Scotland Yard," a story by E. Lloyd Sheldon and Jack DeWitt, who are writing the script for an early start.

Stephens-Lang

DOROTHY LOVETT signed for the feminine lead in the fifth "Dr. Christian" feature, starring Jean Hersholt, for RKO Radio.

20th Century-Fox

LYNN ROBERTS, featured player, held for another year. She is now in "Miami."

TED NORTH, leading man, held for another term.

Universal

RUDY VALLEE signed to star in "Too Many Blondes," to be directed by Glenn Tryon. Vallee reports for the assignment when he has completed "Time Out for Rhythm" at Columbia.

PIERRE WATKIN given character role in "Cracked Nuts."

Scripters

Columbia

WINSTON MILLER to "The Medico Hits the Trail," forthcoming Charles Starrett western which William Berke will produce.

PHILLIP McDONALD to "The Brothers" for production by Wallace MacDonald.

JOHN GREY and **BEN HOLMES** to "The Lone Wolf Goes High Hat," next in the series starring Warren William. Wallace MacDonald will produce.

HILARY LYNN to "Women in the Navy," from her own original, for Producer Jack Fier.

WYNDHAM GITTENS to "The Medico of Painted Springs." Jack Fier will produce the sagebrusher.

GEORGE SKLAR to "Tonight Belongs to Us," Loretta Young starrer which Gregory Ratoff will produce and direct.

SETON I. MILLER to "Stopover in Manila."

FREDERIC FRANK to "Harmon of Michigan," football story to star Tommy Harmon, all-American halfback.

ROBERT NEVILLE to "The Law of Winchester," a Bill Elliott western which Leon Barsha will produce.

Sol Lesser

JANE MURFIN to "Strange Victory," Lesser's next for United Artists.

HOWARD DIMSDALE to "Coffins on Wheels," a Crime Does Not Pay short subject.

Paramount

F. HUGH HERBERT to "Buy Me That Town."

ROBERT F. McGOWAN to "Henry for President."

RICHARD MAIBAUM to "Sing a Song of Homicide," from the mystery novel by James R. Langham.

EDDIE MORAN to "We're in the Navy Now," a forthcoming Paul Jones production.

HARRY HAMILTON to an untitled original for production by Sol C. Siegel.

MONTE BRICE to "The Fleet's In," remake of the silent which starred Clara Bow. Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour are set for top spots in the new version.

DORIS ANDERSON to "Government Girl" for the Sol C. Siegel production unit.

Republic

OLIVER DRAKE to "Kansas Cyclone," a Don Barry western.

ELLIOTT GIBBONS to "Desert Bandit," sagebrusher to star Don Barry.

RKO Radio

DELMER DAVES completes "Unexpected Uncle," to be directed by Tay Garnett.

David O. Selznick

ROSE FRANKEN and **WILLIAM BROWN MELONEY** to "Claudia," from the New York stage play by Miss Franken.

20th Century-Fox

MAX BRAND to "Law and Order, Inc.," from the Rowland Brown original, which Robert T. Kane will produce.

LESTER ZIFFREN to "Charlie Chan in Rio," which Harry Lachman will direct.

Warner Bros.

HOWARD KOCH to "In This Our Life," from the novel by Ellen Gasgow.

LEONARD FRANK and **HEINZ HERALD** complete "The Damned Don't Cry," from the Harry Hervey novel.



Half Her Week's Pay—

Is being put to the best use it can be by Strato Lizzie, mascot of TWA pilots and winner of six cat shows, who has been signed to portray herself in "Forced Landing," aviation feature being produced by William H. Pine and William C. Thomas of Picture Corp. of America for Paramount release. Here's Strato Lizzie with Eva Gabor, featured in the Richard Arlen starrer, and Pine.

Academy Maps Plans for Still Photography Show

Having caught its breath after the strenuous activities in connection with its recent 13th annual Awards Banquet, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has begun mapping detailed plans for its first annual still photography show, to be held April 14-28 in the Academy's library and review theatre.

Sponsored by the organization's public relations institute, the affair is being supervised by Walter F. Wanger, Academy president. Specially designed gold medals will be awarded winners in various divisions, with entrants to be limited to individuals in studio camera departments and freelance photographers affiliated with the IATSE. Classifications include portrait studies, action portraits, romantic two-shots, closeups, three-quarter or full-length art shots, posed production still, action production still, fashion still and original novelty stills made during the filming of a motion picture. Donald Gledhill, Academy secretary, is in active charge of arrangements.

Meantime, the association of motion picture producers has signed Frank Seltzer, adding him to its staff as assistant to Jock Lawrence, aide to President Y. Frank Freeman. Seltzer has resigned his position as publicity director for Hal Roach in order to accept the new assignment, effective immediately.

Weisl in Conference

Edwin L. Weisl, member of Paramount's board of directors, is in for conferences at the studio and for huddles with Floyd Odlum, head of the Atlas Corp., at the latter's home in Indio.

"Louisiana Purchase" Will Star Bob Hope

Paramount has named Bob Hope to star in "Louisiana Purchase," picturization of the B. G. DeSylva-Irving Berlin stage musical, to be made in Technicolor. A tentative starting date of July 7 has been set. Script is now being prepared by Jerome Chodorov and Joseph Fields.

Hope first will appear opposite Paulette Goddard in "Nothing But the Truth."



Congratulations in Order—

As Mark Hellinger signs a long-term contract to become a 20th Century-Fox producer. Here felicitations are exchanged between Hellinger (left) and Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production. Hellinger reports immediately, having resigned a Warner producership a short time ago.

Hellinger to Fox as Associate Producer

Mark Hellinger has joined 20th Century-Fox as an associate producer on a term contract, with no assignment yet handed him. Hellinger recently resigned from a similar post at Warner. The Westwood studio has also named Charles Friedman coordinator and creative collaborator on all musical product. Formerly assistant to Fred Kohlmar, associate producer who has checked off the lot, Friedman was a stage producer.

Berke to Columbia

William Berke has joined Columbia as a producer in the Irving Briskin unit. The studio has also signed Charles Starrett, who left the payroll some months ago, to a new contract calling for him to star in three westerns this season, 10 pictures on the 1941-42 program, and nine others for 1942-43. Berke will produce two of the first trio of Starrett sagebrushers.

Ann Sheridan-Warner Truce

Under suspension for seven months as the result of a salary dispute, Ann Sheridan has made peace with Warner and returns to work immediately in "Navy Blues."

Elevates Hugh Bennett

Paramount has elevated Hugh Bennett, film editor, to a directorship, with "Henry for President" as his first assignment. Ted Tetzlaff, cameraman recently promoted to director by the same studio, will do "World Premiere" as his initialer.

Dwan Producer-Director

Allan Dwan has been made a producer-director at RKO Radio, where he is preparing an untitled musical to star Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy, Fibber McGee and Molly. He replaces David Hempstead in the producer's seat, Hempstead having a conflicting commitment for the studio.



Edward H. Griffith—

Producer-director of "Virginia," adjudged by the National Screen Council the best film released during February, poses with the BOXOFFICE *Blue Ribbon Awards received for his achievement.*

Wurtzel's S. A. Tour May Inspire Films

HOLLYWOOD—Planning to incorporate his findings in several pictures with South American backgrounds which he will produce for the '41-42 program, Sol M. Wurtzel, 20th-Fox executive producer, has returned from a three-month tour of Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Chile and other Latin-American nations. Wurtzel, accompanied by Mrs. Wurtzel and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Ziffren, checked back at his studio desk to report that:

The South American film market can be easily expanded through the delivery of better and more acceptable product from Hollywood. Motion pictures are among the principal forms of recreation for Latin-Americans, Wurtzel said, and the same type of film fare which English-speaking countries like is equally welcome there.

Hollywood producers may soon face genuine competition from native film-makers, especially in Argentina and Brazil, where the industry is forging ahead rapidly, Wurtzel declared.

The 20th Century-Fox producer believes that Latin-Americans are almost unanimously supporting Great Britain and the United States in the current war. In his report on the political scene, Wurtzel tended to minimize Nazi encroachment in Central and South America.

Warner Officials From Home Office Expected

Cancelling plans whereby President Harry M. Warner and S. Charles Einfeld, Warner advertising-publicity director, were to go east for huddles with homeoffice executives, a New York contingent of Warner officials was expected to arrive here late in the week for parleys in Hollywood. Making the trip here were Gradwell L. Sears, sales chief; Sam Schneider, Mort Blumenstock, Carl Leserman, Benjamin Kalmenson and Arthur Sachson. They plan conferences with Harry M. and Jack L. Warner, Einfeld and Hal B. Wallis.

"Reluctant Dragon" Release Plans Call Horne, Condon

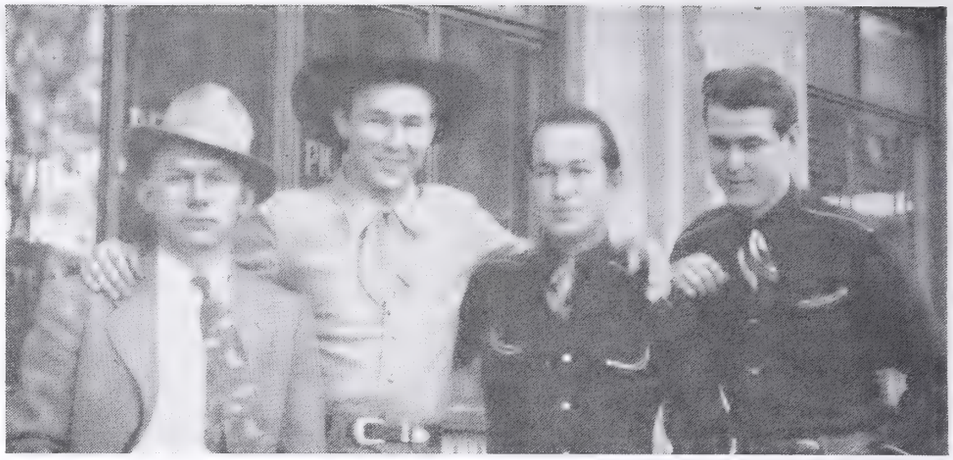
Hal Horne, Walt Disney's eastern representative, and Richard Condon, New York publicity director, have returned east after two weeks here, discussing release plans for "The Reluctant Dragon," next feature-length Disney offering. Condon huddled with Janet Martin, studio publicity director.

Rowland to New York Parley

Richard A. Rowland, United Artists producer, trained for New York to vacation and discuss with UA executives plans for his next picture. Also east-bound was Boris Morros, president of National Pictures.

Industry Due for Boom, Says Herman Wobber

Not only is 20th Century-Fox experiencing one of the biggest boxoffice spurts in years, but the entire motion picture industry is due for a substantial boom, in the opinion of Herman Wobber, sales head for that company, who checked in for studio conferences after a jaunt around eastern key cities. He cited improved business conditions as a result of the defense program as the most important factor in the boom he expects. Leading the 20th Century-Fox parade of money-makers at present, Wobber said, are "Tobacco Road," "Western Union" and "That Night in Rio." The sales chief will spend several days here huddling with Darryl F. Zanuck, Sol Wurtzel, William Goetz and other studio executives.



On P. A. in Oregon—

Roy Rogers, Republic western star, visits the Portland office during a recent personal appearance tour in the Oregon territory. Left to right: J. H. Sheffield, Republic branch manager; Roy Rogers, Spade Cooley and Gene Haas. Cooley and Haas are members of Rogers' troupe.

Adjourn in Olympia; Trade All Right

OLYMPIA—The legislature has adjourned after a session which leaves the trade virtually unscathed.

However, several bills indirectly affecting the trade were pushed through at the last minute. One new law calls for pinball machines to be taxed 10 per cent of their "take" and slot machines (allowed only in private clubs) to pay the state 20 per cent of their intake.

The general sales tax was hiked from two to three per cent, with tokens retained to be used on purchases under 20 cents. Beer parlors were granted an extra hour on Saturday nights, making the closing 1 a. m. The dog-racing bill was killed and hotels lost their fight to get cocktail lounges. Hard liquor is obtainable in this state only in private clubs holding a state license.

Beaten down during the session was a bill which would have required a state seal on all films played in Washington. Distributors would have borne the inspection cost at so much per reel.

Here the past 60 days keeping a protective eye on bills menacing to the trade, was Jim Hone, executive secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners.

RAF Benevolent Fund Profits by Premiere

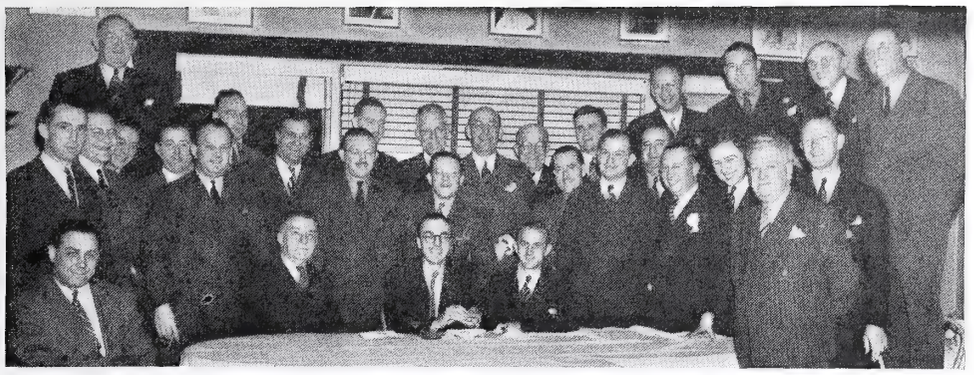
HOLLYWOOD—Great Britain's Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, which cares for the dependents of fallen flyers, benefited to the extent of an estimated $4,000 to $4,500 when Alexander Korda's "That Hamilton Woman" was world-premiered here Wednesday at the Four Star. The affair was a sell-out at $5 per seat and the entire proceeds were donated to the RAF fund. Theatre and staff were contributed by Charles P. Skouras, president of Fox West Coast, and Korda paid all other expenses.

Phil Regan, singer-actor, has written congressmen and other governmental officials suggesting the inauguration of a "democracy day," which he terms a means of bringing to Americans "a full realization of the importance of freedom and the constant attacks upon it." Regan, now under contract to Paramount, asserts the plan would be an effective way of combating the spread of Communism, Fascism and Nazism, and wants Congress to make it a national holiday.

First in a series of weekly reviews, the proceeds from which will go toward the purchase of mobile kitchens for the British army, will be staged March 23 by Gene Lockhart, character actor, who is writing, directing and producing the show. Lined up to appear in the initialer are Doris Lloyd, Montague Love, Walter Kingsford, Kathleen Lockhart and John Qualen. Following a local run, the review will go on tour, with stops already scheduled for Santa Barbara, San Diego, Pasadena, Riverside, San Francisco and Lake Arrowhead.

Teitel With Coast Artillery

SAN FRANCISCO—Charles Teitel, son of Abe, distributor of foreign films in the Chicago territory, was conscripted recently and is now stationed here with the coast artillery, second division.



At Eddie Rivers' Testimonial—

Filmland's tops, theatre executives and press agents, attended a special invitational dinner in Seattle for Edwin B. Rivers, Hamrick-Evergreen publicist, who has gone to make his headquarters in Minneapolis for RKO Radio Pictures.

Among the group are, seated at the table, center, Eddie Rivers, flanked by his father, Fred Rivers, and his brother Herb. Left to right facing camera are, Morrie Segel, manager, Paramount; Al O'Keefe, western division manager, Universal; Vic Gauntlett, publicity head Hamrick-Evergreen Theatres; Marty Weiser, publicity, Warners Studios; Ned Edris, Hamrick-Edris Theatres, Tacoma; Frank Christie, head booker Fox-Evergreen Theatres; Jack Rosenberg, assistant to Christie; Ray Johnson, attorney for Rivers; Jack Sampson, head of Sterling Theatre publicity department; Bill Parker, Metro publicity department; Harold Zell, Cinema Screen Service; Sammy Siegel, United Artists publicity department; Fred Ford, local publicity for RKO Radio Pictures; L. J. McGinley, branch manager, Universal; Dick Hays, drama editor, Seattle Times; *Joe Cooper, manager Northwest Film Club, publicity Republic Pictures; Mel Anderson, Seattle* Times; *Fred Mercy jr., head of the Mercy Circuit theatre operation; Joe Rosenfield, supervisor of Sterling Theatres; Bill Conner, assistant city manager, Hamrick-Edris, Tacoma; Tommy Olsen, radio station owner, Olympia; Ted Harris, manager Trianon Ballroom; Glenn Scholine, theatre department, Seattle* Times; *Herndon Edmonds, branch manager, 20th Century-Fox; Charles Laidlaw, theatre owner and mayor of Dayton; George Blair of the Film Row Rendezvous; and Willard Coghlan, drama editor, Seattle* Star.

Berman, Bruen, Poole PCCITO Delegates

LOS ANGELES—Jack Berman and Hugh Bruen, trustees from the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz., and Robert H. Poole, executive secretary of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, were the delegates from this territory when the PCCITO board of trustees held a one-day meeting Wednesday in San Francisco.

The affair was described by PCCITO spokesmen as a routine business session. Others attending included:

Rotus Harvey and Ben Levin, ITO of Northern Calif.; Bob White and George Hunt, ITO of Oregon, and L. O. Lukan and William Ripley, representing the ITO of Washington, Southern Idaho and Alaska.

Poole, Berman and Bruen returned here the following day.

Albert J. Law, PCCITO general counsel, was unable to attend. He was held here by the opening of the trial in U. S. district court, in which he is aiding the Colcatta Corp.'s attorneys in their conspiracy and damage action against Fox West Coast Theatres.

Ernie Rose to Manage Roosevelt in Seattle

SEATTLE—Ernie Rose has been named manager of the Sterling chain's Roosevelt here, succeeding Bill Keating who has been transferred to the Granada. Rose previously managed the State and Liberty for Fox-Evergreen in Spokane under Joe Rosenfield, who is now supervising theatres for Sterling.

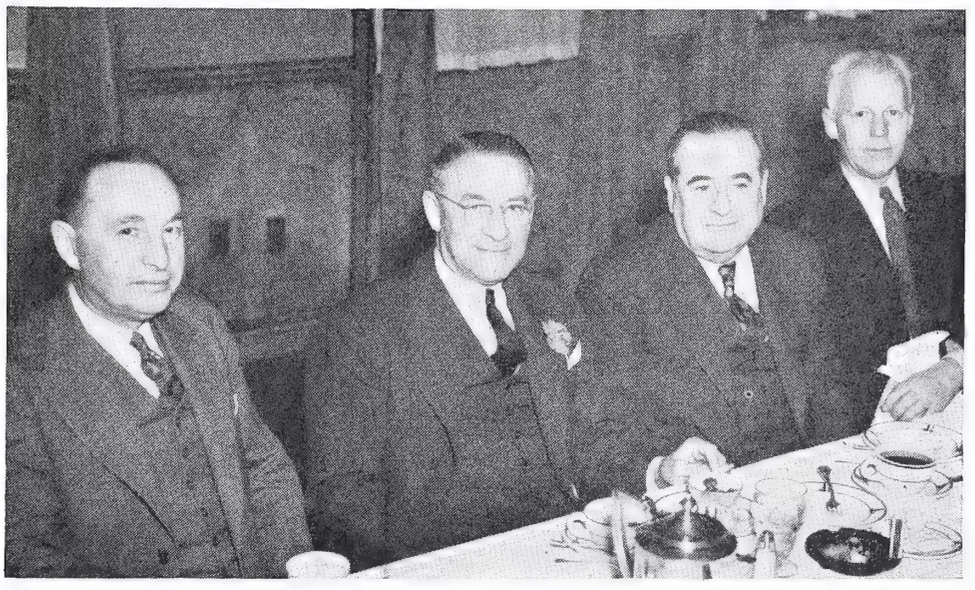
NT Conclave Hears Mayer and Roach

LOS ANGELES—Climaxed by the appearance of Louis B. Mayer, production chief at M-G-M, and Hal Roach, UA producer, on the last day of the session, the annual conclave of National Theatres Corp. divisional managers wound up, after a nine-day session, at Arrowhead Springs.

Spyros Skouras, NT president, remained several days longer for additional conferences with Charles P. Skouras, president of Fox West Coast, an NT affiliate, and then planed out for the east. Last days of the session were devoted to circuit operating problems, a continued discussion of the federal consent decree and its effects on exhibition, roadshow attractions, trailers and other topics. A formal dinner attended by conventioneers officially ended the meeting.

Mayer and Roach both addressed the gathering, outlining their production plans for the coming year and pledging cooperation with theatre operators under the consent decree's blocks-of-five plan. Roach declared he is planning a number of four-reelers as supplements to full-length features, and asserted he feels there will be a very definite market and demand for the abbreviated subjects in view of the diminishing popularity of dual programs.

Other highlights of the convention included discussion of a $3,500,000 building and rehabilitation program for NT-controlled houses; announcement of plans to inaugurate a retirement or old-age pension plan for NT employes; and the prediction by Spyros Skouras that constantly improving product and the national defense program will result in a prosperous exhibition year. NT's film buying is to be decentralized, Skouras said, as the chief change in policy to be instituted because of the decree.



Three Branches at Lunch—

J. T. Sheffield, president of Republic Pictures of the Northwest, entertained Jimmy Grainger, Republic head, on his arrival from New York with a special luncheon. Seated at the head table, from left to right, are John Danz, president of Sterling Theatres; Frank Newman sr., president of Fox-Evergreen; Jimmy Grainger, and J. T. "Sheff" Sheffield.

'Tobacco' and 'Murder' Big Noise in L. A.

LOS ANGELES—"Tobacco Road," coupled with "Murder Among Friends" in a day-date engagement at Loew's State and Grauman's Chinese, did 50 per cent above normal at the former house and above average at the latter to top the business recorded in the other first-run situations. Holdovers included a third week for "Gone With the Wind" at the Four Star and United Artists, a second stanza for "Footsteps in the Dark" and "Here Comes Happiness" at Warner's Hollywood and Downtown, a second week for "Back Street" at the Hillstreet and Pantages, and a second week for "Buck Privates" at the Paramount, where it supported "The Hard-Boiled Canary" and a stage show.

Detail for the week ending March 12:

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Murder Among Friends** (Fox) 110
Downtown—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Here Comes Happiness** (WB), 2nd wk..... 90
Four Star—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 3rd wk 75
Hillstreet—**Back Street** (Univ), 2nd wk; **Double Date** (Univ) 90
Hollywood—Same as Downtown..... 90
Pantages—Same as Hillstreet..... 90
Paramount—**Buck Privates** (Univ), 2nd wk; **The Hard-Boiled Canary** (Para't), plus stage show 115
United Artists—Same as Four Star..... 100
State—Same as Chinese..... 150

Follow "Tobacco Road" For Best SF Grosses

SAN FRANCISCO—The screen version of the eight year old Broadway favorite put the Fox at the top of the list this week. "Tobacco Road," given plenty of exploitation, drew fine crowds and moved over to the St. Francis for a second week. The Golden Gate had one of the largest opening days in the history of the house for "A Girl, A Guy, and A Gob." This impetus carried the week's take well above average. Weather was fine all week.

Detail for week ending March 12:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Sleepers West** (20th-Fox) 130
Golden Gate—**A Girl, A Guy, and A Gob** (RKO) and stage show starring Carl Brisson..... 125
Orpheum—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Meet Boston Blackie** (Col) 2nd wk..... 90
Paramount—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Honeymoon for Three** (WB) 2nd wk..... 110
St. Francis—**Land of Liberty** (M-G-M); **Her First Romance** (Mono)..... 110
United Artists—**So Ends Our Night** (UA)..... 95
Warfield—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 4th wk..100

Above-Average Business Marks Salt Lake Runs

SALT LAKE CITY—Temperatures took a plunge to rest below normal in and about Salt Lake City this week, after some unusual pre-season Spring weather. With clear skies and sunshine, however, it did anything but hamper the local activities. A special stage show at the Utah packed the house, when Lunt and Fontanne presented "There Shall Be No Night." "Gone With the Wind" at the Paramount boasts its fourth big week; "Virginia" is in the fourth week at the Studio. Others ran a close second to these in popularity.

Details for week ended March 13:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Dead Men Tell** (20th-Fox); **Lone Wolf Takes a Chance** (Col)..... 100
Centre—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB)..... 100
Lake—**Half a Sinner** (Univ), vaudeville, Bert Smith Revue..... 100
Paramount—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M); 4th wk. 115
Southeast—**Over the Moon** (UA); **Stranger on Third Floor** (RKO), 2nd run..... 110
Studio—**Virginia** (Para't), 4th week..... 110
Utah—**Hard Boiled Canary** (Para't); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M)..... 110

SAN FRANCISCO

BUSINESS along Market Street and on Filmrow returned to near normal after "income tax week" and film men are almost beginning to smile again. Week after week this territory is the recipient of additional government orders and the army camps are bulging at the seams with the influx of draftees and volunteers from all over the country. Local merchants and theatres are all sharing the increased wealth that has poured into Northern California.

L. B. Mayer and an even dozen other Hollywood figures were greeted at the depot by city officials and paraded about town upon their arrival for the huge St. Patrick's Day luncheon held at the Civic Auditorium on March 15. *Mayer was the guest of honor and main speaker at the affair which is sponsored annually by the Shriners. The group that made the affair very popular included: Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Louis Stone, Fay Holden, Hugh Herbert, Arleen Whalen, Dennis Morgan, Cesar Romero, Glenn Ford, William Orr, Walter Wanger and Maureen O'Hara.*

Funeral services were held March 18 for Vivian Preston, Warner booker who died Saturday, March 15. Preston, 60, had been with Warner for nearly a quarter of a century and was known throughout the industry. He was severely burned about two months ago when attempting to burn some rubbish at his home.

Jay Clarke, mentalist, has been held for a third week at the Golden Gate. He has proved quite a draw with the female patrons . . . 20th-Century is giving its exchange a going over, installing new carpets, new drapes, and giving Manager Ballentine's office a sprucing up . . . Emily "Countess" Bataiff, Harvey Amusement steno, was given a surprise birthday party Tuesday . . . Mike Newman, Columbia publicist, in town for work on "Adam Had Four Sons" . . . 20th-Fox held a circuit screening for "Road to Rio" . . . Harry Weaverling, M-G-M checking supervisor, hospitalized for appendectomy.

Unable to find a John Doe in the entire Bay area, the Warfield did the next best thing and had a tieup with all the Does! As a feature of the opening of "Meet John Doe" a delegation of all persons named Doe in the Bay area were guests of the theatre. Previous to the party, the Does were entertained at the Palace Hotel as guests of Glen Gray . . . Bob Ginnif, of the Columbia ad sales department, was in first place this week in the nationwide Columbia drive. Bob hopes to top the nation in ad sales and has a fine start . . . Charles Huy, exploitation manager for the Golden Gate, has been promoted to a coastwide spot for RKO and Graham Kislingbury has moved to the Gate from the Warfield to fill the vacancy.

Chuck Bedell, champion barker for the Golden Gate Exposition in both 1939 *and* '40, *has joined the selling staff of Pacific Premium . . . It is reported that Fox West Coast will convert one of their houses in Vallejo into a newsreel theatre. Vallejo is jammed with defense workers and such a theatre might be just the ticket . . . Ted Lewis makes his annual appearance at the Golden Gate beginning April* 2. *Carmen Miranda has also been signed for a personal, the date to be determined . . . April* 15 *has been set as the opening date of the city's newest night spot, "Stairway to the Stars." Sally Rand has been booked as the opening attraction.*

The local 400 evidently knows its burlesque. An entertainer named Nanette Carmen was booked as being direct from Hollywood for her debut at the exclusive La Marimba Club. She made her debut and was recognized as a former burlie and smoker queen! . . . Bruce Norton, lobby artist for the Gate, is the first from that theatre to go to camp.

Only Average Business Is Garnered in Seattle

SEATTLE—Warm weather kept the theatre patrons wandering along the beaches. "Tobacco Road" held a second week at the Fifth but no theatre did real outstanding business. Suburban houses are gradually drifting to giveaways. Quiz programs, cash awards, and various others of the cash class are being used. Downtown houses at various times are giving away automobiles.

Details for week ending March 15:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk.. 90
Fifth Avenue—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Play Girl** (RKO), 2nd wk..... 100
Liberty—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA); **Meet Boston Blackie** (Col)..... 90
Music Box—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Wild Man of Borneo** (M-G-M), 3rd wk..... 100
Orpheum—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Here Comes Happiness** (WB)..... 90
Palomar—**Youth Will Be Served** (20th-Fox); **Bowery Boy** (Rep), vaude..... 90
Paramount—**A Girl, A Guy and A Gob** (RKO); **You're the One** (Para't)..... 110
Roosevelt—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), 2nd wk..... 85

"You're the One" With Stage Show Zooms

DENVER—"You're the One" at the Denham, with a Major Bowes stage unit, was the top grosser, with all first-runs but one doing more than average.

Detail for the week ending March 13:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Nice Girl?** (Univ), after wk at Denver....120
Broadway—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Play Girl** (RKO), after wk at Orpheum..... 95
Denham—**You're the One** (Para't), and Major Bowes amateur unit..... 235
Denver—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Lone Wolf Takes a Chance** (Col)..... 135
Orpheum—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M)..... 145
Paramount—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Meet Boston Blackie** (Col)..... 160
Rialto—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), after a week at each the Denver and Aladdin, and **Out West With the Peppers** (Col)..... 115

Colcatta Suit Against FWC Being Heard

LOS ANGELES—Going to trial Friday in U. S. district court here was the Colcatta Corp.'s $1,200,000 suit against Fox West Coast Theatres, charging monopoly and conspiracy in restraint of interstate commerce.

Plaintiff, operating Bard's Colorado in Pasadena, asserts FWC illegally canceled its lease on the house in 1935, as a result of which, Colcatta contends, the theatre since has not been able to secure sufficient major studio product to insure profitable operation.

Preliminary details were disposed of, and documents and stipulations were entered in evidence, at a pre-trial hearing last week. Law firm of Wolfson and Schwab is representing Colcatta, with Albert J. Law, general counsel for the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners, assisting. Defendant attorneys include Charles A. Buckley, head of FWC's legal staff; Gordon Hall, John Bertero and the law firms of Loeb and Loeb and Wright and Millikan.

Benefit Show March 28 For Greek War Relief

SALT LAKE CITY—To raise funds for Greek war relief, a special midnight benefit show is being held March 28 at the Utah. The show will consist of a picture and vaudeville acts. Tickets are $1 each.

Members of the local committee, in addition to Mayor Jenkins, include E. O. Howard, D. D. Moffat, Charles L. Wheeler, J. E. Fitzpatrick, Harry David, P. E. Athas, Ray M. Hendry, Charles M. Pincus, Frederick J. Ewald, B. A. Reynolds, Hall Baetz, William F. Gordon, Chief of Police Reed E. Vetterli, Richard R. Lyman, S. O. Bennion, Gus P. Backman, Mrs. Hugh Ward, Mrs. Warren H. Keate, Mrs. John T. Wahlquest, G. M. Gadsby, D. O. McKay, Rabbi Samuel, H. Gordon, Rev. A. E. Butcher and William Borack, many of whom are industry personalities.

Wanger Honor Guest at Denver Founders' Day

DENVER—Founders' Day will be celebrated by the Rocky Mountain Screen Club, March 28, with Walter Wanger the principal guest, and with other screen celebrities expected.

Wanger will broadcast on four local radio stations and cocktail hour will be held at the Screen Club from 5.30 to 8:30 with a dinner in the Silver Glade at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. A big floor show will entertain, and dancing will finish the evening.

With Rick Ricketson, president, the following committee chairmen are working hard to make the affair a success: A. P. Archer, general chairman; R. J. Morrison, tickets; Mickey Gross, publicity, and Joe Dekker, seating.

Oregon Anti-Ascap Measure Shelved

Portland—The anti-Ascap bill, regulating the collection of music royalties in the state by the society, has been shelved by a 3 to 2 vote of the legislature's judiciary committee.

LOS ANGELES

MIKE NEWMAN, Columbia exploiteer, has checked out for San Francisco . . . Harry Nace jr. of the Nace circuit, Phoenix, in for bookings; ditto Sid Kursten, operator of the Boulevard . . . Injuries received in an automobile accident sent Fred Cook, Republic accessories clerk, to General Hospital where he is reported doing fine . . . Francis Bateman, Republic branch manager, is in Phoenix on a business trip.

Benny Sachey, Universal booker, home nursing himself through an attack of the flu . . . Herb Hail has been appointed office manager of the newly-opened Alexander Preview branch here. He and Harry Denny, district manager, are working under Harold Schwarz, assistant to the president . . . Claire Bruce has resigned her post as switchboard operator at Columbia.

Going over the books at M-G-M is J. Zimmerman, auditor from the New York office . . . Bert Lentz, Columbia salesman, is in Tucson . . . Helen Dougherty has replaced Rheba Carter as assistant cashier at Columbia . . . Murray Fisher, office manager for PRC, is home trying to regain her lost voice . . . Elsie Schultz, M-G-M inspectress, also on the sick list, recuperating from an appendicitis attack . . . Booking: Phil Greenbaum, Castle and Mecca theatres; A. Molina, Placentia, Placentia.

Lee Savage, Columbia auditor, is in from the New York office for a short stay at the local exchange . . . Wayne C. Ball, Columbia branch manager, has returned from a tour of the Arizona territory . . . It's his first trip here, and Carl Krueger, assistant manager of Jam Handy Productions in Chicago, says he's a little bit disappointed so far with California's rainy weather . . . Ruben A. Calderon, manager of the Azteca exchange, in from a short holiday at Palm Springs with his family.

M. J. E. McCarthy, salesman for Monogram, is back in the office after a selling trip through Arizona . . . A distribution company is being formed here, with branches planned in key cities, to handle "Carmen," a Charlie Chaplin silent made by Essanay in 1916, and the only Chaplin feature which the comedian does not own . . . Eileen McGary has been added to M-G-M's secretarial force temporarily.

Reports sifting through here from Seattle have it that the Barclay Ardells are expecting twins come next June. Ardell is branch manager there for Altec Service . . . When Louis F. Long observed his 25th anniversary as an Arizona showmen, the chamber of commerce and citizens of Graham County, Ariz., staged a testimonial banquet in his honor.

Will Hear Goodstein Case on March 25

DENVER—First case, and the only one filed to date, to come before the local arbitration tribunal, has been set for hearing on March 25 before Arbiter George D. Begole, a former mayor of Denver.

J. J. Goodstein Enterprises, Inc., is asking a reallocation of the product of three companies, 20th Century-Fox, Paramount and Loew's, claiming a shortage of product for his Longmont at Longmont, Colo. Goodstein claims the three companies refuse to sell him any product, selling only to the Fox Longmont, which house is named as an interested party.

Los Angeles Tribunal Meets J. Noble Braden

LOS ANGELES—Members of the local tribunal of the American Arbitration Ass'n were given their first opportunity to meet J. Noble Braden, head of the AAA, in a session here Wednesday.

Braden arrived here for a routine checkup with William H. Elliott, clerk of the Los Angeles tribunal. Meeting here was highlighted by a review of the rules of arbitration under the federal consent decree. Following the session Braden checked out for San Francisco en route back to New York, with a stopover scheduled in Chicago.

As yet, Elliott reports, no cases have been submitted to his office for arbitration.

The Docket

Denver

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 19. Demand and submission involving dispute under Section VI (some run). Joseph J. Goodstein Enterprises, Inc., operating Longmont, Longmont, Colo. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Paramount Pictures, Inc. Named as interested party: Fox Longmont, Longmont, Colo. Complainant claims that seven companies, including the three named in the case, refuse to sell him product in favor of the Fox, Longmont.

Rose Bloom Rites

SEATTLE—A big trade representation attended funeral services for Rose Bloom, wife of Al Bloom of United Artists. She had been in a hospital for some time suffering from broken hip bones sustained in a fall. She was the mother of Roy Cooper of Golden State Theatres, San Francisco.

Teamed on "Truth"

HOLLYWOOD—Wilkie Mahoney, Don Hartman and Ken Englund are teamed on the script of "Nothing But the Truth" at Paramount.

B. F. SHEARER COMPANY
"Theatre Equipment Specialists"
Heywood-Wakefield Seats
Wagner Silhouette Letters
Motiograph Projectors
1964 So. Vermont RO. 1145
LOS ANGELES

SEATTLE

HIGHLIGHT of the week was the party given for Eddie Rivers . . . Mike Lyons of the Show Box is back on the job again after his sickness. He relates that during his hospital stay, the doctors claim his heart stopped for three minutes. In other words—dead for three minutes . . . Fred Mercy jr., jr. (that's not double talk, it's Fred III) giving a birthday party. Gang (all the youngsters of show business) met in the B. F. Shearer Jewel Box, had a swell show, chewed on candy and wound up with ice cream . . . Walter "Jockey" Carruthers, along with a partner, has established a "Star Quiz Nite" which is now being played in theatres in this territory. Gag is picture of old or new star flashed on screen and m. c. gives some idea who it is . . . Charlie and Mrs. White of Concrete announce that it's a daughter. Congrats!

Cut-ups. Pete Higgins, lunching in George Blair's Rendezvous on Filmrow some time ago, was reminded it was his birthday. A singing telegram was poured out to Pete during the noon lunch rush. Pete just returned the gag. It was Blair's birthday, so TWO singing boys arrived and sang a duet to George. Gang could hardly finish lunch for laughter . . . Al O'Keefe, western district sales manager for Universal, also had a birthday while here this week . . . Ben Fish is back from his vacation . . . B. F. Shearer introducing G. F. McGimsey, manager of the Karagheusian company of New York . . . Carol Barney in from Arlington . . . Ed Halberg from Port Angeles but not with his partner, Henry Davidson. Henry was at the Doc's getting a check-up on his nose, the second since the operation.

Tom and Mrs. Shearer up from Portland . . . Ollie Hartman in from Grand Coulee and looking great . . . Gene Groesbeck and wife in from Enumclaw and lunching on the Row with Corrine Brown of the Princess in Edmonds . . . Herman Wobber, general sales manager for 20th Century-Fox, in and out for California . . . Charlie Laidlaw in from Dayton. The Mayor looked in fine shape and attended the Rivers' banquet . . . Sammy Siegel, publicity expert for United Artists, staging a preview of "Topper Returns" at the Egyptian . . . Ples Lee has been named editor of the University of Washington *Daily* . . . Popcorn Smith back on the Row to be greeted by friends after an illness that kept him in bed several days . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jay Tew telling of their plans to open their new theatre in North Bend . . . Willard Coghlin, new drama editor of the *Star*, being honored with a luncheon staged by Sammy Siegel. Guests included Vic Gauntlett, Jack Sampson, Leroy Johnson, Cliff Chellew and Joe Rosenfield.

Kenny Schultz, purchasing agent for Hamrick-Evergreen Theatres, flying in from Lake Arrowhead at the termination of the meet . . . Bob Murray getting his birthday greetings by wire from Alex Shults . . . Al Wilson and Frank Nixon together issuing invitations to a cocktail party. Thanks, boys . . . Eddie Lamb suffering from a cold that got the best of his voice . . . Eddie Walton back from an east-of-the-mountains trip . . . Bill Shartin back to the hospital again for further examination of his leg . . . Whitney Cy Young over from Spokane; likewise Glenn Haviland . . . Roy Cooper back to San Francisco while Adelaide stays over for a few days . . . Roger Dudley doing his stuff taking pictures of the Rivers' dinner . . . Jim Root buying a flock of baby gags. It will be only a matter of a month when the cigars should be passed out . . . Earl Nelson and wife entertaining very brilliant Orientals . . . Al Goldstein moving into new quarters.

Visitor was Kathleen Norris, the writer . . . Marty Weiser here from Warner studio to do special publicity on "Meet John Doe." *Star* is running a contest to find a double for Gary Cooper and is giving much space to the gag. Judging will be by Bill Shartin, manager of the local Warner office; Vic Gauntlett, head of the Hamrick-Evergreen publicity department, and executives from two department stores. Don Geddes, manager of the Orpheum, is receiving applicants . . . America's Town Meeting of the Air was held in Seattle last week, with the Civic Auditorium packed with folks to listen. Washington Athletic Club sponsored . . . The Brown Sisters, Velma, Thelma and Melba, blues singers appearing at the Palomar, were among the nine injured in a six-car collision on the Tacoma highway. One received lacerations and severe shock. The other two went to the hospital for cuts and bruises.

PORTLAND

MICKEY BELLS, projectionist at the Tower in Bend, is the proud papa of a 9-pound boy. Father, mother and child are doing well . . . Word that Reynolds Metal Co. had established an aluminum plant at Longview, Wash., was hailed as good news by Longview and Kelso exhibitors. Even though the plant would employ only 300 men, it was felt that number would offset those who have gone to the training camps and into the shipyards. However, theatre business is reported at an extremely low level in spite of the fact that the payroll of the two towns are near the 1929 peak.

Ralph Woods received his films of the Rose Festival Parade after they had been shown to President Roosevelt at the White House. After having shown the pictures 52 times, Ralph had made commentary recordings describing the parade and introducing numerous officials.

Portland visitors included Ray Felker and Jockey Carruthers of Seattle. They mixed business with pleasure and enjoyed some Oregon sunshine. Ray Stumbo, Salem; Harry Percy, White Salmon, and Lou Ebert, Madras, were in booking . . . Art Adamson has opened his new State in Vancouver.

Honeymooners Return

LOS ANGELES—Oliver C. Bullock, manager of the Empire Theatre, and his bride, the former Miss Shannon Willis, are back from their honeymoon trip and home at 1310 Westlake Avenue.

SALT LAKE

J H. McINTYRE, RKO district manager, was in conferring with Branch Manager H. C. Fuller . . . G. S. Pinnell, local manager for Sheffield-Republic, was in Hollywood on business. He returned from the film capital by plane . . . Lon T. Fidler, Monogram district manager, stopped here for several days while en route from Los Angeles to his Denver headquarters. He only recently recovered from a prolonged illness.

F. H. Smith, Paramount branch manager, is driving a new Packard in which he and his wife returned recently from Detroit. Incidentally, Smith is almost as pleased with Preston Sturges' latest streamlined job for the company, "Lady Eve," which is winning wide playing time in the territory . . . Al O'Keefe, "U" district manager, was due in for a conference with local Branch Manager Wade and his salesmen . . . W. W. McKendrick, Monogram's local head, has returned from a business trip into western Idaho.

Friends of Paul McElhinney, formerly with Republic here and now with the company in Seattle, report that he recently became the father of a boy . . . Now in its fourth week at the Studio, "Virginia" will stay at that theatre for an indefinite run . . . Gracie Fields, British comedienne, appeared in a concert at the Salt Lake Tabernacle . . . "The Great Dictator" will be released here shortly for its popular-priced run.

DENVER

LON FIDLER, manager of Monogram exchange, is back on the job after a lengthy trip to the west coast . . . Rose Agren, office manager and booker at Monogram, has a nice shiny new Chevrolet . . . Si Saunders, Fox Intermountain booker, has been transferred to Salt Lake.

Tom Kerby of the Kerby, Worland, Wyo., was in town booking and buying supplies . . . Edgar J. Blaylock of Ruidoso, N. M., is building a new theatre there.

Eldon Menagh is spending about $2,000 to reseat and install new ventilating equipment in his Star, Ft. Lupton, Colo. The landlord is enlarging the theatre and doing considerable improvement, besides putting in a new front.

Gene Gerbase, manager, and Frank Sheffield, salesman for Republic, left on a week's sales trip—Gerbase south and Sheffield north . . . Frank Culp, manager of the Tabor, is out of the hospital following an operation.

The Denver *Post* has dropped its daily theatre listings with the exceptions of those first runs showing new films. Subsequents are in a dither over the matter . . . The Ovid at Ovid, Colo., burned, with only the four walls left standing.

Lugosi for Chiller

HOLLYWOOD—Monogram has signed Bela Lugosi for the lead in "Murder by the Stars," a Sam Katzman production being adapted by Al Martin.





At an Arbitration Hearing—

The mood seems jovial as the hearing of E. F. VanDerveer's some run demand for the State at Morris, Ill., proceeds in Chicago. At the head of the table is Arbitrator Z. Henkle, flanked on the left by Russell Winslow, an arbitrator who attended as an observer; and on the right by John F. Sullivan, tribunal clerk. The dark-haired chap with the glasses is Daniel P. Nagle, attorney for VanDerveer, and in the foreground is Edmond W. Lee II, M-G-M attorney from New York. With his back to the camera is S. A. Shirley, acting branch manager for M-G-M in Chicago. In the lower photo, a recess from the hearing has grouped, left to right, Daniel P. Nagle, of the Cummings & Wyman law firm, Chicago, representing Van Derveer; E. F. Van Derveer, owner of the State at Morris, and Charles D. Jeffries jr., State manager.

BOXOFFICE Presents Hearing Time-Table

CHICAGO—*What happens during the course of a hearing before an arbitration tribunal?* BOXOFFICE *presents herewith a time-table of the second hearing in the country—that of the State Theatre, Morris, Ill., and Loew's, Inc.:*

10:10 a. m.—Hearing starts. Oath is administered to Arbitrator Charles Z. Henkle by Clerk John F. Sullivan.

Daniel P. Nagle, attorney for E. F. Van Derveer, operator of the State, briefly sets forth views of his client.

Edmond W. Lee II of M-G-M legal staff, New York, briefly states position of Loew's, Inc.

Johnny Kemptgen, M-G-M salesman in Chicago, first witness called.

11:10—Brief adjournment while Arbitrator Henkle, Clerk Sullivan and Lawyers Nagle and Lee confer in Clerk Sullivan's office.

11:35—Hearing resumed. S. A. Shirley, acting branch manager for M-G-M, Chicago, is called as witness.

12:45—Adjournment for lunch.

1:45—Hearing resumed. Van Derveer called as witness. Charles D. Jeffries jr., manager of State, called as witness.

4:45—Hearing adjourned for brief recess.

4:50—Hearing resumed. Messrs. Shirley and Kemptgen recalled as witnesses.

6:15—Hearing adjourned.

THE DOCKET

Chicago

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 13. Demand and submission involving some run dispute. E. F. Van Derveer, owner, State Theatre, Morris, Ill. With: Loew's, Inc. Named as interested parties: Morris, Times theatres both of Morris, Ill. Van Derveer claims Loew's has refused to license second run product for the State. The Morris and Times are operated by the Anderson circuit.

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 18. Demand and submission involving some run (Section VI). Ken Theatre Corp. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., B. F. Keith Orpheum Corp., RKO Proctor Corp., RKO Midwest Corp. Theatres involved: Shakespeare, Pix. Named as interested parties: Arthur Schoenstadt, H. Schoenstadt and sons. Complainant charges the Ken presently is forced to wait 13 weeks after "Loop" showings. He seeks to run the three distributors' product day and date with the Shakespeare and ahead of the Pix, both operated by the Schoenstadts.

Milwaukee

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance. Evansville Theatre, Inc., operator of Rex, Evansville, Wis. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp. Named as interested party: Jeffris, Janesville, Wis. Complaint charges unreasonable protection to the Jeffris and improperly refusing to deliver prints contracted by the Rex until played at the Jeffris.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 12. Demand and submission involving clearance. Lee Macklin, operator of the Grand, New London, Wis. With: Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., and Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Rio and Appleton, Appleton, Wis., Grand and Times, Clintonville, and Waupaca and Palace in Waupaca. Complainant, contending the Grand is 21 miles from Appleton, states he is unable to date pictures until after Appleton, while claiming other theatres in the vicinity are able to date product from the distributors named 30 to 50 days sooner than New London. Macklin seeks same availability as Clintonville and Waupaca.

St. Louis

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 11. Demand and submission involving some run. Louis M. Sosna, operator of the Sosna, Mexico, Mo. With: Columbia Pictures Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Paramount Pictures Corp., Republic Pictures Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Universal Film Exchange, Inc., United Artists Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested party: Frisina, Liberty and Rex. Complainant charges distributors named have refused to license 1940-41 product.

Summary of Hearing In This Issue

A summary of the arbitration board hearing in Chicago appears in this issue on page 6.

Arbitrator Hears Ken Clearance Complaint

CHICAGO—Hearing on the Ken Theatre complaint against RKO, Paramount and 20th Century-Fox took place Thursday before Arbitrator Charles P. Megan, a member of the Tolman & Megan law firm and ex-president of the Chicago Bar Association.

In its original complaint, the Ken charged that the companies named were giving clearance to Schoenstadt's Shakespeare and were not giving Ken clearance over Schoenstadt's Pix.

Alvin Landis of Landis & Landis, Chicago, represented the Ken, which is owned by Bennie Banowitz and John Landis. Eli Fink of Spitz & Adcock represented both Paramount and RKO and Clyde Eckhardt, branch manager here for 20th-Fox, represented his company.

Complaint Will Cite RKO, Fox Midwest

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo.—It is reported that the Shirley Theatre Corp., owner-operators of the 500-seat Rialto here, which was constructed last summer, will soon file a complaint with the arbitration tribunal at St. Louis charging that RKO is granting unreasonable clearance over the Rialto to Fox Midwest's 1,250-seat Broadway and the 755-seat Orpheum.

Readying Official Complaint By Shirley Theatre Corp.

ST. LOUIS—At the office of the arbitration tribunal in the Cotton Belt Building here, it was stated that official papers in the clearance dispute between the Shirley Theatre Corp. and the Fox Midwest circuit, had not been completed.

Mills Planning 18,000 Panorams This Year

CHICAGO—Herbert Mills, general superintendent and factory manager of the Mills Novelty Co. here, announces that the company plans to produce 18,000 Panoram motion picture machines for the Mills-Roosevelt Soundies this year. Mills reports that the first factory order for 5,000 Panoram machines are now coming off the production line.

Cabinets for the machines are being built at the local Mills factory. The projectors, amplifiers and entire sound system are manufactured by the RCA Mfg. Co. in their Camden and Indianapolis plants. The RCA Indianapolis plant was completed in October and was built especially for the manufacture of 16mm projectors such as is used in the Mills machines.

Lend a Hand to Greece With "Show of Shows"

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—All local theatres cooperated in the Greek War Relief campaign by staging a huge midnight "Show of Shows" benefit at the Orpheum Saturday.

"Pappy" Cheshire, radio entertainer, was emcee of the show, consisting of 12 outstanding vaudeville and night club acts plus the first run feature, "Girl in the News."

The show was one of many planned throughout the midwest by Barney Balaban and J. J. Rubens, co-chairmen of the theatre division of the national drive for funds to aid Greece.

Local theatres cooperating were the Esquire, Fox-Lincoln, Orpheum, Pantheon, Roxy, Senate, Southtown, State, Strand and Tivoli.

Selznick Buys "Claudia"

HOLLYWOOD—David Selznick has purchased "Claudia," story by Rose Franken and William Brown Meloney.

Perfect Details for Premiere of "Sis"

St. Louis—Details are rapidly being perfected for the world's premiere of Republic's "Sis Hopkins" at Fanchon & Marco's 5,000-seat Fox, April 4. Judy Canova, star of the picture, will be here in person and it is highly probable that other members of the cast will come on to add additional Hollywood atmosphere to the opening. Those who support Miss Canova in the picture are Charles Butterworth, Jerry Colonna, Susan Hayward, Bob Crosby and his band, Katharine Alexander and Cobina of Brenda and Cobina radio fame.

4-Hour Shows by 4 Wehrenberg Units

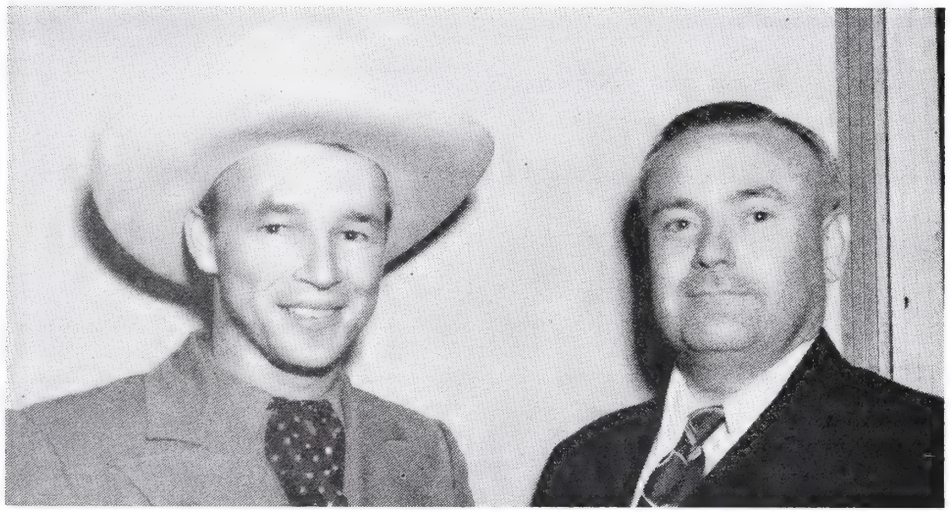
ST. LOUIS—The Wehrenberg circuit's Melba, Michigan, Cinderella and Virginia theatres in South St. Louis were among the local houses giving four-hour shows during the past week.

Similar shows prevailed at St. Louis Amusement's Gravois and Kingsland.

Many local houses continue to give away merchandise gifts to patrons several nights each week. A number of the neighborhood houses have slashed admission fees to 15 cents. Others hold out free parking bait to attract customers.

Raymond Whitman Buys Gardner Arc in Delphi

DELPHI, IND.—According to a recent issue of the Logansport, Indiana *Tribune*, Raymond Whitman of Springfield, Ohio, has purchased the Arc here from Mrs. J. M. Gardner and will re-open it soon. The Arc has been closed for the past three years.



A Welcome in the West—

Currently on a visit to the west coast, Harry C. Arthur jr., (right), general manager of the Fanchon and Marco circuit in St. Louis, is a guest of Roy Rogers on the Republic lot.

Gifts and Prices Are Not Their Problems

ST. LOUIS—Commenting on a suggestion that the proposed bill against the use of triple feature programs, to be sponsored in the Missouri general assembly, be broadened to include not only double feature bills but also a ban on merchandise gifts at theatres, a spokeswoman for the Better Films Council, which is advocating the measure, says that while there is some merit to the suggestion that double bills be banned, the women do not believe that it is proper for them to attempt to tell exhibitors what they should charge at their boxoffice.

A merchandise gift to a cash customer is in the nature of a price reduction, she points out, adding that that is a matter not within the scope of the Film Council's activities. "We are interested in the quality of motion pictures from the standpoint of education and public morals, and the possible effect of too lengthy films shows on the health of children who attend the shows.

"In presenting a proposed bill to the Missouri general assembly, we must be reasonable in our demands for legislation," she continued. "The fact that many theatres for years have been showing double feature bills, would make it hard to justify a contention that they would prove too great a strain on the eyes and nerves of picture theatre patrons. But when it comes to triple programs, four-hour shows and the like, we feel we are on sure ground. We have definite medical proof that too lengthy motion picture bills are injurious to children.

"Double bills should be eliminated since there are not enough good pictures to justify their continuation. We have found that out on our Family Nights."

Will Send Film Ratings To St. Louis Schools

ST. LOUIS—The Better Films Council has perfected arrangements to send its film ratings to every public grade and high school in the city.

A number of the parochial schools, as well as some of the public schools in the various districts also are receiving the ratings.

Photoplay clubs are now being organized in a number of the schools. Details of their operation have not been worked out as yet.

Two Houses Proposed For Appleton, Wis.

APPLETON, WIS.—Two new theatres may shortly be built here according to a recent story in the Appleton, Wisconsin *Post*. J. H. Silliman, general manager of the Rio and Appleton, will build a new theatre to seat about 800 persons. Plans for the building are being prepared by Raymond LeVee, local architect.

The other local house is contemplated by Rueben Rosenblatt, manager of the Rialto at Kaukauna, Wis., and an associate of Silliman's.

CHICAGO

MORRIS LEONARD, B&K legal counsel, is back from a South American honeymoon. The bride is Vera Foley. The couple were married in a surprise ceremony in Miami . . . Goldie Davidson, secretary to B&K Publicity Director Bill Hollander, will leave for Florida on a honeymoon following her marriage to the *Tribune* copywriter, Allan J. Copeland, April 5. The marriage will take place at the Belmont Hotel.

Bob Haley, publicity man for the Palace, has received his classification from the local draft board, and will probably leave for camp within the next few months . . . The B&K Theatre Directory, which appeared for a few days in the daily papers, has been discontinued for outlying theatres, but is being continued for the loop houses . . . Boris Morros, Paramount producer, who came through town on Monday, said he was en route to New York to produce a musical comedy.

Sam Lamansky, president of the Film Exchange Employes Union, announces the organization will hold its first annual dance at the Grand Ballroom of the Steuben Bldg., May 25. Tickets are 75 cents . . . Bill Crouch, publicity director for the Oriental, held a luncheon at the Blackstone Hotel for critics prior to screening "Road Show" and "Blackout." The latter picture, a "sleeper" on the order of "Night Train," together with Gypsy Rose Lee on the stage, is currently packing them in at the Oriental.

Charles Kranz of Select Attractions, New York, was in town for couple of days before continuing to the west coast where he is visiting for a couple of weeks . . . Harry Forwood, publicity man for "Life With Father," discloses that the Serlin show will open for a summer's run at the Cass, Detroit, on May 26, after setting an all-time record for a stage show here at the Blackstone.

Jack Eckhardt, president of the Film Bookers, conducted a meeting at 20th Century-Fox projection room Friday night. Plans for the club's first annual dance to be held June 6 were discussed . . . Rob Reel (really Lucia Perrigo), film critic of the Chicago *Herald-American*, says she cannot mention either Orson Welles or "Citizen Kane" in any of her writings in the Hearst paper. However, the ruling does not apply to RKO.

Abe Platt postcards from the Shelbourne Hotel, Miami Beach, that he's enjoying the handball and golf down there . . . Mort Singer, recently back from a three-week trip to the west coast, reveals that "Du Barry Was a Lady" will play at the Orpheum, Davenport, Ia., next month. Singer recently moved from the State-Lake Theatre Bldg. to room 1716, 134 N. La Salle St.

Helen Hayes will arrive for an indefinite stay when her "Twelfth Night" company opens here May 5 . . . Whitey Ford, who is known as the Duke of Padukah on the NBC Plantation Party program, is now in Hollywood working for Republic in "Country Fair" . . . Harry Hamburg, sales manager for Paramount here, called us to correct a recent error we made in this column. We reported the double horror bill, "Monster and the Girl" and "The Mad Doctor," was handled by Al Dezel when it is actually Paramount-produced.

Howard De Tamble sends word that the Chicago Filmrow Bowling League banquet will take place this year at Harry's New Yorker Bar, April 30 . . . Jim Donohue, Paramount branch manager, sent a big blow-up letter to exhibitors on "I Wanted Wings" . . . RKO's re-issue of "Vivacious Lady" is having its initial local showing at the Palace where it is being co-featured with "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

Warner notes—Andy Kenney, assistant publicist to Larry Stein, recently passed cigars and candy around the office. Cause for the celebration was the birth of a six-pound baby girl, Donna. Before her marriage, Mrs. Kenney was employed in the local Warner office . . . Back from bowling in the ABC tournament in St. Paul are the following Yannigans: Charles H. Ryan, Harry Turrell, Roy Blanchard, Bill Biltgen, Sol Schneider, Harry Ryan and Charley Hogan . . . Joe Real, assistant manager at the Highland, is in the army now. He's temporarily quartered at the local 132nd Infantry Armory.

Luise Rainer, will be in town Sunday, March 23, to guest star on the NBC "What's Your Idea" program . . . Top-grossers in the loop are "Fantasia" which chalked up a 250 percentage in its third roadshow week at the Apollo while "Gone With the Wind" marked up a 160 per cent in the second week of its popular-priced run at the Roosevelt.

Dorothy Yormark has left Hollywood Advertising Co. to join the M-G-M checking department. Dorothy, who was secretary to Manager Dave Katz, has been succeeded by Henrietta Leavitt, a newcomer to Filmrow . . . N. Joseph, owner of the State Theatre, is en route to Florida in his Oldsmobile . . . Lou Abramson, secretary to Jack Kirsch, is mourning the death of his mother who passed away Monday night.

Report on the Row that Sam Stein, formerly with National Screen and the Chicago Poster, is contemplating opening a new poster exchange here. Stein could not be reached for confirmation of the story. Morris J. Lipp recently opened an independent poster exchange . . . Irving Mack's new quarters now at 1325 S. Wabash Avenue . . . Dorothy Deere, B&K publicist, is heard on the WGN "We Predict" program Sunday nights.

Vital statistics from the Warner Theatre boys: Ray Kenney, manager of the Cosmo, attained fatherhood for the first time, when he became the father of a seven pound, nine ounce girl, Barbara Ann, on Friday . . . Francis Buckles, assistant manager of the Ogden, married Mary Guaroscio on Saturday . . . Jack Fleming, assistant manager of the Cosmo, didn't reveal his marriage to Mae Jackson until last week, although he has been married since January . . . Al Blasko, manager of the Parthenon, Hammond, is an expectant father.

Recent visitors to Filmrow included Delbert Morris of the American, Sidell, Ill., and John L. Friedburg of the Princess, Le Roy . . . Kenneth Hirshman is now working for the Midwest Poster Service . . . James Coston went to Florida after going to New York to attend the quarterly zone manager's meeting presided over by Joseph Bernhard.

Madeleine Woods is handling publicity for the "Show of Shows" which will be held at the Grand Opera House April 2. Featuring top-notch stars in show-business, proceeds will go to the Greek War Relief . . . Mrs. Bob Hartman of International Enterprises announces that the Publix-Comerford and Warner Bros. circuits in the east are both using the firm's Radio-Bike . . . The local Universal exchange will celebrate "Peck Gomersall Week" March 23 to March 29.

Filmrow salesmen recently celebrating birthdays included Nat Nathanson of United Artists, Clarence Phillips of Columbia and Jack Schwartz of Republic . . . John Balaban has written all B&K pass holders that passes will not be honored during current engagement of "Gone With the Wind" at the Roosevelt . . . William Weinschenker was one of three Universal salesmen in the entire country, to sell 100 per cent of his possibilities.

Frank Soule, assistant to Herbert Yates, is headquartering at the local Republic exchange. He will remain in town until March 29 . . . Irving Mandel, who recently sold his Chicago, Indianapolis, and Milwaukee franchises to Republic, has opened an office on the fourth floor of the Warner Building. Mandel is head of the 1300 Wabash Building Corp. which is erecting the new RKO and Republic exchange.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

CHICAGO

SIGNS - MARQUEES AND MAINTENANCE

White Way Electric Sign & Maintenance Co.
Tom Flannery, President
315-17 W. Walton Street
Phone DELaware 9111

THEATRICAL PRINTING



INDIANAPOLIS

VISITORS: Harold V. Neese, Beverly, Brazil; Joe Schilling, Auditorium, Connersville; Lowell T. Moore, Orpheum, Mitchell; Harry Van Noy, Paramount, Anderson; Mrs. Wm. Luckett, Indiana, Scottsburg; Wm. T. Studebaker, Logan, Logansport; Ike R. Holycross, Paramount, Anderson; Jack Van Borssum, West, West Terre Haute; E. K. Crouch, Palace, Fairmount; D. D. Lee, Princess, Cayuga; J. M. Dixon, Flora, Flora; Roy E. Harrold, Princess, Rushville; Harry M. Palmer, Majestic, Seymour.

The usual order of a feature's run has been reversed in Indianapolis with "Night Train." This feature played throughout the neighborhoods, later to be shown at the Ambassador, which is opposite to the regular policy of this second run house . . . The Cantor theatres arranged to relay the President's speech to their patrons, so that those attending the theatre would not have to miss it . . . Gordon F. Fix, Indiana assistant state geologist, assured the public that the water supply still exceeds demands, although the water level is dropping. However, plans for water conservation are being readied in order to insure a permanent supply. This may have some effect on the future arrangements for air conditioning in the state.

The Esquire Theatre is the latest to be robbed by a gunman. This time the loss was $40.00, as compared with a holdup loss of $20.00 when the theatre suffered a similar experience last year . . . James Thrasher, former film critic of the Indianapolis *Times*, who resigned to join the Disney organization, has been succeeded by Fremont Power . . . The state is fighting a severe measles outbreak, with 1,100 cases reported in February as compared with 26 last year. It is particularly prevalent in northern Indiana.

Frank Ryan, former Indianapolis advertising writer, is here vacationing after having completed his assignment on the RKO feature, "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob" . . . Another visitor from the coast is Jack Schwarz, former operator of several Indiana and Kentucky theatres. He spent several days in Indianapolis renewing acquaintances . . . Twentieth Century-Fox booking offices has been remodeled. Also new window casings are being installed on the Illinois Street side.

The Sheridan lowered its admission prices for the Thursday, Friday, Saturday run to 20 cents. The balance of the week remains at 30 cents . . . Art Truc, salesman for National Theatre Supply Co. here, will report for army service at Camp Livingston, La., this week. He will be a first lieutenant attached to the 46th Field Artillery . . . Jesse Fine, operator of the Fine circuit in southern Indiana, is in Florida for a vacation . . . Guy Craig, Columbia branch manager, attended a district meeting in St. Louis.

Fred Greenberg, Warner branch manager, has returned from a visit in Kansas City . . . The Variety Club announced the chairmen of its standing committees. They are: Heart Fund— Wade W. Willman; Membership—Fred Greenberg; Entertainment—Carl Niesse; House—Art Landes; Public Relations—H. L. Hancock.

All Filmrow is displaying window cards announcing the Variety Club's "Tag Day" March 22, for the Greek War Relief Fund. The entire proceeds are to be given to the amusement division of the fund . . . The Variety Club, in cooperation with Lowell Heath, president of Bradford Film Transit Co., arranged for a "Sound Truck" to deliver prints for free showings to shut-ins. The truck was donated by Lowell Heath.

Draft Inroads Lead to Promotions by Warner

CHICAGO—Because so many of their employes have been drafted or have joined some branch of the military service, Warner Theatres have made numerous changes and promotions in their staff.

The following changes have been announced by District Supervisor Charles H. Ryan: Philip Shire, assistant manager, Shore, to assistant manager, Highland; John Mahon, senior chief-of-service, Avalon, to assistant manager, Shore; James Chevalier, senior chief-of-service, Capitol, to senior chief-of-service, Stratford; Nelzo Cassano, junior chief-of-service, Avalon, to senior chief-of-service, Avalon; James McSweeney, junior chief-of-service, Capitol, to senior chief-of-service, Capitol; Bernard Collopy, chief-of-service, Highland, to junior chief-of-service, Capitol; Richard Fahey, chief-of-service, Ogden, to junior chief-of-service, Avalon; Ted Loftus, chief-of-service, Cosmo, to Chief-of-service, Ogden.

Robert Blakeman, Doorman, Beverly, to chief-of-service, Highland; Joseph Drake, doorman, Jeffery, to chief-of-service, Jeffery; William Farrell, doorman, Avalon, to chief-of-service, Cosmo; Vincent Brunacci, usher, Grove, to doorman, Avalon; Tyki Coston, usher, Rhodes to doorman, Beverly; John Doyle, usher, Grove, to doorman, Jeffery; James Donnelan, usher, Beverly, to assistant doorman, Stratford.

Full Week Schedule for Warner Racine House

CHICAGO—According to Charles H. Ryan, Warner Theatres district supervisor, the Badger, Racine, Wis., which has been open only on weekends, will operate on a full seven day schedule effective March 26. Formerly known as the State, the Badger, which has been completely remodeled, will now be open seven evenings a week with matinees on weekends.

Andy Kenney, who has been assistant to Larry Stein, WB advertising director in Chicago, has been named manager of the Badger. His post in Chicago will be filled by Arline Callies, secretary to Ryan.

Directing Abbott-Costello

HOLLYWOOD—Arthur Lubin will direct Universal's "We're in the Navy Now," next Bud Abbott-Lou Costello comedy.

Would Outlaw False Ownership Front

CHICAGO—Dummy names to hide the real owners of companies would be outlawed by a bill introduced by Rep. John Ryan. Names of true owners of property would have to be filed with the county clerks.

Blands Sell Two Chaplin Films to Syndicate

CHICAGO—According to Herman Bland of the Bland Brothers circuit, his company has sold two Essanay Charlie Chaplin films, "Burlesque on Carmen" and "The Champion" to a Hollywood syndicate. Bland declined to tell BOXOFFICE who comprised the syndicate but said that several big producers with major companies are members.

Bland said his company controls the copyrights on all the Essanay Chaplin films, and revealed that the syndicate plans to spend $10,000 synchronizing "Burlesque on Carmen" and "The Champion" with sound. Art Telser, who handled "The Birth of a Nation" re-issue in this territory, will handle the Chaplin pictures which are scheduled to be released within the next two months.

Inventories Pictures for Sheboygan Film Council

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—The "good and bad" characteristics of the industry were expounded by the Rev. T. Parry Jones in an address before the Better Films Council here.

Charged as some of the weaknesses of the industry was the "cheapening of the home, looseness of family relationships, disregard for tradition, easy, unwise spending of money and a false representation of our standard of living."

The Rev. Jones pointed to the many historical pictures, the rise of the cartoon, the combination of good music with good art, the "excellent" portrayal of the news and the dramatization of literary classics as some of the favorable aspects of the business.

Tie-Breaking Vote Kills Wis. Fast-Time Measure

MADISON—Twice killed by the state senate and twice revived, daylight saving for Milwaukee county was apparently finally defeated when Lieut. Gov. Walter S. Goodland broke a tie 15 to 15 vote on the measure.

Sen. Milton T. Murray, Milwaukee, author of the measure, following the vote, moved reconsideration with a vote on this motion scheduled for early action.

Special Offers "Tarzan"

CHICAGO—Special Attractions has concluded a deal with Crystal Pictures, Inc., for distribution rights in northern Illinois and Indiana of "The New Adventures of Tarzan."

MILWAUKEE

JOE ROSENFIELD, manager of Warner-Saxe's Modjeska, is heading the Eighth Ward Midsummer Festival button sale . . . Fox's World is the latest of the circuit's local houses to embark upon a matinee policy.

Charles J. Brixius, 47, painter and decorator who handled decorating for all Saxe theatres, died last week at his home here. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, four brothers and a sister . . . W. L. Ainsworth, president of the ITPA of Wisconsin, has annexed the Gail at Mauston. Ainsworth also operates the Shawano at Shawano and the LaBelle at Oconomwoc.

Plans are under way for the erection of a balcony in the Plaza at Burlington, operated by Jack Yeo . . . Standard Theatres has reopened the Cameo in Kenosha as the Chief and is operating on a 10 and 15-cent admission policy.

"Blitzkrieg Im Western" has been held over for a third week at the German Kino here . . . Ray Herbeck entertained a group of young Milwaukee recruits for selective service with a free show and refreshments back stage at the Riverside during his appearance here last week.

Oscar Baumann is reopening the Savoy in Watertown for a return engagement of "Gone With the Wind" at popular prices starting April 4 . . . William Flynn, 71, one of the founders of the local unit of the IATSE, died last week in a local hospital. He is survived by his wife and a brother.

Rollo Clark made a three-day personal appearance at Warner-Saxe's Modjeska here last week. Tie-ups were made with a number of local merchants in connection with the appearance . . . Six Racine youths have been arrested in connection with the holdup on Fox's Uptown in Racine late in 1940.

Bess Ehrhardt, ice skating star who has appeared in films, visited her parents in Superior last week . . . The Superior at Superior lists in its daily newspaper advertisement the name and address of a local person who is privileged to attend the theatre free of charge together with a guest . . . Fox's Oakland has been issuing merchant tickets in a tie-up with nearby stores.

W. R. McCormack Is New Kendallville Manager

KENDALLVILLE, IND.—W. R. McCormack succeeds Arnold Schneeberger, resigned, as manager of the Strand Theatre.

McCormack comes from Linton, Ind., where he has been in charge of three houses the past 18 months.

Counsel for Overland

ST. LOUIS—Milton F. Napier, counsel for the Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis, has been retained by the city of Overland to serve as city attorney. He will advise Mayor C. A. Fritz and the board of aldermen on legal matters affecting the municipality and will also prosecute cases in the municipal court.

: Arbitration Sidelights :

PROCEEDINGS were held up a bit pending arrival of J. Noble Braden, who is in charge of all film arbitration tribunals throughout the country. Braden's train from Boston, scene of the first hearing the day previous, arrived in Chicago late and the hearing started at 10:10 a. m. Braden attended as an observer.

Clerk John F. Sullivan and Arbitrator Charles Z. Henkle conferred in the former's office prior to hearing.

Reversing the usual court procedure, witnesses for the "defendant," Loew's, Inc., were called first.

Smoking was permitted during the hearing. At one time so much smoke filled the room that a window had to be opened to clear it out.

Two arbitrators watched a portion of the proceedings—Russell Winslow, recently appointed, and Charles M. Megan, who was the arbitrator at Chicago's second hearing on Thursday.

A veritable battery of lawyers also was on hand. Eli Fink, Edward Blackman and Arthur A. Goldberg of Spitz & Adcock law firm were in attendance. The brothers Landis, Maxwell and Alvin, of Landis & Landis, were also present.

Aaron Stein of Rosenberg, Stein & Rosenberg was another observer.

Bronzed from the Florida sun was the M-G-M lawyer, Edmond W. Lee II, having recently returned to New York from his winter vacation.

F. W. Anderson, owner of the Morris and Times theatres in Morris, Ill., competing houses to E. F. Van Derveer's State, was not present at the hearing.

Felix Mendelssohn Offers Cosmetic Line to Theatres

CHICAGO—Felix Mendelssohn, who was branch manager for M-G-M here from 1926 until he retired in 1938, has returned to the theatre business as Chicago representative of the Constance Bennett Cosmetic Company, Hollywood. Mendelssohn, together with his son, has opened offices in the Exhibitor's Building at 1325 S. Wabash Avenue.

Initial Chicago customer is the L. Reinheimer circuit which will start the cosmetic deal at three theatres, the Tiffin, Alamo and State on April 25 and 26. Each week, for 15 weeks, a different product is given feminine patrons. A 450 feet Technicolor short starring Constance Bennett is provided each theatre handling the line. In the short, Miss Bennett explains the different uses and proper application methods of the cosmetics.

ST. LOUIS

THE St. Louis Symphony Orchestra closed its 1940-41 season here with a popular concert at the Municipal Auditorium's Opera House . . . Cresson E. Smith, western division sales manager for RKO, was in town. From here he went with the Depinet sales drive group to Los Angeles . . . Uncle Sam continues to draw theatre ushers into his growing army. Among those recently called are Guy W. Steagull jr. and Joseph B. Becker.

Harold Clamage, former assistant manager of the Grand, and Dick Zeisler, manager of the Garrick, are now co-managers of the Grand, which reopened recently. Howard Evans, formerly of the Garrick staff, is treasurer, while Maury Rome is handling advertising, publicity and bookkeeping.

Jimmy Winn, district manager for Warner, and Hall Walsh, manager of the St. Louis office, were in Springfield, Ill., for the opening of "Meet John Doe" at the Roxy, a Frisina house.

The sixth annual Greater St. Louis Flower and Garden Show opened at Arena Saturday for a run through March 30.

Mallers Bros. Remodel

WAYNE, IND.—Mallers Brothers have started remodeling of the Rily Theatre. New front and foyer, and new seats are included in renovation plans.



SPRINGFIELD

M E. BERMAN, manager of the Orpheum, has booked Ray Noble and his orchestra for April 8 . . . J. B. Giachetto of the Frisina Theatres is back from a Florida vacation with a coat of tan . . . Max Tschauder, manager of the Roxy, and Joe Nepote, manager of the Esquire, staged a dinner meeting of the local Lions and Cosmos clubs in the lobby of the Esquire.

"Meet John Doe" is doing fine business at the Roxy following its midwest premiere there . . . Eagles class Boy Scouts were shown the inner workings of the Orpheum when they were guests of Manager M. E. Berman . . . James Smarjesse, usher at the Fox-Lincoln, went to Joliet to play in a basketball game with Springfield Junior College.

Three new billboards replacing two old ones have been installed on the Capitol Avenue side of the Fox-Lincoln. They will be used to announce coming pictures . . . James Frisina, city manager of the Taylorville Frisina theatres, has returned from a Florida vacation where he won consolation honors in a golf tournament.

New sound is planned for the Frisina Liberty at Mexico, Mo., of which Jerry Baker is manager . . . Ciro Pedrucci, vice-president of Frisina Amusement Co., is a welcome new member of the Elks Club where his bowling skill is expected to bolster the Elks team.

Pio Pedrucci, manager of the Lyric at Gillispie, was married to Mary Pozzi of St. Louis . . . M. E. Berman, manager of the Orpheum, finally found and bought a house not far from his former one. When he moved out, George Kerasotes, general manager of the Kerasotes Theatres, just to keep it in the film family, moved into the one vacated by Berman.

William Baker to Helm of Republic Chicago Office

CHICAGO—William "Bill" Baker, veteran film salesman, will become the new branch manager of the local Republic exchange on Monday. For the past 3½ years, Baker has been with United Artists here and prior to that was a salesman for Universal Pictures for 18 years.

Baker succeeds Harry Lorch who is resigning to devote his full time to his two local theatres, the Harvard and the East Side. Lorch will remain at the exchange until March 29 in order to familiarize Baker with his new duties.

A buffet luncheon honoring the Messrs. Lorch and Baker will be held Monday noon in Republic's temporary headquarters located in the Warner Building. Many prominent circuit and independent operators are expected to attend the party.

Next September Republic, together with RKO, will move into a new two-story exchange to be erected by Harry Mandel on the southwest corner of 13th and Wabash. Until that time, Republic's offices and poster department will be located in the Warner building while the film, shipping and receiving departments will be located in a small building in the rear of Republic's present quarters at 1304 S. Wabash Ave. The present Republic building is being demolished in order to make way for the new exchange.

Adapted Trailers as Selling Aid Sought

TERRE HAUTE, IND.—A call for trailers adapted to market the feature according to the demands of the patronage—thus more actionful or more "class"—as needed, has been made by Abe H. Kaufman, president of the Terre Haute Theatres Ass'n, in letters to the trade press and the responsible segments of the industry.

Citing the preparation by producers of two kinds of one sheets, two styles of threes, and varied mats, some stressing the action and some the other phases of a picture, Kaufman suggests that trailers be given the same treatment. He expresses confidence that many pictures now passed up by many exhibitors as not suited to their patronage, would be played when their marketing was thus facilitated.

"GWTW" Is Far Above Par In Milwaukee Return

MILWAUKEE—"Gone With the Wind" returned at popular prices at Fox's Palace, playing to good business and is expected to be held over for three weeks. The house is opening at 8:30 a. m. and playing four shows daily.

Detail for week ended March 13:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M).....180
Riverside—**Blackout** (UA); Ray Herbeck's orchestra on stage 110
Strand—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Night Train** (20th-Fox) 100
Warner—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Buck Privates** (Univ) 115
Wisconsin—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox).....125

"Tobacco Road" Leads to Top Indianapolis Gross

INDIANAPOLIS—With fair weather predominating throughout the week, first runs reported spotty showings, with "Tobacco Road" at the Indiana giving an excellent first week at 150 per cent.

Detail for week ending March 15:

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**The Pinto Kid** (Col); **Who Killed Aunt Maggie** (Rep) 85
Circle—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **Where Did You Get That Girl** (Univ)..... 90
Indiana—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Play Girl** (RKO) 150
Loew's—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 85
Lyric—**Flight From Destiny** (WB); Jan Savitt's Band on stage 95

Conversion of Club Into Theatre Is Sarnia Plan

SARNIA, MICH.—The Port Huron, Mich. *Times* recently reported that the former Embassy Club building will be changed into a motion picture theatre, and the Imperial will be re-conditioned at a combined cost estimated at $100,000.

BOWLING

CHICAGO—By whipping the second place Metro boys two out of three, Paramount apparently clinched first place in the Chicago Filmrow Bowling League. Paramount is now three full games ahead of Metro with the season rapidly drawing to a close.

Leading scorers to date are: Abe Fischer, 20th Century-Fox, 175; Johnny Knaffle, United Artists, 174; Mike Fahey, Paramount, 173; Max Dreifuss, Republic, 171; and Fred Hanzelin, M-G-M, 171. Standings to date:

Team—	Won	Lost
Paramount	43	26
M-G-M	40	29
20th Century-Fox	38	31
Republic	35	34
Film Chauffeurs	33	36
National Screen	30	39
United Artists	29	40
Universal	28	41

CHICAGO—Four full games ahead of the second place State-Lake No. 1 quintet, the Chicago No. 1 five now loom as pennant winners in the B&K—Theatre Section Bowling League.

Leading scorers are: Potter, North Side, 181; Jalas, State-Lake No. 1, 178; John, Chicago No. 1, 177; Katz, North Side, 175, and Wagner, Chicago No. 1, 172. Team standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Chicago No. 1	48	18
State-Lake No. 1	44	19
North Side	39	24
Belmont	38	28
State-Lake No. 2	36	30
Northwest No. 2	26	37
Chicago No. 2	26	40
West Side	24	39
Northwest No. 1	15	48

CHICAGO—Unless the Price-Waterhouse five overtake the Television boys in the next couple of weeks, it looks like the latter team will come out on top in the B&K Office Employes Bowling League.

Leading scorers are: Voele, Advertising, 196; Carlson, Price-Waterhouse, 178; Pipher, Television, 175; De Tamble, Price-Waterhouse, 167, and Bauby, Price-Waterhouse, 165. Team standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Television	41	25
Price-Waterhouse	38	28
Advertising	33	33
B. F. Lindheimer	30	36
Film	29	37
Booking	27	39

From the Newspapers

CHICAGO — An exchange of managers has been effected by the Indiana-Illinois Theatres, Inc., which has moved Don Johnson from the Gayety to the Lex and Bob Griffith from the Lex to the Gayety.

HUNTINGBURG, IND. — More than $50,000 worth of stock is reported subscribed for the erection of a new theatre here. Chris H. Winkenhofer, owner of the Gem, is one of the directors of the new company, known as the Huntingburg Amusement Co.

WHITING, IND.—Chick Tompkins, manager of the Hoosier, has been transferred by the Indiana-Illinois Theatre Ass'n to Elkhart where he will be city manager. Succeeding him is Art Wartha, former manager of theatres in Elkhart and LaPorte.

Declares That Films Make Immorality Fascinating

MILWAUKEE—Elimination of block booking, the double feature, the removal of drinking in pictures and the introduction of more educational features were recommended by the Rev. John Lewis of Calvary Presbyterian Church as a means of improving films, in an address before the Better Films Council here.

"The movie should at all times represent a higher type of hero and heroine," Dr. Lewis said. "What makes a picture immoral is not that it deals with immoral situations, but that it presents immorality in a fascinating way. That is the supreme danger of the movie today."

For Smart Showmanship, Columbia Cites Jones

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Dave Jones, manager of the Senate, is cited in the February issue of Columbia's "Mirror" magazine for his smart showmanship.

The magazine says that smart showmanship means knowing what the public wants and how to give it to them, and that Jones proves that showmanship is boxoffice by combining Columbia pressbook ads with ballyhoo ideas that stirred local audience interest and stimulated greater boxoffice grosses for "This Thing Called Love" and "Arizona."

Next Autry for Landers

HOLLYWOOD—Lew Landers will direct "Singing Hills," forthcoming Gene Autry for Republic. Harry Grey will produce.

Not Responsible for Actions of a Cat

Milwaukee—A civil court jury here held the management of Warner-Saxe's Uptown Theatre not responsible for a black cat, which jumped onto the lap of Mrs. Charlotte Collar Piasecki, while she was viewing a mystery-thriller at the theatre. Mrs. Piasecki sued the management for $1,000, charging the cat belonged to the theatre. The house denied ownership, however.

Hempstead to Conference

CHICAGO—David Hempstead, young RKO producer, passed through Chicago en route to New York and a conference with Ben Hecht who will author the screenplay of "Journey Into Fear," on which Hempstead plans to start production May 1. The film, to be adapted from Eric Ambler's recently published novel, has Michelle Morgan slated for the top feminine role.

Six Deemed Best

CHICAGO—Mae Tinee, Chicago *Tribune* film critic, chose the following films as best pictures to be shown here during February: "This Thing Called Love" (Col); "Back Street" (Univ); "High Sierra" (WB); "Virginia" (Para't); "Fantasia" (Disney) and "Land of Liberty" (M-G-M).

New Soundies Reel Ready For Slot-Film Machines

CHICAGO—Gordon Mills, president of Soundies Distributing Corporation, has announced that a new Soundies reel is now ready for the Mills-Roosevelt Panoram Soundies Machines. Known as Release Number 4, the reel is comprised of eight three-minute subjects, four of which were produced by Globe Productions, headed by Jimmy Roosevelt, and four by Cameo Productions, headed by Sam Coslow. To date, a total of four reels or 32 subjects have been produced.

The four Globe numbers in the new release are: "There I go," featuring Joy Hodges and Robert Wayne with Rudolph Friml jr.'s orchestra; "Frenesi," starring Anita Carmargo with Fernando's orchestra; "Pan Americonga," featuring Rita Ria; and Susan Miller in "Stupid Little Cupid."

The Cameo Productions, directed by Roy Mack, include "12th Street Rag" with Buddy Rogers and his orchestra; "Jive, Little Gypsy, Jive" with Bobby Sherwood's orchestra, and Diano Castillo dancing; "I Know Somebody Who Loves You," sung by Gale Storm accompanied by the Fashionaires; and "Am I in Love With a Song?" sung by Gene Grounds, played by the Melody Maids with dance routine by Baron and Blair.

"Dame" to Columbia

HOLLYWOOD—Columbia has acquired "Just Another Dame," a story by Robert Hyde. Irving Briskin will produce.

ANY NEWS TODAY?

Planning a new theatre? Remodeling? Being promoted? Getting married? Got a new baby (infant)? Buying new equipment? Been elected mayor? Son or daughter graduating? Proud of a new exploitation stunt? Hired a new staff member? Solved a knotty problem?

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Information on the following items may be secured by sending in the coupon. Use the key numbers. If data on subjects other than those listed is wanted, just state your requirements. We will endeavor to see that you are supplied with details promptly.

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MT101 Bulletin Boards
MT102 Cut-Out Machines
MT103 Display Frames and Cases
MT104 Flashers, Sign
MT105 Insert Frames
MT106 Lamp Coloring
MT107 Letter Mounting Units
MT108 Marquees
MT109 Poster Projectors
MT110 Signs, Admission
MT111 Signs, Electric
MT112 Signs, Neon, Zeon

AIR CONDITIONING

MT120 Air Circulators
MT121 Air Conditioning Motors
MT122 Air Conditioning Systems
MT123 Air Filters
MT124 Air Washers
MT125 Blowers
MT126 Boilers and Furnaces
MT127 Coils, Cooling
MT128 Compressors
MT129 Condensers
MT130 Cooling Equipment
MT131 Cooling Towers
MT132 Dehumidifiers
MT133 Diffusers, Air
MT134 Electric Motor Controls
MT135 Exhaust Fans
MT136 Grilles and Registers
MT137 Heating Equipment
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MT141 Stokers
MT142 Temperature Control Devices
MT143 Thermostats and Humidistats
MT144 Unit Heaters
MT145 Ventilating Systems
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DECORATIONS & FURNISHINGS

MT155 Acoustical Materials
MT156 Aisle Lights
MT157 Boxoffices
MT158 Carpets
MT159 Carpet Cushion
MT160 Design Service
MT161 Directional Signs
MT162 Door Controls
MT163 Draperies and Curtains
MT164 Drinking Fountains
MT165 Exit Signs
MT166 Foam Rubber Seat Cushions
MT167 Interior Decoration
MT168 Interior Wall Finishes
MT169 Lounge Furniture
MT170 Matting, Rubber
MT171 Mirrors
MT172 Ornamental Metal Work
MT173 Paint Products
MT174 Railings, Lobby
MT175 Sand Urns
MT176 Seating, Auditorium
MT177 Slip Covers
MT178 Speaking Tubes
MT179 Ticket Choppers and Boxes
MT180 Theatre Chairs
MT181 Upholstery Materials
MT182 Wall Coverings, Fabric

LIGHTING

MT190 Dimmers and Controls
MT191 Effect Lighting Devices
MT192 Elec. Measuring Instruments
MT193 Engines, Diesel
MT194 Fluorescent Lamps and Fixtures
MT195 Gelatine Sheets
MT196 Incandescent Lamps
MT197 Lighting Fixtures
MT198 Lighting Plants, Emergency
MT199 Cove Lighting
MT200 Reflectors
MT201 Reflector Lamps
MT202 Spot and Flood Lamps
MT203 Spot and Flood Lights
MT204 Storage Batteries
MT205 Switches, Safety
MT206 Switchboards
MT207 Transformers, Neon

MAINTENANCE

MT210 Bolts, Expansion and Toggle
MT211 Carpet Spotting Compounds
MT212 Drills, Rotary
MT213 Fire Extinguishers
MT214 Fireproofing Compounds
MT215 Gum Removers
MT216 Safety Ladders
MT217 Seat Patching Kits
MT218 Seating Repairs
MT219 Vacuum Cleaners

MISCELLANEOUS

MT225 Coin Changing Machines
MT226 Fireproof Safes and Files
MT227 Music Stands
MT228 Organs, Electric
MT229 Popcorn Machines
MT230 Popcorn & Confection Supplies
MT231 Staff Uniforms
MT232 Tickets
MT233 Ticket Machines
MT234 Water Coolers

PROJECTION

MT240 Booth Doors and Ports
MT241 Carbon Savers
MT242 Carbon Waste Cans
MT243 Change-Over Devices
MT244 Condensing Lenses
MT245 Dowsers
MT246 Film Cabinets
MT247 Film Cement
MT248 Film Handling Devices
MT249 Film Preservatives
MT250 Film Reels
MT251 Film Rewinders
MT252 Fire Shutters, Projection
MT253 Intermittent Movements
MT254 Motion Picture Screens
MT255 Motor Brushes
MT256 Motor-Generators
MT257 Portable Sound Projectors
MT258 Projection Arc Lamps
MT259 Projection Lenses
MT260 Projection Slides
MT261 Projector Carbons
MT262 Projector Parts
MT263 Projector Pedestals
MT264 Rectifiers, Bulb Type
MT265 Rectifiers, Copper-Oxide
MT266 Rectifiers, Copper-Sulphide
MT267 Reel-End Signals
MT268 Reflector Equipment
MT269 Rewind Tables
MT270 Rheostats
MT271 Safety Devices
MT272 Slide Projectors
MT273 Sound Projectors, 35mm
MT274 Sound Projectors, 16mm
MT275 Stereopticons
MT276 Tool Kits

SANITATION

MT285 Cleansing Compounds
MT286 Deodorants and Disinfectants
MT287 Flush Valves
MT288 Hand Driers, Electric
MT289 Insecticides and Germicides
MT290 Odor Absorbers
MT291 Ozone Generators
MT292 Paper Towels and Cabinets
MT293 Perfumes
MT294 Plumbing Fixtures
MT295 Sanitary Supplies
MT296 Soaps and Cleansers
MT297 Suction Cleaners
MT298 Washroom Accessories

SOUND

MT305 Amplifiers
MT306 Amplifier Tubes
MT307 Hearing Aids
MT308 Horn Lifts and Towers
MT309 Intercommunicating Systems
MT310 Lamps, Exciter
MT311 Lens Assemblies, Sound
MT312 Microphones
MT313 Photoelectric Cells
MT314 Public Address Amplifiers
MT315 Public Address Systems
MT316 Radio Tubes
MT317 Record Reproducers
MT318 Sound Equipment, Complete
MT319 Sound Heads
MT320 Sound Service, Contract
MT321 Speakers

STAGE EQUIPMENT

MT330 Costumes
MT331 Curtain Controls
MT332 Curtain Tracks
MT333 Stage and Effect Lighting
MT334 Stage Hardware
MT335 Stage Rigging
MT336 Stage Scenery

STRUCTURE

MT340 Architectural Service
MT341 Facing Materials, Exterior
MT342 Flashed Opal Glass
MT343 Flooring Materials
MT344 Glass Blocks
MT345 Insulation Materials
MT346 Metal Trim and Mouldings
MT347 Pipe Hangers and Brackets
MT348 Plate Glass
MT349 Steel and Iron Roofing
MT350 Steel and Iron Sheet Metal
MT351 Structural Glass
MT352 Theatre Fronts, Porcelain
MT353 Theatre Fronts, Structural Glass
MT354 Wood Veneers

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Two Gillman Plaints Involving Product

MINNEAPOLIS—Two more complaints, one of them involving the matter of film prices, have been filed with the arbitration tribunal here making a total of three to date.

Both emanate from David Gillman, who alleges his Gayety, lower loop subsequent-run dime house, is being treated unfairly on product. One of the complaints is against Paramount, the other against 20th-Fox.

Paramount is charged with refusing to sell product to the Gayety at a fair rental and making unreasonable demands in the matter of booking such pictures. Gillman asks the tribunal "to direct Paramount to license pictures on some run to the Gayety at a fair rental in accordance with Section 6 of the consent decree."

In the other complaint, it is charged 20th-Fox is refusing to sell the Gayety. Gillman asks the tribunal to direct it to do so on some run.

The first complaint, made by the White Bear Theatre, White Bear, Minn., is against M-G-M, Warner, RKO and 20th-Fox because of "refusal to sell" it on some run.

Two Goldberg Employes Lose $1,500 to Bandits

OMAHA—Two employes of the R. D. Goldberg circuit were robbed of $1,500 while making a nightly collection of receipts from the circuit's seven houses. The victims were James H. Nicholson, manager of the Arbor and Avenue, and O. H. "Jimmy" Schlatter, manager of the Military.

Nicholson picked up the boxoffice "take" at his two houses and then went to the Military, where Schlatter joined him. They stopped at Goldberg's Winn, and were en route to Omaha's main business section to make collections at the Town and State when three bandits in a car forced them to stop. Nicholson tried to drive away, but one of the bandits fired a gun through the car window and the bullet grazed Nicholson's chest, cutting a hole in his shirt.

Weather Relentless

MINNEAPOLIS—Exhibitors in this territory are getting the very worst possible weather breaks. Every weekend seems to bring a heavy snow storm or ice-coated roads and streets which make driving hazardous. It has been one of the longest drawn out winters within memory.

North Dakota Spared Added Ticket Tax

Bismarck, N. D.—The North Dakota legislature has adjourned without passing a measure calling for additional theatre admission taxes.

Vote on Anti-Decree Bill Seen Within Fortnight

MINNEAPOLIS—A final vote on the anti-consent decree bill, contravening the groups-of-five selling plan, is expected in the Minnesota state legislature within the next fortnight. Northwest Allied, which is sponsoring the measure, confidently predicts passage.

Northwest Allied came through the first test with flying colors, the judiciary committee of the lower house recommending the bill for passage by a vote of 18 to 2. Following the conclusion of its hearings, the senate's committee on general legislation will prepare its report. The measure should reach the floors of both chambers before the end of the month.

Opposition by Distributors

Allied against the bill now are M-G-M, Warner, 20th-Fox, RKO and UA. If the measure becomes a law, UA, selling pictures individually, will not be able to continue doing business in Minnesota, the senate committee was informed at the public hearing.

Moe Levy, 20th-Fox district manager, joined David Shearer, counsel for his company, in speaking against the bill. If it is enacted, he declared, Fox will not sell its product in Minnesota, except to the Minnesota Amusement Co., a franchise holder.

"We do not propose to violate the consent decree," asserted Levy. "It is our desire to work under it because it has been set up by the federal government. It provides a streamlined selling method. My company would not find it practical to have a different sales setup in Minnesota from the one in other states."

The bill would compel distributors to offer for sale their entire season's product, the same as at present, grant a cancellation privilege of at least 20 per cent and to refrain from forced selling of shorts, trailers, newsreels, foreigns and westerns.

The Docket

Minneapolis

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 7. Demand and submission involving some run. White Bear Theatre Corp., operator of the White Bear at White Bear Lake, Minn. With: Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Named as interested party: State, same town. Complainant alleges the distributors named refuse to license his theatre for 1940-41 product in favor of the State.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 17. Demand and submission demanding some run. David Gillman, operator of the Gayety, Minneapolis, Minn. With: Paramount Pictures Dist. Corp. Complainant alleges the distributor refuses to sell product to the Gayety at a fair rental and is making unreasonable demands in the matter of booking such pictures.

CASE NO. 3—Filed March 17. Demand and submission demanding some run. David Gillman, operator of the Gayety, Minneapolis. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Complainant charges 20th-Fox is refusing to sell product to the Gayety.

To Capital Before Going To Paramount Meeting

DES MOINES—A. H. and Raymond Blank leave this weekend for a short stay in Washington before attending the meeting of Paramount partners and home office executives in Hot Springs. They were joined there by G. Ralph Branton and Myron Blank.

Flynn in "Dive Bomber"

HOLLYWOOD—"Dive Bomber," next Errol Flynn starrer for Warner, will be directed by Michael Curtiz. Backgrounds are being filmed at Pensacola, Fla.



—Pictorial Press Photo

Make a Deal and See a Show—

Republic and Ice Capades, Inc., executives, in Kansas City to formalize a contract for production by Republic of "Ice Capades of 1941," attend the ice show at the Pla-Mor rink. Left to right in box seats are Herbert J. Yates, Republic chairman; John H. Harris, circuit owner and head of Ice Capades, Inc.; Fred North, Republic producer; M. J. Siegel, production chief, and Robert F. Withers, Republic-Midwest manager in Kansas City.

"No Concessions" in Cassil Damage Suit Dismissal

KANSAS CITY—No concessions, monetary or affecting future operating policy of the Dubinsky houses in St. Joseph were granted in the withdrawal of the $452,775 damage suit of Frank and Eugenia Cassil against the circuit and eight major distributors, according to Ed (Dubinsky) Durwood, head of the theatre chain.

The case was dismissed Saturday in federal court at St. Joseph on motion of the plaintiffs after Federal Judge Merrill E. Otis had indicated their case had not been proved and after the defendants had filed a motion for dismissal on that ground.

End Came Suddenly To Cassil Suit

ST. JOSEPH—The trial of Frank and Eugenia Cassil against the Dubinsky circuit and major distributors was going into its fifth day when attorneys for the Cassils, who operate the Rialto and Uptown, two subsequent run neighborhood houses here, presented the request for a dismissal with prejudice. Such motion waived the right of the Cassils to further litigation in the case.

The Cassils had alleged a conspiracy via the Missouri, Electric and Orpheum theatres to perpetuate a monopoly on films shown in St. Joseph.

At the close of testimony and evidence for the Cassils late the previous afternoon, Judge Otis excused the jury for two hours and heard arguments on a motion, by attorneys for the Dubinskys and distributors, to dismiss the suit. After the arguments Judge Otis told the attorneys that if the case was being tried before him and not by the jury he would decide then for the Dubinskys and distributors. The judge said, however, he would not take the case from the jury until after all the defendants' testimony and evidence was submitted.

Conspiracy Denied

Judge Otis said that when all of the defendants' evidence was in, he again would hear arguments on the motion and decide whether there was anything to submit to the jury. Although the judge expressed the opinion that the Cassils had not proven their case, he said he wanted to receive all the testimony and evidence because an appeal court might reverse his decision.

The court asked newspaper reporters not to publish his opinion, so it would not be read by the jurors, and the trial was resumed with a night session Friday night.

A conspiracy was denied by four witnesses for the defendants at the Friday night session. The witnesses were Ralph LiBeau, district manager for Paramount; Ward E. Scott, district manager for 20th-Fox; George W. Fuller, branch manager for 20th-Fox, and Frank C. Hensler, branch manager, M-G-M, all of Kansas City.

Attorneys for the Dubinskys and distributors sought to prove in cross-examination of the Cassils that the plaintiffs profited from their theatre business in the period they charge the Dubinskys and distributors conspired against them.

On cross-examination, Cassil said he owned his home in St. Joseph, three motor cars, and a cabin at Sugar Lake, a resort south of St. Joseph. The Cassils recently opened the Uptown, also, it was brought out.

First witness in the suit was Cassil, who testified that his business difficulties at the Rialto began shortly after the Dubinskys assumed control of the Missouri and other theatres in the downtown district.

Cassil testified that in 1932 he learned that his bookings with Paramount for the Rialto were set two weeks behind the Crystal, a Dubinsky second-run house. Because of that situation, Cassil said, he was forced to reduce his 20-cent admission at the Rialto to 15 cents to meet the Crystal price, with a consequent loss.

Cassil said he protested to Paramount and was told that the company had made a deal giving Dubinskys protection over other St. Joseph theatres in connection with a transaction the Dubinskys had made for the Paramount interests in the downtown district here.

10-Year Booking Franchise

Another official of Paramount told him that Dubinskys and Paramount had entered into a ten-year franchise on bookings, and nothing could be done to give Cassil a better arrangement on bookings, he testified.

The Missouri and other theatres in the downtown district were owned by the Lincoln Theatre Corp. and Paramount-Publix before the Dubinskys obtained the interests some eight years ago.

Efforts to introduce into the records information on prices paid by the Dubinskys for films were denied by Judge Otis. The court ruled that the information was not relevant to the case, and since it was a business matter which the Dubinskys desired to keep secret it should not be revealed unless proven relevant.

"The distributor certainly would be able to make a lower price to an exhibitor for a second run if the exhibitor also took the first run," Judge Otis commented, adding that no evidence of conspiracy could be derived from that fact.

Prior to the court's ruling, testimony had been to the effect that the Dubinskys were playing films second run at the Crystal and Electric before the Cassils could get them for their Rialto.

Depositions relating to booking contracts between the Dubinskys and the distributors were read as attorneys for the Cassils sought to prove that the protection given the Dubinskys was part of the conspiracy against the Cassils.

The depositions were those of LiBeau, Scott, Hensler, Grover C. Parsons, Universal; W. E. Truog, United Artists; William Williamson, Vitagraph, Inc.; T. R. Thompson, RKO Radio, and Ben Marcus, Columbia. All of the branch or district managers are of Kansas City.

Truog testified in his deposition that theatre tickets in St. Joseph and Kansas City cost less than in cities of corresponding size. The situation in both cities is "murderous," not only for the operators but for the trade, said Truog.

In another deposition, Edward Dubinsky Durwood, head of the Durwood-Dubinsky interests, said he believed he had to maintain a low price schedule in St. Joseph to meet Kansas City competition.

In their testimony after the defendants' motion to dismiss had been argued, LiBeau, Scott, Fuller and Hensler all denied the alleged conspiracy, explaining that their booking contract negotiations with the Dubinskys were carried out individually and separately.

Sought Most Profitable Outlet

It was brought out in the testimony, also, that the distributors attempted to sell their product to the exhibitors that could return them the most revenue, which in St. Joseph they considered to be the Dubinskys.

Because of the unexpected end to the trial, home office executives of the distributors were not brought to St. Joseph from New York. Some big names in the industry were scheduled to testify for the defendants in the trial.

The defendant distributors were Loew's, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., Paramount, 20th-Fox, Universal, Columbia, United Artists and RKO Radio. Attorneys for the defendants were Edward Raftery, New York City; Paul Stinson, Kansas City, and Charles Mayer and Floyd Sprague, St. Joseph.

The Cassils' attorneys were Paul F. Good, Lincoln, Neb.; Harry Cohen, Omaha, and Louis Kranitz, St. Joseph.

The suit was filed in court here April 29, 1940. The defendants asked a bill of particulars last September 16, and the plaintiffs filed the bill October 5. Judge Otis overruled the defendants' motion to strike the bill of particulars and dismiss the suit last December 23.

Most of the 400 exhibits presented in the trial were contracts between the Dubinskys and the distributors. Much of the trial time was given over to reading of depositions.

Opening New Lyric

COLBY, KAS.—Don Phillips is opening a new theatre, the Lyric, here. It replaces his former theatre, the Colby, which will be closed.

Without an Enemy and Without a Grudge

Omaha—A fine tribute was paid to the late Charlie Willliams, president of MPTO of Nebraska and western Iowa, who died recently, by Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA president, when he was in Omaha.

"Charlie," Kuykendall said, "had something out of life that no amount of money can buy. He died without an enemy in the world and he died without holding a grudge against any person."

"Tobacco Road" More Than Doubles Gross

KANSAS CITY—"Tobacco Road" brought more than double the average attendance at the Esquire, downtown, and substantially more than average to the suburban first run Uptown, against strong competition from non-picture attractions. Two days of a popular police circus came in the week under review, and also part of the basketball tournaments that pull both attendance and radio listeners, both at downtown Municipal Auditorium. The "Ice-Capades of 1941," reported moving toward film production, had two days in this week, at the Pla-Mor, suburban rink and dancing center. One of the heaviest snowfalls of the winter came in this period. Other first run attractions did around average, except "So Ends Our Night," which, supported by "Blondie Goes Latin" fell behind.

Detail for week ending March 13:

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox) 235
Midland—**So Ends Our Night** (UA); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col) 60
Newman—**Hard Boiled Canary** (Para't); **Life With Henry** (Para't) 90
Orpheum—**High Sierra** (FN); **Play Girl** (RKO), 6 days, 2nd wk. 80
Tower—**Arkansas Judge** (Rep); Pepito, Chester Fredericks and Gloria Lane, Wen Hai Chinese Troupe on the stage 100
Uptown—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox) 125

"Private Secretary" on a Dual Does Best in Omaha

OMAHA—Tri-States' 2,000-seater, the Omaha, leaped into the fore this week with "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" and "Blonde Inspiration," drawing top business. Comparatively clear, warm weather has been helping the grosses, exhibitors report.

"Buck Privates" and "You're the One" was above average at the Orpheum, and the former picture was held a second week as second feature to the Orpheum's new bill. The Brandeis record of five straight holdovers was set by "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and "Case of the Black Parrot."

Detail for week ending March 15:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Case of the Black Parrot** (FN) 90
Omaha—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Blonde Inspiration** (M-G-M) 130
Orpheum—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **You're the One** (Para't) 115

"Vivacious Lady" Revival Outgrosses All in DM

DES MOINES—"Vivacious Lady" played a vivacious jingle at the boxoffice here this week with the Ginger Rogers-James Stewart revival setting the pace in downtown houses. At the Orpheum its gross was almost identical with the take when it had its first run at the Des Moines years ago—but it wasn't paired with "Bringing Up Baby" then. The double comedy comeback gave the RKO house its twelfth consecutive week of above average business. While the Paramount suffered, the Des Moines better than held its own against the Academy award winners with "the most shocking of all stage plays" on the screen.

Percentages for the week ending March 20:

(Average is 100)

Des Moines—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga** (Univ) 120
Orpheum—**Vivacious Lady** (RKO); **Bringing Up Baby** (RKO) 125
Paramount—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox); **The Hard Boiled Canary** (Para't) 65

"Pastor Hall" Alone Tops Average in Lincoln

LINCOLN—It was all "Pastor Hall" last week, as far as boxoffice color was concerned. Placed in the cheap-priced Variety, it had unusual stamina.

"Hudson's Bay" did very weakly, and "Dr. Kildare Goes Home" augmented by an amateur stage bill, didn't get anywhere.

Detail for the week ending March 14:

(Average is 100)

Colonial—**Along the Rio Grande** (RKO)) and **Reno** (RKO) split with **Prairie Schooner** (Col) and **Married and in Love** (RKO) 95
Lincoln—**Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (M-G-M) 90
Nebraska—**Sky Murder** (M-G-M); **Night at Earl Carroll's** (Para't) 95
Stuart—**Hudson's Bay** (20th-Fox) 80
Variety—**Pastor Hall** (UA); **Remedy for Riches** (RKO) 115
Varsity—**Adam Had Four Sons** (Col) 95

"GWTW" Towers Over All Minneapolis Opposition

MINNEAPOLIS—Below zero temperatures and blizzards last weekend, tough opposition from the "Ice Follies" and the Shriners' Indoor Circus, Lent and the necessity of meeting income tax payments have been hurting business here. "Gone With the Wind," playing its first popular price loop engagement, is the current boxoffice leader and should run at least four weeks.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**Devil Commands** (Col); **Meet the Chump** (Univ) 90
Century—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 225
Gopher—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 125
Orpheum—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN) 100
State—**Back Street** (Univ) 95
World—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 90

A Bill to Regulate Bank Night Dies

DES MOINES—A bill designed to regulate theatre Bank Night was voted down Tuesday by the house in the Iowa legislature. The vote was 50 to 43.

At the same time, the distributor tax bill, calling for a $1,000 license fee from motion picture distributors and a $1 a reel tax, was automatically killed when it failed to be reported out after three days in the steering committee.

The Bank Night regulation bill was killed only after heated debate. Bank Nights were described as "vicious rackets yielding tremendous profits" to the film industry.

Representative Gustave Alesch, a Democrat from Marcus, Ia., commented during debate: "It was common gossip in one former legislature I served in, that $25,000 was spent to beat a Bank Night bill. I am wondering whether there hasn't been some money spent this time to kill bills designed to eliminate a racket and a curse in connection with motion picture shows."

After the final vote on the measure, Alesch arose and asked: "I wonder how many of those aye votes got free tickets for themselves and their wives?"

The house killed the bill by voting to accept the report of its committee on police regulations which had recommended indefinite postponement of the measure.

The measure, presented by Rep. Joseph Wagner, a Democrat from Ottumwa, Ia., would have compelled theatres to award a prize on every Bank Night and would have prohibited more than three theatres from combining in any Bank Night plan.

In Des Moines, nine Tri-States theatres are combined in a Tuesday Bank Night, while a group of independent houses conduct a Thursday drawing. The Orpheum has Screeno on Tuesdays.

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Goodwill Trade Meeting In Omaha on April 22

OMAHA—Plans are being made for a "good-will" gathering in Omaha April 22 open to "everyone in the industry and affiliated trades." The event will be sponsored by members of Variety.

Ted Mendenhall, chief barker, is directing arrangements, to be assisted by several committees to be selected soon.

Ed Kuykendall, president of MPTOA, was in Omaha to confer with exhibitor and distributor representatives about the affair, which Kuykendall suggested. He talked to exhibitors including Bob Livingston, Lincoln; Walter Creal, Beacon, Omaha, representing independents, and Sam Epstein, Epstein circuit, Omaha, representing smaller circuits.

Kuykendall also talked to Joe Kinsky, Tri-States district manager, and other branch managers in addition to Mendenhall, who is Paramount boss here. The program shapes up something like this, for the one-day affair:

Afternoon—Business meeting open to everyone, at which the consent decree and other industry points will be discussed from all angles. Free to everyone.

A short business meeting of members of MPTO of Nebraska and Western Iowa will be held to elect officers and transact other business. Free but open only to members.

Evening—Banquet at which Kuykendall and two or three other persons prominent in the industry will be speakers. A dance will follow. The price on the dinner-dance has not been decided yet.

"Exhibitors will be able to come to the two business meetings and go home, at no cost to them, if they do not have the time to remain for the entertainment at night," Kuykendall told BOXOFFICE. "We want everyone possible, including exhibitors and distributors, ushers and poster clerks, just everyone connected with the industry, to attend the business sessions at least."

The purpose of the "good-will" gathering is to promote closer relationship among all filmites and exhibitors, he said.

"This is going to be one of the best and one of the most important industry meetings ever held in Omaha," Kuykendall said. "That's why I want you to say in BOXOFFICE that the meeting is for everyone."

120 Hear Tom Collins At Variety Luncheon

KANSAS CITY—Over 120 people, many of them exhibitors, attended this year's first Variety Club luncheon meeting at which a speaker appeared. Tom Collins, whose aptly turned humor is much in demand in Kansas City, was warmly received.

Arthur Cole, secretary, who characterized the luncheon as a real success, is already making plans for the next one to be held April 21.

KAYCEE

VISITORS: Ray Musselman, Princess, Lincoln, Kas.; Jess DeLong, Ute, Mankato, Kas.; Fred Wilcox, Cozy, Lockwood, Mo.; Allen Karn, Fox, Sedalia, Mo.; W. K. Hanna, Royal, Axtill, Kas.; Ward Spielman, Baldwin, Baldwin, Kas.; O. L. Christian, Parker, Parker, Kas.; Morris Biemer, Dream, Glasgow, Kas.; H. Danberry, Lucille, King City, Kas.; L. O. Ringley, Rialto, Wellesley, Kas.; Louis Griefe, Windsor, Windsor, Kas.; C. L. Miller, Strand, Eskridge, Kas.; Glen Newbolt, Temple, Yates Center, Kas.; George Lehman, Plaza, St. Joseph, Mo.; Bob Gorham, Liberty, Horton, Kas.; Paul Oetting, Lyric, Concordia, Mo.; Walter Lovan, Park, Colorado Springs, Kas.; B. N. Robertson, Gilliog, Springfield, Mo.

Attention: Mrs. William Blair! Bill Blair, Blair, Osborne, Kas., was among those seen on the Row. (From what Bill says, there seems to have been some doubt) . . . J. T. Ghosen, who is busy these days building that new theatre in Waynesville, Mo., took time out to buy some seats from Missouri Theatre Supply . . . "Chet" Ward, Paramount, who recently underwent an appendicitis operation, should be back on the Row by the time this column appears.

Along Filmrow's "Drive" Front: The Kleins, the Kelleys, and the Kanes are still leading the pack at Universal in the "Bill Scully" Drive . . . The "Ned Depinet" Drive at RKO received additional impetus from the recent conference at exchange headquarters between salesmen of the exchange area and several of the company's executives, namely: Leo Devaney, drive captain; Cresson E. Smith, western sales manager; Harry Michalson, short subjects sales manager; and Walter Branson, district manager . . . The "James R. Grainger" Drive is an exhibitor's drive, and according to Republic Branch Manager R. P. Withers, it's really clicking.

This week the Row says farewell to two of its active members, both of Altec: Joe Lysowski, who is resigning to go to Dallas, Tex., and Al Briggs, service engineer, being transferred to Tulsa, Okla. . . . "Man in the Dark"—Art Siebenthaler, Missouri Film Co., who spends most of his life in the dark room developing film, thus coming by a night club pallor honestly. But he doesn't mind, because he likes to get away from people some times. A round peg in a round hole.

Tent No. 8 this week welcomed in two new barkers, George Blanton of the Kansas City *Star*, and A. G. Optican of Optican Bros. Novelty Co. . . . Warren Webber, exhibitor of Ellinwood, St. John and Stafford, Kas., swept along the Row recently in a brand new shiny Cadillac . . . Tom Edwards, Eldon, Ozark, Kas., is a quite successful dog fancier. Primarily a hunting man, he recently sold a pedigreed pup for $50. Tom's kennel at present amounts to six dogs, all pedigreed.

Straight from R. P. Withers, chairman of the distributors' Greek War Relief committee, comes an acknowledgment of the splendid cooperation shown by KC's exchangemen . . . Did you read Lowell Lawrance's recent Journal *column in which he described the advantages of a Kansas City*

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Spring Festival? It sounded like a real "draw" to bring them in from the surrounding area, according to many on Filmrow. For information or to express your opinion where it will do some good, call or write Lawrance at the Journal.

At the request of Betty Wrenn, Universal switchboard girl, the Marceline, Mo., chamber of commerce sent a prospectus of the town to the "Super Bookers" at Universal, Iz (Steam) Daynosky, Larry (Superman) Klein, and John (Citizen) Kane, who, according to Miss Wrenn, were going in restaurant business there. "Steam" was to be dishwasher, "Citizen," the waiter, and "Superman," the cook. But the boys aren't going to do it after all. They just found out "Superman" can't cook.

As part of the day's work, your correspondent walked into Monogram headquarters where L. D. Cunningham was explaining a new process he had developed for handling language films to Booker Richard Salk, who was failing to comprehend. After 15 technical moments, we stumbled out into the fresh air, gasping. Salk was inside, gasping. Worth noting is the fact the bewildered expression stayed on Salk's face till late next day.

Big Things in Omaha For Greek Campaign

OMAHA—Plans are being completed by Ted Emerson, general chairman of the Omaha committee, for big things as this city's contribution to the Greek War Relief Drive.

Top feature will be a midnight stage show on March 29 at the Orpheum, a midnight deal, with local radio entertainers, ballroom bands, etc., contributing their time. Tickets are 50 cents and all proceeds will go to the relief fund.

Collections will be taken up at every performance in all Omaha theatres during the drive, March 25-30. Trailers will be run and a city-wide advertising and press campaign carried out, Emerson informs BOXOFFICE.

Joseph Kinsky, Tri-States district manager, and Ted Mendenhall, Paramount exchange manager, are Omaha zone co-chairmen. Sam Epstein, Epstein circuit, is treasurer, and committee members are:

Midnight show—William Miskell, chairman; Lyle DeMoss, Cliff Johnson, Gordon Giffen.

Collections—Milton Overman, chairman; Sidney Epstein, Harry Watts, Joe Scott.

Publicity—Ted Emerson, chairman; Louise Cotter, Keith Wilson, Jake Rachman, Monte Davis, Barney Oldfield.

Ticket sales—Don Allen, Randall Wilton McIlvaine, Jack Epstein.

Omaha business and civic leaders comprise the civic committee working on the drive.

Greek War Relief Week Off to Smooth Start

KANSAS CITY—The Greek War Relief Week in this exchange area swung smoothly into action, with most of the exhibitors scheduled to run the special trailer by Melvyn Douglas for the first time on their Sunday matinee program. Three hundred and three are participating in the drive.

Present reports indicate the midnight screening at the Midland, which will be presented in conjunction with a stage show, will be a sellout, the downtown theatres giving it full support.

Symphony Concert Headlines Show for Greek War Relief

MINNEAPOLIS—A half-hour concert by the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra will headline the big benefit show at the Orpheum here April 2 for Greek relief. John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Co. president, is general chairman for this territory. Quota is $23,500. His lieutenants include C. B. Stiff, Bill Sears and Eddie Ruben.

Suburban theatres in the Twin Cities and out-of-town houses have been asked to pass the basket and run trailers or put on special shows. There will be a benefit show at the St. Paul Orpheum April 3.

The Minneapolis show also will include, in addition to the Minneapolis Symphony, Ray Herrick and Ran Wilde's bands and many acts.

LINCOLN

HOWARD FEDERER is anxious to hear when the next selective service registration will be called. He says he's old enough now to register . . . J. H. Cooper pulled a double surprise last week. He surprised Theatrerow by showing up unannounced, and surprised again when the boys looked around and he was gone . . . Vincent J. DiFiore just found out being in the finance department with the army is no protection. A guy can be drafted from there! . . . Joy Hodges, vacationing in Omaha from Hollywood, was guest of C Company, 3rd Infantry, at Ft. Crook, Neb., for a day and wound up being made a corporal.

R. W. Huffman and Roy Anderson are laying for a grudge golf match with C. W. "Ching" Allen, of RKO, and Joe Scott, of 20th Century-Fox. Last match, they had "tea" prior to going to tee, and the Huffman-Anderson did 36 holes in 18 and everything else was double, too . . . Jim Stoddard, of the Stuart crew, is being ribbed for tossing a week's pay to make a good impression on a new date and she bid him goodbye through the screen door . . . Bill Knight got to feeling so tough during the playing of "Pastor Hall," he was sorry his draft board found him to be overweight . . . Family stuff: Capt. Barney Oldfield is on Bill Miskell's Greek War Relief committee in Omaha, and Mrs. B. O. is on the committee handling it here.

Bob Livingston denies that his wife, Barbara, spending the winter in California, has written back from the coast asking him to buy her one of those whopper umbrellas . . . Harvey Traylor has piled up an amazing percentage of wins in ping-pong. He plays it smart, waiting until a customer comes along who doesn't know anything about the game. Harvey offers to teach 'em, if they'll let him win . . . Ted Mendenhall and Ted Emerson were in town on Greek war relief business, huddling with Huffman, Livingston, Federer and Dean Pohlenz on the *Journal*.

The George O. Monroes came back from Florida just in time to meet that income tax deadline. This has been a winter of windows for them—pari-mutuel at Hialeah and percentage at the federal building . . . The A. A. Burruses of Crete were in the Hurricane country at the same time . . . Lincoln used to provide all the funny things in the film business, but Bill Miskell in Omaha is taking the play away. He held over a second feature ("Buck Privates") with a new first run —and did business.

Carl Reese says the only adventure Gene Autry hasn't had is to ride in and take an overbought exhibitor during Lent, and he doubts if even Autry could do it! . . . Monroe Rubinger was in to set that Wednesday midwest opening for "Meet John Doe" at the Lincoln. Paul Anderson expected to be served with a J. D. warrant ever since he left, Rubinger being known for such gags . . . C. K. Olson and Alice Neal of Warner's exchange are about to install a luncheonette in their screening room, since they elect to roll machines at the stroke of 12 . . . Alvin Hendricks' gag of the pulse-tester, "Measure for Pleasure," was good, but when he saw Carole Landis in her "Road Show" tights, his reaction was better—or worse.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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DES MOINES

STORK CLUB: Even as you read this, Herb Loeffler up at Art Schuyler's National Theatre Supply may be the strutting pawpaw of quints . . . at least Herb's talking quints, is really expecting twins, and will take what he gets. Jean Post is doggedly denying those Di-Dy-Ho rumors (erroneously being attributed to George Beaumeister) and is trying to counter-act them by stating he and Dot have decided never to extend an invitation to the long-legged fellow (don't count on never entertaining the old bird, just the same, Jean—he's a rude old cuss who drops in to call without being invited, and almost always when you're least expecting him).



Junior Dept.: Hey, fellas, have you met Judy Elaine? Then you've missed the most gorgeous blonde in DM, according to Bing Miller . . . she's been Bing's big moment for about seven months . . . and instead of being secretive about it, Bing goes around telling the world . . . but Mrs. Bing doesn't seem to object, in fact, she's as taken in by the Judy girl as Bing! Jerry Slutsky's fretting about the high cost of shoes already and the kid's just nine months old . . . wait'll he starts kicking tin cans all the way home from school, Jerry, then you'll really have troubles. Everybody on the Row says that if you could reduce Bert Thomas about one-fourth, you'd have Buddy . . . the Thomas kids (the other one's Phyllis) are supposed to have all the traditional Thomas handsomeness and charm.

Lou Levy says every exhibitor in Iowa is writing in for a Baby Sandy Doll and he contends it's all our fault . . . we'll stop when we get the doll, Lou, and not before . . . in fact, we believe we'll start campaigning for all the exhibitors who've written in, too . . . after all, Lou, in trying to unsell us on the idea of wanting one, weren't you telling us how cheap they were per gross? We feel about like the independents do about these drives, but we guess they're news . . . Columbia's in the throes of the annual Goodwill Drive, March 1 to May 30, and of course Evidon's boys will finish in the money as usual.

Frank Thomas and George Campbell were swinging down High, Saturday, looking as if they'd both just got a 50 per cent increase in salary or something . . . We caught Al Hill just as he was locking the door at Lou Elman's joint . . . brazenly, we asked him what was new, and the two gentlemen with Al looked us over and then walked on, discreetly leaving us standing there alone with Al as though the conversation were private . . . we stuttered, felt embarrassed, asked Al how was Mrs. Hill, and then rushed off with red face and without the two gentlemen's names.

Comes a letter from Joe Heppner in NY announcing that he's with Walt Disney at least temporarily until they find him out. Joe's the greatest wit since Joe Miller, besides being a darn good pitcher-taker . . . and listen, Joe, don't think BOXOFFICE didn't get it when you subtly referred to her as the "child bride" . . . you meant second childhood, didn't you? Just for that, we're gonna publish some of those cracks you made at the Carlton Hotel in Washington last winter . . . 'member convulsing BOXOFFICE & Co. by accusing Charlie Levy of pulling that Rarebit out of the hat?

The voice of KVAK in Atchison, Kas., is now Iles & McKinney . . . We were surprised when the boys popped up on motorcycles, but we never expected to find them riding the airwaves . . . Mac is back from Florida and we found him poring over the income report in one of those green sport shirts from the Utica (price $3.98, we bought a blue one for & Co.). Everybody on the Row is cheering because Dallas Day's supposed to get back home in a couple of weeks.

Don Songer of National Theatre Supply got in deep water with a gal from Deep River . . . she gave Don a watch and he gave her the air . . . the boys at National say she's got a nice telephone voice, and apparently she can keep it so far as Don's concerned . . . Our hair turned white, we developed three double chins, and had to be pushed out of National in a wheelchair when we discovered that we used to play tennis with Harold Songer, who is Don's pappy . . . Don is 21 . . . we can't figure it out, but we'll just have to assume that Harold married at a very tender age.

The gentlemen of the press get treated pretty shabbily sometimes, we thinks when we see the fine copper spike mounted on walnut which adorns the biggie exhib's desks, and then take a look at the ordinary railroad spikes painted with a little bronze paint which ballyhooed "Union Pacific" to the hardworking newsmen . . . But then there are compensations, even if they can't be taken advantage of . . . Such as the week in Florida Universal offered BOXOFFICE & Co. *about a month ago (we also refused Universal's invitation to NY for the "Underpup" premiere, Warner's request that we show up at South Bend for "Knute Rockne" and a lot of others we can't remember just now) . . . latest caviar dangled before a starving newsman and frau was an air trip to San Antonio to see "I Wanted Wings" . . . and gosh how we want 'em.*

Cuthbert Smith got Mel Evidon's name on an order for a stack of shirts . . . Cuthbert reports a thriving business along the Row and says that if he keeps on he'll sell enough tweeds and shirts up there to make up for the money he lost bringing those foreign-made films to town. . . . The high schoolers here for a massed concert at the music teachers' convention broke out of rehearsals long enough Monday noon to see "Hard-Boiled Canary."

Milt Howe writes from the coast that he spent a dime and hit the jackpot when he got the Sunday Register *magazine section with Carmen Miranda on the cover . . . Wait'll he sees Janie Withers and her album upcoming. Yourkers included colored motion pictures of Scandinavian countries in the third annual Scandinavian evening at the tearoom last week.*

Wanderings of an enfeebled mind: Would & Co. have enjoyed that drink of straight rum with Gypsy Rose Lee in her dressing room more if BOXOFFICE hadn't been there? (Now, don't tell me, ignorance is bliss.) How come Gypsy's such a good egg, with or without dressing? Why do you suppose she's so proud of the fact that she stitched that red, white and blue corset she wears in the last act all by herself?

Maxine Shaver, the cute little number stranded among that mass of men up at Iowa Film, burned her arm trying to learn to cook. 'Twas four a. m. in Guthrie Center . . . Harry Gottlieb, Earnie Pickler (UA), and Bing Miller decided that even a hot game of rummy won't keep a guy from freezing to death. Write Jere Spandau about shirts and gloves.

MINNEAPOLIS

CHARLIE WEINER attended the PRC sales meeting in Chicago. He's the local PRC franchise holder and doing a swell job . . . Norman Pyle, M-G-M exploiteer, wearing his arm in a sling. He slipped on the icy pavement and broke the wrist in three places . . . E. T. Gomersall, Universal district manager, here to address sales meeting . . . Don Buckley, popular Redwood Falls, Minn., exhibitor, up with the wife to take in the "Ice Follies."

Norman Moray, Vitagraph shorts sales manager, here for conference . . . Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included John McDonald, Barron, Wis.; Harvey Thorp, Crosby, Minn.; Dave Ratner, White Bear, Minn.; Fred Schnee, Litchfield, Minn.; Mrs. W. Fox, Warroad, Minn.; Bim Lakie, Barnesville, Minn.; "Doc" Polzer, Independence, Wis.; Leon Bach, Sauk Rapids, Minn.; Harvey Thorpe, Crosby, Minn.; Tony Paulson, Amery, Wis.; Ep Parsons, Renville, Minn.; and Bert Parsons, Springfield, Minn.

Cresson Smith, Leo Devaney and Harry Michalson, RKO western sales manager, drive captain and short sales manager, respectively, were here to address sales meeting. Then they accompanied L. E. Goldhammer, district manager, to Omaha and Des Moines for similar conferences . . . Irving Schlank, UA district manager, a visitor . . . Harry Hirsch and Harry Katz's stock burlesque at the Alvin is going great guns and all the boys are happy because the two Harrys are very popular with the gang. Everybody hopes the prosperity will continue.

That Twin City Variety Club St. Patrick Day's "Kings for a Day" luncheon was a dandy, thanks mainly to the ingenuity of Norman Pyle, M-G-M exploiteer. There were green carnations and clay pipes and tobacco at all the places and a large cluster of balloons suspended from the ceiling. At the proper time, the balloons were released and the boys scrambled for them. Inside were numbers and the eight lucky ones each received a bottle of imported Irish whiskey. Frank McInerney, a real "Mick" from Minneapolis Tribune *newspapers, told funny Irish stories. W. H. Workman, one of the "kings" for the day, also related a very funny yarn. Eddie Ruben pleaded for cooperation in the Greek relief drive. On April 14 Paul Mans and Harry Dickerman will be "kings for the day."*

"Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, in Chicago for sales conference . . . Eddie Gallagher, WCCO announcer, master of ceremonies at Montevideo Theatre style show . . . Orpheum has three stage shows scheduled, including the current one headed by Joe Reichman's orchestra.

OMAHA

A. N. von Doehren is new owner of the Manilla at Manilla, Ia., and H. M. Lowder, who formerly had the theatre at Anthon, Ia., is manager of the house. Bruce Vining, who formerly had the Manilla, went to Minnesota . . . Betty Leach is the new steno at RKO. She took the place of Fern Archer who gave up running a typewriter for washing breakfast dishes . . . A big time was reported at the United Artists party at Variety.

Last week's column was an example in perfect timing. Sol Yeager was to take a new job with Universal in Minneapolis on Monday morning and everything was supposed to be a big secret until he reported for work. Sol reported for work Monday morning at the same time Boxoffice *was being delivered to you with the news about Sol's move. He'll be office manager there . . . There will be an important change in one of Omaha's larger theatres very soon.*

Carl Reese is getting all excited about a trade screening he is planning for April 9 at the Dundee of "Sis Hopkins," which he says tops the Republic list this year. Carl says to consider this story in Boxoffice your invitation to attend the event. It will be open to all exhibitors, filmites and their friends . . . Abe Sadoff, who used to run the Granada at Sioux City, Ia., before Tri-States took over the house, was in Omaha visiting friends. He now helps his father run a clothing store in Sioux City.

Kay Stewart, daughter of Toby Stewart, exhibitor at Shenandoah, Ia., will be home soon from Hollywood for a visit. Her husband has been grabbed by the army. We're told Carl Johnson, exhibitor at Red Oak, Ia., recently played a picture in which Kay had an important part. He ballyhooed that fact, since Red Oak and Shenandoah are only 25 miles apart, and played to capacity. Kay is expected to visit Omaha Filmrow when she gets home.

Bert Beams, Red Cloud, Neb., the football fanatic; Mons Thompson, St. Paul, Neb., golfer de luxe, and Bill Granville, Quality Theatre Supply, fisherman extraordinary, attended the wrestling matches the other night. Just three big sportsmen! . . . M. Biemond, Ord, Neb., and Sol Slomenski, Loup City, Neb., were in town and admitted it is still too cold to play golf . . . Sol Francis says he would like a good plug for "Sign of the Wolf," Monogram's latest.

Oscar Hanson and S. A. Madsen were exchanging pleasantries, very unusual for an exhibitor and booker . . . Carl Reese is unpredictable. The other day he escorted Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dunn, Jewel, Valentine, Neb., to the Warner exchange, into C. K. Olson's office, and then left. That's no way to sell Republic pictures, Carl, or is it? . . . Charles Botsch, exhibitor at Leigh, Neb., was a rare visitor to Davenport street this week.

The little man with the big jobs these days is Ted Mendenhall, Paramount boss. He's co-chairman of the Greek drive in the Omaha zone and as chief barker of Omaha Variety will have plenty to do with the industry meeting here April 22 . . . Boxoffice made a lot of unproductive stops this week: Harry Shumow, Metro boss, out to lunch; Don McLucas, United Artists, about ready to leave town, out some place making arrangements; Max Rosenblatt, National Screen, out some place; Frank Van Husan, Western, out of town.

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Counter Attractions Kill Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS — The enormous business done the past fortnight by such counter attractions as the Shriners' indoor circus and the "Ice Follies," undoubtedly has drawn considerable patronage from theatres and hurt grosses substantially.

Together with the prosperity enjoyed by bowling alleys, night clubs, saloons, beer parlors and other opposing forms of entertainment, these results again are causing some local independent exhibitor leaders to assert again that the public here has been turning away from films to other amusements.

The Shriners' circus grossed $43,000 in six days. The "Ice Follies" will have finished a two-week engagement to approximately $100,000 in takings.

Then there is burlesque which is not considered among the general run of regular theatrical things. Since Harry Hirsch and Harry Katz reopened the Alvin with stock burlesque three weeks ago, they have been doing a record-breaking business.

Bowling alleys are springing up everywhere. The ABC tournament now going on in the Twin Cities, is distracting plenty of attention away from showhouses.

At the same time, regular stage shows with films have been doing very poorly of late in Minneapolis and even outstanding pictures haven't been getting the play they merit. However, it should be pointed out, straight films still seem to have a big edge over stage shows as magnets.

Tri-States Centralizing Advertising Department

DES MOINES—An enlarged central advertising department is scheduled to start operating for Tri-States Theatres Corp. about April 1, G. Ralph Branton, general manager, announces.

To head the department, Dale McFarland, who has been managing the Capitol at Davenport, will be transferred to the Des Moines offices.

Don Allen will be shifted from the Omaha at Omaha to the Capitol at Davenport, and Ted Emerson, who has been handling advertising and publicity in Omaha, will take over the Omaha Theatre.

Dorothy Day, who has been handling advertising and publicity here, will head a newly-created public relations department.

"Fantasia" May Go Into Lyceum or Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS—William Blum, representing Walt Disney, is here seeking a theatre in which to play "Fantasia." Indications are the film will go into the Lyceum or, possibly the Minnesota. It is Disney's plan to open the indefinite run here about April 15. The local showing would be the only one for the entire Northwest and the picture would not be offered anywhere else in Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana for at least two years.

Whichever theatre is selected will have to be equipped with 75 extra loudspeakers at an estimated cost of $17,000.

Four Tax Bills Aimed At Trade Discarded

LINCOLN—The last of Senator E. M. Neubauer's bills which aimed principally at the film industry in Nebraska—four in all—went into discard when, in executive committee hearing, the Orleans senator's measure proposing to tax all billboard locations 5 cents per square foot of display space, was killed.

It was estimated by billboard people that such a tax, which would be passed on to the consumer or ad buyer, would make the annual rental of the boards bounce as much as $10. There is quite a bit of national advertising by the majors plastered on Nebraska boards each year.

Thus, the horizon clears as far as legislative cloudiness is concerned.

The luxury tax measure, seeking 10 per cent of the ticket price, was killed.

So was the $1,000 annual licensing of distributors, with $1 charged for each reel of film distributed.

And, the divorcement bill, stymied in pigeonhole, probably will not see light of legislative day again.

Avon to Marvin Bank

HILLBORO, KAS.—The Avon here has been purchased by Marvin Bank, who also has the Lee in Cherryvale. Bank will take over the Avon April 1.

.....AW, SHUCKS!.....

From the Tall Corn—By KEN and RENE CLAYTON

ART FARRELL may not be subtle, but he's got finess. The dustpan he gave the popcorn girl at his Atlantic Iowa was so daintily decorated that she couldn't do any more than gasp, even when she saw the attached directions on how to use it to keep popcorn off the floor. (Art's trying to find some way to get the same idea across to the patrons now).

Afternoon naps are reported more popular than ever in Stuart since so many Stuartions have been staying awake until well after 2 a. m. listening to Lee Henry supervising the carpet laying at his theatre.

Hey, Bill, now you got us doing it . . . We mean looking up at Old Style Lager signs . . . So Woody Sherrill can't tell the Eddy boys apart, huh? It's a cinch, Woody . . . the one with the dimples and the sweet smile is Warren from Sigourney . . . the one who hides a keen sense of humor behind a cynical pan is Jack from Mt. Ayr . . . and you all know it's Pappy Eddy from Indianola when you see him tipping his hat at every Old Style sign on Grand Avenue.

Who was that old southern gentleman Nate Sandler was having lunch with the other noon at Michaels? (Nate: "That wasn't any southern gentleman I was having lunch with . . . That was Lou Elman trying to show BOXOFFICE & Co. what a fine southern accent they'd missed at the Allied Exhibitors meetings").

"That boat of mine," says Ed Mason, "is the only thing I've ever found that will make a film salesman shut his big mouth" . . . That's where you're wrong, Ed . . . It's one thing that every salesman who has ever seen it talks about. But not one has yet been able to explain how, if the British navy can't maneuver in the English channel, you can navigate that inland liner around Osage without massaging the propeller against the Spring Park dam on the turns.

Motion picture influence has reached a new high in Iowa. While faithfully hauling a one-reeler called "Twinkle Gets His Bird" from Atlantic to Stuart last week, Beryl Williams was entertained by a pheasant who made a forced landing through Beryl's windshield. But "Twinkle" didn't have his bird long. Beryl handed it to Iowa Film Driver Don Cowell, who, when BOXOFFICE suggested that pheasant was her favorite fowl, with true brotherly love gave her the bird. But not the pheasant.

Mr. Bergh is reported to have sold his Sharon at New Sharon.

MISSISSIPPI EXCURSION:

Don't let Dick Gaston's Great Dane scare you out of Fort Madison. Eleven-year-old Dickie jr. will give the hound a weight handicap and go to the mat with him any time.

Clarence Jamieson, who operates the A-Mus-U at Muscatine, is pacing the floor as pappy to a new theatre, the Iowa, and a new baby girl at the same time. Clarence's infant—the girl, not the theatre—is unreliably reported by Lou Levy to weigh 11 pounds, 2¾ ounces.

Nobody's talking business up around Waukon these days 'cause Denny's been watching the calendar and is now getting the Cota boats and fishing tackle overhauled. Ruth's no help, either. She's been busy following the high school girls' state basketball tournament. Of course there's Eaton and Paul, the Cota boys, but everybody who has seen them best their pater at target practice is afraid they might beat him at business sharpshooting, too.

The river salesmen are under the gun. They've got to get their talking done before summer weather hits Waukon or they won't be able to find Denny Cota at all. He'll be cruising up the Mississippi to Dubuque with his family. (See, Ed, you aren't the only guy with a poopdeck.)

The Docket

Detroit

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 17. Demand and submission involving clearance (Section VII). Booth Theatre, Julius D. London, owner. With: Vitagraph, Inc., Paramount Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Del, De Luxe, Whittier, East End, Cooperative Theatres of Michigan. Complainant charges he is refused reasonable clearance by Vitagraph and Paramount over Komer and Goldberg's Whittier and the Delodder Circuit's East End. Arbitrator will be Jerome G. Thomas.

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 21. Demand and submission involving clearance and some run. Julius D. London and Milton London, co-partners doing business as Midtown Theatre, Detroit. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Named as interested parties: Coliseum, Majestic, Globe, Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, Inc., Mutual Theatres, all of Detroit. Complainant charges unreasonable clearance imposed by the distributors named in favor of the Coliseum, operated by Jack Krass; Mayfair, operated by Cohen Bros.; Majestic, operated by the Schreiber circuit, and the Globe, operated by William Schuttenhelm. L. J. Carey is the arbitrator.

Cleveland

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 15. Demand and submission involving clearance dispute. Ellet Amusement Co. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., Loew's Film Dist. Co., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., W. L. Hart, Cooperative Theatres of Ohio, Inc., Milton Mooney. Named as interested parties: Norka, Rialto and Ellet theatres. Complainant is Louis Israel, owner of the Ellet now under construction on the outskirts of Akron. He claims it is unreasonable for the Norka and Rialto to hold protection over the Ellet, seeks an irrespective run and asks that existing contracts between Hart, operator of the Norka and Rialto, and the distributors granting seven days' clearance be declared inoperative.

Pittsburgh

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 17. Demand and submission involving some run and non-forcing of short subjects. Herman Lorence, 18th Street Theatre, Erie, Pa. With: Vitagraph, RKO, 20th-Fox, Paramount. Named as interested party: Mrs. John Hauer, American Theatre, Erie, Pa. Lorence claims some run has been denied him, and asks, in the event of an award in his favor, that the defendants be directed not to enforce the sale of short subjects; also that any second run contracts between the defendants and any other theatre on 18th Street subsequent to March 3, 1941, be voided.

Pittsburgh Tribunal Adds Ten Arbiters

PITTSBURGH—Additional AAA arbitrators have been named for service by the local tribunal. First nine members were announced a month ago. The new members:

William J. Aiken, attorney, Law & Finance Building.

Arthur R. Atwood, vice-president Colonial Trust Co., 414 Wood Street.

C. L. Austin, 525 William Penn Place.

Kenneth Buffington, attorney, 1415 Park Building.

Robert W. Carson, attorney, 1017 Park Building.

Alvord B. Churchill, attorney, 1515 Park Building.

David Glick, attorney, 1204 Park Building.

Edward J. Leonard, president Allegheny County Housing Authority, 510 City County Building.

John E. Winner, attorney, 1819 Union National Bank Building.

R. P. Forsberg, (chief engineer), Lake Erie & Eastern Railroad, 149 Oliver Street, Emsworth, Pa., retired.

Erie, Pa. Arbitration Bid Assails Shorts Forcing

Arbitrators Chosen In London Plaint

DETROIT—The first arbitration complaint filed here by Julius D. London involving clearance between his Booth and the Del, De Luxe, Whittier and East End of Co-operative Theatres will be arbitrated by Jerome G. Thomas, head of the business administration department of Wayne University. No date for the hearing has been set. Vitagraph and Paramount are the distributors named.

London's second complaint in the name of Midtown Theatres over clearance involving the Coliseum, Majestic and Globe, as well as the "Big Five," will be arbitrated by L. J. Carey, an attorney. No date has been set for this hearing.

Republic Regional Is Held in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—Republic's regional meet, held at the Netherland Plaza Hotel this week, was presided over by Nat Lefton. Branch Manager George Kirby, and Salesmen Rudy Knoepfle, Harry Bugie, Sam Haberer and Booker Sam Meiss attended.

Announcement was made of the 1941-42 product, which will include 30 features, 32 westerns, four serials and 12 single reelers, including eight Gene Autry, eight Roy Rogers and eight action westerns with Don Barry. Exhibitor reaction is splendid, stated Kirby following the announcement, and bookings are being filled in rapidly.

Republic will special campaign "Sis Hopkins," and is also well on the road of the Jimmy Grainger drive, set through March until May.

Veteran Cleveland Staff Behind Columbia Drive

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Columbia exchange is putting 49 years of service into the company's new goodwill drive, just launched. Of the six men in whose hands lie the standing of the local office, three have been with Columbia 11 years and one 10 years. Relative newcomers have served four and two years, respectively.

Lester Zucker, branch manager, came up from the ranks over a period of 11 years. Gregory Vogae, head booker, and Bill Gross, short subject booker, each have won 11-year service stripes. Jack Share, salesman, has been with the company 10 years. Manny Glick joined the outfit four years ago and Oscar Bloom, "the baby" in point of service, came into the group two years ago.

Sets Pete Smith's Next

HOLLYWOOD—Pete Smith's next specialty will be "The Do's and Don't of Dancing," featuring Arthur Murray.

PITTSBURGH—First complaint has been filed here under the consent decree involving dispute under Section VI (some run) by Herman Lorence, owner of the 18th Street Theatre, Erie, Pa.

Named in the petition are Vitagraph, RKO, 20th-Fox and Paramount.

Lorence, a former Pittsburgh theatre manager, and later an exhibitor at Youngsville, Pa., and Cattaraugus, N. Y., filed his arbitration complaint involving Sections VI and X of the decree on March 17 with William A. Livingston, clerk of the Pittsburgh tribunal, American Arbitration Association, Investment Building.

The plaintiff states that on March 3 and 4 he inquired for "some run" of product for the 18th Street Theatre and was denied same by the defendants. The theatre is the old Roosevelt, which he has recently purchased, remodeled and newly equipped. The house had been dark for several years.

Lorence states that the 18th Street Theatre meets every requirement under Section VI of the decree. He requests that the records of the American Theatre, Erie, Pa., and play dates for 1939-40 and 1940-41 contracts be brought before the arbitrator, who will be named 15 days after the filing of the complaint. The American is owned and operated by Mrs. John Hauer.

Demand and submission involved further states:

"If an award is made in favor of the plaintiff it is desired that these companies shall not enforce the sale of short subjects per Section IV. (b) consent decree and be so directed by the arbitrator. If the records of these companies show that any second run contracts have been entered into between these companies and any other theatre on 18th Street subsequent to March 3, 1941, these contracts be voided by direction of the arbitrator."

Cleveland Arbitration Hearing March 26

CLEVELAND—The first case of arbitration under the consent decree filed with the local arbitration office, has been set for hearing on Wednesday, March 26, at 9:30 a. m. The hearing will be held in the offices of Luke Lyman, tribunal clerk, 1314 Standard Bldg., Public Square. It is open to members of the industry.

Judge Dan B. Cull has been selected as arbitrator in this case involving protection by the Norka and Rialto, Akron, over the Ellet, now under construction and owned by Louis Isreal.

This case is unique in that it involves a theatre not yet completed. Defendants are the major distributors, Co-Operative Theatres of Ohio, Milton Mooney, head of Co-Operative Theatres, and W. S. Hart, owner of the Norka and Rialto theatres.

It's No Boom for the Trade; Wood Makes Clear Why

COLUMBUS—Nothing is more provoking to exhibitors than the realization that, although business is booming in other lines, the boxoffice in individual theatres is not following suit.

As a service to his theatres, P. J. Wood, ITOO secretary, has made a comprehensive survey of grosses in Ohio theatres. The results contained herein will surprise many theatre owners.

On the basis of the three per cent admission tax, Ohio theatres for the first 10 months of 1939 paid $947,303.64 to the state treasurer; for the same period in 1940, an increase of approximately 2¾ per cent was noted when the total came to $983,090.05. Accepted barometers of general business conditions would indicate an increase of around 10 per cent being in order.

In 1940, for the first 10 months, the average theatre in Ohio grossed $35,312; one year previous and during the same period, the average gross was $2,101.26 higher, or $37,413. To explain this wide discrepancy, in view of a total gross increase, Wood checked the number of theatres with this result: In 1939 there was one theatre for 7,875 persons; in 1940, one for 7,162.

For the first time complete tax information has been made available for publication. The following statement, covering the 10-month period ending October 31, 1940, is based on collections received by the state treasurer from the three per cent admission tax:

decrease recorded; yet theatre business dropped in 1939 in Cuyahoga, Hamilton and Lucas counties, and in 1940 Franklin county was down.

It is to be noted that theatre business as a unit is on the upgrade; only with the "new" money does the exhibitor lose ground. Unfortunately, this statement does not show all of the bad news. It is known that still other competitors are reaping huge profits, Bingo and bowling in particular. Many are the complaints regarding these "outsiders" who escape all state and federal admission taxes. Although no figures are available at this time on bowling, it is generally believed that Bingo has a take annually of around $15,000,000 in Ohio—all tax free.

The tax commission, at the present time, is studying means of taxing bowling, the ultimate aim being a duplication in effect of the admission tax. And since the legislature convened in January, it has been rumored that a Bingo tax will be brought up for discussion.

Bingo repeatedly has been held to be a direct violation of state gambling statutes, yet under the guise of charity its promoters are getting by lax regulations set up under local ordinances. Not only does the "charity" tag save arrests, but many cities, Cincinnati especially, exempt the games from any and all possible taxes: The Queen City is the hotbed of Ohio Bingo, a majority of the games coming under church sponsorship. In 1939, the games reported total

	1938		1939		1940	
ENTIRE STATE:						
Theatres	$ 942.971.48	(75 %)	$ 947,303.64	(72.7%)	$ 983,090.05	(72.3%)
All Other	314,851.37	(25 %)	355,768.18	(27.3%)	376,441.15	(27.7%)
Total	1,257,822.85		1,303,071.82		1,359,531.20	
CUYAHOGA COUNTY:						
Theatres	222,738.90	(72.5%)	*222,549.28	(74 %)	231,583.06	(73.1%)
All Other	83,779.22	(27.5%)	77,058.28	(26 %)	85,056.13	(26.9%)
(a) Total	306,518.12		299,607.56		316,639.19	
FRANKLIN COUNTY:						
Theatres	70,159.67	(70 %)	70,255.63	(67.5%)	*69,097.01	(67.1%)
All Other	29,856.22	(30 %)	33,421.50	(32.5%)	33,576.15	(32.9%)
(b) Total	100,024.89		103,677.13		102,673.16	
HAMILTON COUNTY:						
Theatres	124,564.16	(66.6%)	*121,079.69	(58.5%)	125,334.51	(56.8%)
All Other	62,862.78	(33.4%)	85,972.81	(41.5%)	94,671.19	(43.2%)
(c) Total	187,426.94		207,052.50		220,005.69	
LUCAS COUNTY:						
Theatres	50,609.96	(76.6%)	*51,382.85	(76 %)	51,634.79	(75 %)
All Other	15,447.06	(23.4%)	16,248.55	(24 %)	16,749.62	(25 %)
(d) Total	66,057.02		67,631.40		68,384.41	

(a) Cleveland
(b) Columbus
(c) Cincinnati
(d) Toledo
*Decrease

This statement proves beyond doubt that amusements, other than theatres, are more than holding their own. In only one instance, Cuyahoga county for 1939, is a

receipts of $1,924,681.19; in 1940, the take jumped to $2,381,573.15, the promoters realizing a profit of 76 per cent.

Conclusions from the data presented here are summed up as follows:

1. Total grosses in Ohio do not vary much.
2. Under existing conditions, there is no room for additional theatres.
3. New theatres profit by taking patrons from old ones.
4. Other amusements are gaining in popularity.
5. Equal taxation on Bingo and bowling (for example) would make it possible to reduce theatre admission taxes.

Noble Idea Catches Up With Theatres

Ann Arbor, Mich.—A unique form of relief aid proved a detriment to show business here over the weekend. Church groups on the University of Michigan campus united in a "Starvation Day," with the idea of eating light meals and devoting the savings to the support of scholars in Europe and China. The show angle popped up when leaders elaborated on the campaign and proposed weekend savings for the same worthy cause by having showless dates for the collegians.

Neighborhood Failure To Draw Mystifies

By ELSIE LOEB

CLEVELAND—The mystery of why trade has not picked up in the neighborhoods, grows deeper and deeper. Employment is up to peak, according to statistics furnished by the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce. People have money, but the big question is, where does it go?

Proof that people have money is demonstrated by a fact disclosed by the manager of a theatre in one of the poorer sections of town. "Formerly," this manager states, "patrons came to our boxoffice and laid down nickels, pennies, and sometimes dimes. But today it's different. They lay down bills and wait for change. Whereas during the past few years patrons just managed to scrape together enough to pay for admission, now they get change back—and that is significant."

But it doesn't answer the question of why the neighborhood grosses are down. One prominent circuit owner suggests that access to more forms of cheap entertainment is the chief reason. With competition from radio, bowling, Bingo games, etc., he argues that people now are shopping for the outstanding pictures and looking the other way when the programmers show.

In this connection, it is pointed out that patrons continue to come in droves to see "The Philadelphia Story," any of the Hardy and Deanna Durbin pictures, the Gables, "Kitty Foyle," and films of like calibre.

Fire Destroys Brown

CABIN CREEK, W. VA.—The Brown here was destroyed by fire. Owner was C. E. Brown.

PITTSBURGH

THE F. D. 'Dinty' Moores have just moved into town from Orbisonia. Newly appointed Warner exchange office manager, under Harry A. Seed, had been house hunting for several months before locating in Mt. Lebanon . . . Mrs. Art Levy and Mrs. Si Steinhauser were hostesses at a recent meeting of the Ladies Theatrical Club, with 56 present . . . Harry M. Kalmine is vacationing in Florida . . . Herbert Browar, son of the Mark Browars, a senior in the drama school at Carnegie Tech, was in charge of staging the recent musical production there, "The Beggar's Opera."

A George C. Shearer truck loaded with film and containing the keys of 27 theatres in the city area, was the object of a four-hour police search last Thursday night. The truck was recovered on Stanton Avenue after it collided with a parked auto. It had been stolen from in front of the Arsenal, Butler Street.

Dave Kimelman, Paramount manager, was around introducing Earle W. Sweigert, new district manager, who headquarters in Philadelphia . . . John H. Harris was in New York on business last week . . . New edition of Earl Carroll's "Vanities" opens in the Stanley, March 28 . . . Gabe Rubin looked over new product in New York for exhibition at his local Art Cinema. Among new bookings is the French production "Pepe Le Moko."

The Anthony Mungellos are parents of a daughter, named Ethel. Burgettstown and Slovan exhibitor and Mrs. Mungello have a two-year-old son too . . . Murray Shea of the Shea circuit was a recent visitor . . . M. N. Shapiro is at Hot Springs . . . Emil Lucas is handling the theatre Tootsie Rolls deal here. He had the Bubble Gum promotion last spring . . . Ken Hoel, Harris Amusements publicity manager, recently was in Detroit to view the Sportsmen's and Outdoor Life show, which opens here in the Gardens, April 14 . . . Malcolm Lawrence was around the other day and reported that Alvin Seiler was busy with installations in the eastern territory. Seiler operates his theatre supply business at Greensburg since closing his Filmrow display room.

Easter Sunday, April 13, will mark the opening of Kennywood Park for its 43rd season. Daily picnic season begins May 16 . . . Raymond "Bus" Poke's "vacation" fund, $125, was stolen the other night from Poke's Bowling Alleys, Shiloh Street . . . Fred A. LaBelle, Warner circuit's personnel director here, has announced the following shifts: Charles Alcott has succeeded Edward Salamon as assistant manager of the Warner; Victor Goldberg, assistant at the Ambridge, is now at the Cambria, Johnstown, as assistant; Alex Stratigos is the assistant to Bob Brown at the State, Wilkinsburg, having succeeded Walter Thomas, who has been promoted to the assistant post at the Rowland, Wilkinsburg; Al Skigen, assistant at the Manor, is now manager of the New Oakland; John Marini of the Mt. Oliver staff has been promoted to the assistant's post, and Milton Ripp, formerly Schenley assistant, is now at the Enright under Bill Hock.

Bill Nesbitt sr., veteran Filmrow employe, is looking forward to the spring and "warm weather" so that he can venture out. He is in ill health and has been confined to his room at 7723 Tioga Street for nearly nine months . . . Sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rankin of Bridgeville on the death of Mrs. Rankin's uncle, Dr. Colin R. Weirich, 84. The aged doctor of Washington, Pa., died in the home of his niece Tuesday-a-week-ago.

John A. Freinstein, formerly in the booking department, is now in charge of checking at the M-G-M exchange . . . Felix Jenkins, 20th-Fox's general counsel, was a visitor, as was William Sussman, eastern division manager . . . Archie Fineman returned from Hot Springs, stating that Edgar Moss, 20th-Fox's district manager, who recuperated from an illness there, is his old self again . . . Fredric March and his wife, Florence Eldridge, will appear in "Hope for a Harvest" at the Nixon the week of April 28. The April 7 week will find "The Student Prince" at the Nixon in another revival.

Mark Larkin, special representative of the MPPDA, was around in the interest of "Land of Liberty." New tieups include 3,000 letters forwarded by the local chamber of commerce and another mail campaign from the Council of Churches.

GENE AUTRY

Nation's Fourth Ranking Boxoffice Sensation Starring in a Return Engagement of the



WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

At The Gardens, Pittsburgh, April 30 - May 10

Is Cooperating with Theatres in a Great Promotion Wherein 300 Boys and Girls From Your Theatres Will Be Gene's Guests at a Special Luncheon in WILLIAM PENN HOTEL, SATURDAY NOON, MAY 3, 1941.

WARNING—We're Sorry, But We Must Limit the Theatres to 150 — So, First Come, First Served.

CONTACT THE "MELODY RANCH COWHANDS" AT ONCE AT YOUR FAVORITE "OLD CORRAL"

REPUBLIC PICTURES CORP.
OF PITTSBURGH
1701 BLVD. OF THE ALLIES ATlantic 4858

Top Product Draws Extra Well; Others Struggle

DETROIT—Weather was markedly better for theatres than in recent weeks, and the flu situation appears under control—subject to reservation that the week ended in a couple of wet days that might mean a serious setback. Boxoffice grosses failed to show the recovery that might have been expected from weather conditions, however, and this prevails among subsequent runs as well as in the big downtown houses.

Lent observance shares part of the responsibility, but this is merely an additional factor in the steady tale of dropping grosses—a trend noted locally since somewhat before Christmas. Exceptional attractions, however, will go way above normal for good business, as witnessed by the success of the Earl Carroll show at the Michigan, and "GWTW's" steady draw at the UA, but such exceptions only increase the spotty character of grosses. Only predictable factor is that the attraction that has b. o. "oomph" will draw far more than its normal proportionate share.

Detail for week ending March 13:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.; **Adam Had Four Sons** (Col), after wk. at Fox....120
Cinema—**Mannerheim Line** (SR) 90
Fox—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Murder Among Friends** (20th-Fox) 145
First film proved a major grosser and is holding over.
Michigan—**Four Mothers** (WB), plus **Earl Carroll's Vanities** on the stage 165
Palms-State—**Virginia** (Para't), after 2 wks. at Michigan; **Victory** (Para't) 95
United Artists—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 4th wk. 165
Wilson—**Fantasia** (Disney), 3rd wk..... 95

"Private Secretary" Leads Slow Cincinnati Week

CINCINNATI—Mickey Rooney in "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" topped grosses in a depressing week, featured nevertheless with four holdovers. "The Trial of Mary Dugan" ran four days only to be replaced by Ginger Rogers and James Stewart, the Academy Award winners, in a return downtown of "Vivacious Lady." "Tobacco Road," drew the praise of the critics, and held over with better than average business at the RKO Albee.

Detail for week ending March 13:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox) 110
Held over and shifted.
Capitol—**Nice Girl?** (Univ), 2nd wk.....100
Grand—**Trial of Mary Dugan** (M-G-M), 4 days..... 90
Keith's—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), 3rd wk., held....105
Lyric—**Virginia** (Para't), 3rd wk. 90
Palace—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M)..120
Held over and shifted to Capitol.
Shubert's—**Golden Hoofs** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 100

"Kitty Foyle" in Holdover Strongest in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH—"Kitty Foyle" and "Virginia" were strong holdover attractions here and "Strawberry Blonde" and "Buck Privates" were big winners among the new entries. Grosses were way above average all over the Golden Triangle, and this despite severe winter weather. Gene Autry made his usual good showing at the Barry. Folies Bergere stage frolic aided the Stanley where "Honeymoon for Three" was the screen feature. "Strawberry Blonde" was moved to the Warner for a second week. The Ice Follies, at the Garden, was the greatest opposition of the season, the take being around the $45,000 mark. Nixon's stage show was "Night Must Fall" and it turned in the poorest showing of the theatrical season.

Details for week ending March 14:

(Average is 100)

Barry—**Ridin' on a Rainbow** (Rep); **Arkansas Judge** (Rep) 125
Penn—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN) 135
Ritz—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO), 3rd d. t. wk.....155
Senator—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 150
Stanley—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB); plus Folies Bergere stage show 120
Warner—**Virginia** (Para't), 2nd d. t. wk.....135

WE ARE SELLING 18 WESTERNS

6 FIGHTING BOB STEELE in "ADVENTURES OF BILLY THE KID"

6 GALLANT TIM McCOY in "FRONTIER MARSHAL"

6 "The Golden Voice of the West" GEORGE HOUSTON in "THE LONE RIDER"

WE HAVE DELIVERED 12 TO DATE!

EXCHANGES



EVERYWHERE

400 UDT Employes At Theatre Party

DETROIT—The United Detroit circuit was host to some 400 employes at a theatre party at the Michigan. In charge was Don Kuhn, manager of the Broadway-Capitol.

A buffet supper was served, followed by dancing in the lobby. Among those participating were screen star, Bert Wheeler, Hank Ladd and a number of the girls from Earl Carroll's show currently at the Michigan.

Lobby Notes

Jack McPherson, National Screen manager, and his salesman, Burton Robbins, were about the only outsiders . . . Beryl "O'Bie" O'Bryan, the Butterfield marvel, turns out to be a sister of C. E. O'Bryan, manager of the Michigan . . . Hank Finney had his band up on the stairway landing.

Alice Gorham busy looking after the girls of the staff. She started the day at 9:00 a. m., taking the Carroll girls to Selfridge Field . . . Earl Hudson, UDT president, and his new assistant, Jack Keegan, among those present.

Upturn in Cleveland in Second Week of Lent

CLEVELAND—There was a slight upturn in business the second week in Lent over the first week, with "Tobacco Road" making the best showing. In fact, it did so well at the Hippodrome that it moved to the Allen for a second week on the Main Stem. In order of popular favor there was "Strawberry Blonde" doing a second stretch on the Avenue; the double feature sensational program combining "The Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" at the Lake; "Come Live With Me" at the State; "Four Mothers" and a stage show at the Palace and "Maisie Was a Lady" at the Stillman.

Clifton Webb in "The Man Who Came to Dinner" was the only stiff competition to the pictures. Weather was cold but mostly clear. Subsequents report business way below normal in spite of greatly increased employment.

Details for week ended March 14.

(Average is 100)

Allen—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN) 110
Second week on Euclid Ave. Moved over from Hippodrome.
Hippodrome—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox).....115
Lake—**The Virgin Bride** (SR); **School for Husbands** (SR) 90
Fourth week and holding for a fifth.
Palace—**Four Mothers** (WB) 85
Stage: Bobby Bryne and his orchestra, plus vaudeville.
State—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M)..... 95
To Stillman for another week.
Stillman—**Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M)..... 80

Scripting Harmon Film

HOLLYWOOD—William and Milarde Brent are scripting "Harmon of Michigan." Columbia film will star Tom Harmon, all-American grid star.

CLEVELAND

GENE AUTRY comes to Cleveland April 18 to star in the national Rodeo to be held at the Arena . . . Joe Shagrin is back in Youngstown after a month's visit with his brother, Max, in Hollywood . . . A. D. Baldwin, owner of the Almira Theatre, and Mrs. Baldwin, have finally started on their auto trip to California, after having made several false starts since the first of the year.

Jack Shulman of the Lake Theatre, Painesville, and the Lexington, Cleveland, accompanied by Mrs. Shulman and their son, left Saturday to join the Florida film colony at Miami Beach . . . Martin Printz of the Alhambra Theatre is in California . . . Harry Reinhart, Canton circuit owner, writes that his California vacation is not all roses and sunshine. Reason is that it has been raining most of the time.

Frank Weitzel, booker for the Alpine Theatre circuit, which includes the Rex, Steubenville, and the Palace, Salineville, was around the exchanges. Likewise George Fettick, Paramount Northio booker . . . With no releasing dates as yet announced, stills on "Sis Hopkins" have arrived in the Republic exchange, and they sure have class . . . Urban Anderson, president of Midwest Specialties Co., northern Ohio distributors for Panoram, states that he has 30 machines installed and in operation in Cuyahoga county. They are serviced by RCA.

The Welcome Back party staged in honor of United Artists Branch Manager Matt Goodman's return to health after a long illness, held at the Variety Club last week, was attended by about 75 film men from here and surrounding territory. Present were all of the local exchange and district managers, and many exhibitors from out of town, among others, Bob Menches, Akron; Ray Wallace, Alliance; Sam Reichblum, East Liverpool; George Manos, Toronto; George Delis, Canton; Chris Velas, Bellaire; Jerry Steel, Oberlin. Goodman was presented with a gold wrist watch.

Sid Cohen, booker for Co-operative Theatres of Ohio, is a perfect physical specimen. For proof, see the U. S. Medical Dept. All of which means that Sid won't need a new spring outfit. He'll be getting his from Uncle Sam . . . Just to show you that appearances are often deceiving—have you received one of those "arty" calendars that Lee Goldberg, PRC franchise owner, is passing out to a privileged group? Bernie Rubin, PRC office manager, has sold "The Devil Bat" to the entire Associated circuit.

It's happened before. So Ed Fisher, United Artists publicity director, saw no reason why it shouldn't happen again. So he arranged with his home office to pay the freight for a telephone call from Arthur Spaeth, film critic of The News, *to George Bernard Shaw in England, the subject of the conversation to be "Major Barbara," the forthcoming UA production of the Shaw play. Fisher had the stage all set at this end. A wire to England was cleared. The English Hello-Girl got the call, but she said she couldn't connect Mr. Spaeth of Cleveland with Mr. Shaw of England. Why? Because the phone could be used only for business of the government or of the Bank of England. Now the question is, was Ed Fisher disappointed? Or was he relieved? Anyhow, he got some free newspaper space on the story so the stunt was not a loss.*

Neil Hamilton, who hails from Toledo, Ohio, is starred in the forthcoming PRC feature "Federal Fugitive" . . . Herb Ochs and Col. Harry Long are smiling these days because one of their pictures, "I Met a Murderer," was such a success at the Alhambra it was held over for 11 days . . . Miss Betty Clifford of the Warner contract department, has announced her engagement to Mr. Harry West of this city . . . Mrs. Nat Barach and son have gone in search of summer in Florida . . . Maurice Druker, pinch hitting for Everett Steinbuck as manager of Loew's State, is getting his sunshine via lamp treatments.

Meyer Kaplan is once again in possession of the Waldorf Theatre, which he sold, in 1939 to Herman Smith . . . Pioneer Pictures, operated by Herb Ochs and Harry E. Long, is distributing "The Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" which established a record, playing five weeks at the Lake Theatre . . . Nat L. Lefton, Republic franchise owner, held regional sales meetings in Cincinnati and Cleveland last week. The personnel learned that Republic has upped its 1941-42 budget $2,000,000 and will produce 62 features and four serials.

A heavy snow storm couldn't keep away Matt Goodman's guests at the Cedar-Lee Theatre last Wednesday when he screened "Topper Returns." The picture hit on all cylinders with the invitational audience.

Nat Wolf's Men Into New Warner Lineup

CLEVELAND—Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, held a meeting of his entire zone here to discuss forthcoming releases and ways of selling them to the public. At the meeting, Wolf announced the following managers as winners in Warner's second quarterly drive: Don Jacobs, Pastime, Coshocton; Bill Dworski, former city manager in Mansfield, now at the Palace, Lorain; Grattan Johnson, Madison, Mansfield; Paul Montavon, Capitol, Sidney; Clarence Sletz, Ohio, Sidney, and Robert Lytel, State, Lima.

In addition to the winners, those attending the zone meeting were Richard Wright, assistant zone manager; Ray Brown, district manager, and the following managers: John LaDue, Strand, Akron; Ben Schwartz, Ohio, Canton; Harland Fend, Sherman, Chillicothe; Marvin Samuelson, Colony, Cleveland; Eddie Miller, Hippodrome, Cleveland; Julius Lamm, Uptown, Cleveland; Lou Milder, Variety, Cleveland; Harry Bodie, Sixth St., Coshocton.

Glenn Nelson, Harris, Findlay; Doc Elliott, Ohio, Lima; James Skelly, Sigma, Lima; Wayne Williams, Majestic, Mansfield; Irving Solomon, Lincoln, Massillon; George Frazier, Columbia, Portsmouth; J. Knox Strachan, LaRoy, Portsmouth; Joe Scholer, Ohio, Sandusky; Clarence Sletz, Ohio, Sidney, Frank Savage, Warner's, Youngstown, and E. C. Pearlstein, David Bachner and Arnold Jacobson of the publicity department.

Chakeres Adds One

HILLSBORO, OHIO—Chakeres Theatres, Inc., has leased the Forum Theatre from William Hill and Miss Edna Easter, Chakeres operates two theatres here.

A PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM



Now is the time to overhaul your program so as to put the Power into your Success that will enable you to increase your Box Office Receipts.

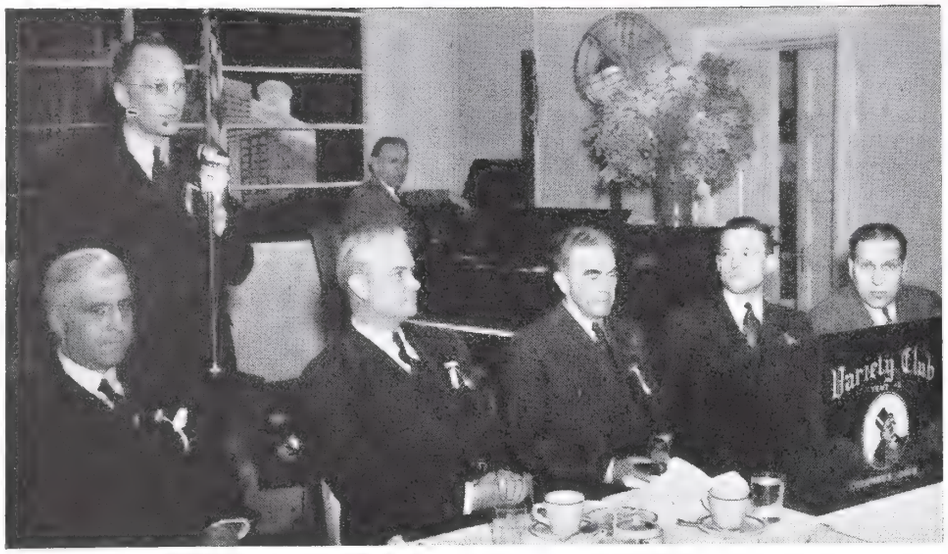
When you can have more, why take less? Half measures are unnecessary when you can expand your promotional effort WITHOUT investing ANY money and NO expense to you of any kind.

I will pack your house as I pack others, regardless of location.

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MAURICE ZELL

HOTEL HOLLENDEN CLEVELAND, OHIO



Club Meeting Draws Big Names—

Political dignitaries abounded at the meeting of the Columbus Variety Club. This view of the speakers' table reveals, left to right: Judge Carl Weygandt, chief justice of the Ohio supreme court; Myron Gessaman (at microphone), former Columbus mayor; Ohio Governor John W. Bricker; Lt. Gov. Paul Herbert; Virgil Jackson, Columbus chief barker; Col. Lynn Black, head of the state highway patrol.

Variety Club Hosts Political Figures

COLUMBUS — Important federal, state, county and city officials were guests of Variety at a "Get Acquainted Night" held at the clubrooms in the Grand Theatre Bldg. Arranged by Pete Wood, Col. Lynn Black and Myron Gessaman, some 60-odd officials were present.

Lieut.-Gov. Paul M. Herbert, acting as toastmaster, first introduced the guests, then called upon Virgil A. Jackson, chief barker of the Columbus Tent, who gave a history of the club and its accomplishments during the past ten years. Chief Justice Weygandt of the Ohio supreme court, next spoke on the need, under present day conditions, of various forms of entertainment and paid a high tribute to the amusement industry. Governor Bricker spoke in the dual capacity of an honorary member of National Variety and as a guest.

The Guests

Among the guests were Supreme Court Justices William L. Hart, Roy H. Williams and Edward C. Turner and Judge Roscoe Hornbeck of the court of appeals. The county courts were represented by Judges King, Leach, Clifford, Randall, Reynolds, Duncan and McClelland. Also Municipal Court Judges Miller, Pfefferle and Zuber.

The various state departments were represented by: Director Defenbacher, finance; Director Markwith, department of health; Director Sours, department of highways; Clarence H. Knisley, Ohio Industrial Commission; George Strain, department of industrial relations; Jacob B. Taylor and Scott E. Hambleton, director and assistant director, respectively, of the department of liquor control. The department of public welfare was represented by its director, Charles L. Sherwood, and the chief division of aid for the aged by Thomas W. McCaw. Also on hand were William S. Evatt, tax commissioner; Hugh S. Jenkins and Robert M. Hance, members of the board of tax appeals; R. P. Barthalow, chief of the sales tax division; Joseph T. Ferguson, state auditor.

Franklin county officials present were Prosecuting Attorney Bartlett, Recorder Schaeffer, Sheriff Sandusky and Commissioners Lauderbaugh and Matson.

The city of Columbus was represented by Mayor Green, Fire Chief Welch, Police Chief Kaffits, City Attorney Davies and Councilmen Hauntz, Alexander and Millikin.

Collector of Internal Revenue Harry Busey, Democratic state chairman, Freer Bittinger and Republican county chairman, William Schneider, were also in attendance.

Newsreel Censorship To Continue in Ohio

COLUMBUS—Censorship of newsreels will continue in Ohio for at least two more years.

This became apparent when the legislative house committee on education turned down H. B. 240 which would have limited censor activities to features and shorts. Previous indications had pointed to the bill passing.

Generally speaking, newspapers throughout the state favored the measure, many commenting editorially on it as "rectifying" an act violating constitutional rights. Arguments against the bill were all based on one point, namely, that abolishing censorship of newsreels would mean the department of visual education would be closed due to a revenue loss of $32,000 annually.

Speaking to the press, E. N. Dietrich, director of the department of education and nominal head of the censor board, said he objected to the bill because of the financial angle and asserted it is of vital interest to the country that a close tab be kept on newsreel content.

In 1933, newsreels were exempt from censorship, the condition lasting for 18 months.

A check by a BOXOFFICE reporter at the state house revealed that proponents of the bill are bitter at the events leading up to a cold turndown by the committee. In particular, they object to the hearing before the educational group, contending such a measure should have been discussed by a taxation committee of the house. Unless all signs prove false, it seems likely an attempt will soon be made to materially reduced the $3-per-reel censoring fee, in addition to other retaliatory moves against the board.

Intensified Drive on Bank Night Looms

PITTSBURGH—In an official statement on its tenth anniversary, the Better Business Bureau of Pittsburgh declares that "An extensive investigation of the continued local promotion of Bank Night has produced considerable material for a projected campaign against Bank Night and other forms of commercial lottery here."

No mention is made as to the type of "information" gathered or the form which the "projected campaign" will take, but the statement is generally interpreted as presaging an intensification of the BBB's recently-undertaken drive on Bank Night.

The local Kiwanis Club has adopted a resolution condemning Bank Night as "a public nuisance, a growing threat and an active deterrent to community respect of laws," and has recommended District Attorney Andrew Park to take "appropriate action" to rid the city of such "lotteries."

The BBB has forwarded at least two registered letters to each theatre in Allegheny county requesting owners and managers to discontinue Bank Night and other such "lotteries," stating that the postoffice and state courts had classified the theatre games as such. The second form letter was more or less a demand for a self-imposed ban.

AMPTO of W. Pa., at several recent sessions, has ignored the subject. The Warner and Harris circuits have also failed to indicate that they propose to discontinue the game.

Hold Roy Rogers

HOLLYWOOD—Republic has signed Roy Rogers for another term. His next is "Sheriff of Tombstone."

Buy Middlesboro Houses

MIDDLESBORO, KY.—Phoenix Amusement Company, which has long been operating Schine's Manring and Brownie theatres here under lease arrangements, has acquired the buildings housing the theatres, from Charles Otto Brown.

DETROIT

EDDIE PASCO of the White Star, Hamtramck, expects to drop out of show business in about a year—got a new line in mind . . . Clare Winnie is planning a complete change of face and name for the Wolverine as his contribution to the Michigan Avenue widening program . . . Irving and Sydney Moss of the Parkside and Van Dyke have gone to Florida . . . Lester Sturm, 20th-Fox manager, had a swell turnout for Fox Night at Variety. Jack Hurford, manager of the Fox did much of the heavy plugging for the event.

Freddie Schader, who opened "Fantasia" at the Wilson, is putting over the British Relief show headlining Gracie Fields . . . Gertrude and Bernadette Schneider of the Stratford are driving to Florida the end of the month to bring their dad home . . . Bert Wheeler, currently at the Michigan with the Earl Carroll show, was a guest of John Howard at Variety, with Phyllis Ruth, who just finished "Caught in the Draft" for Paramount and came on from Milwaukee to visit Wheeler.

Bill Flemion, Anne O'Donnell, Burt Foster and Carl Zipper of PRC are leaving to attend the national sales convention in Chicago, March 22-23-24 . . . Sam Stein, handling programs at the Michigan for the Earl Carroll show, got his questionnaire from Uncle Sam while here . . . Irony—Ray Carroll picketing the Earl Carroll show at the Michigan.

The lads and lassies from Paramount and UDT held a joint farewell party for Ed F. Hyman who leaves UDT to become assistant to Sam Dembow, and Allen Usher, district manager, who leaves this territory for Paramount. Event was at Thomas' Inn, Windsor. Jack Young of Paramount got a birchbark in upper Michigan and Mrs. Ted Ershick, with office assistance, arranged pictures of the office staff on it as a gift to Usher. Earl Hudson and John Howard, UDT and Paramount bosses, respectively, attended. Sue Brown assisted as special BOXOFFICE *reporter for the event. Jack Keegan, Hyman's successor, was introduced.*

Charlie Perry, manager of the Adams, postcards from Mexico where he's taking in bull fights . . . William Fouchey, the champion bowler of the Nightingales, became the father of a lusty seven-pounder, named Daniel, last Thursday . . . Judge Vincent M. Brennan, Variety barker, was chairman for the Sons of Erin St. Patrick's Day Party . . . Mrs. Walter R. O'Hair, women's chairman in the Tag Day drive last fall, has got the city to beautify Washington Boulevard—right in front of BOXOFFICE's office window.

Sergt. Joseph Kollar, Detroit theatre censor, has been elected president of the Lieutenants and Sergeants Ass'n, social group of the police department . . . Saul Korman of the Grant and Delray took over the Park from the Krim Brothers . . . Jack "Prexy" Saxe announces the Film Bowling League's annual banquet, Friday, April 25, at the Sky Room of the Fort Shelby Hotel.

Sid Bernstein, formerly of the Philadelphia office of Metro Premiums, has been made Detroit manager. Lillian Ambrozy, who ran the office in the interim, is over a bad cold . . . Nat Haase, premium specialist, is very happy over the way his canister deal is spreading . . . Charlie Garner had to send to Chicago for extra prints of the "Passion Play" to fill the rush of playdates . . . Dorothy Wagner, Film Exchange elevator girl, off for a month for an operation . . . Jim West is turning out those handsome photos of film men you see in the papers.

Elmer C. Barg busy checking on new theatres being built around the town . . . Barney Kilbride, circuit owner, is active as president of the board of trustees, CYO . . . M. Wesson Dickinson resigned as state official in charge of booking offices; William R. Lydon succeeds . . . Joseph Daly resigned as general manager of the Broder circuit to become house manager of Bill Guentsche's Lakewood; he succeeds Charles Lester.

Edward C. Johnson, manager of Butterfield's Westown at Bay City, is taking over the Victory there and remodeling and renaming it the City. He used to run theatres at Cassopolis and Davison . . . Steve Pemis, who is selling out the Victory, is going to Houghton, in the Upper Peninsula, where he plans to open a theatre sponsored by local merchants . . . Gus Bentley, operator of the Reading at Reading, Mich., is closing down Thursday nights. It's the weekly "church night" in this community of 950 souls, and he's cooperating.

Studying Dismissal Motion by Co-Op

DETROIT—Federal court here has under advisement a motion to dismiss the suit of Midwest Theatres against Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan. The half-day point in the long trial had been reached when plaintiff counsel completed presentation of evidence and a motion of dismissal was entered by defense counsel, A. J. Levin.

The basis of the motion was largely on two contentions: 1. That the exhibition of motion pictures is not interstate commerce within the meaning of the law, and hence that the federal court did not have jurisdiction. (The largely similar suit about five years ago of Jacob Schreiber, former owner of the plaintiff houses, against Co-Op's predecessor, Mid-States, was dismissed, largely on this ground, after it occupied a month of court time).

2. That the evidence presented had not proved the contentions of the plaintiff with regard to "conspiracy," difficulty in getting pictures caused by alleged actions of defendant, etc.

CINCINNATI

THE SEAT SALE for the Greek War Relief Fund sneak preview showing at RKO Grand, March 22, is proving so huge an extra theatre is being considered to hold the overflow. Seats are being handled by the students of the University of Cincinnati, who will also serve as ushers on the occasion, being attired in Greek costumes. Colonel Arthur Frudenfeld, RKO Theatres, is being assisted by Ike Libson and Col. Allan Moritz, Columbia branch manager, is handling the affair.

Social highlight of the week was the Bookers' Party given in honor of Para't's Bob Cummings, and Warner's Sam Oshrey, both inducted in Uncle Sam's army. Festivities included a dinner at the Hotel Alms, and both men were presented with army flash lights. Exhibitors seen at the gathering included Andy Niedenthal, Nick Schafer, Mike Spanagel, John Golden, Charley Mervis and Jimmy Woods.

Irving Sochin, UA ace representative, celebrated his birthday Saturday, March 15, by signing up for a year's subscription to BOXOFFICE . . . Greeting comes from John Schwalm, former operator of the Rialto, at Hamilton, who is sojourning in Los Angeles.

Fire caused damage to the Warsaw Theatre, Warsaw, Ky., and burned several thousand feet of film. Quick action on the part of Mark Meadows, owner, prevented serious loss . . . Lucille Hardy has been added to the United Artists' staff.

RKO office girls are contending with the salesmen in the Ned Depinet drive, now under way. Girls are writing letters and generally promoting play dates. Losers at the end of each week must contribute to a jack pot, which will be awarded to the winners at the end of the drive.

Metro's Al Hobt is proud of his 16-year-old son, Jack, who recently ran up a score of 215 pins in the Filmrow bowling league. Young Jack is pinch hitting for the boys inducted in the army . . . RKO's "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob" opened to excellent business at the Palace, demonstrating preference of Queen City filmgoers for comedies.

H. C. Kaufman, Columbia executive in charge of branch operations, here on a visit from New York. Other callers included George Myers, Frankfort, Ky.; Guy Greathouse, Palace, Aurora, Ind.; John Gregory, Far Hills, Dayton, and Tony Stern from Warner's Pittsburgh theatre department . . . Si James, Eaton and Brooksville, Ohio, exhibitor, has returned from an extended tour of California.

Charley Behlen opened his new Lincoln at Stanford, Ky., this week, with a formal reception to his many friends in the industry . . . Bob Morrell is new third booker at Metro, stepping into a vacancy caused by Bob Cummings' induction.

Gene Hensley has left the hospital where he underwent an operation, and is now convalescing at his home . . . Republic is inaugurating a James Grainger Drive for months of March, April and May, on playdates.

Dick Sonz, son of Eddie Sonz, Advertising Accessories, received honorable mention in the Riverside Military School annual at Hollywood, Fla.

Hundreds Pledge to Help Greek Cause

PITTSBURGH—Generous cooperation offered to the Greek War Relief Ass'n by theatres of the area continues with hundreds of pledges for special benefit shows, collections and donations are being received. A number of special midnight shows had been arranged for March 21. The official campaign extends over six days, beginning March 25.

John H. Harris is serving as national chairman of the exhibitors division and Harry M. Kalmine is division chairman for Pittsburgh, Washington, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Cincinnati territories. Harry A. Seed and M. A. Rosenberg are local chairmen of the distributors and exhibitors committees, respectively.

Variety is sponsoring a Greek War Relief benefit show at the Stanley, Sunday evening, March 30, tickets for which are selling at $1. C. C. Kellenberg, chief barker, serving as "king for a day" at the club's weekly dinner Monday evening, announced that Ira H. Cohn was in charge of tickets; Joe Feldman, publicity, and Joe Hiller, entertainment.

Captains for the sale include Bill Zeilor, M. A. Rosenberg, Brian McDonald, Bobby Iverson, Bob Fiske, Al Weiblinger, Harry Kramer, Herb Dimling, Dr. L. G. Beinhauer, Mort England, Leo Abernathy, John T. McGreevey, Mike Gallagher, George Heid, Joe Misrach, Art Levy, Herb Greenblatt, Mark Goldman, Buck Stoner, Ed Morton, Dave Kimelman, Tony Stern, William Finkel, C. J. Latta, E. R. Sterling, Dan Hartbauer, J. Guy Griffith, Theos. Manos, I. Elmer Ecker, Harry Feldman, Harvey Scott, Jerry Deasey, Larry Katz, Walt Framer, Perry Nathan, George Callahan, Harry Seed, Lew Lefton, Abe Weiner, Peter Dana, Art Morrone and Jim Alexander.

Mobilize Forces for Greek War Relief

CLEVELAND—Under the co-chairmanship of I. J. Schmertz, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, and John D. Kalafat of Associated Theatres, the northern Ohio trade is completely mobilized for the Greek relief drive the week of March 22-29. More than 90 per cent of the theatres in this area, Schmertz reports, have pledged themselves to some activity in the raising of funds. There will be midnight shows, special matinees or collections in one form or another.

In Cleveland, the drive is being inaugurated with a Bingo party at the Variety Club. Admission tickets are being sold to the public for 25 cents per person. The big event of the local drive, however, will take place March 26 when a gigantic stage and screen show will be presented simultaneously at Loew's State and at the RKO Palace. The show, with 20 acts, will be bicycled from one house to the other. Admission has been set at $1. Time is midnight, and no seats will be reserved. All other downtown theatres are cooperating to make the State-Palace shows a success.

Other Cleveland activities in behalf of the drive consist of midnight shows at the Shaw-Hayden with the Windameer and Jewel participating; Knickerbocker, Heights, Parma and Beach Cliff; special benefit matinees at the Liberty, Memphis-Lyceum in cooperation; Garden-Dennison Square in cooperation with the Capitol-Lorain Fulton; Milo-Mt. Pleasant; Imperial, Union Square and the Uptown-Doan.

The following theatres will make collections in the lobby and through the theatre: Hilliard Square, Homestead, Detroit, Shaker and Shore.

In the territory, the following theatres have pledged their help and aid in contributing to the $50,000 northern Ohio quota with special shows: Loew's Akron; Loew's Canton; Warner's Sherman, Chillicothe; A. G. Constant's Capitol, Bellaire; Warner's Pastime, Coshocton; Max Greenwald's Capitol, Elyria; Sam Reichblum's Columbia, East Liverpool; Warner's Ohio, Lima; Warner's Palace, Lorain; Warner's Lincoln, Massillon; Charles Settos' State, Marion; Warner's Madison, Mansfield; Warner's Lincoln, Massillon; Warner's LaRoy, Portsmouth; Seitz' State, Sandusky; Warner's Ohio, Sidney; the Regent, Springfield, and the Paramount, Toledo. There will also be benefit performances in Steubenville and Youngstown.

LOUISVILLE

IN ANTICIPATION of a business boom, theatres in Henderson, Ky., have announced plans to enlarge the seating capacities of their auditoriums, and the construction of a new house is being discussed, following the announcement in Washington that the war department has awarded a contract for the erection of a new $15,000,000 anhydrous ammonia plant there.

The Chickasaw Amusement Co., Inc., operators of the Rex Theatre, Humbolt, Tenn., will begin the construction immediately of a new house to be called the Humbolt. The building will include store and offices. Full upholstered chairs have already been ordered, along with air conditioning. The house is planned to seat 1,000 with a separate balcony for Negroes. A big shell-loading plant is being built at Milan, not far from Humbolt.

The State Theatre, Milltown, Ind., damaged by fire earlier this month, is repairing damage. Blaze started on the stage and gutted the interior of the building. The house is owned by R. L. Harned who also operates the Empire, Sellersburg, Ind. . . . It is reported that Bill Hay is planning to build a new picture theatre in Charlestown, locale of a new powder plant.

The Tacoma Building, housing the Tacoma Theatre, has been damaged by fire. The theatre auditorium was virtually destroyed. The theatre was operated by A. J. Ackerman . . . Lloyd Johnson is constructing a new theatre in Hyden, Ky.

J. P. McAlarnis has installed new lamps and rectifiers in his Hardburly Theatre, Hardburly, Ky. . . . New rectifiers also have been installed in the Downs, Louisville, owned by Leo Ciacio . . . The Rex, Louisville, has purchased a new generator.

D. G. Steinkamp has purchased for the English Theatre, English, Ind., a new rewind, film cabinet, and fire extinguishers . . . The father of W. P. Ballinger, RCA installation man for this territory, was seriously injured in an automobile accident on the Dixie Highway this week . . . Fred J. Dolle, president of the Fourth Ave. Amusement Co., owners of several theatres in Kentucky and Indiana, has been confined to St. Anthony's Hospital here for a rest.

The New Lincoln, built by Charles H. Behlen and Harry C. Congleton, at Stanford, Ky., opened with very gay festivities Wednesday evening. Following a parade by two high school bands and a large display of fireworks, some of the speakers heard included Federal Judge J. N. Menefee, Mayor W. P. Grimes, Supt. F. N. McWhorther of Stanford Schools, and W. E. Carrell of Falls City Theatre Equipment Co.

United Detroit Opens 19th in Birmingham

DETROIT—Opening of the new 957-seat Bloomfield in Birmingham, Detroit suburb, makes 19 houses for United Detroit Theatres circuit.

The public opening was preceded by a preview opening, the proceeds of which went to a community fund. Earl J. Hudson, president of UDT, presided at a dinner at the Community House, which preceded the preview affair, and Bert Wheeler, in Detroit for an engagement at the Michigan, contributed his talents to the event.

Flowers for the opening were received from Frank Wetsman, W. J. Turnbull, National Theatre Supply; Cinema Service, Frank Lorenzen, Bennett & Straight, architects; Pontiac Local of the IATSE, Pearson and Glass, and Thomas DiLorenzo.

The house was built by Elbridge G. Newhall and Carl Krueger. The latter is now associated with Jam Handy, commercial film makers.

Opening Threatened by Labor Difficulties

DETROIT—Labor difficulties similar to those that stopped the opening here of the big Royal in December, were re-enacted on a smaller scale with variations when UDT opened the Bloomfield at Birmingham.

Shortly before the opening, the Pontiac IA Local entered into negotiations with the house management demanding that it employ a stagehand. The theatre, without adequate facilities for a stage policy, contended no stagehand was required for the theatre. A secondary cause of difference arose over a wage scale for the projectionist.

The house was enabled to open by agreement, however, and the subject of employing a stagehand is slated for further negotiation.

Weekend Trucking Ban Threatens in Ohio

CLEVELAND—Taking the lead in combating a threatened measure to be brought before the Ohio legislature which would call for the barring of all trucks from the highways from noon Saturday until Monday morning, is the Ohio Ass'n of Film Carriers, headed by L. C. Gross.

Gross points out that the bill would affect the delivery of all films and accessories on the heaviest days, and with the majority of the theatres changing on Saturday night, would be a great handicap to the exchanges, as most of the cities are serviced by truck, the films being returned the following morning.

Free Defense Trailer

DETROIT—National Screen Service has prepared a special trailer for statewide distribution at no cost to all theatres. It deals with the national defense registration, according to Jack R. McPherson, NSS manager.

Plan in Springfield For Greek Cause

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—As a part of the industry's national effort to raise $1,500,000 for Greek war relief, midnight stage and screen show will be held at the Paramount here next Friday. All theatres in the Connecticut Valley from Thompsonville to Brattleboro, and also those in North Adams and Pittsfield will cooperate.

From Greek Independence Day, March 25, through March 30, collections are to be taken in theatre lobbies.

Plans for the benefit show were made here at a meeting in the home office of Western Massachusetts Theatres, at which Nathan E. Goldstein, circuit president, presided.

In attendance besides Goldstein were: Herman Rifkin, president of the Liberty Theatre Corp.; William Powell, division manager, Liberty Theatres Corp.; George E. Freeman, manager, Loew's-Poli, Springfield; Andrew A. Sette, manager, WB's Capitol, Springfield; Samuel Wernick, owner of the Wernick, Chicopee Falls.

Edward Smith, Paramount manager, Springfield; Ernie Whitford, E. M. Loew's Court Square, Springfield; Harry Smith, division manager, Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc.; J. M. Jerauldl, director of publicity and advertising, Western Massachusetts Theatres; Charlie R. Smith, manager Broadway, Springfield; Louis Levine, Rivoli manager, Chicopee, and George Laby, manager of the Victory, Holyoke.

Theatres in the following cities and towns will participate: Springfield, Chicopee, Chicopee Falls, Holyoke, Northampton, Greenfield, Brattleboro, North Adams, Pittsfield, Westfield, West Springfield, Indian Orchid, Windsor Locks, Thompsonville, Palmer, Amherst and Easthampton.

Committees in charge: Stage show, George E. Freeman; tickets, Andrew A. Sette; publicity, William Powell; radio, George E. Freeman; trailers, J. M. Jerauld; mayor's committee, Harry Smith; operators and stage hands, Harry Smith.

George Laby, manager of the Victory, Holyoke, and William Powell, division manager of the Liberty Theatres Corp., will handle arrangements in Holyoke, Northampton, Amherst and Easthampton.

Stage and Screen Show Planned in Worcester

WORCESTER, MASS.—Plans for a special stage and screen show at the Loew's Poli here for the benefit of the Greek War Relief Fund were made at a meeting recently.

Those attending were Angelo Cotsidas, Edward R. Lorentzen, Walter Hazelhourst, representing the Musicians' Union; Harold H. Maloney, manager of the Loew's Poli; Chris Tsouris, Charles Davis, and William F. Brown, manager of the Park and Greendale theatres; Joseph M. Anstead, Loew's Poli Elm Street manager; Ernest Anderson; W. J. Ryan, Olympia manager.

Robert R. Portle, manager Loew's Poli Plaza; Bruno Weingarten, manager of the E. M. Loew's Family; R. J. Owens, manager, Plymouth; Ernest Sharaf, Rialto; Edgar Lynch, Warner manager, and George A. Smith, Royal manager.

Harold H. Maloney is chairman of the general committee in charge.

Train Big Trade Guns On Censorship Bill

BOSTON—Hopeful that unified opposition might kill in committee the proposal for a state film and vaudeville censorship commission, industry representatives appeared before a hearing held by the legislative committee on state administration.

Joseph Brennan, local MPTOA executive secretary who was the principal speaker for the industry, recalled how an effort to apply film censorship in the Bay State via the referendum route was defeated (in 1922) by some 600,000 votes to 200,000. Brennan pointed to the fact that although six states had censorship regulations before that time, no additional states have applied such restrictions since 1922.

Viewed as perhaps the most potentially dangerous bill filed during the present biennial session, the measure would set up a motion picture and vaudeville commission composed of three members, all to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the executive council. Not more than two of the trio would be members of the same political party. The three would be designated in the specific terms to serve for one, two, and three years respectively. One would be named by the governor as chairman.

Leo Sullivan and Thomas P. O'Neill jr., sponsors of the bill, urged that the censorship commission would have the authority to establish and maintain offices and bureaus for the screening and censorship of films and vaudeville acts.

The commission would have full power and authority to make, amend, and to revoke rules and regulations correlary to this authority. The commission, too, would be empowered to summon witnesses, administer oaths, and to require the production of documents and records at any hearing before it on any matter within its jurisdiction. Any members of the commission might sign a summons and administer an oath.

Films and vaudeville acts might be refused licenses for exhibition in Massachusetts if, in the opinion of the commission, "such film or vaudeville act or a part thereof is obscene, indecent, immoral, inhuman, sacrilegious, or, of such a character that its exhibition would tend to corrupt morals or incite to crime."

Would Except Newsreels

Newsreels would be excepted from provisions of the proposed law and would be permitted to show without inspection of any sort. Also excepted would be films or vaudeville acts "of a strictly scientific character intended for use by the learned professions," if such film or act were not to be shown in any public or private place of amusement. It would also be possible for the commission to issue, without censorship, special permits for films or acts intended solely for education, charitable or religious purposes.

The proposed law provides that redress to public hearings would be available to anyone aggrieved by censorship decisions of the commission. Also available would be appeals to superior court charges if made within ten days. Such decisions would be final.

A license fee would be set up at $3 for each 1,000 feet of original film or fraction thereof and $2 for each vaudeville act.

Any change or alteration in a film or vaudeville act if a license or permit has been issued, except the elimination of a part or excerpt upon the written authority of the commission, would void the license on that particular piece.

Also censorable would be all sorts of advertising, any of which might be banned, licenses rescinded, and fines levied if, in the opinion of the same proposed commission, "such advertising might be termed obscene, indecent, immoral, inhuman, sacrilegious, or of such character that its exhibition would tend to corrupt morals or incite to crime."

Tickets on Sale for Show in Hartford

HARTFORD — Tickets for the midnight stage and screen show for Greek War Relief, March 29, are now on sale at Hartford theatres. The show will be held at the local Loew's Poli and will include vaudeville, features and shorts. Louis A. Cohen, manager of the Loew's Poli, is also general chairman in charge of arrangements.

Midnight Show for Greek Relief at Metropolitan

BOSTON—A midnight show at the Metropolitan in behalf of the Greek War Relief Fund is scheduled for March 22. Tickets were on sale at all downtown theatres for the affair which was billed as a "sneak preview."

Assisting Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres Corp. partner, who is drive chairman in New England, have been Jack Goodwin, Robert Sternberg, Harry McDonald, Charles Kurtzman, Norman Ayers, I. J. Hoffman, Nathan Yamins, Harry Zeitz, Archie Silverman, Paul Levi, Joseph A. DiPesa, Martin Glazer, Jack Granara, and Harry Browning.

Run Two Months Behind In Fulfilling Orders

BOSTON—In many instances fulfillment of orders for construction material and equipment is running at least two months behind, according to Kenneth H. Douglass of Capitol Theatre Supply Co.

The company stocked up on air-conditioning equipment by purchasing all such systems used at the New York World's Fair. These, says Douglass, have been tested and overhauled.



—Photos by Sheridan

At the First Boston Board Hearing—

Scenes from the hearing on the Benjamin Gold arbitration demand that ended in the entering of award consents in favor of the Nashua, N. H., exhibitor. At the top, the session. Clockwise, C. F. Young, appearing for 20th-Fox; Edward F. McClennan, for Paramount and Warner; Arthur L. Brown, arbitrator; Henry de la Morandiere, tribunal clerk; George S. Ryan, attorney for the plaintiff; Benjamin Gold. Center, left to right: Harry Alexander, 20th-Fox exchange, Boston; Edward X. Callahan, 20th-Fox Boston manager, and Tom Bailey, 20th-Fox district manager. At the bottom are Arthur K. Howard, secretary of the Allied unit, and Ryan.

: As Gold Complained :

BOSTON—*Text of the demand for arbitration filed by Paulstan, Inc., pleading for some run, following which defendants filed consents to the entry of an award, is presented herewith.*

To Henry de la Morandiere, Clerk of the Tribunal:

The undersigned, in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration and Appeals, demands that the controversy hereinafter described be submitted to Arbitration under the Motion Picture Consent Decree, and files herewith a Submission dated February 13, 1941, in accordance with the provisions of Section XXII, subdivision 9, of said Decree.

1. *Statement of Claim and Relief Sought:*

The complainant operates the Park Theatre in Nashua, N. H. It can satisfy reasonable minimum standards of theatre operation and is reputable and responsible.

The distributors named herein have refused, and do refuse, to license any of their feature pictures for exhibition in the complainant's theatre on any run, in violation of Section VI of the Consent Decree.

The complainant seeks the following relief:

1. A finding that the distributors hereinafter named, contrary to the provisions of said section VI, have refused to license their pictures to the complainant for exhibition in its theatre; and

2. An award directing the said distributors to offer their pictures for license to the complainant for exhibition in said theatre on a run to be designated by the distributor and upon terms and conditions fixed by the distributor and which are not calculated to defeat the purpose of said section.

2. *Name and Address of Each Exhibitor or Distributor Against Whom This Complaint Is Made:*

Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 1501 Broadway, New York, N. Y.; Vitagraph, Inc., 321 West 44th Street, New York, N. Y.; RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 1270 Sixth Ave., New York, N. Y.; Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp., 444 West 56th St., New York, N. Y.

3. *Name and Address of Each Theatre Involved in Controversy:*

Park Theatre, 72 Main St., Nashua, N. H.; State Theatre, Nashua, N. H.; Tremont Theatre, Nashua, N. H.

4. *Name and Address of Each Other Exhibitor and Distributor Whose Property Complainant Believes May Be Affected by an Award in the Arbitration Proceeding:*

Colonial Theatre Company of Nashua, N. H.

Dated:

Date of Filing: February 13, 1941.

Filing Fee Received: February 13, 1941.

(Signed)

HENRY DE LA MORANDIERE,
Clerk.

Benjamin Gold, Complainant

Address: 72 Main Street
Nashua, N. H.

Hearing Details In This Issue

A summary of the hearing before the Boston arbitration board appears in this issue on page 6.

The Docket

Boston

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance dispute. Garbose Bros., Athol, Mass. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., RKO Theatres, Maine and New Hampshire Theatres Co., Loew's Boston Theatres. Named as interested parties: York, Metropolitan, Paramount and Fenway, Boston; Fitchburg, Fitchburg. Named as interested party: George A. Giles Co., Cambridge, Mass. The Garboses, operators of the York and Capitol in Athol, claim their houses are first run and seek such designation day and date with the Boston and Fitchburg theatres named.

Disposals

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 13, disposed of March 14. Ben Gold, operator of the Park, Nashua, N. H. With: Paramount, Loew's, Vitagraph, RKO, 20th Century-Fox. Gold alleged inability to secure major product, charging two units of the Shea circuit in Nashua with having tied up product he seeks to buy. Arthur I. Brown, arbitrator, directed the five distributors named to offer pictures for license to Park for exhibition to July 31, 1942 on a run to be agreed upon. Gold had the support of local independent exhibitor organization.

$120,747 in New Army Contracts for Conn.

NEW HAVEN—This week's army contracts to Connecticut firms totaled $120,747. In New Haven the only firm to benefit was American Steel & Wire Co., $26,949. American Brass of Waterbury had the largest single contract, amounting to $56,876. Hartford and West and East Hartford received $16,657; Bridgeport, $6,746; Waterbury, $58,197; Meriden, 1,913; Bristol, $1,689, and Waterville, $8,698.

Humphries in the Army

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.—Bill Humphries, assistant manager at the Strand here, has left for a year's service in the army under terms of the Selective Service Act. Steve Wallack, formerly doorman, has been moved up to the vacated post.

German Films Free

NORTHAMPTON—Three German films were exhibited in Sage Hall, Smith College. Showings were open to the public, with no tickets being required.

BOSTON

SAMUEL HORENSTEIN, Massachusetts and Rhode Island distributor of the Manley (Burch) Theatre Popcorn Machines, has just installed two new machines for Nathan and Sam Goldstein, Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., partners. One went into the Broadway in Springfield, while the other was set up at the Rivoli in Chicopee . . . A. C. Chadwick, operator of the Conniston in Newport, N. H., has had the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. install a new screen in his house . . . Charles G. Pickett, manager of the Davis Square in Somerville for E. M. Loew, has also gone for a similar innovation.

Henry Armetta, the film star, in town . . . Rex Ingram, here in a stage role, and Lewaune Kennard, appearing with Ingram in "Cabin in the Sky," were married last week . . . Jack Goodwin, managing director of the Metropolitan, has been supervising renovations of the de luxe house prior to its housing the Metropolitan Opera Co. . . . Martha Heffner, daughter of the operator of the Tower in Lowell, was home briefly from Westbrook Junior College in Portland . . . Harry Asher of Producers Releasing Corp. has received prints of "Federal Fugitives," starring Neil Hamilton.

Frederick E. Lieberman planned to open his new house at Upham's Corner in Dorchester, possibly this week, as the paper went to press. Installation of chairs was all that was holding up the project . . . John F. Caskey, 20th-Fox attorney who has been here as one of the defense attorneys in the Waldo Theatre Corp. antitrust case, was on the west coast last week . . . Ben Gold, operator of the Park in Nashua, N. H., was on the sick list . . . Joe Druker, father of Mel Druker, who recently opened a new motion picture house in Taunton, the State, has been in Florida. The elder Druker operates the Grand in Taunton . . . Nathan Yamins, Fall River exhibitor, was in Florida last week.

Nellie McLaughlin, who recently resigned as office manager for Harry Segal at Select Attractions, has joined Mary Sullivan, formerly of the Catholic Film Service, in operation of the Little Cinema House at 234 Clarendon Street in Boston . . . Corey Richmond, manager of the Hollywood, East Providence, has signed with Michael Hurney of the Good Will Advertising Co. to put Bank Night into the Rhode Island house, beginning March 26 . . . Lou Newmann, manager of the Trans Lux in Boston, has held "The Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" for a fourth straight week.

Frank Lydon, hospitalized Independent Exhibitors president, has been wondering who sent him that "family album" picture of the south end of a horse heading north . . . Harry Goldman, president of the Motion Picture Salesmen's Club, called a luncheon meeting of the organization the other Saturday in the Hancock Room of the Statler . . . Jack Yonkers has had new lamps installed at the Thompson Square in Charlestown . . . William Pur-

(Continued on page 79)

Trade Unscathed Thus Far By Hartford Legislators

NEW HAVEN—With two-men-in-a-booth defeated for the seventh consecutive legislative session, Sunday Bingo also killed, and copyright societies and boiler bills awaiting committee reports, organized exhibitor attendance at Hartford is practically at an end for the session.

H. B. No. 2353, a bill filed in skeleton form under the title "Taxation of the Moving Picture Industry," and reported to impose a tax on gross receipts of theatres over $500 weekly, was scheduled for hearing by the finance committee Tuesday.

The booth bill, filed as a safety bill requiring that no operator leave the operating side of a motion picture machine while in operation, was reported unfavorably by the judiciary committee and rejected by the senate. At the request of Senator Rourke, the bill was subsequently placed on the calendar for reconsideration. In the debate which ensued, Senator Coles explained the bill would work an unnecessary hardship on small theatres.

Herman M. Levy, executive secretary of Connecticut MPTO; Lawrence C. Caplan, executive secretary of Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut, and several exhibitors attended the hearing before the judiciary committee on copyrights and copyright societies. Discussion resolved itself mainly around H. B. 1635, a bill requiring composers of music to register the names of their compositions and the prices at which various classes of users might use or perform these compositions, with the secretary of state. In addition, the bill would require copyright societies to secure a license in this state and to pay a three per cent tax on gross earnings computed annually. Two other bills requiring licensing asked a levy of a 25 per cent tax on such societies.

Louis Feinmark, New Haven attorney, speaking in favor of H. B. 1635, explained the payment of score charges in film rental and the "unfair" exaction from exhibitors of a second fee for performance of the same compositions by Ascap. The purpose of the bill, Feinmark explained, would be to permit the exhibitor to pay performance fee for the songs he uses without paying a flat fee for all songs controlled by Ascap whether he uses them or not. George LeWitt, operator of the Strand, Plainville, and Arch Street, New Britain, also speaking in favor of the bill, accused Ascap of "intimidating" exhibitors and maintaining its "own Gestapo" in the state.

Speaking in opposition to the bill were R. W. Rome, New England district manager of Ascap, and Attorney Arthur Klein of New Haven. Rome pointed out this was definite anti-Ascap legislation and spoke of the consent decree in the government suit as the charter on which Ascap now operates. Klein pointed out that legislation similar to these proposed bills had been ruled unconstitutional in Tennessee, Nebraska and Florida; that such information as was required to be registered by the bills, was already on file in the federal copyright office; that the bills came under the heading of class legislation and called for an unreasonable exercise of police power, and that the cost of enforcing such legislation would be prohibitive to the state.

H. B. 1147, a bill requiring licensed persons to run boilers or engines operating on more than 15 pounds of pressure, was urged by the Connecticut State Association of Engineers. Such a requirement would affect many theatres, it is reported. Proponents pointed out the danger of corrosion and defects, and maintained that increase in the periodic boiler inspection now conducted would not remedy the danger. Herman M. Levy, Connecticut MPTO executive secretary, spoke in opposition to the bill, considering its requirements "unnecessary" and working a hardship on business men who do not now have special employes for boiler operation.

H. B. 923, creating a $12,500 revolving visual education fund for operation and maintenance of motion picture equipment, slides, and films in schools, has been transferred from the education to the appropriations committee, and is set for hearing March 25.

H. B. No. 245, exempting from inspection machines using only 16mm or less cellulose acetate film, except in regular theatres where an admission fee is charged, was adopted by the house.

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HARTFORD

JACK A. SIMONS, formerly manager of the Loew's Poli here and now director of Loew's State, Providence, visited here last week. By the way, Jack's wife and daughter will be living in Hartford until June when the daughter's school term will end . . . Helen Lee, Loew's Poli relief cashier, has resigned . . . James F. McCarthy, Strand manager, got a roto break on "Cheers for Miss Bishop" in the Sunday *Courant* . . . William Beebee is the new Loew's Poli usher, replacing Myron Nieman, resigned . . . Meetings are being held daily at the Loew's Poli by the Greek War Relief committee. Lou Cohen, manager of the Loew's Poli, is general chairman . . . Jack Galinsky has joined the Loew's Poli usher corps . . . Seymour "Rosie" Rosenberg, formerly house policeman at the main stem Proven Pictures, volunteered for a year's army service . . . Bernie W. Levy, Proven Pictures manager, was in Boston on business . . . Mrs. M. Oakley Christoph, *Courant* film critic, weekended in New York.

Hillmer D. Robinson, formerly assistant manager of the E. M. Loew's, is now stationed at Camp Edwards . . . Marquee of the State, Waterbury, has been repainted. Prices at the State, which were upped some time ago to 35 and 50 cents Sunday, have been pushed down to the regular 33 and 44 cents . . . Freddie Perry, assistant manager of the Lyric in Bridgeport, had a birthday recently . . . Oliver Mantinzi, manager of the Interstate Palace in Rockville, has left for a year's service in the army . . . The fellows at the Strand have received a card from Mrs. Alice Ericson, who is on two-month sick leave in Los Angeles.

Horace Heidt and his band are due at the Harris Brothers' State soon . . . Everett Harris has resigned as assistant manager of the Hamilton in Waterbury . . . Lou Cohen, Wallie J. Cooper and Russell F. Grant of the Loew's Poli staff are planning big things for "Tobacco Road" . . . Maxie Rudnick and Ed Madden of the Lyric, Bridgeport, have taken over the Bridgeport Stratfield Hotel Annex on a 10-year lease . . . Stephanie Kalinowski, candy girl at E. M. Loew's, is now wearing glasses . . . Seymour Kimenker is a new Loew's Poli Palace usher, succeeding Freddie Mueller, resigned . . . Myron Neiman has replaced Andrew Ryack as doorman at the Loew's Poli Palace . . . Lou Brown, Loew's Poli publicist, was in town from New Haven to see Lou Cohen and Fred R. Greenway, Loew's Poli and Palace managers, respectively . . . Ruth and Paul Draper appeared at Bushnell's.

Catholic Women's Club sponsored a benefit theatre party at the Windsor, Windsor, with a matinee and evening performance. "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" and "In Old Colorado" were shown . . . Rosalind Russell, picture star and Waterbury native, has been appointed an honorary colonel of the 102nd infantry by Col. Ernest E. Novey of Torrington.

Builds Apartment Building

LITTLETON, N. H.—John B. Eames, Littleton exhibitor, is erecting an apartment building here at a cost of approximately $116,000.

Roy Heffner Enters Slot Film Field

BOSTON—Roy E. Heffner, Bank Night pioneer and national distributor of Good Will Award, is the latest industry figure to become involved in the slot machine projector field. Heffner, through the Middlebury Corp., has signed with Mills Novelty Co. for distribution in four Massachusetts counties—Plymouth, Barnstable, Duke and Nantucket.

William H. McLaughlin, former Independent Exhibitors, Inc., director, has a franchise for Essex county. Leon Task, operator of theatres in Milford and Campello, has an important financial interest in the New England setup. Others in the local film field are also involved in the promotion.

On the other side of the fence, another film segment is working for a Massachusetts law "to supervise and license the showing of 16mm or 35mm films or other sizes for public or private exhibition by means of automatic, coin-in-the-slot or similar talking motion picture projection devices."

Arthur K. Howard, local business manager for Allied States Ass'n, is behind the bill which would necessitate approval by the department of public safety on the location of such devices and the issuance of an annual license by the same department at a charge of $50 per machine.

Each individual subject would have to be supervised and approved by the department of public safety at an entailed inspection charge of $10 per subject and an additional charge of $50 for license. No date for a public legislative hearing has been set.

Bank Night Cleared in Hub Municipal Court

BOSTON—Roy Heffner, Bank Night distributor, cleared the theatre premium scheme in another court when Judge John G. Brackett found Bank Night not guilty on a lottery charge in the local municipal court. George S. Ryan, attorney, defended the giveaway on lottery charges brought by local police authorities. The test case was based on operation of Bank Night at Convention Hall.

Orders Discontinuance Of All Cash Drawings

NASHUA, N. H.—Prompted by a supreme court decision declaring such functions illegal, Chief of Police Ralph A. Stearns has ordered Nashua theatres to discontinue all forms of cash drawings.

Deny Glassman Plea

BOSTON—Norman Glassman, operator of the Rialto in Lowell, was denied a plea in abatement in a motion to amend answers in connection with a royalty collection suit brought against the Merrimack Amusement Co. by Roy E. Heffner, Bank Night assignee. George S. Ryan represented Heffner. The case will be heard soon.

BRIDGEPORT

PHILIP SCHWARTZ of the Parkway is back from a trip to Boston where he has been looking over new equipment . . . Gene Tierney made a personal appearance at the Fine Arts in Westport in connection with the showing of "Hudson's Bay" the day before she started back for the west coast . . . Lou Brown was in from New Haven.

Jerome J. Comboy, projectionist at the Majestic, and his wife were in New Haven to see the stage play "Tobacco Road" . . . Payrolls in this defense-busy city increased nearly 50 per cent in February over the same period last year. The weekly February payroll averaged $1,826,233 . . . The Fine Arts, Westport, gave away 25 prizes nightly during its anniversary week.

Herbert Young jr., director of first aid and life saving for the local Red Cross, sent a telegram of sympathy to the fire chief at Brockton, Mass., for the dozen men killed in the Strand Theatre fire. Young formerly managed the theatre and was personally acquainted with the men killed . . . Michael Carroll played "Land of Liberty" as a benefit for the Harding High night school at his American . . . The Hippodrome has started a new glassware deal.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Schuman of the Black Rock were in Atlantic City four days celebrating their tenth wedding anniversary . . . Sam Haddleman, Capitol manager, feels he can settle down to work once more now that the big wedding for his sister, Dorothy, is past history.

Frank Toth, for five years projectionist at the Colonial, was in the city on leave from Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. Toth reports he is the camp projectionist and has complete supervision of all motion picture equipment . . . Additions to the usherette staff at Loew's Poli include Marie Brook and Lois Bump . . . Stanley Harlick has succeeded Charles Beatty as doorman at the Globe . . . Mr. and Mrs. Michael Carroll were New York visitors.

Mrs. Sara Levine, her daughter, Bess and grandson, Myron Ballen, have returned from Miami Beach. Mrs. Levine is vice-president of the Strand Amusement Company . . . Jimmy Vizzio, formerly of the American staff, and now stationed at Fort Terry, N. Y., returned here with his battery's basketball team for a game . . . Ralph Mauro jr., son of the sound engineer, has recovered from an attack of mumps.

Marie Allard is the new relief cashier at the Hippodrome . . . Frank Matera, assistant projectionist at the American, has shifted to the Community, Fairfield. Tony Traginese, an usher at the theatre, replaces him in the booth as apprentice to Walter Nitsche . . . Ruth Block has succeeded Julia Greenstein as night cashier at the Warner . . . Harry Kaplan, assistant projectionist at the Colonial, is due to enter the Army soon . . . Mrs. Charles Levine and her two daughters, Marjorie and Janice, are in Florida. Mr. Levine is president of the Strand Amusement Company . . . Walter Chop has joined the usher corps at the American.

NEW HAVEN

BIG GREEK WAR RELIEF show scheduled for midnight, March 29, at all Loew-Poli "A" houses, is shaping up, as weekly meetings add new details to the plans. Sensational headline acts are being lined up, and the picture will soon be announced, as well. Worcester show has been changed to March 28 to avoid Sunday permit. Bob Russell, general chairman in New Haven, is doing the big job of distributing large blocks of tickets (at 75 cents) and stepping on advance sales . . . Sam Badamo, program chairman, is traveling to New York to talk about the stage portion of the entertainment, lining up operators', musicians' and stage employes' union cooperation, and promoting air-time to plug the show. Lou Brown has been promoting one-sheets. Lou Schaefer is chairman of publicity and John Hesse of trailers. I. J. Hoffman is in charge of all the theatre activity in the drive for this zone.

The Warner exchange staff dined its two heroes of the week, William Dwyer, availability clerk, and Pete Canelli, assistant shipper, both off to camp. After a dinner at Murray's, they'll be dreaming about it in the army, the boys received a gift of $15 *each from the office . . . Domenick Somma, assistant shipper at 20th-Fox, writes he will shortly be transferred from Camp Devens to Georgia . . . The staff is mailing Domenick a Schaefer pen and pencil set . . . Sidney Lax, Columbia shipper, was scheduled to leave the 21st . . . Sperie Perakos is at Ft. Terry and John Perakos was saying goodbye to the boys on Meadow Street before joining the Marines . . . Ruth Calechman, daughter of Barney Calechman of the Howard, has announced her engagement to Lieut. Cyrus Stephson of New Haven, off for Ft. Wright . . . Mickey Mattes, son of Abe Mattes, joins the boys at Camp Devens, March 28 . . . Bob Johnson, son of Adolph Johnson of the Strand, Hamden, has been deferred a month while he takes the ensign's exams . . . Katherine Bolton stays on as a new office staff member at Warner.*

The Gilded Dome at Hartford is teeming with life these days, as bills of all kinds are being ardently sponsored and protested before the various committees . . . The house adopted the good old fashioned last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving last week. Present at the hearing on copyright performance rights and copyright societies bills were Lawrence C. Caplan, executive secretary of Allied Theatre Owners of Connecticut; Herman M. Levy, executive secretary of Connecticut MPTO; Adolph Johnson, Al Robbins, Dan Pouzzner, Joseph F. Reed, Harry L. Lavietes, George Comden, Martin Keleher and George LeWitt. Louis Feinmark spoke in favor of the bill which would require composers to register names and performance prices of their songs with the secretary of state, and copyright societies to be licensed here and to pay a tax (ranging in several bills from three to 25 per cent). George LeWitt of Plainville and New Britain spoke for the bill, while R. W. Rome, New England district manager of Ascap, and Arthur Kline, its local attorney, called the bill a direct anti-Ascap measure, unconstitutional, and impractical from the standpoint of expense to the state. Two-men-in-a-booth bill died again, but not without a struggle.

Joseph Faith finally opened his 650-seat Carberry, Bristol, with Paramount's "Biscuit Eater" and Columbia's "Music in My Heart". A big, appreciative crowd greeted the opening. Public officials made speeches. General color scheme of the house is rose and turquoise. One of its outstanding features is a broken plane glass treatment of the exterior doors. Two murals flank the proscenium. Standee room and lobby have fluorescent lighting. Henry Germaine and William Hutchins represented Meadow Street at the opening . . . George LeWitt is completing redecoration of the Strand, Plainville, and is now starting on his air-conditioning system . . . Reports persist that College, New Haven, will be reseated and renovated this spring, although so far there has been no sign of action.

Congratulations to the Morris Haddlemans of Shelton, whose daughter, Dorothy, was married Sunday at the B'nai Jacob Synagogue to Archie Aarons of New Haven . . . Jim Casey of the Colonial, Canaan, was quietly married a few weeks ago . . . B. E. Hoffman is vacationing at White Sulphur Springs . . . Harry Fishman is back at the Community, Fairfield, after a Florida vacation . . . Lee Alderman, Warner exchange contract clerk, returned to her desk after a six-week leave of absence following an operation . . . Mrs. Sidney Levine and Michael are thrilling the Nat Fursts (Monogram) with a visit in Boston . . . Irwin Wheeler was a visitor . . . Maurice and Mrs. Wolf stopped in New Haven on their way back north from Florida; then motored on to Providence to dine with their son, Norton, at Brown . . . Tom Donaldson, Metro Boston manager, is sunning in Florida . . . Sam Calechman of the Howard and Mrs. Calechman are en route to Miami Beach.

Mrs. Morey Goldstein, wife of the new Metro manager, visited New Haven with a view to settling the family in the Elm City . . . Gus Schaefer was an RKO visitor for several days . . . Rocco Longo of the Community, Oakville, spent a week in Philadelphia . . . Harold Eskin, Stamford and Newark exhibitor, is readying for a second trip to Florida this winter, stating it was too cold the first time . . . The Lou Moscows of Progressive Premium, and Leo Schapiros, Guilford Theatre, are driving to Miami Beach . . . Mike Tomasino took his first vacation in 21 years while son Angelo carried on at the White Way and Victory . . . Tomasino and Tony Casella drove to Miami . . . Ralph Mauro of Altec looked over the district . . . Al Robbins of the Strand, Hamden, was that handsome governor's footguardsman in the parade to the station when the National Guards left for Florida . . . A. Ender and G. Haupert are the Columbia auditors in town.

Charles Aaron is at the Metro office . . . Bob Munzner, College assistant, is eagerly awaiting the opening of the trout season . . . Bill Hutchins of National Theatre Supply will soon be tuning up his boat —if the Sound isn't mined . . . Mrs. Louis Pratt of Deep River is home from the hospital . . . Mrs. Lee Malcarni of Essex Square still reported ill . . . Al Robbins is driving a sleek new Cadillac with automatic windshield washer . . . Tom Grogan, formerly of Warner's State, Manchester, will be manager at the Strand, Thompsonville . . . Jack Glackin is back at the Arch Street, New Britain, after an attack of the flu . . . Bill Benson of Universal dared the snowstorm to call on the Arch Street, but had to be shoveled out . . . Alf Hitchcock couldn't have been as proud of his "Thirty-Nine Steps" as Larry Caplan of his son's first three.

Pete DeFazio is so busy getting dates for the Sears Drive, in which the local exchange leads, that he comes home with the milkman these days . . . The O'Toole-Lourie-Swirsky drive picture is attracting plenty of customers to the Columbia office . . . Harold Rubin is singing the new Metro Premium theme song and exhibitors are invited to join in the chorus . . . New multi-giveaway in glass is at the Plaza and Carroll, Waterbury; Community, Oakville, and Hillcrest, Taftville . . . "Early Bird" show at the Poli, Bridgeport, went over so well, it will be tried every Friday at 9 a. m. . . . Snowstorm cut into Saturday early morning show advertised for the Paramount, then called off. The Roger Sherman is using the trolley dashers . . . Big bands are still drawing well Sundays at the Lyric, Bridgeport . . . Arena will have big vaude again at the end of the hockey schedule . . . Avon had second week of "Come Live With Me," following a run of "The Baker's Wife."

Bob Russell and Nat Rubin have fixed up a strikingly novel corner lobby for "Ziegfeld Girl," with a modernistic Broadway scene in luminous paint on a black velvet background, on which an ultra-violet lamp plays. Whole thing has a stencil effect. In the foreground, 10 inch beauty cutouts from *Esquire* are mounted on a treadmill . . . The Harry Shaws write a wish-you-were-with-us from Hawaii . . . George Weber writes from Cleveland, "Having a wonderful time, if I could only afford it" . . . Columbia vs. 20th-Fox battle of pins resulted in a Columbia win, 1,568 to 1,220. Leo Jacobson was the star with a 352 score . . . The Germaines against Columbia will be the next bowling classic at the Roger Sherman alleys Tuesday.

Lend Hand to Bereaved Families of Firemen

Springfield—In respect for the 13 firemen who lost their lives in the Brockton, Mass., theatre fire, the Massachusetts house was recessed for two days.

Before the adjournment, Rep. Joseph H. Downey and Charles J. McCaffrey of Brockton urged Governor Saltonstall to allocate $5,000 from his emergency fund for the victims' families. From all parts of New England money is being received from various organizations for the bereaved families.

Have a Good Time For Worthy Cause

BOSTON—Members and friends of the Boston Cinema Club danced and dined in numbers Sunday evening at the Cocoanut Grove in the Boston film district.

The affair, the most successful of similar annual fetes sponsored by the organization, was conducted in behalf of the charity chest of the film fraternity whose credo is: "It is our aim, regardless of race, creed or color, to supply such moral, financial or physical aid as needed and required to those of our industry who may be in need."

Abe Barry of Columbia was chairman in charge of arrangements. Tom Fermoyle of the M&P Theatres Corp. was chairman of the dance committee, William J. Cuddy of RKO, and Charles Wilson of Republic handled the programs, while Sam Berg of 20th-Fox and Charles Repec of M-G-M comprised the ad committee. Larry Herman of the Ralph Snider circuit was chairman of the printing committee.

General oversight of the affair was in charge of the officers and executive board, Berg, Cuddy, Repec, Dave Grover of RKO, Tom O'Brien of Monogram and Harry Smith of RKO.

Commemorated were: Dave Adams, Louis M. Boas, Harry Decker, Charles Dempsey, T. A. Donahue, Joseph Dondis, John Francoise, George A. Giles, Cyrus Goff, Abraham Goodside, Charles Graham, F. Green, Ernest Hortsmann, E. R. Hutchinson, B. L. Kearney, William Kelly, Jacob Laurie, William Lillis, John B. Magann, Al O'Neill, C. W. Rackliffe, Anthony Romano, Chester Swain, M. A. Shea, Howard Smalley, James Thornton, Owen Thornton and Leo Westfield.

Members of the Cinema Club, which is composed of exchange and circuit bookers and office managers are: William Alperin, Abraham Barry, Louis Beckman, Samuel Berg, Phillip Berler, Jack Brown, Max Burlone, Jerry Callahan, Joseph Carroll, Michael G. Crowley, William J. Cuddy, Neil Dennehy, Matthew F. Donohue, John A. Downing.

Walter G. Dyer, Edward M. Feltman, T. F. Fermoyle, Ted Fleisher, Arthur E. Frank, J. Warren Gates, Walter C. Gillis, J. A. Glazier, G. N. Govan, Henry Greenberg, Leo E. Griffin, Eugene J. Gross, David W. Grover, Larry Herman, George Hershenson.

Herbert F. Higgins, Seigfreid Horowitz, William M. Kumins, Eli Leavitt, Nat Levin, Robert Levine, Samuel Levine, George Levy, H. O. "Bud" Lewis, Edward Maloney, William J. Mulcahy, Norbert E. Murray, Nathan Oberman.

Thomas F. O'Brien, Charles Repec, Samuel L. Richman, Julian S. Rifkin, Harry Schlar, Daniel Seletsky, John C. Shea, Walter Silverman, Harry P. Smith, Elmer Turnquist, Harold Wiesenthal, Al Wheeler, Charles D. Wilson, Frank J. Wolf and Harold E. Young.

Greeting the assembled guests, President Berg thanked them for their support of the organization declaring, "Your continued patronage, evidenced by your attendance here this evening, makes possible a host of benefits to our less fortunate associates in the motion picture business. We thank you for making such possible and pledge ourselves anew to the relief of those who most require it."

Henry Armetta Attends Curran Testimonial

BOSTON—Henry Armetta, appearing in town at present, was one of the film personalities appearing at the testimonial all-star show and reception tendered George E. Curran, former local IATSE figure, at the Boston Opera House. Joe Rubin, brother of Benny Rubin of the films, was the master of ceremonies.

Theatre men serving on the committee in charge included Charles Van, Frank Killen, Max Ulin, James J. O'Brien, T. Frank Meagher, John J. O'Connor, William J. Strout, Herbert Swartz, Hugo J. Lundgren, D. David Berig, Frank Fine, Charles S. O'Connor, Harry B. Grages, Albert Carnes, Jerry Mahoney, John J. Keilty, John Bartlett, Joseph L. McGovern, John Buckley.

Hyman Kolen, George Demeter, Charles Levine, John H. Howard, Newman C. Fielding, John J. Daunt, Joseph L. Murphy, Edward A. Spry, John W. Shanley jr., Arthur McCarron, Charles Haskins, Clayton Hartford, Ignatius O'Connor, Edward Powers sr., Edward Powers jr., F. J. Dobbratz, William Bonner, Joseph L. McCarthy, Ben Goodman, W. J. Goldston and John J. Levy.

Gun-Checking in Bridgeport

Bridgeport, Conn.—They have to check their "guns" when they attend shows at Loew's Globe. Manager Harry Rose inaugurated the system when he discovered youngsters were lugging cap pistols into the theatre every time he had an action drama and were shooting them off to keep company with the action on the screen.

A one Sunday haul netted more than 25 cap pistols plus one long hunting knife. And so far no youngster has failed to report at the manager's office after the show to collect his gun.

Manager Rose sometimes wonders what a search of the adults would reveal.

Only One Film Snipped By Bay State Censor

BOSTON—"Framed for Murder" was the only feature out of the list of 35 to be censored, in the latest group to be passed for Sunday showings in the Bay State by Eugene M. McSweeney, commissioner of the department of public safety. The only cuts in the Northeastern release were two bits from the sound track, "Wag it a little" and "for cripe's sake."

Johnny Downs and five other acts were censored before being granted Sunday permits. Ten acts were okayed in the original, while three others were refused Sabbath permits.

Boston Film Censor Clips "Shark Woman" Scenes

BOSTON—John Spencer, city censor, took another step under the provisions of his recent censorship ultimatum to local theatres and distributors, when he clipped scenes from "The Shark Woman," newly acquired Edward Kleine exploitation picture given a bandbox opening at E. M. Loew's Gayety in Boston.

Adult Rating for Three By Springfield Council

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The Springfield M. P. Council's weekly classified list of forthcoming films:

Adults only—"Monster and the Girl," "Adam Had Four Sons and "Play Girl."

Adults and young people—"Maisie Was a Lady," "Come Live With Me," "Cheers for Miss Bishop," "Lady Eve," "Las Vegas Nights," "Penny Serenade," "Dr. Kildare's Crisis," "Footsteps in the Dark," "Father's Son," "Sea Wolf," "Blondie Goes Latin," "Go West," and "Convoy."

Family—"Hard-Boiled Canary," "Arkansas Judge" and "Land of Liberty."

Lent and Snow Storm Formidable in Hub

BOSTON—Snow and sleet storms, combined with Lent, were too much for Boston first-run houses last week. "So Ends Our Night" and "Maisie Was a Lady," at Loew's Orpheum was the best draw during the stanza. It was one of the few weeks this year that no films were held over for the coming week.

Detail for seven days ending March 14:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**"Flight From Destiny"** (WB); **"Great Mr. Nobody"** (WB) 65

Keith Memorial—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Play Girl** (RKO), 2nd wk. 45

Loew's Orpheum—**So Ends Our Night (UA); Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M) 95

Loew's State—**So Ends Our Night** (UA); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M) 75

Metropolitan—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Golden Hoofs** (20th-Fox) 70

Paramount—**Flight From Destiny** (WB); **Great Mr. Nobody** (WB) 60

Weekend Storm Topples Grosses in New Haven

NEW HAVEN—The weekend snowstorm made roads impassable and kept the customers home shoveling. Loss of business was estimated at 30 per cent because of this, exhibitors stating loss of weekend business is rarely made up during the week.

(Average is 100)

College—**The Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 75

Loew-Poli—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col) 95

Paramount—**The Mad Doctor** (Para); **The Monster and the Girl** (Para) 90

Roger Sherman—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Remedy for Riches** (RKO) 85

Expect Little Trouble From Anti-Noise Law

BOSTON—Industry executives here believe that a newly enacted anti-noise ordinance will have little, if any, effect on local film houses. The measure, now in effect, has set a $10 fine for keeping a dog given to excessive barking, playing the radio so loud as to disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of any neighbor within 50 feet, sounding a horn of a motionless automobile, and making any other "unreasonable loud, disturbing or unnecessary noises." It is felt barkers employed by any number of downtown houses will not be interfered with unless they ballyhoo too blatantly.

Hearings Due to Resume In Waldo Trust Suit

BOSTON—Hearings before Francis Freeman, master in the Waldo Theatre Corp. vs. the late Joseph Dondis, et al., anti-trust suit, were scheduled to resume late this week following a recess granted on request by defendant's counsel.

Hold "Western Union"

HARTFORD—"Western Union" was held over for a second week at the Loew's Poli Elm Street, Worcester; Palace, Hartford, and College, New Haven.

Now a "Holdover," Says Lydon

Boston—Frank Lydon's sense of humor held up last week despite the fact that the Allied eastern regional vice-president continued on the danger list at St. Margaret's Hospital in Dorchester. A letter received by BOXOFFICE here from the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., president read:

"Am being 'held over' for a second week. This is known as the 'holdover that hurts.' And I may even be stretched for a third week. Best regards to everybody."

BOSTON

(Continued from page 75)

cell has gone for new RCA sound at the Strand in New Bedford, Capitol doing the job.

William Riseman and Alex Lercari, local theatre decorators, have contracted with Harold Eskin for remodeling of the College in Bethlehem, Pa. . . . Frankie Thomas has been in town . . . George Kraska has held the 16mm "Here Is Ireland" for a tenth consecutive week at the Fine Arts . . . Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres Corp. partner, and chief barker of the Variety Club in New England, is lining up members to attend the national convention in Atlantic City, March 15, 16 and 17 . . . Morris Noons, New England premium man, has been south . . . Charles Kurtzman, Northeastern divisional manager for Loew's, left town for a circuit tour.

Al Rudenstein, operator of the Capitol in Bridgewater, is using small-sized window cards with easel backs . . . Theodora Lytle, secretary to Arthur K. Howard, brought the first breath of spring to the film district in the form of forsythia for the local Independent offices . . . Lou Brown, Loew's Poli advertising manager, plans a Florida jump . . . Kenneth Douglass of Capitol Theatre Supply will furnish air-conditioning facilities for the Comique in Camden, Me., proposed new Graphic circuit house. The new Sam Kurson structure will replace a decadent 28-year-old house.

Morris Saffner, operator of the Olympia in Woonsocket, is hypoing interest in heralds by numbering and displaying them in his lobby, on specified days, lucky numbers for free admissions . . . Charles Pickett, manager of the Davis Square in Somerville, has formed an "Our Gang Comedy Club" at the suburban house with Spanky McFarland as honorary president. Youngsters are given membership cards. After any respective card has been punched 12 times for attendance at Sunday afternoon shows, it automatically becomes a one-show pass for the holder.

WHNY to Debut

HOLYOKE, MASS.—WHNY, new Holyoke-Northampton radio station located in South Hadley, will make its debut Sunday.

SPRINGFIELD

STEVE COLTER, Loew's-Poli projectionist, is due back from a Miami vacation . . . Now vacationing in Miami is Mrs. Mildred McCarthy, mother of Kathleen McCarthy, secretary to Walter Vincent of the Loew's real estate department, Springfield . . . A meeting of IATSE Local 86 was held at the Central Labor Union Hall . . . Carl A. Jamroga, manager of the Jefferson, was in New York for several days . . . Charlie Cross, assistant manager at the Interstate Empire, Fall River, has left for a year's service in the army . . . Jack O'Leary, manager of Interstate Old Colony and Plymouth in Plymouth, held benefit performances recently for the aid of Plymouth, England . . . William Powell, division manager Liberty Theatres Corp., tripped to New York . . . The Playhouse, Laconia, has instituted a "Family Night" every Tuesday evening at reduced prices.

William Scanlan, stage manager of Warner, Lynn, and international trustee IATSE, was in New York on union business . . . Manager George E. Freeman, Loew's-Poli, held a special showing of "Land of Liberty" for members of the Springfield Motion Picture Council and city officials . . . J. B. Maroney, Loew's-Poli stage hand, is planning a vacation in Wyoming . . . Eddie "Bus" Warner is a new Broadway usher, succeeding Ralph LaFluer, resigned . . . Richard D. Leeson has replaced Victor Schumway as usher at the Broadway . . . Mrs. Alice Patterson, Arcade cashier, was out with the grippe for a few days . . . "Burt" Campion, stage manager of the Brockton, Brockton, recently observed his 25th year in show business.

Upside-down advertising was part of Loew's-Poli Manager George E. Freeman's "Go West" campaign. Everything was topsy-turvy, including the letters on the theatre's marquee and lobby displays . . . Mrs. Elizabeth Fermenteno, owner of the Lee, Lee, was in Boston . . . Eddie M. Dowling, manager of the Capitol, Pittsfield, was on the sick list with a sore throat . . . James Harrington is new on the E. M. Loew's Court Square ushers' staff. He succeeds Bobby O'Neil, who has left for other fields . . . W. D. "Pat" McGhee, field representative for E. M. Loew, has been touring the northwestern territory . . . Riverside Amusement Park will reopen on or about May 1, reports have it.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Rifkin of the Liberty Theatres Corp. are in Miami on a vacation, of course . . . Altec Service has signed a contract with Liberty Theatres Corp. for sound service in booths of the Suffolk and Majestic in Holyoke . . . Eugene Keenan is now handling the Burns, up in Newport, for the Graphic circuit, while his brother, Neal Keenan, is now manager of the Grand, Ellsworth. Arthur Rowe has been transferred to the Regal, Franklin, and Lloyd Hellman, former Regal manager, has been appointed new field manager for that circuit . . . Victory, Holyoke, has been reseated . . . Slated for redecoration are the Strand, Westfield, and the Rivoli, Chicopee . . . Calvin, Northampton, will soon be reseated . . . Short circuit in electrical equipment at WB's Capitol caused a little trouble there last fortnight.

Wanda DuMoot, French singer and dancer who appeared with Maurice Chevalier in three motion pictures, appeared at the E. M. Loew's Court Square . . . George Starr has succeeded William Viau as usher at F&M's Art . . . Ruth Weed, F&M's Art candy girl, likes to knit in her spare time . . . Edward J. Carroll, owner of the Riverside Amusement Park, was elected first vice-president of the New England section of the National Ass'n of Amusement Parks, Pools and Beaches, Inc., at a convention in Boston. John T. Clare of Crescent Park, Providence, was re-elected president . . . Eileen Jenison of the Brockton, and Clara Luther of the Rialto, Brockton, were in Boston to see "Bringing Up Father."

The Merrimack Square, Lowell, has inaugurated a Monday night radio show entitled "Wheel of Fortune" . . . Frank Brien of the Merrimack Square in Lowell is now in Uncle Sam's Army . . . Twenty-fifth anniversary of Fall River Local 426 was recently held at a Fall River restaurant, with President George Sullivan, Center projectionist, presiding . . . In Springfield was Maurice Radin of the Peoples' Candy Co., Worcester . . . Nothing has been heard of late in theatrical circles concerning the proposed Forest Park open airer.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Alves have returned from a honeymoon in Florida. Mr. A. is with the Merrimack Square, Lowell . . . The newly-opened State, Taunton, is now charging 10 cents for kiddies and 15 cents for adults at matinees, and 30 and 20 cents at night. House has continuous shows, beginning at 1:45 p. m. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Shaw of the Loew's-Poli circuit have been vacationing in Panama . . . George E. Freeman, Loew's-Poli manager, is getting set for April showing of "Tobacco Road" . . . Soldiers from Westover Field have been helping theatre receipts.

Demands All Out Drive On Beano Racketeers

BOSTON—A drive on "racketeers" who operate Beano games in Massachusetts with the idea of putting them out of business, is demanded of Atty.-Gen. Robert T. Bushnell by P. D. Chase, city councillor. Chase charges the attorney-general's office has been "derelict in its failing to investigate the Beano racket in this commonwealth." Chase described Beano conditions as a "crooked, scandalous mess."

Maine Civic Theatre to Feature Film Product

PORTLAND — The Maine Civic Theatre, formerly a legit, has been reopened as a film theatre by the New Bedford Amusement Co., Inc. Harry Smith, one-time manager of the Strand here, will manage. From time to time the house will feature roadshows and vaudeville.

PROVIDENCE

LENT apparently not being enough of a handicap, Rhode Island theatre men have been taking additional punishment from the weather man this month . . . Worst sufferer of all from last weekend's storm was George Cronin, city manager for Associated Theatres. En route home after closing up the Empire, Cronin's car skidded and hit a tree. Result: Car badly damaged; Cronin suffering loss of several teeth, lacerations of face and scalp, and thorough shaking up.

Phil Engle, Warner exploitation expert, in town to work with Al Clarke, manager of Majestic, in putting over "Meet John Doe," which was premiered in New England area at that house, opening March 21 . . . House Manager George French and RKO interests cooperating with Rhode Island Council of Churches again this year for showing of "King of Kings" at the Albee each morning during Holy Week. Admission for these morning shows free, with silver collection being taken up at door by churches for financing future showings of film.

Eddie Dowling, playing at Playhouse in "Time of Your Life," made a curtain speech criticizing Providence's censorship which demanded certain lines in the Saroyan prize play be altered for its presentation here. Dowling's opinions, he being a local lad who made good on Broadway, have carried weight and as result considerable controversy now under way against the bureau of police and fire "one-man" censor board . . . Ed Morey, Republic representative out of Boston, ran down to look over Susanna Foster during her p. a. at Strand here.

Bingo parties will be eyed more carefully by Providence bureau of police and fire, the bureau having put the games under "new regulations" in effort to "confine the games to legitimate charities and to prevent commercialization under the guise of charity." Hereafter, no licenses will be issued unless games are conducted in quarters of sponsoring organization . . . Assistant Manager John Hodge in charge at Strand while Manager Edward L. Reed enjoyed a fortnight's cruise to Havana in company of Archibald Silverman, president of theatre corporation.

VAA Abandons Affair

HARTFORD—Chick Pontillo, vice-president of the Vaudeville Artists' Ass'n, announces the organization has been forced to abandon the floor show and dance scheduled for the Club Ferdinando here April 7. Reason is the approaching date for hearing at the general assembly of the 10 o'clock curfew law affecting women entertainers in this state.

Hike for 14,000

BOSTON—The Heywood-Wakefield Co., theatre chair manufacturers, has granted a five per cent wage increase to their some 14,000 employes with many of them located at the plant in Gardner. "Improved business conditions" was given as the reason.

Handling Entertainment For Salesmen's Affair

BOSTON—Harry Goldman, president of the Boston Motion Picture Salesman's Club, is in charge of entertainment for the organization's forthcoming charity dinner and ball at the Cocoanut Grove, April 20. Maynard Sickles of Capitol Theatre Supply, Harry Rosenblatt of M-G-M and Sol Simons of Columbia are serving with Goldman.

Sickles, secretary of the organization, has charge of tickets and reservations. Mac Farber of Producers Releasing Corp. and James Connolly, Jack Felone and Matty Simons of 20th-Fox are assisting Sickles on the ad committee.

Theatrical Post to Talk Plans for Barn Dance

BOSTON—A barn dance is expected to become the film district's newest diversion. The Theatrical Post of American Legion plans to sponsor such an affair in the near future. Plans will be discussed at the next Legion meeting, scheduled for April 7.

Charles Maturo Leases New Haven Fairmount

NEW HAVEN—The 410-seat Fairmount, in the Annex sector of the city, has been leased to Charles G. Maturo, a newcomer to the business. Charles Cole previously operated the house for less than a year under lease from J. DiFrancesco, owner.

"Fantasia" Into Eighth Roadshow Week in Hub

BOSTON—"Fantasia" has gone into its eighth roadshow week at the Majestic with substantial reductions in admission prices announced for relief societies, civic, fraternal, musical and school groups.

Curb on Billboards

CONCORD, N. H.—Prospects of a ban on the erection of any more billboards here are seen in amendments to the zoning ordinance which have been drafted for final action at the April meeting of the board of aldermen.

Fire Threatens Theatre

HARTFORD—Damage amounting to approximately $30,000 was caused when a two-alarm blaze started in the Allyn House building next to E. M. Loew's. Helen Smith, cashier at the theatre, summoned the fire department.

Stamford Station

STAMFORD—The Federal Communications Commission has authorized Stephen R. Rintoul to construct a radio station in Stamford to operate on 1,370 kilocycles with power of 250 watts, unlimited time.

Gives National Guard $100

WATERBURY, CONN. — Rosalind Russell, film star and native of Waterbury, has contributed $100 to the local National Guard welfare fund.

NEW BRITAIN

PAT McMAHON, State manager, reports the theatre's marquee will soon undergo renovations . . . Nick Kounaris, copartner of the Roxy, was in New York on business . . . William E. Clancy, former New Britain police commissioner, is now night doorman at the Embassy, succeeding Angelo Aganciann, resigned . . . Eleanor Broviak has replaced Mary Sheehan as cashier at the Strand . . . Phil Demas, Roxy manager, was in Hartford.

Jack Glackin hosted some 90 members of M Company, National Guard, at a showing of "Here Comes the Navy" at the Arch Street . . . Phil Demas, manager of the Roxy, has raised a mustache . . . Paramount's "Virginia" was held over for four days at the Strand . . . Martin Gosden has succeeded Edward Abrahams as a member of the service staff at the Embassy.

Joe Witkin is a new usher at the Embassy . . . Peter Perakos, Palace owner, was in New Haven on business . . . Republic's "Hit Parade of 1941" and "Oklahoma Renegades" were shown at Peter Perakos' Palace.

Harry Smith Drive

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—J. M. Jerauld, director of publicity and advertising for Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., announces that a "Harry Smith Drive," in honor of the division manager's 33rd anniversary with the circuit, will be launched about May 1 for a 12-week period. Cash prizes will be awarded to theatre managers for best exploitation campaigns.

Three Building

HARTFORD—The announcement by Fred Quatrano, Waterbury theatre operator, that he will build a 690-seat theatre in Newington, makes three houses in this area now being constructed. The others being built in this territory are the Peter Perakos-Joe Quittner East Hartford theatre, and the Webster Co. Wethersfield house.

New Carberry Opens

BRISTOL, CONN.—The new Carberry has been opened by Owner-Manager Anna Flynn, who, for the past ten years, has been assistant to Joseph W. Faith, prominent Connecticut exhibitor. Miss Flynn is believed to be the first woman to own and operate a theatre in Connecticut.

A Variety Social

BOSTON—Members of the Variety Club in New England and their ladies attended the organization's first social get-together Tuesday when a buffet lunch, followed by a special screening, was held at the Hotel Statler.

Son to Petersons

BOSTON—Wilbur Peterson, operator of the Orpheum in Somerville and vice-president of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., last week became the father of a six-pound boy.

The Docket

Dallas

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 28. Demand and submission involving clearance and some run. Joseph's Drive-In Theatre, Austin, Tex. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., M-G-M Pictures Corp., Loew's, Inc., M-G-M Dist. Corp. of Texas. Named as interested parties: Interstate Theatres, W. G. Underwood and Claude Ezell, both of Dallas. Complainant charges the three distributors have refused to sell him product. He seeks to license their product and also asks that his clearance be established under Section 8 of the decree.

New Orleans

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 17. Demand and submission involving some run (Section VI). Modern Theatre, Inc., (drive-in theatre), Charles J. Woolner, president. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 6. Demand and submission involving some run. Drive-In Theatre, operated by Charles Woolner. With: Loew's, Inc.

Variety Club Formed In Charlotte, N. C.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Charlotte Variety Tent No. 24, recently organized, received its charter at a dinner at Hotel Charlotte attended by 165 members, local dignitaries and national officers. Highlight of the elaborate festivities was the presentation of the charter by John H. Harris of Pittsburgh, Pa., national chief barker, to H. H. Everett, chief barker of the Charlotte tent.

Preceding the presentation Harris and other national officers spoke to the group on the organization and work being done by the 24 Variety tents throughout the country. R. J. O'Donnell of Dallas, Texas, first assistant chief barker, made a brief address, and James G. Balmer of Pittsburgh, treasurer, performed the induction ceremony. Judge Frank Sims of Charlotte served as toastmaster and introduced numerous local guests. Prior to the ceremonies, a film depicting national charitable work of the organization was shown.

Officers, besides Everett, are Benn Rosenwald, first assistant chief barker; John Vickers, second assistant chief barker; John Bachman, property master; and H. F. Kincey, dough guy. Canvassmen are Bob Ingram, Tom Little, Hi Holston, Jimmy Prichard, Bert Adams and Frank Beddingfield.

The Variety entertainment committee is considering schedules for Saturday night jamborees.

Wives of Variety members inspected the quarters this week at a reception to which each was allowed to bring a guest.

K. Lee Williams to Open At Fordyce on April 1

FORDYCE, ARK.—K. Lee Williams expects to have the new Pine Theatre here ready for opening by April 1. This 480-seater will be the 18th link in the Williams chain.

Williams recently assigned Victor Farrar, for the past two years an exploiteer for the K. Lee Williams Roadshow Attractions of Oklahoma City, to the helm of the Pine, Dierks, Ark., succeeding Ermel Holder.

New Chain Is Planning 12 Georgia Houses

By A. JULES BENEDIC

ATLANTA—Persons interested are doing but little talking, but it became known this week, from a usually reliable source, that a new company is forming to erect theatres in a dozen Georgia cities and towns.

Along Atlanta's Filmrow the proposition for weeks has been only a rumor, but this week a few details were learned.

Concretely, your newsboy learns that Oscar Housner, described as a New York attorney, formerly a southern exhibitor, is back of the deal, with N. Emile Savini, veteran Atlanta exchange man and former exhibitor, slated as general manager of the setup. Capitalization of approximately a million dollars is understood back of the projects, on some of which initial steps already have been taken.

Half a Dozen to Start Off

Half a dozen theatres will be erected initially, it is stated, one each in Milledgeville, Americus and Athens, while two are planned for Macon, one for white patronage, one for colored. The two towns last named long have been Lucas and Jenkins strongholds, although Macon has an additional independent house owned by Fred G. Weis of Savannah. Milledgeville and Americus long have been controlled by Roy Martin, powerful 100-unit circuit owner of Columbus.

Housner, it is understood, was in Atlanta three weeks ago, and made a trip over Georgia, accompanied by Savini. The pair also visited and discussed sites in Canton, LaGrange, Columbus and Valdosta and other Georgia cities. Canton and Columbus are Lucas and Jenkins spots, although in the latter city, which is Martin headquarters, Roy Martin has a third interest in the L. and J. setup. Valdosta is a Martin town, while LaGrange at present is controlled by Oscar Lam, circuit owner of Rome, Ga.

Blueprints Drawn for Athens

Possibly the first house for the new circuit will be erected in Athens, a college town, on a site near the University of Georgia. Blueprints have been drawn for a 500-seater, it is understood, and construction is slated to begin shortly.

Macon is to have a 1,500-seater, it is declared, with a smaller house devoted to Negro patronage.

For many years the towns mentioned, and others throughout the Georgia-Alabama area, have been circuit-controlled. Gradually the product situation, which brought about the status named, has been eased, and independents here and there have sprung up in the "controlled" towns. For example, no one would have dreamed of a successful opposition house in Albany, Ga., a Gortatowsky-Tri-States setup, until Clare Hilgers went in and built one.

Georgia Seems "Wide Open"

With the coming operation of the consent decree, Georgia along with the rest of the south, apparently has become a wide open affair, with theatre construction expected to attain or exceed the record-breaking pace set by Florida, for example, where Warner is either erecting or promoting more than a score of new houses in opposition to E. J. Sparks, with Sparks protecting himself by the erection of as many more new ones.

Ga. Senate Approves Sunday Show Bill

ATLANTA—A Sunday show bill that with an amendment gives cities the right to hold referendums as to whether or not Sunday shows be permitted, was passed by the state senate.

The amendment calls for a referendum in any city where 25 per cent of the registered voters petitioned for a vote on the issue.

The bill squeezed through a determined opposition that called for a number of roll calls on various motions.

In Council's Lap

HATTIESBURG, MISS.—The Hattiesburg Business and Professional Women's Club having endorsed Sunday shows, the matter now lies in the hands of the community council. The women's endorsement came following a number of court trials in which all local managers giving Sunday performances were tried.

Atlanta Keeps Lead In Depinet Drive

ATLANTA—After six weeks of the Ned Depinet Drive, the local RKO branch, headed by H. M. Lyons, is maintaining its lead. The four other branches out front for the capital prizes include New Orleans, P. M. Baker, branch manager; Philadelphia, C. Zagrans, manager; Oklahoma City, R. B. Williams, manager, and Kansas City, T. R. Thompson, manager.

The southeastern district, David Prince, sales manager, tops the districts. The eastern division heads the three divisions.

The leaders in various sub-divisions of the drive include: "Dr. Christian" contest, New York, Bob Wolff manager; one reel subjects, St. Louis, R. V. Nolan, manager; two reel subjects, New Haven, B. Pitkin, manager; Walt Disney contest, Oklahoma City, R. B. Williams, manager; March of Time contest, Salt Lake City, H. C. Fuller, manager.

Hold Over "Virginia"

WICHITA FALLS, TEX.—"Virginia" was held three extra days at the Wichita.

Paper Reports Lucas For Controlled Films

ATLANTA—Seeking national legislation that would give the Department of Commerce authority to regulate and control the motion picture industry is Arthur Lucas, owner of a large chain of Georgia theatres, according to a report in the Atlanta *Constitution* carried March 13.

Lucas reportedly conferred with Will Hays, head of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors Ass'n and whose views are divergent from his own, during the week he visited the capital in furtherance of the federal regulation proposal.

Hays reportedly has also been to Washington for a White House conference.

Grainger Visits Republic Exchange in Dallas

DALLAS—J. R. Grainger, president of Republic Pictures Corp., was a visitor at the Dallas exchange for the first time since Republic took over the active operation of that office.

A cocktail party was tendered Grainger at the Dallas Variety Club. R. J. O'Donnell, vice-president and general manager of the Interstate circuit of Texas, acted as toastmaster. Among those present were Harold Robb and Ed Rowley, heads of the Robb & Rowley circuit; R. I. Payne and Henry Lockhart, of the Griffith Theatre circuit; P. K. Johnston, and Harry Sachs of Interstate; James Cherry, city manager of Interstate; Raymond Willi, Interstate district manager, and 30 other prominent exhibitors in the Texas territory, as well as newspaper critics.

Grainger left Dallas over the weekend for New Orleans.

Isley Moves to Dallas; See Further Expansion

DALLAS—Indicating further acquisition of theatre properties in Texas, Phil R. Isley has moved his household furniture here from Tulsa and leased a temporary home. He is now negotiating for a site near Dallas on which he will build a permanent home.

Another indication of expansion is that Isley's partner, Charles Brent, is now in Texas and will use the office ot 302½ S. Harwood as his headquarters. Brent has been associated with Isley for ten years and for the past three has built and operated vaudeville houses in Boston.

Remodel in Knoxville

KNOXVILLE, TENN.—The State Theatre, 628 Market Street, has secured a building permit for remodeling interior and front of its building at an estimated cost of $3,200.

Sheridan Manager Married

SHERIDAN, ARK.—Miss Connie Mathews and Jack Bain, manager of the Rex Theatre here, were married March 3.



Prelude to Premiere—

Sonny Shepherd of Wometco Theatres meets Gabriel Pascal, producer-director of "Major Barbara" which will have its world premiere in Nassau, Bahamas and its first American showing at the Lincoln, in Miami Beach. Shepherd and Pascal went to Nassau for the premiere.

New Orleans Accolades Two With High Gross

NEW ORLEANS—"Tobacco Road" chalked up 175 per cent at the Saenger the week just closing. At Loew's State "Come Live With Me" packed them in, thanks to clever and persistent publicity inaugurated by Manager Rodney Toups. "Buck Privates" had them in the aisles at the Orpheum, and "Strawberry Blonde," moving over from the Orpheum to the Liberty, took its reputation as a comedy along.

At the Municipal Auditorium "Hellzapoppin," flesh with Billy House, a favorite here in the day of burlesque, did excellent business.

Detail for week ending March 15:

(Average is 100)

Center—**Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (Univ) 95
Liberty—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN) 100
Loew's—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M) 175
Orpheum—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 160
Saenger's—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox) 175

Rain Keeps Dallas Run At Average Week Level

DALLAS—Rain and dismal weather for half the week accompanied none too strong a take on Elm Street. There were no standouts but most boxoffices held their own about the average mark.

Detail for the week ending March 15:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Bombs Over London; Torpodoed** (SR) 115
Majestic—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN) 110
Palace—**Back Street** (Univ) 110
Rialto—**Tall, Dark and Handsome** (20th-Fox) Tuesday thru Thursday 90
Rialto—**Four Mothers** (WB) Friday thru Monday 100
Tower—**Hard-Boiled Canary** (Para't) 80

Rubinoff Four Weeks in Texas

AUSTIN, TEX.—Closing with two appearances here, Rubinoff completes a personal tour that took four weeks. Future dates include Hot Springs, Texarkana, and El Dorado, all in Arkansas.

Two New Houses for Rio Grande Valley

By L. J. B. KETNER

SAN ANTONIO—The coming season calls for two new theatres and one to be improved in the Rio Grande Valley as follows:

Brownsville—Purchase of a building site 150x120 feet in the business district here by the Texas Consolidated Theatres, Inc., Dallas, was made public last week by Judge Robin M. Pate. Texas-Consolidated plans to erect a three-story building on this site, part of the structure to be occupied by a new playhouse, with space for a department store. The present location was once the old homestead of the late Judge James B. Wells, which was torn down in 1931.

Harlingen—A theatre expansion and improvement program here involving over $50,000, is to be started this week by Interstate Theatres of Dallas. One new showhouse costing $25,000 is to be constructed, it was announced by District Manager George Watson of Interstate here. It was also said that the Arcadia Theatre building is to be remodeled, including a new front, modernized equipment and redecorating. The Arcadia also is an Interstate Texas Consolidated house.

Nashville Knickerbocker Celebrates Anniversary

NASHVILLE, TENN.—The Knickerbocker, owned and operated by Crescent Amusement Co. and managed by Dewey Mousson, is this week celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The Knickerbocker was one of the first theatres in the south to bring on film stars for personal appearances. It was wired for sound in 1928 and with "The Jazz Singer," introduced talking pictures to the state. The house was completely remodelled and re-equipped in 1936 at a cost of $130,000.

Dewey Mousson, who was the owner of three suburban houses and had his own film exchange at 16 years of age, has been manager of the Knickerbocker since 1921 and though only 43 years of age, is dean among theatre managers of the state. Corban Smith is assistant manager, heading a staff of 28 people.

Tony Sudekum, president of the Crescent Amusement Co., is taking the lead in the festivities accompanying the silver anniversary.

Little and Craver Propose New Charlotte House

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Within 30 days work will start on a suburban theatre with a seating capacity of 600, representing an investment of approximately $50,000.

The lot was purchased by T. A. Little and Alton B. Craver, operators of the Visulite in Charlotte. Little, who operates the Charlotte here, also operates theatres in Greenville and Columbia, S. C., Greensboro, Durham and Raleigh, N. C., and Norfolk and Danville, Va.

Concerning the Southeast

By A. JULES BENEDIC

WEST POINT, GA.—As we wobble into West Point—a good word, by the way, what with our Pensacola auto accident—we wing into the sanctum sanctorum of L. J. (General Tyler) Duncan, cinematic satrap locally and points west in Alabama. We find that L. J., since our last visit five years ago, has developed into a hotel owner, operator of a radio station and what have you? The film boys are naturally a good customer of the local General Tyler Hotel. We make a suggestion to Mr. Duncan. It is to the effect that when the boys come down on say a Monday, "Dunc" should set a business date for Thursday. In the mean time, the General Tyler will get a good customer for three or four days . . . The radio station is named WDAK, by the way, and its inception partly is due to the fact that the Chattahoochee Valley has no daily paper. Now the weekly program of the West Point show and theatres in the neighboring Alabama towns of Lanett, Shawmut, Langdale, Fairfax and Riverview are aired daily, with good results, says the operator of the new "wireless," as the English would say.



BENEDIC

"Local Movies" Merger

We note that "Dunc" is running some local pictures snapped in Technicolor by Reelife, an organization headed by R. W. Allen and in this connection we run into a story on the merger of Reelife with Metrofone. The latter organization is headed by W. W. Birchfield. The latter had up to this point been taking local pictures with ordinary film. The new company will have headquarters at Indianapolis and will maintain several crews of traveling organizations. The gadget is to take moving pictures of local scenes in Technicolor, later displaying them at the theatre. We were informed that the Duncan dates, as well as those with Oscar Lam at Rome and in other towns, have caused the Reelife people to get dates over the entire Wilby-Kincey circuit.

We muscle into Montgomery, there to renew acquaintance with Charlie Rook, who has erected the sensationally successful Charles Theatre. Charlie is our old time pal from Watonga, Okla., and well remembers the time when we played him there with our roadshow some seven years ago. Charlie has taken his brother, Al Rook, into the Montgomery business. The Rooks operate, on a de luxe scale, a theatre that charges 15 cents top. It has 940 seats and has been doing good business since its opening in November.

New Drive-In Opens

In Montgomery a call was made at the new Drive-In. It was opening night, and colder than a relative's kiss. However, as the weather gets warmer, the new theatre expects good business. Certainly the drive-ins visited so far are catching on well with the American public. The instant setup is in the hands of L. C. Worthington, who operates the Birmingham drive-in.

As we tumbled into Tallassee, Ala., we find the veteran S. H. Thornhill has passed on, and the Roxy-Mt. Vernon Theatre setup now is in the hands of his widow, assisted by Roy W. Cook. Mr. Cook is editor of *The Chimes,* a monthly publication of local interest, and issued in behalf of civic activities, including the Tallassee theatres.

Meeting Mr. McLendon

We ululate into Union Springs and there renew acquaintance with Fred McLendon, who has a setup of a score of houses in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Assisting him at the home office is G. C. Bryan and H. R. Chapman. The McLendon setup has grown conservatively over the last few years, and is a well-governed small-town operation.

We learn that B. P. Neal of Villa Rica is making good progress on his new theatre, to replace the one gutted by a recent fire . . . Walter Anderson is dead, but his spirit seems to permeate the Columbia setup in Atlanta . . . We were also shocked to read of the passing of old-timer Jack Huey in Edinburg, Tex. A traveler for years, Jack passed on as he would have wished it, soon after calling upon his customer. With his boots on, so to speak, Jack came to the end of the trail.

Atlanta trade shocked over the death of Harold Wilkes in New Orleans. A division manager for Paramount, Harold was on indefinite leave, due to illness. Only three months ago, he believed he would get well. Many from Atlanta and other points went to New Orleans for funeral services . . . "Tobacco Road" going over great, with big grosses, reports Harry Ballance in Atlanta. Miami and The Beach; Texas points and the Carolinas all report sensational stands, Divisional Manager Ballance adds. The picture has a varied reaction, and in this connection it might be well to record that of the Mayor of Augusta, Ga., who says he's going to sue 20th-Fox for half a million. He wants that much because he says that the fair city of Augusta has been pictured as a muddy, one-horse village, in place of the up-and-coming metropolis that it is.

Regulatory Legislation Killed

Two bills that sought to regulate the Georgia motion picture industry, were killed in committee last week. Both urged a proposition to make illegal the licensing of film unless a full season's product was included, with rights of certain eliminations. Attorneys Robert S. Sams and John I. Kelley of Atlanta, and Benjamin Pepper of New York spoke against the bills; Nat Williams, Thomasville, Ga., exhibitor and vice-president of the SETOA, appeared in their interest.

Noble Roman O. C. Lam breezes into Atlanta and reports enthusiastically on his three new projects. He says the new theatre and radio station for Cedartown, Ga., will open in June or July, while a similar opening is promised for the new theatre in the Grove Park section on the Bankhead Highway, just out of Atlanta. In Rome, Ga., construction on his new 800-seater will begin in 45 days, with completion in early fall.

Bill Moves Ahead to License Operators

ATLANTA—The house has passed a bill requiring operators of motion picture projectors to have a license, and placing the responsibility of giving examinations upon the state fire inspector.

Sponsors of the bill said it would prohibit unlicensed operators from traveling about the state and putting on shows in school auditoriums and elsewhere.

Simplex
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

E-7 PROJECTORS
4 STAR SOUND
HIGH INTENSITY LAMPS

It will be a pleasure for your patrons to do business with you if your booth is equipped with this matchless equipment . . .!

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY
Dallas, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Charlotte and Oklahoma City

CHARLOTTE

BENNY RALSTON of Sound Engineering Service Company has completed a contract with H. V. Wynn of the Paris Theatre in Greenville, S. C. SESCO has also installed new sound equipment in Pete Webb's Webb Theatre in Shelby, N. C. . . . A. B. McCoy, owner of the Carolina in Conway, S. C., is gradually improving after a serious illness.

The Florida trek: Henry R. Berry and Mrs. Berry there for two weeks, Henry to recuperate from a recent operation; B. B. Anderson and wife, of the Anderson circuit in Mullins, S. C., have just returned; Lester Sipe of Sipes Theatres, Charlotte, N. C., and Ellis Blumenthal, B&B Amusements, Charlotte, still commuting.

The return engagement of "Gone With the Wind" was phenomenal, and a holdover has been announced. Pedestrian traffic for two blocks from the theatre was so congested that special officers were assigned.

President Charlie H. Arrington of the Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina is jubilant over the largest membership yet enjoyed by that association, which is the oldest in the country, being 29 years old this year.

Visitors along the Row: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Anderson of the Ritz, Tabor City, N. C.; L. L. Overton, Levon, Enfield, N. C.; E. L. Hearne, Alameda, Albemarle, N. C.; George Hughes, Stanly, Albemarle, N. C.;

(Continued on page 40-B)

Four Managerial Shifts In Wilby-Kincey Houses

KNOXVILLE, TENN.—Eugene Street, city manager for Wilby-Kincey Theatres, announces manager shifts affecting three local houses.

James Howell, manager of the Riviera for the past three years, goes to Atlanta, Ga., to be assistant to James Harrison in booking for the 40 theatres in the circuit in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia.

James Gaylord, manager of the Park, goes to the Riveria and is succeeded at the Park by H. D. Hale, manager of the Bijou. Dunlap Henry, manager of the Walton Theatre, Selmer, Ala., takes over at the Bijou.

Shields, Edge Building West Lafayette House

ATLANTA—M. T. Shields and John Paul Edge are building a two-story brick building on their property on Chattanooga St. in West Lafayette, Ga., to house a motion picture theatre.

The outlay will be around $10,000.

Reopen in Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—The Crescent Theatre, after being closed for several weeks for complete remodeling and redecorating, is again open. The house is owned and operated by Mrs. J. M. Ensor and O. G. Wren.

AIR CONDITIONING Installed NOW

will

COOL YOUR THEATRE

and

HEAT YOUR BOXOFFICE

When Warm Weather Comes Around

You Can't Install Air Conditioning in Your House as you would a new light bulb; each theatre needs a system to suit its particular needs. A competent staff of engineers with all the facts about your house should design your system. This adds little to the cost but insures a successful operation when it is most needed.

Write or call us for detailed estimates. We have ready at all times, a complete line of U. S. Air Conditioning blowers, fans, deflectors, washers, and other air conditioning equipment. Act NOW.

WIL-KIN THEATRE SUPPLY INC.

321 S. Church, CHARLOTTE
Phone 8620

150 Walton St., ATLANTA
Phone WALnut 4613

"Everything for the Theatre Except Film"

ATLANTA

CHARLES WOODWARD, assistant cashier at 20th-Fox, back at work after a recent illness . . . Robert Savelle is the new assistant manager of the Emory . . . Morris Mitchell, salesman for 20th-Fox, is recuperating after an illness in Birmingham.

Jack Crawford, former Alabama exhibitor who now handles flesh road shows, is back after a six-week absence and reports business active . . . James Howell, formerly manager of the Riviera, Knoxville, Tenn., has been promoted to the Atlanta office of Wilby-Kincey Theatres as assistant to James Harrison, chief booker, replacing I. M. Alterman, resigned.

Tucker and Howell, well-known Atlanta theatre architects, have joined the Modern Theatre Planning Institute and Advisory Service of BOXOFFICE . . . A. Jules Benedic, roving correspondent for BOXOFFICE, leaves Atlanta this week with New Orleans as his destination.

Howard Wallace, Sack Amusement Co., is making a two-week trip through Florida . . . A. C. Bromberg and James R. Grainger, Republic Pictures Corp., are in New Orleans conferring with Saenger Amusement Co. officials regarding new season's contract.

Hugh V. Manning, Gem, Dalton, Ga., is mourning the death of his mother . . . "Ash" Yarbrough, manager of the Sylvan, reports burglars broke into his theatre Saturday night, but were unable to get into the safe and escaped with but a few dollars.

T. X. Jones, comptroller for Wilby-Kincey Theatres, leaves this week for a vacation at Miami . . . A. C. Bromberg, Republic Pictures Corp., is a member of the advisory board of The Graphic, *a new evening paper which will make its appearance in Atlanta within the next month.*

Due to the severe weather the past week visitors were few and far between. Those that did come in were: Mr. and Mrs. James Jarrell and son, Roxy, Commerce, Ga.; Frank Dowler and son, Dixie Operating Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.; A. L. Sheppard, Grand, Waynesboro, Ga.; H. A. Price, Price, Thomson, Ga.; R. L. Bigler, Gay, Knoxville, Tenn., and T. E. Watson, Strand, Montevallo, Ala.

J. C. H. Wink of Manning & Wink Theatres, Dalton, Ga., is reportedly seriously ill . . . John Boles, singing star, will make a public appearance on the stage of the Fox for one week, beginning Mar. 27.

New seats are being installed in Joy's Atlanta, which is operated by Joy N. Houck, of New Orleans, La. . . . O. O. Ray of Paramount observed a birthday Sunday.

A Drive-In Reopens

MONTGOMERY—The Auto Movies, a drive-in unit, has reopened for the spring and summer season. Jack Bruce is manager; L. C. Worthington, owner.

DALLAS

L. C. BAXLEY, former Texas film man and now owner of the new Plaza in south Houston, was in booking . . . S. G. Fry of Tyler drove up on a two-day booking trip for his four theatres. He was just out of a sick bed. The flu . . . B. R. McLendon, general manager of Tri-State Theatres, Atlanta, Tex., was in town working with his booker, Bob Euler . . . Lee Bell, manager of the Pastime and Cozy in Clarendon for the estate of the late Homer Mulkey, was in booking and took time off to do a little trading in equipment supplies.

W. A. Conner, who is rebuilding the Ritz at Dawson, was in Monday as usual. He said he will be able to use practically all of his present equipment in the new house . . . Billy Morrow, owner of the State at Abilene, was on the Row looking after bookings with Forrest White of Ind-Ex Booking Service . . . Sigmund Hellman, new owner of the Elk at Italy, has been spending much time on the Row making acquaintances.

B. W. Johnson, now building a new theatre in south San Antonio, was on the Row in the interest of that venture. His partner is R. R. Knight. They will start soon on another new theatre in north San Antonio, Johnson said . . . Charley Dees, Paramount branch manager in Oklahoma City, and formerly office manager here, was in town looking after a few accounts in Texas which his exchange serves.

B. F. Hamman, manager of the Globe at Bertram, was up to set in a few pictures. The theatre is owned by the Globe Amusement Co., composed of local business men . . . Connie Drehr, Monogram representative, and his former wife were remarried here in a church ceremony. They left for a honeymoon in El Paso.

Fred Cannata, general manager of the Will Horwitz Theatres in Houston, was in on business. The company has just reopened the Palace. The four other Horwitz houses, all downtown and relatively close together, are the Uptown, Ritz, Texan and Iris, all operated in affiliation with Interstate.

Wood Street, a part of Filmrow, was not without its fire drills Wednesday. This reporter was caught at the Fox office as employes there scurried for the front entrance. A fireman who conducted the trial performance, had just come across the street from the Columbia exchange where he held a like demonstration.

W. B. King was on the Row after finishing up an extensive remodeling job at the C. W. Matson's Majestic in Somerville, which was to have had its formal opening this week . . . Forrest Nine of Texas-Oklahoma Distributing Co. is on a business trip through Louisiana and Mississippi . . . W. R. Holcombe, who is planning to get back in show business, left on a short trip to Louisiana.

Among the week's visitors were Willard Sadler of Weatherford, Marshall Stewart of DeLeon, Johnny Blevins of Dublin, Rubin Frels of Victoria, Rufus Layton of Childress, and O. L. Smith of Alto. J. Preston Tate of Comanche and a weekly "regular" for years, missed his trip Monday due to illness.

The Leslie Wilkes family went to New Orleans for the funeral of Harold Wilkes, former Paramount district manager and a brother of Leslie. Mrs. Mary Wilkes, their mother, made the trip in an airplane to be at her son's bedside. Leslie, traveling for Columbia in east Texas, was reached in the territory and drove down. His wife and son, Dickie, went on the train.

John Franconi and Ed Blumenthal have made some improvements at the Monogram exchange. A rail has been placed across the front and a new booking counter installed.

S. E. "Chubby" Sanders, new manager for R&R in Crockett, was married in Rockwell to Miss Elizabeth Hardwicke . . . H. B. O'Neall, owner of the Roby at Roby, who was here Wednesday, dropped by for a back issue of BOXOFFICE to fill in his Booking Guide.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

Handley Is Acquired By W. O. Irwin jr.

HANDLEY, TEX.—The Handley has been purchased by W. O. Irwin jr. from C. C. Walker. Irwin is a son-in-law of W. W. McNatt, who owns theatres in Naples, Daingerfield and Hughes Springs.

SANTONE

HENRY ZIMMERMAN, who pilots the Community, Comfort, was a recent visitor to Independent Film Exchange & Supply Co. "Hank" formerly operated the Blanco. With him was Coleman Neeley, of the South San Antonio . . . R. W. Barron, manager of the supply house, is still limping because he slipped and sprained his foot recently.

Newsreel cameramen grinding out plenty of footage on the local spring training diamonds . . . All bids on the new theatre for Fort Sam Houston were rejected and a negotiated contract was entered into recently with Homer Sessions of Arp, Tex. The new house, which will help take care of the overflow crowds from the present post theatre, will cost around $40,000 *and seat* 1,100.

Harley Sadler's Tent Show is now playing to SRO near Camp Bowie. Uncle Sam's army men are eager for flesh shows as well as pictures . . . "Hellzapoppin'," legit roadshow due in at the Texas, March 25-26, for one matinee and two night performances . . . Saturday midnighter at the Majestic was "Buck Privates" . . . Willard, the Magician and his show, is playing dates in and around Santone.

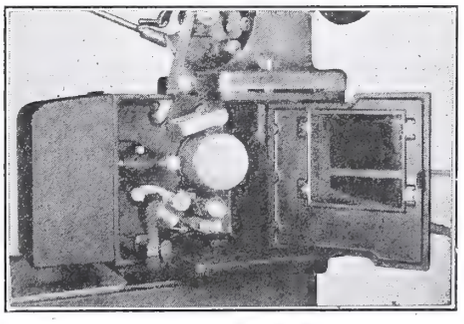
Raymond "Wimpy" McKay has been upped to assistant chief of service at the Majestic . . . Clinton Joseph Delespine, Interstate stage employe, 59, *died here March* 13 . . . *Several Paramount stars expected in from Hollywood for the preview of "I Wanted Wings" at the Randolph Field Post Theatre. Regular run is set for the Texas Theatre on March* 27.

Abrams Plans Third

GEORGETOWN, S. C.—Morris Abrams, who presently operates the Palace and Peerless theatres, has purchased property and is having plans drawn for a third.

More and More Exhibitors Are Installing

HIGH CLASS SOUND AT LOW COST



New Master Model Sound Head

Complete Sound Systems
Soundheads, Motors, Amplifiers, Speakers
Trade in Old Sound

HERBER BROTHERS

"Fair Treatment and Adequate Service Always"

408 S. HARWOOD DALLAS, TEXAS

CHARLOTTE

(Continued from page 40)

Ben L. Strozier, Stevenson Theatres, Rock Hill, S. C.; Charles W. Picquet, Carolina Theatres, Southern Pines and Pinehurst, N. C.; Harry Cooke, Center, Mount Olive, N. C.; George Carpenter of Valdese, Madison and Granite Falls, N. C.; Charles H. Arrington, Cameo, Rocky Mount, N. C.; Jeff Wilson, Biscoe, Biscoe, N. C.; Bob Saunders and A. E. Groom, Mooresville, N. C.; W. T. Culpepper and J. H. Webster of Elizabeth City and Hertford, N. C.; Lyle M. Wilson of Roanoke Rapids, N. C.; S. G. Rogers of Pittsboro, N. C.; S. S. Stevenson, Stevenson circuit in Henderson, N. C.; Fay Caudell, Fairmont, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Roy P. Rosser, Sanford and Clinton, N. C.; Walter Powell, Kannapolis, N. C.; Fred Powell, Chester and Gaffney, S. C.; Cary Caudell, Wallace, N. C.; O. T. Kirby of the Palace and Dolly Madison in Roxboro, N. C.; C. M. Bowdin, Palace, New Bern, N. C.; W. H. Hendrix of Greensboro and Reidsville, N. C.; P. J. Henn, Henn, Murphy, N. C., and J. C. Hester of the Criterion, Greensboro, N. C.

George D. Carpenter, who operates theatres in Valdese, Madison and Granite Falls, N. C., and is building a new house in Conover, N. C., spent some time inspecting Bob Bryant's new Pix in Rock Hill, S. C.

A bad case of pink eyes did not quench the enthusiasm of Republic's booker, Roy Bradley, over the forthcoming release of "Sis Hopkins" . . . Duval Berry, son of Henry Berry of Hartsville, S. C., was on the Row this week pinch-hitting for his father.

Miss Katherine Stellings, secretary and short subjects booker for Carl Bamford of the Publix-Bamford Theatres in Asheville, N. C., is undergoing hospitalization for asthma . . . Manager Joe Brecheen of RKO visited Atlanta this week for a conference with General Sales Manager A. W. Smith jr. . . . The mother of Mrs. Gene Dyer, wife of the RKO salesman, died this week in Mount Holly, N. C.

Tom Bailey, Metro salesman, attempted his good deed for the day by helping his wife cook the dinner—the result, a severely burned right hand. He's decided to stick to selling film . . . Monday, March 24, is moving day for Metro. Formal opening of the new exchange is scheduled for a week or so later.

Harry K. Lucas of the Kozono Company reports recent sales to the Ozark in Ozark, Ark.; Grand, Greer, S. C.; Casino, Clinton, S. C.; and the Raeford in Raeford, N. C. . . . Among several exhibitor-postmasters in the Carolinas are J. S. McNeill, Gloria, Ninety Six, S. C.; L. A. Hiltz, Hiltz, Black Mountain, N. C.; Captain Willie Culpepper, Culpepper circuit, Elizabeth City, N. C.

Bill Williamston, formerly with National Advertising Accessories, is now in the Metro shipping department . . . Two other new employes are Miss Val Brandon in the billing department and Miss Laura Fleming in the contract department . . . Mrs. Tom Jones and Tommy, wife and son of Metro's office manager, are visiting her mother in Louisville, Ky.

Pays the Preacher After 36 Years

Opelika, Ala.—Jimmy Biggers, mogul at the Martin, Opelika's swanky testimonial to the head of the Martin chain, is responsible for one of the best stories of this or any other week. It's a piece for Ripley.

It seems that Jimmie is "good friends" with the Rev. W. M. Curtis, pastor of the First Methodist Church here.

Dr. Curtis sat with Jimmy in the soda shop of the theatre and told this yarn:

It seems the veteran cleric was sitting in the same spot a few days previous.

An elderly man several times eyed the clergyman and each time cast his optics elsewhere. He had something on his mind, the pastor soliloquized.

Finally the man screwed up his courage. He came over to the doctor's booth. He said:

"You married me 36 years ago, pastor. I promised to pay you, but I never did. Either I buy you a new hat or give you $5. Which is it, Mr. Curtis?"

Recovering from the shock, Dr. Curtis said he remembered the incident but faintly.

Five dollars changed hands.

Dr. Curtis reports: "Mrs. Curtis got the new hat."

NEW ORLEANS

A MONSTER benefit show will be staged at the Saenger, March 29, for the Greek War Relief Fund. Other theatres throughout the state will follow suit, same date . . . Dixie Dunbar is headlining the floor show at the Hotel Roosevelt . . . Free motion pictures will be exhibited at both Audubon and City Parks this summer . . . Cecilia Kiern of Affiliated Producers is recovering from a second attack of flu.

Visitors: From Louisiana—John Caldwell, Eunice; O. A. Ott, Kentwood; Lou Langlois, New Roads; Anthony Sumpia, Raceland; A. J. Broussard, Crowley; Ernest Drake, Ponchatoula; P. T. Castleman, Waterproof. From Mississippi—Ed Delaney, Magnolia; Frank Glick, Forest; Frank Bishop, Ellisville, and M. M. Bailey, Lumberton . . . Several new houses are reported contemplated in Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes.

The St. Patrick's Day parade was filmed by the newsreel companies . . . You should have seen Jack Duffy, booker for Republic, when he came down to the office gaily decorated in green.

French Actress for "Dawn"

HOLLYWOOD—Paramount has signed Micheline Cheirel, French stage-screen actress, for a topline in "Hold Back the Dawn."

The Queen Feature Service, Inc.
Quality Theatre Equipment & Supplies
1912½ Morris Ave. Phone 3-8665
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

MEMPHIS

TO LINCOLN, Neb., have gone M. A. Lightman jr., with Mr. and Mrs. Lightman sr. M. A. jr. and Miss Jean Sand will be married there on Sunday, March 23, and leave immediately for Bermuda for a month's honeymoon before returning to the managership of the Malco in Memphis.

Steve Stein, manager of the Met in Jackson, Tenn., was a recent Filmrow visitor. Mrs. Stein has been confined to a hospital in Memphis for several days.

Ed Gibbons, former manager of the Strand in Millington, Tenn., and who has been called to the colors, spent several days of his recent furlough in Memphis.

Exhibitors seen on the Row: Lyle Richmond, Missouri, Senath, Mo.; John Mohrstadt, Missouri, Hayti, Mo.; Bob Martin, Bells, Bells, Tenn.; Miss Louise Mask, Luez, Bolivar, Tenn.; John Crabtree, Merlu, Clarendon, Ark.; W. O. Taylor, Uptown, Dresden, Tenn.; G. H. Goff, Rustic, Parsons, Tenn.; W. F. Ruffin, Ruffin Amusement Co., Covington, Tenn.; A. D. Fielder, and his booker, Mrs. Gladys McCallum, of the Steele & Lilbourne, theatres in Mo.; B. M. Jackson, Delta, Ruleville, Miss.; Charles Collier, Globe, Shaw, Miss.; C. H. Collier, Globe, Drew, Miss.; Norman Fair, Fair, Somerville, Tenn.; B. M. Haberfeld, Varsity, Amory, Miss.; Jack Watson, Palace, Tunica, Miss.; G. W. Schierbaum, Shelby, Shelby, Miss.; Addys Brown and Jimmy Nicholas, Nevada, Prescott, Ark.; J. J. Sharum, Sharum, Walnut Ridge, Ark.; Paul Schaffer, Star, Marked Tree, Ark.; R. W. Kinkle, Joiner, Joiner, Ark.; W. O. Ringger, Gem, Leachville, Ark.; W. T. Ellis, Ellis, Cleveland, Miss.; J. W. Wofford, Eupora, Eupora, Miss.; J. F. Wofford, Union, Union, Miss.; C. M. Mounger, City, Calhoun City, Miss.

By the time you read this, your Memphis correspondent will be coming out from under the ether (if Lady Luck is on our side) from a major operation at the Methodist Hospital. Keep your fingers crossed for us, because frankly we're just plain scared.

M. L. Moxley opened his new Turrell in Turrell, Ark., on March 7. Prior to this time Mr. Moxley has been operating with 16mm . . . Bertha Barrett is the new secretary at Monogram.

G. C. Tipton, of the New at Monette, Ark., advises his father, C. W. Tipton, who has been confined to the hospital in Topeka, Kas., for the past several weeks, will be returning within the next few days and resume operation of his theatres in Carraway and Manila.

It was erroneously reported that Gordon Lee Hutchins of the State at Corning Ark., passed away recently. It was Gordon's father who died and we regret the error exceedingly.

W. F. Sonneman, who operates theatres in Fayetteville, Springdale and Bentonville, Ark., spent two days on the Row advancing his bookings.

AUSTIN

DICK WAITE and Jesse Melinger, managers of the Paramount and the Varsity, respectively, came off the links bragging about the 110's they shot, in preparation for the San Antonio-Austin joint Variety Club golf tournament in the Alamo City . . . Ray Wood, erstwhile usher at the Varsity, is now American vice-consul at Merida, Yucatan, and crazy about his new surroundings, he writes.

Comings and goings: Louis Novy, city manager for Interstate, to San Antonio . . . Wilbur Evans and George Brundrett of the Paramount service staff planning an early vacation trip to Minneapolis . . . Jesse Melinger to Dallas on booking business . . . Will Roddy, chief usher at the State, on a quickie trip to the Alamo City . . . Eli Wallach, Austin and New York actor, in for the weekend . . . Interstate's Karl Hoblitzelle was a two-day visitor, during which time he spoke at the Citizenship Conference at the University of Texas.

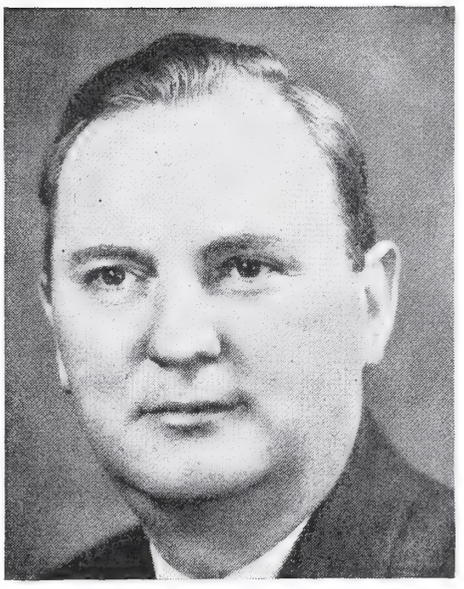
They still come back: To the Texas—"Hell's Angels," "Of Human Bondage," "Winterset," "Wuthering Heights," "The Old Dark House," "Holiday," "The 39 Steps," "Storm in a Teacup," and "The Scarlet Pimpernel." To the Varsity—"Lost Horizon" . . . Set for a two-day run at the Varsity is the French film, "Escape From Yesterday," starring Annabella . . . "Torpedoed" and "Bombs Over London" were doubled at the Queen for big weekend grosses. Newspaper reviews, however, were not too complimentary.

Earl and Lena Podolnick have bought themselves a new nest in Bryker Woods . . . The Vickers have moved into a new apartment . . . Dick Westbrook, now in Uncle Sam's army, was in town for the weekend to see his old colleagues at the Varsity . . . Julius Kubala of the Texas service staff passed his Randolph Field physical exam with flying colors . . . E. P. Ischy, the Paramount projectionist, broke a blood vessel in his head from coughing too heartily, he says; but his friends claim that figuring his income tax caused the mishap.

Bobbye Meredith, queen bee of the Interstate office, is mighty proud of her new Oldsmobile sedan . . . Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Hegman of the Ritz among the Shakespearean fans at the Curtain Club production of "Twelfth Night" . . . Joyce McIlroy, cashier at the Paramount, and Helen Evans, State cager, have exchanged places . . . The Inter Co-op Council of the U. of T. is planning to shoot a 15-minute sound short, showing the ins and outs of life in a university cooperative boarding house . . . June Ischy, E. P.'s daughter, has been accepted for CAA training.

Eight Days for "Tobacco Road"

NASHVILLE, TENN.—"Tobacco Road" has been pulled at the Paramount after eight days. The picture started off with a rush but attendance fell after four days. Manager Charles Amose described the film as "disappointing and tame" to those who had seen the stage play.



His Illness Fatal—

Harold F. Wilkes, for 27 years with Paramount, who died in a New Orleans hospital following a prolonged illness. Until he was stricken, Wilkes was Paramount district manager.

Last Rites for Wilkes Held in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS—Funeral services for Harold F. Wilkes, former Paramount southern district manager, were held here at the Bultman Funeral Home.

The pallbearers were L. C. Montgomery, N. L. Carter, Gaston Dureau jr., Page M. Baker, John L. Kirby and "Slim" Higginbotham.

Wilkes, who was 48, died of a chronic cardiac condition following a long illness. He had been on leave of absence since last April.

Wilkes joined Paramount in 1913 as a booker of the Southern Paramount Picture Co. In 1916 he became executive manager for S. A. Lynch. He filled this post until 1923 when he became Paramount branch manager here. In 1939 he was made southern district manager.

Wilkes leaves a widow, daughter, son, mother and brother.

Build in Elkin

ELKIN, N. C.—Louis Mitchell, who operates the Lyric here, is building another and Dr. W. B. Reeves plans construction of his second house. Completion of these projects would provide nearly 2,000 seats for this town of 2,357 population.

Goes First Run

DALLAS—The Varsity, Interstate neighborhood house, went first run by playing RKO's "Convoy" on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

HOUSTON

PLANS to shut down the Ritz were shelved when the Horwitz-Texan theatres negotiated a new lease. The Palace had been reopened on March 15 to replace the Ritz when Will Horwitz, as president of the Preston Amusement Co., which had operated the house for 15 years, was unable to renew the lease. Since the Ritz has reopened, the policy of stage shows will continue, leaving the Palace a straight picture house.

Weldon Parsons, Interstate neighborhood theatre head, and Tommy Howell, Almeda manager, are planning "Revival Week" at Howell's showplace. The selection is governed by requests.

The Metropolitan management, the Houston *Post*, and radio station KPRC have collaborated to give auditions with Phil Spitalny to Houston girls over 16 years of age. The top contestant will have a week's contract with KPRC . . . Phil Spitalny is currently on the Met stage.

Dick Stout of the legal department of Interstate Theatres, Inc., on behalf of Interstate and Paramount Newsreel, presented the full eight-minute reel taken by Paramount last January at the inauguration of city officials, to Mayor Neal Pickett. Mayor Pickett and city commissioners were invited to the screening at the Majestic where the presentation was made. Hosts were Al Lever, city manager of Interstate, and Raymond Willie of the Dallas office of Interstate.

Arkansas Houses Lead In NTS Installations

MEMPHIS—Equipment installations by National Theatre Supply in several Arkansas towns and in Greenwood, Miss., and Lilbourn, Mo., are reported by the NTSCo. branch here.

In Arkansas, at North Little Rock, Malco Theatres, Inc., have installed in their Park Hill Theatre new sound, projectors, transverters, lamps, screen and lenses, as well as cooling equipment, chairs and carpeting. At Joiner, Kinkle and Kellar have equipped the Joiner Theatre with a new cooling system.

Sound, projectors, lamps, lenses, rectifiers and screen have gone into W. H. Hutchins and Gordon Hutchins' State at Corning; Ray A. Wilson's New at DeWitt, and similar equipment went into the Ensor Company's Crescent at Little Rock, with the addition of carpeting, chairs and cooling.

At Lilbourn, Mo., A. D. Fielder, operating the Rex, installed new sound, and at Greenwood, Miss., Frank Bishop and Ben Ward, modernized the booth of the Fran with lamps and rectifiers.

Open Lebanon House

LEBANON, TENN.—The Crescent circuit has opened the Ritz here, a 300-seater.

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
1026 SANTA FE BLDG. **BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC.** DALLAS, TEXAS

Greek Drive Gets Going in Texas

DALLAS—First benefit performance in Texas for Greek War Relief was held Wednesday night in Nelson & Simpson's Palace in Paducah, according to Herman Biersdorf, chairman of the exhibitors' committee for the drive. Other shows over the state will follow immediately.

As part of the industry's effort to raise funds here, a big dance will be held Wednesday at the Plantation Club. More than 700 tickets have been sold among the industry and its friends and the balance of 2,000 tickets printed will be disposed of by local Greek organizations.

Believing it can raise more money through other means, the Interstate circuit will not hold Greek midnight benefit shows as originally scheduled, but will promote in all its towns, parties, banquets, etc., as well as take up collections in lobbies.

Send Out Invitations for A Preview of "Liberty"

DALLAS—Invitations were sent out by the Interstate circuit for the special preview Friday morning of "Land of Liberty" at the Tower. The invitation said, "This screen cavalcade of America is being shown to the public as a contribution to the Nation's Defense Program. It is being distributed on a non-profit basis, with sales proceeds donated to war emergency welfare work."

The Dallas showings will have the cooperation and support of all schools, civic clubs, chamber of commerce and other organizations here, according to Louis Charninsky, Elm Street showman, who has been active in the cause.

The Film Club of Texas Will Open Club Rooms

DALLAS—The Film Club of Texas, newly organized with bookers and other industry employes as members, opens its club rooms in the White Plaza Hotel Tuesday night, according to President George Gaughan.

$700 From Golf Tourney Turned Over to Variety

FT. WORTH—Frank Weatherford and his showmen raised about $700 at the annual theatremen's golf tournament here Monday. The net take was donated to Variety of Texas for charitable purposes.

On Pleasure Trip

DALLAS — Karl Hoblitzelle, Interstate president, and Mrs. Hoblitzelle are on a short pleasure trip which will take them to New Orleans for a visit with E. V. Richards of the Saenger circuit, and possibly a cruise in gulf waters on the Richards yacht.



In the Rough—

With some 150 players expected to tee off in the Variety Club of Texas' annual Spring Golf Tournament, the tourney committeemen, John Franconi and B. C. Gibson, discuss the problems of pairing and starting times. Activities start in the club rooms Saturday, April 19 and wind up Monday at Brook Hollow Country Club.

"Manual of Arbitration" Now in Cole's Office

DALLAS—A 65-page pamphlet titled, "Manual of Arbitration" as covered by the consent decree, has been received and is now on file in the office of Col. H. A. Cole, national Allied president.

The book was published by Abram F. Myers, general counsel for Allied. It points out exhibitors' rights under the decree and outlines what can be arbitrated. Letter forms governing certain trade conditions are also given as a guide to exhibitors for correspondence or in making complaints.

The manual is available for the use of Allied members in Cole's office. Copies for exclusive use will be sold, however, to members and non-members, Cole said.

Interstate and Affiliate To Galveston May 26-29

DALLAS—Interstate circuit and Texas Consolidated Theatres, both under Hoblitzelle-O'Donnell direction, will hold their annual convention May 26-29 at Hotel Galvez in Galveston. In past years these annual get-togethers have been memorable events, both for the Interstate family and for Galveston. The time is divided into business sessions, general discussions and entertainment, the last of which plays no minor part.

16mm Print of "Mr. Smith" For Governor O'Daniel

DALLAS—Gov. W. Lee O'Daniel of Texas has requested, and will receive, a 16mm print of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" for his own use, it is learned here. The chief executive requested the film a short time ago when it was pointed out to him that the background in the picture closely paralleled the situation in Austin when he went into office.

Big Texas Role at Variety Conclave

DALLAS—At a general meeting May 5, the Variety Club of Texas will learn who and how many will attend the national convention in Atlantic City, May 15-17, according to Chief Barker Paul Short. Indications now are at least 50 will go from here.

National officers anticipate use of the Hardin-Simmons Cowboy Band and their six white horses, Short said, and in this event a special train will be chartered and Eph Charninsky and his donkey from the big convention here last April, will go along.

Several matters already decided are that General William McCraw, who spoke at last year's convention here, will be one of the principal Atlantic City speakers along with ex-Governor Hoffman of New Jersey.

Inspector J. C. Rader of the Dallas police and house chairman of Tent No. 17, will be a special guest with all expenses paid. Short and R. J. O'Donnell are co-chairmen on the national convention committee. Burt King, recently returned from a pre-convention meeting in Atlantic City, is a member of the golf committee.

Al Wolf is making 150 feet of film on 35mm covering all charitable activities of Tent 17 for showing at the national conclave, and O'Donnell and Short will go to Hollywood in April to arrange for a group of stars to be in Atlantic City.

James O. Cherry, Elm Street showman and chairman of the "New Members Drive" for Tent 17, added 20 new names to the roster last week, making a total of 60 since he started. He is shooting for 100 by May 12. On that day at a special luncheon, the new members will be inducted. An added feature will be the showing of the reel made of the convention here last year which was shipped to all other Tents but which has never been shown to Tent 17 members.

Chief Barker Short said a plan is afoot to make each newspaper managing editor and radio station manager in Texas a Variety member. They are closely allied with amusements and, therefore, are eligible, he pointed out.

Films and Shows Civic Ceremony at Princeton

PRINCETON, KY.—Dewey Mousson, manager of the Knickerbocker, Nashville, Tenn., made newsreel pictures of the opening and dedication of the new county courthouse here for Thomas J. Simmons, manager of the Capitol.

The pictures will be shown at the Capitol and then presented to the county as a permanent record of the event.

Firm Two Years Old

ATLANTA—Bernie Shapiro, head of the Southern Poster Printing Co., announces he is observing his second anniversary in business. Several new machines have been added to the plant in the last six months.

Doric Accident Nets Drive on Theatres

TORONTO—Inspectors of the theatres branch of the Ontario government have been making a drive on exhibitors and managers since the Doric accident in which a number of juvenile patrons were overcome by coal gas fumes, with the result that a number of operators have been brought to court.

Ronald McClelland, manager of the Capitol in North Toronto, pleaded guilty to permitting patrons to stand in the aisles at the matinee performance and was fined $20 and costs. He was fined a similar amount when he was found guilty of having exit doors locked or fastened during a performance. Inspector A. H. Gray of the Ontario government appeared for the prosecution.

Aaron Wolfe, manager of the Parliament, was fined $20 and costs because juveniles were said to have been standing in the aisles, Inspector Gray testifying that more admission tickets were sold than there were seats. Wolfe declared the children were going back and forth to the washroom.

Doric Is Permitted Limited Operation

TORONTO—Sam Lester, proprietor of the Doric, has been permitted to reopen the theatre for Saturday and holiday matinee performances. The closing of the house for these shows was the penalty imposed for the accident last January in which a number of juvenile patrons were overcome by coal gas fumes. In the meantime, the heating and ventilating equipment of the Doric has been overhauled and the staff has been reorganized with a view of safety precautions.

Lester, meanwhile, has sponsored a series of benefit shows on Sundays, the proceeds of which have been turned over to war charity funds.

Arthur Fielding Leaves Spencer Circuit April

ST. JOHN, N. B.—Arthur A. Fielding of St. John, N. B., for the past 16 years general manager of the F. G. Spencer Co. of St. John, operating 21 theatres in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, will retire from this post about mid-April. He will devote all his attention to several theatres of his own.

Replacing him will be F. Gordon Spencer, a son of the president and founder. The son has been on the staff for several years, at the St. John headquarters in the Strand. The change will become effective on the return of F. G. Spencer from Florida.

At Truro, N. S., Fielding, with the Strand, erstwhile Spencer house, will be opposition for the Spencer Capitol, and a new theatre now being built for Spencer, and to be ready this summer.

: *From the Newspapers* :

TORONTO — Preferred stockholders of Hamilton United will be paid 1¼ on March 31. Hamilton United Theatres has further advised preferred stockholders it is interested in purchasing a limited number of preferred for redemption.

WINNIPEG — Winnipeg women, co-ordinating their voluntary efforts in war and peace work, will take key parts in a new film about Canadian women at war, to be released by the national film board.

TORONTO—Arthur Gonder, widely known scenic artist, suffered a fatal heart attack at his home here.

MONTREAL—Terming the fire risk claim for denying children admission to theatres as a blind for "moral" regulations, an editorial in the Montreal *Star* cites the British method of endorsing pictures in two ways, for adults only and for all, as worthy of emulation. A board representing both religious and lay authorities to pass on films is suggested.

Assured of No New Taxes for a Year

TORONTO—In tabling the budget before the Ontario legislature, which revealed that the province would close the fiscal year on March 31 with a huge surplus, Premier M. F. Hepburn officially announced that no new taxes would be imposed during 1941-42, thus there would be no provincial amusement levy for another 12 months.

Hepburn disclosed, however, that the new corporation tax, which he introduced one year ago as a temporary measure, would be continued. During its first year, this assessment on the income of incorporated businesses brought a revenue of no less than $23,000,000 to the treasury and the large chain companies contributed substantially to this amount.

Hepburn, in the role of provincial treasurer, announced that the revenue of the theatres branch of the treasurer's department was approximately $200,000, this being derived from the fees collected by the Ontario film censor board and from theatre licenses numbering 408, this being the first year in which the number of theatres had exceeded the 400 mark.

Succession duties collected on estates during the year totaled $11,000,000, of which more than $1,200,000 was derived from the estate of M. J. O'Brien, millionaire owner of the Ottawa Valley theatre circuit, who died recently.

Famous Players to Hold Managers' Convention

TORONTO—Famous Players Canadian Corp. will have a managers' convention this year. In 1940 the big conference was called off because of war conditions and the last gathering was the spectacular function which was staged at Niagara Falls in mid-summer of Royal Visit Year.

Odeon Sponsors May Soon Be Verified

OTTAWA—Sponsors of Odeon Theatres of Canada, Ltd., which is creating a new theatre chain in the Dominion, may be revealed at the close of the current fiscal year, March 31, of the Canadian Government when annual reports are required from all companies operating under a Federal Charter under the provisions of the Companies Act.

These returns, which embody the names of officers and directors as well as an outline of operations, are filed with the Secretary of State at the end of March each year and they must be filed by firms which have been incorporated only a short time—in other words, for only a part of the preceding 12 months. Odeon Theatres of Canada, Ltd., was incorporated last January and it may be only a coincidence that the charter was taken out a short time after Jeffrey Bernerd, a representative of Gaumont-British Pictures and other British film interests, paid a short visit to Canada.

The only one whose name is definitely linked with Odeon Theatres of Canada is S. S. McNairn, solicitor for the company, whose address is Temple Building, Toronto. It was through him that H. G. Duerr, architect, received instructions to draw plans for the Odeon Theatre at Kingston, Ontario. The usual custom in filing application for incorporation papers is to use the names of stenographers or other legal employes as directors of a company, but the official list is revealed when the first annual report of a firm is placed in the hands of the government.

Denial has been made that 20th Century Theatres, operating a theatre circuit in Ontario, is associated with the Odeon move although this suggestion had been included in the flock of rumors which accompanied Odeon developments. Various officers and members of the Independent Theatres Association of Ontario are identified with 20th Century Theatres which operates units in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Sudbury, Belleville, Trenton and elsewhere. Incidentally, the names of officers and directors of 20th Century have never been publicly announced, which is perhaps one reason why there has been gossip that this chain might be associated with the Odeon move.

$202,000 in Six Months For Public Information

OTTAWA—The director of public information in the Dominion government, spent $202,000 during the six months ending December, 1940, it has been announced. Apart from $45,000 for salaries and allowances, this money was spent for war propaganda, including motion pictures, press stories and printed pamphlets. The expenditure for films, which were released to theatres and organizations through the National Film Board, was $70,000. These pictures were produced largely by the government motion picture bureau and Associated Screen News.

TORONTO

CAPT. H. J. SWETMAN, known to many as the manager of the Community, Kapuskasing, Ont., for years before the war, escaped death in a London air raid when a heavy bomb wrecked the YMCA Beaver Club. According to a cable, Swetman was standing in the doorway of the building and he "just waited until the building stopped shaking." During his absence overseas, the Community is being managed by L. S. Hodnett who, incidentally, made a trip to the Toronto film exchanges recently . . . Jack Arthur, district manager of Famous Players, is already getting organized for the Canadian war loan campaign in June and has intimated arrangements are being made to have a number of screen and radio stars come to Toronto for personal appearances. Bob Hope has already been booked.

The value of a theatre manager in community work was demonstrated when the Mount Pleasant Business Men's Ass'n in North Toronto was holding its annual elections. They rushed to get Al Sedgwick, manager of the Belsize, back into the chair after an absence from the presidency of one year. Arrangements are being made for the holding of the annual theatre party for juvenile inmates of the Home for Incurables. Incidentally, the North Yonge Business Men's Ass'n is on the edge of oblivion since the transfer of Vern Hudson from the Capitol to Ottawa where he is manager of the Avalon . . . Glenn Ireton of Warner Bros. home office has been appointed director of publicity for the Warner exchanges in the Dominion with headquarters at 21 Dundas Square, Toronto.

Two North Country managers were in town for important conferences. One was Jack Nelson of the Capitol, North Bay, and the other was Syd Scott of the Capitol at Sudbury. Scott has been serving as commander of the Home Defense unit but announced that it has been converted into an A.R.P. organization . . . W. J. Burke, manager of the Capitol, Galt, has recovered from an illness which he suffered alone this time because his sidekick, Jack Simmons of the Palace, London, refused to get sick to keep him company once more. In various respects, these two have lived simultaneous lives, even to getting married during the same week last year.

Manager Fred Trebilcock of the Toronto Uptown has announced that 100 per cent of the staff of the big theatre have signed pledges for regular investments in War Savings Certificates . . . George Davie, recently appointed exploitation man at Shea's, Toronto, in succession to W. J. O'Leary when the latter was made manager of the Capitol, Niagara Falls, has submitted his healthy campaign on "Little Men" for the prize contest sponsored by RKO . . . Sam Korman, manager of the Capitol, Rouyn, and Dave Korman, well known as a theatre builder, and father of Sam, suffered bereavement in the death of the latter's mother at Toronto following an operation.

In conjunction with the presentation of a stage show, "Memories of Music," featuring Marilyn Stewart, a soloist of Northern Vocational School, at the Imperial, Manager Tom Daley donated 30 per cent of the gross to the British War Victims Fund, the Norvoc students putting on a ticket-selling drive for the occasion . . . Syd Taube, Canadian Picture Pioneer, is back on the job at last after returning to Toronto from Hollywood where he spent three months for his health. He came back by way of Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg where the exhibitors were asking him about the Odeon Theatre development—"about which I knew nothing," he said . . . R. Cass, formerly of Exhibitors Booking Ass'n, has been appointed manager of the Oriole, in succession to Dave Gordon, resigned.

Wolfe Cohen, general manager of Warner Bros., is back at his Toronto desk after covering every key city in the Dominion from St. John, N. B., to Vancouver . . . Haskell Masters was in Toronto briefly from the New York office of United Artists . . . Sam Jacobs, representative of Grand National at St. John, conferred here with Harry J. Allen, general manager, regarding the new line of PRC pictures . . . Harry Kaufman of Toronto has gone to Calgary for Grand National . . . Louis Rosenfeld, general manager of Columbia of Canada, was in Montreal . . . James Davidson, former film salesman with different companies over many years, has entered another line of business. He was with Colonial Pictures until the death of General Manager B. W. Silver.

George Morrell, manager of the St. Clair, had a crowded house for a patriotic show in aid of the war victims fund, many artists contributing their services. Manager W. Hunt of the Bedford cooperated with the Canadian Legion in staging a patriotic show last Sunday night . . . Jack Arthur of Famous Players scored a personal hit as conductor of the large orchestra which played for the special network program featuring the Aldrich Family who had come to Toronto for the occasion to aid the war cause. Mrs. Joshua Smith loaned the Pylon, Toronto, for a show to raise money for the British military hospital in Palestine.

R. Coper has been appointed editor of the house organ of the Independent Theatres Association of Ontario, in succession to Mrs. S. H. Falk, wife of the theatre builder and operator. Harry Firestone, Ben Ulster and M. L. Axler continue as members of the press committee of the association . . . Gordon Beavis, manager of the Royal at North Bay, staged a "Let George Do It" contest in advance of the George Formby picture with this title, asking local residents what they would do to help North Bay. He gave photos of Winston Churchill as prizes, the idea being that the British Prime Minister is a go-getter.

Fred Jackson, manager of Loew's, London, Ont., has booked "The Great Dictator" to follow the current run of "The Philadelphia Story," the Chaplin picture having been held back until it could be played at popular prices . . . "Sixty Glorious Years," which has been on the shelf for two years, has been brought out because of its patriotic angle and its first run at the Centre, London, Ont., under the direction of Manager Jack Whitehouse, came up to expectations . . . W. P. Hart, projectionist at the Grant, has passed away in his 40th year. He was one of the youngest soldiers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the last war and won the Military Medal for bravery in the face of the enemy. A widow and daughter survive.

OTTAWA

T R. TUBMAN, manager of the Ottawa Capitol, played turnabout in cooperative newspaper advertising when he inserted a display in the local newspapers listing the many firms and stores whose employes have organized 100 per cent in the signing of pledges for war savings certificates during the recent campaign of which Tubman was the local publicity chairman. On occasion in the past, a number of these companies and merchants have cooperated with the Capitol on this or that picture.

Among floral offerings for the funeral of Benjamin F. Stapleton, pioneer Ottawa showman and owner of the Centre, were pieces from Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., Dominion Sound Equipment, Ltd., the Elgin Theatre and from the staff of the Centre. Among the many friends in attendance for the last rites were Mayor Lewis and civic and government officials; L. M. Mills, Elgin; Angelo Stevens, Regent; Vern Hudson, Avalon; Isser Singerman, Imperial; Ray Tubman, Capitol; Clare Brunton of the Auditorium; James T. Moxley, veteran local exhibitor, and William Hartnett, representing the Operators' Local. The chief mourners were his widow, Don Stapleton, only son who is managing the Centre; Mrs. Don Stapleton, and the one grandchild, Betty Ann Stapleton. The theatre was closed for the whole day.

Henry Marshall, manager of the Rideau, has discovered a way to build up a record library at a very low price by the purchase of discs discarded from automatic machines in cafes. Many of these records are practically as good as new because the operating company changes them every two weeks and Marshall has been able to secure a wide choice . . . Manager Vern Hudson of the Avalon secured nice cooperation from three optical firms in a display advertisement to tie up with the showing of "Fitting Faces," a short on the program with "Arizona" and "Blondie Plays Cupid."

Caplan's presented its pre-Easter Fashion Revue on the stage of the Capitol in conjunction with "The Philadelphia Story," and the two drew many femmes . . . Lloyd Mills, manager of the Elgin, continued his string of holdovers by playing "The Son of Monte Cristo" for a second week . . . The Capitol was jammed with an audience of 3,000 for the one appearance of John Charles Thomas of the Metropolitan Opera, the screen program for the evening being cancelled.

WINNIPEG

GRUDGING praise of the pulling power of motion pictures was given by a local clergyman here last week when, voicing his fears that Canada is heading for wide-open Sundays, the minister of the cloth drew attention to the attraction exercised by Sunday shows in the United States. The moral, as this churchman saw it, was to make services more attractive and at the same time combat with renewed vigor any attempts made in this country to bring any changes in the existant blue laws.

Syl Gunn and Kirk McComb combined their efforts to give "Western Union" one of the most outstanding build-ups to be seen here for a long time. Most unusual item in their campaign was a telegram which they had distributed through the collaboration of the Winnipeg Tribune, *a local daily. As part of a subscription building program, the paper was canvassing potential customers and the newsboys handed the telegram to these people. The paper paid for theatre tickets which were awarded as prizes to the newsboys. The telegram, signed by Gunn, read: "Indians on the warpath ambuscades blazing prairie fires stop see the thrilling motion picture story of the pioneer telegraph days in 'Western Union' now playing at the Metropolitan stop read the old timer story of pioneer railroad days in the Canadian west Saturday in the Winnipeg* Tribune *magazine section."*

Garnet Wright's record setting pace at the Bijou with his showing of the Formby film, "It's in the Air," goes on unabated with the film now in its eighth week and business even better than at the start . . . Getting off to a good start with fine reviews breaking in the papers at its opening, "So Ends Our Night" did well enough at the Garrick to warrant a holdover.

Harold Bishop heralded the run at the Capitol of "Philadelphia Story" with cartoon teaser ads and followed up with newspaper layouts which attracted a lot of attention. His showing of the Academy Award short, "Quicker'n a Wink" brought a special story in one of the dailies.

With Jack Hunt of the Oriental of Chicago a visitor here a persistent rumor is going about that his visit is in connection with a plan to bring stock musical comedy acts to the city which will play at the Orpheum. The house, long dark, is to be reopened for that purpose. As outlined, the intention is to bring a company of about 34 people from across the line. The company will play Winnipeg and then swing through the west playing one week engagements at the bigger cities and split weeks at smaller spots. A new outfit would start each week.

Hard-working Jack Randall keeps his neighborhood college on the map through persistent and effective plugging of his films. Boosting a current showing of "Wyoming," Randall dressed a young lad in a complete cowboy outfit, sat him on a Shetland pony, complete with western saddle, and sent him visiting local schools on successive days. On Saturday the boy traveled through the main streets publicizing the film through means of copy and pictures carried on a blanket layout on the pony.

Building up local talent at his house, Mike Goodman of the Times has created vaudeville acts which are proving very pleasing to his patrons . . . Harry Lee's St. Vital Windsor landed pictures and story in papers with his promotion of the recent Rags Matinee at which children were admitted in exchange for bundles of rags. The newspaper photographed the children stacking piles of rags in front of the Windsor.

E. A. Zorn, western supervisor for Famous Players, who has been on a tour of the western circuit, has returned to the city . . . Harry Gray, formerly Starland manager and recently appointed to manage the Lyceum, is settling down to his new surroundings . . . Bernie Beach, formerly of the Capitol staff, who is now managing the Starland, is reported as getting along very well at his new post.

North Bay Celebrates Jack Nelson's Award

TORONTO—The award of appointment to M-G-M's honor roll for his exploitation campaign on "Escape" was the signal for a local tribute in the form of a complimentary dinner to Jack Nelson, manager of the Capitol, North Bay, which was held at the St. Regis Hotel in that city, the honor badge and certificate being presented by Mayor C. R. Harrison in the presence of distinguished guests. Although the Capitol is a unit of Famous Players, among those who paid tribute to Jack Nelson were Gordon Beavis, manager of the Royal, the opposition theatre, and E. V. Armstrong of Toronto, representing Hanson Theatres Corp.

Among the speakers were three former mayors of North Bay, all of whom extended appreciation to the winner through having brought distinction and a considerable measure of publicity to the city. References were also made to Nelson's community activities over a long period of years.

Prominent citizens in attendance included T. J. Patton, a former District Governor of International Rotary; E. L. Banner, secretary of the Board of Trade; Dr. R. A. Torrance, president of the Lions Club; ex-Mayor George W. Lee, and C. M. Fellman, editor, and J. F. Grainger, manager of the North Bay daily newspaper.

Forbes Ross Acquires a Site in Pickering, Ont.

PICKERING, ONT.—Forbes Ross has acquired a site here for the construction of a new 750-seat house. Work starts shortly with the opening scheduled for the fall. The house will be modern in all details.

Making "Enemy Within"

HOLLYWOOD—Metro will produce "Enemy Within" from an original by J. Walter Ruben and Wells Root. Ruben will also produce.

EDMONTON

ESTABLISHING a precedent in theatre circles here, George Formby's picture "It's in the Air" played for nine days at the Garneau, Manager Bill Wilson announces. This long run for a picture is made still more remarkable by the fact that it had already been shown at two other houses in Edmonton.

Veteran theatre employe, Charlie Wilson, doorman at the Strand, is recovering from a serious operation. Wilson has been employed at the Strand for 30 *years.*

Abe Fienstein of United Artists, and Harry Phillip of Regal Films were recent visitors from Calgary.

"Gone With the Wind" now playing at the Capitol for the second time has had an exceptionally good run, reports Manager Walter Wilson. Evening performances were sold out with many unable to gain admission and patrons were urged to attend the earlier performances where possible.

Street car directions have been included in recent advertisements run by the Princess, neighborhood theatre under the management of Fred Tickell.

To help swell their war work funds, members of the IODE conducted a stall in the vestibule of the Capitol and sold soft drinks and chocolate bars during the intermission between showings of "Gone With the Wind."

Two presentations of film criticism are now being presented over CKUA, the station of the University of Alberta. One local program is presented weekly by W. Wallace, well-known amateur actor, while a second is presented by Frank Morris of the Winnipeg *Tribune.*

VANCOUVER

A $23,000 THEATRE for Royal City of New Westminster will be built in the 300 block on Sixth St. for R. C. McCartie. The new theatre will have a seating capacity of 750. H. H. Simmonds is architect and A. Malcolm contractor.

Frank Shepherd of the Star, Armstrong, is particularly proud of his house now that alterations have been completed on it. An entire new projection booth, new rest rooms and complete alteration of the outside make this small theatre one of the most up-to-date in the Okanagan district . . . Charles Ramage made a flying trip up Kettle Valley arranging "Gone With the Wind" bookings . . . E. W. Bickle in town on one of his regular booking trips.

Empire-Universal held a trade screening of "Buck Privates" at the Varsity . . . Ben Plottel of Empire-Universal was on the Island for a short visit.

Arnold Hague, who has been stationed on the coast for many years with Associated Screen News, is being transferred by that company to Montreal . . . Jimmy Haworth of Ladysmith was in town on a short visit.

MONTREAL

LENTEN observance is more rigid in the rural districts of Quebec than in the cities, which is taken by Filmrow distributors to be the reason why comparatively few out-of-town visitors have come around recently. One rara avis, however, was noted. He is W. Cruse of the Plaza, Gaspe, who made an 800-mile trip to do his spring booking. Another from a distance was Charles Magnan of the Malartic Theatre, Malartic, in northern Quebec's gold-mining area.

United Amusement Corporation is expected to grab the championship of Filmrow Bowling League which it heads at present. Runners up, so far, are Paramount and Consolidated theatres.

First newsreel pictures of rapid United States development of defenses in Newfoundland will appear on screens shortly. Ross Beesley of Associated Screen News has returned from the ancient colony with the films . . . Roy Tash covered Sir Frederick Banting's funeral and convocation ceremonies at the University of Toronto, during a visit to the Queen City . . . Another ASN cameraman, Lucien Roy, is in wintry Peace River taking pictures of dog teams, airplanes and tractors at work aiding construction of new bases in the U. S.-Alaskan airway scheme, and Bob Martin had his camera at Cartierville getting shots of Premier Adelard Godbout inspecting the Youth Training plan.

Veronica Lake, Paramount starlet of "I Wanted Wings," attended a cocktail party for the press and told how she had called at McGill to explain that it was not her fault but her publicity manager's, that she had been described in the newspapers as "a McGill graduate." She did study in Montreal, but at Villa Maria convent. She recently married John Detlie, M-G-M art director.

Paul Muni, who recently portrayed the famous French-Canadian explorer, Pierre-Esprit Radisson in "Hudson's Bay," broadcast from Montreal on CBC's Theatre of Freedom. He made the surprising confession that he does not speak French, and that his perfect French accent in "Hudson's Bay," on which he was complimented here, was simply learned by heart.

Grand National Films, re-incorporated as Producers Releasing Corporation of Canada and Newfoundland has started operations with six branches, Montreal, Toronto, St. John, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

Paul Nathanson is understood to be the executive head of the new Canadian Odeon circuit which expects to operate about 60 houses, mostly in Ontario.

W. J. Singleton, sales manager of Associated Screen News, introduced to the Advertising and Sales Executives Club of Montreal, the two-reeler, "Peoples of Canada," which will be released shortly . . . Although Charlie Chaplin's "Dictator" ran only one week in Montreal, it is making a profound impression in Great Britain where the suggestion was made in a letter to the London Daily Mail *that Chaplin should be rewarded with a knighthood.*

Charles Staples Confines Interest to St. Stephen

ST. STEPHEN, N. B.—Charles E. Staples, who has been operating the Queen Theatre here and State Theare in Calais, Me., twin town on the border, in both of which he held a 50 per cent interest, has acquired full ownership of the St. Stephen Queen and sold his share in the Calais State.

Staples, who has been manager of the Queen and its predecessor, the Bijou, for over 30 years, acquired the 50 per cent interest that gave him complete ownership, from the J. W. Smith estate.

His interest in the State Theatre has been sold to Lockwood and Gordon of Boston. This is the only theatre now being operated in Calais.

With war restrictions on border crossing, and particularly on monetary exchange, the theatres on the Maine side of the line have been adversely affected, the regulations reducing the volume of Canadians patronizing the theatres on the Maine side, and as a corollary, boosting business on the Canadian side.

Death of Silver Brings Colonial Reorganization

TORONTO—Following the sudden death of B. W. Silver, general manager, in New York last January while on a business trip to that city, Colonial Pictures, Ltd., has been reorganized here with Mrs. Joshua Smith as secretary-treasurer and her son, Jay L. Smith, as general manager. The company is distributing a number of Alliance features in Canada and it is understood that Buddy Rogers of New York has an interest in the Canadian company.

Percy White

ST. JOHN, N. B.—Death struck suddenly at Percy White, owner of the Canso, at Canso, N. S. White was on the street when he collapsed. His theatre was both entertainment and business base for the Canso lobster fishing fleet, he being marketing agent for the boat owners.

ST. JOHN

IN THE recent death of Ronald J. Macadam, 63, of Halifax, N. S., who died suddenly, the exhibiting field in Nova Scotia lost its pioneer and a very picturesque figure. Born at East Bay, N. S., he became manager of a road show theatre, in Sydney, N. S., in 1902. In 1907 he established the first picture theatre in Nova Scotia, the Alexandra Hall at Sydney. In 1916 he had the Casino in Halifax built to his own plans. In 1929 he shifted to talking pictures. In addition to the Casino, Macadam operated the Garrick in Halifax, a former road show and stock vaude house. Several years ago both theatres were added to the Famous Players Canadian circuit, but with Macadam continuing as the Casino's major owner. He retired as manager about 16 months prior his death. Surviving are his widow and a sister.

Not content with owning and managing the Roseland and Academy in New Glasgow, N. S., N. W. Mason is coming back as an actor. It is almost four decades since he trod the stage, but he is now readying to produce and play the top role in "The Old Homestead," for a tour which will include about all the eastern camps of the Canadian army, air force and navy. Mason, who is 77, organized his present troupe of Little Theatre players from around New Glasgow, on hearing that the men in the war uniforms are in dire need of entertainment at their training bases.

When curlers representing eastern Canadian clubs arrived in Toronto to participate in a bonspiel emblematic of the Canadian title, they found invitations to enter the Imperial, of the F. P. C. chain any time during their week's stay. Tom Daley, manager, is a native of St. John, and formerly manager of picture houses in Halifax.

Due to the great difficulty in getting U. S. money for spending on the U. S. side of the border, Canadians living on or near the border are creating record business at the theatres along the boundary.

SASKATCHEWAN

COOL weather somewhat hampered the plans of Charles Horning, assistant manager of the Met Theatre, Regina, for ballyhooing "Chad Hanna," but Charlie did manage to have two sandwich board clowns on the street, a girl riding up and down the main thoroughfare on a horse and a neat little window display in Regina's largest department store.

Elliott D. Brown, manager of the Roxy Theatre, Yorkton, has left for Saskatoon where he has been called to service in the RCAF, and Forest Plumb, of Wilkie, Sask., has arrived in Yorkton to replace him . . . On his departure to assume the managership of the Wilkie, Sask. house, Nelson Warner of the Roxy, Saskatoon, was presented with a Gladstone bag by the manager and staff.

Enthusiastic curlers, I. Reinhorn, manager of the Roxy, Regina, and Frank Hastings, assistant manager, visited the Carlyle, Sask., bonspiel. The Hastings rink won a third prize . . . Paul Wisminity, apprentice at the Roxy, Watrous, was in Regina recently writing the necessary examination to qualify as a licensed projectionist.

Merchants of Star City combined to sponsor a free picture show for the people of Star City and district on a recent Saturday. Show was held in the Roxy . . . Members of Service Flying Training School at Moose Jaw were shown a 16mm version of "London Can Take It," available in the city for use in schools to assist in the purchasing of war savings stamps.

Orpheum Theatre, Nipawin, was filled to capacity for the Nipawin school's annual concert.

Club Provides Students Theatre Tickets

Atlanta—Through a tieup with a local good citizenship club, Lionel Keene of the Kirkwood Theatre has issued honor student courtesy cards that admit the bearer to attend the show without cost. Individual members of the citizenship club, each of whom has a role as a sponsor of a class at local schools, bestows these tickets upon the outstanding scholar each month. The club pays for the admissions.

A variation on these courtesy cards was issued during the showing of "Abe Lincoln in Illinois." The tickets were good for five cents on an admission and 1,000 were distributed to teachers to give their classes.

Lutes' and Prickett's Campaigns Winners

NEW YORK—M-G-M has awarded Honor Roll Buttons to Gene Lutes, Capitol Theatre, Frankfort, Ky., and Ken Prickett, El Rancho, Victoria, Tex., for their outstanding campaigns for "Land of Liberty" and "Flight Command," respectively.

Lutes' campaign was highlighted by a special screening for civic officials and representatives of educational, religious and social organizations, all of whom cooperated fully in boosting the picture. Special arrangements were made with the county superintendent of schools to allow the various schools under his supervision to be dismissed and transported in school buses to attend an early showing of the picture on opening day. It was necessary to run the film in three houses simultaneously to accommodate all the students.

One of the features of the "Flight Command" promotion was the setting up of a recruiting booth in the lobby, with an officer ready to pass out pamphlets and explain various phases of army enlistment to applicants. Another table was set up for applicants for the flight training course at the local Junior College. A plane secured from a local airport was put on display at a vacant lot, with appropriate copy adorning it. Plenty of art and stories in local newspapers topped off the campaign.

Navy Mothers Cooperate

NEW YORK—The Navy Mothers of America, a national organization of feminine family heads whose sons are in the navy, is cooperating with RKO's exploitation department in campaigns on "A Girl, A Guy and A Gob."



Training for "Buck Privates"—

Bill Zeilor, manager of the Harris Senator, Pittsburgh, and Ed Siegal, Universal exploiteer, attracted considerable interest with this train in the interest of "Buck Privates." Draftees attended a special performance as guests of the theatre. The train, equipped with whistles and amplification for street spiels and reproducing of special records, moved through Pittsburgh streets day and night. A rookie peeling spuds in a downtown window was another display for "Buck Privates."

Heralds Follow Up a Calendar for Texan

PORT NECHES, TEX.—A showman who believes in keeping his wares before the public is W. S. Samuel of the Lyric Theatre. Samuel follows up a monthly calendar with gaily colored heralds issued weekly.

The heralds devote their cover to institutional advertising, reminding that the best in entertainment is always nearby at the Lyric. The other three pages plug the week's product.

Samuel's calendar is printed in two colors and is dressed up with small cuts in each date square, plugging the picture booked for that date.

Film Made at School Draws to Matinees

KENT, OHIO—Taking moving pictures of youngsters attending a Washington's Birthday show at Schine's Kent Theatre proved so popular that Manager E. L. Kidwell has extended the stunt to taking pictures of the kids at the various schools.

These pictures, taken at recess time, are advertised by a trailer and special handbills. An easel alongside the photographer urges: "Watch for these movies. At the Kent soon." Every grade school is covered individually and the films made at a particular school are shown each Saturday afternoon.

: Sends Big Letter :

CHICAGO—A letter, four times the size of an ordinary letterhead, printed up in large typewriter type and bearing the signature of Manager Robert Busch was used as a herald to advertise the Jeffery Theatre's Sunday attractions for the month of April.

The throwaway started off "This letter is big because it contains big news. We're proud of the attractions we have booked for your entertainment for the month of April. We don't believe that any finer shows can be seen at any price or at any other theatre.

"We have appropriately labeled April 'The Month of Sundays' at the Jeffery Theatre as witness the following attractions:"

Then followed four paragraphs, each one listing the feature booked starting that Sunday, and carrying a plug as to its merits.

BLITZKRIEG SALE—15,000 Theatre Chairs late models. 50c, 75c, $1. Previously sold for $6. Reserve now. Evergreen 8-4975. EASTERN SEATING (Nick Diack), 58 Dobbin Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

NUGGETS

Showmen whose exploitation activities merited delineation in these columns are herewith listed.

Joseph Bean
Center, Fall River, Mass.

George Bole
Golden Gate, San Francisco

Perry Charles
M-G-M Publicity Dept., New York City

O. I. Dowler
Longmont, Longmont, Colo.

Roscoe Drissel
Loew's, Norfolk, Va.

Nate Gould
Orpheum, St. Joseph, Mo.

Gil Green
Regent, Detroit

Henry Hall
Jefferson, Charlottesville, Va.

Pat Heavey
State, Kalamazoo, Mich.

David M. Idzal
Fox, Detroit

Robert Kilgore
Palace, Memphis, Tenn.

Dave Martin, Bill Erickson
Granada, Inglewood, Calif.

Kenneth Rockwell
RKO Jefferson, New York City

Emmett Stark
Palace, Timmins, Ont.

John Wyatt
Monterey, Monterey, Calif.

ANDY HARDY'S PRIVATE SECRETARY—School presidents vied with private secretaries in a radio quiz based on an episode in the film. Titled "Do bosses know more than their private secretaries?" the quiz was broadcast in a quarter-hour program the night preceding opening. Participants included the senior class presidents of three universities—representing the "bosses"—and the private secretaries of three prominent figures.

A GIRL, A GUY AND A GOB—The naval district cooperated with a display of miniature battleships for the mezzanine, a recruiting booth with gobs in attendance and cooperated in a recruiting stunt wherein a volunteer responded from the audience and a recruiting officer was there to sign him up pronto.

CONVOY—Over 50,000 school children were reached through the routing of a set of British flags, including all the empire units, to the various schools. A speaker explained to history classes the part the flags played in England's history. Later the flags were spotted around the marquee and made an avenue in the lobby. Also in the lobby was a display of knitting turned out by local members of British relief agencies. Members of the agencies sold emblems in the lobby and telephoned all members to come see the picture. Ten thousand heralds were distributed house to house and a screening held for teachers. Theme for ads was "Will the British win the war?"

FLIGHT COMMAND—A telegram from Robert Taylor commending a local recruiting officer for his fine work, and mentioning the film, was publicized. Guest tickets were offered recruits who passed their physical examinations. Photos of the new recruits were planted in downtown windows and parents were informed the pictures were on display and offered the elders guest tickets.

HAUNTED HONEYMOON—Seated on a settee in the lobby were two skeletons in close embrace. Sign beneath read: "Don't disturb; we are on a 'Haunted Honeymoon.'" Lobby card above gave playdate, and a rear mirror on the wall enhanced the effect.

COMRADE X—"$500 a Seat" blared large letters on a 30x40 easel frame in front of the theatre. Further copy, in considerably smaller letters, informed that an exclusive, private showing of "Comrade X" was available for a $500 fee, the admission to be turned over to any worthy local charity selected by a group of representative citizens.

NIGHT TRAIN TO MUNICH—A herald in the form of a lengthy railroad ticket which looked like the real thing, read "From the (theatre) All Ab-o-a-r-d . . . the most exciting and hilarious trip you've ever had, etc." Small type in the tear-off sections of strip gave newspaper criticisms on the picture.

LAND OF LIBERTY—A giant replica of the Statue of Liberty displayed with stills and copy in a leading window.

PHILADELPHIA STORY—By arrangement with the local newspaper, pictures of service men attached to a nearby base were snapped candidly about town. Those identifying their photos received cash and guest tickets. The paper devoted art and stories to the idea.

PHILADELPHIA STORY—A young sandwich man walking around town was placarded: "Is my face red! I just saw "Philadelphia Story.'"

ADAM HAD FOUR SONS—Above the usual two column newspaper ad a managerial endorsement read as follows: "To you who appreciate the screen's finer achievements, I personally commend and endorse 'Adam Had Four Sons' as a picture which ranks with 'Back Street' in emotional candor and with 'Rebecca' in its thrilling portrayal of triumph." Manager's sig concluded the message.

FLIGHT COMMAND—A 1,000 horsepower airplane engine, borrowed from a local aviation school, which had the motor and propeller geared for instructional purposes with lighting showing movements of pistons, etc., was mounted in the lobby and plugged into the wall socket, the power slowly turning the propellor. Guard rails and an attendant on duty protected the crowds that were attracted by the display. At evening shows, students from the school explained specifications of the motor to interested patrons.

MR. AND MRS. SMITH—The local newspaper and radio station were promoted for a theatre party for the Mr. and Mrs. Smiths on the opening day of the picture. All the Smiths who would meet at 7:30 p. m. at a nearby confectionery were served refreshments and went in a body to the theatre. The refreshments were promoted.

SCATTERGOOD BAINES—Newspaper contest offered cash prizes and tickets for the best "Scattergood Quotations." Also a radio search for a horse and carriage similar to one Scattergood might drive. When one was located it was suitably bannered and driven about town.

TRIAL OF MARY DUGAN—A repair job on a water main that burst in front of the theatre soon carried a sign standard in the mound of dirt, reading: "We're digging for evidence to be used in 'The Trial of Mary Dugan.'"

GALLANT SONS—Lobby display emphasized that the picture was made by the makers of "Boys Town." The theme of devotion was tied up with the currently front-page items about Laddie, the dog flown from Kansas to his master in camp in California. Angle was the picture had the heart appeal and devotion of Laddie.

Walking 24-Sheet In Harrisburg

Harrisburg, Pa.—A 24-sheet, mounted on heavy wrapping paper and tacked to four upright poles. Four boys carried it and would unroll it at busy corners, remaining at each spot for about five minutes. The stunt was worked for "Philadelphia Story" by Bill Elder of Loew's.

Publicity Outlet Near at Hand

Chicago—On a specially constructed bulletin board, 15"x15" attached to a wall in the ladies room, Manager Robert Kennedy of the Symphony Theatre, each week posts a special typewritten story on the woman's angle of various pictures coming to the theatre.

Australia at War

RKO 18 *Mins.*

(March of Time, Vol. 8, No. 8)

Fair. Pictorially supplementing the daily headlines, "Australia At War" utilizes recent and familiar newsreel shots in part and shows the troops from down under in the African campaign; the war program mapped out and being executed by the Australian government, including scenes of road building, a transcontinental highway linking Darwin with Sydney and Melbourne, the manufacture of munitions, the home utilization of agricultural products and export of surplus. Finally, and of much more interest to American audiences, there is a strategic mapping of the Pacific with Australia's possibly prominent position in relation to the "braking" of Japanese expansion. To highlight this theory the military bases, troops and naval squadrons in the Dutch East Indies, Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila and Hawaii are seen briefly. It's a newsworthy issue, generally.

For the People

Greater New York Fund 9 *Mins.*

Featuring Raymond Massey as narrator, this reel is available gratis. With the pictorial presence of Abraham Lincoln in the background it shows the humanitarian work the organization does for orphans, poverty-stricken sick, crippled children and the blind. The Fund does not solicit in theatres. It's worth playing for the ultimate good it will do.

Unusual Occupations

Paramount (Series LO-4) 11 *Mins.*

Average. A London jeweler reproduces royal appurtenances; a Connecticut woman utilizes colored wool in lieu of paint to make interesting pictures; an Iowa would-be railroad engineer has his own, private engine; a traveling beauty shop makes the rounds of small towns, also in Iowa; a young girl in Mexico is an expert bull fighter and Clifford McBride's famous cartoon dog, Napoleon, is shown in his master's studio.

From Singapore to Hong Kong

Columbia (Columbia Tour) 10 *Mins.*

Average. Routine travelogue footage of both cities with the usual comparison of old and new, various races that make up the native army and cut and dried comment on the soundtrack; that's all there is.

Stranger Than Fiction

Universal (No. 88) 9¼ *Mins.*

Interesting. Herein are shown a feather-collecting fish lure manufacturer; a driftwood hotel; a motor fuel made of water and lye; a man who makes pictures from fragments of postage stamps, and a youngster who is quite the contortionist.

Greece Fights Back

Paramount 8½ *Mins.*

Fine. The March of Time produced this extremely effective short subject as its offering in the cause of the forthcoming Greek War relief drive among theatres. The sterling stamp of intelligence is evident throughout. The narration is terse, dramatic and never wordy and the clips themselves are concentrated drama. In story content, the subject quickly tells about the glories of ancient Greece, the threatening heel of the totalitarian aggressor and the valor of the Hellenic defender. Net proceeds go to the fund. That's one reason for playing it. The other concerns the power of the reel and its claim to widespread screen time because of merit.

Timber

Disney-RKO (Donald Duck) 8 *Mins.*

Very good. Donald tries to steal food at a lumber camp. Caught, he is put to work with axes, saws, etc. He gets into difficulty with Big Pierre and has to run for it. The chase scenes offer Donald racing along on a handcar with Pierre hot in pursuit. At the last moment Donald sidetracks Pierre so he crashes clean through a string of box cars.

Delhi

Paramount 11 *Mins.*

(Fascinating Journeys)

Good. Done in the regulation, skillful style of this series, herein is offered historical architectural sights, the colorful saris of the Indian women, religious information, on the soundtrack, and a good deal of footage showing the British part of the city, plus troops and the modern influence. The subject's attraction lies in the manner of presentation.

Cliff Edwards and His Buckaroos

Vitaphone (Melody Masters) 10 *Mins.*

Good. This is pleasant musical divertissment in the western manner. It all takes place in and around the main house of a dude ranch, with a little "business" to intersperse the song numbers. Edwards sings two solos and is backed up in a few more by a nice male group. It is for general patronage.



"M-m! THAT'S WORTH REAL THOUGHT!"

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Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ◎ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
AUG. 10	7 Drama 1008 **The Lady in Question** (81) Brian Aherne Rita Hayworth R—Aug. 10	9 Com. Drama 50 **I Love You Again** (99) William Powell Myrna Loy R—Aug. 17		9 Melodrama 3943 **Mystery Sea Raider** (78) R—Aug. 10 Henry Wilcoxon Carole Landis	10 Musical 910 **Sing, Dance, Plenty Hot** (72) Johnny Downs Ruth Terry R—Aug. 3	9 Melodrama 042 **One Crowded Night** (68) R—Aug. 3 Billie Seward William Haade	9 Com. Drama 104 **The Girl From Avenue A** (73) Jane Withers Kent Taylor R—Aug. 10	9 Melodrama **Captain Caution** (86) R—Aug. 10 Victor Mature Louise Platt	9 Comedy 4003 **Boys From Syracuse** (72) R—July 20 Allan Jones Martha Raye	10 Ac. Dram. WB414 **River's End** (69) Dennis Morgan Elizabeth Earl R—Aug. 24	
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama 1039 **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 15 Western 2201 **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy 49 **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama 3913 **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 Western 3958 **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	16 Comedy 3944 **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western 071 **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama 041 **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama 103 ⊙**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama WB417 **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama 1006 **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama 3939 **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western RB-1 **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama 3945 **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda 171 **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama 043 **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R—Aug. 24	23 Drama 106 **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. WB412 **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama 48 **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama 3903 **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western 069 **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy 046 **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners** (101) R. Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy 109 **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama WB401 **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 Mystery 1 **Marked Men** (69) Warren Hull R—Feb. 1—PG-18
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy 1022 **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama 101 **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama 3920 **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. 4001 **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western 043 **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama 101 **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	6 Melodrama 110 **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (82) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. 5013 **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. WB519 **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama 2032 **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama 1024 **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carrillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama 017 **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept. 14	13 Comedy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 Comedy 105 **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. 5006 **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama 5051 **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 Comedy FN554 **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 ◎**The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 Mus. Com. 104 **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama 4021 **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordan R—Oct. 5	20 Drama 4002 **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western 086 **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Action Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama 5020 **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 Western 5061 **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 Drama WB506 **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 Western 1 **Arizona Gang Busters** (60) Tim McCoy
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 1040 **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct. 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery 105 **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama 4003 **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western 062 **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. 5001 **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 Western 1 **Billy the Kid in Texas** (55) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners** (58) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama 4004 **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 Western 072 **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western 181 **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama 5019 **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama WB502 **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Drama 2018 **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western RB-2 **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 Drama 4005 **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 Mus. Com. 005 **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 Burl. Com. 105 **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R—Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 Mus. Com. 113 ⊙**Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 Melodrama 5017 **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 Comedy FN559 **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama 2030 **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows R—Feb. 1—PG-18		7 Com. Dr. 4010 **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 Drama 4006 **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 Mus. Com. 001 **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 Melodrama 107 **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore [illegible]21	18 Drama 114 **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 Western 5062 **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. WB511 **Dispatch From Reuter's** (90) Edw. G. Robinson	

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
OCT. 26	24 Drama **2038** **Girls Under 21** (64) R—Nov. 30 21 Western **2202** **West of Abilene** (57) R—Aug. 3	25 Comedy **109** **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 Drama **4007** **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 25 Documentary **World in Flames** (61) R—Oct. 26	21 Western **052** **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 Melodrama **104** **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton R—Oct. 19	25 Comedy **111** **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy **5024** **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 Drama **5007** **Seven Sinners** (86) R—Nov. 2	26 Com. Dr. **FN561** **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale R—Oct. 26	
NOV. 2	31 Comedy **2016** **Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	1 Drama **106** **Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		1 Musical **4008** **Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	1 Mystery **006** **Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	1 Comedy **109** **Li'l Abner** (78) Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			1 Comedy **5036** **I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 Melodrama **5052** **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	2 Comedy **FN570** **Always a Bride** (60) Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical **110** **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western **4051** **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 Musical **4009** **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 Mus. Comedy **007** **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 Comedy **106** **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 Melodrama **117** **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy **5021** **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 Western **5063** **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama **FN562** **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	
NOV. 16	14 Western **2210** **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama **111** **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery **4012** **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western **4050** **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western **063** **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy **111** **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama **102** **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		15 Drama **5015** **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama **WB513** **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Brenda Marshall R—Dec. 21	11 Western **154** **Riders of Black Mountain** (59) Tim McCoy
NOV. 23	23 Mystery **2021** **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30 28 Drama **2012** **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30	22 Comedy **112** **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 Western **RB-3** **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western **041** **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 22 Western **073** **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. **108** **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy **119** **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy **5023** **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama **R5048** **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama **FN552** **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	30 Mystery **2024** **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **115** **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 Comedy **018** **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karnes R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **113** **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama **120** **Tin Pan Alley** (94) R—Nov. 30 Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable	29 Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy **5010** **Bank Dick, The** (72) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama **WB512** **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western **2203** **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy **114** **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. **4011** **Night at Earl Carroll's, A** (63) Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western **053** **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western **182** **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama **118** **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy **5026** **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy **FN571** **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	
DEC. 14	9 Drama **2031** **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama **113** **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		13 Western **4012** **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy **008** **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery **121** **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama **5008** **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Com. Mys. **105** **Devil Bat** (69) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 21	20 Mystery **2033** **Phantom Submarine** (69) Anita Louise R—Feb. 22—PG-30			27 Outd'r Dr. **3946** **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama **009** **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama **114** **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	20 Comedy **122** **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama **5025** **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 **Reissue** **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Drama **104** **Misbehaving Husbands** (66) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	25 Outd'r Dr. **2101** **Arizona** (128) R—Nov. 23 31 Western **2211** **Wildcat of Tucson** (64) Bill Elliott R—Feb. 22—PG-30	27 Comedy **116** **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 Drama **4003** **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western **4052** **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) R—Feb. 1—PG-17	27 Comedy **4013** **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western **064** **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama **112** **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Dennis Morgan R—Dec. 21	27 Drama **123** **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Com. **5018** **Invisible Woman** (73) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan. 4—PG-1	28 Adv. Dr. **FN551** **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Western **159** **Billy the Kid's Gun Justice** (63) Bob Steele
JAN. 4	2 Comedy **2205** **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama **117** **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical **4014** **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama **019** **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 Drama **161** **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	3 Drama **115** **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama **5030** **Where Did You Get That Girl** (65) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama **5053** **Lucky Devils** (62)	4 M'drama **WB503** **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	
JAN. 11	9 Western **2204** **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett R—Feb. 8—PG-23	10 Com. Drama **118** **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western **RB-4** **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (60) Range Busters R—Mar. 8—PG-38	10 Western **4051** **Doomed Caravan** (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 Western **074** **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 Drama **110** **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama **124** **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western **5064** **Boss of Bullion City** (59) 10 Drama **5027** **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama **FN572** **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon R—Feb. 1—PG-19	10 Western **163** **Lone Rider Rides On** (61) George Houston R—Mar. 1—PG-35
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. **2029** **Face Behind the Mask** (69) Peter Lorre R—Feb. 15—PG-26	17 Drama **119** **Philadelphia Story** (112) R—Nov. 30 **Gone With the Wind** (225) R—Dec. 23, '39	15 Mystery **Dead Man's Shoes** (....) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 Drama **4015** **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western **054** **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers R—Jan. 18—PG-10	17 Musical **115** **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama **125** **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 Comedy **5022** **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (62) Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Dr. **WB510** **Honeymoon for Three** (76) George Brent R—Jan. 25—PG-13	17 Comedy **107** **Caught in the Act** (62) Henry Armetta
JAN. 25		24 Comedy **121** **Wild Man of Borneo** (78) R-Feb. 8-PG-24 24 Historical **Land of Liberty** (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	20 Melodrama **4014** **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 Comedy **4016** **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (82) R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western **044** **Riding on a Rainbow** (79) Gene Autry R—Feb. 1—PG-19	24 Mystery **116** **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama **128** **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (78) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 25—PG-14	24 Comedy **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carole Landis R—Feb. 15—PG-25		25 Drama **FN556** **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western **160** **Billy the Kid's Range War** (61) Bob Steele

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
FEB. 1	[3] Melodrama **2028** **The Devil Commands** (65) Boris Karloff R—Feb. 22—PG-31	[31] Drama **122** **Come Live With Me** (86) James Stewart R—Feb. 1—PG-17			[28] Comedy **010** **Arkansas Judge** (72) Weaver Bros. R—Jan. 25—PG-14	[31] Comedy **117** **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard R—Jan. 23—PG-13	[31] Drama **127** **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		[31] Comedy **5009** **Buck Privates** (84) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello R—Feb. 8—PG-22	[1] Drama **WB520** **Father's Son** (57) John Litel Frieda Inescort R—Feb. 22—PG-31	[31] Mystery **10** **Secret Evidence** (64) Marjorie Reynolds Chas. Quigley R—Feb. 8—PG-23
FEB. 8	[13] Western **2212** **Across the Sierra** (58) Bill Elliott	[7] Comedy **123** **Blonde Inspiration** (72) John Shelton R—Feb. 22—PG-30	[6] Western **4053** **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (61) Tex Ritter R—Mar. 1—PG-35	[7] Mus. Com. **4017** **You're the One** (81) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker R—Feb. 8—PG-21	[31] Comedy **020** **Petticoat Politics** (67) Higgins Family R—Feb. 22—PG-31	[7] Western **183** **Along the Rio Grande** (64) Tim Holt R—Feb. 1—PG-20	[7] Comedy **129** **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (59) Eugene Pallette R—Feb. 15—PG-25		[7] Drama **5002** **Back Street** (89) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer R—Feb. 8—PG-21	[8] Drama **WB514** **Flight From Destiny** (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	[18] Drama **2006** **Adam Had Four Sons** (81) Warner Baxter R—Feb. 22—PG-32	[14] Drama **125** **Trial of Mary Dugan** (90) Robert Young R—Feb. 15—PG-28		[14] Mystery **4018** **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone R—Feb. 15—PG-26	[14] Western **075** **Phantom Cowboy** (56) Don "Red" Barry	[14] Drama **121** **Play Girl** (77) Kay Francis James Ellison R—Dec. 14	[14] Com. Drama **130** **Golden Hoofs** (68) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers R—Feb. 22—PG-29	[14] Drama **So Ends Our Night** (121) Fredric March Margaret Sullavan R—Feb. 1—PG-20	[14] Comedy **5032** **Meet the Chump** (60) Hugh Herbert R—Feb. 15—PG-28	[15] Comedy **WB515** **The Great Mr. Nobody** (71) Eddie Albert Joan Leslie	
FEB. 22	[20] Drama **2027** **Meet Boston Blackie** (61) Chester Morris Rochelle Hudson R—Mar. 8—PG-39	[21] Comedy **126** **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (101) R—Mar. 1—PG-36	[19] Air Drama **4013** **Flying Wild** (63) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan R—Mar. 8—PG-38	[21] Drama **4019** **Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	[16] Western **065** **Prairie Pioneers** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Mar. 1—PG-35	[21] Com. Drama **123** **Scattergood Baines** (69) Guy Kibbee R—Feb. 15—PG-27	[21] Drama **126** **Western Union** (95) Robert Young R—Feb. 8—PG-24		[21] Mus. Com. **5003** **Nice Girl?** (95) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone R—Mar. 1—PG-36	[22] Com. Dr. **FN559** **Strawberry Blonde** (91) James Cagney Olivia de Havilland R—Feb. 22—PG-29	
MAR. 1	[27] Comedy **2015** **Blondie Goes Latin** (69) R-Feb. 22 PG-32 [27] Western **2205** **Outlaws of the Panhandle** (59) Charles Starrett	[28] Com. Dram. **127** **Free and Easy** (55) Ruth Hussey Robert Cummings	[28] Drama **4004** **Sign of the Wolf** (....) Grace Bradley Michael Whalen	[28] Drama **4020** **The Monster and the Girl** (65) Ellen Drew Rod Cameron R—Feb. 15—PG-27	[28] Act. Drama **021** **Great Train Robbery** (61) Bob Steele Claire Carleton R—Mar. 8—PG-39	[28] Drama **118** **Citizen Kane** (....) Orson Welles Dorothy Comingore	[28] Mystery **132** **Murder Among Friends** (67) John Hubbard Marjorie Weaver R—Mar. 15—PG-43	[1] Comedy **The Great Dictator** (129) R—Oct. 26 Charles Chaplin Jack Oakie Paulette Goddard	[28] Drama **5040** **Dark Streets of Cairo** (59) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7	[1] Mys. Dr. **FN573** **Shadows on the Stairs** (63) Frieda Inescort Paul Cavanagh	[28] Western **16** **Lone Rider Crosses the Rio** (....) George Houston
MAR. 8	[28] Drama **2044** **Missing Ten Days** [6] Mystery **2022** **Lone Wolf Takes a Chance** (76)	[7] Drama **128** **Rage in Heaven** (85) Robert Montgomery Ingrid Bergman R Mar. 15—PG-44		[7] Comedy **4021** **Hard-Boiled Canary** (79) Allan Jones R—Mar. 1—PG-33	[7] Drama **011** **A Man Betrayed** (83) John Wayne Frances Dee R—Mar. 22—PG-46		[7] Drama **133** **Tobacco Road** (84) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau R—Mar. 1—PG-33		[7] Comedy **5041** **Mr. Dynamite** (63) Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey R—Mar. 15—PG-42	[8] Mys. Dr. **WB509** **Footsteps in the Dark** (96) Errol Flynn R—Mar. 8—PG-37	[7] Western **15** **Outlaws of the Rio Grande** (53) Tim McCoy
MAR. 15		[14] Drama **129** **The Penalty** (80) Lionel Barrymore Edward Arnold R—Mar. 15—PG-42		[14] Western **4052** **In Old Colorado** (66) R—Mar. 1—PG-34 William Boyd	[14] Western **045** **Back in the Saddle** (73) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—Mar. 15—PG 43	[14] Comedy **120** **A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (91) George Murphy Lucille Ball R—Mar. 8—PG-37	[14] Drama **134** **Sleepers West** (74) Lloyd Nolan Lynn Bari R—Mar. 22—PG-46		[14] Drama **Double Date** (60) Peggy Moran Edmund Lowe R—Mar. 22—PG-47	[15] Comedy **WB521** **Here Comes Happiness** (58) Mildred Coles Edward Norris	
MAR. 22				[21] Comedy **4022** **Lady Eve** (97) Barbara Stanwyck Henry Fonda R—Mar. 8—PG-40		[21] Musical **119** **Footlight Fever** (69) Alan Mowbray Donald McBride	[21] Drama **135** **The Outlaw** (....) Walter Huston Thomas Mitchell	[21] Comedy **Topper Returns** (....) Joan Blondell Roland Young R—Mar. 22—PG-48	[21] Comedy **The Man Who Lost Himself** (....) Brian Aherne Kay Francis	[22] Drama **WB501** **The Sea Wolf** (99) Edw. G. Robinson Ida Lupino R—Mar. 22—PG-48	[22] Western **16** **Billy the Kid's Trigger Pals** (....) Bob Steele
MAR. 29	[24] Mys. Drama **2025** **Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery** (70) Ralph Bellamy R—Mar. 1—PG-34	[28] Drama **124** **The Bad Man** (....) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore		[28] Musical **4023** **Las Vegas Nights** (89) Phil Regan Tommy Dorsey	[26] Drama **012** **Mr. District Attorney** (....) Dennis O'Keefe Florence Rice	[28] Drama **124** **Melody for Three** (67) R—Mar. 8—PG-40 [28] Comedy **Reissue** **Vivacious Lady** (....)	[28] Mystery **136** **Dead Men Tell** (....) Sidney Toler Jean Rogers		[28] Drama **Man-Made Monster** (59) [28] Mystery **Horror Island** (....)	[29] Drama **FN568** **Knockout** (73) Arthur Kennedy Olympe Bradna	[29] Drama **Federal Fugitives** (....)
APR. 5	[31] Western **2213** **North From the Lone Star** (....) Bill Elliott	[4] Com. Drama **Washington Melodrama** (....) Frank Morgan Ann Rutherford		[4] Drama **4024** **The Roundup** (90) Richard Dix Pat Morison R—Mar. 22—PG-47	[28] Western **055** **In Old Cheyenne** (....) Roy Rogers	[4] Drama **125** **Repent at Leisure** (67) Kent Taylor Wendy Barrie	[4] Mystery **131** **Scotland Yard** (64) John Loder Nancy Kelly Edmund Gwenn		[4] Melodrama **Mutiny in the Arctic** (....)	[5] Mys. Drama **A Shot in the Dark** (....) William Lundigan Nan Wynn	
APR. 12	[10] Act. Drama **The Great Swindle** (54) Jack Holt Marjorie Reynolds	[11] Drama **Men of Boys Town** (106) Spencer Tracy Mickey Rooney R Mar. 15—PG-44		[11] Comedy **4025** **Road to Zanzibar** (90) Bing Crosby Bob Hope R—Mar. 15—PG-41	[6] Comedy **Sis Hopkins** (....) Judy Canova	[11] Comedy **122** **The Devil and Miss Jones** (....) Jean Arthur Charles Coburn	[11] Musical **That Night in Rio** (90) Alice Faye Don Ameche R—Mar. 15—PG-41		[11] Outdoor Dr. **Lady From Cheyenne** (....) Loretta Young Robert Preston Edward Arnold	[12] Drama **The Great Lie** (107) Bette Davis George Brent	
APR. 19	[17] Com. Drama **Penny Serenade** (....) Irene Dunne Cary Grant	[18] Musical **130** **Ziegfeld Girl** (....) Judy Garland James Stewart Hedy Lamarr		[18] Western **4053** **Border Vigilantes** (62) William Boyd	[18] Western **Pals of the Pecos** (....) Three Mesquiteers	[18] Western **184** **Robbers of the Range** (....) Tim Holt	[18] Outd'r Drama **Ride On, Vaquero** (....) Cesar Romero		[18] Drama **The Flame of New Orleans** (....) Marlene Dietrich Bruce Cabot	[19] Drama **Strange Alibi** (....) Arthur Kennedy Joan Perry	
APR. 26	[24] Act. Drama **Under Age** (....) Nan Grey Alan Baxter			[25] Act. Drama **Power Dive** (....) Richard Arlen Jean Parker	[25] Musical **Rookies on Parade** (....) Bob Crosby Ruth Terry	[25] Musical **128** **They Met in Argentina** (....) Maureen O'Hara James Ellison	[25] Mystery **Inspector Hornleigh Goes to It** (....) Gordon Harker	[20] Com. Drama **That Uncertain Feeling** (....) Melvyn Douglas Merle Oberon R—Mar. 22—PG-45	[25] Comedy **Model Wife** (....) Joan Blondell Dick Powell	[26] Drama **Wagons Roll at Night** (....) Humphrey Bogart Sylvia Sidney	
MAY 3	[30] Act. Drama **They Dare Not Love** (....) Martha Scott [28] Act. Drama			[2] Drama **Reaching for the Sun** (....) Joel McCrea Ellen Drew	[28] Drama **Lady From New Orleans** (....) Ona Munson John Wayne	[2] Comedy **Hurry, Charlie, Hurry** (....) Leon Errol [illegible] Coles		[30] Drama **That Hamilton Woman!** (....) Vivien Leigh Laurence Olivier	[2] Melodrama **Black Cat** (....) Basil Rathbone Hugh Herbert		

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ++ Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. ◐ Indicates short of the week. ◉ Indicates color photography.

Columbia

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	ALL-STAR COMEDIES			
2425	Blondes and Blunders (16)	11-29	±	12- 7
2424	Bundle of Bliss, A (18)	11- 1		.....
2423	Cold Turkey (16)	10-18		.....
2628	Fresh as a Freshman (18)	1-29		.....
2426	His Ex Marks the Spot (18)	12-13		.....
2421	Pleased to Mitt You (18)	9- 6		.....
1421	Skinny the Moocher (16½)	9- 8		.....
2422	Spook Speaks, The (18)	9-29	+	10-19
2627	Watchman Takes a Wife (16)	1-10	±	1-25
	CINESCOPES			
2975	Feathers (Cosmocolor) (9)	1-31		.....
2972	Floating Elephants (8)	10- 4	+	10-19
2972	Industrial Green Island (10)	9-20		.....
2976	Movie Magic (9)	2-22		.....
2973	Nice Work If You Can Do It (9)	11- 8	+	11-23
2975	◐Ocean Trails (....)	1-31		.....
2974	Unusual Crafts (9)	12-25	±	1-25
	COLOR RHAPSODIES (In Technicolor)			
2505	A Helping Paw (7)	1- 7	+	2-15
2502	Mr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½)	10- 4		.....
2503	Mad Hatter, The (7)	11- 3		.....
2506	Way of All Pests (7)	2-28		.....
2504	Wise Owl (7)	12- 6	∓	12- 7
	COLUMBIA TOURS			
2556	Beautiful British Columbia (10½)	12-20	+	1-25
2557	From Singapore to Hong Kong (De La Varre Prod.) (10)	1-10		.....
2554	Islands of the West Indies (10)	10-25	++	11-23
2553	Old and New Arizona (Special) (9)	9-27		.....
2552	Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10)	9-13	++	10-23
2555	Sojourn in Havana (La Varre Prod.) (9)	11-25	±	12- 7
2558	Western Wonderland (10)	2-28		.....
	COMMUNITY SING			
2851	No. 1 (Jolly Tunes—D. Baker) (10)	10- 2		.....
2852	No. 2 (Popular Songs—D. Baker) (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
2653	No. 3 (Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)	12-13		.....
2654	No. 4 (Gay Tunes) (10)	1- 1		.....
2655	No. 5 (10) Fun with Songs—L. White.	2- 7	±	3-15
	FABLES CARTOONS			
2751	Farmer Tom Thumb (6)	9-27	+	10-19
2755	It Happened to Crusoe (....)	3-14		.....
2752	Mouse Meets Lion (6)	10-25	∓	12- 7
2753	Paunch 'n' Judy (6½)	12-13	±	1-25
2754	Streamlined Donkey (6)	1-17		.....
	NEW YORK PARADE			
2951	New York Parade (10)	1-24	+	2- 8
	PHANTASIES CARTOONS			
2705	Little Theatre, The (....)	2- 7		.....
2701	School Boy Dreams (5)	9-24	+	10-19
2705	There's Music in Your Hair (....)	3-28		.....
2704	Tom Thumb's Brother (....)	1-17		.....
2703	Wallflower, The (....)	11-29		.....
	QUIZ REELS			
2601	Take It or Leave It (9½)	12- 5	o	12- 7
2602	Take It or Leave It, No. 2 (11)	12-25	∓	1-25
2803	Take It or Leave It, No. 3 (11)	2- 7	o	3-15
2604	Junior I. Q. Parade (....)	3- 7		.....
	ROUND TABLE OF SCREEN			
	International Forum (18)	2-22	o	3-15
	SCREEN SNAPSHOTS			
2851	No. 1 (10) Ken Murray.	9- 6		.....
2852	No. 2 (9) Don Wilson.	10-18	o	11-23
2853	No. 3 (9) Ken Murray.	11-22	±	12- 7
2854	No. 4 (9) Ken Murray.	12-27		.....
2855	No. 5 (9) Bob Hope.	2- 2	∓	1-25
2856	No. 6 (9)	3-14		.....
	SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)			
2441	Puss in Boots (reissue) (40)	11-21		.....
	SPORT REELS			
2803	Ali the Giant Killer (10½)	12-27	∓	1-25
2802	Hunting Wild Deer (9)	11-22	=	12- 7
2804	Ice Capers (....)	1-24		.....
2801	Master of Cue With Willie Hoppe (9)	10- 4	+	10-19
2805	Splits, Spares and Strikes (10)	2-21	+	3-15
	THREE STOOGES COMEDIES			
2404	Boobs in Arms (18)	12-27	±	1-18
2403	Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)	11-15	±	12- 7
2402	No Census, No Feeling (16)	10- 4		.....
2405	So Long Mr. Chumps (17)	2- 7		.....
	WASHINGTON PARADE Series 3			
2901	No. 1 (The Mint) (10)	10-25		.....
2902	No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (10)	12-13	±	1-18
2903	No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (10)	1- 3	+	1-25

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	CRIME DOESN'T PAY			
P-201	◐Eyes of the Navy (20)	10-26	++	10-26
P-204	Forbidden Passage (21)	2- 8	±	2-22
P-203	Respect the Law (20)	1- 4		.....
P-815	Think First (21)	9- 9		.....
P-202	◐You, the People (21)	11-30	++	1-18
	FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS (In Technicolor)			
T-218	Alluring Alaska (9)	3- 8		.....
T-214	Beautiful Bali (9)	11-23	∓	12-14
T-211	Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)	9- 7	++	9- 7
T-212	Cavalcade of San Francisco (9)	9-28	∓	9-28
T-216	Mediterranean Ports of Call (9)	1- 4		.....
T-213	Old New Mexico (10)	10-26	+	11- 9
T-215	Old New Orleans (9)	12-21	+	1-18
T-217	Redmen on Parade (9)	2- 1	+	2-22
	METROSCOPIX			
A-100	◉Third Dimensional Murder (7)	3- 1	++	2-22
	MINIATURES			
M-232	Great Meddler (Sepia) (11)	12- 2	++	2- 8
M-233	Happiest Man on Earth (11)	12-28	++	2- 8
M-234	More About Nostradamous (Sepia) (10)	1-18	+	2-22
M-231	Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia)	10- 9	±	12-14
	M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series) (Technicolor)			
W-243	Abdul the Bulbul Ameer (8)	2-22		.....
W- 94	Gallopin' Gals (8)	10-26	+	11- 9
W- 93	Homeless Flea, The (8)	10-12	++	12- 7
W-241	Lonesome Stranger (9)	11-23	++	12- 7
W-242	Mrs. Ladybug (8)	12-21		.....
W- 92	Papa Gets the Bird (8)	9- 7	∓	9-28
	M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY Released Twice Weekly			
	OUR GANG COMEDIES			
C-296	Baby Blues (9)	2-15		.....
C-293	Goin' Fishin' (10)	10-26	±	11- 9
C-291	Good Bad Boys (11)	9- 7	+	9- 7
C-295	Fightin' Fools (9)	1-25		.....
C-294	Kiddie Kure (11)	11-23	+	12-28
C-292	Waldo's Last Stand (11)	10- 5	∓	12- 7
	PASSING PARADE (New Series)			
K-281	American Spoken Here (Sepia) (11)	11-30	++	12- 7
K-126	Baron and the Rose, The (11)	9- 7	++	9-28
K-128	Dreams (10)	11-16	+	12-14
K-127	Utopia of Death (10)	10-12	+	11- 9
K-282	Whispers (10)	2- 8	++	2-22
	PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES			
S-113	Football Thrills of 1939 (10)	9-21	++	9-28
S-264	◉Penny to the Rescue (10)	1-25		.....
S-261	◐Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9)	10-12	++	12- 7
S-265	Quiz Biz (Sepia) (9)	2- 8	+	3- 8
S-263	◐Sea for Yourself (10)	12-21	++	1-18
C-262	Wedding Bills (Sepia) (10)	11-30	++	12- 7

Paramount

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	ANIMATED ANTICS			
H0-4	Bring Himself Back Alive (7)	12-20	∓	12-21
H0-1	Dandy Lion, The (7)	9-20	±	10- 5
H0-3	Mommy Loves Puppy (7)	11-29	+	12- 7
H0-5	Pop and Mom in Wild Oysters (11)	2-14	+	2-15
H0-2	Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7)	10-25	±	11-23
H0-7	Speaking of Animals (9)	4-18	++	3-15
H0-5	Twinkletoes Gets the Bird (....)	3-14		.....
	BENCHLEY COMEDIES			
S0-1	Trouble With Husbands (11)	11- 8	++	12- 7
S0-2	Waiting for Baby (11)	1-24	++	2-15
	FASCINATING JOURNEYS (Technicolor)			
M0-1	◐River Thames—Yesterday (10)	11- 8	++	11-23
M0-2	Sacred Ganges, The (11)	12-27	+	1-18
M0-3	Village in India (11)	1-31	++	2-15
	FLEISCHER CARTOONS			
FF0-1	Raggedy Ann (19)	12-20	++	12-21
	GABBY CARTOONS			
G0-3	All's Well (7)	1- 3		.....
G0-2	Constable, The (7)	11-15	+	11-23
G0-1	King for a Day (7)	10-18	+	10-26
G0-4	Two for the Zoo (7)	2-21	±	3- 8
	HEADLINER			
A0-4	Gene Krupa and Orch. (11)	1-31	+	2-22
A0-3	Johnny Messner and Orch. (11)	12-13	±	12-21
A0-2	Listen to Larry (10)	10-25	+	10-26
A0-1	◐Moments of Charm in 1941 (10)	9-13	++	10- 5
	MADCAP MODELS (In Technicolor)			
J0-1	Western Daze (9)	1-17	++	1-18
	PARAMOUNT NEWS Released Twice Weekly.			
	PARAGRAPHICS			
V0- 3	◐Breezy Little Bears (11)	12-27	++	1-18
V0- 1	Nature's Nursery (10)	10-11	∓	10-26
V9-10	Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)	9- 9	±	8-24
V0-4	Red, White and Blue Hawaii (11)	2-28	±	3-15
V0- 2	Seeing Is Believing (11)	11-22	+	12- 7
	POPEYE CARTOONS			
E0- 4	Eugene, the Jeep (7)	12-13	±	12- 7
E0- 2	My Pop, My Pop (7)	10-18	∓	10-26
E0- 1	Popeye Meets William Tell (7)	9-20	++	10- 5
E0- 5	Problem Pappy (7)	1-10	±	1-18
E0- 6	Quiet Pleeze (7)	2- 7		.....
E0- 3	With Poopdeck Pappy (7)	11-15	o	12- 7
	POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)			
J0-1	(11)	9- 6	+	10- 5
J0-2	(10)	11- 1	+	12- 7
J0-3	(10)	1- 3	+	12-21
J0-4	(11)	2-21		.....
	GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS			
R0-6	Acrobatic Aces (10)	2- 7	+	1-18
R0-8	Canine Sketches (10)	3-28		.....
R0-1	Diving Demons (10)	9- 6	++	10- 5
R0-5	Feminine Fitness (10)	1-10	+	12-21
R0-7	Fishing Fever (10)	2-28		.....
R0-4	Marine Roundup (10)	12- 6	+	12- 7
R0-3	Motorcycle Stunting (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
R0-2	Sporting Everglades, The (10)	10- 4	++	11- 9
	STONE AGE CARTOONS			
B9-11	Pedagogical Institution (7)	9-13		.....
B9-12	Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)	9-27		.....
	UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)			
L0-1	No. 1 (11)	9- 7	+	10- 5
L0-2	No. 2 (11)	11-29	+	12- 7
L0-3	No. 3 (10)	1-24	+	2-15
L0-4	No. 4 (11)	3-28		.....

Producers Releasing Corp.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	AMERICAN HISTORY			
0.1	Our Bill of Rights (21)	3- 1		.....
0.2	Our Declaration of Independence (22)	3- 1		.....
0.3	Our Constitution (22)	3- 1		.....
0.4	Our Monroe Doctrine (22)	3- 1		.....

Republic

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	MEET THE STARS			
028-1	No. 1 (10)	12-24	+	12-28
028-2	No. 2 (10)	1-24		.....
028-3	No. 3 (9)	2-24	±	3-15

RKO Radio

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	DISNEY COMEDIES (In Technicolor)			
04.114	Fire Chief (8)	11-22	++	12- 7
14.102	Gentleman's Gentleman (7)	3-28		.....
14.101	Golden Eggs (8)	3- 7		.....
04.113	Goofy's Glider (8)	11- 1	+	12-14
04.118	Little Whirlwind (8)	2-14		.....
04.112	Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8)	10-11	+	11-23
04.115	Pantry Pirate (8)	12-27	+	2- 8
04.117	Pluto's Playmate (8)	1-27	+	3-15
04.116	Timber (8)	1-10		.....
04.111	Window Cleaners (8)	9-20	++	10-26
	EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES			
13.403	Drafted in the Depot (19)	12-20		.....
13.401	Sunk by the Census (18)	9- 6	±	9-21
13.402	Trailer Tragedy (17)	10-18	+	11- 9
	LEON ERROL COMEDIES			
13.703	Fired Man, The (20)	1-10	+	2- 8
13.701	He Asked for It (18)	9-27	∓	9-21
13.404	Mad About Moonshine (19)	2-21		.....
13.702	Tattle Talevision (19)	11-29		.....
	MARCH OF TIME			
13.101	No. 1 (10) On Foreign Newfronts.	9-13	++	9-21
13.102	No. 2 (18) Britain's R. A. F.	10- 4	+	10-19
13.103	No. 3 (19) Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.	10-25	±	10-26
13.104	No. 4 (19) Arms and the Men.	11-22	+	12- 7
13.105	No. 5 (19) Labor and Defense.	12-20	+	12-28
13.106	No. 6 (21) Uncle Sam—Non-Billigerent.	1-17	++	1-25

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1941

Movietone News, No. 53

Battle for Tobruk; Churchill watches tank maneuvers; queen of Holland views newly finished Dutch battleship in England; Australian premier visits Alexandria base; Ohio manufactures gas masks for U. S.; hostesses sign for selectees; Colorado girls swim, ski; giant tuna caught off Galapagos.

News of the Day, No. 251

Battle for Tobruk; Churchill views mock tank battle; gas masks in production for U. S.; blackout in Seattle; Farley returns from South America; hostesses sign on for army duty; racing at Santa Anita; Yankees in training; Knights of Columbus track meet.

Paramount News, No. 56

Seattle blackout; girls sign for army hostess duty; Norwegian freighter aground off Maryland; coast party satirizes Hitler; lend-lease bill passed; fall of Tobruk to British; Knights of Columbus track meet; Santa Anita racing.

RKO Pathe News, No. 56

Lend-lease bill passed by senate; capture of Tobruk by British; Free French freighter sails into coast port; government buys surplus citrus crop; Jackie Coogan drafted; hostesses signed by army; dog show; Santa Anita racing.

Universal Newsreel, No. 961

Senate passes aid bill; Indo-China-Siam-Japan pact signed; Seattle blackout; tire plant makes gas masks; hostesses signed by army; blizzard in New York; track meet; Santa Anita racing.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Movietone News, No. 54

President signs aid bill; Greeks advance in Albania; French wounded decorated; King George welcomes Winant; London firemen test new equipment; children model clothes for Queen Elizabeth; Martin factory in Baltimore rushes aircraft for Britain; U. S. troops train in Newfoundland; Florida honors azalea queen; baseball; youngsters in boxing bouts.

News of the Day, No. 252

Greeks advance in Albania; queen holds unique wartime court; U. S. envoy greeted by King George; Roosevelt signs lend-lease bill; navy instructs civilians in gas defense; U. S. troops in Newfoundland; golf, boxing.

Paramount News, No. 57

Lend-lease bill signed; Ambassador Winant greeted by king; Martin bombers ready for shipment; Curtiss planes production speeded up; army, navy inspect equipment destined for England; survey of new military bases; battle in Africa.

RKO Pathe News, No. 57

British invade Eritrea; English officers rehearse for war; king greets U. S. envoy Winant; Roosevelt signs bill; O. P. M. calls labor; Martin plant to be world's largest; U. S. troops train in Newfoundland; Greek nation mourns General Metaxas; girls and factory gas mask drills; Dali paints a picture.

Universal Newsreel, No. 962

FDR signs war aid bill; U. S. to mobilize labor; British take Libyan stronghold; king welcomes U. S. ambassador; gas masks; troops in new base; fighting plane; young sluggers go to town; Thorger Tokle wins again.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
13,107	No. 8 (19) Americans All.	2-14	+	3- 8
	PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE			
14,201	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204	No. 4 (11)	11-29		.....
14,205	No. 5 (11)	12-27	+	2- 8
14,206	No. 6 (11)	1-24	+	3- 8
14,207	No. 7 (10)	2-21		.....
	PATHE NEWS (Released Twice Weekly)			
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
14,307	Caballero College (9)	2-14	++	3-15
14,302	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,306	Mat Men (9)	1-17	+	3- 8
14,301	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,305	Snow Eagles (9)	12-20	+	2- 8
14,304	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	++	12-14
14,303	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404	No. 4 (10)	12- 6	+	12-14
14,405	No. 5 (10)	1- 3	±	2- 8
14,406	No. 6 (10)	1-31		.....
14,407	No. 7 (10)	2-21		.....
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)			
13,501	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
13,502	Prairie Spooners (13)	1-31	+	3-15
	SPECIALS			
14,501	Eyes on Brazil (11)	2-21		.....

20th Century-Fox

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN			
1201	©Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	++	10-19
1202	Training Police Horses (10)	1-17	+	2-15
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	++	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
1303	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1304	The Rodeo Comes to Town (10)	1- 3	±	2-22
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1103	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		.....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE			
1401	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402	Tale of Butch the Parrot (....)	2-28		.....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102	©Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
1105	Spotlight on Indo-China (9)	12-20	±	2-15
	TERRY-TOONS			
1501	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		.....
1503	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		.....
1553	©How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554	©Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
1552	©Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		.....
1504	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12- 7
1557	©Mississippi Swing (7)	2- 7	+	2-15
1555	©Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
1505	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		.....
1556	©Temperamental Lion (7)	12-27	+	2-15
1502	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19
1506	What a Little Sneeze Will Do (7)	1-10	±	2-22

Universal

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	LANTZ CARTUNES (Technicolor)			
5241	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		.....
5246	Fair Today (6¾)	2-24	±	2-15
5247	High Spots in American History (6¾)	3-31		.....
5243	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5245	Mouse Trappers (6¾)	1-27	+	2- 8
5242	©Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	++	11- 9
5244	Syncopated Sioux (6¾)	12-31		.....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
5351	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352	No. 82 (9)	10-14		.....
5353	No. 83 (9)	11-11		.....
5354	No. 84 (9)	12-23		.....
5355	No. 85 (9)	1-20		.....
5356	No. 86 (9)	2-17	±	2- 8
5357	No. 87 (9)	3-17		.....
5358	No. 88 (9)	3-31		.....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 3
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
5371	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		.....
5373	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		.....
5374	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		.....
5375	No. 85 (9)	1- 6		.....
5376	No. 86 (9)	2- 3	±	2- 8
5377	No. 87 (9)	3-10		.....
5378	No. 88 (9)	3-24		.....
5379	No. 89 (8)	4- 7		.....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
5226	Bagdad Daddy (17) Gertrude Niesen, Ambassadorettes, Fuzzy Knight, Johnson Bros.	2-19	±	2- 8
5225	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (17) The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.	1-22		.....
5221	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		.....
5223	Congamania (17) Jose Cansino Dancers. Eddie Durant & Orch.	10-16	±	12- 7
4233	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		.....
5227	Music in the Morgan Manner (....) Russ Morgan and His Orchestra, Southern Swingsters.	3-19		.....
5224	Tickled Pinky (18) Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.	12-25		.....
5223	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
	UNIVERSAL NEWS Released Twice Weekly			

Vitaphone

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
	BROADWAY BREVITIES			
6202	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6204	Dog in the Orchard (20)	1-25	+	1-18
6201	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		.....
6203	Love's Intrigue (20)	12-28		.....
4008	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		.....
6205	Take the Air (20)	2-22	+	3- 8
	THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)			
5410	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		.....
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6102	Lady and the Lug (20)	3-22		.....
6101	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6305	Boar Hunt, The (10)	1-15		.....
6301	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6304	History Repeats Itself (10)	1-18		.....
6303	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		.....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		.....
6607	Haunted Mouse, The (7)	2-15		.....
6608	Joe Glow, the Firefly (7)	3- 8		.....
5616	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	++	8-24
6609	Porky's Bear Facts (7)	3-29		.....
6604	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6606	Porky's Snooze Reel (7)	1-11		.....
6602	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		.....
6605	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		.....
	MELODY MASTERS			
6506	Cliff Edwards and His Buckaroos (10)	3- 8		.....
6503	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	2- 1		.....
6502	Joe Reichman & Orch. (10)	10-26		.....
6501	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	++	8-24
6504	Skinnay Ennis & Orch. (10)	1- 4	+	12-28
	MERRIE MELODIES (In Technicolor)			
6706	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		.....
6713	Cat's Tale, The (7)	3- 1		.....
6712	Crackpot Quail, The (7)	2-15		.....
6709	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)	1- 4	o	12-28
6710	Fighting 69th½, The (7)	1-18	++	1-18
6704	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		.....
6715	Goofy Groceries (7)	3-29		.....
6703	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11- 9
6701	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		.....
6708	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6711	Sniffles Bells the Cat (7)	2- 1	++	3-15
6702	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
6714	Tortoise Beats the Hare (7)	3-15		.....
6705	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
	SPECIAL			
6801	London Can Take It (....)	10-26	++	11- 9
6850	©They Spent Christmas Under Fire (10½)	1-24	++	2- 8
	SPORTS PARADE (Color)			
6404	California Thoroughbreds (10)	1-11	±	12-28
6403	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6405	Fight, Fish, Fight (10)	3- 1	++	3- 8
6401	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
6001	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002	March on Marines (20)	12-14	++	12-28
6003	Meet the Fleet (20)	2- 8	+	1-18
5008	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		.....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		.....

Serials

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rat-ing	Rev'd
1120	Green Archer, The 15 Chapters. Victor Jory.	10-25	∓	11- 9
2120	White Eagle 15 Chapters. Buck Jones.	1-31		.....
	REPUBLIC			
080	Adventures of Capt. Marvel 12 Chapters. Tom Tyler.	3-28	++	3- 8
081	King of the Royal Mounted 12 Chapters. Allan Lane.	9-20	++	8-24
082	Mysterious Doctor Satan 15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.	12-13	+	11-23
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	Green Hornet Strikes Again 15 Chapters. Warren Hull.	12-24	+	11- 9
5681	Junior G-Men 12 Chapters. Dead End Kids. Little Tough Guys.	9- 1	+	8- 3
5881	Sky Raiders 12 Chapters.	4- 8	±	2-15

CLEARING HOUSE

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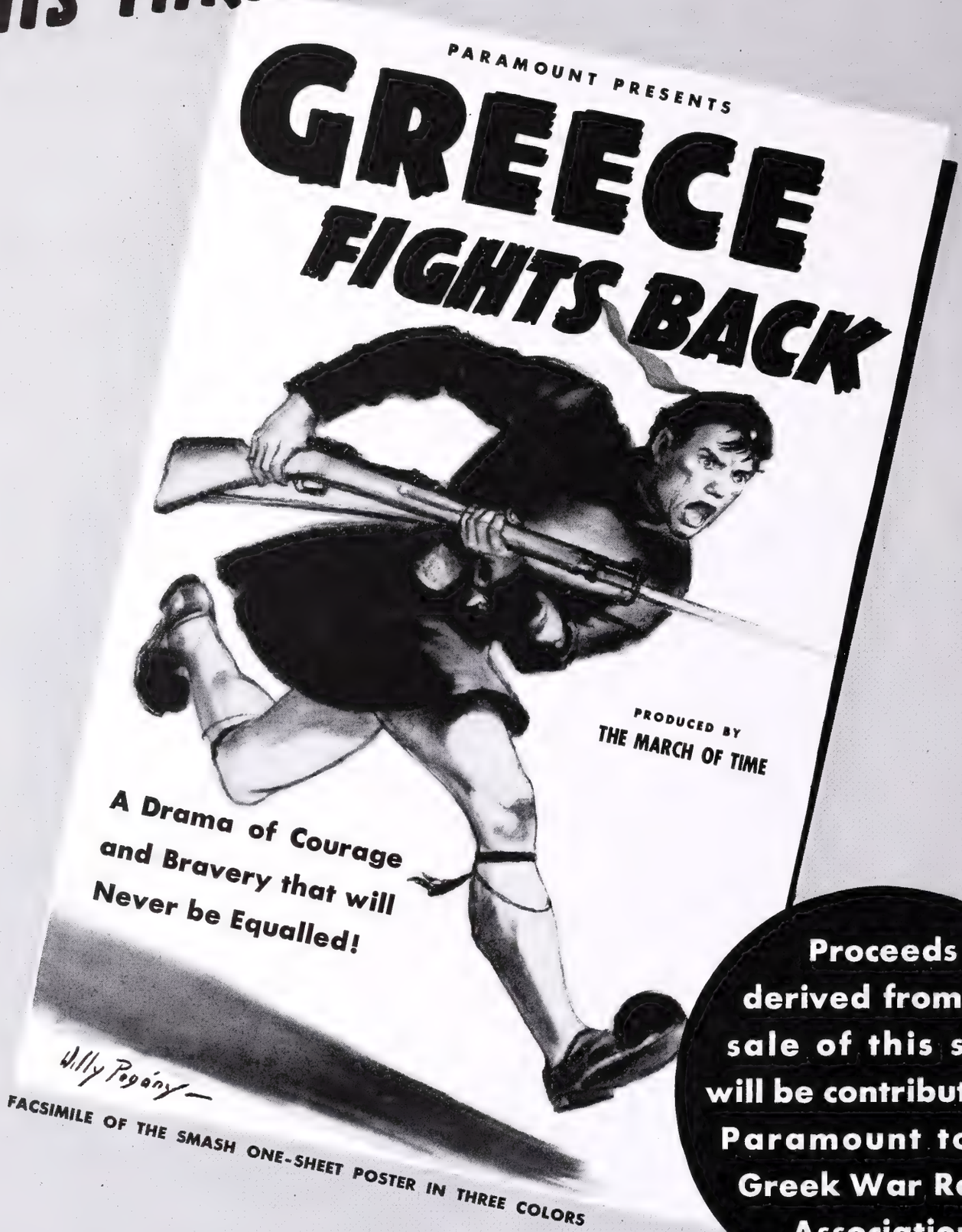
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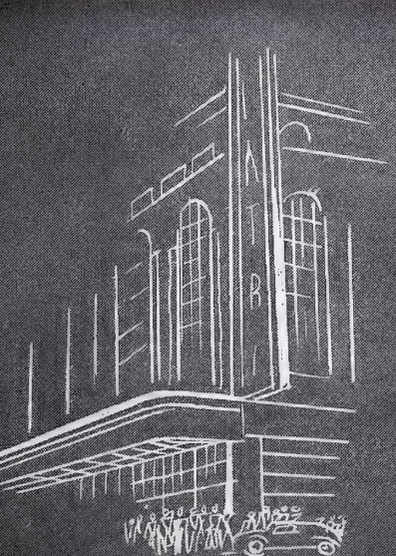
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The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry

BOXOFFICE

MARCH 29, 1941 Entered as Second Class matter at Postoffice at Kansas City, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. 25c Per Copy. Per Year, $7.50. NATIONAL EDITION



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M-G-M...NO HALFWAY MEASURES!

BOXOFFICE *The Pulse of the Motion Picture Industry*

You'd Better Decide, Boys

FOR the couple of seconds required, we re-direct attention to extracts from a significant news story in BOXOFFICE two weeks ago. Washington was the dateline:

> "There are indications here that, if the consent decree flounders because of state laws overriding groups of five selling, the whole question of block booking will be thrown into the laps of Congress . . . In the event legislation such as is proposed in Georgia and Minnesota extends to a sufficient number of states so as to render the block booking provisions of the decree void, or generally inapplicable, it is viewed here as quite likely that agitation for federal legislation barring blocks will be revived with what is described as 'good chances for success.'"

Since then the Georgia house has buried such a bill and a number of Southern gentlemen, variously engaged in exhibition, are burning up slowly, but thoroughly. Since then the Minnesota bill has moved forward progressively, both legislative branches there recommending passage.

These, however, are only straws in the wind. The wind may degenerate into a balmy zephyr or it may develop gale-like proportions. It all depends on time, circumstance and considerable manouevring, predicated again on individual interests, as usual.

Nothing Stays Put

THE WHOLE situation, in fact, is downright peculiar. For years, exhibitors and presumably hundreds of them, have been going from squeak to growl to roar about the monopoly they say has been exercised by the distributor in shoving all of his product down the throats of the theatreman with no regard to tonsils or windpipe. They have called this everything from trustification up, down and across the line well nigh to anti-Americanism and, by Heaven, we're going to do something about it.

Well, they're doing something about it all right. The Georgia activity is a dead dodo now, but it was an effort. Minnesota is a livelier bird with plenty of flap in its wings. North Carolina is fairly close to Georgia and attached by sentiment as well as large theatre chains which are not too unfriendly one with the other and which on occasion survey the scene through the same spyglass. During the week, Michigan began to consider a law generally construed as attempted homicide on the decree.

What ought to be remembered, however, is that this business of doing something about it applies two ways. The "Big Five," having signed the decree for better or for worse, are committed to see that it works. The department of justice, certainly, will not stand by complacently and adopt a do-nothing attitude if a series of state laws should threaten scuttling of the sales provisions of the consent. Thus, this picture of the future takes shape:

The five top majors will be compelled to fight full block sales, thereby taking over the battle which protesting exhibitors have preempted as their battle for years and proving, if nothing else, that times, indeed, have changed. The justice department, equally on the offensive, will throw its weight solidly behind these five in the cause of their common objective.

Fork in the Road

BUT it will go even beyond, unless the Washington weather vane is completely cockeyed. It will go beyond in an effort to end sectional squabbles by turning to Congress for legislation barring full blocks, convinced, as the department of justice maintains it is, of "good chances for success."

The possible eventuality, therefore, is very clear in outline. The decree, as written, dies its own death in three years. Under its terms, the five-block plan can be kicked out earlier. A federal law, once on the statute books, becomes difficult to wipe out. Remember the statute against fight films. It was removed finally, but it took years. And more years.

It seems obvious, and on the painfully so side, that exhibitors who are opposing the decree will have to decide which way they want to go and what kinds of chances they are willing to take. If anyone were to ask our opinion, it's available. But fast:

We would put our money on the decree with an outside possibility of three years of it, not on a federal law which may remain on the books forever more to damn the day.

Kann

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MARCH 29, 1941
Vol. 38 No. 19

RETURNING EXHIBITORS PREDICT STUDIOS HEAD FOR A NEW HIGH

Production Pace; Changes Under Decree and Plans For Big Films Cited

NEW YORK—Theatre men returning from visits to various studios in the last couple of weeks bring back with them an expectation and, in some cases complete conviction, that product generally for 1941-42 will show more signs of improvement than has been evidenced in years.

These are hard-bitten and hard-dealing exhibitors talking and probably there isn't an illusion left among them. They predicate their opinion on what they saw, what they heard and were told and the conclusions they finally drew. They declare they are well aware of the boasts made by all companies in previous years, but figure this time is different with blocks of five sales coming up rapidly now under the decree.

To Abandon "B" Films

In a talk before National Theatres at Arrowhead Springs, Louis B. Mayer told the delegates M-G-M is making every effort to abandon "B" films. A Warner executive last week expressed the same opinion and home office sales officials are now at the Burbank studios discussing plans for the new season with this in view. George J. Schaefer, in a press interview some time ago, also looked forward to a new policy of big pictures only. Paramount has been gearing its activities under Y. Frank Freeman along these lines for some months now. Acquisition of William LeBaron, Ernst Lubitsch and Mark Hellinger by 20th-Fox bears out, in part, recent remarks by Joseph M. Schenck that the company has changed its policy and will in the future concentrate on outstanding films. More producers on the lot each with direct responsibility for a few important pictures is the new tenor of things at Movietone City.

Look to New Season

The five companies mentioned are all signatories to the decree, which means they cannot sell groups of more than five to customers other than their own affiliates. The non-consenting companies such as Columbia, UA and Universal are shaping new plans without fanfare, the indication being that when the new selling season is actually here they will have plenty to talk about. Each has been lining up new producers, according to the type of product labeled for release.

Travelers also report speeding up of production on all fronts with some studios reaching a peak never before attained. They say each company seems determined to complete current year's obligations on releases as early as possible so that there will be a first block of five available for screening in the 32 key cities by the end of July.

Also, it is stated, each company is anxious to have its second block ready for August trade showings. Despite the fervor attendant in accomplishing this, there is no scrimping on budgets, it is believed.

As one indication, it was pointed out M-G-M has 11 pictures before the cameras, which is unusual. Other studios are making use of every available stage and where preceding years have seen a production lull during the summer months, it is believed there will be more activity on the Hollywood lots than ever before, this year.

No Decentralization In Buying at Loew's

New York—There will be no decentralized buying for Loew's, an attorney for the circuit informs BOXOFFICE.

Under Section V of the decree, it was pointed out by the lawyer, there is no need for local buyers, "particularly where we have one theatre in a key city."

As long as separate contracts are entered into with distributors others than M-G-M, this procedure is viewed as perfectly legal in New York under the section. The document only insists on separate contracts, but when, why or where they should be negotiated or signed has nothing to do with the decree.

RKO Circuit Plans No Unwound Buying

NEW YORK—The RKO circuit has no intention of decentralizing its film buying personnel in line with such plans under way currently by National Theatres and the Warner chain, according to John J. O'Connor, general manager.

He points out that, since 59 of the circuit's 98 units are in the metropolitan area and the bulk of the balance are key city operations, there is no necessity for making film deals on a local basis. O'Connor further cites the fact the circuit's house in Providence, R. I. has played but three films since January 1 as an example of why no change in the setup is warranted.

The chain operates 47 units in the metropolitan area, films for which are bought here. Added to this group are 12 in the Cincinnati and Dayton area which are managed by Ike Libson, who makes deals for product in those areas. The balance of 27 houses are mostly one week stands, O'Connor states, which do not require local buying.

All short subjects, although bought in New York, are dated by division managers. This has been the policy for the past few years. The circuit uses principally shorts distributed by its parent company.

The only major product it will have to buy in blocks of five for next season will be Warner, since it has an eight-year franchise with 20th Century-Fox and can buy RKO and Universal in full-line blocks.

Want "Bill" Powers For Antipodes Post

NEW YORK—William T. Powers, chief film buyer for National Theatres, may become operating head for Hoyts Theatres in Australia if he approves proposals advanced by Spyros P. Skouras, president of National, which holds a major interest in the Australian circuit.



W. T. POWERS

The move is seen as two-fold. Under the decree, Powers' post is being spread into the field where local buying will become more prominent. Also, Skouras has been considering installing someone from the states as direct contact on the Hoyts situation. At one time Dan Michalove was considered but with the abandonment of plans for a 20-year merger between Hoyts and Greater Union Theatres, Michalove's trip to Sydney was called off.

Powers, it is stated, would be in complete charge of Hoyts. Whether or not he will accept is to be decided shortly. He has a family and considerable interests here. Under the decree his post as chief buyer for National will be eliminated with Skouras spending more time in the field, assisting in local buying negotiations.

Edward Zabel and Aubrey Schenck will assist Skouras more actively in the future. They will continue to make their headquarters at the 20th-Fox home office. Milton S. Hossfeld will be shifted very soon to Denver as top film buyer for Fox Intermountain and executive assistant to Frank H. (Rick) Ricketson, zone head.

E. L. Alperson, former chief buyer for National and at present assisting Harold J. Fitzgerald in Milwaukee, may be shifted to another territory. Irving Barry, who has been handling shorts until now, may replace Alperson in the Beer City. Then again he may find himself headquartering in Seattle as film buyer for Frank Newman.

All tentative changes were discussed on the coast and again in New York when Skouras and other home office executives returned from the annual meeting of divisional heads at Arrowhead Springs.

It is indicated a number of other buyers may be added to the field force. These additions, as well as executive changes, must be approved by the board of directors.

George Balsdon, who has been on the inactive list although he has reported regularly for work since his accident on the coast a few years ago, has officially been retired. Before his auto injury he had been one of the buyers.

FIRST!

IN CIRCULATION

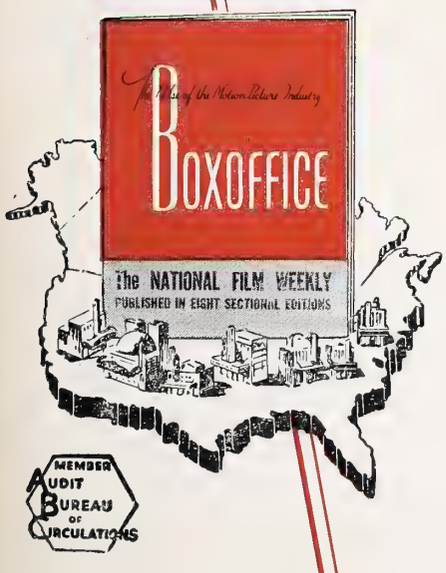
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—Louella O. Parsons

"Miss Leigh has done the nearly impossible thing—she has topped her performance in 'Gone With The Wind' and she is also revealed as the great beauty of the screen."
—John Chapman, New York Daily News

"Tops in all departments; should be strong box-office attraction every place. Here is a splendid picture on all counts, one which will probably rank high among the outstanding pictures of the year, and certainly as fine a film, if not the best, that Alexander Korda has ever offered the public. Great entertainment for all audiences." *—Film Daily*

"'That Hamilton Woman!' is a thing of beauty. Vivien Leigh is breath-taking. She's superb from start to finish. Alexander Korda has produced the whole picture with a prodigal hand." *—Hedda Hopper*

"A stirring and beautifully wrought drama. Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier turn in performances which neither has previously topped. The film is magnificent."
—Daily Variety

"Vivien Leigh is beautiful as That Hamilton Woman and her performance outranks her Scarlett."
—Sheila Graham, North American Newspaper Alliance

"In a magnificent production Alexander Korda brings to the screen one of history's great love stories. Vivien Leigh gives a glorious performance. Hers is a brilliant exhibition of acting that attains and at times, surpasses the stature of her superb Scarlett O'Hara." *—Hollywood Reporter*

"Korda's best since 'Henry VIII'. It is moving and entertainingly solid. If Boxoffice indulged in star ratings, the decision would be easy. Four for 'That Hamilton Woman!' "
—Red Kann, Boxoffice



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Vivien LEIGH  *Laurence* OLIVIER

THAT HAMILTON WOMAN!

with ALAN MOWBRAY • SARA ALLGOOD • GLADYS COOPER • HENRY WILCOXON

Original screenplay by Walter Reisch and R. C. Sherriff

Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

OPENS THURSDAY, APRIL 3rd · RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

"LITTLE 3" STAYING CLEAR OF ARBITRATION EVEN WHEN NAMED

Plan on Clearance Held Impractical

NEW YORK—Sales and exhibitor reaction to the plan of Samuel A. Moross, former secretary of the Theatre Owners Chamber of Commerce, in which he advocates a radical change in the present system of granting clearance tends to the opinion the nature of the business will always preclude the fixing of an arbitrary fee for the privilege of protection.

Moross, now retired and at one time representative for UA and Universal during the old system of compulsory arbitration, recommended a plan based on the premise clearance should be declared a commodity and the exhibitor should buy and pay for it as such, "instead of securing it as a gratuitous privilege."

Majority criticism of Moross' plan embraces the belief no system, scientific or otherwise, has yet been devised which establishes the division paid for film rental and that paid for clearance in theatre deals. Moross fixed 25 per cent of the license fee as an additional sum which he said should constitute the price for clearance with that price to increase if and when the film is held for longer than one week. The table he used to illustrate his point was based on flat rental figures.

However, the purported fact that the widest majority of first runs or those situations which never play an attraction less than a week operate on percentage arrangements vitiates the effectiveness of the plan, reaction indicates. Although some opinion veers to the belief the plan is "theoretically" sound if all deals were on flat rental it is pointed out the condition is exactly reverse.

Another criticism takes the form that subsequent runs, among which there is currently widespread dissension over "unreasonable" clearance, could, under the Moross plan, be further "victimized" by unscrupulous prior runs. As described by exhibitor sources, this could happen if a prior run under the plan paid a ten per cent increase in film rental to get an extra week's clearance. If this was taken advantage of, the subsequent run would have to wait even longer for films if the prior run wanted to hold him back.

To PCA as Specialist On Latin America

HOLLYWOOD — Addison Durland has joined Production Code Administration as specialist in Latin-American affairs and starts his post April 14. Currently, Durland is chief of the Spanish section of NBC.

His function will be directed toward advising producers on content of films that are marketed in South America.

All Ignore Intervention Forms; Will Take No Part in Hearings

NEW YORK—Universal, UA and Columbia for the present have no intention of taking part in arbitration hearings in which they have been inadvertently named by exhibitors. This became known when a checkup revealed none of the "Little Three" has acknowledged the intervention forms sent to them by tribunal clerks in a number of situations where they have been named along with the "Big Five."

Meanwhile, it has become established that none of the "Big Five" contemplates any clauses in contracts which would provide for arbitration of trade practices not covered in the consent decree. Sentiment in this respect is that any grievance which an arbitrator would like to arbitrate, but which distributors are not compelled to submit to, can be arranged for privately.

Such important factors as failure of an exhibitor to play or pay for a picture; failure of a distributor to deliver a print as per contract, or provide a good print; failure of the exhibitor to return the print in good condition or within the prescribed time; violation of clearance by a distributor; failure of either side to live up to advertising agreements, or failure of either side to perform the contract for reasons outside their control could be submitted to arbitration if both sides agreed to it, despite the fact these trade practices are not covered in the decree.

Round Out Details on UA Convention Plans

NEW YORK—Details in connection with UA's sales convention plans are expected to be completed and announced next week. Arthur W. Kelly, general sales manager, is understood to have been working out various angles on the convention.

Top Hits of the Week

As culled from the first run reports in the sectional editions of BOXOFFICE. *Average is* 100 *per cent.*

THE LADY EVE—
- Denver 230
- Providence (dual) 180

MEET JOHN DOE—
- Los Angeles 225
- San Francisco 200
- Seattle 175

FANTASIA—
- Pittsburgh 225
- Chicago 200

TOBACCO ROAD—
- Chicago 175

GREAT DICTATOR—
- Detroit (dual) 170

BUCK PRIVATES—
- Minneapolis 160

Don't Fraternize, Arbitrators Told

NEW YORK—Arbitrators who make up panels in the film tribunals, "even when not serving, must scrupulously avoid social fraternizing with the motion picture representatives or receiving any theatre tickets, accepting or seeking any favors whatever, however slight they may be, or in any way giving the impression or creating a suspicion that they are any more friendly or approachable than before their appointment."

The excerpt is from *The American Arbitrator,* handbook issued by the American Arbitration Ass'n, listing the "powers, duties and responsibilities" of arbitrators.

It has more to say on the same subject, to-wit:

"From the time the arbitrator accepts office, his conduct should be such as to avoid any suspicion as to his fairness and honesty. He will, therefore, avoid receiving favors from either party, or accepting invitations from a party or his counsel; he will have no communications with either party, not immediately made known to the other party; he will receive no private communications which he does not disclose to both parties; he will enter into no relationship which might change his point of view or make him a beneficiary under his own award. A scrupulous arbitrator will go further and refuse to benefit from offers made by the successful party to improve his social or financial position, for the acceptance of these, even subsequently to the making of an award, may be construed as a reward for his favorable decision.

"Members of the motion picture tribunal panels," the handbook continues, "must observe these standards not only while they are serving in cases but at all times, lest it be inferred that they are being influenced in advance of their service."

Greenwich Clearance Row May Go Into Courts

NEW HAVEN—Reports were current here the latter part of the week that Cummings & Lockwood, retained by Edward Peskay, operator of the Pickwick, Greenwich, the landlord and an insurance company which holds the mortgage on the property, are ready to file an action against Skouras, RKO, Loew's and the major companies on clearance by the circuit houses in White Plains and Port Chester over the Connecticut independent house.

It is said the dispute, current for some time, is beyond settlement. Although the clearances were altered about two years ago they have been found unsatisfactory. Peskay's representative in Greenwich is William Brown, who also handles a number of other Peskay properties.

TRADE CONTROL VIA COMMERCE DEP'T FINDS WASHINGTON COOL



—Loop Photo

From This Case, an Appeal—

At the hearing of the Ken Theatre arbitration demand before the Chicago tribunal, the decision of which has been appealed to the appeals board composed of Van Vechten Veeder, George W. Alger and Albert W. Putnam. Clockwise here: Alvin Landis, Ken attorney; Bennie Banowitz, Ken Theatre Corp.; Maxwell Landis; John Landis; Jim Donohue, Paramount Chicago manager; Arthur Schoenstadt, Schoenstadt circuit; Harry Hamburg, Paramount and RKO attorney; Felix A. Jenkins, general counsel of 20th-Fox, and Clyde W. Eckhardt, 20th-Fox Chicago manager.

No Indication Anything Not Defense Essential Will Get Attention

WASHINGTON—Official and Congressional circles in Washington evince little interest in proposals that the department of commerce be given authority to regulate and control the motion picture business.

There was some question why the department, not an enforcing agency per se, should be selected as the regulatory body over the federal trade commission, which was set up to control trade practices.

In view of the exigencies of the war situation, the efforts made in Congress in the past to control the industry and the department of justice New York case, there was little disposition either in the Administration or in Congress to give attention to proposals for the further regulation of individual industries.

The consensus is that no further efforts to enact legislation, either to control the practices of the industry or to impose a federal control, will be made until the consent decree has been given a chance to demonstrate its value.

Arthur Lucas Quoted in Favor of Gov't Control

The Washington attitude expressed in the preceding dispatch stems to Arthur Lucas, well known Georgia exhibitor, and the following story, written by Gladstone Williams, staff correspondent of the Atlanta *Constitution* in Washington:

"National legislation to give the department of commerce authority to regulate and control the motion picture industry was urged upon congressional leaders here this week by Arthur Lucas, well-known Atlanta business man and owner of a large chain of motion picture theatres in Georgia.

"Lucas has been in conference with Will Hays, generally recognized as the czar of the movie industry, over current problems affecting the cinema. They are known to have divergent viewpoints on the proposal for federal regulation and control of the industry. Hays was at the White House for a conference with the President."

A spokesman for Hays in New York declares for him that the MPPDA president has no recollection of any portion of his talk with Lucas along lines indicated in the *Constitution's* story.

Lucas Not Available for U. S. Regulation Comment

ATLANTA—Arthur Lucas is reported out of the city by his office. In his absence, no one identified with his organization will comment on reports linking him with advocacy of industry regulation by federal agency.

From Boxoffice Up and Down, Boren Wants Industry Probed

WASHINGTON—The industry again faces the possibility of a Congressional investigation.

Appearing before the House rules committee March 25, Lyle H. Boren, Democratic congressman from Oklahoma, urged immediate action on his resolution for a House probe of practices which he declared will not be corrected by the consent decree.

Representative Boren would have every phase of the industry, from production to the boxoffice, thoroughly investigated, he told the committee, asserting that the independent exhibitors are thoroughly at the mercy of the integrated companies despite the consent decree.

During the hearing, the suggestion was made by Representative J. Hamilton Fish (Rep., N. Y.) that the investigation might well include motion picture war propaganda. Boren agreed that such amendment of his resolution would be advisable, declaring that situation, too, merited study.

Despite Boren's spirited appeal, there appeared to be little desire on the part of the committee to revive the film inquiries which kept Congress busy for years under the block booking bills, and refused to make a decision until further hearings have been held.

Nathanson Expansion 'Ace in Hole' Step

NEW YORK—Observers discussing the new independent circuit development in Canada lean toward the belief N. L. Nathanson, president of Famous Players Canadian, is fortifying himself with his own groups of theatres in advance of the expiration of his five-year contract in June. The Famous Players Canadian circuit is controlled by Paramount, which has a nearly expired 25-year product franchise with some 200 houses of the Canadian chain.

Formation of Odeon by Paul Nathanson, son of N. L., and acquisition of a number of houses in the Dominion have given rise to the report that this is not without significance in the Nathanson affairs to take shape in the next few months. Observers also are attaching considerable importance to the Hanson circuit which has 18 to 20 houses of its own, in addition to booking as many for independent operators.

"Both Odeon and Hanson are buying theatres all over the Dominion," one visitor from Canada stated.

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IN CANADA

CALGARY—The Albertan, Wm. Campbell.
HAMILTON—20 Holton, N., Hugh Millar.
LONDON—97 Adelaide St., S., John Gore.
MONTREAL—4330 Wilson Ave., N. D. G., Roy Carmichael. Walnut 5519.
REGINA—The Leader-Post. Bruce Peacock.
ST. JOHN—161 Princess St. D. Fetherston.
TORONTO—242 Millwood. Milton Galbraith.
VANCOUVER—615 Hastings. C. P. Rutty.
VICTORIA—434 Quebec St. Tom Merriman.
WINNIPEG—709 Selkirk Ave. Ben Lepkin.

Men and Events

As Viewed by Red Kann

IVAN SPEAR, Hollywood eyes-and-ears for BOXOFFICE, regularly reviews "I Wanted Wings" which opened with brass hat and white tie at the Astor Wednesday in this issue. He likes it a great deal. And so do we.

As hot as a firecracker, this one. And that isn't by way of picking on the much-publicized Veronica Lake although she looks like some pickings. What we mean is subject matter at large, method of handling it and the huge well of adroit showmanship that was wrung dry when they turned this one out.

The title gives away the general idea, of course. In point of story, the formula regularly applied, and usually with success, to yarns of this kind holds forth. Three or four guys—all pals—in the same branch of the service, a couple of them finally dying, two women for ends of the triangle, etc. But the treatment is solidly commercial and so are the results.

High Spots in Heaven

Once more, "I Wanted Wings" demonstrates, as probably and inevitably it has to be, that the high spots take place well up in the heavens. The air stuff here is superb. It is thrilling. It is dramatic. It carries a whale of a punch as the public will be learning soon now.

Then, too, there are comedy moments and love moments. Also moments when Ray Milland has trouble what with what seems to be a rapidly widening yellow streak and turns out to be otherwise. In the background, in the foreground and in fact, all over the screen as the dominant element is the nation-wide interest in the development of the country's air arm. "I Wanted Wings," in terms of very effective entertainment, tells much of that story. Proving, we think, that when the story base is actual and arresting, the picture itself has every opportunity to emerge in the same manner.

In these days when Hollywood is curve-conscious, Miss Lake turns out to be twice blessed. The appreciative camera, always gallant, recognizes its obligation to what appears a trend of the times. It openly, if not boldly, stalks up to its subject to photograph what waits to be photographed.

The boys are going to cheer. That's what the boys will be doing. Cheer.

QUIET like and without fuss, the phoney ending of "Meet John Doe" has been changed at the Hollywood and Rivoli, but whether or not the surgery applies around the country is a point Warner is elusive about. This column knows; it has asked.

The editing applies to that very brief scene in which Edward Arnold, as the Fascist newspaper publisher, recants and instructs Jimmy Gleason to have published the letter written by Gary Cooper (John Doe) to all the other John Does, explaining how and why the movement was neatly smothered to death. It never did ring true as shown in the projection room and as unfurled for the public in the approximate first five days of the twin New York run.

Now, Barbara Stanwyck succeeds in persuading Cooper to abandon the suicide motive on the honey-plus idea they can start the movement all over again. With Barbara reposed in Gary's arms, Cooper walks off the roof of the city hall, which was to be the scene of the leap, and out of the picture.

Finish.

"Impressed"

FURTHER unsolicited comment on the "Move Over, You Giants" editorial of which a number of important executives already have attested their complete approval:

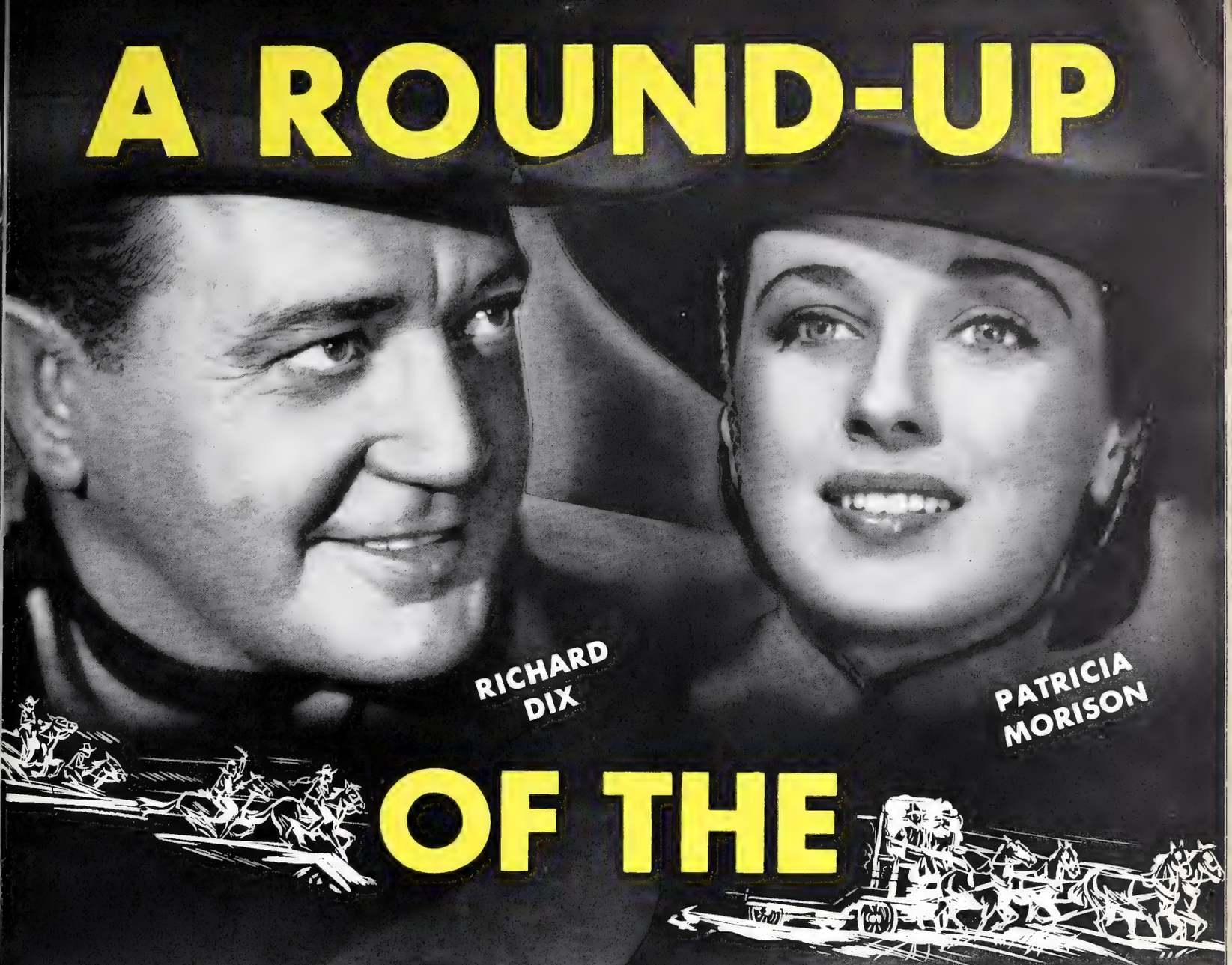
"I was very much impressed by your editorial. I consider this of timely and constructive importance to the industry and thank you again for your interest and splendid cooperation," writes Al Lichtman, vice-president of M-G-M.

Being Practical

AN EDITORIAL in the Janesville, Wis., "Gazette" has a rather neat approach to the Wheeler inciting-to-war charge thrown in the face of the industry. In part:

"Senator Wheeler must know that movies and radio give their audiences the bill-of-fare they want, insofar as capabilities and subject material permit. To do anything else would be economic suicide, and for the government to insist upon anything else would be to choke democracy at its very front."

A ROUND-UP



RICHARD DIX

PATRICIA MORISON

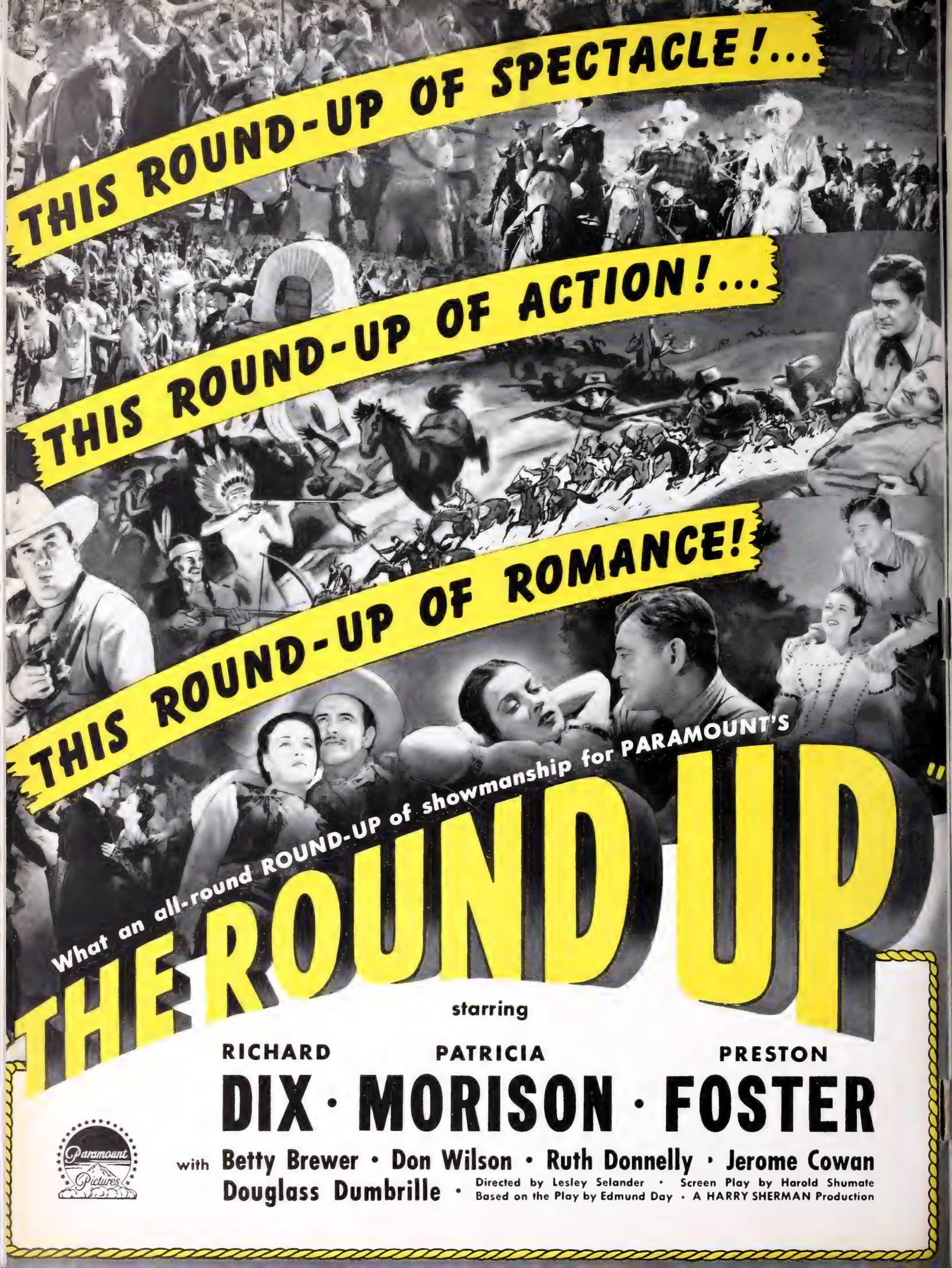
OF THE



PRESTON FOSTER

DON WILSON
(Jack Benny's famous announcer)

PERFECT CAST for...


THIS ROUND-UP OF SPECTACLE!...
THIS ROUND-UP OF ACTION!...
THIS ROUND-UP OF ROMANCE!
What an all-round ROUND-UP of showmanship for PARAMOUNT'S
THE ROUND-UP
starring
RICHARD DIX · PATRICIA MORISON · PRESTON FOSTER
with Betty Brewer · Don Wilson · Ruth Donnelly · Jerome Cowan
Douglass Dumbrille · Directed by Lesley Selander · Screen Play by Harold Shumate
Based on the Play by Edmund Day · A HARRY SHERMAN Production
Paramount Pictures

COMMERCIAL TELEVISION SEEN PROBABLE WITHIN SIX MONTHS

Near Standards Accord, FCC Green Light Is Believed Due Soon

WASHINGTON—With the radio industry practically in accord on standards and regulations, commercial operation of television was seen in Washington this week as probable within the next six months.

That the necessary orders to pave the way would be issued in the near future was indicated by federal communications commission officials as they closed three days of hearings marked by a demand by Radio Corporation of America for delay until there was assurance that broadcasters and set manufacturers were ready to undertake production on a scale sure to meet any public demand.

The counsel of delay preached by RCA, last year the leader in a race for market supremacy when the commission authorized commercial operation only to cancel its order, came as a surprise to the commission and other television interests, who believed the organization again would urge quick action.

Defense Program a "Hindrance"

Presenting the views of RCA, Dr. C. B. Jolliffe, chief engineer, suggested that with the defense program likely to result in shortages of material and technical labor, the FCC should make a thorough investigation of the industry's ability to produce before ordering commercialization.

The RCA official went further than did representatives of the Columbia Broadcasting System, who merely urged the defense situation as a reason for caution but did not go so far as to advocate postponement of commercial operation.

Don't Want to Delay

Members of the commission expressed scant sympathy with the position taken by RCA and indicated openly that they were averse to postponing action in view of the assurances by other manufacturers that they were ready to go ahead with commercial production. RCA, Dr. Jolliffe disclosed, has scattered the manufacturing organization it built up last year and would have to start all over again, but other companies reported that they are prepared, Farnsworth Television promising the commission it would have sets on the market 120 days after the FCC authorization is issued.

Aside from the hesitancy of CBS and RCA, all of the witnesses before the commission urged immediate commercialization, although there were some differences of opinion on the standards for equipment and transmission recommended by the national television system committee. For the most part, these differences were not irreconcilable and assurances were given that the standards would be modified as interests working along other lines developed their equipment.

There was some question whether this would meet the objections of Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, urging flexibility in standards, which in a brief challenging RCA's suggestion of delay in commercialization charged its position and that of Columbia was due to a fear that television advertising would afford severe competition with their radio chains.

However, it was indicated, the promise of such reforms as may be necessary would meet the objections of Scophony, Ltd., whose representative disclosed that negotiations are going on for the formation of an American company to market Scophony theatre equipment in this country.

8,000 Theatres Figure In Greek Relief Aid

New York—Close to 8,000 theatres throughout the country actively participated in the Greek War Relief Ass'n drive, which got under way Tuesday and ran through Sunday, according to Adolph Zukor, chairman of the amusement industry division.

Reports coming into drive headquarters here reveal that 840 midnight shows had been arranged, exclusive of hundreds of special benefits, such as dances, tag days, concerts and stage shows.

Details of local activities are published elsewhere in this edition.

Foresee Television Snag In Defense Program

WASHINGTON — Television broadcasters may find themselves in difficulties if commercial operation is authorized now, with no assurance that the defense program will not create shortages of materials and trained technicians which may reduce the ability to produce receivers and leave the stations without audiences, is the view of Columbia Broadcasting System officials.

Possibilities of such shortages, based on the restrictions recently imposed by the government on the use of aluminum, were cited by CBS representatives at television hearings before the federal communications commission, as a reason to consider seriously delaying commercialization until the emergency is over.

Urging that the commission confer with Administration officials acquainted with the necessities of the defense effort, Paul Porter, counsel for the company, expressed the feeling that the setting of standards now would lay the groundwork for the development of commercial television in an orderly fashion and that commercialization could proceed "provided it did not lead the public to believe that an extensive broadcasting service would continue during this period when defense requirements are steadily increasing."

Monogram Franchise Holders Meet April 4

HOLLYWOOD—The annual convention of Monogram franchise holders, representing 36 exchanges in the United States and Canada, will be held April 4, 5 and 6 at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, with more than 125 company distribution and production executives attending.

Information regarding Monogram's 1941-42 product lineup, recently announced in New York, will be amplified during the three-day session, at which time funds will be allocated for an increase in the budgets of a special group of features.

President W. Ray Johnston; Trem Carr, member of the board of directors; and Samuel "Steve" Broidy, general sales manager, will preside. Prominent among topics to be discussed will be plans for meeting the new distribution-production situation caused through adoption of the federal consent decree. William Gell, managing director of Pathe Films, Ltd., and distributor of Monogram product in Great Britain, will address conventioneers.

On the Schedule

Franchise holders will arrive here April 3. The next two days will be devoted to business sessions, with the annual banquet planned for the evening of April 5. The following day will be given over to a sightseeing tour of Hollywood, including a visit to the company's Newhall ranch to watch several scenes being shot for "The Pioneers," Tex Ritter starrer.

Among those attending from the field will be:

John W. Mangham, Atlanta; Ben Welansky, Boston; Harry Berkson, Buffalo; Henri Elman, Chicago; William Onie, Cincinnati; Nate Schultz, Cleveland; Ed Blumenthal and John Franconi, Dallas; F. E. Judd, Des Moines; William Hurlbut, Detroit; William Benjamin, Kansas City; Howard Stubbins, Los Angeles; Charles Trampe, Milwaukee; Ben Nathanson, Minneapolis; Harry H. Thomas, New York; Carr Scott, Oklahoma City; S. J. Francis, Omaha; George West, St. Louis; Mel Hulling, San Francisco; and L. T. Fidler, Denver.

Home Office Contingent

The home office contingent will include Johnston, Carr, Broidy, and Herman Rifkin, vice-president; Ray E. Young, treasurer; Joseph Lamm, comptroller; Louis S. Lifton, advertising-publicity director; John S. Harrington, manager of the print and accessories department; Lloyd L. Lind, head of the contract department; Russell M. Bell, art director, and J. P. Friedhoff, office manager.

The producing organization will be represented by Scott R. Dunlap, Lindsley Parsons, I. E. Chadwick, Edward F. Finney, George W. Weeks, Samuel Katzman and Paul Malvern.



REPU

DELIVERS ITS ENTIRE

Despite many rumors and present trade conditions Rep
its entire 1940-41 p

4 DE LUXE PRODUCTIONS • 2
PRODUCTIONS • 12 ANNIVERS
PRODUCTIONS • 6 GENE AUTRY SPECIAL PRODUCTION
MESQUITEER PRODUCTIONS • 8 DON "RED" BARRY ACTIO

REPUBLIC HAS DELIVERED

Aug. 16, 1940—	**THE TULSA KID**	Don "Red" Barry, Noah Beery, Luana Walters
Aug. 29, 1940—	**OKLAHOMA RENEGADES**	The Three Mesquiteers: Robert Livingston, Raymond Hatton, Duncan Renaldo
Sept. 6, 1940—	**RIDE, TENDERFOOT, RIDE**	Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, June Storey, Mary Lee
Sept. 11, 1940—	**GIRL FROM HAVANA**	Dennis O'Keefe, Claire Carlton, Victor Jory, Steffi Duna
Sept. 15, 1940—	**COLORADO**	Roy Rogers, George "Gabby" Hayes, Pauline Moore
Sept. 30, 1940—	**UNDER TEXAS SKIES**	The Three Mesquiteers: Robert Livingston Bob Steele, Rufe Davis, Lois Ranson
Oct. 10, 1940—	**FRONTIER VENGEANCE**	Don "Red" Barry, Betty Moran
Oct. 11, 1940—	**MELODY AND MOONLIGHT**	Johnny Downs, Barbara Allen (Vera Vague) Jerry Colonna, Jane Frazee, Mary Lee
Oct. 15, 1940—	**HIT PARADE OF 1941**	Kenny Baker, Frances Langford, Hugh Herbert, Mary Boland, Ann Miller, Patsy Kelly, Phil Silvers, Sterling Holloway, Barnett Parker, Borrah Minevitch and his Harmonica Rascals
Oct. 21, 1940—	**YOUNG BILL HICKOK**	Roy Rogers, George "Gabby" Hayes, Jacqueline Wells
Nov. 1, 1940—	**WHO KILLED AUNT MAGGIE?**	John Hubbard, Wendy Barrie, Edgar Kennedy, Elizabeth Patterson, Onslow Stevens, Joyce Compton, Walter Abel
Nov. 7, 1940—	**FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS**	Weaver Bros. and Elviry, Lois Ranson, Spencer Charters, Cliff Edwards, John Hartley
Nov. 11, 1940—	**THE TRAIL BLAZERS**	The Three Mesquiteers: Robert Livingston, Bob Steele, Rufe Davis, Pauline Moore
Nov. 15, 1940—	**MELODY RANCH**	Gene Autry, Jimmy Durante, Ann Miller, Barton MacLane, Vera Vague, George "Gabby" Hayes, Jerome Cowan, Mary Lee
Nov. 22, 1940—	**TEXAS TERRORS**	Don "Red" Barry, Julie Duncan, Arthur Loft
Nov. 29, 1940—	**MEET THE MISSUS**	The Higgins Family: Roscoe Karns, Ruth Donnelly, Spencer Charters, Lois Ranson, George Ernest, Polly Moran
Dec. 5, 1940—	**THE BORDER LEGION**	Roy Rogers, George "Gabby" Hayes, Carol Hughes
Dec. 6, 1940—	**BARNYARD FOLLIES**	Mary Lee, Rufe Davis, June Storey, Jed Prouty, Victor Kilian, Pappy Cheshire
Dec. 20, 1940—	**BEHIND THE NEWS**	Lloyd Nolan, Doris Davenport, Frank Albertson, Robert Armstrong
Dec. 23, 1940—	**LONE STAR RAIDERS**	The Three Mesquiteers: Robert Livingston, Bob Steele, Rufe Davis, June Johnson
Dec. 27, 1940—	**BOWERY BOY**	Dennis O'Keefe, Louise Campbell, Jimmy Lydon, Helen Vinson, Roger Pryor
Jan. 6, 1941—	**WYOMING WILDCAT**	Don "Red" Barry, Julie Duncan
Jan. 14, 1941—	**ROBIN HOOD OF THE PECOS**	Roy Rogers, George "Gabby" Hayes, Marjorie Reynolds
Jan. 24, 1941—	**RIDIN' ON A RAINBOW**	Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Mary Lee, Carol Adams
Jan. 28, 1941—	**ARKANSAS JUDGE**	Weaver Bros. and Elviry, Roy Rogers, Spring Byington
Jan. 31, 1941—	**PETTICOAT POLITICS**	The Higgins Family: Roscoe Karns, Ruth Donnelly, Spencer Charters, Lois Ranson, George Ernest, Polly Moran
Feb. 14, 1941—	**THE PHANTOM COWBOY**	Don "Red" Barry, Virginia Carroll
Feb. 16, 1941—	**PRAIRIE PIONEERS**	The Three Mesquiteers: Robert Livingston Bob Steele, Rufe Davis, Esther Estrella
Feb. 27, 1941—	**A MAN BETRAYED**	John Wayne, Frances Dee, Edward Ellis, Wallace Ford, Ward Bond, Harold Huber
Feb. 28, 1941—	**THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY**	Bob Steele, Claire Carleton, Milburn Stone, Helen MacKellar
Mar. 14, 1941—	**BACK IN THE SADDLE**	Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Mary Lee, Jacqueline Wells

REPUBLIC IS ALREADY AT WORK ON A
30 WESTERNS, 4 SERIALS AND 12 "ME

BLIC

1940-1941 PROGRAM!

lic will deliver on regular schedule before August 11th
gram consisting of:

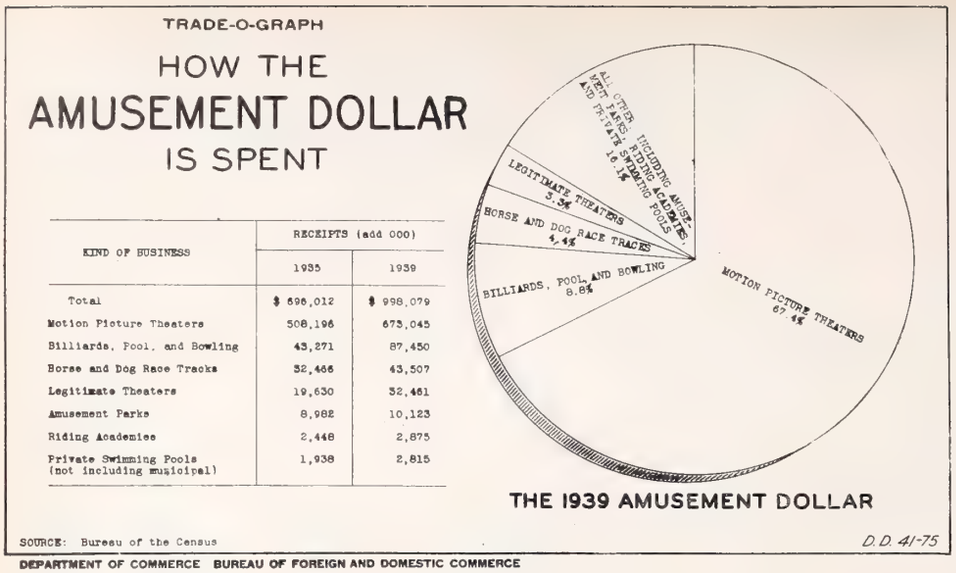
NE AUTRY SPECIAL PREMIERE
Y PRODUCTIONS • 10 JUBILEE
8 ROY ROGERS HISTORICAL WESTERNS • 8 THREE
VESTERNS • 4 SERIALS • 12 "MEET THE STARS" SHORTS



REPUBLIC WILL DELIVER

Approximate Release		Approximate Release	
Mar. 26, 1941—	**MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY** Dennis O'Keefe, Florence Rice, Peter Lorre, Stanley Ridges	May 24, 1941—	**SADDLEMATES** The Three Mesquiteers: Robert Livingston, Bob Steele, Rufe Davis
Mar. 28, 1941—	**IN OLD CHEYENNE** Roy Rogers, George "Gabby" Hayes, Sally Payne	June 3, 1941—	**UNDER FIESTA STARS** Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette
Mar. 29, 1941—	**TWO GUN SHERIFF** Don "Red" Barry, Lynn Merrick	June 16, 1941—	**PUDDIN' HEAD** Judy Canova
April 3, 1941—	**PALS OF THE PECOS** The Three Mesquiteers: Robert Livingston, Bob Steele, Rufe Davis	June 18, 1941—	**MILKMAN'S MATINEE** An All-Star Cast
April 12, 1941—	**SIS HOPKINS** Judy Canova, Bob Crosby with his band and The Bobcats, Charles Butterworth, Jerry Colonna, Susan Hayward	June 20, 1941—	**NEVADA CITY** Roy Rogers, George "Gabby" Hayes, Sally Payne
April 17, 1941—	**ROOKIES ON PARADE** Bob Crosby, Ruth Terry, Eddie Foy, Jr., Marie Wilson, Gertrude Niesen	June 24, 1941—	**KANSAS CYCLONE** Don "Red" Barry
April 22, 1941—	**LADY FROM NEW ORLEANS** John Wayne, Ona Munson, Ray Middleton, Henry Stephenson, Helen Westley	July 7, 1941—	**DOWN MEXICO WAY** Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette
April 26, 1941—	**SINGING HILLS** Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Mary Lee, Virginia Dale, Spencer Charters	July 17, 1941—	**ICE CAPADES** Belita, Vera Hruba, Lois Dworshak, Robin Lee, Red McCarthy And a Cast of Screen Stars
May 1, 1941—	**A GAY VAGABOND** An All-Star Cast	July 24, 1941—	**GAUCHO OF ELDORADO** The Three Mesquiteers. Robert Livingston, Bob Steele, Rufe Davis
May 5, 1941—	**COUNTRY FAIR** Eddie Foy, Jr., June Clyde, "Big Boy" Guinn Williams, Lulubelle and Scotty, and a host of radio stars	July 31, 1941—	**RAGS TO RICHES** An All Star Cast
May 7, 1941—	**SHERIFF OF TOMBSTONE** Roy Rogers, George "Gabby" Hayes, Sally Payne	Aug. 5, 1941—	**OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT** Roy Rogers, George "Gabby" Hayes Sally Payne
May 12, 1941—	**DESERT BANDIT** Don "Red" Barry	Aug. 6, 1941—	**DOCTORS DON'T TELL** An All-Star Cast
May 15, 1941—	**ANGELS WITH BROKEN WINGS** Mary Lee, Marilyn Hare, Jane Frazee, Leni Lynn	Aug. 9, 1941—	**OLD FAITHFUL** Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette
		Aug. 11, 1941—	**TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR ROOM** An All-Star Cast

GREATER PROGRAM OF 32 FEATURES,
ET THE STARS" SHORTS FOR 1941-1942



Where the Amusement Dollar Goes—

WASHINGTON—Slightly less than two-thirds of every dollar spent on amusements by the American public goes for motion pictures, it is shown by analysis by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce of data recently compiled by the census bureau.

A break-down of the "amusement dollar" shows that 67.4 cents goes to motion pictures, 8.8 cents to billiard and pool parlors and bowling alleys, 4.4 cents to the horse and dog race tracks, 3.3 cents to the legitimate theatres, and 16.1 cents to amusement parks, riding academies, private swimming pools and all other forms of amusement.

The analysis was based on the 1939 census of amusements, which showed their total receipts to be $998,079,000 compared with $696,012,000 in 1935, with the motion picture theatres accounting for $673,045,000 of that total, against $508,196,000 four years earlier.

How New Englanders Spend Their Dollar

WASHINGTON—Expenditures of the average New England family for motion picture admissions increase as family income expands up to $3,000 and thereafter tend to decline, it is shown by studies of the department of labor.

Up to the dividing line, it was found, about half of the total recreation expenditure goes for motion picture, but thereafter the proportion drops, although in neither the up or down sides does the dollar expenditure change consistently.

The department surveyed seven communities in four of the New England states, picking large, medium-sized and small cities. Families in the smallest cities were found to spend less on recreation, all told, but spent about the same as those in the larger communities for motion pictures, the natural inference being that the amusement field in the small towns is more restricted in variety.

The survey developed that the average low-income family has little to spend on recreation. In Providence, for example, families in the $500-$750 bracket had $7 a year for amusement, of which $3 was spent on motion pictures. The average yearly expenditures for recreation did not amount to as much as $100 in any income group below the $3,000 level, and when that point was reached approximately $30 went for film theatre admissions.

Increase With Income

Starting with $3 for the $500-$750 bracket in Providence, expenditures for motion pictures increased with income up to $42 in the $3,500-$4,000 bracket, thereafter tending to decline. In the medium-sized cities, the range was from $3 for the $250-$500 bracket to $30 for the $2,500-$3,000 bracket, while in the smallest cities, the range in the same income brackets was from $4 to $29.

Among families with income of $500 to $3,000 a year, those of clerical workers spend more on motion picture theatres than do those of wage earners or salaried professional men, but families of independent professional and business men spend more, and those of salaried business men spend the most.

As an example, in the $1,250-$1,500 bracket, the Providence wage earner spends $11, the clerical worker $16, the salaried professional man $12, the independent professional man the same and the salaried business man $21. From income bracket to bracket, however, the standing shifts, but the over-all picture is as presented in the preceding paragraph.

Flashes From the News Front

Co-Op Case in Semi-Finals

DETROIT—Decision is expected in late May in the anti-trust suit of the Midwest Theatres, Inc., against Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, a booking and buying combine. All evidence is in. The plaintiff has been instructed to file brief by April 14; the defendant by May 5.

New Tax Bill Up

MADISON—Distributors would be required by the McParland bill to pay an occupation tax of ten per cent on film rentals in excess of $500. Another measure would make those portions of churches used for Bingo and other such games subject to taxes.

Set PCCITO Meeting Plans

LOS ANGELES—Final plans are being completed for the second annual convention of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners to be held late in April or early in May, according to Robert H. Poole, executive secretary.

Seeks L. A. Variety Club

LOS ANGELES—A movement for the establishment of a Variety Club has been launched here by Harold Schwarz of the Alexander Preview Co.

Herman A. DeVry Dead

CHICAGO—Herman A. DeVry, inventor and manufacturer of many film devices, died suddenly here of a heart attack while bowling. He was active in the industry for nearly 30 years, chiefly in the educational and commercial 16mm field.

Ready Missouri Dual Ban

ST. LOUIS—The Better Films Council here has agreed upon the text of a bill to be introduced immediately in the state legislature to confine film programs to two and one-half hours duration. A slap at double features, it provides stiff penalties for violation.

New Iowa Tax Bill

DES MOINES—A bill to tax tickets one cent up to 50 cents and two cents from 50 cents to a $1 has been hoppered in the lower house. Proceeds would go to the school fund. The vending machine license measure has been dropped to a $25 annual fee and amended to apply only to slot music devices.

Would Ban SRO Tickets

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.—A bill hoppered here would prohibit the sale of tickets after the seating capacity has been reached.

Donat to 20th-Fox

LONDON—Robert Donat has been signed by 20th-Fox for a starring role in "Pitt, the Younger," to be produced at Shepherd's Bush studio. Several American stars, now here, will be co-billed. The picture is the first of four big ones planned for American distribution as well as in the U. K.

"This Is England"... The Year's Top Single-Reel Scoop... Playing All These Theatres In Greater New York NOW...

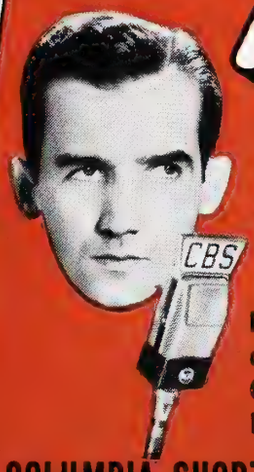
★ RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
★ ROXY
★ RIALTO
★ CRITERION
★ PARAMOUNT
★ RKO PALACE
★ Albemarle, Brooklyn
★ Kingsway, Brooklyn
★ Loew's Paradise
★ Loew's Valencia
★ Loew's State
★ Fantasy, R.V.C.
★ Loew's Olympia
★ Loew's 175th Street
★ Loew's 83rd Street
★ Loew's Lexington
★ Loew's 72nd Street
★ Loew's Ziegfeld
★ Loew's Sheridan
★ Loew's Orpheum
★ Loew's 116th Street
★ Loew's Inwood
★ Loew's Commodore
★ Loew's Delancey
★ Loew's New Rochelle
★ Loew's Mt. Vernon
★ Loew's Yonkers
★ Loew's Pitkin
★ Loew's Kings
★ Loew's Triboro
★ Bryant
★ RKO Albee
★ Globe
★ Airline Newsreel
★ Grand Central
★ City
★ Embassy Newsreel

BIGGEST DAY-AND-DATE BOOKING IN SHORT-SUBJECT HISTORY!

★ 50th Street Newsreel
★ Selwyn
★ Carnegie
★ Trans-Lux, Broadway
★ Trans-Lux, Madison
★ Stanley
★ 68th Street Playhouse
★ Marine, Brooklyn
★ Plaza
★ Fortway, Brooklyn
★ Park, Brooklyn
★ Terrace, Yonkers
★ Liberty
★ Lincoln, Passaic
★ Pariscourt, Brooklyn
★ 8th Street
★ Rialto, Brooklyn
★ Mayfair, Brooklyn
★ Trent, New Rochelle
★ Lido, Bronx
★ St. James, Asbury Park
★ Normandie
★ Town
★ Nostrand, Brooklyn
★ Flatbush, Brooklyn
★ Summer, Brooklyn
★ Kismet, Brooklyn
★ Ritz, Brooklyn
★ Coliseum, Brooklyn
★ College, Brooklyn
★ State, Brooklyn
★ Canarsie, Brooklyn
★ Lincoln, Brooklyn
★ Dover, Bronx
★ Hobart, Woodside
★ Granada, Corona
★ Berkshire, Brooklyn
★ De Lux, Bronx
★ Fenway, Bronx
★ Tower, Bronx
★ Parkside, Brooklyn
★ Island, Hollis
★ Little Neck
★ Cambria
★ St. Albans
★ Laurelton
★ Gables
★ Main Street, Flushing
★ Trylon
★ Linden, St. Albans
★ St. Marks
★ Zenith, Bronx
★ Freeman, Bronx
★ Windsor, Bronx
★ Quenton, Brooklyn
★ Vanity, Brooklyn
★ Regun
★ Sunset, Brooklyn
★ Lane

and many others!

"THIS IS ENGLAND"



with *"on the spot"* narration by

ED MURROW

European director of the Columbia Broadcasting System... The amazingly dramatic story of Britian girding for battle!

Proceeds of distribution are being turned over by Columbia to the "Spitfire Fund" of the R. A. F.!

A COLUMBIA SHORT-SUBJECT PRESENTATION • Cinescope Release

COLUMBIA PICTURES

✓ **TO BE RELEASED NATIONALLY IN KEY CITIES APRIL 3!** *Rest of the Country...* **APRIL 10!**

RESERVE YOUR PRINT *NOW!*

FINDS DEFENSE DRIVE SHIFTING POPULATIONS, BOOMING TRADE

Ross Federal Launches Setup for Reporting Impact of Program

NEW YORK—Increasing tempo of the national defense program is bringing about significant shifts in population and in buying power. These factors, in turn, are leaving a definite impress on the exhibition structure, chiefly in terms resembling boom times.

A Ross Federal conviction that these factors prevail led that organization to check up. Out of the survey come confirmation and the inauguration of a new reporting service designed to supply up-to-the-minute information on the impact of defense spending throughout the nation. At least three major distributors already have received samples of the first group of reports.

Texas Towns Benefit

These show, for instance, that in the town of Corpus Christi, Texas, where the principal defense activity at present centers on the new $31,000,000 naval air station, 20 new retail stores are being built and three new theatres have been contracted. Other data shows that in Abilene the weekly payroll on camp construction is figured at $135,000, with common laborers receiving 40 cents an hour. This business stimulus has resulted in the construction of a new $6,000 theatre.

Business Activity Heightens

Virtually the same story of increased business activity is being told in each of the states Ross Federal has surveyed to date, reports of which will be available to subscribers about every two weeks. The data is especially pertinent in respect to shifting markets. In one local situation, for instance, bankers report that, even though up to $100,000 is paid out in salaries in one day, the same bank gets up to $60,000 back in deposits the next day.

New housing as well as new stores and local improvements to satisfy increased populations is playing an important part in spurting conditions at most retail establishments, it is noted. In Tampa, where new housing is being constructed at a cost of 816,000, a new $38,000 theatre is under way and two other houses, long dark, have reopened. Another item shows that Charlestown, Ind., where the population for the past 10 years has stood at 900, has mushroomed to 4,000, with 7,000 workers expected by June 1 on two powder projects that will cost $91,000,000. Since workers are at present hard put for amusement in their leisure hours, nearby Louisville, Ky., is expected to benefit in theatre admissions, the report notes.

As a striking example of how small villages may be rapidly converted into sizeable cities because of defense expansion, the report cites Rolla and Lebanon, Mo.,

(Continued on page 23)

What the Studios Are Doing

Two-Month Production Shows Signs of Lag

HOLLYWOOD—Production pace as charted for the next 60 days shows signs, for the first time in months, of lagging, indicating it may be the beginning of a summer slump . . . Most studios have completed, or nearly finished, their 1940-41 schedules and have four months to coast before starting their 1941-42 programs . . . Brightest spots will be Republic, planning to clean up its 1940-41 quota by the end of June; 20th Century-Fox, where the Sol M. Wurtzel unit alone is planning five films, with at least six others on the line; and Paramount, girding for a production drive through the acquisition of 17 story properties since January 1.

War Department Gets Shot Of Defense Cooperation

Film leaders gave a special war department party a first-hand glimpse of the industry's efforts and cooperation with the national defense program at a one-day conference here . . . Visitors, headed by Lieut. Col. Frank A. Allen jr., visited Paramount, Warner, 20th Century-Fox and M-G-M, were guests of H. M. Warner at luncheon, saw an army training film in production at Fox, with Darryl F. Zanuck as their host, and glimpsed Paramount's "I Wanted Wings" at a special showing.

Paramount Plans Sequel To "I Wanted Wings"

Paramount is planning "Amateur Admirals" as a sequel to its "I Wanted Wings" . . . Warner is world-premiering "The Great Lie," Bette Davis starrer, in the actress' home town, Littleton, N. H., April 5 . . . M-G-M is plugging the national preview of "Men of Boys Town" April 2 with a coast-to-coast broadcast featuring Spencer Tracy, Mickey Rooney and Father Flanagan, airing via NBC . . . Same studio has prepared five special advance trailers, one to be booked each week for six stanzas before release of "Ziegfeld Girl" . . . Monogram has acquired distribution rights to "Break the News," Maurice Chevalier starrer made abroad . . . Alexander Korda's next for United Artists will be "Illusions," starring Merle Oberon.

Weekly Studio Payroll Rise; Kranz Planning Eleven

Weekly studio payrolls for February showed a $29,171 increase over January, with 504 more workers receiving checks for a total of $568,816—exclusive of executive and talent brackets . . . Now here from New York setting production details, Charles Kranz, president of Select Pictures, announced plans to produce 11 features for distribution via franchise holders and the state-right market, in addition to one film already completed . . . Samuel Goldwyn will roll "The Little Foxes," starring Bette Davis, April 15 . . . He has retained Leo Spitz, former RKO Radio president, as his attorney . . . Warner paid $175,000 for Edna Ferber's "Saratoga Trunk" . . . Edward Small will launch "G-Man vs. Scotland Yard" within four weeks, for UA release . . . RKO Radio tied Phillip Reed and Jane Wyatt to long-term acting deals . . . Fred Kohlmar's first Paramount production will be "War Town" . . . Universal gave George Waggner a seven-year ticket as producer-director.

Nebraska May Be Next "Sniper" at Decree

LINCOLN—Nebraska may be among the states which will be at legislative odds with the consent decree.

At the request of several independent exhibitors, R. R. "Bob" Livingston is mulling a method by which emergency measures might enter the unicameral hopper here and get a quick shove into being.

Make Plans Soon for Columbia Meetings

NEW YORK—Plans for Columbia sales meetings will most likely be decided upon shortly after the return from Boca Grande, Fla., of Abe Montague, general sales manager, on April 7.

Nate Spingold returned from a southern vacation early in the week and due back shortly from Miami Beach are Jack Cohn, Rube Jackter, Louis Astor and Nat Cohn.

Michigan, Too, Gets Anti-Decree Bill

LANSING—Legislation to circumvent certain portions of the consent decree has been introduced by Rep. Raymond J. Snow. It provides that distributors be licensed by the state, forces a 20 per cent cancellation clause and prohibits enforced selling of shorts, newsreels, reissues and serials.

Vote Near on Anti-Decree Measure in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS—Indications now are that Northwest Allied's anti-consent decree bill will reach the floors of both branches of the Minnesota legislature for a final decisive vote next week. It will come to both the house and senate recommended for passage.

PRC Into the Ring With 42 Next Year

CHICAGO—Having originally indicated it would release 63 features, of which 26 would be westerns, Producers Releasing Corp. will toss its hat into the 1941-42 ring with a minimum of 42. Eighteen will be westerns.

O. Henry Briggs, president, outlined plans at the company's first annual convention of franchise holders at the Congress early in the week. A round two dozen of the contemplated lineup will break down into dramas, comedy-dramas, mystery melodramas and character comedies with music features. This group also will embrace four "specials," stressing exploitation angles. Among them:

"Swamp Woman," described as "a jungle woman" story with a "Tobacco Road" background.

"Hard Guy," comedy drama "of the type that has made Cagney."

"The Terror Trail," a mystery melodrama described as "a Lugosi story with a Jekyll and Hyde angle."

"They Can't Get Away With It," an action melodrama dealing with spies below the Rio Grande.

"Argentine Love," centering around Buenos Aires and the Argentine.

Aside from the 18 westerns, Sig Neufeld, who supervises them, said the company will make an outdoor action film with an Alaska locale. This is as far as PRC went on specific detail.

"We have budgeted our pictures amply in order to get the type of product that has proved profitable to the exhibitor," Briggs told the convention which started Saturday and terminated Monday with individual sales meetings. Among others who spoke were Leon Fromkess, vice-president in charge of domestic and foreign operations; George Batcheller jr., in charge of feature production, and Neufeld. William Gell, managing director of Pathe Pictures, Ltd., British distributor, was a guest of the convention. Joseph O'Sullivan, director of advertising and publicity, outlined sales promotion.

Saturday was marked by a meeting of the board and a meeting of the franchise holders with Briggs presiding. Those here included Ike Katz, Atlanta; Harry Asher, Boston; Edward E. Heller, Charlotte; Abe Fischer, Chicago; Nat B. Kaplan and Don Duff, Cincinnati; Lee L. Goldberg and Bernie Rubin, Cleveland; Jack Adams, Dallas; Bernard Newman, Denver; William Flemion, Detroit; Sam H. Abrams and Joseph Bohn, Indianapolis; John Muchmore, Kansas City; S. A. Arnold, Little Rock; Louis Rutstein, Los Angeles; Charles Weiner, Minneapolis; F. F. Goodrow, New Orleans; Bert Kulick, New York; Sid Kulick, Buffalo; E. B. Walker, Oklahoma City; Herbert Given, Philadelphia; M. and L. Lefton, Pittsburgh; A. R. Dietz, St. Louis; Dave Nathanson, San Francisco; Ollie Wog, Seattle, and George Gill, Washington.

Henry Armetta, George Houston and Art Davis, the latter two appearing in westerns, likewise were convention guests.

Meyer Stern has acquired the franchise for the Omaha and Des Moines territories.

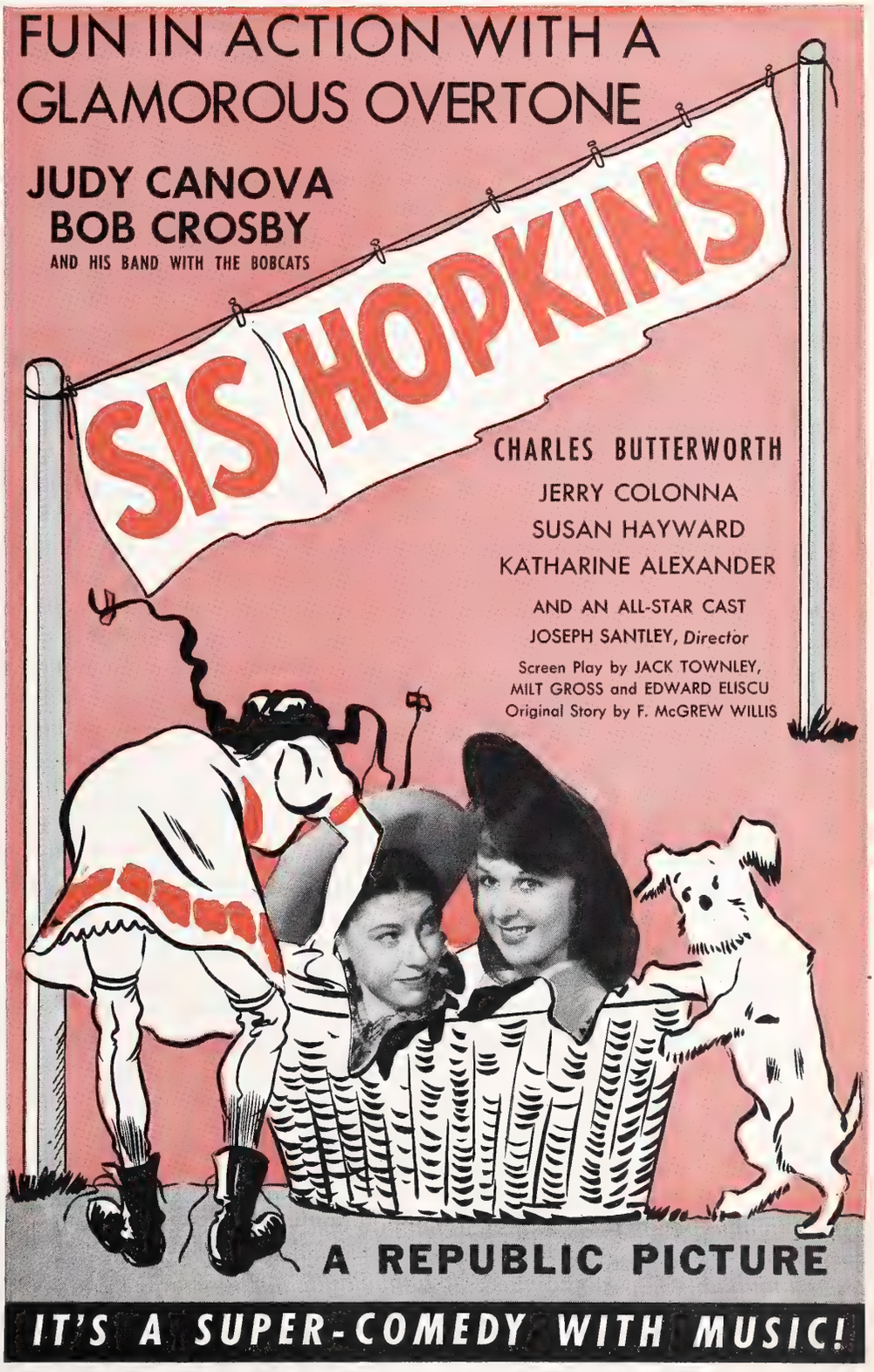
200 "Rio" Day-and-Daters Lined Up by 20th-Fox

NEW YORK—Twentieth Century-Fox is lining up more than 200 day-and-date bookings on April 10 and 11 for "That Night in Rio" which will bulk a four week pre-release run at the Roxy, New York. Other pre-releases include the Lincoln and Surf, Miami; the Ambassador, St. Louis on April 3 and the Circle, Indianapolis, April 4.

Charles E. McCarthy, director of advertising and publicity, once more is tying in theatremen and their slants on special advertising handling for the film as was done in the case of "Tobacco Road." Augmenting this, Eddie Solomon and Christy Wilbert, members of McCarthy's exploitation staff, will take to the road on special campaigns in several cities. Solomon will work Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Detroit and Chicago. Wilbert draws Baltimore and Philadelphia.

RKO Returning to Sneak Previews for "Miss Jones"

NEW YORK—RKO once more is going for nation-wide sneak previews, this time with "The Devil and Miss Jones." The showings "all in the Hollywood manner" are to be held approximately day-and-date in approximately 35 key cities on April 4. Exhibitors, of course, are being invited. Toronto participants will attend the Buffalo preview.



"AS MANY AS MARKET ABSORBS," BALABAN SAYS FOR PARAMOUNT

Says Decree May Junk Old Formulas; Will Follow the Need

NEW YORK—"Paramount will make as many pictures next season as the market can absorb," Barney Balaban, president, states. The practice of announcing 50 to 60 releases for the year is a thing of the past, he adds and continuing along that line remarks, "We will have to forget a lot of old formulas under the decree."

Although he admits he will have a better idea in June how things are moving, Balaban insists the company has eliminated all "B" films and concentrating on big pictures. "While some productions may not be as big and as outstanding as others, it depends on the story," he contends, "but in any event the 'B' film is out."

Months ago when "we knew we were going to have a decree Paramount began to gear itself accordingly," Balaban continues. "Every time we date a picture the thought is for an extended run. We are always after more playing time when we book a picture," is the way he puts it.

Although plans are still in the nebulous stage, Balaban is inclined to believe his company will make a greater number for the 1941-42 season than the current season. All those on the present schedule will be delivered.

Ready Many for June

In discussing meetings with the field sales force on new pictures the Paramount president says he would rather refer to them as sales conferences rather than a convention. Only where one general meeting of the force is held will the term "convention" be employed, he indicates.

The studio under Y. Frank Freeman's supervision is plugging ahead with the intention of having a sizeable number of next season's output ready by June. Just how many, Balaban could not say.

"We will try to sell in blocks as fast as the studio can turn them out. We cannot tell at this time whether we will have one block of five for release in a month or two groups of five in three months. However, the studio is concentrating on important properties and turning them out as rapidly as possible without sacrificing quality in the effort," he adds.

As for shorts Balaban believes they will have a greater importance in the future. In this regard he states Paramount has added three to four new series and created a new department for the special handling of this product.

Freeman's visit to New York the early part of the week was not to discuss new product, but primarily to attend the Paramount partners meeting in Hot Springs, Va.

Set 85 One-Reelers And 1 in Two Reels

NEW YORK—Over the line early, and plentifully so, Paramount will release 85 one-reelers and one two-reel color cartoon next season, according to Neil F. Agnew, vice-president and general sales manager. The regular 104 issues of Paramount News, of course, continue without change.

The lineup will embrace three new series and an expansion of several others currently on the company's 1940-41 program. The new series are to include 12 "Superman" cartoons, in Technicolor; six "Quiz Kid" and six "Hedda Hopper's Hollywood."

Additionally there are proposed six "Madcap Models" Puppetoons in Technicolor; four Robert Benchley comedies, 12 "Popeye" cartoons, six "Popular Science" and as many "Unusual Occupations" in Magnacolor, six "Speaking of Animals" novelties, six "Paramount Headliners," 13 "Grant Rice Sportlights," two "Fascinating Journeys" and finally the two-reel color cartoon.

"Superman," a Fleischer Product

The "Superman" series, the "Popeyes" and the special cartoon will be made by the Fleischer studios in Miami. The first of the Fleischer-made subjects will be based on the newspaper cartoon strip by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster and currently runs in 235 newspapers with a circulation of over 20,000,000.

The "Quiz Kids" will feature the youngsters who appear weekly over the NBC Blue network with an estimated 10,000,000 listeners. Gerard Darrow, the eight-year-old quiz whiz, will appear in each release. George Pal will produce the "Madcap Models" Puppetoons, utilizing puppets, not cartoon, characters. Jerry Fairbanks and Bob Carlisle will make "Popular Science" series. They also will produce the "Speaking of Animals" series. "Hedda Hopper's Hollywood" will be made by Herbert Moulton. Paramount adds the "Headliner" series will have a higher budget, plus a flexible policy which will permit acquisition of outside subjects. Count and Countess Von Keller are responsible for "Fascinating Journeys," their forthcoming releases to be "Road in India" and "Indian Temples."

Wurtzel Begins Program For Fox After Vacation

HOLLYWOOD—Returning from a vacation trip to Latin America, Sol Wurtzel has returned to the 20th-Fox studios and is preparing the first of a series of 12 he will personally supervise on the company's 1941-42 program. In the group will be the "Cisco Kid" and "Charlie Chan" series as well as "The Last of the Duanes" and three other Zane Grey yarns which will star George Montgomery.

Cummings Dickering For Schine "Peace"

WASHINGTON—Although department of justice sources are mum, it is understood former Attorney General Homer S. Cummings of Cummings & Lockwood, with offices in New Haven and here, has entered negotiations for an out-of-court settlement of the government's anti-trust suit against the Schine circuit, which has about 150 theatres in the eastern sector.

Cummings and Willard S. McKay, New York counsel for Schine, are reported to have been here for a conference with Assistant Attorney General Thurman W. Arnold in an effort to reach a definite understanding on a decree which would wind up the pending action.

It is believed neither side went into the issues at great length, but Schine interests expressed their willingness to terminate the suit via the decree channel, provided "a fair" agreement could be worked out.

Indications are further meetings will be held and that it may take months before a concrete understanding on the terms of a decree are established. The differences are over theatre expansion, according to one source. Another states the government wants Schine to go further than halt theatre acquisitions and dissolve the chain.

Schine, it is intimated, is willing to go for a decree along the lines of that signed by "The Big Five" on November 20 and approved by the U. S. district court in New York.

New York Conference Held On "Little 3" Angle

NEW YORK—Seymour Simon and Herbert Borkland, assistants to the attorney general in Washington, were in New York Tuesday conferring with counsel for the "Little Three" and Willard S. McKay, attorney for the Schine circuit, on interrogatories in connection with the pending anti-trust suit against the circuit in Buffalo.

Crescent Case Down for July 7 Despite Reports

NASHVILLE—Moving along despite reports that the action may be settled by a decree, the government's suit against the Crescent circuit and the "Little Three" has been set for July 7 by Federal Judge Elmer Davis. The companies are UA, Universal and Columbia.

Hold Washington Powwow On Griffith Case Accord

WASHINGTON—Herbert S. Griffing, counsel for the Griffith circuit, was here recently conferring with department of justice officials on the possibility of a settlement by decree.

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry!



Only a short time left to get into the great $15,000.00 CASH PRIZE CONTEST

for showmanship campaigns on "Little Men." Contest open on all engagements beginning up to and including April 15th . . . PLENTY OF PRIZES FOR SHOWMEN IN EVERY CLASSIFICATION — 369 OF 'EM! . . . first runs, subsequent runs, big cities, small towns and in between. Look over that full list of prizes below! There's still time for YOU to do a job and get your entry in by April 25th! Contact your RKO Exchange immediately. Get a copy of the special press sheet, outlining special stunts and a world of tieups. Give it the action it needs NOW and cash in!

(Contest began November 1, 1940, and continues to, and including, April 15, 1941. The contest applies to all "Little Men" engagements opening within this period. All entries must be post-marked or sent not later than midnight, April 25, 1941. In the event of ties, duplicate prizes will be awarded. Full details available without cost at any RKO Exchange).

Here's the $15,000.00 as Cash Prizes

IN CITIES OF 100,000 OR OVER
FIRST RUN THEATRES
1st Prize $500.00
2nd Prize 250.00
3rd Prize 100.00
Ten of $50.00 each

SUBSEQUENT RUN THEATRES
1st Prize $250.00
2nd Prize 100.00
Ten of $50.00 each
Fifty of $25.00 each

IN CITIES OF 25,000 50 100,000
FIRST RUN THEATRES
1st Prize $500.00
2nd Prize 250.00
3rd Prize 100.00
Five of $50.00 each
Ten of $25.00 each

SUBSEQUENT RUN THEATRES
1st Prize $250.00
2nd Prize 100.00
3rd Prize 50.00
Seventy-five of $25.00 each

IN CITIES UNDER 25,000
ALL THEATRES
1st Prize $500 00
2nd Prize 250.00
3rd Prize 100.00
Ten at $50.00 each
150 at $25.00 each

IN CANADA (ALL CITIES)
FIRST RUN THEATRES
1st Prize $250.00
2nd Prize 100.00
Two of $50.00 each
Three of $25.00 each

SUBSEQUENT RUN THEATRES
1st Prize $200.00
2nd Prize 100.00
Two of $50.00 each
Twelve of $25.00 each

RKO NATIONAL CIRCUIT
1st Prize $400.00
2nd Prize 200.00
3rd Prize 100.00
Two of $50.00 each

RKO METROPOLITAN N.Y. CIRCUIT
1st Prize $300.00
2nd Prize 200.00
3rd Prize 100.00
Four of $50.00 each

2600 years ago Democracy was born in Greece. For 2600 years the Greeks have kept its flame alive. Today they are fighting to preserve it. Democracy must not die. They want it to live and grow— as much as we do.

That's why we must not let them down. We must give them the allies they so desperately need; the pennies, dimes and dollars which are as important as soldiers.

Adolph Zukor has called upon us in the Amusement Industry to rally to the support of the women and children of Greece— to help — as best we can — the husbands and fathers who are so gallantly struggling.

We are therefore asking for every exhibitor's cooperation in staging special midnight shows, and in making theatre and lobby collections. The campaign is on at this moment and will reach its peak with Greek War Relief Week, March 25th - 30th.

As National Chairman of the Distributors' Committee, I earnestly request the aid of our entire Industry. Today — right now — get in touch with any branch manager or film salesman. He'll tell you what you can do to help.

Remember, the Greeks' fight is our fight!

Gradwell L. Sears

Chairman, Distributors' Committee,
Greek War Relief Association.



20th-Fox on Return Journey to Profit

NEW YORK — Twentieth Century-Fox went from a loss of $1,192,824 in the third quarter of 1940 to a profit of $558,275 in the fourth after establishing substantial reserves for foreign assets and thereby indicates its fight up the line into something resembling former profits is well under way.

The $558,275 net for the last quarter emerged after providing a reserve of $600,000 for foreign assets. The third quarter loss was sustained largely through the setting aside of $1,400,000 again for foreign assets. However after providing a total of $2,800,000 in reserve for overseas companies, the company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, except the Roxy, dipped into the red to a total of $517,336. Had the reserve not been provided, 20th-Fox, it is pointed out, would have reflected a consolidated net of $2,032,664, after the usual provisions for federal income taxes. In 1939, consolidated net was $4,146,000 and profit in the final quarter of that year $994,218. The Roxy showed a loss of $42,289 for the year ended August 29, 1940.

Explains Addition to Reserve

"The purpose of the additions to the reserve for foreign assets," Sidney R. Kent, president, informs stockholders, "is to exclude from net income that portion earned during the year in foreign currencies, not currently realizable in United States dollars because of restrictions imposed by foreign governments and, therefore, not available for use in your corporation's operations in the United States and accordingly to increase to that extent the general reserve against net foreign assets. This unrealized income is represented by foreign current assets, principally cash, and at such future time when it may be converted into United States dollars, or some equivalent conversion is possible, it will be included in the income account."

Reserve for foreign assets has been increased by $2,800,000 to $3,250,000 which operates as a general reserve against net foreign assets of $10,338,707. The current statement includes 1940 dividends from National Theatres in which 20th-Fox holds a 42 per cent interest. The dividend totaled $693,0000 as against $756,000 in 1939. National Theatres and its voting controlled domestic subsidiaries, in turn, had a consolidated net of $2,037,177 in 1940 compared with $2,311,108 in 1939. Therefore, indicated earnings of $855,614 in National reflect themselves in 20th-Fox's final statement.

As of Dec. 28, 1940, the company had 917,429 shares of preferred and 1,741,995 shares of common outstanding. Its gross income in film and accessory rentals was $45,573,943. Distribution and home office operations cost $10,814,505. Earned surplus as of the same date was $13,172,467.

Withdraws Complaint

ST. LOUIS—Louis M. Sosna has withdrawn his complaint from the local arbitration tribunal seeking first-run product for the Sosna in Mexico, Mo. It is understood he decided to withdraw when he learned the subject could not be considered until September.

Sees Theatre Boom in Defense Program Shifts

(Continued from page 18)

each with normal populations of 3,600. Five hundred workers are building army camps to house 38,000 officers and enlisted men by June and it is expected an additional 25,000 civilians will be attracted to these situations because of the army posts. The construction payroll is estimated at $20,000 a week, with no mention of adequate theatre facilities.

In Oswego, N. Y., new army camp facilities have been completed at an outlay of over $500,000, while a $6,000,000 steam electric plant is under construction. Many houses are being converted into small apartments for officers' families and $18,000 a week is being spent on barrack construction. Plans are under way for about $30,000 worth of new housing and a new theatre, the Oswego, has been completed at a cost of $20,000.

New housing to the extent of $400,000 is now under construction in Fayetteville, N. C., as well as $100,000 for new stores and $40,000 for two new theatres as a result of the enlargement of the barracks capacity of Fort Bragg from 5,000 to 67,000. The entire building program at the fort is about half completed and $250,000 is being spent weekly for construction payroll alone.

The Ross Federal plan is designed to report briefly important developments as they occur and with accent on local effects derived either from increased population or increased buying power.

See "Dictator" as Bernhard Victory

NEW YORK—The beyond-expectations success of "The Great Dictator" at popular prices at a group of Warner houses, the first such engagements at less than advance admission scales, is seen by the circuit's executive management as corroboration of the criticism leveled at price juggling by Joseph Bernhard, general manager, at a recent Ampa meeting.

At that time Bernhard declared himself against advance price attractions because "if this up-and-down price policy continues, and it will grow because every company will think that it has a picture that is far superior to the ordinary and prices should be raised, in no time the public will become price-conscious to a dangerous degree."

Attesting to this belief, circuit spokesmen cite the excellent returns for "Dictator" at the Stanton, Philadelphia; Strand, Albany; Fabian, Paterson; Montauk, Passaic; Shea, Jamestown; Rex, Sheboygan, Wis., and Grand, Lancaster, Pa., all of which are at regular prices, and widely advertised locally as such.

Furthermore, these same sources assert the circuit steadfastly refused to play the film during its pre-release period because UA demanded adherence to an advanced admission policy for all bookings at that time and the circuit management felt this would be harmful.



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This is the only book published in the world that carries such valuable interesting information about the motion picture industry and motion picture people. Among the important features in the 1941 edition now being printed will be found a Theater List giving the names of theaters with seating capacities arranged by states and cities. Circuit theaters listed alphabetically by name with manager or officer of company, number and names of theaters in each circuit . . . Pictures released last year with complete credits . . . A list of 17,800 pictures released since 1915 with FILM DAILY review dates and/or release dates and name of company distributing. Work of Directors, Producers, Authors, Screen Writers, Players, Writers, Cameramen, etc. . . . Financial Structure of important companies . . . A new and revised Equipment and Supply Dealers Section . . . A practical showman's Manual . . . Addresses of important producers, distributors, exchanges, trailer companies, agents, play brokers, projection rooms, and laboratories. A Survey of Television . . . 1001 other bits of information that everyone should have in this beautifully bound volume of more than 1200 pages which is given free with a year's subscription to FILM DAILY.

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SHORT SUBJECT QUARTERLIES . . .

Periodically, issues of THE FILM DAILY are devoted to the Short Subject Field. In each issue will be found the complete program of each of the Short Subject Producers and Distributors for the next three months. Pages of reviews of short subjects for guidance in booking. Suggested programs and up-to-date exploitation ideas that are being successfully used by others to sell shorts. A complete coverage of the short subject field will be found in these issues referred to as THE FILM DAILY Short Subject Quarterlies.

"EQUIPMENT NEWS" . . .

A fortnightly section of THE FILM DAILY printed separately, but distributed with the regular FILM DAILY devoted exclusively to the equipment field. Every two weeks "Equipment News" appears and is welcomed everywhere by all those interested in equipment. It carries live news of the industry presented in such a manner that it reads like a best seller. New developments, new installations by companies and by theaters. What theaters are being planned and those to be renovated. What Supply Dealers are making installations and whose product they are installing. A paper that gives Exhibitors, Supply Dealers, Architects, Manufacturers as well as Bankers, Studio and Home Office Executives the essential news of the equipment side of the industry in a human style. There's plenty of meat in this paper presented every other Friday.

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Opinions on Current Productions, and Exploitips for Selling to the Public

FEATURE REVIEWS

That Hamilton Woman A

Historical Drama

UA (——) 128 Minutes Rel. Apr. 30, '41

In the face of stern competition and in a dramatic role which rates inevitable and favorable comparison with Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With the Wind," Vivien Leigh shines brightly and above all others in "That Hamilton Woman." She scores a distinct and personal triumph, which is handing her plenty in view of sterling competition offered by Laurence Olivier, Alan Mowbray, Gladys Cooper and others. But this attraction, aided mightily as it is by Miss Leigh's performance, does not end there. It is in itself an excellent picture, beautifully produced and expertly directed by Alexander Korda in what many, no doubt, will believe is his best effort to date. The story, out of the history books and embroidered for dramatic purposes, tells of the romance, and the affair, between Lady Hamilton and Lord Nelson, Britain's great sailor. The historical tapestry, weaving all through it, nevertheless is subordinated to the personalized love story of the man and the woman. It is dramatic, touching and entertainment of a high order, astutely along anti-dictator lines and emerging, too, as a strong argument for the downfall of dictators. In this case, it is Napoleon. First-rate on all counts and by all approaches.

Vivien Leigh, Laurence Olivier, Alan Mowbray, Henry Wilcoxon, Sara Allgood, Gladys Cooper, Heather Angel.

EXPLOITIPS: Star values, of course. The Leigh-Olivier combination, a real life romance, should be stressed and there is always the inevitable reference to Miss Leigh and "Gone With the Wind." Eighteenth century fashions at once suggest possibilities for contests and displays. This goes also for contests based on the historical phases of the film, including one based on famous women and the part they have played in making history. Books based on the Hamilton-Nelson relationship might lend themselves to library hookups, etc.

CATCHLINES: Hated by a Nation's People . . . Loved by Their Hero . . . See "That Hamilton Woman."

A Shocked World Called Their Love a Scandal . . . See for Yourself.

Dead Men Tell F

Mystery-Melodrama

20th Century-Fox (136) 61 Minutes Rel. Mar. 28, '41

Closely-woven mystery which Charlie Chan solves with characteristic emphasis on suavity and Confuciusisms. Audiences will be kept in suspense until the final footage as to whodunit. The everybody-is-a-suspect element, plus workmanlike production, direction and performances, qualifies the film as high grade support material with a special appeal to Chan followers. Sidney Toler, of course, portrays the fictional Oriental sleuth. The murders, a mere pair of them, are performed aboard a pirate-museum ship which is about to sail on a treasure-hunting expedition. Four members of the party each possess a quarter-section of the treasure map, the corralling of which furnishes the motive for the crimes. Chan's Number Two son aids his illustrious father and thereby furnishes a trace of comedy relief. Harry Lachman directed.

Sidney Toler, Sheila Ryan, Robert Weldon, Sen Yung, Donald Douglas, Katharine Aldridge, Paul McGrath.

EXPLOITIPS: For lobby decorations put in fishing nets, coils of rope, ship lanterns, signal flags and other marine paraphernalia. Place a "Pirate Treasure Hunt" map in lobby, illustrated with stills from the picture. Hold a treasure hunt, burying prizes of money, merchandise or theatre tickets, at the beach or in fields near town. Plant clues in newspaper classified section.

CATCHLINES: The Ghost of Pirate Black Hook Challenges Charlie Chan . . . And the Screen's Slyest, Cleverest Sleuth Is at His Best.

Mystery . . . Laughs . . . Ghostly Thrills . . . In a Weird Drama of Pirate Gold . . . Aboard a Treasure Ship.

Who Is the Ghost of Black Hook? . . . Who Strikes Down Those Who Know the Secret of $60,000,000 in Buried Gold?

Charlie Chan Traps a Killer Ghost . . . In a Spine-Chilling Mystery Aboard a Haunted Treasure Ship.

Yo-Ho-Ho! . . . All Aboard for the Cocos Isles . . . And $60,000,000 in Buried Gold.

I Wanted Wings F

Aviation Drama

Paramount (——) 132 Minutes Rel. ————

With the cooperation of the air corps of the U. S. army or navy, Hollywood has from time to time produced some extremely impressive and profitable features portraying sundry phases of combatant aviation. This one takes off from the point where most of the others landed—and it zooms from there. Coming, as it does, at a time when virtually every screaming headline tells of bombings and warfare in the skies, when universal interest in our national defenses in the air is at an all-time peak, the inherent entertainment and informative values of the film are magnified incalculable times. Hence, by the same logic, it appears that its potential revenue ceilings will be comparably as unlimited. Nor does it depend upon its technical perfections alone—and no previous photoplay in its category has given so detailed and comprehensive an insight into how the army molds and trains its warbirds. Among other major assets, normally valuable in their own rights but here somewhat dwarfed through comparison with the picture's spectacle and timeliness, include: (1) A gripping and convincing story of four flying cadets and two young women, against which the epic—a designation richly deserved—of army aviation is unfolded. (2) A thoroughly splendid cast, every member of which must be credited with a sterling performance, and (3) magnificent production and direction, which at all times keeps the action within the limits of plausibility. In short, here is a screen classic which every American should see. It will swell their pride in their heritage and give them additional confidence in the future of democracy. Directed by Mitchell Leisen.

Ray Milland, William Holden, Brian Donlevy, Wayne Morris, Veronica Lake, Constance Moore, Harry Davenport.

CATCHLINES: Fledgling America . . . Taking to the Air . . . It's the Step-by-Step Story of How War Eagles Are Made.

Young America Flies . . . In the Picture That Will Stir Your Patriotism . . . And Make You Proud to Be Alive.

The Man Who Lost Himself F

Comedy

Universal (——) 73 Minutes Rel. Mar. 21, '41

Light farce, with Brian Aherne essaying a dual role, and in which the story line is at times spun so thin as to overstep the bounds of credibility. Nevertheless it has its amusing moments, is well enacted by Aherne and Kay Francis, and should be found satisfactory fare for general audience consumption. Although her role otherwise is innocuous, Miss Francis is given an opportunity to do what she does best—parade a collection of gorgeous gowns—while the brunt of the comedy interest is carried by S. Z. Sakall as a soft-hearted butler. Edward Ludwig's direction glosses over many plot weaknesses and discrepancies, and is, on the whole, a workmanlike job, as is Lawrence W. Fox's production mounting. Aherne, a businessman from Puerto Rico, meets his double, a philandering wastrel, in a bar, gets drunk with him and wakes up in the latter's home, only to discover that his look-alike has been killed in a subway accident. His efforts to convince everyone, including the other man's wife, of his true identity furnish the motivation and complications.

Brian Aherne, Kay Francis, S. Z. Sakall, Nils Asther, Henry Stephenson, Sig Rumann, Marc Lawrence, Janet Beecher.

EXPLOITIPS: Conduct a "look-alike" contest, in cooperation with a newspaper, with finals of the affair on the theatre stage—a stunt that should net plenty of publicity. Give marquee credits to Brian Aherne and Kay Francis. Title can be tied into a promotional campaign with a newspaper's classified advertising section, along the lines that even "The Man Who Lost Himself" could be found by buying an advertisement.

CATCHLINES: He Was Another Man's Double . . . And He Was in Double Trouble When He Fell in Love With His Double's Wife.

They Looked So Much Alike That Even the Woman Who Married One of Them Could Not Tell Them Apart.

An Interpretative Analysis of Opinions Deduced From the Language of Lay and Trade Press Reviews

REVIEW DIGEST
AND PICTURE GUIDE INDEX

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		A										
37		A Girl, a Guy and a Gob (RKO)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ			12+
		Across the Sierras (Col)								±		1+ 1—
32		Adam Had Four Sons (Col)		ǂ	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ			10+ 1—
16		Aldrich Family in Life With Henry (Para)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2—
20		Along the Rio Grande (RKO)		+	±	∓		+	±	±		6+ 4—
		Always a Bride (FN)		∓	∓	∓	—	—	±	—		4+ 7—
36		Andy Hardy's Private Secretary (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
		Arise, My Love (Para)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	15+
		Arizona (Col)		ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
14		Arkansas Judge (Rep)		±	±		+	+	+	+		6+ 2—
		B										
43		Back in the Saddle (Rep)		+				+	ǂ			4+
		Bad Man, The (M-G-M)								+		1+
		Bank Dick, The (Univ)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	±	11+ 1—
		Barnyard Follies (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	±		7+ 2—
		Behind the News (Rep)		±	+	±	+	ǂ	+	±	±	9+ 4—
		Beyond the Sacramento (Col)							+	+		2+
		Billy the Kid's Range War (PRC)				∓						1+ 1—
		Bitter Sweet (M-G-M)		ǂ	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
		Blackout (UA)		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	7+
30		Blondie Inspiration (M-G-M)		±	±	∓	±			±		5+ 5—
32		Blondie Goes Latin (Col)		+	±	+	+	+	—	±		7+ 3—
		Blondie Plays Cupid (Col)		+	±	±		+	+	+	±	7+ 3—
		Border Legion (Rep)		+		∓	+	ǂ	+	±	±	8+ 3—
		Boss of Bullion City (Univ)								±		1+ 1—
2		Bowery Boy (Rep)		∓	±	—	+	±	±	±	±	7+ 7—
		Bride Wore Crutches (20th-Fox)		±		—		±	—	±		3+ 5—
22		Buck Privates (Univ)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
		Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie (Univ)								+		1+
		C										
19		Case of the Black Parrot (FN)		—	±	±	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 6—
		Caught in the Act (PRC)					±			—	∓	2+ 3—
		Chad Hanna (20th-Fox)		±	±	+	+	+	+	+	+	8+ 2—
		Chamber of Horrors (Mono)		±	±					±	±	4+ 4—
		Charter Pilot (20th-Fox)		∓	+	—	+	ǂ	±	+	±	8+ 4—
9		Cheers for Miss Bishop (UA)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
		Cherokee Strip (Para)		+	+	±	+		ǂ	+		7+ 1—
		Christmas in July (Para)		ǂ	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+ 1—
		Citizen Kane (RKO)						ǂ				2+
17		Come Live With Me (M-G-M)		ǂ	±	—	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	±	+	11+ 3—
		Comrade X (M-G-M)		ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	14+
11		Convoy (RKO)		+	+		+		+	±		5+ 1—
		D										
		Dancing on a Dime (Para)		±	+	±	±	+	∓	+	∓	8+ 5—
		Dangerous Game, A (Univ)			—	=	±			—	=	1+ 7—
		Dark Streets of Cairo (Univ)		—	±	+	±			+		4+ 3—
		Dead Man's Shoes (Mono)			±					+		2+ 1—
52		Dead Men Tell (20th-Fox)		+				+	+			3+
		Devil Bat, The (PRC)				=	±				±	2+ 4—
31		Devil Commands, The (Col)		±	—	=	+			—	∓	3+ 6—
		Devil's Pipeline (Univ)		∓	±	—	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6—
		Dispatch From Reuter's (WB)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
		Dr. Kildare's Crisis (M-G-M)		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	7+
9		Doomed Caravan (Para)		ǂ		+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	11+ 1—
		Double Date (Univ)				±		±	+			3+ 2—
		Down Argentine Way (20th-Fox)		ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	13+
		E										
		East of the River (FN)		±	±	±	±			+	±	6+ 5—
		Ellery Queen, Master Detective (Col)		+	±	∓	+	±	∓	+	±	8+ 5—
34		E. Queen's Penthouse Mys. (Col)		±	±	+	+	+	+		∓	7+ 3—
		Escape (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	15+
		Escape to Glory (Col)		+	±	+		+	+	±		6+ 2—
		F										
26		Face Behind the Mask (Col)		+	±	∓	±		+	±	±	7+ 5—
		Fantasia (Disney)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	14+
		Fargo Kid (RKO)		+	±	±		+	+	+		6+ 2—
31		Father's Son (WB)		±	±	=	±	—	∓	±	∓	6+ 9—
		Father Is a Prince (FN)		±	±	±		=	=	—	—	3+ 9—
		Fight for Life, The (Col)		+						ǂ	+	4+
		Flight Command (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
4		Flight From Destiny (WB)		+	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+		10+ 1—
38		Flying Wild (Mono)		—				+	+			2+ 1—
37		Footsteps in the Dark (WB)		+	±	+	±	ǂ	∓		+	8+ 2—
		Four Mothers (WB)		ǂ	+	±	+	+	ǂ	+	+	10+ 1—
		Four Sons (20th-Fox)		ǂ		+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	+	10+
50		Free and Easy (M-G-M)		—	∓	=						1+ 4—
		Freedom Radio (Col)				+						1+
		Friendly Neighbors (Rep)		±	±	±	±			±		5+ 5—
		Fugitive From Justice (WB)		±	∓	+	+		—	±	±	6+ 5—
		G										
		Gallant Sons (M-G-M)		+	+	+	±	ǂ	+	±	±	9+ 3—
1		Girl in the News (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	ǂ	+	+		8+
		Girls Under 21 (Col)		—	±	±			±	±	±	5+ 6—
		Give Us Wings (Univ)		—	±	±			+	±	—	4+ 5—
29		Golden Hoofs (20th-Fox)		+	±	+		+	+	+		6+ 1—
		Go West (M-G-M)		+	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	±	ǂ	11+ 1—
		Gone With the Wind (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
		Great Commandment (20th-Fox)								ǂ		2+
		Great Dictator, The (UA)		ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	∓	+	ǂ	+	12+ 1—
		Great Mr. Nobody (WB)			±					±		2+ 2—
		Great Plane Robbery (Col)		+	+	∓	±			=		4+ 4—
		Great Profile, The (20th-Fox)		+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	±	11+ 2—
39		Great Train Robbery (Rep)		+	+	±						3+ 1—
		H										
33		Hard-Boiled Canary (Para)		±	±	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	+		9+ 3—
		Her First Romance (Mono)		+	+		+	ǂ	+	+		7+
51		Here Comes Happiness (WB)		—	—			—	±			1+ 4—
		Here Comes the Navy (WB)								ǂ		2+
16		High Sierra (FN)		ǂ	±	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		+	11+ 2—
		Hit Parade of 1941 (Rep)		+	±	±	ǂ	+	+	+	∓	9+ 3—
		Hold That Woman (PRC)		+		—	±	+	—		±	4+ 4—
13		Honeymoon for Three (WB)		±	±	±	±	±	ǂ	+	±	9+ 6—
		Hudson's Bay (20th-Fox)		+	±	∓	±	+	ǂ	+	+	9+ 3—
		Hullabaloo (M-G-M)		+	±	+	±	=	±	+	∓	7+ 6—
		I										
49		I Wanted Wings (Para)		ǂ								2+
		I'm Nobody's Sweetheart Now (Univ)		+	+	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 2—
34		In Old Colorado (Para)		+		+		+	+	+		5+
1		Invisible Woman, The (Univ)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 1—
39		It Happened to One Man (RKO)		±	—	±	+				+	4+ 3—
		J										
		Jennie (20th-Fox)		+	+	—		+	+	+		5+ 1—
		K										
4		Keeping Company (M-G-M)		—	±	—	ǂ	ǂ	±	+		7+ 4—
		Kitty Foyle (RKO)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
		L										
		Laddie (RKO)		∓	±	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 4—
40		Lady Eve, The (Para)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
		Lady With Red Hair (WB)		+	±	+	+	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 2—
15		Land of Liberty (M-G-M)		ǂ	±	+				ǂ	+	7+ 1—
50		Las Vegas Nights (Para)		+			+				+	3+
		Law and Order (Univ)		±		+	+					3+ 1—
		Let's Make Music (RKO)		+	±	∓	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4—
		Letter, The (FN)		ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	14+
1		Li'l Abner (RKO)		+	∓			∓	±	—		4+ 4—
		Little Bit of Heaven (Univ)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
		Little Men (RKO)		—	±	=	±	ǂ	+	±	±	7+ 7—

The plus and minus signs indicate the degree of favor or disfavor of the review. Where our compiler is unable to form any opinion from the review the sign "o" is used. Blank spaces indicate no review. This department serves also as an **Alphabetical Index** to feature releases. Listings cover reviews appearing by the Saturday preceding date of this issue. It will be brought up to date from week to week.

The meaning of the various signs and their combinations is as follows:
ǂ **Very Good;** + **Good;** ± **Fair;** ∓ **Mediocre;** — **Poor;** = **Very Poor.**
In the summary ǂ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.
(Numeral preceding title is Picture Guide Review page number.)

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

Indexed on the adjoining two pages are the pictures reviewed in the new style started January 4. The number preceding title is your key to the Picture Guide pages, the new reviews being added each week. Additionally, a Quarterly Index, arranged alphabetically by companies, will be published for Picture Guide use.

Las Vegas Nights

F — Musical Comedy

Paramount (4023) — **86 Minutes** — **Rel. Mar. 28, '41**

Audiences may not respond to the lure of Las Vegas after they see it in celluloid but they will be amused by the fiction that went into this film. It is good average program fare. Chief seat fillers and entertainers are Tommy Dorsey and his band. Bert Wheeler holds up the comedy end with but few letdowns. Musically, it is pleasant and diverting. Not much can be said for the story, which meanders along a stenciled pattern—that one about the heirs who inherit a decrepit place and ultimately beat out a couple of slick birds. Supporting players are effective with Lillian Cornell standing out, vocally. It's Tommy Dorsey's picture. If only his fans turn out, it'll do business.

Tommy Dorsey, Bert Wheeler, Constance Moore, Lillian Cornell, Phil Regan.

EXPLOITIPS: Plaster the town with publicity and exploitation calling attention to Dorsey. Support this with tieups in music stores for still displays, records, sheet music plugs and spot radio announcements backgrounded with the Dorsey signature music.

CATCHLINES: The Hottest Spot on Earth . . . The Hottest Band in the Country.

Free and Easy

F — Comedy-Drama

M-G-M (127) — **56 Minutes** — **Rel. Feb. 28, '41**

To find the label of Leo on this one is destined to occasion surprise, if not downright astonishment. It makes one speculate over the vagaries of production that make it possible for the same studio which made this one to have made "The Philadelphia Story," for instance. Furthermore, "Free and Easy" emphasizes a very flagrant and difficult-to-understand misuse of the abilities of one of Hollywood's most pleasant contributors, Ruth Hussey. This is supposed to be a social comedy-drama of a couple of English fortune hunters, based on "The Truth Game," a 1930 stage show. George Sidney directed.

Robert Cummings, Ruth Hussey, Judith Anderson, C. Aubrey Smith, Nigel Bruce, Reginald Owen.

EXPLOITIPS: It may help to spot Miss Hussey's name because of her association with "The Philadelphia Story." Metro suggests you use some classified ad teasers like this: "Auction Today . . . Penniless young aristocrat offers himself to the highest female bidder. Object: matrimony. Phone Blank Theatre."

CATCHLINES: He Wanted to Marry for Money—But It Was Too Expensive.

Outlaws of the Rio Grande

F — Western

PRC (155) — **53 Minutes** — **Rel. Mar. 7, '41**

Just as surely as the kids delight in swimmin' holes and bread and jam, so will they take to this routine, but satisfactory, western. It would seem to matter not that the film makes no pretense beyond offering large portions of dashing Tim McCoy, and still larger layers of hard riding and fighting. If there is a paucity of feminine appeal and a complete absence of crooners it is no weakness; rather, it offers that much more footage for the dirty work at hand. In this case it involves a band of counterfeiters. McCoy, a marshal, and a trusty stooge, good for a few good laughs, wade in and clean up the mess. Directed by Peter Stewart.

Tim McCoy, Virginia Carpenter, Charles King, Ralph Peters.

EXPLOITIPS: The dominant angle that veers from the routine approach to selling a western and on which more than passing interest could be garnered is that involving the counterfeiters and the prominence newspapers give this subject every time a coup is staged.

CATCHLINES: The Best Laid Plans of Any Gang Are Putty in the Hands of Tim McCoy.

Sign of the Wolf

F — Melodrama

Monogram (4004) — **69 Minutes** — **Rel. Feb. 28, '41**

Adapted from a Jack London story, this serves primarily as background for noteworthy performances by two expertly-trained Alsatian shepherd dogs, Smoky and Shadow. As a supporting feature in the markets it will reach, the film will stand up admirably, exercising, at the same time, more than normal appeal to those who relish dog yarns of the great frozen northland. Producer Paul Malvern equipped the offering with acceptable production values and convincing backgrounds. Human members of the cast are well qualified for their respective chores. Grace Bradley, dog breeder, flying two prize entries to her Canadian home from a New York dog show, wrecks her plane and spends months recuperating from injuries in a fox-raising community. One of the canines falls into the hands of fox thieves, who train him to raid the growers' pens. The innocent dog is accused and just misses being sacrificed through his own heroism and exposure of the guilty ones. Directed by Howard Bretherton.

Michael Whalen, Grace Bradley, Darryl Hickman, Mantan Moreland, Louise Beavers, Wade Crosby, Tony Paton.

EXPLOITIPS: Michael Whalen and Grace Bradley are the selling names for the marquee, while the fact that the story is by Jack London should also be mentioned in advertising and exploitation.

CATCHLINES: Stirring Drama of the North Country . . . From a Story by the Greatest Adventure Writer of Them All . . . Jack London.

Here Comes Happiness

F — Melodrama

WB (——) — **58 Minutes** — **Rel. Mar. 15, '41**

There is little to recommend in this time-worn plot which has no names and so-so-direction. Some audiences may go for it because it is the story and of ultra Park Avenue debutante looking to the Bronx for excitement and a lover. Fed up with her mother's choice of a husband, the heroine leaves her castle for the Bronx. It isn't five minutes after she rents a furnished apartment that she meets the boy who finally winds up walking down the aisle with her. Some audiences may be beguiled by this sort of stuff, so it probably will have its followers.

Mildred Coles, Edward Norris, Richard Ainley, Russel Hicks.

EXPLOITIPS: Anything that has to do with happiness should be plugged for this one. Tieups with jewelers, sports manufacturers, candy dispensers and bridal wear. A good gag would be to have a couple parading the streets with a big heart on each of their backs. Inserted in the heart should be a teaser line about happiness. A bridal pair in a hansom visiting the key parts of your neighborhood would prove attractive.

CATCHLINES: She Wanted Romance and Love, Not a Jellyfish and Gold Hunter.

Man-Made Monster

F — Horror-Drama

Universal (——) — **59 Minutes** — **Rel. Mar. 28, '41**

Audiences delighting in the macabre will be satisfied with this synthetic gem. It'll give 'em a glow, just as it gives a glow to Lon Chaney jr. He gets charged up like a battery and gives off like neon. It's a definite contribution to the gallery of horror portraits that are a natural for exploitation. Chaney, a carnival trouper who can take severe electrical shocks, falls into the wily hands of Lionel Atwill after he survives a horrible accident on a bus trip. Atwill has a theory. Chaney is his guinea pig. They get together. Sparks fly, generators generate and out pops Chaney with voltage in every finger. Crime and punishment follow. At length, Chaney dies a horrible death of a voltage hemorrhage.

Lon Chaney jr., Samuel S. Hinds, Ann Nagel, Frank Albertson, Lionel Atwill.

EXPLOITIPS: Plug the horror makeup of Chaney. Get the local electrician to rig up a harmless assortment of spark coils so they flash intermittently with the proper pseudo-scientific effect.

CATCHLINES: The High Voltage Man Is on the Loose . . . To Touch Him Is Sure Death.

ǂ Very Good; + Good; ± Fair; ∓ Mediocre; − Poor; = Very Poor. In the summary ǂ is rated as 2 pluses; = as 2 minuses.

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
		Little Nellie Kelly (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 2−
		Lone Rider Crosses the Rio (PRC)				±						1+ 1−
35		Lone Rider Rides On (PRC)		∓						+		2+ 1−
		Lone Star Raiders (Rep)		+		±	∓		+	±	∓	6+ 4−
		Lone Wolf Keeps a Date (Col)		+	+	±	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 4−
		Lone Wolf Takes a Chance (Col)				−		+	±			2+ 2−
		Long Voyage Home (UA)		+	ǂ		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	13+
		Love Thy Neighbor (Para)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
		Lucky Devils (Univ)			±	∓	+			+	∓	5+ 3−
		M										
26		Mad Doctor, The (Para)		∓	+	=	+	+	±	+	+	7+ 4−
5		Maisie Was a Lady (M-G-M)		+	±	+	∓	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	10+ 2−
46		Man Betrayed, A (Rep)		−		−	+	+	±			3+ 3−
51		Man Made Monster (Univ)		+							∓	2+ 1−
49		Man Who Lost Himself (Univ)		±				+	+			3+ 1−
		Margie (Univ)		−	±	±	∓	±	∓	±	∓	7+ 8−
		Mark of Zorro, The (20th-Fox)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
39		Meet Boston Blackie (Col)		±	±	−	+				±	4+ 4−
28		Meet the Chump (Univ)		±	−	±	±	+	+	±	∓	7+ 6−
		Meet the Missus (Rep)		±	±	±	±			−	∓	5+ 6−
		Meet the Wildcat (Univ)		−	+	−	+	±	+	±	±	6+ 5−
45		Meet John Doe (WB)		ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		ǂ	13+
		Melody and Moonlight (Rep)		∓	±		ǂ	ǂ	+	±		8+ 3−
		Melody for Three (RKO)			±	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	+		8+ 2−
		Melody Ranch (Rep)		+	+	+	ǂ		ǂ	+	∓	9+ 1−
44		Men of Boys Town (M-G-M)		ǂ	+		ǂ		ǂ			7+
		Mexican Spitfire Out West (RKO)		+	+	∓		+	±	+	∓	7+ 3−
		Michael Shayne, Private Detective (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Misbehaving Husbands (PRC)		+	±	=	+	ǂ	+		∓	7+ 4−
		Missing Ten Days (Col)			±							1+ 1−
27		Monster and the Girl (Para)		+	±			+	±		+	5+ 2−
		Moon Over Burma (Para)		+	+	±	+	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 2−
		Mortal Storm, The (M-G-M)		+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	+	13+
42		Mr. Dynamite (Univ)		=	±	±		∓	+		±	5+ 6−
13		Mr. and Mrs. Smith (RKO)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	±	ǂ	+	+	11+ 1−
43		Murder Among Friends (20th-Fox)		∓	±	+	+	+	+	±	±	8+ 4−
		Murder Over New York (20th-Fox)		±	+	±	+	±	+	+	±	8+ 4−
		N										
36		Nice Girl? (Univ)		+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ		11+
		Night at Earl Carroll's (Para)		=	±	−	±	±	±	±	±	6+ 9−
		Night Train (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	+	ǂ		+	ǂ	9+
18		Nobody's Children (Col)		±	−	∓	±	±	±	±	±	7+ 8−
8		No, No, Nanette (RKO)		ǂ	±	±	+	−	±	±	±	8+ 6−
		North West Mounted Police (Para)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
		O										
		Ol' Swimmin' Hole (Mono)		+	±	=	+	+	±	+		6+ 4−
		On the Spot (Mono)		+		−	+	+	±	±	∓	6+ 4−
		One Million B. C. (UA)		±	±	−	+	±	∓	±		6+ 6−
		One Night in the Tropics (Univ)		±	+	±	+	+	+	±	+	8+ 3−
		Outlaws of the Panhandle (Col)								−		1−
50		Outlaws of Rio Grande (PRC)		+		+	+					3+
		P										
		Passport to Alcatraz (Col)		+	−	±	+	∓	−	±		5+ 5−
42		Penalty, The (M-G-M)		+	−	=	±	ǂ	+			5+ 4−
31		Petticoat Politics (Rep)		∓	−	∓	+	−	+	−		4+ 5−
		Phantom Cowboy (Rep)					+			±		2+ 1−
		Phantom of Chinatown (Mono)		±	±	±		+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
30		Phantom Submarine, The (Col)		±	±	−	±	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
		Philadelphia Story (M-G-M)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	16+
23		Pinto Kid (Col)		+		±	+			±	±	5+ 3−
		Play Girl (RKO)		+	±	±	±	ǂ	+	+	±	9+ 4−
		Pony Post (Univ)		±		−	−			±	±	3+ 5−
		Prairie Law (RKO)		+	±	+	+		+	±	∓	7+ 3−
		Prairie Pioneers (Rep)				±	±			+		3+ 2−
15		Pride of the Bowery (Mono)		+	±	=	±	+	−	+	∓	6+ 6−
		Public Deb. No. 1 (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+	+	∓	±	∓	7+ 6−
		Q										
		Quiet Wedding (Para)				+						1+
		R										
44		Rage in Heaven (M-G-M)		+	±	∓	ǂ	+	+		+	8+ 2−
		Remedy for Riches (RKO)		+	±	±	+	+	+	+		7+ 2−
25		Ride, Kelly, Ride (20th-Fox)		±	−	−		=	−	±		2+ 7−
19		Ridin' on a Rainbow (Rep)		∓		∓	+	+	+	+		6+ 2−
35		Ridin' the Cherokee Trail (Mono)		+				+	+	±		4+ 1−
25		Road Show (UA)		+	−	∓	±	−	+	+	±	6+ 5−
41		Road to Zanzibar (Para)		ǂ	ǂ	+		ǂ	ǂ	+		10+

P. G.	Page	Title	Distr.	Boxoffice	Harrison's Reports	Variety	Film Daily	Hollywood Reporter	Hollywood Variety	Parents' Magazine	New York Daily News	Summary
10		Robin Hood of the Pecos (Rep)		+		∓	+	∓	∓	+	±	7+ 4−
17		Rolling Home to Texas (Mono)		=		+	+	+	±	±		5+ 4−
5		Romance of the Rio Grande (20th-Fox)		+	±	±	+	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
47		Roundup, The (Para)		+	∓	−		+	±	±	∓	6+ 5−
		S										
		Safari (Para)		±	−	∓	±	+	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
3		Saint in Palm Springs (RKO)		+	±	=	∓	=	+	+	+	6+ 6−
		Sandy Gets Her Man (Univ)		+	±	+	±	+	+	+	∓	8+ 3−
		Sandy Is a Lady (Univ)		+	∓	∓	+	+	±	+	±	8+ 4−
		San Francisco Docks (Univ)		∓	±	−	∓	+	+	±	±	7+ 6−
		Santa Fe Trail (FN)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
27		Scattergood Baines (RKO)		+	±	+	+	ǂ	+	+		8+ 1−
48		Sea Wolf, The (WB)		ǂ								2+
		Second Chorus (Para)		ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	14+
23		Secret Evidence (PRC)		+	±	=	±	+	−	±	−	5+ 7−
		Seven Sinners (Univ)		±	+	±	ǂ	+	+	±	+	9+ 3−
		She Couldn't Say No (FN)		+	±	±	±	∓		±	±	7+ 6−
51		Sign of the Wolf (Mono)		±								1+ 1−
12		Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga (Univ)		+	±	±	+	∓	+	±	∓	8+ 5−
46		Sleepers West (20th-Fox)		±		−		+	±		±	4+ 4−
		Slightly Tempted (Univ)		±	±	∓	±	+	±	+	∓	8+ 6−
20		So Ends Our Night (UA)		∓	+	±	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	11+ 2−
		So You Won't Talk (Col)		−	±	±	−	∓	±	±		6+ 8−
		Son of Monte Cristo (UA)		+	±	∓	±	∓	ǂ	±	±	9+ 6−
		South of Suez (WB)		+	±	±	+	∓	±	±	∓	8+ 6−
		Spellbound (UA)				+						1+
29		Strawberry Blonde (FN)		ǂ	±	+	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	13+ 1−
		Street of Memories (20th-Fox)		±	±	−	+		∓	+	∓	6+ 5−
		T										
		Take Me Back to Okla. (Mono)		+			ǂ	+	+	+		6+
14		Tall, Dark and Handsome (20th-Fox)		+	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	12+
		Texas Rangers Ride Again (Para)		+	±	±	±	−	∓	+	∓	7+ 6−
		Texas Terrors (Rep)		+		−	+			±		3+ 2−
52		That Hamilton Woman! (UA)		ǂ			ǂ	ǂ	ǂ			8+
41		That Night in Rio (20th-Fox)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		+	13+
45		That Uncertain Feeling (UA)		±	±	±	+			+		5+ 3−
		They Knew What They Wanted (RKO)		ǂ	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	14+ 1−
		Thief of Bagdad (UA)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	15+
		Third Finger, Left Hand (M-G-M)		ǂ	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	12+
		This Thing Called Love (Col)		+	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		±	+	10+ 1−
		Three Men From Texas (Para)		+		ǂ	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 1−
		Thundering Frontier (Col)		−		∓	−			±	∓	3+ 5−
		Tin Pan Alley (20th-Fox)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
33		Tobacco Road (20th-Fox)		ǂ	±	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ		+	11+ 2−
		Too Many Girls (RKO)		+	±	+	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	11+ 1−
48		Topper Returns (UA)		+	+	±	+	+	+			6+ 1−
		Torpedo Raider (Mono)		∓								1+ 1−
		Trail Blazers (Rep)		+		+	+			+	±	5+ 1−
38		Trail of the Silver Spurs (Mono)		+		+	±	−	+	+		4+ 2−
		Trail of the Vigilantes (Univ)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		Trailin' Double Trouble (Mono)		∓		+	+	+	±	±	±	7+ 4−
28		Trial of Mary Dugan (M-G-M)		+	+	+	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	±	10+ 1−
		Tugboat Annie Sails Again (WB)		+	±	±	∓	+	+	+	+	8+ 3−
		V										
		Victory (Para)		+	+	±	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	ǂ	11+ 1−
		Villain Still Pursued Her (RKO)		±	∓	−	±	±	∓	±		6+ 7−
12		Virginia (Para)		ǂ	±	±	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	±	12+ 3−
		W										
		Wagons Westward (Rep)		+	+	±	+	−	∓	±	±	7+ 5−
		West of Pinto Basin (Mono)		±		±	+	ǂ	±	+	∓	8+ 4−
24		Western Union (20th-Fox)		ǂ		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	13+
		Where Did You Get That Girl (Univ)		+	±		±	+	+	±	∓	7+ 4−
		Who Killed Aunt Maggie? (Rep)		+	+	±	+	+	+	+	±	8+ 2−
		Wild Horse Range (Mono)								±	∓	2+ 2−
24		Wild Man of Borneo (M-G-M)		+	−					+		2+ 1−
30		Wildcat of Tucson (Col)		o		±						1+ 1−
		World in Flames (Para)		+		ǂ	ǂ	+		+	+	8+
8		Wyoming Wildcat (Rep)		+			+			+		3+
		Y										
		You'll Find Out (RKO)		ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	ǂ	+	+	14+
		Young Bill Hickok (Rep)		±		∓	+		+	±		5+ 3−
11		You're Out of Luck (Mono)		±	±	=		∓	±	±		5+ 7−
21		You're the One (Para)		+	∓	∓	∓	ǂ	+	−	±	8+ 5−
		Youth Will Be Served (20th-Fox)		±	±	±	±	−	+	±	±	7+ 7−
		Yukon Flight (Mono)		+			+					2+

$25,000 for Greece in Music Hall Show

NEW YORK—An estimated $25,000 was realized from a Friday midnight show at the Music Hall which climaxed a week of intense local industry activity in behalf of the Greek War Relief Ass'n. In addition, the fund will be augmented with a sizeable sum represented by the film rental for "Greece Fights Back," short subject distributed nationally by Paramount.

Still another large sum was added through solicitations in Times Square on three days when prominent members of the theatrical colony put on an "impromptu" open air stage show atop a large platform built for the occasion. So far there is no estimate of the amount collected at hundreds of theatres.

Greek Relief Progress Indicates Big Return

NEW YORK—With the vanguard of approximately 1,000 theatres in the metropolitan area cooperating in the Greek War Relief Drive, key zone situations have fallen into line with proportionate activity, indicating the campaign, which ended March 30 will be exceptionally productive.

400 Philly Houses Help

PHILADELPHIA—Close to 400 theatres participated in the Greek War Relief Drive, which was highlighted with 15 midnight shows in this area. The various activities got under way after a luncheon attended by leading exhibitors and exchange men under the direction of W. F. Mansell.

Owl Show Climaxes Drive

WASHINGTON—Theatres in this area cooperating in the Greek War Relief Drive will wind up the campaign with a midnight show at the Hippodrome, Baltimore, March 31, which has had wide publicity in and around Washington. Approximately 330 theatres in the area participated in the event.

First Show Nets $1,000

BUFFALO—The first benefit show to be held in conjunction with the Greek War Relief Drive in this area netted $1,000. Altogether, about 200 theatres in this section took collections, which was followed up at the six-day bike race, ice carnival, concerts and luncheon clubs.

Five-Week RKO Drive Will Start in N. Y. April 24

NEW YORK—RKO metropolitan managers and division managers will begin a five-week business drive starting April 24 and winding up May 28. The inauguration will be preceded by a dinner to be held at the Waldorf Astoria the night of April 21 with John J. O'Connor, general manager and vice-president, host. Details as to the name of the drive and awards for best honors are now being worked out by circuit executives.

Goldwyn and Disney Will Produce One

Hollywood—Walt Disney and Samuel Goldwyn announce they will jointly produce a feature based on the life and stories of Hans Christian Andersen. Announcement of production plans are fragmentary, but indications are the film will be a combination of animated and flesh actors, with Disney doing the former, and Goldwyn the latter sequences. The deal was set by Leo Spitz, representing both parties.

Monogram in Deal With Pathe for Finances

NEW YORK—Financing for the new Monogram program has been concluded with Pathe, according to W. Ray Johnston, president. Robert Young handled the deal for Pathe while Johnston represented his company. William Gell, managing director of Pathe Pictures, Ltd., England, has been working on a continuation of Monogram distribution in the UK.

Bride for Magee

NEW YORK—Frederick W. Magee, budget director of Ross Federal, was married Saturday to Alice Heslin. The groom's associates tendered him a dinner, which also honored John Schmidt, who left the company for military service at Chanute Field, Ill. Among those present at the double-bill affair were C. B. Ross, F. X. Miske, W. J. Shine, B. E. Donaghy, J. T. Maschat, S. W. Sheetz and Tom Ellsworth.

Consolidated Re-Elects

NEW YORK—All officers of Consolidated Film Industries, headed by Herbert J. Yates as president, have been re-elected.

Four Hearing Dates Set for AAA Cases

NEW YORK—The filing of one new clearance complaint and the fixing of four dates for hearings is reported by the AAA. The new complaint is the seventh with the New York tribunal. The hearings are for Boston, Buffalo, Milwaukee and Philadelphia.

Charles Meyerson, operator of the Lyric, Oyster Bay, L. I., complains against Paramount, Warner, 20th Century-Fox, RKO and Loew's and names the Huntington, Huntington, L. I., and the Glen Cove, Glen Cove, L. I., as interested parties. Meyerson claims he is compelled to wait up to 60 days for product after the Huntington and Glen Cove, contending both houses held but seven days' protection in 1934. He seeks day and date availability.

The Boston complaint filed February 26 by Garbose Bros., operators of the York and Capitol, Athol, Mass., against the "Big Five" and opposition theatres will be heard before arbitrator John Daly, an attorney, April 7.

The first complaint filed in Buffalo by Richard De Toto, operator of the Genessee at Mount Morris, N. Y., against Warner and 20th Century-Fox involving some run, and naming the competitive New Family, will be heard before Arbitrator Weldon B. Smith, an attorney, March 31.

The first case filed with the Milwaukee tribunal on February 26 by Evansville Theatre, Inc., operator of the Rex, Evansville, Wis., against Paramount and naming the competitive Jeffris in Janesville, Wis., will be heard before Arbitrator Thomas B. Whalen, an attorney, April 1. The case involves clearance.

The first case filed in Philadelphia by John Geyser, operator of the Florence,

(Continued on page 34)



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

First a Party, Then to Train—

Abbott and Costello are back in California now, preparing to go into a new one for Universal. But before they left New York, the company gave them a party at "21." Between the comedians is Mrs. Charles D. Prutzman, wife of "U's" vice-president and general counsel. Prutzman stands by and laughs, on the extreme right.

Walbrook Case Poses Clearance as Snag

WASHINGTON—Two days of hearings on the first arbitration case filed in the Washington area demonstrated that clearance problems will be the most difficult of all presented.

Officially docketed as Complaint No. 1, the complaint, filed by the Walbrook Amusement Co. of Baltimore, protested the seven days clearance given the Durkee, Ambassador, Forest and Gwynn over the Walbrook by 20th-Fox and Warner.

It was the contention of the Walbrook that for years it had been on a basis of 21 days after the downtown first-run houses until the Ambassador was built in 1935 and the two respondent companies made contracts with it beginning in 1937 under which it, and at times the other two Durkee houses, was given clearance.

Counsel for the two distributors did not deny that they had given clearance to the Ambassador, but contended it was justified because of its modernity, size, playing policy, admissions and other factors. Counsel for the Forest Theatre, appearing as intervenor, contended the clearance was too short and should be 14 days.

E. Barrett Prettyman, former District of Columbia corporation counsel, arbitrator, was told by John F. Caskey, counsel for 20th-Fox, opening the hearing, that for a number of years the Walbrook and Forest were the only houses in the particular area involved, both being given first run in the zone on a catch-as-catch-can basis. The Gwynn was built in 1933, the Ambassador two years later by the Durkee company which took the Gwynn over; the Durkee company also had acquired the Forest, bringing the three under one management.

Sought Best Outlet

Openly avowing that his company sought the contracts which brought in the most revenue, Caskey told the arbitrator that it made a contract covering the Ambassador, Gwynn and Forest theatres, which were given clearance over the Walbrook. Two years later, it developed that Vitagraph was the only other distributor to give the Ambassador such clearance, with the result that theatre was playing much Vitagraph and Twentieth Century product. Because it was a valuable source of revenue, Twentieth Century gave the theatre a three-year franchise with seven days clearance over the Walbrook, and renewed the agreement for another three year period in August, 1939.

Under that contract, Caskey explained, the Walbrook had to wait seven days for a picture playing the Ambassador but was not required to take any picture which played the Gwynn or Forest.

Disclosing that similar conditions prevailed with respect to Vitagraph, Morris Ruffman, counsel for that company, said the key neighborhood houses in Baltimore follow 21 days after the Stanley, have seven days over the Walbrook, and that house has seven days over the next run.

J. Calvin Carney, counsel for the Forest, asserted the three Durkee houses were

(Continued on page 34)

The Docket

Albany

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 17. Demand and submission involving clearance. Alec Papayanakos, American Theatre, Canton, N. Y. With: RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Strand and Pontiac theatres in Ogdensburg, N. Y., operated by the Schine circuit. Complaint cites the clearance enjoyed by the Schine units over the American.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 17. Demand and submission involving clearance. Alec Papayanakos, American Theatre, Canton, N. Y. With: Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Strand and Pontiac theatres in Ogdensburg, N. Y., operated by Schine circuit. Complaint cites the clearance enjoyed by the two Schine units over the American.

Buffalo

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 3. Demand and submission involving some run. Richard De Toto, operator of the Genessee, Mount Morris, N. Y. With: Warner, 20th Century-Fox. Named as interested party: New Family. Complainant alleges the two distributors have refused to license 1940-41 product, charging the New Family with having monopolized the product he seeks to license. Weldon B. Smith, attorney, arbitrator. Hearing April 7.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 6. Demand and submission involving clearance. A. A. Carlson, operator of the Carlson, Mayville, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Complainant alleges the Carlson is forced to wait 30 days for product after the Jamestown, also in Mayville. Carlson seeks day and date availability.

New York

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 18. Demand and submission involving clearance. Hilary Theatre Corp., operating Regent, Brooklyn, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested party: Apollo Theatre, operated by Argosy Amusement Corp. Complainant claims the Apollo is one mile distant and holds seven days' clearance over the Regent. Hilary seeks equal availability. Julius Henry Cohen, arbitrator. Hearing April 9.

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 21. Demand and submission involving clearance. Esquire Great Neck Corp., operating Squire, Great Neck, N. Y. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th-Fox Film Corp. Named as interested party: Great Neck Playhouse, Great Neck, N. Y. Complaint charges 30 days availability after the Playhouse is unreasonable and seeks "fair and reasonable" clearance. Hearing April 3. George A. Spiegelberg, attorney, will be arbitrator.

CASE NO. 3—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance. Monseigneur Enterprises, Inc., operating Forum, Metuchen, N. J. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Film Corp. Other theatres named in controversy: Paramount, Oxford Strand, all in Plainfield, N. J. Named as interested party: Walter Reade Theatres, 701 7th Ave., New York. Complainant, Jack Davis, seeks day and date availability with Paramount, Oxford and Strand.

CASE NO. 4—Filed March 4. Demand and submission involving clearance. Jack Fields, operator of the Cameo, Jersey City, N. J. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Apollo and Fulton, both Skouras operations, and Orient, operated by Rosenblatt & Welt, all in Plainfield, N. J. Fields seeks day and date availability.

CASE NO. 5—Filed March 5. Demand and submission involving clearance. River Theatre Corp., operator of the Central, Pearl River, N. Y. With: Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested party: Rockland, Nyack, N. Y. Complainant charges the 49 days clearance held by the Rockland is unreasonable and seeks equal availability.

CASE NO. 6—Filed March 26. Demand and submission involving clearance. Andora Amusement Corp., operator of the Liberty, Plainfield, N. J. With: Paramount, Warner, RKO, 20th-Fox. Named as interested party: Reade-operated Strand, Oxford and Paramount in Plainfield. Complainant seeks reduction of existing 30 days' clearance to seven days.

CASE NO. 7—Filed March 27. Demand and submission involving clearance. Charles Myerson, Lyric, Oyster Bay, L. I. With: Paramount, Warner, 20th-Fox, RKO and Loew's. Named as interested parties: Huntington, Huntington, L. I., Glen Cove, Glen Cove, L. I. Complainant seeks day and date availability with Huntington and Glen Cove instead of the present 60-day wait.

First N. Y. Hearing Set for April 3

NEW YORK—First arbitration hearing at the local tribunal will be held April 3 on the complaint filed February 21 by the Esquire-Great Neck Corp., operators of the Squire in Great Neck, L. I., against Paramount, Loew's, RKO, Warner and 20th Century-Fox. The complaint names the Skouras-operated Great Neck Playhouse, charging the Squire is unable to acquire product except upon 30 days' clearance after the Playhouse. George A. Spiegelberg will be the arbitrator. He is an attorney.

The sixth arbitration complaint to be filed at the local tribunal is by Andora Amusement Corp., operator of the Liberty, Plainfield, N. J., against Paramount, Warner, RKO and 20th Century-Fox. The complaint names the Reade-operated Strand, Oxford and Paramount in Plainfield, and seeks reduction of the existing 30 days' clearance held by the three Reade units to seven days.

Arbitrator Will Hear Hilary Case April 9

NEW YORK—Hearing on the first arbitration complaint filed here on February 18 by Hilary Theatre Corp., operator of the Regent, Brooklyn, is scheduled for April 9, with Julius Henry Cohen as arbitrator. The case involves clearance. Albert Margulies, secretary of Hilary, seeks equal availability with the Apollo, purportedly one mile from the Regent. The Apollo has seven days' protection, but Margulies asserts the Regent held seven days' clearance over the other house before this was upset during the NRA.

Philadelphia

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 5. Demand and submission involving clearance. John Geyser, operator of the Florence, Florence, N. J. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. Named as interested party: Fox, Burlington, N. J. Atlantic Theatres, operating the Burlington, has intervened. Complainant seeks equal availability. Robert J. Callaghan, attorney, is arbitrator. Hearing April 4.

Washington

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 7. Demand and submission involving clearance. Walbrook Amusement Co., Baltimore. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested parties: Ambassador, Forrest and Gwynn theatres. Walbrook, operated by Thomas D. Goldberg, seeks the same availability granted the Ambassador, Forrest and Gwynn, operated by Frank Durkee. Sefton Darr, arbitrator.

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 24. See "Disposals."

CASE NO. 3—Filed February 24. Demand and submission involving clearance. Westway Theatre, Inc., Baltimore. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc. Named as interested parties: Edgewood, Alpha and Irvington. Leo H. Homand, operator of the Westway, protests the 14-day clearance held by the three theatres named, operated by Frank Durkee, and seeks a day and date availability "with other neighborhood theatres in the Westway's class."

Disposals

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 13, disposed of March 10 by withdrawal from arbitration tribunal. John H. Taylor, operator of the Charles, La Plata, Md. With: Paramount, RKO, Columbia, Loew's, 20th Century-Fox. Taylor protested 14 days clearance held by Marlboro, Marlboro, Md., operated by Sidney Lust. The latter agreed that in cases where he holds up dating of pictures when they become officially available this shall constitute time off his clearance over the Charles.

BROADWAY

IT SEEMS that 25 years is still a long time, even in the film business, if not longer, which is why Ampa is getting so excited about its silver jubilee at the Hotel Edison, April 4. The arrangements committee, acting just like a pack of paid press agents, is so hopped up over a long list of surprises they won't tip one of them off in advance. So the only thing left is to pass along their promise of some exciting doings, not the least of which will be Louis Prima and his orchestra, personalities in the way of Carol Bruce, Raymond Massey, Danny Kaye, Willie Howard, Diosa Costello, Ezra Stone and Arthur Treacher, to mention a few, and those surprises again. The proceeds are for the Ampa relief fund.

Max Weisfeldt, cornered at the Columbia table on the second floor of Lindy's, telling the boys he's cutting his Atlantic City vacation, where he is now, to one week so's he can use the other week hunting for a summer place. Listeners included Lou Weinberg, Mort Wormser, Budd Rogers, Joe Cohn, Esq., David Lipton and Harry Foster. In an opposite booth Silverstone Slaveys are stretched out in order: Monroe Greenthal, Morris Helprin, Skip Weshner, Harry Kosiner, Myer Beck, Al Margolies, Seymour Poe, Walter Gould and ringers, Hal Danson and Morris Kinzler . . . Bill Rodgers is sporting a tan that would do the Hollywood, Fla., Chamber of Commerce proud. Ditto on Bill Scully, but the Miami C of C for him . . . Maurice Bergman is about to resume his annual tennis activity . . . Charles E. McCarthy will head for the coast again shortly.

Terry Turner, head of RKO's field staff, has returned from a three week trip to the coast. It was on behalf of "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob" . . . L. W. "Mike" Conrow, Altec president, is back from a visit to southern offices . . . Roland Young has hied himself back to Hollywood, following a short New York visit . . . Maxie Rosenbloom is filling a night club engagement in Pittsburgh following a few days here. He's to do a lead in "Harvard, Here I Come" for Columbia . . . Frank Donovan, vice-president of Pathe News, is in Hollywood. He'll supervise a color short on housing while there . . . Gabriel Pascal reached Hollywood from Miami by air Thursday . . . Alice Faye is aboard the *America*, bound for New York from the coast. Due April 8 on her first appearance here in a year.

Took Flying Lessons, But He's on Spuds

New York—Walter Reade was boasting the other day about his son who enlisted in the army. Junior was given a party on his induction.

"Did he join the air corps?" Reade pere was asked because Reade fils had been taking flying lessons for the past few months.

"No," was the short rejoinder. "He's peeling potatoes."

Jack Segal of Columbia's foreign department is reported well on the road to recovery and is expected to leave the Paterson General Hospital in about a week . . . Charles Coburn has returned to Hollywood . . . G. L. Carrington, Altec's general manager, is back from a two months' business trip to the coast.

Lou Anger has been in from the coast for the past two weeks . . . Rodney Bush is vacationing in Miami. He had been down south previously on "Tobacco Road" advance campaigns and is now taking it easy . . . Harry Mersay is back from the southern resort. The missus went along for the fortnight's vacation . . . Scott Lester, ad sales manager for 20th-Fox in Albany, is back at his desk after a visit to Nassau . . . William Kupper has returned from a tour of the south . . . Mary Martin and her hubby, Dick Halliday, are vacationing in town from Hollywood.

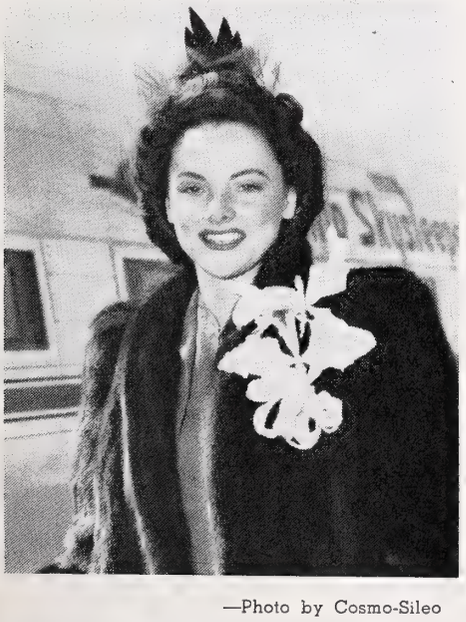
Susan Hayward came all the way from Hollywood to be on hand for the opening of her picture "Adam Had Four Sons" at the Music Hall . . . Ditto Gregory Ratoff, who has joined a partnership deal with Harry and Ben Goetz . . . Walter Klee, salesman for Jack Hoffberg, has changed Hope Steinberg's name to his . . . Nate Blumberg and Joe Seidelman left Thursday for Panama for a Universal convention of Latin-American delegates in Cristobal . . . Si Seadler has returned to his roost at M-G-M after his annual dude ranch vacation and looksee at the M-G-M studios . . . Bill Brandt plans to build a 600-seat house at Bayside where his brother formerly operated a house. Stores and a bowling alley are also provided in the plans.

J. Arthur Hirsch, Canadian exhibitor, was in town during the week on one of his usual visits. Ditto Irving Sherman from Pearl River, N. Y. . . . Tom Connors has been touring the south on M-G-M deals . . . Sam Rinzler returned the early part of the week from a month's vacation in Miami. He has a swell tan which he said he acquired five minutes after he sat on the beach and which did not improve any for the duration of his vacation . . . Claudette Colbert is due the middle of next month from the coast to take a squint at "Lady in the Dark." She will appear in the screen version to be produced by Paramount . . . Alex Korda has named his next picture "Illusions." It will star his wife, Merle Oberon. Although he had been set on the story when he was in town last he gave it a title only last week, in Hollywood.

Mrs. Sol Brill, widow of the late local circuit operator, is confined at Mt. Sinai Hospital with a broken wrist and shoulder bone she suffered when she fell while walking at the New Brunswick railroad station recently. She will be there for another fortnight recuperating . . . Charles Sonin's daughter, Hortense, is engaged to Sanford Siegel of Woodmere, L. I. . . . Max Cohen of the Lido, Brooklyn, was in Buffalo Tuesday for the new Allied of New York unit meeting. His partner, Louis Goidel, coudn't attend due to illness . . . Leonard E. Sampson, formerly of the Fifth Ave. Playhouse, is now managing the Ascot, Bronx, which has switched from domestic to foreign films . . . Tyree Dillard jr. was out Tuesday with a cold . . . Bob Perkins is on the coast for the Warner production conferences.

Joseph H. Hazen, Warner attorney, was in Washington Tuesday on company business . . . Arthur Seigel has returned to Jacksonville after a brief trip north. His

(Continued on page 32)



—Photo by Cosmo-Sileo

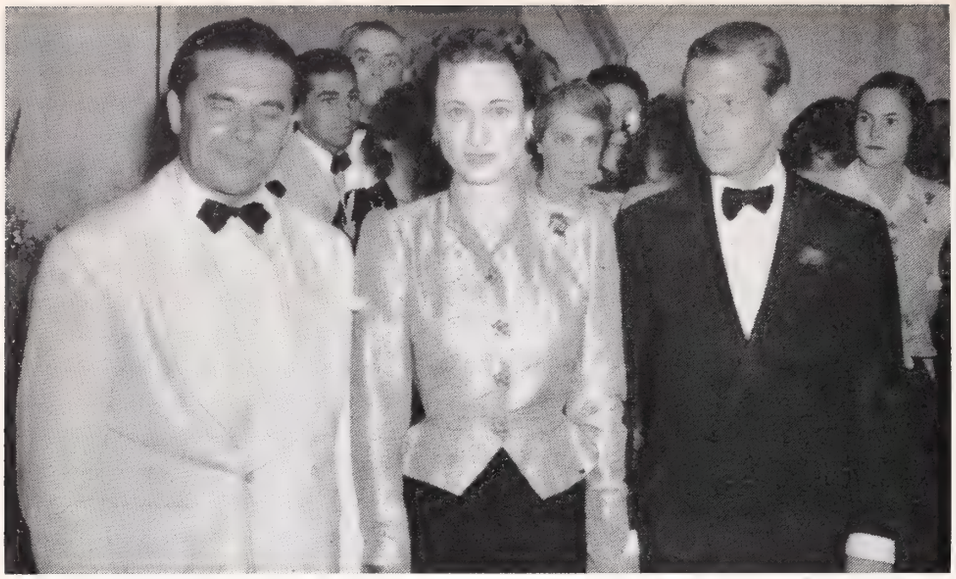
Starlet Flutters In—

This is Peggy Diggins, young Warner player now in New York, having completed a role in "The Great Lie."



It's G. Ratoff—

The director of "Adam Had Four Sons" reaches New York to attend its premiere at the Music Hall.



The Windsors at "Barbara" Premiere—

Another world opening, this time of "Major Barbara" at Nassau. Here, Gabriel Pascal, the producer, poses with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

BROADWAY

(Continued from page 31)

stepfather, Albert Warner, was scheduled to interrupt his Miami Beach vacation, but called the trip to New York off when brother Harry stayed on the coast and cancelled his eastern trek . . . Jim Brennan jr., son of the RKO district manager in New Jersey, is in from the coast where he has been working at the Universal studios. He has enlisted in the U. S. Naval Officers' Training School and will report for service shortly . . . Dave Bernstein insists that swell tan of his came from sitting under the local sun, but skeptics are of the opinion it's all due to a lamp. Not one that burns oil, either.

Irving Dreeban, UA New York exchange ad sales head, returned Tuesday after a week in Philadelphia where he pinch hit for Dick McKee, who was ill . . . The M. P. Bookers Club will hold its second annual dinner-dance at the Astor Roof, May 18 *. . . Charles Stern, UA district manager, was in Boston for a few days . . . Jack Ellis is dieting, after his wife read about it in* Harper's Bazaar. *It's his first, Jack says . . . Bill Gehring was reported ill at home during the week . . . Ed Zabel is due soon from a vacation at Palm Springs . . . Norman Moray is on the coast for his usual studio conferences . . . Ray Bell of M-G-M's publicity staff is a father for the second time, the latest arrival being a girl named Bonnie Rae. The event took place in Washington where the Bells formerly resided.*

E. W. Aaron, assistant to William F. Rodgers at M-G-M, left Wednesday by gasoline buggy in the general direction of the south. Soon as he hits warm climate, he plans to unpack those golf sticks and wham himself a vacation until it's time to come home . . . Ed Murrow, European director for CBS, made a special broadcast Wednesday evening from England coincident with the domestic premiere of "This Is England," short subject in which he speaks the commentary . . . Major Charles H. Tebay, UA manager in Trinidad, is here for home office conferences with Walter Gould . . . Alan F. Cummings is back from a Florida vacation . . . William Keighley, Warner director, is in from the coast for a brief vacation . . . Mitchell Rawson, eastern publicity director for Warner, has returned from Littleton, N. H., where "The Great Lie" will premiere April 5. A staff consisting of Bill Brumberg, Bob Williams and Phil Engel remains to arrange for festivities, which include a birthday celebration for Bette Davis, whose home town Littleton is . . . Barret McCormick is due from a visit to the studios Monday. Jack Levin, director of the Copyright Protection Bureau, is on a business trip in the south. Due back April 10.

Morton Van Praag has a sty on his eye, hence the colored glasses . . . Leo Abrams, newly appointed local branch manager for National Screen, has set April 8 *for a housewarming luncheon for local exhibitors, the occasion being the new quarters on the second floor of the Film Center Bldg. . . . Bob Benjamin is due back Monday from the coast . . . Herb Ebenstein says he plans a trek, for business purposes, to the coast in the next month . . . Bill Jaffe, vacationing in Miami, was quarantined for a couple of days when a member of the family cropped up with the measles.*

Jack G. Leo, brother of Joe, coast exhibitor, will spend the next few weeks vacationing in Miami. He is a vice-president of National Screen . . . Harry Egert, Advertising Accessories district manager, made one of his regular visits to New Haven during the week . . . Incidentally, Jack Cohen, division manager in the east for NSS, was all set to leave for a Miami vacation and postponed it when some of his friends scheduled to go along had to put off their departure . . . The visit of Y. Frank Freeman to New York the early part of the week was not to discuss new product, but primarily to attend the Paramount partners meeting in Hot Springs, Va.

Drive for Bernhard In New York Zone

ALBANY—Plans for Joseph Bernhard's "Tenth Anniversary Drive," to be observed by Warner theatres in the New York state zone from April 12 to July 12, were discussed at an all-day meeting at upstate headquarters here. Bernhard, general manager of Warner theatres, and Harry Goldberg, advertising manager, were in for the confab.

It was opened by M. A. Silver, zone manager and organizer of the drive. Bernhard, Goldberg and Silver were the speakers. Bernhard talked about the thing long close to his heart, "Service," as it should be applied by Warner houses and personnel to the public and the community. Goldberg discussed, in an optimistic vein, product which will be available in the next few months. Silver urged his men to get behind each picture and extract from it the fullest value.

Drive to Boom Business

The drive is designed to increase the business done by every Warner theatre in the zone. Quotas have been assigned. In all, 32 men took part in the dig-in session.

They included: Bernhard, Goldberg, Silver; Charles A. Smakwitz, eastern district manager; Ralph Crabill, western district manager; Max Friedman, head booker; Joe Weinstein, short subject booker; James P. Faughnan, contact manager; Jules Curley, manager of the Strand, Mel Conheim of the Ritz, Al La Flamme of the Madison and Eddie Selette of the Albany, all of Albany; Leo Rosen of the Troy, Sid Sommer of the Lincoln and Jack Swartout of the American, all of Troy; Andy Roy of the Stanley, Arnold Stoltz of the Avon and Jack Breslin of the Utica, all of Utica; Ed Yarbrough of the Keeney, Bill Tallman of the Regent and Ray Fahrenholz of the Strand, Elmira; Ralph Booth, New Family, Batavia; Dalton Burgett, Capitol, Dunkirk; Bill Leggiero, Steuben and Strand, Hornell; Al Newhall, Palace and Winter Garden, Jamestown; Cliff Schaufele, Diana, Medina; Murray Lafayette, Haven and State, Olean; C. L. Hollister, Babcock, Wellsville.

Send in Their Praises For "Buck Privates"

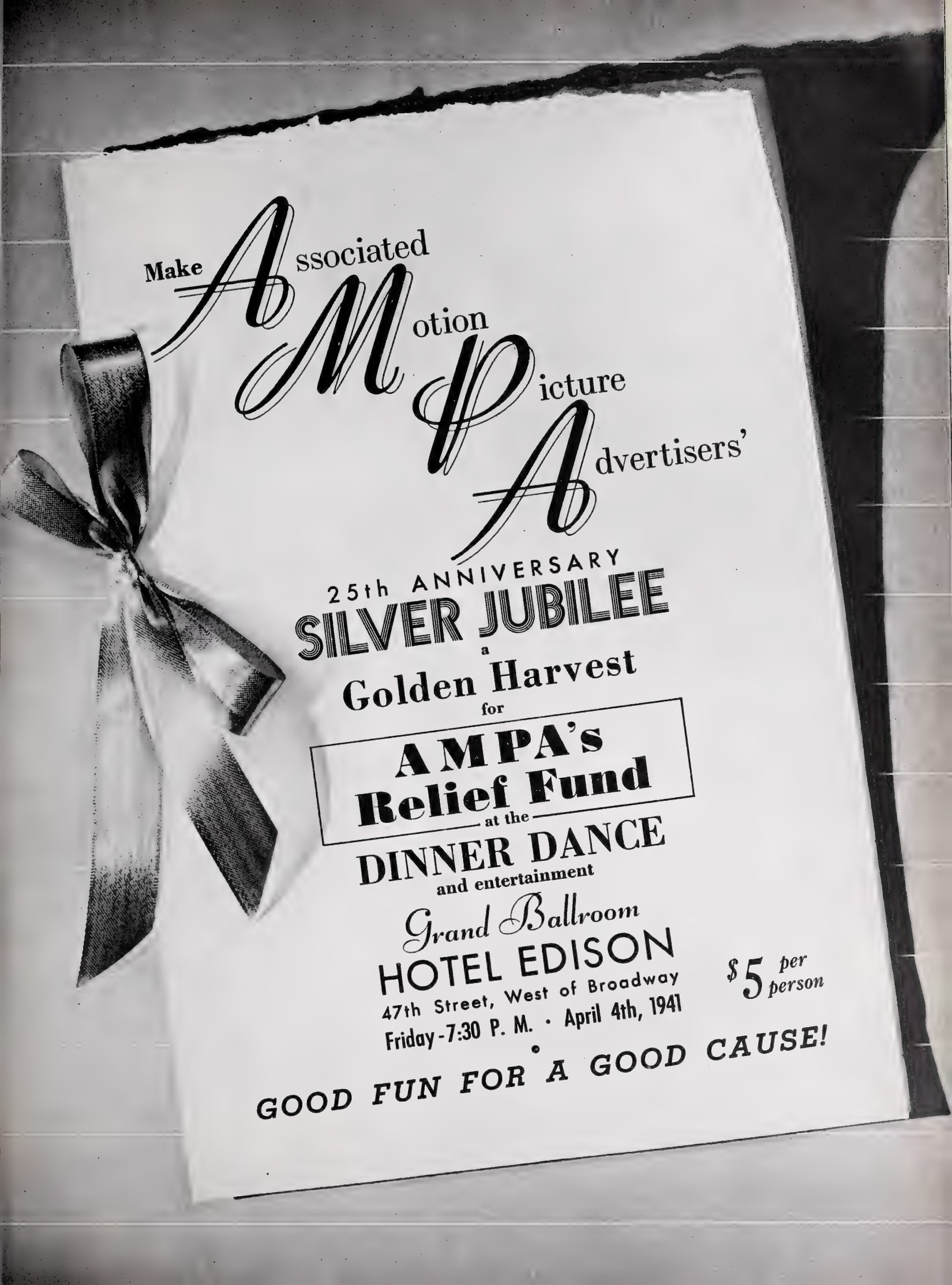
In a telegram to BOXOFFICE, John J. Galvin, manager of the Penn, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., reports:

"For the first time a picture was held over for the fourth week and is now in its fifth week. The picture is Universal's 'Buck Privates.' Although the city plays the top product of all companies, no other picture has ever done a business to warrant a fourth week and very few have ever gone three. More than 63,000 people have paid admissions here to date on 'Buck Privates.' Population of Wilkes-Barre is 86,000."

Chris Weber, in a second wire says, the Grand, Hazleton, Pa., held the film for a third week. He adds, "This was an unheard accomplishment for this town. No previous picture ever set such a record. Over 21,000 people paid admission to date out of a population of 36,000."

On 24-Hour Schedule

PHILADELPHIA—William Goldman's News Theatre, which runs newsreels and revivals, has gone on a 24-hour policy.


Make Associated Motion Picture Advertisers'
25th ANNIVERSARY
SILVER JUBILEE
a
Golden Harvest
for
AMPA's
Relief Fund
at the
DINNER DANCE
and entertainment
Grand Ballroom
HOTEL EDISON
47th Street, West of Broadway
Friday - 7:30 P. M. · April 4th, 1941
$5 per person
GOOD FUN FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

Gov't Testimony Ends In Schenck Tax Suit

NEW YORK—The government closed its side of the Joseph M. Schenck-Joseph H. Moskowitz trial in the federal court during the week with Lawrence W. Gibney, internal revenue agent, testifying as to each of the deductions taken by Schenck from 1935 through 1938.

The witness, under cross-examination by Harold H. Corbin, defense counsel, admitted each of the figures the prosecution had taken from him were its own, arbitrarily designated by the prosecutor and without much meaning. The defense attorney carefully went over each item and, taking the 1935 returns as an example, eliminated all figures except two and showed that Schenck, who had paid a tax of $58,114 for 1935, should have paid $55,434, or had overpaid $2,679 on the government's own figures.

Deem Deduction Arbitrary

The eliminated items were $28,028 deducted from the executive's salary as business expenses and a figure representing capital gains. The first figure included such items as chauffeur's salary, a total of $3,640, in which the government counsel decided 50 per cent was all Schenck should be allowed, and cut $1,820 from the deductions. The witness attempted to justify this by pointing out that at least half the time the chauffeur used the car it was for pleasure and not business, but could produce no vouchers to prove his point. Corbin wanted to know why 40 or 60 per cent had not been used instead of 50 per cent. The witness shrugged his shoulders, and said, "Mr. Correa told me to take off 50 per cent." The same type of government deduction was true of insurance, gas, oil, supplies and repairs, depreciation and traveling and entertainment expenses. On the latter figures, out of $22,773 asked for, the government allowed the executive $167.

Probing Curtailed

Judge Grover Moscowitz refused to allow the defense to inquire too deeply into the merits of the government deductions. One case in particular was when Corbin asked, "When Correa (government counsel) told you to eliminate these items, didn't you ask him if some of them might not have been legitimate business deductions?" This was objected to by Correa and the court sustained the objection declaring the question was "not material."

The witness admitted that after a careful perusal of Schenck's books, he had been unable at any time to find any trace of a bill which was claimed to be paid that was not, nor had he found any case where an evasion or hiding of figures had taken place. Gibney told of how Schenck described the Roland West deal to him, and told how when West was unable to make payments on the $50,000 loan, he, Schenck, had made the payments for him.

The most sensational witness of the week for the government was Alf Oftedal, government investigator, who declared that on Feb. 28, 1940, Schenck told Correa and himself, in the presence of two attorneys for Schenck, that Moskowitz had arranged the Goetz sale, that he had never spoken to Goetz about it, and that he had not learned of the sale for two years after it was made. This contradicted testimony of William Goetz and statements of Defense Counsel Corbin, both having told how Schenck had arranged the sale of stock. Efforts to shake the witness were not successful, but suddenly all attempts to discredit the statements ceased when the defense stated it would not make any further attempt until it was ready since premature blasting of the statement might prove injurious. It is expected that Schenck himself will refute the government statements when he takes the stand.

Goetz had described payment of $5,000 for the 113,644 shares of Jockey Club stock and receiving $5,000 back from Schenck who did not want him to lose on a worthless proposition. Frances Webb, secretary to Goetz, corroborated his statements.

Gibney, last witness for the government, was on the stand the longest, taking days to relate how each minute item was arrived at. A call was made for A. C. Blumenthal, who had been subpoenaed as a witness but who was in Mexico. Since he failed to appear, the government may issue a bench warrant for him. The defense is prepared to put on tax experts and will call both Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin as character witnesses.

A formal request for a dismissal of charges will be made and probably be denied by the court.

$469,064 From Fox

Lawrence W. Gibney, internal revenue agent, completed his fourth consecutive day on the stand under cross-examination by Corbin, and told that Schenck received $469,064 in dividends from his holdings in 20th-Fox in 1937 and paid taxes on the full amount. Schenck claims that on a recent ruling of the treasury department the money represents a return of capital and not dividends and no tax should have been paid. It is on this theory that it is claimed by the defense the government owes Schenck $165,000 for 1935-38 instead of Schenck owing the government.

The witness discussed the Bioff loan and went into the long discussion of Schenck's 1937 figures with Corbin questioning him on why each was deducted and how the government arrived at its computations. It was also brought out that in 1937 Schenck spent $356,000 and the government would only allow him $1,607 as deductions.

Last disclosure was that when the Wertheimers used Schenck's home for gambling purposes, the house had been rented by Schenck, not owned by him. Schenck was in Europe during this period and knew nothing of it. After cross-examination by Correa on the Bioff loan and items of Schenck's expenses not deducted, the government announced its case was concluded and it would rest.

Court Week Marked By Minor Actions

NEW YORK—Court news of the week was featured by a few minor actions. Of the insignificant crop of stories, perhaps the most important was an order of Referee Peter B. Olney jr. in the federal court setting May 5 as a date for the sale of all 16mm and substandard non-theatrical rights on all shorts of Grand National and Educational Films Corp. of America. There are approximately 300 of them.

Stephen Van Gluck and Joseph Eisinger, authors, filed a federal court-amended complaint against Loew's seeking an injunction, accounting of profits and damages against "Murder Man," claimed a plagiarism of their play, "The Last Edition," submitted to Loew's in 1934 and allegedly rejected.

Valentino Heir Misses

A summary judgment against Artcinema Associates and Emil C. Jansen, present owners of the rights to Rudolph Valentino's "The Son of the Sheik" and "The Eagle," was denied to Jean Guglielmi, better known as Jean Valentino, heir to the estate of the deceased actor. The plaintiff claims that under the 1925 contract Valentino was to receive 50 per cent of all profits and asks $21,990 damages. The defense claims to have paid $25,375 in full settlement of all claims and Supreme Court Justice Peter B. McLaughlin declared there are triable issues in refusing to grant plaintiff summary judgment.

Pascal Asks More Time

Gabriel Pascal asked the supreme court to give him more time in defending a suit against him by John Krimsky. The defendant wants the court to remove the case from the "ready" calendar. Suit seeks $100,000 claiming breach of contract whereby Pascal is supposed to have agreed to let Krimsky distribute any picture he makes in the U. S. The bone of contention is "Pygmalion," which was not given to Krimsky.

The appellate division of the supreme court modified an order of the supreme court and ordered J. Cheever Cowdin to submit to an examination before trial instead of 30 officers originally ordered to do so. Examination is in connection with a $2,000,000 stockholder suit by Samuel I. Posen against the company in which waste and mismanagement are charged.

Hakims Face Suit

The Baker's Wife, Inc. has filed a $100,000 suit in the supreme court against Raphael, Robert and Raymond Hakim, claiming the defendants are wrongfully interfering with the distribution of the French film, "The Baker's Wife." Defendants, who own the American rights gave them to the plaintiff, and in a federal court action begun last month are seeking to rescind the rights.

Kurt Pilzer applied to the supreme court to examine officials of Loew's before trial in connection with a $10,000 suit he is bringing as assignee of a Viennese film company. The company says it sold remake rights of "Silhouetten" to Loew's for $10,000 and delivered a print, but claims no payment made. Loew's has filed a general denial.

Ambitious Program For Walter Reade

NEW YORK—Walter Reade plans to have the first 10 of 32 new houses for Community Theatres ready by Christmas, he told BOXOFFICE.

The first is now being constructed in Trenton and will seat 1,000. As soon as this is completed, work will be started on another 1,000 seater at Hamilton near Camden. The Township is 12 miles from Camp Dix. The third is slated for Red Bank and will seat 1,200. Plans are now being drafted for the house on the site of the Old Globe Hotel.

Reade states, "I will build anywhere and not necessarily in the New York and New Jersey areas." In addition to the three definite locations, he has seven others in mind but is not ready to make any statement. At the present time, Community has five in operation in New York and New Jersey.

Above Par Business Led By "Dictator" in Philly

PHILADELPHIA—Business hit par or better at most places this week as genuine spring weather came out from hiding. "The Great Dictator" was still leading the league. "Fantasia," plagued with a falling-off of business as it went into its sixth week, was bolstered by a drop in prices. Weekday matinees went down to a minimum of 50 cents instead of 86, and evening rates and Saturday and Sunday matinees start at 75 cents instead of $1.14.

Detail for week ending March 28:

(Average is 100)

Aldine—**Fantasia** (Disney), 6th wk. ... 65
Arcadia—**Virginia** (Para't), 10 days ... 110
Pulled Tuesday for "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."
Boyd—**The Lady Eve** (Para't) ... 100
Moved Wednesday for "Footsteps in the Dark."
Earle—**You're the One** (Para't), plus Milt Britton's "Crazy Show" on stage ... 110
Fox—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), 2nd wk. ... 100
Karlton—**Western Union** (20th-Fox), 2nd run ... 95
Keith's—**Back Street** (Univ), 2nd run ... 105
Stanley—**The Sea Wolf** (WB) ... 110
Stanton—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 3rd wk. ... 180

UA Publicity Department Gets Morton Nathanson

NEW YORK—Morton Nathanson has succeeded Burt Champion in the UA publicity department. His recent work has been in the legit field, having represented Katharine Cornell's company, the Playwright's Company, Group Theatre and the Theatre Guild. At one time he worked under Bob Sisk at RKO. Champion has joined Lynn Farnol's newly organized publicity organization.

Roach's "Topper Returns" Booked by Loew Capitol

NEW YORK — Despite legal difficulties which exist between Hal Roach and M-G-M over the former's distribution of his pictures while under Leo's aegis, Loew's booked "Topper Returns" into the Capitol starting Thursday. Shortly after the Broadway run, the metropolitan circuit will play the film.



—Metropolitan Photos

Spoke English, Report—

Simone Simon chatting with Ned E. Depinet on a visit to the RKO home office. Shortly thereafter, she left for the coast where she will be featured in "A Certain Mr. Scratch."

Holdovers Dominate Broadway Acers

NEW YORK—Only two new films, the rest being holdovers, good weather but only fair returns characterized the Broadway scene. "The Sea Wolf" at the Strand, plus a stage show, garnered the most important money of the two new entrants, the other being "Las Vegas Nights" at the Paramount, also plus a presentation, and doing nicely considering the slight reception accorded it by the critics.

(Average is 100)

Astor—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 23rd and final roadshow wk. ... 90
Broadway—**Fantasia** (Disney), 19th roadshow wk. ... 100
Capitol—**Rage in Heaven** (M-G-M) ... 90
Criterion—**The Monster and the Girl** (Para't) ... 90
Globe—**Night Train** (20th-Fox), 13th wk. ... 90
Hollywood—**Meet John Doe** (Capra-WB), 2nd wk. ... 95
Paramount—**Las Vegas Nights** (Para't), plus stage show ... 95
Radio City Music Hall—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA), 2nd wk., plus stage show ... 85
Rialto—**Man Made Monster** (Univ) ... 95
Rivoli—**Meet John Doe** (Capra-WB), 2nd wk. ... 100
Roxy—**That Night in Rio** (20th-Fox), 3rd wk., plus stage show ... 95
Strand—**The Sea Wolf** (WB), plus stage show ... 110

The Roxy holds "That Night in Rio" a fourth week, "Nice Girl?" replaces "Las Vegas Nights" at the Paramount, while "Topper Returns" is current at the Capitol.

Conversion to Theatre

NEW YORK—Work has been started to convert the building at 1663 East 17th Street, Brooklyn, into a 600-seat theatre, plans for which have been prepared by Ben Schlanger. New methods of acoustics, sight lines and lighting design will be incorporated.

Altec Re-Signs Butterfield

NEW YORK—Altec has re-signed the W. S. Butterfield circuit of 96 houses in Michigan for servicing. F. C. Dickely represented Altec on the deal.

Brilliant Premiere Heralds "Wings"

NEW YORK—With a proclamation by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia designating "Greater New York Flying Cadet Week," Paramount opened the throttle wide for a star-spangled premiere for "I Wanted Wings," at the Astor, Wednesday evening, that had Times Square and plenty of newspaper readers conscious of a gala event. The army personages that dotted the house in themselves contributed a sizeable "who's who" of military officialdom, not to mention Mary Martin, lots of society and outstanding personalities in the publishing field.

Among those present were Madeleine Carroll, Miriam Hopkins, Orson Welles, Dolores Del Rio, J. Cheever Cowdin, Joseph Bernhard, Ned E. Depinet, William Brandt, Harry Brandt, George P. Skouras, David Sarnoff, Arthur Kelly, M. Silverstone, David Bernstein, John J. O'Connor and Nate J. Blumberg.

In the Paramount delegation were: Barney Balaban, Stanton Griffis, Adolph Zukor, John Hertz sr., Harvey Gibson, Neil F. Agnew, John W. Hicks, R. M. Gillham, Charles R. Reagan, J. J. Unger, George A. Smith, Paul Raibourn, Arthur Israel jr., Oscar Morgan, Duncan Harris, George Weltner, M. S. Kusell, Fred Mohrhardt, Louis Phillips, W. B. Cokell, Claude Lee, Russell Homan, E. A. Brown, G. B. J. Frawley, and these district managers: William Erbb, Harry Goldstein, E. W. Sweigert, Allen Usher, R. C. LiBeau, Hugh Braly, Hugh Owen, J. F. Kirby and Dell Goodman.

Expanded Payrolls Secure Grosses in Washington

WASHINGTON—Good business resulting from Uncle Sam's pay day was offset slightly by a nip from Jack Frost on Monday and Tuesday, as two new features vied with four repeaters. Influx of defense workers creating larger potential audiences with lively comedies as the *piece de resistance*. Streets of Paris edition hypoed gross at the Earle, while "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" rounded out a nice third week's take at Keith's.

Detail for week ending March 20:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Rage in Heaven** (M-G-M), plus stage show ... 100
Columbia—**Philadelphia Story** (M-G-M), 5th wk. ... 100
Earle—**Honeymoon for Three** (WB), plus Streets of Paris on stage ... 140
Keith's—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO), 3rd wk. ... 140
Metropolitan—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), 2nd run ... 130
Palace—**The Great Dictator** (UA), 2nd wk. ... 115

An All-Day Bank Night At the RKO Fordham

NEW YORK—Changing around the games at the theatre to stimulate interest, Sol Schwartz, district manager of the RKO circuit, on April 1 inaugurates all-day Bank Night at the Fordham with $350 to be given away. Patrons can register all day for the award which is to become a weekly feature. For the present, the Fordham is the only metropolitan RKO house going for the idea.

Walbrook Hearing Poses Clearance as Hurdle

(Continued from page 30)

entitled to clearance over the Walbrook for a number of reasons, including higher admissions.

Thomas D. Goldberg, president of the Walbrook Amusement Co., testified that for a number of years his house was given preferential treatment in the matter of playing time, following only the downtown first run. He did not consider the distributors were justified in taking that position away from him to give the Durkee houses preference. The three Durkee houses, he said, are approximately two miles from his theatre.

The Walbrook official told the arbitrator that he operates also the Hartford Theatre and shortly will open a third house, the Hilton. The Walbrook, he said, devotes 95 per cent of its playing time to "A" pictures, which are secured from 20th Century-Fox and RKO on a flat rental basis and from M-G-M, Paramount, Universal and Warner on a rental basis.

He contended that his admissions are on a par with the Durkee houses, explaining that the matinee rates are 10 cents for children and 15 cents for adults with a 30-cent charge for 25 loge seats, while his evening rates are 10 cents for children, 25 cents for adults and 40 cents for loge seats. The house has a capacity of 950.

Witnesses From Washington

To bring out the alleged discrepancy in the treatment accorded the Walbrook by the two respondents as compared with the other distributors, J. Purdon Wright, counsel for the complainant, called witnesses from Washington exchanges to testify regarding their contracts with the Walbrook and the Durkee houses.

The testimony was designed to show that the clearance granted the Durkee theatres by 20th-Fox and Vitagraph was not given by the other companies, although contracts with M-G-M which were brought in showed that the Ambassador was at times given seven days over the Walbrook.

Contracts as Evidence

The second day of the hearing was devoted largely to the introduction of contracts of Paramount and Warner with the three Durkee theatres and the Walbrook, subpoenaed by Wright to show that the two respondents imposed clearance on the Walbrook while other distributors did not.

The Warner contracts covered all Durkee houses, and there was considerable argument over the introduction of testimony concerning theatres not involved in the complaint, with the arbitrator pointing out that if the clearance arrangements of other theatres were taken up, the proceeding would go on indefinitely.

Prettyman, however, permitted the introduction of such matter in the contracts as pertained to the Ambassador, Forest and Gwynn theatres, and it developed that after the Ambassador began to play Warner product it was given first run and a clearance over the Walbrook, while for the 1937-38 season the Walbrook in turn was given the right to cancel pictures playing first run at the Forest or Gwynn.

In an effort to get some comparison of the four houses, Wright called Frank H. Scully, Baltimore salesman for M-G-M, who said he did not think the four theatres were in competition.

Scully expressed the belief the Ambassador was the best of the quartette, but refused to speculate as to whether residents of the area would be likely to select one theatre over the others for comfort or other reasons, although pressed by Carney.

Asked why the Walbrook contract contained a provision giving the Ambassador seven days' clearance, he said it was out of the kindness of Goldberg's heart, so that the company could get the heavier revenue offered by the larger theatre.

Wright also called Eugene B. McCurdy, operator of the Columbia and Eureka theatres, to testify regarding the relative qualities of the four houses, but his testimony was objected to on the ground he denied having personal information on all the houses on which to base an opinion.

In an effort to show that the Walbrook was on a par with the Durkee houses, Leo A. Rudolph, air conditioning expert, was called by the complainant, testifying that the Walbrook was one of the best-ventilated houses in Baltimore. Lucius B. White, architect, testified that he had made an inspection of the four theatres and, while the Ambassador was the finest, the Walbrook was a well constructed, well equipped house, fully as fine as the Gwynn or Forest.

Recalled to the stand on the third day of the hearing, Goldberg testified that he played no double features, had no giveaways or Bank Nights, and showed programs on a par with those of the other three houses.

He admitted that he had urged the Baltimore authorities to refuse a building permit for the Ambassador because he feared it would be in competition with him. After it was built, he said, he found it did not compete. He did not attempt to prevent the building of the Gwynn, he disclosed, and has found that house, too, not to be a competitor.

Testifies on Contracts

The Walbrook operator testified regarding Paramount and Loew contracts, declaring that no clearance was imposed except with his permission, but reviewed his Fox contracts to point out that there were no clearance provisions before 1936 when he was told by Samuel Wheeler, exchange manager, and other Fox officials that they had to give the Durkee theatres protection because of the greater revenue they offered. He submitted a number of letters he had written to Wheeler and others protesting the clearance, to which he received no replies, and they were admitted over one of the many objections which featured the hearings throughout.

Rules Out Testimony

Goldberg testified that while the Durkee houses, two miles distant, were given clearance over him there was no clearance either way with the Astor, Bridge or Edgewood theatres, all without a radius of ten blocks of the Walbrook.

At this point another controversy broke out over the interjection of clearances of other theatres, and the arbitrator ruled the testimony out, commenting that "the arbitration system will fall of its own weight" if the hearing went into all clearances.

Submitting their argument that the clearances complained of were justified from a business standpoint, the respondents introduced testimony to show that the Durkee theatres were superior to the Walbrook and therefore entitled to protection.

REVIEW FLASHES

BAD MAN, THE (M-G-M)—The drawing power will lie in the number of popular names this unadulterated melodrama boasts. The talents of Beery and Barrymore are strained to overcome the hurdle of a faulty script and loose-handed direction. Best-pleased customers will be those who like western action. Wallace Beery, Lionel Barrymore, Laraine Day. Richard Thorpe directed.

BORDER VIGILANTES (Para)—The redoubtable "Hopalong" Cassidy, in the person of William Boyd, is up to his usual standard in this latest of the veteran sagebrush series. Which means the film packs an abundance of action, adventure and suspense, with the required amount of comedy relief. Peg it as a reliable grosser in those situations where westerns are in demand. Harry Sherman produced; Derwin Abrahams directed.

HORROR ISLAND (Univ)—Treasure-hunting yarn in which a hackneyed story is bolstered through the addition of enough trapdoors, clutching hands, phantom killers and the like, to qualify it as an average entry in the thrill category. Ben Pivar produced; George Waggner directed.

RIDE ON, VAQUERO (20th-Fox)—Probably the best of the series to date is this new Cisco Kid adventure, in which bordertown kidnapers incur the wrath of the debonair outlaw. Cesar Romero is starred of course. Feature reflects improvement in every department over past entries and should click in the action houses.

Four Hearings Set; One New Case, AAA Reports

(Continued from page 29)

Florence, N. J., against the "Big Five," and naming the Fox, Burlington, N. J., as holding unreasonable clearance, will be heard before Arbitrator Robert J. Callaghan, an attorney, April 4.

Says Paramount Has Over 10,000 Accounts

NEW YORK—Paramount's domestic sales contracts for 1940-41 reached an all-time company high, servicing more than 10,000 accounts, Neil F. Agnew, general sales manager, told district managers at a short subject and newsreel luncheon held at the Waldorf-Astoria. He pointed out many of the accounts cover situations where product is split between two or more houses under the same management and do not include non-theatricals, spot bookings, repeats, reissues or odd-lot contracts, so that actually, he claimed, there are many more theatres served than the number of contracts indicate.

Manny Brown, now in Montreal, will become district manager for Denver, Salt Lake and Omaha. This is a new territory. Tom Dowbiggin succeeds in Montreal.

First Latin-American Conference for "U"

NEW YORK—First Latin-American conference of Universal managers will get under way at Cristobal April 2 and continue to April 6 with Nate J. Blumberg, president, and Joseph H. Seidelman, foreign head, in attendance. Distribution policies for the new season will highlight the sessions and a number of new films shown.

Among those slated to be on hand are C. C. Margon, Latin American supervisor; Fortunat Baronat, foreign publicity director; Monroe Isen, Argentina head; Al Szekler, Brazil; Raul Viancos, Chile; Ramon Garcia, Cuba; J. Epstein, Mexico; E. N. Ferro, Panama and Central America; Ramon A. Pazos, Peru; Carlos Matos, Puerto Rico, and Pedro Matos, Venezuela.

Chaplin In From Coast For Indefinite Stay

NEW YORK—Charles Chaplin, UA producer-owner, arrived here by plane from the coast Thursday. He plans to remain indefinitely and will appear next week as a character witness in the Joseph M. Schenck trial.

William Goetz, vice-president of 20th-Fox, is slated to return to the coast in a few days.

Archie Mayo, who directed "The Great American Broadcast" for 20th-Fox, also arrived Thursday from Hollywood and will next direct "Charley's Aunt."

Warner Buys a Ferber Story for $175,000

NEW YORK—Warner has purchased screen rights to Edna Ferber's "Saratoga Trunk" for a reported $175,000. Publication will be in the fall. It is also reported the story will be translated to play form for presentation on Broadway as a musical comedy.

"All Through the Night," comedy melodrama by Leo Rosten and Leonard Spigelgass, has been acquired for James Cagney.

Fox Testifies in Probe of Retired Judge's Affairs

PHILADELPHIA—William Fox was called by a federal grand jury to testify in its investigation of the financial affairs of J. Warren Davis, retired circuit court judge. Also called was a retired colleague of Judge Davis, Judge Joseph Buffington.

Both sat on the bench during five cases involving the All-Continent Corp., a Fox family trust. The cases, which concerned attempts by creditors to have the corporation thrown into bankruptcy, were decided in favor of the Fox family.

Atty.-Gen. Robert H. Jackson has said he has information suggesting that Judge Davis, Fox and several other persons conspired to obstruct justice. Loans Judge Davis allegedly made from several persons are known to be under scrutiny.

Charles Blum Manager For 3 Brown Units

NEW YORK—Henry Brown, who operates the Liberty, Freehold, and the Strand and Palace, Lakewood, has appointed Charles Blum general manager. Blum has been identified with various independent circuits in booking and buying capacities and at one time was associated with Allied of New Jersey.

Al Suchman Washes Up At Consolidated Circuit

NEW YORK—Al Suchman, chief buyer and booker for the Consolidated circuit, wound up his duties officially the latter part of the week. He is now looking around for a new connection. Julius Joelson recently acquired 18 of the 21 houses in the circuit and installed Harold Klein, formerly of Cocalis, as buyer and booker.

UA District Sessions Starting April 14

NEW YORK—Five district meetings, embracing the UA sales organization in the United States and Canada, will be held starting April 14 and continuing through the entire month.

The first will take place in New York, April 14-15, with Boston, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia and Washington branches represented. On April 17-18 the southern exchanges—Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas and New Orleans—will meet in New Orleans.

Cleveland will be the scene of the meeting on April 21-22 with personnel from the Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Indianapolis and Pittsburgh branches. On April 24-25, the midwest exchanges and those in Canada will come to Chicago. They are Detroit, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Denver, Omaha, Calgary, Montreal, St. John, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

The fifth and final meeting takes place in San Francisco, April 28-29, attended by representatives from the San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Salt Lake City offices.

Twickenham Charges Breach of Contract

NEW YORK—Twickenham Film Studios, Ltd., and Roddison Douglas Brewis, receiver, filed suit in federal court against Olympic Pictures, Feature Distributing Corp., and Morris J. Kandel, president of both defendants, charging breach of contract. The deal was for Kandel to distribute Twickenham's product in the United States for five years and then return the prints. It is claimed the deal ended in 1940 and the defendant has refused an accounting on monies owed, continues to distribute the pictures, some 30 in number, and refuses to return the prints. An injunction, accounting of profits, and damages are asked.

Harry Cohn will be examined before trial in the supreme court April 8 in connection with a $100,000 suit against Columbia by Minnie Saltzman-Stevens, former soprano of the Metropolitan. The ex-diva claims use of her picture without permission in "I'll Take Romance."

$50,000 Plagiarism Suit

Irving Gaumont has filed a supreme court action for $50,000 against Warner, claiming the plagiarism in "My Love Came Back" of his story, "You've Got to Swing It." An injunction, accounting of profits and damages are also asked.

Suit of Richard Borden against the Jam Handy Picture Service, Inc., for $25,000 has been settled out of the supreme court. Action charged plagiarism of a story of the plaintiff's dealing with selling methods as laid down by Benjamin Franklin in Jam Handy's "Selling America."

Booth Tarkington was examined before trial through his agent, Carl Brandt, in federal court in connection with a $100,000 suit against Warner. Tarkington claims Warner made "Penrod and His Twin Brother," which is not based on any story of his. Pre-trial conferences start this month and trial is set for April 14.

Joseph Bernhard was examined before trial in the federal court in connection with an anti-trust action against Warner Bros., brought by the Harrison Bros & Co., Irwin Realty Co., the Lansdowne Amusement Co. and several individuals. The action is taking place in Philadelphia. William F. Rodgers and Thomas J. Connors were witnesses Thursday.

Ten-Day Exhibition of Publicity Art Works

NEW YORK—Art works of publicity, exploitation and advertising men of the eight majors will be exhibited at the Barbizon-Plaza Gallery for 10 days starting April 20. It is the first event of its kind for the film industry, it is stated.

ITOA Passes

NEW YORK—The ITOA, which has not held a general membership meeting for more than a month, did not hold a session this week and has none scheduled for the immediate future, according to a spokesman.

BUFFALO

EDDIE MILLER, Carl Rindcen and Ken Cooley are happy about the attendance at the cooking schools being conducted at their respective theatres, Lackawanna, Kenmore and Seneca . . . Vincent R. McFaul has been given leadership in another charity campaign, this time the local Joint Charities. Assisting will be Ralph Maw, M-G-M branch manager and RKO's Elmer Lux. Special committees being formed will include local city salesmen and all Shea managers. The Greek War Relief Committee, which McFaul now heads, is meeting with great success, helped by the bi-daily collections at the Buffalo by Manager Bill Brett and his staff.

Stan Mittlefehldt, service manager of the Shea Theatres, has returned his questionnaire to Uncle Sam. Eddie Meade of the Shea publicity staff won't worry for awhile having been marked 3A in the lottery . . . John Carr, manager of Shea's Hippodrome, is the newest addition to the local sick list . . . A severe cold has Mrs. John Scully, wife of Universal's branch manager, confined to her home.

Danny Gill, business agent of the local stagehands, reports a dinner was held in honor of ten new members of the organization. Included in the induction were Harry Dietz, Harold Malcolm, Peter Cognato, William Bush, William Burke, Rudolph Schroeder, George Albin, Robert Maul, Matt Haentges and Owen Kavanaugh. All have served apprenticeships for a period of 14 years. The affair was presided over by President Charley Schaeffer.

Sympathy to Alberta Maw, wife of Ralph, on the passing of her father, Emil Fabish last Sunday after a week in the hospital, and to Sam Slotnick of the Acme, Syracuse, on the death of his mother . . . Tommy Cullen of the Shea staff has returned from Corning, New York, where he attended services for his uncle.

Edward H. Legge and Louis Andromidas are the new junior executives assisting Emmett Connelly at A. C. Heyman's Lafayette . . . From all reports the Iron Lung Dance sponsored by the local tent of the Variety Club was a huge success. Syd Lehman, chief barker, presented the Lung to the city. Noted in attendance were Dick and Helen Walsh, John and Mollie Scully, Ruth Rappaport and Bob Murphy, Syd Samson, and wife, Syd Lehman and wife, Mat Sullivan and Rene Sullivan, Marg Crean and Bill Eimiller, Elmer and Nina Lux, George and Lou Ferguson, Jack and Helen Chinell, Mary Faircloth and Dewey Schlieder, Bert Larkin, Max and Corinne Roth, George and Vera McKenna, John and Helen Bykowski, Fran and Mrs. Maxwell, Dick Kemper and wife, Ken Robinson and wife, Harry Goldstein, George Mason, Bill Martin and Edith Leary, Manny and Muriel Waronov, George Susman and wife, Lawrence Gardiner and Jack Rubach.

J. Luczak is remodeling his Walden following a recent fire and expects to open sometime in April . . . Harry Reiners and Jimmy Boyle of the RKO exploitation department assisted the Twentieth Century theatre staff in publicizing "Vivacious Lady," and "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob."

Army Base Construction Cheers Port of Spain

NEW YORK—Theatre business in and around Port of Spain is expected to increase sharply with the establishment soon of workers and personnel at the army base being erected by the United States, according to Major Charles H. Tebay, UA's manager at Trinidad, who is here for home office conferences. Tebay estimates there will be about 20,000 men employed.

Hollywood product is the predominant favorite in the 77 theatres in the territory he supervises, although a few houses specialize in Indian and Chinese product, Tebay states. He made the rather startling admission that, although the temperature is usually in the 90's, theatres have no air conditioning. There are only two shows a day, the first about 4:45 p. m., and the second about 8:45 p. m. Average admission is about 15 cents, although the top is $1 for a box at de luxe first runs. Musicals and action pictures are most popular.

Tebay adds very few gangster films are passed by the local authorities because of a possible throwback to the serious race riots that occurred in 1937. Only 60 per cent of film rentals collected by the eight majors' branches in Trinidad is permitted to be transferred to New York. Tebay himself was only allowed to take out the equivalent of $40 for his passage by boat here.

Prudential, Interboro Swap in Long Island

NEW YORK—Prudential and Interboro have swapped houses in two Long Island towns, the former taking the Gables, Merrick, and turning over the Gardens, Springfield Gardens, in return. The deal became effective over the weekend.

Other theatre shifts have Si Fabian resuming a Friday and Saturday operation for the State, Middletown, after operating all week for the past few months. Three other houses darkened. They are the Williston, Mineola; Sun, Manhattan, and the Capitol, Elizabeth.

Lehman, LaGuardia Lead Greater New York Drive

NEW YORK—Gov. Herbert Lehman and Mayor LaGuardia have accepted honorary chairmanships for the 1941 Greater New York Fund Campaign which begins April 14. A number of other prominent social, business and financial leaders have agreed to act as vice-presidents. While no set figure has been established, efforts will be made to top 1940 contributions of $3,800,000.

Billboard Companies Work With Variety

NEW YORK — Billboard companies throughout the country are cooperating with the seventh national convention of Variety Clubs of America in posting 250 24-sheets advertising the affair, to be held in Atlantic City, May 15-17, at the Traymore Hotel.

BALTIMORE

A MAMMOTH midnight show for the Greek War Relief Fund will be held Monday night, March 31, at 11:45 p. m., at I. M. Rappaport's Hipodrome. There will be a complete stage and screen show —all tickets $1. Dave Kaiser, Maryland Display Co., is chairman of the veterans group for the sale of tickets . . . Motion picture theatre owners are running trailers in reference to the Greek War Relief at all theatres of the league.

Walter Cohen goes from the Leader to the Rialto; Wilbur Brizendine, from Rialto to the Linden; Milton Caplan, resigned as the manager of the Linden; Thomas Luby, to manager the Leader, formerly assistant manager of the Broadway; Albert Rohe, new assistant manager of the Broadway . . . New manager of the Mayfair, Frank Taylor, comes from Loew's Columbia in Washington.

Miss Marie Presstman, member of the Maryland board of motion picture censors, gave a talk at 8 p. m., Thursday, on "Entertainment for Children." The talk was delivered at the monthly meeting of the Parents-Teachers Ass'n of the William Paca School . . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Durkee are back from Florida . . . Philip Provenza, shorts film producer of Baltimore, has been appointed justice of the peace. Provenza has just finished a short subject of "Maryland Oyster Fleet," which was given its first run at Keith's by Lawrence Schanberger.

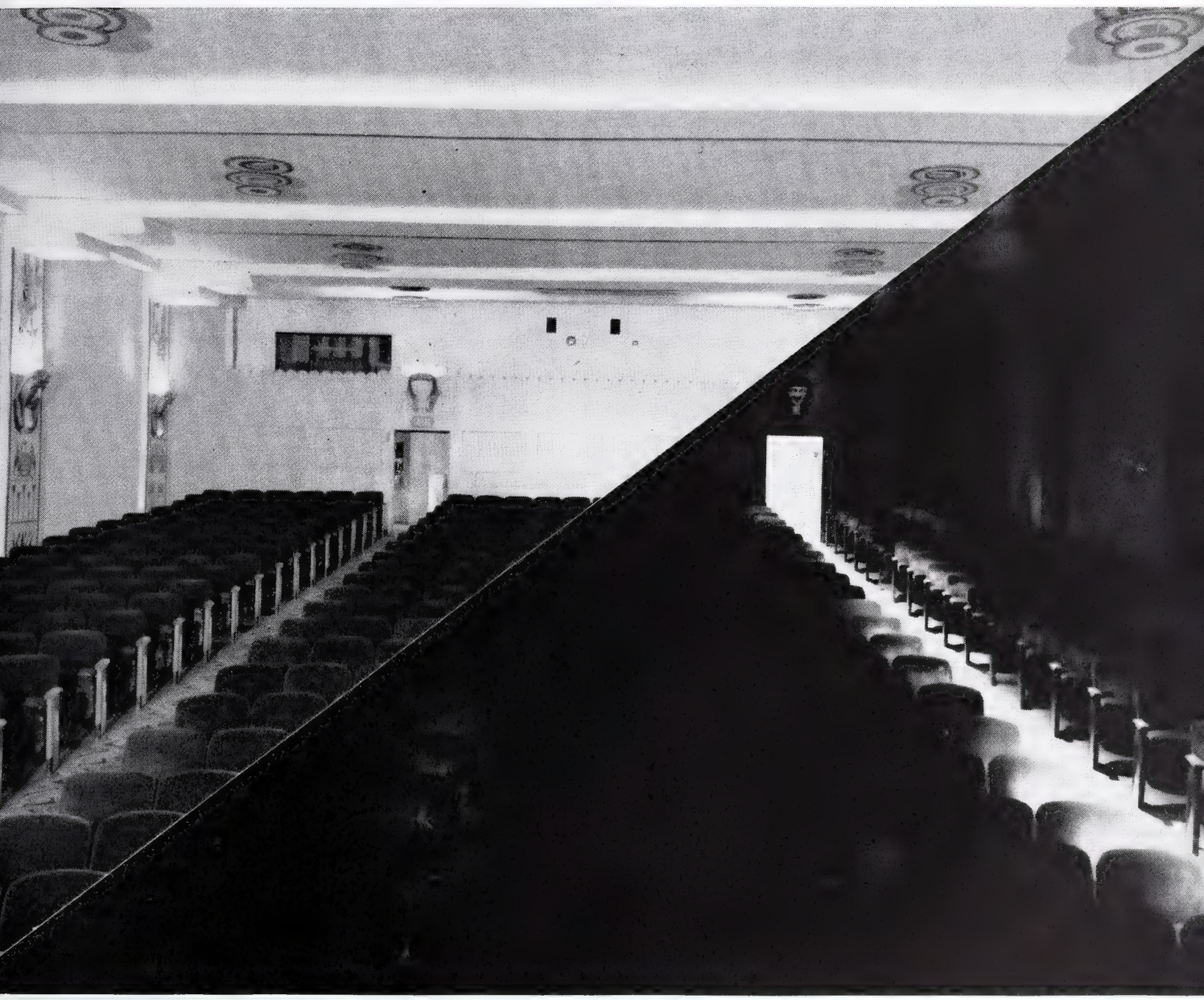
Radio stations switch networks. WFBR to Mutual Schedule; WCBM takes NBC Blue and WBAL to use NBC Red, after October 1 . . . Cash prizes and guests tickets were offered last week in "Paternal Contest" in conjunction with the film, "Adam Had Four Sons." Contest was held by H. Ted Routson and Bernie Seaman at the Hippodrome . . . The Cinema is now double featuring and running one Jewish picture and one American picture . . . Quite a few screen names appear on the stage this week at the Maryland—Laura Hope Crews and Eric Von Stroheim, at the Fords, Paul Lucas is billed.

A big crowd turned out, including the mayor and the governor, at the first toy-lending center by the Variety Club and was presided over by Edward Perotka, assistant-chief barker of the Variety Club . . . A radio broadcast of the Gif-Ted Club, headed by Ted Routson, Hippodrome, of which motion pictures were taken of the affair, proved to be a huge success . . . In conjunction with "The Trial of Mary Dugan" at the New, Maurice Mechanic gave cash prizes and guest tickets for the best letters for the most interesting opinions on "the value of circumstantial evidence."

There is a bill in the legislature for the board of motion picture censors contingent upon passage of legislation extending its authority to slot-machine motion pictures . . . As "Night Train" goes into its fifth month at the Little, H. A. Blum and Max Weinberg report it still going strong . . . Bill Hicks of the Hicks' Circuit recently returned from a trip to Florida.

The MODERN THEATRE

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION of BOXOFFICE



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Issue of MARCH 29, 1941

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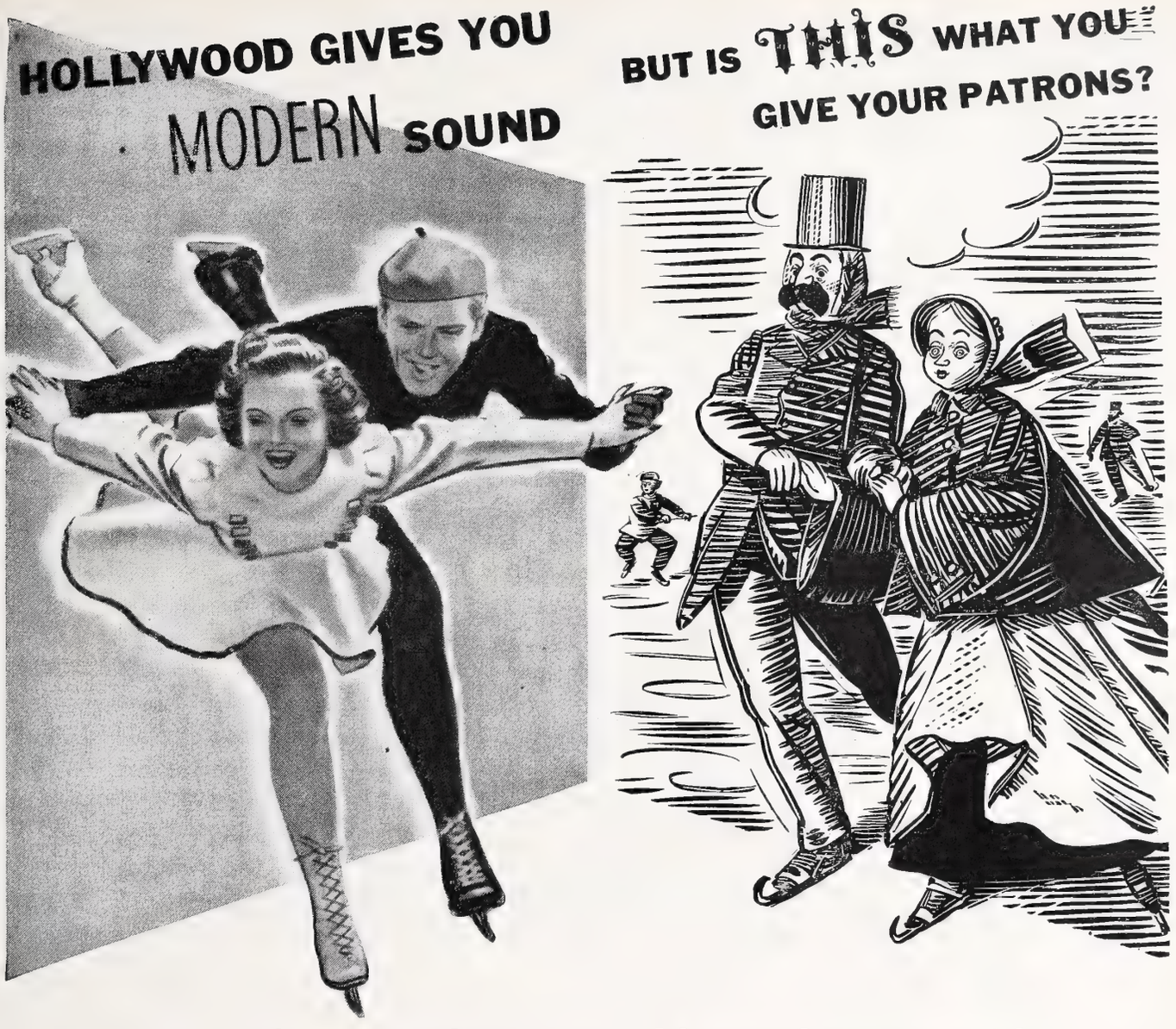
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MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION of BOXOFFICE

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Amusement and Entertainment Are But Slightly Akin

We vigorously oppose the inference and register a strong protest against further classifications of our modern motion picture theatres as "amusement establishments."

Census figures, recently released by the U. S. Department of Commerce, have again paid our industry a detrimental compliment in classifying us with dog tracks, domino parlors, pool halls, shooting galleries, and of all things, bicycle rentals.

Despite being given top rank in relative importance, we believe every self-respecting theatre owner will resent this odious comparison, wherein amusement is again confused with **entertainment.**

Under present high and rising standards of motion picture theatre operation, amusement is but slightly akin to **entertainment,** and the relationship is becoming ever more remote daily.

To be amused is certainly not to be entertained and if all picture exhibitors would rid themselves of the amusement complex and start entertaining people, the regular movie-going habit would be quickly revived.

The gracious art of entertaining calls for a house in order—hospitality, cordial reception, means of relaxation, convenience and consideration for the artistic senses of today's patrons, the average of whom is disinclined to associate moving pictures with amusement parks. They, too, resent the allusion.

All of which probably explains why our major producers are lately showing so much concern for the physical condition of theatres in which their best pictures are to meet the public.

Toler

Renovation Comes to the Rescue of Hard-Ridden Exhibitors . . . .



The candid camera catches "the skipper" of the Family and Vogue Theatres in one of his rare moments of relaxation, out at the Reynolds summer cottage on the shoreline of Lake Michigan.

THIS is a story about a red-head—a hot-blooded, hard-hitting guy from the Deep South, who twenty years ago transplanted himself from the business of selling type-writers to the business of showing moving pictures—in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

He's had a pretty hard fight—this red-head—since he established his Family Theatre on a hill-top. Troubles have often beset him; but he generally always comes out on top. Like the time several years ago when someone dynamited his theatre and blew the front of it right back through the screen. But he came through fighting as usual, and with a better house than he had before.

Always a rugged individualist, Howard T. Reynolds, owner of the Family Theatre, has had his ups and downs, but somehow he's managed to maintain his independence in spite of the stiffest and the best of circuit competition with which he is well surrounded. Pictures to him have had to be a secondary consideration because of the distance he's had to stay behind his competition, if indeed he could get good pictures at all, which was seldom.

Property Minded

But the red-head resists all such obstacles practically and hurdles them in stride. When the going gets tough and the crowds begin to fall off, he doesn't sit by and sulk. Instead he sets about improving his property, and you'd be surprised how quickly the news gets around. Reynolds hasn't made his first million yet; but he's had a lot of fun in the meantime. As for instance—

About three years ago he acquired by force of circumstances, more than desire, a small dump of a theatre a few blocks down the street from the Family, and in a neighborhood not so flush. But he fixed it up nicely with a new front, and renamed it the Vogue. At this time, he partially re-seated the Family, transferring the older seats to the Vogue. And thereby hangs the interesting tale of an important discovery.

Those new seats in the Family were of the very latest model, lounging comfort type, then considered far beyond the means of the average neighborhood theatre. But, and we have his own word for it, those new seats again saved the day for Reynolds. The word spread and soon people were coming from other parts of town to find comfort in the Family Theatre. That was three years ago, and time marches on.

Reynolds has just recently completed another lap in his almost continual relay of property improvements at the Family. The latest venture comprises, among other important changes, a complete reseating job—again with the latest creations of chair design with all the trimmings to catch the fancy of comfort-loving patrons.

The Family was an interesting theatre to begin with. At its birth 19 years ago, it was one of the first theatres in the country to offer a "cry room" for the convenience of mothers. Conceived during the atmospheric era with an Egyptian motive for the interior, the treatment, because of its unique character and quality has survived the change in styles. Quality always survives, and the interest in the Family Theatre's Egyptian atmosphere is still alive, thanks to original artistic design and painstaking application.

Unusual Auditorium

The interior of the auditorium, an idea of Reynolds, was originally done in white plaster, in some places over three inches deep, to allow for the hand-wrought carvings. The 3,000 designs, portions of which

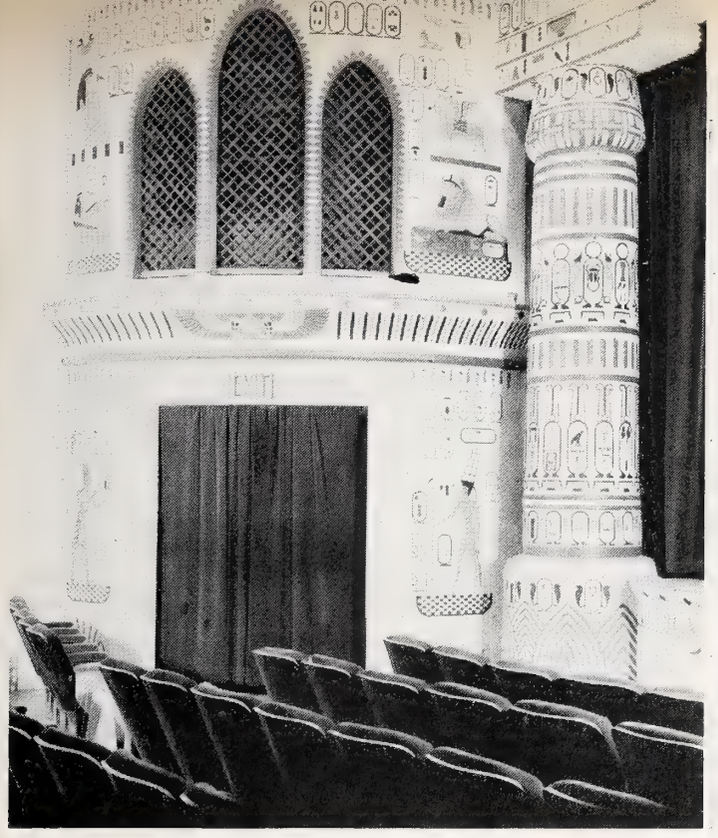


A view of the Family Theatre's inner lobby following the recent renovation. Whitened oak wall and ceiling finish, fluorescent carpets and mirrors in the standee partition windows that drop down to provide a screen view for waiting patrons are features of note.

are here illustrated, consumed two years' work by Peter Ebels of Grand Rapids, the carver. The proscenium alone required a year's work for four men and 17 weeks for painting. All figures are high-lighted in rich Egyptian colors. Across the top of the stage is a scarab with a 23-foot wing spread. Beneath the stage a broad, bold frieze of Egyptian heiroglyphics. Pilasters are similarly treated and the mummy-like masks serve to conceal indirect lighting fixtures.

Strange as it may seem, this ancient decorative technique provides an ideal setting for the modern furnishings of the auditorium, including chairs with rubber padded arm rests, rubber covered spring seats and full spring backs, all in a color combination of blue and beige. The seats are set 32 inches back to back on two wide aisles. Before there were three aisles.

The aisles are now run with fluorescent





carpets of a complementary modern pattern activated by black lights located in the ceiling. The effect is shown by contrast in pictures presented on the front cover of this issue.

Efficient air distribution and absence of disturbing drafts is another feature of the Family's air conditioning system. A large duct is located in the center of the ceiling, which has smaller feeding ducts branching off to the sides at intervals to feed the air to the specially designed diffusers which regulate the downward flow of air. Summer cooling is provided by 48-to-50 degree water from an 8-inch, deep well with the distribution system powered by a 2 h. p. motor—a most economical and efficient installation engineered by Mr. Reynolds who operates a blower manufacturing business as a side line in association with his two sons.

Lobby Innovations

Passing now to the inner lobby or standee area of the Family Theatre, we find

At left—A close-up view of the Egyptian carvings at left of the stage. Three thousand of these hand-carved figures and heiroglyphics adorn the walls of the Family Theatre's Auditorium. At right above—A full view of the auditorium with its ultra comfortable seats and fluorescent carpeted aisles, looking toward the richly adorned picture setting. Right below—a close-up of the new Family chair, with rubber-over-spring seats, 4½-inch thick full spring backs and rubber arm rests. (All photos courtesy Ideal Seating Company).

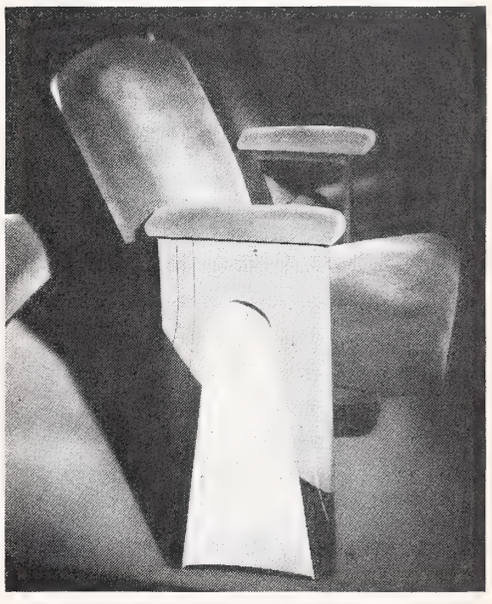
further interesting evidence of the recent renovation. This section was made three feet deeper than it was before, and the walls and ceiling portions were completely refinished in a light oak veneer material, the ceiling arranged in block tile effect. The entire surface was then rubbed down with a white paint to create a most pleasing polychrome effect.

The standee partition presents a most novel innovation, the credit for which goes to Mrs. Reynolds. Instead of the customary windows, portholes or portieres in the partition, the eight openings were fitted with mirrors facing the incoming patrons. When there's an overflow crowd and the inner lobby is occupied by waiting patrons, these mirrored windows are simply lowered and the standing patrons have an unobstructed view of the picture.

Light Activates Carpet

This area is also covered with fluorescent carpet which is activated when the house lights are dimmed, by black lights located in the same ceiling fixtures that contain the bright lights. The two large sand urns and portions of the ticket chopper are fluorescent painted, and the unusual effect is the talk of the town.

An amusing incident occurred one evening shortly after the renovation was completed. Standing aside in the lobby, Reynolds overheard one of his male patrons remark to his wife as the black lights were turned on while they walked across the carpet: "My gawd, what's the matter? Do you see what I see, Mary? If you do,



guess I'm all right. But I think I'm goin' crazy!"

Other Improvements

And now to the outer lobby, where further renovation took place. Walls and ceiling were given the "white oak" finish and a most unusual new floor was laid. It consists of vari-colored irregularly broken tile pieces set in terrazzo formation, the tiles extending slightly above the white cement that holds them firmly together to provide a perfect non-slip surface to the slightly ramped floor. The confection room at the right of the outer entrance was also redecorated.

The only recent improvement effected in the projection equipment—and all that was needed—was the installation of new intermediate high intensity lamps. Projection and sound reception at the Family is far above the recognized average.

All this doesn't write finis to the improvement program for the Family Theatre, however. Reynolds now contemplates

(Continued on page 43)

Cover Plate

A composite view of the auditorium of the recently renovated Family Theatre in Grand Rapids, Michigan, looking from stage to rear. The super-imposed pictures provide an interesting study of comfortable seating arrangement, plus the appealing effects of so-called "black lighting" for carpeted aisles and other furnishings. The upper section of the plate depicts the scene when the house lights are on; the lower view visualizes the effect seen by the patron who enters after the picture is on the screen. The fluorescent carpet prevents groping and stumbling in the search for seats; besides emphasizing the carpet as a medium of decorative beauty and functional purpose. (Photos courtesy Ideal Seating Company).

TODAY... a Newsreel Theatre with Numerous Innovations

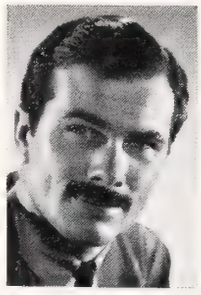


"DESIGN the finest small theatre in the world. I am leaving for California tonight; back in six months. I trust the theatre will be done by the time I get back."

Such were the instructions of Richard E. Beck to David Chapman one day last summer. Thus Richard Beck became the proud owner of "Today," Chicago's new and unique newsreel theatre. Dave Chapman, well known industrial designer, is the man responsible for the design of the project and many of the innovations in created house appeal which it represents.



RICHARD E. BECK, Owner



DAVID CHAPMAN, Designer

Undoubtedly the complete trust in his architects and the designer Mr. Beck evidenced by his casual instructions before the project was started, is responsible for the many outstanding innovations to be found there and the made-to-order exactness of the project in every patronage appeal particular. The designers were given *carte blanche*, save for Beck's power to veto suggestions, and the trust was amply vindicated.

Ideas in Harmony

Beck and Chapman were peculiarly akin in their ideas of what was to be desired in a small modern newsreel theatre. As Beck put it: "Luxurious practical appointments are as important to patrons of a theatre as the show on the screen. On the surface it may appear ironical that the unparalleled destruction of our age should be shown in the finest surroundings art and science can devise. However, there is more optimism than irony in the creation of 'Today's' unrivalled setting for the current news. I am sure that when the patrons of "Today" see all the ingenious comforts and beauty brought to them by this modern age, they will forget some of this gloomy talk about civilization's backward strides. We hope that 'Today' will be a symbol of the comfort, hope and progress in store for the average man, in spite of destructive wars."

"Today's" frontal display is spectacular, in keeping with its highly competitive situation among modern downtown store fronts and show windows. An angular marquee with dominant program display and brilliant illumination serves to invite passersby to step within for a smart hour's presentation of newsreels and variety.

Chapman's ideas on the modern newsreel theatre were expressed in this manner: "Cultural long pants for movies are marked by the emergence of the small, streamlined newsreel theatre. The ornate theatre of the twenties was to some people all that they knew of gracious living. But today, functional design coupled with compressed news of the world, popularizes the realistic viewpoint. Although modern patrons may still chew gum and hold hands at the movies, they are becoming increasingly conscious of politics and economics, history and art."

Despite some of his apparently revolutionary showmanship ideas, Dick Beck is not a newcomer to the business. As a matter of fact, he might be said to have grown up in the moving picture business, inasmuch as his father, Clarence E. Beck, was one of the oldest exhibitors in point of experience in Chicago. He owned and operated the old Castle Theatre on State Street, the Alcazar, Rose and Pastime, all loop houses now defunct but once very much a part of the theatre scene. Clarence Beck also will be remembered as a pioneer in the newsreel theatre field many years ago, but at that time the public was not yet ready for full length newsreel programs.

Thus it may be seen that Richard Beck





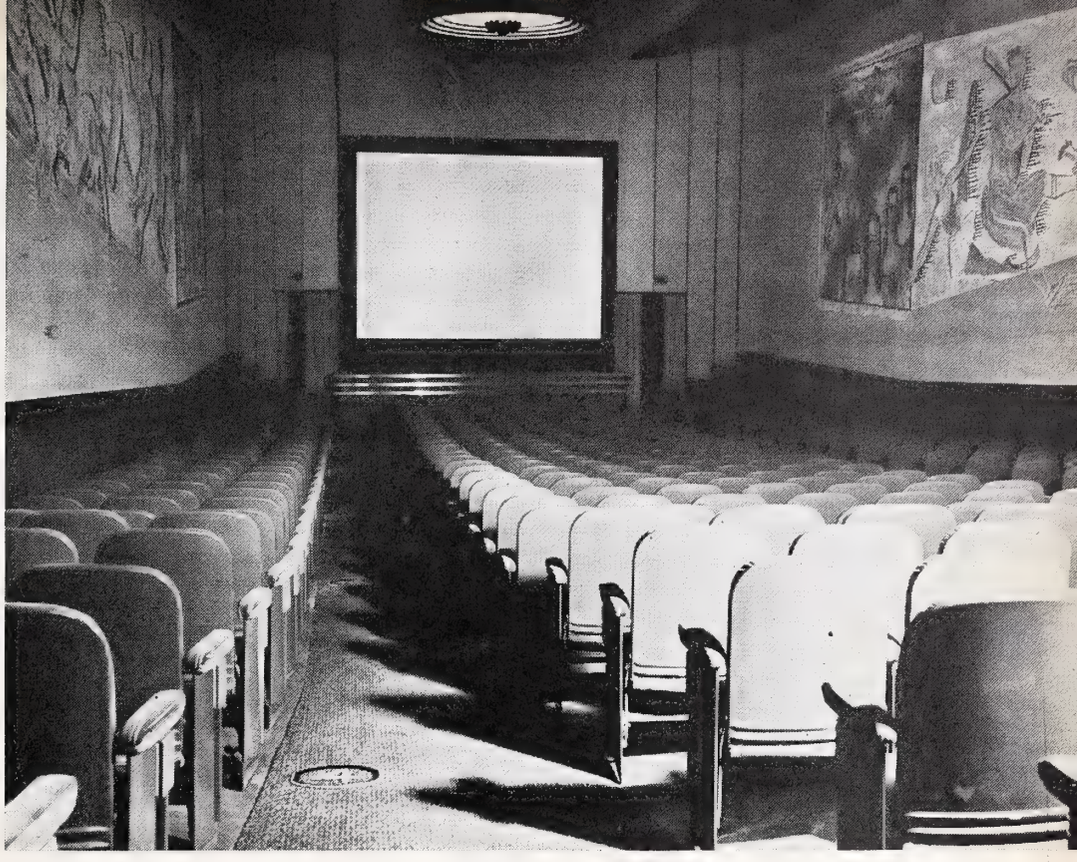
A view of the entrance lobby (left) shows some of the many innovations to be found from the front to rear of this house. For the first time, fluorescent lighting was used beneath the marquee and in the ceiling of this exterior portion of the theatre. The foyer of this intimate house (right) is graced by rich wood veneered walls, indirect lighting, rough-textured carpeting, woven from flax, and a mural which sets the decorative scheme and portrays surrealistically the spirit of newsreel entertainment.

has realized his father's dream of a quarter-century ago in "Today" for Chicago. His experience also encompasses the operation of theatres in Newark and Elizabeth, New Jersey, and association with the "March of Time" in New York City.

Modern Surroundings

Located on Madison Street at Dearborn, "Today" is only one block from the busiest corner in the world, an ideal situation for a house of this type. The building of which it is a part is one of the new "rent payers" erected on the site of a razed obsolete office building. The architectural firm of Loewenberg and Loewenberg handled the project, including the theatre portion in collaboration with David Chapman.

Inasmuch as the building of which it is a part is modern in every particular, offering store fronts and show windows which would vie with any modern theatre facade, it was necessary for "Today" to be more than ordinarily outstanding in its frontal display, in order to dominate its immediate surroundings. This was accomplished by an angular marquee surmounted by the namesign on either side, brilliantly illuminated by both incandescent lamps and neon in white and colors and equipped with multi-size silhouette changeable letters for proper program exploitation.



Fluorescent murals on the side-walls of the auditorium serve functionally for both illumination and color interest in the new "Today." Comfort and convenience as the primary elements are stressed in the deeply upholstered chairs, with retracting seats, which are spaced more than usually wide apart, and proper air conditioning and perfect projection and sound.

Here too, is to be found one of the first and most revolutionary innovations instigated by Mr. Chapman. For the first time, fluorescent lighting is used under the marquee to accomplish a new and stunning effect. The light is especially heated in winter to prevent cracking of the tubes, and in the summer when extreme temperature is produced by ordinary light, it will be highly preferable since fluorescent lighting exudes no heat.

A colorful non-skid terrazzo sidewalk in front of the house serves also to distinguish the theatre from its neighboring enterprises. The material is especially treated with an anti-slip compound and its design, including an inlaid "Today," flows harmoniously from the curb to the lobby entrance doors. An inset rubber link mat to one side of the boxoffice is a further functional precaution for wet weather.

Entrance Dominates

The entrance lobby is interestingly contoured with a semi-circular boxoffice at one side. Marble forms the base of this portion and structural glass in a rich mahogany color with high reflective quality is used at the top. The center portion of the walls of this entrance-way is completely covered by display in illuminated sectional frames. Entrance doors to the interior of ""Today" are novel in both design and function. They are composed of a louvred glass which permits light passage and reflection but which is translucent in effect.

The front treatment of this theatre was of primary importance as a competitive factor. All other facades in the new building which it occupies are also modernly treated with structural glass fronts in a wide variety of colors and smart designs. That the theatre should predominate in its surroundings was imperative if it were to attract the most interest from passers-by on a busy downtown thoroughfare.

"Today's" foyer is a gracefully designed and furnished functional part of the house. Its walls are lined with dark-toned wood

(Continued on page 66)



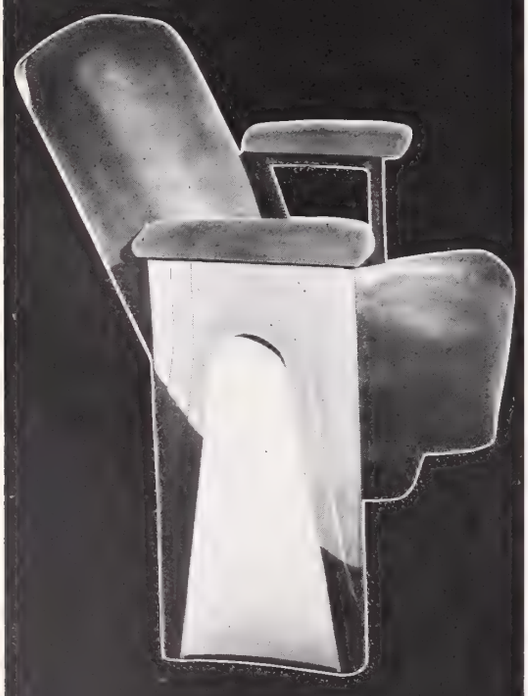
An inviting lounge with smart modern furnishings is made striking by a novel "postermontage" composed of colorful one- and three-sheets of celebrities and news events. For timeliness, this will be changed frequently.

IDENTIFICATION

(Today Theatre)

ACOUSTICAL MATERIAL: Sprayo-Flake Co.
AIR CONDITIONING: Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co., by Kroeschell Eng. Co.
ARCHITECTS: Loewenberg & Loewenberg.
AUDITORIUM MURALS: John Pratt.
CARPET: Klearflax Carpeting Co., through The Slater Co.
DESIGNER: David Chapman.
FOYER MURALS: Miss Pat O'Brien.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Krahl Construction Co.
HAND-DRIERS: Chicago Hardware Foundry Co.
LIGHTING FIXTURES: Belson Mfg. Co.
PROJECTION: Brenkert Light Projection Co., thru Joe Goldberg, Inc.
SEATS: Kroehler Mfg. Co.
SIGNS: Whiteway Sign Co.
SOUND: RCA Mfg. Co., Inc.
STRUCTURAL GLASS: Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co.
TOILET SEATS: Sterilseat Corp.
WOOD VENEER: United States Plywood Corp.
Additional particulars on the project may be secured upon request to The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.

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Shown is the Family Theatre, Grand Rapids, Michigan, (Howard T. Reynolds, owner and manager) recently reseated by Ideal.

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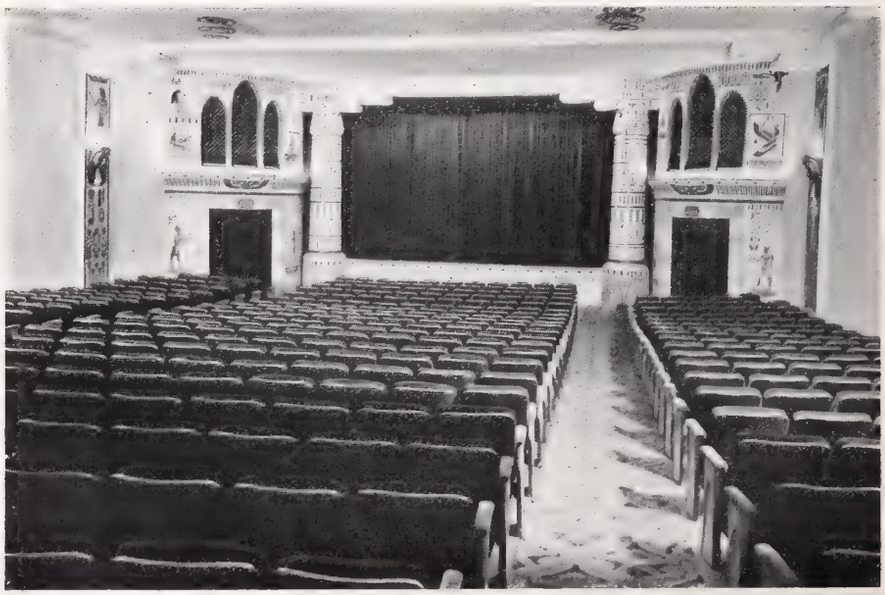
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Refrain Now, or Later Be Restrained... the Concept of Consent Decrees

by **ANSEL M. MOORE**

WHENEVER a litigant in a civil law suit becomes sorely aggrieved, but can't very well prove his allegations against the adversary, or for some other reason is placed in legal *status quo,* perhaps by reason of "unclean hands," self-incrimination or one of a number of other causes that make final adjudication difficult or probably inequitable; or

Whenever the holy state of matrimony reaches that point where a trip to Reno is in prospect, with a break-up of home ties threatened and adverse publicity likely to be the unfortunate lot of one or both parties to the impending divorce suit, as well as to the dependents involved when papa and mama start throwing epithets and/or more solid elements at each other and seem no longer to be able to collaborate in the common endeavor; or

When two long associated business partners, who may have built up a strong mutual competence through joint effort, team-work and abiding trust in each other, decide, because of incompatibility, or perhaps a feeling of fraudulence on the part of one against the other, decide either or both, to take their troubles to court and a resultful, once happy business combination seems ready to go on the rocks; or

In Industry, Too

When an industry reaches a critical point in its life where it becomes a house divided against itself and the various membered groups of the industrial household start spending more time throwing brick bats at each other than in discharging their several responsibilities to outsiders, who are expected to, and do provide the only source of sustenance for the said industry and every one who's a part of it—

Then, and in all such or similar events, there is need for friendly intervention, and the establishment of a twilight period in which the parties at swords' points can cool off, relax and more calmly compose their differences, without forthwith destroying the fruits of former collaboration.

That, gentlemen, is the concept of the Consent Decrees, which lately have become a popular form for the protective settlement of inter-industrial disputes just outside of court—but with the Court standing by watchfully to see that the big, bad boys play fairly and not too roughly with the smaller ones who have complained about being picked on.

Under "An Act to Protect Trade and Commerce Against Unlawful Restraints and Monopolies," the Government has recently given our moving picture industry a chance to cool off and collect its wits, without further damage to itself or incrimination in the eyes of the people. During this 3-year trial, fact-finding period, the process of paring out the bad spots and preserving the sound portions of the apple will be undertaken under a suspended decision of the Court. That briefly is the concept of our own Moving Picture Consent Decree, a rather complicated but altogether alleviating edict.

In thus effecting a conciliatory or companionate arrangement between the alleged aggressors and the complainants aggrieved, the Court in effect suggests to the former that they "pipe down" on the monopolistic tendencies and acquirement advantages charged and divest themselves of all suspicion. To the complainants a very strong hint is handed out in the decree, i. e., if you fellows want the relief prayed for, you must conduct yourselves and your houses in a manner that will do justice, not damage, to the interests of the defendants, as well as yourselves.

Probationary Period

Without taking sides in the long drawn-out controversies that seem to have culminated, temporarily at least, in the Consent Decree; we feel constrained to remind our readers that interim conduct, on both sides, will unquestionably be the determining factor in some future final adjudication of the rights claimed and wrongs alleged.

And without prejudice to anyone, let's try to be practical in our consideration of those clauses of the Consent Decree which have to do with the qualifications of the complainants, who may come before the arbiters in search of relief.

Some will claim, of course, that the clause of arbitration on clearance having to do with "the character, appearance and condition of each (theatre), including its furnishings, equipment and conveniences" is discriminatory in design and a drawback to the little fellows who feel they can't afford the popular provisions of the modern theatre plant.

We discourage any such construction being placed on that clause, and here and now acclaim it as one of the wise provisions of the entire code assuming it will be fairly applied by the arbiter in all cases. It will do more to revive picture patronage and put money in the pockets of the qualifying exhibitors than most other forms of relief they may seek.

Let's not assume the liability of too much discrimination against the smaller theatres in respect to this property condition clause. Most small capacity theatres are in far better physical condition today than the rank and file of so-called first-run houses of large to middlin' size which too long have hovered under the protection of picture priorities. These ramshackle old relics, whose owners have long winked knowingly at any suggestion of the need for modernization, should be the first to feel the effects of compulsion under this clearance clause, if, indeed, any compulsion will be required. Only theatres favored by location and the love interest of the producers have been able to flaunt the growing public demand for modernity, and these conditional clauses should work both ways.

Benefits Investment

We're just gullible enough to believe that in these "house condition" clauses of the rules for arbitration, the real showmen of the industry—the men who have invested real money in modern plants and equipment—will find themselves in more favorable position regarding pictures and play dates under the Consent Decree.

It is now a bit too early to determine the effects or foresee the complications that may arise from the application of these conditional clauses in the arbitration proceedings of the future. But as far as we can see, although they may seem a bit compulsory, the effect should be to fortify the position of every exhibitor who deserves to stay in theatre business and prosper. If he cannot, or willfully refuses, to compete with others for public favor in his community, his rights must continue in jeopardy.

During this twilight period or interim of industrial adjustment the Court has in effect said to both parties at interest and to all concerned: Gentlemen, you must refrain from acts that run contrariwise to the best interests of your industry. You may stay in business as you are; but if either of you still persists in doing that which hurts or hampers the other in his worthy effort to live and let live, then you're liable to be restrained, not indefinitely—but definitely.

Some exhibitors may feel that the house condition clauses of the Consent Decree will operate as "jokers" put there to provide the distributors with an out in case license is sought to be denied a complaining exhibitor. We hardly believe they were included for that purpose or that they

(Continued on page 54)

What Are We Waiting For?

The important feature role of the modern moving picture theatre in the drama of our National Preparedness Program will be featured by Ansel Moore in next (April 26th) issue, wherein he will sound another call to arms—and to action.—The Editor.

It Pays to Provide SAFE WAYS on RUSH DAYS

by **LESLIE CHILDS**

ONE of the easiest ways for a motion picture theatre owner to get into a peck of trouble, and perhaps find himself saddled with a substantial judgment, is to fail in protecting his patrons from "crowd" injuries on rush days. This because, generally speaking, a theatre operator is held to the duty of reasonable care in this phase of management.

Of course, each case of this kind will necessarily turn upon its particular facts and circumstances, so that the subject cannot be covered by any hard and fast rule. However, as an illustration of judicial reasoning thereon, and the possible danger to a theatre operator of a slip-up here, the following case may be reviewed with interest and profit.

Crowd in Foyer

Here the defendant was engaged in operating a motion picture theatre. The plaintiff, accompanied by some friends, purchased tickets for the performance then in progress. Plaintiff and her party were detained in the foyer, which was roped off, because all the seats were occupied at that time.

A crowd gathered in back of where plaintiff was standing, awaiting the end of the current performance when they would be admitted as the theatre was being emptied. The crowd became impatient and, when the chain was removed permitting entry into the theatre, rushed forward. The plaintiff was caught in this rush, shoved against the seats and hurled to the floor, suffering serious injury. In due time plaintiff brought the instant action for damages against the defendant.

Upon the trial of the case, the evidence tended to show that there was only one adult employe and two volunteer boys on hand to handle the crowd. And the trial court submitted the case to a jury on the question of whether or not the defendant had exercised due care for the protection of the plaintiff.

The jury answered this question "No," and awarded the plaintiff $1,250 in damages. From judgment on this, the defendant appealed, and the higher court in reviewing the record, as to the circumstances of the accident, in part, said:

The Record Reviewed

"The plaintiff was injured. She was injured by being knocked down by the crowd that came surging through the opening when the chains were lowered, so that the main contention of the defendant, when it is all summed up, is that the management of a place of amusement owes no duty to protect its patrons from injury by the proper handling of crowds.

"We cannot agree with this contention and we believe the law to be that those who operate amusement places must exercise reasonable care to meet hazards and dangers which may reasonably be anticipated. That there was a hazard and danger in this situation, is beyond dispute . . ."

Then in stating its conclusions on the whole case, and in affirming the judgment, the court continued:

"The law on this point is well settled . . . The great weight of authority . . . is that the duty of the proprietor of a place of amusement to exercise reasonable care for the protection and safety of its patrons, goes further than the mere provision of suitable premises.

"One who invites persons upon his premises must properly protect those accepting the invitation. In this day and age when managers and proprietors of places of amusement, and other places, invite the public and thereby cause great crowds of people to be massed together, it would be violative of the common rules of humanity to say that no duty is imposed upon those proprietors and managers, who, for their profit, bring crowds together, to exercise ordinary care to protect and guard these people from the 'crowd spirit' which always prevails.

"Since they owe such duty, it clearly becomes a jury question . . . as to whether the proximate cause of an injury to a person did or did not arise through a breach of duty. We find no error in the record . . . Judgment affirmed."

Conclusion

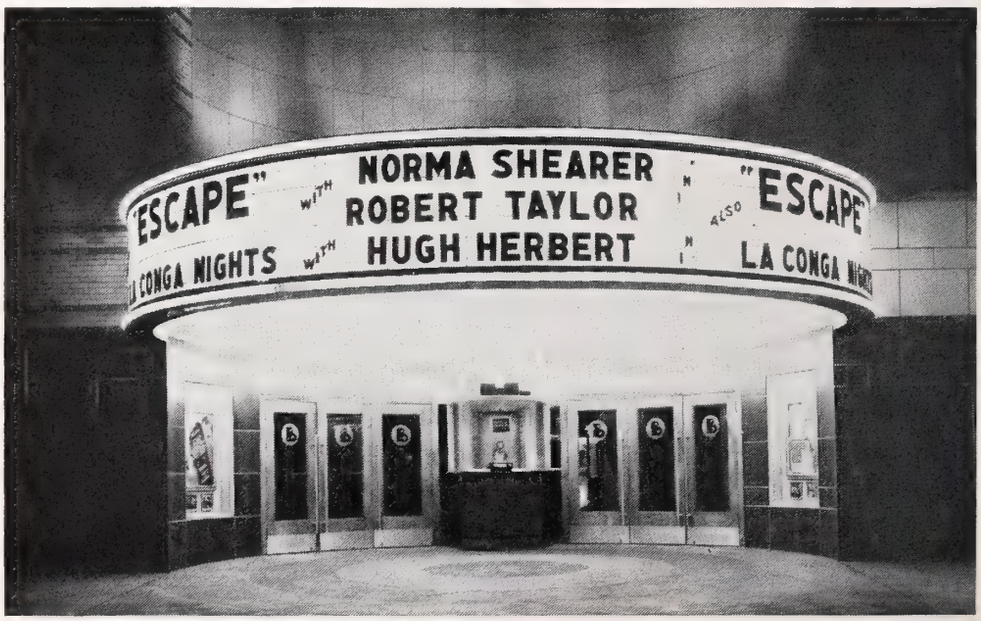
So ended the case, with the defendant, theatre operator, being held in the amount of the judgment, $1,250, for the injury to plaintiff. The court taking the position that the question of the defendant's lack of care in protecting the plaintiff from the rush crowd was properly submitted to the jury, and that the latter's verdict thereon could not be disturbed.

The foregoing case is one of the clearest, on the point involved, that the books contain; its holding is in accord with the great weight of authority. The language of the court has been quoted from at length to show the basis of the reasoning upon which the defendant was held liable.

Here, clearly, a slip-up that results in injury to a patron, caused by insufficient facilities safely to handle crowds, may indeed prove costly. And as an example of the importance of care in providing *"safe ways on rush days"* the case reviewed may well be had in mind by theatre operators in general.

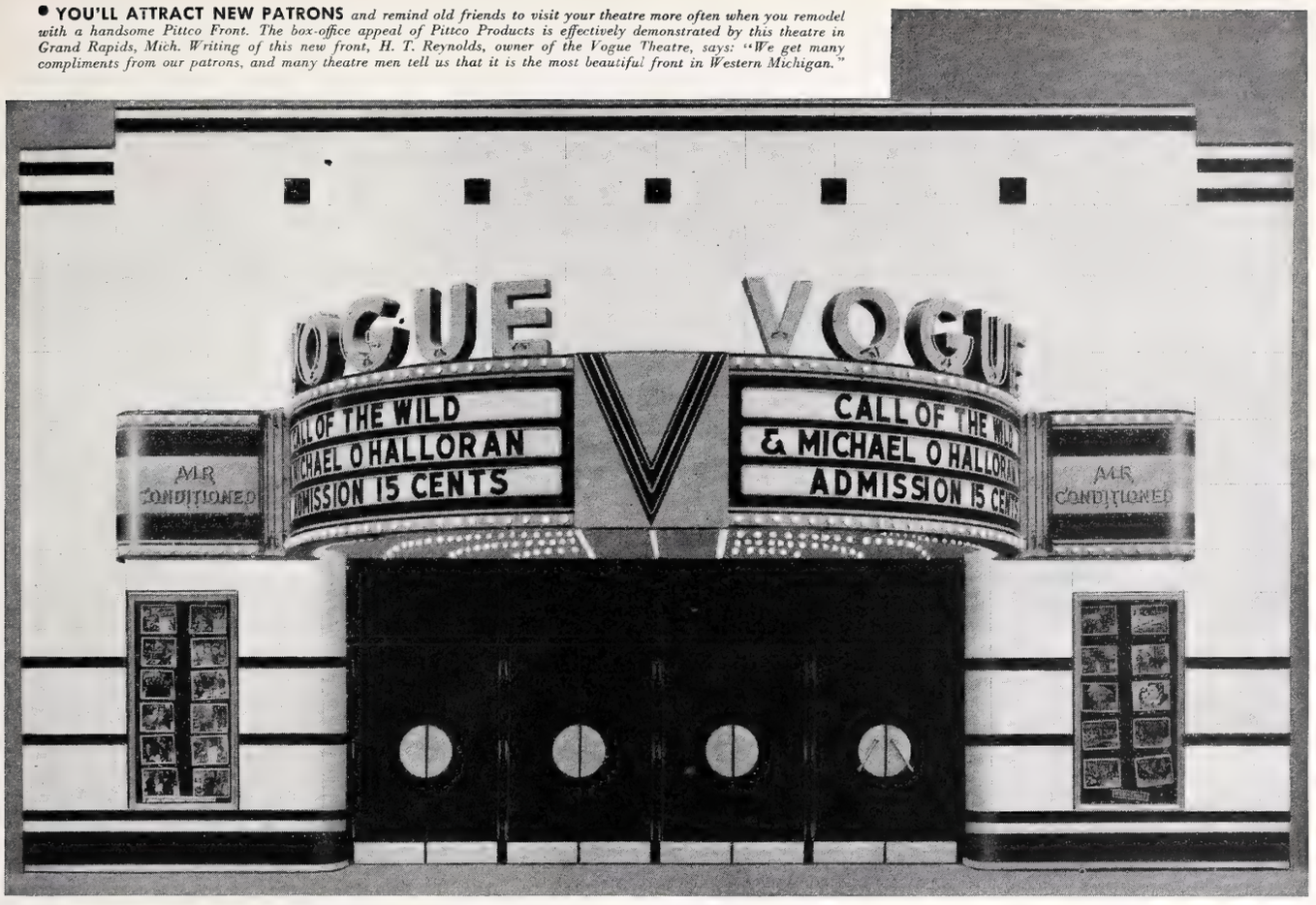
Don't overlook the unseen parts of the house when modernizing. The projection room with its many mechanical elements and the service rooms with heating and air conditioning equipment play vital parts in the entire scheme despite the fact that they are not so closely examined by the customers.

CIRCULAR MARQUEE A POTENT DISPLAY MEDIUM



Unique in contour and brilliantly illuminated, the facade and marquee of the new Boulevard Theatre at Columbus, Ohio, is outstanding in point-of-sale promotional appeal. The unusual marquee is equipped with highly legible 10- and 16-inch cove type silhouette changeable letters with wrinkle-black faces and coves and red edges. (Photo courtesy Wagner Sign Service, Inc.)

● **YOU'LL ATTRACT NEW PATRONS** *and remind old friends to visit your theatre more often when you remodel with a handsome Pittco Front. The box-office appeal of Pittco Products is effectively demonstrated by this theatre in Grand Rapids, Mich. Writing of this new front, H. T. Reynolds, owner of the Vogue Theatre, says: "We get many compliments from our patrons, and many theatre men tell us that it is the most beautiful front in Western Michigan."*



All dressed up...and going places!

PROFITS MOUNT... when your theatre wears a new Pittco Front

MAYBE you think the familiar old front on your theatre is good enough. But what about your patrons? There's no doubt about it—they prefer the theatre with a shining Pittco Front that promises a comfortable interior and a full dollar of entertainment value for every dollar spent. The minute fewer people visit your theatre—take warning! It is time to dress up *your* theatre with a new Pittco Front.

A handsome Pittco Front attracts a greater volume of regular patronage from ever-widening areas, and exerts a strong influence on visitors from out-of-town. Theatre owners and merchants of all kinds over the country have written us that business increases following Pittco modernizations have far exceeded their expectations. Read about their experiences in our new Store Front Book. You can get it by sending the coupon.

Because of our complete line of Pittco Store Front Products, and their ready availability anywhere in the country through one of the hundreds of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company branches and jobbers—you will find it a simple matter to order a new Pittco Front. And when you remodel, consult an architect to make sure of an economical, well-planned job. Our experts will cooperate with him gladly in planning a Pittco Front to suit your needs. You can pay for your Pittco Front with the Pittsburgh Time Payment Plan if you wish — just 20% down, and the balance in monthly payments.

PITTCO STORE FRONTS
PITTSBURGH PLATE GLASS COMPANY
"PITTSBURGH" stands for Quality Glass and Paint

Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company,
2260-1 Grant Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Please send me, without obligation, your new, illustrated booklet, "Pittco Store Fronts — and Their Influence on Retail Sales."

Name .....

Street .....

City ..... State .....

PLANNING

INTERESTING CASE HISTORIES ON CURRENT MODERN THEATRE PROJECTS

Obstacles Met in Overcoming a Theatre's Obsolescence

REMODELING an old theatre is usually a tough job. Unlike new construction, it is necessary to correct prior mistakes, overcome obsolescence, and impose on an existing structure a modern face, form and substance. But some jobs are harder than others.

One of the tough ones was the Co-Ed, formerly the Orpheum Theatre, at Fairfield, Iowa, on which L. E. Gaines spent over $25,000 this winter. The old Orpheum was 38 feet wide, 90 feet long and 15 feet, six inches high. The floor had been raised in the back so that it was two feet above street level. Adding to the "cracker-box" effect were the two-foot beams on the ceiling.

There had been previous attempts to remodel this theatre, and air conditioning had been installed at various times by local "experts." Yet ventilation, along with lighting, remained poor. The theatre possessed practically no front lobby, and the front entrance was inaccessible and congested, as can be seen from the "before" picture here presented. Fire exits also were poorly arranged, and the projection booth was a fire trap.



The front of L. E. Gaines' recently remodeled theatre, the Co-Ed, formerly the Orpheum, now gives eye-stopping evidence of the amazing metamorphosis which can take place through corrective planning. Gleaming structural glass facing material, illuminated glass blocks and display cases, modernly styled entrance doors and a marquee which uses the wiles of color, lights and legible program display letters make this new front a real patronage enticer. Contrast its effectiveness with the former facade, (at right) where a bunting canopy and a dearth of illumination and attraction power were the very antithesis of modern showmanship.



Congestion Cured

In order to eliminate the mistakes, all that now remains of the old Orpheum in the new Co-Ed are the walls, a part of the auditorium floor and the upper floor joists. Because of the old theatre's congested condition, its remodeling called for a lot of planning and engineering. The new floor plan necessarily represents distinct departure from the previous arrangement. The former lobby was six inches above the street level, while the new one is on a level with the street. In order to conserve space, the front lobby was designed in the shape of an isosceles trapezoid, with the base toward the auditorium.

Owing to the lack of space, Al Hauetter, who handled the remodeling project, created two small foyers, one on each side of the lobby, leading to the runways that empty into the cross aisle in front of the stadium balcony in the auditorium.

On the right, as the patron enters the lobby, is an unusual lobby-shop with a modern popcorn machine recessed in the wall. Off the left hand foyer is a small lounge and drinking fountain. Above the fountain is an attractive, four-foot, round mirror with built-in fluorescent lights.

The front lobby walls are covered with a resilient material, similar to linoleum, having a main field of reddish brown and stripes of cream and sand colors. The ceiling is of insulating wall-board painted with cream casein paint. Also in the ceiling is a decorative picture high-lighted with gold fluorescent lights four feet long.

Stairways Add Space

The larger stairway leading off the lobby and down to the lounge adds a good deal to the appearance of the lobby, but more importantly it increases the feeling of spaciousness. The letters in the sign above the stairway, reading "Lounge," are of cast aluminum, indirectly lighted by green fluorescent lights. At the bottom of the stairway as well as in the foyer of the front lobby are a number of 44 by 60-inch display cases, indirectly lighted.

Lounges, recreation room, offices, ushers' dressing room, advertising room, janitor's supply room and nursery are downstairs, beneath the stadium and front lobby. Manager's office, smoking lounge and rest rooms are to the right of the stairway. The business office is a novel feature of the remodeling. Its walls are of stained walnut, hand rubbed, with furniture to match. It too is indirectly lighted by fluorescent lamps.

The smoking lounge has a number of bamboo settees and chairs of varied colors, smoking stands and magazine racks. Its walls are plastered and painted in maroon to contrast with the white ceiling.

Recreation Rooms Added

To the left of the stairway in the basement is the children's playroom, and off this room is a recreation room for adults. Both rooms are fully sound-proof so that music from the coin-operated record player and voices cannot be heard in the audi-

torium. The recreation room has numerous settees and smoking stands for patrons resting between shows and it also serves to accommodate over-flow crowds. Fairfield is a college town and the recreation room has proved most popular with students as a meeting place.

The basement has its own special ventilating system to remove smoke and odors from the lounges and rest rooms. This system operates independently from the air conditioning plant that takes care of the theatre proper.

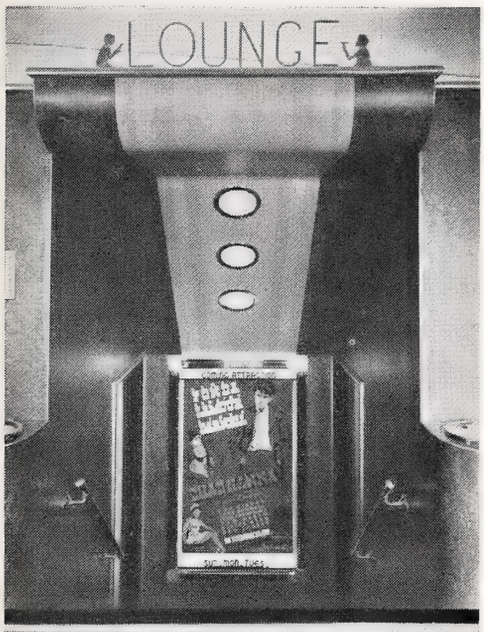
The auditorium is indirectly lighted by cobalt-blue neon tubing. Enough light is provided so that a patron can read a newspaper, but the screen is so installed that auditorium lighting doesn't color or "thin" the picture and its lighting.

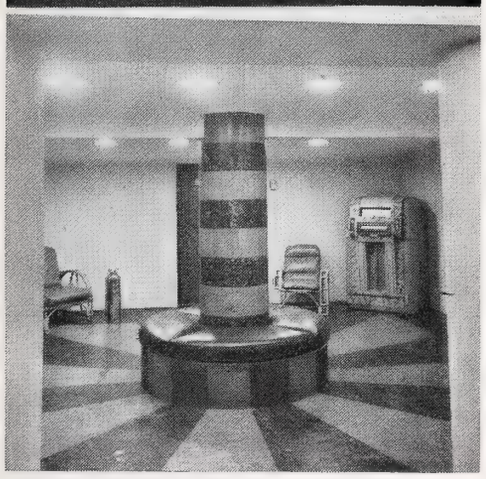
The stadium is approached by one central stairway, which is above the one leading down to the lounges. There is a small cross-aisle in front of the projection room and the seats in the stadium are so arranged that seated patrons are not disturbed by others entering.

The new projection room differs somewhat from the standard. The front wall is ten feet wide, the back wall 16 feet, thus causing the side walls to run back at an angle. This "extra" room for the projection plant uses up space formerly occupied by seats in an area poorly lighted and badly ventilated.

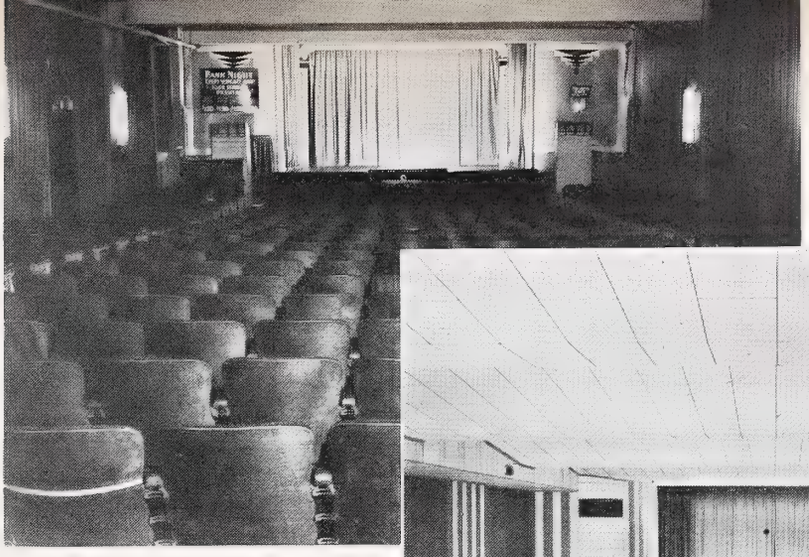
While auditorium space was made smal-

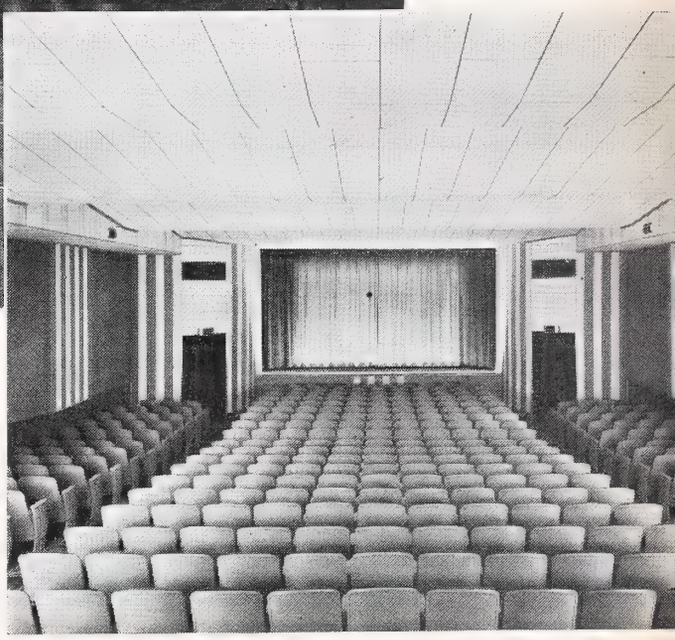
(Continued on following page)





Since Fairfield, Iowa, is a college town, the Co-Ed Theatre appeals further to its patrons by providing a lounge and recreation room in the basement. The inviting entrance and stairway to this portion is shown above, and the smart gathering place itself is to be noted below. Modern furnishings, a resilient floor and a coin-operated music box invite gaiety and dancing, while acoustical treatment assures no interference with performance in other parts of the theatre.





In the auditorium of the Co-Ed Theatre perhaps more than any place else, the characteristics of obsolescence were obliterated successfully by smart planning and efficient use of modern materials and equipment. The OLD, shown above, was a conglomerate of dinginess and gloominess of atmosphere. The NEW, at right, is composed of the appealing elements of comfort, convenience and beauty of appearance—ever an encouragement to return patronage.

THEATRE PLANNING GUIDE

Through the cooperation of our affiliated architects, leading manufacturers, their engineers, designers, dealers, contractors and others, a majority of whom are active members of The Modern Theatre Planning Institute, we are prepared to assist the theatre-owner in selection and application of all commodities and services needed in remodeling and modernizing by placing him in touch with dependable sources of supply. As sponsor of the Institute, we strive to impartially relay each inquiry only to sources of reliable information. However, we do not guarantee all statements or claims made in connection with products offered.

MAIL THIS FORM FOR FREE INFORMATION

The MODERN THEATRE Planning Institute, 3-29-41
Room 334—332 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen: Without cost or obligation please arrange to have data supplied to us covering the following subjects:

☐ Acoustics	☐ Decorating	☐ Screens
☐ Air Conditioning	☐ Heating Equipment	☐ Seating
☐ Amplifiers	☐ Lighting Fixtures	☐ Signs and Marquees
☐ Architectural Service	☐ Lounge Furniture	☐ Sound Equipment
☐ Carpets	☐ Plumbing Fixtures	☐ Theatre Fronts
☐ Cleaning Equipment	☐ Projectors	☐ Ticket Machines
☐ Complete Remodeling	☐ Projection Lamps	☐ Other Subjects

.....

Theatre .....Seating Capacity.....

Address .....

City ..... State.....

Signed.....
(Owner-Manager)

THE MODERN THEATRE ★ PLANNING INSTITUTE MEMBER

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NOTE: The Institute does not undertake the practical functions of an architect or designer. Its service is intended merely to place our readers in touch with reliable local sources of preliminary information and advice on theatre planning and structural problems. Inquiries pertaining to Architectural Service will be relayed to the nearest member of the advisory board.

Obstacles Met in Overcoming a Theatre's Obsolescence

(Continued from preceding page)

ler, only a few less seats were installed; 450 of the 20-inch chairs, all spaced 32 inches apart on 42-inch aisles. A very pleasing effect was achieved by checker-boarding the seats, alternating colors of rust and gold. Draperies in the theatre are of rayon silk plush in gold and bronze, and they conform with seat and carpet colors to provide a warm and harmonious color scheme.

Practical Decoration

The ceiling of the auditorium is of white acoustical board with a two-tone effect of white and cream on the air ducts along the juncture of ceiling and sidewall at each side and down the sidewalls. The ceiling presented a difficult problem with the large I-beams running crosswise, two feet deep every fourteen feet along the ceiling. This effect was eliminated by "saw-toothing" the ceiling as indicated in the picture. It also enabled the designer to provide for very pleasing indirect lighting. The one striking and abrupt change in color is the wainscoting in bright blue, highlighted by various shades of the same color.

The stage is quite small, and an air-washer is located at its right side. Air is taken down through a wind tunnel beneath the stage and up the other side to the fan room. This arrangement was made necessary by lack of space. Below the fan, in the funnel, a heating coil is located, which thus effects a combination heating and cooling system. The entire system of rooms and tunnel is covered with asphalt coated wallboard, which eliminates all tendency toward dampness and odor absorption. In the fan room also a small fan is located, supplying the heat and cooling for the lounges and recreation rooms in the basement. It is operated on a separate thermostat.

Air is conducted to the basement and distributed via a long metal duct. In the duct is fixed an automatic shutter so that smoke and odors will not be drawn back into the theatre by the larger system. The main air conditioning system has an unusual system of ducts, and heat also is carried to the front lobby, foyer, stairway and ticket-office.

The marquee of the new Co-Ed Theatre has a striking arrangement of coloring in neon. Its name-signs are in gold, bottom and top borders are of sky blue and the short bars at each end are of rose. The tubing extending from the top of the nose piece to the back of the ticket office is in gold and white, 14 bars in all. Massive hardware on the front doors, combined with circular glass, is a characteristic modern touch. The ticket office is modern and smart. The boxoffice base is of glass blocks indirectly lighted by four fluorescent bulbs that give an abundance of light. It is equipped with Venetian blinds that may be drawn while money is counted, and during the day.

Atmosphere of this newly renovated theatre, both inside and out, and perhaps its outstanding achievement, is home-like warmth. It is comfortable, most attractive, and as such is now one of Iowa's finest small houses. Its obsolescence obstacles were conquered by smart planning, prompt action and modern materials properly applied.

IDENTIFICATION

(Co-Ed Theatre)

ACOUSTICAL BOARD: Celotex Corp.
AIR CONDITIONING: National Theatre Supply Co.
CARPET: Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Co.
DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS: Modern Theatre Decorators.
DISPLAY CASES: Modern Theatre Decorators.
DRAPERIES: Great Western Stage Equipment Co.
LIGHT FIXTURES: Summerour & Devine.
MARQUEE AND INTERIOR NEON: Star Neon Co.
PROJECTION AND SOUND: International Projector Corp.
RESILIENT WALL COVERING: Armstrong Cork Co.
SEATS: Heywood-Wakefield Co.
STRUCTURAL GLASS: Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.

Additional particulars on the project may be secured upon request to The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.

Upkeep and Permanence of Acoustic Materials

The history of acoustical materials establishes the fact that maintenance is second in importance only to sound absorption, and should indeed be considered simultaneously with it. In the manufacturing process it is no trick to obtain a desired color in a new, clean acoustical material by integral coloring or by surface paint or stain without injury to sound absorption. But the important consideration is what can be done in future years when the materials become dirty and unsightly.

The cleaning of acoustical materials by commercial wall paper cleaners, by special vacuum cleaner attachments, by sandpaper and by washing with soap and water all have their limitations. Sooner or later in the majority of cases painting becomes the necessary method of renovation and it is wise to determine in the beginning whether paintability is a quality of the product under consideration.

The composition of an acoustical material and the method of its application are important factors in its probable length of service and the cost of repairs. Absence of matter that will supply food to rats, mice, other vermin and insects, freedom from termite attack and dry rot, are points on which the wise purchaser will assure himself. Materials that flake or peel, especially when cleaning is attempted, are also to be avoided as particularly unpleasant.

Acoustical materials are commonly applied on ceilings and walls by cementing to plaster or concrete, or they may be mechanically attached in some fashion. Probably the most satisfactory safeguards to the purchaser are extensive experience back of the product and application method, and the responsibility of the applicator.

Bring magic into your theatre through the use of fluorescence in decorations or in carpeting. This innovation has a remarkable novelty appeal to patrons who find its unaccustomed beauty a source of wonder and delight.


The CAMEO
Brings them Back
TO YOUR BOX-OFFICE
THAT'S what you'll like best about the Heywood Cameo. Its luxurious, fireside comfort makes an instant hit with patrons ... brings them back to *your* box-office. Unlike some chairs which offer comfort in "spots"... the Heywood Cameo gives you genuine, spring edge comfort *over the full area of the seat*! That's why you'll notice a big difference in Comfort the very first time you sit in a stylish Heywood Cameo.
May we furnish you with details?
HEYWOOD-WAKEFIELD
Theatre Seating Division
GARDNER, MASS.

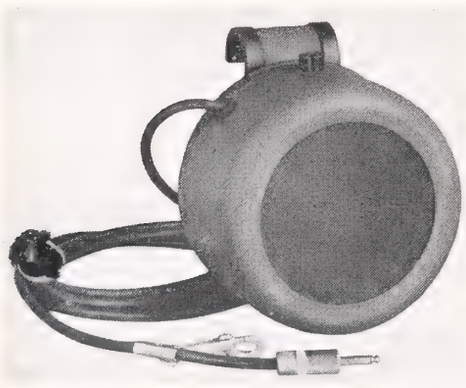
INDOOR PARKING PRIVILEGE PLEASES PATRONS



Going a long way toward being courteous and thoughtful toward its guests, the Capitol Theatre in Allston, Mass., now provides free indoor parking for patrons' cars. In this first instance of its kind of record, two large garages were leased across the street from the theatre's regular outdoor areas. The public reaction has been marvelous, according to Manager Joseph Marquis, shown welcoming the first autoist, and his assistant, Charles Pratt, who is looking on with approval.

RCA Announces New In-Car Loudspeaker

A new in-car loudspeaker for Drive-In theatres, featuring light weight, excellent frequency response, and rugged construction, has been developed by RCA Photophone. The loudspeaker hangs inside the door of the car, and connects by means of a 15-foot heavy weatherproof cable to the plug-in receptacles of the Drive-In theatres.



The new "in-car" loudspeaker for Drive-In theatres has many novel features, including light weight, excellent frequency response and rugged construction. The location of the volume control atop the housing contributes to the unit's convenience in operation, and affords maximum protection against damage in handling. Overall diameter of the housing is 8 inches, and depth is 5 inches.

An important feature of the new unit is a volume control which permits patrons to regulate volume to their liking. The volume control knob is located atop the speaker housing, making it convenient for operation whether the speaker is hung on the right or left hand door. This location also affords maximum protection for the volume control. Musical reproduction is said to be excellent, and speech is clear and crisp at all volume levels.

Freedom from damage and efficient operation under all weather conditions are assured by the special metal-sheathed weatherproof plug which has been developed for the cable end. The cable also has a quickly adjustable slack-takeup device and a car bumper fastener.

Overall diameter of the speaker housing is 8 inches, and depth is 5 inches. The loudspeaker hangs equally well on the glass of the car door and on the door sill itself, making it possible for the patron to operate the loudspeaker with the door glass in any position. Both the hanging bracket and the back of the unit are rubber cushioned to protect paint finishes. The housing is painted brown.

Investment in Carpet a Most Flexible Factor

Perhaps you are one of those exhibitors whose appropriation for carpeting has been limited in advance to a definite set sum. If so, the carpet mill representative will show you the best weave obtainable for the money. But it is being realized more and more that the way to get the best value is to study the job the carpet has to do first, and determine the money afterwards.

You may be putting too much money into a space where wear is not so heavy. You may be putting too little money into a space where great durability is indispensable. A carpet that costs a little more in initial expenditure may prove to *cost less* when figured over the term of its whole life. You may be able to save money in areas which are not important, and invest it to better effect in your more conspicuous spaces.

In the final analysis, value is determined by the service rendered per annum in a definite space. This means in eye-appeal as well as in actual durability of the fabric. The carpet mill representative is in best position to suggest the right carpet for each space you have under consideration.

Renovation Comes to the Rescue of Hard-Ridden Exhibitors

(Continued from page 37)

an early modernization of the entire frontage including a more modern marquee, attraction boards and main sign together with other secret innovations he has in mind to make the Family's exterior match the present excellence of its interior.

The seating capacity of the Family is only 530. To make it pay, it must be filled at every performance, and it usually is. It is indeed a "family" theatre and its regular patrons seldom go elsewhere for entertainment. And the Reynolds family, including the Mrs., the two boys, Dick and Bob, and a daughter, make the Reynolds enterprises a delightful family affair. Everybody works—including the old man. The Missus runs the confection concessions, Dick manages the Family, Bob manages the Vogue and daughter keeps the books.

Ask him the reason for all this expensive renovation and Reynolds will ask you: Whatin'ell else is a guy going to do to hold his own? If you can't give 'em "Gone With the Wind," the folks will soon forget and forgive you if you give 'em comfort along with the best pictures you're able to get.

Which all adds up to the fact that the picture, after all, is just a part of the show.

IDENTIFICATION

(Family Theatre)

CARPETS: Alexander Smith & Sons (Fluorescent).
DECORATING: Ebels Construction Co.
FLUORESCENT LIGHTING: Continental Litho Corp.
INTERIOR FINISH MATERIAL: Haskelite Mfg. Corp.
PROJECTION LAMPS: Strong Electric Corp.
SEATING: Ideal Seating Company.

Additional particulars on the project may be secured upon request to The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.

New Type Seat Installed

How many times have you, gentlemen—and ladies, too—found it necessary to rise and let other show-goers walk in front of you in the theater. Too frequently to recount.

The "Today's" designers determined to eliminate these interruptions involving hats, hankies, and purses dropped on the floor, and trampled toes. The "Today" is equipped with Kroehler Push-Back Seats. . . . .

Chicago Herald-American



"TODAY" *Chicago's New De Luxe Newsreel Theater*

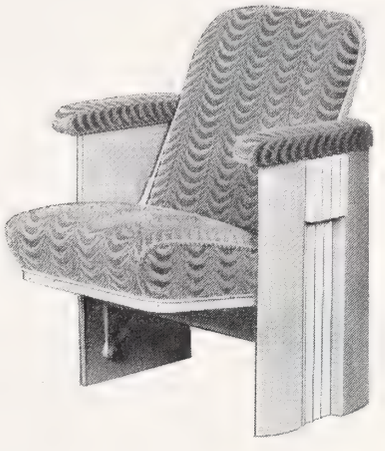
INSTALLS PUSH-BACK SEATS

When "Today," most luxurious of newsreel theaters, opened in the heart of Chicago's loop, one of its most talked-about features was the Kroehler Push-Back Seats.

Everywhere, more and more leading theaters are installing this patented seat that revolutionizes theater seating.

With it, there is no standing to let others pass. No stepped-on toes. No obstructed view. It speeds up turnover . . . gives luxurious armchair comfort with minimum maintenance.

Get the facts today on this sensational seat that is scoring new triumphs for theaters that install them.



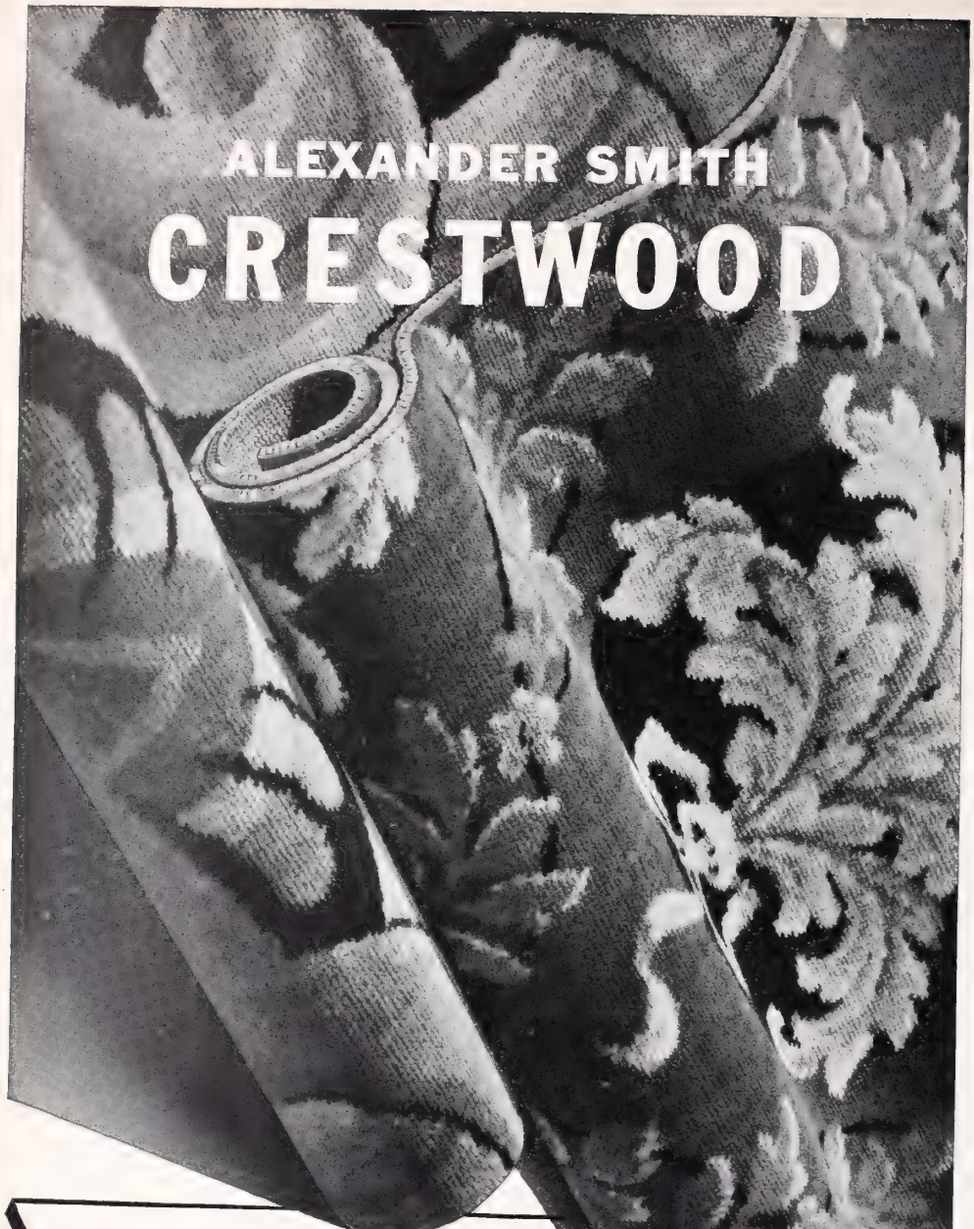
KROEHLER MFG. CO., Public Seating Division

206 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.
1248 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.
2013 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Elliott Film Co., 72 Glenwood Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
Standard Theater Supply Corp., 78 Broadway, Boston, Mass.

Export: Roy Chandler, 505 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.
4020 E. 116th St., Cleveland, Ohio
6700 Denton Dr., Dallas, Texas

KROEHLER Push-Back SEATS
PATENTED



AMERICA'S LARGEST SELLING
THEATRE CARPET



1300 yards of especially designed Crestwood Carpet in the Beach Theatre, Miami, Fla.

ALEXANDER SMITH
GUARANTEED BY GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
ALL WOOL PILE

"NEARLY RIGHT WON'T DO"

Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Co., 295 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

TRADEWINDS

A MONTHLY WEATHERVANE ON CURRENT EVENTS IN THIS AND OTHER INDUSTRIES AFFECTING THE INTERESTS OF THEATRE OPERATION.

Raw Material Shortages and the Labor Situation Suggest Buy Now!

Early this month the Government at the recommendation of the Defense Commission slapped a priorities ruling on aluminum and the material instantly became hard to get. A price increase on cast aluminum sign letters, now commonly used in theatre attraction boards, was announced on three-day notice by Wagner Sign Service, Inc., a leading manufacturer of silhouette sign letters, and the plant immediately became swamped with orders, over 60,000 letters being ordered in one week's time. Mr. E. Wagner informed us that he still has an ample supply of material on hand for reasonable requirements, but that momentarily and without notice this time, the cost of letters may rise again.

A letter from an executive of International Projector Corp., tells us that the demands on their manufacturing facilities are being further taxed by defense requirements with prospects of increasing curtailment and higher costs for equipment.

Certain air conditioning equipment manuturers are now faced with shortages of basic materials, which if obtainable at all, may be so at much higher prices, due to armament priorities.

Building generally faces the prospect of a rather difficult dual situation involving both materials and labor shortage, the latter presenting an ever-increasing risk of much higher costs for future structural activity. These are but a few of the "straws in the wind."

Yet, in spite of these obvious trends a number of our architectural correspondents tell us that their theatre clients, and prospective builders and remodelers, are procrastinating with their plans—putting off doing now what is liable to cost them much more to do later.

Theatre business is peculiarly situated to profit readily from the increase of patronage due to defense activities. Why, therefore, should it hesitate about going ahead—and getting its orders in ahead of the high-cost, hard-to-get period that seems sure to arrive soon?—THE EDITOR.

LITERATURE

The following concerns have recently filed copies of interesting descriptive literature with *The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.* Readers who may wish copies of such literature may obtain them promptly by addressing The Modern Theatre, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Advance Manufacturing Company, of St. Louis, Mo., offers a profusely illustrated catalogue covering all sizes and models of Advance Popcorn Machines. In this book, the profit angles of popcorn purveying in theatres are interestingly outlined. Prices are found therein also.

Barber-Colman Company, of Rockford, Illinois, presents a comprehensive catalogue containing complete descriptive data on Uni-Flo Grilles and Registers, Venturi-Flo Ceiling Outlets and allied special units. Specification details and outlines are also presented.

Chicago Hardware Foundry Co., of North Chicago, Illinois, offers literature on "Sani-Dri," the electric hand-drier for theatre washroom applications. Advantages of the device are pointed out and complete details on its new improvements are covered.

General Electric Company, Air Conditioning Div., of Bloomfield, N. J., files an interesting and valuable brochure entitled "Air Conditioning for Business," covering the salient features of the science and stressing proper engineering and application.

Kinner Products Co., Inc., of Springfield, Ohio, submits a folder entitled "A Smashing Success in Every Theatre," which covers the new Kinner Glass Cleaner for structural glass fronts, display cases and other uses about the theatre. A special thirty-day offer also is made to enable those interested to try the product at small cost.

Klearflax Linen Looms, Inc., of Duluth, Minn., presents literature on a new linen carpet named Klearflax, outlining its advantages for use in theatres. A free sample also will be included for a burn-proof test and examination.

The Mengel Company, Inc., of Louisville, Ky., presents several pieces of literature on Mengel-Bord and Mengel Doors, new wood veneer products of exceptional beauty and adaptability at low cost. The literature contains descriptions, pictures and application data as well as specifications and prices.

United States Air Conditioning Corp., of Minneapolis, Minn., submits a piece of literature entitled "Your Best Air Defense," covering the new packaged unit Refrigerated Kooler-aire. Boxoffice boosting advantages of proper air conditioning are discussed and the new unit described graphically.

NOTICE: *Manufacturers of all products adapted to theatre modernization or maintenance are invited to file latest copies of their catalogues or descriptive literature with The Modern Theatre Information Bureau.*—THE EDITOR.



Flexes with deep cushioning without cracking or "bagging"

Here's one low-cost upholstery you can expect to see smooth and crack-free year after year—even on the softest, deep-sprung cushions. *Naugahyde* never turns brittle, because it contains no oil to dry out. Rubber makes it *naturally, lastingly flexible.* Just as genuine leather fibres make it naturally tough and hard-wearing. We're so sure *Naugahyde* will save you money and give you *longer-lasting beauty,* that we make you the generous test offer outlined at the right.

GENUINE U. S. Naugahyde

THE LONGER-WEARING LOW-COST UPHOLSTERY

Gentlemen:

We agree with you the best test for upholstery is actual use in the theatre. Please send us, without charge or obligation, enough *Genuine U. S. Naugahyde* to cover a seat in our theatre.

Name .....

Theatre .....

Address .....

City & State .....

(Check color of your present seats) ☐ MAROON ☐ BROWN ☐ RED ☐ TAN ☐ BLUE ☐ GREEN

United States Rubber Company

Coated Fabrics Division • Mishawaka, Indiana

FACTORIES AT WORK

A series of introductions to theatre equipment manufacturers and the methods behind their products.

A Trip Through the Laboratories of the Weather-Makers

ANOTHER "infant industry" has been bursting its buttons for some time now, but many among us—both the general public and those who are supposed to know better—have liked to look upon the air conditioning industry as a "small fry" which should grow up a bit more and acquire more coordination of its admitted great powers before we would take it really seriously as an industrial factor.

Well, maybe this *is* a youthful industry. Air conditioning was not even thought of until the year 1902; was not generally applied until 1915, when the Rational Psychrometric Formulae upon which it is based was disclosed to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Begun less than forty years ago, pioneering past, but development and research yet in progress, that is the record of this so-called "infant industry," air conditioning.

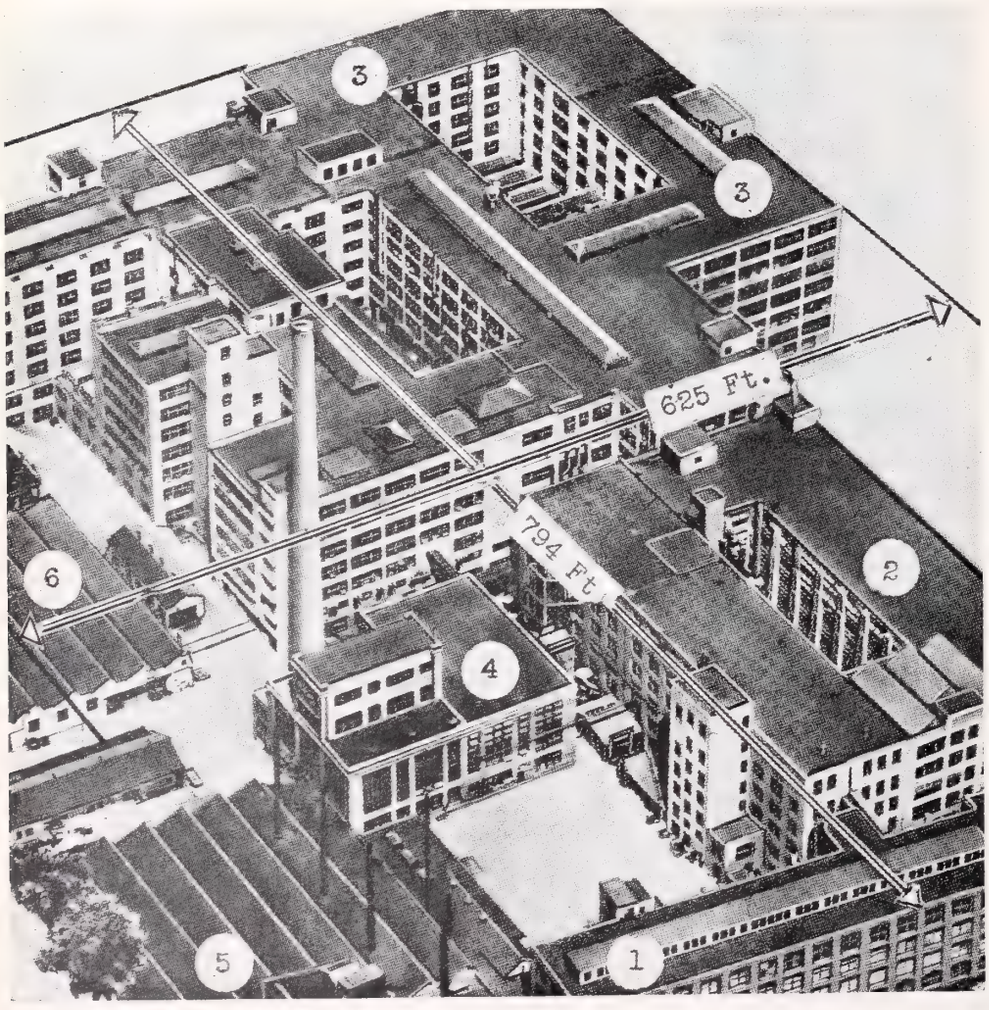
We of the motion picture industry also know the trials and tribulations of accused infancy. We too have passed through the colic stage and have suffered growing pains, much to the amusement of other older but not necessarily larger industries. Perhaps for this reason, the motion picture industry and air conditioning have felt somewhat akin. The impetus which each has given the other in development is well known.

Theatres willingly served as testing laboratories for early developments in the science of air conditioning. Air conditioning, in return, has given to its "guinea pig," the motion picture industry, a 12-month year, almost entirely eliminating the midsummer slump which characterized theatre business before atmospheric control was made possible.

A Fount of Progress

We thought some of you might like to learn more about the workings of air conditioning development and manufacture. With this purpose in mind, it was decided to take you to one of the foremost founts of air conditioning progress and application, Carrier Corporation in Syracuse, New York. It was Dr. Willis H. Carrier, chairman of the board of this corporation which bears his name, who is credited with the invention of the new science called air conditioning. Under the research and development which has since taken place in his company and many others, air conditioning has flowered and grown to the extent mentioned at the beginning of this story—almost bursting its seams.

Carrier Corporation too, we found, had recently outgrown its rompers. Since 1938 the company has occupied a new plant in Syracuse which is compatible with its size. Where formerly five smaller plants in widely separated localities had housed the corporation in almost crowded and necessarily complicated surroundings from the standpoint of transportation, the new Syracuse plant accommodates all air conditioning operations, from drafting board to finished product, literally under one well integrated roof top.



That we may better "find our way about"—an air-view chart of the Carrier plant at Syracuse, New York. Identification: Building No. 1—General offices; No. 2—Manufacturing Building; containing also two cafeterias and executives' dining room; No. 3—Manufacturing; No. 4—Power house; No. 5—Garage; No. 6—Development Building. Railroad sidings are located between Buildings No. 2 and 3.

The new plant consists of two factory buildings, an office building, the "development building," a power house, garage, several miscellaneous buildings, parking space and two railroad sidings, occupying 14 acres of ground and providing 31 acres of floor space. This had formerly housed the Franklin (air-cooled, remember) automobile plant and only one major structural change was necessary in order to meet the new requirements. Complete modernization and, need we mention it, complete air conditioning of the plant itself were all that was needed to put the new works in operation. One of the largest company migrations ever undertaken, the while manufacturing and production obligations were met in full, was accomplished in the brief span of two months.

Development Unhampered

One of the peculiar advantages offered by the new plant was more space, greater

facilities and absolute privacy for the research and development department of the company. The more than one hundred engineers and scientists who comprise this division form the very foundation upon which progress in air conditioning is based. Their new quarters are ideal for concentration, experiments and tests.

The development building is brilliantly illuminated by skylights, supplemented by lights in non-glare reflectors. The many private offices, conference rooms, laboratories and corridors are panelled with sound-absorbing materials. This department maintains numerous laboratories; operates its own shops; has its own office force for filing, bookkeeping, correspondence and its own switchboard.

In this department, which might be termed the very core of the company's air conditioning progress, the range of activity is somewhat as follows: The design of entirely new equipment; improvement of existing equipment; construction, testing, tearing down and reconstruction of both old and new equipment, and creation of special equipment to meet unusual requirements.

Experimental Chambers

For these purposes, various laboratories and test rooms are maintained in the Development building. One of the most interesting is the sound-proof laboratory, which is capable of reducing the din of a boiler factory to less than a faint whisper. The room is suspended on springs to eliminate sound produced by building and earth vibration. Sound absorbers are located in the intake and outlet ducts of its special air conditioning system and the ducts are also provided with flexible sections made necessary by the spring suspension. The chamber is lined with several layers of sound-absorbing material.

The quiet operation of air conditioning equipment is the result of tests conducted in this and other sound-proofed chambers in the plant. Equipment is brought in and engineers with delicate sound-detecting instruments locate the exact source of every bit of noise caused in actual operation of the unit. Pipes into the room provide gas, water, compressed air and steam so that all types of equipment may be tested.

Another interesting experimental chamber to be seen in passing, is the cement-lined laboratory in which apparatus is installed which can drive the mercury deeply below zero or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, artifically create high or low humidity, control wind velocity and direction, create dust storms, noise or in fact almost any outdoor condition of temperature that might be met in the field. The ducts, pipes and air conditioning apparatus which produce such phenomena are most aptly termed "weather-makers."

Manufacture Coordinated

With all the advantages offered by the new Carrier plant for research and development, it was perhaps in the Manufacturing divisions where the greatest change was wrought by the recent expansion. While formerly the manufacture and production of equipment was widely scattered and inter-plant shipping was a necessary evil, since each plant specialized in certain operations, there is now ample room for all manufacturing units under one roof. Furthermore, plenty of storage room for raw materials and finished goods is now available and purchases can be made during favorable markets and stocks built up for busy seasons.

The importance of complete consolidation cannot be overestimated. Now the whole manufacturing operation is started and completed in two large inter-connected factory buildings and what little inter-plant shipping is necessary is handled by a fleet of motor-driven "scooters." Coils, compressors, paint shop activities, inspections, dehydration and charging, final assembly, even crating and boxing are now all part of one efficient line movement. Assembly moves along easily and quickly from one section to the next on roller conveyors.

The Manufacturing department embraces, in addition to complete production of the line of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating equipment, the shipping and receiving facilities with their double railroad sidings, carpenter shops for crates and boxes, truck loading platforms and so forth, and such auxiliary activities as the general machine shops, the various instrument and tool rooms, and the department's own planning offices.

Office Worker's Paradise

In keeping with modern production methods, the General Office building of Carrier's new plant is a model structure providing ideal working conditions, thanks to modernization and the installation of year-round air conditioning. Over 700 office employes in this building enjoy correct illumination, complete absence of outside noises, dirt, dust, odors and irritating pollen and an atmosphere permanently maintained at correct temperature, humidity and freshness.

Two cafeterias and an executives' dining room are provided also in this modern plant. These too are properly air conditioned. The office employes' cafeteria accommodates 600 at one sitting and

(Continued on page 55)

EN TOUR

(Top to Bottom)

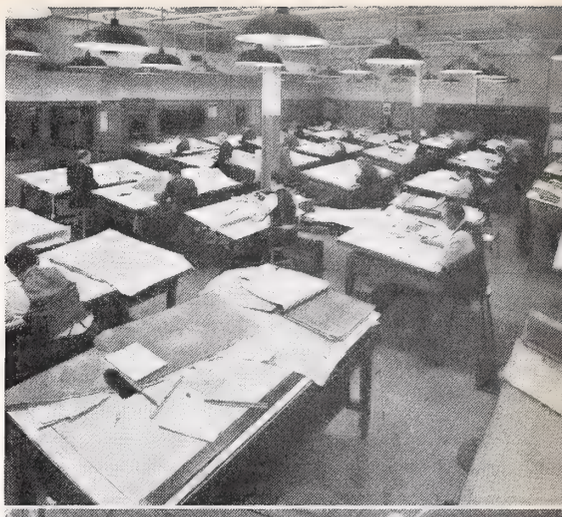
1. Men and machines thus contribute to research and development in air conditioning. Here new ideas are being translated into lines and symbols, the first concrete step toward actual production of new equipment. Engineer-designers employed in the Development department's general drafting room are shown at work in their well-illuminated, air conditioned quarters.

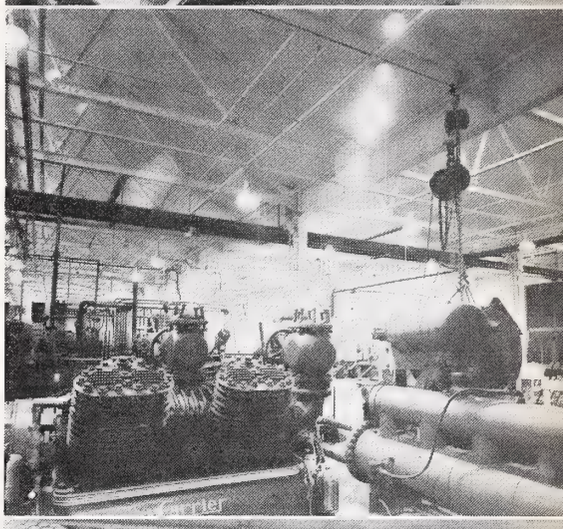
2. The machine shop and general test floor maintained by the Development department along with many smaller test rooms. This shop manufactures, changes and modifies equipment for experimental purposes. A new eight-cylinder reciprocating compressor is seen in the foreground being set up for testing.

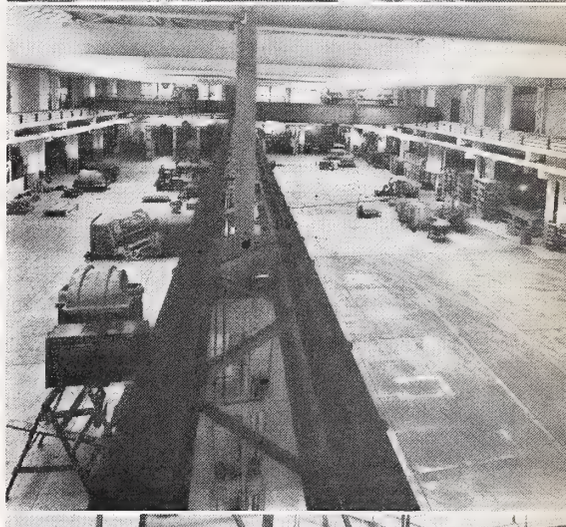
3. Manufacture of air conditioning equipment is handled in much the same manner employed by the automobile assembly line. Here we see the assembly track for production of centrifugal compressors. Efficient line movement speeds production easily and quickly from one operation to the next on roller conveyors. Quick inter-department transportation is further handled by a fleet of motor-driven scooters.

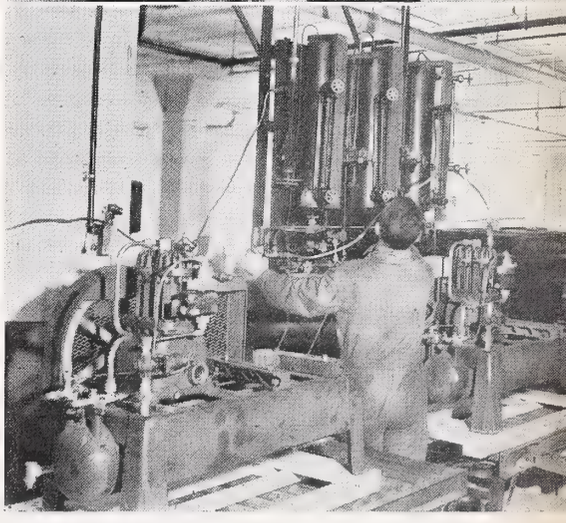
4. Charging commercial refrigerating units with Freon. The mechanism seen here permits extremely accurate determination of each charge. The scene is typical of the many scientific steps involved in the manufacture of modern highly engineered air conditioning equipment, in the huge plant of this modern weather-maker.

This Pictorial Plant Inspection Tour through the courtesy of Carrier Corporation, Syracuse, N. Y.









Refrain Now or Later Be Restrained! . . . The Concept of Consent Decrees

(Continued from page 41)

will operate to the disadvantage of theatres who on all other points might be entitled to the relief sought.

CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM

From the reclassification of theatres that appears imminent under the decree, we foresee a higher standard of motion picture presentation throughout the country, even in the smaller and more remotely located cinemas. That the producers and distributors are becoming more directly concerned about the conditions of theatres and theatre equipment is quite understandable, because upon such conditions depends the revenue to be derived for all concerned, including the exhibitor.

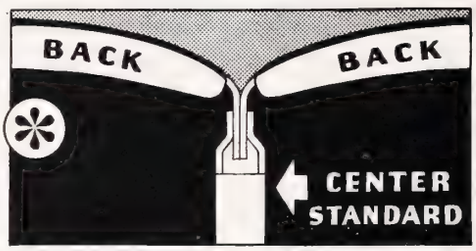
Personally, we're optimistic about the outcome. It should lend speed to general theatre property improvement, a movement that is already well under way. A definite restraint is being removed from theatre trade. House Appeal, at last is being recognized for what it's worth to all concerned.

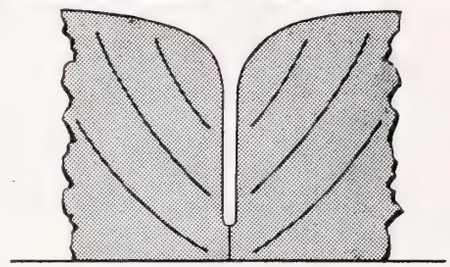
✻UNI-TACHMENT

One of Many Structural Superiorities you'll find in the New

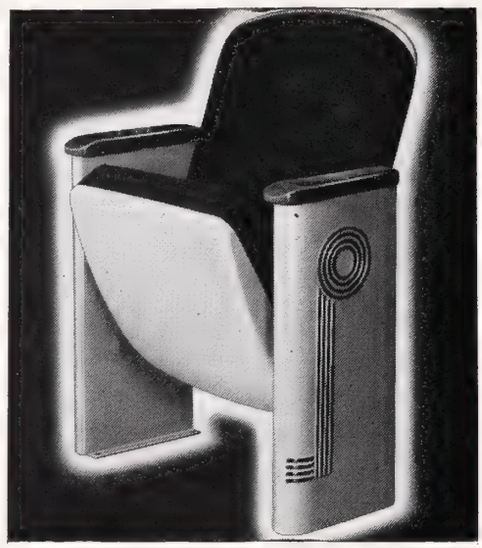
IRWIN CLIPPER

Glance down a row of IRWIN CLIPPER chairs installed. The appearance of the backs is as of one solid unit. Backs fit flush against one another, completely concealing the center standards and points of fastening. The result is a much better looking installation.





UNI-TACHMENT, however, is just one of many structural superiorities which recommend the CLIPPER. And it's moderately priced. If you are looking for all the box office drawing power that good seating can contribute, without paying a premium price for it, by all means see the new IRWIN CLIPPER at the nearest display room. We believe it is by far your best bet.



Distributed By

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY CO.

Branches in all Principal Cities

SEATING COMPANY IRWIN GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

IRWIN SEATING COMPANY • GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN

Lighting Influenced by Decorative Finishes

Ceiling and wall decorations and finishes are an auxiliary to the lighting system because they not only provide a background for the lighting elements but, in the case of indirect lighting, they become a part of the lighting system itself and, if light in tone, contribute greatly to its efficiency. Where the ceilings and walls are too dark, the lighting units that would otherwise be comfortable, when viewed against a light colored ceiling, become harsh and uncomfortable.

Particularly with indirect or semi-indirect lighting, a large part of the ceiling should be mat-surfaced and light in color, as most of the light is directed to the ceiling and from there redirected and diffused to the area below. A glossy surface should be avoided because the lamps produce undesirable streaks in the shiny surface. It is a good plan always to try out ceiling surfaces with the type of lighting equipment to be used, viewing at many angles before a final decision on the ceiling finish is made.

Low relief decorations and painted designs are oftentimes used to advantage to break up what would otherwise become unusually large and uninteresting expanses of ceiling area. Specifically, where cove lighting is employed these decorations can be made to interrupt the ceiling at the point where the light from the cove fades off perceptibly.

Exterior Modernization With Light and Color

Architectural design involves the knowledge of emotional appeal and psychological effects. If the choice of materials and the handling of them produces graceful proportions in line, form and mass; if colors and materials blend; if contrasts are pleasing so that individuals react favorably to these results and regard them as beautiful, then we have effective design.

According to newer concepts, many theatre buildings considered satisfactory some years ago are now seen to be decidedly ungainly, awkward and totally inadequate commercially in their expression and outlook. Theatre exteriors, particularly, should be architecturally pleasing, since it is recognized that they must advertise and compel attention.

Today there is a wealth of new building materials to inspire new concepts in architectural design. For sparkle and scintillation, the lighting designed now has at his disposal durable, lustrous reflecting metals. Add to these the new translucent materials, plastics, glasses, glass blocks, rods, tubes and moulded forms in a wide range of colors. Add also the new light sources, such as fluorescent lamps and reflector bulbs, and we have an entirely new order of flexibility in facilities at the disposal of the creative designer.

Buy Now—before the inevitable raise in prices which we may expect and indeed before some things actually become unavailable due to rearmament and defense activities.

A Trip Through the Laboratories of the Weather-Makers

(Continued from page 53)

the factory workers' cafeteria seats 850 with facilities for serving 1,400 persons per hour. Executives of the company gather regularly in their own dining room, and naturally "shop talk" is not prohibited.

AIR CONDITIONING MODELS

Allusion to the air conditioning of Carrier's plant has been made fleetingly several times herein. It is only natural that this plant would maintain the latest and finest in its own interests. Six different types of air conditioning systems, each tailored to the needs of the particular space involved, are in operation at the new quarters, each designed and installed just as though it had been sold to an outside user.

A year-round central station system in the office building features special dehumidifying equipment, high-speed ducts and under-window outlets. This system is also used to condition the office worker's cafeteria, while in the other cafeteria smaller units provide year-round air conditioning. A central station system provides for the Development building, and another type of central station system supplies the chemical laboratories and assembly hall therein.

In the two factory buildings, unitary heating is provided by industrial heat diffusers. All the steam used for heating is generated by a battery of 600 h.p. boilers in the power house. Cooling for the central station systems requires 256 tons of refrigeration under peak load conditions. The refrigerating machines as well as the air conditioning systems with which they function are of different types, both centrifugal and reciprocating. This variation in design of the air conditioning systems enables Carrier to show its host of daily visitors the latest in air conditioning in operation right in its own plant—practicing what it preaches, so to speak.

A Flashlight Test for Theatre Cleanliness

If your patrons are restless during the program, coughing and sneezing during the tense moments, and if, despite forced ventilation, the air seems thick and heavy, it is probable that dust is causing the trouble. Dirt tracked in and dust raised from the floor by shuffling feet bring discomfort to any audience. Nervous and irritable, they fail to respond to your finest presentations.

Make a flashlight tour of your theatre, looking under the seats where brooms and brushes cannot reach and where hats and gloves often dropped by the patrons become soiled. Is it clean or do you find dust? Then examine the expensive draperies, wall decorations, carpets and other furnishings by flashlight. Are they losing their brightness because of dust?

The best way to overcome the dust problem is by regular and frequent use of a heavy-duty theatre type vacuum cleaner. It will get under the seats and it follows the operator freely, into the corners and up and down the aisles. With brushes and accessories it will successfully clean walls, draperies and other items of furnishing which harbor dust. In fact, it is the only really reliable method of keeping the theatre clean and wholesome week in and week out.

Check Your Locks for Maximum Security

The degree of protection which any lock provides determines its value and the applications for which it is suited. Always consider these three forms of securing: (1) Again violence (jimmying or sawing); (2) Against picking (operating the mechanism with instruments other than the key; (3) Against interchange of keys.

For maximum security, all three forms are essential in the highest possible degree. Besides resistance to force and to picking (comparatively infrequent means of entry), the lock should permit of sufficient key changes virtually to eliminate key duplication. When you buy a lock you will usually find these qualities present in proportion to its price. Cheap locks have their uses, of course. But for real protection—especially of late in the theatre field—the finest lock you can buy is a most intelligent investment.



RIGHT over your present theater walls and ceilings you can put an interior finish that is so beautifully colorful—so interesting in pattern and texture—so appealing in its decorative effect—that it gives your theater unique, profit-creating individuality. That interior finish is Nu-Wood Kolor-Fast—exclusively styled to enhance theater charm. Nu-Wood not only furnishes *fadeproof* decoration, but it also *corrects faulty acoustics* . . . makes screen voices more pleasing . . . "sweetens" sound. What's more, Nu-Wood insulates effectively to aid air-conditioning efficiency. Remember, with all its advantages, Nu-Wood is LOW in cost—easily applied. Mail the coupon for full information.

Nu-Wood Kolor-Fast
INSULATING INTERIOR FINISH

WOOD CONVERSION COMPANY
Dept. 134-3-29 First National Bank Bldg.
St. Paul, Minn.

Gentlemen:
I want to know more about the new Nu-Wood Kolor-Fast and Sta-Lite. Without obligation, please send me complete facts for new construction ( ); for remodeling ( ).

Name .....
Address .....
City ..... *State* .....

NU-WOOD . . . Products of Weyerhaeuser . . . BALSAM-WOOL

LIGHTING

ILLUMINATION FOR ADVERTISING DISPLAY, ATMOSPHERE AND BETTER VISION

Brighten Up Your Entire Theatre Now . . . WITH LIGHT!

by **C. M. CUTLER** and **H. J. CHANON***

SUCCESSFUL theatre owners are alert to the public's demand for newness. This problem of keeping the theatre up-to-date is second only to a wise selection of feature presentations in "ringing up" ticket sales in the boxoffice. A good picture presented in a clean and comfortable house, having a stimulating and colorful atmosphere, is unquestionably a successful combination.



MR. CUTLER



MR. CHANON

The Front

The prospective patron's first impression is formed as he views the theatre from some distant point. For maximum advertising value, make sure that the front is bright enough, that it contrasts with competing displays, that it has effective motion, that the letters are not blurred, and that the front as a whole is effective. The entire theatre front represents expensive space and all of it should be working for maximum advertising.



For distant viewing, brightness can be increased by a simple change in lamps to the next higher wattage, providing wire capacity is sufficient. A front can offer excellent contrast with competing displays if colors or tints are employed that are different from surrounding lighting. A new unusual effect for attraction letter panels can be incorporated by using colored fluorescent lamps and filament lamps in combination with removable letters of translucent colored center strokes and mounted against the present white diffusing glass panel which serves as the background. Letters having red center strokes can be used with green fluorescent lamps. When the filament lamps are not burning the letters appear in silhouette against a bright green background as the green lamps burn continuously. As the filament lamps are brought up in brightness the letters take on red center strokes and the background changes from green to higher brightness in white. Either dimmer or flasher control can be used for the filament lamp circuit. The amount of filament light should be approximately 1½ to 2 times the output of the fluorescent lamps.

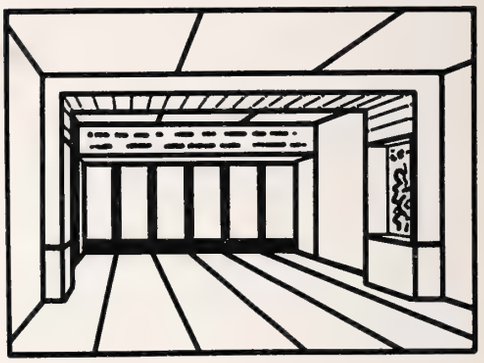
The use of large letters for the feature message increases the legibility range and small letters for the remaining copy complete the message as the patron approaches the marquee. As in newspaper copy the important message is thus read first and detail copy is read at close range.

The addition of luminous elements, such as panels or pylons, will give the front the effect of increased size and distinction. Glass block illuminated from behind with white or colored fluorescent lamps can be effectively utilized at each side of the entrance area or on the building front above the marquee. And in completing your inspection of the front, many sections such as light panels, color hoods, light boxes, etc., can be restored to initial efficiency by a good cleaning with soap and water. Repainting the inside of light reflecting cavities and relamping at the same time will bring back original freshness at little expense.

*Nela Park Engineering Department of General Electric Company.

The Lobby

The lobby requires particular treatment from the lighting standpoint because it serves as the transition from the brightly lighted exterior to the more dimly lighted foyer or auditorium. The patron is in the lobby for only a very short time at the most and it is important to employ light and color to create favorable comment immediately, and direct attention quickly to the attraction posters.



A distinctive atmosphere can be created through the use of colored fluorescent lamps in coffers attached to the ceiling, in corrugated metal troughs below the ceiling line or in a grid placed across the ceiling and continuing down part of the side walls. Any of these architectural elements can be made up in the shop ready for installation. These can be moved into the theatre and installed with a minimum of interference with the regular theatre schedule. In coffers or other elements which assure a good overall mixture, the following proportion of colored Mazda F lamps of equal wattage will result in a quality of light complimentary to complexions: 6 gold, 4 pink, 3 blue, and 1 green.

The space above the doors is an ideal location for an attraction letter panel to bring attention to coming attractions. A lighting treatment similar to the one suggested for the marquee can be employed; however, gold fluorescent lamps and letters with blue center strokes can be used in

Advice on Lighting

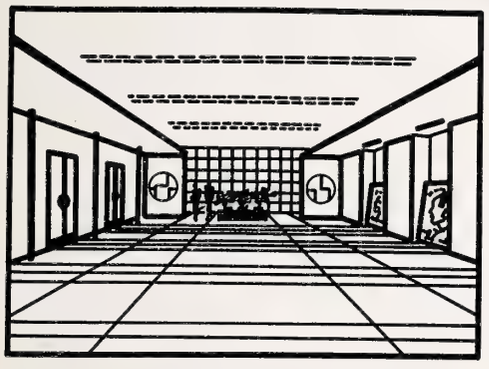
Various contributors to this department, comprising outstanding authority on the subject of Theatre Lighting, will be glad to answer questions or otherwise assist in the correct solution of any lighting problems presented by our readers. Such inquiries, addressed to the editor of The Modern Theatre *section, will be referred promptly to sources of information most pertinent to the problem presented.*

contrast with the red and green combination.

Poster panels are seldom recessed enough to obtain satisfactory light distribution even when the ideally suited fluorescent lamps are employed. A depth of 1/5 the panel height results in good lighting. Other means of lighting such as fluorescent lamps in polished reflecting troughs fastened to the ceiling or brought out from the wall below the ceiling line will produce excellent coverage.

The Foyer

The foyer serves as a distributing center for the auditorium entrances and exits.

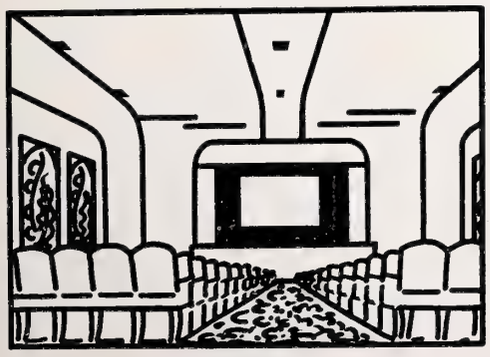


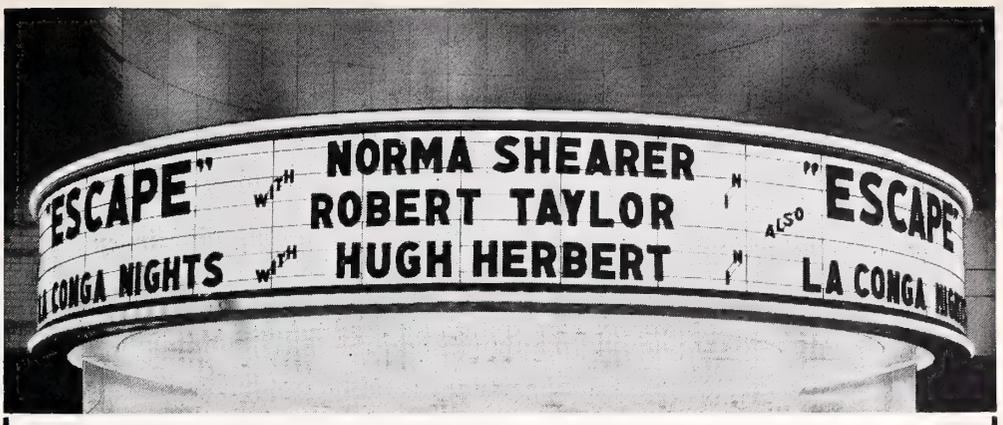
Here 3 to 5 footcandles are recommended for proper eye accommodation to the low level lighting in the auditorium. This illumination may be produced by warm and inviting colors from lamps in well shaded wall brackets, ceiling fixtures, and decorative floor lamps. A new lamp known as "soft white" has recently been added to the group of fluorescent lamps. The spectral quality of light produced by this lamp is complimentary to the appearance of individuals. Lines of light attached to the ceiling equipped with soft white lamps and shielded by glass or plastic add directional and decorative appearance. Recessed posters and displays illuminated by fluorescent lamps in troughs above harmonize decoratively with the ceiling elements.

The Auditorium

The auditorium is an excellent place to use "black-light" in fluorescent carpeting and wall decorations. Many existing theatres have sidewall murals done years ago, and although they are still beautiful when the intermission lights are on, they lose their decorative quality during the presentation of pictures. These same murals may be treated with fluorescent paints and lacquers and energized with a 100-watt or 250-watt mercury lamp unit recessed or attached to the ceiling. For mercury sources equipped with No. 587 filters ½ to 1 watt per square foot

(Continued on following page)





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Architect: George Howard Burrows, Cleveland

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(Continued from preceding page)

will give an approximation of the number of units required.

Where no side wall aisles exist or where the lower edge of the murals is above normal reach it is possible to place the "black-light" sources in decorative urns located below and to direct the near-ultraviolet energy upwards. However, the brightness of the mural will not be as uniform as in the case of ceiling mounted equipment where the distance from the wall can be chosen for proper distribution of energy.



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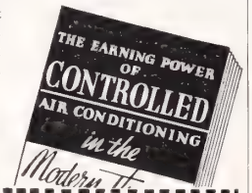
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The proscenium wall is likewise an excellent location for these light emitting decorations.

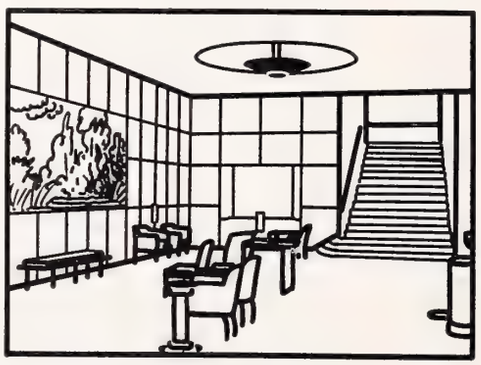
Fluorescent carpeting is now being offered in many different designs and colors. In addition to its decorative effect, it is a means of traffic or directional lighting. Of the various methods of energizing fluorescent carpet that have been tried, the use of controlling equipment mounted at the ceiling and centered directly over the aisles has been most successful. In this method it is important to confine the near-ultraviolet energy closely to the aisle width so that a minimum of spill falls into the seating area. In this way, fluorescence of eyeballs, tinted eyeglasses, hair preparations, teeth, etc., is minimized.

Laboratory experiments first indicated and field installations have verified the fact that excellent control of near-ultraviolet energy is obtained through the use of 100-watt capillary mercury lamps in parabolic trough reflectors. The trough collects the light at its focus and redirects it into a thin wedge. For satisfactory coverage, whether the units be recessed or attached to the ceiling, it has been found that the spacing be equal to the ceiling height for ceilings up to 30 feet. For higher ceilings, closer spacings are required to get sufficient energy, and twin units may be desirable in many instances.

Theatre patrons are aware of the possibility of contracting airborne diseases in auditoriums. In air conditioned theatres, a single 30-watt germicidal lamp in an air circulating duct will irradiate 500 cubic feet of air per minute. In theatres not air conditioned a single 30-watt lamp for every 4,000 cubic feet of room space will give the same protection. These lamps must be shielded from direct view as the ultraviolet energy is harmful to the eyes.

The Lounge

In the theatre lounge, patron movement is more leisurely and the surroundings and decorative features are subject to contemplation and appraisal. General lighting of a low order can be produced by large ceiling fixtures or if desired by individual floor lamps located at lounge chairs throughout the room. Floor lamps as well as other fixtures should be positioned so that direct view of the lamps is impossible when descending the stairs. Other glare should likewise be avoided as should dark and gloomy corners.



A lounge often offers an excellent location for a decorative mural done in fluorescent pigments. It is preferable that a side wall receiving but little direct illumination be used for a decoration of this kind because spill light has the tendency to "wash-out" the vivid colors produced by fluorescence. Fluorescent carpeting on stairways will introduce newness which is sure to attract favorable reaction.

The Powder Room

In the powder room the feminine patron is impressed with good lighting on either side of the mirror, especially when it provides two qualities, one for judging her appearance when on the street in the daytime and the other for the warmer appearance of lighting at night. The new daylight fluorescent lamp is ideal for the daytime circuit and the white fluorescent lamp or regular filament lamps are suitable for the evening circuit. Panels or half cylinders of diffusing glass over the lamps improve the appearance of the units as well as provide desirable shielding of the sources. The units for each mirror should



be equipped with two switches marked for "daytime" and "night-time" lighting respectively.

A recent innovation, the sterilization of toilet facilities gives the theatre still another way to provide additional features for the protection of patrons. The 4-watt germicidal lamp is suitable for this purpose when incorporated in the proper equipment. Features of this kind will often influence the patron in making a choice of theatres.

Functional Wall Finish Important Precaution

The important function of walls and ceilings in today's theatre is to provide comfort—year-round healthful comfort for the eye, the mind and the body. No longer is it wise or even economical to employ flimsy construction that permits the rapid passage of heat, for only when walls and ceilings are properly insulated is it possible to attain the benefits of comfort from air conditioning and acoustics.

Freedom from the rays of the hot summer sun, quick heat in winter when needed, elimination of the dangers of moisture condensation—all are dependent upon construction materials that will successfully slow down the rate of heat travel through them.

Quiet also is assured by properly insulated walls and ceilings in the theatre. Harsh, irritating outside noises are softened and subdued, because noise like heat has difficulty in penetrating the closely knit structure of modern insulating materials.

Seating Display Shows Salient Quality Points

Cleverly constructed display racks covering both the new Clipper and Clipper DeLuxe model chairs are being furnished to all their dealers by Irwin Seating Company. These are said to be of great help to prospective purchasers inasmuch as the racks serve conveniently and neatly as exhibitions and demonstrating units for all parts of the chairs, an important element in showing the comfort and long-wearing qualities inherent in any model.



The rack is fitted with two complete individual chairs, the Clipper and Clipper DeLuxe, and the component parts of each are interestingly arranged about the models. On the Clipper side of the display, zigger-spring seat construction, the individual clipper back, center and arm are shown. For the Clipper DeLuxe, the flexsteel seat, decoratively embossed back, deluxe arm and center are pointed out.

The center part of the display shows elements common to both models, the new seat bucket, aisle light, upholstery clips and seat hinge lifter. In addition to the attractive upholstery treatments of the chair models exhibited, a book of upholstery fabrics is included at the base of the display. It is expected that these displays will serve very well to acquaint shoppers for theatre chairs with the salient features of these particular models.

New Sales Rules Make Lamp Values Attractive

Material changes in the general structure of sales rules governing compensations to agents and discounts to purchasers of lamps, with substantial advantages to both trade and consumer, were recently announced by General Electric's lamp department at Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio. The new rules went into effect March 1, 1941.

An outstanding feature of the new sales plan is the increase in discount to non-contract purchasers of lamps. On orders of $5.00 or more and amounting to less than $15.00, for delivery at one time and place, instead of the former discount of 15 per cent, the discount on such purchases now is 20 per cent. Purchases of more than $15.00, or in standard package lots, entitle the purchaser to a 25 per cent discount. It is believed that this inducement to customers without purchase contracts will greatly increase counter customer business and the size of such orders.

Under the new sales rules there are also changes in bases for Form E contract purchasers. Result of this is better prices than before for many Form E customers. The lowest Form E is for those using a minimum of $300 net in lamps per year.

Also favorably affected by the new sales rules are the retail agents of lamps. Annual sales bases have been reduced. Present retail agency compensations, however, have been maintained. Formerly, a $500 A agent was required to sell $704.22 worth of lamps at list. Now, on his new $300 basis, this same agent is entitled to the same compensation, although required to show only $422.54 in list sales. The basic result of these changes, in effect, is a lowering of the price of G-E lamps to a great number of consumers.

The lamp market, it was pointed out in the announcement, is a rapidly expanding one. One of the reasons for the increased demand for lamps is the repeated reduction in the price of the product coupled with the fair and equitable compensations that have been maintained. On January 1, G. E. made another reduction in the list prices of many popular lamp types. It is believed that the new sales plan, which became effective March 1, will make the lamp business even more attractive to the trade than before.

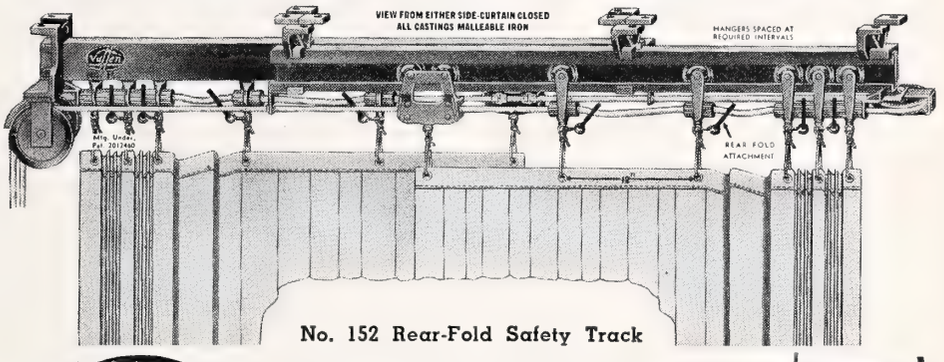
Candy Business Develops Into a Good Side-Line

After installing a candy case in his lobby in December, Milton DuBose of the Majestic Theatre at Cotulla, Texas, found his customers so responsive to the "sweets" that he decided to rent a building next door and install a soda fountain, ice cream cabinet and put in a line of cigarettes and tobaccos. With a pretty girl in charge, he is now making money out of this side-line.

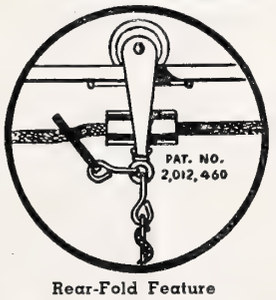
At a school matinee on opening day, DuBose had the school children suggest names for the new business, offering a cash prize for the best, and then left the selection to a popular vote of the children. Now the business has an appropriate name —"The Sugar Bowl"—a nice sign presented by the Coca-Cola people, and a ready-made business from the school children who feel a real interest in the business.

Removing winter's ravages upon a theatre property is best accomplished by a good general house-cleaning from front to rear before—not after—the Spring arrives.

TWO REASONS WHY VALLEN LEADS

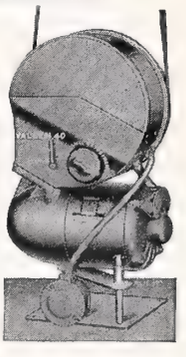


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FLOOR COVERINGS

A DEPARTMENT FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PROVISIONS FOR HOUSE APPEAL UNDERFOOT

Some New Beauty Treatments for Badly Soiled Carpets

by **HELEN KENT**

SPRING brings thoughts of general house-cleaning and renovation to all of us. From long association, the idea of making a clean sweep to greet this radical change of seasons certainly must not be overlooked by the owner or manager of a theatre. His patrons have house-cleaning foremost in mind and at no time are they more critical of appearance in any place they visit—including the spots where they seek entertainment—than Springtime.

Carpet undoubtedly has suffered greatly during the slushy and messy winter season, and it is our purpose now to suggest that it be examined closely and given attention as to its appearance and condition at this time of year. It just simply isn't possible to keep all the dust, grime and soot out of a theatre during winter, and the grinding process no doubt has left once luxurious carpeting in a much less than its original beautiful status.

Even daily cleaning may not have removed completely the badly soiled spots which result from winter's wear on furnishings of this sort. And these spots, like diseased parts of the body, have a disgusting way of spreading if not given attention at the beginning, when indeed they are easiest to eradicate.



For use on heavy twist pile carpets, a special semi-moist cleaning powder and attachments for the machine are recommended. The powder is first distributed over and worked into the pile by the machine and then removed by a vacuum process. The remarkable results attained by both methods are plainly evident in these pictures. (Both photos courtesy of The von Schrader Company).

These luxurious carpets with which most theatres are now equipped and which represent a sizeable investment in any case undeniably deserve the best of care. Both to preserve their beauty as it appeared when they were first installed and to insure their long wear, an important consideration whether they were the highest priced quality or a lesser grade, carpet maintenance at all times is a primary consideration.

Factory Suggestions

We can only suggest that the owner of carpeting follow closely the suggestions for proper maintenance made by the manufacturers of the material. Inasmuch as carpet is a perishable commodity, its manufacturers are anxious to instruct purchasers as to the safe and proper methods of keeping it in best quality and appearance. It is to their advantage as well as the theatre owner's to have their carpet creation make its finest possible appearance in such a very public gathering place, since the theatres can well serve as an exhibition place and testing laboratory for the beauty and long-wearing qualities of the carpet installed therein.

For theatres, known to be among the heavily trafficked consumers of carpets, manufacturers will recommend very frequent, if not daily, use of the vacuum cleaner for removing the dust and dirt which is brought in and ground into the floor covering by the feet of patrons. This is perhaps the only way to control the grit nuisance, which if neglected will eventually cut through to the back fabric of any carpet. Frequent removal of dust and grit will almost entirely eliminate this problem.

The suction cleaner used regularly prevents the formation of much soilage since surface dust does not have an opportunity to work its way deeply into the fabric. Any slush or messiness inadvertently deposited on carpeting and then left to dry also is removed by the vacuum before it will have worked into the pile.



Carpet cleaning on the floor is now possible through the use of a "shampoo" principle. The deterging machine (above) for this purpose is electrical and automatic, using a dry soapless lather, scrubbing the carpet clean but not wetting it appreciably.

Mussiness Controlled

For quick pick-ups, such things as spilled popcorn, candy, bits of paper and numerous other items which will be found on the floor during program presentations, handy carpet sweepers are recommended. There will be no disturbance to patrons, and the device will hastily remove all traces of mussiness before it can be ground into the carpet.

Then for the spots and stains which seem to be unavoidable in floor coverings wherever the public congregates, carpet manufacturers will recommend immediate attention with whatever type of spot remover the case may warrant. There will be oil and tar stains brought in from the streets; candy and grease spots; tobacco spots and cigarette burns, each of which should be given immediate attention for prompt removal. Efficient dry-cleaning spot removers should be kept on hand at all times for just such emergencies.

. . . All of which might lead one to believe that carpet maintenance is a hard job and a somewhat thankless one inasmuch as original beauty cannot possibly be retained under the heavy traffic con-

INFORMATION

Readers who desire special information or advice on the selection, application or care of theatre carpets are invited to communicate with Helen Kent in care of The Modern Theatre section, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., accompanying such inquiry with postage for reply. All problems will be given prompt and helpful attention.

ditions found in a theatre. But theatre carpet as it is constructed and designed today can take a lot of punishment and come up looking fine. Despite the hardest wear and the fact that it is comparatively perishable, many carpet installations in theatres have been known to give good service and retain their beauty of appearance for as many as ten years or more under the heaviest of traffic. But you may be sure that in such instances the carpet was of highest quality and properly cleaned and maintained at all times.

In the life of almost every theatre carpet, there will come a time when the owner will examine his floor covering closely, find it still in good wearing condition and with a life expectancy of many more years; but it will be dark and dingy in appearance, perhaps several shades of color different from what it was when installed and with spottiness at points of greatest traffic. He will then ponder the question of complete dry cleaning, knowing full well that this is the only way in which original beauty can be even nearly approached.

Complete dry cleaning of a theatre's carpet, however, entails removal from the floor and resultant inconvenience to patrons, if not actual closing of the house for a day or two. Usually, the theatre owner will give the subject serious thought—and then decide to do nothing about it, or at least put it off for awhile. Thus the carpet remains in an unhealthy condition, neglected in appearance, and gradually getting worse—actually shortening the life expectancy of the installation.

Cleaning Intermediary

Rather than allow this latter to occur, the theatre owner should not throw up his hands or disregard the situation entirely. As a matter of fact, there is an intermediary between daily cleaning with the vacuum and complete dry cleaning of carpet which entails removal from the theatre. This is the new and efficient method of dry cleaning rugs and carpets right on the floor, leaving the floor covering dry and ready for use within an hour or so after cleaning.

There are many advantages in this type of carpet cleaning for the theatre inasmuch as the work can be done after closing hours without removing the floor covering. This new beauty treatment for carpets can most readily be compared with a shampoo, since the carpet is first cleansed and then dried. The saving in time also becomes a saving in money.

The deterging machine which accomplishes the cleaning operation is electrical and automatic. It uses a dry soapless lather, scrubbing the carpet clean but not wetting it appreciably. The suds are immediately removed from the carpet by the machine without any extra operation by a powerful vacuum. The machine is portable and easily moved over the surface of the carpet. The method has been used successfully in many large hotels, by railroads and in the United States Government buildings as well as in theatres.

Automatic Operation

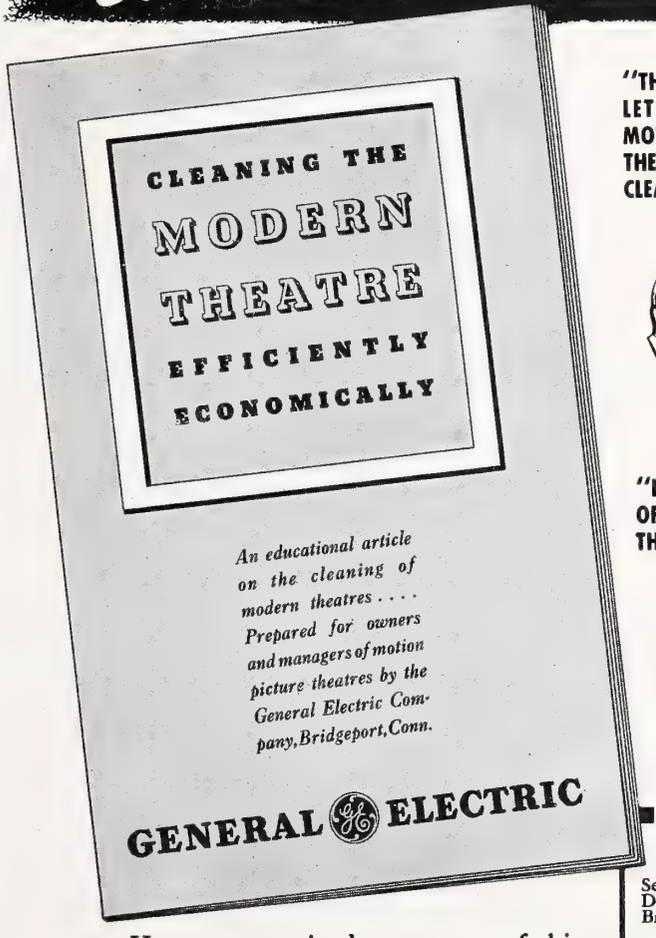
For use on the new twist pile carpets, a special cleaning product together with an attachment for the machine is recommended. This is a semi-moist powder developed especially for use on heavy pile carpeting. The powder is first distributed over and worked into the pile by the machine and then removed by a vacuum process. This method also offers many advantages for theatre use inasmuch as there is no moisture in cleaning whatsoever. This is an immediate operation.

The remarkable results attained by the dry cleaning "on the floor" method are almost unbelievable if they are not seen. Many shades of color differences will be noted immediately in a carpet being so treated, and the original lustre is restored to a startling degree. Because of the absence of moisture, the operation is harmless to the carpeting and the danger of shrinkage or fading is said to be absolutely avoided.

Carpets maintained by the methods outlined above, from frequent vacuuming to remove dust and dirt, mussiness removal by sweeper, spot eradication by prompt attention with the proper cleaners, to shampooing right on the floor, will remain good looking much longer and a source of pride to the owner. And they will last much longer too, which from the viewpoint of sound investment is a really important consideration.

An air of freshness and newness will be brought into the theatre that is redecorated at this time of year. It will pay to keep pace with the redecoration and house-cleaning activities of your patrons.

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CINE' CLINIC

PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS ON MODERN PROJECTION AND SOUND PRACTICES

The Importance of Keeping Step with All Improvements

THIS department, devoted as it is to *practical discussions on modern projection and sound practices,* has never undertaken the functions of a projectionist's manual, with intent to cover and re-cover the fundamentals of a subject with which most projectionists and theatre managers are now entirely familiar or perhaps not interested.

We have always thought, and still believe, that space herein can be devoted more advantageously to all concerned by preaching the practical gospel of Better Projection to *theatre owners and managers,* rather than to trouble our readers with too much technical research or mere trivia involved in the routine operation and maintenance of the most important parts of a theatre's equipment.

Complaints Classified

In a steadily increasing number of responses to our "Have You a Problem?" offer to be of help to our readers, we have made a most significant discovery that most problems thus presented are the direct result of one or more of five general conditions existent at the source. We set them out in the following order of frequency:

(1) Out-moded equipment,
(2) Under-capacity equipment,
(3) Improper adjustments,
(4) Careless maintenance,
(5) Operative tinkering.

In class of inquiry No. 1, we find the most trouble. Owners and operators find it impossible to get screen results from out-dated and badly worn equipment (both sound and projection or one of either) which they have themselves observed is not up to the standard being set by other and more efficiently equipped houses. Invariably, the correct answer to all such complaints is *"replace your present equipment* with the latest models which are designed to reproduce the photography and recording of today's moving picture output." To try to patch up or improve upon or otherwise adapt equipment of ancient vintage in most cases merely prolongs the agony and expense. So why not be frank about it? We can see no point in further encouraging patched-up equipment when so much depends upon the proper exhibition of motion pictures today.

Problems in class of inquiry No. 2 are likewise correctable only by the replacement of inadequate elements with new ones of a size and capacity required for what is expected of them. An under-capacity generator, rectifier, amplifier, speaker system, arc lamp or some other worn-out or over-worked element is a common complaint among theatre owners who have trouble in bringing their presentations up to par. The screen, having lost its original reflective quality is no longer up to its duty. The projection lenses or the mirror reflectors may have lost their capacity due to the ravages of time and over-use. *Replacement* is the only honest advice to be given in such cases, plus a precaution to allow extra capacity and the quality necessary to properly present the pictures of today and those of tomorrow when the replacement is being made. And it is well to be reminded that the newest devices are not necessarily less economical in operation than the old ones. Generally they are money-savers.

Mal-Adjustments

Improper adjustments in the equipment complained of frequently in the class of inquiry No. 3 is somewhat more easily consolable in offering advice. Such cases may have arisen from improper adjustments at the time of installation or may have developed later as a result of several causes. They may be overcome by simple regulation, or it might be necessary to have an experienced service man call for a complete tune-up of the entire system. But there can be so many contributing causes under the heading of mal-adjustment in both projection and sound trouble that it is only by miracle that such problems can be solved by mail. Consequently, we discourage the attempt to effect a complete cure by correspondence unless the symptoms clearly indicate and locate the cause of the ailment.

Careless maintenance (No. 4) is reproached in this department with unrelenting regularity. Yet we shall not undertake the duties of an inspector to forcefully invade the privacy of your projection rooms and point out in detail the detrimental effects and misdeeds of those in charge. We prefer to believe that the qualified projectionist needs no great amount of preaching or teaching in relation to the care of his equipment and the condition of his work-room. If he is capable, he needs no coaching except that which comes logically from alert theatre management. If he is careless about the operation and upkeep of his equipment, then the projectionist should be replaced.

As to the cause of inquiry No. 5—operative tinkering—there is always with us the type of mechanical genius who is not content to let well enough alone. The fellow who knows more about the machinery he operates than the man who made it is continually popping up in inquiries received by the Clinic. We dislike to discourage worthy initiative, but the fellow who continues to tear apart and tinker with modern projection equipment and then calls for help when trouble crops out receives little encouragement or sympathy from this department. Invention is wonderful for progress and we have no doubt that men who practically live with equipment must have ideas for improvement laudably to be encouraged in the interest of better projection. Yet, it is a matter of record that too much trouble comes from experimental tinkering with projection and sound equipment after it leaves the factory.

Responsibilities

In thus classifying the customary causes of complaint handled by the Clinic, we have in mind impressing our readers with the importance of cooperation at the users' end of the line. When equipment of any sort fails, in the opinion of the owner or his operator, to come up to the standard of operation expected, it is always easy to complain either to the manufacturer who made it, the dealer who sold and installed it, or to outsiders. Often such complaints are well justified; but in any case it would be best to be sure that the trouble is not due to one of the foregoing contributing causes that come under the head of management responsibility.

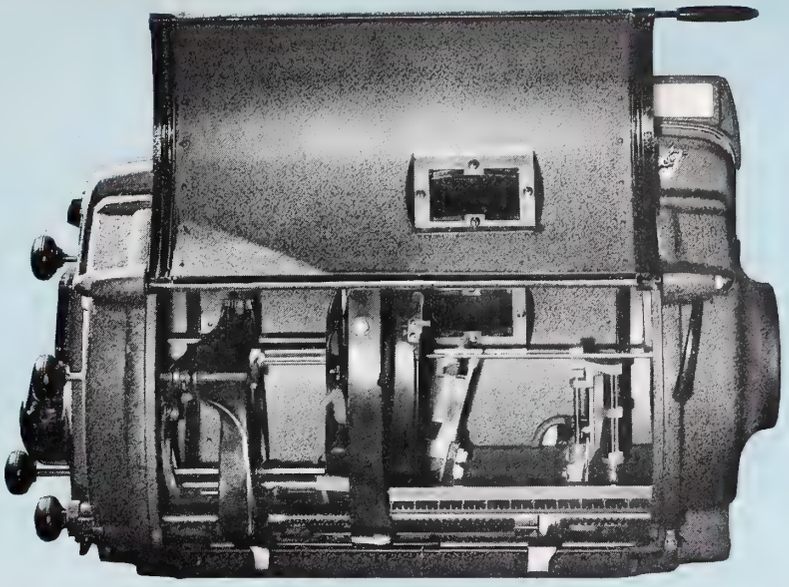
The modern projection system and its contemporary and closely related sound reproducing system are now available in a range of models priced to suit the present requirements of every size of theatre. And since it is obvious that moving picture patrons now demand the same quality of presentation in the small theatre as in the large one, there is really no good excuse for any theatre's having to suffer in comparison with others on this vital point of operation.

The Clinic will continue to advocate all

(Continued on page 64)

Have You a Problem?

Conductors of the CINE' CLINIC will be glad to answer questions relating to problems of projection and sound operation and practices through these columns. State your problem clearly, detailing symptoms of trouble. Answers to questions of general interest will be published in a later issue, identified by inquirer's initials only. Should you desire private information or advice, enclose stamp for reply. Address The MODERN THEATRE, Room 334, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.



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ESSENTIAL TO THE SATISFACTORY PROJECTION OF COLORED PICTURES

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There's a Branch Near You

The Importance of Keeping Step With All Improvements

(Continued from page 62)

out attention on the part of theatre management to the ever-increasing importance of keeping in step with current improvements in projection and sound equipment, meanwhile gladly answering any questions our readers may care to ask concerning their problems in this particular.

Lens Calibration Is Suggested by Council

Darryl F. Zanuck, chairman of the Research Council of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, recently requested the producing companies' approval to the adoption of a standard method of lens calibration.

A study just completed by the Council has demonstrated an exceedingly large variation in the calibration of lenses employed on studio production cameras, in consequence of which picture quality has suffered, and retakes, with a resultant increase in costs, have been necessary.

In a communication to the studio heads, Mr. Zanuck stated the Research Council's opinion that the adoption of an arbitrary standard of lens calibration, with an immediate recalibration of all lenses now employed on production cameras, would completely eliminate this difficulty at its source at a comparatively small cost.

A standard of lens calibration has already been established at one of the major studios, and has proved to be very practical and of definite economical value. Under this standard, lenses are interchangeable and there is never a question on the part of any cameraman working in that studio regarding the calibration of any lenses when changing from one lens to another. If approved by the producing company heads, the Council plans to extend this standard lens calibration to all studios.

This recommendation results from a study of lens calibration made by the Research Council's Basic Optical Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Burton F. Miller, and including in its membership William Draper, John Fulton, Grover Laube, John Livadary, Wilbur Silvertooth and W. B. Slaughter, Jr.

What's New in

SOUND?

If you really want to know, you'll look forward to our next issue—the "Sound Reception" Number..

issue of APRIL 26th

SCREEN LIGHT

Suprex carbons do cost more than ordinary carbons—but they provide much more light, which is the link that completes what the theatre is selling—a good picture on the screen.

Here is a simple way to understand why a higher priced and faster burning carbon may be far more economical. Suppose the carbon arc light had never been invented and you had to produce light by burning oil. Now suppose that somebody invented a wick that would feed the oil several times as fast as other wicks and burn it more efficiently so that the same sized lamp would give two or three times as much light.

Wouldn't you gladly pay two or three times as much for the new wick? Of course you would. What you must have is the light. And you know it well.

Suprex carbons are consumed faster than old style low intensity carbons but they make more light from the same amount of power. You get light in bigger quantity at far less cost per unit.

Insulation materials are just as important for summer air conditioning as they are for winter warmth. They keep the heat out in summer as effectively as they keep it in during the winter.

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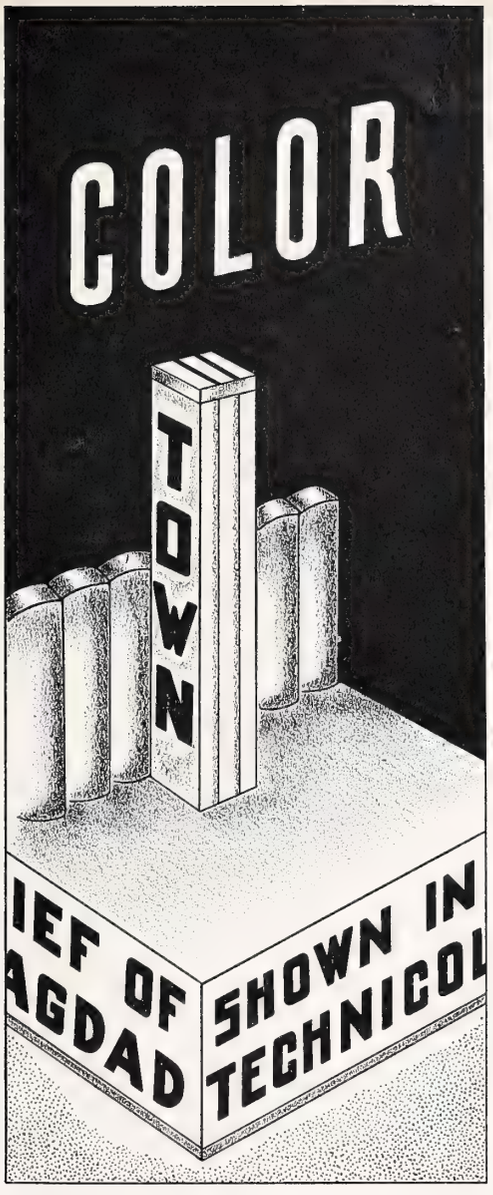
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● Satisfactory projection of colored pictures with the muddy yellow light of the low intensity has been just as impossible. The required brilliance and sparkling snow-white light of the high intensity arc had been denied these theatres by prohibitive operating costs. The Strong one Kilowatt Utility made possible the correct reproduction of Technicolor.

● Although this new Strong Utility intermediate high intensity lamp projects twice as much light as is possible with any low intensity lamp, the increased combined current and carbon cost is less than 2c an hour. Your Independent Theatre Supply Dealer will gladly demonstrate this new marvel of efficiency in your theatre without obligation. Call him today.

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Today—A Newsreel Theatre With Numerous Innovations

(Continued from page 39)

veneer in a horizontal grain which bespeaks modernity. The carpet, a rough-textured type with flowing directional lines made a part of the design, is a fitting basis upon which the modern wall settees in vertically striped leatherette are placed. Indirect ceiling lighting with a few auxiliary cove units serves to illuminate this room with a pleasing glow.

At the far end of the foyer an impressive mural immediately dominates the attention of entering patrons. This mural was created by Miss Pat O'Brien, a well known young Chicago artist, who has done a number of distinguished murals for hotels and industrial firms. It sets the scene smartly for proper consumption of newsreel entertainment within the house. Before this mural a stunning treatment in the form of a wall-box for growing plants was placed. This also serves artfully to conceal the direct lighting of the mural.

Comfort Prime Element

The auditorium of this intimate theatre seats only 325 persons, but they are ensconced in comfort, convenience and atmospheric unity. Push-back chairs padded with foamed rubber on seats, backs and arm-rests were installed and they were placed unusually far apart for added convenience of patrons. Scientific air conditioning is another prime element of comfort in this small auditorium, and acoustically treated walls serve to assure the finest sound reception at all points.

Practically the only illumination and color treatment of the auditorium comes from the reflected glow of "black light" on phosphorescent murals on the sidewalls. Several supplementing fixtures in the ceiling, however, are modern in design and entirely efficient for the complete illumination of this small auditorium.

The interesting fluorescent murals depicting certain newsreel standbys such as sports and human interest items were conceived by John Pratt, well known Chicago artist, who first came to prominence with his costume designs for the much lauded and publicized "Hot Mikado" a few years ago. The murals and certain definite contours which flank the unadorned screen of this theatre are the only decorative factors in the auditorium, aside from colorful chair upholstery and carpet.

Projection and sound equipment and accessories in "Today" of course are of the latest design and production. Inasmuch as newsreel subjects often make greater than ordinary demands upon the mechanical presentation in a theatre, this provision was absolutely essential, to assure complete satisfaction of patrons who might otherwise be most critical of the program.

Design for Relaxation

The theatre has a most inviting lounge and rest rooms. These rooms are located downstairs, where space was not at a premium. The lounge is equipped with inviting settees upholstered in smartly tailored leather. Reading lamps and magazines are provided as well as smoking accessories. A novel innovation is the decorative treatment of the walls in the lounge. An unusual "postermontage" is featured here. It is composed of colorful one- and three-sheet posters of celebrities and famous news events finished with a coat of transparent lacquer for wearability and sheen. It is planned to change the posters frequently to preserve timeliness.

The ultra-modern restrooms are finished in structural glass in black and white with red trimmings, very modern and gleaming with the appearance of cleanliness and sanitation. Modern fixtures in these rooms are innovations in themselves. Chief among them are electric hand driers made to conform perfectly with the walls and plumbing fixtures in design and finish. Another modern-to-the-minute provision is the installation of ultra-violet ray self-sterilizing toilet seats for the complete protection and peace of mind of patrons.

And now a word on the staff of this unusual small theatre. Except for Manager John Luebbing, the staff is all-feminine and all-brunette. Statuesque and beautiful brunettes were selected through a city-wide contest conducted by "Today." The judging was based on intelligence and personality tests, appearance, poise, voice and general information. Richard Beck claims "Today" now has the most intelligent staff of girls in the country.

The cashiers are called "Treasurers"; the usherettes, "Directresses." Not only do they serve in regulation capacities, but they are expected to be a source of information to patrons, answering questions

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on current events and directing patrons in and about Chicago. The girls were awarded year's contracts at wages 20 per cent higher than average, and a multiple-management profit-sharing plan is also being considered for them. They also handle a free package checking service which is available to anyone shopping or lunching in the Loop, whether or not he or she is a patron of the theatre.

NOVELTY IN POLICY

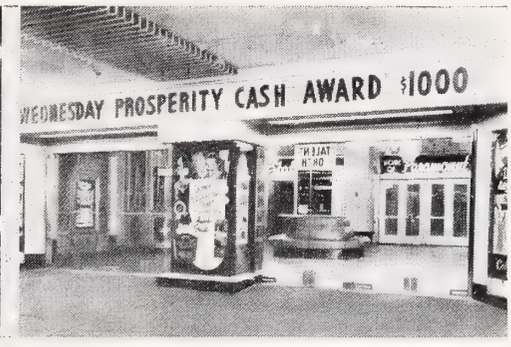
Even in the program policy of this newsreel theatre innovations are to be found. The regulation one-hour program consisting of about thirty-five minutes of news with the remainder including short subjects, selected novelties and humor is enhanced by the fact that this is the only theatre in Chicago to which newsreels are regularly shipped by air express direct from the editorial offices of New York newsreel companies. The program changes weekly, but "spot news" and unusual events are air-expressed and shown in the theatres as they are received.

A bit of humor is involved in a couple of innovations suggested by David Chapman but not passed by Richard Beck. Who knows but that they may yet be included in future plans? They were: Tickets to be purveyed in the form of especially designed chewing gum. Patrons were to give the wrappers to the door-girl and chew the stub. Mr. Beck vetoed this plan on the grounds that it was too sticky. Collapsible side-arms for seats also were suggested, in the thought that theatre parties might put down the dividers and create a sort of davenport for their own group. This plan was vetoed on the grounds that it might corner the sweetheart trade and take business away from the parks.

"Today" is a creation of our time's progress and innovation with an eye to the future. It is novel in scope and application of all that modern materials and theatre equipment provide, but its outstanding feature is functionalism and practicability. Can more be desired in a modern theatre?

FRONT MODERNIZATION VIA THE GLASS ROUTE





WHERE formerly the Orpheum Theatre at Omaha, Nebraska, was not particularly attractive to passersby, with too much unrelated display and not enough of the elements of beauty, it is now, thanks to modernization, a distinctive example of what the modern theatre facade should be.

A new marquee with much more space for legible display in multi-size silhouette letters on a background of brilliantly illuminated white glass and name-signs of a more impressive type do a much better job of exploiting both the house and its program. Integrated display frames also lend greater dignity than those which formerly cluttered the entrance.

The facade itself was faced with gleaming structural glass in an ivory tone, based and trimmed with a wine color and extruded metal. The modern provision of heavy plate glass doors at the entrance to this house is a unique treatment. These are of an especially produced type of glass which is so strong that it needs no supporting members. Save for metal push-bars and hinges, the doors present an unbroken expanse of clear crystal glass through which the interior of the house may be viewed perfectly.

This sparkling installation with its high illumination and many reflective surfaces is indeed a modern accomplishment in smart application of contemporary industry's creations for functional theatre construction. (Photos courtesy Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company).

Spring Renovation encompasses everything from complete remodeling and modernization to plain old-fashioned housecleaning. Examine the theatre carefully to determine which course is needed.

Check up on that air conditioning system right now before the big switch is made from winter heating to summer cooling. Is everything in readiness for the temperature transformation?

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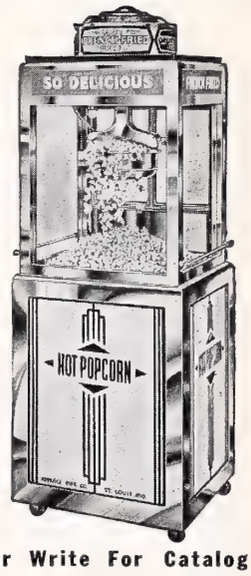
The profit you make on popcorn is the easiest—and the best—you can make. Facts and figures prove Exhibitors sell 2c worth of popcorn for every paid admission—AND THE PROFIT IS 70c ON EVERY DOLLAR! Why don't you, too, cash in?

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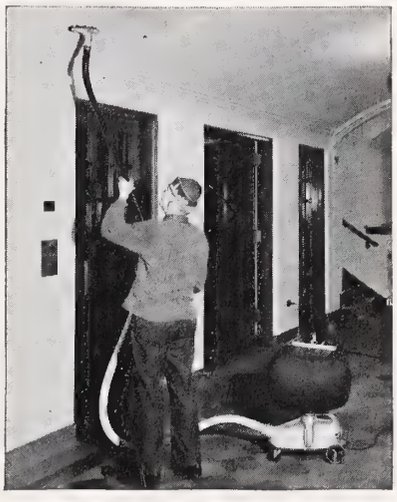
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AIR CONDITIONING

DEVOTED TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN THEATRES

Proper Control is the Crux of an Air Conditioning Plant

by **GORDON H. SIMMONS***



SPEAKING of "control" in general terms, I am constrained to exhort you gentlemen to exercise better control over yourselves when you select air conditioning systems for your theatres. If more of you would practice self-control in the purchase of your equipment, proper control of the temperature in your theatres would not be such an ever-recurring problem.

Control yourselves, gentlemen! There's a good idea for you and I'll be glad to send a wiring diagram and complete instructions to anybody who really wants to be self-controlled and confident in the purchase of an air conditioning system.

With yourself under proper restraint you may then proceed more intelligently and safely, and certainly more economically, in securing an efficient and coordinated control of all the vital mechanical elements of the air conditioning system you now have—or the new one you are about to acquire. Self-control comes first in my air conditioning curriculum.

Mechanical Control

The main spring of control for any air conditioning system is, of course, the thermostat. But the other dependent control elements which are actuated by the thermostat vary with the kind of job you have.

A different kind of controller is needed for a steam boiler, a hot water boiler, a warm air furnace; and even controls used on stokers are different from oil burner controls. Such controls cannot be interchanged.

Entirely different wiring diagrams are needed for refrigeration compressors, deep well pumps, and even a cold water supply. Different again if you use ice for air conditioning. And many of you do.

But in all cases, the same kind of damper motor is generally used for regulating fresh air and recirculated air supply. And in all cases this item of control equipment should be used for best results.

Now you can buy control gadgets that are the very best of their kind. But a *control system* is something built into the wiring diagram. If it is good, your apparatus will have more pep. But it cannot be good unless the guy who makes the wiring diagram knows what you have, or are going to install, in the way of equipment, because it is the equipment to be controlled and not just the controls.

Now you can have a wiring diagram and a box full of control parts but still you'll be "up in the air" unless the diagram shows *exactly* where each control, by name and number, must be placed. I believe in exactness, so I try to give explicit instruction and dimensions when called upon to do so.

Even a fairly simple temperature control system looks pretty much like a radio hook-up, but the local electrician is usually competent if he is given the kind of diagram he understands. There's no use for you to even try to figure it out unless you are likewise an informed electrician. I happen to be one, which may account for my being at intervals so "shocking" to my readers.

Wherefore the Shock

A majority of the shocking results obtained from theatre air conditioning are due to the controls not functioning properly because of incorrect hook-up. In such cases, a re-connection of elements is all that is needed.

I have spent as much as $1,000 for controls on a large theatre job, and this item of cost is customarily the last one that causes any complaints. Of course smaller theatres don't require such an investment in controls, but no theatre can get by with a $15.00 thermostat alone, if a better grade result is desired.

It all depends on whether you want to control the inside of your theatre to a fixed and comfortable condition regardless of outside weather and in spite of varying crowds. *That you must decide first.*

A thermostat alone can operate your system by the "start-and-stop" method. But you don't drive your automobile that way, do you? You vary its speed in accordance with how you feel and whether or not you see a cop in the offing. But even if no cop were in sight, you wouldn't come to a dead stop at every street intersection.

Now your air conditioning system for best operation must have "tentacles" to take a "feel" of the outside weather and the inside crowd. And then translate the "feelings by the tentacles" into appropriate automatic action.

The "start-and-stop" method can make the house alternately too warm and too cold—practically never a happy medium, which is what's wanted. If the system is hand-adjusted for a modest crowd and a large crowd unexpectedly comes in, the place can become stuffy before you can think of making proper hand adjustments.

When I go to a theatre and become interested in the picture, the while forgetting all about the inside weather, I may actually forget about that inside temperature for as long as thirty minutes or maybe even longer. But finally there comes a time when I am made aware of the atmosphere, either because the place gradually becomes stuffy and oppressive or perhaps because the heating system shuts down automatically and I become too cold.

Causes of Discomfort

During the summer months, I can sit in certain theatres for as long as an hour and be quite comfortable. But bye and bye, the humidity builds up and I begin to get restless and start squirming in my seat even before I become aware of the cause of it. If I were a layman and didn't know about air conditioning, I'd probably never get wise to what causes my discomfort.

I have placed recording instruments in many a theatre and made a graphic chart of what happens from opening time to time of closing. Almost invariably the summer air conditioning starts up and gives a nice result. But with a crowd and before closing time, the result slowly builds up to a condition that is not so nice—even horrible in some instances.

In one instance where I had air conditioned the house a year before, and was making a return visit (somehow I can

Information, Please

We, meaning the Editor and me, want to know about your air conditioning problems, in order to better serve in helping you and others to solve them. If you're in trouble, or want to avoid it; if you're confused or otherwise undecided on what to do about this or that, just sit right down and write, telling us what's troubling you. Give us full facts about your theatre—seating capacity, room dimensions, equipment, air outlets, blower sizes, etc. NO CHARGE FOR ADVICE. Address THE MODERN THEATRE, 332 S. MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO, ILL. — AND BE SURE TO ENCLOSE POSTAGE FOR REPLY.—G. H. S.

*Air Conditioning Engineer, Milwaukee, Wis.

always come back) to the theatre owner, I asked several patrons, who were strangers to me, "how they liked the theatre's air conditioning?" Never having seen me before nor suspecting that I had anything to do with the job, they said: "Conditions during the first performance are good. But when we go to the second show, we can tell what the people attending the first show had for supper. Sometimes it's garlic!"

Now such conditions cannot be controlled by a mere thermostat because the stench of garlic does not register on a thermostat. Nevertheless, it is possible to proportionately open those fresh-air dampers, depending upon the size of the crowd in the house, and this is a desirable thing to do. (Just a part of the "radio hook-up" hereinbefore suggested.)

Many times, offensive lingering odors can be controlled this way, although there are also other and more expensive means of doing it. Such for instance, as using special apparatus employing activated carbon, in the main air supply duct.

Affects Business

The "start-and-stop" method of controlling your heating, ventilating and air conditioning system may be one of the principal reasons for the "start-and stop" attendance at your theatre. It could be. If a really outstanding picture comes to town, the crowd will turn out in spite of bad air conditions. But these unholy air conditions are no inducement for the crowd to sit through a medium grade picture or maybe a double feature.

When a real hot day hits Milwaukee, I usually hie me to an air conditioned tavern that is under proper control. And when the control slips, I order up another beaker of the golden brew. Usually it slips so many times that by the time I am ready to leave I have aboard quite a cargo and am liable to do some plain and fancy side slipping myself.

Under such conditions, I spend a nickel and phone for a cop. He drives me home and takes a receipt from the wife. This is a free service offered by the Milwaukee police force, and it explains the reason for our feeling and loudly proclaiming that our police force is "one of the finest."

Of course, I occasionally pay for a ticket handed out by them, and it's always more than four bits, too. Such as for parking overtime, alongside of a fire

(Continued on following page)

EVEN THE DOG HOUSE

And now we have the air conditioned dog house. It seems that Milton Worth, fire truck driver in Deal, New Jersey, has spent $65.00 and three weeks of his spare time building the canine castle for his pair of hounds. Features of the house include plate glass windows with eastern and northern exposure, a screened ventilator tower, walls insulated with rock wool, asbestos shingles and a porch. The windows can be taken out in summer and replaced with screens and venetian blinds, according to Worth. Can he have had an ulterior motive? Move over Fido and Rover.

Simmons' Q & A Corner

Problems presented herein are bona fide and are not imaginary concoctions for the purpose of misrepresenting reader interest. Original signed letters are on file for examination, subject to the approval of correspondents.

Coming from a theatre man whom experience has endowed with special training on electrical hook-up, the following letter was selected from the files, because of its peculiar relationship to the subject chosen for discussion in this issue—controls. The point is that (paraphrasing Bill Shakespeare) "The *Plan's* the thing, etc." But read:

His Letter: "Your section in Boxoffice has always been of great interest to me. Your March 1st masterpiece is the one that made a regular grand slam and rushed my plans to a completion that was being accumulated since 1938.

"The information we are looking for may come under your advertisement in the back of Boxoffice, so please let us know *how much* in order that we may check first.

"My work for the past ten years has been jack-of-all-trades that has been useful in this work and the ten years installing for the Western Electric in telephone exchanges. This is to let you know *who* will do most of the work and your advice will be followed to the letter.

"The equipment we have now that we would like to re-use: Furnace is steam and rated 900 sq. ft. radiation, fired with silent automatic oil burner. Blower 16 in., rated capacity by the manufacturer 5,000 cu. ft., purchased in 1938, present motor ¾ h. p. capacitor type. Radiation in the office and lobby is ample with present radiators. Auditorium radiators were all moved to the air conditioning room and nearly fill it up. (This we want to replace.) One 1¼ in. motor-driven steam valve with associated thermostat controls this bank of radiators. (Installed in 1938.) Automatic motor starter 110-220 volt for up to 3 h. p. (New 1939.) Available water supply, cold water spring in the furnace room, temperature tests were 46 and 52 degrees F. (52 was in the summer.)

"We would like to have a sketch that would fit our needs and contain the following: Sketch new duct system. Size, make of dampers, damper motor, damper controls and diffusers. Size and make of filters. Size and make of cooling and heating unit. Blower size and make (also your opinion on adding to the present or replacing with a new blower.) You may add humidifier to the sketch for winter. Floor space available. (See Floor Plan Back of Screen Section CC.) All that space shown as air conditioning room less chimney. The new ducts may start at the top of the present and go to the floor if necessary. The space under roof is also accessible.

"Your recommendation of floor ventilators using the hollow walls and the roof vent. Also the size and make of the automatic shutters for these vents to keep cold air from coming into the auditorium when the blower is not inhaling outside air.

"Now here is the tight spot. We will have to install this equipment as the cash comes in and will need your plans to keep from making more mistakes. This summer we will remove the bulky radiators, change the ducts, add to the blowers and install filters. This fall heating coils will be added. By spring a water pump will be installed for the cooling. The approximate cost of each item will help us, and as I am an electrical contractor some of the items may be obtained through jobbers.

"Your work must be very interesting and I wish I had the requirements and the opportunity to work up to be one of your lieutenants.—E. K."

My Answer: "Many thanks for your kind remarks in the first paragraph of your letter. But if you play bridge, perhaps I'd better come up and see you.

"Am also glad to know that my advertisement in the back of Boxoffice is being read. And to find out from your initial letter "who" is going to do your air conditioning work. It's easy when you have a plan.

"I plan such work for many a theatre owner only to have most of them work like hell to cut corners or pull themselves up by their boot straps. So I sit back with my tongue in my cheek waiting for them to realize that a plan needs to be followed just the same as a system in a bridge game or anything else for that matter.

"When I make a plan, and if it is followed, mine is the responsibility; not theirs. If anything happens, I know what to do and do it. Am thoroughly familiar with the 'innate cussedness of inanimate objects,' but I am trying to locate the 'innate cussedness' in this theatre air conditioning situation about the almost universal failure to 'plan the work and then work the plan.'

"There is no hope for improvement of a bad state of affairs until this idea is adopted and consistently followed.

"Am glad to use you as a Guinea Pig. Follow the plan I will furnish and then write the Editor reporting results whatever they are. I think you can compare your job when finished with any others you have seen and have the satisfaction of knowing that it is as good as any and better than most. In fact, you might accidentally get an *outstanding job*. And there are very few of these.

"Now I will engineer your job for $50.00 which includes more than just making a plan. Consult me as you need to and as your work progresses. I'll lay it out in stages for you so that by next year you will have a complete job. Will save you some money too, as most of your equipment is usable.

"It is usual to mail half the fee as a retainer and the other half when plans are delivered. But if we have to wait 'until the cash comes in,' we'll just have to wait, that's all.—G. H. S."

Proper Control Is the Crux of a Theatre Conditioning System

(Continued from preceding page)

hydrant, in a parking zone or in front of a picture theatre where I do not belong. Even our tickets to the Policemen's Ball come higher than yours. But I don't buy my tickets from the Police Dept. with any degree of resignation or regret. I feel that because of personal service rendered, I get a run for my money.

This has been literally true. If a motor cycle cop starts after me, I usually try to run away and sometimes I succeed. But even when I am caught, I tell him what a swell police force we have and then he hasn't the heart to hand me a ticket.

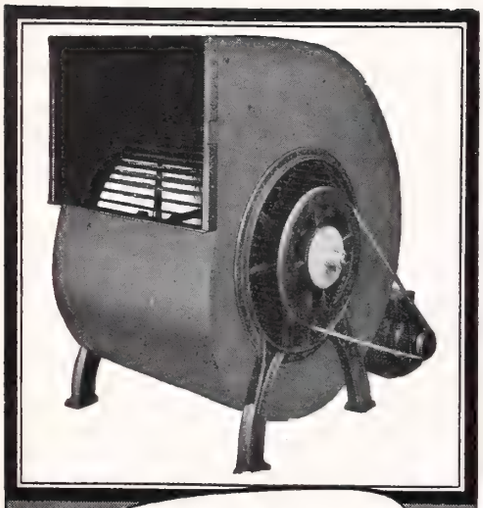
But if I should ever become an air conditioning cop, nearly all of you theatre owners would get a ticket. The only way you might talk me out of the pinch would be your promise to install proper controls, properly hooked up. I then might let you off with a sharp reprimand for your past violations.

Now that Spring is in the air again, and since this is our "Spring Renovation" issue, let me urge you in closing to give some immediate attention to your air conditioning system. It, too, may need Spring Renovation in the interest of better boxoffice receipt regulation throughout the summer.

Huge Ice-Making Plant for Soldiers in P. R.

What is believed to be the world's largest ice-making plant using "Freon-12" refrigerant has been installed by Carrier Corporation, at Fort Buchanan, San Juan, Puerto Rico, to serve a cantonment of 15,000 men. The complete equipment for this installation was made in Syracuse and shipped to Puerto Rico.

The new "Freon-12" plant at Fort Buchanan will produce twenty tons of ice daily. It includes two 50 horsepower compressors and one evaporative condenser with brine coolers. In addition to this installation, the air conditioning firm has supplied four other 50 horsepower compressors for cold storage facilities in the same camp.



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DRAW PATRONS INTO YOUR THEATRE

Decide right now to cool and ventilate your theatre economically with the quiet, vibrationless

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12 sizes from 1,500 cfm to 30,000 cfm only

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Also used for exhaust, circulating warm air in winter, and with washed air, and refrigeration.

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DRAMATIZATION OF AIR CONDITIONING IN MOVIE

THE world premiere of the new air conditioning movie "Weather by Carrier" was given recently by Carrier Corporation before a group of leading newspaper, magazine and business paper editors and publishers at the Jansen Suite in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City.

Officials of the air conditioning company explained that the picture was the first industrial movie devoted entirely to the subject of air conditioning. Produced by Castle Films of New York, the picture was inspired by a lecture demonstration in the Carrier Igloo at the recent New York World's Fair.

The theme of the 15-minute movie is based on an educational lecture and demonstration which for the first time reduces the complicated subject of air conditioning to simple terms easily understood by the public. The picture shows goldfish living in a bowl of water squeezed from air saturated with humidity, canaries saved from perishing in a dust storm by a filter, and a graphic illustration of the heat given off by the body of the average human being. After the preview at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago, prints of the movie will be available for club, school, church and other educational uses, thus to reach the general public whose interest in the subject of air conditioning is known to be high at this time.

Temperature - Humidity Controls Are an Economy

The economy of automatic regulation of temperature is too well established to require much discussion. Heating plants, for instance, are designed to heat buildings to 70 degrees usually (theatres somewhat higher), when the outdoor temperature is at the "usual minimum" low point encountered in that particular locality.

In the United States, these "minimum design temperatures" vary from about 20 degrees below zero to 25 degrees above zero. But the average outdoor temperature during the heating season in New York is 40 degrees, in Chicago 42 degrees, in Cincinnati 45 degrees, in the mountains of Colorado 35 degrees, and in San Francisco 50 degrees.

It is apparent that the maximum capacity of the heating plant is not required, except for relatively few days during the heating season. Since adequate temperature control apparatus prevents overheating, it is not unusual to find that fuel saving of 20 to 40 per cent may be had through the use of automatic temperature regulation equipment, properly applied. Similarly, the control of over-cooling is an economy measure.

Remember that every cent spent for Spring Renovation is merely an investment in boxoffice appeal which never yet has failed to pay dividends.

Sales Meetings Evoke Conditioning Progress

Throughout the months of March, April and May, the York Ice Machinery Corporation is holding a series of thirty-eight sales meetings for its branch and distributor organization throughout the country. The company's 1941 products are being exhibited and new sales policies discussed.

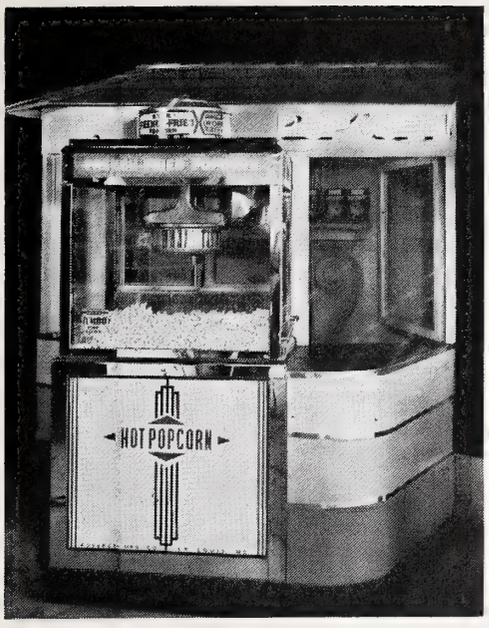
Ten separate meetings are being held in key cities on the subject of air conditioning; ten meetings on industrial refrigeration; ten meetings on commercial air conditioning, refrigerating and heating equipment.

These conferences are attended by representatives of the company's sales and distributor organizations in each territory. Members of the home office explain new equipment and new sales plans and policies for 1941.

Sales planning and sales promotion are the keynote of these meetings. Through descriptions of each product, its application, and ways and means of selling it are being presented by means of exhibits, new equipment displays, talking slide films, speeches and general discussions.

Among the items of new equipment presented are: The new "V/W" ammonia compressor; a new series of fractional horse power refrigerating units; the redesigned turbo-compressor system; and the redesigned large air conditioner.

Popcorn Promotion



With an unusual design created especially for the lobby of one of the Lucas & Jenkins Theatres where popcorn is sold, the modern popcorn machine is attractively combined with a miniature house from which the attendant can purvey this popular item in an unobtrusive yet inviting manner. A neon sign on a flasher heightens the eye-catching appeal of the house. (Photo courtesy Advance Manufacturing Co.)

Advantages of Modern Front Construction

The advantages of modern structural glasses, porcelains and plastics for theatre front construction are almost countless. In the first place, a modern, gleaming and colorful front is a theatre's best and most permanent advertisement. It lifts the theatre above all neighboring competition. With such a front, the building becomes distinctive, attractive, colorful and exclusive. It invariably increases customer traffic, steps up ticket sales and thus pays for itself in a relatively short time and continues endlessly to pay dividends.

Modern front construction materials have many use values which make them outstandingly applicable. They will not rust, discolor, fade and are quite resistant to scratching. They are as easy to clean as a plate glass window, thus reducing building maintenance costs. Such materials also afford insulating value and the design and color combination possibilities are almost endless.

Success or Failure of Air Conditioning

"Air Conditioning—Success or Failure?" is the title of a new folder issued by the Anemostat Corporation of America. Prepared for architects, engineers, contractors, and others concerned with the design of air conditioning systems, the booklet should also prove to be of interest to theatre owners.

Success or failure of an air conditioning system, the booklet points out, depends upon draftless air distribution, equalization of temperatures, and the elimination of stale air pockets.

In support of this position the *Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Guide* (1940 Edition) reads as follows: "Correct air distribution contributes as much or more to success of a forced air heating, ventilating, cooling, or air conditioning system as does any other single factor."

The new folder is printed in two colors and is profusely illustrated with photographs showing the architectural adaptability of the high velocity air diffusers.

Rubber Stair Nosing Resists Carpet Wear

Designed for use in clubs, theatres, hotels, steamships, churches, schools; in fact anywhere that safety and durability are prime considerations, rubber stair tread nosing is a most applicable accessory for stair carpeting installations.

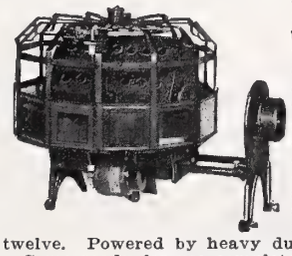
Outstanding features of this safety item are: It can be installed without removing old carpet, thus giving additional years of wear to the present stair covering. White,



(Photo Courtesy Lawrich Sales)

or any other harmonious light color, serves as a marker in dimly lighted areas, thus reducing the hazards of tripping. The tread nosing can be used in conjunction with all types of resilient coverings. There is no inconvenience to customers during installation since it can be accomplished very easily and quickly after-hours.

Best Automatic Slide Projectors



Extensively used in theatre projection booths, theatre lobbies, and on rooftops with outdoor screens. The 500-watt model accommodates ten standard size (3¼"x 4") or smaller slides, the 1000 and 1500 watt models handle twelve. Powered by heavy duty motors.

Come ready for use completely equipped (except lamp bulb) with an easily focused mirror (which obtains maximum efficiency from the lamp source), approved cord and control switch, and any focus objective lens from 6" up to 36".

"Best" Hand Operated Slide Projectors also come in three sizes. See them at your dealers or write direct for literature.

BEST DEVICES CO. 10516 Western Ave. CLEVELAND, OHIO

Plastics Popular

Anyone with an eye for beauty these days is aware of new and interesting achievements in design. Architecture, furniture, interior decoration all give evidence that imagination has been stirred by new impulse. Fascinating things are being done that were never done before. What prompts this modern display of creative art? No single stimulus deserves all the credit certainly, but one of the foremost, beyond question, is the discovery of new possibilities in materials which modern industry makes available—the plastics, of which we have been hearing so much lately.

The physical characteristics of these chemically created materials are most interesting. They have high tensile strength but are light in weight. They are resilient and flexible, easily applicable to rounded surfaces. Tougher than hard wood but easier to saw or fit into place. Unaffected by water and able to stand great heat. But, most important of all, the processes of manufacture give plastics a glass-smooth finish in many colors and designs, making them ideal for interesting effects in the finest modern spirit.

A change in the color of lighting used throughout a theatre will effect marvelous decorative and atmospheric alterations. Try the cool colors, for instance, now that warm days are in the offing.

GROUND CREW . . . Back of every airplane pilot is a ground crew of men in grease-stained overalls.

There's very little glamour about these men. The public rarely sees them. Yet you couldn't get an airplane off the ground without them. That's how important they are.

Every industry has its ground crew that the public never sees. In your theatre it's the projection and sound, for without them you couldn't put a picture on the screen. That's how important *they* are.

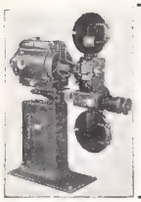
Simplex Projection and Simplex Sound make the best ground crew for any theatre.

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WHAT YOU MAY NEED AND WHERE TO FIND IT



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COMPLETE PROJECTORS
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AIR CONDITIONING
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Plan to install new THEATRE LIGHTING NOW at these unusually LOW PRICES. Up to the minute designs for beauty and soft colored effects. Side wall, ceiling and exit fixtures, also special fixtures made to order. Sold direct from factory to you, hundreds of theatre owners on our list of satisfied customers. Only a few of our styles shown here. It will pay you to write today for descriptive literature.



Exit Fixture
$4.75 each



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8" to 24" Interchangeable — Also 6" Letters
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THRILL ALL WHO SEE IT! Kinner's Glass & Chrome cleaner does not deposit a film to deaden the natural sparkle. It brings out the beauty, makes your Theatre front stand out. No abrasives to ruin your chrome. Order a gallon today, return if not satisfied. $1.00 per gallon, plus postage.
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MANLEY, Inc. Kansas City, Mo.

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Keep seats securely anchored with SUPREME EXPANSION BOLTS. Sold by leading supply houses.
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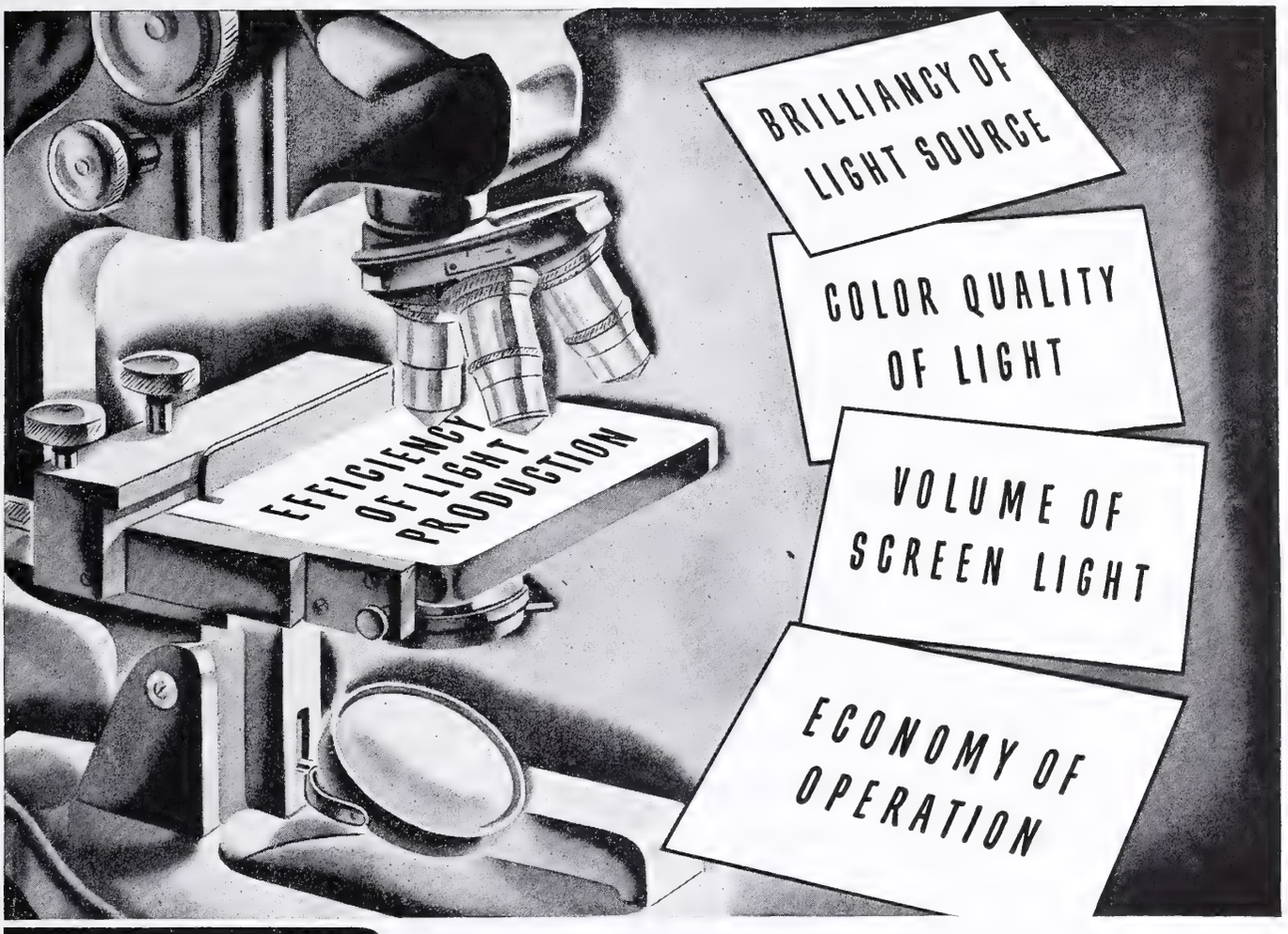
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PLEASE TELL 'EM WHERE
YOU SAW IT

GENERAL CHAIRS
"The Worlds Finest"
GENERAL
SOLD EVERYWHERE BY DEALERS SQUARE

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1941 marks our sixtieth year of progress in the field of carbon arc lighting. Through constant research and development great strides have been made in the efficiency and usefulness of the carbon arc. Continued progress is assured by the most modern laboratory and manufacturing facilities.

It pays to Investigate

● Theatre patronage and resultant profits are affected to an important degree by quality of projection light. Patrons favor those theatres where the projection is clear and sharp, where color features are shown in *natural* colors and where there is sufficient screen illumination to permit adequate general lighting.

If you are still using low intensity projection it will pay you to investigate the numerous advantages, such as efficiency of light production, brilliancy of light source, color quality of light, volume of screen light and economy of operation, made available to the smallest theatre by the new "One Kilowatt" high intensity arcs.

The words "National," "Suprex" and "Orotip" are trade-marks of National Carbon Company, Inc.

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BRANCHES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

HOLLYWOOD BOXOFFICE
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE PRODUCTION CENTER
(Hollywood Office—Suite 219 at 6404 Hollywood Blvd.; Ivan Spear, Western Manager)

Mexico Adds to Laurels Garnered by "Rebecca"

Two more awards have been garnered by David O. Selznick's United Artists production, "Rebecca." *El Universal,* Mexico City newspaper, conducted a popularity contest in which the film was voted the most successful hit of the year, and UA named the outstanding company for releasing it. At the same time, *Cinema Reporter,* Mexican trade paper, gave "Rebecca" a diploma as the best picture of 1940.

Korda Slates "Illusions" As Next With Oberon

Alexander Korda's next production for United Artists, slated to roll March 31, has been titled "Illusions." Merle Oberon will star, with Julien Duvivier directing. Duvivier and L. Bus-Fekete wrote the script, and the leading male role has been assigned to Joseph Cotton, New York stage player, recently signed to a long-term contract by Korda.

Film Leaders Huddle With War Department Heads

A first-hand glimpse of the industry's efforts and cooperation in furthering national defense interests, was obtained by members of a war department party, including top-rank newsreel, photographic and radio executives, when they arrived here Tuesday for a one-day conference with film leaders. The visit came only a few days after word had been received from Washington, D. C., that the war department had officially accepted the first two army training films produced by the Academy's Research Council.

Visitors were headed by Lieut.-Col. Frank A. Allen jr., of the army's general staff and one of the directors of the army's bureau of public relations. Representing the industry at the conferences was Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-chairman of the motion picture production defense committee, who took the place of Y. Frank Freeman, chairman, now in the east. Program for the day included:

A private showing of Paramount's "I Wanted Wings," preceded by brief talks by Walter F. Wanger, Academy president, and Arthur Hornblow jr., who produced the film. This was followed by luncheon at the Warner studio, with H. M. Warner as host. Then the group was taken on the set of one of the army training films now in production at 20th Century-Fox, where Zanuck, Col. Nathan Levinson and Capt. Gordon S. Mitchell, Research Council manager, explained plans for future training film production. Tour was organized under personal orders from Gen. George C. Marshall, U. S. Army chief of staff, and includes inspection of aircraft factories, flying fields, army posts and other defense units.

Raise Funds for Greece

With "Greek Week" officially getting underway March 25, to continue to April 2, theatres throughout the country are cooperating in an effort to raise funds for Greek war relief. A number of Hollywood players are making personal appearances in key cities, including Bette Davis, who went to Boston; Edward Arnold, Cleveland; Judy Garland, New York; Ruth Hussey, Detroit; Maureen O'Sullivan, Washington, and Walter Abel, St. Paul. Local committee includes Charles P. Skouras, Fox West Coast president; W. E. Calloway, Warner exchange manager; and Robert H. Poole, executive director of the Independent Theatre Owners of So. Calif. and Ariz.

Whitney Confers With Thomson

John Hay Whitney, chairman of the motion picture division of the Committee for Commercial and Cultural Relations Between American Republics, spent several days here in conference with Kenneth Thomson, Screen Actors Guild secretary, who has been appointed west-coast representative for the organization. Whitney was accompanied by his aide, Francis Alstock. Thomson's duties, principally, will be as a liaison officer, securing screen stars for personal appearance tours below the border.



Pull $3,200 Out of a Hat—

Sweet charity—in this case the Motion Picture Relief Fund—was the beneficiary when the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio Artists held their annual "Gambol of the Stars" recently. President Roosevelt's campaign hat is the center of attraction for, left to right: George Murphy, who emceed the show; Edward G. Robinson; Edward Arnold, SAG president; Melvyn Douglas; Ken Carpenter, AFRA president; and Jean Hersholt, head of the MPRF. Believe it or not, the expression on Robinson's face is supposed to be one of pleasure. He and Douglas jointly bid $3,200 *and won the Roosevelt chapeau at auction.*

Unions Seek to Iron Out Wage, Hour Discord

With the outcome destined to play an important part in governing studio working conditions henceforth, representatives of 29 unions and two groups of cartoon workers participated in the first of a series of hearings scheduled by the wage-hour administration to iron out disagreements over certain classifications as tabulated recently by the wage-hour unit after an exhaustive survey of the industry. Bulk of the protests concern the unions' fear that being ruled non-exempt, and consequently subject to hourly pay scales, will mean a loss in weekly earnings. Present at the initial session were Joseph A. Padway, general counsel for the American Federation of Labor and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes; Steve B. Newman, IA executive; Frank Carothers, head of the Motion Picture International Committee; and representatives of the carpenters, teamsters, electricians, hod carriers, studio utility workers, plasterers, sound technicians, Screen Directors Guild, photographers, Screen Cartoonists Guild, Screen Set Designers, painters, first-aid men and nurses, machinists, script clerks, prop men, wardrobe, Federated Screen Cartoonists and others.

SOEG Conferences Continue

Screen Office Employes Guild has begun negotiations with Universal and Columbia on a closed-shop agreement. It had already launched similar conferences at M-G-M, where it demands minimum wage scales ranging from $25 weekly for messengers to $87 for top clerical positions.

SWG Producer Meet April 4

After one preliminary session, Screen Writers Guild representatives will meet with producers again April 4 to discuss further details of the writers' demands for a new contract. Present SWG pact expires April 10. The SWG also met with the Artists Managers Guild March 27 to discuss a proposed franchising project whereby writer agents would be licensed in an arrangement similar to that between the AMG and the Screen Actors Guild.

SAG Huddle Near

SAG will meet with the producers shortly to resume discussion of proposed reclassification of extra players' wage brackets and other matters. One proposal calls for elimination of the $8.25 and $11 calls in favor of a straight $10 rate. Meantime a group of veteran extras has begun picketing Central Casting, contending that organization is guilty of discrimination against old-time mob and atmosphere players and is allegedly keeping them on the inactive list. Pickets are headed by J. Edward Dahlen, who advocates a change in executive setup at Central.

SDG Pact Up

Board of directors of the Screen Directors Guild met to discuss pending negotiations with the producers on a revised basic agreement.

Disney Tactics Assailed

Society of Motion Picture Film Editors has filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board, charging Walt Disney Productions with being guilty of unfair labor practices. SMPFE petition contends the organization was certified by the NLRB as exclusive bargaining representative at that studio in July, 1939, but that Disney executives have repeatedly refused to open negotiations for a basic agreement. SMPFE represents cartoon editors, assistant editors and film librarians. Complaint specifically accuses the Disney organization of "dilatory and procrastinating tactics, unwarranted delays" and other practices.

SAG Warns Members On "Free Talent"

Immediate action by the Screen Actors Guild was the first response to a letter addressed that organization and its president, Edward Arnold, by Jean Hersholt, president of the Motion Picture Relief Fund, charging that "free talent" appearances of actors on Louella Parsons' new Lifebuoy airshow would jeopardize the MPRF's chief source of revenue, its Screen Guild broadcast.

While Arnold was drafting a formal reply, letters were dispatched to all Class "A" members of the SAG, reiterating Rule No. 6, which specifies that "no member shall give a free performance on the radio," violation of which can result in severe penalties. Only exception is that in which a particular player's studio contract may specify that he is required to go on the air to aid in exploiting pictures in which he may appear.

This action was taken in answer to Hersholt's query as to whether the SAG intends to enforce its rule against "free talent" shows. In his blast against the Parsons broadcast, Hersholt pointed out that:

"Crippling MPRF"

The Screen Guild show has yielded the MPRF $10,000 weekly for the past three years, the sponsor having paid the talent adequately, and the performers donating their salaries to the Fund.

The MPRF's income from this source will be seriously jeopardized if, as in the case of the Parsons show, one commercial sponsor can obtain the radio services of screen actors at a relatively nominal expense, because another sponsor cannot thereafter be expected to pay $10,000 weekly for those same players.

Every actor appearing on a "free talent" show, and every producer who permits a contract player to appear on such a broadcast, is crippling the MPRF.

A copy of the Hersholt letter was also dispatched to Y. Frank Freeman, president of the association of motion picture producers, from which office no reply had been made at mid-week.

SAG spokesmen meantime asserted that the contractual status of Marlene Dietrich and Bruce Cabot would be thoroughly investigated to ascertain whether or not they were required by the studio to appear on the first Parsons show March 28. The players presented scenes from their current Universal picture, "The Flame of New Orleans."

Signs of a Slump Begin to Appear

For the first time in many months, the production pace as charted for the next 30-day period shows signs of lagging, with indications it may be the beginning of a summer slump in the film factories. Most studios have either completed, or are on the verge of finishing, their 1940-41 schedules and consequently have a period of at least four months in which to coast a bit before embarking in earnest on their 1941-42 programs.

March is passing out in a blaze of glory, the major studios listing 15 starters to wind up the month. So far, however, April schedules list only 24 pictures; although this quota will, of course, be supplemented by additional properties from day to day.

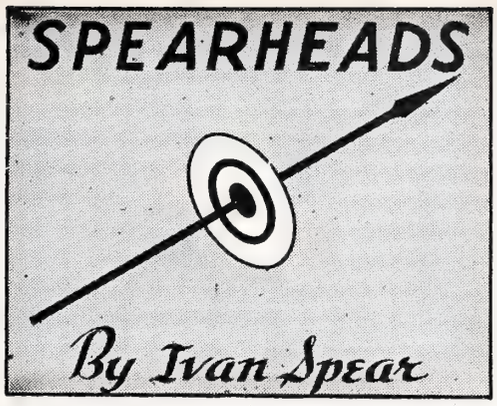
Cleaning up this month's schedules are: *Twentieth Century-Fox*—"Belle Starr," "Sun Valley" and "The Man With the Shovel." *Republic*—"Sheriff of Tombstone" and "A Gay Vagabond." *Warner*—"Bad Men of Missouri," "'Manpower" and "Flight Patrol." *Universal*—"Tight Shoes." *Monogram*—"King of the Zombies" and "Redhead." *Paramount*—"The Parson of Panamint." *RKO Radio*—"Scattergood Pulls the Strings" and "Parachute Battalion." *Columbia*—"Texas."

The April outlook:

Metro—"H. H. Pulham, Esq.," "Smilin' Through" and an untitled "Tarzan." *Republic*—"County Fair," "Puddin' Head," "The Old Grey Mare" and "Down Mexico Way." *Warner*—"Navy Blues." *Universal*—"Hello, Sucker," "Almost an Angel," "His Butler's Sister" and "We're in the Navy Now." *Monogram*—"The Pioneers." *Paramount*—"Nothing But the Truth," "World Premiere," "Birth of the Blues," "Henry for President," "Forced Landing," "Among the Living," and "Sullivan's Travels." *RKO Radio*—"True to Form." *Columbia*—"Tillie the Toiler." *United Artists*—"Our Heaven Is Now" (Alexander Korda), and "Strange Victory" (Sol Lesser).

Follow "I Wanted Wings" With "Amateur Admirals"

As a follow-up to its aviation special, "I Wanted Wings," Paramount will produce "Amateur Admirals," story of the training of U. S. college men to become naval officers. Original screen story is by Michael Fessier and Lieut.-Comm. George Campbell, and will be filmed with U. S. navy cooperation. William Holden is tentatively set for one of the starring roles.



JAMES STEWART has joined the army, which thoroughly patriotic and praiseworthy step was taken to the accompaniment of widespread publicity; unavoidable, of course, in view of the star's prominence. Most of the ballyhoo was beneficial and will enhance Stewart's popularity. Some of it was bad, in which classification fall the printed reports that the day he enlisted, his home studio, M-G-M, informed him that during his year's training his $21 monthly pay check would be supplemented by another $1,000 a week for spending money. Spokesmen for mighty Leo refuse to confirm the report but admit that undoubtedly the lanky star was handed a handsome bonus, doubtless a tidy sum to carry him over the period when he is wearing Uncle Sam's uniform and toting a gun.

Regardless, what a welcome addition to the ranks Jimmy will be for the Gimme—Have-You-Got?—Lemme-Take boys.

➞

Poor Leland Hayward, Stewart's agent. Ten per cent of $21 *per month is* $2.10. *"They can't do that to me."*

➞

Harry "Pop" Sherman has selected "Bar-20 Strikes Again" as a title for the third "Hopalong Cassidy" adventure for 1941. They've already had "Bar 20 Rides Again." And the hungry reviewers are still most interested in "Bar-20 Eats Again."

➞

Friday was Wolf Day in film circles. Warner Brothers showed their remake of Jack London's "The Sea Wolf" at the first sea-going junket (and at the studio for the poor relations of the press) and Monogram previewed its adaptation of a London story, produced under the title "Sign of the Wolf."

Casting directors did not have a parade.

From Robert Taplinger comes a yarn that the manager of the Palace Theatre in Manila, P. I., removed the 900 *seats in his house when he booked "The Sea Hawk" and, on the opening day, sold tickets to* 6,169 *customers—all of whom stood up.*

Many critics would find it more understandable if the manager had removed the chairs to install cots.

➞

Jimmy Fidler continues to demonstrate "How NOT to Win Friends and Influence People," according to the current issue of "Screen Actor," official monthly organ of the Screen Actors Guild. Under the caption, "Fidler Again—Columnist Allergic to MPRF Facts," is reproduced a letter from Wilma Bashor, secretary of the Motion Picture Relief Fund, which nails Fidler to the barn door in no uncertain terms for falsely reporting that the Fund had refused a case which was taken over by Joan Crawford. Miss Bashor set forth in full detail the history of the case to which Fidler had referred, explained aid had not been given because it had not been requested, and refuted the columnist's assertion that the MPRF cares for indigent actors only and not for their families as well.

➞

BALLYHOODLUMS — Jock Lawrence, "assistant-to-the-president-with-nothing-to-do-with-publicity" at the Association of Motion Picture Producers (not the Hays office), has an assistant. Strangely enough, in view of Jock's attitude, the assistant to the assistant is a public relations man, competent Frank Seltzer, formerly chief drum beater for Hal Roach. With Seltzer, who doesn't inflate as easily as his superior, on the job, it may put a stop to the ribbing—both printed and verbal—to which Lawrence and his newly-discovered importance have been subjected during recent weeks. It may also be possible, occasionally, to verify a bit of news regarding the association's activities . . . John P. Miles, publicity chief for James Roosevelt and currently arranging the "Pot O' Gold" premiere junket to Mexico City, lost his voice one day last week. Probably from saying "no" to the hundreds of newsmen who are trying to sell him the idea that their presence is indispensable to the success of the trip, and most of whom will have to stay home because of limited transportation facilities. No matter how he cuts it, Miles stands to be the most unpopular guy in town . . . Bill Hebert is doing an article for the Junior Encyclopedia Brittanica on "moving pictures" and is also writing a chapter on film publicity for the big Encyclopedia. He should be an expert on the latter subject. He's worked in enough publicity departments during the past three years . . . Russell Birdwell, freelancer de luxe, scoffs at reports that he is being considered as a possible successor to S. Barret McCormick, stating that he wouldn't leave his well-established business to take on any company job. Which attitude is both sincere and smart . . . Myron Lustig gets away to an impressive and promising start as publicity director for Producer Samuel Goldwyn. He moved into the new spot recently after handling press details of the Greek War Relief Drive for the motion picture permanent charities committee, of which Goldwyn is chairman.

Aces, Amour, Adventure

Hollywood's choice celluloid took to ships—air and sailing—in the week's preview lineup with the more modern carriers soaring their cargo, Paramount's "I Wanted Wings," to top levels as the best of the lot. Given the cooperation of the U. S. army or navy air corps, Hollywood has, from time to time, made some extremely impressive and profitable features dealing with military aviation. This one begins where they left off—and zooms from there. Its inherent entertainment and informative values are magnified incalculably by the timeliness of its theme and story content—indicating a virtually unlimited revenue ceiling. Technically, the film is practically perfect. Never before has so detailed and comprehensive an insight into the molding and training of army warbirds been caught on celluloid. And, additionally, there are major assets in the gripping and convincing story by Beirne Lay jr., adapted by Eleanore Griffin and Comm. Frank Wead, and scripted by Lay, Richard Maibaum and Sig Herzig; a thoroughly splendid cast, topped by Ray Milland, William Holden, Brian Donlevy, Wayne Morris and a new discovery, Veronica Lake; magnificent production by Arthur Hornblow jr., and equally distinguished direction by Mitchell Leisen. The completed document is a screen classic, one which every American should see, and one which will swell their pride in their heritage and give them additional confidence in the future of democracy.

Pressing the Hornblow-Leisen masterpiece for honors was Alexander Korda's "That Hamilton Woman"—a dramatic, moving and always entertaining motion picture. It was given careful and intelligent production and direction by Korda, benefits by a literate and masterful screen play by Walter Reisch and R. C. Sherriff, and boasts, as selling points, a cast headed by Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier in enormously capable performances. Too, there is a definite entertainment asset in the manner in which the parallel between England during the days of Lord Nelson and England fighting for her life today is emphasized. It gives the film an air of timeliness that should not be overlooked by zealous showmen. Backgrounds, costumes and other productional accoutrements are opulent.

Third of the reigning trio was Warner's remake of Jack London's "The Sea Wolf," which lusty saga of a hell ship and its brutal master is streamlined considerably through a top dressing of psychiatry; an application which detracts from and slows up the story's original action atmosphere and ingredients. Performances by Edward G. Robinson, Ida Lupino and John Garfield are beyond criticism. Likewise competent is Michael Curtiz's direction, while Henry Blanke fulfilled his duties capably

(Continued on page 80)

Hollywood—
—Personnelities

Barnstormers

Paramount

JACK BENNY, his writers, **ED BELOIN** and **BILL MORROW,** and Benny's secretary, **HARRY BALDWIN,** will check out for Chicago March 31, where Benny will emcee a Greek War Relief program.

SUSANNA FOSTER, 16-year-old singing star, will be guest soloist at the eighteenth annual Los Angeles Easter Sunrise Service at Forest Lawn April 13.

RKO Radio

KAY KYSER and his orchestra gave free concerts at the San Diego Naval Base March 22 and, April 5, plane for San Antonio to play for air corps personnel there.

ANNA NEAGLE is scheduled to go to Toronto April 1 to appear on a broadcast of "Queen Victoria" for the Canadian War Effort. Herbert Wilcox, her producer-director, and her brother, Stuart Robertson, will accompany Miss Neagle.

Universal

The **ANDREWS SISTERS** have checked in from a ten-week p. a. tour to go into "We're in the Navy Now," a Lou Costello-Bud Abbott comedy.

Freelance

BASIL RATHBONE will make a p. a. with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra Easter Sunday, April 13, presenting his interpretation of Prokofieff's "Peter and the Wolf."

Blurbers

BARNEY McDEVITT has been named publicity director of the Palladium Ballroom by Maurice M. Cohen, former independent film producer, now head of Southern California Enterprises, Inc. McDevitt replaces **IRVING PARKER,** who resigned to join the Warner studio publicity staff.

RUSSELL BIRDWELL has returned from a business jaunt which took him to New York.

Warner Bros.

S. CHARLES EINFELD, advertising-publicity chieftain, has been asked by the MacMillan Co. to collaborate in the preparation of a volume dealing with motion picture debuts, chiefly the "site of the story" premieres, of which Warner has staged a dozen.

Briefies

Soundies Corp.

A new branch exchange has been opened in Chicago, with Charles A. Byrnes as manager, according to N. H. (Jack) Brower, general manager.

Ten reels of "Soundies," produced for use in the Mills-Globe Panoram projectors, were previewed in Burbank by Don Hermanson, exclusive San Fernando Valley distributor, assisted by N. H. (Jack) Brower, Soundies general manager. Attending were Burbank city officials, Mills Novelty Co. and Globe Productions representatives, and executives of Sam Coslow's Cameo Pictures, which made the reels.

Pathe

FRANK DONOVAN has rolled "America Designs for Happiness," Technicolor subject starring Frank Craven, being produced for the Federal Housing Administration. Subject will be distributed free to theatres.

Cleffers

Metro

GEORGE STOLL conducting musical score for the new untitled Marx Brothers comedy.

Paramount

JACK TEAGARDEN and his "Dixieland" orchestra will supply the band music in "Birth of the Blues," next Bing Crosby starrer.

Universal

Six tunes by **MILTON ROSEN** and **EVERETT CARTER** will be used in "Sing Another Chorus."

Warner Bros.

AL DUBIN writing tunes for "Navy Blues."

Meggers

Sol Lesser

REINHOLD SCHUNZEL to direct "Strange Victory," the Martha Scott starrer being scripted by Jane Murfin from the story by Rose Franken and William Brown Meloney. United Artists will release.

Metro

ROY DEL RUTH to pilot "The Chocolate Soldier," operetta by Oscar Straus, to star Nelson Eddy. Rise Stevens, soprano, will have the feminine lead and Victor Saville will produce.

BUSBY BERKELEY to pilot "Babes on Broadway," in which Shirley Temple, Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland will have the toplines. Arthur Freed is producing.

Monogram

EDWARD CAHN, borrowed from M-G-M, where he is a shorts director, will pilot "Redhead," an I. E. Chadwick production. Picture was set to roll March 27.

Paramount

FRED KOHLMAR to produce "War Town" as his first assignment since moving over from 20th Century-Fox.

ARTHUR HORNBLOW JR. to produce "China Pass," from a story by Jacques Thery. Veronica Lake, who made her debut in "I Wanted Wings," will be starred.

Republic

ROBERT NORTH to produce "A Gay Vagabond," comedy by Ewart Adamson and Taylor Caven, which William Morgan will direct.

JOSEPH SANTLEY to pilot "Puddin' Head."

Universal

WILLIAM SEITER to direct "His Butler's Sister," a Bruce Manning production being scripted by Manning and Felix Jackson.

EDWARD CLINE to direct "Hello, Sucker," a Hugh Herbert comedy.

Options

Columbia

SEYMOUR GROSS, New York playwright, joins writing staff.

SAM BISCHOFF given new three-year deal as a production executive.

Metro

ELEANOR POWELL given new term ticket. Her next is "Lady Be Good."

GLORIA HILLS, radio and night-club singer, given long-term contract.

EARL BALDWIN, scripter, signs new long-term ticket.

Monogram

JOHNNY DOWNS to play opposite **JUNE LANG** in "Redhead," forthcoming I. E. Chadwick production.

Paramount

FRANCES FARMER and **RICARDO CORTEZ** signed for toplines in "World Premiere," John Barrymore starrer, which Sol C. Siegel will produce.

Producers Releasing Corp.

FORREST TUCKER given male lead opposite Carol Hughes in "Emergency Landing." Jed Buell is producing.

EVELYN BRENT draws a topline in "Emergency Landing," the Jed Buell production being directed by William Beaudine.

Pyramid Pictures

JAMES CORNER signed for the male romantic lead in "Scattergood Pulls the Strings," which RKO Radio will release.

RKO Radio

EDMOND O'BRIEN joins cast of "Parachute Battalion."

PAUL HERNRIED, New York stage player, given term contract. His surname will be changed to Herndon.

PHILLIP REED, stage actor, given long-term contract.

JANE WYATT signs long-term acting contract.

JACK MULHALL joins cast of "My Life With Caroline."

Republic

BILL SHIRLEY, singer, given term contract. He debuts in "Rookies on Parade."

Harry Sherman

HENRY KOLKER joins cast of "The Parson of Panamint," being made for Paramount release.

20th Century-Fox

DARRELL WARE and **KARL TUNBERG,** writing team, held for another term.

VIVIAN MASON signed as a featured player. She goes first into "Sun Valley."

Warner Bros.

BILL JUSTICE, stage player, signs stock contract.

JEAN NEGULESCO, short subjects director, given new term pact.

LENORE COFFEE, scenarist, held for another term. She is scripting "The Gay Sisters."

REGINALD DENNY joins cast of "Flight Patrol."

Scripters

Columbia

ROBERT LEE JOHNSON to "A Star on His Saddle," Bill Elliott western, which Leon Barsha will produce.

DOROTHY REID to "The Medico's Saddle Pals," forthcoming Charles Starrett sagebrusher, to be produced by William Berke.

LAWRENCE EDMUND TAYLOR to an untitled "Lone Wolf."

KETTI FRINGS to "Synthetic Lady," from an Octavus Roy Cohen original as her first assignment under a new six-year term deal.

SY BARTLETT completes "Trinidad," which Richard Wallace will direct for Sam Bischoff.

Paramount

A. DORIAN OTVOS to "Aloma of the South Seas."

GARRETT FORT to "Among the Living."

Pyramid Pictures

JOHN KRAFFT polishing "Scattergood Pulls the Strings," which Jerrold T. Brandt will produce for RKO Radio release.

Harry Sherman

J. BENTON CHENEY to "Bar-20 Strikes Again," third in the Hopalong Cassidy westerns for 1941. Paramount releases the William Boyd starrers.

20th Century-Fox

HAROLD CLURMAN to "Charley's Aunt."

DWIGHT TAYLOR to "I Wake Up Screaming," from the Steve Fisher original. Milton Sperling will produce.

DON ETTLINGER and **EDWIN BLUM** to "Song of the Islands." Milton Sperling is the producer.

JOHN O'HARA to an untitled original for production by Mark Hellinger.

WILLIAM CONSELMAN JR. and **IRVING CUMMINGS JR.** to "Lone Star Ranger," for the Sol M. Wurtzel production unit.

JOHN O'HARA to "God in His Heaven," a Mark Hellinger production.

BROWN HOLMES to "Song and Dance Man." Harry Joe Brown produces.

Warner Bros.

BARRY TRIVERS to "Bridge Across the Atlantic," story of the convoy-to-Britain system.

KEN GAMET completes "The Smiling Ghost," which Ross Lederman will direct.

ROBERT ROSSEN to "The Captain of the Ship," based on the life story of Giles C. Stedman, captain of the S. S. "America." George Brent will star.

Story Buys

Metro

"H. M. Pulham, Esquire," by J. P. Marquand.

Paramount

"The King and Queen of the Jungle," by E. Lloyd Sheldon. Dorothy Lamour will be starred.

Producers Releasing Corp.

"Gambling Daughters," by Sidney Sheldon and Ben Roberts. T. H. Richmond produces.

RKO Radio

"They Married for Money," by Dalton Trumbo.

"The Band Played On," by Valentine Davies. William Dieterle will produce.

"Western Hospitality," sagebrusher by Stephen Cherry, for production by Bert Gilroy.

Warner Bros.

"Saratoga Trunk," magazine serial by Edna Ferber.

"All Through the Night," by Leo Rosten and Leonard Spigelgass.

Jacques Thery

"Come Blow Your Horn," original by Aubrey Wisberg.

Technically

Columbia

LE ROY PRINZ has completed dance direction on "Time Out for Rhythm" and has reported back

(Continued on page 80)

Norman Moray Joins Huddle at Burbank

Joining other homeoffice executives who have already spent a week at the Burbank studio conferring with local executives on 1941-42 production plans, is Norman H. Moray, shorts sales manager. He is huddling with Jack L. Warner, vice-president in charge of production, and Gordon Hollingshead, shorts supervisor, on the sales policy for shorts under the consent decree, and will map out with them the complete 1941-42 lineup for the brief subjects. Entire 1940-41 program was completed four months ahead of time, and the first short in next season's quota is now in production.

Meantime Jack L. and Harry M. Warner and S. Charles Einfeld, advertising-publicity director, are parleying with Gradwell L. Sears, sales head; Sam Schneider, Mort Blumenstock, Carl Leserman, Benjamin Kalmenson, Roy Harris, Arthur Sachson and Lowell Levinson of the New York staff, who will be here for another week or so.

Freeman East

Y. Frank Freeman, vice-president in charge of Paramount's studio operations, pulled out for New York, whence he traveled to Hot Springs, Virginia, to attend a Paramount Theatres conclave there March 27-28-29.

Wobber to 'Frisco

After a short stay at the studio, during which he predicted the entire motion picture industry is due to boom, Herman Wobber, sales head for 20th Century-Fox, planed out for San Francisco, planning to spend several days at his home there before going to New York. While here he conferred on future picture-making plans with Darryl F. Zanuck, vice-president in charge of production.

Plugs Next "Dr. Christian"

Max Kravetz, sales head for Stephens-Lang Productions, has pulled out on a month's tour of RKO Radio exchanges, lining up campaigns on the next "Dr. Christian" vehicle. The Jean Hersholt starrer will roll early in April and is, of course, for RKO Radio release.

Hempstead Checks In

Producer David Hempstead of RKO Radio has checked in at the studio after two weeks in New York. He was accompanied west by Ben Hecht, who will script Hempstead's next picture, "Joan of Paris," to star Michele Morgan.

Si Seadler Here

Here for ten days of conferences with studio executives on release campaigns for spring and summer product is Si Seadler of M-G-M's New York publicity-advertising office.

Joining Seadler at M-G-M was J. Robert Rubin, home office executive, who checked in for a week of conferences on spring production plans with Louis B. Mayer, E. J. Mannix and other studio officials.

"Hello, Sucker" for Cline

"Hello, Sucker," a Hugh Herbert comedy for Universal, will be directed by Edward Cline.

Goldwyn Retains Spitz As His Legal Counsel

Now rushing preparations for an early camera start on "The Little Foxes," with which he will resume productional activity, Samuel Goldwyn has retained the services of Leo Spitz, former RKO Radio president and at one time attorney for Paramount, as his legal counsel. Spokesmen for Goldwyn, while not amplifying further on the announcement, intimated that Spitz would be instrumental in the final consummation of a release deal for the producer, who has several distribution arrangements in the negotiatory stages. Goldwyn recently severed all relationships with United Artists and at present has no release set for future product. Spitz came in from New York some time ago and hereafter will spend considerable of his time on the west coast.

Suspend Bogart

Only a short time after Ann Sheridan had gone back on the payroll after an eight-month layoff, Warner suspended Humphrey Bogart indefinitely for refusing to accept a proffered assignment in "Bad Men of Missouri," in which he was replaced by Dennis Morgan.

Michael Kraike, associate story editor at Columbia for the past four years, has submitted his resignation, effective immediately. No replacement has been made. Kraike checks out for New York, April 1 to line up a new affiliation.

Industry wage-earners, exclusive of the executive and talent divisions, received healthier pay checks in February than in the preceding month, according to figures released by the California labor statistics bureau. Average weekly payroll for the month was $568,816, divided among 12,792 workers, for an individual weekly pay check of $44.37. Weekly payrolls in January were $29,171 less.

Edward Small has signed Bud Barsky as assistant to Max Golden, production manager for the United Artists unit. Small is now readying "G-Men vs. Scotland Yard" for a camera start within the next four weeks.

12 for State-Right Market by Kranz

With one picture completed and already in release, Charles Kranz, president of Select Pictures, has announced plans for the production of 11 more for distribution via franchise-holders and the state-right market during the 1941-42 season. Kranz is now here from New York setting production deals. Eight of the films are being made by George Merrill and Max Alexander, who have now finished "City of Missing Girls" and are shooting "I'll Buy Your Life," with a cast including Michael Whalen, Rose Hobart and Joan Woodbury. Kranz will visit Select exchanges in San Francisco and Seattle before returning east.

"Little Foxes" to Roll

A definite starting date of April 15 has been set by Samuel Goldwyn on "The Little Foxes," with which he will end a long productional hiatus, during which his United Artists affiliation was definitely severed. No release has been set for the new film, which will star Bette Davis, with William Wyler directing.

PRC Starts "Landing"

For Producers Releasing Corp., Jed Buell has rolled "Emergency Landing," starring Carol Hughes, with William Beaudine directing. He is shooting at Talisman Studios. T. H. Richmond's next, to go into production immediately, is "Gambling Daughters." He has just completed "South of Panama."

Arlen in Aviation Drama

Picture Corp. of America, headed by William H. Pine and William C. Thomas, rolls "Forced Landing," second in a series of aviation dramas starring Richard Arlen, early in April. Paramount will release.

Cameras on "Tight Shoes"

Director Al Rogell has turned the cameras on "Tight Shoes," a Jules Levey-Mayfair production for Universal. Broderick Crawford has the topline.

Cinémarks

When he completes a Metro assignment, Donald Crisp is planning a three-week cruise down the coast of Lower California . . . Irving Starr, Columbia producer, is convalescing at home from a serious attack of the flu.

*

Norman Taurog, M-G-M director, will leave shortly on an extended vacation which will take him to Phoenix, New York and New Orleans.

*

A farewell luncheon was tendered Kenneth Macgowan by 20th Century-Fox executives, stars and directors when the former associate producer left for New York to join the staff of John Hay Whitney's motion picture division of the Committee for Commercial and Cultural Relations Between American Republics. Macgowan is on a two-year leave of absence from the studio.

*

Gregory Ratoff has checked out for the east to attend the New York opening of "Adam Had Four Sons," the Robert Sherwood production which he directed.

*

Marcus Goodrich has checked back to the David O. Selznick writing staff after a trip to Chicago, where he received the Friends of American Writers' annual $1,000 prize for his novel, "Delilah," which that organization named the best of the year.

*

Here for conferences on release plans for "Dipsy Gypsy," second George Pal Puppetoon for Paramount, is Steven Vanderveer, New York executive of the Pal organization.

: SPEARHEADS :

(Continnued from page 77)

as associate producer. Robert Rosson supplied the screen story.

* * *

Among the better programmers were Universal's "The Man Who Lost Himself" and 20th Century-Fox's "Dead Men Tell."

Former is a light farce in which the story line is, at times, spun so thin as to overstep the bounds of credibility. It has its amusing moments, nevertheless, and should be consumed with moderate enthusiasm by general audiences in search of carefree film fare. Brian Aherne, essaying a dual role, dominates the cast; while Kay Francis, in an otherwise innocuous assignment, is given an opportunity to do what she does best—parade a collection of gorgeous gowns. Edward Ludwig's direction glosses over weaknesses in the script by Eddie Moran, from a novel by H. DeVere Stacpoole, and is, on the whole, a workmanlike job; which might be said, also, of Lawrence W. Fox's production mounting.

The Fox entry, newest in the veteran "Charlie Chan" series, is a closely woven mystery which the fictional Oriental sleuth solves with characteristic emphasis on suavity and Confuciusisms. Script by John Larkin will keep audiences in suspense until the final footage through its use of the everybody-is-a-suspect formula. Walter Morosco and Ralph Dietrich, as co-producers, instilled it with the required ingredients to qualify it as high-grade supporting material, with a special appeal to Chan's followers. Direction and performances are of comparable calibre, with Harry Lachman wielding the megaphone and Sidney Toler, of course, portraying the detective.

* * *

Universal's "Man Made Monster" is a satisfactory chiller with an average supply of suspense, excitement and thrills. The Jack Bernhard production was directed by George Waggner and scripted by Joseph West from a story by H. J. Essex, Sid Schwartz and Len Golos. Lon Chaney adequately enacts the title role.

Monogram's "Sign of the Wolf," adapted from a Jack London story, serves primarily as background for noteworthy performances by two expertly trained Alsatian shepherd dogs. Film should stand up admirably as supporting material in the markets it will reach; exercising, at the same time, more than normal appeal to those who relish dog yarns of the great frozen north. Producer Paul Malvern equipped it with acceptable production values and convincing backgrounds, and human members of the cast, topped by Michael Whalen and Grace Bradley, are well qualified for their respective chores. Howard Bretherton directed from a screen play by Elizabeth Hopkins and Edmond Kelso.

Has Chevalier Starrer

Monogram has acquired distribution rights to "Break the News," starring Maurice Chevalier, and produced and directed abroad by Rene Clair, now a Universal director here. Music and lyrics are by Cole Porter.

Industry to Cooperate With Music Festival

Both the Association of Motion Picture Producers and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will cooperate when the National Federation of Music Clubs stages its 22nd biennial American Music Festival here in June.

Industry participation was assured when Nat W. Finston, Metro music chief, was named to head a committee including M. Mockridge, 20th Century-Fox; Roy Webb, RKO Radio, and Victor Young, Paramount, which will meet with Mrs. Alice Field, of the Hays office, and a committee from the NFMC headed by Mrs. Vincent Hilles Ober, to plan the affair. Mrs. Ober is also discussing plans for Academy cooperation with Walter F. Wanger, president of that organization.

Consider Music Festival

Now being considered is a projected musical festival devoted for the first time to motion pictures, and which may be held at the Hollywood Bowl June 21. At that time, according to present plans, the NFMC will present awards for excellence in film music achievement.

Meantime, more than 3,000 photographs have already been entered in the Academy's first annual still photography show, being sponsored by the organization's Public Relations Institute and to be held April 14-28. Winners in each of eight classifications will be awarded specially-designed gold medals. Entrants are limited to individuals in studio camera departments and freelance photographers affiliated with the IATSE.

Bette to Home Town for "Great Lie" Premiere

Warner is world premiering Bette Davis' newest starring vehicle, "The Great Lie," in the player's home town, Littleton, N. H., April 5, with proceeds going to the Littleton Hospital and the Golden Rule Farm for Boys. The date also is Miss Davis' birthday. The picture will be screened at the Premiere Theatre and the affair will be embellished by a birthday party for the star, now en route there with her husband, Arthur Farnsworth, in which civic and social organizations will participate. Robert C. Blood, governor of the state, will attend and newspaper and magazine writers and photographers from the large eastern cities will be brought to the scene.

Paramount's "I Wanted Wings" made its debut at the Astor in New York Wednesday, with key figures in the war department, the army air corps and other government officials joining social, diplomatic, civic and screen celebrities as the first-nighters. Preceding the Astor opening, the film was given a special preview at Randolph Field, San Antonio, at which William Holden and Wayne Morris, who have toplines in the picture, were awarded "Honorary Flying Cadet" warrants by Flying Cadet J. H. Enders, cadet battalion commander. Beirne Lay jr., author of the original story, was among the guests.

REVIEW FLASHES

BAD MAN, THE (M-G-M)—The drawing power will lie in the number of popular names this unadulterated melodrama boasts. The talents of Beery and Barrymore are strained to overcome the hurdle of a faulty script and loose-handed direction. Best-pleased customers will be those who like western action. Wallace Beery, Lionel Barrymore, Laraine Day. Richard Thorpe directed.

BORDER VIGILANTES (Para)—The redoubtable "Hopalong" Cassidy, in the person of William Boyd, is up to his usual standard in this latest of the veteran sagebrush series. Which means the film packs an abundance of action, adventure and suspense, with the required amount of comedy relief. Peg it as a reliable grosser in those situations where westerns are in demand. Harry Sherman produced; Derwin Abrahams directed.

HORROR ISLAND (Univ)—Treasure-hunting yarn in which a hackneyed story is bolstered through the addition of enough trapdoors, clutching hands, phantom killers and the like, to qualify it as an average entry in the thrill category. Ben Pivar produced; George Waggner directed.

: PERSONNELITIES :

(Continued from page 78)

to Paramount, his home lot.

TED THOMAS directing dialogue on "The Officer and the Lady."

LOUIS DA PRON signed as dance director on "Betty Co-Ed."

GORDON S. GRIFFITH joins production staff, and **NORMAN COOK** becomes comptroller of the Gregory Ratoff unit producing "Tonight Belongs To Us."

NORMAN DEMING, assistant to Producer-Director Wesley Ruggles, has left for Mt. Hood, Ore., scouting locations for "The Doctor's Husband."

Alexander Korda

GEORGE BARNES to lens "Illusions."

Metro

ARNOLD (BUDDY) GILLESPIE, unit art director and special effects expert, given new long-term contract.

BERT SPURLIN heads a staff of 20 technicians which has trained for Ocala, Florida, to line up preparations for filming "The Yearling."

MAX FABIAN lensing "Watchdog of a Nation," new Carey Wilson Miniature which Joe Newman is directing.

CONRAD A. NERVIG to edit the new untitled Marx Brothers comedy; **ELMO VERON** to edit "Man From the City."

OLIVER MARSH to photograph "Smilin' Through."

Picture Corp. of America

JOHN ALTON to photograph "Forced Landing."

Technicolor, Inc.

ARTHUR ARLING has been signed as a first cameraman, moving over from Universal, where he was a member of **JOE VALENTINE'S** camera crew. He is replaced at Universal by **WILLIAM DODDS.**

Warner Bros.

BREEZY EASON is checking location sites around Santa Susanna for "Sergeant York."

LESTER D. GUTHRIE named assistant director on "King's Row."

E. K. Menagh Seeks Relief on Clearance

DENVER—E. K. Menagh, owner of the Star, Ft. Lupton, Colo., has filed the second case before the Denver arbitration board. He asks that all five parties to the consent decree be ordered to give him an even break with the Rex at Brighton, Colo., five miles distant, in bookings. Menagh claims the companies hold films back from him until after played by the Rex. Menagh asks for damages and such other relief as the arbiter sees fit to allow.

Goodstein Arbitration Hearing Is Under Way

DENVER—The first day's hearing before the arbitration tribunal of J. J. Goodstein Enterprises, Inc., product demand from Loew's, Paramount and 20th-Fox, resulted only in direct examination of Goodstein and a declaration by defendants' counsel that he hoped to prove that the companies did not wish to do business with Goodstein because of their interpretation of the "reputable and responsible" as well as the "minimum standards of theatre operation" clauses.

Goodstein is asking for more product for his Longmont, claiming the Fox Longmont is overbought. Both theatres are in Longmont, Colo.

Appeal Supports Impost Against Goldwyn Firm

WASHINGTON — Samuel Goldwyn, Inc., Ltd., personal holding company of Samuel Goldwyn and successor to United Artists Studio, Inc., owes the government somewhat more than $5,000 under a decision of the board of tax appeals.

The board refused to permit the company to deduct $16,600 from its adjusted net income as an amount used to retire indebtedness incurred prior to January 1, 1934, under the revenue act of that year, affirming a deficiency of $4,055.82 assessed by the commissioner of internal revenue and upheld also a penalty of $1,013.96 imposed for failing to file a return within the allotted time without reasonable cause for delay.

The deduction claimed by the company was to meet an indebtedness incurred when Twentieth Century Pictures and Samuel Goldwyn in 1933 undertook to buy all the stock of United Artists Studio Corp. The board held that the indebtedness was incurred by Twentieth Century and Goldwyn and not by the holding company itself.

To Study Buying

SALT LAKE CITY—Herschel Stewart, head booker here for Fox West Coast, has been temporarily transferred to the organization's office in Los Angeles for a couple of months study of buying conditions in the trade under the consent decree. S. Saunders, from the FWC Denver office, is filling in for him here.

The Docket

Denver

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 19. Demand and submission involving dispute under Section VI (some run). Joseph J. Goodstein Enterprises, Inc., operating Longmont, Longmont, Colo. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Loew's, Inc., Paramount Pictures, Inc. Named as interested party: Fox Longmont, Longmont, Colo. Complainant claims that seven companies, including the three named in the case, refuse to sell him product in favor of the Fox, Longmont. George D. Begole, former Denver mayor, arbitrator. Hearing March 25.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 24. Demand and submission involving clearance. E. K. Menagh, operating the Star, Ft. Lupton, Colo. With: Loew's, Paramount, 20th-Fox, RKO, Warner. Named as interested party: Rex, Brighton, Colo. Complainant charges the companies hold films from him until after played by the Rex.

"Sea Wolf" Shipboard Premiere Brings Stars

SAN FRANCISCO—Fourteen stars from the Warner lot came to San Francisco aboard the S. S. *America* to attend the world premiere of Jack London's "Sea Wolf." Accompanying them was a contingent of 100 newspapermen and studio officials.

The premiere of the newest version of the "Sea Wolf" was really a triple feature since the film was shown on board ship, it opened at the Fox, and then was world premiered at the Bestiana in Sonoma. At the Sonoma showing Mrs. Charmain London, widow of the author, was hostess to the throng.

After a welcome by Mayor Rossi upon their docking, the party held a press reception on board ship, went on a tour of London's favorite haunts in Oakland, and then motored to Sonoma where they made personal appearances preceding the premiere. The stars were: Edward G. Robinson, Rita Hayworth, Ralph Bellamy, Priscilla Lane, Dennis Morgan, Mary Astor, John Garfield, Jane Wyman, Ronald Reagan, Georgia Carroll, Charles Ruggles, Hobart Bosworth, Donald Crisp, and Marguerite Chapman. Bob Taplinger and Charlie Einfeld headed the Warner officials.

PCCITO Convention Date Due Shortly

LOS ANGELES—A late April or early May date for the second annual convention of the Pacific Coast Conference of Independent Theatre Owners will be announced by the board of trustees within a few days, according to Robert H. Poole, executive secretary of the organization.

Preliminary plans and details of the pending meeting were discussed by the trustees at a meeting in San Francisco, attended by Rotus Harvey and Ben Levin, ITO of Northern California; William Ripley, ITO of Washington; Bob White and George Hunt, ITO of Oregon; Jack Y. Berman and Hugh Bruen, ITO of So. Calif. and Ariz.; Poole and Ed Roy, executive secretary of the ITO of Northern Calif.

Meantime, Poole is actively representing the PCCITO in "Greek Week," nationwide drive in which theatres are collecting funds for Greek war relief. He is a member of the local committee which also includes Charles P. Skouras, president of Fox West Coast Theatres, and W. E. Calloway, Warner exchange manager here. Collections are being handled throughout this territory by civic figures and clubwomen in the various communities, with Poole reporting that virtually every showman in the sector has pledged cooperation.

Huy Joins RKO

SAN FRANCISCO—Charles Huy, formerly of the Golden Gate Theatre, has been appointed by Terry Turner, head of RKO's field staff, to take over the San Francisco and Los Angeles territory for RKO. Eddie Rivers, formerly Hamrick-Evergreen publicist, is now in the Minneapolis district.

Harry David Signs Altec

BOISE, IDA.—Harry David of Intermountain Theatres, Inc., has signed agreements to have Altec Service take care of the sound equipment in the Ada, Boise and Granada.



At PRC's Chicago Convention—

The boys from the western exchanges go into a round-table conference on sales problems with O. Henry Briggs, Sig Neufeld and George Gill. Back center, left to right: Neufeld, Gill, Briggs.

SEATTLE

ELDON POLLOCK sr., an exhibitor in Mount Vernon, Wash., has authored a story, "Helene of the Yukon," which seems to have a good chance of reaching the screen. United Artists is said to be interested . . . Bill Shartin was released from the hospital, but not before he was given a "preview" of "Meet John Doe." Bill could not make the grand opening at both the Fifth Avenue and Orpheum theatres. Shartin is suffering from an infection in his foot . . . Roy Rogers, Republic's singing cowboy star, was all set for a few days in this territory when he was called back to Hollywood to start work in a new picture . . . Some of you know this, but a lot of you don't. Rex Stevenson, former head booker for Sterling Theatres and now with Golden States in San Francisco, has said "I do" to Peggy McNeil, daughter of Bob McNeil, head man of Golden States. Rex is handling bookings for the GST in the territory under the jurisdiction of Roy Cooper.

Show business lost three old timers this past week: Julian Eltinge, female impersonator who first appeared in Seattle at the old Armory with Harry Lauder in 1910; *Armand Kaliz, for many years Orpheum headliner, and Rosa Gore of the team of Crimmins & Gore . . . The winner of the "John Doe" contest staged by the Hamrick-Evergreen publicity department proved to be a carpenter. Gag was to find someone who could pass for Gary Cooper. Winner was given a grand time. He met the mayor, sheriff and other notables, was given a new suit, and was entertained at dinner by the Olympic Hotel gang. A nifty that garnered a lot of newspaper space . . . Patric Knowles passed through this town without any fanfare. Pat is on leave from the Canadian Air Force to visit his wife and son in California. Pat is flight instructor in Canada but is using his spare time writing plots for new pictures that he hopes to appear in . . . The Capitol, one of the Sterling group, will undergo extensive remodeling soon . . . In the daytime, Chin Shee Yen is a clerk in a wholesale firm. But in the evenings, Chin is featured as a graceful Chinese woman, doing the lead in "Lady Precious Stream" at the Repertory Playhouse.*

Morrie Nimmer, city manager for Fox-Evergreen in Wenatchee, has returned home after a booking trip here. He announced his engagement to Virginia McWhirter of that city, will terminate some time in June. They will be wed in that month, according to present plans . . . One of Seattle's most colorful and best newspaper men died last week. He was Bill Raymond, executive secretary of the Seattle Newspaper Guild . . . Local members of the Pacific Coast Society of Magicians have voted to stage a magic demonstration for the benefit of the Boy Scouts . . . Jean Spear and his wife, Madge, entertaining Jean's mother, Mrs. Tabler of St. Louis, who will spend some three or four weeks with them. Mrs. Tabler and her husband operate theatres in St. Louis . . . George Hunt, owner of theatres in the Medford, Ore., territory, announces that his wife has presented him with a son. Congratulations, George. Bet the youngster will be spoiled by his daddy . . . Don Waltz inviting friends to the opening of his cocktail lounge just built in the basement of his Lake Washington home. Films and accordian player were part of the entertainment.

More congratulations. Mac Rubenfeld of the Metro office is passing out cigars once more. Another daughter has arrived. Mother is the former Eva Blatt who used to be office manager for Metro. The Rubenfelds' first youngster is of school age . . . Milburn Kenworthy of Moscow, Ida., off for home after making a special trip in for the Greek Fund Drive meet . . . Frank Beck, who operates an independent traveling circuit in eastern Washington, has opened a second circuit in the same territory, which is around Spokane . . . W. B. McDonald back from a vacation in the east and telling of being glad to get back to "God's country." Don't blame you, Mac. Snow in New York, rain in Miami and Los Angeles, while here we are having near summer weather . . . Charlie Grieme spending a few days here to catch up with his bookings for Wenatchee. Before leaving, he told of his daughter's birthday (two days late) so a wire was sent from the Film Club offering belated greetings, but blaming dad . . . Roger Dudley shooting pictures of a goodbye party in the Film Club quarters . . . Sammy Seigel away to Vancouver to spread the good news for United Artists . . . Frank L. Newman home from attending the National Theatres conference at Lake Arrowhead . . . Hugh Braly, western district sales manager for Paramount, visiting the local exchange.

Jay and Mrs. Tew have postponed the opening of their new house in North Bend until the end of March . . . Evelyn McGinley entertaining her friends of Tri Delta with a special preview at the Shearer Jewel Box . . . "Kids Kort," a new juvenile radio show, will make its debut soon. Program is sponsored by Jensen-von Herberg Theatres, KOMO, and Ralph Grossman, founder and director of Uncle Ralph's All American Safety Club . . . Ed Kelley, brother of Ron Kelley, manager of the Music Box, has gone into the Hamrick-Evergreen publicity department to assist Vic Gauntlett, department head. Ed takes the spot left vacant by Eddie Rivers, who resigned to join RKO . . . Marty Weiser, exploiteer for Warner, out to San Francisco to handle the campaign for "Sea Wolf" . . . Mrs. Kenny Schultz confined to her bed with lumbago . . . Fred Ford of the local RKO exchange and in charge of its publicity, in from Portland at night and out for the same spot the next morning . . . Forgot to mention that Morrie Nimmer of Wenatchee is on Uncle Sam's preferred list with the draft board . . . Al Rosenberg back from his California trip . . . Dorothy Mercy and Marion Walton among the first-nighters to gander at Ruth Chatterton . . . Adelaide Cooper back to San Francisco accompanied by her father-in-law, Al Bloom, who will stay for a vacation and rest. Al just lost his wife, Rose. Roy and Adelaide came from San Francisco for the funeral.

CO-OP'S SCOOPS — Adirector Vic Gauntlett telling of his friendship for publicity and exploitation for 20th Century-Fox on the coast . . . Zolman Volchok, manager of the Oriental in Portland, dropping into the Orpheum here to give "Dr. I. Q." the double "O." "Zollie," as he is known, recently placed his house first in a drive among the Hamrick & Evergreen theatres in this section . . . Manager Jim Clemmer of the Fifth Avenue announces that Grace Thorsen is now the top usherette in charge of the other ten cuties . . . Paul Volkman on the Row from Wapato . . . Ed Zabel and son, Arthur, in from Olympia . . . Bill Allen from Tacoma . . . Mrs. Corrinne Brown from Edmonds . . . O. M. Durham from Mount Vernon . . . Jack Rosenberg testing out his camera and reporting some grand shots . . . Leroy V. Johnson, general manager for Jen-

(Continued on next page)

SALT LAKE

"TOBACCO ROAD" is being plugged heavily before its local opening . . . The San Carlo Opera Co. will appear here April 8, at Kingsbury Hall in "La Traviata" and "Il Trovatore" . . . "Meet John Doe" is being publicized by Royal Crown Cola ads picturing Barbara Stanwyck . . . The Utah is building up patronage through new-sheet publicity, radio spots and lobby displays on the "Speed Gibson Club" for youngsters Saturday mornings, which is in the form of a tieup with the local Arden Sunfreze Creameries and requires an Arden bottle cap or carton plus five cents for children's admission.

Columbia's division manager, Jerome Safron, was here conducting a sales conference . . . "Men of Boys Town" was screened for the trade by Sam Gardner, manager in Salt Lake for M-G-M . . . Leo Adler, UA traveling auditor, is here for a few weeks. Another bulletin on the Arthur W. Kelly Drive reveals that the Salt Lake UA exchange is in a leading position.

Highlighting the program of the second annual "Safety Day" here, was the showing of the motion picture, "Guilty," depicting the needlessness of traffic accidents . . . Phil and Mrs. Guss of Intermountain Theatre Supply Co. are reported to have incorporated Radio Sound and Service, Inc., with capitalization at $10,000 and Edward Lewis as vice-president . . . A royal welcome greeted Gracie Fields' second appearance here this season . . . Ruth Chatterton is booked for a p. a. at the local Paramount in George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" . . . Andy Floor has been presenting the Bert Smith Revue at the Lake.

Sure to Put Forth Marketing Effort

PASADENA—Probably the one man in the United States who not only is an exhibitor, but also acts in the motion pictures he books, is Joseph J. Greene, operator of the Raymond Theatre here.

Greene, a portly character player, is an old-time vaudevillian who took over the Raymond Theatre about three years ago. Recently he appeared in a production at the Pasadena Community Playhouse, at which time an RKO Radio studio scout observed his performance, and Greene was signed to appear in a two-reel Leon Errol comedy, "The Fired Man." He has since had roles in M-G-M's "The Wild Man of Borneo" and Paramount's "Las Vegas Nights."

He also serves as master of ceremonies at a weekly amateur show in his theatre, which is the last-run house in the community. Prior to coming to Pasadena Greene was general manager of the Southtown Theatres, a circuit of nine houses, in Kansas City.



The Exhibitor—



The Actor—

Both are Joseph J. Greene: One as his patrons at the Raymond Theatre in San Diego see him in front of the house, and the other as the same patrons see him on the screen of the Raymond, portraying a role in M-G-M's "Wild Man of Borneo."

SEATTLE

(Continued from preceding page)

sen-von Herberg theatres, taking a few hours off to celebrate his birthday . . . Mr. and Mrs. Bill James along with Mr. and Mrs. McHenry of Vashion Island, guests of George Blair at a preview . . . Mickey de Leo in from Port Townsend . . . M. G. Whitman of Universal back to his territory in the Spokane district after a few days here.

B. F. Shearer back from his trip to Canada. He spent a couple of days in Vancouver . . . Harry Newman in from Linden . . . Ned Edris and Bill Conner in from Tacoma . . . Colonel Dow over from Bremerton . . . E. S. Olson in from Port Blakeley . . . Bernie Milligan, press agent for Kay Kyser, in town ahead of the hilarious maestro . . . Jack Goldsmith and his wife, Lil, asking information about Harry Mills. Jack announces he has found a new location and will move in the near future. For your information, Harry Mills is still in Hollywood and working for a radio station . . . Arvid M. Ahlskog qualifying as a cosmetic expert, but only on price . . . Joan Miles resigning from one "greeters" spot to take over the same duties at the Rhodes department store . . . Ted Champion being mistaken for Jack Sampson and both resenting it . . . Cliff and Mrs. Chellew of the Liberty taking time out for a preview . . . Frank Christie conducting a managers' meeting.

Al Wilson and Frank Hixon being congratulated in news colony for their excellent cocktail party to launch campaign for the "1941 Ice Follies." Great gang on hand including representatives from all dailies and heads of the Civic Auditorium . . . Jim Douglas waiting to get photos from Jerry Ross.

LOS ANGELES

W H. (BUD) LOLLIER, in charge of tax matters for Fox West Coast, pulled out for northern California on an inspection tour . . . Guest of honor at a dinner at the Cocoanut Grove was Catherine Reynolds, manager of the Rialto. She was feted by Lawrence and Sherrill Cohen, owners of the house, upon her 16th anniversary with the theatre. Miss Reynolds started out as a cashier in 1926.

Alma Lang, secretary-booker at M-G-M, is at the bedside of her sister, Ina, who is in a critical condition at General Hospital after an operation. Several blood transfusions have been necessary . . . George Alderman of Constance Bennett Cosmetics is in from a business jaunt around the key cities.

A. J. O'Keefe, Universal's western district manager, is back in town after a swing around the territory . . . Murray Fisher, office manager at Producers Releasing Corp., baked that cold out during the weekend at Palm Springs and is on the job again . . . Leo Miller, booker for the Warner Theatres, checked out for Oregon, Washington, and Northern California on an inspection trip of Warner houses . . . Guy Gunderson, United Artists salesman, is again handling the annual Filmrow Relief Fund benefit dance, to be held April 18 at the Breakfast Club. Music will be supplied by Rudolf Friml and his orchestra.

Business connected with theatres which they operate on the islands is taking Adolph Ramish and Lewis Rosen to Honolulu. They sailed aboard the S. S. Lurline *. . . Sam Milner, Universal salesman, is down in the Arizona territory for a few days . . . In for bookings: Jack Goldberg, of the Ben Bronstein circuit; Gene Berkhoff, operator of the Cinema; Jack Berman, Eastland circuit.*

It was only acute indigestion, not appendicitis as she had feared. So that emergency ambulance ride to the hospital was just a false alarm as far as Elsie Schultz, inspectress at M-G-M, was concerned . . . Daphne Card has replaced Claire Bruce at the switchboard at Columbia . . . Kenny MacKaig, United Artists salesman, has been covering the Imperial Valley territory.

Bess Emanuel of Foreign Films exchange pulled out for San Francisco to establish Bay City distribution for Spin-O-Wheel, boxoffice stimulant . . . Booking: C. J. Alden, Fox, Globe, Ariz.; M. Barnett, Rex, Oakland; Earl Strebe, Palm Springs and El Plaza theatres, Palm Springs . . . Republic's "A Man Betrayed" opened at the Orpheum as a first-run.

Mike Levinson, independent distributor, has checked out for San Francisco on business . . . Katharine Wallace, who was formerly in the billing department at M-G-M, has returned to that office temporarily to pinch-hit for Sarah Sachs, who has taken a leave of absence because of poor health.

Foster Blake, Universal salesman, is covering the Bakersfield territory . . . Lane Nichols, former office clerk at M-G-M and now with Uncle Sam's draft army, was the recipient of a carton of cigarettes forwarded to him by the gang . . . Booking: Joe Sloate of the Maynard; George Diamos, Lyric Amusement Co., Tucson, Ariz.; George Harter, operator of the Arlen.

Booking: Bill Kohler and Larraine Valuskis of the Valuskis in Willowbrook; E. Neharro, Alvarado, Alvarado; E. P. Molina, in from Placentia . . . Ted Goldsmith, in charge of the checker's report at M-G-M, has left to join the army. No replacement as yet.

"Meet John Doe" Is A Hit at Premiere

LOS ANGELES—Benefited by a gala world premiere at the Hollywood in the best film colony tradition, a smash first week for "Meet John Doe" in its advanced-price, day-date run at Warner's Hollywood and Downtown was the one bright spot in an otherwise only average week. "Gone With the Wind" wound up a four-week engagement at the Four Star to under-par business, and continues for a short time longer at the United Artists, where it is doing slightly above normal.

Detail for week ending March 19:

(Average is 100)

Chinese—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Chump at Oxford** (UA) 100
Downtown—**Meet John Doe** (WB) 200
Four Star—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 4th wk. 75
Hillstreet—**Adam Had Four Sons** (Col); **Play Girl** (RKO) 100
Hollywood—**Meet John Doe** (WB) 225
Pantages—**Adam Had Four Sons** (Col); **Play Girl** (RKO) 90
Paramount—**The Lady Eve** (Para't), plus stage show 110
State—**Son of Monte Cristo** (UA); **Chump at Oxford** (UA) 115
United Artists—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M) 110

Salt Lake Takes Hold Satisfactory Record

SALT LAKE CITY—Snow, rain, hail and sleet, wind, thunder and lightning and occasional sunshine heralded official spring here this week in various parts of the region. Theatre reports held their own in a highly satisfactory manner.

Detail for week ending March 20:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Lady in Question** (Col); **Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery** (Col), plus stage spook show 105
Centre—**Lady Eve** (Para't) 100
Studio—**Virginia** (Para't), 4th wk. 100
Utah—**So Ends Our Night** (UA) 100
Victory—**East of the River** (FN); **Love Thy Neighbor** (Para't), 2nd run 105

"Lady Eve" Proves Able House Packer in Denver

DENVER—"Lady Eve" at the Denham easily took that house to the top money again, packing the house repeatedly.

Detail for the week ending March 20:

(Average is 100)

Aladdin—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), after a week at the Denver 115
Broadway—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M), after a week at the Orpheum 130
Denham—**The Lady Eve** (Para't) 230
Denver—**High Sierra** (FN); **Blackout** (UA) 125
Orpheum—**Rage in Heaven** (M-G-M); **Scattergood Baines** (RKO) 65
Paramount—**Great Mr. Nobody** (WB); **Murder Among Friends** (20th-Fox) 110
Rialto—**Nice Girl?** (Univ), after a week at each the Denver and Aladdin, and **Wagon Train** (RKO) 125

"Meet John Doe" Doubles Take in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—"Meet John Doe" put the Warfield at the top of the heap with a neat double of the average take at the theatre. The jump of the evening admission from 50 to 65 cents was a factor that helped garner the weekly honors. Four of the seven first runs were playing holdovers and only one theatre on Market Street did below average business. The weather throughout the entire Bay area was fine.

Detail for week ending March 19:

(Average is 100)

Fox—**The Hard-Boiled Canary** (Para't); **Life With Henry** (Para't) 105
Golden Gate—**A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (RKO), plus Carl Brisson on stage, 2nd wk. 130
Orpheum—**Back Street** (Univ); **Six Lessons From Madame La Zonga** (Univ), 2nd wk. 130
Paramount—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Father's Son** (WB) 110
St. Francis—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Sleepers West** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk. 100
United Artists—**So Ends Our Night** (UA), 2nd wk. 65
Warfield—**Meet John Doe** (WB) 200

"John Doe" a Power in Seattle First Runs

SEATTLE—Some real business happened this week. Despite warm weather, "Meet John Doe" came through. A grand campaign was put on and the Hamrick-Evergreen gang pulled a nifty by opening the picture in two houses, the Fifth Avenue and the Orpheum. To date the houses are running neck-and-neck at the boxoffice but both doing outstanding business. Other attractions just fair.

Detail for week ending March 22:

(Average is 100)

Blue Mouse—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Play Girl** (RKO), 3rd wk. 90
Fifth Avenue—**Meet John Doe** (WB) 175
Liberty—**Adam Had Four Sons** (Col); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col) 90
Music Box—**A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (RKO); **You're the One** (Para't), 2nd wk. 160
Orpheum—**Meet John Doe** (WB) 175
Palomar—**Let's Make Music** (RKO); **Shadows on the Stairs** (WB), plus vaude 90
Paramount—**So Ends Our Night** (UA); **Road Show** (UA) 90

IA Local 150 Will Hold Pact Meeting April 1

LOS ANGELES — General membership meeting of Projectionists Local 150, IATSE, has been called for April 1 to discuss the status of negotiations for new contracts with circuit and independent houses in this territory. R. L. McDonald, business manager, will preside.

Preliminary sessions have already been held with Fox West Coast, RKO, Warner, Fanchon & Marco and several independent operators. Projectionists, now receiving from $1.15 to $2.05 hourly, will ask an increase, the exact amount to be determined at the April 1 session, and are also seeking certain improvements in working conditions, including longer vacation periods with pay.

An agreement arrived at will be retroactive to December 1, 1940, at which time an earlier pact expired. The local at present has 86 members employed in FWC theatres, and a total of about 210 throughout the territory.

RKO Squad Visits

SALT LAKE CITY—The Ned Depinet Drive squad now touring the country met here with the RKO exchange personnel headed by H. C. Fuller. RKO executives present included Leo Devaney, drive captain; Cresson E. Smith, western division sales manager; Harry Michalson, short subjects sales manager, and Herb MacIntyre, western district manager.

Give Full Support to Drive for Greece

LOS ANGELES—In addition to big benefit performances at Grauman's Chinese and the Shrine Auditorium, 350 theatres in the Los Angeles exchange area participated in the Greek War Relief Drive by taking up collections from audiences and in their lobbies.

In the Denver and Salt Lake territories, more than 350 theatres participated, some 50 holding elaborate midnight stage-screen shows at advanced prices.

Nearly 300 theatres were enrolled for the campaign in the San Francisco territory, and wholehearted support likewise was extended by the Seattle area.

Mayor in Charge of Salt Lake Benefit

SALT LAKE CITY—Mayor Ab Jenkins was in charge of the midnight benefit show at the Utah for Greek War Relief. The program included a number of variety acts, as well as a film bill. All employes, including projectionists, stagehands and musicians, donated their services. Charles Pincus of the Utah and Ray Hendy of the Centre, headed the committee in charge of the campaign locally.

Tie-Up With RCA-Victor For "Penny Serenade"

NEW YORK—A comprehensive and far reaching exploitation campaign has been launched by the RCA-Victor Company to pre-sell Columbia's "Penny Serenade," co-starring Irene Dunne and Cary Grant.

This tie-up covers nearly every phase of advertising, including national magazine and newspapers, radio, billboards, window cards, counter displays, special stills, car cards, throwaways and direct mail. There also will be publicity spreads in the three Victor consumer magazines reaching 750,000 homes.

The campaign is based on recordings of the musical numbers heard in "Penny Serenade." These records are now on sale all over the country.

"Penny Serenade" will be advertised to millions of radio listeners on the RCA-Victor program, and *Good Housekeeping*, *The New Yorker* and *Parents* magazines, with more than 10,000,000 readers, will carry Victor Record advertisements preselling the picture.

Set "Texas" Director

HOLLYWOOD—George Marshall has been engaged by Columbia to direct "Texas," a story of the cattle wars in the Panhandle, immediately following the war between the states. William Holden and Warren William will play the male leads.

Ray McCarey Chore

HOLLYWOOD—Ray McCarey is directing "The Man With the Shovel" for Producers Ralph Dietrich and Walter Morosco at 20th-Fox.

Schwarz Starts Move For Variety Club

LOS ANGELES—Harold Schwarz, assistant to the president of Alexander Preview Co., which recently opened branch offices here, is launching a movement for the establishment of a Variety Club in this territory.

Other Variety members locally include Hugh Braley, district manager for Paramount; William Calloway, Warner branch manager, and Herb McIntyre, RKO Radio's western district head. McIntyre holds the first life membership ever given by the Dallas tent of the organization.

Schwarz is predicating his campaign for the establishment of a local branch on the position that this is the world's film capital.

PORTLAND

LOUIS EBERT, Madras exhibitor, was elected a member of the Jefferson county chamber of commerce for a three-year term . . . Ben Ryland's mother, who is confined to a hospital, is reported improving . . . Oregon PCCITO's quarterly meeting recently took up current theatre problems . . . Spring is here in earnest. Howard Mapes is going fishing again. He says he isn't catching any, but that he's having a swell time trying.

The Star in Portland changed hands and brought a familiar figure back into theatre circles. Jack Cave, long identified with the Third Avenue and Novelty theatres, took over at the Star with the statement that, once the picture business gets into your system it's there for keeps . . . Al Finke, local head for Hamrick-Evergreen Theatres, has returned from Los Angeles after attending a company meeting there . . . Cleve Preston is recovering from the effects of overwork and is sojourning in the Portland Sanitarium for a few more days. Cleve operates the Firefly in Portland as well as the Sellwood Pharmacy across the street from the theatre.

Visitors: George Roy, State, Eugene; Oscar Phelps, Venetian and Hill, Hillsboro; Carl Porter, Capitol and Elsinore, Salem; Ken Spears, Roxy, Winlock; West Johnson, Heilig and Mayflower, Eugene; Don Radabaugh, Rose and Indian, Roseburg; Mrs. Verne Ross, Ross, Toledo; Earl Baltazaar, Rainier, Rainier; Mrs. Hartman, Esta, Estacada; Tracy Poorman, Bungalow, Woodburn; Basil Bashor, Liberty, Kelso; Roy Webster, Lorin, Stevenson; E. M. McCoy, Hiway, Oakridge, and Claude Smith, Castle and Coliseum theatres, Tillamook.

Mrs. Harriet Edwards is back in bed again following a few weeks of convalescence from a serious illness.

"Man Hunt" Lang's Next

HOLLYWOOD—Fritz Lang's first under his new directorial pact at 20th-Fox is "Man Hunt."

SAN FRANCISCO

THE Golden Gate celebrated its 19th anniversary with a stage show that was "terrific." Carmen Miranda and her Banda Da Lau rhythm orchestra topped the bill that included Billy Gilbert, the sneezy comedian, and the dancing Hartmans. The Gate is the only theatre in town offering stage shows . . . Jerry Leon, Arch Bowles' secretary and office majordomo at Fox West Coast, is at St. Francis Hospital for a major operation . . . This was Greek collection week at all local theatres . . . Gypsy Rose Lee has replaced Sally Rand as the opening attraction at the "Stairway to the Stars" Club . . . Warner took no chances with the premiere of the "Sea Wolf," assigning four of their high-powered publicists to the job . . . Kay Kyser in town renewing acquaintances . . . The Paramount used Western Union for distribution of their throwaways on "The Lady Eve."

George Mann has announced April 12 as the opening day for his new Tower in Klamath Falls. The house was completely equipped, inside and out, by National Theatre Supply . . . Herb Griffin, vice-president of International Projection Co., in town calling on accounts . . . Warner is giving its exchange a new spring outfit—repainting and redecorating throughout . . . Norman Moray, Vitaphone sales manager, spending a few days on the Row . . . Ralph Marks of the Acme leaves the Dante Hospital for home after five weeks recuperating from a recent operation . . . H. Bluechel has obtained the San Francisco franchise for the new Evans automatic popcorn machine.

L. C. "Butch" Wingham, M-G-M manager, off for a two-week vacation . . . Bill Burke, home office representative, visiting local RKO exchange . . . Ground has been broken for a theatre in San Miguel . . . Richard Schmidt, army booker out of Seattle, making one of his routine booking trips to the Row. This time, however, he has almost twice as much product to obtain because of the great increase in the army theatres . . . Joe E. Brown will represent the industry at the big dinner being held March 29 for Connie Mack, baseball's veteran manager . . . Universal sneaked "Nice Girl?" at the Orpheum . . . Nancy McPhee is the new steno at Monogram.

The Golden Gate is installing three new projectors . . . Arthur Peck of Dixon went to Reno over the weekend and got himself married . . . The hotels have booked some fine orchestras to maintain the high standard of dining room music that exists in this city. Leighton Noble will follow Henry King into the Mark Hopkins, Ozzie Nelson will replace Glen Gray at the Palace, and Richard Himber's stay has been extended at the St. Francis.

Social event of the week was the marriage of Margaret Roberta McNeil to Rex Stevenson. The bride is the daughter of Robert A. McNeil, head of the Golden State circuit, and Rex has been employed as booker for the same organization since coming here a year ago from Seattle. The wedding and reception was held at Del Monte . . . The Brisbane in Brisbane will be opened in mid-April. Rene Poirier is owner-operator . . . Al Bloom, UA representative in Seattle, is visiting Roy Cooper . . . Mel Hulling off for Los Angeles and a national meeting of the Monogram franchise holders . . . Adam Schukart has joined National Theatre Supply as salesman.

Ann Sheridan, George Brent, Merle Oberon and Linda Darnell participated in "Liberty Day for Greece" on Tuesday. The stars appeared at Bay Meadows where a charity card helped swell the fund. In the evening, the Hollywood celebs did repeat performances at a Ball at the Civic Auditorium . . . D. J. McNerney, United Artists manager, back after an eastern jaunt . . . A sure sign of spring was Dan Tocchini, who appeared on the Row sporting a new light blue chapeau . . . O. H. Watson, formerly with UA here, visiting old friends on the Row . . . "The Great Dictator" returns to the United Artists at popular prices April 12 . . . Bill David of the Redwood Theatres can be seen flying over the city practically every Sunday. Bill flys his own plane.

Mary Boland deserts the sound stages for a period and returns to the stage opening at the Curran here on April 14 in Lynn Starling's "Meet the Wife" . . . Gerald Karski is back in his office after a trip to Salt Lake and Portland . . . Pat Patterson is back after a week in Salt Lake . . . Murray Phillips has resigned his position with Western Poster to go into the auto game.

Booking: Clyde Church, American, Kingsburg; Harry Hayaschino, Star, Stockton; Charlie Gray, Westside, Newman; Stanley Court, Court, Livingston; E. Stephanie, Isleton, Isleton.



Adds City Post—

Meet the newest member of the Los Angeles fire commission. He is Charles W. Koerner, west coast division manager for RKO Theatres, who was given his appointment by Mayor Fletcher Bowron.

1. Pierre Van Paassen
(Author of "Days Of Our Years")

2. Johannes Steele
(Radio Commentator)

3. Thomas Mann
(Nobel Prize Author)

4. Kenneth Collins
(Advertising Authority)

5. Daily Mirror

6. Fannie Hurst
(Distinguished Author)

7. Houston Press

8. Narrator Magazine

9. San Francisco Chronicle

10. Richard C. Borden
(Sales Counsellor to America's Leading Corporations, former Professor of Public Speaking, New York University)

11. Bruce Barton
(Batten, Barton Durstine & Osborn, Inc.)

12. Gabriel Heatter
(Radio Commentator)

13. Benjamin de Casseres
(New York Journal-American)

14. Marquis James
(Pulitzer Prize Author)

15. Esquire

16. Maurice Maeterlinck
(Nobel Prize Author)

17. Boston Transcript

17 CRITICS WROTE THIS AD...

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THINKING ON YOUR FEET is more than a delightful reading experience—it is an education. It is one of those exciting adventures in thinking that one meets all too rarely. It will conquer you.(1) If you like biographies of famous people, here is a feast for you! It could be placed under "Humor" or "Anecdotes" or "Wit" or "Biography", but it should be under "Philosophy"—with the books that have contributed to the profound thinking of the troubled generations.(2) This book is stimulating; its vast spiritual horizon actually embraces all the problems of our day(3) and its illuminating comments are profoundly revealing.(4) There is a grand gallery of personality sketches of the famous, and an endless array of anecdotes,(5)—brilliant interpretation that is exemplified over and over again.(6)

This unique, perfectly delightful and thoroughly entertaining volume(7) tells you how to sway audiences and keep people awake after dinner.(8) Every public speaker, every aspirant to the platform, and even the curious reader will read it with profit.(9) It is filled with entertaining, exciting material that you can use to practical advantage(10)—and to the general public its fund of reminiscences and anecdote will make it first class entertainment.(11)

LOUIS NIZER can say what he thinks with a brilliance that is breath-taking.(12) A keen observer of human nature who never hurls the harpoon,(13) he is one of America's distinguished legal scholars and also one of America's distinguished toastmasters.(14) Next to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mr. Nizer is probably possessed of the most magnetic speaking charm extant.(15) His culture and his incomparable erudition create the most incredible approaches, allusions and epigrams which illuminate his pages. This is a great book!(16) Truly an adventure into the realms of public speaking.(17)

Recommended by Book-of-the-Month Club

NOTE: Send to-day for an AUTOGRAPHED copy of "THINKING ON YOUR FEET." Price $2.50 shipped prepaid.

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The Docket

Chicago

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 13. Demand and submission involving some run dispute. E. F. Van Derveer, owner, State Theatre, Morris, Ill. With: Loew's, Inc. Named as interested parties: Morris, Times theatres both of Morris, Ill. Van Derveer claims Loew's has refused to license second run product for the State. The Morris and Times are operated by the Anderson circuit.

CASE NO. 2—See "Hearings."

Hearings

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 18. Demand and submission involving some run (Section VI). Ken Theatre Corp. With: Paramount, 20th-Fox, RKO, B. F. Keith Orpheum Corp., RKO Proctor Corp., RKO Midwest Corp. Theatres involved: Shakespeare, Pix. Named as interested parties: Arthur Schoenstadt, H. Schoenstadt and Sons. Complainant charges the Ken presently is forced to wait 13 weeks after "Loop" showings. He seeks to run the three distributors' product day and date with the Shakespeare and ahead of the Pix, both operated by the Schoenstadts. Arbitrator Charles P. Megan dismissed the complaint, upholding the Schoenstadt contention that the complaint involved run under Section X and not clearance under Section VII. An appeal was filed, the issue now going before the three-member appeal board in New York, composed of Van Vechten Veeder, George W. Alger and Albert W. Putnam.

Milwaukee

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance. Evansville Theatre, Inc., operator of Rex, Evansville, Wis. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp. Named as interested party: Jeffris, Janesville, Wis. Complaint charges unreasonable protection to the Jeffris and improperly refusing to deliver prints contracted by the Rex until played at the Jeffris. Arbitrator is Thomas P. Whelan. Hearing April 1.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 12. Demand and submission involving clearance. Lee Macklin, operator of the Grand, New London, Wis. With: Loew's, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., and Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Rio and Appleton, Appleton, Wis., Grand and Times, Clintonville, and Waupaca and Palace in Waupaca. Complainant, contending the Grand is 21 miles from Appleton, states he is unable to date pictures until after Appleton, while claiming other theatres in the vicinity are able to date product from the distributors named 30 to 50 days sooner than New London. Macklin seeks same availability as Clintonville and Waupaca.

St. Louis

CASE NO. 1—See "Disposals."

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 24. Demand and submission involving clearance. Shirley Theatre Corp., operating the Rialto, Cape Girardeau, Mo. With: RKO. Interested party: Fox Midwest circuit. Complainant charges unreasonable clearance is granted the circuit's Broadway and Orpheum over the Rialto.

Disposals

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 11. Demand and submission involving some run. Louis M. Sosna, operator of the Sosna, Mexico, Mo. With: Columbia, 20th-Fox, Loew's, Inc., Paramount, Republic, RKO, Universal, UA, Vitagraph. Named as interested party: Frisina, Liberty and Rex. Complainant charges distributors named have refused to license 1940-41 product. The complaint has been withdrawn because of its nature which will not bring it a hearing until September.

Evansville Case Up For Hearing Apr. 1

MILWAUKEE—April 1 has been tentatively set for the hearing of Milwaukee's first arbitration case, according to John L. Loell, head of the local tribunal.

The hearing involves a dispute between the Evansville Theatre, Inc., operator of the Rex at Evansville, and Paramount. The Evansville firm charges Paramount with giving unreasonable clearance to the Jeffris in Janesville, and requests that the Jeffris be given no clearance over the Rex.

Prof. Thomas P. Whelan of Marquette University has been agreed upon as the arbitrator.

Ken Case to Travel Full Arbitration Route

CHICAGO—The first test of the full industry arbitration setup began here Wednesday with formal notice of appeal from the Chicago tribunal decision filed by Alvin Landis, attorney for the Ken Theatre in the action against Paramount, RKO, 20th-Fox and the Schoenstadt circuit. Arbitrator Charles P. Megan dismissed the Ken complaint on the ground it concerned run and not clearance, the latter problem not subject to arbitration until September 1.

The case now goes before the three-member appeal board in New York, composed of Van Vechten Veeder, chairman, and George W. Alger and Albert W. Putnam. These three were appointed by Federal Judge Henry Warren Goddard following the signing of the consent decree.

Answering briefs must be filed by all parties concerned within 30 days.

In its complaint filed February 18, the Ken asked that it be allowed to show Paramount, RKO and 20th Century-Fox pictures in the second week of Chicago general release co-incidental with the Schoenstadt Circuit's Shakespeare and ahead of the same circuit's Pix. The latter house now plays pictures the third week of general release in Chicago.

Differ on Issue Involved

Attorneys for the Schoenstadt circuit contended that the issue was one of run and not of clearance and as such should be filed under Section X of the consent decree. Hearings on Section X will not be heard until after the new selling season starts Sept. 1, 1941. The motion made by the defendants to dismiss the complaint on the grounds that the case involved run and not clearance was granted by the arbitrator.

Felix A. Jenkins, secretary and general attorney for 20th Century-Fox, came here from the company's home offices in New York to represent his company at the hearing. Eli Fink of Spitz & Adcock, Chicago, represented Paramount and RKO. Aaron L. Stein of Rosenberg, Stein & Rosenberg, represented H. Schoenstadt & Sons.

Of interest to independent exhibitors is the following point which was brought out at the hearing: the fact that a circuit is involved in the proceedings—in this case the Schoenstadt circuit—has no bearing whatever in the case.

Also brought out clearly at the hearing, as was the case in Chicago's first hearing involving Loew's, Inc., and the independent State at Morris, Ill., was the point that a distributor has a right to choose its customers.

In addition to the attorneys, representatives of all contending parties were present, although they had no actual part in the proceedings. Included among those present were Jim Donohue, branch manager, Paramount; Clyde W. Eckhardt, branch manager, 20th Century-Fox; Jack Osserman, branch manager, RKO Radio; Ben Banowitz and John Landis of the Ken Theatre Corp., and Henry and Arthur Schoenstadt of H. Schoenstadt & Sons.

Others who attended the hearing included Russell Winslow, with Stevenson, Jordan & Harrison, management engineers, who was recently appointed a member of the arbitration panel; Sidney Landis, Ken Theatre Corp.; E. T. (Peck) Gomersall, Universal district manager, Chicago; Harry Hamburg and Harold Wirthwein, sales manager and city salesman respectively for Paramount; A. M. Van Dyke, assistant to C. W. Eckhardt; Edward Blackman, Spitz & Adcock; Felix Mendelssohn, M-G-M branch manager, 1926-1938, now Chicago representative of Constance Bennett Cosmetics; and R. A. O'Brien, RKO office manager.

Correct Complaint Text In Ken Board Case

CHICAGO—Due to a typographical error, several important lines were omitted from the Ken Theatre Corp. clearance complaint published in the March 8 issue of BOXOFFICE. The omission occurred in paragraph 1 entitled *"Statement of Claim and Relief Sought."* Consequently, the relevant portion is republished this week in full:

"Ken Theatre, a corporation and an exhibitor within the meaning of the Consent Decree, claims that the clearance granted to the Shakespeare Theatre by Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Distributing Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Radio Keith Orpheum Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Keith L. B. Orpheum Corp., RKO Proctor Corp., and RKO Midwest Corp. is unreasonable, and that the failure of Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Distributing Corp., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Radio Keith Orpheum Corp., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Keith L. B. Orpheum Corp., RKO Proctor Corp., and RKO Midwest Corp. to grant to the Ken Theatre clearance over the Pix Theatre is unreasonable; and the Ken Theatre asks that the arbitrator shall find that the said clearance granted to the said Shakespeare Theatre by the above named distributors is unreasonable and that the failure of the above named distributors to grant to the Ken Theatre clearance over the Pix Theatre is unreasonable, and that the arbitrator enter an award fixing the clearance between the said Ken Theatre and the Shakespeare Theatre and Pix Theatre."

Weston Seeks Membership

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.—Clyde A. Weston, one-time business agent for Local 143, operators' union in St. Louis, is seeking a renewal of his membership in the East St. Louis local of the same union, No. 288. At present he is working as a projectionist in the East St. Louis territory under a permit because of his membership in the stagehands union.

CHICAGO

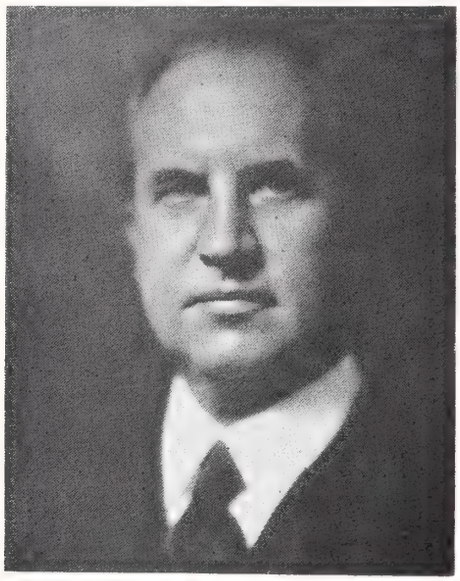
PEARL LEVY, having decided to devote full time to house-wifely duties, was given a farewell luncheon by fellow Warner employes at the Congress. Pearl, an assistant cashier, has been with Warner for 15 years . . . Irving Schlank, district manager for UA, reports he has sold "The Great Dictator" for popular-priced runs to B&K and Publix-Great States. The Chaplin film will be shown at the B&K Roosevelt.

Jack Benny will be in Chicago to appear on the "Show of Shows" at the Civic Opera House . . . Following are the Chicago chairmen of the amusement division of the Greek War Relief Ass'n: John Balaban, Jack Kirsch, Hal Halperin, Jules J. Rubens, James Coston, John L. Manta, Van A. Nomikos, Harry A. Reckas, S. J. Gregory and Michael Todd.

Abe Fischer, now branch manager for Producers Releasing Corp. here, will join the sales staff of UA on Monday, according to Bennie Eisenberg, UA branch manager. Fischer will be the south-side salesman . . . Morris Hellman is covering suburban and country territory for UA . . . Felix A. Jenkins, secretary and general attorney for 20th Century-Fox, who represented the company at the recent arbitration hearing, conferred with Branch Manager Clyde Eckhardt, before returning to New York.

Bob Montgomery, "Fantasia" publicist, says that children are now admitted for half-price to all performances. An extra performance starting at 10:40 Saturday mornings has been added to the regular schedule . . . Employes at the Capitol-Monogram exchange are busy on the annual "Our Gang" Drive honoring Henri Elman.

Ott O'Toole, M-G-M booker, has returned from his California vacation . . . Another returning vacationer is Sally Gold, assistant cashier at the same exchange who acquired a nice coat of Florida tan . . . Bill Bishop, M-G-M exploiteer, met Edward Arnold, Maureen O'Sullivan and Judy Garland, when they came through town the past week eastward bound. Arnold disclosed that he has signed a two-year contract with M-G-M. Miss O'Sullivan had her 20-month-old son, Michael, with her on the trip.



VAN VECHTEN VEEDER



—Wide World

GEORGE W. ALGER



—Blank & Stoller

ALBERT W. PUTNAM

They'll Hear the Ken Appeal—

The three members of the motion picture arbitration appeals board who will decide the industry's first appeal from the decision of a local tribunal in operation under the consent decree. The case probably will be the appeal of the Ken Theatre, Chicago, from a ruling by Arbitrator Charles P. Megan dismissing the complaint on the ground it involved run and not clearance.

Roy Hanson, manager of the Vogue, East Chicago, plans on leaving the Indiana-Illinois circuit, April 19. Roy plans on entering the insurance business in Goshen, Ind. . . . Felix Mendelssohn reports that the Windsor, owned by Harry and Elmer Balaban, and the Midwest, Schoenstadt house, will soon start the Constance Bennett Cosmetics deal. The Midwest is scheduled to start April 16 and 17 . . . "Duke" Hickey is back at his desk following a recent siege of intestinal flu. Duke plans on returning to the NSS New York office shortly.

Eddie Haferkamp, who has been covering the Indiana and Illinois territory for National Screen for the past three years, will join the Paramount sales staff in Milwaukee on Monday . . . Joe Katzoff, former NSS salesman in New York, is now working out of Chicago . . . Monroe Rubinger, WB exploiteer, says that the first week's business of "Meet John Doe" at the Mary Anderson, Louisville, broke the house record.

Alex Halperin, WB Theatres booker, has returned from his Florida vacation . . . Fred Bartow, Paramount exploiteer, planted a "Lady Eve" contest in the Herald-American. *The picture, with Allan Jones on the stage, is currently doing big business at the Chicago . . . Jack Kirsch, Illinois Allied prexy, is expected back from his Florida vacation Monday.*

Universal branch manager, Mannie Gottlieb, had a trade showing of Deanna Durbin's "Nice Girl?" at the Palace Monday night. The preview was given as part of the regular show . . . Edward R. Budd, with the Guercio-Barthel Co. in Chicago and Indianapolis for the past three years, has joined National Theatre Supply Co. as salesman in the Chicago area . . . Leo Vames, manager of the Lincoln, Van Nomikos house, is a recent draftee.

Jack Lieberthal, salesman for Joe Goldberg, says he wouldn't be surprised if Uncle Sam calls him any day now. Jack is a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery Reserve Corps . . . Branch Manager Bennie Eisenberg says the local UA exchange is in fourth place in the Arthur W. Kelly sales drive which will end April 19 . . . Al Dezel reports the sale of the twin-bill, "Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands," to the entire Publix-Great States circuit.

Marion Shields, bookkeeper with National Theatre Supply, has returned to work following a week spent at the Chicago Memorial Hospital because of a sinus infection . . . Eric Branton, German refugee who recently came to this country from Cuba, is now working for the Midwest Film Exchange . . . The local RKO exchange is conducting a sales drive from April 5 to 11 in honor of District Manager Walter Bramson.

ESSANESS NOTES: *Red Edinson is the new manager at the Devon succeeding Red Morris who has been transferred to the Biograph. R. Levine, Biograph manager, has received his questionnaire from the local draft board, and may be called in April . . . Arthur Steagel, manager of the Irving, who has been seriously ill for the past two months, has returned to work . . . The Vogue, North-Center and Julian, are all being remodeled.*



They Honor Her—

Mrs. Pearle Levy, assistant branch cashier of Warner's Chicago exchange, who was honored by the force with a testimonial dinner on the occasion of her retirement after 15 years of active service. With her is shown Sid Rose, branch manager.

Sosna Complaint to Tribunal Withdrawn

ST. LOUIS—Louis M. Sosna has withdrawn his complaint filed March 11 with the local arbitration tribunal involving first run pictures for the Sosna in Mexico, Mo., against Columbia, 20th Century-Fox, Loew's, Paramount, Republic, RKO, Universal, United Artists and Vitagraph.

Sosna's complaint was the first officially filed with the local tribunal and its withdrawal leaves but one case pending, that of the Shirley Theatre Corp., Cape Girardeau, Mo., against RKO involving clearance for the Fox Midwest circuit houses over the Rialto in that city.

It is understood that Sosna decided to withdraw his complaint when he learned that because of its nature, it could not be heard until September.

Sosna, in his complaint, charged that various film distributors had encouraged him to open a new theatre in Mexico, promising to supply first run pictures for the house. About $40,000 was expended in converting a commercial building into a 400-seat theatre, known as the Sosna, which was opened in June, 1940, he said. However, he charged, only Vitagraph sold the house first run pictures and those were for the 1938-39 season. When the new selling season opened in July, 1940, Sosna charged none of the distributors named in his complaint would rent first run pictures to his house. When Louis M. Sosna, as manager of the theatre, demanded pictures, he said the distributors gave the excuse that their product had already been sold to the opposition theatre in Mexico. He further charged that the Sosna could not obtain a sufficient number of desirable first-run pictures for profitable operation.

Would Tax Film Rented in Wisconsin 10 Per Cent

MADISON—The most important legislative measure affecting the industry introduced to date, is the McParland bill providing for an occupational tax of 10 per cent on the rental of all film by the distributor, except on rentals of less than $500.

Under the measure, distributors would be required to furnish city assessors with a list of films sold or rented in each locality on May 1 of each year. A bill introduced in the 1939 legislature, providing for a tax of $2.50 for each 1,000 feet of film, failed to pass.

Back in the hopper after having been killed four times, is the Murray daylight saving bill. As the measure now stands, it would limit optional daylight saving to communities in Milwaukee county.

Another tax measure introduced provides for a $10 license fee for each music or amusement box in the state. The bill, introduced by Assemblyman Charles W. Fowell, Viroqua, would also require amusement machine owners to file a $5,000 bond with the state treasurer.

Also introduced is the Fehlaber bill, which would license "coin operated machines not used solely for the vending of merchandise" an annual fee of $25.

A pari-mutuel horce racing bill has also been introduced by Assemblyman Nicholas J. Bichler, Belgium. The measure would create a racing commission of three to be appointed by the governor for six-year terms and to serve without pay except expenses.

In Milwaukee county, horse racing associations would pay a license fee of $1,000 for each racing day. In other counties the fee would be $500. A tax of 20 cents would be levied on each admission ticket, and racing associations would obtain 10 per cent of the pari-mutuel take as commission. Similar attempts to legalize horse race betting in past legislatures have failed.

Being watched with interest by exhibitors in bill No. 207A in the state assembly, which provides that parts of churches used for commercial purposes and pecuniary profit or non-religious purposes, would be subject to taxes. Theatremen have contended that many religious organizations using church property for Bingo, should be obliged to pay taxes on such property. As the law now stands, such property is tax exempt.

BOWLING

CHICAGO—The M-G-M lads kept right on the tails of the leading Paramount quintet last week when both teams took all three games from their opponents, Paramount trouncing 20th Century-Fox while M-G-M swamped Universal.

Abe Fischer, bowling for 20th Century-Fox, maintained his lead as high scorer with a 176 average. Other leading scorers are: Mike Fahey, Paramount, 174; Johnny Knaffle, United Artists, 174; Fred Hanzelin, M-G-M, 172; Max Dreifuss, Republic, 171, and Harry Pries, Paramount, 171.

Team standings:

Team—	Won	Lost
Paramount	46	26
M-G-M	43	29
20th Century-Fox	33	34
Republic	36	36
Film Chauffeurs	35	37
United Artists	31	41
National Screen	31	41
Universal	23	44



They Sponsored Springfield Greek Relief—

Managers and owners of Springfield theatres who aided in sponsoring the Greek benefit show at the Orpheum and a number of public officials who took part in the program are shown above. Seated in front are Mayor John W. Kapp and Dwight Green, governor of Illinois, who were the principal speakers at the show, and standing, left to right, are Joseph Nepote, manager of the Esquire; Dave Jones, manager of the Senate; M. E. Berman, Orpheum; Louis Kerasotes, vice-president of Kerasotes Theatres, Inc.; Max Tschauder, Roxy; Gus Kerasotes, president of Kerasotes Theatres; Gilbert Keebler, administrative auditor to Governor Green; George Kerasotes, secretary-treasurer and general manager of Kerasotes Theatres; Secretary of State Edward J. Hughes; Dominic Giachetto, treasurer of Frisina Amusement Co.; Nicholas Kerasotes, Pantheon; Edmond Metzger, Strand; Charles Brown, assistant manager Orpheum; and C. C. Murray, Fox-Lincoln.

Proposed Missouri Bill Would Ban SRO Tickets

JEFFERSON CITY—Representative Paul Turner of St. Joseph has presented a "No Standing Room" tickets bill in the Missouri general assembly. Generally speaking, it would prohibit theatres and other places of public amusement from selling tickets after all of the seats have been occupied.

Milton Napier, counsel of the Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis, is expected here early this week to present to the assembly for consideration the council's bill to restrict the length of film shows.

Originally intended to ban triple feature programs in Missouri houses, the new bill has been drawn to restrict shows to 2½ hours. In the event a program does extend beyond this time limit it will be necessary for the management to provide a 15-minute intermission.

This intermission must be strictly non-entertainment. It would be necessary for the theatre management to turn on all of the house lights, darken the screen and not present any stage shows or other entertainment in this rest period.

It is believed exhibitors will endeavor to have the bill amended to permit three-hour shows.

Reports from St. Louis are that there has been a decided audience reaction against the four-hour shows that have prevailed in a number of the South St. Louis houses during the past few weeks and it is understood that all of the houses, both chain and independent, will eliminate those too lengthy shows, except on special occasions such as New Year's Eve, etc.

Oppose Missouri SRO Ticket Ban

Jefferson City—Exhibitor leaders are active here in opposition to a measure introduced by Representative Turner to prevent the sale of tickets after the seating capacity has been reached.



—Loop Photo Service

Triple-Threat Man—

Edward H. Griffith, Paramount producer-director and writer, shown as he arrived in Chicago recently en route to New York. Griffith, at one time on the staff of the Chicago Journal, *recently completed "One Night in Lisbon."*

Text of Bill to Regulate Length of Film Shows

ST. LOUIS—*The text of the bill to regulate the length of motion picture programs in Missouri, which the Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis will present immediately before the general assembly in Jefferson City, follows:*

"An Act: Relating to the exhibition of motion picture films; defining 'Exhibitor,' 'Intermission,' 'Single Performance;' providing violation of act a misdemeanor and fixing penalty for such violation.

"Be it enacted by the general assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

"*Section* 1. For the purpose of this act, 'Exhibitor' means any person, firm, corporation, or association who, directly or indirectly, is in the business of exhibiting motion picture films to the public for an admission fee.

"*Section* 2. For the purposes of this act, 'Intermission' shall mean a complete stoppage of performance of any kind on stage, platform, screen or otherwise and the house lights of the theatre, business house or place of exhibiting motion picture films to the public shall be continuously lighted during said intermission.

"*Section* 3. A 'Single Performance' shall include all exhibitions or attractions on the stage, platform, screen or otherwise, for a period not to exceed two and one-half hours.

"*Section* 4. It shall be unlawful for any exhibitor to present or cause to be presented a performance consisting of the exhibition on screens of one or more single motion picture films for a longer period than two and one-half consecutive hours, provided, however, that a performance may be shown for upwards of two and one-half hours, if at the beginning of each hour in excess of the two and one-half hour performance there is a period of intermission of 15 minutes. No intermission shall be required for a repeat performance of the same exhibitions or attractions, unless a single performance exceeds two and one-half hours.

"*Section* 5. Any exhibitor who violates the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof fined not less than one hundred dollars ($100) or more than five hundred dollars ($500), or be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than six months, or both, in the discretion of the court."

The Council sponsoring the bill is headed by Mrs. Guy Randall. It is composed of some 25 affiliated organizations with a total membership of 250,000 women. Col. Milton F. Napier, counsel for the Council, prepared the text of the bill.

Mrs. Randall and other officers and members of the Council, said it is their hope that the bill will result in film programs consisting of a single feature and selected shorts.

The Council has organized its forces behind a state-wide campaign in support of the measure.

No Divorce Mecca

JEFFERSON CITY—A House committee killed the bill of Rep. J. L. Ivanhoe, St. Louis, to make Missouri a divorce seekers' mecca. The measure would have cut the time for residence in the state before filing a divorce suit, from one year to 30 days.

Contract to Brockmiller

ROLLA, MO.—Mrs. Mildred Karsch has awarded the general contract for her new 700-seat theatre to be erected here, to Walter Brockmiller.

Blow at Multiple Features

St. Louis—Col. Milton F. Napier, counsel for the Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis, which is sponsoring a bill designed to limit film programs in Missouri to two and one-half hours, says "the main purpose behind this proposed legislation is to correct the abuse of multiple feature showings."

"The Council," he asserts, "has stood firmly against so-called censorship in all of its devious forms and has tried valiantly during the years through cooperative efforts to put an end to the abuses of multiple feature showings, without success.

"Therefore, as a last resort, we are attempting to do by legislation what should have been done by the industry and the exhibitors particularly, not only for the public good, but for their own best interests."

Four-hour film programs, by both chain and independent operators, have been featured here in recent months.

: PRC Convention Notes :

CHICAGO—Henry Armetta, who was in town for a personal appearance at the State-Lake, was a visitor at the PRC Sunday session. Armetta had one of the leading roles in the company's "Caught in the Act." Other stars at the convention were George Houston and Art Davis, who trained in from Hollywood.

O. Henry Briggs, PRC president, left for Detroit following final confabs with board members, Harry Asher and George Gill, on Tuesday. Asher is the Boston franchise holder and Gill is the Washington, D. C. franchise holder.

Over a thousand post cards were sent by the delegates to exhibitors. Post cards read: "PRC Convention, Congress Hotel, Chicago. Greetings from the Annual Convention of PRC now in session at the Congress Hotel. We are lining up a REAL SHOWMAN'S PROGRAM for you in 1941-42. PRC is going places—and you are going with us—for Boxoffice results! Get on the PRC Band Wagon! Cordially . . ."

Canada was represented at the convention by H. J. Allen, head of PRC, Ltd., Toronto.

Attractive blue and white banners were displayed in the Florentine Room, scene of the business sessions. The large street banner said: "We make good every promise."

Harold J. Flavin, head of the poster company bearing his name, came here from New York to attend the convention.

William Gell, general managing director for Pathe Pictures, Ltd., had to travel 12,000 miles in order to reach this country from England. War conditions necessitated the lengthy detour.

Both Abe Fischer, present PRC branch manager in Chicago, and Charles Miller who will become the branch manager on Monday, attended the convention. Other Chicagoans present included Herman Marks, country salesman, working out of the Chicago exchange, and Bernie Myers, Chicago city salesman

Seven of 15 Classified As "Mature" by Council

CHICAGO—Seven of 15 current pictures reviewed by the Better Films Council of Chicago have been listed as "mature," according to Mrs. Charles R. Holton, vice-president of the council and chairman of the previewing committee.

They are: "Come Live With Me" (M-G-M); "Dream of Madame Butterfly" (Grande); "Lady With Red Hair" (WB); "Michael Shayne, Private Detective" (20th-Fox); "Tall, Dark and Handsome" (20th-Fox); "Strawberry Blonde" (WB), and "The Phantom Wagon" (Col.)

Pictures that were given a clean bill-of-health and classified as satisfactory for the entire family: "Dancing on a Dime" (Para't); "Four Mothers" (WB); "Invisible Woman" (Univ); "Land of Liberty" (M-G-M); "The Son of Monte Cristo" (UA); "Texas Rangers Ride Again" (Para't); "Virginia" (Para't), and "Western Union" (20th-Fox).







At the PRC Convention in Chicago—

Harry Asher (standing), chairman of the board, opens the convention of Producers Releasing Corp. of Chicago. Left to right at the table are George Batcheller, Sig Neufeld, George Gill, Asher, O. Henry Briggs (president), Art Davis (cowboy star) and Bert Kulick. Top left is Leon Fromkess, vice-president in charge of domestic and foreign operations. Top right is Charles Miller, new Chicago branch manager. He succeeds Abe Fischer, resigned.

Urges Patron Support For Class Pictures

FOND DU LAC, WIS.—Declaring that producers have not yet been convinced that artistic films make money, Mrs. F. G. Kiesler in an address before the Better Films Council here, said that for that reason, "we must push and patronize a good moving picture as we would a good concert or some other cultural activity." Mrs. Kiesler told the council that the emotional excitement caused by films remains with children 70 hours after seeing the picture.

RKO Termer for Jane Wyatt

HOLLYWOOD—Jane Wyatt has been signed to a long-term acting contract by RKO.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A Handy Guide for the Exhibitor

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Grainger Attends Baker Luncheon

CHICAGO—In town for the informal luncheon honoring Bill Baker, Republic's new branch manager locally, was James R. Grainger, president of the company. Baker's promotion followed Republic's recent acquisition of the Chicago franchise from Irving Mandel.

While here, Grainger said he and a number of other Republic executives, including Herbert J. Yates, board chairman, would be in St. Louis April 4 for the world premiere of the company's latest Judy Canova starrer, "Sis Hopkins," at the Fox. Miss Canova and several other of the film's players will also be on hand.

Baker said that no changes would be made in the Chicago staff. Continuing in their present posts are: Sig Decker, northside salesman; Max Dreifuss, southside salesman; Jack Schwartz, country salesman, and Frank Nardi, booker and office manager.

District and branch managers present at the luncheon, which was held in the company's new Chicago quarters on the fourth floor of the Warner Bldg., were: Walter E. Branson, RKO division manager; Jack Osserman, RKO branch manager; Clyde Eckhardt, 20th Century-Fox branch manager; and Bennie Eisenberg, UA branch manager.

Among the B&K executives attending were: Dave Balaban, Dave Wallerstein, Elmer Balaban, Harry Lustgarten, Jack Sampson, Nate Platt, Abe Kaufman, Joe Kaufman, and Elmer Immerman.

Others attending included: Harry and Elmer Balaban, Russ Uswetsky, J. P. Dromey, Henry Sticklemaier, Harry Rubens, Al Raymer, Al Rose, Percy Barr, Harris Silverberg, Lou Reinheimer, Sam Meyers, Duke Hickey, Felix Mendelssohn and Bob Snyder.

Remodeling K-P

GREENSBURG, IND.—The interior and exterior of the K-P Theatre is being remodeled by Walter Easley. Improvements will include a new boxoffice and auditorium floor. The work is being done during the morning, thus permitting an uninterrupted operating schedule. The job is expected to be completed by April 10.

Hess Tries Again

JEFFERSON CITY—A bill to legalize horse-racing and pari-mutuel betting in Missouri has been introduced by Rep. David Hess of St. Louis. He presented a similar bill at the 1939 session, but it died in committee. The revenue would go for old-age pensions.

Carnival Burned Up

MOBERLY, MO.—Twenty-six trucks and other property of the Imperial Shows, a carnival concern, and the Harris Lumber Co. buildings that served as winter quarters for the show, were destroyed by fire.



—Loop Photo

New Branch Manager—

Bill Baker, left, being congratulated by James R. Grainger, Republic president, on his elevation to branch manager in Chicago. Baker succeeds Harry Lorch, who retires to devote his time to theatre interests.

'Fantasia,' 'Tobacco Road' Lead Good Chi Week

CHICAGO—Despite luke-warm reviews from the local critics, local fans apparently were curious to see the cinema version of the banned stage play, "Tobacco Road" with the result that the Chicago had one of its best weeks in some time. A cold spell the early part of the week didn't help business any in the loop. The hold-over duo, "Fantasia" and "Gone With the Wind," continued to pile up top grosses at the Apollo and Roosevelt respectively.

Detail for the week ended March 20:

(Average is 100)

Apollo—**Fantasia** (Disney), 4th roadshow wk.....200
Chicago—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox), plus stage show 175
Garrick—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), 2nd loop wk.; moved here after nice week at the Chicago 130
Oriental—**Road Show** (UA), plus stage show.....105
Palace—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Vivacious Lady** (RKO), 2nd wk. 115
Roosevelt—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 3rd wk. 140
State-Lake—**Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (M-G-M), plus stage show 115
United Artists—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M), 3rd wk., 1st part of wk..... 85
United Artists—**Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA), 2nd part of wk.....100

Indianapolis First-Runs Give a Good Account

INDIANAPOLIS—Most first runs finished the week with better than average grosses; excepting the Indiana which found "Tobacco Road" and "Play Girl" too weak to remain the entire second week's playing time. This bill was pulled Tuesday night after a five-day run.

Detail for week ending March 22:

(Average is 100)

Alamo—**Trail Blazers** (Rep); **Flying Wild** (Mono)..105
Ambassador—**Back in the Saddle** (Rep); **Arkansas Judge** (Rep) 115
Circle—**Nice Girl?** (Univ); **Melody for Three** (RKO) 110
Indiana—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Play Girl** (RKO), 5 days 60
Loew's—**So Ends Our Night** (UA); **Maisie Was a Lady** (M-G-M) 100
Lyric—**The Great Mr. Nobody** (WB); and Ray Kinney's Band on Stage.....100

Big Benefit Show for Paralysis Victims

ST. LOUIS—Names of the screen, stage and radio world combined in presenting a big benefit show Saturday night at Fanchon & Marco Fox for infantile paralysis sufferers in the St. Louis area.

Sponsored by the Variety Club as a means of raising funds for the construction of a building with facilities for paralysis victims, the show included, among others, such entertainers as the "Four Inkspots," popular Negro radio quartet; Professor Quiz of the radio, and Sally Foster, who was recently a guest artist on the Al Pearce airshow.

Harry C. Arthur jr., general manager of Fanchon & Marco and chief barker of the St. Louis Tent of Variety, said the contemplated structure would cost upwards of $150,000 and would contain vocational training shops, a swimming pool and other rehabilitation facilities.

Electrical Workers to Mediate Differences

ST. LOUIS—The threatened strike of American Federation of Labor electrical workers employed in this section, has been postponed pending negotiations in which federal mediators will participate.

Such a strike would tie up over 200 theatres in St. Louis, St. Louis county, eastern Missouri and southern Illinois and more than $100,000,000 in national defense contracts.

Fanchon & Marco Again Producing Police Circus

ST. LOUIS—The annual Police Circus, to be held at the Arena April 17 through April 30, will again be produced by Fanchon & Marco and will include about 325 performers. Tickets are now on sale. Net proceeds go to the Police Relief Ass'n which provides for widows and orphans of deceased policemen.

Gypsy Rose Lee Revue Bolsters "Little Men"

MILWAUKEE—Facing competition from the Home Show in the Auditorium, the Riverside with Gypsy Rose Lee and the film, "Little Men," and the Warner playing "Nice Girl?" and "Flight From Destiny," were leaders for the week.

Detail for week ending March 20:

(Average is 100)

Palace—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd wk...125
Riverside—**Little Men** (RKO); Gay New Orleans Revue with Gypsy Rose Lee.....180
Strand—**Virginia** (Para't); **Life With Henry** (Para't) 100
Warner—**Nice Girl?** (Univ); **Flight From Destiny** (WB) 150
Wisconsin—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk.....110

INDIANAPOLIS

VISITORS: William T. Studebaker, Logan, Logansport; Mrs. Hilda Palmer Long, Hippodrome, Sheridan; Arthur B. Thompson, Park, North Vernon; Joe Schilling, Auditorium, Connersville; E. K. Crouch, Palace, Fairmount; Harry Van Noy, Paramount, Anderson; Harvey Cocks, Quimby circuit, Fort Wayne; John Doerr, Alliance Theatres, Chicago; Harold Reckley, Chateau, Greensburg; D. D. Lee, Princess, Cayuga, and A. McCarty, Roxy, Pendleton . . . The Variety Club's Greek War Relief Drive got off to a good start with a great deal of publicity being obtained through the efforts of the committee handling the affair. Radio time was donated, and photographs playing up the "Tag Day" were carried by local papers. George Settos was pictured as buying the first tag, and Dick Frank also demonstrated the manner of getting a tag by dropping a coin in the box. Another phase was a mythical testimonial dinner tendered Harris P. Wolfberg, district manager for M-G-M. Instead of having the dinner and spending the money for food, drinks and entertainment, all the funds were turned over to the Greek relief fund.

The Daisy closed for four days to permit remodeling and redecorating . . . Bingo, outlawed by the police department throughout the city, reappeared for a short time in "private homes" under the guise of a party. This was subjected to prompt action by the police . . . Many friends of Lowell T. Moore, who operated the Orpheum at Mitchell, attended his funeral in that city . . . Latest report concerning the reopening of the Tacoma which was damaged by fire a month ago, is that it will take another three weeks to get the theatre in shape . . . Elsie, the Borden "glamour" cow who has attained the rank of a film star, paid Indianapolis a visit, and as a consequence, gave her picture "Little Men" a plug.

The Tivoli, Gary, will install new RCA sound. The house is operated by Theatrical Managers, Inc. . . . Also, George Settos will change the name of the Amuzu in Oakland City, Ind., to the Ohio . . . In conjunction with the Indiana's showing of "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob," the U. S. Navy established a recruiting office in the theatre lobby . . . Claude Allison of the Strand started a sort of a chain-letter Conservation Club . . . Much newspaper and radio comment has been brought to bear on the subject of daylight saving time for Indianapolis. Through recent action by the legislature, it becomes the privilege of the city to use daylight saving if passed by the council. Most theatremen feel it would affect the boxoffice adversely.

The basketball season ended with the playoff for the high-school championship before an estimated 15,000 *. . . John Peterson, manager of the Uptown, is preparing to leave for a year's service with the army. The same is true of Harold Marshall, M-G-M exploitation man . . . Had Hull, branch manager for Universal, has returned from a Florida vacation . . . Roy Churchill, branch manager of RKO, flew to California to be with his father who is seriously ill . . . Exhibitors Exchange, and the offices of John Servass, have been moved from Filmrow and are now located at his home north of the city . . . Phairy Shives of Warner is recovering from an appendectomy . . . Edward Carroll rejoins the Warner staff as shipper, after being discharged from the marine corps.*

MILWAUKEE

"GONE With the Wind," playing four shows a day at Fox's Palace, has gone into its third and final week with three shows daily . . . "Tobacco Road," after two weeks at Fox's Wisconsin, has gone into the circuit's Strand for a third week . . . H. J. Mirisch's Oriental and Tower theatres operated daily a matinee policy in connection with the showing of "Kitty Foyle" and "Victory."

The Garden, dark for many months, is being used as a downtown pre-Easter preaching mission . . . Phillip R. McGovern, an uncle of Pat O'Brien, passed away here at the age of 82 *. . . Plans are reported under way for a new* 400*-seat theatre at Randolph.*

Warner's Venetian in Racine used Milwaukee newspaper advertising to plug a one-day stand of Henry Busse and his band . . . A 40-mile gale swung an auxiliary sign beneath the marquee in front of the Strand in Oshkosh so violently, that it smashed a number of light bulbs . . . Rollo Clark, who recently made a three-day appearance at one of the local Saxe houses, played the circuit's Jeffris in Janesville.

Tom Riley, manager of the Avalon, cooked up a display in the lobby of the house consisting of lost articles accumulated over a long period of time . . . The city council at Appleton has paved the way for the erection of two new theatres on Wisconsin Avenue in that city. Jack Silliman and Reuben Rosenblatt and their affiliates have announced plans for new houses.

Murray Wallace, 39, projectionist at the Uptown in Fort Atkinson, died last week . . . Peter L. Myers, 73, for many years manager of the Myers Theatre in Janesville, is dead. The house was erected by Myers' father and in recent years has been conducted by Fox. Myers is survived by his wife.

The Burlington Liars' Club, which has been instrumental in helping to make Burlington the liars' capital of the world, was seeking the world premiere showing of Warner's "The Great Lie," which will be held in Littleton, N. H., the star, Bette Davis' home town.

Add Many Dollars to Greek Relief Fund

CHICAGO—Over 400 theatres in Illinois made audience and lobby collections and put on special midnight benefit shows to raise funds for Greek War Relief.

Thirty-two benefit shows were conducted in downstate Illinois, with talent and employes of theatres conducting them donating their services.

In Indianapolis, Variety collaborated with the drive committee in putting on a Tag Day. Five hundred Butler University co-eds took up stations at important commercial intersections.

The Milwaukee area enrolled 150 theatres for collections and benefit shows, while 207 pledged collections and 16 midnight shows in the St. Louis territory.

Conduct Tag Day For Greek Cause

INDIANAPOLIS—The Variety Club conducted a Tag Day here as part of the local trade's contribution to the Greek War Relief Drive. Co-chairmen of the committee in charge were Dick Frank and Ken Collins. Also on the committee were Claude McKean, Marc Wolf, Al Blocker and Harold Marshall. Sorority girls and others from Butler University contributed their time for the cause.

Cast in "Caroline"

HOLLYWOOD—Jack Mulhall has been added to the cast of RKO's "My Life With Caroline."



ST. LOUIS

THE FOUR INKSPOTS, Negro quartet, and the Sunset Royal Orchestra, one of the country's leading Negro bands, head the stage show at the Fox . . . Advance sale of tickets for the Police Circus at the Arena the two weeks opening on April 17, is running some 12 per cent ahead of sales at the same period last year, according to the Police Relief Ass'n, sponsors of the show. Fanchon & Marco will be the producers.

Burton Holmes gave his fifth and final travelogue, "In Our United States," at the Municipal Opera House last week . . . Jane Stribling, St. Louis girl who has been dancing with the Music Hall Rockettes in New York, has returned home. She plans to teach at a dancing school. She will rejoin the St. Louis Municipal Opera the coming season.

Lunt & Fontanne in "There Shall Be No Night," drew $24,500 at the American in eight shows. This was the second best week of the season, being topped only by Katharine Hepburn in "Philadelphia Story" . . . The Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra will appear at the Municipal Auditorium April 29.

Elmer Esrock, formerly a doorman at Fanchon & Marco's Ambassador for about six years, has passed the examination for appointment to the St. Louis police force . . . Arnold Berger, manager of the Drive-In near Des Peres, Mo., is making plans for reopening April 12.

Missouri Bill Would End Theatre Tax Exemptions

JEFFERSON CITY—The senate has passed and sent to the house for action the bill of Sen. W. B. Whitlow, Fulton, a Democrat, to repeal a law of 1885 prohibiting cities of the third and fourth class from imposing licenses on opera houses. The bill was presented to the general assembly because in a recent ruling the Missouri supreme court held that the modern motion picture theatres in cities of the third and fourth class, have a legal right to enjoy the same immunity from license fees as the old opera houses of the late 80's.

The decision was handed down in a suit brought by the St. Louis Amusement Co. to set aside taxes imposed on four of its theatres in St. Louis county. The high court set aside the taxes, saying the theatres could not be forced to pay the license fees because of the 1885 law.

Frederickson Honored

LAFAYETTE, IND.—Harry Frederickson's campaign on "Land of Liberty" at the Lafayette has earned him an M-G-M Honor Roll Button. A mayoral proclamation, organizational screenings and educators' cooperation highlighted the exploitation.

Renew Film Gossip Airer

CHICAGO—Marian Whitney, Hollywood commentator in Chicago, has had her Tuesday-Friday evening broadcast contract renewed by its exhibitor-sponsors for another 26 weeks.

Herman DeVry Succumbs To Sudden Heart Attack

CHICAGO—Herman A. DeVry, local inventor and manufacturer of numerous motion picture devices, died here suddenly of a heart attack while bowling last Sunday. DeVry, founder and president of the DeVry Corp., manufacturers of film equipment, was 65 years old.

DeVry claimed credit for manufacturing the first sound equipment with plans drawn by Dr. Lee DeForest. The manufacturer was also credited by business associates with making the first sound pictures for use in the home.

Born in Germany, DeVry came to Chicago as a boy. He began his career as a builder of contrivances for the illusions of Harry Keller, Howard Thurston and other stage magicians. In 1913, becoming interested in the infant motion picture business, he turned to invention and manufacture with a capital of $125.

His first invention, a portable projector which could be carried in a suit case, proved a success. In 1914 he founded the DeVry Corp. which was bought by the Q. R. S. player piano roll company in 1929. He then formed Herman A. DeVry, Inc., which became the DeVry Corp. again when he bought the Q. R. S. company in 1932.

Funeral services were conducted from the Lain Chapel with burial at Rose Hill Cemetery. Surviving are his widow, Ida, two sons, William and Edward, and a daughter, Mrs. Emma Carlson.

National Theatre Supply Announces Recent Jobs

CHICAGO—With the recent installation of new sound equipment in their Southern, Essaness now has two of its houses so equipped. The circuit's American installed the equipment some time ago.

Other Chicago equipment sales, announced by R. W. Dassow, manager of National Theatre Supply here, include the following:

Essaness recently installed a pair of lamps in their Sheridan; Elmer Benesch installed a pair of lamps in his Century; Ben Banowitz and John Landis, installed lenses, a screen, projection, lamps and transverters at their Ken; Balaban circuit installed lamps at the Commercial; the Meltzer Bros. installed lamps and carpet at their Rockne; the Warner circuit installed projectors in the Beverly, Parthenon, Highland and Grove.

Out of town houses recently supplied by NTS include: Ken Childs, Times, Jacksonville, Ill., chairs, sound, screen, projectors and lamps, and carpet; M. Ewing, Lux, East Peoria, Ill., chairs, projection lamps and rectifiers, fluorescent carpet; W. Kohlhorst, Fairy, Nappanee, Ind., chairs, sound and projectors, lamps, carpet and rectifiers; Alger Circuit, State, Mendota, Ill., screen, lamps and rectifiers, and Billy Stone, Warner, Peoria, Ill., screen, carpet and new marquee and front.

Two Promotions Made by Metro Chicago Exchange

CHICAGO—Clarence Keim has been promoted from booker's clerk to booker at the local M-G-M exchange, following the recent drafting of Joe Kelleher. Kelleher is now stationed with the 17th cavalry in Imperial, Cal.

Other changes resulting in the vacancy created by the departure of Kelleher were the promotion of Frank Michels from poster clerk to booker's clerk and the addition of George Rose to the poster department.

: SPRINGFIELD :

MORE than 2,000 persons attended the midnight entertainment at the Orpheum for the benefit of Greek war relief. Total receipts were over $1,000. Dwight Green, governor of Illinois, and Mayor John Kapp, spoke briefly. Managers and owners of local theatres greeted those who attended. The show was the contribution of Springfield's theatres including the Esquire, Fox-Lincoln, Pantheon, Roxy, Senate, Southtown, State, Strand and Tivoli. All employes donated their services.

Bernard Palmer, formerly of Springfield, manager of Kerasotes Brothers' Lory in Highland, featured his new son, Lee Thomas, in birth announcements in the form of an invitation to a premiere, saying: "Admit one—any time—to the Palmer house, Highland, Illinois. Now showing, 'It's a Boy,' starring Lee Thomas Palmer, the tiny six pound, twelve ounce star. Helen Palmer, producer; Bernard Palmer, director. First showing 12 noon, Tuesday, March 18, 1941."

E. G. Peters of the Confection Cabinet Corp., St. Louis, is again servicing Springfield theatres, and local managers are glad to see him.

"Bob" Hickey, RKO publicity man, while in Springfield announced that "Citizen Kane" is finally going to be released . . . Dickie, son of Ray Coe, assistant manager of the Fox-Lincoln, has the mumps.

RKO Getting Ready to Desert "Old Filmrow"

CHICAGO—With RKO readying to move its exchange into the new RKO-Republic Bldg. at 13th & Wabash next fall, and Filmack and Alexander Film Co. now occupying their new quarters at 1325 S. Wabash Ave., the "Old Filmrow" centering in the vicinity of 9th & Wabash is a thing of the past.

At one time all the exchanges had their headquarters in the old Filmrow. RKO is the last of the exchanges to make the move from the old to the new Filmrow.

Three exchanges are now located in the Warner Bros. Bldg.—Warner, M-G-M and Republic. Twentieth Century-Fox and Capitol-Monogram are located on the northwest corner of 13th & Wabash while in the building on the southeast corner, Universal, Columbia and United Artists all have their exchanges. Paramount has its exchange at 13th & Michigan while PRC is located on the northeast corner of 13th & Wabash.

Exhibitors are following in the footsteps of the distribution companies and are also opening offices around the 13th & Wabash sector. Last week Albert and Ben Bartelstein of the Bartelstein Bros. circuit moved from Clark & Division to the third floor of the Exhibitor's Bldg., 1325 S. Wabash Avenue. The Bartelsteins operate the Annetta in suburban Cicero and the Elmo, Newberry, Standard and New La Salle in Chicago. Ben Banowitz, operator of the Ken, also recently opened an office on the third floor of the Exhibitor's Bldg.

Running Time Leash Measure's Proposal

ST. LOUIS—*The text of the bill to regulate the length of motion picture programs in Missouri, which the Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis will present immediately before the general assembly in Jefferson City, follows:*

"An Act: Relating to the exhibition of motion picture films; defining 'Exhibitor,' 'Intermission,' 'Single Performance;' providing violation of act a misdemeanor and fixing penalty for such violation.

"Be it enacted by the general assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

"*Section* 1. For the purpose of this act, 'Exhibitor' means any person, firm, corporation, or association who, directly or indirectly, is in the business of exhibiting motion picture films to the public for an admission fee.

"*Section* 2. For the purposes of this act, 'Intermission' shall mean a complete stoppage of performance of any kind on stage, platform, screen or otherwise and the house lights of the theatre, business house or place of exhibiting motion picture films to the public shall be continuously lighted during said intermission.

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"*Section* 4. It shall be unlawful for any exhibitor to present or cause to be presented a performance consisting of the exhibition on screens of one or more single motion picture films for a longer period than two and one-half consecutive hours, provided, however, that a performance may be shown for upwards of two and one-half hours, if at the beginning of each hour in excess of the two and one-half hour performance there is a period of intermission of 15 minutes. No intermission shall be required for a repeat performance of the same exhibitions or attractions, unless a single performance exceeds two and one-half hours.

"*Section* 5. Any exhibitor who violates the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof fined not less than one hundred dollars ($100) or more than five hundred dollars ($500), or be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than six months, or both, in the discretion of the court."

The Council sponsoring the bill is headed by Mrs. Guy Randall. It is composed of some 25 affiliated organizations with a total membership of 250,000 women. Col. Milton F. Napier, counsel for the Council, prepared the text of the bill.

Mrs. Randall and other officers and members of the Council, said it is their hope that the bill will result in film programs consisting of a single feature and selected shorts.

The Council has organized its forces behind a state-wide campaign in support of the measure.

Anti-SRO Ticket Sale Bill Up in Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY—Representative Paul Turner of St. Joseph has presented a "No Standing Room" tickets bill in the Missouri general assembly. Generally speaking, it would prohibit theatres and other places of public amusement from selling tickets after all of the seats have been occupied.

Milton Napier, counsel of the Better Films Council of Greater St. Louis, is expected here early this week to present to the assembly for consideration the council's bill to restrict the length of film shows.

Originally intended to ban triple feature programs in Missouri houses, the new bill has been drawn to restrict shows to 2½ hours. In the event a program does extend beyond this time limit it will be necessary for the management to provide a 15-minute intermission.

This intermission must be strictly non-entertainment. It would be necessary for the theatre management to turn on all of the house lights, darken the screen and not present any stage shows or other entertainment in this rest period.

It is believed exhibitors will endeavor to have the bill amended to permit three-hour shows.

Reports from St. Louis are that there has been a decided audience reaction against the four-hour shows that have prevailed in a number of the South St. Louis houses during the past few weeks and it is understood that all of the houses, both chain and independent, will eliminate those too lengthy shows, except on special occasions such as New Year's Eve, etc.

Would Tax Tickets For School Fund

DES MOINES—A bill to tax all amusement ticket admissions, with proceeds to go into the school fund, was passed Thursday by the house of representatives and sent to the senate for approval. The bill was amended to exempt motion picture admissions.

The bill, calling for a one-cent tax of theatre admissions up to 50 cents, and a two-cent tax on tickets from 50 cents to a dollar, is being opposed by exhibitors.

The Allied Theatre Owners and Operators of Iowa and Nebraska are reported to have dropped their fight on the candy machine bill, however, since the house ways and means committee cut it down to a $25 annual levy on coin-operated music boxes, thus cutting out the candy vending angle.

New Policy for Reopened Zimm in Winfield, Kas.

KANSAS CITY—The Fox Zimm, Winfield, Kas., has reopened under the management of Hugh Siverd. It will follow a new double feature policy, using a first run feature and short subjects for Sunday through Tuesday or Wednesday, and closing the week with a "reissue" double feature.

The Regent, under the new arrangement, will discontinue duals.

Would Bond Lessees

MINNEAPOLIS—An ordinance just introduced in the city council would require lessees bringing attractions into the Municipal Auditorium to post a bond or cash deposit to insure the payment of rental and local debtors.

A Bill to Regulate Ascap in Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY—A bill directly regulating the activities of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in Missouri has been introduced in the general assembly by Representative Turner.

It makes it unlawful for persons or organizations to "issue blanket licenses in this state, for the right to commercially use or perform publicly their separate copyrighted works" except where such persons or organizations "issue licenses on rates assessed on a per piece system of usage."

It would also compel such persons and organizations to submit annually to the secretary of state "a complete list of their copyrighted works or compositions" and a list of the prices charged or demanded for their various works.

Violators would be punished by a fine not exceeding $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Assessment Is Reduced On A. H. Blank Home

DES MOINES—A decree reducing the 1933 four-year assessment valuation of the A. H. Blank home at 5206 Waterbury Road here nearly $5,000, has been filed in district court. Blank is president of the Tri-States Theatres Corp. and the Central States Theatres Corp. The decree holds that the assessment was "excessive, unjust, inequitable and discriminatory" and should be reduced to $15,899.

The Blank case is the second of some 15 which grew out of the failure of the old state board of assessment and review to act on appeals of valuation within the five years set by state law.

Twin Cities Worried Over Spread of Duals, Gifts

MINNEAPOLIS—The continuous spread of double features and giveaways in the Twin City area has the trade worried. Neighborhood and lower loop subsequent-run low admission houses are the chief offenders and the reason given is dwindling grosses.

Practically all neighborhood houses now have one or more cash and merchandise giveaway nights. The latest addition to the merchandise giveawayers is the St. Louis Park, ace suburban house, which has inaugurated beauty aid gifts, including cosmetics, lipsticks, rouge, etc. It has had one Bank Night per week.

The Edina, another leading suburban theatre, has added Spin-O to Bank Night and engaged Cedric Adams, the town's leading columnist and radio newscaster, as master of ceremonies for the former. The Nile, also a de luxe neighborhood house, is following suit.

Various giveaways include kitchenware, books, ornaments, furniture, etc. One theatre, the Empress, one day last week didn't even mention the name of its film in its newspaper ads which were devoted entirely to its "hot ovenware" giveaway.

More and more of the Twin City's neighborhood houses are extending their dual bills. Whereas they formerly had "midnight" shows with double features on Saturday only, a number use the policy on several other days a week. Several even are violating an unwritten agreement not to advertise the double pictures and are running them throughout the entire day.

Lower loop theatres using cash and other giveaways—either or both—are the Pantages, Palace, Stockholm and Gayety. The last-named just inaugurated the old-time "country store" and has five vaudeville acts on the weekends along with the double features at 15 cents admission.

Clearance Reduced On Minneapolis Duo

MINNEAPOLIS—Reduction of the Gopher and Grand theatres' clearance from 42 to 35 and 35 to 21 days, respectively, represents a victory for independent Minneapolis neighborhood houses. Both are Minnesota Amusement Co. loop first-run theatres. The Gopher has a 28-cent admission and the Grand plays double features for 15 cents to 5 p. m. and 28 cents thereafter.

Independents have been agitating for the reduction for the past two years. The distributors granted it voluntarily.

Price Dip at Sterling

STERLING, KAS.—The Royal has adopted a new price policy and in the future all adult tickets will be 20 cents plus one cent tax; children's tickets 10 cents. Since the lowering of prices the bargain night on Tuesdays will be discontinued.

They Ask About The Giveaway

Minneapolis — Many exhibitors now say they are receiving numerous inquiries from prospective patrons who want to know the sort of giveaway scheduled for that particular night and who don't even bother to ask the name of the picture.

It used to be, they say, that about 95 per cent of telephone calls were for the purpose of finding out the film being shown, but that percentage has fallen sharply. It may be due in part, however, to the fact that the houses are advertising the name of their picture attractions in the newspapers, but aren't allowed to specify the cash giveaway. At the same time, merchandise and similar giveaways are played up in the theatres' newspaper ads.

"Barkers' Carnival" By Kaycee Variety

KANSAS CITY—The first big event on the 1941 program of the local Variety Club will be a "Barkers' Carnival," according to Leland Allen of the Commonwealth circuit, who is chairman of the entertainment committee.

This event, one of four in 1941 to be open to the public, will be held in the clubrooms Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12. The program will be built around the carnival motif, with side shows and other entertainment stunts adding to the gayety of the occasion.

This affair in former years was titled "Days of '49."

"Land of Liberty" Bally Stresses Patriotism

KANSAS CITY—"Land of Liberty," presented as a second picture at the Midland for a week, was locally credited with results "for the cause" far beyond those reflected in the boxoffice. John McManus had given this production carefully designed publicity, promotive of loyalty and patriotism—and incidentally tending to induce attendance. A letter from the mayor, for example, on the picture and its idea was reproduced, in enlargements, and displayed in numerous ways, including a stand in the foyer of the theatre. Posters had been prepared particularly for school children, displayed in most local schools. There were also posters for store window display, and for street cars.

The actual response in attendance was not extraordinary, but it seemed certain that thousands had experienced an uplift in devotion to the country's cause—and in appreciation of citizenship in the United States. And this result was thought to be very well worth effort and cost, additional to, or even aside from, the attendance attracted.

Midwest Responds to Greek Relief Drive

KANSAS CITY—Over 300 theatres in the Kansas City trade territory participated in the Greek War Relief Drive with special midnight benefit shows or collections from patrons. The midnight show here was held at the Midland, with others put on in Wichita, Hutchinson and Springfield.

More than 100 theatres in the Omaha zone took up collections, while big midnight shows were held in Omaha and Lincoln.

In the Minneapolis area, nearly 75 theatres put on benefit shows and more than double that number took up collections.

Twin Cities Slate Fine Shows for Greek Cause

MINNEAPOLIS—Two of the biggest and finest shows ever staged in the Twin Cities are in prospect for the Minneapolis and St. Paul Orpheums midnight April 2 and 4, respectively, for the benefit of Greek war relief.

A half-hour concert by the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra will start the entertainment. It will be followed by acts from the Lyceum, Orpheum and Alvin theatres and from radio stations and night clubs. Three of the principals of the musical comedy, "Blossom Time," scheduled for the Lyceum, will be on the bill. So will the Ray Herbeck and Ran Wilde orchestras from the Orpheum and Nicollet Hotel Minnesota Terrace, respectively. Ralph Edwards of "Truth and Consequence" radio show will be master of ceremonies.

Other shows are scheduled throughout the entire territory and there will be collections taken in many houses, including Twin City neighborhood situations. John J. Friedl, Minnesota Amusement Co. president, is general chairman of the drive for the theatre industry in the Northwest. The territory's goal is $32,000.

Co-chairmen with Friedl are E. R. Ruben, Fred Strom and Harold Johnson. C. B. Stiff heads the Minneapolis and St. Paul committee.

Splendid Support by Kansas City Area

KANSAS CITY—The Greek War Relief Drive received splendid support throughout the Kansas City exchange area, reports Robert F. Withers of Republic-Midwest, who headed the distributors' committee. Reports from the more than 300 theatres that cooperated in the drive in this area, exceeded expectations in the majority of instances. In several of the towns, radio stations tied in with theatres to put the drive across.

See Revamp Ahead for MPTO in Nebraska

LINCOLN — The pilgrimage of MPTOA President Ed Kuykendall to Nebraska to put life into his national organization's cornbelt arm has prospect of bearing more virile fruit than was hoped for originally.

According to several interested exhibitors, the hope is that Nebraska will be organized statewide, and cross-sectioned into congressional district groups with vice-presidents who will act as chairmen at the sectional meetings. This will knock out the old-fashioned way of meeting always in Omaha, which was extremely distasteful to the outstate exhibitor, who had fears of being always outtalked and being part of the motive force by which some exchange center plan was pushed.

Prior to the scheduled all-industry meeting, April 22, for the MPTOA organization in Omaha, which will be attended by Kuykendall, R. R. Livingston, of the Capitol here, is going to have all the state showmen interested in for a dinner session to meet Governor Dwight Griswold, and other state officers, pointing the value of a united front.

In scanning the state for likely successors to the late Charlie Williams of Omaha, as president of the state unit, Kuykendall talked to Livingston. The Capitol exhibitor, oldest in the state trade (33 years), has been the film lobbyist, the show business' political liaison officer, and general front man for industry troubles.

Kuykendall to Coast On Convention Plans

KANSAS CITY—The MPTOA convention will be held around the first week in June at a city to be selected shortly, Ed L. Kuykendall, president, said during a stopover here en route to the west coast.

The MPTOA head only a week earlier inspected the facilities of nearby Excelsior Springs in his tour of convention site candidates. Despite earlier rejection of Los Angeles it is believed that town probably will be selected. Kuykendall, however, said he would not make his report and recommendation to the board until he had completed his current trip.

Kuykendall decried the activities of decree "snipers," declaring that everyone concerned should put forth an effort to make the document work. While he admittedly was dubious of long-range benefits that might accrue to the independent exhibitor from its operation, he argued that it should be given a fair trial.

Settles for $100

MINNEAPOLIS—E. J. Baehr, owner of the Avalon, Thief River Falls, Minn., settled a damage suit here for $100 for permitting youngsters in the audience to shoot beans. The suit was brought in district court by the mother of a boy who was struck in the eye by a bean while watching the show.

The Docket

Minneapolis

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 5. Demand and submission involving some run. White Bear Theatre Corp., operator of the White Bear at White Bear Lake, Minn. With: Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Named as interested party: State, same town. Complainant alleges the distributors named refuse to license his theatre for 1940-41 product in favor of the State. The Avalon, opposition house, has filed an intervener with the board.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 12. Demand and submission demanding some run. David Gillman, operator of the Gayety, Minneapolis, Minn. With: Paramount Pictures Dist. Corp. Complainant alleges the distributor refuses to sell product to the Gayety at a fair rental and is making unreasonable demands in the matter of booking such pictures.

CASE NO. 3—Filed March 12. Demand and submission demanding some run. David Gillman, operator of the Gayety, Minneapolis. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Complainant charges 20th-Fox is refusing to sell product to the Gayety.

Outline Depinet Drive In Prairie District

MINNEAPOLIS—L. E. Goldhammer, RKO prairie district manager, joined the Ned E. Depinet Drive touring squad here for coverage of the Minneapolis, Omaha and Des Moines branches. Leo Devaney, drive captain, and Harry Michalson, short subject sales manager, went on to the western district to be joined in Denver by Herb McIntyre, western district manager.

New Seat Deals

KANSAS CITY—Frank L. Bowen, of International Seat Corp., reports that International seats have been installed in A. W. Heyl's Kaw at Junction City and in the Civic at Sabetha.

"Gay Vagabond" to North

HOLLYWOOD—Robert North will produce "A Gay Vagabond" for Republic. William Morgan will direct the comedy.

Kaycee Arbitration Panel Adds Eight

KANSAS CITY—Eight more professional and business men have been added to the arbitration panel of the motion picture tribunal here.

The new members and their firms are: Paul Barnett, lawyer, Dierks Bldg.; Glen L. Bennett, Equitable Life Assurance Association of the United States, Federal Reserve Bank Bldg.; Wendell Cloud, lawyer, Waldheim Bldg.; Russell F. Greiner, Greiner-Fifield Lithographic Co., 2609 Walnut; John Thornberry, lawyer, 1601 Admiral; John E. Jones, First National Assurance Association, Land Bank Bldg.; Proctor Kerr, Arthur Young and Co., 101 W. 11th St., and Guy B. Park, lawyer, Federal Reserve Bank Bldg.

White Bear Opposition Arbitration Intervener

MINNEAPOLIS—So that it can be a party in the proceedings resulting from the complaint filed by the White Bear Theatre, White Bear Lake, Minn., the Avalon, opposition house there, has filed an intervener with the arbitration board. The White Bear is seeking to obtain some run of Metro, Warner, RKO and Fox pictures, now sewed up by the Avalon.

Ignoring arbitration, Lee and Carisch are working through Northwest Allied to obtain a reduction in the 35-day clearance granted to Minneapolis houses over their Mound Theatre at Mound, Minn., a local suburb. They claim that the protection enjoyed by theatres here is ruinous to their house.

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Our Repair Shop Is Ready for Your Call with Competent Equipment, Competent Mechanics, and Guaranteed Workmanship on Complete Jobs.

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Renewing Acquaintances—

W. L. Nicholas, operator of the Nicholas and Strand in Fairmont, Minn., and his wife and brother, visiting the film colony, stopped in on the set of Paramount's "Night of January 16" to renew acquaintances with Robert Preston, starring in the film. Left to right: Preston, Mrs. Nicholas, E. H. Nicholas and W. L. Nicholas.

OMAHA

LOU EGART, former Brandeis treasurer, sent a letter and picture from Fort Leavenworth where he's now in the army. Lou looks great in a uniform. His place at the Brandeis was taken by Pat Marksbury, formerly at the Orpheum in Sioux City, Ia. Marksbury has been with the Singer circuit about four years, is married and has one child . . . E. O. Raymond, manager of the Winn, said burglars broke into his theatre and took $8 in nickels from a candy machine . . . Earl Kerr, Iowa circuit operator, was on Davenport St. Also H. V. Mullins, formerly at Glenwood, Ia., and now an exhibitor at Massina, Ia. . . . A warm day brought many exhibitors to Filmrow and they were in a happy, optimistic mood.

Signs of spring: Bill Barker, salesman, walking down Filmrow in shirt sleeves . . . Harry Levy, Fox salesman, in a snappy looking topcoat . . . Elmer Huhnke, Minne Lusa operator, in a grey outfit . . . The Metro porter washing the windows . . . F. A. Thomassen working in shirt sleeves in front of Scott-Ballantyne Co. loading some equipment into his car . . . Talk about a spring golf tournament along Filmrow.

Wes Mansfield, exhibitor at Tama, Ia., was in Omaha en route to visit some farm properties in outstate Nebraska. His father and mother were with him . . . Lou Heal, exhibitor at Fullerton, Neb., was on Filmrow accompanied by his very attractive daughter, Joy, who is taking a pre-nursing course at Hastings, Neb. . . . Visitors also included R. V. Fletcher, Hartinton, Neb., and Bill Peterson, Genoa, Neb.

Now that Ted Mendenhall is moving to Kansas City, it will mean a lot of new chairmen for various activities here. Mendenhall turned over his Greek War Relief duties to his co-chairman, Joe Kinsky, Tri-States district manager. The new chief barker of Omaha Variety Club will be named later, it was decided at a meeting this week . . . Carl Johnson, Grand, Red Oak, Ia., and Phil Lannon, West Point, Neb., were visitors to Filmrow.

C. K. Olson, Warner manager, and Manager Will Singer of the Brandeis were caught gloating over the big business done by "Strawberry Blonde." The picture will be held for two weeks, which means the seventh straight holdover for the Brandeis, all-time record for Omaha . . . Ted Emerson is a plenty busy man these days, what with managing the Omaha and handling advertising and promotion for Tri-States in this district. He's Omaha

(Continued on page 101)

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KAYCEE

VISITORS: M. B. Pressley, Globe, Savannah, Mo.; Harry Musselman, Minneapolis, Wamego, Kas.; Emery Scott, Strand, Creston, Iowa; Jack Kempleton, Granada, Lawrence, Kas.; "Hank" Doerring, Peoples, Garnett, Kas.; Hal Parker, Jewell, Paola, Kas.; Virgil Harvison, Tarkio, Tarkio, Mo.; Eldon Harwood, Patee, Lawrence, Kas.; Bill Kubitzki, Sun, Louisburg, Kas.; Bob Shelton, Star, Warrensburg, Mo.; Roy Jones, Paramount, Rockport, Mo.; O. H. Gregg, Gregg, Sedan, Kas.; C. R. Gregg, Gregg, Caney, Kas.; George Nescher, Rio Valley Falls, Kas.; Paul Oetting, Lyric, Concordia, Mo.; E. A. Peterson, Plaza, Greenfield, Mo.; M. S. Heath, Plaza, Liberty, Mo.; A. E. Jarboe, Ritz, Cameron, Mo.; G. L. Dickinson, Dickinson, Olathe, Kas.

Add to the "hit" parade the Universal exchange, deeply hit by the illness of John Kane, who won't be back for a week or ten days; Martha Rozier, a tonsillitis victim, and Betty Wrenn, out of the office because of a death in the family.

Don't be afraid to say hello to the big bad man in chaps and sombero; it's only Al Adler, M-G-M, back from a Texas vacation . . . Beloit, Beloit, Kas., has a new screen; People's, Garnett, Kas., has new projection room arc lights, and the Royal, Fairview, Kas., is being remodeled. It really looks like "sprig has cub."

Those of you who read that item last week about "Chet" Ward, Paramount, recovering from appendicitis, and failed to place the name, can put your mind at ease. A mistake in spelling—it should have been "Chet" Borg, Warner, who returned to work. It Was Earl Ogan of Paramount who recovered from appendicitis operation and came back on duty.

Shields Wilson, Camden, Camdenton, Mo., in town the other day, seemed deeply impressed on how nicely the fish were feeding from the lines of various acquaintances, at the Lake of the Ozarks . . . Warner exchange is going to have a party. Everything's been decided—well-l, almost everything. They're going to have dinner and follow up with a screening. They just haven't decided when.

At that March 24 meeting of the Advertising Club, when the lady members took over, Mrs. Ethel Gustafson, United Film Ad Service, presided.

A two-gun bandit showed up at the Granada, Lawrence, Kas., and he wasn't part of a "western" either. He was all set to rob Cashier Betty Shapely and Manager Jack Kempton but Betty wouldn't stop screaming and Jack wouldn't stop yelling. The bandit pocketed his two guns and ran away.

Not to change the subject, some bandits gave Manager "Punch" Roberts, Grand, Concordia, Kas., a literal interpretation of "Gone With the Wind" when they broke into his office and rifled the safe of $539, Sunday night's receipts from a "Gone With the Wind" showing.

Elwood and Billy Worl are now operating the Cozy, Geneseo, Kas., having leased same from Hiram Hyde.

DES MOINES

PURELY personal piffle: Today we received our annual "Motion Picture Representative" card from Burton Jerrel which gives us leave to do anything we can get permission from someone to do, as nearly as we can figure it out . . . Burton asks that we (Girl Scout Newsreel Patrol, No. Z-54-A, is the official title La Jerrel hands us) drop him a line in code . . . well here 'tis: No hay de que . . . and if Dear Editor Formby doesn't find our own copy reader, Haig & Haig, on the floor frothing at the mouth over this, we don't recognize a typicgraphical mess when we see one.

Personal piffle continued: BOXOFFICE *& Co. today received a couple of little pairs of wings signifying that they are at least student pilots and members-at-large (any reason why we shouldn't be at large?) of the National Aeronautics Ass'n . . . we've never felt much more set up about anything since we sold & Co. on the idea of taking us to wife.*

Forgive us, but more of the same: We received a letter from the Great Benny himself today, and if we read it correctly, it means that youse guys on the Row are about to find BOXOFFICE camped on your doorsteps more often than ever before, and you'd better be prepared to give, too. Those slated for extra-special attention are Art Schuyler, Art Thiele, Bob Hildreth, Lou Patz, Iles & McKinney, Morris Smith, Carroll Baldwin and the fella who makes all those pretty neon thinga-majigs (Modern Lighting & Mfg.), also Burton Jerrel who insulted our idea of editorial integrity so completely once when we first started in this business that we like to never forgave him.

Speaking of that Jerrel person reminds us that Dorothy was pictured in a very pensive mood last Sunday as one of the newly elected members of the Junior League. Joe Fieldman is glumping around in the dumps because the missus is still laid up in the hospital and is slated for a couple of more weeks occupation in that 16-pound cast because her shoulder is not healing as rapidly as expected. Grace Simons spent it all last week on a new navy blue suit with cape, but Gracie's gotta look chic at any cost. After all this time, we just noticed that faded yellow lettering on lift of a National Screen step reading, "Majestic Pictures."

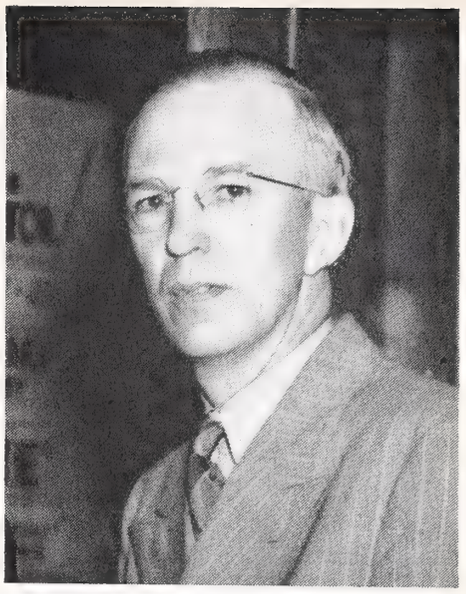
Comes a letter from Charles Levy, the blond wonder boy at RKO, with the unbelievable news that he has stricken, deleted and eliminated from his vocabulary the words "colossal" and "terrific" . . . Why? He's been reading Dale Carnegie who suggests that publicity should undersell rather than overplay . . . we give the new order about three weeks, Charlie, and you'll be sitting as usual a-top one of those big piles of guff you put out about the supergumslopshus RKO product.

Harry Holdsberg claims to have had the absolute first preview of "The Lady From Cheyenne" at the Des Moines last Saturday night . . . The new Frank Lloyd film was pushed into the program in a hurry when Jack Skirball stopped to greet old pals here and had a print in his baggage . . . Skirball, we hear, used to sell film out this way . . . The pals Bob Haley picked up in Des Moines while he was pinch-hitting for Emil Franke at the Orpheum will be delighted to hear that mustachioed Bob won a "technical achievement" award at Chicago's "Academy Award Dinner for Chicago Motion Picture Smarts and Alliances" . . . His achievement was his "ability to carry the torch" . . . But what BOXOFFICE *& Co. want to know is why Art Catlin got that special award he's said to have received.*

Art Anderson telephoned & Co. from Minneapolis with the cheerful little earful that Sam Clark, Warner's bouncing ballyhooer, was headed this way and to get set . . . BOXOFFICE & Co. were already tied up for dinner with the Emil Frankes plus blue-eyed, black-haired, soft-spoken Hoffman, nize p. a. for "Funzafire," Emil's next bid for the hippo's share of the DM biz. Elmer Tilton and Gene Melone were both informed of the coming of Sam, who arrived with the sniffles and some big black cigars put up in those cute silver-looking containers.

Al Hill says Dallas Day is being held up a bit in Rochester to practice up on his walking, but that we'll be seeing him around pretty soon . . . Bing Miller's Judy Elaine was seven months old March 22 and was a fifth anniversary present for the Miller family . . . Bing moans now because of the delay, claiming that the five-year plan is no good . . . Still shaking his head and denying everything is Jean Post who says, "That's silly, can't you see I work down here every night?" Jerry Slutsky wants to know if anybody knows where he can get a job for young Jerry (a strapping big guy of nine months) . . . Jerry admits that Junior can't walk yet

(Continued on page 102)



Into Short Subjects—

Albert (Ted) Mendenhall, for 15 years branch manager in Omaha for Paramount, takes over his new duties early in April as district manager of short subjects, a newly created Paramount division. He will headquarter in Kansas City. Al Taylor, with the company in San Francisco, succeeds him in Omaha.

Minneapolis Exchanges Making Staff Changes

MINNEAPOLIS—Sol Yeager has come here from Omaha as head booker at Universal, replacing Claude Dickinson, resigned.

Howard Gould has joined the United Artists sales staff, succeeding Bill Crystal who left to join the Constance Bennett Cosmetics.

C. R. Connaught, Olivia, Minn. exhibitor, is now on the RKO sales staff.

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STRONG UTILITY ARC LAMP for Brilliance, Color and Economy

More Particulars on Pages 40 and 65. See Page 67 for Advance Mfg. Co. Also Page 73 for National Carbon Co.

Kansas and Missouri Distributor

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"The Independent Exhibitor's Best Friend"

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MINNEAPOLIS

CRESS SMITH, RKO western division manager, a visitor. He was accompanied by Leo Devaney, Depinet drive leader, and they held a sales meeting here. Sherman Fitch, Sioux Falls, S. D., branch manager, and his boys were up for it and afterwards L. E. Goldhammer, district manager, accompanied Smith and Devaney to Des Moines for a similar meeting there . . . Sam Clark, Warner studio publicity man, in from Hollywood for a few days . . . Eph Rosen, who recently resigned as Monogram branch manager, still planning that trip to Memphis, Tenn., and New York to visit his brothers.

Out-of-town exhibitors visiting Filmrow included "Doc" Reynolds, Princeton, Minn.; Tom Hall, Buhl, Minn.; Charlie Lyons, Aitken, Minn.; Tom Novak, Glencoe, Minn.; Homer Steeg, Sanborn, Minn.; Don Buckley, Redwood Falls, Minn.; Ed Malone, Alma, Wis.; and Will Rostvold, Harmony, Minn. . . . Norman Pyle, M-G-M exploiteer, still carrying his left arm in a sling as the result of that wrist breakage caused by slipping on an icy sidewalk . . . Rud Lohrenz, Warner district manager, in town.

Last Saturday was a big day for "Hy" Chapman, Columbia branch manager, and his wife. Their daughter, Marjorie, was married to Byron Shapiro. The Chapman brothers, Milwaukee film men, were up for the event . . . Ray Hurwitz, National Screen special service department head, in Chicago for conferences with his company's laboratory officials . . . Gilbert Nathanson, Republic branch manager, visited Iron Range towns . . . George Crane, Lake City, Minn., exhibitor, is in the army.

Sidney Volk, independent circuit owner, and his sister, Mrs. Joe Crane, motored to Hot Springs, Ark., for an early spring vacation . . . Bill Crystal now associated with the Constance Bennett Cosmetics, theatre giveaway proposition . . . Welworth circuit managers held a meeting here this week . . . Oliver LaMere, M-G-M booker, goes into the army in April. He will have a lieutenant's commission . . . Izzy Schlenk, United Artists' district manager, a visitor.

Joe Podoloff, 20th-Fox branch manager, back from his first Florida visit with a fine coat of tan and raves for the 'Gator state as a vacation spot . . . The Film Bowling league wound up its season with M-G-M leading the exchanges—in third place behind the Maico Reds and Theatre Service. Prizes were awarded at a dinner . . . Harry Katz, Alvin Theatre impresario, celebrated a birthday.

Abe Kaplan, independent circuit owner, driving a new car . . . Wife of the popular George Granstrom, St. Paul independent circuit owner, continuing to improve and should be up and around in a few months. Rides an arm chair now. She sustained serious injuries in an auto accident last summer . . . Myer Stern, Omaha "Bank Night" distributor, up from Omaha to visit his brother, J. L., Majestic exchange owner.

Joe Rosenberg has moved in to take over distribution of Constance Bennett theatre giveaway cosmetics . . . Bennie Berger still trying to persuade distributors to give him a 20 cent run for his loop sure-seater, the Esquire, which has been closed now for several months . . . Sid Gillman, son of Dave and brother of Irving, local independent exhibitors, has been appointed head football coach at Dennison University in Ohio. He formerly was Ohio State assistant coach.

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43" High
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25-Lb. Base

MODERN THEATRE DECORATORS
Al Hauetter, Director
1818 Wyandotte St. — Kansas City, Mo.
Also National Theatre Supply Co.

A Building Spurt in Minneapolis Area

MINNEAPOLIS — Theatre building and modernization are pointing upward again in the territory.

A $125,000 neighborhood theatre, the Norshore, is being built by the Minnesota Amusement Co. in Duluth.

In Hopkins, a local suburb, a $150,000 showhouse is in the course of construction. The Engler brothers are building it.

L. J. Ludwig has completed the remodeling of the Opera House at Jamestown, N. D., and will reopen it as the Grand.

A new $75,000 theatre will be built by Harry Dickerman, local independent circuit owner, at Durand, Wis. Dickerman also is remodeling his Arcade in St. Paul.

So. American Troubadors To Make Republic Film

KANSAS CITY—Olivia and Joaquin, South American troubadors, who have appeared in the Zephyr Cocktail Lounge of the Hotel Bellerive for the past year, have left for Hollywood and Republic Studios. Their first film will be Republic's "Down Mexico Way," starring Gene Autry. The pair entertained last week at a Variety Club luncheon.

Arlene Finucane and Helen Dittermore, singers and instrumentalists, and Grace Massey astrologist, are the new entertainers at the Lounge.

Change at Lamarr, Mo.

LAMARR, Mo.—The Plaza will be taken over from George Hart by A. J. Simmons, April 1.

LINCOLN

EASY READING: About 25 per cent of the staff personnel of the local theatres (male) have received their draft questionnaires . . . Even Bob Huffman, who has a wife and four little deferments . . . Eugene Shanahan, not long married, has already gained ten pounds . . . Paul Anderson is having tooth trouble . . . When the audience refused to applaud an amateur act at the Lincoln, somebody said: "Must have given up applause for Lent."

Bill Messmer, KFOR announcer, was reading a commercial in the midst of Mrs. Barney Oldfield's broadcast, and was supposed to tell of "two HIT pictures." He called 'em "hick pictures" . . . Roy Anderson was patrolling the streets in a car, on the back of which was a big sign "Can She Be a Nice Girl?" (plugging the picture of the same name). He had his girl friend with him, and was dismayed to hear some rowdy call from the curb: "Not if she'll ride with you!" . . . Bob Huffman played nine holes of golf, but couldn't find enough balls to go the other nine.

It was nip and tuck when Sol Yeager left Omaha. He didn't know whether he'd be joining Universal in Minneapolis or the army . . . Good bet: That Bob Livingston will be the new Nebraska president of MPTOA, taking the post formerly held for many years by the late Charlie Williams . . . Harvey Traylor says he has no enmity for the opposition: "Gee," says he, "we even like to have our checker stand right in the opposition lobby" . . . Looks so familiar now to see the George Monroe family car parked in front of the Colonial, which is just another indication that spring is about here.

Joe Rosenberg says there's a big difference when a man's foolish—or foolin' . . . Lee Mischnick, former theatre manager here, but now in Omaha (Dundee), invites people to "come out in the country in Omaha" to see him . . . Note to Vinnie DiFiore: One of those amateur acts which played the Lincoln, a girl's trio, may soon go with Seger Ellis' orchestra. Makes ya feel like Major Bowes, eh? . . . Nebraska is doing well by Larraine Gettman, who once lived in Lincoln and Omaha, and appears in "Ziegfeld Girl." It refutes that libelous view so long held that all cornbelt girls look cornfed. All the papers have used features on her—pushed by Lou Hellborn.

Odds and ends: Whatever became of Cal Bard? . . . One would think F.O.B. was terrific on theatre building supplies, considering how many theatres are about to be built in Omaha right by the supply houses . . . Ed Schoenthal, if he hasn't already, should put in for air corps, what with all his flying hours, single status, etc. . . . Bonnie Aumiller and Jimmie Redmond are rumored digging out their fishpoles for another season of river banking down in Fairbury . . . Two guys who'd have a lot of fun together: Howard Federer and Oscar Johnson, the rootin-tooters of Lincoln and Falls City . . . Dean Pohlenz paid off for Hollywood's entertainment of the *Journal and Star* 10 best pictures winners, by running a full page spread of art and story on them.

K. C. Entertainment Field Attractive

KANSAS CITY—Liberal patronage of entertainment continued the past week, but at a slower pace than the previous week; two first run theatres having better-than-average results, some running below average. Packed houses were reported for the Philharmonic orchestra, and for Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, at the Music Hall, within the week under review. The largest returns, proportionately, at first run houses was won by a Major Bowes unit which, as usual, pulled the crowds in at the Tower; the picture, "Barnyard Follies," playing second fiddle but in tune. "Tobacco Road" was held over three days at the Esquire and Uptown, for a total 10-day return far above average. "Nice Girl?" which followed at these two theatres, also drew above-average business. Weather was generally fine.

Detail for week ending March 21:

(Average is 100)

Esquire—**Nice Girl?** (Univ) 115
Midland—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) 90
Newman—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB) 85
Orpheum—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (Para't) 100
Tower—**Barnyard Follies** (Rep), plus Major Bowes stage show 120
Uptown—**Nice Girl?** (Univ) 105

"Buck Privates" Holds Top Minny Spot Second Week

MINNEAPOLIS—The past week's boxoffice sensation was "Buck Privates," which, in its second week at the Gopher, did even better than in its initial canto. It was the first picture ever to hold over at that house. "Tobacco Road," at the State, was another good boxoffice performer. "Gone With the Wind," too, held up splendidly at the Century.

(Average is 100)

Aster—**In Old Colorado** (Para't); **Little Men** (RKO) 90
Century—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 2nd run, 2nd wk. 150
Gopher—**Buck Privates** (Univ), 2nd wk. 160
Orpheum—**The Westerner** (UA), plus stage show 80
State—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox) 110
World—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), 2nd wk. 100

"Tobacco Road" Draws Top Honors in Omaha

OMAHA—Theatre business continued on a satisfactory but not sensational level this week. Warm, clear weather helped some but the Lenten season was cutting in on grosses.

Brandeis was able to keep its holdover record of six straight by keeping "High Sierra" and "Tugboat Annie Sails Again" for an extra two days. Possibility next bill may break the holdover record which started January 1 and set a new extended run record for Omaha.

"Tobacco Road" drew top honors at the Orpheum. The second feature, "Buck Privates," was the previous week's top picture and was "held over by popular demand."

"Footsteps in the Dark" and "Golden Hoofs" were only so-so at the Omaha.

Detail for week ending March 23:

(Average is 100)

Brandeis—**High Sierra** (FN); **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (WB), 9 days 135
Omaha—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Golden Hoofs** (20th-Fox) 110
Orpheum—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Buck Privates** (Univ) 130
State—**Margie** (Univ); **Go West** (M-G-M); **Gallant Sons** (M-G-M) 100

Des Moines First Runs Uniformly Below Par

DES MOINES—The customers laughed until tears came into the exhibitors' eyes in Des Moines last week. With comedies heading bills at all first run houses, each did prattfalls more bruising than amusing. Ninety per cent of average was the top take, with the consoling note that that figure was shared and none of the returns fell down far enough to cause any fancy furrowing of foreheads.

Detail for the week ending March 27:

(Average is 100)

Des Moines—**The Lady Eve** (Para't); **Father's Son** (WB) 90
Orpheum—**A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (RKO); **Lone Wolf Takes a Chance** (Col) 80
Paramount—**Buck Privates** (Univ); **You're the One** (Para't) 90

"Private Secretary" Grabs Gross Honors in Lincoln

LINCOLN—"Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" intrigued most people here last week, and put up the mark to shoot at in money taken.

"Tobacco Road," which had lots of people thinking they were going to see the stage play for some reason, drew good money. "Road Show" was so bad it could only stagger four days of its scheduled week.

Detail for the week ending March 21:

(Average is 100)

Colonial—**Carolina Moon** (Rep); **Meet Dr. Christian** (RKO) split with **Millionaire Playboy** (RKO); **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (Mono) 110
Lincoln—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M) 125
Nebraska—**Trial of Mary Dugan** (M-G-M); **Keeping Company** (M-G-M) 100
Stuart—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox) 110
Varsity—**Road Show** (UA) 85

OMAHA

(Continued from page 98)

chairman of the Greek War Relief drive, also.

Exhibitors are getting their booth equipment ready for spring business, the theatre supply men here report. This week there were a lot of exhibitors in all three supply houses here: Scott-Ballantyne, Quality and Western. It's believed the national defense boom has already hit this section. One exhibitor reported that his business now was "much above average for the Lenten season."

Every exhibitor in the territory should plan to attend the industry gathering here April 22. Plans are progressing rapidly for a full day and evening of business and entertainment. Omaha Variety Club, as sponsor, wants everyone to attend at least the business sessions, which are free. If you can plan to stay for the dinner-dance, all the better. Ed Kuykendall, MPTOA prexy, will be the principal speaker.

Take Over at Norwich, Kas.

NORWICH, KAS.—The Norwich will be taken over from H. L. White by Lentfer and Locke.

TRADE DIRECTORY

A HANDY GUIDE FOR THE EXHIBITOR

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From the Tall Corn—By KEN and RENE CLAYTON

LOOKS as if Ed Mason's likely to find things a little crowded out on the Cedar river this summer . . . H. A. Anderson has given up trying to make an outside loop at 3,000 feet compete with Ed's version of a figure eight on water as a thriller . . . H. A., who operates the Roxy at St. Ansgar, is out looking for a motor boat that will (unassisted) make as much noise as Ed's (with help) . . . The industry is already collecting for flowers, 'cause there's only 11 miles betwixt Osage and St. Ansgar, which isn't much for those two admirable admirals.

Anderson expects to take up seamanship without getting seasick, in view of his considerable flying experience . . . But he's had his experience with passengers who scatter more than "Test Pilot" handbills over Iowa alfalfa.

Jack Neary doesn't limit his responsibilities to entertainment in Davenport. When 145 persons were left homeless by a $100,000 fire in the Perry apartments at Davenport Sunday, Neary proved himself the Florence Nightingale of the industry by providing space in the Orpheum for the Red Cross to set up relief headquarters.

It's getting so DM is more than "the market place of Iowa." Those state borders simply can't hold the DM Filmrow . . . That young fella you saw coming out of the RKO offices, f'rinstance, was Burdette Ross from the Royal at Fulton, Ill. . . . Making the quick dash in and out of Universal across the street was Eben Hayes, from the Time at Memphis, Mo. . . . And just coming down the street past Warner and Columbia was Rasmussen from Keister and LeRoy, Minn.

Any of you exhibitors who have home-building aspirations can pick up a few tips from Joseph Diener, retired Dubuque, Ia., theatre manager. Diener's new two-story English-style home has the town goggling with its black glass fireplace in a 14x27 living room, its brick fireplace in a basement recreation room and its block glass sunroom.

C. V. Schofield ordered a plastic surgery job on his Blackhawk at Lansing, Ia., and customers are now gaping at a remodeled front and lobby.

L. A. Kuhl had to make umpsteen trips from his Corning, Ia., American to the DM Row before we discovered just last week that he's a brother of Izzie Kuhl who lists his name on the stationery of two houses way out west (well, a little way, anyway) in Seward, Neb.

Jack Kuech is now operating the Mode in Cresco. Kuech, who also handles the Gem in Charles City, took it over from Mr. Tuchek, who opened the house not so many moons ago.

A. N. Deaver, the professor from Lamoni, It., (home of Graceland College) wasn't the only educational influence on the Row last week. Iowa City, where the university scholarships are handed out, was represented by Ray Lumsden of the Pastime and Leonard Kaplan of the Iowa. Louis Gaines of the Fairfield (Parsons College) Co-ed showed up, too, and J. Anderson made one of his rare trips in from his New Holland at Pella, the site of Central College.

John Marshall grabbed three column inches of space in last Sunday's DM *Register* with a picture of his new Center at Grundy Center . . . The house looks like big stuff though, no matter how much they reduce the picture.

Frank Shipley, the Lenox, Ia., tack-toter, was on the Row looking for some pointed business deals. Bob Bernau, the Lake City organ-grinder, was around pumping up business, too.

Ed Nordhus of the Strand in McGregor spent most of his time on High Street busily keeping quiet, as is his wont . . . Tim Evans, now of Lyons, Ia., stopped in to tell his old RKO pals business is picking up . . . The Smith Brothers from Corydon maintained regular schedules and Butch Lambert from the Monty at Monticello flashed through the Row on a quickie.

Carl Furstnow of the Hollywood in Estherville, Ia., has started work with Bob Hildreth, the sign, stencil and silhouette magnate of 514 Twelfth Street (adv.)

Harold Moore isn't worrying about seeing double this weekend . . . In fact, he'd like a portion of triple-vision, please . . . Maybe then he could keep his pitch game in five-ace form, his Allerton-Dayton-Ratcliffe circuit business above par, and follow the state high school basketball tournament at the same time.

IT'S Smart TO STAY AT
KANSAS CITY'S



Goldberg Enterprises Plan Amusement Center

OMAHA—Plans for construction of a new residential amusement center, to be called the Farnam, have been announced by the R. D. Goldberg Enterprises, which operates a local circuit of seven theatres. Cost will run into several hundred thousand dollars, it is estimated.

A new theatre, seating 950 patrons, will be the central unit. Other units will include a bowling alley, restaurant and lounge. Work will begin about August 15.

Ralph D. Goldberg, circuit head, visited Los Angeles where he conferred with architects and managers of several large amusement centers. He now has the State and Town in downtown Omaha and the following suburbans: Avenue, Arbor, Dundee, Military and Winn.

The announced location of Goldberg's new house is less than eight blocks east of a proposed Admiral Theatre on which work is to start April 1 and to be built by Ralph Blank and Walter M. Green.

Reopen in Jamestown, N. D.

MINNEAPOLIS—L. J. Ludwig is reopening the Opera House, Jamestown, N. D., as the Grand. House has been completely remodeled.

DES MOINES

(Continued from page 99)

and a few little things like that, but he catches on fast according to his paw.

Before we leave the baby talk altogether, we should give this little message to Monty Davis, Omaha BOXOFFICE . . . it's from Al Hill, Monty, and he thinks you should be informed that other people have had children, too . . . in your defense, we asked Al if he had, and he said no, but he knew for a fact that there were other fathers . . . Generating enthusiasm here for the Depinet Drive last week were Cresson E. Smith, RKO western division sales manager; Leo Devaney, the Ned Depinet drive captain (ordinarily, Devaney is Canadian division sales manager); Harry Michalson, short subject sales manager, and Nicky Goldhammer of the Prairie district.

We hate to sound like an RKO house organ, but when a duo like "Vivacious Lady" and "Bringing Up Baby" does THAT kind of business, it's news . . . we heard about it here and there, and then listened to an exhibitor phoning in a switch on his one-sheeting order indicating he was throwing in the double bill to get in on the profits. Francis Kappler, Cannonball Lee and Bert Thomas oughta quit picking on Jean Post . . . at least one of you fellas know that Jean's not the boy who's been putting out . . . Joe Garrison was in town, and if we could have seen him, we just know he'd have let us use that item.

Harry Hiersteiner, Family Theatre mogul, stopped to chat . . . Harry had cotton in one ear, and says he's suffering with a 54-year-old earache.

The Trade Unites in Drive for Greece

PITTSBURGH—One hundred and twenty-five theatres in the Pittsburgh exchange area conducted midnight benefit shows in connection with the Greek War Relief Drive. Two hundred others pitched in their bit for the cause by taking up collections from patrons.

In the Cleveland area, nearly 400 theatres participated, with 43 offering midnight shows. In that town, also, the Variety Club added many dollars to the Greek campaign with a party.

Two hundred theatres participated in the Detroit area, and 120 in the Cincinnati territory. In Detroit, the Fox put on a special show with prices ranging from $1 to $10.

Credit to Publicists Along With Showmen

CLEVELAND—To the territorial publicity committee for the Greek War Relief Drive, headed by Charles Raymond, Loew Division manager, and composed of publicity representatives of Loew's, Warner and RKO theatres, is due a large share of the credit for the success of the campaign in this territory.

Daily, for two weeks in advance of the big twin benefit shows, held simultaneously on Wednesday at Loew's State and the RKO Palace, all three newspapers carried stories on the drive.

Among those who contributed, without remuneration, to the benefit shows were Smith & Setron Printing Co., Central Outdoor Advertising Co., Bill Posters Union, and the talent supplying the acts.

John D. Kalafat of Associated Theatres and I. J. Schmertz, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, were co-chairmen of the general committee on arrangements.

"Fantasia" Opening Aids British War Relief Fund

CLEVELAND—For the benefit of the British War Relief Fund, an elaborate opening was staged at the Hanna for Walt Disney's "Fantasia" at a $5 top. The regular run at prices ranging from 75 cents to $1.65 started a day later.

Midnight Benefit Show At Loew's in Akron

AKRON—First specially-assembled entertainment here for the benefit of the Greek War Relief Fund, was a benefit show Saturday midnight at Loew's. All local theatres cooperated in arranging for the performance, including the Akron Independent Theatre Owners Ass'n.

Louisville Visitors

LOUISVILLE — Recent visitors included Frank M. Carroll, Orleans, Orleans; D. G. Steinkamp, English, English; Bob Enoch, Vogue, St. Matthews; Ray Coleman, Swan, Edmonton; Mrs. Ira Masden, Brandenburg, Brandenburg; A. H. Robertson, Majestic, Springfield. William Rosenthal, owner of the Vogue here and houses in Indianapolis, visited his new manager, Bob Enoch.

All Evidence Submitted in Midwest vs. Co-Op Suit

Calls Trade to Aid Defense Financing

Columbus, Ohio—Addressing an open letter to the respective heads of Fox, Loew's, Warner, RKO and Paramount, P. J. Wood, secretary of the Independent Theatre Owners of Ohio, suggests the systematic investment by all industry members in government savings securities as a means of aiding the government in financing the national defense program.

A Decision Shortly In Clearance Case

DETROIT—Decision is expected shortly in the unusual case involving clearance of two affiliated houses, following a two-day trial before Judge Henry G. Nicol in circuit court. The plaintiff submitted brief Monday, the defendant on Friday.

The extensive files of film contracts introduced in evidence, and the technical nature of the case is likely to make its determination rest largely upon arguments on the evidence.

As reported in BOXOFFICE two weeks ago in full detail, the Montcalm Theatre Corp., operating the Uptown for RKO, sought seven days clearance over the new Royal, operated by UDT—Paramount affiliate—and Wisper & Wetsman Theatres jointly. Both houses are second runs. The suit also named five, subsequently reduced to three, film companies.

Three Companies Agree

Vitagraph, Universal and Columbia were dismissed as defendants upon the understanding, according to statements made, that they would service the Royal with films only by granting the RKO Uptown the seven days clearance sought. Paramount and United Artists remain as co-defendants.

Fred Meyers, film buyer from the RKO home office, testified, as did Lou Emery, manager of the Uptown, for the plaintiff—chiefly upon business conditions and the source of the theatre's patronage. The Detroit traffic engineer was called to testify as to traffic conditions in the area, and a surveyor was called as expert witness to testify to measured distances.

The intent of plaintiff's presentation was to give proof of loss suffered, supported by contracts offered in evidence and proof of theatre locations.

Defendant's counsel called John Ryden, Paramount salesman, and Daniel J. Lewis, booker for Wisper & Wetsman Theatres. Their testimony was devoted largely to technical matters of selling and booking practice.

DETROIT—The most involved theatre case, from the standpoint of length of time required, ever to be tried here—Midwest Theatres vs. Cooperative Theatres—is in a semi-final stage in circuit court, with all evidence in. Plaintiff has been instructed to file briefs by April 14, and the defendant by May 5. Argument in court upon the briefs is expected to follow, with a court decision not likely until late May.

In the final week of testimony, Carl R. Buermele, general manager of Cooperative Theatres, testified for several days after Co-Op's motion to dismiss was denied. Testimony was concerned with Co-operative's buying policies and some general data on industry practices. Summarized, his testimony was introduced to show that Co-Op did not use its buying power to conclude contracts, although this fact was probably in the mental background. Each deal was concluded as though each exhibitor-member bought for himself, he stated. Buermele was the sole witness for the defendant.

Frank Stuart, manager of Midwest Theatres, was recalled to the stand by the plaintiff in rebuttal to establish facts concerning certain contracts which were apparently lost. Raymond E. Moon, general manager of Mutual Theatres, and formerly in the same position at Co-Op, before Buermele, was also called again to testify as to certain facts in rebuttal of defense testimony.

Jacob Schreiber Suit Delayed Till May 6

DETROIT—Suit brought by Jacob Schreiber, former owner of five Woodward Ave. theatres, against his nephew, Raymond Schreiber, seeking restoration of control or an accounting for the houses, has been adjourned by circuit court until May 6.

Theatres involved are the same as those which are the principal plaintiff, as Mid-West Theatres Circuit, in the suit being brought by that circuit against Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan in federal court. It was earlier contended that the federal court case should wait upon determination of title as involved in the Schreiber vs. Schreiber case, but, as it actually happens, the latter case is being delayed and is not likely to be tried until the Midwest vs. Co-Op case itself has been decided.

New Elizabethtown House

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.—A new $60,000 theatre is going to be built here by J. M. Hobbs, present owner of the Ritz. Work on the foundation is to begin immediately. The proposed seating capacity is 1,000.

"Dictator" Climbs to Detroit Leadership

DETROIT—With show business as a whole very quiet, first runs were doing, generally, the best business in town. Visits to a number of neighborhood theatres during the week confirmed the harrowing reports of poor business brought in by exhibitors from the smaller houses for weeks past. Better pictures continue to get outstandingly better business, while mine-run stuff just gets by. Lent has cut into business seriously; evidence of new seriousness in observance this year is the omission of even the Legion of Decency ratings in the diocesan paper, during Lent.

Holdovers among the better-drawing first runs were notable again, with "GWTW" finally weakening and slated to bow out after six weeks at the UA. "Fantasia," in its fifth week at the Wilson, was announced by the management as boldly striving for an all-time Detroit record—that would be better than "GWTW's" 21½ weeks a year ago. "Great Dictator," completing its first week at the Michigan, looked like the new top grosser of the big houses.

Horror continues its unadulterated success downtown, with the Adams holding over its dual shockers for a second week, while the big Palms-State, opening with Paramount's "Mad Doctor" and "Monster and the Girl," calmly announced—"Sissy stuff to date; now take your horror straight!"

Detail for week ending March 20:

(Average is 100)

Adams—**The Devil Commands** (Col); **The Face Behind the Mask** (Col) 100
Cinema—**Mannerheim Line** (Artkino), 2nd wk..... 80
Fox—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Mr. Dynamite** (Univ) 145
Michigan—**Great Dictator** (UA); **Father's Son** (WB) 170
Palms-State—**Flight From Destiny** (RKO); **Convoy** (RKO) 80
United Artists—**Gone With the Wind** (M-G-M), 5th wk. 150
Wilson—**Fantasia** (Disney), 4th wk..... 90

Holdovers in Cleveland Battle Bad Weather

CLEVELAND—The combination of a maximum of bad weather and a minimum of new pictures on parade had a bad effect on the boxoffice. Sunday evening a heavy snow storm with high wind velocity arrived just in time to put a crimp in theatre attendance. The following day the temperature dropped to near-zero and people who could, stayed at home. Neighborhood theatres hit a new low, according to general report, and the first runs were also hit. However, "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" finished the week at Loew's State with a good record of 125 per cent, although it was not given much of a boost by the critics. Earl Carroll's Vanities on the RKO Palace stage, with "Victory" on the screen did average and "Come Live With Me" in its second week in Playhouse Square, came through with a par gross. Three of the six local first runs were playing holdovers. Even the universally popular Deanna Durbin failed to draw her usual crowds to the Hippodrome where "Nice Girl?" was on view. "Fantasia" opened very big at the Hanna with prices 75 cents to $1.65, tax included. Big advance sale reported.

Detail for week ended March 23:

(Average is 100)

Allen—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox)..... 75
This was its second week on the Avenue, being moved over from the Hippodrome.
Hippodrome—**Nice Girl?** (Univ)..... 85
Lake—**The Virgin Bride** (SR); **School for Husbands** (SR) 70
Fifth consecutive week and last week of the run.
Palace—**Victory** (Para't) 100
On the stage: Earl Carroll's Vanities with Bert Wheeler in the top spot.
State—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M)....125
Stillman—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M)..... 100

"Strawberry Blonde" Into Fifth Cincinnati Week

CINCINNATI—The weather was the scapegoat this week and combined with Lent, a severe drop in temperature was blamed for the mediocre grosses. Highlight of the week was "Strawberry Blonde," which, up to March 20, had been viewed by 153,216 persons at Keith's, where it settled for a fifth week. "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary," held for a third week. "A Girl, a Guy and a Gob," somehow missed the boat at the Palace.

Detail of week ended March 20:

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB)..... 90
Capitol—**Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (M-G-M), 2nd wk., held for 3rd..... 110
Grand—**Vivacious Lady** (RKO), return..... 85
Keith's—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN), held for 5th wk. 120
Lyric—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox), 2nd wk..... 75
Palace—**A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (RKO)..... 90
Shubert—**The Great Mr. Nobody** (WB), plus stage show 120



Set for Drive—

Are the above-pictured Cleveland Columbians: Left row down—M. J. Glick, salesman; Lester Zucker, branch manager; Bill Gross, booker. Right row down—Jack Share, salesman; Oscar Bloom, salesman; G. S. Vogae, head booker.

Award Clem Reck

SHAMOKIN, PA.—Clem Reck, manager of the Victoria, is the recipient of an M-G-M Honor Roll Button for his outstanding exploitation campaign for "Land of Liberty."

Licensing Measures Are Plentiful in Pa.

HARRISBURG—New bills in the Pennsylvania general assembly include:

H-766: Harkins—Establishing a new legal holiday: Constitution Day, September 17; referred to committee on banking.

H-637: Presley N. Jones—Licensing electricians and creating an electrical administrative board; committee on professional licensure.

H-678: Hirsch—Licensing painters, paperhangers and decorators; committee on professional licensure.

H-722: Monks—Imposing a tax on boxing and wrestling tickets and repealing former tax; committee on ways and means.

H-802: Tate—Providing additional requirements for amusement permits under state liquor control act; committee on liquor control.

H-803: Tate—Amending "The Penal Code" further prohibiting selling, giving away or permitting or employing minors under 18 to sing, dance, act or exhibit in dance houses, concert saloons, theatres, places of entertainment, tap rooms, clubs, cafes, restaurants or eating houses, where or connected with which, wines or spirituous or malt liquors are sold or given away; committee on judiciary special.

H-817: Reuben E. Cohen—Authorizing state to sell electricity under certain circumstances; committee on state government.

H-712: Turner—Seeking entertainment and recreational activities appropriation in communities surrounding Indiantown Gap Military Reservation; committee on appropriations.

H-858—Imposing annual license fee on persons operating cabarets.

H-905—Permitting certain organizations to conduct Bingo games.

Opposes Sunday Bowling

Governor James is on record against the Sunday bowling bill (H-367), which was recommitted to the committee on law and order and which is in position for a final vote in the house.

Several dozen house and senate bills affecting the motion picture industry were listed in the March 15 issue of BOXOFFICE.

Look to Adjournment

Remainder of the James administration's program for the 1941 legislative session was being introduced in the general assembly this week. "Last items" were to include special relief acts, civil service proposals and new appropriation bills. Republican leaders in the senate are speeding up activities with a view toward final adjournment.

Two defense bills were passed last week and signed by the governor. One sets up a Home Guard to serve the state while the National Guard is in Federal service, and the other mobilizes civilian effort in the economic and social fields under state and local councils of defense.

Another Holiday Sought

Speaker Elmer Kilroy has a resolution, which if adopted, would honor Connie Mack, 78-year-old leader of the Philadelphia American League Baseball Club, establishing his birthday anniversary, May 17, as a legal state holiday.

Into Big Time

GIRARD, OHIO—Top-notch golfers from all parts of America will participate in the Mahoning Valley open golf tournament to be sponsored by Peter Wellman at his Mahoning Country Club here June 13-15. Wellman, who also operates the New Mock and Wellman theatres, has staged regional film golf tournaments here for the past three years.

PITTSBURGH

WARNER opened two neighborhood houses, bringing the city area total to 29 theatres. Shadyside, 5518-20 Walnut St., is the latest new de luxe building, and the New Oakland, acquired from Tom Gilbert, has been remodeled and decorated, with new fixtures, equipments, front and hanging electric name sign . . . Among those attending the opening of the Shadyside were C. J. Latta, Ben Steerman and Harry Feinstein, Warner executives; William Finkel, M. S. England, Ira H. Cohn, Ben Brown and others from the amusements fields.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Hasley of the Terrace, Bessemer, East Pittsburgh, have opened a hosiery and gift shop in their theatre building. This store room, unoccupied for several months, was formerly tenanted as a hosiery shop . . . A. J. and M. S. England, distributors of theatre premiums, including dishes, ovenwear, books, etc., have acquired the famous Standard American Encyclopedia deal. Publisher recently exploited these encyclopedias in local newspapers . . . It's a son for the Chuck Shannons. Papa is manager of the Whitehall.

John J. Maloney, M-G-M district manager, and Mrs. Maloney, have returned from their Florida vacation . . . Also back is Dave Blum of Portage . . . Lawrence Carrettie, Monogram booker, has a new Hudson . . . Nathan Lee of Buena Vista street, and Harry C. Schreck, Brighton road, city, were sentenced to a year in the workhouse and ordered to pay a fine of $500 each, by Judge Frank E. Reader, when they pleaded guilty to showing obscene films in Ambridge, January 10.

Al Weiss, McKeesport showman, recently decorated for his special efforts in behalf of Britain's RAF, staged a grand Greek War Relief benefit show in the Memorial last Friday midnight, adding around $2,500 to the fund. Martha Raye appeared with many acts and among the orchestras were those of Paul Pendarvis and Baron Elliott. The show was so good that Al told the audience that those wishing to do so could contribute further to the fund, and by this suggestion increased the gross receipts by several hundred dollars.

A new price scale for "Fantasia" was put into effect this week, with certain sections of the Fulton set aside at lower prices for children, students and group parties. Admissions now are 50 cents, 75 cents and $1.10, for matinees, Monday through Friday, and Saturday a. m.; and evening and Saturday and Sunday matinees, 75 cents, $1.10 and $1.65. Children are admitted to all performances at half the regular reserved seat price.

Mrs. George Brinkman of Grafton, W. Va., was a Filmrow shopper this week . . . Another recent visitor was Conrad Mandross, manager of the Cove, Hollidayscove, W. Va.

Lowell T. Moore Dead

MITCHELL, IND.—Lowell T. Moore, 46, owner and operator of the Orpheum, died at his home of heart disease. He was chairman of a local drive to care for Ohio River flood refugees in 1937.

The Docket

Detroit

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 17. Demand and submission involving clearance (Section VII). Booth Theatre, Julius D. London, owner. With: Vitagraph, Inc., Paramount Pictures, Inc. Named as interested parties: Del, De Luxe, Whittier, East End, Cooperative Theatres of Michigan. Complainant charges he is refused reasonable clearance by Vitagraph and Paramount over Komer and Goldberg's Whittier and the Delodder Circuit's East End. Arbitrator will be Jerome G. Thomas.

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 21. Demand and submission involving clearance and some run. Julius D. London and Milton London, co-partners doing business as Midtown Theatre, Detroit. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Loew's, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp. Named as interested parties: Coliseum, Majestic, Globe, Cooperative Theatres of Michigan, Inc., Mutual Theatres, all of Detroit. Complainant charges unreasonable clearance imposed by the distributors named in favor of the Coliseum, operated by Jack Krass; Mayfair, operated by Cohen Bros.; Majestic, operated by the Schreiber circuit, and the Globe, operated by William Schuttenhelm. L. J. Carey is the arbitrator. Hearing set for March 29.

Cleveland

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 15. Demand and submission involving clearance dispute. Ellet Amusement Co. With: Paramount Pictures, Inc., Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., Loew's Film Dist. Co., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc., Vitagraph, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., W. L. Hart, Cooperative Theatres of Ohio, Inc., Milton Mooney. Named as interested parties: Norka, Rialto and Ellet theatres. Complainant is Louis Israel, owner of the Ellet now under construction on the outskirts of Akron. He claims it is unreasonable for the Norka and Rialto to hold protection over the Ellet, seeks an irrespective run and asks that existing contracts between Hart, operator of the Norka and Rialto, and the distributors granting seven days' clearance be declared inoperative. Judge Dan B. Cull is arbitrator. Hearing was held March 28.

Pittsburgh

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 17. Demand and submission involving some run and non-forcing of short subjects. Herman Lorence, 18th Street Theatre, Erie, Pa. With: Vitagraph, RKO, 20th-Fox, Paramount. Named as interested party: Mrs. John Hauer, American Theatre, Erie, Pa. Lorence claims some run has been denied him, and asks, in the event of an award in his favor, that the defendants be directed not to enforce the sale of short subjects; also that any second run contracts between the defendants and any other theatre on 18th Street subsequent to March 3, 1941, be voided.

Hearing Under Way In Midtown Case

DETROIT—The first arbitration case in this territory was scheduled to be heard Saturday before Arbitrator L. J. Carey, general counsel for the Michigan Mutual Liability Co.

This complaint was brought by Julius D. London on behalf of the Midtown Theatre, naming the Globe, Coliseum, Majestic and Mayfair, together with Mutual Theatres and Co-Operative Theatres of Michigan, and involving general clearance problems in the highly-involved lower-Woodward sector.

The second case—and only other to date—also filed by London, naming a series of east side theatres around the Booth, had no trial date set at press time. Although this case was actually the first one filed, it has a later trial date because parties concerned had difficulty agreeing on an arbitrator. Final selection was Jerome Thomas, head of the business administration department of Wayne University.

Adapts "Among the Living"

HOLLYWOOD—Garrett Fort is adapting "Among the Living" for Paramount.

CLEVELAND

BEING M-G-M-ers, Frank Drew, branch manager, and Jack Flynn, district manager out of Chicago, go in for only the biggest feature stories. So, just to keep the record up to the usual standard, when they went deep sea fishing off the Miami coast last week, they naturally brought in the two biggest fish in the ocean. And if you don't believe it, just look at the photographed evidence next time you are in Manager Drew's office.

Congratulations to Otto Braeunig, former RKO office manager and now traveling auditor for the company. The occasion is the arrival of a 7½ pound baby boy, with Mrs. Braeunig and son, Terence, doing very nicely at St. Ann's Maternity Hospital.

Nat Wolf, Warner zone manager, and Mrs. Wolf are down in Texas visiting with their home folks for a couple of weeks . . . Saul Bragin, head booker for the Warner theatre department, is back from a vacation in Florida . . . Likewise George Lefko, RKO branch manager . . . Mrs. Jack Sogg wife of M-G-M's city sales manager, was hostess at a surprise shower held at her home in honor of Miss Sadie Meckler, an M-G-M-er who will be married April 6. All of the M-G-M girls were guests.

Zero weather and heavy snow caused a scarcity of out-of-town exhibitors last week. Among those who were not disturbed by the storms were John Romwebber, Akron; John Huebner, Marion; Jack O'Connell, Toledo . . . Sam Lichter, 20th Century-Fox salesman, was tendered a birthday party at the Willard Hotel, Toledo, last week, by the theatremen in his territory.

Jack Withers, formerly with the local Monogram exchange, has joined PRC in a sales capacity . . . Mrs. Rose Valus, secretary to Warner booker, Saul Bragin, has resigned to devote her time exclusively to home making. Irene Platt moves up as her successor . . . Miss Ivy Hunt of the same department is convalescing after an appendectomy . . . Jack Hamilton, Uptown usher, is the father of a baby daughter . . . Sam Clark is here from Hollywood planting publicity stories on "Meet John Doe."

Euclid Ave. doesn't look the same since Leo Guzik no longer presides at the Hippodrome door. Guzik, doorman at the Hipp for the past seven years, has been inducted into the army . . . Jane Meisel, secretary to Warner publicity director, Manny Pearlstein, has added rhumba lessons to her reducing schedule.

Donald Roper, Uptown doorman, is dreaming of seeing his name in bright lights over a marquee some day. He recently won first prize in a drama contest at Glenville High School, is active in the Playhouse and in local radio work . . . Jack Shea of the Shea circuit was in from New York . . . Harry Flinn of the Berea, Berea, is back from five weeks in Florida where he visited with Ed Flanigon in Fort Lauderdale and with Perc Essick at Fort Pierce . . . Bill Tallman of the Ceramic, East Liverpool, made one of his rare visits along Filmrow last week.

DETROIT

IRVING AND SYDNEY MOSS of the Van Dyke and Parkside are cousins, not brothers—like everybody usually figures . . . Sergeant Joseph M. Kollar, Detroit theatre censor, has acquired an interest in 4,000 feet of river frontage up near Sault Ste. Marie. A future fishing spot for film salesmen . . . Janitors picketing at the Michigan played to opposition when another union picketed the parking lot next door . . . Lillian Ambrozy of Metro Premium says the opposition "aggravates" her.

United Artists Night at Variety Club found District Manager Jack Goldhar way out west . . . Manager Moe Dudelson officiated in his stead . . . Jack Dickstein brought in a fine colored show from Ware Allen's theatre for the event . . . William A. Koegel, who's assistant Chief Barker of the Cincinnati Club, was a visitor . . . Moe, reaching in the hat, awarded the grand prize of the evening to Mrs. Goldhar. An inside job? . . . Herman Stone of Metropolitan Motion Picture Co. has returned from a vacation in Florida . . . Helen Halstead is moving her costume and uniform business down to Gladstone and Second avenues.

Clare Winnie, who is going to remodel the Wolverine, is renaming the house. It'll be the Dale . . . Clayton Wilkinson, operator at the Monroe, is busy in his spare time with his string of race horses . . . Don Widlund, Jam Handy projection department, back from New York . . . Oriel Freer, who has handled secretarial work for Variety for a number of years, is leaving to join the legal department of General Motors.

Trendle Telemusic Corp. has been dissolved . . . Stagehands Local, IATSE, has a high sick list—James Murphy in University Hospital at Ann Arbor, Alec Blair in Lincoln, Larry Kohsin convalescing at Paul Revere, John Lewis sick at home, and Joe Bidegrea still confined to his home several months after his auto accident . . . W. A. Staley of the Stratford is getting over a bad cold. His daughter, Shirley, is ushering there now . . . Bernadette Schneider, co-manager of the Stratford, claims she got that shiner from a woman playing a piano . . . Art Robinson of the Belle and Dave Newman of the Pasdena, expected back from Florida with their respective wives.

TWENTIETH-FOX NOTES: Jack Strum, ad sales manager, was guest at a party at Cliff Bell's. He's leaving for the army . . . Art Knapp, city salesman, was m. c. . . . Jess Veldman, cashier, worrying over the slippery country roads out in Redford . . . Al Champaign discussing the price of beans . . . Louis Fava, shipping clerk, is taking his exam for the army . . . Sam Merson, ex-Bowling League secretary, busy on national defense work.

M-G-M MUSINGS: *Ellen Johnson took the long aisle to the altar . . . Frank J. Downey, branch manager, has a bad cold . . . Mrs. John Dembeck in Ford Hospital for a checkup . . . Dorothy Brown, booker's steno, is anticipating her delayed vacation to the coast next month . . . J. R. Fogel, service manager, a visitor from the home office.*

Nat Haase getting his new dish deal out in Bill Guentsche's Lakewood . . . Carl Zipper, booker at PRC, became the father of one son . . . Helen Brown, Universal, sporting a new engagement ring . . . Margaret Burns is official printer on Variety Club's "Detroit Barker" . . . Thornton Ross is new assistant steward at Variety. He's a nephew of Chief Steward Fred Johnson.

E. S. Hough jr. and Samuel Lucas have formed the new $50,000 Fen-Oak Specialties Co. at Pontiac, "to lease and operate sound films" . . . Leona Stoia, daughter of "Big Joe" of the theatres in Dearborn, is managing things while her father is in Florida.

Knows of No Sympathy Strike Intentions

DETROIT—No plans for a sympathetic strike of projectionists in support of campaign of the Building Service Employes Union, as rumored in another trade paper last week, have been discussed by the Detroit local of the IATSE, according to Roger M. Kennedy, business agent.

"There has been no understanding whatever on this subject, and we have not received any instructions from the International office," Kennedy said.

Kennedy added there were no indications of immediate plans for the reported projected visit of IA president, George Browne, to this city upon this matter. If any plans for a sympathetic strike have been made, it must have been through the International office rather than locally, Kennedy said.

Ban on All-Night Shows In Royal Oak, Mich.

DETROIT—The blunderbus ordinance being drafted by the Royal Oak city council for control of theatres, now includes a ban on all-night shows. Curfew regulations as now written provide for a ban on children under 16 during school hours and on children under 12 after 7:30 p. m. unless accompanied by a parent.

Undesirable advertising also would be controlled. In addition to the specific ban on Bank Night, the ordinance bars "gambling or near-gambling" devices, apparently covering about all types of giveaways involving any chance element.

Study Parking Proposal In the Light of Others

YOUNGSTOWN—A proposed ordinance requiring parking space around new theatres and auditoriums, will be compared with similar measures in other cities before the planning commission recommends its passage or rejection. The ordinance, which came before the commission recently, has been continued for further study.

CINCINNATI

PRC's MARCELLE BIMSTEIN was married to Jack Goler of Lexington. Following a reception at the home of the bride, the couple departed on a week's honeymoon . . . 20th-Fox's "That Night in Rio" will be Easter fare at the Palace. Metro's "Men of Boys Town" goes into the RKO Albee same time . . . Sol Rosen is new head of the accessory department at Columbia. Their file clerk, Mary Helen Rullman, resigned to take a position at Aurora, Ind., her home town. Miss Providence De Salvo has been added.

Columbia manager, Allan Moritz and Mrs. Moritz, are vacationing in Florida . . . Harris Dudelson's local boys at UA are in second position and just a few points behind first place in the Arthur Kelly drive . . . Universal is also waving the banner, having moved up to third place in their drive . . . Frank Schreiber, Universal booker, left for St. Paul to compete in the national bowling matches.

Carl Rohs, Cynthiana, Ky., left for a rest in Florida following the strenuous work of getting his new house built and in operation . . . Patricia Stewart, charming daughter of Louis and Clara Stewart of the Parkland, who is popularly known as "Pat," was hostess to the entire school club at an afternoon tea on St. Patrick's Day . . . Exhibitors are fast becoming airminded. Price Coomer, a seasoned airman from Harlan, Ky., commuted between Florida and Harlan during the winter, while Frank Allaro, Matewan, W. Va., planes in for bookings regularly.

Harold Bernstein, Plaza, Norwood, Ohio, returned from his winter vacation on the coast, which he says was marred by rainy weather . . . Tom Larkin, Roosevelt, New Bremen, visited . . . Paul Bakes of the Hoosier, Vevay, Ind., came in to set bookings before the fishing season . . . Tony Cassinelli and son also were in. Tony's hobby is baseball and Crosley Field his favorite rendezvous.

Mrs. Mary Semelroth and Jimmy Herbst were in, booking for the various Semelroth houses . . . Sam Oshrey, Warner booker, left for an army camp in Texas. George Daumeyer, former field supervisor, is filling Oshrey's post . . . Lenore Schmidt, Warner's, spent the weekend in Springfield.

Attends Mothers' Course At Chicago University

QUINCY, MICH.—Mrs. Dorothy Cox is in Chicago attending the annual Mothers' Scholarship course at the University of Chicago sponsored by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. She was one of 20 women from Branch county chosen to attend the week's conference. Her husband, Homer Cox, operates the Our Theatre locally.

To Award Contract

WARREN, OHIO—Robbins Amusement Co. will shortly award a contract for the construction on a downtown site of a theatre to cost approximately $300,000.

700 in New England Back Greek Drive

BOSTON—Approximately 700 theatres backed the Greek War Relief Drive in New England. The greater number took up collections from patrons, while 25 key cities conducted special midnight benefit shows.

In the Boston trade area alone, nearly 500 theatres participated.

Midnight Shows by 16 In New Haven Area

NEW HAVEN—Midnight benefit shows for Greek War Relief, featuring a film program and stage headliners, were held Saturday at some 16-odd theatres in this territory.

In charge of the campaign, locally, were Bob Russell, Lou Brown, John Hesse, Dan Finn, Lou Schaefer, Sam Badamo and Bill Reisinger. Radio cooperated well in advance, but newspapers, as usual, were conservative.

Warner houses running midnight shows were the Palace, Norwich; Strand, New Britain; Cameo, Bristol, and Palace, Lawrence. All Loew-Poli houses except those in Springfield had programs as did M&P's Empress, Norwalk, and Massachusetts Theatres' Paramount, Springfield.

A number of theatres took up collections for the cause, while many exhibitors booked the Paramount short, "Greece Fights Back," rentals of which go to the campaign.

Rhode Island 100 Per Cent For Greek Drive

PROVIDENCE—Rhode Island theatres lined up 100 per cent for the Greek War Relief Drive. In the Greater Providence area, 34 theatres had collectors in their lobbies. In Providence, the highlight of the drive was a midnight benefit performance at Loew's State with all Providence and Pawtucket theatre managements contributing to the arrangements. The Fay's and Metropolitan stage bills participated. In Woonsocket, a similar midnight show was set for the Stadium, and Newport also scheduled a midnight benefit performance.

Edward M. Fay was chairman of the Greater Providence committee which was composed of William E. Spragg, John Carroll, William Brown, George French, Sam Kaufman, John Hodge and Jack Simons. Fred Greene and Ben Greenberg were co-chairmen of the Woonsocket territory's arrangements.

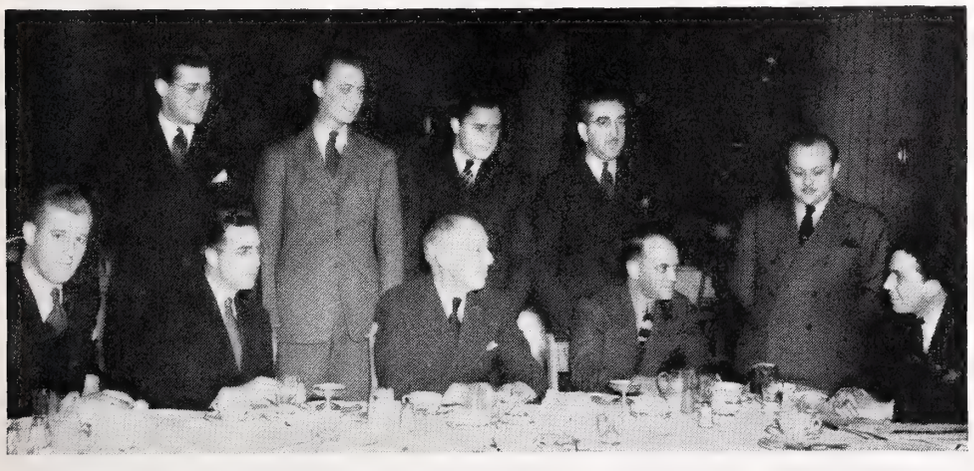
"Sneak Preview" and Stage Show Held in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD—A "sneak preview" and a stage show were presented at the Paramount, Western Massachusetts circuit house, as the local industry's contribution to the Greek War Relief Drive.

Chairmen of the committees for the event were: George E. Freeman (Loew's Poli), stage show; Andrew A. Sette (WB's Capitol), tickets; William Powell (Liberty Theatres Corp.), publicity; George E. Freeman (Loew's Poli), radio; J. M. Jerauld (Western Massachusetts), trailers; and Harry Smith (Western Massachusetts), Mayor's committee. Smith was also chairman of the operators' and stagehands' committee.

Crowd Metropolitan for Greek War Relief Show

BOSTON—"Las Vegas Nights," with a large complement of stage talent including Helen Morgan and Ethel Waters, filled the large Metropolitan where local film interests sponsored a special midnight benefit show for Greek War Relief. Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres Corp. partner, headed the drive in this territory assisted by Harry McDonald, Robert Sternberg, Charles Kurtzman, Jack Goodwin, Norman Ayers, I. J. Hoffman, Nathan Yamins, Harry Zeitz, Archie Silverman, Paul Levi, Marty Glazer, Jack Granara, Joseph A. DiPesa and Harry Browning.



Greek Relief the Objective—

Portland managers as they conferred on Greek War Relief Campaign participation, expressed by midnight shows held the week of March 25 to 30. In the front row, left to right: William Gallagher of the Colonial, John M. Divney of the Maine, Harry Smith, Civic; Leon P. Gorman, Cape and Cameo, entertainment chairman; and Harry Botwick of the State, chairman of the local campaign. Back row, left to right: William Romanoff, assistant manager of the State; William Fields, assistant manager of the Strand; James P. McAllister, Capitol; Al Cohen, Ritz, Lewiston; and Leo Young, Strand, Portland, ticket chairman.

Premiere "Great Lie" In Star's Home Town

LITTLETON, N. H.—The world premiere of Bette Davis' new starring picture, "The Great Lie," will be held Saturday evening, April 5, at the Premier Theatre here in Bette's home town.

April 5 is Miss Davis' birthday, and the civic and social organizations of Littleton and the surrounding countryside are preparing a gigantic birthday celebration in honor of the occasion. Besides the premiere of the film there will be a gala ball in the Littleton Town Hall on the same evening, a torchlight parade along the roads of the Franconia Notch Area, and numerous other gatherings and festivities. Governor Robert O. Blood of New Hampshire will be present and the governors of all the other New England states will be invited to attend. A special train will carry newspaper and magazine writers and photographers from eastern cities to the scene of the celebration.

Proceeds of the premiere and ball will be devoted to the Littleton Hospital and the Golden Rule Farm for Boys.

Continue Dance Plans

BOSTON—Harry Goldstein, RKO salesman who succeeded Harry Goldman as president of the Motion Picture Salesmen's Club in New England, continued this week with plans for the fifth annual dinner-dance of the organization which will be held at the Cocoanut Grove on Sunday, April 20, with receipts going to the charity fund.

A Midnight Benefit Show in Hartford for Greek Relief

HARTFORD—A film-flesh show was presented Saturday midnight at the Loew's Poli for the benefit of the Greek War Relief Fund. Members of the general committee in charge were George E. Landers, E. M. Loew's; Louis A. Cohen, Loew's Poli; Fred R. Greenway, Palace; James F. McCarthy, Strand; Morris Schulman, Schulman Theatres; Walter B. Lloyd, Allyn, and Wallie J. Cooper, Loew's Poli. The ticket committee for the affair included Mickey Daly of the Daly Theatres, McCarthy, and Frank Morin of the Regal.

E. M. Loew Takes Part in British Aid Activity

BOSTON—E. M. Loew, independent circuit owner, worked in the capacity of first vice-president of the New England Division of the Jewish section of the Interfaith Committee to Aid Great Britain in the organization's raising of $50,000 here to send 25 mobile kitchens.

The organization has been working in cooperation with the British War Relief Society in America and, nationally, has already presented that body with $40,000 to buy 20 mobile kitchens. The New England division contributed $2,000 of the first sum.

Wage-Hour Law Loses In New Hampshire

CONCORD, N. H.—The "Baby Wage-Hour Act" (House Bill No. 248), which was similar to legislation defeated in 1939, has been killed by the house.

The measure, patterned after the federal law, provided for a set standard of minimum wages and maximum hours for workers in New Hampshire.

Bill to License Horse-Race Bookmakers Dies in N. H.

CONCORD, N. H.—House Bill No. 149, providing for the licensing of horse racing bookmakers, has been killed in the legislature.

After passage by the house, a measure which would have made Lincoln's birthday a legal holiday in New Hampshire, was killed in the senate. The bill occasioned the first major debate of the present senate session.

House Bill No. 287, the controversial measure designed to regulate outdoor advertising, has been given a new draft and title by the house judiciary committee and recommitted for further hearings.

Favorable Report on Projection Measure

HARTFORD—H. B. 245 has been favorably reported by the judiciary committee. The bill would amend regulations as to operating projectors in fireproof booths, requiring a license to operate and prescribing frequent state inspection, so that these particular sections of the general statutes shall not apply to "moving picture machines using only cellulose acetate film not more than 16mm wide, except when such machines shall be used or exhibited in theatres or public places of entertainment regularly used as such and to which an admission fee is charged," such places not to include schools, Sunday schools, Grange, clubs, churches, lodges, etc.

Reports by Committees On Bingo Bill Awaited

HARTFORD—Being awaited are reports of committees on the state bill asking a $500 maximum in cash prizes for Bingo, instead of or in addition to the present merchandise prizes, and that a commissioner be created to regulate Bingo activities throughout the state.

Theatremen are relieved since no new theatre tax bills have developed during the session.

16 Gambling Bills Are Up for Consideration

HARTFORD—Among the 16 gambling bills up for consideration before the judiciary committee, were bills proposing legalization of horse and dog racing, lotteries, Bingo and gambling on the wheels at amusement parks.

Principal opponent of gambling bills was Rev. E. T. Settle of West Haven, who said their passage "would legalize the extension of gambling and encourage crime and immorality . . . If gambling is wrong for commercial interests, it is doubly wrong for civic, religious and charitable organizations." At present such organizations may sponsor Bingo games, while theatres are ruled out.

Observers reported that the attitude of the committee indicated none of the gambling bills had much chance for serious consideration.

The Docket

Boston

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 13. See "Disposals."

CASE NO. 2—Filed February 26. Demand and submission involving clearance dispute. Garbose Bros., Athol, Mass. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp., Loew's, Inc., 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., Vitagraph, Inc., RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., RKO Theatres, Maine and New Hampshire Theatres Co., Loew's Boston Theatres. Named as interested parties: York, Metropolitan, Paramount and Fenway, Boston; Fitchburg, Fitchburg. Named as interested party: George A. Giles Co., Cambridge, Mass. The Garboses, operators of the York and Capitol in Athol, claim their houses are first run and seek such designation day and date with the Boston and Fitchburg theatres named. John A. Daly, Boston lawyer, is arbitrator.

Disposals

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 13, disposed of March 14. Ben Gold, operator of the Park, Nashua, N. H. With: Paramount, Loew's, Vitagraph, RKO, 20th Century-Fox. Gold alleged inability to secure major product, charging two units of the Shea circuit in Nashua with having tied up product he seeks to buy. Arthur I. Brown, arbitrator, directed the five distributors named to offer pictures for license to Park for exhibition to July 31, 1942 on a run to be agreed upon. Gold had the support of local independent exhibitor organization.

A Dismissal Motion in Momand Case Fails

BOSTON—Circuit Owner A. B. Momand, represented by George S. Ryan, has been successful in the latest phase of his $4,500,000 anti-trust suit. Federal Judge Murrah has ruled against the defendants on a re-hearing on motions to dismiss the action on grounds that claims under the anti-trust law could not be assigned.

Second AAA New England Case Is Garbose Bid

BOSTON—Abe Garbose, operator of the York in Athol, will be the second New England exhibitor to air a complaint here under the AAA setup.

Garbose, represented by George S. Ryan and by the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., is seeking a national release date which, he avers, was formerly granted the house. John A. Daly, Boston lawyer, was mutually agreed upon last week as arbitrator. No date for a hearing had been set up to press time.

$1,850 for Injuries

HARTFORD — The suit of Mrs. Jeanette Harrison of this city against E. M. Loew's Enterprises, Inc., has been settled in superior court here. Mrs. Harrison receives $1,850 for injuries sustained in a fall.

Slot Film Licensing Bill Hearing Waits

BOSTON—No date for a public legislative hearing had been set up to press time on a bill filed with the Massachusetts legislature and by Arthur K. Howard, business manager of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., seeking "An act to supervise and license the showing of 16mm and 35mm films or other sizes for public or private exhibition by means of an automatic coin-in-the-slot, or similar talking motion picture devices."

The bill has been amended, following its original filing, to combat 16mm non-theatrical competition in this state by imposing department of public safety regulations similar to those governing commercial 35mm product on the non-theatrical exhibitions which, heretofore, have been largely free of restrictions because of the safety nature of the film.

Howard, acting for the local Allied branch, petitioned that the Massachusetts department of public safety have supervision over the location of screenies and similar devices, that an annual license be required at a charge of $50 per machine, and that censorship should be invoked for inspection at a charge of $10 per subject and $50 for each certificate of approval.

Report George Swartz Is Introducing Coin Films

BOSTON—George Swartz, backer of a number of New England motion picture projects, is understood to be going ahead with a new "screenie" type machine which will operate on 16mm continuous product at a nickel a clip. These machines, it is understood, are already in the works and will be made available for outright sales on time. Purchasers, according to preliminary plans, may rent films through the sales setup but will not be required to do so.

Outstanding innovation of the latest-type film juke box will be their availability with or without cabinets. This design will permit more varied forms of installation. In fact, it is felt by the promoters that the sale of these as "adjustable wall-type machines" may prove a prime sales factor because of the stationary principle of the Mills equipment.

Booth Supervision Plan Displeasing to Allied

BOSTON—Ed Charbonneau, New Hampshire exhibitor and a director of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., has registered Allied States Association's opposition to a bill to license motion picture operators and to set up police and state supervision and authority over projection booths.

Licensing of operators is not required at the present time in New Hampshire. Arthur K. Howard, business manager of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., and a contingent of the organization will appear against the measure at a legislative hearing in Concord, it is planned.

HAVE YOU "MARGIN TO SPARE"?

House Appeal a Point of Issue Under the Consent Decree

Exhibitors who have read the rules of arbitration to apply under the Consent Decree must have noticed that for the first time in moving picture trade relations, house attraction and operating efficiency become practically a condition of contract.

There's a strong inference of this in Section VI. of the decree from which we quote: "... if the exhibitor can satisfy reasonable minimum standards of theatre operation."

There's even more significance in Section VIII. where in paragraph (3) we find: "The **character** and location of the theatres involved, including size, type of entertainment, **appointments,** etc."

But in a sub-paragraph (C) of Section X. we find the strongest possible implication wherein **"the character, appearance and condition of each, including its furnishings, equipment and conveniences"** is referred to.

That physical condition and appearance of theatre properties will be a strong point of arbitration under the decree is a rather foregone conclusion. One major producer-distributor has already announced the completion of a theatre survey with expressed intent to permit only theatres in good condition to play his product.

As the original and a long consistent advocate of the boxoffice value of house attraction, we can now see no good reason for disagreement with these protective provisions of the code.

Since the public has so volubly expressed its preference for the comforting effects of the modern theatre, and so positively its distaste for the other kind, we believe most exhibitors will now try to put their houses in proper shape to qualify — and with a margin to spare.

Jole

MODERN THEATRE editorial reprinted from BOXOFFICE, March 1, 1941.

CAPITOL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

28-30 PIEDMONT STREET

B O S T O N



It's Her Picture—

Barney Pitkin, New Haven branch manager for RKO, with little Joan Carroll, look over a press book on "Laddie" featuring the young star. Joan is currently appearing on Broadway in "Panama Hattie" and is scheduled to return to Hollywood some time in May.

Contract Negotiations On Between RKO and Staff

BOSTON—"Negotiations now are being carried on between the local representatives of the front-of-the-house union and myself for extension of contract," Harry McDonald, RKO divisional manager, told this publication following printing of an exclusive story here that abandonment of union activities had come up in Boston where Keith's Memorial members of the Theatrical Employes Local have forsaken membership in the union following mounting protests in dues payments and professed confidence in RKO fair dealings.

Stating that a similar move was understood to be under way at the RKO Boston, the story said that signs of a similar trend had been evident for some time in other theatres in the city.

It has been learned that the Metropolitan, which some ushers once picketed in an effort to secure M&P Theatres Corp. acquiesence to a union contract, now only numbers one Theatrical Employes member among its staff of ushers.

Testimonial Scroll Is Presented Frank Lydon

BOSTON—Frank Lydon, Allied eastern regional vice-president and president of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., who has been on the danger list at St. Margaret's Hospital in Dorchester, for several weeks, has been presented with a scroll and gift by his "friends and associates in the Motion Picture Industry," who, according to the accompanying scroll, "Wish to take this means of conveying their deep sympathy during your illness and sincerely hope for your speedy recovery. Individual well-wishers signed the scroll.

Local Holiday Boosts Grosses for Boston

BOSTON—A holiday weekend, a local affair having to do with the expulsion of the British forces from the city during Revolutionary War days, boosted grosses here in a week not aided by a sudden cold snap. "Back Street" and "Let's Make Music" was held for a second week at Keith's Memorial, while "Lady Eve," on the basis of its Metropolitan performance, was shifted for a second one-week into the Paramount and Fenway.

Details for week ending March 21:

(Average is 100)

Fenway—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Monster and the Girl** (Para't), 2nd run 100
Keith's Memorial—**Back Street** (Univ); **Let's Make Music** (RKO) 125
Loew's Orpheum—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) 130
Loew's State—**Come Live With Me** (M-G-M); **Land of Liberty** (M-G-M) 135
Metropolitan—**Lady Eve** (Para't); **Murder Among Friends** (20th-Fox) ..... M..... 120
Paramount—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN); **Monster and the Girl** (Para't), 2nd run 100

"Lady Eve" Lures the Big Grosses in Providence

PROVIDENCE—Lent and first touch of spring in the air failed to materially slash grosses here last week. "Dictator" at Loew's State did surprisingly well at regular prices in comparison with showing made in initial presentation here at advanced scale. Strand with "Lady Eve" topped the town and the film held over for a second week.

(Average is 100)

Albee—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Little Men** (RKO), 2nd wk. 100
Carlton—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox); **Great Mr. Nobody** (WB), 2nd wk. 70
Fay's—**Shadows on the Stairs** (FN), plus stage show 75
Majestic—**Footsteps in the Dark** (WB); **Here Comes Happiness** (WB) 80
State—**Great Dictator** (UA); **Devil Commands** (Col) 125
Strand—**Lady Eve** (Para't); **A Man Betrayed** (Rep) 180

Two Hold Firm Despite New Haven Cold Spell

NEW HAVEN—Only "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" and second week of "Western Union," topped the average line. The severe cold spell kept a surprised public at home. Exhibitors also missed the 5,000 Yale people, on a two weeks' vacation.

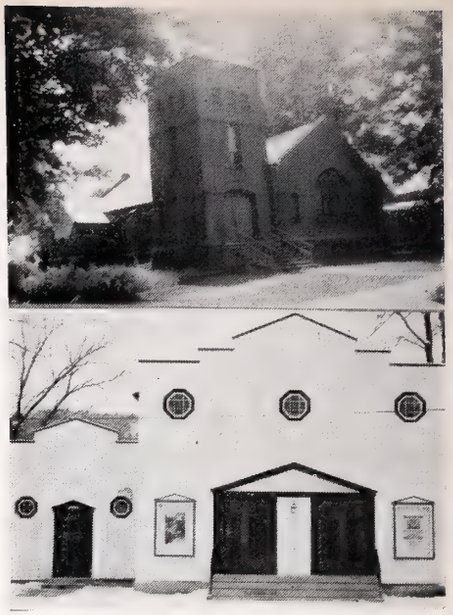
Detail for week ended March 20:

(Average is 100)

College—**Western Union** (20th-Fox); **Blondie Goes Latin** (Col), 2nd wk. 110
Loew-Poli—**Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (RKO); **Trial of Mary Dugan** (M-G-M) 100
Paramount—**The Hard-Boiled Canary** (Para't); **Convoy** (RKO) 65
Roger Sherman—**Three Cheers for Miss Bishop** (UA); **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (20th-Fox) 85

After Lease Renewals

BOSTON—Film district landlords are driving at present for renewals by film interests of leases on property in this vicinity. Impetus is being given the move by the fact that RKO and National Screen Service are constructing new buildings for their respective occupancy. UA is among the concerns that have renewed their leases recently, but a number of similar deals are being held in abeyance.



Transition—

A church that became a motion picture theatre is above pictured. Harry LeMare, Ludlow, Vt., exhibitor, acquired the church, and out of a conference with Capitol Theatre Supply, emerged the 418-seat Pa-Re-Mo Theatre here shown. The annex houses LeMare's sideline print shop.

E. M. Loew Circuit Is Continuing Expansion

BOSTON—Extension of the E. M. Loew independent circuit, which already reaches from Maine to Louisiana, continues. Loew plans to open a new house soon in South Boston. He has also taken over an old silent theatre in Falmouth Heights, at one time operated by Frank Howard. In Miami, Loew is having an independent speaker system set up to combat complaints of the sound nuisance. He may contract for the installation of similar systems in his other drive-in locations east of the Mississippi.

In Rochester, N. Y., Loew has darkened the Embassy.

Many Boston Barkers Will Attend Variety Confab

BOSTON—A large Boston contingent is expected to attend the annual National Variety Clubs convention in Atlantic City on May 15-17.

Martin J. Mullin, M&P Theatres Corp. partner who is chief barker of the local organization, will head the Boston delegation which tentatively includes Sam Pinanski, Maurice N. Wolf, Murray Weiss, Phil Seletsky, Al Kane, William Erbb, Herman Rifkin, John Dervin, Morris Green, Joe Cohen and Edward X. Callahan.

Honor Lowell Thomas

DURHAM, N. H.—Lowell Thomas, radio and newsreel commentator, was honored at a banquet by 600 Granite Staters in connection with the 75th anniversary of the University of New Hampshire.

BOSTON

MR. AND MRS. HYMAN PHILLIPS, owners of the building housing the Fenway in Boston and interested in the operation of the Strand in Dorchester, have returned from Mexico . . . Julian Rifkin, general manager of the Rifkin circuit, and Mrs. Rifkin have been in Florida . . . Jack Markle, manager of the Coolidge Corner in Brookline, had to refund some 600 admissions when municipal lighting failed.

Ben Taylor, former operator of the Richmond Theatre and the Richmond Hotel in North Adams, has been managing the Magnet in Dorchester for Ken Forkey and Ed Markell . . . The mother of Charles Wilcox, operator of the Orleans in Orleans, died recently . . . Charles Syl Champlain, display artist for the local RKO Theatres, combined with City Manager Ben Domingo and Exploiteer Jack Granara on a mammoth lobby cutout advertising "Back Street" and "Let's Make Music" . . . Nathan Yamins, former Allied head and present Fall River exhibitor, has returned from Florida.

Maurice Schwartz of the M&P Theatres Corp. advertising department has been mourning the death of his father . . . Eleanor Glazier, daughter of John Glazier of Western Massachusetts Theatres, Inc., has resigned from the Producers Releasing Corp. to accept a position with a non-theatrical Essex Street concern . . . Al Fowler, present manager of the Majestic in Boston, was feted by some 50 house employes on the occasion of the 100th road-show performance of "Fantasia."

Harry Reiners, RKO exploitation head for this territory, went out of town on business . . . Joe Plunkett, of the M&P Theatres Corp. accounting department, was out because of illness . . . John Shepard III, Bostonian heading the Yankee Network, is one of a committee of 15 appointed by NAB to dicker with Ascap for a music armistice . . . Michael Tomasino, operator of the Victory in New Haven, has been in Florida . . . Martin J. Mullin and Sam Pinanski, M&P Theatres Corp. partners, were in New York.

Ed Canter, comptroller of the M&P Theatres Corp., has been in Florida . . . Ed Renick is now covering western Massachusetts and Vermont on sales for M-G-M . . . Charles Kurtzman, Loew's Northeastern division manager, opened "The Great Dictator" at regular prices at Loew's State and Orpheum where the piece originally roadshowed . . . Fred Greenway, former manager of the State in Boston and resident head of the Palace in Hartford, has moved his silent paging system to the Connecticut house, registering and numbering doctors and flashing their call numbers when the necessity arises . . . James Guarino of the Drive-In Theatres Corp. has been south.

Charles Israelson has reportedly taken over the theatre situation at York Beach to operate in conjunction with his theatre holdings at Wells Beach, both Maine seashore resorts . . . Benjamin Bebchick, M-G-M salesman, is now handling Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts . . . Harry Worden, M-G-M salesman, is covering the White Mountain state.

Larry Herman, booker for the Ralph Snider circuit, has returned from California where he and his wife recently visited . . . B. E. Hoffman, Warner executive, has been south . . . Alice J. McCarthy, manager of the Plymouth in Boston, tied in with the Franklin Savings Bank for reserved seat ticket envelopes.

George Kraska gave Harry Lauder's "Song of the Road" its New England premiere . . . Lou Gordon, partner of the Gordon and Lockwood circuit, has returned from Florida . . . Steve Broidy, Monogram sales manager, is now on the coast where he will be joined by his family following the summer closing of local schools.

Ben Gold, operator of the Park in Nashua, has been commuting this week and last, setting deals on product made available to him as a result of the first AAA hearing in the country . . . Phil Schwartz is going in for spring remodeling at the Parkway in Bridgeport . . . Sam and Nathan Goldstein, Western Mass. Theatres, Inc. partners, are setting up a Harry Smith 33rd Anniversary Drive in honor of the circuit's divisional manager . . . Larry Lasky, local exhibitor, returned from Florida only to head back to Baltimore and Washington . . . Morris Pouzzner is again north.

Dorothy Haddleman, daughter of the operator of the Shelton in Shelton, became a bride the other Sunday . . . Reggie Morse, Morse & Rothenberg circuit executive, and Mrs. Morse have returned from a cruise . . . Max Melincoff, local Warner circuit head, and Mrs. Melincoff are back from Florida.

Louis Rothenberg, Morse & Rothenberg circuit partner, still wearing the Florida sun . . . Al Herman, Monogram district manager, screened "Sign of the Wolf." The pix is set for a band-box opening in Boston, April 3, at the RKO Boston . . . Lou Newmann held "Virgin Bride" and "School for Husbands" a fifth week at the Trans Lux.

Louis Stern, Barre exhibitor, is back in the Green Mountain State following Florida . . . Plans are going ahead for the new motion picture house to go up in Concord. The colonial-type structure will seat 754 . . . Mike Daly, circuit operator, plans to enlarge his Plainfield, Conn., location . . . Plans still are being discussed for a motion picture house in Southbridge, Mass.

Floyd Bell, former publicity director of the Metropolitan and present publicity free-lancer, handled exploitation for the 29th Annual Carnival of the Boston Skating Club at the organization's new quarter-million dollar rink . . . Ben Domingo, city manager for the RKO theatres here, held "Back Street" and "Let's Make Music" for a second week at Keith's Memorial . . . The brother of Duffy Lewis, Provincetown exhibitor, has been hospitalized in Boston.

Harold Bailey, formerly operator of the Methuen in Methuen, which is now controlled by Sam Kurson, and Gene Campiano, formerly at the Capitol in Lawrence, have formed a real estate partnership in Lawrence . . . A new motion picture house may go up in Wethersfield, Conn. . . . John Loftus has been supervising renovations at the M&P Strand in Newport, R. I.

Thad C. Barrows, president of the Moving Picture Operators Union, Local 182, and the Boston Red Sox have been seeing a lot of southern scenery . . . Rex Ingram has been in town . . . Jack Yonkers has had Capitol Theatre Supply install a new screen at the Thompson Square in Charlestown . . . E. M. Loew has gone for a new RCA screen at his Watertown house . . . Harry Shaw, Loew's Poli division head, has been in Panama.

Eldean Johnson has resigned from Specialty Pictures, Inc. . . . Arthur K. Howard, business manager of the Independent Exhibitors, Inc., is having the local Allied offices repainted and renovated . . . Non-theatrical competition April 10 to 13, the return booking of the Ice Follies.

Harry Egert, NSS divisional sales manager, has been in this territory . . . A. C. Chadwick has had renovation work done at the Coniston in Newport, N. H. . . . Ken Douglass of the Capitol Theatre Supply Co. has furnished the Davis Square in Somerville with a new screen . . . "The Lady Eve" drew so well that Robert Sternberg, M&P district manager, moved it directly into the Paramount and Fenway following its initial week at the Metropolitan.

E. M. Loew has met nuisance complaint, coincidental with the operation of his

(Continued on page 118)

POPCORN - PROFITS - POPCORN - PROFITS - POPCORN - PROFITS - POPCORN - PROFITS - POPCORN

MANLEY
(Formerly Burch)
THEATRE
Popcorn
Machine

LLOYD BRIDGHAM
JUST INSTALLED A
MANLEY THEATRE POPCORN MACHINE
AT THE
BROADWAY, DOVER, N. H.

NOW ON DISPLAY at the THEATRE CANDY CO. Motor Mart Bldg. 205 Stuart St. Boston

SAMUEL HORENSTEIN
BOX 239 NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

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POPCORN - PROFITS - POPCORN - PROFITS - POPCORN - PROFITS - POPCORN - PROFITS - POPCORN

NEW HAVEN

I J. HOFFMAN, Warner theatre department head for the New England zone, is in Miami Beach . . . B. E. Hoffman of the same department has returned from White Sulphur Springs . . . Barney Pitkin, RKO manager, spent a few days in Boston . . . The 5,000 potential Yale customers who left town for a two-week spring vacation were missed by exhibitors . . . John Findlay of Westerly and Mystic did the Street with his son, John jr. . . . Victor Wallace and Connie Carpou, Metro student bookers, are two great minds in search of a dinner invitation. Wallace celebrated his birthday simultaneously with his seventh anniversary with Metro last week . . . Mickey Mattes leaves for camp March 29. The Paramount staff gave a party for its two soldiers, Edward Fitzgerald and Billy Nutile, showering them with gifts of pen sets, kits and wearing apparel . . . Lou Schaefer, Paramount Theatre manager, gave his son, Bob, and friends a farewell blowout at Ceriani's, and Bob went to Blanding laden with gifts of all kinds, including cold cash.

Raymond Hughes, former chief usher, is the new Roger Sherman assistant, and Salvatore DeLise steps up to chief usher . . . Harry Shaw, Loew-Poli division manager, back from Panama on the 29th and Lou Brown and family ready to take off . . . Dan Finn, Warner publicity director, and Cy Barrett, district manager here, will be vacationing mid-April . . . Theodore Haeusler, booth operator at the Paramount, is in New Haven Hospital under observation . . . Full Page co-op ad of firms connected with the opening greeted Joseph Faith's new 650-seat Carberry at Bristol . . . John J. Bolton has changed the marquee lighting of the Dixwell, New Haven, and Community, Fairfield, both Fishman houses.

Report is Sal Adorno is readying opening of his open-air Middletown again this summer . . . The Paramount, New Haven, is having its ceiling painted . . . Elwood Russell, son of Bob of the Poli, was guest of honor at a birthday party given by a member of the New York smart set . . . Jack Brassil of the Poli staff broke the bank at penny Bingo . . . The all Germaine-team beat the hitherto (almost) invincible Columbians at bowling . . . Sidney Lax, Columbia shipper, set to leave for the army, April 2 . . . Jerry Massimino, Warner poster manager, has his 1-A classification . . . Sam Seletsky has enough Captain Marvels strung up for a shooting gallery . . . Universal is sixth in the current drive, with eight weeks to go . . . Mahan's local exchange still holds to first place in the Warner drive . . . Mike Sirica says he is cooperating 100 per cent with the Greek Relief drive, provided he is promised not one cent will be used to shoot his relatives in Italy.

Harold Rubin has sold the Alhambra, Torrington, a premium deal . . . Lou Schaefer had special WELI broadcasts on "The Lady Eve." Also tied up with New Haven News Co. on banners, circulars, etc. . . . Bill Reisinger had an exhaustive campaign on "Blonde Inspiration" at the Bijou. Blonde usherette in lobby spot attracted much attention in theatre where only boy ushers are used. Cake of ice cooling off the print was used in front of the theatre three days in advance and during the run of the picture . . . Ed Wynn's "Boys and Girls Together" was a sellout long in advance at the Shubert . . . Warner's State, Waterbury, is following suit of several theatres in industrial towns by trying a 10 a. m. "early bird" show . . . Bijou amateur show still lining them up on the sidewalk weekly after a continuous operation since last August. Bill Reisinger is m. c. in the absence of Harry Shaw. New laugh stunts involving audience participation are tried each week, with prizes of cash.

Lou Brown, Loew-Poli publicity chief, and Bill Reisinger are working on the annual (Br-r-r-!) Bathing Beauty contest now . . . Gem, Naugatuck, went ritzy with a New Haven symphony concert for Day Nursery . . . Waterbury's Capitol played Columbia's horror show, "Face Behind the Mask" and "Devil's Command" to successful shivers . . . "The Great Dictator" going much better at lower prices . . . "Vivacious Lady" moved to the Regal, Hartford, for a second week . . . "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" held over on the Poli circuit . . . Rivoli, West Haven, has changed its policy to three changes a week, starting with a Sunday-Monday run and ending with Friday-Saturday . . . Warner has dropped the idea of a five-cent rise at the State, Waterbury, on Sundays and gone back to a 44-cent top.

Week's Defense Orders in Conn. Total $187,458

NEW HAVEN—A total of $187,458 in defense orders for the war department came into Connecticut companies last week. Of these, New Haven had only one order, to Atlas-Ansonia Co., for $59,400. Waterbury concerns totaled $68,553. Hartford had $3,760; West Hartford, $2,088, and East Hartford, $13,260. Navy awards to East Hartford totaled $23,268.

Bloom Is Promoted

SPRINGFIELD—James J. Bloom, Paramount usher chief, is student assistant, replacing Gilbert G. Bevin, called to the colors.

$3,000 Income Class Best Patrons

Washington—The average New England family spends increasingly for motion picture admissions as the family income expands up to $3,000 and thereafter tends to diminish, reports the department of labor in a survey of seven communities in four New England states. Up to the dividing line about half of the total recreation expenditure goes for motion pictures, thereafter the proportion drops. The average low-income family spends but $7 a year for amusement, of which $3 went for films. The average yearly expenditures for recreation did not amount to as much as $100 in any income group below the $3,000 level, and when that bracket was reached approximately $30 went for film theatre admissions.

BRIDGEPORT

ANTHONY FAUGNO has abandoned efforts to revive old-time films in Stamford . . . Vohen Walter Varjabedian, Majestic press agent, is back on duty after an illness . . . Manny E. Kugell and his wife were New York visitors . . . Frank Musante, Hippodrome projectionist, is back in the booth after a southern honeymoon . . . For the first time in years, local theatres will have organized baseball for opposition starting in the spring. Bridgeport has been off the baseball map since the break-up of the old Eastern League about a dozen years ago . . . Sympathy to Lois Anger, owner of the Barnum, on the sudden death of his mother, Mary . . . The Empire, New London, used a "Right and Wrong" quiz Friday nights.

Harry Rose, Globe manager, is a year older . . . Mary Prescott, relief cashier at the Loew-Poli, has resigned . . . James Darby of the Norwalk is featuring a Kiddie's Quiz contest Saturday afternoons . . . Matt L. Saunders of the Loew's Poli was a New Haven visitor . . . Harry E. Shaw is expected back from Panama in time to act as master of ceremonies at the Greek Relief show.

The Sterling in Derby is using vaudeville Sundays. It is the first time in years flesh acts have invaded that city . . . There is nothing that looks so desolate after a heavy snow fall as the Drive-In in Milford . . . The boys now refer to Manager Edward Madden of the Lyric as "Commissioner" . . . John Zofcak, Globe usher, has resigned . . . Rocco Longo of the Community, Oakville, has returned from a trip to Philadelphia.

Despite the fact that New York newspapers refer to Bridgeport as the "champagne city" and devote columns to the alleged "war boom" here, there is nothing to bear out the tales in local boxoffice statements. While business is admittedly good, it is nothing like it was back in the boom days of the first war. Plenty of people are working in Bridgeport, but it is only the skilled craftsmen who are making the real money and they are in the minority.

Co-chairmen of the Greek War Relief show in New London were Manager Walter T. Murphy of the Capitol and Ted Smalley, manager of the Garde. The show was held at the Capitol . . . In Norwalk, Albert Hamilton, manager of the Empress, was chairman, assisted by George Harvey of the Palace, James Darby of the Norwalk and Merrick Lyon of the Rialto.

Through the courtesy of Samuel Weiss, manager of the Stamford and Avon theatres in Stamford, firemen were permitted to take collections for the aid of widows and children of the firemen killed in the Strand fire in Brockton, Mass. . . . Harold Engle, student assistant at the Globe, was in New York to see "Pal Joey" . . . The Rialto, Stamford, is playing Polish-language pictures nights to good business . . . Morning shows at the Loew-Poli for night workers are building steadily and the idea may spread to other downtowns.

Union Meeting Set

SPRINGFIELD—A meeting of IATSE Local 86 will be held April 7.

HARTFORD

REUBIN LEWIS, Loew's Poli Palace stage manager, has been named winner of the "best stage decorations" award of Local 84, musicians' union . . . Lou A. Brown, Loew's Poli publicity chief, was in from New Haven to see Lou A. Cohen, Loew's Poli manager . . . Charlie Repass, Crown; Martin Kelleher, Princess, and Morris Schulman, Schulman Theatres, attended an Allied meeting in New Haven . . . Executive offices at the Loew's Poli have been renovated . . . Joe Anger, manager of the Astor, East Hartford, lost his mother . . . Morris Keppner's Glastonbury, Glastonbury, has a glassware giveaway . . . Frank Davis, Loew's Poli doorman, carried away top honors in a fencing meet of the Townsendites of Hartford . . . George E. Landers, manager of the E. M. Loew's, got a roto break on "Nice Girl?" in the Sunday *Courant* . . . Ditto, L. A. Cohen, Loew's Poli manager, for "The Great Dictator."

The Windsor firemen are planning to sponsor a motion picture entertainment at the Windsor, Windsor, next month for the volunteer ambulance and rescue car fund of the fire department . . . Mickey Daly of the Daly, Hartford, and Plainfield, Plainfield, was in New Haven . . . Lou A. Cohen, Wallie J. Cooper and Russell F. Grant of Loew's Poli are working on a big exploitation campaign for "Tobacco Road" . . . Mrs. M. Oakley Christoph of the motion picture department, Hartford Courant, *weekended in New York . . . Loew's Poli brought back "The Great Dictator" for a week's run at regular prices . . . Joseph Bell has succeeded Jack Kenny as student assistant at the Loew's Poli, Waterbury . . . Bernard M. Levy, Proven Pictures manager, is sporting a blue suit . . . Revival of "Grapes of Wrath" and "Down Argentine Way" at the Proven Pictures did excellent business, Manager Bernard M. Levy reports . . . Jay Pinckney and Sammie McGill, doorman at the WB's Strand, were on the sick list.*

Lou Levy and E. J. Valcourt, Warner, Bridgeport, projectionists, are now driving new cars . . . Ernie DiOrio, assistant manager at the Palace in Norwalk, has resigned . . . Allie Hamilton has been doing pretty good with the recently-inaugurated "10 O'Clock Club" at the Empress in Norwalk, we hear . . . Jack Gordon, Hartford theatrical booker, has been ill at the Veterans' Hospital in Newington. Mrs. Gordon has been handling the agency while Jack is convalescing . . . Fred Quatrano of the Lido, Waterbury, flew down to Havana for a few weeks' vacation . . . Hugh Campbell of the Warner Central in West Hartford is getting set for the annual sporting event, "Old Timers' Night" at that theatre in April.

Carlson Spear has replaced Benny Segal as assistant manager of the Whalley in New Haven. Segal is now stationed with the army at Fort Blanding, Fla. . . . Frank Morin, manager at the WB's Regal, reported fine business during the second week of "Vivacious Lady" . . . Lou A. Brown of Loew's Poli, New Haven offices, visited Fred Greenway, Palace manager . . . A Ryack, former Palace usher, has been added to the usher corps at the Allyn . . . George E. Landers, E. M. Loew's manager, reports that the theatre's balcony has been reseated . . . Jimmy Swindell, assistant chief of the Allyn service staff, has resigned . . . All theatre managers in the city worked hard on ticket selling, etc., for the Greek War Relief Show at the Loew's Poli.



Caribbean Bound—

Harry F. Shaw, division manager of the Loew Poli New England theatres, and Mrs. Shaw, photographed on the deck of the S. S. Cristobal *just prior to sailing for their midwinter vacation. The Shaws' cruise took them to Panama and Central America.*

Cold drink machine has been installed at the Regal . . . W. P. Bernfield, former UA exploiteer in Kansas City, is reported managing the Calvin in Northampton . . . Mike C. Sottile, operator of a Pittsfield booking agency, has opened an Albany, N. Y. branch office with H. L. Hickman of Albany in charge . . . Bridgeport Firemen's Benefit Ass'n has contributed $100 to the fund being raised in New England fire departments to aid the families of 13 firemen who were killed on March 16 in the Brockton theatre fire . . . Little Theatre of Hartford presented "Dangerous Corner," at the Avery Memorial in Hartford.

James Pappas, usher at the Loew's Poli, has been named chief of the service staff at that theatre, succeeding Frank Valenti, who has resigned to join the Royal Air Force in Canada.

Harry F. Shaw, division manager for the Loew's Poli circuit, and his missus are due back from a Panama vacation . . . Mrs. Helen Ericson, Strand, Hartford, cashier, who is at present on sick leave in Los Angeles, is expected back in Connecticut some time in April.

"Victory" for Schunzel

HOLLYWOOD—Reinhold Schunzel will direct "Strange Victory," Sol Lesser production for UA. The Martha Scott starrer is being scripted by Jane Murfin from the story by Rose Franken and William Brown Meloney.

PROVIDENCE

EVERY Providence theatre cooperated in the big Greek benefit performance staged Friday at Loew's State . . . Post cards received by Strand employes showed Manager Edward Reed and Theatre Owner Archibald Silverman enjoying their cruise to Puerto Rico and Havana.

Al Clarke's campaign on "Meet John Doe," which had its New England premiere at his Majestic, was one of biggest given any film at that house in years. Used were 60 *24-sheets,* 200 *auto bumper strips,* 200 *window cards, ditto one-sheets,* 5,000 *"John Doe" calling cards scattered over the city,* 5,000 *heralds, a large number of cooperative windows and newspaper ads.*

The Playhouse has been contracted for two performances on May 31 in connection with the 13th National Conference of the Society of American Magicians. Plans are for a matinee and evening program of all-star magic, with some of the biggest professional and semi-pro magicians of the country participating. Indications are the convention will attract over 400 magic fans to the city. Advance reservations are already in from such distant points as Texas and California.

First real spring Sunday of year, March 23, *brought the autos out on Rhode Island highways and cut down matinee grosses at most theatres.*

Mrs. Jack Simons, wife of the new manager at Loew's State, spent the weekend looking over the town and voted it O. K. Jack expects to bring Mrs. Simons and their daughter to town permanently following the closing of schools in Hartford for the semester.

Providence theatre managements sympathies went out to Captain George W. Cowan, city censor, on the loss of his wife, who died Saturday.

The three musketeers of the RKO-Albee staff, now buck privates, Mooney, Sagat and Wall, who answered the call to the colors a few weeks ago, were pleasantly surprised at camp last week to get a bonus of four weeks pay from the RKO main offices.

Norman Ayers, Boston branch manager for Warner, was in town for the New England premiere of "Meet John Doe" at the Majestic . . . Edward L. Reed, manager of Strand, arrived home last week after his fortnight's cruise to St. Thomas and Havana.

Management of Bellevue and Lafayette theatres, Central Falls, cooperated with fire department there last weekend in taking up collections for benefit of families of firemen killed in the recent theatre disaster in Brockton, Mass.

Herbert Higgins Moves

BOSTON—Herbert Higgins, independent theatre booker, has moved into new offices in the film district at 37 Winchester St.

Trumbo Story to RKO

HOLLYWOOD—"They Married for Money," a story by Dalton Trumbo, has been acquired by RKO.

SPRINGFIELD

STEVE COLTER, Loew's-Poli projectionist, returned from a three-week vacation in Miami . . . Herman Rifkin, president of Liberty Theatres Corp., in town . . . Manager George W. Coleman's Arcade held over "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" for three days . . . Raymond Grainger has succeeded Jerry Baker as doorman at the Strand . . . Lou Brown, Loew's-Poli publicist, visited George E. Freeman, local Loew's-Poli manager . . . Mr. and Mrs. Julian Rifkin of Liberty Theatres Corp. are vacationing in Miami. By the way, these two observed their first wedding anniversary last week . . . Carl A. Jamroga of the Jefferson, Harold Moreau of the Strand and Charlie Curley of the Liberty, traveled to Boston for a birthday dinner in honor of William Powell of Liberty Theatres Corp. at the Statler.

Eddy Morey is a new usher at the Paramount, succeeding Charlie "Flea Boy" Abdull, who has been named assistant chief of the service staff replacing Robert "Mousie" Glazer. Glazer succeeds James J. Bloom as chief of the service staff while Bloom has been appointed student assistant at that situation in place of Gilbert G. Bevin, who has been inducted into Uncle Sam's army at Camp Edwards, Mass. . . . Irving Richard, formerly E. M. Loew's Court Square usher, is now ushering at the Paramount, succeeding Harry Felix, resigned . . . George E. Freeman, manager, and Boyd Taylor Sparrow, assistant manager of the Loew's-Poli, attended a testimonial dinner for Lou Cohen, Loew's-Poli, Hartford, manager . . . Charlie Cross, formerly assistant manager of the Interstate Empire, Fall River, is now stationed with the army at Camp Edwards, Mass. . . . Frank Colburn jr., manager, and Angus McNevins, assistant manager of the Colonial in Haverhill, were out with the grippe.

Manager Frank Colburn jr. of the Colonial, Haverhill, now has a kiddies' quiz every Saturday afternoon . . . Service staff of the Empire in New Bedford has new uniforms . . . Frank C. Clements, manager of the Brockton Strand, visited in Boston . . . Christopher J. Joyce, manager of the Interstate Durfee, Fall River, had as his guests his mother, Mr. John P. Durfee, and sister, Miss Rita Joyce, both of New Haven. . . . Max Furman of the Loew's-Poli maintenance department in New Haven was a visitor . . . Clemuel Clements, usher at the Broadway, has resigned . . . Frankie diCaro is a new E. M. Loew's Court Square usher, succeeding James Harrington, resigned.

Camp Edwards, Mass., now can boast of three Paramount, Springfield, fellows in its rank—Larry LaVoie, artist; Ray Salo, doorman, and Gilbert G. Bevin, student assistant . . . Francis McDonald, Strand usher, has resigned and been replaced by John Korso . . . Charlie Curley, Liberty manager, was out with a cold . . . Phyllis Power filled in at the Liberty for Cashier Lenore Ackerman, while the latter was visiting in New York . . . Sam Howard, formerly assistant manager of the M&P's Strand, Lowell, and now associated with the Max Fleischer Studios, tripped to Lowell to see Nat Silver, Strand manager, the other day. Howard was guest at several parties while in that city.

William Perreault of the Colonial, Haverhill, and Wilfred Bachan of the Baylies Square, New Bedford, are now in the army . . . Edward Carey of the Capitol, Lynn, has been appointed assistant manager of that situation, replacing Ergmont Frankel, who is now managing the E. M. Loew's Gayety in Boston. Philip Tomczylowski is now the Capitol's head usher, and L. Bernstein has been taken on the staff of that theatre . . . Mr. and Mrs. Nate Yamins of the Capitol, Strand and Park, Fall River, are back from a month's vacation in Hollywood, Fla. . . . Mrs. D. J. McCarthy, mother of Kay McCarthy, secretary to Walter Vincent of the Loew's-Poli real estate department, is due back from a Miami vacation.

George Moore has replaced George Bushey as usher at the Court Square . . . W. H. McGhee, field representative for E. M. Loew, is back from a tour of the northeastern theatres . . . Bernard M. Levy, manager of the Holyoke, Holyoke, has inaugurated a Monday night amateur show . . . Burt Campion, stage manager of the Brockton, Brockton, was in Providence, R. I., to attend a wedding anniversary party for Mrs. Campion's aunt.

New Corporation

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. — State Secretary Federic W. Cook has granted a charter of incorporation to the R&C Amusement Co., Inc., Agawam; incorporators, Edward J. Carroll and Vernon A. Trigger of Agawam, and Albert V. Reeves of Cambridge.

Has New Giveaway

NEW BRITAIN—Jack Glackin has started a new dish giveaway at his Arch Street.

Granted a Rehearing on Petition for Theatre

BRIDGEPORT—The board of zoning appeals has granted a rehearing on the petition of Joseph Frouge to erect a theatre on upper Main. Frouge told the board he is prepared to make as much as 50,000 square feet of automobile parking space available if necessary for patrons of the theatre. Several women residents of the neighborhood were present to voice their approval of the petition.

Cropper and Gardiner Testify in Waldo Suit

BOSTON—Hearings in the Carroll T. Cooney anti-trust suit resumed here last week, following a recess, when George S. Ryan, attorney for the plaintiff Waldo Theatre Corp., put Ross Cropper, local RKO branch manager, on the stand. Cropper was followed by Larry Gardiner, local RKO exchange official.

Sussman and Pride Meet With Fox N. E. Staffs

BOSTON—William Sussman, eastern sales head for 20th-Fox, and Fred A. Pride, member of Dwight, Harris, Koegel & Caskey, attorneys for the distributor, met here Wednesday with District Manager Tom H. Bailey and sales staffs from the local Albany and New Haven branches.

Loses 200 Dishes

HARTFORD — The loss of 200 premium plates valued at $30 was reported to Hartford police last Monday by Manager Tommy Maller of the Lenox.

BOSTON

(Continued from page 115)

drive-in in Miami, with plug-in loud speakers for each automobile . . . Reconstruction of the Acme in Eastport, Me., is being talked following fire havoc here this month . . . C. F. Sweeney may go in for an ozoner in Wayland . . . Henry Armetta has been in town . . . Les Bendslev, operator of the Community in Wellesley, is considering several offers for his 1936 Lasalle five-passenger sedan for which he'll take $250 . . . Fred Quatrano, Waterbury exhibitor, may put up a new house in Newington, Conn. . . . Set for a fall opening is the new Joe Quittner house in Hartford . . . Mel Aaronson has been transferred from the Strand in Westfield to the Arcade in Springfield, retaining his status as assistant manager.

Mickey Martone, operator of the Palmer in Palmer, is going in for blow-ups of his weekly program. Martone distributes these later per penny postcards on a Hy Teich deal . . . Al Rudenstein of the Stoneham in Stoneham, Bernard Feltman of the Paradise in Millbury, Jack Yonkers of the Thompson Square in Charlestown, and George Markell of the Hudson in Hudson are going in for a similar Four Star Program Co. deal . . . The Rivoli in Salisbury, N. H., has been renovated . . . Ed Reed, manager of the Strand in Providence, has been in Cuba.

Ken Douglass, Capitol Theatre Supply Co. head, reports that the film district equipment concern has completed a heat piping contract for 600 buildings at the army base in Portsmouth, N. H. Capitol also put in duct work for heating facilities on Boston Harbor forts . . . Pearce Parkhurst, recently manager of the Larcom in Beverly, is now managing the Alhambra in Torrington. Fred Greenway, formerly manager of the State in Boston and present manager of the Palace in Bridgeport, was trailer chairman for the industry's Greek War Relief Drive in the latter city . . . Greenway was visiting in town last week.

Urges Aid for Bereaved Families of Firemen

Concord, N. H.—Gov. Robert O. Blood has issued a statement urging support of the relief fund being raised for survivors of the firemen who lost their lives in the fire at the Strand in Brockton, Mass.

The Docket

Dallas

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 28. Demand and submission involving clearance and some run. Joseph's Drive-In Theatre, Austin, Tex. With: 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., M-G-M Pictures Corp., Loew's Inc., M-G-M Dist. Corp. of Texas. Named as interested parties: Interstate Theatres, W. G. Underwood and Claude Ezell, both of Dallas. Complainant charges the three distributors have refused to sell him product. He seeks to license their product and also asks that his clearance be established under Section 8 of the decree. M-G-M reached an individual settlement and is no longer involved.

New Orleans

CASE NO. 1—Filed February 17. Demand and submission involving some run (Section VI). Modern Theatre, Inc., (drive-in theatre), Charles J. Woolner, president. With: Paramount Film Dist. Corp. Phillip E. James, attorney, will arbitrate. Hearing April 1.

CASE NO. 2—Filed March 6. Demand and submission involving some run. Drive-In Theatre, operatede by Charles Woolner. With: Loew's, Inc.

CASE NO. 3—Filed March 21. Demand and submission involving some run. Drive-In Theatre, operated by Charles J. Woolner, president of Modern Theatre, Inc. With: Warner.

Oklahoma City

CASE NO. 1—Filed March 21. Demand and submission involving some run. J. D. Guest, operator of the Ritz, Duncan, Okla. With: Warner. Complainant alleges he could not buy Warner product.

Joseph's Drive-In Settles With M-G-M

DALLAS—The name of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has been withdrawn from the first arbitration case, set up to be heard here early in April. The matter is that of the Joseph's Drive-In Theatre at Austin which brought complaints against M-G-M, 20th Century-Fox and Warner, asking the board to require the three companies to sell it film and further to set up clearance.

In the settlement with M-G-M it was authoritatively learned here that negotiations had been completed between this distributor and the Drive-In on a deal for film.

The case, however, will be arbitrated as between Fox, Warner and Joseph. Date of the hearing has not been set although it is expected to be by the end of next week.

Add to Tribunal

An additional list of arbitrators has been selected to serve on the Dallas tribunal. These include J. E. Hutchinson jr., an accountant with Hutchinson, Bonner & Burleson; C. F. O'Donnell, president of Southwestern Life Insurance Co.; Ted Robinson, general manager of the Borden Milk Co.; Harold S. Star, vice-president of Dallas Title & Guaranty Co., and Leslie Waggener, executive vice-president of the Republic National Bank.

Confers With Dunlap

DALLAS—Senor Pablo Villegas of Mexico City was a Filmrow visitor here in connection with his theatre chair manufacturing operations in the neighboring country. Villegas visited with Forrest Dunlap of American Desk Manufacturing Co.

Sought to "Buy" Sunday Show Law in Georgia

By A. JULES BENEDIC

ATLANTA—A bill known in the trade as "the anti-five," which virtually would have nullified the effect of the consent decree in Georgia and caused a return to the old style of whole season's bookings, with certain privileges of cancellation, lost out in the closing days of the state legislature by the narrowest of margins. In fact, on the closing day of the session, the vote to reconsider in the lower house was lost, 68 to 60.

Another bill, to open Sunday shows over Georgia in wholesale fashion, instead of in spots and under auspices of charity, after a stormy career in both the house and senate, was tabled in the lower section of the legislature by a howling voice vote after the opponents had launched a clever move.

Roy Martin's Letter Read

This move was by Rep. Walter Harrison, who charged that "the theatre interests of the state had sought to buy a Sunday show law for $5,000." Debating the senate bill to legalize the Sabbath showings. Harrison read a letter from Roy E. Martin of Columbus, Ga., addressed to the exhibitors of Georgia, in which Martin was declared to have stated that "a firm of Atlanta attorneys had agreed to put through the Sunday show law for the sum mentioned."

"The exhibitors were to pay $2,500 cash and a similar amount when the bill was put through," shouted Harrison. "The object is to take away the revenue that now goes to charity and put it in the pockets of theatre owners. We all know that lots of sins are committed in the name of charity, but I don't want our churches sold down the river so a few Atlanta attorneys can make a $5,000 fee."

The "anti-five" measure also had a stormy career through both branches. In senate committee it was out-voted, but on minority report in the upper branch it received a favorable vote and then went to the house. After a two-hour debate, it again lost out, but Rep. Alpha Fowler, also an Atlanta exhibitor and proponent of the bill, placed in the record a motion to reconsider on the closing day of the session. That was the next day, when a real fight was brought out. The bill lost by eight votes.

Judging from the number of exhibitors and exchange men who had a sudden yen to visit the state capital on both stormy days, there was a tremendous "lobby" on both sides. In fact, prominent exhibitors and distributors swarmed the corridors.

Georgia Censor Bill Hinted

"The exchanges threw a lot of money into this fight," an interested attorney told this spectator at the capital.

While the exchange men fought the bill tooth and nail, there was, apparently, no state-wide unanimity on the part of the exhibition clan. In fact, a number of representatives, claiming their privilege to explain their vote on the measure, broadcast as reasons for voting against that they had contacted their home-county exhibitors and had been advised to turn thumbs down on the proposed legislation. Others said they had taken similar action, and had been advised to vote for the bill. It was a merry battle while it lasted.

There was some bitterness. A certain small-town legislator told this reviewer: "They wouldn't vote for this bill; let's see what they do to that airtight censor bill that I propose to submit at the next session."

Theatre Building Booms in Texas

DALLAS—Theatre building activity continues on the upswing in Texas.

Carl Johnson, who owns the Arcadia at Floresville, has bought a competitive house, the Gem, from Gidney Talley and will operate both. He and Talley were here a few days ago working out the deal.

G. A. Cole is remodeling a building at New Braunfels in which he will open a new Cole to replace the house he recently lost by fire. He was on the Row this week in connection with the deal. The Griffith circuit of Oklahoma City is also reported planning a second theatre in New Braunfels.

Phil Isley has opened his new Granada in Brownwood which makes two for him there. He opened the new Plaza a few months ago.

H. R. Bisby was set to open his new Plaza at Garland Thursday.

Olin A. Beaupre has opened a new theatre at Alba which is about 16 miles from Mineola. He now operates a Negro house in Commerce. Both shows project 16mm film.

Reports are current here that B. R. McLendon, general manager of Tri-State Theatres, may soon build a new big house in Atlanta and another in Springhill, La.

Woolner's Some Run Hearing on April 1

NEW ORLEANS—The first arbitration hearing here will be held April 1 in the tribunal's offices in the Baronne Building. Phillip E. James, attorney, will arbitrate.

The issue before the tribunal is a demand from Paramount for some run at a drive-in theatre here, operated by Modern Theatre, Inc., headed by Charles J. Woolner.

Other complaints filed by the operator make similar demands of M-G-M and Warner. Hearing dates on these latter have not yet been set.

Texas Lends Warm Hand To Greek Relief Drive

DALLAS—A warm hand was extended to the Greek War Relief Drive by the Texas trade, nearly 80 per cent of all exhibitors in the state putting on big midnight benefit shows or taking up collections from patrons.

Four circuits, covering all towns in Texas from 5,000 population on up, went all out for the drive, namely, Interstate, with 75 situations; Griffith, 55; Jefferson-East Texas, 30, and Robb & Rowley, 25.

Likewise, independents did a full share for the cause, nearly 150 of them running midnight shows and many more taking up collections.

The Variety Club of Texas contributed handsomely with a Greek benefit dance at the Plantation Club at $1 per person. Earliest reports had more than 2,000 tickets sold for the affair.

Elsewhere over the south, the drive picture stacked up like this: Atlanta area—280 theatres cooperating, 50 midnight shows; Memphis area—200 cooperating, 100 midnight shows; New Orleans area—180 cooperating, 40 midnight shows; Oklahoma City area—200 cooperating, 55 midnight shows.

Collect Contributions For Greek War Relief

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.—The Center, Cameo and Carolina theatres, along with other theatres throughout the country, cooperated in the raising of funds for Greek war relief. Women were on duty in the lobby of each of the theatres collecting contributions. Women from the Business and Professional Women's Club and from other organizations also donated their time and service.

Show in Memphis Yields Over $1,500 for Greece

MEMPHIS—More than $1,500 was raised here for Greek relief by a Variety-sponsored stage-screen show at the Malco. The British-made "Night Train" was the film shown, and Milton Slosser was emcee. In Nashville, the Crescent circuit collaborated with the Musicians' Union in staging a film-flesh show at the Paramount.

Charlotte Houses Do Their Share

CHARLOTTE—Local theatres joined in the drive for funds for Greek war relief. They ran special trailers at each show and took donations in the lobby. Mayor Ben E. Douglas has officially set April 18 as "Tag Day" for the Greek cause.

Plans Houston House

DALLAS—It is learned here that H. E. Fulgham, owner of the Ideal in Ft. Worth, has completed a deal for building a new suburban theatre in the north section.

Their Nerves Are Still a Bit Jumpy

Atlanta—Willie Smith, manager of the Canton, Canton, and his wife were driving to Atlanta when their car stalled on a railroad track near Smyrna.

Willie was trying with all his might to get the car going when all of a sudden they saw a train approaching. So, naturally, out they jumped just in time to see their car torn to tatters and carried away by the onrushing engine.

The Smiths are still having trouble with their nerves when they think of it, but otherwise they're all right.

Santone Premiere for "I Wanted Wings"

SAN ANTONIO—The Gulf Coast Air Corps Training Center gave "I Wanted Wings," Paramount picture of U. S. Army aviation, a full-dress sendoff with the largest air show ever put on in this section of the country, a gala ball, a testimonial dinner by the flying officers and a press preview at the post theatre.

The events were witnessed by a crowd of 15,000 people, including a thousand flying officers and trainees and such celebrities as Major General Henry H. Arnold, chief of the U. S. Air Corps; Governor Lee O'Daniel of Texas; Mayor Maury Maverick of San Antonio; Brigadier General Gerald C. Brant, commanding officer of the training center; Lt. Beirne Lay jr., author of the book, "I Wanted Wings;" Clayton Knight, World War ace and aviation illustrator; William Holden, Veronica Lake and Wayne Morris, stars of the picture, and five ranking officers of the Venezuelan Air Force, who have come to Randolph Field to study U. S. flying methods. Robert M. Gillham flew down from New York to represent the Paramount home office.

Big thrill of the day for the Hollywood visitors came when Holden and Morris were awarded honorary flying cadet warrants, an honor given to only a handful of people in the history of air corps.

The main event of the afternoon was the aviation show of record-breaking size, in which 300 planes from Kelly and Randolph fields took part. One of the most spectacular features of the exhibition was the spelling out of the word "Wings" by 90 planes, a sock testimonial to the cooperation between the Army and Paramount on the production of the film. Following the show, there took place a tea dance for 600 air cadets and their guests at the post recreation center. Preceding the evening screening was the officers' dinner for the visiting notables.

NEW ORLEANS

A P. BRASHEAR, manager of the American Desk Mfg. Co. of Temple, Texas, was in the city. The local branch is under the management of W. A. Prewitt . . . Two new houses are scheduled for opening soon in Bay St. Louis, Miss. Ed Ortte, once a salesman for Republic, is opening a 450-seater and Frank Olah of New Orleans is putting the finishing touches to his new house. The Louisiana Motion Picture Equipment Co. is furnishing the entire equipment for the two houses.

The New Orleans premiere of "The Flame of New Orleans" has been set for April 17. Universal has promised a personal appearance of several stars, among them Bruce Cabot, Andy Devine, and Mischa Auer.

A. Harrison jr. has been appointed by Governor Jones to arrange for an exchange of films between New Orleans and the Central American states. Under the working of the plan, scenes in Louisiana and more particularly in New Orleans, will be photographed in color, a Spanish sound track being provided for the assembling of the film which is then sent to Central America. In return color motion pictures made in Central America and provided with sound tracks in English, will be sent to New Orleans. A film showing the 1941 Carnival, the docks and river front and the French quarter has been prepared by Harrison. A film of Costa Rica is soon to be available here in exchange. An office for the distribution of Louisiana films has been opened by Harrison in San Jose, Costa Rica with an American newspaper man, Ralph Hancock, in charge.

Bill Minder, former resident manager for Grand National, was a visitor to the Row. He is now writing in Hollywood . . . "Sonny" with our own John Carroll in the lead, will have a New Orleans premiere.

The Writers Project of the WPA is reported undertaking to issue a history of the "going" motion picture theatres in Louisiana, showing the seating capacity, affiliation and when erected. Work on the new project will begin within the next 30 days . . . W. H. Cobb of the Exhibitors Poster Service, returning from a trip through Louisiana and Mississippi, says that at least 50 per cent of the theatres in that section are busy on renovation programs.

Fred Goodrow of Atlantic Films has returned from a selling trip up-state . . . Tent show managers are readying their outfits in preparation for an early spring opening and are busy purchasing equipment.

Ivan Kahn, 20th-Fox talent scout, was in the city. He is accompanied by his wife, Jesse Malo, screen writer . . . William B. Sharp was found guilty of assaulting G. Pepitone on the stage of the Lafayette. Pepitone testified he was assaulted when he and George Schilling jr. went to the theatre to negotiate a union contract with

(Continued on page 32-D)

Concerning Florida

By A. JULES BENEDIC

ATLANTA—Tarpon and snapper, snook and white Marlin, are terms intermingled freely with the familiar film-can talk along Atlanta's Row these days, what with receipt of E. J. Sparks' initial bulletin concerning his 1941 Fishing Trip, a yearly event that gladdens the hearts of some 200 embryonic Izaak Waltons over the southeast. This year, according to Ed's broadcast, the annual trek will be to Plantation Key, one of the islands on the overseas highway from Miami to Key West; the exact locale being the club named after the key. Elaborate preparations are being made, although the dates are a month off, April 26 to 30.



BENEDIC

Ed Sparks, head of Florida State Theatres, Inc., has been holding these events for years. Every spring, on invitation, the circuit head gathers with him some 200 southeasterners and by water, airplane, train or auto they jaunt to southern seas, putting in a week of fishing, feasting and fun-making. This year will be no exception, in fact, the 1941 trip is expected to break all records from many angles.

A Paradise on Plantation

Just a peep into the inner details of what have been described as "the most beautiful reefs in the world" are given by no less a person than Erl Roman, fishing editor of the Miami *Herald*, who made a personal inspection of the grounds:

"For variety in fishing, there is no better choice, for the grounds selected are the finest in the world. There is Gulf Stream fishing for the big, speedy gamesters; there is reef fishing for huge amberjack, grouper, jewfish and a host of other hard-fighting finsters; there are some of the finest of known bone-fishing flats, and excellent casting for tarpon, snapper, snook, redfish, speckled water trout and many other fishes in the Bay of Florida. Plenty of crawfish—Florida lobsters—for the giggers; in fact, the finest trip you've ever taken.

"Dates selected are early enough to avoid mosquitos yet late enough to hit the good runs of sailfish, white marlin, dolphin, wahoo, bonito and albacore . . . Days could be spent on these coral-bedecked bottoms, watching the fish life through glass-bottomed buckets. Those who like surf-casting with light rigs can have a fine time on the ocean side of the keys, while those who want to try out for the doughty bass can have the time of their lives in the Bay of Florida, one of the most beautiful bodies of water on this hemisphere."

John Crovo Handling Details

John L. Crovo, H. B. Vincent and W. A. Krause are in charge of the fishing party, and Mr. Sparks requests any questions may be directed to them. Crovo's address is in care of the Arcade Theatre in Jacksonville. Other pointers on the party, as expressed in Mr. Sparks' initial eight-page broadcast, are given:

Assembling date is April 26, at the Columbus Hotel in Miami, with special rates being made for the party. Reaching there before 1 p. m., the excursioner may either drive his own car over the keys to Plantation, some 75 miles distant, or hop a ride on one of the busses which will be provided. While return is on April 30, to Miami, there is an additional trip planned for those who care to take it. This is an air flight to Havana, starting May 1 at noon, on a chartered Pan-Am four-motored clipper. Return as a party may be made as late as May 3, although the guest may remain longer in the Cuban capital if he desires. In addition, several other dates have been arranged by those who may care to sail to Havana instead of flying.

Total cost of the trip this year, including transportation back and forth from Miami, will run $115, with an additional $30 for the Havana trip.

SANTONE

MANAGER HENRY BERGMAN of the Texas announced that proceeds from the picture, "Land of Liberty," which played a three-day engagement at his house, will go to British war aid. He also stated that $50,000 has already been given to the English war relief by the producers and distributors of the film, and that 20,000 school students tickets were issued at reduced prices during the local showing . . . "The Lady Eve," was the midnight owler at the Majestic Saturday.

Latin-American film notes: Senorita Estella Inca, Azteca film star, made a guest stand at the National; Antonette Tono, Mexican radio player, dittoed at the Zaragosa; J. J. Jimenez, skipper of the local office, back from his Mexico City jaunt; Azteca's newest releases include "Cantinflas en los Censos" and "Rosa La Terciopelo."

That new candy girl at the Texas answers to the name of Miss Margie Healey . . . The Barney Brothers Circus is playing dates in and around the Hill Country . . . Dave Rubinoff, who appeared at the Auditorium, was interviewed by Jack Mitchell over KTSA . . . San Antonians recognized a familiar face in "Andy Hardy's Private Secretary" at the Majestic recently when Eli Solomon (Elliot Sullivan) flashed upon the screen.

Congratulations to Lee Aronstein, majordomo at the Palace for the past 11 years. Lee has just been appointed contact man for Interstate in these parts. He will still remain as head man at the Palace.

Second Week for "Doe"

NASHVILLE—"Meet John Doe" is in its second week at the Knickerbocker at advanced prices and doing capacity business.

Film Intelligence Service

Fort Clark, Tex.—"I hate to miss a copy, as it is the only way I keep in touch with the business while on active duty with the army," writes John H. Cates of the Park Theatre, Iowa Park, Tex., in requesting that his copy of BOXOFFICE follow him to camp where he is now a first lieutenant in the 112th Cavalry.

Genuine

Simplex TRADE MARK REG'D.

REPLACEMENT PARTS

Replacement parts, like peas, look alike, but they are not, in either service or material, because they WERE NOT manufactured in the same factory which builds YOUR GENUINE SIMPLEX.

* * *

Keep your SIMPLEX *genuine* by using only GENUINE SIMPLEX PARTS . . .!

NATIONAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY

Dallas, Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Charlotte and Oklahoma City

HOUSTON

THE ALMEDA has increased its week-day operating time, moving up its opening from 6 p. m. to 2:45 p. m. Monday through Friday . . . Will Horwitz, local exhibitor, went before a grand jury to protest against the Kirby holding a weekly "Lucky Star-nite," which offers money prizes.

Work will being shortly on the 15th house here for Interstate. It will seat 950 and cost $100,000.

Interstate neighborhood houses celebrated Donald Duck's seventh birthday with special "after-school" parties. Drinks were donated by a beverage company and the shows included five Donald Duck cartoons.

20 Dallas Golfers to San Antonio Tourney

DALLAS—About 20 local golfers leave next week for San Antonio to compete in the theatrical golf tournament there April 6-7. Ed Collins is in charge of arrangements. All proceeds go to Variety Club of Texas for charitable work as did the $700 raised recently at the Fort Worth tournament. Following the San Antonio go, all eyes will turn toward the big Dallas tournament to be held April 19-21.

Irwin Enlarging and Remodeling Handley

HANDLEY, TEX.—W. O. Irwin jr., recent purchaser of the Handley, is having the house enlarged and re-equipped with reopening scheduled in a few days. W. W. McNatt of Naples, who is Irwin's father-in-law, is supervising the job.

Buy Marquand Story

HOLLYWOOD—M-G-M has acquired the J. P. Marquand story, "H. M. Pulham, Esquire."



At PRC Convention—

In Chicago for the annual convention of Producers Releasing Corp. were the two Southerners here pictured: Jack Adams of Dallas, at the right, and Ike Katz of Atlanta. See page 23 of this issue for product details.

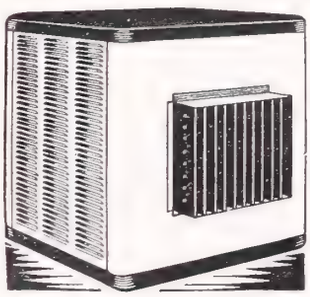
To PRC Convention

DALLAS—The Jack K. Adams family was in Chicago last week for the national convention of Producers Releasing Corp. They were accompanied by E. L. Walker, franchise holder in Oklahoma; S. A. Arnold, franchise holder in Arkansas, and Art Davis of Tulsa, a radio performer and son-in-law of C. V. Jones of the R&R circuit.

MARTIN LAMOUR, National Theatre, Graham, Tex.

Installs GREAT NATIONAL coolers, and you, too,

CAN SAVE A LOT OF MONEY ON YOUR COOLING EQUIPMENT



GREAT NATIONAL

Coolers "Top Them All"

WORTHWHILE PROVEN FEATURES
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Also: Mfrs. of Blowers, Coolers & Mat Type Spray Washers in all Capacities.

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"17 Years Theatre Cooling Experience"

ARKANSAS

G W. "DINK" JONES is now affiliated with Central Film Co., distributors for Producers Releasing Corp. in this territory with headquarters in Little Rock. Jones was formerly with Republic . . . Victor Farrar, who has been with the K. Lee Williams theatres for a number of years, is now managing the Pine at Dierks. He succeeds Ermel Holder . . . B. H. Garrett is the new projectionist at the Gem, Lake City.

J. F. Norman, former president of the Arkansas ITO and owner of the Best at England, who has been ill at St. Vincent's Infirmary, Little Rock, for several weeks, is said to be improved . . . It is announced a new theatre will be opened soon at Levy, near North Little Rock and Camp Robinson . . . A drive was conducted during the week of March 25-30 for Greek War Relief, according to Jack Thomas, theatre manager at Clarksville and chairman of the local committee.

Jack Adams sr. and Jack Adams jr. of the Adams Film Exchange, Dallas, stopped over in Little Rock for one night recently while on their way to Chicago . . . The New at Delight, which was slightly damaged by fire recently, has been repaired and reopened . . . S. A. Arnold, Central Film Co., Little Rock, made a trip to points in northwest Arkansas.

Recent Filmrow visitors in Little Rock: E. S. Reeves, Batesville; Bill Headstream, Batesville; K. K. King, Searcy, and M. H. Hasty, Dardanelle.

Managerial Changes By Lutzer Bros.

DALLAS—Jake and Dave Lutzer, well known Universal representatives and owners of several theatres in north Texas, have employed one new manager because of the draft and shifted another to fill a resignation. Fred Frick, who previously operated the Strand at Honey Grove, has been employed as manager of the Texas at Troup, succeeding Marshall Rooks who is now with Uncle Sam's forces. Curtis Puckett, who resigned as manager of the Navarro in Kerens for the Lutzers, has been replaced by Marvin Bell.

Raise Admission Prices For "Life of Verdi"

FORT WORTH—"The Life of Giuseppe Verdi" was shown two days at Interstate's Parkway, with admission prices raised for the run. O. K. Bourgeois of Astor Pictures, distributors of the film, cooperated in an extensive campaign. The film was run three times daily to full audiences.

Succeeds Alexander

ELIZABETHTON, TENN. — Jimmy Baird, head doorman at the Paramount, Bristol, for the past four years, has succeeded Joe Alexander at the Bonnie Kate and Ritz theatres here. Alexander went to Knoxville to manage the State.

DALLAS

Stage Show Competitor Strongest in Dallas

DALLAS—Olsen & Johnson's "Hellzapoppin'," stage show at the Melba with Billy House and Eddie Garr and screamlined revue played to SRO during four days starting Thursday. Ducats were $2.50 down to $1.20. Elm Street otherwise was calm in a week of favorable weather. "Tobacco Road" opened big at the Majestic but faded down to an average take, not getting a holdover.

The Rialto played a one time double thrill show to up the gross there. The Capitol has altered its runs to include outstanding action films of former years for its three midweek days and is thriving with the plan. The action doubles for the weekends continue to show up well above in this house, the latest bill including Autry's newest with "All Over Town" starring Olsen & Johnson to tie in with the current stage show "Hellzapoppin'" at the Melba.

The Tower failed to get anticipated reactions on Academy Award honors by going back and picking up "Vivacious Lady" with Ginger Rogers and James Stewart. The run here was slightly under average.

Detail for week ending March 2:

(Average is 100)

Capitol—**Back in the Saddle** (Rep); **All Over Town** (Rep) 115
Played four days through Sunday.
Majestic—**Tobacco Road** (20th-Fox) 100
Palace—**Nice Girl?** (Univ) 110
Rialto—**Blondie Goes Latin** (Col) 100
Played three days through midweek.
Rialto—**Mad Doctor** (Para't); **Monster and the Girl** (Para't) 125
Played four days starting Friday.

"Dictator" Back at 150% For New Orleans Top

NEW ORLEANS—A second outbreak of the flu, inclement weather, and the temporary freezing of state funds until the supreme court untangles the snarl have cut grosses sharply, not only in New Orleans but throughout the state. "The Dictator" came back to Loew's at popular prices and is doing good business. "Buck Privates" was held over at the Orpheum as was "The Strawberry Blonde" at the Liberty.

Detail for week ending March 21:

(Average is 100)

Center—**Blackout** (UA) 100
Globe—**Kitty Foyle** (RKO) 90
Liberty—**Strawberry Blonde** (FN) 90
Loew's—**The Great Dictator** (UA) 150
Orpheum—**Buck Privates** (Univ) 125
Saenger—**Footsteps in the Dark** (Para't) 150
Tudor—**The Mad Doctor** (Para't) 125

Start Sunday Shows

KANNAPOLIS, N. C.—This city has Sunday shows for the first time, M. Legendre's Dixie opening this past Sunday with "This Thing Called Love."

Improves State

MOORESVILLE, N. C.—A. E. Groom, who operates the Carolina, Moor and State theatres, has completed installation of lamps at the State. A modern air washing and cooling system also will be completed before the hot weather sets in.

Twentieth Anniversary

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.—The Tivoli is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

RAYMOND CORNES of Farmersville has dressed up his Palace there. It runs Fridays and then serves as a billboard for the Cornes, the "A" house . . . Clovis Brittain, a former exhibitor, is now selling chairs for American Desk Manufacturing Co. out of the Dallas office. He is a brother-in-law of Forrest Dunlap, the company's sales manager . . . C. V. Griggs, assistant manager of American Desk Mfg. Co., drove up from Temple on business.

Mrs. Morris Schulman and Mrs. L. Lazarus of the Bryan Amusement Co., Bryan, were here for two days visiting along the Row . . . The crack pistol and rifle team of the Dallas police department furnished thrills in plain and fancy shooting for members of the Variety Club of Texas.

The Usry family of Decatur spent a busy day here, he booking, she shopping downtown, with daughter, Margaret, spending her time in Elm Street theatres. At one boxoffice Margaret inquired about the time of the next feature and started in without buying a ticket. On second thought, she went back to make the purchase, realizing the theatre was not the Majestic in Decatur . . . Dave Lutzer of Universal is back in his east Texas territory after a stubborn case of flu.

Still showing the effects of a recent serious illness, J. Preston Tate was here Monday to book for his Queen at Santa Anna. On a recent trip here, his young daughter developed chicken-pox, and rather than leave her in a Dallas hospital, Preston bundled her up for the ride home. Result was that he got it too. Both have now recovered . . . News of an approaching wedding of interest is that of Alfred N. Sack of Sack Amusement Enterprises here and Miss Mildred Roddy of Los Angeles. Date will be about the middle of April.

Lee Scarborough, who opened the new Texas at Bremond, was here booking. Before going to Bremond, Scarborough operated in Van . . . Seats are being installed in the rebuilt Arcadia, Greenville, and R. H. "Bob" Clemmons, co-manager, says the opening will be April 3. The house, thoroughly streamlined, seats over 1,000.

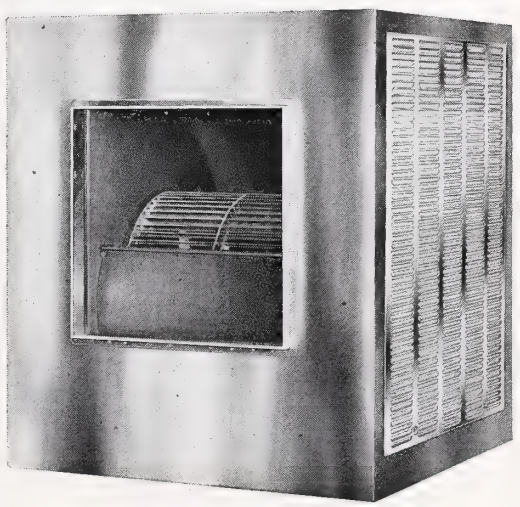
The Chatmas family from Marlin was in on a shopping and booking visit. The group included J. C. and Mrs. Chasmas, their daughter, Mrs. Ray Gilley, and a granddaughter, Mary Alice, two years old, who calls her grandfather, "Popsy" . . . John L. Franconi and Ed Blumenthal leave Wednesday to attend Monogram's annual sales convention, April 4 to 6, in Hollywood.

Another theatre family in town was that of Henry Sparks of Cooper. He, however, did not make the trip because of illness . . . J. W. and Mrs. Curley and their son, Steve, were in mainly on a booking trip. Mrs. Curley hasn't been on the Row much of late since Steve finished at A&M and took over the booking job . . . Herman Biersdorf, 20th Century-Fox branch manager, was visited by a cousin from Milwaukee, Everett H. Crozier.

R. Z. Glass, operating the Stude in Houston, was in town . . . Herbert Griffin, vice-president of International Projector Corp., was here several days visiting with Arthur DeStafeno, manager of National Theatre Supply Co. He was on his way to New York from the west coast . . . Oscar S. Oldknow, National's southern and western division manager, will be here Monday from Los Angeles.

C. D. Touchon, traveling auditor for UA and a former Dallas film man, was in town on his regular round of exchanges throughout the country. He usually spends

(Continued on page 122-D)



Utility Model 142P Complete Evaporative Cooling System

HOT WEATHER IS HERE--

Let us install the UTILITY KOOLER for Low Cost Air-Conditioning. Low operating cost. It has revolutionized theatre cooling.

HERBER BROTHERS

"Fair Treatment and Adequate Service Always"

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Lady Exhibitor—

Among the ladies who run theatres in North Carolina is Mrs. Runa E. Curtis of the Curtis at Liberty. A short biography of her career in the trade appeared in a recent issue.

Likens to Build New House in Abilene

DALLAS—Another theatre for Abilene, where army activity has already caused a general speedup, is being projected by George H. Likens, representative for Alexander Film Co. in west Texas for some time. The site is an old bank building now being remodeled, with work to be completed in about two weeks.

Abilene has long been an Interstate stronghold. Since the defense program came along, however, Phil Isley has built and opened the Bobby Walker there and Billy Morrow has opened the Star.

New 400-Seat Theatre Planned for Dothan

DOTHAN, ALA.—Plans to erect a new 400-seater at 132 North Foster St. are announced by Jake J. Jones, operator of the Graceville, Graceville, Fla., and Lawrence P. Coe of Slocomb. Opening date has been tentatively set for April 27. Coe, who operates a theatre and weekly newspaper at Slocomb, will manage the new enterprise.

Pre-Easter Meeting for Atlanta Variety Club

ATLANTA—Variety will meet April 7 at the Henry Grady Hotel, with Lionel H. Keene of the Kirkwood "King for a Day." This will be a pre-Easter meeting with all the trimmings and novel surprises. Members are urged to be present.

Texas Consolidated Buys North Star

DALLAS—Texas Consolidated Theatres, Inc., subsidiary of Interstate, has purchased the new North Star in Paris from G. H. Shorthose. He was just making ready to open it.

Legendre Shifts

KANNAPOLIS, N. C.—Sam Trincher of the Legendre circuit announces Kenneth Kornahrens, manager of the Colonial, has left for a visit with relatives in Pennsylvania and Florida prior to entering army service. The new manager is Luther Yandell, who has been in charge of Legendre's Dixie in North Charleston, S. C. Nick Stringfellow will succeed Yandell at the Dixie.

MONARCH IS THE KING

WHEN IT COMES TO EQUIPMENT NEEDS

With the spring season here, the progressive showman is looking to his needs for the new season — Air Conditioning, Projectors, Arc Lamps, Chairs, Popcorn Machines, Film Cabinets, National Carbons, Parts of All Kinds, etc.

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CHARLOTTE

VISITORS: J. A. Pell jr., Pilot Theatre, Pilot Mountain, N. C.; E. G. Pophal, St. Pauls, St. Pauls, N. C.; J. B. McIntyre, Raeford, Raeford, N. C.; J. B. Edwards, Aberdeen, Aberdeen, N. C.; S. J. Workman, Hollywood, Woodruff, S. C.; W. V. Brockman, New, Westminster, S. C.; Mrs. C. H. Albrecht, Ritz, Newberry, S. C.; Senator Roy Rowe, Pender, Burgaw, N. C.; Clinton Whitlock, Hannah Pickett, East Rockingham, N. C.; W. P. Marion, Marion, Marion, N. C.; F. D. Fowler, Princess, Mocksville, N. C.; F. W. Davis, Mimosa and Alva, Morganton, N. C.; Ben G. Reeves, West, Jefferson, N. C.; J. W. McMillan, Latta, Latta, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Mitchell, Spencer, Spencer, N. C.; J. W. Griffin, Romina, Forest City, N. C.; J. R. Patterson, Majestic, Fort Mill, S. C.; Jeff Wilson, Biscoe, Biscoe, N. C.; S. D. Trincher, Legendre circuit, Kannapolis, N. C.; Kramer Drace, Newton, N. C.; R. D. McGowman, Nash, Spring Hope, N. C.; P. J. Caudell, C. H. Caudell and Ted Ballenger, Caudell circuit, and J. V. Harvey, Clover, S. C.

H. H. Everett, chief barker of Variety, has appointed a welfare and charity committee to investigate proposed projects. The committee is headed by John Bachman and includes Roy L. Smart, John H. Vickers, Lester C. Sipe and Joe Brecheen . . . L. A. Linder of the Pelzer in Pelzer, S. C., has purchased new sound from National Theatre Supply . . . M. S. FitzRoy is the new salesman in this territory for Southern Desk Co., Hickory, N. C. . . . George D. Carpenter announces steady progress is being made on the construction of his new Conova in Conover, N. C. . . . Don Killmer, salesman for National Theatre Supply, who is on leave of absence, has been transferred to Fort Monroe, Va., for a six-week officers' training course.

Cy Dillon, local manager for Republic, returned from Asheville, N. C., where he visited Katherine Stellings who has been confined in a hospital with a severe attack of asthma. Katherine is secretary to Carl Bamford of the Publix-Bamford circuit . . . Johnny Bachman, Warner's affable manager, returned from a trip to the eastern part of the state, with a throat infection . . . R. D. Turnbull of Chattanooga, Tenn., is now connected with National Theatre Supply Co. He is a brother of W. G. Turnbull, manager for National in Detroit.

The Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina have issued a bulletin to members calling for a vote on the many invitations received for the forthcoming summer convention . . . H. H. Everett has been elected to the board of directors of the YMCA and appointed chairman of a committee to work out a program of leisure time activities for men who will be stationed at the Charlotte air base. Everett is also chief barker of Variety, district governor for the Lions Club and in his spare time directs his many theatres.

Randolph Scott, who trained with the army at Fort Caswell in eastern Carolina before he became a film celebrity, has been invited to attend the second annual reunion of Battery B and Battery C to be held there early in July.

ATLANTA

ON THE SICK LIST: Mrs. Elizabeth Helmer, 20th Century-Fox, and Riley P. Davis, Theatrical Printing Co. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lionel H. Keene of the Kirkwood celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary Thursday with a dinner party for 25 guests . . . M. G. Weaver of the Crickett, Collinsville, Ala., spent several days in town booking. He reports he has just taken over the Linda in Crossville, Ala. . . . Annie Laurie Hill has replaced Dorothy Wallace, resigned, at Republic.

Ike Katz of Producers Releasing Corp. attended the company's national convention in Chicago . . . H. P. "Dusty" Rhodes, booker for Lucas & Jenkins, spent several days in Moultrie, Ga. . . . Emily Taylor, who for the past six years has been the bookkeeper at Theatrical Printing Co., has resigned to accept a position with Dupont. Selma Morgan replaces her . . . M. T. Shields and John P. Edge, who are building a new theatre at West LaFayette, Ga., spent several days in town buying film and equipment.

John Jenkins, Consolidated National Film Co., is traveling North Carolina. Ted Toddy of the same company has just returned from the coast and will leave this weekend for New York . . . Oscar Howell, Capitol City Supply Co., is in the Tennessee territory and Gus King of the same company is working South Georgia and the Florida coast.

Visitors: Rufus Davis, Houston, Dothan, Ala.; Rader Stewart, Arcade and Carroll, Carrollton, Ga.; B. E. Gore, Rialto and Howard, Tampa, Fla.; Frank Rogers, Jacksonville, Fla.; A. D. Hardy, Ritz and Five Points, Thomaston, Ga.; L. J. Duncan, Al Dun Amusement Co., West Point, Ga.; J. H. Thompson, Martin & Thompson, Hawkinsville, Ga.; Art Barry, Macon, Ga.; Moon Corker, Athens, Ga.; Mrs. L. W. Holland, Madison, Madison, Ga.; Mrs. M. M. Osman, Strand, Covington, Ga.; Mr. Diamond, Vogue, Orlando, Fla.; Glover Johnson, Cherokee, Centre, Ala.; Kay Porter, Temple, Perry, Fla.; Mrs. Violet Edwards, Royal, Monticello, Ga.; Louise Williams, Dixie, Wrens, Ga.; and L. T. Sheffield and A. C. Saunders of Headland, Hartford and Bonifay.

John T. Ezell has returned from a visit to Dallas . . . Mr. and Mrs. Rae Jett (he is booker for L&J suburban theatres) are vacationing in Florida . . . Thomas Pritchett is on leave of absence from National Screen Service. His eyes went back on him.

Robert Savin, brother of P. H. Savin of Monogram Southern Exchange, died last week. He was buried in Rosecran National Cemetery, San Diego, Cal. . . . Mrs. Frances Hynds of L&J Theatres lost her mother and Mrs. Maude Cooper, Georgia Theatre Service Corp., lost her father.

Horton Redecorates

CONCORD, N. C.—Boyd B. Horton of the State has redecorated the interior of his house and is also adding neon to the marquee. Boyd also operates theatres in Red Springs, N. C., and Greer and Inman, S. C.



Along the Atlanta Row—

The BOXOFFICE *camera moves along Atlanta's Filmrow in a catch-as-catch-can fashion. Contrariwise, RIGHT to left: Walter Brandenburg, Liberty, Atlanta; Esther Hebert, daughter of R. H. DeBruler, former prominent Atlanta exhibitor now in New Orleans, who is proprietor of the Fulton Bridge Club, patronized by the Row; "Dusty" Rhodes, booker for Lucas & Jenkins, a recent bridegroom; G. S. Owen of the Royal at Opp, Ala.*

Saenger Circuit in Deal For Republic Product

NEW ORLEANS—Republic Pictures Corp. has closed its first important circuit deal for the 1941-1942 program. J. R. Grainger, president of Republic, has been in New Orleans for the past few days, negotiating with Gaston Dureau and John Richards of the Paramount-Richards-Saenger Theatres Corp.

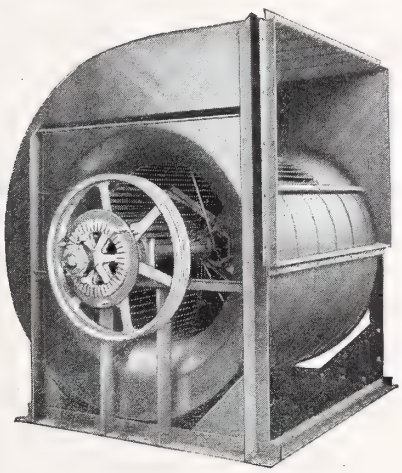
A. C. Bromberg, southern franchise holder, and Leo Seicshnaydre, New Orleans branch manager for Republic, sat in on the deal.

Prior to New Orleans, Grainger was in Dallas, conferring with R. J. O'Donnell of the Interstate Theatre circuit.

Schneider Again Leads Atlanta Local 225

ATLANTA—Officers elected last week by Local 225 follows: William M. Schneider, who was re-elected, president; G. R. Swords, re-elected, vice-president; Charles A. Eyrick, financial secretary and treasurer; George F. Maston, recording secretary, and N. L. Liggett, business representative. Twenty-seven new members were taken in at the meeting.

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THEATRE SUPPLY, INC.

"Everything for the Theatre Except Film"

Capitol City Supply Realigns Personnel

ATLANTA—Capitol City Supply Co., Walton Street equipment house, has increased its capitalization to $8,000, an announcement this week says. Recently the firm has been busy equipping new houses, enjoying its share of the present theatre construction wave sweeping the southeast.

A realignment of the personnel was effected recently, which places Paul A. "Gus" King as president, Oscar Howell as vice-president and manager and Mrs. Lurline King as secretary-treasurer.

An interview with Gus King reveals that the company is passing through a prosperous period.

Archie Feinberg Heads Great National Corp.

DALLAS—Archie Feinberg, former head of U. S. Air Conditioning Corp. at Minneapolis, is now operating the Great National Air Conditioning Corp. factory here. The new company manufactures a complete line of blowers, evaporative coolers up to 15,000 capacity, and mat type spray washers. Feinberg has been handling theatre cooling for 17 years. The Dallas factory is located at 1305-07 S. Lamar Street.

Majestic Celebrates 20th Anniversary

DALLAS—The Majestic celebrates its 20th anniversary next week. One extra attraction will be Phil Spitalny's all-girl band in "The Hour of Charm" on the stage.

Following the success of "Hellzapoppin' " on the Melba stage, Ruth Chatterton comes in for a one-day stand on April 2 in "Treat Her Gently," a light comedy.

Change at Eden

EDEN, TEX.—O. B. Wood jr., operator of the Texas Theatre here, has sold the house to Joe Tom Jackson, theatre owner of Le Fors, Tex. The house will be renamed the Rogue.

Award to Patterson

AMARILLO, TEX.—Fred Patterson, manager of the Paramount Theatre here, has been awarded an honor roll button by M-G-M for his exploitation of the Pete Smith short, "Penny to the Rescue."

Open Studio and Lab

CHARLOTTE—Holly Smith, in association with Angus Lytch, has opened a film studio and laboratory here.

ASTOR PICTURES
Harwood and Jackson Streets
DALLAS, TEXAS

DALLAS

(Continued from page 122-A)

several weeks here . . . C. M. Anding, former owner of the Colonial at Mesquite, is on Filmrow frequently these days. Reports have it he may build a new theatre soon . . . W. H. Shorthose, who sold his new Star in Paris to Interstate a few days before it was to open, passed through Wednesday on his way home from Austin where he went on legislative matters outside of show business.

Mitchell Lewis, who operates and is building more Negro houses in Houston, was here Monday in a big hurry, as usual . . . T. R. Richey, who has worked up a good situation in St. Jo, checked up on his bookings with Forrest White of the Ind-Ex Booking Service . . . Another visitor was Karl Lybrand, who has two situations at Wills Point . . . Forrest Dunlap, sales manager of American Desk Mfg. Co., took several days off for a trip to Hot Springs.

W. A. Conner Rebuilding Ritz in Dawson, Tex.

DAWSON, TEX.—W. A. Conner is now rebuilding the Ritz using three walls of the present building. The house will be somewhat enlarged, including addition of a balcony.

Construction Under Way On Fort Brown House

BROWNSVILLE, TEX. — Construction is under way on a $13,500 theatre at Fort Brown. The 350-seater will be completed by May 15, according to Archer & Holding, contractors.

Offer Patriotic Reels

ATLANTA—Ike Katz, district manager of Producers Releasing Co., announces his company will release at intervals of three to four weeks, eight two-reel subjects, each of which will dramatize an epochal event in American history. They include "Our Constitution," "Our Bill of Rights," "Our Declaration of Independence," "Our Monroe Doctrine," "Our Louisiana Purchase," "Our Missouri Compromise," "Our Annexation of Texas," "Our Ordinance of 1787."

Smock Buys Out Mercer

HALE CENTER, TEX.—Walter Smock, who operates the Ritz here, has purchased the Palace at Silverton from Joe Mercer.

Pratt City House Reopens

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. — T. Paul Ligon is manager of the remodeled Pratt City Theatre which reopened recently.

The Queen Feature Service, Inc.
Quality Theatre Equipment & Supplies
1912½ Morris Ave. Phone 3-8665
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Hear Hollywood Program At "Boys Town" Preview

DALLAS—E. B. Coleman, M-G-M's public relations man in the south, has sent out invitations for a private screening of "Men of Boys Town" Wednesday afternoon at the Melrose. Immediately after the screening will be heard an NBC program from the M-G-M studios where a luncheon will be held honoring Bishop Ryan of Omaha and Father Flanagan of Boys Town. The stars, Spencer Tracy, Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney, will take part.

Trial Progressing in "Stink" Bomb Cases

TYLER, TEX.—Trial of projectionists in connection with recent explosions of "stink" bombs in the Joy, owned by S. G. Fry, is in progress in district court here. The case against T. I. Bell, charged as an accomplice, was continued on motion by the state as two witnesses were unable to appear. N. P. Reese of Henderson, a former projectionist at Gladewater, is charged with exploding "stink" bombs.

A Private Screening of "Liberty" Draws 600

DALLAS—More than 600 persons attended a special screening of "Land of Liberty" at the Tower. Louis Charninsky, one of Elm Street's managers, explained the purpose of the screening and pointed out that all rentals from the film go for British war relief. The film is now playing a regular run at the Rialto.

NEW ORLEANS

(Continued from page 30)

Charles and Rene Levy, owners of the house.

Visitors to the Row: Mississippi—E. D. Lawrence, Laurel; Bill Baker, Macon; Guy Adams, Vicksburg, who says business in that section is on the boom; E. M. Bailey, Lumberton; Frank D. Mason, Purvis; Frank Bishop, Ellisville; W. L. Mosely, Picayune; T. B. Barnett, DeKalb. Louisiana—J. G. Langlois, New Roads; O. A. Ott, Kentwood; J. C. Keller, Eunice; H. Debat, Raceland; G. M. Butterfield, Lafayette; Morris Meltz, Ferriday; Vic Maurin, Houma; Gordon G. Gordan, Baton Rouge; Claude Darce, Morgan City, and others.

Many suburban houses contemplate giving to patrons at Easter Sunday matinees, chocolate Easter eggs. Warren Salles of the Garden Theatre in the upper section of the city, reportedly has ordered sufficient eggs to supply the entire neighborhood.

Page Baker, resident manager of RKO, is making great strides in the overhauling and renovation of RKO general offices. Salesmen's quarters will be established on the ground floor. The general offices will remain on the second floor. Air conditioning will be a feature of the work.

BUFFALO COOLING EQUIPMENT
1026 SANTA FE BLDG. BUFFALO ENGINEERING CO., INC. DALLAS, TEXAS

A Thirty-Day Period Before Tax Is Levied

OTTAWA—Word has come from a usually reliable source that the bringing down of the Dominion war budget, scheduled for the last week in March, will not take place until well on in April with the result that the federal amusement tax proposal will not become effective for approximately another month—practically 30 days of grace for the exhibitors of the country.

It is a foregone conclusion that a percentage tax will be levied on theatre receipts, so that it will be impossible for theatre operators to pass on the levy to patrons in the sale of tax tickets. Since the start of the war the theatres have extended substantial cooperation to the Dominion government and public bodies in war savings and charity campaigns and it has been said that the response in the recent war savings drive was so spontaneous that the federal authorities delayed the budget to make a downward revision in the new taxation.

Censor Department Gets $200,000; Spends $36,700

TORONTO — The financial statement tabled in the Ontario legislature for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1941, by Premier M. F. Hepburn in the role of provincial treasurer, shows that the expenditures for the motion picture censorship and theatre inspection branch of the department for the 12 months totaled $36,700, compared with gross revenue for the period of $200,000 for censorship fees, theatre and projectionists' licenses.

Estimates for the next 12 months indicate that the government expects reduced revenue from the industry while anticipated expenditure by the branch is higher. The revenue for 1941-42 is placed at $175,000 while the total for expenditures is $44,025, or $7,300 more than for the year just closed. One of the new features of the branch is the government school for apprentice operators, the enrollment for which is limited to 30, with each candidate paying a tuition fee of $100 to cover expenses.

Men's Community Club Will House Theatre

TORONTO—With an immediate boom in prospect for the quiet village of Pickering, Ont., because of the erection of a war plant to employ 4,000 persons, an undisclosed company has purchased the Men's Community Club in that village 20 miles east of Toronto for use as Pickering's first theatre. Information is forthcoming that $24,000 will be spent in remodeling the structure, the basement of which has been leased by the Men's Club.

Son to John Connors

GLACE BAY, N. S.—Their first child, a son, was born recently to John and Hilda Connor, who operate the local Strand.

For One Censorship Board

Moose Jaw, Sask.—Consolidation of the Dominion's nine existing provincial boards into one national film censorship board, was recommended by Mrs. J. E. Cooper of the Regina Council of Women in an address before the Women's Canadian Club. The resultant saving from such a move, she pointed out, would make it possible to hire trained educators and psychologists "who have a great deal to contribute to such an organization."

In the course of her remarks, Mrs. Cooper also spoke of the important role played by motion pictures in character building and cautioned against certain types of propaganda films which create emotions of hate and unfriendliness. "There will be enough hate after this war without the screen adding to it," she said.

Seek Odeon Link in Visit by Friedman

TORONTO — The visit to Toronto of Harry Friedman, owner of the Rialto at Edmonton, a large independent house seating 1,200, is considered of unusual significance in view of current Odeon Theatre developments across the Dominion. One reason is that William J. Long, manager of the Rialto for some years, has been announced as supervisor for British Columbia of Odeon Theatres of Canada, Ltd., following the visit to the coast of O. R. Hanson and Paul Nathanson of Toronto, the latter the son of N. L. Nathanson, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp.

No Odeon announcements were forthcoming during the visit of Friedman to Toronto, where, incidentally, he was born and educated as a lawyer, but it is understood, on reliable authority, that he made arrangements while here for the construction of two theatres in Alberta, following his return to his home city. There are eight theatres in Edmonton, which has a population of 90,000, and, of these, five are operated by Famous Players. They are the Capitol, Dreamland, Empress, Princess and Strand. The Capitol is under the management of Walter P. Wilson. The four others, which seat from 400 to 800, are operated by A. Entwisle.

Famous Players is proceeding with building operations at Sarnia, Ont., an oil refinery center, with the purchase of the Embassy Club which is to be converted into a theatre at a cost of $40,000, according to plans drawn by Jay I. English of Toronto. The Imperial, circuit house at Sarnia, will also undergo extensive alterations.

War Service Fund Drive Is Aided by Trailer

MONTREAL—Theatres throughout Canada will be aiding the Canadian War Services campaign for funds by exhibiting a special trailer produced by Associated Screen Studios. Distribution in all major centers from coast to coast is being arranged by the Motion Picture Distributors and Exhibitors of Canada.

Improvements at Capitol

MOOSE JAW, SASK.—Basement of the Capitol has been renovated and a ladies' powder room, a gent's smoking room and a new office for Manager Jack Fields installed.

Restrictions Cutting Border Competition

TORONTO—There was a time when an international situation prevailed in the moving picture business in the Canadian border cities of Windsor and Niagara Falls. Canadian exhibitors had a perpetual grouch because local residents persisted in crossing the line to attend the shows in Detroit, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and other American centers. At Windsor, a pet grievance was that the local newspaper accepted considerable display advertising from Detroit theatres—to the extent that, for some years, one page of the amusement section on Saturdays was devoted to Detroit activities while the other page contained Canadian advertising and Canadian advance notices.

War conditions have brought a distinct change. Because of foreign exchange and passport regulations which restrict the spending of money in U. S. border cities by Canadians, few of the latter can get across for an evening's entertainment. The Detroit theatre advertisements have gradually disappeared from the Windsor *Star* until, in recent weeks, the only display has been the advertisement for "Fantasia" at the Wilson—and this attraction is not likely to play in Windsor for a long time because of projection requirements. In the meantime, Simon Meretsky's group of Windsor theatres are doing the best business on record.

Distributors Association Disposes of One Office

ST. JOHN—As a paid fixture, the post of secretary of the maritime division of the Canadian Distributors' Ass'n has become non-existent. The division governs film distribution for the maritime provinces and Newfoundland, and was originally known as the maritime film board of trade. All the distributor entities covering the northeastern territory involved are located here. Miss Alice Fairweather, of St. John, who was a member and secretary of the New Brunswick board of censors, before being appointed secretary of the distribution board, is continuing as president of the Film Girls' Patriotic Club.

At present, the secretarial work which includes inspection of the distribution branches for fire protection and safety of the films, vaults, offices, projection equipment, is being handled by the maritime division members. A. E. Smith, manager of Regal Films branch, is president.

Tyers Is Honored at Hanson Convention

TORONTO—A one-day meeting of managers of Hanson Theatres Corp., Ltd., was held in Toronto, with condensed program because of the war, to deal with policies and developments, a feature being the presentation of the new O. R. Hanson silver plaque for the best exploitation record of 1940 to W. C. Tyers, manager of the Granada, St. Thomas, by President Hanson, this award being accompanied by a $100 cash prize. Tyers will hold the trophy for one year. The presentations, which took place at the luncheon, included a $50 cash award to Grant Garrette, manager of the Geneva, Orillia, as second prize for promotional work during the past year.

The meeting was in charge of H. C. D. Main, supervisor, and among those present were Pres. Hanson, A. E. Sanderson, accounting chief; E. V. Armstrong, projection and equipment supervisor; James Kudirka, assistant supervisor; W. J. Long, general manager of Associated Theatres, Ltd.; Frank Colameco, supervisor at Timmins; Bert Wainwright, proprietor of the Oxford, Toronto; J. A. Boyd, proprietor of the Granada, Toronto; V. Simone of Radio City and Beverly, Toronto; Howard Elliott, manager of the Beverly; Lionel Hansher, manager of the Radio City, and Tony Saso of the Granada and Roxy, Barrie.

Hanson managers in attendance included T. A. Mascaro, Capitol, Belleville; H. V. Neun, Granada, Chatham; Don Doberer, Granada, Dunnville; Lloyd Taylor, Granada, Hamilton; Tom McKnight, Patricia, London; Frank Miley, Granada, Napanee; Gordon Beavis, Royal, North Bay; Grant Garrette, Geneva, Orillia; Roy Miller, Marks, Oshawa; Gordon C. Miller, Regent, Peterboro; Leo Coyle, Granada, St. Catharines; W. C. Tyers, Granada, St. Thomas; Lorne Moore, Grand, Sudbury, and Charles Ingram, Bayview, Leaside.

Gordon Beavis' Campaign Termed February's Best

TORONTO—To Gordon Beavis, manager of the Royal, North Bay, goes the credit for the best campaign of the month among the Hanson Theatres for his exploitation on "Let George Do It," the announcement of the award being made by Supervisor H. C. D. Main.

Honorable mentions for February were earned by Emmett Stark of the Palace, Timmins; W. C. Tyers, Granada, St. Thomas; Don Doberer, Granada, Dunnville, and Leo Coyle of the Granada at St. Catherines.

Mrs. Neilson Joins Regal

ST. JOHN—Mrs. M. Neilson of St. John has joined the staff of Regal Films as a checker. Her husband, Maurice Neilson, who died about eight months ago, after a brief illness, had been a shipper at Regal. His successor as shipper is John Damery, formerly head usher at the Capitol.

VANCOUVER

THREE localites will appear in the forthcoming "49th Parallel." They are Al Pearce, radio actor; Fletcher Markle, of CKWX, and W. R. Gardiner, producer-director of the former Vancouver Community Playhouse.

Frank Patrick is bringing Kay Kyser and his entire radio troupe to the forum next Tuesday, and Roy McLeod of the Beacon announces that Republic's Smiley Burnette will make a personal appearance at that theatre Easter week.

Ben Plottel and Fred Stone of E. U. left on Sunday for that company's annual convention in Toronto.

Announcement by Odeon of the appointment of D. Mitchell as manager of the Varsity and Louis Anderson as manager of the Olympia.

Thirteen Hanson Theatre Employes Have Enlisted

TORONTO—Thirteen employes of Hanson Theatres Corp., including head office and the theatre staffs, have enlisted for active service with the Canadian Army. Three from head office comprise Lance Corporal G. R. Snider, infantry; Lance Corporal Neil Main, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, and Lac. J. W. Mosey, Royal Canadian Air Force.

The following chain employes have joined the colors: Sgm. Arthur Montgrain, Seventh Corps of Signals, and Pte. T. B. O'Connell, Army Service Corps, from the Granada, Hamilton; Pte. Edward Goyette, Army Service Corps, Rideau, Ottawa; Driver C. D. Godfrey, Seventh Corps, from the Oxford, Toronto; AC C. H. Pask, Royal Canadian Air Force, and Corporal John Shaw, No. 2 Road Construction Coy., from the Royal North Bay; Private A. J. Tovey, Grey and Simcoe Foresters, from the Grand, Sudbury; Gnr. J. A. Calcutt, Royal Canadian Artillery, from the Capitol, Belleville; Private R. G. Guthrie, Irish Regiment of Canada, from the Marks, Oshawa; Trooper N. B. Gruber, First Hussars Tank Regiment, from the Patricia, London.

A number of these soldiers have proceeded overseas and may be in action in England, Iceland or somwhere around the Mediterranean, their exact location being unknown for military reasons. Others are in advanced stages of training at bases in Canada, one of the latest to don the uniform as a regular being Neil Main who made his start with the company as office boy at head office.

Timmins Cartier Becomes Unit in Hanson Chain

TORONTO—The Cartier at Timmins, in northern Ontario, has formally become a unit of the Hanson Theatres' chain in Ontario, the manager being Eugene LeBlanc, the theatre having recently been acquired from the Rousson-Trudeau interests. The Cartier is under the supervision of Frank Colameco who also supervises the Palace, Goldfields and New Empire at Timmins.

The Hanson circuit, apart from a number of theatres affiliated with the Associated Theatres, Ltd., in a cooperative booking plan, comprises approximately 25 theatres in all parts of Ontario.

St. Lawrence Seaway Project Spells Boom

TORONTO—The construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway system, agreed upon by the United States and Canada as a joint project, is to make a big difference in the countryside along the river in eastern Ontario as well as providing prospective industrial developments. When the waterway is completed several towns and villages will have disappeared, the townsides to be transferred to higher ground where a new trunk highway will be constructed. This means that a number of theatres will have to be torn down or bodily moved to new locations. According to present plans, those directly affected will include the Savoy at Cardinal, Ont., owned by T. M. Savor, and the Cameo which is operated at Morrisburg by N. W. Morton. The towns of Aultsville and Iroquois will also be affected and the halls here are tagged for removal.

The industrial boom will, in due course, affect numerous towns where construction operations will bring much activity in the meantime and it is expected that new theatres may be erected in some locations to take care of business developments as in the case of war industry towns. Theatres which will feel the business boost include the Capitol and Palace at Cornwall, operated by Clarence Markell for Famous Players; the Delaney, an independent house at Gananoque; the Capitol and Regent, Famous Players' units at Brockville; the Riviera, an independent theatre owned by J. O. Scott and the several theatres at Kingston where two more theatres already are being built by Odeon Theatres of Canada and Biltmore Theatres, Ltd.

Hamilton United's Gain Depleted by Taxes

MONTREAL—Though operating profit of Hamilton United Theatres, Ltd., showed a gain during 1940, there was sufficient increase in taxes and depreciation allowance to result in a decline in net profit. Operating profit of $78,433 compared with $73,921. Depreciation stood at $26,771 compared with $16,740, while taxes of $18,670 compared with $12,166 in 1939.

As a result net profit was reported at $35,637, or approximately $5.19 per share on the $7 preferred stock, compared with $48,196 or $6.64 per share on the preferred in 1939.

Working capital showed a moderate decline. Current assets of $171,011 compared with current liabilities of $28,446, leaving working capital of $142,565, compared with $144,048 a year ago.

Allaire Promotes Stamp Sale

VICTORIAVILLE, P. Q.—Cooperation from civil and religious authorities has enabled U. S. Allaire, proprietor of the Victoria, to promote the sale of war savings stamps through a series of Sunday shows, to which patrons are admitted upon purchase of a 25 cent war savings stamp, which they retain.

TORONTO

BY WAY of further cooperation with the Dominion government in attracting more tourists' dollars to the country, J. J. Fitzgibbons, vice-president of Famous Players Canadian Corp., is encouraging the circuit managers to cater to U. S. visitors during the coming months. During 1940, the government immigration branch reported that 13,598,777 visitors had entered Canada from the United States and Fitzgibbons holds that theatre managers are key men in looking after the comfort and convenience of these "invaders."

Herbert Marshall, veteran screen star, paid his second visit to Toronto in 15 years for several days last weekend to appear in a radio version of "Pastor Hall" over the national network . . . Manager Fred Trebilcock of the Uptown discovered that the goalkeeper in the hockey sequence of the George Formby picture, "I See Ice," was Art Child, a former Toronto hockey star who had gone to England several years ago to play for the Wembley Lions. The parents of the athlete were guests at the theatre.

When Patricia Bailey, protege of Jack Arthur, district manager of Famous Players, went to Los Angeles recently to sing in the Al Pearce program, she had to go first to Buffalo to draw her expense money for the trip and then proceed to the coast becauses she was unable to take Canadian funds out of the Dominion under foreign exchange control board regulations.

As previously intimated in BOXOFFICE, *Harry Yudin, son-in-law of Hyman Freedman, has been transferred from the Center at St. Catharines to the Circle, Toronto. Sam Freedman, a son, has been appointed manager of the Center. Both are Freedman houses . . . Nat Taylor, managing director, has announced the appointment of Ed Newman, formerly manager of the Lyceum, Winnipeg, to be manager of the Midtown, formerly the Madison, which is scheduled to be opened as a unit of 20th Century Theatres, Ltd., in April.*

Alf Swartz, manager of the Strand at Geraldton in northern Ontario, has announced his engagement to Myra Solway, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Solway of Toronto, the marriage to take place in June. Harry Solway has sold his Palace at Galt, Ont., to undisclosed interests which have been reported to be the new Odeon Theatres' chain, the theatre coming under the new direction April 1.

Fred Emney, Toronto comedian who used to appear in many stage shows in the Dominion, has turned up as a screen player, being featured in the British picture, "Jane Steps Out," which Manager A. C. Simpson has been promoting at the Toronto Hollywood . . . L. D. Kniffen, former district engineer of Dominion Sound Equipments, Ltd., has announced locally that his new theatre at Owen Sound, Ont., will be called the New Center. The recent big snowstorm in western Ontario held up building operations for several days but the house will be ready early in May.

J. A. Boyd, manager of the Granada, has sold $457 worth of war savings stamps in less than nine months in a one-man campaign to help the government's war finances. The Oxford has reported the sale of stamps totaling $225 during the same period while Manager Ed Marlow of the Lincoln, St. Catharines, has disposed of $217 worth. Manager Tom McKnight of the Patricia, London, is credited with the sale of $191.50 while Manager Lorne Moore of the Grand, Sudbury, has sold stamps totaling $167.25. Incidentally, Manager Marlow recently received a letter of thanks from a parent in Great Britain for a year's pass to the Lincoln which he had presented to a number of child refugees now in St. Catharines.

Ron McClelland, proprietor of the Capitol, Toronto, has been spending some time at his farm at Maple, Ont., to prepare for spring operations with a view to increased production to help meet war needs.

Ticket Super-Tax of Past Reappears

Toronto—It was 25 years ago at this time that Hon. T. W. McGarry, provincial treasurer of Ontario, caused almost a sensation when he announced in his budget speech before the provincial legislature that the government would impose a new form of war taxation—a one-cent levy on every ticket sold by a theatre or for an entertainment to be known as an amusement tax. Ontario was the first to impose a war tax on admission tickets anywhere and it grew to a $2,000,000 item in peace time until it was abolished by Premier M. F. Hepburn. Twenty-five years later, the federal government has intimated its intention of collecting a super-tax on tickets for this war.

Sam Brint Succumbs on Business Trip to Ottawa

TORONTO—The Toronto film colony was shocked with the sudden death of Sam Brint, veteran salesman of Empire-Universal Films, Ltd., who expired Sunday at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa, during a business trip to that city. He had literally spent a lifetime in the business and was widely known. The body was brought to Toronto where interment took place on Wednesday. He had apparently been in vigorous health.

Aid War Fund Appeal

MONTREAL—Canadian theatre exchanges, circuits and independent exhibitors will assist the joint War Services appeal for funds. The YMCA, Canadian Legion, Salvation Army and Knights of Columbus war services will combine their campaign for funds to carry on work among Canadian armed forces.

Introduces Multiple Billing

MONTREAL—James (Jimmie) Blaine, manager of the Rosemount, United Amusement house, introduced a policy of showing three films nightly. Rosemount fans have responded to the multiple feature bill.

OTTAWA

LLOYD M. MILLS, manager of the Elgin, has been promoted to be supervisor of the 20th Century Theatres, Ltd., and is taking up residence in Toronto in order to assume charge of the chain. Before taking over the Elgin two years ago, Mills was manager of the Center at London, Ont., and previously had been in charge of the Granada at St. Thomas.

Capt. Frank C. Badgley, M. C., director of the Canadian government motion picture bureau for the past 18 years, has been re-elected president of the Red Chevron Club for the fourth successive year. This club is made up of soldiers who were in the first Canadian contingent to proceed overseas in the last war. Badgley served with distinction, winning the Military Cross for bravery in the field. He was a newspaperman prior to the First Great War.

Norman Reilly Raine, author of "Tugboat Annie" and other stories, has been in Ottawa to confer with government officials on war work. He was a captain in the Canadian Infantry in France during the First Great War until he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in 1918 . . . Angelo Stevens, manager of the Regent, secured a front page publicity break when a press photographer took pictures of a local military parade with the theatre as a background with the marquee sign plainly showing the current attraction, "Victory," to which the caption writer made special reference.

The Capitol, Famous Players' unit, had another capacity crowd for a concert when Manager Ray Tubman had Josef Hofmann, pianist, for a single appearance, the continuous film show being cancelled for the evening.

Henry Marshall, manager of the Ottawa Rideau, in a tieup with a local daily, organized a theatre party for 50 carrier boys. The immediate result was a free reader in the paper which measured 200 lines . . . Roy Miller, manager of the Marks at Oshawa, Ont., had a full matinee when he arranged a tieup with a dairy for free ice cream for the first 700 children Saturday afternoon. Miller started the show at 12 noon with an extra hour's program of cartoon comedies.

Ambrose P. Nolan, son of the late P. J. Nolan, is back in Ottawa as a theatre manager for one of the Nolan houses, having sold his Pix at Aylmer, Quebec, to Leo Choquette. The new manager of the Aylmer house is Paul Leroux, formerly of Montreal . . . The Central Canada Exhibition Association has set the dates of the revived Ottawa Fair for the week of August 18 and Ottawa theatre managers will be setting this date in their booking schedules for special attractions for the out-of-town visitors. The exhibition was cancelled last year because of unsettled conditions.

Don Stapleton, proprietor of the Center, held "Buck Privates" a second week . . . The Ottawa Women's Service League, a patriotic war organization, sponsored a benefit variety show at the Capitol, Sunday night.

United Amusement A&B Shares Earn $1.16

MONTREAL—United Amusement Corp., Ltd., report for year ended Dec. 31, 1940, shows net profit of $93,788 after interest, amortization, depreciation, provision for income and excess profits and other taxes, and all other charges, equal to $1.16 a share on 80,829 combined voting and non-voting class "A" and "B" no par shares of capital stock. This compares with net profit of $94,640 for previous year or $1.17 a combined share.

Theatre operating profits totaled $465,-165, compared with $414,967 in 1939, while total income was $673,093 against $617,-791 in previous year.

Balance sheet shows a net working capital of $286,705, compared with $215,088 at prior year-end. The funded debt is shown reduced to $1,432,000 from $1,480,000 at Dec. 31, 1939. After minor adjustments and dividends at rate of 80 cents a share, compared with 75 cents in previous year, earned surplus increased to $279,352 from $244,393.

The annual general meeting of shareholders will be held at 5711 Park Ave., on Wednesday, April 30, at 11 a. m.

REGINA

IN A RECENT item in this column, it was stated that Manager Les Pugsley, manager of the Orpheum, Moose Jaw, clipped frames from a newsreel and presented them to a Moose Jaw family whose boy was shown arriving in England with the Royal Canadian Air Force. This was an error on the part of the BOXOFFICE correspondent. The frames were not clipped, but were photographed by a Moose Jaw photographer and the photographs were presented to the family.

Catering to the comfort of patrons, the Met now has a radio speaker in the lounge. It is attached to a radio in Manager Charlie Bahrynowski's office . . . The Red Cross benefited when Manager J. Killer of the Auditorium, Indian Head, gave notice in the Indian Head News *that all lost articles found in the theatre were being turned over to that body if not claimed within a week of the appearance of the notice.*

Courtesy of Manager H. S. Humphrey and Mrs. Humphrey enabled the Ladies Aid of the Grenfell United Church to hold a St. Patrick's tea and sale of home cooking in the Windsor. There was also a War Savings table, proceeds going to the United Church War Savings fund . . .Victor Armand, superintendent of maintenance for Famous Players, Winnipeg, was in Regina preparatory to the renovation and reseating of the Met.

Mel Brown, usher at the Met, is awaiting his call for service with the navy . . . Manager Les Pugsley of the Orpheum, Moose Jaw, reports capacity business for "Hell's Angels" and "Scarface." It was the sixth time in eight years that "Hell's Angels" had played the city. Moose Jaw has a population of about 24,000.

MONTREAL

MONTREAL possesses 63 film theatres with a seating capacity of 68,845, and 226 theatres with a seating capacity of 136,215 are serviced from Montreal offices of distributors, the Canadian Film Boards of Trade report. In the entire Dominion there are 1,349 film theatres able to seat 702,977 patrons.

Raymond Massey, Canadian-born stage and screen star, came to Montreal to play the lead in the CBC's broadcast presentation of Arch Oboler's play, "This Precious Freedom" . . . National Film Society's Montreal branch is seeking more junior members.

While Montreal and Quebec province are specially favored over other Canadian cities in being permitted to attend Sunday shows, a limited opening of theatres Sundays is being introduced in England. Scotland is exempted from the Act empowering theatres to open, as sentiment in that deeply religious country is believed to be against Sunday performances even in wartime.

Associated Screen News cameras clicked on a variety of subjects in the past few days, the most dramatic of which was the fire and explosion which destroyed a fur dyeing plant here. Winter sports took Harvey Bassett to the Seigniory Club to take stills of curlers playing in the MacCrea Bonspeil, and Charlie Wilkinson photographed skiing and tobogganing near Quebec City.

Canadian newsreel subjects covered by ASN roving reporters saw film exposed to the green grass and budding trees on the Pacific coast where Arnold Hague covered the mid-winter golf tournament in Victoria, B. C.; the final struggle against winter as icebreakers opened a channel in the St. Lawrence River was filmed by Ross Beesley, while Lucien Roy continued to travel across the open spaces of northern British Columbia and the Yukon keeping his camera grinding on construction of new airfields in the U. S.-Canada-Alaska airway project.

Joint Convenor of the dinner dance to be given in the Mount Royal's Normandie Roof, May 11, *by the ladies' auxiliary of the Mount Sinai Sanatorium, is Mrs. George Rotsky, wife of the general manager of Consolidated Theatres . . . Jack and Jacqueline Trent recently devoted a chapter in a history of Notre Dame de Grace to the growth of the suburb's leading industry, Associated Screen News. This appeared in the Montreal* Monitor.

S. Morgan-Powell, veteran film critic and editor-in-chief of Montreal *Star,* voices the views of all well-informed citizens when he says that the prohibition on children attending motion picture theatres in Quebec province while ostensibly based on the risk of fire, "is, in reality, one of those queer 'moral' regulations which are intended to protect them from undesirable influences." He points out that in the United Kingdom pictures are endorsed in two ways, one for adults only, and the other for everybody including children, and this he regards as the sound common sense, practical solution of the problem, which could be adopted in Quebec.

Rankin Makes Theatre a Civic Center in Tilbury

TILBURY, ONT.—Illustrative of the manner in which Manager Harland Rankin keeps the Plaza an integral part of the community is the following survey of activities but recently undertaken and consummated by Rankin.

A large wedding party was held on the stage with gifts donated by local merchants and the mayor giving the bride away. City council members were guests of honor.

Aiding the drive for war savings, an essay contest was held for pupils of the local schools. War stamps were the prizes for the best essays on "Why There'll Always Be an England." The Plaza sponsored the first local corn show and contributed admissions to the British War Relief Fund. Funds for the Red Cross were raised by an art contest held on the stage, in which four contestants drew a portrait of the town's most popular physician and auctioned off the drawings.

A bald-headed show netted free haircuts for three months from local barbers as prizes; a milking contest between boys and girls under 16, provided more revenue for war savings stamps when the milk was sold a local dairy; and in a tieup with a shoe store the Civil Guards and the Canadian Legion had teams compete in a two-mile hike that started and ended at the Plaza. A month's pass was among the prizes for the winners.

ST. JOHN

THEATRE circuits are expanding in the eastern provinces. Bernstein & Lieberman have added three theatres in recent months for a total of 11. They are now functioning in Maine as well as in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The F. G. Spencer circuit is building a new house in Truro, N. S., where it already has two, the Strand and Capitol. Famous Players announces a new theatre for Moncton, N. B., where it now has the Empress and Capitol. Franklin & Herschorn are unofficially reported planning new theatre construction in the provinces.

Charlie Chaplin, UA manager here the past six years, is now in charge of the Montreal branch for the company. He's succeeded here by George Heiter, who had been office manager and booker. Replacing Heiber is Sammy Kunitzky, formerly of Eastern Films . . . Thus far, there has been no interference with theatre operation by the frequent test blackouts held under air raid precautions jurisdiction in eastern centers . . . A new theatre may be built in Charlottetown, P. E. I., where two are now operated by the Spencer chain.

Archie Mason of Springhill, N. S., an exhibitor in that coal mining town for 30 years, does not consider baseball theatre opposition. Maybe it's because he has long been a promoter of amateur baseball and for several years has been president of the Nova Scotia Amateur Baseball Ass'n. Recently he was elected vice-president of the Nova Scotia Fish and Game Protective Ass'n. He's also chairman of the provincial conciliation board on exhibitor-distributor relations.

Pays for Music on "Buck Privates"

Wellston, Ohio—Here is a stunt that John W. Brown, manager of the Civic, reports "worth its weight in gold" in exploiting "Buck Privates." A large mat was printed on cardboard, making numerous standees. These were placed in various spots in town where there were victrolas and a record with a tune from the show was spotted with each. The card read: "Play Number 6. If you don't have a nickel, ask the clerk for one. He'll play it."

During the entire week only a little over a dollar was paid out, and to great results, reports Brown.

Comic Book Distributor Aiding Serial Campaign

NEW YORK—In line with tie-in arrangements made between Republic and Fawcett, publisher of "Whiz Comics," whose character, Captain Marvel, Republic adapted to the screen in its current serial, "Adventures of Captain Marvel," Fawcett field men worked with Irving Hillman, manager of the Capitol in Danbury, Conn., on his campaign.

Special banners were placed on news company trucks. One-sheet posters and window cards were distributed to various stores and newsstands throughout the city. A large new store devoted a window to a display.

On the day prior to the opening, "Whiz Comics" books were given every boy and girl attending the matinee. A sticker on the cover of each book told the children that Captain Marvel would be seen in the serial at the theatre. On the opening day itself, 7x10 color photos of Captain Marvel were given to all attending the matinee.

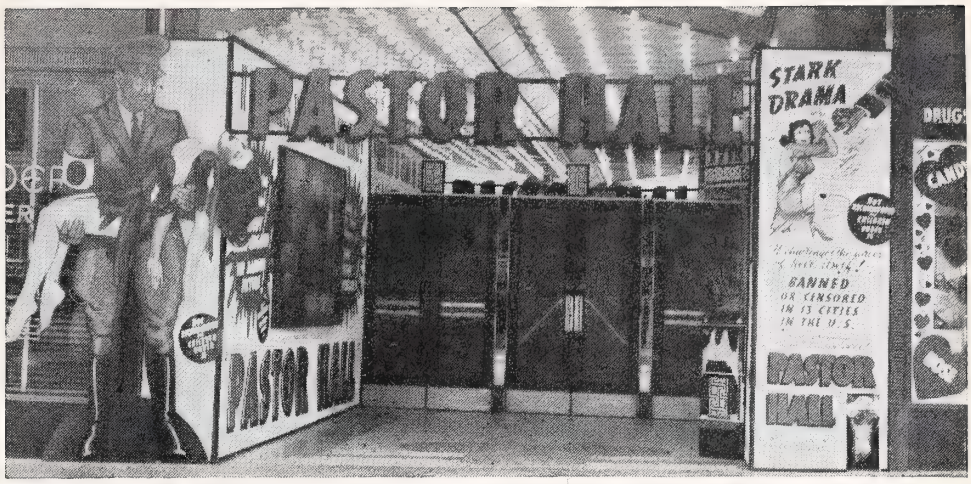
Fawcett field men throughout the country are working with theatres in connection with the showing of the serial, and Fawcett has announced special cash prizes to the field men and distributors for the best promotion campaign.

"Great Lie" Build-Up

NEW YORK—The first big gun in the national build-up for Warner's forthcoming Bette Davis starrer, "The Great Lie," gets under way on April 1 when 15 national magazines break with a full-page ad on the feature. The ad will reach an estimated 19,000,000 movie-goers.

Power Co. Cooperates

SCRANTON, PA.—Willard Matthews, Strand manager, obtained the cooperation of the local power company for his showing of "Penny to the Rescue" to the extent of their enclosing an announcement with their monthly statements. Thirty thousand were sent out.



Accent on Banned—

Special "sock" front, prepared by Manager Charlie Meeker, who placed special emphasis on the banned angle of the picture, helped to more than double the average gross for the "Pastor Hall" engagement at the Tower, Dallas, Texas.

Annual Easter Frolic Md. Theatre Project

BETHESDA, MD.—The Easter Frolic held annually at Sidney Lust's Bethesda Theatre will be presented this year on Saturday morning, April 12. The program, sponsored by Lust and the publisher of the *Bethesda-Chevy Chase Tribune*, will take place inside the theatre and will be free to the children of the area. Kenneth Davis, manager of the Bethesda, is in charge of the event.

An elaborate stage program will include a kiddie review from a local dance studio, a demonstration of comedy magic, and several other acts with appeal to children. A popular radiocaster will emcee proceedings.

A special feature will be a fancy Easter basket contest, with several valuable prizes awarded for the best decorated basket.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sidney Lust's three theatres in Hyattsville, Mt. Rainier and Upper Marlboro, Md., are participating with the Kiwanis Club in sponsoring the county's annual egg hunt which will be held Monday morning, April 14.

More than 10,000 children and adults are expected to participate. Fifteen hundred eggs, boiled and dyed by women in the county, will be hidden in the woods bordering the park, and more than 500 of these will be especially marked, netting their finders sums ranging from five cents to one dollar.

An elaborate entertainment program, that will include pie-eating and kid-calling contests, a kiddie revue and other acts have been outlined.

Packs Theatre With Party for Soldiers

MERIDEN, CONN.—A farewell party to 200 officers and men of the National Guard, staged by Joseph Samartano of the Palace and his assistant, William Scanlon, packed the house and landed front page stories for days.

Two days before the company was to leave for camp, they were invited to be guests of the theatre. The stunt started with a parade from the Armory to the theatre, with a band, banners, cars and the like.

A stage show was built around two numbers, one a march written by the leader of the local band. A dance act and speeches by vets of 1917-18 were part of the show, and athletic equipment, contributed by local organizations, were presented as gifts to members of the company. A flag-bedecked stage and formations of soldiers made the event impressive.

Broadcast to So. America Features "Rio" Preview

PHILADELPHIA—A broadcast to Latin America over WCAU's short wave transmitter featured the preview of "That Night in Rio," held at the radio station's auditorium. Twenty-two consuls of the Latin-American countries were the guests of honor, and all newspaper executives and critics were invited.

An orchestra provided South American music, and four models dressed like Carmen Miranda served cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in south-of-the-border style. Affair was formal.

COME LIVE WITH ME—Patrons writing the cleverest (and most complimentary) comments about the film were awarded guest tickets good for a month. Winning entries were used in an ad.

CHEERS FOR MISS BISHOP—Forty trucks of the city's largest magazine distributor were bannered.

KITTY FOYLE—A giant postal card, 5x7 feet, mounted in the lobby, carried a congratulatory message to Ginger Rogers on her winning the Academy Award. Space for hundreds of fan signatures was provided on the card. The card was forwarded to the studio on the film's opening day.

A GIRL, A GUY AND A GOB—Navy and shipyards were placarded with 50 24-sheets, and 10,000 heralds distributed.

TIN PAN ALLEY—Five thousand bookmark type dodgers, bearing a face cut of Jack Oakie and one of Betty Grable in a dancing costume, read: "A word to the wives, from Jack Oakie (photo of Oakie) for Rational Defense, be sure to accompany hubby and hold his hand when he sees 'Tin Pan Alley.' Warning! Don't permit him to lose his heart and his head (like I did) to that blonde blitzkrieg pictured below!" (photo of Grable in costume). Playdate and theatre copy at bottom of the throwaway.

HERE COMES THE NAVY—Three thousand cards, calling card size, with a hole punched in one corner to which was fastened by a bit of ribbon a miniature airplane, read: "In the air and on the seas, it's our Navy in action!" Title, cast and playdate followed.

SO ENDS OUR NIGHT—One thousand appropriately imprinted fan magazines were distributed to patrons. A selected mailing list was contacted one week in advance.

A GIRL, A GUY AND A GOB—Mothers and wives of men who have recently joined the navy were invited to attend the show.

NUGGETS

Showmen whose exploitation activities merited delineation in these columns are herewith listed:

S. Bowdin, Harry Valentine
Wilder Circuit, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Va.
Clayton S. Cornell
State, Tupper Lake, N. Y.
E. Erickson
Rhodes, Chicago
Jack A. Farr
Rita, Victoria, Tex.
George E. Freeman
Loew-Poli, Springfield, Mass.
Ivan Heche
Strand, Muncie, Ind.
William Hollander
B&K, Chicago
R. J. Kenney
Cosmo, Chicago
Bert Leighton
Grand, Lancaster, Pa.
Dave Martin, Bill Erickson
Granada, Inglewood, Calif.
Harold Mirisch
Tower, Milwaukee
Harold H. Maloney, Max Nesvetsky
Loew-Poli, Worcester, Mass.
Walter Norris
Regent, Grand Rapids
Foster Norton
Strand, Oshkosh, Wis.
William F. O'Connell
Highland, Chicago
Bob Russell
Loew's Poli, New Haven
Albert J. Simko
Vernon, Philadelphia
Felix H. Tisdale
Ga-Ana, Georgiana, Ala.

THIS THING CALLED LOVE—A boy and a girl cruised about town in a bannered old flivver. The marriage bureau gave tickets to couples applying for licenses during the run of the show.

FLIGHT COMMAND—On four-inch square card was stapled a stick of gum. A line above the gum read "For a thrill-taste, chew (gum)." Directly below it was a line crediting the company furnishing the gum. Other copy read: "For the thrill show of the year we urge you to see (title, playdate)."

WESTERN UNION—Twenty messenger boys, appropriately bannered and followed by the usher staff and a band, paraded the main street.

WESTERN UNION—The company's messenger boys all wore buttons urging the public to see the picture and naming the theatre.

MR. AND MRS. SMITH—Two days before opening persons named Smith along the streets were called on to appear on a Sidewalk Interview conducted by the local radio station. A "Calling All Smiths" broadside was sent all Smiths calling their attention to a special Smith night.

INVISIBLE WOMAN—Making a lobby display was a chair, a pair of dummy legs (such as used for stocking displays), and a lady's hat and gloves. Legs were arranged in front of chair as though actually part of a seated person. The hat was suspended on an invisible thread. Gloves were stuffed with cotton and placed on arms of chair, with a cigarette in one hand. A one-sheet alongside read: " 'The Invisible Woman'—a gorgeous ghost goes to town."

DANCING ON A DIME—One thousand small change envelopes, each containing one dime, were handed out by the cashier as change when tickets were purchased. Copy rubber-stamped on the envelope: "Hold this dime as part of the price to enjoy 'Dancing on a Dime' (theatre and playdates)."

CHAD HANNA—Wagon wheels, obtained from a local dairy, were painted red with gold stripes on the spokes, and placed on the sidewalk, tied to posts. Signs read: "See 'Chad Hanna,' the engrossing story of the lives of entertainers under the big top. Story from the *Satevepost* story, 'Red Wheels Rolling.' A must see picture."

SEA WOLF—A two-page pictorial spread was mounted in a merchant's window. Library displayed Jack London books with a card mentioning booking.

THIS THING CALLED LOVE—People who presented their wedding certificate, proving their anniversary fell on the dates the film played, were admitted free. In cooperation with the local paper, the persons so admitted were guests of the paper. News stories resulted.

THIS THING CALLED LOVE—A kiss for every customer by a double of Rosalind Russell.

BRIGHAM YOUNG, FRONTIERSMAN—Members of a branch of the Mormon Church were contacted to sell tickets a week in advance. Their minister was invited to speak at the theatre on a Sunday afternoon, distinguishing between his belief and that of the followers of Brigham Young.



Clothes Make the Monkey—

A doorman obligingly donned the ape costume to make this display for Dave Dallas of the Kansan, Parsons, Kas., on opening day of "The Ape." Parading the streets, appropriately placarded, was another phase of the stunt.

Picture People No. 6

RKO 10 *Mins.*

Very good. The four or five items assembled in this reel are an intelligent, tasteful selection that should definitely please the audience. Chief sequence shows Charles Laughton and Elsa Lanchester responding to Arch Oboler's radio direction. Oboler wants them to be inconsequential while the sound effects man goes into a thunderstorm routine.

The Haunted Mouse

Vitaphone (Looney Tune) 7 *Mins.*

Good. Outstanding as black-and-white animation goes, this subject will undoubtedly register more strongly with adult audiences than most cartoons. A weary and hungry cat comes upon a ghost town. He enters what was formerly a restaurant and, instead of food, comes upon a ghost mouse that is out for retribution for all the calamities mice have suffered at the hands of cats. The mouse engages in some heart-breaking teasing that makes for some very clever invention.

Wild Boar Hunt

Vitaphone (Hollywood Novelties) 10 *Mins.*

Excellent. Very interesting, thrilling and off the beaten path is this release of the series that has featured Howard Hill, probably the world's greatest exponent of the bow and arrow. This one has to do with wild boar hunting off southern California and packs some exciting moments as a boar, about to attack a farmer, is downed by Hill's arrow. The rest of the footage is given over to Hill's markmanship with a variety of targets.

Mad About Moonshine

RKO (Edgar Kennedy) 19 *Mins.*

Substantial comedy fare. Edgar Kennedy's father-in-law inherits a southern "estate." On arrival, Kennedy, his wife and in-law run into a feuding mountain family who make things hot with rifle fire. Then the law steps in and arrests Kennedy, who has taken over, because he has a cellar full of moonshine.

The Little Whirlwind

RKO-Disney 8 *Mins.*

(Mickey Mouse-Technicolor)

Fine. Mickey visits Minnie while she's baking a cake. His appetite whetted, he must rake up the leaves in her back yard to get a slice. A young whirlwind appears and tosses Mickey and the leaves around. Mickey gets tough, chases little wind off, but comes back on the double with Mama Wind in pursuit. Mama Wind wrecks Minnie's place. Mickey gets the cake, right in the puss.

Proof of the Pudding

(Technicolor)

Metropolitan Life Ins. Co. 10 *Mins.*

Painlessly getting its message over, this commercial item with white rats, charts, actors, fruits and vegetables, the latter real and drawn in, deals with proper nutrition and the healthy life derived therefrom. The reel is available gratis, express paid plus free accessories. Women, particularly, will take interest.

Quiet, Pleeze

Paramount (Popeye) 7 *Mins.*

Good. Popeye's father has a mean hangover. Enlisting his son's aid, the old man has a bit of rest and quiet—the seagoing offspring performing astounding feats of strength with various city noisemakers. After Popeye works up a sweat keeping things peaceable, he returns to find Pappy having a high old time, all over again, with the neighbors.

Canine Sketches

Paramount (Sportlight) 10 *Mins.*

Excellent. In beautifully handled sequences, dogs modelling for Lynn Bogue Hunt, the artist, come to life off the canvas and are shown in the field doing championship style bird pointing and retrieving. From artist's studio to sports afield, the subject is a treat. It's all too brief.

Popular Science

Paramount (Series JO-4) 11 *Mins.*

Very good. Again this series delivers. From the raising of quail in Oklahoma to a flight aboard the Stratoliner, with way stops in plastics, rayon fabrication and Prof. Oakes horsing around with a Rube Goldbergian contraption, every foot of the way is interesting, entertaining and enlightening.

Fishing Fever

Paramount (Sportlight) 10 *Mins.*

Very good. All who fish will get a kick out of this one. Even if they don't they'll enjoy seeing (1) Ted Husing's performance with a fly rod; (2) Frances Langford and husband, Jon Hall, hooking big ones in the pacific; (3) Guy and Mrs. Kibbee landing whoppers in an Oregon river. The aforementioned, and others, make a highly diverting short.

Movie Magic

Columbia (Cinescope) 10 *Mins.*

Fair. Best part of this reel is a sequence filmed in the shop of a craftsman who makes the gadgets with which magicians effect their illusions. Max Factor's lipstick plant is also seen.

Screen Snapshots

Columbia (Series 20, No. 6) 10 *Mins.*

Good. A cut better than the usual offering, this issue features Larry Simms, the "Baby Dumpling" of the "Blondie" series who takes the audience to army and navy training stations where recruits are entertained by Abbott and Costello, Burns and Allen and Rita Hayworth, who leads a conga line.

The Streamlined Donkey

Columbia (Fable Cartoon) 7 *Mins.*

Worthwhile. A fantasy, this has more human interest and light banter than the usual offering. A young donkey refuses to be a dope and toe in line like his species. His mother is broken-hearted. She falls into the hands of a Simon Legree prospector who works her to the bone. Sonny rescues her. Later she sees things through the youngster's eyes. It's all told very nicely.

So Long Mr. Chumps

Columbia (Three Stooges) 17 *Mins.*

Average. Larry, Moe and Curly range from street cleaning to jailbirds here. In attempting to find an honest man they get themselves arrested, have a hectic time in jail with paint pots, balls and chains, rocks and hammers. They try to escape. Leaving the calaboose they meet their employer on the way in and so back to the rockpile. Devotees of the trio's deviltry will respond.

Going Places

Universal (No. 88) 9 *Mins.*

Interesting. Subtitled "Deserts of America," this issue has interesting footage showing wastelands from Maine to California with tourist attractions and sport found in the various localities. It manages to hold interest throughout. The subject is indeed unusual.

Ice Capers

Columbia (World of Sport) 10 *Mins.*

Good. Irving Jaffee shows his skill at ice skating at Grossinger Lake. There is a substantial amount of interesting information about the proper technique and a good deal of clowning, also by Jaffee. Footage inclines toward being tiresome due to constant backtracking over the same ground.

Sky Sailing

Vitaphone 10 *Mins.*

(Sports Parade—in color)

First rate. Sailplane gliding, something rarely touched upon in similar series. The action, narration and color all contribute to making this item an all-around good number for all audiences.

Date at side of column is week ending. Number in square is national release date. Production number is at right. Running time, as furnished by home office of distributor, follows title. As local conditions, such as censorship, subject this to change, checkup with local exchanges is recommended. R—is review date. PG—is Picture Guide page number. Symbol ✪ indicates BOXOFFICE Blue Ribbon Award Winner. Symbol ⊙ indicates color photography.

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
AUG. 17	15 Melodrama 1039 **The Secret Seven** (62) R—Aug. 24 15 Western 2201 **Durango Kid** (65) R—Sept. 7	16 Comedy 49 **Golden Fleecing** (68) Lew Ayres Rita Johnson R—Aug. 24	12 Mys. Drama 3913 **Laughing at Danger** (62) R—Aug. 10 19 Western 3958 **Arizona Frontier** (55) R—Sept. 14	16 Comedy 3944 **Comin' Round the Mountain** (63) Bob Burns Una Merkel R—Aug. 17	16 Western 071 **Tulsa Kid** (57) Don "Red" Barry R—Aug. 3	16 Drama 041 **Stranger on the Third Floor** (64) Peter Lorre John McGuire R—Sept. 7	16 Melodrama 103 ⊙**Return of Frank James** (92) Henry Fonda Gene Tierney R—Aug. 17	16 Drama **Foreign Correspondent** (120) Joel McCrea Laraine Day R—Sept. 7		17 Drama WB417 **Money and the Woman** (67) Jeffrey Lynn Brenda Marshall R—Aug. 17	
AUG. 24	22 Com. Drama 1006 **He Stayed for Breakfast** (87) Loretta Young Melvyn Douglas R—Aug. 13		19 Melodrama 3939 **Missing People** (69) R—Nov. 16 22 Western RB-1 **Range Busters No. 1** (55) R—Sept. 14	23 Com. Drama 3945 **The Great McGinty** (83) Brian Donlevy Muriel Angelus R—July 27		16 Propaganda 171 **Ramparts We Watch** (87) R—July 27 23 Drama 043 **Wildcat Bus** (63) F. Wray R—Aug. 24	23 Drama 106 **Pier 13** (66) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Aug. 17			24 Act. Dr. WB412 **Flowing Gold** (82) Pat O'Brien John Garfield Frances Farmer R—Aug. 31	
AUG. 31		30 Drama 48 **Boom Town** (120) Clark Gable Spencer Tracy Claudette Colbert R—Aug. 10	26 Melodrama 3903 **Queen of the Yukon** (63) Charles Bickford Irene Rich R—Sept. 28		29 Western 069 **Okla. Renegades** (57) R—Sept. 14 31 Comedy 924 **Earl of Puddlestone** (67) R—Aug. 24	23 Comedy 046 **Dance, Girl, Dance** (89) R—Aug. 31 30 Drama 038 **Lucky Partners** (101) R. Colman R-Aug. 24	30 Comedy 109 **Young People** (79) Shirley Temple Jack Oakie R—July 20	30 Action Drama **Kit Carson** (97) Jon Hall Lynn Bari R—Sept. 7		31 Drama WB401 **Sea Hawk, The** (126) Errol Flynn Brenda Marshall R—July 27	28 Mystery 10 **Marked Men** (69) Warren Hull R—Feb. 1—PG-18
SEPT. 7	1 Comedy 1022 **Five Little Peppers in Trouble** (65) Edith Fellows R—Sept. 7	6 Drama 101 **Dr. Kildare Goes Home** (79) Lew Ayres R—Sept. 7	2 Drama 3920 **Who Is Guilty?** (73) Ben Lyon R—Sept. 14	6 Mus. Com. 4001 **Rhythm on the River** (94) Bing Crosby R—Aug. 24	6 Western 043 **Ride, Tenderfoot, Ride** (65) Gene Autry R—Aug. 31	6 Act. Drama 101 **Men Against the Sky** (75) R—Aug. 31 Richard Dix Wendy Barrie	Melodrama 110 **Charlie Chan at the Wax Museum** (63) Sidney Toler R—Aug. 3	13 Drama **Pastor Hall** (52) Nova Pilbeam R—Aug. 3	6 Com. Mus. 5013 **Argentine Nights** (73) R—Sept. 7 Ritz Bros. Andrews Sisters	18 Com. Dr. WB519 **Calling All Husbands** (64) George Tobias R—Sept. 21	
SEPT. 14	5 Melodrama 2032 **Fugitive From Prison Camp** (59) 17 Melodrama 1024 **Before I Hang** (63) R—Oct. 19	13 Act. Drama 102 **Wyoming** (88) Wallace Beery Leo Carrillo R—Sept. 14	9 Com. Drama 3914 **Up in the Air** (61) Frankie Darro R—Sept. 14		11 Melodrama 017 **Girl From Havana** (69) Dennis O'Keefe Clair Carlton R—Sept. 14	13 Comedy 102 **Dreaming Out Loud** (81) R—Sept. 14 Lum & Abner	13 Comedy 105 **Elsa Maxwell's Public Deb No. 1** (80) George Murphy Brenda Joyce R—Aug. 31		13 Com. Dr. 5006 **Hired Wife** (96) R—Sept. 14 13 Melodrama 5051 **Leather Pushers** (64) R—Sept. 7	14 Comedy FN554 **No Time for Comedy** (93) James Stewart Rosalind Russell R—Sept. 14	
SEPT. 21	19 Drama 1001 ✪**The Howards of Virginia** (117) Cary Grant Martha Scott R—Sept. 7	20 Mus. Com. 104 **Haunted Honeymoon** (83) Robert Montgomery R—Aug. 31	23 Melodrama 4021 **That Gang of Mine** (62) Bobby Jordan R—Oct. 5	20 Drama 4002 **I Want a Divorce** (92) R—Aug. 17 Dick Powell Joan Blondell	15 Western 051 **Colorado** (57) Roy Rogers R—Sept. 14	20 Western 086 **Triple Justice** (66) Geo. O'Brien R—Oct. 19	20 Drama 116 **Yesterday's Heroes** (65) Robert Sterling Jean Rogers R—Sept. 21	20 Action Drama **The Westerner** (99) Gary Cooper Doris Davenport R—May 25	20 Melodrama 5020 **The Mummy's Hand** (67) R—Aug. 31 20 Western 5061 **Ragtime Cowboy Joe** (58) R—Oct. 5	21 Drama WB506 **City for Conquest** (106) James Cagney Ann Sheridan R—Sept. 14	16 Western 15 **Arizona Gang Busters** (60) Tim McCoy
SEPT. 28	27 Melodrama 1040 **Glamour for Sale** (59) R—Oct. 26 30 Drama 1009 **Angels Over Broadway** (80) R-Oct. 12	27 Comedy 103 **Strike Up the Band** (120) R—Sept. 21 27 Mystery 105 **Sky Murder** (72) R—Sept. 28	30 Melodrama 4001 **The Ape** (62) Boris Karloff R—Oct. 26	27 Melodrama 4003 **Rangers of Fortune** (80) Fred MacMurray Patricia Morison R—Sept. 14	30 Western 062 **Under Texas Skies** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 103 **I'm Still Alive** (72) Kent Taylor R—Sept. 21	27 Drama 107 **Brigham Young—Frontiersman** (113) R—Aug. 31 Tyrone Power Linda Darnell		20 Melodrama 5046 **Fugitive, The** (76) R—July 6 27 Mus. Com. 5001 **Spring Parade** (89) Deanna Durbin R—Oct. 5		30 Western 15 **Billy the Kid in Texas** (55) Bob Steele
OCT. 5	30 Western 2209 **Prairie Schooners** (59) R—Nov. 16 Bill Elliott	4 Comedy 106 **Dulcy** (73) Ann Sothern Ian Hunter R—Oct. 5	7 Act. Drama 4022 **Drums of the Desert** Ralph Byrd R—Oct. 19	4 Melodrama 4004 **Quarterback** (74) Wayne Morris Lillian Cornell R—Oct. 5	10 Western 072 **Frontier Vengeance** (57) R—Oct. 19 Don "Red" Barry	4 Western 181 **Wagon Train** (59) Tim Holt Ray Whitley R—Oct. 12	4 Act. Drama 108 **Gay Caballero, The** (57) Cesar Romero R—Sept. 28		4 Drama 5019 **Diamond Frontier** (71) Victor McLaglen R—Oct. 5	5 Drama WB502 **Knute Rockne, All American** (98) Pat O'Brien R—Oct. 12	
OCT. 12	3 Com. Drama 2018 **So You Won't Talk** (69) R—Oct. 5 Joe E. Brown	11 Drama 107 **Third Finger, Left Hand** (98) Douglas-Loy R—Oct. 19	7 Western RB-2 **Trailin' Double Trouble** (58) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Oct. 19	11 Drama 4005 **Cherokee Strip** (86) Florence Rice Richard Dix R—Oct. 5	11 Mus. Com. 005 **Melody and Moonlight** (73) Johnny Downs R—Oct. 19	11 Burl. Com. 105 **Villain Still Pursued Her** (67) R—Aug. 3 Anita Louise Hugh Herbert	11 Mus. Com. 113 ✪**Down Argentine Way** (88) Don Ameche R—Oct. 12		11 Melodrama 5017 **A Little Bit of Heaven** (86) Gloria Jean R—Oct. 19	12 Comedy FN559 **Father Is a Prince** (56) Grant Mitchell R—Nov. 9	
OCT. 19	17 Drama 2030 **Nobody's Children** (65) Edith Fellows R—Feb. 1—PG-18		7 Com. Dr. 4010 **Ol' Swimmin' Hole** (75) R—Oct. 26 M. Jones T. Moran	18 Drama 4006 **Moon Over Burma** (76) Dorothy Lamour R—Oct. 19	15 Mus. Com. 001 **Hit Parade of 1941** (88) Frances Langford R—Oct. 19	18 Melodrama 107 **Laddie** (70) Tim Holt Virginia Gilmore R—Sept. 21	18 Drama 114 **Night Train** (93) Margaret Lockwood Rex Harrison R—Nov. 2		18 Western 5062 **Law and Order** (57) Johnny M. Brown R—Dec. 14	19 Hist. Dr. WB511 **Dispatch From Reuter's** (90) Edw. G. Robinson R—Sept. 28	
OCT. 26	24 Drama 2038 **Girls Under 21** (64) R—Nov. 30 21 Western 2202 **West of Abilene** (57)	25 Comedy 109 **Hullabaloo** (77) Frank Morgan Billie Burke R—Nov. 2		25 Drama 4007 **Christmas in July** (72) R—Sept. 21 25 Documentary **World in Flames**	21 Western 052 **Young Bill Hickok** (60) R—Oct. 5 Roy Rogers	25 Melodrama 104 **They Knew What They Wanted** (90) Carole Lombard Chas. Laughton	25 Comedy 111 **The Great Profile** (71) John Barrymore R—Aug. 24		18 Comedy 5024 **Slightly Tempted** (60) R—Aug. 3 25 Drama 5007	26 Com. Dr. FN561 **Tugboat Annie Sails Again** (77) Marjorie Rambeau Alan Hale	

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. N.	P-R-C
NOV. 2	**Blondie Plays Cupid** (68) Penny Singleton Arthur Lake R—Nov. 2	**Escape** (104) Norma Shearer Robert Taylor R—Nov. 9		**Dancing on a Dime** (74) Robert Paige R—Oct. 12	**Who Killed Aunt Maggie?** (70) Wendy Barrie John Hubbard R—Nov. 2	Granville Owen R—Nov. 9			**heart Now** (63) R—Aug. 10 1 Melodrama **5052** **Devil's Pipeline** (65) R—Nov. 30	Rosemary Lane R—Nov. 30	
NOV. 9		8 Musical **110** **Bittersweet** (92) Jeanette MacDonald Nelson Eddy R—Nov. 23	11 Western **4051** **Take Me Back to Oklahoma** (64) Tex Ritter R—Nov. 30	8 Musical **4009** **Arise My Love** (113) Claudette Colbert Ray Milland R—Oct. 19	7 Mus. Comedy **007** **Friendly Neighbors** (67) R—Nov. 16 The Weavers	8 Comedy **106** **Too Many Girls** (85) Lucille Ball Frances Langford R—Oct. 12	8 Melodrama **117** **Mark of Zorro** (93) Tyrone Power Linda Darnell R—Nov. 9		8 Comedy **5021** **Sandy Gets Her Man** (66) R—Nov. 16 8 Western **5063** **Pony Post** (59) R—Dec. 14	9 Drama **FN562** **East of the River** (73) R—Nov. 2 John Garfield Brenda Marshall	
NOV. 16	14 Western **2210** **Beyond the Sacramento** (58) Bill Elliott	16 Drama **111** **Gallant Sons** (76) Jackie Cooper Bonita Granville R—Nov. 16	18 Mystery **4012** **Phantom of Chinatown** (62) Keye Luke R—Nov. 30	15 Western **4050** **Three Men From Texas** (70) William Boyd R—Sept. 14	11 Western **063** **Trail Blazers, The** Three Mesquiteers (58) R—Nov. 2	15 Comedy **111** **Mexican Spitfire Out West** (76) Lupe Velez R—Oct. 12	15 Drama **102** **Street of Memories** (70) R—July 6 Lynne Roberts Guy Kibbee		15 Drama **5015** **One Night in the Tropics** (82) Allan Jones Nancy Kelly R—Nov. 9	16 Drama **WB513** **South of Suez** (87) George Brent Brenda Marshall R—Dec. 21	11 Western **154** **Riders of Black Mountain** (59) Tim McCoy
NOV. 23	23 Mystery **2021** **Lone Wolf Keeps a Date** (63) R-Nov. 30 28 Drama **2012** **Escape to Glory** (74) R—Nov. 30	22 Comedy **112** **Little Nellie Kelly** (100) Judy Garland George Murphy R—Nov. 23	25 Western **RB-3** **West of Pinto Basin** (59) Corrigan-Terhune-King R—Dec. 7		15 Western **041** **Melody Ranch** (85) R—Nov. 30 22 Western **073** **Texas Terrors** (57) R—Nov. 30	22 Mus. Com. **108** **You'll Find Out** (97) Kay Kyser Helen Parrish R—Nov. 23	22 Comedy **119** **Youth Will Be Served** (66) Jane Withers R—Sept. 28	22 Drama **Long Voyage Home** (105) Thomas Mitchell John Wayne R—Oct. 12	22 Comedy **5023** **Meet the Wildcat** (65) R—Nov. 2 22 Drama **R5048** **Next Time We Love** (87)	23 Drama **FN552** **Letter, The** (97) Bette Davis Herbert Marshall R—Nov. 23	
NOV. 30	30 Mystery **2024** **Ellery Queen, Master Detective** (69) Ralph Bellamy Margaret Lindsay R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **115** **Dr. Kildare's Crisis** (75) Lew Ayres Lionel Barrymore R—Dec. 7			29 Comedy **018** **Meet the Missus** (68) Roscoe Karnes R—Nov. 30	29 Drama **113** **Remedy for Riches** Jean Hersholt (68) R—Nov. 23	29 Drama **120** **Tin Pan Alley** (94) R—Nov. 30 Alice Faye Jack Oakie Betty Grable	29 Drama **Black Out** (80) Conrad Veidt Valerie Hobson R—Nov. 23	29 Comedy **5010** **Bank Dick, The** (72) W. C. Fields Una Merkel R—Dec. 7	30 Drama **WB512** **Lady With Red Hair** (81) Miriam Hopkins R—Nov. 16	
DEC. 7	5 Western **2203** **Thundering Frontier** (57) Charles Starrett R—Sept. 21	6 Comedy **114** **Go West** (82) Marx Bros. R—Dec. 21		6 Mus. Com. **4011** **Night at Earl Carroll's, A** (63) Ken Murray R—Nov. 23	5 Western **053** **The Border Legion** (58) Roy Rogers R—Nov. 30	6 Western **182** **Fargo Kid, The** (63) Tim Holt R—Nov. 2	6 Drama **118** **Charter Pilot** (70) Lynn Bari Lloyd Nolan R—Nov. 30		6 Comedy **5026** **Margie** (59) Mischa Auer Nan Grey R—Sept. 21	7 Comedy **FN571** **She Couldn't Say No** (63) Roger Pryor R—Dec. 28	
DEC. 14	9 Drama **2031** **Great Plane Robbery** (53) Jack Holt R—Dec. 14	13 Drama **113** **Comrade X** (89) Clark Gable Hedy Lamarr R—Dec. 14		13 Western **4012** **Texas Rangers Ride Again** (68) John Howard R—Nov. 9	6 Comedy **008** **Barnyard Follies** (68) R—Nov. 30 Mary Lee Rufe Davis		13 Mystery **121** **Murder Over New York** (65) Sidney Toler R—Nov. 30		13 Drama **5008** **Trail of the Vigilantes** (75) Franchot Tone R—Dec. 14		13 Com. Mys. **105** **Devil Bat** (69) Bela Lugosi
DEC. 21	20 Mystery **2033** **Phantom Submarine** (69) Anita Louise R—Feb. 22—PG-30			27 Outd'r Dr. **3946** **North West Mounted Police** (126) R—Oct. 26 Madeleine Carroll	20 Drama **009** **Behind the News** (75) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 21	20 Drama **114** **No, No, Nanette** (96) Anna Neagle Richard Carlson R—Jan. 11—PG-8	20 Comedy **122** **Jennie** (77) William Henry Dorris Bowden R—Dec. 7		20 Drama **5025** **Give Us Wings** (62) Little Tough Guys Wallace Ford R—Nov. 16	21 **Reissue** **Here Comes the Navy** (86) James Cagney Pat O'Brien	20 Com. Drama **104** **Misbehaving Husbands** (66) Ralph Byrd R—Dec. 14
DEC. 28	25 Outd'r Dr. **2101** **Arizona** (128) R—Nov. 23 31 Western **2211** **Wildcat of Tucson** (64) Bill Elliott R—Feb. 22—PG-30	27 Comedy **116** **Keeping Company** (87) Ann Rutherford John Shelton R—Jan. 4—PG-4	22 Drama **4003** **Her First Romance** (77) R—Dec. 28 29 Western **4052** **Rolling Home to Texas** (63) R—Feb. 1—PG-17	27 Comedy **4013** **Love Thy Neighbor** (82) Jack Benny Fred Allen R—Dec. 28	23 Western **064** **Lone Star Raiders** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Dec. 21	27 Drama **112** **Kitty Foyle** (108) Ginger Rogers Dennis Morgan R—Dec. 21	27 Drama **123** **Chad Hanna** (88) Henry Fonda Dorothy Lamour R—Dec. 14	25 Fantasy **Thief of Bagdad** (109) Conrad Veidt Sabu R—Oct. 19	27 Mys. Com. **5018** **Invisible Woman** (73) John Barrymore Virginia Bruce R—Jan. 4—PG-1	28 Adv. Dr. **FN551** **Santa Fe Trail** (110) Errol Flynn Olivia DeHavilland R—Dec. 21	27 Western **159** **Billy the Kid's Gun Justice** (63) Bob Steele
JAN. 4	2 Comedy **2205** **This Thing Called Love** (98) Melvyn Douglas Rosalind Russell R—Dec. 28	3 Drama **117** **Flight Command** (114) Robert Taylor Walter Pidgeon R—Dec. 21		3 Musical **4014** **Second Chorus** (88) Fred Astaire Paulette Goddard R—Dec. 7	27 Drama **019** **Bowery Boy** (71) Dennis O'Keefe Louise Campbell R—Jan. 4—PG-2	3 Drama **161** **Convoy** (78) Clive Brook Judy Campbell R—Jan. 18—PG-11	3 Drama **115** **Hudson's Bay** (95) Paul Muni Virginia Field R—Dec. 28		3 Com. Drama **5030** **Where Did You Get That Girl** (65) R—Dec. 28 3 Adv. Drama **5053** **Lucky Devils** (62)	4 M'drama **WB503** **Four Mothers** (86) The Lane Sisters Jeffrey Lynn R—Dec. 14	
JAN. 11	9 Western **2204** **Pinto Kid** (61) Charles Starrett R—Feb. 8—PG-23	10 Com. Drama **118** **Maisie Was a Lady** (79) Ann Sothern Lew Ayres R—Jan. 11—PG-5	5 Western **RB-4** **Trail of the Silver Spurs** (60) Range Busters R—Mar. 8—PG-38	10 Western **4051** **Doomed Caravan** (62) William Boyd Russell Hayden R—Jan. 18—PG-9	6 Western **074** **Wyoming Wildcat** (56) Don "Red" Barry Julie Duncan R—Jan. 11—PG-8	10 Drama **110** **Little Men** (84) Kay Francis Jack Oakie R—Dec. 7	10 Melodrama **124** **Michael Shayne, Private Detective** (77) Lloyd Nolan R—Dec. 28	10 Melodrama **Son of Monte Cristo** (102) Louis Hayward Joan Bennett R—Dec. 7	10 Western **5064** **Boss of Bullion City** (59) 10 Drama **5027** **San Francisco Docks** (66) R—Dec. 7	11 M'drama **FN572** **Case of the Black Parrot** (60) Wm. Lundigan Maris Wrixon R—Feb. 1—PG-19	10 Western **163** **Lone Rider Rides On** (61) George Houston R—Mar. 1—PG-35
JAN. 18	16 Mys. Dr. **2029** **Face Behind the Mask** (69) Peter Lorre R—Feb. 15—PG-26	17 Drama **119** **Philadelphia Story** (112) R—Nov. 30 **Gone With the Wind** (225) R—Dec. 23, '39	15 Mystery **4023** **Dead Man's Shoes** (69) Wilfrid Lawson Leslie Banks	17 Drama **4015** **Victory** (79) Fredric March Betty Field R—Dec. 21	14 Western **054** **Robin Hood of the Pecos** (59) Roy Rogers R—Jan. 18—PG-10	17 Musical **115** **Let's Make Music** (84) Bob Crosby R—Dec. 14	17 Act. Drama **125** **Romance of the Rio Grande** (73) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 11—PG-5		17 Comedy **5022** **Six Lessons From Madame LaZonga** (62) Lupe Velez R—Jan. 18—PG-12	18 Com. Dr. **WB510** **Honeymoon for Three** (76) George Brent R—Jan. 25—PG-13	17 Comedy **107** **Caught in the Act** (62) Henry Armetta
JAN. 25		24 Comedy **121** **Wild Man of Borneo** (78) R-Feb. 8-PG-24 24 Historical **Land of Liberty** (98) R—Jan. 25—PG-15	20 Melodrama **4014** **You're Out of Luck** (62) Frankie Darro R—Jan. 18—PG-11	24 Comedy **4016** **Aldrich Family in Life With Henry** (82) R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western **044** **Riding on a Rainbow** (79) Gene Autry R—Feb. 1—PG-19	24 Mystery **116** **Saint in Palm Springs** (66) George Sanders R—Jan. 4—PG-3	24 Drama **128** **Tall, Dark and Handsome** (78) Cesar Romero R—Jan. 25—PG-14	24 Comedy **Road Show** (87) Adolphe Menjou Carole Landis R—Feb. 15—PG-25		25 Drama **FN556** **High Sierra** (100) Humphrey Bogart Ida Lupino R—Jan. 25—PG-16	24 Western **160** **Billy the Kid's Range War** (61) Bob Steele
FEB. 1	3 Melodrama **2028** **The Devil Commands** (65) Boris Karloff R—Feb. 22—PG-31	31 Drama **122** **Come Live With Me** (86) James Stewart R—Feb. 1—PG-17			28 Comedy **010** **Arkansas Judge** (72) Weaver Bros. R—Jan. 25—PG-14	31 Comedy **117** **Mr. and Mrs. Smith** (95) Carole Lombard R—Jan. 23—PG-13	31 Drama **127** **Girl in the News** (77) Margaret Lockwood R—Jan. 4—PG-1		31 Comedy **5009** **Buck Privates** (84) Andrews Sisters Abbott & Costello R—Feb. 8—PG-22	1 Drama **WB520** **Father's Son** (57) John Litel Frieda Inescort R—Feb. 22—PG-31	31 Mystery **106** **Secret Evidence** (64) Marjorie Reynolds Chas. Quigley R—Feb. 8—PG-23

BOOKING CHART

	COLUMBIA	M-G-M	MONOGRAM	PARAMOUNT	REPUBLIC	RKO RADIO	20TH-FOX	UNITED ARTISTS	UNIVERSAL	WARNER-F. H.	P-R-C
FEB. 8	[13] Western 2212 **Across the Sierra** (58) Bill Elliott	[7] Comedy 123 **Blonde Inspiration** (72) John Shelton R—Feb. 22—PG-30	[6] Western 4053 **Ridin' the Cherokee Trail** (61) Tex Ritter R—Mar. 1—PG-35	[7] Mus. Com. 4017 **You're the One** (81) Bonnie Baker Orrin Tucker R—Feb. 8—PG-21	[31] Comedy 020 **Petticoat Politics** (67) Higgins Family R—Feb. 22—PG-31	[7] Western 183 **Along the Rio Grande** (64) Tim Holt R—Feb. 1—PG-20	[7] Comedy 129 **Ride, Kelly, Ride** (59) Eugene Pallette R—Feb. 15—PG-25		[7] Drama 5002 **Back Street** (89) Margaret Sullavan Charles Boyer R—Feb. 8—PG-21	[8] Drama WB514 **Flight From Destiny** (74) Thomas Mitchell R—Jan. 4—PG-4	
FEB. 15	[18] Drama 2006 **Adam Had Four Sons** (81) Warner Baxter R—Feb. 22—PG-32	[14] Drama 125 **Trial of Mary Dugan** (90) Robert Young R—Feb. 15—PG-28		[14] Mystery 4018 **Mad Doctor, The** (90) Basil Rathbone R—Feb. 15—PG-26	[14] Western 075 **Phantom Cowboy** (56) Don "Red" Barry	[14] Drama 121 **Play Girl** (77) Kay Francis James Ellison R—Dec. 14	[14] Com. Drama 130 **Golden Hoofs** (68) Jane Withers (Buddy) Rogers R—Feb. 22—PG-29	[14] Drama **So Ends Our Night** (121) Fredric March Margaret Sullavan R—Feb. 1—PG-20	[14] Comedy 5032 **Meet the Chump** (60) Hugh Herbert R—Feb. 15—PG-28	[15] Comedy WB515 **The Great Mr. Nobody** (71) Eddie Albert Joan Leslie	
FEB. 22	[20] Drama 2027 **Meet Boston Blackie** (61) Chester Morris Rochelle **Hudson** R—Mar. 8—PG-39	[21] Comedy 126 **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary** (101) R—Mar. 1—PG-36	[19] Air Drama 4013 **Flying Wild** (63) Leo Gorcey Bobby Jordan R—Mar. 8—PG-38	[21] Drama 4019 **Virginia** (109) Madeleine Carroll Fred MacMurray R—Jan. 18—PG-12	[16] Western 065 **Prairie Pioneers** (57) Three Mesquiteers R—Mar. 1—PG-35	[21] Com. Drama 123 **Scattergood Baines** (69) Guy Kibbee R—Feb. 15—PG-27	[21] Drama 126 **Western Union** (95) Robert Young R—Feb. 8—PG-24		[21] Mus. Com. 5003 **Nice Girl?** (95) Deanna Durbin Franchot Tone R—Mar. 1—PG-36	[22] Com. Dr. FN559 **Strawberry Blonde** (91) James Cagney Olivia de Havilland R—Feb. 22—PG-29	
MAR. 1	[27] Comedy 2015 **Blondie Goes Latin** (69) R-Feb. 22 PG-32 [27] Western 2205 **Outlaws of the Panhandle** (59) Charles Starrett	[28] Com. Dram. 127 **Free and Easy** (56) Ruth Hussey Robert Cummings R—Mar. 29—PG-50	[28] Drama 4004 **Sign of the Wolf** (69) Grace Bradley Michael Whalen R—Mar. 29—PG-51	[28] Drama 4020 **The Monster and the Girl** (65) Ellen Drew Rod Cameron R—Feb. 15—PG-27	[28] Act. Drama 021 **Great Train Robbery** (61) R—Mar. 8—PG-39 [27] Drama 011 **A Man Betrayed** (83) R—Mar. 22—PG-46	[28] Drama 118 **Citizen Kane** (....) Orson Welles Dorothy Comingore	[28] Mystery 132 **Murder Among Friends** (67) John Hubbard Marjorie Weaver R—Mar. 15—PG-43	[1] Comedy **The Great Dictator** (129) R—Oct. 26 Charles Chaplin Jack Oakie Paulette Goddard	[28] Drama 5040 **Dark Streets of Cairo** (59) Sigrid Gurie Barbara O'Neil R—Dec. 7	[1] Mys. Dr. FN573 **Shadows on the Stairs** (63) Frieda Inescort Paul Cavanagh	[28] Western 164 **Lone Rider Crosses the Rio** (....) George Houston
MAR. 8	[28] Drama 2044 Missing 10 Days (77) [6] Mystery 2022 **Lone Wolf Takes a Chance** (76)	[7] Drama 128 **Rage in Heaven** (85) Robert Montgomery Ingrid Bergman R Mar. 15—PG-44		[7] Comedy 4021 **Hard-Boiled Canary** (79) Allan Jones R—Mar. 1—PG-33			[7] Drama 133 **Tobacco Road** (84) Charlie Grapewin Marjorie Rambeau R—Mar. 1—PG-33		[7] Comedy 5041 **Mr. Dynamite** (63) Lloyd Nolan Irene Hervey R—Mar. 15—PG-42	[8] Mys. Dr. WB509 **Footsteps in the Dark** (96) Errol Flynn R—Mar. 8—PG-37	[7] Western 155 **Outlaws of the Rio Grande** (53) Tim McCoy R—Mar. 29—PG-50
MAR. 15		[14] Drama 129 **The Penalty** (80) Lionel Barrymore Edward Arnold R—Mar. 15—PG-42		[14] Western 4052 **In Old Colorado** (66) R—Mar. 1—PG-34 William Boyd	[14] Western 045 **Back in the Saddle** (73) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette R—Mar. 15—PG 43	[14] Comedy 120 **A Girl, a Guy and a Gob** (91) George Murphy Lucille Ball R—Mar. 8—PG-37	[14] Drama 134 **Sleepers West** (74) Lloyd Nolan Lynn Bari R—Mar. 22—PG-46		[14] Drama 5037 **Double Date** (60) Peggy Moran Edmund Lowe R—Mar. 22—PG-47	[15] Comedy WB521 **Here Comes Happiness** (58) Mildred Coles R—Mar. 29—PG-51	
MAR. 22				[21] Comedy 4022 **Lady Eve** (97) Barbara Stanwyck Henry Fonda R—Mar. 8—PG-40		[21] Musical 119 **Footlight Fever** (69) Alan Mowbray Donald McBride	[21] Drama 135 **The Outlaw** (....) Walter Huston Thomas Mitchell	[21] Comedy **Topper Returns** (89) Joan Blondell Roland Young R—Mar. 22—PG-48	[21] Comedy **The Man Who Lost Himself** (73) Brian Aherne R—Mar. 29—PG-49	[22] Drama WB501 **The Sea Wolf** (99) Edw. G. Robinson Ida Lupino R—Mar. 22—PG-48	[22] Western 161 **Billy the Kid's Trigger Pals** (....) Bob Steele
MAR. 29	[24] Mys. Drama 2025 **Ellery Queen's Penthouse Mystery** (70) Ralph Bellamy R—Mar. 1—PG-34	[28] Drama 124 **The Bad Man** (....) Wallace Beery Lionel Barrymore		[28] Musical 4023 **Las Vegas Nights** (86) Phil Regan Tommy Dorsey R—Mar. 29—PG-50	[26] Drama 012 **Mr. District Attorney** (....) Dennis O'Keefe Florence Rice	[28] Drama 124 **Melody for Three** (67) R—Mar. 8—PG-40 [28] Comedy **Reissue** **Vivacious Lady** (....)	[28] Mystery 136 **Dead Men Tell** (61) Sidney Toler Jean Rogers R—Mar. 29—PG-52		[28] Drama **Man-Made Monster** (59) R-Mar. 29; PG-51 [28] Mystery **Horror Island** (....) Dick Foran	[29] Drama FN568 **Knockout** (73) Arthur Kennedy Olympe Bradna	[29] Drama 108 **Federal Fugitive** (....) Neil Hamilton
APR. 5	[31] Western 2213 **North From the Lone Star** (....) Bill Elliott	[4] Com. Drama 131 **Washington Melodrama** (....) Frank Morgan Ann Rutherford		[4] Drama 4024 **The Roundup** (90) Richard Dix Pat Morison R—Mar. 22—PG-47	[28] Western 055 **In Old Cheyenne** (....) Roy Rogers [3] Western 066 **Pals of the Pecos** Three Mesquiteers	[4] Drama 125 **Repent at Leisure** (67) Kent Taylor Wendy Barrie	[4] Mystery 131 **Scotland Yard** (64) John Loder Nancy Kelly Edmund Gwenn		[4] Melodrama **Mutiny in the Arctic** (....) Richard Arlen Andy Devine	[5] Mys. Dr. WB522 **A Shot in the Dark** (57) William Lundigan Nan Wynn	
APR. 12	[10] Act. Drama 2034 **The Great Swindle** (54) Jack Holt Marjorie Reynolds	[11] Drama 132 **Men of Boys Town** (106) Spencer Tracy Mickey Rooney R Mar. 15—PG-44		[11] Comedy 4025 **Road to Zanzibar** (90) Bing Crosby Bob Hope R—Mar. 15—PG-41	[12] Comedy 002 **Sis Hopkins** (....) Judy Canova [10] Western **Two-Gun Sheriff** (....)	[11] Comedy 122 **The Devil and Miss Jones** (....) Jean Arthur Charles Coburn	[11] Musical 137 **That Night in Rio** (90) Alice Faye Don Ameche R—Mar. 15—PG-41		[11] Outdoor Dr. **Lady From Chevenne** (....) Loretta Young Robert Preston Edward Arnold	[12] Drama WB504 **The Great Lie** (107) Bette Davis George Brent	
APR. 19	[17] Com. Drama **Penny Serenade** (....) Irene Dunne Cary Grant	[18] Musical 130 **Ziegfeld Girl** (....) Judy Garland James Stewart Hedy Lamarr		[18] Western 4053 **Border Vigilantes** (62) William Boyd	[17] Musical **Rookies on Parade** (....) Bob Crosby Ruth Terry	[18] Western 184 **Robbers of the Range** (62) Tim Holt	[18] Outd'r Drama 138 **Ride On, Vaquero** (....) Cesar Romero		[18] Drama **The Flame of New Orleans** (....) Marlene Dietrich Bruce Cabot	[19] Drama FN567 **Strange Alibi** (63) Arthur Kennedy Joan Perry	
APR. 26	[24] Act. Drama **Under Age** (....) Nan Grey Alan Baxter			[25] Act. Drama **Power Dive** (....) Richard Arlen Jean Parker	[26] Western **The Singing Hills** (....) Gene Autry Smiley Burnette	[25] Musical 128 **They Met in Argentina** (....) Maureen O'Hara James Ellison	[25] Mystery 139 **Inspector Hornleigh Goes to It** (....) Gordon Harker	[20] Com. Drama **That Uncertain Feeling** (84) Melvyn Douglas Merle Oberon R—Mar. 22—PG-45	[25] Comedy **Model Wife** (....) Joan Blondell Dick Powell	[26] Drama **Wagons Roll at Night** (84) Humphrey Bogart Sylvia Sidney	
MAY 3	[30] Act. Drama **They Dare Not Love** (....) Martha Scott [28] Act Drama **The Chain Gang** (....)			[2] Drama **Reaching for the Sun** (....) Joel McCrea Ellen Drew	[28] Drama **Lady From New Orleans** (....) Ona Munson John Wayne	[2] Comedy **Hurry, Charlie, Hurry** (....) Leon Errol Mildred Coles		[30] Drama **That Hamilton Woman!** (128) Vivien Leigh Laurence Olivier R—Mar. 29—PG-52	[2] Melodrama **Black Cat** (....) Basil Rathbone Hugh Herbert		
MAY	[8] Com. Drama **Her First Beau** (....)										

SHORTS CHART

Numeral is production number. Running time follows title. First date is National release, second the date of review in BOXOFFICE; both 1940 unless otherwise specified. The symbol between the dates is rating from the BOXOFFICE review: ‡ Very good, + Good, ± Fair, ∓ Mediocre, — Poor, = Very Poor. ◯ Indicates short of the week. ◎ Indicates color photography.

Prod. No.	Title	Rel. Date	Rating	Rev'd

Columbia

ALL-STAR COMEDIES

2425	Blondes and Blunders (16)	11-29	±	12- 7
2424	Bundle of Bliss, A (18)	11- 1		.....
2423	Cold Turkey (16)	10-18		.....
2628	Fresh as a Freshman (18)	1-29		.....
2426	His Ex Marks the Spot (18)	12-13		.....
2421	Pleased to Mitt You (18)	9- 6		.....
1421	Skinny the Moocher (16½)	9- 8		.....
2422	Spook Speaks, The (18)	9-29	+	10-19
2627	Watchman Takes a Wife (16)	1-10	±	1-25

CINESCOPES

2975	Feathers (Cosmocolor) (9)	1-31		.....
2972	Floating Elephants (8)	10- 4	+	10-19
2972	Industrial Green Island (10)	9-20		.....
2976	Movie Magic (9)	2-22		.....
2973	Nice Work If You Can Do It (9)	11- 8	+	11-23
2975	◎Ocean Trails (....)	1-31		.....
2974	Unusual Crafts (9)	12-25	±	1-25

COLOR RHAPSODIES (In Technicolor)

2505	A Helping Paw (7)	1- 7	+	2-15
2502	Mr. Elephant Goes to Town (7½)	10- 4		.....
2503	Mad Hatter, The (7)	11- 3		.....
2506	Way of All Pests (7)	2-28		.....
2504	Wise Owl (7)	12- 6	∓	12- 7

COLUMBIA TOURS

2556	Beautiful British Columbia (10½)	12-20	+	1-25
2557	From Singapore to Hong Kong (De La Varre Prod.) (10)	1-10	±	3-22
2554	Islands of the West Indies (10)	10-25	‡	11-23
2553	Old and New Arizona (Special) (9)	9-27		.....
2552	Savoy in the Alps (La Varre Productions) (10)	9-13	‡	10-23
2555	Sojourn in Havana (La Varre Prod.) (9)	11-25	±	12- 7
2558	Western Wonderland (10)	2-28		.....

COMMUNITY SING

2851	No. 1 (Jolly Tunes—D. Baker) (10)	10- 2		.....
2852	No. 2 (Popular Songs—D. Baker) (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
2653	No. 3 (Melodies That Linger—D. Baker) (10)	12-13		.....
2654	No. 4 (Gay Tunes) (10)	1- 1		.....
2655	No. 5 (10)	2- 7	±	3-15

Fun with Songs—L. White.

FABLES CARTOONS

2751	Farmer Tom Thumb (6)	9-27	+	10-19
2755	It Happened to Crusoe (....)	3-14		.....
2752	Mouse Meets Lion (6)	10-25	∓	12- 7
2753	Paunch 'n' Judy (6½)	12-13	±	1-25
2754	Streamlined Donkey (6)	1-17		.....

NEW YORK PARADE

2951	New York Parade (10)	1-24	+	2- 8

PHANTASIES CARTOONS

2705	Little Theatre, The (6)	2- 7		.....
2701	School Boy Dreams (5)	9-24	+	10-19
2706	There's Music in Your Hair (7)	3-28		.....
2704	Tom Thumb's Brother (....)	1-17		.....
2703	Wallflower, The (....)	11-29		.....

QUIZ REELS

2601	Take It or Leave It (9½)	12- 5	o	12- 7
2602	Take It or Leave It, No. 2 (11)	12-25	∓	1-25
2803	Take It or Leave It, No. 3 (11)	2- 7	o	3-15
2604	Junior I. Q. Parade (9½)	3- 7		.....

ROUND TABLE OF SCREEN

	International Forum (18)	2-22	o	3-15

SCREEN SNAPSHOTS

2851	No. 1 (10) Ken Murray.	9- 6		.....
2852	No. 2 (9) Don Wilson.	10-18	o	11-23
2853	No. 3 (9) Ken Murray.	11-22	±	12- 7
2854	No. 4 (9) Ken Murray.	12-27		.....
2855	No. 5 (9) Bob Hope.	2- 2	∓	1-25
2856	No. 6 (9)	3-14		.....

SPECIAL (HAPPY-HOUR)

2441	Puss in Boots (reissue) (40)	11-21		.....

SPORT REELS

2803	Ali the Giant Killer (10½)	12-27	∓	1-25
2802	Hunting Wild Deer (9)	11-22	=	12- 7
2804	Ice Capers (10)	1-24		.....
2801	Master of Cue With Willie Hoppe (9)	10- 4	+	10-19
2805	Splits, Spares and Strikes (10)	2-21	+	3-15

THREE STOOGES COMEDIES

2401	Boobs in Arms (18)	12-27	±	1-18
2403	Cuckoo Cavaliers (17)	11-15	±	12- 7
2402	No Census, No Feeling (16)	10- 4		.....
2405	So Long Mr. Chumps (17)	2- 7		.....

WASHINGTON PARADE Series 3

2901	No. 1 (The Mint) (10)	10-25		.....
2902	No. 2 (U. S. Military Academy) (Special) (10)	12-13	±	1-18
2903	No. 3 (U. S. Naval Academy) (Special) (10)	1- 3	+	1-25

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

CRIME DOESN'T PAY

P-201	◎Eyes of the Navy (20)	10-26	‡	10-26
P-204	Forbidden Passage (21)	2- 8	±	2-22
P-203	Respect the Law (20)	1- 4		.....
P-815	Think First (21)	9- 9		.....
P-202	◎You, the People (21)	11-30	‡	1-18

FITZPATRICK TRAVELTALKS (In Technicolor)

T-218	Alluring Alaska (9)	3- 8		.....
T-214	Beautiful Bali (9)	11-23	∓	12-14
T-211	Capitol City, The—Washington, D. C. (9)	9- 7	‡	9- 7
T-212	Cavalcade of San Francisco (9)	9-28	∓	9-28
T-216	Mediterranean Ports of Call (9)	1- 4		.....
T-213	Old New Mexico (10)	10-26	+	11- 9
T-215	Old New Orleans (9)	12-21	+	1-18
T-217	Redmen on Parade (9)	2- 1	+	2-22

METROSCOPIX

A-100	◎Third Dimensional Murder (7)	3- 1	‡	2-22

MINIATURES

M-232	Great Meddler (Sepia) (11)	12- 2	‡	2- 8
M-233	Happiest Man on Earth (11)	12-28	‡	2- 8
M-234	More About Nostradamous (Sepia) (10)	1-18	+	2-22
M-231	Rodeo Dough (10) (Sepia)	10- 9	±	12-14

M-G-M CARTOONS (New Series) (Technicolor)

W-243	Abdul the Bulbul Ameer (8)	2-22		.....
W- 94	Gallopin' Gals (8)	10-26	+	11- 9
W- 93	Homeless Flea, The (8)	10-12	‡	12- 7
W-241	Lonesome Stranger (9)	11-23	‡	12- 7
W-242	Mrs. Ladybug (8)	12-21		.....
W- 92	Papa Gets the Bird (8)	9- 7	∓	9-28

M-G-M NEWS OF THE DAY Released Twice Weekly

OUR GANG COMEDIES

C-296	Baby Blues (9)	2-15		.....
C-295	Fightin' Fools (9)	1-25		.....
C-293	Goin' Fishin' (10)	10-26	±	11- 9
C-291	Good Bad Boys (11)	9- 7	+	9- 7
C-294	Kiddie Kure (11)	11-23	+	12-28
C-292	Waldo's Last Stand (11)	10- 5	∓	12- 7

PASSING PARADE (New Series)

K-281	American Spoken Here (Sepia) (11)	11-30	‡	12- 7
K-126	Baron and the Rose, The (11)	9- 7	‡	9-28
K-128	Dreams (10)	11-16	+	12-14
K-127	Utopia of Death (10)	10-12	+	11- 9
K-282	Whispers (10)	2- 8	‡	2-22

PETE SMITH SPECIALTIES

S-113	Football Thrills of 1939 (10)	9-21	‡	9-28
S-264	◎Penny to the Rescue (10)	1-25		.....
S-261	◎Quicker'n a Wink (Sepia) (9)	10-12	‡	12- 7
S-265	Quiz Biz (Sepia) (9)	2- 8	+	3- 8
S-263	◎Sea for Yourself (10)	12-21	‡	1-18
C-262	Wedding Bills (Sepia) (10)	11-30	‡	12- 7

Paramount

ANIMATED ANTICS

H0-4	Bring Himself Back Alive (7)	12-20	∓	12-21
H0-1	Dandy Lion, The (7)	9-20	±	10- 5
H0-3	Mommy Loves Puppy (7)	11-29	+	12- 7
H0-5	Pop and Mom in Wild Oysters (11)	2-14	+	2-15
H0-2	Sneak, Snoop & Snitch (7)	10-25	±	11-23
H0-7	Speaking of Animals (9)	4-18	‡	3-15
H0-5	Twinkletoes Gets the Bird (....)	3-14		.....

BENCHLEY COMEDIES

S0-1	Trouble With Husbands (11)	11- 8	‡	12- 7
S0-2	Waiting for Baby (11)	1-24	‡	2-15

FASCINATING JOURNEYS (Technicolor)

	Delhi (11)		+	3-22
M0-1	◎River Thames—Yesterday (10)	11- 8	‡	11-23
M0-2	Sacred Ganges, The (11)	12-27	+	1-18
M0-3	Village in India (11)	1-31	‡	2-15

FLEISCHER CARTOONS

FF0-1	Raggedy Ann (19)	12-20	‡	12-21

GABBY CARTOONS

G0-3	All's Well (7)	1- 3		.....
G0-2	Constable, The (7)	11-15	+	11-23
G0-1	King for a Day (7)	10-18	+	10-26
G0-4	Two for the Zoo (7)	2-21	±	3- 8

HEADLINER

A0-4	Gene Krupa and Orch. (11)	1-31	+	2-22
A0-3	Johnny Messner and Orch. (11)	12-13	±	12-21
A0-2	Listen to Larry (10)	10-25	+	10-26
A0-1	◎Moments of Charm in 1941 (10)	9-13	‡	10- 5

MADCAP MODELS (In Technicolor)

J0-1	Western Daze (9)	1-17	‡	1-18

PARAMOUNT NEWS Released Twice Weekly.

PARAGRAPHICS

V0- 3	◎Breezy Little Bears (11)	12-27	‡	1-18
V0- 1	Nature's Nursery (10)	10-11	∓	10-26
V9-10	Paramount Pictorial No. 2 (11)	9- 9	±	8-24
V0- 4	Red, White and Blue Hawaii (11)	2-28	±	3-15
V0- 2	Seeing Is Believing (11)	11-22	+	12- 7

POPEYE CARTOONS

E0- 4	Eugene, the Jeep (7)	12-13	±	12- 7
E0- 2	My Pop, My Pop (7)	10-18	∓	10-26
E0- 1	Popeye Meets William Tell (7)	9-20	‡	10- 5
E0- 5	Problem Pappy (7)	1-10	±	1-18
E0- 6	Quiet Pleeze (7)	2- 7		.....
E0- 3	With Poopdeck Pappy (7)	11-15	o	12- 7

POPULAR SCIENCE (In Cinecolor)

J0-1	(11)	9- 6	+	10- 5
J0-2	(10)	11- 1	+	12- 7
J0-3	(10)	1- 3	+	12-21
J0-4	(11)	2-21		.....

GRANTLAND RICE SPORTLIGHTS

R0-6	Acrobatic Aces (10)	2- 7	+	1-18
R0-8	Canine Sketches (10)	3-28		.....
R0-1	Diving Demons (10)	9- 6	‡	10- 5
R0-5	Feminine Fitness (10)	1-10	+	12-21
R0-7	Fishing Fever (10)	2-28		.....
R0-4	Marine Roundup (10)	12- 6	+	12- 7
R0-3	Motorcycle Stunting (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
R0-2	Sporting Everglades, The (10)	10- 4	‡	11- 9

STONE AGE CARTOONS

B9-11	Pedagogical Institution (7)	9-13		.....
B9-12	Way Back When Women Had Their Weigh (7)	9-27		.....

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS (In Color)

L0-1	No. 1 (11)	9- 7	+	10- 5
L0-2	No. 2 (11)	11-29	+	12- 7
L0-3	No. 3 (10)	1-24	+	2-15
L0-4	No. 4 (11)	3-28	±	3-22

Producers Releasing Corp.

AMERICAN HISTORY

0.1	Our Bill of Rights (21)	3- 1		.....
0.2	Our Declaration of Independence (22)	3- 1		.....
0.3	Our Constitution (22)	3- 1		.....
0.4	Our Monroe Doctrine (22)	3- 1		.....

Republic

MEET THE STARS

028-1	No. 1 (10)	12-24	+	12-28
028-2	No. 2 (10)	1-24		.....
028-3	No. 3 (9)	2-24	±	3-15

RKO Radio

DISNEY CARTOONS (In Technicolor)

04,114	Fire Chief (8)	11-22	‡	12- 7
14,102	Gentleman's Gentleman (7)	3-28		.....
14,101	Golden Eggs (8)	3- 7		.....
04,113	Goofy's Glider (8)	11- 1	+	12-14
04,118	Little Whirlwind (8)	2-14		.....
04,112	Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (8)	10-11	+	11-23
04,115	Pantry Pirate (8)	12-27	+	2- 8
04,117	Pluto's Playmate (8)	1-27	+	3-15
04,116	Timber (8)	1-10	‡	3-22
04,111	Window Cleaners (8)	9-20	‡	10-26

EDGAR KENNEDY COMEDIES

13,403	Drafted in the Depot (19)	12-20		.....
13,401	Sunk by the Census (18)	9- 6	±	9-21
13,402	Trailer Tragedy (17)	10-18	+	11- 9

LEON ERROL COMEDIES

13,703	Fired Man, The (20)	1-10	+	2- 8
13,701	He Asked for It (18)	9-27	∓	9-21
13,404	Mad About Moonshine (19)	2-21		.....
13,702	Tattle Talevision (19)	11-29		.....
13,704	When Wifie's Away (20)	3-14		.....

MARCH OF TIME

13,101	No. 1 (10) On Foreign Newfronts.	9-13	‡	9-21
13,102	No. 2 (18) Britain's R. A. F.	10- 4	+	10-19
13,103	No. 3 (19) Mexico, Good Neighbor's Dilemma.	10-25	±	10-26
13,104	No. 4 (19) Arms and the Men.	11-22	+	12- 7

WHAT'S IN THE NEWSREELS

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

MN No. 55: FDR talk; army; cadets; Miss Miami; Petain-Franco; British troops; destroyers; king and queen; Windors.

NOD, No. 253: FDR; army engineers; Petain-Franco; British troops; king and queen; British defense; train wreck; daffodil festival; football; Windsors watch golf.

PN, No. 58: Roosevelt; powder mill; army engineers; cavalry; train wreck; golf; pistol match; football.

RKO-PN, No. 58: Roosevelt; powder plant; army engineers; Nazi ship in Brazil; Anzac troops; daffodils; pistol match; golf in Nassau; football.

UN, No. 963: Roosevelt; warehouse fire; powder plant; Irish parade; army engineers; cavalry; daffodils; football; golf in Nassau.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

MN, No. 56: British raid Norway; army trucks flow from GM line; mechanization of cavalry; ice-coated fishing boat; tent aids dam construction; fashions; bowling; baseball player fishes in Florida; snowfall in Virginia.

NOD, No. 254: Raid on Norway; FDR opens art gallery; cavalry tests scout cars; shipwreck; men diaper babies; steeplechase; bowling.

PN, No. 59: Dog trials; street art show; Will Rogers diorama; lay keel of battleship; college stage show; scout cars in army; raid on Norway.

RKO-PN, No. 59: Norway raid; Col. Donovan back; U. S. troops maneuver; tent over dam; Florida regatta; army tests trucks; Will Rogers diorama; bowling.

UN: No. 964: Mechanized army maneuvers; speed pilot training; trucks for army; anti-aircraft training; seaplane tenders launched; mercy ship sails; art gallery opened by FDR; tent aids dam construction; basketball; bowling.

Key: MN—Movietone News; NOD—News of the Day; PN—Paramount News; RKO-PN—RKO Pathe News; UN—Universal Newsreel.

Prod. No.	Title	Date	Rel. Rating	Rev'd
13,105	No. 5 (19)	12-20	+	12-28
	Labor and Defense.			
13,106	No. 6 (21)	1-17	++	1-25
	Uncle Sam—Non-Belligerent.			
13,107	No. 7 (19)	2-14	+	3- 8
	Americans All.			
13,108	No. 8 (18)	3-14	±	3-22
	Australia at War.			
	PATHE INFORMATION PLEASE			
14,201	No. 1 (11)	9-16	±	9-21
14,202	No. 2 (10)	10- 4	+	10-26
14,203	No. 3 (10)	11- 1	+	11-23
14,204	No. 4 (11)	11-29		.....
14,205	No. 5 (11)	12-27	+	2- 8
14,206	No. 6 (11)	1-24	+	3- 8
14,207	No. 7 (10)	2-21		.....
	PATHE NEWS (Released Twice Weekly)			
	PATHE SPORTSCOPE			
14,307	Caballero College (9)	2-14	++	3-15
14,302	Kentucky Royalty (9)	9-27	+	10-26
14,306	Mat Men (9)	1-17	+	3- 8
14,308	Publicity Sports (9)	3-14		.....
14,301	Quail Quest (9)	8-30	+	9-21
14,305	Snow Eagles (9)	12-20	+	2- 8
14,304	Snow Fun (9)	11-22	++	12-14
14,303	Sportsman's Partner (9)	10-25	+	11-23
	PICTURE PEOPLE			
14,401	No. 1 (10)	9-13	±	9-21
14,402	No. 2 (9)	10-11	∓	10-26
14,403	No. 3 (10)	11- 8	+	11-23
14,404	No. 4 (10)	12- 6	+	12-14
14,405	No. 5 (10)	1- 3	±	2- 8
14,406	No. 6 (10)	1-31		.....
14,407	No. 7 (10)	2-28		.....
	RAY WHITLEY WESTERNS (New Series)			
13,501	Bar Buckaroos (16)	11- 8	o	11-23
13,502	Prairie Spooners (13)	1-31	+	3-15
	SPECIALS			
14,501	Eyes on Brazil (11)	2-21		.....

20th Century-Fox

Prod. No.	Title	Date	Rel. Rating	Rev'd
	ADVENTURES OF A NEWS CAMERAMAN			
1201	Midget Motor Mania (10)	11- 8	++	10-19
1202	Training Police Horses (10)	1-17	+	2-15
	BELIEVE IT OR NOT—RIPLEY			
1601	Acquitted by the Sea (10)	9-27	++	10-19
	ED THORGERSEN—SPORTS			
1303	Bowling for Strikes (10)	12-20	+	10-19
1302	Lure of the Trout (9)	10-11	+	12- 7
1304	The Rodeo Comes to Town (10)	1- 3	±	2-22
	FATHER HUBBARD'S ALASKAN ADVENTURES			
1103	Isle of Mystery (10)	10-25		.....
	FOX MOVIETONE NEWS Released Twice Weekly			
	LEW LEHR AND HIS DRIBBLE PUSS PARADE			
1401	Grunters and Groaners (8)	8-30	+	8-17
1402	Tale of Butch the Parrot (....)	2-28		.....
	LOWELL THOMAS MAGIC CARPET			
1102	Florida, Land of Flowers (9)	9-13	±	8-17
1104	Old Dominion State (10)	11-22	+	12- 7
1105	Spotlight on Indo-China (9)	12-20	±	2-15
	TERRY-TOONS			
1501	Club Life in the Stone Age (7)	8-23		.....
1503	Happy Haunting Grounds (7)	10-18		.....
1553	How Wet Was My Ocean (7)	10- 4	o	10-19
1554	Landing of the Pilgrims (7)	11- 1	+	12- 7
1552	Lucky Duck, The (7)	9- 6		.....
1504	Magic Pencil, The (7)	11-15	+	12- 7
1557	Mississippi Swing (7)	2- 7	+	2-15
1555	Plane Goofy (7)	11-29	±	12- 7
1505	Snow Man, The (7)	12-13		.....
1556	Temperamental Lion (7)	12-27	+	2-15
1502	Touchdown Demons (7)	9-20	±	10-19
1506	What a Little Sneeze Will Do (7)	1-10	±	2-22

Universal

Prod. No.	Title	Date	Rel. Rating	Rev'd
	LANTZ CARTUNES (Technicolor)			
5241	Crazyhouse (7½)	9-23		.....
5246	Fair Today (6¾)	2-24	±	2-15
5247	High Spots in American History (6¾)	3-31		.....
5243	Knock-Knock (7)	11-25	—	12- 7
5245	Mouse Trappers (6¾)	1-27	+	2- 8
5242	Recruiting Daze (6)	10-28	++	11- 9
5244	Syncopated Sioux (6¾)	12-31		.....
	GOING PLACES WITH GRAHAM McNAMEE			
5351	No. 81 (9)	9-23	—	9-21
5352	No. 82 (9)	10-14		.....
5353	No. 83 (9)	11-11		.....
5354	No. 84 (9)	12-23		.....
5355	No. 85 (9)	1-20		.....
5356	No. 86 (9)	2-17	±	2- 8
5357	No. 87 (9)	3-17		.....
5358	No. 88 (9)	3-31		.....
5359	No. 89 (9)	4-21		.....
	SPECIAL TWO REELERS			
5110	Swing With Bing (19)	9- 4	±	8- 3
	STRANGER THAN FICTION			
5371	No. 81 (9)	9-16	+	9-21
5372	No. 82 (9)	10- 7		.....
5373	No. 83 (8)	11- 4		.....
5374	No. 84 (9)	12- 2		.....
5375	No. 85 (9)	1- 6		.....
5376	No. 86 (9)	2- 3	±	2- 8
5377	No. 87 (9)	3-10		.....
5378	No. 88 (9)	3-24	±	3-22
5379	No. 89 (8)	4- 7		.....
	TWO REEL MUSICALS			
5226	Bagdad Daddy (17)	2-19	±	2- 8
	Gertrude Niesen, Ambassadorettes, Fuzzy Knight, Johnson Bros.			
5225	Beat Me, Daddy, Eight to the Bar (17)	1-22		.....
	The Fashionaires and Cathlyn Miller.			
5221	Class in Swing (17)	9-11		.....
5223	Congamania (17)	10-16	±	12- 7
	Jose Cansino Dancers. Eddie Durant & Orch.			
4233	I Dream of Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair (17)	8-28	∓	9-21
4110	March of Freedom (21)	9- 6		.....
5227	Music in the Morgan Manner (....)	3-19		.....
	Russ Morgan and His Orchestra, Southern Swingsters.			
5224	Tickled Pinky (18)	12-25		.....
	Pinky Tomlin, Martha Tilton and the Pickard Family.			
5223	Torrid Tempos (18)	11-27	∓	12- 7
	UNIVERSAL NEWS Released Twice Weekly			

Vitaphone

Prod. No.	Title	Date	Rel. Rating	Rev'd
	BROADWAY BREVITIES			
6202	Alice in Movieland (20)	11-16	±	12- 7
6204	Dog in the Orchard (20)	1-25	+	1-18
6201	Just a Cute Kid (20)	10- 5		.....
6203	Love's Intrigue (20)	12-28		.....
4008	Ride, Cowboy, Ride (20)	9- 9		.....
6205	Take the Air (20)	2-22	+	3- 8
	THE COLOR PARADE (New Series)			
5410	Movie Dog Stars (10)	8-17		.....
	ELSA MAXWELL'S BLUE RIBBON COMEDIES			
6102	Lady and the Lug (20)	3-22		.....
6101	Riding Into Society (19)	9- 7	±	8-31
	HOLLYWOOD NOVELTY			
6305	Boar Hunt, The (10)	1-15		.....
6301	Football Thrills (10)	9-28	+	8-31
6304	History Repeats Itself (10)	1-18		.....
6303	Mexican Jumping Beans (10)	12- 7	+	12- 7
6302	Shark Hunting (10)	11- 9		.....
	LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS			
6601	Calling Dr. Porky (7)	9-21		.....
6607	Haunted Mouse, The (7)	2-15		.....
6608	Joe Glow, the Firefly (7)	3- 8		.....
5616	Patient Porky (7)	8-24	++	8-24
6609	Porky's Bear Facts (7)	3-29		.....
6604	Porky's Hired Hand (7)	11-30	o	12-28
6606	Porky's Snooze Reel (7)	1-11		.....
6602	Prehistoric Porky (7)	10-12	+	10-26
6603	Sour Puss (7)	11- 2		.....
6605	Timid Toreador (7)	12-21		.....
	MELODY MASTERS			
6506	Cliff Edwards and His Buckaroos (10)	3- 8	+	3-22
6503	Jan Garber & Orch. (10)	2- 1		.....
6502	Joe Reichman & Orch. (10)	10-26		.....
6501	Matty Malneck & Band (10)	9-14	++	8-24
6504	Skinnay Ennis & Orch. (10)	1- 4	+	12-28
	MERRIE MELODIES (In Technicolor)			
6706	Bedtime for Sniffles (7)	11-23		.....
6713	Cat's Tale, The (7)	3- 1		.....
6712	Crackpot Quail, The (7)	2-15		.....
6709	Elmer's Pet Rabbit (7)	1- 4	o	12-28
6710	Fighting 69th½, The (7)	1-18	++	1-18
6704	Good Night Elmer (7)	10-26		.....
6715	Goofy Groceries (7)	3-29		.....
6703	Holiday Highlight (7)	10-12	∓	11- 9
6701	Malibu Beach Party (7)	9-14	±	9- 7
6707	Of Fox and Hounds (7)	12- 7		.....
6708	Shop, Look and Listen (7)	12-21	±	12-28
6711	Sniffles Bells the Cat (7)	2- 1	++	3-15
6702	Stagefright (7)	9-28	+	11- 9
6714	Tortoise Beats the Hare (7)	3-15		.....
6705	Wacky Wild Life (7)	11- 9	+	12-14
	SPECIAL			
6801	London Can Take It (10)	10-26	++	11- 9
6850	They Spent Christmas Under Fire (10½)	1-24	++	2- 8
	SPORTS PARADE (Color)			
6404	California Thoroughbreds (10)	1-11	±	12-28
6403	Diary of a Racing Pigeon (10)	11-30	+	12- 7
6402	Dogs You Seldom See (10)	11- 2	+	8-31
6405	Fight, Fish, Fight (10)	3- 1	++	3- 8
6401	Fly Fishing (10)	9-21	∓	10-26
	TECHNICOLOR			
6001	Flag of Humanity (20)	10-19	+	10-26
6002	March on Marines (20)	12-14	++	12-28
6003	Meet the Fleet (20)	2- 8	+	1-18
5008	Service With the Colors (20)	8-31		.....
	VITAPHONE VARIETIES			
5706	All Girl Revue (10)	6-22		.....

Serials

Prod. No.	Title	Date	Rel. Rating	Rev'd
1120	Green Archer, The	10-25	∓	11- 9
	15 Chapters. Victor Jory.			
2120	White Eagle	1-31		.....
	15 Chapters. Buck Jones.			
	REPUBLIC			
080	Adventures of Capt. Marvel	3-28	++	3- 8
	12 Chapters. Tom Tyler.			
081	King of the Royal Mounted	9-20	++	8-24
	12 Chapters. Allan Lane.			
082	Mysterious Doctor Satan	12-13	+	11-23
	15 Chapters. Robert Wilcox.			
	UNIVERSAL			
5781	Green Hornet Strikes Again	12-24	+	11- 9
	15 Chapters. Warren Hull.			
5681	Junior G-Men	9- 1	+	8- 3
	12 Chapters. Dead End Kids. Little Tough Guys.			
5881	Sky Raiders	4- 8	±	2-15
	12 Chapters.			

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HELP WANTED

OPERATORS AND MANAGERS. Movie Circuits. ROSHON, Midland Building, Kansas City, Mo.

EXPERIENCED OPERATOR wanted for small town, Western Iowa. Write full details—salary expected. B-1352, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

WANTED: EXPERIENCED, all-around theatre manager for small operation. Only those in immediate vicinity of Dallas need apply. B-1355, BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. 9th St., Kansas City, Mo.

SEAT RECOVERING

ARTIFICIAL LEATHER MOLESKIN—81c per yd.; Sateen, 60c yd. Six seats from two yards. Samples on request. Commercialeather, 116 Merrimac St., Boston.

EVERY TELEGRAM'S A RUSH TELEGRAM AT

Postal Telegraph



CHARGES FOR TELEGRAMS 'PHONED IN APPEAR ON YOUR TELEPHONE BILL.

• Address copy to BOXOFFICE, 4804 E. Ninth St., Kansas City, Mo. Forms close Monday noon preceding publication date.

Press Your Advertising Luck!

★ Don't let a good thing die . . . crowd on the steam while the goings good. Remember . . . one *ringer* never won a championship yet. It takes constant ringing of the pin . . . continued plugging for the "ace."

★ Capitalize on the big pictures . . . press your advertising luck with continuous advertising.

★ Settle on a standard minimum but keep the glamour shining.

★ And we've got everything you need to give your house that "good-show-here-tonight" look . . . Trailers . . . Lobby Displays . . . General Accessories for any picture . . .

★ Press your advertising luck with the 3 Best Seat Sellers in the industry.



NATIONAL Screen SERVICE • NATIONAL Screen ACCESSORIES

ADVERTISING ACCESSORIES, INC.

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